

## Beast T 341

Chapter 341: Trial Tower! Qian Yi's Lonely Journey!

Of course, this so-called "Heart of Machinery" was undoubtedly just a fantasy. Su Ping knew, as if by instinct, that even if he managed to create one himself, it would not only be of minor significance, but he also estimated that the maintenance cost would be quite high. Only a colossal institution like the Magic Capital Advanced Academy could possibly afford to provide such behemoths for their students' everyday use!

Collecting his thoughts, Su Ping turned to Aunt Qin. "Aunt Qin, can I give it a try now?"

Aunt Qin nodded. "Of course, the headmaster has already prepared an identity card for you. You may enter and leave most of the academy's facilities at any time during this period!"

Su Ping nodded with anticipation. Indeed, it was very thoughtful of someone who stood at the top of Dragon Nation.

Following Aunt Qin into the mechanical hall and registering with the temporary identity card, sure enough:

[Temporary Student Card - Su Ping (18 years old), please select a mode.]

Su Ping decisively chose the Elite Level, solo Pet Beast challenge mode.

[DING. Mode selection complete. Please summon your Pet Beast to receive a number plate, and then enter Simulation Battlefield No. 21 to start the elite challenge!]

[Please note, a Spiritual Frequency test will be conducted upon entry. Only one Pet Beast is allowed on the field!]

Listening to the voice from the massive registration machine, Su Ping's spirits instantly lifted.

Although Qian Yi, the Paperman, could fight without a sword—its paper body also able to condense into a blade—the swordsmanship it had mastered wouldn't flow as smoothly. For Qian Yi, this was undoubtedly a reduction in its strength. As for Xiao Qing, Su Ping didn't have much expectation for its solo combat capabilities.

All his previous plans were based on the assumption that Qian Yi could enter the solo Pet Beast challenge mode at full strength. If not, that would be incredibly frustrating.

However, the entrance test was based on Spiritual Frequency, or soul fluctuation. Generally speaking, as long as it was a living Pet Beast, it would have a soul, but the Paperman was truly an exception.

This thing, before being pieced together, couldn't really be considered a true Pet Beast. Even when transformed into a sword, accustomed to fusing with the Paperman, its racial traits meant it still possessed a pieced-together soul. This gave Su Ping a sliver of confidence.

Guided by Aunt Qin through the mechanical, neon-lit corridor, Su Ping soon saw the massive '21' marking the entrance to the Simulation Battlefield.

"Alright, this is it," Aunt Qin said. "Go on in, but you better hurry; it's already 4:30!"

Aunt Qin's lips curled into a smile. In about half an hour, it would be five o'clock. Qin Xiaoxue and the headmaster would probably be wrapping up soon, and it was about time for Su Ping to come out too. She urged him to hurry, but in reality, she was just preparing an excuse for him in advance. Others did not know, but how could she be unaware of the difficulty involved here?

The enemy in each wave of the Simulation Battlefield's challenge mode was completely different and random. Often, it even depended on luck. For example, it was bad luck if an opponent that countered one's own Pet Beast was randomly spawned. Moreover, the number of enemies in each wave was uncertain. It might be a single high-level Pet Beast's cub or a swarm of lower-level Pet Beasts, densely packed together—all were possibilities. Therefore, Aunt Qin figured that even if Su Ping had some tricks up his sleeve, managing to last more than five waves in the Elite Level would be quite commendable. The battles would also likely drag on for a considerable time. From a timing perspective, it would match up perfectly.

Little did Su Ping know of Aunt Qin's good intentions.

He pushed open the door, swiped the temporary student card, and confirmed his identity. Finally, before the virtual environment simulation initiated, he summoned Qian Yi into the room!

"WOO-WAH!"

With its signature excited cry, Qian Yi, the Paperman who had been diligently training all this time, made a dazzling appearance.

Qian Yi stood before the detection device. Su Ping's heart tightened slightly!

Inside the large Sword Box Qian Yi carried on its back, three longswords with distinct hilt designs rested in their sheaths. Qian Yi curiously observed the mechanical equipment before it. It clearly wasn't impressed by these mechanical creations, but without its master's command, it naturally refrained from acting rashly.

Finally, the red light of the scanner turned green.

Su Ping's tension finally eased.

Sure enough, the testing device's voice sounded:

[Test complete. Please lead your Pet Beast into the arena. Please note that in the virtual battlefield, to fully test the single Pet Beast's strength, do not move around at will or summon additional Pet Beasts; otherwise, it will be considered a failure!]

[Please note: The virtual battlefield will fully simulate victory conditions and the most realistic combat experience. Outcomes will be determined by intelligent judgment with an accuracy rate of 99.98%, or you can press the 'End Trial' button yourself.]

[Please prepare. The first wave of the trial will begin in 30 seconds! 30, 29, 28...]

As the countdown blinked, the world before him slowly began to transform. The purely mechanical surroundings shimmered with light. The next moment, the once-spacious mechanical battlefield transformed into a pasture enclosed by fences.

Knee-high grass grew thick and lush. Above, an azure sky dotted with a few white clouds looked incredibly real.

"Qian Yi! Prepare for battle!"

Battle.

For his Pet Beasts, these two words—battle—were too scarce, too precious. After all, Su Ping rarely encountered opportunities for Pet Beast battles. Xiao Qing was quite content and not particularly combative by nature. Especially after learning to grow smiling sunflower seeds in its Beast Taming Space, it seemed to have developed more interest in farming. Qian Yi, however, undoubtedly possessed a great passion for combat. This was evident from the fact that its very evolution had been achieved through combat.

Now, summoned for the express purpose of battle, Qian Yi, having evolved into a Paper Immortal Swordsman, was positively brimming with eagerness. Its eyes shining with excitement, Qian Yi exclaimed, "WOO-WAH! (Battle!)"

Qian Yi looked into the distance.

As the countdown progressed, a beam of light coalesced in the distance, and the creature that appeared was one all too familiar to Qian Yi.

Even Su Ping, observing the battle from a distance, was taken aback. A Forest Wolf!? But obviously, this wasn't a real Forest Wolf. It was merely a phantom projected within the virtual battlefield, nearly identical in combat strength and behavior to an actual Forest Wolf.

At the same time, the voice from the Trial Tower chimed in again:

[First wave of the trial, target: Forest Wolf, Energy Level: Elite Eight, race limit: Elite Ten.]

As the voice faded, Su Ping was momentarily stunned.

The first wave is already a genuine Elite Advanced opponent? No wonder Aunt Qin said the Trial Tower was difficult. If the first wave is this challenging, one can only imagine the difficulty of those to come.

However, the truly challenging and tricky part was managing Energy inside, which had to be carefully considered outside of rest periods. This was because, apart from natural recovery, the use of external items was forbidden. Moreover, there was only a one-minute rest interval between each wave. Besides the opponents faced, Energy consumption was also a key test for the Pet Beast.

However, this was clearly not the time for overthinking. Through their soul connection, Su Ping's voice rapidly echoed in Qian Yi's mind, "Fight while minimizing Energy consumption!"

"WOO-WAH!"

In an instant, Qian Yi's face morphed. It shifted from its usual animated expression to a poker face. The pitch-black Ace of Spades design on its face now resembled less a face and more a sword—a pitch-black sword. The sharp point at the top of the spade was like a sword tip, capable of piercing anything.

Qian Yi firmly gripped the Thunder Sword.

