

Soul Pets Bk2 311

Chapter 311: Break Through the Tunnel Alone

“After monarch rank, the power differences will become very large, and type advantages will therefore be shown even more obviously, as seen in young master’s Devil Tree Battle Soldier that is fighting right now. The Devil Tree Battle Soldier is wood type, so when fighting a large group of bug type, it had a direct advantage. It is much quicker in fighting them than the Ice Air Fairy was with the Crafty Rock Guards before!” Old Li said.

Chu Mu’s soul pets hadn’t entered the monarch rank for a long time. Normally, Chu Mu felt that servant rank, warrior rank, and commander ranks, as long as soul pets weren’t apart by a whole rank, then it won’t show greatly in fighting strength. In fact, many times, a powerful technique could determine the entire battle.

Yet now, with the Devil Tree Battle Soldier only moving from pseudo-monarch to low class monarch, its crowd killing abilities had multiplied instantly.

Chu Mu originally wanted to change his Ghost King for Mo Xie and make Mo Xie clear out the obstacles along the tunnel. Yet now, this tunnel didn’t need Mo Xie to fight at all. The seventh phase seventh stage Blood Natural Wood Devil Tree Battle Soldier, with Zhan Ye and Ghost King, could still sweep through quickly!

After the Devil Tree Battle Soldier jumped from pseudo-monarch to low class monarch with the learning of Blood Natural Wood, it increased in strength, but didn’t increase four or fivefold.

These eighth phase Hidden Blades were barely had some defense in front of Devil Tree Battle Soldier’s attacks. They could sometimes resist the Devil Tree Battle Soldier’s attacks. But once the devil tree battle soldier raised its wood energy crystal to Natural Wood, the eighth phase Hidden Blades’ defenses were negligible, so the Devil Tree Battle Soldier’s killing speeds increased greatly. After all, these eighth phase Hidden Blades could no longer pose a threat to the Devil Tree Battle Soldier, becoming very weak in comparison.

Originally, Chu Mu faced a hundred and sixty Crafty Rock Guards. A half year later, Chu Mu was relying only on his Devil Tree Battle Soldier, Zhan Ye, and Ghost King and finished off two hundred eighth phase Hidden Blades, which were similar in strength to the Crafty Rock Guards, in a fifth of the time. His strength increase was very obvious!

After killing all the Hidden Blades, Chu Mu immediately brought his three soul pets into the tunnel of the Sword Beetle.

There weren't that many Sword Beetles in the tunnel. After all, Sword Beetles were commander rank soul pets, so they couldn't be as widespread as warrior ranks.

The Sword Beetle valley was still mainly filled with eighth phase Hidden Blades, but these Hidden Blades were like ants in front of the Devil Tree Battle Soldier, easily clearing out a large patch. Even when these insects came like a flood, they still couldn't stop Chu Mu and his soul pets' steps.

Very quickly, Chu Mu found the largest Sword Beetle within all the vicious insects of this tunnel.

Chu Mu had seen Sword Beetles, as it was one of Ye Wansheng's favorite soul pets. In comparison, the Sword Beetle in front of Chu Mu was clearly stronger than Ye Wansheng's seventh phase fifth stage Sword Beetle.

"Zhan Ye, Heavenly Splitting Claw!"

"Houhou!!!!!!!!!!!!!"

Zhan Ye's claw blades were even sharper than the Sword Beetle's arm blade. Under the effects of the sixth level full offensive soul equipment, its ink claws directly ripped through the arms of a few nearby seventh phase sword beetles.

Getting stronger as it fought, Zhan Ye was already at the seventh phase second stage, and Zhan Ye's fighting strength was around pseudo-monarch rank at this point. However, with its robust life force and still ramping strength, it could fight against low class monarch ranks!

A seventh phase low class monarch rank soul pet definitely had hope against eighth phase low class commander ranks. To more completely train Zhan Ye's instincts and provoke its potential, Chu Mu let the Zhan Ye fight an eighth phase high class commander rank Sword Beetle. This was to let Zhan Ye break its limits, and reach higher levels when against a soul pet more powerful than itself.

The Devil Tree Battle Soldier was still in charge of most of the killing. The Ghost King stood aside the Devil Tree Battle Soldier. Whenever too many soul pets neared them, Ghost King would lift up its powerful Curved Blade and slam it towards the heads of these Hidden Blades and Sword Beetles.

The Hidden Blade armors, broken limbs, splattered innards, broken skulls, pierced bodies.....as the battle continued, the entire passage was masked with a thick scent of blood. This scent was also intermixed with the gagging scent of a bug type soul pet's inner fluids.....

The entire valley was slowly covered in the bodies of Hidden Blades and Sword Beetles. With an average skill of eighth phase warrior rank and seventh phase commander rank, these Hidden Blades and Sword Beetle couldn't possibly stop Chu Mu and his soul pets' bloody steps. For the distance of two kilometers, only a small segment remained.

“Houhouhou!!!!!!!!!!!!!!”

After experiencing a fourth Broken Limb Rebirth, Zhan Ye's stage reached seventh phase fifth stage!

Zhan Ye had already fought for a long time against this eighth phase high stage Sword Beetle. Every time Zhan Ye finished a Broken Limb Rebirth, its stamina and life force was immediately recovered, and its fighting strength would recover to max. Even if it was repeatedly heavily wounded by the eighth phase high stage sword beetle in the beginning, after four times of such harm, it slowly gained an advantage in this war of attrition.

Its long ink armor spike extended and finally, the eighth phase high stage sword beetle couldn't block the stronger and stronger attacks of the Zhan Ye. Its thick bug type armor was heavily pierced by the poisonous ink armor spikes!

The corroding effects of darkness were quickly injected into the sword beetle's body, forcefully corroding the Sword Beetle's armor and reducing its defense to zero.

After the defense was lowered, Zhan Ye's attack became more and more threatening. With full energy, it started a crazy melee assault, forcing the eighth phase high stage Sword Beetle to step back again and again.

Zhan Ye's fighting style had similarities with Mo Xie; after all, they were both mainly beast type. However, Chu Mu's two soul pets fought differently in attitude: Mo Xie focussed on speed, severity, and strangeness. Her battles always had the nimbleness of a demon, while not losing the wild and open nature of a beast type soul pet.

Zhan Ye's fighting style was purely unyielding. In exchanges, Zhan Ye often didn't even dodge, choosing to take a hit and give a hit back instead. Such battle didn't seem technical, but was full of power, instincts, and blood, making the battle a competition of battle intent.

The eighth phase high stage Sword Beetle clearly couldn't stop the Zhan Ye's later burst of terrifying power. When its body's defense was ignored, it slowly started to shrink back. Finally, Zhan Ye caught a lethal opportunity and swung its heavy tail towards the beetle's skull, causing its head to burst open, killing it immediately!

The eighth phase high stage Sword Beetle was the commander of this tunnel. Once it was killed, the Sword Beetles and Hidden Blades lost their fighting intent, stepping on their comrades' bodies as they ran away, either into the ground, into cracks, or up the slopes. After not too long, the tunnel became rather quiet.....

"Good job, let's rest before we continue to fight our way to the inner lake." After the battle ended, Chu Mu immediately split up the soul crystals he spent his fortune on to replenish his soul pets' stamina.

Soul Crystals had much more energy than soul cores. Chu Mu specially bought many sixth rank soul crystals so his soul pets could eat them after battles to replenish stamina.

Of course, if Ye Qingzi were here, Chu Mu would be able to save this spending. Ye Qingzi's recovery medicine were all seventh rank, able to quickly replenish soul pet stamina and fighting strength.

The Devil Tree Battle Soldier's life force was still full, but it wasted a lot of stamina. After all, it had never stopped casting techniques through the entire killing process. There were at least three to four hundred bug type soul pets that died on its hands.

The Devil Tree Battle Soldier's stamina was around twenty percent now. After this twenty percent was used up, its fighting strength will decrease considerably.

Zhan Ye's stamina was the greatest of Chu Mu's soul pets. Even so, it only had about twenty percent stamina left. In the following battles, Zhan Ye could probably only tire the ninth phase soul pets a bit.

The Ghost King didn't waste much stamina, but it wouldn't be of much use in the following battles. To let it recover quicker, Chu Mu just retracted it into his soul pet space.

After eating a soul crystal and resting, the Devil Tree Battle Soldier's stamina increased by about 10 percent, reaching thirty percent.

Zhan Ye recovered quickly too. After eating the soul crystal, it recovered from twenty percent to fifty percent. Its advantage in recovery showed that, it could, in such situations, save Chu Mu the most amount of fighting strength possible.

"Mo Xie, get warmed up and ready to fight." Chu Mu cast an incantation and summoned Mo Xie by his side.

Mo Xie remained in her Pitiful Appearance state but very lazily jumped onto Chu Mu's shoulder, looking as if she'll only start if she sees the enemies.

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Walking into the mountain valley, Chu Mu specially looked over to another tunnel.

That tunnel was the longer one that the five people had picked from before. Looking at it, it was clear the five haven't passed through yet.

The Devil Tree Battle Soldier's strength increase had let Chu Mu pass through the obstacle ahead of time. Seems like the chances he'll capture the Star Phoenix Butterfly Tail was still very high.

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At the end of the Pupa Species, Da Kun and four others were huddled in a circle, all fifteen soul pets out for battle. The support type soul pets were heavily guarded in the center, behind defensive soul pets, while the fighting soul pets all charged outwards, wanting to carve a path of blood through the mountain.

Yet, there were still around two hundred of the pupa species, including the most powerful leader, that they haven't dealt with. Passing through the heavy surroundings would still take some time.

“Leader, look into the inner valley!!!” Suddenly, the female soul pet trainer Yu Sui let out a surprised gasp!

Da Kun thought that another powerful organism appeared so he quickly jumped to a high vantage point. Looking past the pupa species and at the inner mountain valley a hundred meters away, he suddenly noticed the teen that they had seen not long ago!!

“How is this possible, him, by himself.....how did he do it?!”

Chapter 312: The First to Arrive, Glamorous Smokescreen

Female soul pet trainer Yu Sui stood in the middle of the cocoon species, watching slightly dazed, as Chu Mu rode his Zhan Ye into the inner lake of the valley.

One man! He went in to the inner lake from another tunnel by himself!

They definitely left at the same time, but they had gone through countless struggles to get to the end of their tunnel. They never would've thought that a young man even younger than them would be able to pass through an even more dangerous tunnel. How would such power not leave them shocked?!

Five people with a total of fifteen soul pets, almost all of which have been switched. Adding on the fact that their cooperation was impeccable, was that still worse than the young man's mere three soul pets?

How big of a power difference was that? Such a difference made the five Hunter's Alliance members stare in disbelief. One had to know that they were all considered experts in the young generation and was relatively famous in Guo City already. In their eyes, not many teams could reach their level.

From what they saw, finding a team that could pass through the tunnel faster than them was already awe worthy, but they would never have thought that there would be a young man who picked a more dangerous route yet entered the inner lake faster. This young man was even younger than them!

“This isn’t possible, there has to be a shortcut, he must have used a shortcut!” Zhang Ying said angrily.

They have spent too much effort getting here. How could they let a kid be the first to arrive? Additionally, Zhang Ying felt that there couldn’t possibly be such a powerful young man.

Though they were shocked and in disbelief, they still had to face the flood-like cocoon species soul pets. They could only watch as Chu Mu’s figure freely entered the valley and walk closer to the massive treasure.

“We can’t keep our strength anymore, we have to get rid of these things as fast as we can, or else the young soul pet will be taken by the kid for sure.” Qin He said.

