

When 'God' Decides To Start Over #Chapter 24

Unparalleled Rhythm - Read When 'God' Decides To Start Over Chapter 24 Unparalleled Rhythm

Chapter 24: Chapter 24 Unparalleled Rhythm

This time, Jin Zhenhuan finally had absolute confidence. In his view, the physical fitness test of the 400-meter hurdles was much more about strength than skill.

With Li Xiu's physical condition, let alone matching him, he would surely lose even against the administrators, perhaps even unable to finish in under 38 seconds.

"It seems you are very confident this time." Li Xiu looked at Jin Zhenhuan and said calmly.

This composure annoyed Jin Zhenhuan, who sneered, "With absolute strength comes confidence naturally. Are you ready to face death?"

"Not yet, at least I won't lose in the first round." Li Xiu said lightly.

Jin Zhenhuan sneered, "Who gave you the confidence? Can you run under 38 seconds with your physical condition? Even if you can, you won't be faster than the administrators, you'll still die in the end. It's too late to apologize now, and I can't help you."

Li Xiu said nothing, just quietly warmed up, waiting for the trial to begin.

The countdown to the trial ended quickly, and as the invisible barrier beyond the starting line disappeared, everyone sprinted forward desperately.

Li Xiu was running too, his eyes determined, arms swinging wide, every step full of power and rhythm.

Having undergone several body-enhancing trials, Li Xiu's originally decent physical fitness had already improved to some extent, making his speed noticeably faster than the average human.

However, compared to the administrators, he was still a bit slower. Before the first hurdle, a certain distance had been opened up. Basically, all the administrators were ahead of Li Xiu, with Jin Zhenhuan in the lead.

Those behind tried desperately to catch up, but couldn't, and in their hurry, accidentally hit a hurdle, causing their bodies to explode.

Cries of agony and explosions kept ringing out. A Fei couldn't bear to watch anymore; she didn't want to witness Li Xiu's failure and death, so she used her Abstention Skill and exited the race midway.

"Li Xiu, taste what it's like to only see my back!" Jin Zhenhuan ran ahead, having enough energy to look back at Li Xiu.

This look surprised Jin Zhenhuan. Li Xiu, who had been left behind by the administrators before the first hurdle, was already catching up behind them after two or three hurdles.

"How is this possible?" Jin Zhenhuan was stunned, completely beyond his expectations.

In terms of physical fitness, Li Xiu shouldn't be able to catch up with the administrators, yet he forcefully did.

At another hurdle, Li Xiu overtook the last administrator, rising to twelfth position.

That administrator was already somewhat panicked, and being overtaken by Li Xiu made him even more flustered. He accidentally hit a hurdle, his face changing dramatically, his body exploding into blood before he could scream, splattering all over Li Xiu.

Li Xiu wasn't affected at all, continuing to maintain his rhythm.

Everyone can run, but few truly understand running.

Speed is indeed the essence of track and field events, but technique must not be overlooked, especially in hurdles.

The distance between hurdles, how many steps to run between each, the length of each stride, where to jump, the posture over the hurdle, where to land, even the rhythm and amplitude of breathing and arm swinging, all were within Li Xiu's calculations.

But those administrators who relied solely on physical strength and lacked technique wasted a lot of time. Approaching the hurdles, either they were too far or too close, needing to decelerate and adjust their rhythm, or after hurdling, landed incorrectly, requiring bodily adjustments.

Their speed looked fast, but on closer inspection, it wasn't smooth. Li Xiu's movements were incredibly fluid, watching him run was almost inexplicably pleasant.

With unmatched rhythm and robot-like standard and stable movements, Li Xiu slowly overtook another administrator, reaching eleventh position.

Ten... nine... eight... Li Xiu continued to surpass administrators with better physical fitness and faster speeds, causing their mental states to collapse. Carelessly, another administrator hit a hurdle, exploding with blood everywhere.

"Damn it!" Jin Zhenhuan was furious. Although Li Xiu's rhythm was unmatched, it still seemed impossible for him to catch up with Jin Zhenhuan; at most, he could manage sixth or seventh place.

But such a position was enough for Li Xiu to survive, which made Jin Zhenhuan feel humiliated.

He had no other options though; the finish line was just ahead, and after clearing the last hurdle, Li Xiu reached sixth position.

Yet, when hurdling over the last hurdle for the sprint, Li Xiu was overtaken by three administrators, finishing in eighth place; his pure speed couldn't match those administrators.

Li Xiu was panting heavily, his chest feeling like it was burning painfully; he had exerted all his energy. He turned to look at the big screen, seeing his result of 37.58 seconds, narrowly making it under 38 seconds. He thought to himself, "The body enhancements over this period were quite effective; my previous results were far worse."

After 38 seconds passed, all who hadn't crossed the finish line met their demise.

