

Pet Store 981

Chapter 981: Fight the Heavens and Defend the Path

The beast was finished off right before the trial ended. Su Ping and his teammates stood where they were. A golden vortex appeared above their heads; it was a channel they could use to leave that place.

They had indeed trespassed the area, but the Divine Cards they looted had triggered the channel for them.

As for the other participants, they would have to wait until the rescue team picked them up if they lost their Divine Cards.

Those with Divine Cards would be taken straight to the following trials.

“Let’s go.”

Su Ping looked at the channel more or less anxiously; after all, they weren’t legitimate participants. He didn’t know if they would be seen through, but the system could still ensure their safety if they were in danger.

Joanna was the most nervous of the three; she never thought she could visit the Heaven Path Institute someday.

She was but a little girl in her clan when the institute was in its golden era. Some members of her clan were enrolled and everybody was proud of them.

Whoosh!

The three of them entered the channel, and they were soon drowned in golden light.

Su Ping sensed that time and space were changing as everything around them moved. He opened his eyes again, finding himself in front of a magnificent mountain where a glowing palace was floating. He was standing in a vast square facing the mountain.

Many statues thousands of feet tall were looming on the square. Some were holding books, and some were grabbing swords. All of them seemed intimidating.

A lot of people flashed and appeared next to them; they were everywhere soon after. Su Ping extended his senses and detected hundreds of thousands of them, cramming the square.

There are lots of people with enough Divine Cards. Then, how many people were robbed or killed back in the trial’s battlefield?” Su Ping was surprised by the discovery.

It was the Heaven Path Institute’s second trial, which meant that more people had surely participated in the first stage.

“Well...”

Joanna was already stunned when she saw the mountain.

She completely forgot the participants around her. She had seen that mountain before; it was the gate of the Heaven Path Institute. The place had been destroyed during the past great war, and its mountain had later been invaded by other clans. She had seen the mountain in passing as she fought back then.

The mountain she saw back then was already black due to the attacks. The floating palace had fallen and was riddled in cracks.

However, the contour of the mountain was the same. She easily recognized the mountain. After all, she had a deep recollection of that trip; it seemed like yesterday to her.

The Heaven Path Institute has been rebuilt, and the mountain has been restored too. Has the Realm of Gods been restored to its former glory?

2

Joanna quaked with excitement for a bit.

The splendor of the institute's golden era remained, just like in the times it produced experts and geniuses for several generations. They fought everywhere, subduing all the other species.

Even the ancient lords in the Chaotic Realm of the Undead chose to reach a truce with the gods.

It's been so many years. Maybe the gods won the war. If enough Ancestral Gods survived, it would be possible for them to recover! Joanna thought.

The more she thought about it, the more excited she became.

If that was the case, it would be very simple for the Demigod Burial to return!

As long as she reported the matter to the Ancestral God leading the Heaven Path Institute, the latter could simply pull the Demigod Burial and once again connect it with the Archean Divinity.

After all, they used to be parts of a whole!

Su Ping was bewildered by Joanna's strong emotional waves, and her glittering eyes, filled with excitement. He had never seen her be that emotional; it looked as if she had turned from an unworldly goddess to a real girl, ever since she returned to the Archean Divinity.

Has the visit to your hometown changed you this much? Su Ping thought as he looked at the mountain.

More and more participants arrived. Most of them were gods; some were gods' vassal species, while some were human beings.

The Archean Divinity was quite a tolerant place where all species were welcome. Still, gods were superior.

A long while later—

Golden light appeared in front of the gate. Then, three majestic gods appeared; all of them projected their illusions, each a thousand meters tall, making them look like giants.

"I'm very glad to see you return safely," said the golden-haired old man in the middle with a gentle voice, "Now, we will select those who have passed the trial. I hope that those who failed work harder

later on. Not entering the Heaven Path Institute doesn't mean that you are losers; there are countless opportunities and treasures waiting for you out there. I hope that all of you make names for yourselves in the universe."

His gentle voice was soothing. The people who failed the trial felt considerably less depressed; their eyes were rekindled with light and hope.

"We will now identify the winners with the Divine Cards you carry. Please hold all the Divine Cards you've acquired in your hand", said another old god, who conversely was rather harsh.

The crowd became noisy for a moment after hearing the announcement, but they soon calmed down.

Su Ping gave Tang Ruyan and Joanna ten cards each. Then, they waited quietly.

The old god took action ten seconds later. He pointed a finger, launching a streak of golden light that seemed to be from the beginning of the universe; it carried a unique, enlightening aura.

Su Ping felt confined by a power; then, his body floated. The same happened to Joanna and Tang Ruyan who were by his side.

A lot of people in the crowd started to float. Soon after, those people reached the front of the square and floated ten meters from the ground.

Su Ping turned around, and saw that close to fifty thousand people had passed the trial.

Those who remained on the ground due to not having enough cards could only look at Su Ping and the other winners with envy. Some of them were even angry; it was obvious that their enemies had passed.

"They did manage to pass."

The tattooed god and his teammates were looking up; they had quickly found Su Ping and the others among the winners. They had been convinced that Su Ping and his team could pass the trial with their cards. Still, they didn't expect those trespassers to be bold enough to sneak into the institute.

"Do you think we should report them?"

A young guy gritted his teeth.

They had a chance to pass the trial, but it was taken by the brutal girl of the Original Ladies Clan.

Of course, they hated her.

"Don't try to get yourself killed," yelled the tattooed god.

Their faces changed after hearing his response. He added with a gloomy expression, "Did they actually sneak into the trial grounds of the Heaven Path Institute? Do you think anybody could do that? Even if we report them and violate our vows, will the Heaven Path Institute kill them?"

"In other words, if they don't want their identities to be exposed, will they spare us after we turn them in?"

All of his companions fell silent upon hearing that.

They were all geniuses in their respective clans, and they too had thought of such a possibility. However, they were still furious and regretful.

“We lost because we’re weak. Let’s just try again next time,” said the tattooed god with a sneer. He never dwelled in the past.

All the people floating above the square were gathered in the high sky while they talked.

“Congratulations on passing the second test,” said the old god in the center with a gentle smile, “Altogether there are three tests to enter the Heaven Path Institute. You have proven your strength and combat ability in the first two tests. Now, the third test will be held to confirm your divine quality.”

“Divine quality?”

Everybody was stunned upon hearing that last part.

“That is correct.”

The gentle old god continued, “Gods have stood at the top, above all other species, not just because we’re born with divine constitutions. It is also because we have the divine quality that no other species have!

“Every living creature carries divine quality, beast quality, demonic quality and other miscellaneous qualities.

“Divine quality is the most sacred and noble of all. It is the reason why we can establish a civilization and define order.

“Divine quality is what separates us from beasts and other species!

“The other species are mostly born evil. They need to cultivate their divine quality to suppress their beastly and demonic qualities.”

The old god added at a slow pace, “Some species, such as humans, are filled with miscellaneous qualities. Their emotions are often in chaos. There are also spirits, whose divine and demonic qualities are evenly proportioned. They are highly unstable.

“Only gods are born with divine quality. We were born merciful and benevolent.

1

“Demons deride us as hypocrites. However, they think that being true to one’s nature means to kill blindly. They don’t think that the weak deserve to live!

1

“Do you know how the Heaven Path Institute got its name?”

The god was looking at everyone present as he spoke.

All the people present looked at one another, bewildered. Some had glittering eyes; they had heard the answer to that question from their seniors.

However, none dared to answer as they faced the three awe-inspiring gods of the Heaven Path Institute.

“Fight the Heavens and defend the truth!

“That’s the foundation of the Heaven Path Institute!

“The path of the Heavens is wrong, and that is why we must fight them!

“We must defend the truth we believe in with our weapons. That’s the spirit that every student of the Heaven Path Institute should have!”

The old man declared in a heated tone because no one replied.

His eyes were as intimidating as sharp swords. Nobody dared to look him in the eye.

“The third test will assess your divine quality. You cannot join the Heaven Path Institute unless you prove yourself to be merciful. Otherwise, you won’t be admitted, even if you’re a great genius!” declared the old god.

Everybody fell silent after hearing that.

Even the unparalleled geniuses on the Chaos Rank would be declined if they didn’t have enough divine quality?

Everybody was shocked by what he said; it left a deep impression on each of them.

Their awe they felt for the institute grew.

“Fight the Heavens and defend the truth...” Joanna kept mumbling the words to herself.

Fight the Heavens?

It seemed that the war in the past had yet to be forgotten.

1

The Heaven Path Institute was still the same. If the Heavens were wrong, just fight them! How awesome was that?

She felt that her blood was starting to boil; she had the urge to cry and join the Heaven Path Institute right then. She was willing to lead the charge and defend her faith if another war took place!

She didn’t want to leave the land where she grew up again!

She loathed the war that had separated her from her hometown!

“All winners, follow me through the gate,” said the old, harsh-looking god with indifference.

He then waved his sleeves, which enveloped the whole group and took them as if it were a black hole.

Su Ping saw nothing but darkness; then, countless stars began to glitter. They had been confined in his sleeves, but he saw a vast universe and countless stars.

Su Ping was shocked by the old man’s cultivation. He was definitely strong, possibly more than a Celestial!

That was the horror of a top cultivation site. Any local could probably beat anyone in the Federation!

I wonder how far is this world from the universe the Federation is in, Su Ping pondered.

The Federation would probably end up as a colony if the gods from the Archean Divinity ever detected it.

They didn't stay long in the sleeves, away from the universe. He found himself in a temple along with the other participants. The old god said, "You'll rest for ten days here. You will be informed about the third test in great detail during this time. You will take the test along with the princes and princesses that the major clans recommended, ten days from now."

