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Chapter 191 Cha Liang

"So, how's it? The modifications I made aren't too bad, right?" Ximen Guan asked, looking pleased after Li Xiu tested the Ghost-faced Magic Armor.

"If you weren't born, old Guan, this field of Magic Armor would have been wasted." Li Xiu gave Ximen Guan a thumbs up.

There's no denying it, Ximen Guan's skills are genuinely impressive. The level he achieved with decades-old technology is remarkable, truly a talent.

The modified Ghost-faced Magic Armor's performance is already on par with Li Xiu's previous Red Flower Magic Armor, and in some aspects, even surpasses it.

It's important to note that the Red Flower Magic Armor comes from the world's leading Magic Armor Laboratory's top-tier product. Both materials and equipment are leagues ahead of what old Guan had.

That he could upgrade the old Ghost-faced Magic Armor to such a degree using these materials and equipment speaks volumes about his ability to transcend times technologically; he's not even on the same level as those Magic Armor Makers in the other laboratories.

"Could it be that the advancements in the Magic Armor industry over the past few decades are actually a step backward?" Li Xiu found it difficult to comprehend why current top Magic Armor technology still lagged behind what was available decades ago.

In fact, Li Xiu's thoughts were partially correct; it was a matter of research direction.

Ximen Guan's research path diverged fundamentally from the current mainstream; he never pursued that route, so naturally, he couldn't be less advanced than Ximen Guan from decades ago.

Though impressive, Ximen Guan continued to study the latest Magic Armor technology after coming out. Many techniques used in the modification of the Ghost-faced Magic Armor were borrowed from current Magic Armor technologies; Ximen Guan was learning in the process.

Seeing such high praise from Li Xiu, Ximen Guan couldn't help but beam with joy, though he feigned modesty by saying, "You're giving too much credit. Honestly, without me, there wouldn't even be a Magic Armor industry."

"Fair point." Li Xiu agreed with this statement from Ximen Guan, acknowledging his title as the Father of Demon Armor. It wasn't an exaggeration.

Ximen Guan was so smug because of Li Xiu's commendation; he wouldn't be as thrilled if someone else praised him, possibly even dismissing it.

Li Xiu was an esteemed Magic Armor Master in Ximen Guan's eyes, and only such individuals were qualified to critique his work.

"Old Guan, did you use some of your Magic Armor techniques in this set?" Li Xiu asked, examining the armor he wore.

This set of armor was clearly designed with a micro-thin architecture, much lighter and more delicate than ordinary armor, likely employing similar techniques to that set of Magic Armor.

"Just a bit of the basics. The base materials for this armor are different. If you truly want to convert it entirely into my style of Magic Armor, it's unrealistic—better off creating a new set from scratch. Plus, your equipment and materials here are lacking, funding is limited, so make do with it." Ximen Guan responded casually.

As Li Xiu was about to leave, Ximen Guan called out to him, "Really not considering using my set of Magic Armor? It's much better than that junk you're using."

"Even if I swore an oath, would you dare use it? How about you make me another set?" Li Xiu laughed.

"I haven't even gotten this set sorted out. Do you have the money for the materials for another set? The equipment here isn't good either. If you want to build another set, you'll need new equipment. I checked online; those devices are controlled by Space City and White Night City—won't be easy to acquire." Ximen Guan pondered aloud.

"Make a list for me, and I'll see what I can do." Li Xiu wasn't concerned about a single set of Magic Armor, but mass production would be different.

"Alright, if you're serious, I'll write it for you later. But I have to say upfront, not everyone can activate my Magic Armor. Those so-called S-Class Magic Armor Masters probably can't use this armor, and it'd be wasted on them. Even if mass production is possible, where will you find Magic Armor Masters?" Ximen Guan remarked.

Understanding Li Xiu's intention for mass production, Ximen Guan didn't mind assisting Li Xiu, seeing as the stronger Li Xiu became, the more secure he would be.

Chang Sheng Tian truthfully discovered that he escaped, and he needed to rely on Li Xiu to keep him safe. The two were inextricably linked, on the same rope, so Ximen Guan was unreservedly supportive of Li Xiu.

"Let's finish this set of Magic Armor first." Li Xiu waved his hand and left the laboratory.

Li Xiu found a backpack, put the Ghost-faced Magic Armor inside; its compact size made it portable and convenient.

With the armor ready, Li Xiu planned to go to the Sea Heaven Trial Ground before Sha Chu headed to Chang Sheng Tian, to retrieve the Blood Pattern Revolver and become a true Trial Taker.

Li Xiu had considered the Gate of Purgatory as well, but it seemed too unrealistic currently. First, he already had a feud with the Red Sand City Lord, and secondly, he wasn't sure about the situation inside the Gate of Purgatory—going back for the Blood Pattern Revolver seemed more reliable.

Just as Li Xiu was about to call Sha Chu and A Fei to assign tasks before heading to the Sea Heaven Trial Ground, he saw Ye Yuzhen rushing over hurriedly.

"I'm telling you, you can't enter..." A guard chased after Ye Yuzhen, trying to stop him.

"City Lord... help... " Ye Yuzhen's eyes were bloodshot, and his clothes were stained with blood. He rushed forward and knelt before Li Xiu, kowtowing to him.

His forehead hit the ground heavily, making a thumping sound that left his forehead bruised after two knocks.

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"You all may leave now." Li Xiu waved the guards away, stood up, and helped Ye Yuzhen, saying, "Tell me clearly what happened first."

"My sister has been taken away by someone. Please, save her. I'll do anything you want as long as you can save her..." Ye Yuzhen said incoherently.

"Explain clearly, who took your sister?" Li Xiu asked while instructing A Fei to prepare the car.

"Cha Liang." Ye Yuzhen said through gritted teeth.

"Let's talk about it in the car." Li Xiu took Ye Yuzhen outside, where A Fei had already brought the car around.

The two got into the car, and Li Xiu instructed A Fei to drive to Cha Liang's place. Ye Yuzhen explained the entire story clearly.

Back then, Ye Yuzhen took his sister to learn Magic Armor Skill from a Magic Armor Master. Later, when that Magic Armor Master attempted to make a move on Ye Xiyuan, Ye Yuzhen discovered it in time, assassinated the Magic Armor Master, and escaped.

That Magic Armor Master was one of Cha Liang's subordinates. Cha Liang actually knew about Ye Yuzhen and Ye Xiyuan's situation and recognized Ye Yuzhen.

Things turned out this way by coincidence. Over the years, Ye Yuzhen had been carefully protecting Ye Xiyuan, not letting her show herself publicly.

However, Ye Xiyuan was after all a youthful and lively girl, staying home every day wasn't a solution. It's been years and Ye Xiyuan has hardly met anyone.

Ye Yuzhen thought since he had established himself in Zhongshan City, and gathered enough money to buy Demon Armor, Ye Xiyuan would have the capital to protect herself in the future. Thus, he contacted the seller to buy a set of A-level Demon Armor.