In the past half-month, although Qian Yi hadn't created any new swordsmanship techniques, its Energy Realm had reached a peak. After all, Su Ping's own realm had broken through twice consecutively, aligning with Qian Yi's. This advancement feedback had naturally benefited Qian Yi immensely. If it hadn't been for the undigested Energy from its recent evolution, it would likely have broken through already.

For Qian Yi, this opportunity to battle was undoubtedly precious.

"AWOOO!"

The simulated wolf howl was piercingly realistic.

The Forest Wolf was a Pet Beast with which both Su Ping and Qian Yi were intimately familiar.

And indeed, as expected, concurrent with that howl, vines swiftly condensed from the void. They shot towards Qian Yi, intent on entangling it. Simultaneously, the Forest Wolf extended its claws and fangs, pouncing violently towards its target. The virtual opponent's fighting style was indistinguishable from a real Forest Wolf's.

However, Qian Yi, facing the entangling vines and the pouncing enemy, showed no change in its eternal poker face. Only the glow on its Thunder Sword grew more blinding.

Focus, and reach the pinnacle!

Almost simultaneously with the virtual Forest Wolf's pounce, just as the vines wrapped around Qian Yi like pythons, it made its move.

Again, it was the Thunder Sword.

The vines split apart. A single sword strike decapitated the wolf!

All Su Ping could see was Qian Yi resheathing its sword.

And its almost formulaic post-battle summary: "WOO-WAH! (Invincible... so lonely, wah.)"

Electric sparks flickered. In that instant, under the force of that one sword strike, the condensed phantom of the Forest Wolf vanished into nothingness.

Su Ping smiled, wondering just how far this little one's lonely, unbeatable journey would extend in this place.

[First wave cleared, time: 2.74 seconds. The second wave will open in 60 seconds, please prepare, 60, 59, ...]

Chapter 342: Overcoming Challenges! Miss Qin's Gossip!

Qian Yi was dissatisfied. A battle that required less than three seconds, yet it needed an entire sixty-second wait? Who was being underestimated here?

However, no matter what, the waiting time was still necessary.

But the scene of the wind blowing over the low grass revealing sheep and cattle hadn't changed at all.

Su Ping watched with interest as the Forest Wolf was slain by the Paperman with one strike. From the texture of that strike, the virtually formed Forest Wolf seemed no different from any other creature. It didn't resemble a lifeless object formed by condensation. This realism extended to the entwining tree vines. Furthermore, from his recent perception, Su Ping felt that even the strangling vines truly possessed combat power. Was this Forest Wolf really a phantom formed by condensation?

However, as the countdown ended, the corpse of the Forest Wolf turned into particles of light and slowly vanished without a trace. It was as if the illusion had been truly punctured.

This is very interesting, Su Ping thought. I even want to extend my spiritual power to sense around, like Feifei did, to see what's really happening. It's just that such actions might disrupt the Paperman's challenge in the Trial Tower. Seeing the enthusiastic Paperman, there's no need for me to do so. Yet, these projected creatures are essentially different from those fake and weak phantoms with no combat power at all. I can ask Aunt Qin about it later.

This massive Mechanical Trial Tower doesn't seem to be just a trial tower, Su Ping mused. At this moment, I have every reason to suspect that it's related to Mechanical Pet Beasts. However, given that this is the Magic Capital Advanced Beast-Taming Academy, one of the most renowned institutions nationwide and currently overseen by Sang Sheng, possessing such capabilities is to be expected.

Su Ping's random thoughts didn't slow down time; the sixty seconds passed slowly.

With the end of the final countdown, Qian Yi's posture was restored.

Then, the mechanical voice appeared in his ear:

[Second trial wave, Trial Subject: Great Horned Bull, Energy Level: Elite Level Ten, Race Limit: Elite Level Ten]

The Pet Beasts had indeed changed, but the scene was still that of a grassland battlefield.

The Great Horned Bull, with no special Attributes, was a Normal-type Pet Beast with immense strength. It was a type of Pet Beast found on the grasslands and one of the most terrifying herds at Low-levels.

However, here, with only one appearing, it didn't cause Qian Yi the slightest hindrance!

By the second wave, the trial's Energy Level had already reached Elite Peak, without even increasing Qian Yi's usage time!

That thunderous One-Word Electric Sword, against a lone, equal-level opponent, seemed unbeatable!

In ancient times, there was the story of Pao Ding, the skillful butcher who dismembered oxen with incredible ease.

For Qian Yi, it was even simpler, quicker than with the previous Forest Wolf.

Because as soon as the Great Horned Bull appeared, it launched its attack Skill, 'Savage Charge.'

And then...

Its Savage Charge ended with the Great Horned Bull being cleaved in half down the middle!

In Qian Yi's hands, paper had become the sharpest weapon.

Thus, still accompanied by Qian Yi's familiar lament of invincible loneliness, the corpse turned into light points and disappeared:

[Second trial passed, time taken: 2.12 seconds. The third trial will start after 60 seconds, prepare yourself, 60, 59,...]

[Third trial passed, time taken: 2.84 seconds. The fourth trial will start after 60 seconds, prepare yourself, 60, 59,...]

[Fourth trial passed, time taken: 2.53 seconds. The fifth trial will start after 60 seconds, prepare yourself, 60, 59,...]

From the first to the fourth wave, not a single opponent managed to extend the Paperman's battle beyond three seconds from start to finish. The reason it always stayed within that timeframe was merely the distance between the opponents when they spawned.

Defeating the opponents in the first four waves of the Trial Tower, including the intervals, took less than five minutes!

A smile appeared on Su Ping's lips.

Qian Yi's strength is definitely incomparable to any common Pet Beast of the same Level, he thought. Because it isn't just Qian Yi! With the effects of the Myriad Spirit Beast Atlas coming into play, what do those three swords in its hands represent? They represent a total of nine elementally evolved Papermen! As well as a strength enhancement where  $1+1>2$ .

It was Su Ping's fortune to encounter a Pet Beast like Qian Yi, but it was also the luckiest thing for Qian Yi to meet Su Ping. Only in Su Ping's hands could the Paperman's potential be elevated to such a degree. And yet, Su Ping knew that even the strength the Paperman was currently demonstrating wasn't its full capacity.

Whether it's Qian Yi or the Paperman type in general, both possess even greater potential and a much broader scope for future development. Such effortless ease... But by the time of the fifth wave, it seems

as if that ease might disappear? The fifth wave is clearly a relatively difficult challenge in this kind of battle!

[Fifth trial wave, Trial Subjects: Forest Wolf, Great Horned Bull, Willow Leaf Mantis, Energy Levels: Elite Level Eight, Elite Level Ten, Elite Level Ten!]

That's right, Su Ping registered. The terrain is still that of the grassland. But this time, the creatures that appeared aren't the solitary Pet Beasts from earlier waves; instead, it's the Pet Beasts from the first, second, and fourth waves all appearing together! One against three! And three of them are Pet Beasts that have genuinely reached Elite Peak. Undoubtedly, this will be an extremely difficult confrontation for any Pet Beast of that Realm.

Chapter 343: Overcoming Challenges! Miss Qin's Gossip! \_2

However, it seemed that for Su Ping, and for Qian Yi, a challenge had finally begun to manifest. Watching those three virtual opponents solidify into reality, Qian Yi adjusted the brim of his conical hat, his poker face still betraying no emotion. Only the 'A', serving as Qian Yi's mouth, opened slightly as he whispered, "Waaah, finally... this is getting a bit interesting, huh?"

