

## **When God 211**

### Chapter 211 Evil Spirit Token\_3

"Sir, should we try to capture him back?" the man beside the Red Sand City Lord said.

"No need, make some arrangements, I want to invite him to a meal." The Red Sand City Lord said calmly.

"Yes." The man responded, but felt a bit puzzled in his heart.

Considering his understanding of the Red Sand City Lord, he hadn't expected the Lord to make such a decision.

First, Li Xiu killed the younger brother-in-law of the Red Sand City Lord and took Zhongshan City, then took out the Lord's close aide Cha Liang, and also the guard Mu Yu sent by the Lord's wife, deeply offending the Red Sand City Lord to such an extent. It was quite unlike the Red Sand City Lord's usual style not to immediately want him dead.

Although Li Xiu had some relationship with the Chu Family of White Night City, he wasn't part of the Chu Family, nor did he have any shared interests with them; the Chu Family couldn't protect him indefinitely.

The Red Sand City Lord seemed to have no reason to leave him be; at the very least, he should take back Zhongshan City.

"Could it be that the City Lord wants to use the banquet as an opportunity to take action against him?" The man thought for a while, feeling it was quite possible, as something the Red Sand City Lord would absolutely do.

However, the timing seemed wrong, the Chu Family hadn't left yet, and taking action against Li Xiu now at the City Lord's Mansion didn't seem appropriate.

The man couldn't figure out what the Red Sand City Lord intended to do, and had to first contact the Chu Family to arrange the meeting between Li Xiu and the Red Sand City Lord.

Li Xiu and Chu Jun returned to Red Sand City, and just before entering, Chu Jun had the soldier stop the car. He got off, walked over to a middle-aged man standing beside the city gate, and said, "Second Uncle, why are you here?"

"If I didn't come, would you come see me? I helped you with such a big favor, we're both in Red Sand City, yet you brat don't even come to see me, and you still have the nerve to call me Second Uncle?" The middle-aged man laughed.

Chu Jun laughed and said, "I was just afraid of disturbing your important business, Second Uncle."

"Stop with that, you're scared I'll take you back, aren't you?" Second Uncle squinted his eyes and said, "Why not go back and inherit the family business? What can you achieve by fiddling around here?"

"We've hardly met, can't we talk about something else, Second Uncle?" Chu Jun said helplessly.

"Alright, then let's talk about your friend." Second Uncle said, looking towards Li Xiu sitting in the car.

Li Xiu stayed in the car and didn't get out, which made Second Uncle somewhat displeased. Since he was Chu Jun's friend, upon seeing this elder, he didn't even come out to greet him, showing poor manners and leaving a bad first impression.

Seeing Second Uncle's dissatisfaction, Chu Jun quickly called Li Xiu out and introduced him, "Li Xiu, this is my Second Uncle, just call him Second Uncle too. This time, if it weren't for Second Uncle's help, convincing the Red Sand City Lord would have been difficult."

"Thank you, Second Uncle." Li Xiu said.

"Coming out of the Gate of Purgatory alive, you indeed did well." Second Uncle shifted the subject, "But individual power is ultimately limited, what are your plans for the future?"

"To continue participating in trials and becoming a better Trial Taker." Li Xiu replied.

"That's indeed a decent path." Second Uncle nodded, seeming to lose interest in Li Xiu, casually mentioning the Red Sand City Lord wanted to invite him for dinner tonight, then pulled Chu Jun aside.

"Do less mingling with people like that in the future." After walking a distance, Second Uncle said to Chu Jun.

"Why?" Chu Jun asked in confusion.

"He's walking the single-log bridge, pursuing the path of facing enemies alone. You are to inherit the Chu Family's business and become the future Lord of White Night City, such a person will be just one of your thousands of subordinates in the future. If you get too close to him and fall under his influence, you may fall short and how could you then inherit the business?" Second Uncle continued seriously.

"A Magic Armor Master also walks the path of facing enemies alone, our family's many brothers, sisters, and elders also follow that path, yet they don't necessarily fall short." Chu Jun countered.

"A Magic Armor Master and a Trial Taker are not the same, don't confuse the two. Since you lack the talent of a Magic Armor Master, you should focus on learning and mastering the path of becoming a Lord, controlling White Night City well." Hearing Chu Jun group Magic Armor Masters with Trial Takers made Second Uncle slightly displeased.

"I don't think there's much difference; a true Trial Taker may not be worse than a Magic Armor Master. You know, true Trial Takers are also very powerful." Chu Jun said defiantly.

Second Uncle said coldly, "You're going astray, probably under Li Xiu's influence. Trial Takers worthy to be compared with Magic Armor Masters? Not to mention that true Trial Takers still find it difficult to match top-tier Magic Armor Masters, fundamentally, Trial Takers can never surpass Magic Armor Masters."

"Why?" Chu Jun didn't agree with Second Uncle's perspective.

"What differentiates humans from animals is wisdom. Do you think the strongest animal can match human-made weapons? The power of technology always surpasses physical strength, and it's the same with Magic Armor Masters and Trial Takers. No matter how strong a Trial Taker becomes, they are

fundamentally inferior. It's good that you want to improve physical qualities, but you must not lose yourself to it; that's not your path." Second Uncle said seriously.

Chu Jun wanted to refute but found himself unable to think of a counterargument, he opened his mouth but said nothing.

"Let's go, come back with me, I'll take you back to White Night City once the transaction is complete. You should get sensible and go back to work seriously." With a commanding tone, Second Uncle left no room for Chu Jun to question.

"Please wait a moment," Chu Jun was unsure what to do when Li Xiu approached and called out to Second Uncle.

"What do you want?" Second Uncle frowned slightly, unwilling to let Chu Jun have further interactions with Li Xiu.

"I have exceptionally good hearing, and I accidentally overheard your conversation just now, I apologize for that. Since Chu Jun calls you Second Uncle, I'll take the liberty to do the same. I think the analogy you made earlier isn't quite accurate." Li Xiu said.

"Oh, how is it inaccurate?" Second Uncle asked, staring at Li Xiu.

Chapter 212 The Correct Way to Control the Cold-Eyed Sword Saint

"Technology is about discovering and applying rules, and so is the Trial Taker. I think what the Trial Taker does is also science, just different from the Magic Armor Master's system," Li Xiu said.

"The technology you talk about is incomparable to that of the Magic Armor Master. Even if what the Trial Taker does can be considered technology, it still doesn't match the value of the Magic Armor Master's tech. Can fitness technology compare with technology used to create destructive weapons? Can a garbage disposal in a kitchen be compared to a spacecraft?" Uncle Chu said lightly.

"Whether they're comparable or not, we can just test it out and see," Li Xiu said.

"How do you want to test it? Are you thinking of dueling with a Magic Armor Master?" Uncle Chu sneered, curling his lips.

"If you're willing, I wouldn't mind," Li Xiu nodded.

"You want to duel with me? Do you know who I am?" Uncle Chu laughed out of anger.

Li Xiu wanted to duel him, an S-class Magic Armor Master who once ranked in the top three in the world. Even though his rank has dropped, he's still a top-tier Magic Armor Master.