He didn't understand Demon Armor, so he naturally had to let Ye Xiyuan try it out herself.

But who would've thought the seller he contacted turned out to be one of Cha Liang's people? When they arrived and were about to try the Demon Armor, they were surrounded by Cha Liang and his men lurking in the shadows.

Ye Yuzhen relied on his contracted magic spirit and escaped desperately. Ye Xiyuan was caught by Cha Liang.

Ye Yuzhen still held a glimmer of hope in his heart, thinking maybe Li Xiu could rescue Ye Xiyuan; otherwise, he would have fought desperately right there.

After listening, Li Xiu slightly frowned. He knew Cha Liang because Sha Chu often mentioned him.

Many big merchants left Zhongshan City, and among the few remaining big merchants, there was Cha Liang.

Those remaining large merchants had some connections with Cha Liang.

According to Sha Chu, Cha Liang himself was a big merchant from Red Sand City. He not only had the Gemstone Vein but also had close relations with Red Sand City's upper ranks, secretly dealing in Demon Armor.

A significant portion of the Demon Armor in many small towns within the Southern Cross Federation was funneled out of Cha Liang's hands.

Sha Chu's point at the time was that Cha Liang must have Red Sand City's official backing; otherwise, he couldn't operate on such a large scale.

The reason why Cha Liang stayed in Zhongshan City without leaving was most likely at Red Sand City's behest; the Red Sand City Lord also needs to know the situation on this side of Zhongshan City.

The reason Sha Chu didn't touch Cha Liang was that Zhongshan City was built in such a desolate place, lacking everything and relying heavily on imports, even needing to bring water and food from outside. If Cha Liang were moved, other merchants would leave, turning Zhongshan City into a ghost town. Only those interested in the Trial Gate would stay.

Sha Chu's meaning was not to move against Cha Liang for now; as long as Zhongshan City still had people, it's hard to assure there weren't spies from Red Sand City.

Rather than continually guessing who the spies from Red Sand are, it's better to leave Cha Liang here to at least temporarily maintain Zhongshan City's normal operations.

Evidently, Cha Liang was well aware of this point, so he behaved relatively normally in Zhongshan City, collaborating with the City Lord's Mansion.

The car was driving fast, yet Ye Yuzhen felt it was too slow, wishing he could instantly fly to Cha Liang's place.

Finally, the car stopped in front of Cha Liang's mansion gate.

"I wasn't aware the City Lord was coming, my apologies, please come inside." As soon as Li Xiu got out of the car, he saw a middle-aged man greeting him with a smile.

Li Xiu glanced at Cha Liang, who knew of his arrival beforehand and was waiting here, giving him a subtle jibe.

Cha Liang was showing Li Xiu exactly how influential he was within Zhongshan City.

Li Xiu followed Cha Liang inside his mansion. Cha Liang kept offering smiles and pleasantries, appearing very humble.

He didn't even glance at Ye Yuzhen, gritting his teeth, as if he didn't know him at all.

Li Xiu did not mention the matter of Ye Xiyuan and sat down, savoring the tea served by the servants without uttering a word.

"City Lord, is there any important matter you require Cha Liang to handle with your unexpected visit?" Cha Liang inquired after seeing Li Xiu remain silent, coughing lightly.

He could compete with Li Xiu in patience, but Li Xiu was the lord of Zhongshan City now, he couldn't act like that.

"A friend's sister went missing, and I hope Boss Cha could assist in locating her." Li Xiu took a small sip of tea, and after putting down the teacup, he spoke slowly.

"City Lord, you overestimate me. I'm just a businessman; I'm good at business. Finding people, that's something I've never done." Cha Liang said with a distressed face.

"It's you who caught my sister, release her." Ye Yuzhen couldn't hold back anymore, and yelled at Cha Liang.

If not for A Fei holding him back, he might have already rushed up.

"I don't even know who you are, let alone who your sister is. How could I capture your sister? Besides, in Zhongshan City, only the City Lord has the authority to order arrests. How dare Cha Liang do such a thing?" Cha Liang scrutinized Ye Yuzhen, "Who exactly are you? Why are you making wild accusations? What benefits have you received? Are you trying to force Cha Liang out of Zhongshan City?"

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"Sir, this person harbors malicious intentions and wants to provoke a rift between me and the City Lord's Mansion. Please look into this, sir, as I absolutely have not done such a thing. If you don't believe

me, you're welcome to search all properties under my name. Cha Liang will fully cooperate without condition," Cha Liang rose and bowed to Li Xiu, looking aggrieved and wronged.

"Ye Yuzhen, sit down first," Li Xiu stopped Ye Yuzhen, then turned to Cha Liang and said, "Mr. Cha, I must find the person. Are you willing to help me with this?"

"Certainly, I must help Sir City Lord. However, I'm merely a businessman; finding people is not my strong suit. How about this, sir? I have a batch of rubies here, just transported over from Red Sand City. As a reward for searching, let's mobilize the entire city to find them. With so many people searching together, we should be able to find them quickly. Under the leadership of Sir City Lord, the folk of Zhongshan City are honest and the streets are safe; surely no one would commit murder or robbery. Perhaps the person you're looking for is merely lost and will return in a few days," Cha Liang said, signaling a servant to bring in a tray. The tray held a row of rubies, though not quite the quality of pigeon blood red, their quality was quite decent.

This line of rubies, each weighing two to three carats, with more than twenty in total, holds tremendous value, more than an ordinary person could earn in a lifetime.

Ye Yuzhen's face turned grave, Cha Liang's intent was clear; he did not want to surrender the person, instead attempting to use money to make Li Xiu drop the issue.

So many rubies, in times of chaos like these, could pay for one life, let alone ten.

Ye Yuzhen feared Li Xiu would accept the gemstones and cease caring about Ye Xiyuan's fate.

Ye Yuzhen wanted to say something but was interrupted by Li Xiu, who looked at Cha Liang with amusement, "Mr. Cha, you're getting old and might not have heard clearly what I said earlier. Let me repeat: I must find this person, whether you choose to help or not."

If before Li Xiu merely wanted to do Ye Yuzhen a favor and show the people of Zhongshan City that there are rules here and no one can act wantonly within its borders.

Now Li Xiu's interest in Ye Xiyuan outweighed both concerns.

Cha Liang was willing to offer over twenty high-quality rubies, yet refused to hand over Ye Xiyuan—was it simply for her beauty?

In this era, beauty was valuable, yet simultaneously worth the least.

With enough money, is there a beauty one cannot find? Did Cha Liang truly need to risk offending him, paying such a dear price, just to keep a girl?

Clearly, that makes no sense. Beyond beauty, Ye Xiyuan possessed the gift of a Magic Armor Master, and if there is anything more valuable than her beauty, it must be her talent as one.

