

Pet Store 991

## Chapter 991: Causal Duel

"It's time to go back."

Su Ping woke up from his meditation, ready to visit Joanna and Tang Ruyan.

Before he left, he told his servants to not disturb him, since he would spend a long time in seclusion.

That was just an excuse for his departure; otherwise, their mentors would investigate the matter if he suddenly went missing. The bigshots could detect the anomaly if they heard word of this and searched in special ways.

*Fortunately, people often go into secluded training for years in this place. Some mentors teach once every few years, or even decades. It probably won't affect me if I just come out once in a while.*

Su Ping went to the Fighting Heavens Academy after making the arrangements.

Thanks to the guards who sent a message, Su Ping soon met Joanna and Tang Ruyan. To his surprise, Tang Ruyan had already risen to the Fate State.

In only a couple of days, she had leaped to the Fate State from the Ocean State!

Her energy was not just purely astral power anymore; it was mixed with some sort of special energy, which was rather tough.

Joanna, on the other hand, looked exceptionally calm. Su Ping knew her well enough to realize she was in a bad mood. He guessed the reason and asked, "Have you talked to your mentors? They don't have a way to pull the Demigod Burial back to the Realm of Gods?"

Joanna glanced at Su Ping; her calm eyes were then filled with softness, noticing the care in Su Ping's eyes. She felt really disappointed by the refusal three days prior. She didn't know whom she could turn to if the experts of the Heaven Path Institute were unwilling to help.

She suddenly realized that the person who was willing to help her was Su Ping, who wasn't even a god.

Joanna shook her head and dropped her random thoughts. She said, "They're unwilling to help. I'll discuss the matter with the Superior Gods later; I may have to ask for your help again."

"That's all right. I'll help you as long as I can," Su Ping promised.

Tang Ruyan asked curiously, "What are you talking about?"

"It's a long story, and a private matter of hers." Su Ping shook his head, deciding not to elaborate.

Tang Ruyan stopped asking, since it was a sensitive topic. She simply glanced at Joanna in surprise. She was reluctant to admit that Joanna, who was also a woman, was stronger than her. Still, she knew that the girl was very capable while being just a reincarnation, according to what Su Ping had mentioned. Her original self had to be even stronger.

And yet, for a woman as strong as her to be forced to look for help... This made Tang Ruyan feel weird. She also had the uncanny urge of giving Joanna a hand.

“Visiting time is over. We should head back; just say that you’ll be training in seclusion,” said Su Ping, going straight to business.

The pair was stunned for a moment; both felt regretful upon remembering they had stayed there for days. The current training was unimaginably effective for Tang Ruyan. As for Joanna, although her idea to relocate the Demigod Burial had failed, she didn’t idle by during those days, having already found a route to break through.

Given her maximum divine quality reading in the third test, she had been noticed by one of the mentors’ masters who was in the Celestial State. The latter had also realized she was a reincarnation; however, he wasn’t bothered by it, and pointed out the way to the Celestial State for her!

For those in the Federation, it was well-unknown that there wasn’t a fixed route to the Ascendant State or the Celestial State. Not even Celestials could guide others on how they reached that level. They couldn’t even teach their disciples how to reach the Ascendant State!

After all, every Ascendant had a unique path, which was uncopyable!

The only thing Celestials could do was to invest their rare resources on disciples they thought highly of, in order to bring about epiphanies.

Still, the Celestial State master in that place had pointed out a feasible route to the Celestial State for Joanna.

The route was extremely hard. But the idea of hardships wasn’t worth mentioning to Joanna. Having a direction was all that mattered!

She had been fighting ever since she picked up the spear. Was any day of her life not hard?

Joanna didn’t tell Su Ping the route she was taking, not because she wanted to keep it a secret, but because it was only suitable for gods.

...

After giving instructions to the two girls, Su Ping took them away. He sent them to his small world since they still had some time. Then, he found a secret place and detonated himself, before he resurrected at a random location.

Su Ping saw a lot of things in the Archean Divinity through consecutive resurrections.

He was randomly resurrected in a city, at a beast’s nest, and a village of the gods. Su Ping had an even better understanding of the Archean Divinity after only half a day. To his surprise, the Archean Divinity was obviously in order. Except for the desolate lands, all the residences of the gods and the other species seemed rather safe.

This was unlike the Chaotic Realm of the Undead, which was a desolate and chaotic home to terrifying devils.

...

Soon after Su Ping left the Heaven Path Institute, someone went to the temple where he lived.

“An invitation? A challenge invitation?”

The servant who was sent to watch over Su Ping’s temple was surprised by the golden invitation she received. Her expression changed when she saw the emblem at the edge of the invitation, as it was a challenge!

Someone challenged her new master to a duel.

*Someone is challenging Mr. Su right after entering the Heaven Path Institute. Is he an enemy from the past? Isn’t this the mark of the high-ranked Rain Clan?* The servant was shocked to see the back of the invitation.

A god from a high-ranked clan was challenging a human being like Su Ping.

She didn’t remember hearing about any grudges between the Rain Clan and human beings.

*He must be an enemy from the past. Mr. Su said he would train in seclusion when he just came. He must have seen this coming, so he left with an excuse...* The servant looked like a girl, but she had lived for almost a hundred years. She thought her speculation was valid, but she still needed to ask Su Ping’s opinion.

*Mr. Su has just left, and who knows where he went; I’ll just wait until he returns from seclusion since he chose to dodge the challenger,* thought the servant.

She kept the challenge invitation for Su Ping.

Even though invitations like those couldn’t be declined, it was impossible to demand a duel from someone who was training in seclusion.

After all, the training rhythm could be disrupted if the seclusion was interrupted. The Heaven Path Institute advocated for peace and allowed duels, but only if they didn’t affect their training.

...

“You’re about to exit the Archean Divinity...”

“Counting down...”

The system’s notifications rang in Su Ping’s head.

Su Ping finally noticed that the system—who always talked to him in his heart—had the same voice as the standard notifications. However, the latter sounded rigid and robotic. By comparison, the talkative one was much more free-willed, not hesitating to talk about anything.

“Do not mock this system,” declared the system again in Su Ping’s head, obviously angry.

Su Ping smiled and focused his attention on what was ahead of him. Above him was a vast sky, while a boundless land was below his feet. He seemed to be flying, with the scenery flashing by.

It wasn’t true flight, as he was standing on the top of a gargantuan beast that looked like a cloud. Its full view couldn’t be seen clearly; it was just like a moving island from his perspective. However, it moved at a very fast speed, and raised infinite gales whenever it flapped its wings.

Su Ping found himself on top of that beast after a random resurrection, which left him lost for words.

*This thing is not as good as the Chaos Perception Dragon, but it must be at least in the Celestial State. Maybe it's even stronger,* Su Ping thought with a bitter smile.

Soon after, the countdown was over; Su Ping flashed and disappeared from the beast's back.

The beast suddenly winked; its eyes had been staring at the ground below. Just then it detected some sort of horrifying aura up close.

What was the thing observing it in secret?

The beast flashed and tore the void apart after thinking about that, then vanished into nothingness.

## **Chapter 992: Luofu**

At the Pixie Pet Store in Woffett City, planet Rhea.

Three people emerged from a glittering, turning sphere. They were none other than the visitors who had returned from the Archean Divinity.

Both Joanna and Tang Ruyan were astonished to see what was around them. They knew that they had been teleported straight to the Archean Divinity from the store, but it was still even more surprising to be teleported back to the same spot. Two different worlds seemed to be somehow connected to Su Ping's store.

*If the horrifying being backing Su Ping could lend a hand, my wish could easily be fulfilled, right?* Joanna thought and felt even more awe for that mysterious entity. She thought it was likely an Ancestral God; a really strong one at that.

Such beings were already beyond her imagination; their abilities were mind boggling.

"You're back," said Green Lady in a pleasant yet casual voice. She looked at them, with increasing surprise in her eyes. Tang Ruyan had the most obvious change: she had leaped from the Ocean State to the Fate State in a single day!

Both Su Ping and Joanna had changes too. Green Lady detected that Su Ping's energy was now mixed and strange.

"Stay in the store; I'll take Green Lady to the Realm of Deities. You can reflect on what you've acquired from the journey while we're away," said Su Ping, mainly to Tang Ruyan.

Tang Ruyan nodded. She too wanted to cultivate in seclusion.

Joanna glanced at Su Ping and said, "I would like to ask my original self to take my place next time you go to the Realm of Gods."

"Huh?" Slightly surprised, Su Ping asked, "Didn't you say your original self can't leave the Demigod Burial?"

“That was in the past. Right now, I should be able to convince the four Superior Gods to take care of my problems in my stead. If that happens, my original self will be freed and she can help in your store,” said Joanna.

Su Ping was enlightened, but he didn’t really care. Since they couldn’t leave the store, it made no difference to him whether she was there as her original self or as a reincarnation. He said, “I think it’s enough for your reincarnation to stay here. The job at the store is very easy anyway.”

Joanna glanced at Green Lady and shook his head. “I prefer to have my original self come here. Some of the customers you receive these days must be God Warriors. My original self will be able to take action and discipline any of the bad-tempered ones.”

While looking her in the eye, Su Ping realized she had benefited greatly from their trip to the Archean Divinity, and her eagerness to be named Outstanding Employee had grown.

That was fantastic. Active employees could always help businesses flourish.

“Okay.” Su Ping didn’t decline her. He turned his head and said to Green Lady, “Are you ready?”

“Can we really go there?” Green Lady looked at Joanna, with a lingering bit of suspicion on her face. She had been through that turbulent age with the Twilight Deity King. She had fallen asleep while sealed in the temple, back when the Deity King had used his body to block the cosmic hole. She didn’t know what had happened to the Realm of Deities where she lived, she guessed its ending from the passing of her master.

“Believe in me,” said Su Ping with a smile and a warm voice.

Then, he brought up the system’s cultivation panel, and saw countless planes displayed. Su Ping simply searched for the Realm of Deities.

But soon, a long row of planes with the term “Realm of Deities” in their names had popped up in the results.