Li Xiu, a mere Trial Taker, wanted to challenge him; to Uncle Chu, this was a joke.

"Does who you are have anything to do with proving that Magic Armor Masters and Trial Takers are on equal footing?" Li Xiu feigned obliviousness to Chu Jun's constant winks and spoke calmly to Uncle Chu.

"It's good for young people to have confidence, but blind confidence borders on arrogance. You want to challenge me? Come back after cultivating for several decades," Uncle Chu said, no longer interested in dealing with Li Xiu, despite having met real Trial Takers before.

The Chu Family had an A-class Trial Taker, which should be a top figure among Trial Takers. Yet, in his eyes, an A-class Trial Taker was just a joke.

"Uncle, are you afraid of losing, or do you just not want Chu Jun to stay?" Li Xiu asked.

This statement annoyed Uncle Chu. Turning to Li Xiu, he said coldly, "Out of respect for Xiao Jun, I originally didn't want to make a fuss with you, but since you're so keen on being humiliated, I'll oblige you. Chu Yun, show him what a Magic Armor Master is capable of."

"Yes, Uncle," a young man from the Chu Family stepped forward, looking at Li Xiu, "I'll entertain you."

"This place isn't suitable. Let's find somewhere else," Li Xiu suggested.

The group left the city gates and arrived at a secluded, deserted area. Chu Yun carried a Magic Armor Box and instantly activated the Magic Armor, wearing it on himself.

His armor was an A-class Cold-Eyed Sword Saint, a classic A-class Magic Armor produced by White Night City, especially suited for melee combat.

"Are you sure about this? Our family's Magic Armor Masters are formidable, and Chu Yun is among the top three of the younger generation, very challenging," Chu Jun whispered to Li Xiu.

"Shouldn't be a problem," Li Xiu chuckled.

"Are you planning on using the Spirit?" Chu Jun asked again.

"Depends on the situation," Li Xiu casually replied.

"How do you want to compete?" Chu Yun asked, already a bit impatient.

"Let's just hit the point and stop," Li Xiu walked over and said.

"Don't worry, since you're my brother's friend, I won't really hurt you," Chu Yun said earnestly.

Li Xiu thought to himself, "Silly kid, I'm worried about you getting hurt."

"Are you going to summon the Spirit? I can wait for you," Chu Yun also knew about the existence of Spirits.

Li Xiu let out a silent sigh. Had he not been training with Magic Armor Masters all this time, he would have known about Trial Takers and Spirits.

"No need, I'll summon the Spirit when necessary." Li Xiu didn't want to bully a kid and didn't initiate an attack.

But Chu Yun grew impatient: "Then use your contract, don't waste time."

"Since you insist, I'll use it," Li Xiu drew the Fire Lotus Sword, which was no longer a burden but was now quite agile in his hands.

"What are you waiting for, hit me!" Chu Yun urged, seeing Li Xiu standing there with the sword, unmoved.

"Do you want me to strike first?" Li Xiu asked with a strange expression.

"Of course, if I strike first, you won't have a chance," Chu Yun confidently declared.

"Alright then," Li Xiu didn't want to waste time and walked over with the Fire Lotus Sword.

"Can you walk faster?" Chu Yun urged again, a magic light flashed in his hand to form a sword-shaped Demon Light Blade, watching Li Xiu approach slowly without any fighting spirit.

"Young people shouldn't be too hasty; relax first to better unleash your power," Li Xiu said as he suddenly flicked the Fire Lotus Sword in front of Chu Yun.

Though the Fire Lotus Sword appeared upright, it was actually a soft sword. With Li Xiu's flick, the blade twisted and vibrated like a phantom towards Chu Yun.

"Here it comes!" Chu Yun shouted and slashed his Light Saber towards Li Xiu.

His speed was much faster than Li Xiu's. The Light Saber flashed and quickly reached Li Xiu.

Just as Chu Yun's Light Saber moved, Li Xiu had preemptively acted. As the Light Saber descended, he swiftly dodged it, got close to Chu Yun, and pointed the Fire Lotus Sword at his neck.

According to Li Xiu's agreement of hitting the point and stopping, Chu Yun should have already lost by now.

#### Chapter 213 The Correct Method to Control the Cold-Eyed Sword Saint\_2

However, Chu Yun didn't understand it that way. He thought that by wearing the Demon Armor, Li Xiu's sword couldn't possibly pierce through it, posing no threat to him, so the outcome couldn't be determined yet.

The Demonic Light Patterns on his body erupted once more, moving quickly, while slashing his Light Saber toward Li Xiu.

Li Xiu moved while striking, dodging Chu Yun's attack, and then pointed his sword tip at him again.

Chu Yun still paid no mind, launching another attack.

The two engaged in close combat, Li Xiu moving gracefully, always managing to dodge Chu Yun's attacks by a hair's breadth, each time pointing the sword tip at Chu Yun.

At first, Second Uncle Chu didn't regard Li Xiu at all, but after watching for a while, his expression gradually turned serious.

Unlike Chu Yun, Second Uncle Chu was a seasoned warrior, and his understanding of Demon Armor far surpassed that of Chu Yun.

Initially, he was just a bit surprised by Li Xiu's close combat skills, being able to dodge and counterattack so effortlessly even when outmatched in speed and strength. Such skills and combat experience were far beyond what a young person like Chu Yun could compare to.

But what truly shocked Second Uncle Chu was that every time Li Xiu pointed his sword tip, it was at the connecting points of the Cold-Eyed Sword Saint's Demon Armor. Those connection points were naturally not as hard as armor, and if Li Xiu really struck down, he might actually damage Chu Yun's Demon Armor.

In front of Li Xiu, Chu Yun was like a toddler who had just learned to walk; even if he held a gun, it would just be an ornament, serving no real purpose.

"Chu Yun, step back." Second Uncle Chu ordered, halting Chu Yun's continued attacks.

"Why, Uncle? I haven't beaten him yet." Chu Yun said, not understanding.

"That's enough. Stop embarrassing yourself." Second Uncle Chu pulled Chu Yun back.

Seeing Chu Yun's disgruntled expression, Second Uncle Chu said nothing else; even if he wanted to lecture Chu Yun, he would wait until they were back home, not wanting to reprimand him in front of outsiders.

"Your close combat skills are strong, and your experience is very rich. You are somewhat familiar with our White Night City's Demon Armor, but if you're not given a chance for close combat, what will you do?" Second Uncle Chu looked at Li Xiu and said, yet there was no trace of disdain in his eyes anymore.

"That would be troublesome; I'm currently just an E-level Trial Taker and don't have any long-range attack methods." Li Xiu pondered and said.

Second Uncle Chu felt proud, thinking he had found Li Xiu's weakness and intended to educate him properly, but who knew Li Xiu would continue, "If I can't engage in close combat, then I'll have to use Demonic Spirits. That shouldn't be against the rules, right?"

"Uh, of course not." Second Uncle Chu was momentarily stunned but replied.

"So Chu Jun can stay?" Li Xiu asked.