“Heng, I don’t believe that he still has the power to fight the two ninth phase Star Phoenix Battle Insects after going through that tunnel!” Zhang Qing laughed coldly.

“No matter what, we have to get rid of these things fast!” Leader Da Kun said.

The five no longer dared to get distracted, immediately putting all their attention on the soul pet species in front of them.

To save time, they no longer cared about wasting stamina, summoning their more well rested soul pets.

None of these five had soul pets like Zhan Ye and Devil Tree Battle Soldier that could quickly recover battle strength. The cocoon species were very well defended and with such numbers, it wasted a lot of stamina. Almost every once in a while, they had to switch soul pets to put up more rested soul pets.

Feeling the threat of Chu Mu, the five became increasingly worried. Yet, the more worried they got, the more plentiful the cocoon species were, making them very annoyed.

“Don’t worry, he can’t possibly defeat the two ninth phase Star Phoenix Battle Insects. These Insects have very high defense. If he doesn’t utilize type advantage and soul pet cooperation, he

can't possibly do it by himself." Da Kun intentionally pacified everyone so they could keep a calm heart in fighting.

"Heng, unless he's Luo Peng, and can take the Star Phoenix Butterfly Tail, his early arrival will just help us waste the two ninth phase commander ranks' fighting strengths." Zhang Ying said.

Speaking of Luo Peng, the woman named Yu Sui's face changed, clearly showing adoration.

Luo Peng was a very outstanding young member of Hunter's Alliance. He was only around twenty, yet his power was almost unmatched in similar ages, being a top tier expert of this region.

To reach such realm was already very impressive, yet this young man also has outstanding hunter talent. He was once able to go into a monarch rank territory and capture a monarch rank young soul pet himself. He had also caught countless commander ranks. He was definitely a rare genius of Hunter's Alliance.

Such an outstanding teen was famous amongst Hunter's Alliance members. Many times, they would also use this name to represent very high achieving young members

Yu Sui had once conversed with Luo Peng. Though they were somewhat separated by age, this female soul pet trainer had still fallen deeply in love with this expert that emanated a wild feeling. So when Zhang Ying mentioned this person, she couldn't help but reveal some emotions.

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After much effort in killing, the five finally got rid of most of the cocoon species soul pets and killed the leader of the cocoon species.

"It's okay, no need to hurry, let him tire out the two ninth phase soul pets first, so we can get a good opportunity." Zhang Ying said.

"Why don't I hear any sounds of fighting?" The more aware Yu Sui said.

"Can it be that he has already killed the two ninth phase Star Phoenix Battle Insects?" Qin He jumped onto his soul pet's back and walked in front of the team, slowly nearing the center of the lake.

For safety's sake, the five people neared the inner river very carefully, but they very quickly found that the small lake was already in shambles!

Grass and puddles littered the banks. A powerful technique blew up a huge chunk of trees. A massive pit was on the banks of the water, and some cold white flames had just been extinguished.....

Not many soul pets habitated the center region. The hardest to defeat were the defenders Star Phoenix Butterfly Tail and the two ninth phase Star Phoenix Battle Insects. The marks near the lake were clear evidence that Chu Mu had already fought with the two ninth phase commander ranks in a huge fight!

"Look all around!" As the leader, Da Kun had already realized something, saying solemnly to everyone.

The other four spread out, and quickly searched through the relatively small inner lake. However, after going around, they were still unable to find a solution.

"Can it be that it really had been captured by him already?" Qin He said in a peculiar small voice.

"How is this kid so powerful!" Da Kun himself had tidal waves thrown up in his heart.

Walking through the entire inner lake, they didn't find signs of the ninth phase commander ranks and the Star Phoenix Butterfly Tail. The only possibility was that the ninth phase commander ranks were dealt with by the young man, while the Star Phoenix Butterfly Tail had been taken.

But, how could the five believe that the young man was stronger than the combined whole of the five people, able to walk around freely in a monarch rank soul pet territory and even steal away the monarch rank young soul pet!

"Leader, what should we do, it seems he truly has gotten to it first. We've met a real expert this time!" Qin He said in a very gloomy voice.

The others have yet to come back to their senses. Especially that female soul pet trainer Yu Sui. From what she saw, the only young man who could do this was the man named Luo Peng.

Yet, the truth was right in front of them. Indeed, another young man of similar age to Luo Peng had stolen the monarch rank young soul pet in front of them, showing off his powerful strength capable of matching Luo Peng's!

"This is monarch rank territory. If the monarch rank notices the situation here, none of us will run away alive. We must leave now." Leader Da Kun said steadily.

"Leave, but we haven't gotten anything....." Zhang Ying said unwillingly.

"Then what? That teen's power is stronger than the combined total of us five. Such character should be very rare in our kingdom. If we met them, it's just our unlucky day!" Qin He said.

Other than being shocked, the five could only accept their bad luck. By reason, they should rarely ever meet teams that can compete against them. After all, not any team could enter monarch rank soul pet territory.

Of the known experts, only Luo Peng could do this, but now another expert emerged. Other than being helpless, they couldn't do much else.

Though everyone was unwilling, they could only leave the area quickly. With experience, they knew they couldn't possibly stay for long in such a dangerous monarch rank territory.

The five rode their soul pets and, to save time, or to make sure the young man actually used his own strength, they chose the Sword Beetle route.

When passing through this tunnel, the five peoples' faces changed again. The insect corpses almost covered the entire tunnel. Fluids made streams and the entire tunnel smelt of corpses and rotten fumes!

"He killed this many sword beetles and Hidden Blades by himself..... This young man is too scary!" Qin He looked dumbstruck. There were way more Hidden Blades in this tunnel than he had thought, yet they were all corpses now!

Zhang Ying, who always thought Chu Mu had just gotten lucky, had an ugly expression and couldn't say a thing.

Yu Sui, who has a feverish attitude towards Luo Peng, was also shocked. Was there truly someone that could match Luo Peng?

“We can only accept fate now. Let’s leave. We may meet him in Dun City.” Leader Da Kun said in a long sigh.

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The five left in shock and regret.

Yet, what none of them noticed was, when they left the inner lake, the very edge of the mountain, in the darkness, there appeared a strange ripple in space. This ripple was like a disturbance in water, and in this twisted space, the light of a few techniques shined, clearly hinting at a chaos under the concealment of peace!

Chapter 313: A Woman’s Favorite, Butterfly Species Monarch

“Chi chi chi!!!!!!!!!!”

A metallic shout was ear-piercingly heard by Chu Mu. The sound was evidently the ninth phase Star Phoenix Battle Insect’s Sound Wave technique, and it dealt extremely serious damage to a person’s mind.

As the space faintly changed, and a picture slowly appeared. On the edge of the valley, a ninth phase Star Phoenix Battle Insect brandished its sharp arms, slashing them a few consecutive times. A dozen trees were chopped down causing leaves to fly...

The ninth phase Star Phoenix Battle Insect hadn’t been killed by Chu Mu; rather, because he knew that those few people would enter the inner lake not long after him, and the fruits of his hard fought half a day fight might be snatched by them, he played an ingenious trick. Using the Night Thunder Dream Beast’s ability, he created a special illusory space on the edge of the valley to trick those people into believing he had already been through, killed the two ninth phase commanders and left with the child soul pet already.

Chu Mu's plan... was extremely successful. Under a lack of time, he had tricked the five people, and now he could calmly deal with the remaining ninth phase Star Phoenix Battle Insect.

Chu Mu knew that the Star Phoenix Butterfly Tail would very likely flee when the fight started, but fortunately, the Night Thunder Dream Beast had reached the ninth phase seventh stage and its control abilities were exceptionally powerful. It was able to keep the Star Phoenix Butterfly Tail in place very effectively, causing it to descend into a dream real. In the meantime, he was able to divert his concentration to dealing with the ninth phase Star Phoenix Battle Insects.

Before the five people had come, Chu Mu had already concentrated his fighting strength and killed one of the ninth phase Star Phoenix Battle Insects. Thus, with the White Nightmare, the Night Thunder Dream Beast and the Ice Air Fairy, the remaining Star Phoenix Battle Insect would be hard pressed to pose a threat to him.

The White Nightmare was the main source of fighting strength, the Night Thunder Dream Beast's perfect Dream Fragmentation continuously disrupted the Star Phoenix Battle Insect's techniques and the Ice Air Fairy launched towering ice rapidly from far away. The final Star Phoenix Battle Insect was ultimately disposed of!

Soul crystals didn't appear from either Star Phoenix Battle Insect. In truth, Chu Mu's luck beforehand was rather good as he came across two eighth rank soul crystals; however, his rate of coming across soul crystals had clearly dropped, having not come across even one soul crystal in the past year. Soul crystals normally only appeared more easily in wild soul pets if they had underwent self strengthening, but these soul pets were not amongst the majority. Thus, obtaining high ranking soul crystals was a common occurrence.

After killing the Star Phoenix Butterfly Tail, Chu Mu began to capture the Star Phoenix Butterfly Tail. With the Night Thunder Dream Beast's powerful Dream compulsion, he could trick the Star Phoenix Butterfly Tail into entering the soul capture ring; therefore, his plan this time to cut off his retreat was greatly successful.

Aside from the Ghost King which had conserved its fighting strength, during this fight, the rest of his soul pets had exhausted an extremely large amount of physical energy. Thus, after obtaining the Star Phoenix Butterfly Tail, Chu Mu quickly left the valley, and he searched for a safe place to sit down and rest.

In the wild, one would often be faced with the situation of one's soul pets nearly exhausting all of their fighting strength. This moment was the most dangerous one, so Chu Mu didn't make any rash

moves. He properly hid in a mountain cave, knowing that after his own soul power and his soul pet's physical strength recovered, he would ride on his Night Thunder Dream Beast to the nearest city, Dun City.

Dun City wasn't a Kingdom City, and instead was an exceptionally famous city located in between two kingdoms. The most prominent thing about this city was that surrounding it were many kingdoms that needed to pass through this city in order to trade. This caused the city to become a special economic hub.

Perhaps the surrounding kingdoms didn't even need to have their own Kingdom Cities, but they definitely couldn't lose Dun City, because it was already transforming into a significant city for all of these several small kingdoms.

Dun city was situated on an expansive plain. This plain was bordered on four kingdoms and was an extremely vast piece of land. Living on the plain were countless wing and beast type soul pets, making it an extremely suitable training field for soul pet trainers.

Since it had historically always been a hub for all parties coming and going from the four kingdoms, caravans were omnipresent, and in order to not provoke the unnecessary attacks of soul pet groups, the caravans from various kingdoms and regions would take the mainland route, advancing through the boundless green colored earth.

On the flat expansive path, the long caravans would have a smooth journey with various soul pets with ample endurance that lugged their goods at the front.

Occasionally, there would even be the fleet of some dignified noble or child of a noble that galloped by. Their soul pets that lead the way were commanders for the most part. Commander ranks soul pets normally were used to fight, so by using them to lead the way, it was a symbol of their status and identity.

"Make way, make way!" The path was filled with caravans coming and going, but the commander fleet of the nobles were several times more overbearing. Therefore, the caravans that could only employ servant and general rank soul pets would specially make way to let these nobles proceed.

"Star Wilderness Devil Colt. There are ten of these Star Wilderness Devil Colts leading the way. This fleet is truly ostentatious. I wonder which big figure from Dun City is coming back from an outing." amidst the rolling dust, the workers of these caravans stood on the side of the path letting out sighs.