*The Original Realm of Deities?*

*The Nine Suns Realm of Deities?*

*The Green Emperor Realm of Deities?*

Su Ping was stunned by all those names. *Were there many Realms of Deities?*

He read the introductions to every cultivation plane carefully, soon realizing that there was more than one such realm; thankfully the number wasn’t too large. Every Deity Realm was named after the Deity Emperor who had mastered it, or the ancient calendar. However, the Realms of Deities named after calendars had a very long history.

*How many years have these realms existed?*

Su Ping felt that a vast and splendid river of time—where countless great heroes, epic events, and horrible things were buried—was passing right before his eyes.

After heaving a sigh, Su Ping turned and looked at Green Lady. He asked, "Which Deity Realm do you want to go to? The Original Realm of Deities? Or the Nine Suns Realm of Deities?"

"You know the Original Realm of Deities?" Green Lady was dazed by the answer. That was an ancient realm that had already fallen apart, eventually sinking in the river of time. Not many knew of that place, even back in the Realm of Deities where she lived. She wouldn't have known about it if she hadn't traveled the world with the Twilight Deity King.

"The Twilight Deity King was born in the Luofu Realm of Deities." Green Lady's eyes glittered. She finally started to think that Su Ping could truly have a way to take her to the place she wanted to go to.

"Luofu..."

Su Ping immediately searched for it in the list. "Found it. That place does exist. It's an advanced cultivation site, but not as expensive as the Archean Divinity. There must be a Deity Emperor supervising it."

Green Lady was at a loss, not understanding what Su Ping had said, except for the last part. She nodded and said, "The master of the Luofu Realm of Deities is Luofu the Great."

"Okay, let's go."

Su Ping was really looking forward to the trip. The ticket fee for the Luofu Realm of Deities was five thousand energy points, which was half the cost for the Archean Divinity. According to Green Lady's introduction, Deity Kings were on par with Celestials, while Deity Emperors were above Deity Kings.

There were no beings with cultivation beyond the Celestial State in the Federation at the moment; at least not to Su Ping's knowledge.

*Looks like the Federation can also be listed as one of the advanced cultivation sites, but it's probably at the bottom of the list...* Su Ping thought.

There were no entities above the Celestial level in the Federation, making it seem that the Celestial State was the end to all cultivation. However, even some Deity Emperors were stronger than others in different worlds. Ancestral Gods were also above Deity Emperors in the Archean Divinity. Therefore, there were actually two levels above the Celestial State!

*Ascendants can kill Star State warriors as easily as killing chickens. Ancestral Gods of the Archean Divinity would have it easy to dominate the entire universe if they went to the Federation,* Su Ping's eyes glittered. He suddenly thought of something and asked the system curiously, "Why is the Federation not one of the listed cultivation sites?"

The system didn't respond after a long time passed.

Su Ping was really surprised, wondering if it had fallen asleep.

But then again. Did the system need any sleep, at all?

Su Ping waited for another moment, but there was still no reply. He called out again, hearing nothing but silence. He could not help but curse in his heart.

“First warning for disparaging the system!” a notification echoed.

Su Ping: “&#x201c;”

“Second warning!”

Su Ping immediately paused all his psychological activities. He asked the same question again. It wasn’t until a few seconds later that the system finally said, “This is your birthplace. If you enter this world like a cultivation plane and resurrect anywhere, it would disrupt the order of the world where you live, drawing attention from things you don’t want to mess with. It wouldn’t be a big thing for you, though.”

Su Ping raised his eyebrows, not expecting such a reason. He shook his head and stopped thinking about that. He was ready to take Green Lady to the place.

His store would already be upgraded when they returned.

After all, three days in the outside world equaled one month inside the cultivation site.

### **Chapter 993: The Blue Cloud Deity King**

Whoosh! Whoosh!

Up in the sky—several sword auras glittered as they darted at fast speeds. Some of them were ridden by human beings, and some were pure auras; all were extremely sharp. They were currently flying towards a golden-scaled insect dozens of meters long.

The creature had golden scales all over its body, and a hideous looking mouth.

Two men and a woman were moving around, trying their best to kill it, but the situation wasn’t very promising.

While the human beings and the insect were fighting fiercely, a vortex appeared in a nearby point midair, from where a man and a woman appeared. The man was tall and handsome, and the woman was beautiful, clad in a green dress; she looked as graceful as an angel.

They were none other than Su Ping and Green Lady, who were fully prepared as they set off to visit the Luofu Realm of Deities.

*Someone is fighting?* Hardly had Su Ping arrived when he noticed the fighting. He immediately released his senses, finding that everyone present were Star Lords, including the creature. However, the latter emanated a profound aura, and an uncanny power inside its body.

Green Lady didn’t seem to notice any of them; she simply looked around with suspicion and confusion; she felt the place was definitely familiar.

Around her was a dense deity aura, as well as an assorted energy from the desolate land. However, the types of energy and their feeling gave her a sense of familiarity.

A fallen leaf could bring someone back to autumn; a frog croak could bring someone back to childhood. The pervading, assorted energy immediately reminded her of her travels with the Twilight Deity King.

“Is this really the place?” Green Lady felt that the situation was rather surreal. She was at Su Ping’s store a second before. *We’ve arrived in the Luofu Realm of Deities in the blink of an eye?*

However, the familiar feelings gradually cleared all doubts about her of her current location, no matter how hard it was to believe.

It was then that she noticed the battle in the distance and fixed her eyes upon the insect.

“A Demon God Insect?” She was stunned. Then, her eyes glittered with excitement; she then dashed forth and appeared right at the center of that fierce battle.

Her unexpected appearance shocked all those locked in battle.

Then, an overwhelming aura covered the battlefield and paralyzed both the group of people and the beast; their eyes widened in fear, not expecting that the stranger was a Golden Deity.

Golden Deities in the Luofu Realm of Deities were actually Ascendants.

A tier above were the Deity Kings.

“It truly is the Demon God Insect...” Green Lady mumbled as she observed the being. Su Ping had dashed over at that point; she turned and looked at him. “Is this really the Luofu Realm of Deities?”

Su Ping opened his hands, feeling helpless. “Of course. Just ask them if you don’t believe me. They must know what this place is.”

Green Lady turned to address the humans, “Is this the Luofu Realm of Deities?”

“S-Senior.”

The trio was confused by her question. But then, they thought of a horrifying possibility; that female Ascendant had ascended from another world.

“This is the Realm of Deities,” said the young man in the middle with a prudent and respectful attitude. “Senior, we’re at your service.”

The Green Lady was in a trance.

She never really doubted Su Ping, but everything was simply too surreal.

She never thought that one day she would be able to visit Luofu once again; the place that the Twilight Deity King had once defended.

So to speak, had he accomplished his task?

He secured Luofu, but he was already gone.

While the Green Lady was trying to overcome her shock, Su Ping looked at the group and asked, “Where are we in Luofu? Do you have a map of the realm?”

The three people looked at Su Ping; all of them noticed that Su Ping was a level lower than them. However, they could vaguely feel some pressure from the young man, which made them feel weird. The



thought was dismissed as an illusion caused by the Golden Deity nearby, thus not considering it a big deal.

“This is the Vast Wilderness of Luofu. This Demon God Insect caused a lot of trouble and was trying to flee to this place. We’ve been chasing it and trying to dispose of it for the sake of the people,” said the young man in the middle, trying to establish a positive image. He didn’t know where Su Ping was from or what kind of person he was, but positive images would always be more likable.

After all, they were in the middle of nowhere. No one would know if the strangers decided to kill them.

Su Ping understood what was on the young man’s mind, but he didn’t expose him. He asked again, “You’ve been chasing the creature this far, so you must have a map, right?”

After a moment of hesitation, the young man took out a jade chip and said, “This is a map of the Green Continent Island.”

“It’s quite old,” Su Ping said to himself after seeing the map. The three humans wore ancient-styled clothes like Green Lady. The jade chip seemed to be made of bamboo. Having learned a lot about the Realm of Deities, Su Ping extended his thoughts into the chip.

Soon, a virtual map popped up in Su Ping’s head.

*Such a combination of energy and mastery are already quite advanced,* Su Ping thought.

They were indeed dressed in an ancient style, but whether a civilization was developed or not didn’t depend on such superficial things. From a technological point of view, it was the mastery of energy that mattered.

Underdeveloped civilizations could only make use of the energy from its planet, while developed civilizations were able to harness stellar energy as well as cosmic rays.

The Federation, for example, was quite advanced when it came to utilization of astral power.

The civilization in the Realm of Deities was the same. Although preserving ancient customs, it made use of energy as well as the Federation did.

This meant that their secret techniques were very powerful!

“The Vast Wilderness...” Su Ping saw a gigantic island on the map; the Vast Wilderness was just a forest that only took up a tenth of the landmass. There were massive cities in other places, as well as tribes and totems. Those totems covered an area as large as the Vast Wilderness.

Su Ping could feel the extensive scope of the place from what he saw on the map.

“This is the Green Continent Island? How many islands are there in total?” Su Ping asked curiously.

“Thirteen.”

This time, it was Green Lady who answered Su Ping’s question.

She seemed to have calmed down. Bearing a troubled expression, she asked while trying to hide her bursting emotions, “There is one or more Deity Kings on each island!”

The three locals were stunned. They thought that the strangers had ascended from elsewhere. None of them expected that Green Lady would know their realm that well.

“Green Continent Island... I wonder if the Blue Cloud Deity King is still alive.” Green Lady thoughtfully looked at them.

The faces of the three locals changed ever so slightly, as it was highly disrespectful to call a Deity King by name. However, considering she was a Golden Deity, none of them dared to make a case out of it. The young man in the middle said prudently, “Lord Deity King is master of the island. She is naturally alive.”

He felt that his head was ringing as he said that, knowing that he could be sentenced to death for discussing whether the Deity King was alive.

“The emperors and kings are dead. Why is she still alive?” Green Lady narrowed her eyes coldly. Even the air seemed a lot colder.

The three locals were shocked. *Is this woman doubting the existence of the Deity King?*

*Not even a Golden Deity should be this bold, or could she?*

The trio cried inwardly, not knowing how to respond.

Su Ping had heard a thing or two about the war in the past from Green Lady. He was speculating as he said, “Why don’t you ask them what happened after the war? Also, which island is the Twilight Deity King on? Why don’t we go there and take a look?”