"If you can pass my challenge, I'll allow him to stay." Second Uncle Chu said, walking to Chu Yun, taking the Cold-Eyed Sword Saint Demon Armor for himself. While activating the Demon Armor, he said to Chu Yun, "Watch carefully, this is how to truly operate the Cold-Eyed Demon Armor, don't just rely on brute strength. Operating the Demon Armor requires skill."

Second Uncle Chu planned to use this opportunity to give these young Chu family members a good lesson.

Chu Yun and the other young Magic Armor Masters of the Chu family watched from the side, a little excited. It had been years since Second Uncle Chu had used the Demon Armor in combat; they all wanted to witness the style of the world's third-ranked Magic Armor Master from back then.

"You're a friend of Xiao Jun, and I don't wish to hurt you, so I won't use long-range attack methods. I'll give you a chance for close combat." Second Uncle Chu said to Li Xiu.

"Do we still just touch lightly?" Li Xiu looked at Second Uncle Chu and asked.

"That's correct." Second Uncle Chu condensed a Light Blade, pointed at Li Xiu and said, "Show me all your skills, so you won't regret losing."

"This blood relation surely can't be fake, they're both surnamed Chu, and their personalities are much the same." Li Xiu thought to himself, silently griping, this guy's personality was no better than Chu Yun's.

He moved quickly, thrusting his sword toward Second Uncle Chu.

"Watch closely, this is how the Cold-Eyed Sword Saint truly operates." Second Uncle Chu said in a deep voice. White Light Patterns appeared on the Cold-Eyed Sword Saint's body, as his form moved like a phantom, so fast that it left afterimages in place.

As he moved quickly, Second Uncle Chu slashed out with the Light Saber, the direction of the Light Saber coinciding precisely with his body movement, which increased the speed at which the Light Saber was slashed out and also added force.

Li Xiu secretly activated Frenzied Blood and Super Exciting, his speed suddenly increased, passing by Second Uncle Chu.

"Eh!" Second Uncle Chu's Light Saber missed, then he found Li Xiu's Fire Lotus Sword already pointed backhandedly at his nape.

Second Uncle Chu's body paused immediately, thankfully, he was wearing the Demon Armor, so his face couldn't be seen, otherwise, his deeply embarrassed, bright red old face would have been visible.

The young ones from the Chu family stared blankly at Second Uncle Chu, unsure of the situation, while Chu Jun had a hard time holding back laughter.

"This strike didn't hit a vital point, doesn't count, should we try again?" Li Xiu sheathed his sword and looked at Second Uncle Chu.

Second Uncle Chu said nothing; originally, he intended to reserve some power of the Cold-Eyed Sword Saint, not to unleash it to the fullest extent.

Now it seemed he couldn't hold back anymore, he had to retrieve the face he just lost.

With a cold light flickering, Second Uncle Chu approached Li Xiu like a ghost, his Light Saber slashing quickly, leaving afterimages all along the way.

Chapter 214 The Correct Method to Control the Cold-Eyed Sword Saint\_3

Li Xiu was too familiar with Demon Armor. Uncle Chu's control skills were quite good, but unfortunately, he didn't choose the right opponent.

This kind of close combat is actually very disadvantageous for a Magic Armor Master.

A Magic Armor Master's opponents are generally magic spirits, which are typically much larger than humans. Especially the advanced ones, which are often several tens of meters high, and some can even reach hundreds of meters.

Against these magic spirits, Magic Armor Masters appear petite and agile, and close combat is relatively flexible.

But no matter how agile a Demon Armor is, ultimately it's not the user's own body, making it hard to achieve seamless control.

Only a handful of Magic Armor Masters can operate their armor with the finesse of controlling their own body, and achieve such sensitive combat.

Uncle Chu did quite well, but it still wasn't meticulous enough.

Li Xiu, engaged in close combat, though not as fast, leveraged the slight delay in Uncle Chu's control of the Demon Armor to evade his Light Saber, the sword tip once again pointing at him.

"Continue?" Li Xiu withdrew his sword and stepped back, looking at Uncle Chu as he spoke.

"You win." Uncle Chu shook his head, turned, and walked towards his family.

Chu Jun wanted to cheer but seeing Uncle Chu's desolate silhouette, his joy dissipated.

"Uncle..."

Chu Jun tried to say something, but Uncle Chu cut him off with a wave: "The Chu Family never fears failure. A loss is a loss, no excuses. But my loss doesn't mean the Chu Family's Demon Armor is no good, nor are Magic Armor Masters inferior to Trial Takers. It's just that I'm not a good Magic Armor Master. I've lost, you can choose your own path, but think carefully about what's truly important to you."

With that, Uncle Chu led the Chu family members away.

Chu Jun looked towards Li Xiu, who nonchalantly said: "Why are you looking at me? If you want to return, just go back; it doesn't matter to me."

Chu Jun glanced in the direction the Chu family had left, bit his lip, and said: "I've finally found hope in life, how can I just return like this?"

Then, sizing up Li Xiu, Chu Jun asked: "Strange, why haven't I seen any other Trial Takers as powerful as you? How are you so particularly strong? You shouldn't be just an E-grade Trial Taker, what did you do just now?"

"I can teach you, but I'm afraid you can't endure the hardship." Li Xiu chuckled.

"I'm not afraid of hardship, if I were, I wouldn't have left the Chu Family." Chu Jun stared at Li Xiu for a while before suddenly saying: "Why don't I take you as my master, and you teach me those Trial Taker combat skills?"

"No need to become an apprentice, just pay." Li Xiu laughed.

"Are you that short of money?" Chu Jun rolled his eyes.

"Yes, very. But since you helped open the Gate of Purgatory with quite a few gemstones, consider that your tuition fee." Li Xiu really was in need of money.

Researching and manufacturing Demon Armor is very costly, and the magic spirits he possesses also consume a lot of money. Upgrading those spirits, which one doesn't need money?

Li Xiu decided to head to the Trial Ground to enhance his physical fitness, and by the way, get back the Blood Pattern Revolver from the Sea Heaven Trial Ground.

The Evil Spirit Token doesn't have any attack skills and can't be used as a weapon normally, so he needs to find a decent Symbiotic Contract as soon as possible.

After entering the city with Chu Jun, staff from Red Sand City took them to their residence. Just when they hadn't rested long, the Red Sand City Lord sent someone to invite him to a banquet.

"I'll go with you." Chu Jun was somewhat worried that the Red Sand City Lord might harm Li Xiu.

"No need, wait for me to come back." Li Xiu picked up the Ghost-faced Magic Armor, thinking if the Red Sand City Lord really wanted to do something at the banquet, it was uncertain who would need to be cautious.

Li Xiu was taken to the City Lord's Mansion, and when entering, no one searched him or demanded he surrender his backpack.

Because Li Xiu was a Trial Taker, in the City Lord's view, searching him was pointless.

That backpack didn't seem capable of hiding a Demon Armor, hence there was no forced search, indicating an expression of goodwill from the City Lord.

"Apparently, today's meal is not a Hongmen Banquet." Li Xiu mused silently.

After arriving at the dining room, Li Xiu saw the frail old man, whose weak appearance made it hard to associate with the most powerful man in the Southern Cross Federation.