For Cha Liang to pay such a high price, Ye Xiyuan's talent as a Magic Armor Master must be extraordinary.

"Sir, as a businessman, I'm truly not capable of that. How about you tell me how you wish to find someone, and I'll coordinate with you," Cha Liang was implying for Li Xiu to name a price.

Li Xiu didn't speak, instead drawing a handgun and pressing it against Cha Liang's head, "Looks like you're truly deaf."

With Li Xiu's action, several Magic Armor Masters and Trial Takers immediately rushed in, surrounding Li Xiu and his group.

"Sir City Lord, let's talk this through. You're making me very..." Cha Liang believed Li Xiu wouldn't dare shoot, at least not immediately.

But before he finished speaking, there was a loud bang, leaving a bloody hole in Cha Liang's forehead.

Ye Yuzhen was stunned, as were the Magic Armor Masters and Trial Takers.

No one expected Li Xiu to shoot, nor did they anticipate him doing it so decisively.

Cha Liang believed Li Xiu wouldn't shoot. Had he known Li Xiu would pull the trigger, he wouldn't have thought to hide his identity as a Magic Armor Master; he certainly would have donned Demon Armor before meeting Li Xiu.

Unfortunately, there is no "if." Cha Liang's expression remained frozen in shock and disbelief as he slowly fell.

Of course, even if Cha Liang had worn Demon Armor when meeting Li Xiu, results wouldn't have differed.

"Do you wish to continue following him to your end, or would you rather join my City Lord's Mansion?" Li Xiu calmly addressed the Magic Armor Masters and Trial Takers.

A C-Class Magic Armor Master suddenly raised his hand, his palm emanating the glow of Demonic Light.

But before he could raise his hand, a dark silhouette appeared before him; a Samurai Sword resembling a Fluorescent Stick severed his arm along with the Demon Armor.

Several shimmering figures simultaneously appeared around Li Xiu, including Demigod Shana, Love God Shooter, and Pink Nightmare.

Magic flashed and metal clashed within the room, screams echoed without pause.

From outside, one could see bursts of Demonic Light penetrating the walls, illuminating parts of the interior.

Ye Yuzhen watched the toppled corpses and blood splattered across the walls, his expression exceedingly strange.

He knew generally that ordinary Magic Armor Masters were no match for Li Xiu's magic spirits, yet didn't expect them to die so swiftly and decisively, meeting little to no resistance, slaughtered by the magic spirits.

Among them was an A-Class Magic Armor Master, yet he died with far less dignity than the A-Class Flowing Color Mechanical Skeleton, having been quickly dispatched with two strikes of a Jedi Knight.

"Are Magic Armor Masters truly so vulnerable before a true Trial Taker?" Ye Yuzhen increasingly felt he might have been wrong; instead of relying on Ye Xiyuan to grow stronger independently, he should have strengthened himself to protect her.

To Li Xiu, A-Class Magic Armor Masters were indeed easier to kill than A-Class magic spirits. He knew Magic Armor Masters thoroughly, including their strengths and weaknesses; in front of him, A-Class Magic Armor Masters appeared neither mysterious nor formidable.

Chapter 194 Found It

"I gave him a chance, but he didn't know how to cherish it. What about you all?" Li Xiu calmly said as he looked at the trembling Trial Takers.

One of the Trial Takers gazed upon the shattered Demon Armor and the corpses strewn across the ground, along with the demonic spirits that gleamed like evil ghosts, and suddenly broke down.

"I know where that girl is..."

The alloy door of the underground hidden room, as thick as a bank vault door, was directly sliced open by Li Xiu using the Ghost-faced Magic Armor. Inside, besides a locked girl, the vault contained some gemstones.

Ye Yuzhen hurriedly stepped forward to rescue the girl and asked if she was harmed.

The girl was indeed very resilient and even turned around to comfort Ye Yuzhen.

Li Xiu took all the gemstones from the vault, brought back the Trial Takers to the City Lord's Mansion.

Handing the Trial Takers over to Sha Chu for processing, just as Li Xiu was about to go rest, Ye Yuzhen brought Ye Xiyuan along and caught up.

"City Lord, my sister and I have discussed, and if you allow, my sister would also like to stay at the City Lord's Mansion to work for you." Ye Yuzhen and his sister approached Li Xiu, and Ye Yuzhen said.

"I saved her in order to uphold Zhongshan City's rules. You owe me nothing." Li Xiu said, looking at Ye Yuzhen and Ye Xiyuan.

Ye Xiyuan was indeed very beautiful, the kind of beauty that was instantly memorable.

"Precisely for this reason, we've decided to stay in Zhongshan City. We don't need special treatment, only that you give us a fair opportunity." Ye Yuzhen said with determination.

"Are you sure?" Li Xiu asked as he looked at the two of them.

"I'm certain." Ye Yuzhen replied without hesitation.

"And you? Are you sure? Are you voluntarily choosing to stay here?" Li Xiu asked, looking at the shy Ye Xiyuan.

Ye Xiyuan rarely interacted with strangers, and coupled with childhood shadows, she still appeared shy and introverted, unable to make eye contact with others despite being sixteen or seventeen.

"Wherever my brother is, that's where I am." Despite her shyness, Ye Xiyuan said this with unusual firmness.

"Alright, then I'll give you an opportunity. You have the talent of a Magic Armor Master, don't you?" Li Xiu asked with a smile.

"Yes, her talent is quite good. I speculate she should have reached the level where she can activate and control A-grade Demon Armor." Ye Yuzhen said.

"You speculate? How are you speculating?" Li Xiu asked with some doubt.

Ye Yuzhen didn't possess the talent of a Magic Armor Master, so how could he speculate Ye Xiyuan's level unless she had undergone a professional Magic Armor Master test, in which case there would be no need for speculation.

Ye Yuzhen said somewhat reluctantly, "I couldn't afford high-grade Demon Armor before, so I bought a set of E-grade armor for Xiyuan to practice with. Then, using techniques found online, I taught her some skills and gauged her level based on the difficulty of the skills she could complete."

"What skills has she learned?" Li Xiu asked with interest.

"Xiyuan, quickly demonstrate to the City Lord the skills you've learned. Stay calm; you can do it." As Ye Yuzhen helped Ye Xiyuan take out her set of E-grade Demon Armor, he encouraged her.

"I understand, brother." Ye Xiyuan nodded obediently, then donned the E-grade armor and began to showcase the skills she had learned.

Though Ye Xiyuan was such a timid girl, she seemed somewhat different after putting on the armor.

Her movements in manipulating the armor were fluid and decisive, without a trace of hesitation.

As Li Xiu watched, his expression became somewhat complex.

"Where did she learn these skills?" Li Xiu asked Ye Yuzhen beside him.

Ye Yuzhen said somewhat embarrassedly, "Due to certain reasons, I didn't find her a Magic Armor Master for specialized learning but instead provided some materials for her to teach herself. She also likes to watch videos online and imitate them herself. Although the skills she learns are rather basic, she learns quickly, definitely has good talent...."