This trip was intended as a benefit for his employee anyway; Su Ping had decided to do whatever Green Lady wanted to do.

“The Twilight Deity King?”

The trio heard yet another Deity King’s name, now from Su Ping. They also heard that the strangers were planning to visit the Blue Cloud Deity King. Their hearts were shaking. They would have considered the pair as deranged, were it not for Green Lady’s Golden Deity level.

#### **Chapter 994: Energy Transformation**

Green Lady was stunned, not expecting Su Ping to say that. She then shook her head and said. “She’s a Deity King. It would be too dangerous if we met her recklessly.”

“Have you forgotten your employee benefits? There’s no need to fear a thing. I’m here for you,” Su Ping encouraged her.

It wasn’t easy for them to go there. Su Ping was hoping that Green Lady would enjoy herself to the fullest.

Green Lady remembered her employee benefits too. She looked at Su Ping in shock, realizing from Su Ping’s expression that he meant it.

Su Ping had miraculously taken the two of them to the Luofu Realm of Deities in the blink of an eye, so she no longer harbored any doubts. She took a deep breath, feeling excited. “Fine. Let’s go ask her. She was one of the Deity Kings involved in the war.

“Even the Luofu Deity Emperor perished in battle. There’s no way she could survive, unless she did something in secret.”

“Yes.” Su Ping nodded.

Their conversation left the three locals in a stupor.

Green Lady then raised her hand and instantly killed the Demon God Insect, which had been quaking in fear since she showed up. It was smart enough to know how strong she was, but it failed to dodge Green Lady’s attack and died instantly.

A golden core flew out. Green Lady threw it to Su Ping and said, “The Demon God Insect is a rare creature born from the cracks of the abyss. It contains a special power; its core is a crucial material to make Ascension Pills. It can strengthen you if taken directly.”

The local trio shot covetous gazes, now that Su Ping had been given the core, but they had no choice but to give up, considering the powerful senior present.

Su Ping didn’t hesitate; he accepted the core and ate it on the spot.

While digesting the core, he said to Green Lady, “This is the map. Let’s go.”

Green Lady scanned the jade chip with astonishment in her eyes. “The Green Continent Island is exactly the same as it was back then. It is unchanged, without any trace of damage...”

She crushed the jade chip; its perfect condition meant that the Blue Cloud Deity King’s participation in the war was just a show.

The trio remained with bewildered looks when Green Lady and Su Ping left. After a long time passed, the woman in the group asked in confusion, “Where are they from? Why do I feel like they’ve ascended from the mortal world? She said that the Great Emperor had perished... Is she not scared of being killed for saying that?”

“She’s merely a Golden Deity, yet she has such an unbridled tongue; she’s going to suffer sooner or later. A Golden Deity dares to meet the Blue Cloud Deity King? She’s trying to get herself killed.”

The young man in the middle frowned. “Their words were rather odd. They kept talking about the war; there seems to be something going on.”

“Unfortunately, the Demon God Insect is gone. We were hoping to reach the top and become Golden Deities with its core!”

...

“What dense energy.”

While led by Green Lady, Su Ping absorbed the core in the small world behind her. The energy contained by the core was pure and special; it was deity aura, according to her. Unlike other creatures, the Demon God Insects carried a special power from the abyss, aside from the deity aura.

It was that special power which made the core be seen as rare.

Su Ping constructed a nest of cells next to his astral ocean and stored the deity aura he had absorbed from the core. He then stored the special power elsewhere, in his flesh and blood.

He carefully examined the deity aura and tried to destroy it—

After all, even if something went wrong, he could always resurrect himself in the cultivation site.

Deconstructing energy was a dangerous task; Su Ping's own energy received a backlash. He found how overwhelming deity aura was after his analysis... One part of its energy had already scorched the astral power in his body. Su Ping simply chose to reset himself through resurrection.

Green Lady was completely relieved after witnessing Su Ping's death and rebirth. She coldly went straight to the Blue Cloud Deity King's palace.

*Deity aura is less powerful than divine power, but it's about eight times as powerful as astral power!*

Su Ping had detected the horror of the deity aura during his energy deconstruction experiment; it was a very powerful type of energy. In other words, deities could easily crush peer battle pet warriors of the Federation!

*These people used their pets in a different way from how we do in my world.* Su Ping recalled the battle he had seen and remembered it with clear detail.

None of the Archean Divinity gods used pets. They simply summoned special illusions that would assist them in battle.

*"The cultivation system with pets seems to have been created later on.*

*"Every age and every world has unique cultivation systems.*

*"Cultivation systems result from different circumstances. Is it because divine power and deity aura disappeared that we had to resort to astral power and pets?"* Su Ping thought.

"Green Lady," he suddenly said to the fast moving Green Lady, "Can you tell me about the history of deities and gods? I want to know what happened in the past."

Feeling slightly dazed, Green Lady looked back at Su Ping and then peered forward once more. "History is fake; nobody knows what's real in history. As far as I know, this place used to be a different Realm of Deities mastered by another Deity Emperor! It's said that there are other Realms of Deities beyond Luofu, but the Twilight Deity King never took me there.

"There was chaos before the Realms of Deities came to be. As for the gods you mentioned, I'm not sure. However, there are some ancient species in the Realm of Deities whose auras and appearance are similar to Joanna's. If we have to set a sequence to things, the Realm of Gods may have very well existed before the Realms of Deities."

"The Realms of Gods came before the Realms of Deities?"

Su Ping's eyes glittered.

The Realms of Deities were advanced cultivation sites, and so was the Archean Divinity. But the latter was a superior cultivation site.

*The Realms of Deities were born from chaos, which then fell apart in the war that Joanna described, and then turned into the Realms of Deities like this one? Su Ping thought, Deity Emperors are the strongest in the Realms of Deities. If the Deity Kings are cultivators in the Celestial State, Deity Emperors would be a tier above. There are at least two levels above the Celestial State in the Realms of Gods.*

*Ancestral Gods should be stronger than Deity Emperors. Right now, Deity Kings are at the top in the Realms of Deities. The Celestial State is the top of the Federation. So, as time goes by, the peak of cultivation has been declining...*

*The energy available for cultivation has also become sparse. From divine power to deity aura, and then astral power, there might have been ages once dominated by other energies.*

*In other words, I need to find better energy in order to surpass the Celestial State and climb to higher levels.*

Su Ping's eyes glittered. The importance of the system became increasingly clear to him. He could have never entered the cultivation sites or absorbed ancient energy without the system's help. Becoming a Celestial would have been his limit if he only trained in the Federation, however talented he was. Energy was everything. There was no chance to rise too high when energy was limiting.

*However, I'm still too far from the Celestial State right now, and I don't know much about the cultivation and breakthroughs from that level. Maybe it has to do with energy, maybe not. But I think energy definitely plays a role in it.*

After pondering over the matter, Su Ping was more determined to transform his astral power into a more advanced energy.

Su Ping had completely absorbed the core as they traveled. He had been trying to decompose the deity aura, but he underestimated its difficulty. He accidentally blew himself up several times during his various attempts, but he still failed to realize the nature of deity aura, which meant that he couldn't yet transform astral power into deity aura.

*Some geniuses from the Federation carry divine power they absorbed from relics or treasures. However, unlike astral power, such divine power can't be replenished after usage. Also, many secret techniques of the Federation are based on astral power.*

*I have deity aura in my body, and I can learn deity skills, which must be more powerful than the secret techniques based on astral power, Su Ping thought. Joanna's attacks are very powerful, partly because they're based on divine power. I should ask her more about it later.*

The two flew quickly as they passed through the Vast Wilderness. Green Lady had been moving at full speed, but still, the island was much bigger than Su Ping expected. It was as large as several galaxies put together.

Su Ping's astral power was quickly being accumulated as they traveled; he cultivated and decomposed the pervading deity aura. He was already in the mid phase of the Star State.

Meantime, Su Ping kept absorbing deity aura on his way, storing it in his body as a lake.

*Unfortunately, deity aura and divine power aren't my original powers; I cannot use them to make Astral Paintings. I would have saved a lot of time if I could,* Su Ping thought, feeling regretful. He was even more eager to transform his astral power. He believed that he would step up to a much higher level when all of the nine Astral Paintings were completed.

Half a day later—

After traveling full speed without worrying about expenditure, Green Lady finally arrived at the palace where the Blue Cloud Deity King lived.

The building was at the center of the island. Several thousand kilometers away from the palace, one could see a vague flight of stairs, extending to reach the palace floating high above the clouds.

There were big cities surrounding the palace, where many cultivators dwelled. They were places where items and secret techniques were being sold, and a lot of organizations were recruiting. There was prosperity in the air.

Su Ping had occasionally detected auras as powerful as that of Green Lady. Even though Golden Deities were only second to Deity Kings on the island, they weren't that rare.

“Even the divine palace is exactly as it used to be...”

Green Lady became even colder as she looked at the palace floating next to the clouds. The Twilight Deity King had blocked the cosmic breach with his body, yet the Blue Cloud Deity King, one of his peers, had obviously been living a great life in the Luofu Realm of Deities.

Chapter 995: Demand

Green Lady led Su Ping to the palace through the stairs. A couple of guards wearing silver armor and crowns suddenly appeared and yelled at them. “Stop! Who are you? How dare you break into the Deity Queen's palace!”

The noises instantly attracted a lot of attention; everybody looked at the intruders with gloating faces.

“Get out of the way!”

Green Lady was very angry with the Blue Cloud Deity Queen, so she didn't bother with niceties.

The guards obviously didn't think that a Golden Deity could be as reckless. Their leader unleashed deity aura, influencing time and space. He then said, “I can report your arrival if you want to meet the Deity King, but you've violated our rules by breaking in. You can still be forgiven since you're a Golden Deity, if you apologize to the Deity Queen with me!”

“Apologize? It is her who should apologize!” Green Lady was more than infuriated. She should have been more rational, but she had grown confident after having seen Su Ping's rebirths on the way; she already believed in her employee benefit. After all, whoever was backing Su Ping had the power to transport them to that plane, and was definitely capable of resurrecting them.

“You’re asking to be killed!”