"Please sit." The Red Sand City Lord smiled, gesturing to a nearby chair.

Li Xiu wasn't polite, sat down, and beautiful maids immediately came up to serve.

Pouring tea, serving wine, even picking up dishes, Li Xiu didn't need to lift a finger.

With just a look, the maid beside him would serve food onto his plate, even removing fish bones and chicken bones for him.

"Congratulations on returning alive from the Gate of Purgatory, you're the first to come out intact from there." The Red Sand City Lord raised his glass.

"Thanks to the City Lord's generosity." Li Xiu raised his glass too, gave a slight nod, and took a sip.

"It's not about generosity, if a talentless person did those things, he would have died long ago. My generosity wouldn't have mattered." The Red Sand City Lord smiled: "You being alive is your capability. Being able to sit here and dine with me proves your competence; these are all your achievements, unrelated to anyone else."

"The City Lord is quite an interesting person." Li Xiu smiled.

"Since we have mutual admiration, are you interested in collaborating with me?" The Red Sand City Lord put down his glass.

"How do we cooperate?" Li Xiu knew the main event was coming.

"Didn't Zhou Bailong previously ask you to help him play golf?" The City Lord's words surprised Li Xiu slightly.

He originally thought the City Lord would talk about the Gate of Purgatory or Zhongshan City, didn't expect it to be about golf.

"Yes, but he's got a new candidate and doesn't need me now." Li Xiu replied.

"He doesn't need you, but I do. Would you help me with this favor?" The City Lord smiled, "Of course, it's not free help. Don't you want to access the Trial Gate? I have more Trial Gates here than Zhou Bailong, and if you help me win the golf match, you can use all the Trial Gates here, including the Gate of Purgatory, at will. Plus, Zhongshan City will be yours, and I can make it part of the Southern Cross Federation."

"With such favorable terms, I don't seem to have a reason to refuse, but I want to review the Trial Ground data first." Li Xiu shifted the conversation: "Is that Trial Gate so important to you?"

"The Trial Gate isn't important, but winning this match is a must." The City Lord had information brought to Li Xiu.

"It seems I can't afford to lose this match." Li Xiu, after checking the data, looked at the City Lord.

"If you lose, you won't be able to leave that Trial Ground." The City Lord laughed.

"Then let's toast to our victory." Li Xiu raised his glass.

"I'm growing fonder of you." The City Lord laughed, clinked glasses with Li Xiu, and drank all the wine in the glass.

Chapter 215 The Impossible 1

"The Red Sand City Lord didn't make things difficult for you, did he?" As soon as Li Xiu returned, Chu Jun hurriedly approached him.

"No, he just wanted to discuss some business with me." Li Xiu replied.

"He wants to do business with you?" Chu Jun's eyes widened: "It's already good enough that he didn't kill you, and now he even wants to do business?"

"Do you remember that golf duel Zhou Bailong mentioned? It was with him, the Red Sand City Lord." Li Xiu said.

"So, the Red Sand City Lord wants you to represent him in that duel?" Chu Jun said with a bitter smile. "The world truly is mysterious, it all comes full circle, and you're still going to participate in that golf duel."

"There's no harm in participating, and the terms offered by the Red Sand City Lord aren't bad either. In the future, Zhongshan City will nominally belong to us, and the Trial Gates under the Red Sand City Lord can also be used by me as I wish." Li Xiu explained.

"With the Red Sand City Lord being so generous this time, there won't be any conspiracy, will there?" Chu Jun asked, a bit incredulous.

"Do you think if he doesn't give me Zhongshan City, he can take it back? It's nothing more than a favor given as a matter of convenience. As for those Trial Gates, he doesn't lose anything by having someone explore them for free." Li Xiu laughed. "Being the guide for the Southern Cross Federation, he's more

than just ruthless, lecherous, or brutal. How long did Zheng De last in Tyrone City before he couldn't manage it anymore? He's tougher than Zheng De; is there anyone in Red Sand City who dares oppose him?"

"It does make sense when you put it like that. He's controlled Red Sand City for decades without any major issues. He's certainly exceptional."

Chu Jun suddenly remembered something and looked at Li Xiu, asking, "What's inside the Purgatory Gate Trial Ground?"

"Like they said, there's nothing there, just a white room. You can come out once the trial time ends." Li Xiu said.

"That simple? Why can't those people come out?" Chu Jun seemed doubtful.

"It's not that they can't come out; they just haven't waited for the trial time to end. The trial lasts three days, but their brains are affected, so to them, three days feel like three billion years. The likelihood of a person staying there for three billion years without going insane or committing suicide is very slim." Li Xiu explained.

"Three billion years! Staying in such a place for three billion years is terrifying; no wonder those who come out alive become lunatics..." Chu Jun shivered upon hearing this.

"That person isn't a lunatic; he's a genius, a very talented genius." Li Xiu elaborated on the theories regarding the 'lunatic' and 'mind trap.'

"So that's how it is, he really is a genius, able to break his brain's slow-motion time perception like that. It's a pity he's trapped in his own thoughts. By the way, how did you manage to come out? I noticed you're not mentally impaired, nor are you stuck obsessing over a single thought like a lunatic." Chu Jun examined Li Xiu, questioning him.

"Me? I have a remote control. The Trial Ground slowed down time, but I can speed it up a bit, so I came out effortlessly." Li Xiu said with a smile.

"Hmph, you think you're God, able to control time." Chu Jun felt that Li Xiu didn't want to say more, so he didn't press the issue.

"Do you want to take a look inside the Purgatory Gate?" Li Xiu asked.

Chu Jun shook his head like a rattle drum, "I don't want to become a lunatic, nor do I have the ability to endure three billion years. I'd rather honestly go to other Trial Gates to enhance my abilities."

"Speaking of which, I have a question for you. You're an E-grade Trial Taker now, right?" Li Xiu pondered and asked.

"Yes, why?" Chu Jun looked at him puzzledly.

"What was your Primordial Embryo Quality when you first became an E-grade Trial Taker?" Li Xiu was somewhat concerned about this question.

When he became a formal Trial Taker, his Primordial Embryo Quality was 1. If everyone becomes an E-grade Trial Taker with a Primordial Embryo Quality of 1, what was the point of his previous trial enhancements? Just to pick up a contract?"

"0.9, what about you?" Chu Jun said somewhat proudly.

"I am 1." Li Xiu answered.

"1? Are you sure?" Chu Jun was shocked.

"Is there a problem?" Li Xiu found Chu Jun's reaction curious.

"Of course, there's a problem. The Primordial Embryo Quality can't possibly reach 1, the most is 0.9, and maybe there's a range within 0.9 with some hidden values not displayed, but even those hidden values are only 0.0X. No Trial Taker's initial Primordial Embryo Quality can reach 1." Chu Jun explained.

"Why can't it be 1?" Li Xiu still didn't understand why it couldn't be 1.

"First, you need to know what 1 represents. Let me put it this way: if you compare Primordial Embryo Quality to gold, you've seen gold with 999 purity, but have you ever seen gold with 100% purity? Does such a thing exist?" Chu Jun used an analogy.