These workers normally only saw servant rank soul pets. To them, being able to use a general rank soul pet as a steed was extremely exceptional. Yet, now suddenly seeing a commander fleet appear, they were naturally both jealous and in awe.

The Star Wilderness Devil Colts were low class commander soul pets, and the speed at which the noble's fleet was moving down the path was extremely quick. Due to the commander rank's aura, they displayed an eminently overbearing and coarse show that made the surrounding people incessantly sigh...

Inside the luxurious carriage, a young man that looked about 15 or 16 pried open the curtains and stared at the caravans that were left behind in the dust. A smile of pride appeared on his face.

He enjoyed this sort of speed, especially when his soul pet's surpassed other peoples'!

The young man instantly turned around and looked behind, wanting to know which soul pet was faster than his Star Wilderness Devil Colts.

Only, he wasn't even able to look behind him in time when suddenly, a black tornado freely flitted past him. The moment that young man was stunned, he saw a man wearing black clothing, and underneath him was a black colored demonic soul pet!

Free, graceful, agile and demonic. This was a soul pet that could move the hearts of every soul pet trainer yearning for a fast soul pet!

"Dream Beast, a Night Thunder Dream Beast!" the young man finally recognized it, but by the time he wanted to closely look at the other party, the Night Thunder Dream Beast had already sped off somewhere far in the distance!

Compared to the Night Thunder Dream Beast flying along the path that overtook all of the soul pets galloping on the path, the young man's Star Wilderness Devil Colts were practically stationary.

The person that had so flashily sped through the path naturally was Chu Mu.

As the Night Thunder Dream Beast's phase and stage had risen, its nomadic demon speed had more directly manifested. In the eyes of other people, the Night Thunder Dream Beast was like a black

tornado and each time someone saw it, it was only for an instant. By the time they fixated their eyes, it would have already rushed off far into the distance!

After half a year of training in hiding, Chu Mu finally entered a rather decent city.

The first thing he had to do was properly rest and wash away the savage aura on his body. Then, he would consider how to deal with the Star Phoenix Butterfly Tail.

In truth, Chu Mu still had a soul pet space right now. The fourth soul pact that he had broken back then with Mo Xie had already recovered, and Chu Mu could hold another soul pet. Moreover, Chu Mu planned on searching for a wing type for his next soul pet.

However, the Star Phoenix Butterfly Tail wasn't Chu Mu's ideal wing type soul pet. He felt that he couldn't just take whatever was convenient, so he didn't randomly sign a soul pact with a low class monarch.

After a period of rest, Chu Mu went directly to Soul Pet Palace.

En route to Soul Pet Palace, Chu Mu happened to see Soul Palace and suddenly remembered that within Soul Palace was a method of transaction. If he went to the market or Soul Pet Palace, there was a chance someone could give him a bad price in hopes of obtaining this monarch rank soul pet.

After hesitating a while, Chu Mu ultimately went into Soul Palace and upon flashing his identity, he got in touch with Soul Palace's transaction members without informing the higher ups in Dun City's Soul Palace.

When the transaction staff realized that Chu Mu had a young monarch rank, his face wore an expression of slight disbelief. It wasn't until Chu Mu passed his soul capture ring over to let him pour his soul remembrance in to check the Star Phoenix Butterfly Tail trapped inside did this Soul Alliance transaction staff open his eyes wide!

A monarch rank soul pet and a commander rank soul pet had the most intrinsic difference between them. A creature like the Star Phoenix Butterfly Tail, even if it was in its child years, had a beautiful appearance and virtually radiated in an exceptionally evident monarch aura.

The Star Phoenix Butterfly Tail's body was a dazzling yellow color with star-like blue spots decorated on top. These spots were not simple adornment; instead, they formed an extremely

strange ancient pattern of its species that contained its powerful ability. There were many times when its potentially could be determined just by looking at the pattern.

The lower half of its body was a butterfly tail that was the same color as its body. The butterfly tail was exceptionally overglorified and it practically took up two thirds of its 2 meter body length. It displayed its monarch grandeur and glamour without reserve. Elegant, noble and beautiful. The Star Phoenix Butterfly Tail absolutely received the unreserved and widespread highclass love of female soul pet trainers. Furthermore, its fighting strength wasn't inferior to other low class monarch rank soul pets.

Chapter 314: You Didn't Treat Me Well Enough, Nightmare Palace

The transaction staff's gaze was sluggish for a while, before he quickly realized that the young man in front of him was very likely an important figure who had come from even higher ranked Soul Palaces. His mannerism instantly changed.

"What's the method of Soul Palace's internal exchange? Explain to me the most fundamental aspects." Chu Mu took back his soul capture ring as he asked a question.

The transaction staff had clearly become more serious as he hastily said: "There's no problem with that. This subordinate knows that a talented young man like you has no time to understand these trivial matters, so this subordinate can explain to you the most basic method. Our Dun City Soul Palace, eh, according to what I know, the Soul Palace in every city has the same transaction method. There are always various treasures in stock inside a Soul Palace, for instance different young soul pets, special medicines, previous soul equipment, rare spirit items, valuable soul...

Dun City is the intersection city of several kingdoms, and if members in the vicinity obtain treasures and need to exchange it or change it for gold, they come through Dun City's Soul Palace. Thus, Dun City Soul Palace's transaction list always spans several pages. We should have everything except for some extremely special goods. Moreover, we can also get in contact with the Soul Palaces of other kingdoms and can take the goods from their stockpile. You can also buy things you want from here and we'll deliver the items here by a certain time."

Chu Mu nodded his head. The transaction method in Nightmare Palace was also like this and they had a large group of members especially in charge of transactions and making an inventory of the various treasures inside, classifying them into extremely large lists that they hung on the wall of the hall like a drawing. When someone saw an item they wanted, they could find relevant members to purchase it. They only had to pay the required gold for the item, or exchange an item in return.

Regardless if it was Nightmare Palace or Soul Palace, this transaction was profit oriented, thus allowing Soul Alliance and Nightmare Palace to earn a large portion of transaction profit.

The two of their transaction methods were different from the Merchant Alliance's in that the two factions wouldn't host internal auctions. Very often, it would be exchanged through marked prices or an exchange of a treasure of the same level. The other more significant thing was that the two factions could use contribution points to obtain more convenience and a discount.

Discounts would enable one to purchase an even higher ranking good for a price lower than what it was marked on the market. This special discount was determined through one's title and normally, the higher the title, the more the discount.

However, within this mechanism was a limit which limited the discount to a fixed amount of times a year, thus preventing higher level members from obtaining a profit.

This title based discount would cause a problem to arise. Nonetheless, where a majority of goods on the external market would fluctuate in price constantly. Therefore, if Soul Palace's goods were still more expensive than on the outside even after the discount...

In this situation, it would be up to the members to determine if they were willing to pay over the extra price in exchange for contribution points.

Soul Palace's contribution system was rather similar to Nightmare Palace's and was determined most directly through the exchange state.

Generally speaking, there were three primary methods of obtaining a title in Soul Palace: the first was to approved honor in a significant competition.

The second was to donate a huge sum of money to Soul Palace.

The third was to unceasingly trade and earn the 'value trader' title. When one's contribution transactions reached a certain level, this person would raise a rank in title.

It was worth mentioning that Soul Palace had a very strict regulation over the various tricks at obtaining a title. The moment one was caught using an unofficial method, he or she would ostensibly be delivered an exceptionally harsh punishment.

Furthermore, Soul Palace was extremely harsh towards the growth of young generation members and their requirements in soul palace were that they couldn't obtain any discounts; nor could they obtain an even higher title through their family, teacher or elder. If a young generation member wanted a title, he had to follow in accordance with the aforementioned methods.

This harshness included Soul Palace's young masters. Thus, 'young master' wasn't a title, but instead an indication of status. Practically all young masters had a tenth rank secondary decree; however, the secondary decree could only garner the protection and respect of Soul Palace members. It couldn't be used as a true title and therefore wouldn't allow the young master to enjoy any special privileges.

As such, although Chu Mu's identity right now was a Soul Palace young master, he was unable to obtain any discounts in the internal market because he had a zero rank title in Soul Palace. This system was enforced extremely strictly in every city's Soul Palace!

A title represented, aside from the soul pet trainer's status, various benefits, so many soul pet trainers would think of as many methods as possible to participate in competitions, engage in Soul Palace's internal trade or undertake its internal missions to accumulate contribution points to obtain a certain rank title.

Soul Palace had very clearly listed out the requirements to obtain each ranking title. For instance, in order to obtain a first rank title, one had to complete three requirements: trade, gold and title.

Trade pointed to money in Soul Palace's internal market.

Gold pointed to giving Soul Alliance a sum of gold for no contribution points, almost like a one-time tax.

Title pointed to competitions, missions, positions or accomplishments to be considered for a rank.

The first rank required a total of:

Trade - at least trading 20,000 gold coins worth of goods on the internal market.

Gold: Donating 10,000 gold coins or more to Soul Palace for free.

Title: complete one thing that would obtain one a first rank title, which was normally determined through: obtaining a ranking in a competition, completing a task given by Soul Palace, hold a position for a certain amount of time, doing something additional for Soul Palace...

These three things all had to be completed, but in truth, completing only one of the requirements to an even greater extent than required could obtain one the ranking for that title.

For example, in order to obtain the first rank title, one only had to trade up to 100,000 gold and didn't have to complete the other requirements.

Or, one could donate over 50,000 gold to Soul Palace for free, or obtain 5 first rank titles.

Thus, in order to obtain a title by only completing one requirement, five times the normal requisite was required.

When obtaining a title, therefore, everyone would carefully consider how to do so. If one wanted to only use money, the required amount would be extremely large.

The second rank title wasn't very different in requirements: trade - reaching 100 traded items with the traded goods all above the second rank

Gold - Donate 30,000 gold coins to Soul Palace.

Title - Complete something worthy of obtaining a second rank title.

In order to obtain the title through only completing one requirement, the needed amount was five times normal.

The third rank title conditions saw a huge increase with gold needing to be 50,000; thus, by only trying to meet this condition, the required amount was 250,000 gold coins which was the same as the price of a low class commander soul pet.

As for even higher ranked titles, the required amount of money, trade and title was even larger.

Chu Mu gave it a rough glance and found that if he wanted to earn a seventh rank title in Soul Palace, he had to donate at least 20 million gold coins, trade the equivalent of 40 million gold and complete a task worthy of a seventh rank title!

“Nightmare Palace oh Nightmare Palace, you didn’t treat me well enough!” when he discovered the requirements in order to obtain a seventh rank title, Chu Mu couldn’t help but let out a sigh!

Back when Chu Mu had come out of Prison Island, he was directly bestowed with a seventh rank Eternal Ocean Nightmare Prince title. If Soul Palace and Nightmare Palace had a similar contribution system, then Chu Mu’s seventh rank title was worth 20 million gold coins and the other requirements. Compared to Chu Mu’s present condition, it truly was a more superior condition.

Chu Mu obtained the seventh rank title naturally due to Prison Island, since surviving on Prisoner Island was equivalent to five seventh rank titles. Thus, Chu Mu didn’t have to pay any contributions to obtain the seventh rank title, and now he was inwardly regretting why he didn’t try and understand the system back then so that he could have at least obtained a few benefits from Nightmare Palace before leaving.

Chu Mu only understood a bit about the privileges of Nightmare Palace’s seventh rank title, but back in Gangluo City, Chu Mu was able to at least control ten Nightmare Palace subordinates to help him eliminate the Yang Family; this was the most direct embodiment of status.