After that, the old god left without an ounce of hesitation.

"Can anybody tell me more about the divine quality testing? How can it be measured?" shouted someone in the crowd.

"Well, you've just asked the right person. Divine quality doesn't simply mean kindness. After all, the real kind hearted gods have surely died in the gutters by now," said an eloquent, stout young guy with scabs all over his body, "Divine quality is hidden deep in your soul.. Some people who have done a lot of killing still have a high divine quality, while some who have never killed anyone may not have any divine quality, at all. They never killed anyone, only because they didn't have a chance to!"

Chapter 982: God's Arrival

While they stood amid the noisy crowd, Su Ping turned his head and asked Joanna who was by his side, "Do you know how to check divine quality?"

With glittering eyes, Joanna said, "As expected of the Heaven Path Institute. The last test is about divine quality. If that is the case, talent and bloodline would be meaningless. All lives are equal. No wonder the Heaven Path Institute could motivate all its disciples to sacrifice themselves for the sake of victory. That's the spirit of the Heaven Path Institute!"

Su Ping was speechless after looking at Joanna, whose face was full of admiration. He asked, "Did you hear my question?"

Joanna turned her head and looked at him. "There's an ancient method that can be used to examine your divine qualities as well as your other qualities, such as your demonic quality, miscellaneous quality, and beast quality. However, that method was lost ages ago. Another way is to run a test with the Golden Stone.

"The Golden Stone is a natural treasure born in the Eye of the Realm. It's also known as God's Tear."

She then said softly, "I know of a Superior God who has a Golden Stone. Unfortunately, we're currently in the Archean Divinity and cannot go back. Otherwise, we could borrow it from her."

"So to speak, we have to wait for the test now," said Su Ping helplessly.

Joanna nodded. She glanced at him and Tang Ruyan before she added, "I checked my divine quality years back. I should be able to pass it, unless they find that I'm an unregistered participant. But I don't

know about you two. Considering what I understand from your condition, you may not have enough divine quality, but your demonic quality is definitely off the charts.”

“...”

Su Ping could not help but roll his eyes. Is it really smart for someone to mock their boss like that?

“Never mind. It won’t be a big deal even if I can’t pass. You’ll pass anyway; at least one of us will be admitted. Speaking of which, your identity as a reincarnator won’t be found out, will it?”

Su Ping was not really determined to join the Heaven Path Institute. He wasn’t really anxious.

Joanna slightly shook her head and said, “That old man was so strong that he must have realized my identity as a reincarnator. After all, reincarnations can be easily spotted by those who are above a certain level. Their eyes can see through time and space and easily notice the link between my body and my original self.

“However, he took me in nonetheless, which means that reincarnations may be accepted too, as long as I can pass the third level of the trial.”

“That’s great.” Su Ping nodded, troubled feelings arose. He could more or less understand the Ascendant State power, but the unbelievable abilities typical of Celestials and above were completely enigmas to him.

The nearby Tang Ruyan was slightly disappointed after hearing what Joanna said. However, she was secretly comforted and even delighted, not because she was gloating, but only because she had found one thing in common between herself and Su Ping.

The majority of those people are Star Lords. Most of them will probably graduate in the Ascendant State... Su Ping looked around with mixed feelings.

Ascendants in the Federation were bigshots that mastered a huge region—

And yet, they were trained in batches at the Heaven Path Institute.

Everybody was involved in a heated discussion. Some people seemed to know a lot about divine quality, and gave long speeches about the subject. Su Ping listened to them and felt that he had picked up a lot of new knowledge.

The crowd began to fizzle down several hours later. Many of them entered the temple in groups ranging between three to five.

The temple was extremely vast; it had enough seats to accommodate a hundred thousand people.

Su Ping and the others found a place to rest too. However, conflicts were inevitable when that many people were gathered. Several middle-ranked gods had a quarrel about their seats.

There were guards in the temple that forbade the people present fighting, so their quarrel came to a peaceful end.

“I didn’t know that gods could be that condescending!” Tang Ruyan was obviously infuriated. All the gods thought that she and Su Ping were Joanna’s slaves because they were humans. They were quite

unfriendly, so she told them to f*ck off. They were still very arrogant even after they knew she and Su Ping were participants.

Su Ping was already used to this. He would fight with his tongue since he was unable to do so with his fist.

He wasn't scared of anyone when it came to oral fights. After having been a keyboard warrior for years, he found the gods adorably childish.

"Nobody would dare to mess with the high-ranked gods. They mock us only because we're strong enough," said Su Ping as he comforted Tang Ruyan.

One of the groups among the participants was exclusively made of high-ranked gods; the other gods made way for them. They revered the high-ranked gods more than poor human beings respected billionaires; they acted like beggars in front of nobles.

"There's an Ancestral God in each of the high-ranked clans. Ancestral Gods can easily destroy a middle-ranked clan and remove it from the Realm of Gods. They can even eliminate them from the origin of their bloodline and curse them with their blood!" Joanna said in a low voice. She also gave a stern look at the high-ranked gods solemnly too. She would have given up if they went to see her, looking for trouble.

She didn't have a choice. If any of the high-ranked gods was beloved by their clan's Ancestral God, it would be very easy for the latter to wipe out another clan in fury.

Nobody would dare disrespect high-ranked gods under such a horrifying threat, unless they were high-ranked gods too.

Is this what ultimate power feels like? Su Ping thought. The high-ranked gods were like the royal family among the gods, whereas the middle-ranked gods were just regular nobles. How could a noble not revere or fear a member of the royal family?

Ten days passed in the blink of an eye.

Su Ping didn't stay idle in those ten days. He was in a noisy environment, so he decided to establish a barrier; Joanna was there looking after him too. He was able to consider his secret technique about strength exertion. He named it "God's Arrival"!

Unfortunately, I don't have a chance to confirm my speculation, but I should be able to exert ninety percent of my strength! It's not exactly as good as achieving the hundred percent as I had originally hoped. However, ninety percent should be enough for me. Still, even if I can exert all my strength, I won't be able to use that technique in reality. After all, I'll have to let my pets carry me away if I completely run out of strength; I won't have any remaining strength to defend myself, Su Ping thought.

Compared to the upcoming test, he was actually more eager to try out and confirm the new technique he had created.

Once the ten days passed, a noisy hubbub was then heard, coming from outside the temple. All the people inside the temple detected that a lot of people with powerful auras on par with theirs had arrived.

Some walked out of the temple, then saw a lot of attractive people outside. There were both male and female. Males were handsome, and females were exceptionally beautiful. All of them seemed to be the center of the world when they stood there.

Chapter 983: Test

“Are they the princes and princesses of all the different clans?”

“I’m told that they will be sent directly to the third test. That’s the privilege of the major clans!”

“It’s understandable. After all, none of them are simple. We would have been in grave danger if they were to actually participate along with us in the second part of the test.”

“It does make sense if you put it that way.”

All the people in the temple walked out and continued to discuss.

All the influential participants stopped at a point in the high sky and glanced down with indifference at the people in the temple. Then, they observed themselves. In their eyes, the only candidates worthy of being their competitors in the Heaven Path Institute were the princes and princesses of the major clans.

“Huh?”

Su Ping walked out of the temple too. He looked around and saw almost three hundred participants of noble upbringing. The sheer number came as a true surprise. Did every single clan of the gods send their talents over?

Very soon, Su Ping discovered someone familiar.

“Look over there. Isn’t he the guy we met earlier?” Tang Ruyan exclaimed in a low voice.

A couple of the highborn were standing together. They had the same hair and eye color, and there was the same purple emblem on their robes. One of the princes was none other than the young man of the Rain Clan they had encountered earlier.

Next to the young man stood two males and two [a]females, all of them looking extraordinary and attractive; in no way did they seem to be servants of the young man they had met.

“There are a dozen high-ranked gods among them,” said Joanna solemnly.

“Only a dozen?” Su Ping was stunned. His first assessment was that all of them were high-ranked gods.

“There were only thirty or so high-ranked gods in the entire Archean Divinity, but I don’t know how many remain at the moment. The stars of the middle-ranked clans can’t be underestimated; the best among them can even beat contenders from high-ranked clans. However...”

She suddenly paused in the middle of her explanation.

“However... what?” asked Tang Ruyan curiously.

After a moment of silence, Joanna said in a low voice, “However, such geniuses must either join the high-ranked clans as their vassals, or join an organization as powerful as the high-ranked clans, such as

the Heaven Path Institute. They can also join the sects founded by the Ancestral Gods. Otherwise, such geniuses won't be able to walk far without protection."

Tang Ruyan asked in surprise, "Are you saying that the high-ranked gods suppress other geniuses? That's too petty!"

"It's not about pettiness. The territories of the high-ranked clans are the most fertile places. Every new high-ranked clan would signify a loss to the other high-ranked clans. If a clan wishes to rise among the ranks, not only must each of their members be strong enough, they would also need some connections. Of course, if an Ancestral God emerges among them, they will undoubtedly become a high-ranked clan later on," explained Joanna in a low voice.

Once realizing the situation, Tang Ruyan said with a weird expression, "Why does it sound so similar to the familial competitions I've been through?"

"This has happened since the dawn of time, a lot of things and rules apply to different social classes and species," said Su Ping, completely unsurprised.

Joanna nodded in acknowledgment. Then she said, "The people next to the prince of the Rain Clan must be his retinue. Normal clans elect up to ten princes and princesses, depending on the number and quality of geniuses they have. The one who would later become the next master of the clan will be the best performer of the group; the results of their competitions once they reach the Ascendant State will decide their future.

"However, their competitions begun the moment they were selected."