"So, you're saying Primordial Embryo Quality isn't directly equivalent to physical fitness; it's more like a purity of some kind in the body?" Li Xiu began to understand.

"Correct, your understanding is mostly right. Primordial Embryo Quality isn't purely bodily fitness, as you said; it's also an expression of purity. Have you ever seen something with 100% purity? Anyway, I haven't seen a Trial Taker's Primordial Embryo Quality reach 1. If you really are 1, then it can only be said that you are very powerful, and you will only become stronger in the future."

Chapter 216 Impossible 1\_2

Chu Jun continued, "When you advance to D-level in the future, you need your Primordial Embryo Quality to reach 2; for C-level, it needs to be 4; B-level would be 8; and for A-level, it'd be 16. Calculate it. I'm at 0.9 now, and if it doubles each time, see how much less I'll have than you by the time I reach A-level."

"At the same A-level, I'd only have 14.4, which is 1.6 less than you. If there was an S-level, you'd be at 32, and I'd only be at 28.8. That's also because my Primordial Embryo Quality is considered top-tier. For others with even lower quality, can you imagine how much less they'd have than you?"

"Why don't they strengthen their bodies to the maximum before advancing levels?" Li Xiu asked, voicing the doubt in his heart.

"Do you think they don't want to? It's that their bodies have already reached their limits, and they have no way to continue improving. They can only reach 0.7, not because they don't want to go higher, but because they can't increase it. Their purity can only reach that level. That's also why when you said you're at 1, I couldn't believe it, because I've never seen a Trial Taker able to reach 1, at least I've never heard of it. Humans are always flawed; it's impossible to be perfect. So, there's no such thing as a perfect Primordial Embryo Quality." With a complex expression, Chu Jun looked at Li Xiu, still finding it hard to believe and asked, "Is your Primordial Embryo Quality really 1?"

"Yes, it's really 1," Li Xiu smiled and said, "That means I'm quite amazing, right?"

"That's very impressive," Chu Jun thought for a moment and said, "But you'd better not talk about having a Primordial Embryo Quality of 1 in the future. You know, being too outstanding can sometimes be a curse."

"Got it. What's your Primordial Embryo Quality now?" Li Xiu naturally understood this reasoning, and he didn't think there was anything worth bragging about.

"Now it's 1.6. It's really tough to improve the Primordial Embryo Quality. Some trial rewards can increase it by 0.1, while some can't increase it at all. The higher you go, the harder it gets. I generally don't participate in E-level trials anymore because they barely help improve the Primordial Embryo Quality. Only above D-level do they have a slight effect, and it has to be the final Attribute Reward. The small enhancement rewards in between can only increase some hidden values in the back; the front won't change at all." Chu Jun said painfully.

"Why don't you think of ways to increase the level of the Symbiotic Contract? That way, you could level up together. It shouldn't be too hard for you to gather some Gemstones or Demon Cores to enhance the Symbiotic Contract's level, right?" Li Xiu was still somewhat puzzled.

"That's the annoying part about the Symbiotic Contract. Since we are one with the Symbiotic Contract, if our Primordial Embryo Quality doesn't go up, no matter how much the Symbiotic Contract consumes, it can't improve." Chu Jun explained the situation in detail.

"Whoa, so that's how it works. You mean the Symbiotic Contract's quality can't exceed our own Primordial Embryo Quality?" Li Xiu realized his previous understanding was somewhat skewed.

"That's exactly right, whereas the Parasitic Contract doesn't have that restriction. As long as it has suitable Gemstones or Demon Cores, its level can increase rapidly. However, even the Parasitic Contract has its limits. Since it doesn't co-exist as one with us, every time it advances a level, it requires a special opportunity, unlike the Symbiotic Contract which can level up along with us." Chu Jun shared more knowledge about the Parasitic Contract with Li Xiu.

"How did you become a Trial Taker without knowing any of this? Didn't you research these things before going to the Trial Ground?" Chu Jun looked at Li Xiu with suspicion.

"I never thought about becoming a Trial Taker before. Coming down this path was completely accidental." Li Xiu said helplessly.

"Your accident is really something, with a Primordial Embryo Quality of 1, a Radiant Demon Spirit around, and a handful of Radiant Demon Spirits, why don't I ever have such surprises?" Chu Jun rolled his eyes.

"Is this considered a surprise?" Li Xiu tossed two Radiant Black Death Demon Rings to Chu Jun.

"What do you mean?" Chu Jun frowned.

"In the future, when we enter the Trial Ground together, you can't always expect me to blaze the trail alone, right? Your Inspiration Skill naturally means you have to be at the forefront, so better ensure your safety." Li Xiu said with a smile.

"In that case, I won't hold back." Chu Jun's expression turned cheerful as he gladly accepted the two Demon Spirit Rings. "What quality are these Demon Spirits? They can't be like yours and those with A'Fi, all Radiant Demon Spirits, right?"

Chu Jun said this casually, not really believing that Li Xiu had that many Radiant Demon Spirits and could give him two just like that.

The Demon Spirit Rings, as they currently stand, are extremely rare. Many A-level Trial Takers Chu Jun knows might not even have a Radiant Demon Spirit.

Li Xiu didn't say anything until Chu Jun used the two Demon Spirit Rings, then his eyes widened, "Whoa, they're really all Radiant Demon Spirits, where did you get so many Radiant Demon Spirit Rings? Just how many Radiant Black Death Demons did you take down?"

"Not too many, a few thousand." Li Xiu said as he handed a bag of Radiant Black Death Demon Cores to Chu Jun, "Use these to upgrade them to D-level, the chance to awaken skills is a bit higher."

"You really took down a few thousand Radiant Black Death Demons? How many times did you enter the Black Death City?" Chu Jun couldn't wrap his head around it, thinking that Li Xiu surely hadn't entered Black Death City that many times.

Chapter 217 The Impossible 1\_3

"The time I entered Black Death City was different from the usual ones; inside, the Black Death Demons that emerged were all in dazzling ranks..." Li Xiu recounted the situation with the Blood Moon Black Qi, but didn't mention the Godslayer Shrine.

Chu Jun listened, stunned, and after a moment said, "So you managed to survive; if it were me, I probably wouldn't have lasted until the final round... no... maybe not even the tenth round..."

"Let's see if your Black Death Demon can awaken a skill first." Previously, when Li Xiu gave the Demon Core to Sha Chu and A Fei's Black Death Demons and they advanced to rank D, they couldn't awaken any skills.

Upon hearing this from Li Xiu, Chu Jun became excited and fed the Demon Core given by Li Xiu to the two Black Death Demons.

After consuming roughly ten pieces, both Black Death Demons began to upgrade; however, one Black Death Demon only had some black light flicker over its body during the upgrade, while the other was entirely enveloped in black flames.

"Awakening a skill... haha... this Black Death Demon awakened the Death Virus Talent Skill..." Chu Jun laughed triumphantly.

In the following days, the Red Sand City Lord arranged for a trusted aide to accompany Li Xiu and Chu Jun around Red Sand City. Li Xiu wasn't much in the mood for leisure and asked the Red Sand City Lord for information on the Trial Gates, studying alone in his room.