Ye Yuzhen was somewhat worried that Li Xiu might look down on Ye Xiyuan. These seemingly random techniques learned online appeared rather basic in his view.

Li Xiu looked at Ye Yuzhen, feeling as if this guy had some issues.

Most of the techniques Ye Xiyuan used were innovations created by Li Xiu himself.

Many seemed simple, but they placed very high demands on Magic Armor Masters; some techniques, even S-grade Magic Armor Masters couldn't perform as perfectly as Ye Xiyuan.

Knowing that Ye Xiyuan was controlling E-grade armor, how could such talent be considered merely good? It was simply extraordinary.

Li Xiu truly hadn't anticipated that Ye Yuzhen had a sister with such exceptional talent as a Magic Armor Master.

Logically, being siblings, if one didn't have the talent as a Magic Armor Master, then the other's talent, even if present, wouldn't be very strong.

Although Magic Armor Master talent isn't entirely dependent on hereditary factors, it does have some connection to genetic inheritance.

"That's enough. I need to ask her a few questions." Li Xiu said.

Ye Yuzhen hurriedly called Ye Xiyuan over. After deactivating her armor and carrying the Magic Armor Box, she came to Ye Yuzhen's side, standing shyly and unconsciously leaning slightly behind him.

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It's really difficult to associate her introverted and shy appearance with the person who was controlling the Demon Armor just now.

"Xiyuan, where did you learn those techniques you used earlier?" Li Xiu asked Ye Xiyuan softly.

This is truly a treasure; perhaps for a long time in the future, she will be an important fighting force in Zhongshan City.

"I learned from online. I watched many God's battle videos." Ye Xiyuan's eyes immediately lit up at the mention of God.

"Did you find it difficult when learning those techniques?" Li Xiu asked again.

"Some were really difficult; no matter how I tried, I couldn't learn them. Some were relatively easy, and I could master them in a few hours. Others were quite tough and took days, even ten days to learn." Ye Xiyuan replied timidly.

"Which ones couldn't you learn?" Li Xiu asked again.

Ye Xiyuan listed the names given to those techniques online, and upon hearing them, Li Xiu's expression became even more complex.

Not to mention Ye Xiyuan, even Li Xiu himself couldn't use those techniques even with E-Class Demon Armor. These techniques require advanced Demon Armor with certain capabilities and special functions to complete them; of course, she couldn't learn them with E-Class Demon Armor.

"Which do you think are a bit difficult?" Li Xiu thought for a moment and asked again.

When Ye Xiyuan mentioned the names of those techniques, Li Xiu was even more surprised.

This girl's talent as a Magic Armor Master might be better than he imagined; those techniques are not simple, and even an S-Class Magic Armor Master might not be able to learn them all.

After all, every Magic Armor Master has their own specialties and areas of expertise, and it's rare for a Magic Armor Master to be as comprehensive as Li Xiu.

Although this girl is still not as good as Li Xiu, the fact that she can master so many different types of techniques is quite admirable.

"Come with me." Li Xiu led Ye Yuzhen and Ye Xiyuan into his private courtyard and placed the Ghost-faced Magic Armor in front of Ye Xiyuan.

"Try and see if you can activate this set of Demon Armor." Li Xiu wanted to know just how high Ye Xiyuan's talent was.

After being modified, the Ghost-faced Magic Armor is similar to the Red Flower Magic Armor he used earlier; activating it demands high levels of Spiritual Sense, and even ordinary S-Class Magic Armor Masters might not be able to do it.

Actually, finding out the level of Ye Xiyuan's Spiritual Sense is easy; they could have Ximen Guan do a test, but Li Xiu didn't want Ximen Guan to know about Ye Xiyuan's existence just yet.

"You can do it, go for it." Ye Yuzhen was on the side encouraging Ye Xiyuan.

Ye Xiyuan walked to the Magic Armor Box and reached out to grasp the activation device.

After grabbing the activation equipment, several seconds passed before the Magic Armor Box finally moved, and Li Xiu saw the Ghost-faced Magic Armor being activated, enveloping Ye Xiyuan's curvy figure.

"This time I've truly hit the jackpot." Li Xiu looked appreciatively at Ye Xiyuan in the Ghost-faced Magic Armor.

"City Lord, what do you think? My sister can, right?" Ye Yuzhen asked somewhat uncertainly.

Because the Ghost-faced Magic Armor appeared so worn-out, not like any advanced armor, and Ye Xiyuan took so long to activate it, they worried it was due to Ye Xiyuan's lack of ability.

"Not only can she do it, she's really very good. From now on, you should stay in the City Lord's Mansion. I'll find someone to custom-make a set of armor for her." Li Xiu was in a very good mood.

"Xiyuan, hurry and thank the City Lord." Ye Yuzhen was greatly delighted upon hearing Li Xiu mention customization of armor for Ye Xiyuan.

Li Xiu had accommodation arranged for them, and the siblings thanked him profusely. As they were leaving, Li Xiu asked Ye Xiyuan, "Why do you seem to learn only God's techniques, and rarely learn others' techniques?"

"I think God is the best Magic Armor Master. He not only has advanced techniques but also a selfless and kind heart. Other Magic Armor Masters are rarely willing to share their techniques, but he selflessly shares his Magic Armor Manipulation Technique with everyone. He is my goal as a Magic Armor Master and my idol. I want to become a Magic Armor Master like him in the future..." Ye Xiyuan's eyes lit up again when talking about God, losing her usual shy demeanor.

"You should go rest." Li Xiu was really unable to continue listening.

After the siblings left, Li Xiu pondered how to get a set of armor for Ye Xiyuan and how to involve her in some actual combat.

Earlier, Li Xiu was considering who could step up to resolve any issues should Zhongshan City encounter danger while he's away at Sea Heaven Trial Ground.

The appearance of Ye Xiyuan resolved this biggest dilemma.

"It looks like I'll have to pay Old Guan a visit." Li Xiu decided to approach Ximen Guan.

He planned to take the Ghost-faced Magic Armor to the Sea Heaven Trial Ground and couldn't leave it with Ye Xiyuan; he would have to craft another S-Class Magic Armor.

...

In the lab, Ximen Guan's eye kept twitching.

Though normally delighted to have Li Xiu in the lab, implying strong interest in his research achievements.

Maybe Li Xiu says he doesn't want it now, but when his Magic Armor is complete, it'll follow the "True Fragrance" rule.

Currently, Ximen Guan believed there were just two Magic Armor Masters qualified to use his armor: God, in Space City and unknown in terms of both background and character, thus making it unwise to approach and offer his achievements freely to him.

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In this case, Li Xiu is currently the most suitable candidate.

This is why Ximen Guan hopes Li Xiu can visit the laboratory frequently; every time Li Xiu comes by, he is very happy.