The head of the guards turned cold. He considered her willfulness was because she was close to their liege, or another Deity King. However, her last statement was unforgivable, no matter her background. He pointed with a finger, unleashing deity aura to confine her.

“I am going to see her today. Nobody can stop me!”

Green Lady’s body was emanating green light. Swirling power was gushing around her like vortexes. At the same time, there were intense white flames burning over her fair skin. They were in fact the flames used to refine her, back when she was in the furnace, but she had tamed them, turning them into an attack of her own.

“I was burnt day and night for nine hundred years, just so that I could become a pill and help him. The emperor and my master perished. Why are you still alive?” said Green Lady with a shrieking voice, her body ablaze. She instantly burned through the blocked space and marched towards the guard.

The temperature was quickly rising. The Star Lord guards and the observers felt as if they were inside a furnace.

One of the guards saw the graveness of the situation, and quickly roared, “Hurry up! Establish an array!”

It was then that a cold voice burst out. “I’m your opponent!”

Su Ping stepped up, summoning the Little Skeleton, the Inferno Dragon and his other pets, which filled up the sky behind him. Dazzling astral power gushed out of Su Ping’s body; he activated the Astral Paintings, and used their power to enhance his bloody sword with their aggressive power.

“Time and Space Cutting!” Su Ping roared. His power over time and space had grown considerably after completing the sixth Astral Painting, to a point that not even the Six Lives Buddha—back in the Universe Geniuses’ Contest—could compare to him.

Su Ping’s combat ability had soared ever since he mastered the power of time and space. He could easily summon his future self, or cut and reverse the flow of time!

1

Of course, he could hardly accomplish that when there were stronger interferences, like those coming from Ascendants.

However, all the guards were Star Lords; Su Ping was absolutely fearless.

“Huh? A mere Celestial Deity...”

Finally, the guards noticed Su Ping. They had considered him a mere servant, never expecting for him to be as bold. Their contempt and fury disappeared when Su Ping’s attack reached them; their eyes then had shock and disbelief.

2

Is this really something that a Celestial Deity can do?

The genius deities waiting to be admitted by the divine palace saw this and their eyes widened. They even thought that Su Ping had hidden his cultivation.

“Show me the deity skills you’re proud of!”

Su Ping was shining with astral power. He made use of the Thousand Rain Sword Technique. Countless sword auras were shot like raindrops with faith power. In the meantime, his small world was also taking shape. Unlike normal small worlds, his was dark and desolate, as if countless bodies were buried in it.

“Damn you, devil!”

All the guards became angry once they saw Su Ping’s small world. Such a dark place suggested that he was brutal and twisted.

All of them used their deity skills, bringing out secret treasures like flutes, swords, and musical instruments. They surrounded Su Ping with a unique mix of power.

The sound of the music instruments confused the mind and induced hallucinations. However, Su Ping somehow felt comfortable as he was attacked by all the deity skills, which were more powerful than those of the Star Lords’ he knew, but less horrifying than he had expected.

“Break!!”

One of the guards had a brilliant and righteous small world, filled with flying cranes. Su Ping waved his sword, unleashing a brutal aura with his sword technique. He exerted thirty percent of his strength with the skill he had grasped in the Archean Divinity, then tore apart the small world.

The cranes flew in a panic, and the wonderful world was destroyed, reduced to an apocalyptic display.

“Beauty that can’t be protected is just brutality!”

1

Su Ping stepped forward and slashed randomly, beating back the divine weapons around him. The guards were also forced to retreat. No one was able to stop him.

“How is this possible? He’s just a Celestial Deity!”

“Is he the reincarnation of a Deity King? That’s impossible. How could an immature reincarnation of a Deity King cause trouble here?”

“He’s hardly a Celestial Deity, going by the concentration of his deity aura. There’s still a mixed type of energy in his body. He seems to have ascended from a lesser world!”

There were many mortal worlds outside the thirteen islands. The strong experts of those worlds could ascend to the thirteen islands and become registered as deities. Su Ping was clearly one of the ascendants, since he had other powers besides deity aura.

Bang!!



While Su Ping stopped the guards—a battle between Green Lady and the Golden Deity guard was raging on in parallel. Her flames were swept out, as if intending to burn up the sky. She moved amidst the flames like a bird and struck the guard, then confined him in a mysterious way.

“Get lost!”

Green Lady waved her hand to push away the higher-level guard. Her eyes were cold, but she still spared the Golden Deity’s life.

Then, she flew upwards along the stairs to approach the palace.

“Blue Cloud, come out right now!” she roared loudly; her voice echoed through hundreds of kilometers within the palace. Everybody looked at the girl who was bold enough to call the Blue Cloud Deity Queen by name, wondering why she had a death wish.

“How audacious!”

“How audacious!”

Yells of shock and fury were heard everywhere. Many Golden Deities popped up further up on the stairs, ahead of Green Lady. They seemed to have arrived from another time and space, and were currently gazing at the trespassers with furious eyes.

“Those are the legendary flames. Who are you?”

“She’s not a human being. She carries a strong pill aura. She must be a pill!”

“A pill dares to trespass? I’m going to swallow you right now!”

All the Golden Deities moved to intercept; their eyes glittered once they noticed that she was a pill. A pill with a Golden Deity cultivation was a rare treasure, even for Deity Kings.

Green Lady was even more exasperated after noticing their looks, as she was well acquainted with such greed and hypocrisy. She then said with a pained expression, “All of you survived because you’re cowards. All of you should be killed, like her!”

The flames coming from her body began to burn even more exuberantly, as she was on the verge of an outbreak. She then remembered her employee benefits granted by Su Ping, so she gritted her teeth and chose to attack.

She was going to exhaust her power and fight her way up until she met Blue Cloud!

Right when she was going to destroy herself—time and space around her was solidified. All the battling and noise were frozen. Then, a voice came from a far off distance. “A pill forged by a king... You want to meet me even at the cost of destroying yourself. Why?”

A pair of long and fair legs stepped out of the void as the voice resounded. Time didn’t seem to have left a single mark on her body. The hem of her hazy dress fell slowly, covering her beautiful legs, but the sight was even more alluring.

“Blue Cloud Deity Queen!”

All the Golden Deities—as well as the other people who were here to meet her—were shocked to see her. Everyone bowed respectfully.

Only two people stood still at the moment, both in the air and at ground level: Green Lady and Su Ping.

Whoosh!

The guards encircling Su Ping fell to their knees, trembling, as if seeking forgiveness. Su Ping stopped his attacks; he moved to hover next to Green Lady.

“You truly are alive...”

With pain in her eyes, Green Lady gritted her teeth and said, “The Deity King blocked the breach and saved the world with his body. How did you manage to survive the war?”

Slightly stunned, the Deity Queen said with glittering eyes, “The Twilight Deity King’s power lingers in you. Were you created by him?”

Green Lady’s expression showed more pain at the mention of her master. Her body was also shivering.

“The war...”

The Deity Queen’s eyes flashed. She seemed confused and wary. She gave a thoughtful look at Green Lady, then said, “Such a matter is not something you should touch. I’ll spare your life for the sake of the Twilight Deity King. Just leave.”

“He told me that they might not be able to stop the catastrophe, even if all the Deity Kings were to take action. Why are you still alive, and Luofu is still standing?” Green Lady’s eyes were bloodshot as an insane idea occurred to her. “Was it a scheme?”

“A catastrophe? A scheme?” The Blue Cloud Deity Queen narrowed her eyes and stared at Green Lady. “I don’t know what you’re talking about. Let me say it one more time: Leave... or stay here forever.”

“I want the truth!” Green Lady shouted in fury, shedding all demeanor of a deity. However, her anger could easily be detected.

“As I said, you’re not qualified to know the answer.”

The Deity Queen snorted and turned cold. She pointed her finger, and the world around her was suddenly stretched into countless rays of light. Everything was gone, as if none of it had ever existed.

While immersed in such a domain, Su Ping felt as if his mind was also going blank. He was unable to sense either time or space, as if he were in the middle of an utterly desolate place.

“Damn it. Did she imprison us?” He was shocked and infuriated, not knowing whether the woman was merciful or brutal. She imprisoned them instead of killing them.

It was exactly at that moment when Su Ping heard a soft sigh.

### **Chapter 996: The Old Man Underneath the Tree**

Su Ping felt that their imprisonment was dispelled with the sigh. Right when he could see things again, he found that the divine palace was gone, and so was the Blue Cloud Deity Queen. There was only a

green old tree full of vitality; there was green light on the leaves, which flowed like water and refreshed his eyes.

An old man was sitting underneath the tree, with a board in front of him; there was a purple toad on the stool facing the elder. They seemed to be playing a game.

“Where are we?”

Green Lady opened her eyes again. She looked around and found that she was no longer in the palace, which left her shocked and suspicious. She didn’t know all of the Deity Kings’ methods, but it was obvious that the old man was the Blue Cloud Deity Queen in disguise. She couldn’t even see through the mysterious aura enshrouding that senior.

“She has forgiven you. Do not cause trouble again.”

The old man stopped laying down the pieces. He turned around to look at Su Ping and Green Lady with gentle eyes. He said softly, “How did you learn about the war that you mentioned earlier?”

Green Lady asked in shock, “Who are you?”

“Humph. Ignorant junior. Are you still not thanking Master for saving your life?” said the toad with a snort, but its voice was that of a young girl; its cheeks puffed out as it talked.

Recalling the recent interactions, Su Ping realized that the old man had been their rescuer. He felt puzzled. Since they were freed from a Deity King, this old man was very likely one himself. He immediately asked Green Lady via telepathy, “Who is this Deity King? Do you know him?”

Green Lady shook her head. “I saw all of the Deity Kings in the past, but not this one. He must have risen afterwards.”

“Senior, do you know about the war that took place years ago?”

“The war that took place years ago?”

The old man was clearly surprised by Green Lady’s choice of words. He looked at her carefully and then examined Su Ping. No one could tell what was on his mind; he only asked after some time had passed, “You come from other places, don’t you?”

Green Lady gritted her teeth and said, “Yes, but I was born here.”

“The Twilight Deity King was loyal and friendly. I didn’t know he had treated a pill this nicely...” the old man mumbled and then shook his head. “Since you don’t belong here, it’s best if you don’t stay here too long. You will find the answer to your question in due time. The Blue Cloud Deity Queen is not a hypocrite. Don’t be rude to her.”