Soul Palace’s titles also had these kind of privileges. What Chu Mu was surprised about was that seventh rank titles obtained many benefits and conveniences: first, he could receive seventy percent off of one eighth rank or below treasure.

Second, every year he could choose a suitable commander soul pet from Soul Palace’s internal departments. He would have priority picking and seventy percent off the price.

Third, every year he could obtain a seventh rank soul technique that was nearly 90% in completed degree.

Fourth, every day he would be given a seventh rank soul core.

Fifth, within Soul Palace’s scope, he could freely obtain healing from a support type soul pet trainer.

The other privileges provided convenient benefits, but the most important ones of the title were the first three privileges, especially the seventy percent discount off of an eighth rank or below treasure.

An eighth rank treasure was practically over ten million gold coins, so seventy percent off was equivalent to a few millions only. If the price of the item was even higher, tens of millions of gold could even be saved!

These were even scenarios where he could save nearly 50 million in gold every month without having to assume any position in Soul Palace. If, therefore, he were to assume a posting in Soul Palace, according to the salaries given every month and the annual benefits, his earnings would be extremely high.

Chu Mu had roughly calculated it himself where if he were to hold a seventh rank posting and worked there for a year, he could obtain 50 million and more in gold.

If he were to spend the entirety of the 50 million on one soul pet, he could strengthen a soul pet's fighting strength to the monarch rank.

Titles were different than postings/positions in that with merely a title, one wouldn't be constrained by Soul Palace and would be able to go wherever he or she wanted to.

On the other hand, a posting was similar to that of a Soul Palace Palace Lord. Every day, he or she would have to deal with Soul Palace's internal affairs and complete a few required matters. Every month they would receive direct monthly salaries and receive direct power.

Seeing Soul Palace's system, if Chu Mu obtained a title then held a position for one to two years, he would be able to obtain even more gold without having to earn money all day in the wilderness fraught with life threatening dangers.

Chapter 315: Hundred Million, Nine Tail Inferno Fox Heart

"Transaction amount was only two times the donation amount. This way, isn't it much better to just transact?" Chu Mu looked at the information and quickly found some abnormality with transactions and donation amount.

Transaction amount meant the amount of purchasing or selling of items within the soul pet palace trading system. Chu Mu felt that anyone with a brain would choose to go the transaction path so they don't lose money.

"Young master, above the third level, the transaction amount can't be used to trade for titles. More transactions will only gain you title points. This is an exception, a way for the soul palace to control such trading techniques. It almost forcefully makes inner members of soul pet palace trade within Soul Pet Palace. Of course, with the benefits and rewards from the title, this somewhat forced approach isn't too bad. Because of this, they were still willing to make trades on items because transaction points can trade for title points." Old Li said.

"This is truly complicated." Chu Mu shook his head bitterly.

"If it isn't, how would it support such a massive inside trading? You have to know that countless cities mean countless soul palaces and massive trade amounts. Since young master will walk the soul palace way in the future, you may have small losses at first, but in the future you will naturally gain more. Especially when you need some specific soul item, someone could maliciously skew the prices and then you would have to play a hefty price." Old Li said.

Chu Mu usually needed to take 10% out of the money as fees for the seller. At soul palace, he won't need this. Most importantly, he can use his thirty percent discount on soul items. This will definitely make it cheaper than in trading centers.

"Seventh level title also has seventh rank soul techniques. This is a very good welfare. A seventh rank soul technique must be at least 10 million." Chu Mu sighed.

"Of course. Soul palace, no matter what, is still a very reputable organisation. Without any good rewards, those filthy rich soul palace old codgers won't have to face to recruit the experts of soul pet trainers. Naturally, no one would be willing to serve soul palace. In reality, I've compared them, and Soul Palace has one of the best rewards of all the great organizations." Old Li said.

Chu Mu's impression of soul palace immediately became much better. Chu Mu needed ice type soul items very frequently to keep his soul's temperature down. It was a massive expense.

In soul palace, there were many ice type soul items. If he could buy them at a 30% discount, it was indeed very valuable. Chu Mu decisively put his sights on the seventh level title.

“Young master has a low class monarch rank young soul pet. If it were traded within Soul Palace, the transaction amount is definitely over the 40 million mark. If you took 20 million out to give to soul palace and then finished a seventh level title mission, you will be able to get the seventh rank title!”

20 million gold of donations was quite a large sum for Chu Mu. If Chu Mu had to pay it directly, he would indeed feel pain.

“Eighth rank Thousand Ice Frost is around 4 million. With a 30% discount, it’s 2.8 million. En, which means I’ll only lose about 8 million, and I’ll have these discounts every month in the future, so it’s still very worth it.” Chu Mu made a decision to get this title that will give him great benefit for future trading.

The transaction staff stared at Chu Mu for the next instruction. After lots of time of silence, he finally broke the silence with a question, “This boss, would you like to put your Star Phoenix Butterfly Tail into the list and get it priced by a professional seller of Soul Palace? If you are unsatisfied with the price, you can cancel the deal.”

“En, let an appraiser figure it out.” Chu Mu said.

Chu Mu himself as a soul pet trainer naturally had already simply appraised the Star Phoenix Butterfly Tail himself before coming to trade. With Chu Mu’s rough estimates, the Star Phoenix Butterfly Tail is worth around 60 million.

The appraiser’s appraisal was very detailed. Chu Mu had to wait for a while. Thinking of the problem of titles, Chu Mu asked the

The transaction staff quickly pulled out a thick book and flipped through. Soon, he answered, “In the south of the plains, there was a group of seventh phase commander rank soul pets. Many soul

“Are there any faster ones?” Chu Mu didn’t want to waste too much time on other matters.

Taking up a position is definitely impossible. Though they earn salaries, it’ll waste too much time. It doesn’t fit Chu Mu’s habit of wandering around. The power growth will be slower too. If he had to get rid of obstacles for Soul Palace, he was also not willing. He had just crawled out of the deserted forests and mountains. He had killed his fair share of soul pets and was getting tired of it.

“Guo City yearly competition is today. If boss can get top ten, then you can get a seventh level title.”

“Top ten?” Shouldn’t be too hard?” Chu Mu said to himself.

“This..... This is pretty hard.....” The transaction member thought for a while and still felt the need to remind this young master level character of Soul Palace.

“Then that is it, put my name in.” Chu Mu hadn’t fought with soul pet trainers in a long time. Taking this opportunity, he can train himself.

“Alright.....your name and your title.....” Transaction staff can’t talk anymore, only able to follow Chu Mu’s instruction.

“Chu Chen, title should be zero.....” Chu Mu said. Since the decree can’t be counted as a title, Chu Mu indeed was a zeroth level small nobody.

“Zeroth?” The transaction staff said confused, as if he heard the wrong thing.

“En.” Chu Mu nodded and didn’t clarify. Giving all the miscellaneous tasks to the transaction staff, he himself continued to look through the list and see if he could find anything he needed.

Chu Mu’s current mission was to raise all his soul pets’ stages. After half a year of fighting, Chu Mu felt the need to buy some soul items to make his soul pets’ stages raise slightly.

With the rising of strength, Chu Mu discovered that soul items that raised his soul pets stages and ranks slowly became differentiated. Many soul items now pure increased soul pet stages or purely increased soul pet types.

To put it in context, soul items that raised a soul pet’s type became incredibly rare and expensive. At monarch rank, almost no one had the ability to purchase them.

Chu Mu looked at the list quickly. With a huge amount of items and different types of soul items, different effects of soul items, and soul items of different uses entirely, he would be dazzled once in a while.....

“Nine tail inferno fox heart!!”

Suddenly, a few bright letters imprinted themselves into Chu Mu’s eyes, causing Chu Mu’s heart to jump!

Nine tail inferno fox heart, isn’t this exactly what Mo Xie needed?!

Mo Xie’s rank could raise through mutating, and was always ahead of other soul pets in ranks, so Chu Mu couldn’t find any soul item that Mo Xie needed. Suddenly finding such a good thing, his eyes brightened.

“Help me see the situation of the Nine Tail Inferno Fox.” Chu Mu said to the transaction staff.

“Oh, wait a bit.” The Soul Palace transaction staff again opened up the thick book. After quite some time did he finally pull a page out.

“Nine tail inferno fox heart, tenth phase nine tail inferno fox energy core. It is very useful for the phases of demon type soul pets. Its price is 100 million and is a ninth level soul item.....”

“100 million!!” Chu Mu sucked in a breath.

What kind of joke was this? 100 million? Chu Mu didn’t know how long it would take for him to get that! And ninth phase soul items were only discounted at eighth level titles. That title would grant him a discount of 30 million.

A discount of 30 million made Chu Mu realize the important of titles!

“This treasure has been in soul palace for quite some time, yet no one has had the ability to buy it. If someone needed it, however, they would still buy this without hesitation.” The soul palace staff said.

There were many soul items, so many times a soul item was only approximately the same type. It was very rare for one to find a soul item from the exact same species, yet such soul item would often have additional effects.

For example, if the Nine Tail Inferno Fox heart were given to another demon type soul pet, it could raise their stage from seventh phase fifth stage to seventh phase eighth stage. If it were used on a member of the Inferno Fox species, it could possibly raise it to seventh phase ninth stage. More importantly, it may even increase Mo Xie's demon type abilities!

Such opportunities weren't often to come by. If they bought other soul items, Chu Mu would have to pay even more than 100 million in total.

Chu Mu didn't want to give up the opportunity. Even if it were 100 million, he had to rack his brains and take this Inferno Fox heart!

"I'll have this, but I don't have enough money right now. How long can you give me to gather money?" Chu Mu bit down, determined not to let anyone else take it!

"This item's owner is within Guo City. He had said that the item could be pre-ordered, but the max duration is one week. After ordering it, one must pay within a week." The staff said.

"This....." Chu Mu revealed a difficult expression, but after thinking about it carefully, he made the decision, "If all I get is one week, I'll take it!"

Chapter 316: A Competition Without Age Restriction

100 million, this was a formidable sum. If not for the Star Phoenix Butterfly Tail that he spent forever capturing, garnering him 60 million, how would Chu Mu dare to order a 100 million gold item!

Even with 60 million, getting 40 million in a week wasn't easy at all.

50 million rewards like in Li City weren't every day matters. Even then, he was facing nearly thousands of Gluttonous Insect Monsters and an expert like Duan Xinhe. Even if Chu Mu took this bounty now, he probably couldn't complete it.

40 million, 40 million in a week, how could he possibly scrape together this money!!

Chu Mu had just crawled out of the mountains. He had wanted to spend a few days comfortably, yet now he would have to fret over this massive amount of money again.

An eighth soul crystal was priced between 10 million and 20 million. By this rate, Chu Mu had to kill around a thousand eighth phase commander ranks and above to get an eighth rank soul crystal. Gaining gold through this method wasn't too reliable. At least, with Chu Mu's first half year only had two eighth phase soul crystals. The later half had no soul crystals at all.

If they were to go for bounties, a usual seventh level bounty would give only about 5 million to 20 million.

With Chu Mu's current strength, finishing a seventh level bounty wasn't an issue. The issue was with these seventh level bounties, he often had to find teams or traverse vast terrain, unable to finish it within a month or two even.

If the distance were close, Chu Mu had the confidence to finish within half a month. After all, he was an expert that had only monarch rank soul pets. Yet, now he only had a week to get 40 million. Chu Mu felt that he would have to kill night and day for a month for it, which would be quite the damage to his nerves.....