Tang Ruyan asked curiously, "What about the young lords who fail? Will they be killed?"

"Some are killed, and some are exiled; that's inevitable. Even though they became princes and princesses due to their talent, the clans would only need the strongest among them and the others would only work as background. They cannot possibly shake the position of the strongest, no matter how many of them there are," said Joanna.

Seeing how calm she was, Tang Ruyan suddenly felt that she wasn't as mature as her.

My father had me become my sister double for the same reason. It was all for the best interests of the family. However... Her eyes glittered. She shook her head and suppressed the ideas in her heart.

While their talk ensued, the three old gods of the Heaven Path Institute appeared once more. The gentle-looking senior at the center said, "Sorry for the long wait, everyone. Today, the third test of the trial will be held. By now you should be well acquainted with the nature of the test; your divine quality will be examined. The Heaven Path Institute has a very unique criterion, so there's no need to feel frustrated even if you don't qualify. You will have another chance as long as you cultivate your personality."

His words were very comforting; no one had the feeling of being left out.

Once he delivered his message, the old man waved his sleeve, and a glittering golden stone appeared. The object was about twenty meters tall, with black metal nails piercing it. There were black metal lines among the black nails, whose ends were connected to a ball the size of a human head.

“This is the Golden Stone, also known as God’s Tear.

“It’s very sensitive to divine quality, making it a great device to search for treasures with divine quality.

“It’s already been modified. All you need to do is to lay your hand on the ball before you. This will detect the divine quality’s intensity deep in your soul.”

Once the old god said that, he looked ahead and added, “Now, the princes and princesses will go first. Amongst you, who wants to be the first one?”

“Me!”

“Me!”

A couple of guys responded immediately after; there were men and women mixed in. They were obviously the confident and reckless sort.

“Come on then. You’ll do it in turns,” said the old man gently.

The participants immediately flew over. The one who flew out first was the girl nearest to the golden stone. She was wearing a black dress encrusted with countless glittering crystals; it was obviously a very powerful secret treasure with defensive purposes.

A couple of men wearing the white robe of the Heaven Path Institute approached the participants in the sky. Su Ping discovered that all of them were Ascendants.

“State your name and family. Then, take the test,” said a middle-aged man who had a starry crown above his head. He slowly opened a book in his hand, then manifested a brush with divine power. He seemed to be getting ready to register the results.

The black-dressed girl’s beautiful voice was filled with pride and confidence. “I am Ling Yin, of the Solar Clan!”

She pressed her hands on the ball right after her presentation.

Soon, the black ball released golden light, one streak after the other, until the entire ball turned golden. After that, the golden color moved along the black metal lines towards the black nails on the stone.

One, two... Altogether seven golden nails were dyed golden.

Once the golden light stopped moving, the middle-aged man with a starry crown gestured for her to step back, and the brush made of divine power automatically wrote the result on the book. He then said, “Next.”

[a]Guessing here. The alternatives are:

a)A man an a woman (only two, one of each)

b)Two men, and two women (four)

It sounded like the larger number was the option.

Chapter 984: Anomaly

“It seems that the special black nails can measure your divine quality.”

Su Ping, Joanna and Tang Ruyan waited quietly in the crowd. Their turn would come later, since the princes and princesses with recommendations would take the test first.

This was fine. The order to take the test didn't matter anyway.

Not everyone thought the same, though; some were clearly unhappy with the arrangement. They had passed multiple tests to make it up to that point, and yet they had to wait for ten days until they could be measured. This made them feel frustrated; some were even angry at the Heaven Path Institute.

In the high sky—the privileged ones took the test in turns. If a few of them moved at the same time, the crowned middle-aged man would make the call, naming one of them to take the measurement first.

Ling Ying, the first princess finished her test, and then a second and third measurement were conducted, but the results were merely three illuminated nails, while the other only lit one. Such results made everyone feel surprised and anxious. They didn't realize that the divine quality difference between them would have such a stark difference. Judging from the results, the second and third test-takers would very likely fail.

The two participants realized this too; they had contorted expressions.

Soon after, the others stepped up and took turns to be measured.

There were altogether twelve black nails on the Golden Stone, which seemed to represent the maximum divine quality. Still, they didn't know what the entry standard was for the Heaven Path Institute. Even Ling Yin—who had illuminated seven of the black nails—was feeling nervous.

She had always been the best in every test she had ever taken.

If the full score was a hundred points, she would definitely score a hundred points.

However, she had only illuminated a bit over half the twelve black nails. She would fail if the institute's standard was ten nails.

She began to relax upon seeing that the people who came after illuminated fewer nails.

Exclamations came from the crowd some time after, as a handsome red-haired young man illuminated eleven nails!

He was only one nail away from perfection!

This would be the candidate with the best divine quality thus far.

Everybody fixed their eyes upon him. They were astonished to find that he didn't belong to a high-ranked clan. It seemed that divine quality truly didn't depend on bloodline.

The red-haired young man was surprised and delighted by the result. He believed that he would surely pass the test; after all, he had the best qualification among all the princes and princesses!

Nearby, the three old men of the Heaven Path Institute glanced at the red-haired young man with gentle eyes and nodded with satisfaction.

“That guy’s turn is almost up,” said Tang Ruyan in a low voice.

The candidates had been lined up. The Rain Clan’s prince was almost there.

The Rain Clan had sent five princes, and the young prince they knew was at the end of the line. The other princes kept a distance from him.

The news of the Rain Clan’s Chaos Bell being struck reached the ears of many high-ranked clans. However, the Rain Clan considered the fact as a source of humiliation, so they didn’t offer any clarification about the matter. The other clans thought that a prince of the Rain Clan had done it... But the Rain Clan knew they had pushed away a genius who could make the Chaos Bell resound.

In an ideal scenario, the human genius would have definitely been grateful toward the Rain Clan, had they acted courteously.

The Rain Emperor didn’t punish the prince, but the other candidates had formed an alliance and were giving him the cold shoulder, all to have one fewer competitor.

“He definitely has poor divine quality!” said Tang Ruyan, seeing the prince of the Rain Clan at the end of the line. She didn’t participate in the battle against the people of the Rain Clan, but she had been accidentally killed several times. The disrespectful prince had left a deep impression on her.

“It’s hard to say.”

Su Ping slightly shook his head. He didn’t consider it a big deal.

Whether he could enter the institute remained to be seen. He didn’t care if that prince could make it in.

He would not mind dealing with the prince, if both of them were admitted and the latter looked for trouble. He would be capable of slaying the prince, even after becoming a disciple of the Heaven Path Institute.

Joanna had indeed mentioned that the institute was outstanding, but that was completely unrelated to that prince.

“Humph!” Tang Ruyan snorted, not agreeing with Su Ping’s dismissive attitude.

The Rain Clan’s turn came soon after.

The first prince of the Rain Clan was gentle and handsome. There was a lightning mark in his left eye, which gave him a most unusual look. Someone whispered, “Lightning Eye. The Rain Clan’s prince is truly terrifying.”

“He was born with the Lightning Eye. He mastered the path of lightning when he was very little, and the Lightning Eye contains a destructive power. I’m sure he will ascend to higher levels!”

The others continued discussing in low voices, envy seeping through.

Soon, the prince with the Lightning Eye laid his hand on the black ball.

The sphere soon turned golden. Then, the golden color was spread out, illuminating six of the black nails.

The seventh black nail turned golden halfway and then stopped.

The middle-aged man wearing a starry crown nodded and gestured for the next one to step up.

The prince with the Lightning Eye was unhappy, seeing the mild response from the senior. He had always been an astonishing genius; still the elder seemed to be unimpressed. Not even his Lightning Eye drew any attention, which made him feel uncomfortable.

However, he kept all his discomfort concealed. He nodded with a smile and left.

Behind him was a princess of the Rain Clan.

She stepped up and managed to light up nine black nails!

Then, the third clan member only illuminated one.

The fourth one lit three of them.

Soon it was the turn for the last one: the young prince who had forced Su Ping to strike the bell.

“Mo Feng, of the Rain Clan!”

The young man stepped up and reported his name and clan. Then, he laid his hand on the black ball.

A moment later, the black ball turned golden, and then the golden color was slowly spread out... But only one of the black nails was dyed golden.

Mo Feng was stunned. He didn't expect to see that his divine quality only amounted to that much.

His heart became heavy. The final result hadn't been released yet, but he knew that he would probably not qualify.

“Damn it!”

He grimly clenched his other fist. He would get less resources if he was unable to enter the institute, and was fully aware that one of his companions had illuminated nine of the black nails!

“Go back. Next.”

The crowned middle-aged man could easily notice the frustration and fury in the young prince's eyes. He was also aware of the cruel competition which took place within each clan. Still, that was just how survival worked. There were winners, and there were losers.

He didn't sympathize with those without enough divine quality. He knew what it meant.

Mo Feng turned around and walked away with a gloomy expression, not even bothering to say goodbye.

The princess of the Rain Clan who had illuminated nine nails had a wide and brilliant smile on her face. There was a good chance that she would be admitted by the Heaven Path Institute. If so, she would obtain much more resources, and later become a lot stronger!

All the other princes and princesses lowered their heads in silence.

All the candidates of the high-ranked clans were measured as time went by. The best had illuminated eleven black nails, and the worst didn't even change the black ball, which made the onlookers think that the golden stone was malfunctioning, until another did the test again.

"That one doesn't have any divine quality at all, right? And her... To think she's the princess of a high-ranked clan. How terrifying."

"Tsk, tsk. The competitors in her clan must be trembling with fear after seeing such a result."

"She's definitely a bada**!"

Everybody whispered in low voices and made sure to remember her name.