The Red Sand City Lord owned over thirty Trial Gates, but only about a dozen had been truly explored; of those, fewer than five were thoroughly understood, while the remaining data was incomplete.

Li Xiu only researched them a bit, not planning to visit any yet. He intended to first go to the Sea Heaven Trial Ground to retrieve the Blood Pattern Revolver.

Before that, Li Xiu didn't plan to touch any other Contracts.

This was because Li Xiu couldn't be certain if picking up another Contract would cause it to be affected by the Twin Souls talent, directly becoming his Symbiotic Contract.

When the day arrived as arranged with the Red Sand City Lord, Li Xiu took his backpack and went to the appointment.

The Red Sand City Lord personally took Li Xiu to a Trial Gate, where Zhou Bailong, Mr. Yu, whom they had met before, and his group of bodyguards were all present.

Zhou Bailong, seeing Li Xiu with the Red Sand City Lord, was slightly taken aback.

"Old Zhou, I don't need to introduce him, do I? He's representing me in this trial." The Red Sand City Lord smiled with squinted eyes.

"Old friend, I didn't expect to see you here again, I'm sorry for before." Zhou Bailong said somewhat awkwardly.

"No need for that, Mr. Zhou, everyone is entitled to their choice." Li Xiu replied with a smile, genuinely indifferent, as he hadn't lost anything anyway.

Zhou Bailong shook his head, said no more, and pointed to a man beside them, introducing him to the Red Sand City Lord: "This is the Trial Taker representing me, Shu Wei."

Shu Wei had a square-shaped face, appeared very serious and mature, and it wasn't clear how old he was; he seemed around thirty.

The Red Sand City Lord squinted at Shu Wei for a moment, then smiled and said, "So it's that Shu Tianwang from Guyue City, it's rare to have him here; seems like this duel matters to you a lot."

After speaking, the Red Sand City Lord turned to Li Xiu with a smile: "You probably haven't met Shu Tianwang yet; he's a famous Trial Taker from Guyue City, already an elite A-ranked Trial Taker. I heard he's very skilled in ball game trials, once sinking a hundred three-pointers in a row during a basketball trial, that's quite the accuracy. I wonder if his golf is as precise as his basketball."

Li Xiu understood this was the Red Sand City Lord sharing intelligence about his opponent, thinking to himself, "An A-ranked Trial Taker, according to Chu Jun's theory, should have a Primordial Embryo Quality of at least ten or more, there's quite a gap. However, since the trial is a golf duel, no matter how strong his physical quality is, it doesn't affect me. Additionally, as you can't harm the opponent during trials, his rank doesn't matter."

Zhou Wen had already studied the rules thoroughly and didn't think the A-ranked Trial Taker had any advantage in such a trial.

Both sides took out gemstones, having servants embed them in the Trial Gate; they used tourmaline, a kind of green tourmaline.

The tourmaline came in many colors, red, green, blue, yellow, and others, but red, green, and blue attracted the most attention.

The green tourmaline shone very bright, and Li Xiu figured it must be electric green among the green tourmalines, brighter and more beautiful than the usual kind.

"You can still quit now; you can't beat that guy." While the Red Sand City Lord and Zhou Bailong were talking standing together, Mr. Yu came to Li Xiu's side and whispered.

"Are you representing yourself or Zhou Bailong?" Li Xiu asked.

"Mr. Zhou had no choice last time, he feels quite apologetic toward you, so he sent me to tell you. Shu Wei not only has a high rank, he also has a peculiar skill that offers a huge advantage in this trial and it's absolutely impossible for him to lose. You still have a slim chance if you withdraw now." Mr. Yu said, lowering his voice.

Li Xiu wanted to say something, but the Trial Gate had already opened, and the Red Sand City Lord was beckoning him over.

Li Xiu had to walk over and, after thinking for a moment, still decided to participate in the trial.

He was uncertain whether what Mr. Yu said was true or not; it could be a scheme to make him quit.

And since he'd already agreed with the Red Sand City Lord, he didn't want to back out.

Watching Li Xiu and Shu Wei enter the Trial Gate together, Mr. Yu and Zhou Bailong exchanged bitter smiles.

"What a pity for that person," Zhou Bailong sighed.

"Mr. Zhou, you've done your best, you can have peace of mind over it." Mr. Yu said.

In their view, Li Xiu was doomed since Shu Wei had a skill that guaranteed a 100% accuracy rate, making it impossible for Li Xiu, despite his prowess, to avoid mistakes.

And Shu Wei's skill was fixed, never failing, so losing wasn't an option for him.

"Shu Wei has a 100% accuracy skill, right?" the Red Sand City Lord suddenly interrupted from another side.

"You knew?" Zhou Bailong and Mr. Yu were stunned.

"Sinking a hundred consecutive three-pointers, could a human do that without a skill?" the Red Sand City Lord laughed.

"You knew and still let Li Xiu go in to face him?" Zhou Bailong frowned.

"Why not? I believe he can win," the Red Sand City Lord said calmly. "Do you dare to make another wager with me? If Shu Wei comes out, I'll give you the Manluo Mine."

At first, Zhou Bailong thought the Red Sand City Lord was joking, but when he heard the offer of Manluo Mine, he realized it wasn't a joke.

Manluo Mine was one of the important gemstone mines in Red Sand City, no less, how could he wager it in a supposedly lost bet?

#### Chapter 218 The Last Gentleman

"Welcome to the Volcano Trial Ground. The A-level trial begins, and the rules are as follows..." On a white platform, Li Xiu and Shu Wei stand on opposite sides. Both are dressed in white tight-fitting suits, holding a golf club in hand, with a snake-like narrow path extending from the platform.

The pathway is only one meter wide, its length unknown, and on both sides lies an endless ocean.

At the distant end of the narrow path is a dark mountain peak.

The rules are the same as the Red Sand City Lord described: there are eighteen holes on this narrow path, with each hole situated on a circular platform of four meters in diameter.

The distance to each hole ranges from five hundred to a thousand meters, a length that ordinary people cannot hope to cover, essentially a dead end upon entry.

Only the power of the Trial Takers can drive the ball that far.

You can say that ordinary participants in this A-level trial face an inevitable death scenario.

There are no sand traps or similar obstacles here; if the ball falls off the winding narrow road, the trial counts as an immediate failure.

For the five hundred-meter hole, only three strokes are allowed. If the ball is not holed after three strokes, it's considered a trial failure.

Seven to eight hundred-meter holes allow four strokes, with failure similarly resulting in elimination.

For a thousand-meter hole, five strokes are permitted, but failure leads to the same outcome.

After each hole is completed, the next ball is played directly from the hole's platform until all eighteen holes are finished.

The difficulty of this trial essentially eliminates ordinary people right away, and for Trial Takers, without the skill and precision, it's a guaranteed death game.

The only favorable rule is that all participating Trial Takers have absolute invincible protection, meaning there's no way to attack other Trial Takers during the competition; victory must be achieved through the game.

Li Xiu agreed to participate in the trial upon learning of this rule.