Once he heard the old man defend the Deity Queen, the Green Lady said with a contorted expression, “I only want to know the truth about what happened.”

The old man gave a slight shake of his head. “The truth you seek is pointless. What happened has already happened. If you really want to do something, live a good life.”

“I...”

It was obviously something that Green Lady couldn't accept. But the old man had stopped her in a way that couldn't be refused. She would not dare disobey, even though she was furious.

"Your strength is rather special. It seems to be from another cultivation system," the old man fixed his eyes upon Su Ping and said, "I've thought of strengthening ourselves with the power of beasts; I didn't know there really was a world where people cultivated in such a way..."

Su Ping was dazed, and felt slightly cold. It was horrifying to find that the old man had seen through him that easily.

Was that the perception of the Celestial State?

"Unfortunately, your energy isn't as powerful as deity aura. There's also divine power in your body. It's a power from ancient times, but you only stored it; it hasn't been absorbed yet. Maybe the way to make use of it has already been lost. It's not unusual that you wouldn't know how to absorb it..." The old man suddenly raised one of his fingers.

Light gathered in one of his fingertips, increasing in brilliance as if billions of glittering needles were being compressed, until the light condensed into a single point, which looked like a revolving Eight Diagram.

"This is the origin of deity aura. It can transform the strength in your body into deity aura. There's also a little something from me in it. I hope you can grasp it well."

The Eight Diagram darted forward as the man spoke, entering the center of Su Ping's eyebrows and quickly disappearing.

Su Ping immediately detected a very special power appearing in his body. The power was dispersed in his two astral oceans. Then, he felt that his two repositories were attracted to each other, as if about to merge.

"Young man, cultivate well. I hope you can let the Realm of Deities return someday. I will keep on fighting until the day comes," the old man said softly with a smile.

Both Su Ping and Green Lady were stunned; they were completely baffled by what the old man had said. However, the old man gradually vanished into the fog that emerged around them before they had a chance to speak. The tree and the old man were nowhere to be seen once the fog dispersed.

...

"Master, you offered your legacy to a human kid that easily? That's too reckless."

The green tree stood between the sky and the earth, while the old man and the purple toad continued playing the game. The toad spoke in a pleasant girl's voice; the black bell on its neck made it look rather cute.

"I couldn't see the past of that human; an emperor-level being must have blocked it. His energy and cultivation system aren't like anything we know. Just consider it as a favor and a gift for the future war." The old man lowered his head with a vague smile.

The purple toad winked and said, “Why do they know about the war? That pill asked the Blue Cloud Deity Queen why she was still alive. But she doesn’t know that the Blue Cloud Deity Queen dies in the most miserable way. She fights until she sheds the last drop of her blood. She’s not even able to enter the Chaotic Realm of the Undead, forever imprisoned in that war, wandering in the void.”

“All the Deity Kings have tried. So have I...” The old man heaved a sigh with glittering eyes.

...

“Where are we?”

Su Ping looked around and noticed a dense demonic aura. They seemed to be in the middle of a desolate plain; they occasionally saw steaming swamps and forests.

Su Ping remembered what the old man had said, and quickly began to examine himself. He soon noticed two vortices in his astral oceans, attracting each other and absorbing astral power. Astral power entered from one side of each vortex, to be transformed into deity aura which was spewed on the other side!

Yes, authentic deity aura!

Su Ping was shocked, as the two vortices were like deity aura transformers, continuously converting his astral power.

*Is he transforming me into a deity? I don’t need to adopt another cultivation system, or ascend to higher levels. He gave me a chance to become a deity with a mere finger...* Su Ping was shocked. The old man was so terrifying that he was unsure whether he was a Deity King or a Deity Emperor.

Su Ping thought of something and asked Green Lady, “Did you ever meet Deity Emperor Luofu?”

Green Lady was still overwhelmed because of all that had happened. She snapped out of her brooding to nod and say, “Yes. I witnessed Deity Emperor Luofu’s feats when he fought in the war. Are you thinking that the senior we just saw was him? But Deity Emperor Luofu was young and vigorous, not a dying old man...”

She suddenly paused.

“What’s the matter?”

Green Lady had a suspicious expression. Not just Deity Emperors, even Golden Deities were able to easily change their appearances and aura. The old man had easily rescued them from the infuriated Blue Cloud Deity Queen. *Is he really that emperor?*

*But the emperor has already fallen...*

The Green Lady felt at a loss.

Su Ping stopped asking, since he saw how dazed she was. He continued with his careful examination, evaluating the changes in his body. Apart from the continuous conversion of astral power, Su Ping felt that something was flowing into his head as his consciousness sank into the vortices; they were several secret techniques and a cultivation art!

Su Ping was shocked after reading the cultivation art, as it could turn a mortal into a Deity King!

### *Mystic Shining Wheel Sutra!*

Su Ping recited the art's name to himself, becoming even more curious about the old man's identity. He was almost certain that the old man was a Deity Emperor.

*He gave me such a valuable cultivation art and helped me with deity aura conversion. He clearly wants to train me, but we've never met before. Why did he invest so much in me?* Su Ping was confused.

He wasn't suspecting the nature of the techniques, as the old man could have easily killed him without using any schemes.

Su Ping thought for a moment and decided to pass the secret techniques to Green Lady.

She was a pill, but she could also become a Deity King. The cultivation art truly shocked her, since it would help her rise further. Still, the old man had given it away without any hesitation. He had to be a Deity Emperor!

Green Lady eventually shook her head, not planning to practice the art. "My cultivation is pointless. You may eat me when you're about to become a Deity King. I can increase your odds of breaking through."

Su Ping was stunned. He felt helpless as he said, "Who said anything about eating you? If I want to become a king, I'll count on myself instead of eating my employee."

Green Lady's eyes glittered. She looked at Su Ping as she thought, then replied, "I know you're very gifted, but when you reach the final bottleneck, you'll know that talent doesn't mean much. It takes an opportunity to become a Deity King. I'll be your opportunity."

Su Ping knew it was difficult to reach the Ascendant State, even more so when it came to the Celestial State, but he never thought of breaking through by swallowing Green Lady. In any case, those levels were still too far away. He shook his head and said, "Maybe later. Just practice the technique when you have time. Even if you want to be eaten by me, maybe your effect will be better after you practice the techniques, don't you think?"

Green Lady rolled her eyes, speechless and dazed. However, she didn't think that Su Ping meant it, given how bluntly he had said it. She simply heaved a sigh, choosing not to decline again.

"He won't let us meet the Deity Queen anymore. Is there anything else you want to do?" asked Su Ping.

Green Lady narrowed her eyes and looked around. "I want to take a look at this place."

### **Chapter 997: Limits of the Small World**

"Sure."

Su Ping accompanied Green Lady to travel in Luofu.

They didn't have a clear destination at first. But then, Green Lady remembered the Twilight Deity King's island, and learned from the deities she encountered that it still existed.

She immediately went to the island with Su Ping in tow.

"Everything looks the same."

Green Lady arrived in Linglong Island, the place owned by the Twilight Deity King. She was very familiar with the place, even though it was extremely vast. She led the way for Su Ping.

Her eyes were filled with hot tears. Her shock increased as she pressed on, since everything looked just like before. Did the Deity Emperor restore it?

*He must have restored the island to honor my lord...* Green Lady thought.

They encountered a lot of ferocious beasts on the way. Some were Star Lords, and some were in the Ascendant State. Su Ping had transformed all of his astral power into deity aura while they traveled; only deity aura and divine power remained in his body.

Su Ping had yet to master the transformation of divine power. However, the two vortices in his body had already transformed his body into a deity's. Its mass was eight times denser than before, when he used astral power!

Su Ping could then directly absorb the surrounding deity aura to cultivate. Normally speaking, energy cultivation would require a change of techniques. However, what astonished him was that his Chaos Star Chart could directly absorb deity aura. His cultivation became even faster.

Su Ping gradually mastered the aggressive deity skills he had inherited from the vortices while fighting the beasts.

*My astral oceans have been transformed into deity oceans. Their coverage is the same, but they contain eight times as much energy as before...*

The two vortices had brought forth a qualitative change for Su Ping. Such an improvement was as significant as the one that occurred between the Fate State and the Star State.

Su Ping could tear apart normal Star Lord beasts with mere physical strength and his small world.

His death dealing would be even faster if he made use of his deity skills.

*With my current strength, if I were to challenge the Divine Lord Rank again, the girl who ranked tenth would probably not endure a single attack of mine.* The continuous battles helped Su Ping gain a better understanding of his strength. He also was reaching the advanced phase of the Star State. As a matter of fact, he could break into the Star Lord State at any time.

However, he thought that there was still room for improvement, so he chose to postpone the breakthrough.

Two days after they left Luofu, Green Lady and Su Ping marched all the way to the inner territories of the island, where cities had been established and deities were flying. Occasional swords could be seen flying and zooming[a] in the sky.

“Seven Suns City, Mountain City...”

Green Lady was thrilled to see those cities as they passed; they were exactly as before. Their locations and sizes were completely unchanged.

On the last day granted by the system, Green Lady and Su Ping arrived at the Twilight Deity King's palace.

The place stood majestically, rising high into the sky with many guards protecting the premises. Green Lady couldn't help but enter.

Surprisingly, the guards in the palace were surprised to see Green Lady, but none of them stopped her. They simply allowed her and Su Ping to break in.

Green Lady moved inside the familiar palace, while swept by a surreal feeling. Everything was almost identical to how she remembered. She even wondered if she had been living in a dream for years, and that the horrible nightmare had finally reached an end.

"Maybe Master is still alive?"

The idea occurred to her. Her mind was in turmoil, even though she was an Ascendant State expert.

Su Ping was also surprised by the situation. He walked with Green Lady inside the palace, hoping to meet the Deity King, only to be informed later that the Deity King was out.

Therefore, they wandered the palace until Green Lady's benefit time was over.

He felt no regret, even though he had not done anything that day. Green Lady wasn't interested in cultivating, and he didn't want to force her, either. He could return on his own later to train his pets. He was already half a deity by then; cultivating there would be much more efficient for him.