The girl was slightly surprised by the result. There was coldness in her eyes when she returned to her previous position, as she had noticed the round of whispering she had caused.

The privileged group finished. It was then Su Ping and the others' turn.

Once again, everybody was soon lined up according to the crowned senior's indications.

"Huh?"

Mo Feng—as he made plans with a gloomy expression—saw a familiar person in the crowd. Slightly dazed, he squinted and realized that his eyes weren't deceiving him.

The guy is still alive!

He even came to the Heaven Path Institute?

Mo Feng was even gloomier. If Su Ping joined the institute, his astonishing talent would definitely be revealed, and he would receive a lot of resources.

"Damn it!"

His mood was even fouler. He thought it was the worst day of his life.

He's a mere human being. How much divine quality can he have? he thought.

Soon, the tests were conducted.

Besides gods, their vassal species were taking the tests too; many different races could be seen due to this reason. Some of them had bull heads and human bodies, while others had human bodies and snake nails. There were also spirits with colorful hair.

To everyone's surprise, several candidates from the vassal species illuminated eight black nails. One of them even illuminated ten black nails!

Such results left a lot of gods with unnatural expressions and strange feelings.

The more Mo Feng looked, the angrier he became. He clenched his fists tightly.

It was finally the turn for Su Ping's team.

"You go first," Su Ping said to Tang Ruyan.

Tang Ruyan was rather nervous. She nodded and then flew towards the golden stone.

“Just lay your hand on it.” The middle-aged man gave her a weird look; he had obviously realized that she couldn’t have passed the previous tests without external help.

She was a human being... Was she a slave to one of the gods?

The middle-aged man raised his eyebrows, not considering it a big deal. Even though Tang Ruyan was really weak, the Heaven Path Institute was a place where students became stronger, no matter how weak their starting point!

That is, on the premise that they had enough divine quality to pass the test.

Tang Ruyan laid her hand on the black ball. Soon, the black ball turned golden. One black nail, two nails, three... It didn’t stop until it reached the seventh one.

Tang Ruyan was slightly relieved to see the result, but she was a bit regretful too. Seven nails was a fairly good result, but she didn’t know if she could pass. She would have been more confident had she illuminated eight or nine nails.

However, she was still surprised to have lit seven black nails.

Did she have that much divine quality in her body?

“Am I such a good person?” Tang Ruyan mumbled, feeling good for herself. She even held her head high as she looked at the gods present. She finally felt that she wasn’t the weakest one around.

“Huh?”

Joanna was astonished by Tang Ruyan’s results. The girl was above average, considering the readings of the previous candidates.

Su Ping was slightly surprised. Tang Ruyan didn’t have much divine power, yet her divine quality was high. It was beyond his expectation.

No wonder the divine quality didn’t depend on bloodline. Maybe it was just a special feature related to the soul.

I wonder what my soul is like, Su Ping thought.

He stepped up to the golden stone.

Su Ping as if the stone were staring down at him like a gigantic eyeball. None of his thoughts and secrets could be hidden any longer.

God’s Tear... Is it really that marvelous? Su Ping thought. He laid his hand on the black ball as per the middle-aged man’s instructions.

The sphere felt cold to the touch. Su Ping waited hopefully, but the black ball didn’t give the slightest response after a long time passed.

Su Ping was stunned and speechless. He then remembered the princess who had even failed to illuminate the black ball.

Had he lost all of his divine quality because he killed too many people?

But he always considered himself a good guy!

He had always been observant of laws, and he was an excellent figure from every perspective!

While Su Ping felt like crying, the black ball showed brilliant gold colors, which then spread out and illuminated the first black nail. Then, the second, the third...

The golden light suddenly stopped when it came to the ninth nail. Su Ping illuminated nine and a half of them.

“Phew.”

Su Ping was relieved. That was close. It was a terrifying moment.

Did the Golden Stone hear his inward cry?

The nearby senior with a starry crown was also surprised, wondering why the Golden Stone had been unresponsive a moment earlier.

He looked at the three old men, then dropped the matter since none of them said a thing.

Su Ping moved back and gave Joanna an encouraging look. “Go for it!”

Joanna was acting solemn and anxious. She even seemed to be breathing at a slower rate. She looked back at Su Ping, nodded and then flew to where the golden Stone was.

Chapter 985: Three Academies

“Damn it!”

Among the Rain Clan’s candidates, Mo Feng became gloomy after seeing Su Ping’s performance. Nine and a half nails was already a great result.

If Su Ping couldn’t pass the test, then at least ninety percent of the test-takers present wouldn’t!

Still, if Su Ping passed the test, the Heaven Path Institute would realize the human being’s potential and invest a tremendous amount of resources on him; such an outcome was bad news for him and the Rain Clan!

Joanna stepped up to take the test while Mo Feng pondered.

Soon, the black ball turned golden. Then, the first black nail, the second, the third... They glittered one after the other. Ten of them turned on soon after, but that wasn’t the end of it. The eleventh and twelfth black nails had also turned golden!

All of the black nails had been illuminated!

Everybody fell silent at the moment. So far, she was the only candidate who had managed to illuminate all of the black nails!

Someone noticed that Joanna was from the Original Ladies Clan.

It was said that her clan had a strange relationship with the ancient Titan Gods.

The Titan Gods was a high-ranked clan with a long history. However, it declined due to an incident and disappeared overnight. Nobody knew where they had gone. Since then, their vassal forces had been subdued by the other clans.

Still, the Original Ladies weren't subdued for some reason. Still, they didn't have much potential, and could only manage to stand as a middle-ranked clan with their bloodline.

The middle-aged man responsible for registering results was surprised. He looked at Joanna and sensed something. However, considering such an outstanding result, he turned and looked at the three old men. He knew what to do after seeing the surprise and appreciation on their faces.

"Very good. You may leave," said the middle-aged man with a smile.

Joanna was slightly dazed by the result. She didn't expect that her divine quality would be as high. She knew about the uses of the golden stone, but she had never tested her divine quality. After all, it couldn't really improve her combat ability.

In any case, the result showed that she would surely be admitted by the Heaven Path Institute.

Unless...

Joanna looked at the three old men, finding that they were staring at her too with gentle smiles.

She then felt relieved, and was no longer anxious when she returned to Su Ping's side. She was thrilled, to think she would be admitted by the Heaven Path Institute... It would be a breeze for an expert of the institute to pull the Demigod Burial over to the Archean Divinity.

"Do you have such a high divine quality?"

Su Ping was indeed astonished, and so was Tang Ruyan. She had broken the record thus far!

Nobody had paid any attention to them earlier, but then they realized that countless people were gazing at Joanna after she broke the record.

"Did you cheat?" said Su Ping telepathically.

Joanna glanced back at him and said, "Who would dare to cheat here? Do you think I'm as cunning as you?"

"You aren't any better than me when it comes to that." Su Ping looked weird. He had known Joanna for a long time; never did he see her as a benevolent person. Didn't her divine quality suggest that she was a saint?

Or rather, was divine quality unrelated to one's kindness?

Su Ping felt baffled by this; still, he was quite happy with their results. Even Tang Ruyan—the one with the worst performance—had illuminated seven black nails, which gave her a good chance to be admitted.

“We’re now the center of attention,” Su Ping said in a low voice.

Joanna said indifferently, “Not ‘we’, but me.”

“...”

Su Ping didn’t know what to say.

The measurements continued; time passed and all of them were done. Some illuminated ten black nails while others illuminated eleven, but none had managed to illuminate all twelve like Joanna did.

Once the tests were over, the middle-aged man closed the book he held and the brush made of divine power disappeared. He looked at the three old men and gestured at them.

The harsh old man on the right side said in a cold and solemn tone, “We’ve examined your divine quality. Now, I will announce the admission standard.”

Everybody pricked their ears after hearing that.

“Those who have illuminated seven or more nails will be admitted. The rest of you should work on cultivating your personalities. Feel free to come again,” said the old man coldly.

The whole crowd in the field whispered. The ones who had met the standard felt relieved, while the ones who had illuminated six divine nails were regretful. As for those who had illuminated one or two nails, they knew they couldn’t be admitted, and were moaning in sorrow.

“I didn’t know the threshold was seven black nails. There was no need for me to illuminate nine nails.”

“Seven nails is enough to be admitted? Why not ten?”

“Why ten? Because you illuminated ten nails?”

Some cheered, and some were upset.

Mo Feng had an utterly gloomy look. He knew his outlook was not good, given his result, but now he had lost his final hope. He looked at the princess of the Rain Clan next to him, who was the only person from his clan who would be admitted.

His eyes were rather weird; he seemed as dangerous as a viper.

The others glanced at the princess too.

“Those who failed the test, you have two options,” said the gentle-looking old man who was standing at the center, “Firstly, you may leave the Heaven Path Institute and continue polishing yourselves. Secondly, you may join the Heart Mirror Academy of the Heaven Path Institute and cultivate your divine quality there. You may still join the Heaven Path Institute when you reach the standard.”

“The Heart Mirror Academy?”

“I heard that it’s a place for you to meditate. All that is taught there is a bunch of useless moral lessons.”

The people in the crowd whispered.

“Now, please stand on the left side if you wish to leave.” The old man raised his hand and pointed at his left side. A bubble immediately popped up; those willing to quit would be sent away.

Many shook their heads and gave up after he said that. They would rather train on their own, instead of wasting time in the Heart Mirror Academy.

1

After all, studying in the Heaven Path Institute wasn't the only way to become strong.

Divine quality wasn't completely essential when someone wanted to become strong.

Many experts had no divine quality, yet they were still able to become unparalleled geniuses that shocked other gods.

Su Ping and the others who had passed the test were waiting quietly for their own arrangements.