Trial Takers are also prohibited from physically contacting or interfering with other Trial Takers' balls, which would constitute a breach and result in trial failure.

The final rule is that the first Trial Taker to complete all eighteen holes wins, while the others face elimination.

Apart from these, there are no other rules; Trial Takers can choose to play at any time, as long as eighteen holes are completed per the rules to pass the trial.

"You're Shu Wei, right?" Li Xiu looked at Shu Wei and asked.

"Indeed, what do you want to say?" Shu Wei responded calmly, knowing that Li Xiu was as good as dead.

This trial has two critical aspects: accuracy in striking and speed.

Shu Wei possesses a skill with a hundred percent accuracy. As for speed, an A-level Trial Taker's pace far surpasses that of Li Xiu, leaving him without a chance.

To Shu Wei, the rule protecting Li Xiu is the only reason he's given the chance. Otherwise, Shu Wei would've dealt with Li Xiu here directly.

"It's a deathmatch, so I have to give it all I have. Life and death rest on Celestial Mandate, not to blame anyone else. If you have any last words or messages to convey, now's the time." Li Xiu said.

He harbors no ill will against Shu Wei, but under such rules, he must exhaust every means to survive, with no other path available.

However, killing someone totally unrelated to him isn't Li Xiu's intention, so he wanted to know if Shu Wei had any unfulfilled wishes.

Shu Wei was amused by Li Xiu's statement, "There's no way I can lose. To be honest, I have a skill with a hundred percent accuracy, so you're the one certain to die. No need for any last messages; I don't have time for idle concerns."

"That puts my mind at ease," Li Xiu actually smiled.

"Why are you smiling? Do you think I'm joking?" Shu Wei coldly stared at Li Xiu.

"The countdown is about to end; anything else you'd like to say?" Li Xiu calmly asked Shu Wei.

"Get lost. If not for the rules, I'd kill you right now." Shu Wei ignored Li Xiu, moved to the striking position, and awaited the trial's commencement.

Li Xiu stepped to his striking position, raised his club, and assumed a stance to strike.

As the countdown ended, both swung their clubs almost simultaneously, sending the balls flying at the same time.

However, while Shu Wei's ball flew toward the circular platform where the hole was, Li Xiu's ball seemed to deviate, accelerating toward the sky.

Shu Wei was admiring the perfect arc of his shot when suddenly he saw a ball enter his view, coming closer to the ball he had hit.

Shu Wei's pupils constricted continually, his expression turned increasingly shocked, even distorted.

When the balls collided mid-air, he couldn't suppress a roar: "What are you doing... you're courting death..."

He regretted, was angry, bewildered, and all the more unwilling to accept.

Li Xiu had clearly warned him, yet he didn't take it to heart.

If Shu Wei had been cautious, let Li Xiu strike first, or moved faster instead of pursuing the beauty of the swing and ball's arc, and swung with full force, Li Xiu's ball wouldn't have caught up to his.

But he was overly confident, believing he had victory secured, without delving deeper into the understanding of the rules.

Chapter 219 The Last Gentleman\_2

The Trial Taker cannot touch the opponent's ball, nor can they use the club to touch the opponent's ball, but there is no rule saying their own ball cannot touch the opponent's ball.

But how could Shu Wei ever imagine that Li Xiu would use such a method?

Trying to hit his ball in mid-air is much harder than sinking the ball into the hole.

After all, the hole is stationary and cannot move, but his ball is flying rapidly in the air, and Li Xiu's tool is a club, not a gun. Almost simultaneously, the balls take flight; how could he predict the trajectory of his golf ball? It's simply impossible.

Moreover, Shu Wei did not anticipate that Li Xiu would use such a mutually destructive approach.

Yet, when he saw the two balls collide, his ball fell into the sea, while Li Xiu's ball, incredibly, changed direction to fly towards the platform where the hole was, his contorted face filled with disbelief.

"Impossible... impossible..."

Bang! Clang!

Shu Wei's ball plunged into the sea, while Li Xiu's ball fell into the hole on the platform.

"I'll kill you..." Shu Wei charged at Li Xiu in anger, but when he was in mid-air, the Ring of Trial blew his body to pieces, spraying blood and flesh everywhere.

"Life and death follow the Celestial Mandate." Li Xiu didn't even glance back, simply stepping off the platform, heading towards the platform where the hole was.

If someone were watching here, they might never imagine Shu Wei losing this way, losing in such a stifling and suffocating manner.

In the following holes, Li Xiu sank every ball with a steady single stroke, never considering striking twice mid-course.

The first seventeen holes were all holes-in-one, and Li Xiu reached the end of the narrow path, and in front was the mountain peak.

After a careful observation, Li Xiu's expression turned a bit peculiar; the eighteenth hole was actually at the summit of this peak.

To be precise, the mountain's crater was the eighteenth hole, because it was a volcano, with the smoking crater as the hole.

This hole was very large, but the mountain was a thousand meters high, and even with Li Xiu's current strength, it was impossible to hit a ball to a height of a thousand meters in one stroke.

On flat ground, the ball can glide through the air, but the vertical striking height can't match the distance of hitting from flat ground.

Fortunately, this was a five-stroke hole.

Li Xiu looked at the steep mountain wall; although not ninety degrees, it was still sixty to seventy degrees and very smooth. If the ball landed there, it was nearly impossible for it not to roll down.

After careful observation, Li Xiu swung his club, sending the ball towards the mountain wall.

The ball landed on the mountain wall, spinning quickly on a protrusion that could just accommodate a ball, appearing as if it might fall at any moment.

But the ball didn't fall, finally stopping and resting stably on the spot.

Li Xiu climbed up the mountain wall with his hands and feet, finding a position to hit the ball again.

On the third stroke, Li Xiu hit the ball directly towards the volcano's crater, where it curved and fell into the crater.

Rumble!

A massive eruption of smoke spewed from the crater, followed by scarlet lava; the volcano had erupted.

Li Xiu turned and ran down the mountain, unleashing all kinds of skills in a frenzy, using every ounce of strength he had.

Yet the light screen didn't appear, which meant the trial wasn't over, and Li Xiu couldn't leave, so he had no choice but to run feverishly.

Lava gushed from the crater, hot waves surged at his back, and patches of dark red lava fell from the sky, with black smoke covering the heavens.

Li Xiu could only be thankful that he had truly become a Trial Taker; the Fire Lotus Sword and Dark Mirror were no longer burdens. Otherwise, death would be certain.

Thankfully, the lava rushed into the sea and immediately cooled, but it caused the sea water to produce scalding steam. Li Xiu felt as if he was a crab in a steamer, his skin turning red from the heat.

Run! Desperately run without looking back, occasionally dodging the falling lava clumps until Li Xiu felt the heat behind him ease. He glanced back to find the lava had covered half of the narrow path, halted by the cooling seawater, preventing it from going further.

Finally, the light screen appeared: "Congratulations on completing the A-grade trial, rewards are being randomly generated... You can choose two types of rewards..."

In a moment, four icons appeared on the light screen: Talent, Attribute, Demon Core, and Entry Ticket.