Su Ping paid no mind to the little guy's murmurs, instead staring at Qian Yi's face on the Paperman. To Su Ping's surprise, he had thought that facing three Elite Level opponents at this moment, Qian Yi would need to demonstrate his real skills—for instance, the abstract Three Sword Style or even the more abstract "Qian Yi Whirlwind." However, Qian Yi's poker face and actions underwent no change whatsoever. Even the sword in his hand remained the Thunder Sword. Streams of electricity surged along the blade, making the paper sword seem even keener at this moment.

"Waaah, have you... ever seen lightning?"

As the three battling opponents fully materialized, the Paperman spoke softly once again. Even before the Pet Beasts had a chance to act, almost as soon as the mechanical prompt sounded, the Paperman moved!

Have you ever seen lightning?

Qian Yi's overly dramatic speech also represented the little guy's unparalleled confidence. And this time, Qian Yi's speed was even faster than the One-Word Electric Sword he had previously used. Because the previous One-Word Electric Sword involved an explosion of Thunder Attribute Energy along the blade!

But over this period, Qian Yi certainly hadn't been idle. This time, what burst forth from Qian Yi's body were dense arcs of electricity. The explosive speed turned Qian Yi, in that instant, into a sprinting ball of lightning!

"Waaah! One-Word Electric Sword... Electric Flash, Continuous Barrage!"

CRACK-ZAP!

The extremely crisp sound of the Thunder Element Energy exploding truly made Su Ping hear what was described as the chirping of a thousand birds.

CRACKLE... CRACKLE... CRACKLE... CRACKLE...

With such noises, the body of the little Paperman Qian Yi was illuminated brilliantly white by lightning, leaving a blurred afterimage in the air. A 'Z'-shaped arc of electric light formed on the bodies of the three Elite Peak Pet Beasts that had surrounded him!

And then... there was nothing more. The final sight Su Ping witnessed was a familiar scene he had encountered several times before. The bodies of the Pet Beasts, already beginning to dissipate into light spots, slowly faded away into nothingness. Their throats, hearts, and torsos all bore a charred wound, fatal enough to kill.

And at that moment, the little Paperman Qian Yi simply stood in the distance. The metallic Thunder Sword was slowly sheathed back into its scabbard. The wind over the grasslands blew, making Qian Yi's paper cape rustle as this fellow looked up at the sky, his back to the three corpses, and shook his head slightly in reflection, "Waaah, the thunder of the sword... will be the last sight of your lives!"

Su Ping's vision darkened. He pursed his lips. Before his cringing toes could metaphorically carve out a three-bedroom apartment from the floor in second-hand embarrassment, thankfully, the mechanical voice announcing the results brought some relief:

"Fifth wave passed, time taken 3.11 seconds. Sixth wave will open in 200 seconds. Please prepare. 200, 199..."

The final part of the first five waves, a one-versus-three scenario, finally pushed Qian Yi's kill time beyond three seconds. What an inconceivable number!

Without giving Su Ping and the little Paperman much time to contemplate, the vast grassland before them began to transform. The virtual battlefield underwent changes. At the same time, Su Ping surmised, This also means the enemies we'll face from the fifth to the tenth wave should be different too, right?

Indeed, that was the case. The floor even undulated, and the surrounding terrain transformed. In just a moment, the previous pastoral grassland scene, where the wind would part the grass to reveal cattle and sheep, became a lofty mountain peak, as if one could touch the sky. And where once there was flat grassland at the edge of the arena, there now yawned a bottomless abyss beneath the clouds. Although Su Ping's spectator area was also on the outskirts, it was now furnished with floating rocks that served as seats. Under the rules of this new scene, it was clear that being knocked into the abyss meant certain defeat. Of course, the same effect would apply if one managed to knock an opponent into it during a fight.

Su Ping, accompanied by the little Paperman Qian Yi, was navigating the trials here.

「At this very moment, within Magic Capital Academy」

News had clearly already spread. There was an enormous square. The square alone was no smaller than the area of Su Ping's Heart of Water lake; its vastness was hard to imagine.

Above the square, numerous figures could be seen. Some stood gazing into the distance; others were seated with various items before them. There were even figures lying in tents scattered across the square, clearly making the most of the situation. This scene was completely out of sync with the atmosphere of the rest of Magic Capital Academy. Yet, the square was no less bustling than any other place.

Many figures came and went. Some were clearly students of Magic Capital Academy; others seemed to be outside merchants and some staff members. They were selling Magic Potions, offering resources, seeking teammates, and even soliciting business for crafting Advanced Level armor and weapons. In short, all kinds of activities were taking place.

Chapter 344: Overcoming Challenges! Miss Qin's Gossip! \_3

This is the Secret Realm Exploration Area of Magic Capital Academy.

Soon, a figure slowly emerged from a vortex.

It was the silhouette of three young women, who almost immediately captured the attention of everyone present.

Especially the one leading them.

"Miss Qin, how was your harvest in the Linhai Secret Realm this time?"

Someone greeted her with a smile. Qin Xiaoxue responded with a faint smile that seemed friendly but maintained a strong sense of distance, and she nodded in acknowledgment.

However, it was obvious that under normal circumstances, Miss Qin might have chatted about their findings to see if anything could be exchanged.

But now, not only had she prematurely ended her exploration in the Linhai Secret Realm—a place one could only enter twice a month—she also had no spare time to deal with passersby.

That old woman! She knew Su Ping was coming today, yet she still insisted on sending me into the Linhai Secret Realm to learn meditation.

Why doesn't she learn it herself?

Qin Xiaoxue complained inwardly.

Little did she know, at this very moment, the two girls beside Qin Xiaoxue glanced at each other, and their gossip flames blazed even higher.

Several months ago, when Miss Qin had interrupted her meditation, they had overheard some gossip.

They had learned the name 'Su Ping.'

However, it seemed this person was someone Miss Qin had encountered before in her hometown of Linzhou.

Not a student from Magic Capital Beast Taming Academy.

During these months, they hadn't caught wind of anything. But in the past few days, it was clear that Miss Qin was often distracted, staring at her phone.

And today, she had been thrown into the Linhai Secret Realm by the Dean, showing an unprecedented lack of interest even in exploring the Secret Realm. This clearly indicated a significant issue.

Consequently, she had hurriedly left the Secret Realm, even more than twenty minutes earlier than the scheduled time.

All these abnormalities clearly indicated many things.

So, after stepping out of the spacious Secret Realm plaza, Qin Xiaoxue checked the reply on her phone. Then, she glanced at her two roommates, who were peeking over eagerly, and said without changing her expression, "Um, Xiao Lu, Xiao Xiao, you guys go back to the dorm first. The old lady has something she needs me for, so I can't join you."

However, much to her surprise, after exchanging glances, the short-haired girl licked her lips and said, "Xiao Xue, the funds that the combat society applied for last month and the Combat Energy Detector haven't come through yet. It's not much, but it's something all members of the society are looking forward to. As president of the combat society, I've been constantly pestered by the members."

The short-haired girl's eyes darted around shiftily as she continued, "So, Xiao Xue, can you help us out? We'd like to accompany you to meet the Dean. With just a word from the Dean, this funding should be no issue."