At this moment, Tang Ruyan suddenly said, “That guy is still here.”

Su Ping looked ahead. He saw that Mo Feng, the young prince of the Rain Clan, was still standing there; the losers by his side didn't move, either.

Besides them, many princes and princesses of other clans stood unmoving. They appeared to be willing to stay.

Looks like the Heart Mirror Academy isn't simple. Or rather, the Heaven Path Institute is very significant to them, Su Ping thought.

The competition among nobles was very cruel, and the Heaven Path Institute was an important step for them to become strong. So, they had to go there, even if they had to take a detour.

Soon after, most people chose to leave; only a third of the people stayed.

Those who stayed were taken away by the other old man.

The ones who passed, including Su Ping, were officially proclaimed students by the gentle-looking old man.

“I hope that your goal in the Heaven Path Institute is to reach the peak. Let me ask you, what's the highest point in the Realm of Gods?” The gentle-looking old man dropped his smile, and became solemn.

In the crowd, a bold prince shouted loudly, “The Ancestral Gods!”

The old man glanced at the prince and nodded. “Exactly, the Ancestral Gods! I hope that all of you aim to become Ancestral Gods!”

Everybody looked at each other in bewilderment, finding the situation surreal. It had been years since the last Ancestral God had emerged. Every Ancestral God was a world-shaking powerhouse who would always change the balance of the world.

“Cultivation is a high mountain.

“This mountain is full of thorns and difficulties. You need to overcome your laziness, lust, vanity and other weaknesses, and melt into the mountain like a rock. That is the only way you can keep on climbing!

“This is not a demand; it is but my personal hope. I hope that all of you aim to be the best. Such a pursuit will prevent you from being distracted by temptations. Rest and errors won’t be tolerated on the path to supremacy. So, you must be harder on yourselves!” said the old man as he addressed the crowd.

Everyone looked solemn; there was hot blood boiling in their hearts.

Cultivation was more strenuous and painful than most things in the world. Therefore, one could not persist without a strong mind.

“You’re new students. I do not know you well yet. There are three academies in the Heaven Path Institute, namely the Fighting Heavens Academy, the Mending Heavens Academy, and the Unifying Heavens Academy. Each academy has its own, unique style. You’ll learn about the details later.”

The old man faded away once he finished saying that.

The middle-aged man who was responsible for the records opened his mouth a minute after the old man left. “You are new disciples of this institute. I’ll take you to the Allocation Mountain first, where teachers will answer all of your questions. I hope that you follow our rules. Those who violate them shall be severely punished.”

He waved his hand after saying that, and everybody was translocated to a place underneath a sky of purple flames; it seemed to be the middle-aged man’s world.

The fiery sky disappeared soon after. They were no longer in the square, but at the top of a huge mountain.

Is this the expertise of an Ascendant? What a smooth use of the power of his world, Su Ping thought.

He had just realized that he was contained in a small world, along with everybody else. All of them could have been killed if that guy had a nefarious agenda. After all, he was the master of all laws and order in his small world. They would suffer major setbacks even if they were at his level.

...

They arrived at the Allocation Mountain.

Experts with powerful auras and robes of the institute quickly dashed over. They were introduced as the Heaven Path Institute’s mentors.

Su Ping was already familiar with the Ascendant aura. He found that all of the mentors were Ascendants; they seemed to be even more terrifying than the ones he had seen in the Federation.

Are these mentors as strong as Heavenly Lords? Su Ping wondered.

Soon, the mentors recited the rules of the Heaven Path Institute.

They also introduced the three academies.

As the name implied, the Fighting Heavens Academy was focused on fighting. The disciples of this academy would often need to carry out dangerous battle missions. They would need to defend the institute in the event of an attack.

1

The Mending Heavens Institute, on the other hand, taught the skills of defense and assistance.

1

As for the Unifying Heavens Academy, it taught miscellaneous skills, including some ancient, lost techniques from various categories.

1

Su Ping and Joanna had different opinions in regards to the choice of academy. Joanna chose the Fighting Heavens Academy. She seemed to have long admired the institute because of its sub-academy.

As for Su Ping, he chose the Unifying Heavens Academy. He was curious about the unseen stuff.

1

After a long time of consideration, Tang Ruyan also chose the Fighting Heavens Academy. She was the aggressive type.

“Unfortunately, you can’t stay here for too long,” Su Ping was slightly regretful that they didn’t choose the same academy as he did. They could only stay for a limited amount of time with the employee privilege. They could no longer be resurrected if he randomly took them there again later.

They would truly die if they were killed.

Su Ping would not dare test his luck. After all, it was the Archean Divinity, and there were countless experts; they could be caught in a dangerous situation at any time.

“I’ll ask the experts of my academy and see if they can move my world here,” said Joanna.

Chapter 986: Cultivation

“Won’t that expose our identity?” Tang Ruyan asked.

Although she didn’t get what Joanna had said, she guessed something and was rather worried because of it.

Joanna was a bit surprised. She shook her head and said, “It wouldn’t be a big deal even if we do get exposed. There must be records about the war in the past; I believe that the people of the Archean Divinity are also looking for the lost pieces. I belong to the Archean Divinity, and I just came back. What’s wrong with that?”

There was excitement in her voice.

Tang Ruyan didn’t know how to respond, so she looked at Su Ping.

The latter nodded and said, "That's right. Even if we're exposed, we can still return in one piece and think of other methods. We always have a last resort; go ahead and try whatever you wish."

Tang Ruyan stopped persuading them after seeing that Su Ping was supportive of Joanna's plan.

"They said you're from the Original Ladies Clan. Do you want me to help you find your clan?" Su Ping asked Joanna.

Joanna's expression changed a bit. She said, "It's already gone. My clan leader led my entire clan to fight in that war. Only a small part of the clan was sent elsewhere, to work as seeds for the future. I don't think they can be found."

She knew of the cruel competition among the gods. The seeds were probably unable to grow up into anything even with her bloodline.

"That's not necessarily the case. Let's just be patient. Maybe we'll find something," said Su Ping. His words were full of hope and power.

Joanna chose not to continue with the conversation. There was hope deep down in her heart, but rationality told her that reality was cruel.

...

Once they picked their academy, Tang Ruyan and Joanna were led away by the mentors of the Fighting Heavens Academy, and Su Ping was taken to the Unifying Heavens Academy's cultivation place.

The Unifying Heavens Academy was in the middle of floating mountains. According to Su Ping's guide, the place had been created by a mythical figure in ancient times. That being had gone to a deep slumber after having lived for eons; its mind had stopped functioning, and its body turned into the mountain. Its consciousness had fled to an unimaginable space.

The sky was vast and mountains floated in the sky like clouds in glowing light. At ground level, the brown soil and the golden leaves of the trees were just as remarkable. There was a concentrated divine power flowing in the air, five times as intense as in the outside world!

The divine power was even denser on the floating mountains, which were cultivating holy lands.

"The Unifying Heavens Academy advocates the pursuit of the origin. To achieve this you have to observe and gain a deep understanding of all things in the world. That is the only way you can trace back to the source and become an Ancestral God!

"Unlike the Fighting Heavens Academy and the Mending Heavens Academy, the Unifying Heavens Academy aims toward lifelong research. Medicine, weapons, arrays; you may study anything and become an expert!" said the mentor of the Unifying Heavens Academy as he addressed the new students, including Su Ping.

Everybody was excited. To study everything in the world, trace back to the origin, and become an Ancestral God... That was the path of the Unifying Heavens Academy!

“This is where you’ll be staying. Every five students will share one mountain; all the mountains have the same density of divine power. The distribution of those mountains, as well as all future resources, will be done in a fair and equal manner. You won’t receive more resources depending on performance.

“But of course, there will be benefits if you work hard and stand out. For example, some mentors will recommend you to the grandmasters if they like you. No matter what you learn from the grandmasters, it will benefit you for the rest of your life,” said the mentor with a smile.

Everybody was surprised. None of them expected that cultivating in the Heaven Path Institute would be as peaceful. Would there be no competition, at all?

Su Ping was similarly surprised, but found the situation understandable upon remembering what Joanna had said. An academy which upheld such fairness would certainly have a great atmosphere. Still, would the students laze around due to the lack of competitiveness? The atmosphere was key; all students would actively communicate and encourage each other to grow together if the atmosphere was ideal.

None of the geniuses in the Heaven Path Institute were willing to settle and be mediocre; the atmosphere would definitely be positive.

“You must not fight nor commit acts of brutality against each other while in the institute. You must not plot against each other. If there is truly an irresolvable grudge between you, you may go ahead and duel, fully accepting whatever the outcome may be!”

The mentor added in closing, “Okay, you may choose your mountain now. Each mountain can only accommodate five people; find another if the one you choose is already full.”

Everybody looked at the mountains and flew towards them.

Su Ping picked a random mountain. After all, all the mountains had the same density of divine power; there was no need to compete.

His mountain was soon filled to capacity. There were two males and two females aside from Su Ping. A man and a woman from the others were of noble rank in their clans.

The mountain was massive. There were five groups of buildings; aside from the main palace, there were rooms for servants, cultivation, and guests. All those places had been cleaned up.

Su Ping claimed one of the compounds and planned to start cultivating, but two of the others went to see him with the intention of going together to meet both the prince and the princess. The five of them would be classmates in the future, that was why they wanted to meet everyone and get to know each other better.

Su Ping usually preferred not to waste time on such formalities, but he conceded and left with them.

They went to the prince’s palace first. The latter declined their invitation, and was quite cold to them; he drove them away under the excuse that he would start cultivating very soon.