This time, Li Xiu came over, and at first, he was very happy.

But who knew that after Li Xiu arrived, he didn't say a word, just walked around, looking and shaking his head.

This made Ximen Guan extremely uncomfortable, feeling like a kitten scratching at his heart.

"Why are you shaking your head like that? Are you a bobblehead? If there's something you don't like, just say it. Don't give me this nonsense," Ximen Guan couldn't help but shout at Li Xiu.

"Old man..." Li Xiu hesitated, just addressing Ximen Guan, then shaking his head and sighing, "Forget it, it's nothing."

"If you don't tell me what's going on today, you won't be leaving this room," Ximen Guan's temper flared up.

"Old man, don't be so anxious. I just feel that your laboratory's equipment is really too poor, it's wasting all your knowledge and skills," Li Xiu sighed.

Upon hearing Li Xiu say this, Ximen Guan's face immediately lit up with joy: "Who says it's not true? These crappy instruments are too outdated, barely usable. If it weren't to save you money, would I be using this junk?"

"Yeah, it's really a pity, I can't stand watching it. As the Father of Demon Armor, using such junk, I feel guilty even thinking about it," Li Xiu said with heartbreaking sincerity.

"Don't worry about it. Our current conditions aren't great; I can make do with these things. We'll replace them when things get better," Ximen Guan shrugged off the earlier discomfort, now turning to comfort Li Xiu instead.

"No, you can't just make do with anything else here. Without advanced magical equipment, with so many enemies around, how can we stand our ground? Nearby, we have the Red Sand City Lord; far off, there's Changsheng Tian. They're all formidable opponents. We must quickly complete your magical equipment research. It is our fundamental means of survival..."

Li Xiu's words made Ximen Guan's heart fill with joy, and he held Li Xiu's hand, saying, "Kid, you finally understand. Don't worry, I will complete the last few parts of the Demon Armor quickly. Just wait to wear it."

"Old man, without good equipment, how can you speed up? I can wait, but those like the Red Sand City Lord definitely won't. Today, I just killed the informant the Red Sand City Lord placed here. I'm afraid he will disregard the face of the Chu Family and launch a massive attack on Zhongshan City. When that happens, I can take you and flee, but the equipment can't run..." Li Xiu lamented as he spoke.

"That's true, although these junk devices aren't great, a few of them are really hard to get..." Ximen Guan frowned as well.

"So, now we must dedicate all city resources to safeguard your research, allowing you to complete the Demon Armor as quickly as possible," Li Xiu declared righteously.

"That's great! The fact that you think this way shows I wasn't wrong about you." Ximen Guan was so excited that he listened intently.

"I plan to bring out all of the city's current resources to buy equipment for you, but I saw your list. The equipment needed is insanely expensive. You know the current situation in Zhongshan City, we really can't come up with that kind of money..." Li Xiu sighed.

"What should we do then?" Ximen Guan, caught up in Li Xiu's worries, also became anxious.

"There is a way, but it will take some effort on your part, old man," Li Xiu quickly said.

"Whatever I can do, just say the word. To complete my Demon Armor as soon as possible, I am willing to give you my full support," Ximen Guan vowed, showing his emaciated chest as surety of his commitment.

"Well, it's like this, I have a friend who is a Magic Armor Master. He's extremely wealthy but unfortunately lacking connections, unable to procure a high-standard magical armor. A few days ago, he saw my Ghost-faced Magic Armor and was enviously tearing up, begging me to help him get a set, but I didn't dare promise him. The armor reformed by you, old man, isn't something easily obtained, right? Where would I find another set for him..."

Listening to this, Ximen Guan was delighted, but Li Xiu shifted the topic, "But then again, he did say if he could get a set of magical armor similar to the Ghost-faced Magic Armor, he would be willing to pay generously, regardless of the cost. I estimated that taking this deal would cover all of your equipment needs."

"This..." Ximen Guan hesitated.

He wanted to fully dedicate himself to his Demon Armor and was unwilling to waste time making other magical armor.

Li Xiu didn't tell him straight away because he knew it would be useless — this guy was solely focused on his own set of magical armor. In his words, apart from his set, all other magical armor is trash. Would he waste precious time creating a pile of trash?

The last time he helped Li Xiu modify the Ghost-faced Magic Armor was only because Li Xiu accidentally broke it, and he had to fix it. Even so, Li Xiu had to urge him several times before he reluctantly found the time to do it.

"If you don't have the time, forget it. I didn't promise him anything. We'll just wait on the equipment issue, maybe one day a gemstone vein will be discovered nearby, and your equipment needs will be taken care of," Li Xiu said, preparing to leave.

"Don't rush off, I didn't say I couldn't make it, but to create an S-Class Magic Armor, we'll at least need an S-Class Demon Core and auxiliary materials, right?" Ximen Guan thought it was absurd to wait for a gemstone vein to be discovered for the equipment.

While the Southern Cross Federation has many gemstone veins, you can't just dig anywhere and find them.

"Leave that to me, you just make a list for me." Li Xiu pressed Ximen Guan to make a list and then left with it.

Li Xiu was gone for quite a while before Ximen Guan realized something seemed off: "No, this kid just arrived at Zhongshan City for the first time. Where does he get a wealthy friend? And what's more, a Magic Armor Master capable of using S-Class Magic Armor? Are there any other S-Class Magic Armor Masters in this godforsaken place?"

Chapter 197 Emperor's Mask

After leaving the laboratory, Li Xiu called Sha Chu over.

When Sha Chu arrived, he brought a suitcase and placed it on Li Xiu's desk.

"What's this?" Li Xiu asked curiously as he looked at Sha Chu.

"The natural topaz you wanted. The quality definitely doesn't match the Emperor Topaz's color, but within Zhongshan City, these are all you can find. Others are color-modified topaz. If you need those, I can get more for you," Sha Chu said.

Li Xiu opened it to find many transparent topazes with a faint yellow hue inside, varying in depth of color. They all had a hint of yellow but weren't as yellow as the Masked Emperor Li Xiu had before.

"Not bad. Take a look at this list. Can you get the items on it?" Li Xiu handed the list from Ximen Guan to Sha Chu.

After looking at it, Sha Chu said, "Aside from the difficulty with the S-Class Demon Core, some S-Class Demon Spirit materials need to be gathered externally, but the rest are not hard to find."

"Leave the S-Class Demon Core to me; find a way for the others," Li Xiu thought and said.

"There's another problem now," Sha Chu said, looking at Li Xiu without responding to him.

"What problem?" Li Xiu asked.

"The City Lord's Mansion is broke," Sha Chu said slowly. "The City Lord's Mansion never had much money. A large part of the merchants have left, and now that you've killed Cha Liang, the remaining big merchants are also fleeing. No one is doing business in Zhongshan City. We're even worse off financially."

"Are you saying I made a mistake?" Li Xiu looked at Sha Chu and asked.