Qin Xiaoxue glanced at the little rascal and cleared her throat. "Xiao Xiao, you should be discussing the combat society's funding with Director Yan. But don't worry, I'll mention it to the old lady."

Clearly, Qin Xiaoxue's reply had all but confirmed the two girls' suspicions. The one named Xiao Xiao pressed on, "Xiao Xue, it's not that I don't trust you, but this matter is really important..."

Qin Xiaoxue glanced sideways at her two best friends, then nodded. "Alright then, let's go together!"

As soon as she spoke, the two girls were momentarily taken aback. However, they quickly caught on and nodded enthusiastically, propelled by the still-burning flames of gossip within them.

Qin Xiaoxue promptly summoned Woodhead and mounted it. It had already broken through its race limit and reached Leader Second Rank, intuitively understanding its master's intentions as it raced swiftly through the campus streets.

The two excited girls followed behind.

However, fifteen minutes later, their eager flames of gossip were thoroughly extinguished.

This was because Qin Xiaoxue had indeed brought them to the central teaching building, and at that moment, the Dean was actually inside a mechanical vehicle.

"Dean... Dean..."

Upon truly seeing the woman, the two girls were completely at a loss.

Weren't we supposed to see Miss Qin's rumored boyfriend? Weren't we here to enjoy the drama and get some juicy gossip?

Why is this so different from what we imagined?

The woman glanced at the two girls, who exchanged looks with each other, then she looked at Qin Xiaoxue. Qin Xiaoxue merely shrugged, a mischievous smile flashing in her eyes. Hmph, hmph, you two little rascals, you dare to tease me?

Didn't expect your big sister to turn the tables, did you?

That Su Ping even dared to say I'm not smart? The Pet Beast Thirty-Six Stratagems I've been cramming lately weren't for nothing!

Qin Xiaoxue then said, "Xiao Xiao mentioned that their combat society hasn't received the funding or the Combat Energy Detector they applied for in the past six months, so she came to talk to you about it."

Such a trivial matter? The woman was slightly taken aback.

Afterwards, seeing the triumphant smile in her granddaughter's eyes and the 'you win' expression in the eyes of her granddaughter's two friends—who were also influential figures at Magic Capital Academy—she understood everything and smiled faintly, "Alright, I will talk to the faculty director in charge of clubs about this matter."

"Yes, thank you, Dean. We appreciate your hard work."

"Goodbye, Dean."

Ling Xiaoxiao shook her short hair, watching Qin Xiaoxue get into the Dean's car. Xiao Lu, by her side, could only ask, "Xiao Xiao, what do we do now?"

"Whatever! I don't believe this! Come on, let's follow."

"But... isn't that a bit much? That's the Dean's car; we..."

Ling Xiaoxiao patted Xiao Lu's shoulder, a glint of wisdom flashing in her eyes. "Don't worry. You know how closely the Dean supervises Xiao Xue. The Dean definitely doesn't know about that Su Ping business and wouldn't approve of it!"

"Therefore, I deduce Xiao Xue is just putting on an act! She'll definitely find an excuse to get out of the car halfway. When that happens, we'll... hehehe..."

As she spoke, realization dawned in Xiao Lu's eyes, and she nodded excitedly, "Oh, I see! Then what are we waiting for? Hurry, hurry, hurry!"

Chapter 345: Diamond Ace! Qian Yi's Sword of Wind!

Atop the mechanical vehicle, the driver, glancing at the rather inept pursuers behind, then said, "Principal, those two students are still behind us. Should we use Spatial Teleportation to shake them off?"

Qin Xiaoxue was speechless.

The woman, however, didn't mind these two little geniuses—her granddaughter's friends and roommates—and chuckled, "No need, just head straight for the Trial Tower."

Having said that, the woman pulled up the partition and then turned to look at Qin Xiaoxue, whose eyes sparkled, "Alright, he's already at the academy. Are you in such a hurry?"

Qin Xiaoxue frowned curiously at the woman, "What am I anxious about?"

The woman nodded. Alright, she's not anxious then. She didn't feel like continuing this back-and-forth with her eldest granddaughter on the subject.

Instead, Qin Xiaoxue suddenly felt somewhat guilty and tried to make conversation, "So, Su Ping is heading to the Trial Tower. How many rounds do you think he can clear?"

The woman looked at Qin Xiaoxue with a half-smile, indulging her granddaughter's topic, "At the Elite Level, I just heard from Ah Qin that the little guy's Beast Tamer Realm has already reached Elite Ninth

Order, and his Pet Beast is probably not too shabby either. However, I haven't heard much about how impressive the little guy's own Pet Beast is. On the other hand, the Evolutionary Body he brought with him is quite remarkable. I reckon he could make it through around five waves at most."

"Ah?!"

Qin Xiaoxue's eyes lit up. She wasn't concerned about the achievement of clearing the fifth wave, which was definitely not considered high at Magic Capital Academy. Instead, her entire focus was on another matter: "Su Ping's own Realm has already reached Elite Ninth Order? That fast?"

The woman shot her granddaughter a sidelong glance. Did this silly girl even hear everything I just said?

Yet indeed, even she, Lord Sang Sheng, had to admit that the little guy's Realm was improving too quickly. She figured it must have something to do with the Meditation Method she had sent over... right?

But precisely because his Realm improved so rapidly, the little guy's Pet Beast's strength might not be that high. From her perspective, having already cultivated the Wanmu Wolf—to the point where its potential had reached an absurd level—and still needing to practice meditation, where would he find the energy to further improve his own Pet Beasts? After all, it had only been half a year.

Forget three to five years; even one or two years later, the woman believed this little guy's Pet Beast combat strength could reach a fairly impressive level. But as for now...

This was exactly why the woman had made such a request to Aunt Qin, almost as if in jest.

However, Qin Xiaoxue quickly questioned this, "I've seen Su Ping's Pet Beast before. That Forest Wolf is an extremely rare mutated Poison Type. Clearing six or seven waves should be no problem for it, right?"

The woman shot her granddaughter a look, "You, girl, haven't you tried it yourself back then? The Commander Level Trial Tower is different from the Elite Level one! The first ten waves of the Commander Level consist of ordinary combat opponents, whose strength has been enhanced beyond these ten basic ranks. In Magic Capital Beast Taming Academy, why is your Commander Level record at the fifteenth wave, ranking you second? And why is it that one must pass the tenth wave of the

Commander Level just to break into the top fifty or so, whereas in the Elite Level rankings, surpassing the tenth wave gets you into the top five?"

Qin Xiaoxue huffed lightly.

She knew this, of course. The Elite Level is lower in rank. And among the genius Beast Tamers entering Magic Capital Beast Taming Academy, some have already advanced to Commander Level upon entry. Even if not, they've reached the Peak of the Elite Level. Such Beast Tamers naturally have Pet Beasts at the highest tier of this Level too!

Naturally, the waves in the Elite Level Trial Tower begin with Elite Peak-level battles right from the first and second waves. And what's even more terrifying is that after clearing the fifth wave, starting from the sixth wave, one might have to face High-level Pet Beast cubs. This difficulty makes the Elite Level Trial Tower rankings even tougher to climb than the Commander Level ones.

In the Commander Level, whether for solo or group rankings, the top twenty have almost all cleared thirteen waves or more. That monster in first place even reached the sixteenth wave. But in the Elite Level, the first place among the top five—also held by that monster—is only the twelfth wave. Aside from this individual, the person in fifth place hasn't even cleared the tenth wave; they ranked fifth simply by enduring the longest past the ten-minute mark, according to the display.