After such a setback, the trio went to the princess’ palace. She was just as unfriendly upon seeing that the prince was not with them. She also used her need to cultivate as an excuse, not intent on entertaining the visitors for long.

Such an incident had also left a mutual bad impression between the two nobles.

Su Ping and the other two students didn't think highly of them, either.

"The scions of the major clans are truly arrogant." One of the young gods was angry due to the failed endeavor. He wasn't a prince, but he was a genius of his clan; he was infuriated because of their attitude.

The female, however, didn't think much of it, as if already used to such coldness. She bade goodbye to Su Ping and the young god and then left.

Su Ping saw this experience as a waste of his time. He said goodbye to the young god and returned to his palace to start his cultivation.

The next day.

An Ascendant god went to the mountain and introduced himself as their mentor.

They then learned that a mentor was assigned to supervise groups of five students.

Most mentors used to be students of the Heaven Path Institute in the past. They chose to stay and continue cultivating there after graduating. They had been entrusted with the additional task of teaching the freshmen.

"You're currently God Warriors. Well, this young human is a Celestial God. You passed the second test with such a level? You must have a lot of battle experience." The mentor was a young and handsome god with a mature air. He wore a friendly smile.

Su Ping remembered when Joanna told him about godly ranks in the Demigod Burial, where Star State experts were called God Warriors. It seemed that Star Lords were the God Warriors in the Archeon Divinity.

Has the cultivation system in the Demigod Burial deviated since it broke away from the Archeon Divinity, and its general combat ability has lowered? If so, the Major Gods here equal the Ascendant State, and the Gods of Rules equal to the Celestial State. As for the Superior Gods, they must be even above the Celestial State.

But in the Demigod Burial, the four Superior Gods are already the top of it all, Su Ping thought.

"Today, we'll focus on the cultivation of the Celestial State. Young human, you may listen to it too. I will tell you about matters related to Celestial Gods later," said the mentor with a smile.

Su Ping immediately nodded.

The other four students glanced at Su Ping. The two students who had gone to visit with Su Ping remained calm, but the prince and the princess had disdainful expressions. They seemed to find it demeaning to stand alongside someone as weak as Su Ping.

Chapter 987: Cultivation Beyond the Limits

"Every level has a corresponding power core.

“The core for a Celestial God is the power of laws they have mastered, as well as the number of such laws.

“God Warriors differ from each other when it comes to the power of faith and their small worlds.

“Today, we will talk about the difference between small worlds.”

With a smile, the young mentor asked, “If your opponent is at the same level as you are, how can your small world completely surpass theirs? Anyone?”

Su Ping and the others considered carefully, not rushing to answer the question.

The young god, however, frowned and said indifferently, “That is an easy question. The number and power of laws used to construct a small world would decide its power. That’s the reason why we pursue the four supreme laws; our small world would become more solid than anything if we add them. That way we can easily crush opponents on our level.”

“Exactly,” replied the young mentor with a smile, “Then, do you think this would set the limits?”

The young prince said thoughtfully, “I’ve heard of an ancient cultivation technique that can strengthen our small world, until it surpasses the limits of the four supreme laws.”

The young mentor smiled and continued, “There’s indeed such an ancient technique, but it can only strengthen your small world in a limited way. That’s not the correct path.”

“Oh?” The young prince was surprised by the response, becoming much humbler. He seemed eager to learn the real answer.

“This is exactly what I’m going to teach you today.”

The young mentor added with a smile, “The Ancestral Gods of the Heaven Path Institute created a set of secret cultivation techniques years ago, which redefined the limits God Warriors can reach. This set of secret cultivation techniques allows you to own multiple small worlds!”

“Multiple small worlds?” Everybody was stunned.

“Exactly. You can create another small world within your small world. Combined worlds would be much more powerful than any single world!”

The young mentor continued with a smile, “However, such cultivation technique requires great talent and diligence. Succeeding would make you far stronger than your peers, but if you fail, it would be a huge waste of time.”

Build another world within the original small world..

Everybody was dumbfounded by the concept, feeling that a new gate was being opened before them, revealing infinite, unimaginable splendors behind it. It was a path they had never thought of.

“Is it really possible? If we do that, won’t our original small world be torn apart?” asked the now excited young prince.

“Your cultivation is what matters. Nothing will happen if you cultivate appropriately, but making mistakes in your cultivation may lead to horrible results, like self-destruction,” said the young mentor solemnly, “This is the cultivation technique that the Heaven Path Institute teaches you. Look carefully... These are multiple small worlds.”

He pointed with one of his fingers, and a spherical space appeared in midair. There seemed to be an ocean of stars in it.

Within that world—another small world showed up, filled with infinite flames.

A third small world collapsed and appeared in the middle of the infinite flames; inside there was nothing but lightning and desolation.

“There are three difficulties regarding the multiplication of small worlds. Firstly, you must establish a small world within your small world, which means that you must break the laws in the original small world. You have to fully understand one of the laws you mastered, in order to create a unique world with it!

“The second difficulty is to make the two small worlds compatible, so that their force fields will enhance each other, instead of offsetting and weakening each other.

“The third difficulty is to master the force fields and various laws of different small worlds. You won’t experience this until you start to condense your second small world.”

Seeing how shocked and solemn everybody was, the young mentor said, “This cultivation technique is meant to break your limits. It’s very difficult; however, you will benefit greatly if you master it. Even if you only create a second small world, you will still be far stronger than your peers. You’ll be able to crush them easily! If you establish three small worlds... you can defeat the strongest of your level with one casual attack. The princes and princesses of your clans are the best in their level and very close to the limit, but they are as vulnerable as babies to those who own triple small worlds.”

The expressions of two young nobles changed once he said that. Given their status as descendants of major clans, they had always been the leaders in their generation, and had almost reached the limits of the God Warrior State. They had been trying to condense the four supreme laws to build the strongest small world, all to be able to defeat anyone at their level.

However, that was just the first limit in the Heaven Path Institute!

“Well... If I may ask, how many small worlds can a person create in total?” asked the young prince with a humble tone, dropping all of his arrogance.

The young mentor smiled and replied, “Your high ambition is worth complimenting, but don’t aim too high. A lot of descendants like you are very talented. Some are even geniuses listed on the Chaos Rank. However, very few have condensed three small worlds. Still, in the long history of our institute, a lot of unparalleled geniuses have been able to rise further. One of them condensed seven small worlds while being a God Warrior!”

“Seven?”

Everyone’s faces changed due to shock.

Three small worlds were enough to beat the limits of the God Warrior level. Seven small worlds were already unimaginable. It wasn't hard to tell how vulnerable other God Warriors would be to them!

"The unusual genius who condensed seven small worlds is now one of the Ancestral Gods of this institute. A lot of grandmasters will notice you if any of you condenses five small worlds. You'll be able to learn a lot more things from them, including cultivation techniques that are more mysterious and powerful," said the young mentor with an encouraging and provoking smile.

Everybody became excited, but they soon calmed down. They realized that the young teacher, who had only condensed three small worlds, was already a mentor in the Heaven Path Institute. It wasn't hard to imagine how hard it would be to condense five small worlds.

I didn't know that there was such a cultivation technique for Star Lords...

Su Ping, on the other hand, was thrilled, feeling that the trip had been absolutely worth it.

He had never heard of such a cultivation theory in the Federation.

His master, Shen Huang, had never mentioned anything of the sort. He would have taught him if he knew of it, as it was unnecessary to keep it a secret. After all, the cultivation technique was extremely difficult; normal people might not even grasp the basics.

It seems that this cultivation theory doesn't exist in the Federation. I should be able to crush any Star Lord in the Federation if I can condense a second small world... Su Ping thought.

He had challenged the top warrior on the Divine Lord Rank. Although he failed, he had detected that the person had only released a small world.

The four supreme laws are just the first limit, but it's already extremely rare for anyone to grasp all four of them. The path of cultivation is indeed long. There are still limits beyond limits... Su Ping's eyes glittered with hope. He looked forward to what he might grow into. He even wondered about the Ancestral God who condensed seven small worlds; what kind of extraordinary person he must have been when he was young.

Chapter 988: Source

The young mentor taught them how to condense a second small world.

Su Ping also learned a lot from their conversation.

The young mentor sensed that he had spoken enough for the day, once he saw that everybody seemed confused after a two-hour session. He said, "Reflect on what I've taught you later. Try to lay a foundation for your second small world as soon as possible."

He looked at Su Ping and said, "You stay here. I'll teach you about the cultivation for the Celestial God realm."

The others looked at Su Ping. The prince and the princess simply spared him a glance, not thinking much of it. They said goodbye to the young mentor and flew back to their respective temples.

The other two students nodded at Su Ping and left too.

“Celestial Gods have their own limits.”

The young mentor started the topic without beating around the bush. “Celestial Gods should focus on understanding laws. You may become a God Warrior if you grasp a law to a point that you become adept in using it. However, that’s just the beginning for a Celestial God. Some exceptional geniuses may master multiple laws, and even become adept at harnessing the four supreme laws!

“However, that’s not the limit for Celestial Gods.

“Once you understand thousands of laws, you connect and combine all the laws that you know and find the source behind them. That’s the true limit for Celestial Gods.”

The young mentor looked at Su Ping and added, “Of course, it will be very hard. Among the countless students of this institute, very few have tapped the source.

“You may consider it as your goal, and try to pursue it if you are capable, but there’s no need to become obsessed over it and delay your advancement if you think it’s too far away. We may be close to immortal once we become Major Gods, but reaching the limits of every level is barely possible, even if you have infinite longevity.

“While people who used to be at your level soar high, you would still be stuck exploring in the old place. That would be a huge waste of time.”

Su Ping realized what he meant and nodded.