"Mistake or not isn't important; what's important is how to solve the problem. The staff at the City Lord's Mansion need money, the researchers in the laboratory need money even more, and the soldiers with us can't possibly not need money. Without money, we can't do anything, and soon everyone will leave us."

Sha Chu paused and continued, "This is just the beginning. With Cha Liang's death, if Red Sand City blocks us, Zhongshan City will have trouble even with food and water. You should know Zhongshan City was built in this godforsaken place, clean water sources are hard to find, all water and food come from Red Sand City. During the city's construction, only one road was built leading to Red Sand City, so at this rate, Zhongshan City can't keep people. Without the Red Sand City Lord wasting a single soldier, we'll have to leave."

"Isn't Zhongshan City located between Red Sand City and Guyue City? Can't we buy supplies from Guyue City?" Li Xiu frowned and asked.

"You can; you alone can travel through the deep forests to reach Guyue City. But if you want massive transport of food and water, a road is needed. Do you have the money to build a road to Guyue City?" Sha Chu sighed and said, "I really can't figure out why the Red Sand City Lord spent so much manpower and resources to help that idiot Zhongshan City Lord build a city in such a place. It's simply not worth it for just a Trial Gate."

Li Xiu laughed after hearing this, "Sha Chu, you surely have a way, don't you?"

"What way can I have? Without money, there's no way at all," Sha Chu said, pursing his lips.

"I may not have money, but I do have some gemstones," Li Xiu said and took out the gemstones he got from Cha Liang, along with those Sha Chu gave him before, placing them together.

"These gemstones can help us hold on for a few more months. If we add on purchasing the things you need, maybe just three more months, and that's assuming Red Sand City doesn't block us," Sha Chu said, looking at the gemstones.

"Is there no other way?" Li Xiu asked Sha Chu.

"Yes, fully open the Hero's Trial Gate and allow everyone to freely enter and exit it," Sha Chu said.

"You mean, also publish the strategy for clearing the Dark Maze?" Li Xiu pondered and asked.

"Yes, only by doing this can we attract vast numbers of people to Zhongshan City. As long as people come and need food and drink, naturally there will be people bringing supplies here. What we need now is people—regardless of whether they're ordinary people or Trial Takers, we need them. Just attracting Trial Takers isn't enough," Sha Chu explained his plan.

"Alright, soon I'll write up a detailed strategy and give it to you. With this strategy, even ordinary people, as long as they're not too dumb, should be able to pass the Dark Maze under S-Class," Li Xiu didn't mind publishing the Trial Ground strategy. In his view, the more people become Trial Takers, the better.

"As long as we can do this, you can leave the rest to me," Sha Chu smiled and said.

"Then I'll leave it to you. It's good to have you around," Li Xiu sighed and said.

Sha Chu was slightly taken aback, looking at Li Xiu with a somewhat complex expression, then turned and left.

After Sha Chu left, Li Xiu summoned the Masked Emperor. Looking at the Masked Emperor posed a bit of a problem; this thing was like a motorcycle and didn't have a mouth—how should he feed it?

While Li Xiu was thinking, he saw the Masked Emperor itself approach a box containing Yellow Topaz, lifting the lid to reveal its refueling port.

Seeing this, Li Xiu picked up the Yellow Topaz and dropped it into its refueling port.

One made no reaction, nor did two or three. Li Xiu simply picked up the box and poured it in. Soon all the Yellow Topaz in the box were poured into its fuel tank.

Chapter 198 Emperor's Mask_2

"Why hasn't it upgraded yet?" Li Xiu was somewhat speechless. This whole box of Yellow Topaz hadn't allowed the Masked Emperor to level up to D, which was completely unreasonable.

"Buzz buzz!" The Masked Emperor's engine started idling automatically, and the exhaust pipe spewed out golden flame.

As the engine's rotation speed grew higher, the golden flame emitted from the exhaust became more intense.

Suddenly, Li Xiu saw the entire body of the Masked Emperor ablaze with golden flames, completely enveloped by it.

Li Xiu was overjoyed at once; he was familiar with this scene. Every time a Jedi Knight leveled up, they would be ascended by light flames.

After such an upgrade, a skill would be comprehended.

"Is the Masked Emperor about to comprehend a skill?" Li Xiu felt a great sense of joy in his heart.

Sure enough, once the light flames on the Masked Emperor had subsided, it successfully upgraded to D and comprehended a talent skill.

Masked Emperor (Can evolve): Able to summon D-level Magic Spirit Masked Emperor.

Level: D.

Talent Skill: Emperor's Mask.

"What kind of skill is this?" Li Xiu didn't understand what the skill meant, so he ordered the Masked Emperor to use the skill.

The Masked Emperor didn't use the skill, but instead came over to Li Xiu, seemingly indicating for Li Xiu to ride on it.

"What's going on?" Li Xiu wondered as he climbed on.

Just after he climbed on, the golden light flame arose from the Masked Emperor, enveloping Li Xiu.

After the golden light flame dissipated, Li Xiu found a set of golden riding attire appeared on him, including gloves, knee pads, and a helmet, his entire body securely wrapped.

"You really pay attention to traffic safety..." Li Xiu finally understood what the Emperor's Mask skill was, and his expression turned somewhat peculiar.

"Still, this is good, whenever riding it again, there'll be some safety assurance." Li Xiu thought although he could wear demon armor to ride it in the future, having such a skill also counts as a multiple guarantee. Just in case he someday didn't bring any demon armor, he'd still need some protective measures.

The Emperor's Mask didn't continue upgrading, reasons could be insufficient topaz, or it might be that it hasn't completely digested the topaz in the fuel tank.

After storing away the Masked Emperor, Li Xiu pondered for a while and called over Qing Shan.

Qing Shan came wearing demon armor; he won't reveal his true appearance in front of others.

"Qing Shan, is your magic armor fixed?" Li Xiu asked as he looked at Qing Shan.

"Already fixed, City Lord, do you have any orders?" Qing Shan replied.

"I need you to handle something." Li Xiu squinted his eyes as he spoke.

...

In a deserted forest outside the city, Ye Xiyuan looked nervously at Li Xiu, while Ye Yuzhen beside her was also tense.

Li Xiu handed the Ghost-faced Magic Armor to Ye Xiyuan and said, "Starting today, I will personally teach you the maneuvering skills of magic armor, use it to practice."

"City Lord, you will... personally... teach her..." Ye Yuzhen stared at Li Xiu blankly.

Although he knew Li Xiu was formidable, a Magic Armor Master.

But given the deep impressions left by Li Xiu as a Trial Taker, Li Xiu's identity as a Magic Armor Master seemed less legitimate.

Li Xiu paid him no mind, merely having Ye Xiyuan wear the Ghost-faced Magic Armor.

"Starting now, display the techniques you are good at one by one, and I'll correct your mistakes and deficiencies at any time," Li Xiu stated.