Most students at the Elite Level are stuck around the fifth and seventh wave tiers. If Su Ping only clears the fifth wave, then his previous ranking of around one thousandth place is about right. This was what the woman meant and what she deduced.

However, Qin Xiaoxue didn't care and quickly said, "Su Ping only awakened his Beast Taming Talent half a year ago! That's already quite impressive."

On this point, even the woman didn't deny this, because it was indeed true. In just half a year, he reached this Level and achieved such significant success in Cultivation. If his Pet Beasts' combat strength were also absurdly high, what would be left to say?

The vehicle made its way to the Trial Tower. Ling Xiaoxiao and Xiao Lu followed all the way there as well.

However, as Ling Xiaoxiao and Xiao Lu watched, Qin Xiaoxue and the Principal actually disembarked from the vehicle one after the other and entered the Trial Tower. Seeing this, the two followers were clearly stunned.

Chapter 346: Diamond Ace! Qian Yi's Sword of Wind!\_2

This script is incorrect, isn't it?

Facing Xiao Lu's questioning gaze, Ling Xiaoxiao was also a bit confused, but she still stomped her foot. "Let's go and check it out! Although the Dean has a staff-only elevator, as I said, Xiao Xue will definitely go separately. I don't believe it! That Su Ping must have already arrived!"

However, their movements and whispered exchanges caused several people nearby to pause slightly. Among them was a young man, none other than Dong Muxuan, who had just returned from the Trial Tower.

Ling Xiaoxiao was the president of the Magic Capital Academy's Combat Club, and Lu Xiaolu was the vice-president of the Student Council. Both were prominent figures, so the very act of them whispering secretly was already attention-grabbing. Not to mention, they were also roommates with Miss Qin. But even with all this, Dong Muxuan wouldn't normally care.

However, from their whispers, he caught a name he had heard several times in recent days. Su Ping!?

Dong Muxuan ignored the seniors from his club standing beside him and looked at the two young women with surprise. The name was quite common, so Dong Muxuan wanted to confirm. "Seniors?"

"Hmm?" Ling Xiaoxiao and Lu Xiaolu turned their heads, looking at the newcomer in surprise before smiling slightly. "Oh, it's you, Junior Brother Dong."

Dong Muxuan, a junior who had enrolled less than two years ago, was familiar to them from the five-year Magic Capital Academy. This was because he had another identity: the disciple of the Space Element Professor, Hunter Sky. Moreover, his Talent and his strength in Controlling Beasts were both exceptional.

"Seniors, did you just mention Su Ping?"

Ling Xiaoxiao and Lu Xiaolu exchanged a look, the fire of Bagua in their eyes flaring even brighter.

In fact, their familiarity with Dong Muxuan stemmed from something Miss Qin had once mentioned: her father apparently wanted to arrange a blind date for her, and the prospective partner was none other than this Junior Dong!

What is this situation? A love battlefield!?

The two young women were inwardly excited but still knew how to handle the situation. They didn't know what Junior Dong was thinking, but Miss Qin was definitely not interested in him; her interest was clearly focused on that Su Ping.

Therefore, as Miss Qin's staunch supporters, even though the junior before them was handsome with a bright future, and Lord Hunter Sky was one of the most powerful professors at the academy, they knew which side to be on.

At a time like this, indulging in a bit of Bagua and light gossip was harmless; it might even help them bond. However, if they revealed anything, and Dong Muxuan, in a moment of recklessness, did something to upset Miss Qin, the relationship between the three of them—Ling Xiaoxiao, Lu Xiaolu, and Miss Qin—would undoubtedly suffer.

After all, how many fools could enter Magic Capital Academy and achieve their current standing and strength?

So, Ling Xiaoxiao and Lu Xiaolu exchanged a glance. Lu Xiaolu then blinked her large, innocent eyes. "Junior, you must have misheard, right?"

"That's right! Su Ping who?"

Dong Muxuan's brow furrowed slightly. He was certain he hadn't misheard. However, his companions chimed in, "Yeah, Junior Dong, why are you asking about him? I know a first-year student with the surname Su, but I don't think that's his given name. The seniors are heading to the Trial Tower; let's not disturb them."

These two seniors held a special status in the academy, so it wouldn't be appropriate to press them further. Dong Muxuan could only nod. Their denial only confirmed his suspicions.

In fact, if he knew what the two young women were actually thinking, he would undoubtedly feel helpless.

Previously, when that President Qin had suggested he try to get to know his daughter, Dong Muxuan had been more than willing.

The Dong Family was currently in decline. Even with their remaining heritage, they were incomparable to the likes of Lord Sang Sheng, who was like a rising sun and wielded significant authority.

If he could establish a connection with her family, it would be immensely beneficial for his future prospects.

However, after Miss Qin showed no interest, even standing him up directly, Dong Muxuan understood the situation. He certainly wasn't the type to be shamelessly persistent.

Yet, he had heard the name Su Ping far too many times.

Initially, when chatting with his sister, Dong Muyun, about Qin Xiaoxue, she had told him that Miss Qin had returned to Linzhou during the last summer break and had become quite close with this Su Ping from Linzhou.

At that time, Dong Muxuan had felt quite indignant. A mere country bumpkin from Linzhou, how could he possibly compare to me?

Then, this indignation had completely vanished more than half a month ago. His father—the nominal Family Head of their Jianghai Dong Family—had called him, his youngest son.

The content of the call was simple: "Persuade your sister."

His sister had fallen out with the family. Regarding this, Dong Muxuan felt no doubt or anger; on the contrary, he was actually happy for her.

Dong Muxuan understood his sister. After all, they were full siblings, children of the principal wife, and their bond was completely different from their relationship with their so-called elder brother born of a concubine.

However, his father had called, asking him to persuade his sister. But the ultimate aim of this persuasion, shockingly, wasn't to patch things up with his sister for the family. Instead, it was to use his sister's connections to arrange a meeting with that Su Ping!?

Chapter 347: Diamond Ace! Qian Yi's Sword of Wind!\_3

Dong Muxuan didn't know what exactly had happened within this Family; he only knew that when his father and sister spoke to him about this matter, they both mentioned one thing:

"Do not provoke that fellow named Su Ping because of Miss Qin."

This name, this man from Linzhou... Dong Muxuan was not one to covet beauty; everything a scion of a noble Family did was for personal gain and the benefit of the Family. In a Family with a thousand years of heritage, individual marital affection was deemed insignificant. If he could use Lord Sang Sheng's power, that would naturally be a good thing; if not, he would let it be.

But over these past few months, the name Su Ping had appeared repeatedly before him; how could Dong Muxuan not be curious?

Now, hearing this name again at Magic Capital Academy, how could Dong Muxuan not want to investigate?

Had Su Ping come to Magic Capital Academy? And very possibly, was he inside the Trial Tower right now?

A glint of light flashed in Dong Muxuan's eyes.

He wanted to see what magic this boy, two or three years younger than himself and whom his sister had never praised so highly, possessed.

With this thought, Dong Muxuan's steps toward the Trial Tower quickened even more.