"40 million.....40 million....." Walking out of the soul palace, Chu Mu was dazed.

Indeed, soul pet trainers were simultaneously the richest and the poorest career in the world. This was only the soul item needed for one soul pet. If all his soul pets needed this expense, Chu Mu would have to spend his life poor for these people.

"Wuwuwuwu~~~~~"

Mo Xie sat on Chu Mu's shoulder, also helpless.

"Young master, have you forgotten about the Guo City yearly competition?" Old Li's voice suddenly floated in.

"How have I forgotten about that!" Chu Mu smacked his head and said aloud.

With the 40 million pressuring him, Chu Mu's brain wasn't as agile as before.

Almost every authoritative competition had very generous rewards. To get his seventh level title, Chu Mu had to gain top ten. It was imaginable that the reward for top ten was still very generous.

“I had just seen that the top ten gold reward is 50 million, meaning as long as you enter top ten, you will get 50 million as reward.” Old Li said.

“Top ten has 50 million as prize. How is this reward so high- is it that Guo City is actually a very wealthy city?” Chu Mu said.

Normally speaking, some greater region cities’ annual competitions only had 10 million for its top ten. Even Kingdom Capitals only give about 20 million gold.

“Young master, don’t get too happy soon. Do you still remember what the soul palace staff said? It is Guo City’s annual competition.....” Old Li said.

“En, many regions and kingdoms’ cities have such annual competitions right.....” Chu Mu said.

“Your thinking has been restricted to the younger generation.” Old Li shook a finger and said in a very learned tone. “This annual competition isn’t purely for young generation, meaning you may face middle aged generation members. Of course, old generation members don’t compete because its an unspoken rule to not participate in such competitions.”

With Old Li’s reminder, Chu Mu finally realized.

Indeed, the soul palace staff didn’t mention a prefix of “teen generation” before this competition, meaning all soul pet trainers before forty can attend!

All of Chu Mu’s soul pets had reached monarch rank. For a kingdom, to find a young generation member of such caliber was difficult, so to reach top ten in a competition was something Chu Mu had confidence in.

Yet, if this competition didn’t have an age restriction, then Chu Mu had to face all of Guo City’s young generation as well as middle aged generation, so how hard would getting top ten be!

“Young master should be happy this isn’t the most prestigious competition. Those with true power shouldn’t easily reveal their strength in this competition. If it were the most prestigious, young master would find it tough to even enter top 100.”

“I remember that the most prestigious competition is Guo City Kingdom Competition, hosted every four years and gathering experts from all the nearby kingdoms. It’s grander than many kingdom competitions, counting as pretty authoritative. Yet such annual competition is usually prepared for second rate experts of these factions or other nomadic soul pet trainers. True experts are preparing for the Kingdom Competition.....” Old Li said.

Hearing Old Li say this, Chu Mu was even more at a loss.

Chu Mu was self aware. Compared to middle aged generation experts, he still had a distance. In prestigious competitions like the Kingdom Competition, he may not even get into the competitions, getting disqualified in the prelims, let alone get top 100.

“Young master, you should still participate in such ageless competition. Young master indeed shouldn’t keep his mind on only the young generation. Fighting against those older soul pet trainers should increase your strength even more. As for the standing, that can be thought of later. The Nine Tail Inferno Fox heart is still very burdensome for young master’s current skill level.” Old Li said.

Just as Old Li said, though it was almost impossible to earn top ten for him, Chu Mu was still determined to try!

.....

Resting for a day, Chu Mu let all his soul pets keep their greatest fighting strength.

The second morning, Chu Mu took the invitation and headed towards the Guo City competition and participated in his first match.

Guo City annual competition was split into five matches. Those who could win four in a row were in the top twenty.

The fifth round was the finals, until ten come out on top. Usually, these ten would win a reward equivalent to 50 million.

Worth mentioning was, in these big city competitions, the top ten rarely continue fighting to find who is first, second, etc.

And to see a family's strength usually depended on how many members entered top ten.

As for who was stronger in the top ten, these experts could find time themselves to fight and find their relative ranking. Of course, many professional analysts rank them based off their soul pets and strengths.

In reality, there were too many variables in the fight between soul pet trainer and soul pet trainer, so relative strength was hard to determine in just a match or two.

Once they reached such level, soul pet trainers had many soul pets. What composition they fought with, what strategy, what counter, and all the techniques within battles, along with a burst of potential from soul pets, the usual cooperation between soul pets, the soul pet trainer's command, and his soul techniques are all possible variables.....

With so many variables, a slight difference could cause the fight to shift. Every soul pet trainer's performance and soul pets' performance was also changing, so a victory between two soul pet trainers couldn't truly show who was more powerful.

Many times, the so-called first place of competitions would lose to the second place usually.....

In such ever changing fights, the standings become somewhat padded, so most mainstream competitions were split into multiple layers.

Competition Strongest pointed towards the top ten experts.

Competition Second Strongest pointed to the top twenty experts.

Competition Third Strongest were the top thirty experts.

By this categorization, the rewards were split this way too.

Like the annual competition in Guo City, the Competition Strongest top ten competitors all gained 50 million gold worth of items or gold.

Competition Second Strongest gained 30 million, and Competition Third Strongest gained 10 million.

Old Li's conservative estimate for Chu Mu was Competition Third Strongest, meaning he would earn 10 million.

Reaching Competition Second Strongest had quite some difficulty, requiring Chu Mu to outperform himself.

To get Competition strongest, the chances were almost zero.....

10 million wasn't enough for him to earn the 100 million deal, so Chu Mu had to enter Competition Second Strongest. As for the last 10 million, he'd find some other way to make up for it.

Getting Competition Second Strongest would only get him a sixth level title. The soul palace title was open to all age soul pet trainers as well, so young generation Chu Mu wouldn't have an easy time getting the seventh level title.

Clearly, the soul palace seventh level title was more valuable than a Nightmare Palace seventh level title.....

"Young master, a boss has taken a fancy for your Star Phoenix Butterfly Tail, and also, she seems to want to get to know you. Knowing that you're entering the annual competition, she had specially come to watch. Do you want this little one to introduce you?" The soul palace staff that followed Chu Mu said.

The preliminary matches were about to start, and Chu Mu didn't even know who he was up against. What surprised Chu Mu was that his Star Phoenix Butterfly Tail had a buyer in such a short time. This was a good thing.

"Let's talk more once I'm done with this match." Chu Mu didn't look over to the audience. Hearing the judge announce his name, he strided towards the wide battlefield.

Because he could be facing middle aged experts, Chu Mu definitely couldn't let his guard down, even if it were in the preliminaries.

Chapter 317: Young Man vs Middle Aged Man

"Sister, he's the one that captured the child Star Phoenix Butterfly Tail?" A young man walked over and sat next to the elegant and mature woman.

"Yes." The woman faintly laughed and nodded her head. Her clothes were luxurious and beside her were a few servant girl like young women. Compared to the young women beside her, this mature woman was more noble and elegant.

It was probably the case that when many men saw this woman, they wouldn't focus on her face. Instead they would be attracted by her warm and calm demeanor.

"Let me see his data." This young man seemed to have authority, and he gave an order to the family servant next to him.

This family servant quickly ran over and said: "Young master, this person is called Chu Chen. He has a zero rank title and isn't occupying any position..."

"Zero rank title?" The young man revealed a rather puzzled expression.

Zero rank in Soul Palace normally referred to the lowest ranked members or members who did unimportant things. These members ostensibly didn't have any authority, and could only be considered part of Soul Palace in name and only served Soul Palace.

Generally speaking, every soul pet trainer that entered Soul Palace would try his or her hardest to obtain a first rank title. After all, the first rank didn't require too many years to prepare for for a spirit soldier.

"He could be a new member that just entered Soul Palace. He could also be the some of someone. Don't pay too much attention to the rank." said the woman.

“It could also be that someone sent him to come here.” the young man’s train of thought was rather rebellious, and he didn’t really believe that a twenty or so year old Chu Mu could obtain a monarch rank soul pet.

The woman had perhaps considered this question before, but she clearly didn’t like to casually assuming other people’s strength.

In truth, she would quickly be able to determine if the man in front of had captured the low class monarch soul pet himself because his fight was just about to begin.

.....

The preliminary rounds were held on extremely conventional battlefields. It was merely an extremely large empty space that was surrounded by protective nets around it.

Chu Mu’s opponent stood twenty meters away from him. There were no special privileges in this competition and no matter how strong the person was, he or she had to participate in every round. If the one’s luck was bad, even if one had strength within the top thirty, it was still possible to lose and be eliminated in the first round.

Of course, the competition officiators had taken note of this and naturally had split up those experts which they knew had potential to go far in order to prevent two experts fighting each other in the early rounds.

Chu Mu didn’t belong to the group of experts known to the officiators and he was randomly assigned a group. It was presumable that he would encounter some expert in this first round, or perhaps it would be in the fourth round...

Chu Mu’s opponent was a thirty year old or so man. His face was large and he was wearing clothing that corresponded with most soul pet trainers.

When this soul pet trainer saw Chu Mu, the corners of his mouth rose up into a smirk. Even without saying anything, people were able to guess that his face had ‘not bad luck’ written over it.

Since this was a competition that didn’t divide age, a young man participating in the fight would definitely be at a disadvantage. Therefore, young people normally didn’t attend such competitions.

Even if the young person did attend, it was only to train him or herself, and he or she wouldn't have intentions of obtaining a ranking.

Young generation members were amongst the minority of people and being able to encounter a young person who was about twenty really was extremely fortuitous.

"Summon your soul pet." the main ref used soul remembrance to yell.

"Summon your soul pet." the assistant refs standing on either end of the battlefield repeated the command.

In a conventional competition, either side would simultaneously summon one soul pet each so the problem of attribute countering would be left to chance...

Chu Mu chanted an incantation at the same time as his opponent. The coiling halo of soul pacts gradually formed two soul pet patterns, summoning the soul pets connected to either soul pet trainer's soul.

Before the main ref indicated that the competition had begun, neither side could attack. Therefore, the first soul pet summoning didn't need to be a competition of speed and both sides could take their time summoning.

Chu Mu was presently fighting under the identity of Chu Chen, so the White Nightmare and Mo Xie definitely couldn't participate.

Now as the phases and stages of Chu Mu's soul pets rose, he didn't have to have Mo Xie or the White Nightmare fight every battle. As long as he stayed in control of the fight, his other soul pets could exhibit fighting strength even powerful than these two soul pets.

The first soul pet Chu Mu summoned was the Night Thunder Dream Beast that had extreme speed!

A dark aura slowly permeated the battlefield. A constructed shadow full of symbolic representation enveloped half the battlefield. The Night Thunder Dream Beast was silently standing in the shadows and the only thing that made its presence known were the white feathers that flowed from its back down to its tail.

“Sister, what soul pet is that?” the young man used a soft soul remembrance. He was simply unable to see through the Night Thunder Dream Beast’s concealment, and was a bit surprised as he asked a question.

“A Dream Beast. It’s a darkness attribute Dream Beast.” the woman’s expression didn’t change as she spoke.

Many demons possessed the ability to hide and feign. With Chu Mu’s demon currently standing in the shadows, people without strong perception abilities could only approximately judge its phase and stage. Trying to determine its fighting strength rank from its reserved aura was a bit hard for these people.

Of course, the Night Thunder Dream Beast was a high class commander and, as long as one knew its name, he or she would be able to guess that its fighting strength would not be low.