...

The light flashed again. Su Ping and Green Lady reappeared, and found themselves back at the store.

Su Ping felt strangely warm as he looked at Joanna and Tang Ruyan on the couch. He smiled and woke them up.

The two of them ended their cultivation after seeing that Su Ping was back. Joanna narrowed her eyes the moment she laid eyes on him. "Your body seems to have changed."

"Your eyes are keen." Su Ping smiled and told them how he had received an old man's help. He didn't keep any secrets from them, except that about the system itself. Besides, such information wasn't a big deal. Su Ping would remember the old man underneath the tree, as he owed him a big favor.

However, it still puzzled him why the man would help him like that.

Green Lady was still regretting that she had to leave the palace, and was silent at the moment.

Su Ping looked at the store and checked the upgrade progress, only to find that it would require twenty hours more.

*It's indeed possible to transform astral power into deity aura, but the transformation rate is too low.*

Su Ping absorbed the dispersing astral power inside his store and transformed it inside the vortices. However, the deity aura he received was so thin that he might as well try absorbing deity aura directly.



“Carry on. I’ll be going on another tour,” Su Ping said to Joanna and Green Lady. Their employee benefits had been used up, and the cultivation sites were too dangerous for them. However, he could still go there.

Once he said goodbye to them, Su Ping entered the Luofu Realm of Deities again.

Five thousand energy points as ticket fee was nothing worth mentioning for Su Ping, since he had saved his revenues for three years.

Su Ping found himself in the middle of a forest when he arrived in the Realm of Deities, surrounded by a heavy demon aura. This time, he was alone and could fight in the way he wanted.

“Come on out.”

Su Ping summoned the Little Skeleton and his other pets. Then, not intending to conceal his presence, he unleashed a brilliant, silver colored deity aura.

Soon enough, a beast that was hiding in the dark couldn’t hold any longer and attacked Su Ping.

“Go!”

Su Ping immediately had the Inferno Dragon and other pets attack. The ambusher was a Star State beast. Even though it had grown in the Realm of Deities and was as strong as the rare Star State pets in the Federation, it was still torn apart rather quickly.

Su Ping didn’t stop his pets from swallowing its flesh and core.

*Evolution for beasts is much more brutal than that of human beings. I cannot create a transformation vortex in my pets, but I should be able to gradually transform their attributes if I let them eat the beasts in this place,* Su Ping thought.

Then, leading the Little Skeleton and his other pets, he marched fearlessly in the unknown beast grounds of that unknown island.

“Did you hear the noise?”

“Oh my god. Who’s yelling in this forbidden land? Aren’t they afraid of waking up that thing?”

“Let’s hurry up and leave. We’ve met Golden Deity zombies at the edge. It’s said that this forbidden land is unclean, and that some ancient creatures were buried here. That wild laughter couldn’t have been uttered by a human being!”

Far in the distance—a family team who had been exploring that forbidden land chose to quickly take their leave. Its leader, a Golden Deity expert, had a grave expression.

While in the forbidden land, Su Ping led the Little Skeleton and the others towards places where the demon aura was thick.

The demon beasts they encountered on the way were increasingly stronger; most of them were Star Lords.

“Huh?”

A horrifying power blasted in front of Su Ping. A giant, thickly furred lion suddenly dashed out from the black soil. It was appalling to see that, although half of the lion's skull was broken, there was no blood or brains in the wound!

The lion gazed at Su Ping with its only eye, which only had the white sclera left.

*It's a Golden Deity? It's so badly wounded. Wait, it also has an undead aura!* Su Ping was very sensitive to the undead aura, having visited the Chaotic Realm of the Undead. He realized that the lion was already dead!

And yet, the power released by the lion indicated that it was still a living creature.

*Is it possible that, just like the Chaotic Realm of the Undead, dead creatures can also move about here?* Su Ping wasn't at all scared by the lion's white eye. He was rather curious about the special laws of that place, which allowed undead creatures to move freely.

*An Ascendant undead creature...* Su Ping's eyes glittered. *I haven't fought anything in the Ascendant State yet.*

Anyone would have been scared out of their wits if they knew what was on Su Ping's mind, wondering why a Star State warrior would dare to fight an Ascendant creature.

It wouldn't have crossed his mind before, as he would have been instantly killed without a chance to practice. However, he was different by then; normal Star Lords would be crushed by him. He could not measure the limits of his strength without a worthy opponent.

"Show me the Ascendant State strength."

Su Ping immediately summoned the Little Skeleton and the other pets to stay close. All of them had detected the lion, and considered it a formidable enemy. However, none of them flinched; they simply stood in front of Su Ping and bared their fangs, as if about to fight with their lives on the line.

Su Ping directly activated his dual merging and then unleashed his small world.

Power of faith, deity aura, divine power!

Su Ping released all the power at his disposal without a care for consequence or cost!

The lion seemed to have been provoked when his aura rose to the peak; it roared and charged at Su Ping. Hardly had it dashed out when time and space in its surroundings were torn apart. It flashed and instantly reappeared, shrouded in a strange power.

Su Ping's small world—made of multiple laws—began to fall apart when facing such a power.

Eventually, only the laws of time, destruction and vitality remained. The law of chaos, which hadn't been fully mastered, was almost falling apart too.

*What kind of power is that?*

Su Ping was shocked by that attack.

It wasn't that he hadn't yet experienced being killed by an Ascendant before. Creatures of Celestial level and above had also killed him.

However, they had killed him at such a fast speed that he hadn't even been able to tell how he died.

He was currently able to feel the lion's power, which was neither the power of laws, faith nor worlds, but one he had never seen before.

*Why were the supreme laws left intact? Is it because the lion is also using some sort of law or path?*

*My master said that you have to create your own path in order to reach the Ascendant State. That is why the method to become an Ascendant can't be taught. Is this special power the path that the undead lion created?*

*Its path destroys all laws, but it can't fully demolish the supreme ones...*

Countless thoughts flashed in Su Ping's head the moment his small world was shattered. He suddenly had an epiphany, a sort of glimpse to the Ascendant State.

Unfortunately, the moment of enlightenment was too short. The next moment, he was enshrouded by a heavy pressure from the undead aura, giving him no time to consider anything else.

Draw the sword!

Su Ping didn't wait to die. Instead, he roared and drew out the Blood Cloud Sword, which contained the power to slay Ascendants, even though he was too weak to fully activate it. Still, Su Ping exerted ninety percent of his strength with the trick he had devised in the Archean Divinity.

Bang!

A sword aura dashed out, which was even more dazzling than sunlight.

The world instantly lost its splendor. That sword aura contained Su Ping's spirit as well as all of his divine power, deity aura and power of faith, which were perfectly combined.

There was an explosion, then time and space collapsed. All the energy and laws that filled the world were being torn apart at this moment. Only the glowing sword aura could be seen moving towards the lion's mouth.

However, a deafening roar suddenly burst out. Next, the seemingly unstoppable sword aura was shattered like glass. The broken sword aura left shallow marks on the undead lion's face. Right after, Su Ping had already drowned in the massive mouth.

Bang!

A heavy smell of blood was coming from the lion's mouth, but Su Ping resurrected next to it only one second later.

His eyes were glowing. He wasn't scared at all; rather, he was excited. Even though the lion had killed him with ease, he looked at it like a hunter examining his prey.

*Not enough. I could have caused greater damage if I were stronger and my sword aura were more powerful!* Su Ping's eyes glittered.

Although he failed, his sword aura left many shallow marks on the lion's face.

Su Ping believed that the marks would have cut deeper, really inflicting damage if his sword aura were more powerful!

*My body capacity is already reaching the limit, unless I condense a second small world and concentrate the power of the two small worlds on my sword. Then, it would be ten times more powerful!*

*However, my first small world hasn't been perfected yet. The law of chaos that I obtained from the Chaos Perception Dragon is too weak...*

Su Ping's eyes glittered. He had to master all the four supreme laws to perfect the first small world, while the law of chaos was his only weakness among the four laws. He hadn't fully grasped it yet.

[a]Rustling produces a somewhat muted sound. Like "rustling leaves as you walk in autumn"

Zooming could work, by what I think you meant, but let me know what you think.

[b]Large places would use "in"

Still, for some reason "on" is used when arriving on a planet.

Islands and towns also tend to use "at"

## **Chapter 998: LV5 Store**

The fight went on.

Su Ping was swallowed by the undead lion, to later resurrect again and again. He tried his best every time. His attacks became increasingly faster as he approached his limits. Although still unable to cause damage to the undead lion, he was getting accustomed with quick outburst attacks.

Later, Su Ping simply stopped merging with his pets, letting them join the battle, so that they could also grow too. Once the fusion with his pets was dispelled, the battle became even more challenging for him. However, he gradually figured out a way for him to keep up with the undead lion, and he reduced the blast effect with his small world.

The undead lion seemed to know nothing except killing. No matter how many times Su Ping resurrected, it simply killed him again and again.

Su Ping and the undead lion's battlefield was gradually moved to the depths of the forbidden land. He couldn't care less about the environment, as he was fully devoted to fighting.

That is, until a roar suddenly burst out.

Both Su Ping and the undead lion stopped. The brutal and bloodthirsty lion seemed to have been hit in the head; it trembled with fear and crouched.

Su Ping was also wary. He felt that both his skin and his heart were quaking. His legs also began to shake beyond his control. Such horror, one that was more severe than the apocalypse itself popped up in his head. He wasn't scared of dying, but he was still affected.

It was like those who feared snakes, how they would tremble in fear if placed in front of a cave full of them, even if they were wearing iron armor.

"What's that?"

Su Ping's pores were constricting. He was even more frightened than when he faced the Blue Cloud Deity King and the old man underneath the tree. Of course, those two experts had concealed their auras to remove some of the pressure.

By seeing the ferocious lion trembling like a cat, Su Ping had no doubt that the owner of that roar was a horrifying being who was at least in the Celestial State.

*Isn't there only one Deity King on each island? The roar was too brutal and scary to be uttered by a Deity King if not cornered.*

Su Ping looked toward the source of the roar, wondering if he should go there and take a look.

But soon, he shook his head and dropped the idea; it would be pointless, even if he went there. That guy was too strong, and would kill him the moment he approached.