At this moment, Su Ping had no idea that because of him, the Trial Tower had become incredibly lively. All his attention was focused on the little paperman Qian Yi and its challenge. After all, he didn't know how many waves Qian Yi could clear, or what its final ranking among the Elite Level participants outside would be. Therefore, with the little paperman, Su Ping could only do his best to break through the challenges. Given how difficult Aunt Qin made this condition sound, and with the promise from Lord Sang Sheng, Su Ping and the little paperman Qian Yi were compelled to go full throttle. This was undoubtedly the case now.

But Su Ping truly felt helpless.

It truly lived up to the name of Magic Capital Academy!

The difficulty of this Trial Tower was certainly beyond his imagination.

At this moment, the little paperman Qian Yi was in the eleventh wave.

Yes, the eleventh wave.

The difficulty from the sixth to the tenth wave was indeed very high, with even three Monarch Level Pet Beast cubs, and the ninth wave even had an Emperor Level cub. And what was even more outrageous was the tenth wave. The tenth wave featured not cubs, but three genuine Commander First Stage Pet Beasts!

A difference of an entire Great Realm! And three of them!

What kind of concept was this?

Even the little paperman Qian Yi had to expend considerable effort. It had even finally activated the Three Sword Style, and although it didn't use the Qian Yi Whirlwind, it had undoubtedly deployed its full strength.

Su Ping was seriously beginning to suspect. What kind of monsters attended Magic Capital Academy!

Indeed, one must not be overly arrogant. At the entrance earlier, he had heard Dong Muxuan's group mention it. Dong Muxuan had already cleared the first thirteen waves at the Commander Level! He had faced powerful Emperor Level cubs, and that performance had barely placed him in the top twenty. Now, Su Ping was finding this tenth wave quite challenging.

The Commander Level challenges are probably even harder! Who knows, the higher levels might even feature illusory Monarch Level Pet Beasts for an even greater challenge.

Through this arduous climb, Su Ping gained a further, complete understanding of the strength of Magic Capital Academy's students. He also curbed his nascent pride a bit.

This was one of the centers of the Dragon Nation. The Advanced College here gathered Beast Taming geniuses from all over the Dragon Nation.

His own path was still very long.

As he reflected on this, he looked ahead. Sure enough, after Qian Yi finished the tenth wave, the terrain changed once again as the eleventh wave began. It was no longer the previous mountain summit. Instead, it was a series of tall, raised platforms. This new terrain shared some similarities with the mountain summit. However, compared to the summit just now, the footholds here were too few and unstable.

As for the enemies that appeared before Qian Yi, their Level and other characteristics hadn't changed much. They were still Emperor Level cubs, but this time, a full three of them appeared!

Three Emperor Level cubs, and more troublesome were the races of these three Emperor Level cubs: Specter Butterfly, Ice Dragon Cub, and Divine Wind Sparrow.

That's right, all three had different Attributes: Necromancy System, Ice System, and Wind System—their Attributes were clear from their names. But the most infuriating part was, all three could fly!

At this moment, the little paperman standing on the platform still maintained the Three Sword Style stance, and its Three of Diamonds face showed an unspeakable solemnity.

Emperor Level cubs had already mastered some Racial Skills. The number and power of their Skills far surpassed those of Pet Beasts of the same Level. The three Emperor Level cubs circled in the air, hurling long-range Energy attack Skills at the little paperman on the platform. Even the little paperman finally found itself under pressure.

A deep, mournful sound came from the little paperman. "Is this... the end?"

"Damn... I'm not willing to give up!"

All three of the little paperman's swords flew out as its body suddenly soared into the sky. It used the Skill: Flying Immortal.

The little paperman could fly too! But even with the ability to fly, compared to these three Pet Beasts that dominated the sky, it was still an extremely difficult fight!

Even more so, the most ferocious Ice Dragon cub raised its ice-crystal claws and tore at the little paperman.

BANG! With a loud thud, the little paperman was sent flying, and in the air, the fastest Divine Wind Sparrow followed up with Storm Assault. At this moment, the little paperman was like a shuttlecock, batted back and forth in the sky. It was unable to gain purchase or leverage its speed in mid-air; not even its One-Word Electric Sword was effective. Even returning to a platform seemed difficult at this moment.

The little paperman felt the gale whipping past it. It looked so flimsy in the clutches of the Divine Wind Sparrow, like a folded paper airplane.

So, what should be done? Su Ping let out a sigh; he knew it was over.

Stopping at the eleventh wave might secure a spot in the top hundred, but that wouldn't satisfy Su Ping!

It's just a pity; there's nothing that can be done. Thinking that, Su Ping didn't even want to watch the little paperman get bullied by these illusions anymore; he was about to press the nearby 'End Challenge' button.

However, just at that moment, Su Ping blinked in surprise.

At this moment, the little paperman was still in the air. But, somehow, two of its original three swords had been re-sheathed. And at the same time, Qian Yi returned to a stance holding a single sword in its right hand. Its unchanging poker face showed a new expression! This time, it was a black Ace of Diamonds—one that Su Ping had never seen before!

Previously, when using the One-Word Electric Sword, the little paperman's face had shown an Ace of Spades. And this time, it was a black Ace of Diamonds!

Simultaneously, Su Ping finally noticed that the sword held in the little paperman's right hand wasn't its most familiar Thunder Sword! It was the relatively inconspicuous Wind Sword!

It was leveraging the wind.

The little paperman, still being toyed with like a shuttlecock by the three Emperor Level cubs, seemed to slow its frantic movements. Then, just as Su Ping stared in stunned silence, a crisp wail suddenly echoed high above the platforms: "You guys... really made me angry!"

In an instant, amidst Su Ping's astonishment, a great gust of wind erupted around the little paperman, which was still soaring as if using Flying Immortal. The wind began to whip furiously!

Chapter 348: Sword of the Wind: Gale of Resolute Destruction!

The wind, a howling gale, ran unchecked at this moment across the Sky Dome of this endless high platform.

Apart from the young Divine Wind Sparrow, whose Wind System Attribute negated the effects, even the other two creatures by its side were somewhat affected by the fierce wind.

What was even more unexpected to them was that the source of this gale was the Paperman Pet Beast they had just swatted away like a shuttlecock!

Qian Yi's body finally stabilized within the gale.

The cloak on its back rustled loudly, and around the long sword in its hand swirled miniature tornadoes.

Enveloped by this gale, the small Paperman's body could finally move through the air and harness the boundless gales of the Sky Dome.

Su Ping blinked, momentarily at a loss.

He naturally had a thorough understanding of his own Pet Beasts.

The small Paperman Qian Yi's aptitude in Swordsmanship was incredibly high.

The pure soul born from the Soul Seed had merged with the refined Sword Intent from the Spirit Saint Level Sword Intent Origin.

And thanks to its special structure as a Paperman, after wielding the sword pieced together from three other Papermen, its grasp of the Wind Element's power fluctuations also became more precise.

This signified the fusion of sword and wind.

During the past period, the small Paperman's Swordsmanship had shown no new breakthroughs.

This was partly because neither Qian Yi nor Su Ping had any particularly good ideas, and also because Qian Yi had only just completed its evolution and did not yet wholly control its newfound powers.

However, inside the Trial Tower of Magic Capital Academy, the Paper Immortal Swordsman—the small Paperman Qian Yi—finally grasped a new opportunity to comprehend Swordsmanship. This occurred after its evolution, high above, amidst the boundless, raging winds.

The Sword of Wind. This was a posture the small Paperman had never assumed before.