“Oh, I remember. A few days ago when I was returning to the city, there was a fellow riding on a black Dream Beast that unbridledly overtook my group of Star Wilderness Devil Colts. So it’s him!” said the young man.

“Was it very fast?” asked the woman.

“It was very fast. Only, it didn’t seem to be at the eighth phase. The opposing fellow summoned an eighth phase Evil Flame Demon which has both the attribute and phase advantage.” the young man quickly saw through the Evil Flame Demon which hadn’t hidden its strength.

“Eighth phase fifth stage. It should have undergone a bit of strengthening.” the woman’s deduction was even more accurate.

“There’s no need to fight out something like this... I already said that he’s only a few years older than me so participating in a competition like this is practically seeking self embarrassment...” sighed the young man.

“Training oneself isn’t a bad thing. Compared to other young people, his Night Thunder Dream Beast is already very strong.” the woman spoke still very conservatively. Of course, within this conservatism, another meaning was expressed.

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An eighth phase fifth stage, low class commander, Evil Flame Demon. The moment the fight started, Chu Mu couldn't help but crease his eyebrows. The dark attribute was countered by the fire attribute to a certain extent so if the Night Thunder Dream Beast was hit by the opponent's fire type technique, it would suffer a serious wound.

“Begin!!”

The main ref saw that neither side had intentions of summoning their second soul pet and after making sure that they were ready, he announced the start of the fight!

“He clearly knows that he's being countered attribute wise but he still isn't summoning a second soul pet to compensate. Young people really are stubborn!” laughed Jia Yingcheng. He immediately gave his Evil Flame Demon an order.

Two graceful flames fluttered through the air like long pieces of captivating red silk. They interweaved with each other to form a helix, carrying raging flames as they swept towards Chu Mu's Night Thunder Dream Beast.

All of the techniques the eighth phase fifth stage Evil Flame Demon could use had pretty much all reached the eighth stage. The beautiful flames didn't seem to be strong, but they had a special attribute that allowed them to continue chasing the enemy. Without an effective technique to dispel the flames, the two long silk-like flames would fly to the opponent and burn it with fire.

“Double Satin Flames...” the moment the fight started, Chu Mu encountered a technique that he found extremely hard to deal with. Indeed, middle aged soul pet trainers weren't easy to deal with. From the moment the fight started, this could be seen.

The Double Satin Flames had already drifted over and the shadows the Night Thunder Dream Beast was standing in were illuminated by the firelight. It was hard for it to continue to keep up its hidden existence and facing this Double Satin Flame that perpetually danced around it, it could only agilely move its body in attempts to dodge.

The Double Satin Flames were like two fiery snakes swimming in the air. They didn't move quickly but they perpetually followed behind the Night Thunder Dream Beast. With the Night Thunder Dream Beast's dodging abilities and speed, the two satin flames couldn't hit it; however, the flames would last for a period of time and in the fight, the Night Thunder Dream Beast would be restricted to a certain extent.

“It seems like I can preserve a lot of fighting strength.” Jia Yingcheng cracked a smile and continued to give orders to his soul pet.

The Evil Flame Demon’s pupils gradually ignited with demon fire evil flames. The evil flame aura began to proliferate and the air even became scorching hot.

As an elemental world soul pet, the Evil Flame Demon’s demon fire evil flames were much stronger than Mo Xie’s. If this high temperature technique struck the Night Thunder Dream Beast’s body, due to its low defense, it would easily be heavily injured.

Presently, Chu Mu could only have the Night Thunder Dream Beast continuously dodge the Evil Flame Demon’s techniques whilst searching for an opportunity to defeat the opponent’s soul pet.

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“Although it’s passively dodging, his Night Thunder Dream Beast’s dodging abilities are truly very strong. If it were my soul pets, three of them added together perhaps may not even be able to touch a single hair on this Night Thunder Dream Beast...” said the young man.

“Mhm.” the woman didn’t add any commentary. Her two taciturn and bright eyes were continuously focused on Chu Mu’s Night Thunder Dream Beast. She looked extremely serious, and from time to time would reveal expressions of contemplation.

“However, it is still extremely hard for him to win.” the young man ultimately still gave his own judgement.

The woman still didn’t speak. In truth, she previously had the same opinion as the young man and felt that it would be exceptionally hard for the man called Chu Chen to win.

However, when she gradually began to focus on the Night Thunder Dream Beast’s dodging she felt that it was giving off an feeling of perpetual readiness. She indistinctly felt that it wasn’t merely doing something as simple as just passively dodging...

Chapter 318: Chu Chen, What Person Is He?

As the sun went down, the shadows on the buildings grew larger and larger, making the range where the Night Thunder Dream Beast could move in even more expansive. Its body agilely danced in the shadows. The Double Satin Flames that continued to follow in its tracks were already finding it hard to keep up and slowly, they started being unable to find which direction to go in.

The Double Satin Flames posed a threat to the Night Thunder Dream Beast at the beginning, but as its effect began to disappear, Chu Mu finally found the perfect opportunity!

Chu Mu had already guessed what technique the Evil Flame Demon was going to use and he decisively had the Night Thunder Dream Beast use the Extreme Speed technique!

Extreme Speed caused the Night Thunder Dream Beast's body to instantaneously increase. Its black figure flitted through the torrential surge of scarlet flames, causing them to flutter in chaos.

"Night, Tired Dream!!"

The Night Thunder Dream Beast's black pupils gradually became hazy. The Evil Flame Demon's attention originally was on the Night Thunder Dream Beast's body, but for some mysterious reason, its attention was drawn to its hazy eyes and the incantation in its mouth was cut off.

Tired Dream was the seventh rank demon technique the Night Thunder Dream Beast had learned at the seventh phase seventh stage. This technique was similar to the mind power restriction technique the Red Galactic Demon Emperor had used against the Cyan Hidden Dragon back then and could prevent the opponent from using a technique.

The Red Galactic Demon Emperor's mind techniques were extremely tyrannical, and even without chanting an incantation, it was still able to cut off and restrict techniques. The Night Thunder Dream Beast's Tired Dream technique was currently limited to cutting off incantations two seconds or longer.

The incantation the Evil Flame Demon was chanting happened to be two seconds; Jia Yingcheng didn't expect the Night Thunder Dream Beast to have previously predicted his next step as it closed the gap to his soul pet in a short two seconds.

All elemental world soul pets ostensibly had to chant incantations. Now that Chu Mu's demon was already exceptionally close, the Evil Flame Demon would probably be hard pressed to use sixth rank and above techniques.

“Nightmare Ascends!’ it was time for Chu Mu to counter attack and for the Evil Flame Demon to have a taste of jumping from flames

“Hui~~~~~” the Night Thunder Dream Beast let out a high pitched cry. A strange pulsation appeared in between its two spirited and beautiful dream horns. These mental pulsations transformed into black ripples that slowly expanded out to the Evil Flame Demon...

A demon’s mental technique was silent and hidden. The Evil Flame Demon had just completed a low rank technique incantation when it suddenly felt absent-minded.

Abruptly, scorching flames began to surge around its body. It wanted to chant an incantation to extinguish these flames, but no matter what chant it used, the flames grew stronger and stronger.

This completely real burning feeling coursed through its entire body. Each ball of flame seemed to obstruct its entire mental world; yet, what made it most afraid was that amidst these countless mental flame clouds, a rather demonic black figure was rapidly dancing in front of it and it seemed like it could approach it at any moment...

Jia Yingcheng wasn’t someone without any fighting experience/ When he realized his Evil Flame Demon was being fully restricted by the demon, he hastily chanted an incantation, decisively summoning his second soul pet!

A bloody smell filled the battlefield, forcibly suppressing the flames that were dying off. At the center of this bloody smell, a summoning pattern gradually appeared!

A enormous arm suddenly reached out of the pattern and immediately after, a body full of explosive muscles, covered in fresh red blood appeared. It carried a dense bloody stench that covered the entire battlefield in a heavy demonic aura!

“An eighth phase first stage Violent Blood Pool Beast! Its fighting strength seems to have reached the pseudo monarch level.” the Violent Blood Pool Beast’s aura was unrestrained and the young man quickly determined its strength.

Since the opponent had already summoned his second soul pet, Chu Mu naturally wouldn’t delay!

The best counter of a beast type soul pet was a wood type soul pet. When Chu Mu realized the opponent had summoned a pseudo monarch fighting strength eighth phase Violent Blood Pool Beast, he decisively chose to have the Devil Tree Battle Soldier fight!

Green colored branches carrying a dark red color covered the floor beneath Chu Mu's feet. They quickly grew and the Devil Tree Battle Soldier's two meter tall body appeared from within the multitude of growing branches. Its natural pure aura also gave off a slightly bloody aura from within!

"A general rank Devil Tree Battle Soldier?" the young man's tone became somewhat strange, as he clearly felt Chu Mu's summon was a bit shameful.

While the young man was in his astonishment, the woman revealed a slightly shocked expression, but it was one completely different than the young man's.

The woman's soul pet experience was even more rich, and what she saw certainly was not the species of the soul pet Chu Mu had summoned but rather the attack, defense and flexible attributes of the natural wood crystals wrapped around this warrior rank Devil Tree battle Soldier's body

If a warrior rank Devil Tree Battle Soldier possessed natural wood crystals, it meant that its fighting strength rank was on the monarch rank level!

The Violent Blood Pool Beast's fighting strength was at the pseudo monarch rank while the Devil Tree Battle Soldier had already reached the monarch level. Perhaps the eighth phase first stage of the Violent Blood Pool Beast could make up for the strength difference with the seventh phase seventh stage Devil Tree Battle Soldier, but when it came to attributes, the Devil Tree Battle Soldier had the definite advantage!

Indeed, the Devil Tree Battle Soldier had the advantage when fighting the Violent Blood Pool Besat. In this scenario where their phase/stage and rank was at an equilibrium, the attribute became the decisive winning factor!

"What a strong Devil Tree Battle Soldier!" exclaimed the young man in astonishment.

Facing an eighth phase pseudo monarch Violent Blood Pool Beast, the Devil Tree Battle Soldier exhibited a powerful dominance due to its low class monarch rank and wood type. Its ability to simultaneously use four abilities, its flexibility and its oppressive blood natural wood could pretty much beat that eminently savage Violent Blood Pool Beast until it didn't have any temper left...

Rapidly, the state of the fight underwent a visible change.

“A low class monarch and a pseudo monarch. These are already two seventh phase high stage monarch rank soul pets.” muttered the woman to herself.

The summoning of these two soul pets and the strength they displayed had already caused the woman’s attitude towards Chu Mu to greatly change. Moreover, she could be even more sure that the Star Phoenix Butterfly Tail was captured by the man in front of her.

Amongst Dun City’s young generation, those who were able to have a seventh phase commander were already considered to be above average. The monarch rank and the commander had an extremely large gap between them, yet the two soul pets Chu Mu had summoned had fighting strength of a monarch. Even if their phases and stages were slightly low, they had the absolute advantage. This gradually forced Jia Yingcheng’s soul pets to slowly be unable to defend against them!

It was already a dual control fight, but Jia Yingcheng was still clearly in a defensive state. His face was rather unsightly as he never expected to be forced into such a state by a brat!

Finally, Jia Yingcheng couldn’t remain in his state any longer, and he summoned his third soul pet!

“I don’t believe you have that many monarch rank fighting strength soul pets!” Jia Yingcheng grit his teeth.

The only eighth phase monarch Jia Yingcheng had was the Violent Blood Pool Beast which had reached the pseudo monarch strength in terms of fighting strength. However, it was clearly being curbed by the opponent’s incomparably powerful Devil Tree Battle Soldier. He was forced to his wit’s end and could only place all of his hopes on his third soul pet.