Su Ping was too weak to learn anything from that kind of death. Besides, the Celestial State was still too far away for him; it was better to spend time on improving himself than on curious observation.

He looked back at the cowering lion on the ground, and no longer hesitated: he went and attacked it together with the Little Skeleton.

The undead lion ignored Su Ping and continued lying on the ground the latter attacked with his pet. Its fangs shook, as if holding back its fury.

Su Ping didn't hold back; he attacked again and again. However, he found that the damage dealt was not much, even though the undead lion wasn't defending itself, at all.

*I'm too weak. I can hardly hurt it, even if it just stands here without moving.* Su Ping smiled bitterly.

He could already emulate the combat ability of a peak Star Lord, but it was absolutely nothing for an Ascendant. Star Lords could cause no more damage to them than those in the Fate State could.

The earth shook while Su Ping attacked continuously. Then, countless birds soared from the deepest parts of the woods. There were also screams of countless panicked beasts. Then, noises burst out continuously, but they grew further away from Su Ping.

Once the noises gradually faded, the undead lion—which had been enduring Su Ping's attacks for a long time—finally roared and charged at Su Ping furiously.

Su Ping was soon knocked down, but he simply grew excited and charged at the lion after his resurrection.

Time flew.

Ten days passed in the blink of an eye.

Su Ping didn't go anywhere; he had been fighting the undead lion the whole time. Their battlefield stretched for hundreds of kilometers and destroyed the environment.

When he wasn't fighting, Su Ping also collected a few rare pieces of pet food, all of which had aged for more than ten thousand years.

*This is a truly precious land.* Su Ping looked at the undead lion, which was almost a familiar friend to him by then; he could almost sketch each of the lion's hairs after ten days of fighting. His level had yet to improve, but his combat ability had grown significantly thanks to the experience he collected.

Su Ping picked up many tricks that would allow him to fight to the limit During their confrontations.

The most obvious change was that he could kill Star Lord beasts he ran into. They were no longer able to cause him any trouble.

He didn't know how strong those beasts would be considered in the Star Lord level, but having survived in the Realm of Deities for such a long time, they could surely qualify as rare pets in the Federation.

...

Inside the store—Su Ping appeared out of nowhere.

*Too bad that I couldn't catch the undead lion with my beast-catching ring, or I would've caught it and sold it in my store, if it could still move outside of that region.*

Su Ping felt some regret upon seeing the familiar adornments in the store.

*I think the store is bigger than before.* Very soon, Su Ping noticed the store's changes. He displayed the system panel, and found that the "Upgrading" message was gone. It had become a level-5 store.

"Give me a list of the new functions and permissions in the store," said Su Ping to himself.

"Congratulations. Your store has been upgraded to LV5. The store's coverage is three times bigger. The system store was upgraded to LV5. You may encounter Ascendant State treasures.

"You are now able to train Star Lord pets.

"Since you have developed a pet with special-grade aptitudes, the Multiverse All-Species Chaos Talents Rank is now officially open to you!

"The Chaos Talents Rank is refreshed every month. You will receive tremendous benefits if your name appears on the ranking."

The system's notifications sounded one after the other. He soon learned of all the new functions by checking the store menu. The greatest change was the Chaos Talents Rank.

The system would check his aptitudes. Once able to qualify, his name would appear on the list. If his name remained on display by the end of the month, he would receive a special gift from the system!

*Is the system trying to have me compete with all the geniuses in history and in all universes?* Su Ping realized what the system was up to. He always had the feeling that the system's main training target was himself.

Since the store had been upgraded to LV5, the system was now revealing its plan.

Su Ping was already one of the most talented men in the Federation, but he was still considered insignificant when compared to the brilliant geniuses throughout history.

After all, too many astonishing figures had been born since the foundation of the universe.

Some of the geniuses had epic and uncopyable experiences.

"Open the Chaos Talents Rank," Su Ping said to himself.

Soon after, a silver colored list popped up before his eyes. The top on the list was the 500th, while the bottom was the 1000th.

"What's going on?"

"In light that the host isn't qualified to appear on the Chaos Talents Rank, you can only view the secondary characters right now. Please strengthen yourself and rise higher as soon as possible," said the system casually.

Su Ping was lost for words.

His current combat ability wasn't enough to enter the top thousand?

"What are the top thousand guys? Monsters?"

Su Ping didn't know what to say. He believed that he could easily win the championship against all the people from the Divine Lord Rank in his star region. He was one of the best in the Federation, and he was only in the advanced phase of the Star State. He had always considered himself terrifying. And yet, the system didn't consider him strong enough to even be listed among the top thousand of the rank.

*So many geniuses have been born. Counting those who have recklessly gotten themselves killed, at least half of them are still alive. They will certainly rise to the Celestial State or even higher...*

*So to speak, hundreds of Celestials have appeared in our long history.* Su Ping blinked; he felt awe as he did the math. He also knew that many Celestials would stand out later in life. Therefore, a lot of Celestial experts had left their mark in history.

"This seems to be a ranking list of all species. I'd like to see the rank of human geniuses only" said Su Ping to himself.

Soon, the list changed. This time, a splendid and awe-inspiring list slowly unfolded before Su Ping.

The top of the list was the 100th, and the bottom was the 500th.

It was a list of human beings!

The only reason that Su Ping could see the higher-ranked figures was because he was among them.

“My name...” Su Ping quickly searched for his name. He was eager to find his position.

### **Chapter 999: Fruit of Epiphany**

From top to bottom—

After a long time, Su Ping finally found his name. He was the 488th!

*I should have started from the bottom up...* Su Ping was at a loss for words. He had been a bit too confident. He was barely among the top five hundred human geniuses.

*Just as I thought, too many geniuses have been born in history. According to my mentor in the Heavenly Path Institute, an Ancestral God condenses a small world back when they are Star Lord. Someone of that level could probably kill me with one quick glance...*

Such a fact was mind boggling for Su Ping.

Even if the two were Star Lords, the gap between them was truly massive.

He could kill normal Star Lords without any trouble, but he was absolutely vulnerable to a monster who had condensed seven small worlds.

*No wonder I couldn't make it to the top thousand of the all-species rank. There are too many geniuses...* Su Ping shook his head with a bitter smile. Although he had the system's help, those geniuses also had their own privileges, such as their familial backgrounds, which provided tremendous support.

*My access to the cultivation sites is my greatest support, since I can go and witness secret techniques of other species,* Su Ping thought.

Su Ping gradually calmed down after reading the rankings. He had grown confident after killing Star Lord beasts easily, back in the Luofu Realm of Deities. He was quite proud of himself when he thought he had dominated the Divine Lord Rank while he was only in the Star State.

However, his pride was completely shattered when he read the Chaos Talents Rank.

There was still a long journey ahead of him!

“Open the system store,” Su Ping said to himself.

The window appeared, displaying five items.

Su Ping found that most of the items were unnecessary. However, one of them, named Fruit of Epiphany, was quite marvelous, although its price was three million energy points. It could deepen one's understanding of laws!

Su Ping bought the item without a word.

*The fruit can be eaten repeatedly. The more, the better.* Su Ping was delighted by such a find. He didn't expect to get something as good after the upgrade.

If normal Star State warriors consumed the fruit... They could directly turn into Star Lords!



Of course, it wasn't meant for normal cultivators to use. If sold in the outside world, renowned families would buy them, no matter the price, to nurture their descendants.

*Of the four supreme laws, I've only mastered the law of time, with the sixth Astral Painting's help. My understanding of the law of chaos is the shallowest. The laws of destruction and vitality haven't been fully mastered, either.*

Su Ping's eyes glittered as he looked at the Fruit of Epiphany in his storage. "The seventh Astral Painting is named the Great World Astral Painting, which focuses on vitality. My grasp on the law of vitality will be fully perfected if I condense this Astral Painting! By then, only the laws of destruction and chaos will need improving.

*I'll figure out which of them is more difficult by then. Afterwards, I'll swallow the Fruit of Epiphany and focus on the other law. My small world will be perfected when all the four supreme laws are mastered. After that I can consider establishing a second small world...*

Su Ping couldn't help but wonder what to use as the basis for his second small world, when his first one was made of the four supreme laws.

His mentor in the Heaven Path Institute had shown him something earlier, but he hadn't fully understood. He thought he needed to ask more about it later, in the Archean Divinity.

*To understand the law of destruction, the aggressive power of the first Astral Painting may inspire me. Then, I can only try my luck in the Chaotic Realm of the Undead. I didn't feel destruction from the battles and carnage from earlier. Destruction is not that simple. The death of a life is the beginning of another cycle. That wasn't true destruction...*

Su Ping was deep in thought. He stood in a daze.

Joanna, Green Lady and the others saw this and left to mind other things, not wanting to disturb him.

A long while later.

Su Ping snapped out of his pondering, frowning and shaking his head. He didn't think it was possible to master laws overnight, so he decided to open the store and see its changes first.

Once the upgrade was completed, he now had the ability to train Star State and Star Lord pets; the cost for training had been significantly increased, which meant that Su Ping would earn energy much faster. He would be able to experience more adventures in the cultivation sites without worrying about the cost of resurrection.

*There are so many cultivation sites in the system. I should visit new cultivation sites later,* Su Ping thought.

Su Ping asked Joanna and Tang Ruyan to open the store, then informed them that Star Lord pets could now be received. Unfortunately, the professional training option was not available for Star Lord pets yet. Su Ping's guess was that it wouldn't be available until his pets became Star Lords, on the premise that their aptitudes didn't fall.

If it was just about level, Su Ping could improve to the peak of the Star Lord State at any moment.

Both Joanna and Tang Ruyan became focused after opening for business. Once the store was opened, the familiar sunlight, air, dust, and crowd on the street made them feel warm.

They discovered that they had somehow gotten used to working there.

Su Ping was slightly surprised by the gathered crowd. He didn't expect that there would be as many customers outside after leaving it closed for three days.

*Seems that I've earned some reputation over the past years,* Su Ping thought. He attributed this to the work of his employees.

All the customers were excited to see the store open again. Two of them, who were obviously friends, shouted at each other, thrilled.

"It's open! It's open!"