Ye Xiyuan was somewhat skeptical, for when she heard Ye Yuzhen talk about Li Xiu, it was always about how impressive his magic spirits were, how fearsome a Trial Taker he was, never hearing how Li Xiu was a Magic Armor Master.

Despite her doubts, Ye Xiyuan followed Li Xiu's instructions.

As Ye Xiyuan displayed her adept techniques one by one, using the Ghost-faced Magic Armor, she felt mental pressure somewhat intense, even taxing.

The Ghost-faced Magic Armor required immense Spiritual Force, and managing to control it was already a significant achievement.

While controlling the Ghost-faced Magic Armor, Ye Xiyuan struggled with its potent dynamics, leading to multiple blunders.

Ye Yuzhen watched anxiously on the side, encouraging Ye Xiyuan while explaining to Li Xiu, "My sister is still not used to this magic armor, give her some time, she'll quickly adapt..."

"I know." Li Xiu calmly watched Ye Xiyuan maneuver the Ghost-faced Magic Armor.

With every technique Ye Xiyuan demonstrated, Li Xiu pointed out various mistakes and deficiencies, along with some technical issues Ye Xiyuan was unaware of.

Ye Yuzhen listening beside was breaking out in a cold sweat, not imagining his sister had so many errors and shortcomings.

After hearing Li Xiu's guidance, Ye Xiyuan increasingly saw Li Xiu as highly formidable.

She had never considered that the techniques she thought she was proficient in still had so many holes and errors.

And Li Xiu seemed to understand everything, no matter what kind of techniques she used, his corrections could always enlighten her, as if opening the door to a new world.

"Being taught by someone feels wonderful..." Ye Xiyuan gradually considered Li Xiu as her mentor, attentively listening to him, resolved of earlier doubts.

While Ye Xiyuan tirelessly practiced, a Magic Armor Master suddenly appeared from the nearby forest.

Chapter 199 Emperor's Mask_3

After the Magic Armor Master appeared, he aimed his palm at Li Xiu and shot Demonic Light, which was about to blast onto Li Xiu.

Ye Xiyuan saw the Demonic Light and instantly reacted, instinctively blocking Li Xiu and raising her hands, blasting out two beams of Demonic Light, colliding with the Magic Armor Master's Demonic Light.

Boom!

The Demonic Light exploded, and the Magic Armor Master's Demonic Light was clearly not as strong as Ye Xiyuan's. After his Demonic Light was destroyed, Ye Xiyuan's Demonic Light continued to shoot towards him.

The Magic Armor Master crossed his arms, and a cyan-colored Shield of Light appeared in front of him, blocking Ye Xiyuan's shooting Demonic Light.

Ye Xiyuan saw her Demonic Light being blocked and immediately charged forward violently. The Evil Ghost Light Blade of the Ghost-faced Magic Armor was triggered, and two dark purple Light Blades were wielded by Ye Xiyuan, aggressively slashing and chopping towards the Magic Armor Master.

Boom boom! Bang!

Her hands flickered with Light Blades, and her eyes shot out Demonic Light, with Ye Xiyuan's frenzied assault leaving Ye Yuzhen and Li Xiu somewhat stunned.

Controlling the Magic Armor, Ye Xiyuan seemed like a transformed person, as if she wouldn't stop unless she completely destroyed the opponent.

"This little girl is really something," Li Xiu muttered to himself, knowing that the Magic Armor Master was Qing Shan, arranged by him.

At this moment, Qing Shan was utterly shocked, having thought that only Li Xiu in Zhongshan City was worthy of notice, while others didn't catch his eye at all.

But facing this Magic Armor Master, he had no ability to counterattack. The fierce momentum and variety of powerful attack methods made him think he was facing one of the top-ranked Magic Armor Masters in a battle ranking.

"Boom!" Qing Shan's most formidable Magic Armor Skill, the Cyan Mountain Shield, was forcibly shattered by Ye Xiyuan, and his body was knocked back by the force of the collision.

"Ye Xiyuan, stop." Li Xiu shouted loudly, stopping Ye Xiyuan from pursuing further.

Upon hearing Li Xiu's voice, Ye Xiyuan immediately stopped her advance, making Li Xiu very satisfied.

Li Xiu patted Ye Yuzhen's shoulder and said with a smile, "You were right; your sister is indeed outstanding."

Ye Yuzhen didn't react, still thinking he was in a dream.

He knew Qing Shan, the Magic Armor Master, formerly one of the two S-Class Magic Armor Masters beside the Zhongshan City Lord.

He never thought his sister could defeat Qing Shan, the Magic Armor Master, in such a way. Was this still the Ye Xiyuan he remembered?

"Xiyuan... is actually this strong..." Ye Yuzhen finally came to his senses, but still looked complicatedly at Ye Xiyuan, who was in her Magic Armor.

Li Xiu walked over to Ye Xiyuan and, pointing at Qing Shan, said, "This is Qing Shan, the Magic Armor Master from the mansion. From now on, he'll practice with you to help improve your real combat experience."

"Sorry, I hope I didn't hurt you just now?" Ye Xiyuan said somewhat awkwardly to Qing Shan upon realizing he was one of them.

"No." Qing Shan replied with a bitter smile.

When did he, an S-Class Magic Armor Master, become so fragile that others worried about hurting him?

Under Li Xiu's arrangement, Qing Shan was tasked to spar with Ye Xiyuan. With Li Xiu's guidance, Ye Xiyuan began learning how to restrain her sharpness and properly utilize the energy from the Magic Armor and her Spiritual Sense, instead of indiscriminately releasing her Spiritual Sense, or else she wouldn't last long, and her Spiritual Sense wouldn't meet the standard needed to activate the Ghost-faced Magic Armor.

Li Xiu felt gratified watching from the side; Ye Xiyuan had excellent talent and a strong ability to learn, crucially, she didn't hesitate to save Li Xiu and showed decisiveness during battle, all of which made Li Xiu very satisfied.

"Your sister has a strong talent for being a Magic Armor Master and will definitely become a powerful Magic Armor Master in the future. But a Magic Armor Master always has a weakness; when not equipped with Magic Armor, she needs someone to protect her. You need to work hard," Li Xiu said to Ye Yuzhen beside him.

Ye Yuzhen, hearing this, became more determined: "Don't worry, I won't let anything harm her."

"Take these Black Apatites. From now on, you'll be responsible for opening the Hero Trial Ground. As long as you open the Dark Maze, you must personally participate," Li Xiu handed a portion of the Black Apatites to Ye Yuzhen.

"City Lord, I definitely won't let you down, nor will I let Xiyuan down." Ye Yuzhen said through gritted teeth.

"To make her proud, you've got to become stronger than her first." Li Xiu smiled.

"I can definitely do it." Ye Yuzhen clenched the Black Apatite in hand.