Jia Yingcheng’s third soul pet was clearly much weaker. It was an eighth phase third stage warrior Dire Wolf and the fighting strength it displayed barely neared the peak of the commander rank.

The opponent was already triple controlling so Chu Mu didn’t delay. When the warrior Dire Wolf appeared, he chanted an incantation, summoning his third soul pet.

A icy white carrying slightly sky blue crystals began hovering around Chu Mu. A transparent jade ice-like body quickly emerged out of the soul pact pattern. An intangible icy aura arose, covering the battlefield, making it slightly hazy white...

Jia Yingcheng was continuously focused on Chu Mu's summon. At the beginning when he detected an Ice Air Fairy, his face relaxed a bit, but when he sent his soul remembrance out to check, his face turned dark!

"What kind of a joke is this! It's another monarch rank fighting strength soul pet!" Jia Yingcheng no longer knew how to describe his mood right now.

It was already relatively rare to see a middle aged person have three soul pets with monarch rank fighting strength. Thus, how could a twenty or so year old young man possess three monarch rank fighting strength soul pets that were all at the seventh phase high stage?!

If he didn't summon a third soul pet, it would be a bit difficult to hold the advantage since the Night Thunder Dream Beast's darkness could sometimes not restrict the Evil Flame Demon's fire attribute.

However, once the Ice Air Fairy appeared, ice absolutely countered fire. A seventh phase seventh stage Ice Air Fairy with fighting strength near a low class monarch could beat the Evil Flame Demon which hadn't reached the monarch rank into a disarray so that it wouldn't even have the ability to counter attack.

What was even more tragic was the Dire Wolf that had just previously appeared. Once the Ice Air Fairy emerged, the Evil Flame Demon was left to it to deal with while the Night Thunder Dream Beast fought against the Dire Wolf. Throughout the fight, the Dire Wolf ostensibly wasn't able to use an attack technique and was extremely sullen!

"A monarch fighting strength towering ice Ice Air Fairy! Moreover. its at a high seventh phase!" the young man's tone had already transformed from doubtful to rueful and surprised.

Perhaps even he had a hard time believing that the man that controlled three high seventh phase soul pets was only a few years older than him!

"Sister, could it be that this fellow is Luo Peng, whose name has most recently gained immense popularity? Truthfully speaking, aside from him, I can't think of anyone else who has such strong

soul pets while also capturing a low class monarch rank soul pet with his own strength.” the young man’s tone had completely changed.

The woman shook her head and said: “Luo Peng doesn’t have these soul pets. He should be some peak expert who roams all over the place to train and happened to come across our Dun City. With three monarch rank fighting strength soul pets, it’s no wonder he had the courage to participate in Dun City’s annual competition.”

“When did sure a figure come out of our Soul Palace? Sister, you’ve been in Soul Palace for so long. Could it be you don’t know who he is?” said the young man.

“I don’t know either. The name Chu Chen is one I’ve really never heard before.” the woman knit her eyebrows as she pondered.

Chapter 319: Opponent, Eighth Rank Title Female Soul Pet Trainer

Jia Yingcheng evidently had yet to reach the spirit master level, and was incapable of summoning a fourth soul pet. Thus, in a triple control fight, the tides of battle had grown very distinct.

Finally, Jia Yingcheng raised his hands and conceded.

“Soul Palace Chu Chen wins.” the main referee saw Jia Yingcheng’s action and immediately stopped the fight while declaring the victor.

The competition didn’t adopt an elimination style system, instead using a win style system. Jia Yingcheng clearly felt he would lose this fight, so he wouldn’t fight with Chu Mu’s soul pets to the death. Instead, he was more willing to put his mental energy on the later fights.

After obtaining victory, Chu Mu recalled his soul pets to their soul pet space. Just as he was about to walk down from the arena, he found that his opponent, Jia Yingcheng, was looking at him with an extremely strange look.

“Chu Chen cannot be your real name, right?” said Jia Yingcheng.

In Jia Yingcheng’s opinion, a twenty or so year old having strength that reached such a level were limited to very few amongst the entirety of Dun City including the kingdoms around it. Jia

Yingcheng felt that the fellow in front of him was very likely a peak young expert that was under a disguise.

“As for my true name, I’m not a Dun City person.” indifferently replied Chu Mu. After speaking, he slowly walked off the battlefield.

Not long after he walked off, the woman who bought his Star Phoenix Butterfly Tail leisurely walked over.

She had a pair of extremely resplendent pupils that captivated people who looked at them. She wore a smile that wasn’t really a smile on her face, giving off a gentle feeling as if one was bathed in a spring wind.

Chu Mu felt a bit surprised that this person who bought his soul pet was a woman with such outstanding temperament and looks.

“Young Lady Ting Lan.” the loser, Jia Yingcheng, walked over and immediately recognized this woman. He gave a slight bow and revealed an expression of slight adoration and respect.

“Mm.” the woman named Ting Lan politely nodded her head. Her eyes then fell on Chu Mu and she slightly sized him up.

“Hello, Chu Chen. You’re the owner of the Star Phoenix Butterfly Tail, right?” said Ting Lan in a warm tone.

“Yes, are you willing to spend 60 million to purchase it?” Chu Mu’s impression of Ting Lan wasn’t bad. However, for some reason, he suddenly thought of Ye Qingzi.

Jia Yingcheng to the side happened to hear their words, and his jaw slightly dropped as he specially threw a glance at Chu Mu.

The Star Phoenix Butterfly Tail was a low class monarch. Thus, adding on the three soul pets that had been strengthened to the monarch rank, wouldn’t this mean that this brat had a total of four soul pets which had fighting strength at the monarch rank? Moreover, he hadn’t signed a soul pact with it, and instead decided to sell it!

Too extravagant. Extravagant to the point where it made people's hair stand up in anger. For instance, Jia Yingcheng was thirty years old and had only just raised his Violent Blood Pool Beast's fighting strength to the pseudo monarch rank. If his soul pets' phase and stage hadn't been the higher ones in this fight, then wouldn't that mean that he would have lost even more miserably?!

Jia Yingcheng knew that Ting Lan was such an honored person that he wouldn't have a chance to get closer to her, so right now, he was even more sure that Chu Chen's name was fake. This brat was definitely a famous person amongst the strongest rankings in the surrounding few kingdoms. In his free time, he then came to train in this no age restriction competition.

"60 million? Sister, you're spending 60 million to buy a low class monarch soul pet..." astonishedly yelled the young man beside her.

"Yup, the Star Phoenix Butterfly Tail is a demon and wing type soul pet that I have been searching for. It's perfect for my fourth soul's second pet." said Ting Lan.

"Fourth soul's second pet..." Chu Mu revealed a rather astonished expression. This meant that the charming woman in front of him was a middle remembrance spirit master.

Chu Mu guessed that this woman's age was about 25; yet, in reality, Chu Mu felt that even if this woman was 35 years old, she would still have a unique enchanting part of her.

There weren't many people that could reach the middle remembrance spirit master by 25; after all, being under 30 was considered within the range of the young generation.

"I nearly forgot, sister also has one purchasing privilege and can save over 10 million..." blurted the young man as he remembered something.

"Purchasing privilege? You have a seventh rank title?" Chu Mu had just grasped understanding of the title realms and asked a question in passing.

"She has an eighth rank. My sister is has a Soul Palace eighth rank title!" instantly corrected the young man.

Chu Mu looked at the young man, and his gaze then returned to the woman.

Since this woman had purchased his Star Phoenix Butterfly Tail, it meant that she was a Soul Palace person. Obtaining an eighth rank title in Soul Palace was rather difficult and even Chu Mu didn't believe that he could do it. Thus, he never expected this seemingly gentle and quiet woman in front of him was an extremely strong soul pet trainer!

"I'm very curious. How can you still have a zero rank title with your strength? Did you just enter Soul Palace, or are you a Soul Palace young generation member that has been roaming the outside world these past few years?" asked Ting Lan.

"I just entered Soul Palace." said Chu Mu.

Since the other person had an eighth rank title and moreover had a purchasing privilege, Chu Mu quickly realized there was a problem and he said: "Since you have an eighth rank title, doesn't that mean that I have to sell it to you for 42 million?"

"Hmm?" Ting Lan faintly raised her brows and wore a confused expression.

"I'm presently short of money and cannot sell it to you at this Soul Palace discounted price. I'll exchange with someone else." said Chu Mu, very seriously.

"..." the young man next to her seemed to be speechless.

Young Lady Ting Lan was also stunned. Shortly after, she broke out in a laugh.

Chu Mu looked at their reactions and was confused. Could it be that there was something wrong with what he just said? Was lacking money something very shameful? It seemed that every soul pet trainer was lacking a lot of money, so Chu Mu didn't believe that this female soul pet trainer that could reach an eighth rank title had plenty of cash.

"This discounted price is supplemented by Soul Palace. In other words, you'll still receive 60 million while I'll only spend 42 million. It seems that you really did just enter Soul Palace..." explained Ting Lan as she lightly laughed.

"So it's like this." Chu Mu also gave an awkward laugh, but didn't pay too much heed to it.

"Can I ask where you obtained this Star Phoenix Butterfly Tail from?" Ting Lan proceeded to ask.

“I don’t know what that place is called. It seems to have been at a lake in a valley.” responded Chu Mu.

“Is it Bird Lake Valley? I remember that place is one affiliated with monarchs. Da Kun and those other few hunters also just recently accepted a mission and went there. Could it be that you stole the reward from them?” interrupted the young man.

“I did encounter a few people.” Chu Mu didn’t deny it. After all, he was presently a Soul Palace member and he didn’t believe that those people would find him for trouble just because of that matter.

“The mission was one that I put up, and then they accepted it. Only, I never expected the soul pet to fall into your hands. Your team’s strength must’ve been stronger.” said Ting Lan.

“Yes. Then, let’s exchange.” Chu Mu casually nodded his head and didn’t correct the so-called “team” the woman had mentioned.

“I already had an affairs member put the money under your name. You can collect it from Soul Palace when you have time.” said Ting Lan.

“Ok, I’ll go and confirm it.” said Chu Mu.

“You... my sister has already said that she’s given the money to you, yet you don’t believe her? You further have to specially go and confirm it? Could it be that my sister, a Soul Palace official, would fraud you for your soul pet?” the young man saw that Chu Mu didn’t take his sister too seriously and found it somewhat intolerable.

“I want to confirm it. Is there some problem with this?” said Chu Mu, indifferently.

“Do you know that, even disregarding Dun City or even Tianxia City, my sister enjoys a famous reputation. There are many people that would even look forward to gifting a monarch rank soul pet to my sister. Yet, you’re still suspicious. You truly have no manners!”

Chu Mu raised his eyebrows and looked at this emotional young man before glancing at the woman. After a while he said: “If someone is willing to gift her then why wouldn’t she accept it? Why must she spend money to purchase it?”

“You really aren’t taking this seriously!” the young man responded for Ting Lan.

Ting Lan pulled the rebuking young man to the side and apologetically laughed as she said: “My younger brother, Teng Hai, is still young. He says reckless things; please don’t blame him. A fair transaction is one that you should still confirm. You can wait until the day after tomorrow to give the soul pet to me.”

“The day after tomorrow should be my third competition. After the competition, I’ll give the Star Phoenix Butterfly Tail to you.” said Chu Mu.