"Finally, back to business. It had never closed before. I almost thought that something had happened."

"The thought crossed my mind too. I thought the experts of the mysterious major families would take Boss Su away back then."

"My sweetie cannot wait any longer."

"Ew. You call an iron-armored dragon your sweetie?"

"Son of a bi\*ch, you call your gluttonous centipede peachy. Isn't it even more disgusting?"

Tang Ruyan showed up by the door and put on a smile when she heard the familiar roars. Receiving customers every day wasn't a boring task for her. Even though the customers were different, all of them treated their pets with utmost care.

She had seen a lot of people; some of them even treated their pets as family. They were so prudent that they asked her every detail about the training services offered.

While everybody cheered, a few people flashed over and stepped out of the void. They were from the major organizations that had waited for a long time.

None of them had dared to break in or leave when Su Ping's store was closed. They had waited for Su Ping to reopen the store.

None of them were idle while the store was closed. They collected information on Su Ping's store throughout the planet. Their findings had shocked them.

There seemed to be a rather terrifying and extraordinary trainer in the pet store.

Judging from the time, cost and the effect of the training, all of them were certain that the trainer supporting Su Ping wasn't simple.

"Just as expected, no genius able to stand out in the universe is simple. A poor kid without any kind of background may become famous, but it would be impossible to dominate the entire universe without backing..."

None of the organizations had dared to underestimate Su Ping. They had investigated him, but they had yet to discover who his backer was.

It only meant that such a person was beyond their imagination. Only a horrifying figure could hide that well!

“Boss Su!”

A middle-aged man flew forward and landed on the stairs outside the store. He was none other than Loulan Feng.

He looked at Su Ping, who was standing in front of the store. His chest was basked in sunlight while his face was in the shadow, making him look rather mysterious.

Loulan Feng was stunned for a moment after offering a greeting. He didn't know if it was just his imagination, but he felt that Su Ping had changed significantly after only three days had passed.

*Did he make a breakthrough? Or is it just an illusion?* Loulan Feng felt quite suspicious. He knew that geniuses were able to advance very fast. Since Su Ping had been training in seclusion, it was only natural to have made some progress.

Once he saw Green Lady next to Su Ping, Loulan Feng narrowed his eyes and nodded at her with a friendly expression.

Green Lady seemed to be lost in thought, so she didn't respond.

Loulan Feng wasn't angered by this. He said to Su Ping, “Mr. Su Ping, I've come to deliver the materials you need.”

He opened his hand and presented a long box, which was so cold that it lowered the temperature around it.

Su Ping was slightly surprised by it. He stepped up and said, “Let me take a look.”

He opened the box, and saw a red item sealed in transparent energy; it was emitting a strange brilliance. That was indeed one of the materials needed for the Solar Bulwark.

“Since you need it, Mr. Su, I'll just give it to you. The Loulan family will continue looking for the rest of the materials.” Loulan Feng guessed from Su Ping's reaction that it was the right material. He handed the box over to Su Ping with a smile, not posing any requests.

Su Ping realized what he was up to, and secretly heaved a sigh. He knew it was difficult to decline the Loulan family's gesture. After all, he didn't like owing favors.

Favors were always hard to return.

“Mr. Su, I've also heard about the materials you need. The Phil family is also searching for them. We'll contact you the moment we find anything.” said a graceful woman with an alluring body as she dashed over. She was none other than the Ascendant expert from the Phil family.

Su Ping nodded at her and said gently, “Thank you very much.”

The woman gave him a stunning smile and said, "Mr. Su, the Space Tower of the Phil Family is always open to you. Feel free to drop by when you have time. Even if you don't work for the Phil family, you will still be treated as an honorable guest."

Obviously, the woman was adopting the Loulan family's approach, and had realized that he yielded to the weak but not the strong. He nodded and replied, "It's very kind of you. I appreciate it."

Loulan Feng peeped at her, not wanting them to talk too much. He found the woman's eyes rather alluring, and was worried that Su Ping might be unable to refuse her charm. He quickly said, "Mr. Su, are you free right now? There's a gala in the Loulan estate. We'll be honored by your presence."

### **Chapter 1000: The Sea of Illusions**

"Humph!"

Nolan from the Phil family snorted. She was obviously aware of what the Loulan family had been doing. Su Ping had accepted a gift from the Loulans; even if he didn't receive its invitation, he would still owe them a favor. She had lost the initiative in the competition over Su Ping, so she had to step back and try to leave a good impression first.

"A gala?" Su Ping was puzzled. To be honest, he wasn't really interested. But he still asked, just to be polite.

"That is correct."

Loulan Feng smiled and said, "The Sea of Illusions will be open soon; our family manages it. Geniuses from all over will be invited. Before the opening, we have invited the top geniuses of many star zones, ranging from the Star State to the Star Lord State, to communicate and learn in the Loulan estate.

"This gathering of geniuses will be honored to have the presence of the best genius in the entire universe, Mr. Su. The juniors of the Loulan family will also be ready to learn from you."

Su Ping realized what was going on and asked curiously, "What is the Sea of Illusions?"

Loulan Feng was slightly stunned, not expecting a top genius and disciple of a Celestial to be ignorant of such a place. However, he quickly put on a natural smile again and said, "The Sea of Illusions is a mysterious space in the universe. As far as the Federation has been able to explore, there are altogether nine layers of deeper spaces!

"The Sea of Illusions, on the other hand, belongs to the deep spaces, but doesn't belong to any of the nine layers. It's a pure consciousness domain.

"Only those with great resolve and determination may traverse the Sea of Illusions."

He looked at Su Ping and resorted to flattery again. "A genius such as Mr. Su could easily move about across the Sea of Illusions. The Loulan family is also offering you an invitation to enter, Mr. Su. It's a great place to improve one's willpower and determination. However, it's a disastrous place for those without resolve."

Su Ping was slightly surprised. According to that guy, his family was inviting geniuses of different star zones to meet in their estate, so that juniors of their family might improve. The Sea of Illusions was an obvious temptation to attract talent, which indicated the high value of the place.

“Thank you; I’ll give it a thought.” Su Ping didn’t accept the invitation right away. He was going to investigate further, as he felt curious about the place.

Loulan Feng said with a smile, “Okay. If you’re interested, you can contact me anytime, Mr. Su; I’ll come to pick you up. This is my virtual number. You can reach out to me no matter where you are, as long as you’re in this star zone.”

Su Ping had acquired tier-7 permissions thanks to the Universe Geniuses’ Contest, a privilege usually reserved for Ascendants, among many other advantages they had. Heavenly Lords, who were granted tier 8 status, could communicate with recipients in other star zones without any complications.

“Sure.”

Su Ping nodded.

Noland became angry after seeing that Su Ping had made a deal with the Loulans, but she managed to not let it show. She said with a smile, “Mr. Su, the Phil family’s space tower will be open soon. Feel free to come by if you have time.”

Su Ping nodded. “I will if I’m free.”

“Why don’t we exchange our numbers too?” said Noland, seizing the opportunity.

Su Ping thought for a moment, but she didn’t turn her down.

By then the rest of the forces planning on inviting Su Ping were gathered there. All of them proposed tempting arrangements, hoping to befriend him. Some were even willing to marry off their young geniuses. They passed a dozen profiles to Su Ping on the spot. All of them were beautiful girls...

Su Ping was lost for words. Even though arranged marriages weren’t unusual among big families, having a dozen wives was still rather extraordinary.

Su Ping bid them farewell after some exchange of words; it came down to all the visitors being Ascendants, so he had to be very friendly.

The street outside the store was still utterly silent after Loulan Feng and the others left. The crowd waiting in line looked at Su Ping with envy and admiration showing in their glittering eyes. The genius from their planet had attracted too many experts!

Su Ping wasn’t born on planet Rhea, but he had been running his store there for years. Since his rise to become the best of Silvy, the natives of Rhea had already considered him the pride of the planet.

Su Ping returned to the store and immediately started searching for information about the Sea of Illusions.

His permissions had already been upgraded to a level where he could easily access confidential information. He soon learned all the details about the Sea of Illusions.

To Su Ping's surprise, it was an unknown space between illusion and reality. Nobody knew which deep space it was in. The place had characteristics unlike those typical of independent spaces.

The Federation had yet to fully explore the whole region; the reason for its origin was also unknown. However, according to what Su Ping found, the place had already been categorized as a treasure trove and was being controlled by a few major families. Celestials also had access to the area.

Visitors were able to witness all kinds of unbelievable things in the Sea of Illusions. The less determined a person was, the more situations they would experience. Conversely, the ones with stronger resolve would see nothing but darkness while exploring the mysterious region.

An item found in the Sea of Illusions was known as Seed of Consciousness, which could significantly improve a person's willpower and soul firmness.

The greater the willpower, the stronger they would be against intimidating skills. The Seed of Consciousness was so precious that it couldn't be taken out of the Sea of Illusions just yet, not even with all the technological resources of the Federation. One had to absorb it on the spot whenever it was found, or it would be wasted; not even Celestials knew how to store it.

*To sum it up, it can be considered as a treasure trove where my willpower and soul can be tempered.*

*My willpower is probably very strong after all the practicing in cultivation sites, at least stronger than those at my level. I'm even immune to the fearsome roars of Star Lord dragons. I wonder what willpower level I have.*

He found that willpower also had levels while searching for the Sea of Illusions.

The nine ranks under the Ocean State had LV1 willpower.

Ocean State was LV2; Void State was LV3 and Fate State was LV4!

The Star State was LV5, and the Star Lord State was LV6!

*My willpower must be LV6. I'll be immune even to the intimidation of an Ascendant once it reaches LV7.* Su Ping's eyes glittered. He was reminded of the time he was fighting against the undead lion in Luofu and endured the terrifying roars; even though he knew he wouldn't die, and he was an absolutely fearless person, his body still trembled beyond control.

He wouldn't have been affected if he had enough willpower.

Furthermore, he would also be invulnerable to the illusion skills of many pets if his willpower was strong. He would be able to see through space and time illusions too. It was very important to develop such control.

Su Ping made a decision in his heart. *My store doesn't need me very badly right now. Joanna and the others are already familiar with the daily routines. I should go there and take a look sometime.*