“There’s a black tablet inside the Unifying Heavens Academy. It is said to be a meteor from space which contains many ultimate laws. Although incomplete, they should be enough to help you understand a lot of laws.”

Lastly, the young mentor said, “You don’t have to grasp too many laws in order to find out their source. My master told me that some unparalleled geniuses would reach a vague understanding of the source by only mastering a hundred laws. There are many different laws and paths in the world, but their destination is the same.”

Su Ping asked curiously, “Will there be any special result if I master the source?”

“Special result? To put it simply, Celestial Gods who are as strong as you won’t be able to hurt you, no matter what laws they use,” replied the young mentor with a smile.

Is that all?

Su Ping felt less interested. He said, “If I master the source, will it be helpful when I become a God Warrior and condense a small world?”

Trying to understand the source would only be a waste of time if it could only prevent him from being hurt by people on his level, as he was already impervious to such opponents.

“Of course it would be helpful,” said the young mentor, “If you master the source, the first small world you condense would be perfect; one that borders on the limits!

“A perfect small world is equal to two or even three small worlds. If you practice the World Multiplication Technique as a God Warrior and condense two perfect small worlds, you would be able to suppress rivals with four small worlds. There are very few God Warriors across the entire Realm of Gods who have condensed four small worlds.”

Enlightened, Su Ping asked, “Can I go visit the black tablet anytime?”

“Each visit requires ten contribution points, which you may earn by accomplishing student missions issued by the academy. The yearly championship can provide you with a tremendous amount of contribution points if you perform well. Alternatively, you may work as an assistant for the grandmasters. But to have the opportunity you would first have to display unique skills, or have a sharp mind.”

Realizing what was on Su Ping’s mind, the young mentor said, “I can give you a student mission since you’re a new student. It just so happens that I’m in need of a few Fish Horned Beasts. Find them for me and you’ll get ten contribution points.”

Su Ping was stunned. He shook his head, as his time in the godly plane was limited; the way to exchange time and labor for contribution points was not suitable for him. He asked, “Is there any other way?”

“Another way?”

The young mentor was surprised by Su Ping’s refusal. It was an already great gesture of his to treat a new student in such a way. Who could possibly earn ten contribution points for capturing a few Fish Horned Beasts?

“You can also redeem contribution points if you donate items or rare materials to the arsenal, or the material warehouse of our institute,” said the helpless mentor, not at all affronted by Su Ping’s attitude.

Such a way to make contribution points was usually reserved for the nobles. He didn’t recommend it to Su Ping at first, since he was merely a human being.

“...”

Lost for words, Su Ping asked, “Can I donate techniques?”

He didn’t have rare weapons or materials, and even if he did, he would need them later. However, techniques were different; he wouldn’t lose anything even if he donated them. Of course, he wouldn’t reveal his ultimate techniques; that would only expose his trump cards. Any future fight would be like battling with his pants down.

“That works too. But they’re only valuable if they’re not registered in our institute already,” said the young mentor weirdly.

Countless techniques had been registered in the Heaven Path Institute. It was thousands of times more difficult to find a technique that didn’t exist there, as opposed to donating rare materials.

After all, materials and weapons were expendables; they could be stocked.

“Okay.” Su Ping nodded and immediately copied some of the techniques he had learned from the Federation, including the battle skills that Elder Yan had taught him earlier.

Once he saw that Su Ping had really decided to donate some techniques, the young mentor immediately led him to the library of the Unifying Heavens Academy, where there was an old man next to a tree. The tree was extremely tall and big; its branches and leaves shadowed the library. The old man was sitting right under its shade; there was an old woman's wrinkled face as if carved on the trunk.

The old man went and examined the records; none of the techniques offered by Su Ping had been registered before.

Su Ping offered three techniques. Two of them were the battle techniques that Elder Yan had taught him; they were worth fifty contribution points.

The last one had the first two levels from the Fist of Exorcist, which were worth 180 contribution points.

This exchange produced 230 contribution points, so he immediately went to visit the black tablet.

The object stood next to a windy cliff; there were also domesticated beasts hovering in the sky. A couple of people were sitting cross-legged in front of the gigantic tablet; they were gazing at the tablet wholeheartedly, as if trying to understand something.

Su Ping examined their level, and found that all of them were God Warriors.

"Their plan is to fill up the number of laws they can grasp as God Warriors to tap the source, just so that they can perfect their small world," said the young mentor, who had tagged along, "The road of a cultivator is long and hard. You don't have to be too stubborn. There will still be a chance to understand the source when you become a God Warrior if you can't at the moment."

Su Ping nodded and thanked him for his kindness.

He didn't say anything else. A white-robed young man flashed over and stood in Su Ping's way before the latter could approach the cliff.

"You need to pay ten contribution points if you wish to enter the Black Stone Cliff," said the young man indifferently.

"Here."

Su Ping took out his student badge, which was connected to his soul; it had recorded his personal information, and kept tabs on his contribution points. The badge could also allow him to be teleported straight to the Heavenly Path State, as long as he was still on the continent where the institute was located.

The white-robed young man accepted Su Ping's badge and deducted ten contribution points. He then said with a cold tone, "You may only stay for three days. Please leave when the time is up."

Su Ping nodded.

Then, after being led by the young man, Su Ping found a cushion on the top of the cliff and sat down.

Chapter 989: Declination

Is it a meteor from outer space?

Su Ping gazed at the black tablet. The longer he watched, the more he noticed how rays of light were twisted in front of his eyes. A strange, indescribable feeling popped up in his heart. The tablet seemed ablaze, as if radiating a weird light with its flames.

Is this how flames are created?

Su Ping stared at the flames covering the black tablet, completely fascinated.

Right before his eyes, flames came into being from the weakest and simplest structures. They turned from ordered to chaotic, and then the chaotic went back to ordered.

The path of flames...

Su Ping was already adept when using the path of flames. Therefore, the path he knew best showed up and directed him to a new stage.

...

While Su Ping was devoted to discern truths from the black tablet—somewhere else, in the Fighting Heavens Academy...

Both Joanna and Tang Ruyan had completed their paperwork, claimed their student badges and chosen their residences. They had picked the same island, which they shared with three gods.

Soon after, a mentor went there and taught them rules and cultivation methods for God Warriors. Joanna was astounded by the World Multiplication Technique, as she had never thought of such a cultivation method before. *Could small worlds be multiplied?*

Joanna couldn't help but ask, "All Celestial Gods and God Warriors have their limits. Then, what are the limits for Gods of Rules?"

She was asking that question to aid her original self, who seemed to be approaching those limits, yet she had yet to find the opportunity to step up into the Superior God level. That was why she had developed a reincarnation, to find an opportunity to advance!

"The Gods of Rules?"

Their appointed mentor was a young goddess. Once she heard what Joanna said, she shook her head with a small smile. "That's an old term. That rank doesn't exist anymore. Also, in ancient times, Gods of Rules were bigshots only second to Superior Gods. I'm only a Major God, so I cannot answer your question."

Hardly had Joanna asked the question when she knew she had misspoken. She was smart enough to learn from other people's conversations that Major Gods were as strong as the Gods of Rules that she knew from the Demigod Burial, and the Superior Gods she knew were only Gods of Rules in the Archeon Divinity.

No wonder the four Superior Gods failed to send us back to the Archeon Divinity. They would have been able to do that if they were real Superior Gods, Joanna thought.

Joanna changed her question. "What about the limits of Major Gods?"

The mentor had noticed that Joanna was a reincarnation, and knew that she was asking on behalf of her original self. She smiled and said, "I will gladly answer your question if you come to this institute in person. That's only fair, isn't it?"

Joanna hesitated. Her original self could hardly leave the Demigod Burial, much less go to the Heaven Path Institute.

The others looked at Joanna after hearing their mentor's reply. She had left a deep impression on them since she had passed the test with full marks. They didn't know she was a reincarnation.

"May I know if there's any way for me to meet the Ancestral Gods of our institute?" Joanna asked again after being silent for a long time.

Her words attracted a lot of attention again. Even Tang Ruyan was surprised by this, but then she understood Joanna's purpose.

"You want to meet the Ancestral Gods?"

The mentor was stunned too; she looked at Joanna, lost for words. She recovered and said, "The Ancestral Gods are too honorable to grant an audience. Not just you and me, even our masters can hardly meet them. Every new student wants to become a disciple, but they never take disciples easily. You can't even meet them if you're an unparalleled genius on the Chaos Rank!"

She was rather blunt, as she thought that Joanna was being over confident.

Such a request seemed like a random whim, for the girl to think she could meet the Ancestral Gods because her original self was a Major God.

"I'm not trying to become a disciple; I simply have a favor to ask of them," said Joanna, knowing that the mentor misunderstood her. Even so, she didn't want to explain.

"What favor?" The mentor frowned.

"About that..."

Joanna looked around. She didn't think that those present could understand her. After all, the people she had met earlier had forgotten the glorious achievements of the Heaven Path Institute in the past; who knew how much time had passed in the Archean Divinity since then.

It should be noted that time flowed at different speeds in different worlds.

"It's about salvation," said Joanna, after considering her choice of words. "A fragment from the Realm of Gods was detached for some reason. There are still a lot of gods living on that piece of land. I hope to bring them back."

The mentor was stunned for a moment, not expecting to hear such a matter. She glanced at Joanna and said thoughtfully, "Such things do happen. Battles by the border are sometimes too intense and pieces of the realm may shatter, but drifting fragments aren't too large. Our masters can easily find lost spaces beyond the realm."

She looked at Joanna and added, "I'll take you to our master. You may tell him the details."