The gale buffeted the Ice Dragon wyrmling and the Netherworld Butterfly. At that moment, both began to reassess the small Paperman, watching it with new caution.

They could feel that there was something different about the small Paperman at this very moment.

Only the Divine Wind Sparrow. This fledgling, which by right should have been a sovereign of the wind, seemed provoked by the challenge and let out an even more enraged shriek. Its blade-like wing edges seized control of the gale, swiftly aiming to slash at the small Paperman, which was also surrounded by the wind!

This time, however, the small Paperman was no longer powerless in the air, no longer lacking a point from which to exert or leverage force.

The swirls of air currents around its Sword of Wind became the source of all its power, able to support any weight.

The small Paperman's body underwent a transformation at that moment.

In conjunction with the Fairy Flight Skill, and stimulated by the transformation of Wind System Energy, Qian Yi shot through the sky like a cannonball!

At that moment, facing the Divine Wind Sparrow's absolutely sharp wings hurtling toward it with killing intent, it slowly raised the Sword of Wind above its head.

No one could describe the stance of this sword strike. Not even Su Ping.

He only knew that the Swordsmanship stance of this strike did not match any of the basic Swordsmanship stances he had previously made the small Paperman practice.

But this was Swordsmanship! A move, a sword technique falling from the sky! As if it were the fusion of wind and sword. The wind that amplified the waves, and the sword that pierced through everything.

Amidst the clash of energies, accompanied by an incredibly crisp SPLAT sound, the sword edge finally penetrated the chest of the Divine Wind Sparrow!

This Divine Wind Sparrow fledgling, which had previously toyed with the small Paperman like a shuttlecock, turned into specks of light in the air and dissipated.

In its eyes, a look of utter disbelief seemed to linger.

It seemed it had never imagined how the small Paperman, which it had just toyed with like a paper plane, could adjust its posture in mid-air, within its own domain, and unleash a sword strike powerful enough to slay it.

This was unscientific!

Yet, it couldn't ponder anything, for it was not a real Emperor-rank cub, but merely a virtually condensed illusion.

There was more than one such illusion. After slaying the Divine Wind Sparrow, the small Paperman's gaze 'turned' towards the nearby Ice Dragon and the Netherworld Butterfly.

In fact, as young creatures, neither the Ice Dragon nor the Netherworld Butterfly necessarily possessed abilities stronger than the Divine Wind Sparrow's.

Because on this kind of terrain, the Divine Wind Sparrow, which commanded Wind Power, could more easily bring its full abilities to bear.

"ROAR!"

With the Ice Dragon wyrmling's roar, the air temperature seemed to plummet instantly.

Although it couldn't yet unleash a Dragon Breath, its frosty exhalation still slowed the small Paperman's speed for a moment.

However, without the Divine Wind Sparrow, that terrifying attacker which moved like a shadow through the air, the small Paperman, in that instant, became an ace pilot in command of the sky.

The devastating sword strike, descending from the sky and wreathed in gales, cleaved down once more, first slaying the Necromancy System's Netherworld Butterfly.

This Netherworld Butterfly had no opportunity to display its abilities from start to finish before it kicked the bucket, joining the Divine Wind Sparrow as dissipating points of light.

However, it was evident that the Dragon Clan, acknowledged as one of the most powerful Races on Blue Star, were not simple creatures, even as wyrmlings.

Their physical strength was immense, and they controlled formidable elemental energies. Such is the Dragon Clan! Even if it's just an Ice Dragon or, say, a White Dragon wyrmling.

Chapter 349: Sword of the Wind: Gale of Resolute Destruction!\_2

No wonder countless Beast Tamers dreamed of contracting a member of the Dragon Clan. And in the Dragon Nation, named after dragons, research into them had reached an unbelievable level and realm. This was something Su Ping had come to realize.

Compared to the Wraith Butterflies and Divine Wind Sparrows, whose bodies were so weak they could be killed with a single sword strike, this Ice Dragon cub was able to keep tangling with Little Paper Person Qian Yi incessantly. Its body was extremely strong. Even though it was just a condensed illusion,

each of Qian Yi's sword strikes could only leave a shallow wound on its white Dragon Scales, which would heal naturally after a short while. A dragon's physique was indeed formidable.

Su Ping's interest was piqued. The body of this Ice Dragon was somewhat similar to that of Bai Ye, the Icefang Whitewolf he had seen before. But there were also some differences, ones that Su Ping couldn't quite discern.

However, at this moment, Little Paper Person clearly didn't care about such things. The energy he had expended in the previous battles was negligible; in fact, the waiting time had been more than enough for him to fully recover. But in this battle, Little Paper Person's energy consumption was, without a doubt, unprecedented.

At the same time, Little Paper Person was also quite dissatisfied with the time wasted on this battle. "WAAH!" he declared. "Dragon, I recognize your strength, but your end will still be the same! WAAH!"

As Little Paper Person's voice spread out, the howling wind high above the entire platform seemed to achieve absolute concentration. At this moment, the chaotic wind seemed to gather entirely on the longsword in Little Paper Person's hands. An indescribable sensation permeated the air. Simultaneously, another ray of white light appeared on Little Paper Person's body. Su Ping had seen this white light on the night he was attacked. It was the active effect of Little Paper Person's Mutated Sword Heart. It could greatly enhance the power of his next sword technique! In other words, this was Little Paper Person's killing blow.

The Ice Dragon was already covered in wounds. Against Little Paper Person, who possessed absolute aerial control and speed, the dragon was in a similar predicament to Little Paper Person when he had been pressured by the Divine Wind Sparrow: it could only retaliate passively, and its efforts had mediocre effects. It could only watch that impending sword strike gravely. Whistling icy breath billowed from its nostrils and mouth, but it was useless. Because at this moment, what arrived first was not the sword in Little Paper Person's hand, but the wind!

A sweeping whirlwind, moving with unimaginable speed, struck the Ice Dragon cub. Already airborne, the cub was rendered completely unable to control its body. And at that very moment, Qian Yi moved. His speed was no less than when he had unleashed the One-Word Electric Sword. And his Sword of Wind struck the Ice Dragon cub, which had been swept up by the gale.

Su Ping blinked. Amidst the whirlwind and the sharp blade, the huge Ice Dragon cub slowly dissolved into motes of light. The final outcome was thus clear.

Little Paper Person descended from the sky, landing slowly on the platform. He looked up at the dissipating phantom of the Ice Dragon and sighed, "WAAH! Anything that doesn't kill me only makes me stronger! WAAH!"

"WAAH! This sword technique shall be called Heavenly Fall Qian Yi—"

"Wait!" Su Ping interjected, startled. He had finally recovered his wits after witnessing that sword technique. "Qian Yi, let's call this sword technique 'Gale of Resolute Destruction'!"

"WAAH?" Little Paper Person tilted his head. His usually serious Ace of Spades-like face swiftly changed into an abstract, anime-style expression of confusion. However, faced with his master's request, Little Paper Person pondered for a moment and decided to oblige.

He nodded. "WAAH!"

Su Ping finally let out a long sigh of relief. He had been too hasty with "Qian Yi Whirlwind." Now that the little fellow had grasped another new sword technique, if it were named something like "Heavenly Fall Qian Yi," Su Ping wasn't worried about much else, but he feared that opponents and judges would burst into laughter during a Beast Taming duel when the technique's name was announced.

And it had to be said, Little Paper Person's last sword technique truly resembled what Su Ping understood as the 'Gale of Resolute Destruction'.