"You have an S-Class Demon Core, right? Give it to me. It's needed for customizing Magic Armor for Xiyuan." Li Xiu reached out his hand and said.

Ye Yuzhen felt joy, quickly handing over his treasured S-Class Demon Core to Li Xiu: "City Lord, you're planning to customize S-Class Magic Armor for Xiyuan?"

"Do you think ordinary Magic Armor matches her?" Li Xiu said with a playful smile.

"Of course not, my sister is a genius Magic Armor Master," Ye Yuzhen laughed, unable to close his mouth.

Just as Li Xiu walked into the City Lord's Mansion, he saw Chu Jun angrily approaching.

"What's the matter, looking so mad?" Li Xiu smiled and asked Chu Jun.

"It's about Zhou Bailong; his secretary called to say the golf trial has been canceled, so you don't need to go," Chu Jun said angrily, "I think he heard about what happened here and didn't want to offend the Red Sand City Lord, so they won't let you take part."

"In our current situation, even if he hadn't canceled, we wouldn't be able to go to Red Sand City, so whether they let me go doesn't matter," Li Xiu said with a smile.

"Why can't we go? I've already arranged it for you: once you finish that golf trial, you'll head straight to the Gate of Purgatory." Chu Jun was still very upset.

"Gate of Purgatory?" Li Xiu stared at Chu Jun, uncertain of his meaning.

"Yes, last time you told Zhou Bailong you wanted to go to the Gate of Purgatory. I've almost got the arrangements done; soon we'll head to the Gate of Purgatory," Chu Jun explained.

"Did the Red Sand City Lord agree?" Li Xiu asked in surprise.

"Does he have a choice? If he disagrees, his magic armor orders are gone." Chu Jun pouted.

Li Xiu immediately understood; the Chu family is the masters of White Night City, one of the world's two major Magic Armor production sites. Besides Space City, the Chu family is the largest Magic Armor merchant, not just wealthy but also commanding a strong force and a family Magic Armor Master system.

Though people often see Space City as the holy ground for Magic Armor Masters, where the produced Magic Armor is absolutely the best.

But White Night City's Magic Armor isn't much different from Space City's. The key is that high-level Magic Armor isn't always available for purchase, whether from Space City or White Night City. In places like the Southern Cross Federation, being able to buy high-level Magic Armor is already quite fortunate.

Chapter 200 The Brain's Perception of Time

Li Xiu looked at the information Chu Jun brought over; the situation was worse than the legends described.

Aside from the first thousand-person training, the Red Sand City Lord had actually organized several Gate of Purgatory trials, and despite knowing some intelligence, still ended with total annihilation, not a single person came out alive.

The information known now was provided by the only person who survived.

The trial at the Gate of Purgatory is very strange; although over a thousand people went in, the person who survived said he saw only himself in a room, with no one else around.

It was a white room, nothing inside, only a light screen indicating the start of an S-level trial, then the screen disappeared, leaving him alone in the room.

The rules of the trial were simple; as long as you stay in the room and wait for the trial to end, you're good.

He didn't know how long he stayed in the room, as there was nothing to measure time with, so there was no way to know how much time had passed.

Just like the rumors outside, after he came out, his mental state seemed problematic, speaking incoherently like he was in a daze. The intelligence above was pieced together by doctors from his nonsensical remarks.

One moment he said it was two or three days, then a few months, then it became years, even more exaggeratedly, he claimed he stayed in the room for several hundred years.

These were all considered his gibberish, after all, it had only been three days from when he went in to when he came out.

Psychiatrists judged it might have been a misperception due to the lack of time measuring tools.

Another speculation suggested that there was something affecting the mind in that room, perhaps some gas, or some sort of mental hypnosis thing; anyway, it's impossible that the room had nothing, definitely something was there.

In subsequent trials, the Red Sand City Lord specially selected people with resistance to drugs or mental hypnosis to enter, but the results were not optimistic; still, no one could come out.

"What do you think?" Chu Jun asked after Li Xiu finished reading the information.

"The Trial Ground has many miraculous things; until you experience it yourself, no one can be certain," Li Xiu thought and said. "Since someone can come out alive, there must be a way to pass."

"I think so too, but with just this bit of information, if you really go in, the possibility of coming out alive is still low. Do you want to give it a try? If you want to try, I've already made contact on that side. You have three days; within three days after you go in, the batch of Demon Armors won't be handed over to Red Sand City. If you haven't come out after three days, then we'll have to complete the transaction as agreed." Chu Jun couldn't make a decision for Li Xiu.

After all, it was a trial that only one person out of a thousand could come out alive from; Chu Jun himself didn't dare to enter, only Li Xiu had the qualification to decide whether to go or not.

"How's the physical condition of the person who came out alive?" Li Xiu thought for a moment and asked.

"Just an average person, not a real Trial Taker, nothing special. Not sure why he was able to come out alive." Chu Jun replied.

"Before the trial, can I meet him?" Li Xiu asked.

"There shouldn't be a problem; I'll arrange it." Chu Jun said.

"Okay, I'll make my decision after seeing him." Li Xiu decided he wanted to check it out.

Since physical condition wasn't the key to survival, Li Xiu thought he could give it a try.

But whether to try or not would have to wait until he met the person.

"Alright, I'll go arrange it, and inform you once there's news." Chu Jun thought for a moment and said, "Actually, I don't quite understand why you'd want to go to such a Trial Ground, it's too dangerous."

"Just want to see what kind of contracts are in such a Trial Ground," Li Xiu said with a smile.

Li Xiu originally planned to finish arranging his matters before going to the Sea Heaven Trial Ground.

Since there's an opportunity to go to the Gate of Purgatory, the Sea Heaven Trial Ground would have to wait.

In the following days, apart from occasionally guiding Ye Xiyuan, Li Xiu spent every day entering the Hero Trial Ground, constantly choosing attribute rewards.

At first, it was just low-level attribute rewards; Li Xiu no longer felt any response in his body, and his physical fitness didn't continue to increase. Later, even with B-level attribute rewards, there was still no sensation, indicating his body enhancement had reached its limit, needing to become a true Trial Taker to continue enhancing.

After a few days, Chu Jun brought good news: they had talked it over, Li Xiu could participate in the Gate of Purgatory trial, and also meet the person who came out alive from it.

Chu Jun asked Li Xiu to pack up, and they would set off to Red Sand City the next day.

Li Xiu had nothing much to pack; he just needed to bring the Ghost-faced Magic Armor to prevent the Red Sand City Lord from renegeing when the time comes.

Before going, Li Xiu planned to stroll through Gemstone Street again to see if he could find another Demon Spirit Gemstone.

Gemstone Street was busier than when Li Xiu came last time; many gemstone shops had reopened, but their signs seemed to have changed; most of the old stores were gone.

Li Xiu visited shop by shop slowly, but despite looking at many gemstones, he didn't find the one that gave him that hunger feeling.