Joanna was relieved, and was quick to thank her. There had been a misunderstanding earlier, but their mentor was clearly not a bad person. Then, their mentor encouraged the other students to work hard, before she took Joanna away.

They arrived at a temple and stood by the stairs. The mentor bowed respectfully and said, "Greetings, master."

"It's you, Le Yue. What's the matter?" said a gentle, elder voice.

"Master, a new student is in trouble and seeks help," said the mentor respectfully. Then, she hinted at Joanna.

The latter quickly paid her respects; her ever steady hands, no matter the battle, were shaking at the moment. She said, "It's an honor to meet you, senior. There's something that I wonder if you could help me. My homeland was detached from this realm and has drifted in an unknown space due to a battle from a long time ago. I hope you could bring that continent back to the Realm of Gods. All my compatriots have been yearning to return home..."

She became excited when she said the last part, to "return home."

The temple was quiet for half a minute. Then, the old man said in confusion, "Child, you're a reincarnation. In normal circumstances only Major Gods who have hit the bottleneck would choose to develop reincarnations. Your original self is a Major God, isn't it? How long ago are you talking about? From what I recall, battles have often taken place in the Realm of Gods, but not to a scale to affect a whole continent, has it?"

Joanna was shocked; she never expected such an answer. She quickly said, "Senior, the students and teachers of the Heaven Path Institute fought a desperate battle against the Heavens. The entire Realm of Gods was involved in the war; the continent that I lived on was just one of the regions affected. The other continents were also broken apart..."

"Hold on a second."

The old man inside the temple stopped her and asked in confusion, "Did you say that the Heaven Path Institute fought the Heavens with all our students?"

"Exactly!"

Joanna was dazed.

Her mentor was also surprised as she looked at the former.

After a long silence, the old man in the temple finally said, "I can't do that. Child, you may leave."

Joanna was stupefied; she felt that her blood was turning cold. She couldn't help but ask, "Senior, please help me! If you can't do that, what about the Ancestral Gods?"

"Nonsense!"

The old man scolded her from within the temple. "You must not mention the Ancestral Gods with such ease. As I said, what you ask of me is impossible. Go back. Do not bring up this matter to anyone in the future. If you have only come to this institute for that matter, then I suggest you quit right now."

Joanna was rather confused. She felt that whoever was inside the temple had drastically changed his attitude, almost as if he were a different person.

Chapter 990: Dead

Joanna remained confused after being dismissed from the temple.

Things didn't quite turn out as she had expected; the holy and awe-inspiring Heaven Path Institute had also lost its brilliance. She thought that they would help her without hesitation. But that wasn't the case.

"Why?"

"Have we truly been abandoned?" Joanna mumbled in frustration. She returned to her temple and cheered herself up. "If they're unwilling to help, we'll help ourselves!"

She had been a warrior her entire life, never one to admit defeat.

"I will make it happen if I become a Superior God or someone even stronger!"

"If there's no other way, I can ask the four Superior Gods to go to his store. We can cut our plane into five pieces and slowly move them back, one step at a time."

Joanna became hopeful again after considering that idea.

Su Ping's store would have an Outstanding Employee nomination once a year. She estimated that she would get three hundred opportunities to visit the Archean Divinity in a thousand year span, which should be more than enough for her to transport her hometown.

A thousand years wasn't a long time for her.

...

On the other hand, inside the temple that Joanna had just visited.

An old man was seated inside the temple; he seemed to be partially real, as he appeared to be sitting there while also looking like a projection. Any direct attack would be useless.

At the moment the old man was looking in a certain direction with a respectful demeanor.

An awe-inspiring power coming from that place was gradually fading away.

"She's already dead? What did the Ancestral God mean by that? That man has caused an Ancestral God to appear. What's so special about her? The Original Ladies Clan has declined, but its members are still living a good life..." the old man mumbled in awe and fear, as the situation left him shocked and baffled.

An Ancestral God had just informed him via telepathy of the woman's identity, telling him that she was already dead, and that the absurd war she had described was going to happen. All the Ancestral Gods were able to peer into the future; it wasn't hard for them to predict what would happen. But, how did the woman know of it?

The whole situation was eerie.

“Is the Heaven Path Institute destined to fight the Heavens and die together with them?” The old man felt confused. The news was too appalling to be shared with anyone. He suspected that the Ancestral Gods would know as soon as he planned to reveal it. After all, if he did plan to reveal it, it would have already been spread in the future.

Ancestral Gods could look into the future and trace it back to the origin, all to give him a warning at that moment.

“If that fateful day does come... What if even someone as I sacrifice myself for what I believe in?” The old man’s eyes glittered for a long time before he heaved a sigh. His eyes became sharp; he thought that preparations were in order. The Ancestral Gods didn’t inform others of the matter, which meant that the news shouldn’t be exposed. However, he could still do some planning.

“A person whom the Ancestral God said to be dead brought such a piece of information to us. Maybe the Realm of Gods will indeed fall into chaos.”

...

On the cliff.

Su Ping was devoted to the concepts imprinted on the black tablet. Those ideas looked like the most primitive gathering of laws; they were fully displayed for Su Ping to see; he was completely fascinated.

His understanding of fire had been further improved; he had almost located its origin.

Furthermore, he had inspected many other laws, and his understanding was greatly improved.

His small world was quickly strengthened thanks to this enlightening. Su Ping then had a vague understanding of why so many people had gone to find inspiration observing the black tablet. Watching the primitive laws did give him the feeling that he was getting a sensation for the origin of all laws.

If I can truly grab it, it would surely be the source of all laws, Su Ping thought.

Unfortunately, he was still far from that point. Although the sensation was there, it was just a feeling he had yet to truly grasp. After all, he had yet to fully understand the four supreme laws.

Time flew...

Three days went by.

Su Ping left the cliff. He still had more contribution points, but he chose not to stay any longer since the time allotted to visit that plane was almost up.

Besides the attainment of a deeper understanding of laws, he too accumulated a lot more strength during the three days. There was a lot of divine power on the cliff, and there was also other energy that was the original energy of the Archean Divinity. All of it could be transformed into astral power.

Even more astral power was consolidated inside Su Ping’s body; he was surpassing the limits again.

He went back to his temple, and received a servant outside the building; he was the one who received the cultivation elixir distributed once every ten years in the Heaven Path Institute.

“The cultivation elixir?”

Su Ping opened the box and found an emerald pill the size of a ring. He perceived the medicinal fragrance the moment he opened the box; the aroma began to spread. Su Ping felt that his bones and muscles were being stretched, and could easily tell it must have been a very rare medicine.

Su Ping asked for the way to take the medicine. He simply placed it in his mouth once he learned that it should be taken orally.

A stream of scorching, divine power gushed out the moment the medicine entered his throat. Besides divine power, there were also many types of powerful energies within. Su Ping had also detected the power of dragons and phoenixes.

The assorted energy flooded into Su Ping’s body. As if conscious, it passed many different parts and then gathered in his astral oceans, which immediately began to boil.

The highly purified astral power inside his astral oceans—with the influx of the new energy—was further condensed. Su Ping was observing carefully, and found that it wasn’t because his previous purification had flaws. Rather, the astral power’s form was changing. To be more precise, his astral power was no longer simple.

It had changed—

It turned into a new type of energy, of a level higher than astral power, yet slightly lower than divine power.

Su Ping immediately observed the transformation of the astral power in his body, so that he could transform the astral power he absorbed in the future, to turn it into the same new energy.

He could tell that it was better than astral power, at least five times as effective!

Chaos aura is the rarest energy in the world. However, the chaos aura that caused the foundation of the universe has already been exhausted. Even Ancestral Gods would be interested in getting it. No one can get it at this point.

Next to chaos aura is divine power.

However, divine power is thousands of times weaker than chaos aura. Below divine power is deity power, which Green Lady mentioned before. It’s even rarer. Then there’s astral power, which is the most popular in the Federation. Astral power is generated on every planet, and is sufficient for anyone.

My combat ability will be ten times stronger if I can transform my astral power into divine power, even if I’m not a god, Su Ping thought.

Unfortunately, he didn’t know how to transform astral power into divine power, although there was divine power in his body, until the elixir did it and showed the mysteries of its energy structure.

Divine power was one of the gods' core secrets. There probably wasn't any medicine that could help him with the transformation. Even if there were any, it wouldn't be given to a common student such as himself.

Su Ping really felt conflicted as he examined the transformation taking place in his body. A single elixir had increased his energy density by almost five times!

However, the first time was often the most effective one.

No one could have foreseen Su Ping's shocking changes due to the elixir given to the new students; it was unlikely that the Heaven Path Institute had, either. As things stood, all creatures in the Archean Divinity harnessed either divine power or naturally-born energy of their own races. For instance, dragons could transform all absorbed energy into dragon power, which carried the features of their race.

The transformation is almost complete. Maybe I can try to condense the Pendulum Astral Painting, the sixth one! Su Ping thought.

The Pendulum Astral Painting main focus was time; once mastered, he would be able to unite the laws of space and time, and his combat ability would improve yet again.

He immediately tried to condense the Astral Painting.

Infinite energy was condensed in his body; stars made of pure energy and blood took shape. Time quietly flew by.

After an indeterminate length of time, Su Ping heard the system's summoning voice. Their journey in the Archean Divinity had come to an end.

He opened his eyes, still unsatisfied, but he was still delighted by the changes in his body. Although he didn't explore the Heaven Path Institute through infinite resurrections, he had managed to enter. Such a feat was truly rare.

After all, even though he could see a lot of places in the Archean Divinity through resurrections, it was likely that he wouldn't learn much if he was being instantly killed by overwhelming opponents all the time. The trip would have been nothing but an eye-opener for him.