“Sure.” Ting Lan nodded her head and courteously said goodbye to Chu Mu before pulling the young man who felt aggrieved away with her.

Watching the woman and young man leave, Chu Mu fell into a slight ponderance.

“Ting Lan? She should be a young expert in Soul Palace. I wonder what her true strength is. Being able to reach an eighth rank title presumably means she’s extremely strong.” Chu Mu muttered to himself.

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Chu Mu presently was lacking money, and no matter what that woman’s identity was, as long as the money made it to his hands, he would be reassured.

After arriving at Soul Palace Chu Mu asked the Soul Palace finance members and as expected, there was already an additional 60 million under his name.

Chu Mu’s goal at the moment was to be among the second class of the strongest. Only, that would only earn him 30 million. Thus, he couldn’t help but fret over the remaining 10 million.

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The annual competition's so-called success competition was a rather mainstream form of competition in the soul pet world.

Each participant's victories would be tallied up. Each person's first fight would be against a random competitor.

After the first fight, half of the competitors would be in the winners bracket and half in the losers bracket. Those who won the first round would fight in the second round against other winners.

As for people that lost the first round, they would randomly match up against those who also lost for their second round opponent.

Simply, those with the same amount of wins would fight against others with the same amount of wins.

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In this type of competition, it was possible that people could have won the first and second rounds through luck. However, once one reached the third round, it was ostensibly impossible to encounter bad people.

Chu Mu's luck wasn't too bad and during the second round, he faced off against a person slightly weaker than Jia Yingcheng. It could be considered a small show of concern by the heavens for the broke Chu Mu. After all, by saving the majority of his soul pets' strength during the second round, he would have an even larger chance of winning the third round.

The third day was Chu Mu's third round fight and when he walked into the battlefield, he finally understood why Young Lady Ting Lan had wanted to exchange today...

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"It turns out you already knew we would meet each other in the third round..." Chu Mu bitterly laughed as he looked at the gentle and refined woman in front of him. For a while, he was a bit speechless.

“I had only guessed. I believe that you probably haven’t used your full strength yet, right?” lightly laughed Ting Lan.

Chapter 320: Soul Palace, Seven Diagram Saint Pets

Though he didn’t know why the female named Ting Lan came to Guo City, Chu Mu was sure that this woman was famous even in the main soul palace.

A seventh level title needed a Competition Strongest to obtain. Even if Chu Mu let White Nightmare and Mo Xie attend, getting into Competition Second Strongest was difficult, nevertheless seventh level title’s Competition Strongest. As for eighth level titles, Chu Mu felt that he, at least currently, couldn’t obtain easily.

“Both sides summon soul pets!” Main judge announced.

“Both sides summon soul pets!” The two side judges announced separately.

On the third continuous victory match, there were many more audiences. It may be the effects of beautiful women, but the amount of people watching the match between Chu Mu and Ting Lan was clearly many times even the other third continuous victory match. Some were even the children of Guo City nobility..... “Teng Hai.” A man of similar age to Chu Mu walked beside Ting Lan’s little brother Teng Hai and greeted him.

“Luo Peng, why are you here?” Young man Teng Hai saw this person and revealed a surprised look.

Teng Hai looked up to his sister, but his sister in the end is a female soul pet trainer and had a very different style of picking soul pets than what Teng Hai was looking for. The person that fit his ideals was the person in front of him, Guo City’s impressively famous up and coming hunter king - Luo Peng.

Luo Peng was the target of adoration for almost the entire young generation of Guo City. Teng Hai himself had also made Luo Peng his target, hoping that he would reach the same level around twenty years old.

“Nothing, just wanted to watch.” Luo Peng said nonchalantly.

Luo Peng was very tanned, looking healthy and bright. It may be because his long times in the wild hunting, but even when he was relaxed, his eyes hid a vicious beast that was prowling. It was imaginable that when he became serious, he would be a very scary individual.

“Just wanted to watch? Why do I feel like you’re here for my sister? Who doesn’t know that you like her?” Teng Hai saw completely through him.

“Stop this nonsense, I’m like you, only seeing her as a sister worth overcoming.” Luo Peng quickly explained. Facing the powerful beasts, this hunter king could be absolutely calm, yet when it comes to these matters, he was clearly rustled.

“Sister Ting Lan should be able to reach Competition Strongest. There’s only one middle aged generation person that she would have trouble with. Speaking of which, there's another person in this group that wore a mask. I wonder what his strength is like. Until now, he seems to only have summoned some mainstream soul pets.....oh, you have these mainstream soul pets too, but I haven’t seen you in a while. How are your soul pets’ strengths doing.” Teng Hai said.

“Should be about right. Your sister’s chanting an incantation.....” Luo Peng intentionally switched topics.

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On the battlefield, Ting Lan slowly started an incantation. A soft glow appeared as her lips started murmuring, creating dazzling intercrossing lights that created a beautiful symbol. Within it, soul pact symbols floated rhythmically.

All of the colorful soul pact symbols gathered. When they did, a handsome and fearsome soul pet appeared

This was a soul pet with the upper body of a monarch, but the lower body of a bold and powerful beast!

Its entire body was covered in clear cut dawn armor. It looked like it was made of some sturdy material, giving off a special metallic feel!

On the armor were a series of ridiculously glamorous symbols. These symbols criss crossed, enigmatic yet storing a special magic!

Holy and intimidating, it was like the adjudicator of crime, standing proudly on the battlefield. It was automatically a threat and intimidation towards all dark type soul pets!

“Its the Seven Diagram Soul Pet from Soul Palace!”

“Miss Ting Lan is taking out her Seven Diagram soul pet right off the bat!”

“Is the opponent really strong? Or really weak so she wants to finish the battle quickly and prepare for the following two matches?”

Quickly, a commotion started around the battlefield. At the same time that everyone was exclaiming about Ting Lan’s fierce yet holy soul pet, they were guessing at how Ting Lan will fight.

Soul Palace Seven Diagrams, this word Chu Mu has heard many times already, but he never knew what it meant. Now, seeing a real Soul Palace Seven Diagram Sacred Pet, Chu Mu felt surprised at its special power aura.

The species rank of the Seven Diagram Sacred Pet in front of him was clearly monarch. Even without any strengthening, it was very scary. In fact, Chu Mu could be sure that the Seven Diagram Sacred Pet was middle class monarch rank!

An eighth phase middle stage middle class monarch rank soul pet!

The powerful aura was overwhelming, making the dark type soul pets connected mentally to Chu Mu, like Night Thunder Dream Beast, Zhan Ye, and White Nightmare slightly afraid!

“Seven Diagram Sacred Pets were the symbol of Soul Palace, much like the three big Nightmares of Nightmare Palace Cyan Nightmare, Blue Nightmare, and White Nightmare. The Soul Palace’s Seven Diagram Sacred Pets were different. Of the Seven Diagrams, six were monarch rank soul pets, while one was emperor rank. Soul Palace has continued for over a thousand years, and its prosperity was directly connected to the reproduction of these Seven Diagram Sacred Pets.”

“In reality, the Seven Diagram Sacred Pet points to seven soul pets, the seven strongest soul pets that Soul Palace have firmly under control. Through the reproduction between these seven soul pets, they gain monarch rank soul pet resources, and use them to attract countless soul pet trainers’

hearts. Slowly, this gathering became a faith-like gathering. With time, the oldest Seven Diagram Sacred Mother slowly became the Mother of Soul Palace, much like a deity. Everyone in Soul Palace who owned a Seven Diagram Sacred Pet had to have thanksgiving and loyalty for the Seven Diagram Sacred Mother. This target of thanksgiving and loyalty was the Mother of the Seven Diagrams, the Soul Palace!” Old Li said.

Chu Mu remembered that initially in Gangluo City, Chu Mu’s family had a seventh level territory. The territory meant that every few years, one could get a commander rank soul pet and a myriad of other soul pets.

To a family, the territory then became very important, setting the foundations for a family’s growth and fall.

Yet, having a monarch rank soul pet resource was completely different from having a seventh level territory!

Seventh level territories were only territories and still needed manual capturing. From Old Li’s words, however, the soul palace completely understood the seven monarch rank soul pets’ reproduction method.

As long as they had a massive base number, Soul Palace would create countless monarch rank soul pets!

Chu Mu flipped the mountains and valleys for a monarch ranked soul pet, followed for half a month, and had a massive fight. More importantly, he was lucky that the low class monarch rank soul pets’ father generation wasn’t nearby. After so many issues, Chu Mu had finally gotten a low class monarch rank soul pet.

Soul Palace, on the other hand, only had to use some special method and directly make the soul pets reproduce, which would immediately create monarch ranks!

It was now that Chu Mu finally realized why these factions covered almost all of the world’s cities, having thousands of years of immovable power and status and having tens of thousands of powerful soul pet trainers protecting it.....

Thinking back, a soul pet trainer could spend a dozen years without a monarch rank soul pet, unable to satisfy their dream of becoming an expert. Yet, the moment they enter soul palace, they could be given a monarch rank young soul pet. Who wouldn’t go through all of hell for this faction?

“Old Li, I’m the soul palace young master, why doesn’t soul palace not give me a couple Seven Diagram Sacred Pets?” Chu Mu said to Old Li fervently.

Body covered in light armor, upper body mighty like a monarch while lower body like a king of lions, species rank of middle class monarch rank - this was something any soul pet trainer would go crazy for!

At least, Chu Mu’s heart was moved!

“You think that the Seven Diagram Sacred Pets are your common rabbits, which people give away a couple every new years? If I remember correctly, the rule inside Soul Palace is: seventh level title owners must take a position for 5 years or make some significant contribution to get one of the Six Diagram Sacred Pets. Eighth level title owners still have to complete some rule to gain a Six Diagram Sacred Pet. Similarly, this soul pet bestowing has nothing to do with identity. Even young masters, without effort, can not get a single Seven Diagram Soul Pet.” Old Li said.

“Eighth level title before one can get it.” Chu Mu had always hoped to walk his own path, but once he knew of soul palace’s system and rewards, Chu Mu finally understood why many people join some factions. These factions had too much allure. Even Chu Mu wished he could instantly have an eighth level title and choose a seven diagram sacred pet to fill his empty fourth soul pet.

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“Chu Chen, summon your soul pet, if you don’t summon within ten seconds, it counts as a forfeit.....” The sub judge beside Chu Mu said with impatience.

The sub judge specially raised his voice, causing Chu Mu to finally realize.

Of course, though he reacted, summoning a soul pet was another matter. When the sub judge and audience were all sick of waiting, Chu Mu patiently waited ten seconds, causing everyone to raise their hands in helplessness.

“Forfeit? What kind of joke is this, not even summoning a soul pet before surrendering? This guy has no guts. Ting Lan wouldn’t even hurt his soul pets. If he feels like one couldn’t beat it, shouldn’t he at least summon a few more?” Teng Hai saw that Chu Mu directly forfeited and immediately opened his eyes wide.

In normal fights, even if one forfeited, they usually would summon their soul pets and let others know you indeed weren't as powerful. Yet, Chu Mu didn't even summon a soul pet before forfeiting.

“Eh.....this guy, at least he has some self-awareness.....” Luo Peng was dazed as well, spitting out a sentence after a long time.

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An eighth phase middle stage middle class monarch rank soul pet, even if Chu Mu summons his most powerful soul pet combo, he may not be able to win against this seven diagram sacred pet, so forfeiting was for sure.

It could be said that the girl's strength was not inferior to Xia Guanghan. Meeting such soul palace young generation expert, he could only forfeit and conserve his strength for the next two matches.