Without hesitation, Li Xiu chose Attribute and Entry Ticket. The stinging pain from the bracelet and the energy surging within made Li Xiu feel an outrageously pleasurable sensation.

The A-grade Attribute Reward increased his Primordial Embryo Quality from 1 to 1.1, and Li Xiu calculated that at this rate, he only needed to participate in ten A-grade trials to reach the limit of 2 and be promoted to a D-grade Trial Taker.

The green Entry Ticket projected in front of Li Xiu transformed into a green vortex and sucked him in.

The Copper Lamp and stone table reappeared, but still no Metal Coffin—only a green hat lying quietly there.

"This..." Li Xiu looked at the green hat with a complex expression.

The hat's design was an old-fashioned gentleman's hat, with a dark green top and brim, a grassy green band decorating the middle. To be honest, the hat's color scheme and design were quite nice.

To take it or not? It seemed a bit inauspicious, but not taking it after risking so much to complete the trial felt like a loss.

Chapter 220 The Last Gentleman\_3

"Let's try it first." Li Xiu originally intended to come in and have a look around.

If this is a Radiant Contract, then he can consider it as his Symbiotic Contract, saving a trip to the Sea Heaven Trial Ground. If it's not a Radiant Contract, he'll give it up.

Seeing this thing now, if it's not a Radiant Contract, he'd even more surely not choose it.

Li Xiu reached out and grabbed the brim of the hat. It was much lighter than he expected, even lighter than the Fire Lotus Sword, which made him more confident that this wasn't a Radiant Contract.

"Trial Taker, please make a life agreement with the contract using your blood..." The eerie voice sounded again.

Li Xiu looked at the gentleman hat emitting a faint green glow and calmly asked, "What rank is this contract?"

He was almost certain that the rank of this green hat wouldn't be very high.

"The Last Gentleman is a Radiant Contract..." When the eerie voice revealed the answer, Li Xiu was stunned.

"Radiant Contract... this thing is actually a Radiant Contract... are you sure?" Li Xiu asked again in disbelief.

"No mistake, it is indeed a Radiant Contract." The eerie voice replied with certainty.

Li Xiu looked at the gentleman hat with the ghostly green glow in his hand, hesitated repeatedly, and still decided to put it back.

"Radiant Contract... I don't need it..." Li Xiu resolutely put the hat back on the stone table, thinking to himself, "The Blood Pattern Revolver is my true destiny contract, I have to get it, how can I be blinded by any other Radiant Contract, absolutely not."

Li Xiu thought for a moment, "To think there's a Radiant Contract in here, no wonder even the Red Sand City Lord is desperate to fight for this Trial Gate. In the future, I could have that boy Chu Jun try it; with his handsome looks and demeanor, only he could match such a radiant artifact. I just wonder if it would still be a hat if he came here."

The ten minutes passed quickly, and the copper lamp before Li Xiu went out, plunging him into darkness. When the light returned, he was already in front of the Trial Gate.

Zhou Bailong and Mr. Yu were shocked to see Li Xiu's figure appear before the Trial Gate, filled with disbelief on their faces.

"Boss Zhou, it seems our luck isn't bad." The Red Sand City Lord said with a smile as he walked towards Li Xiu, patting his shoulder and saying, "Well done, I'll prepare the best celebration banquet for you when we return."

"Can I cash it in?" Li Xiu asked.

"Haha, of course." The Red Sand City Lord laughed heartily.

Watching the Red Sand City Lord leave with Li Xiu, Zhou Bailong looked a bit conflicted, "How did he win?"

"Good thing you didn't bet with the Red Sand City Lord, or you'd have lost everything." Mr. Yu said with relief.

"Truly unexpected." Zhou Bailong shook his head with a bitter smile, never imagining that the one coming out would be Li Xiu.

Li Xiu originally intended to go straight back to his place to find Chu Jun, then head back to Zhongshan City overnight.

But the Red Sand City Lord insisted on giving Li Xiu a gift, convincing him to visit the City Lord's Mansion first.

Holding the Ghost-faced Magic Armor in his hand, Li Xiu wasn't afraid of any tricks from the Red Sand City Lord.

After the Red Sand City Lord brought Li Xiu to the City Lord's Mansion, he surprisingly took him to his residence and opened the passage to the underground vault.

"These items here are the collections I've gathered over the years in Red Sand City, are they interesting?" The Red Sand City Lord used his fingerprint and retinal scan to open the heavy vault door, led Li Xiu inside, and pointed to the glass cabinets on either side displaying collections.

Li Xiu frowned as he took a good look at the items inside the glass cabinets.

The rows of glass cabinets, each tens of meters long, did not contain antiques, paintings, jewelry, jade artifacts, Demon Armors, or any weapons.

Instead, they contained sheets of skin, resembling flayed human backs, skinned whole, and stretched out within the glass cabinets with silk threads.

At least dozens of such skins were displayed in the two glass cabinets, creating a sinister and eerie spectacle, extremely horrifying.

"What is this?" Li Xiu asked, looking at the Red Sand City Lord.

"What do you think this is?" The Red Sand City Lord squinted and countered.

"Human skin?" Li Xiu said.

"Correct, it is human skin." The Red Sand City Lord did not deny it; he actually admitted it.

"Did you kill people to flay these skins?" Li Xiu had long heard of the Red Sand City Lord's extreme cruelty but never thought he could be so perverse.

"Indeed, I flayed the skins myself." The Red Sand City Lord looked at Li Xiu playfully and, seeing Li Xiu's increasingly grim expression, added with a smile, "But I did not kill anyone."

"If you didn't kill anyone, how did you flay these skins?" Li Xiu demanded coldly.

"I flayed my own skin. Do I need to kill someone? Should I kill myself first and then flay the skin?" The Red Sand City Lord said, neither laughing nor crying.

"Your own skin?" Li Xiu was astonished as he looked at the human skins.

"Yes, they are my own skins. Each year, I must flay a layer, or I'd feel uncomfortable all over, unable to eat or sleep well... This is the skin I flayed sixty-one years ago... and this is the one from fifty-nine years ago, my most cherished piece; I was at my prime then..." The Red Sand City Lord explained the origin of each skin as if he were discussing antiques, not human skins.

Finally, they reached the end of the vault, where a sandalwood rack held a black wooden box.

The Red Sand City Lord took the black wooden box and handed it to Li Xiu, smiling as he said, "Open it when you get back, and if you like what's inside or find it interesting, you can come to see me anytime."

Li Xiu didn't ask what it was. If the Red Sand City Lord wanted to tell him, he wouldn't have asked him to wait.

After going to great lengths to bring him here, the Red Sand City Lord only showed him those human skins and gave him a wooden box before leading him away from the underground vault once again.

"You have quite a unique aesthetic," the Red Sand City Lord commented to Li Xiu before he left, without any context.

Initially confused, Li Xiu didn't understand what the Red Sand City Lord meant, but then he realized the Red Sand City Lord was not looking at his face but slightly above it.

Li Xiu's expression changed slightly as he quickly reached up to touch his head, and the sensation under his fingers made his expression turn a bit ugly.