The Sword of Wind... it's indeed like that carefree swordsman.

Su Ping let out a long breath.

Sure enough, a brand-new skill he had never seen before now appeared in Little Paper Person's skill list!

[Gale of Resolute Destruction (Proficient)]

However, Su Ping understood that Little Paper Person's greatest gain from this battle wasn't just this new sword technique. It was his complete control and mastery over Wind Attribute energy. Qian Yi Whirlwind itself was centered on the Sword of Wind, with the Sword of Fire and the Sword of Thunder acting as extensions of the blade. However, Qian Yi Whirlwind was a rotating, accelerating tornado, not the kind of wind utilized to achieve flight in mid-air like the Flying Immortal technique. The difference between the two was still significant.

As long as he wields the Sword of Wind, the sky is Qian Yi's domain!

In that instant, a spark of insight flashed through Su Ping's mind. He thought he had identified a short-term training direction to further unlock Little Paper Person's terrifying potential.

But that fleeting inspiration vanished as quickly as it came. Before Su Ping could ponder it further, the mechanical voice he had heard countless times echoed from within the hall once more:

"[The eleventh wave has been cleared. Time: 521.00 seconds. The twelfth wave will commence in 60 seconds. Please prepare. 60, 59...]"

Chapter 350: Sword of the Wind: Gale of Resolute Destruction!\_3

He wasn't sure if it was his imagination, but Su Ping even felt a tinge of excitement in the mechanical system voice this time.

Su Ping calmed his thoughts. Clearly, the eleventh wave had begun.

The increased battle difficulty and the prevalence of flying Pet Beasts from the eleventh wave onward forced Su Ping to stop his mind from wandering and focus entirely on the tense battle.

However, without his recent enlightenment, the Paperman would likely have been crushed in this eleventh wave of flying challenges. But now, with a deeper understanding of Wind Energy and Qian Yi's "Flying Immortal" Skill, the Paperman was like a fish in water when airborne.

Therefore, the twelfth wave, though slightly more difficult than the eleventh, featured three genuine Commander First Stage flying Pet Beasts. This was similar to the tenth wave, but their ability to fly gave them an even greater advantage. Yet, even such a twelfth wave couldn't stop the Paperman's advance!

Then came the thirteenth wave!

Su Ping estimated that by this wave, he should comfortably rank within the top one hundred, perhaps even higher! But he still didn't know his exact ranking. Having come all this way to Magic Capital, and to Magic Capital Academy, wouldn't it be a waste not to test the limits of his Pet Beast's strength?

Therefore, as long as the Paperman could still fight, Su Ping had no intention of stopping it. With the energy of the Paper Immortal Swordsman as its core and the energy supplied by those three swords, it seemed the Paperman could continue battling.

However, at this very moment, Su Ping was clearly unaware that he had already caused quite a stir in this Trial Tower.

「Time rewinds to not long before.」

The woman and Qin Xiaoxue rushed through the staff passage into the Trial Tower, finally meeting Aunt Qin who was waiting outside the corridor.

"Has the little guy already gone in? How long has it been?"

Aunt Qin, apparently expecting the Dean and Qin Xiaoxue to arrive early, glanced at the time before responding, "He's been in for about twenty minutes."

The woman and Qin Xiaoxue nodded. "Then he should be coming out soon."

Twenty minutes. That wasn't a short time. Based on their earlier estimate of about five waves, he should have been faster at the start and then progressively slower. Unless the kid was stubbornly dragging it out, he should be finishing around the fifth or sixth wave.

Aunt Qin, however, gave the Dean a somewhat strange look. The reason was simple. It was perfectly reasonable for her or Qin Xiaoxue to be here, waiting for Su Ping. But why was the Dean, of all people, waiting for a junior? Someone of the Dean's stature wouldn't typically bother with minor points of

etiquette for someone so young. No matter how talented Su Ping might be, or how significant his Cultivation of Qin Xiaoxue's Forest Wolf was, there was no reason for the Dean herself to wait, was there?

The Dean, of course, said nothing more. The matters concerning Su Ping and the Ghost Saint were known only to her and Qin Chuan within the entire Magic Capital Academy. This Su Ping might very well represent the Ghost Saint. Furthermore, both Qin Xiaoxue and Aunt Qin believed the Myriad Transformations Meditation Method had been given to him early due to Qin Erlong's and her own high regard for the young man. In reality, that wasn't the case at all. Waiting here proactively for Su Ping to emerge was a display of attitude from the Qin Family and from her, the Dean of Magic Capital Beast Taming Academy. Of course, the most important reason was to show respect to the Ghost Saint.

As for Qin Xiaoxue, she hadn't thought so much. She entered the waiting area of Trial Site 21, looking forward to the doors at the end of the corridor.

The Dean, knowing Su Ping would be out soon and thus not overly focused on his immediate appearance, turned to Qin Xiaoxue and continued, "Xiao Xue, how is the preliminary preparation work for Woodhead coming along?"

Qin Xiaoxue nodded. "It's almost done. Woodhead just hasn't completely adapted to wearing the Thorn Crown, but the rest of the preparations are finished!"

The Dean also nodded in agreement. "The Crown Wolf Emperor is the only path for a Forest Wolf to achieve Emperor Level Evolution. It's naturally more troublesome and time-consuming. However, it's undoubtedly worth it! The Crown Wolf Emperor's Abilities are very compatible with your other Pet Beasts."

Qin Xiaoxue pursed her lips. Clearly, she was already well aware of the point her grandmother was making and wasn't particularly concerned. Her gaze kept drifting towards the door in the corridor.

The Dean was somewhat speechless but didn't press the matter.

However, just as silence fell, a grand and uplifting piece of music suddenly blared from all the loudspeakers throughout the Trial Tower, outside the individual trial sites!

The music made not only Qin Xiaoxue but also the Dean raise their eyebrows.

"Has someone's rank broken into the top ten, displacing a previous record holder?!" Qin Xiaoxue said, stunned and incredulous.

There were only four leaderboards in the Trial Tower: Individual Elite, Group Elite, Individual Commander, and Group Commander. Among these, the Group Elite leaderboard was relatively the least significant, offering the fewest academic credits. The other three were undoubtedly crucial.

The Trial Tower had a special feature: if someone surpassed a previous rank and entered the top ten, an announcement would be made throughout the Tower after their challenge concluded. This served to inform all challengers of changes in the high rankings, fostering a more competitive spirit among the Beast Tamer students and intensifying the rivalry.

Moreover, there was another situation that would trigger such a broadcast—one that would even occur before the challenger had finished. This special musical announcement heralded that someone had broken the current number one record in the Trial Tower.

However, neither Qin Xiaoxue nor the Dean had considered this possibility. The reason was simple: the current top spot in the Trial Tower was held by an unparalleled prodigy, considered Magic Capital Academy's number one Beast Tamer student in recent years.

So, when the music played, Qin Xiaoxue's interest was piqued. After all, she was currently ranked second on the Individual Commander combat leaderboard and was quite confident in her position. So, what could this announcement be about?

She soon found out.

[Individual Elite Trial Tower ranking change! First place record broken! Breaker: Temporary student - Su Ping. Located in Trial Site 21, current challenge wave: 13th wave!]

Qin Xiaoxue blinked, initially thinking she'd misheard. Then, she saw the equally baffled expression on her grandmother's face.