"You got lucky this time, but next round, you won't be so fortunate." Jin Zhenhuan walked over, coldly staring at the still gasping Li Xiu.

"There won't be a next round." Li Xiu knew his physical condition; entering another round would surely lead to death, and he wouldn't take on something without confidence.

"If you dare to quit, I'll kill you once you're out." Jin Zhenhuan said fiercely.

"You won't have the chance." Li Xiu simply ignored Jin Zhenhuan, took off his bracelet, and left the Trial Ground.

"I'll kill you!" Jin Zhenhuan's angry roars echoed within the Trial Ground.

How could Li Xiu be afraid of Jin Zhenhuan's threat, having long understood that even if Jin Zhenhuan left him alive, Old Gu wouldn't allow him and A Fei to participate in the next trial.

The next trial was of great importance, and except for A Fei, it must all be their own people, leaving no room for Li Xiu.

Back at the Blue Stone Gate, Old Gu and the others were somewhat surprised to see Li Xiu come out.

A Fei, not yet escorted back to her room, looked at Li Xiu in disbelief, not understanding how he survived, as it was supposedly impossible.

Two soldier-like administrators came to take the Demon Core brought by Li Xiu, but at the moment of the search, Li Xiu instantly seized a gun and took control.

Leaning against the stone gate, Li Xiu locked the administrator's neck with one arm, using him as a shield, while holding an assault rifle with the other hand, pressing the muzzle against the administrator's head.

Other administrators immediately aimed their guns at Li Xiu, and the two Magic Armor Masters also looked over.

"Li Xiu, what are you trying to do?" Old Gu coldly stared at Li Xiu.

"Naturally, I'm trying to survive." Li Xiu said calmly.

Chapter 25: Chapter 25: Here, God Has the Final Say

"If you want to live, all you have to do is pass the final trial. Then not only can you live, but you can also take the money you deserve. By doing this now, not only will you not survive, but you will lose everything. Don't think you can threaten me with the life of an administrator. That won't work..." Old Gu's eyes flashed with ferocity as he stared at Li Xiu.

"Of course it won't work. You won't let anyone leave here alive, including these administrators. The huge secret of the Sea Heaven Trial Ground cannot afford the slightest mistake. Everyone here must die, except for the Magic Armor Masters and a few of your key people. Isn't that your plan?" Li Xiu interrupted him before Old Gu could finish.

These words stunned all the administrators, and their eyes involuntarily turned to Old Gu.

Old Gu's expression didn't change as he said firmly, "Talking nonsense cannot save your life. Even if God himself came today, he wouldn't be able to save you. Only I, Old Gu, have the final say at the Abyss Base."

Old Gu offered no explanation, and though it couldn't dispel the administrators' doubts, it made them both believe and doubt Li Xiu's words.

Li Xiu knew, of course, that if he really fired, the bullet would penetrate both the administrator in front of him and his own body. The hostage was indeed of no use.

Li Xiu smiled slightly and suddenly moved the gun's muzzle away from the administrator's head, pointed it at the nearby A Fei, while still tightly controlling the administrator's neck with his other arm.

"I know the hostage is useless, but you can try. Before you kill me, I might kill her first."

"Threatening me with her, don't you find it laughable?" Old Gu said coldly.

"Laughable or not, why don't you try and see? Let them shoot," Li Xiu said with a smile, convinced that Old Gu wouldn't let A Fei die before the S-level trial.

Old Gu didn't order to open fire. A Fei was still useful; otherwise, he wouldn't have kept her alive until now.

"Old Gu, I've said it before, why bother with all this trouble? Just kill him. It's all because of that meddlesome Jin Zhenhuan that it's become so complicated." Two Magic Armor Masters came over, their demon armor striking the ground with a sound like metal against stone.

Before Old Gu could answer, one of the Magic Armor Masters walked toward Li Xiu, saying as he walked, "You can try. In my presence, can you kill anyone?"

"Magic Armor Masters are nothing special. If I want to kill someone, even a Magic Armor Master can't stop me." Without hesitation, Li Xiu pulled the trigger, but the Magic Armor Master suddenly moved quickly, blocking the direction of the muzzle.

Bullets poured onto him but were all deflected by the armor, not even leaving a scratch.

Others had already scattered back and found cover to hide.

The Magic Armor Master walked toward Li Xiu against the barrage of bullets, sparks flying from his armor without any damage.

"I told you, in my presence, you can't kill anyone. The only one who will die is yourself," the Magic Armor Master said, looking down from above.

"Is that so? Then let's see if you can stop me from killing," Li Xiu said, suddenly raising his gun and aiming it at the administrator in his grasp, then pulled the trigger.

In an instant, the Magic Armor Master appeared in front of Li Xiu like a phantom, grabbed the gun barrel with one hand, and forcibly bent it.

"I told you, you can't... you..." The Magic Armor Master suddenly felt something amiss before he could finish his sentence.

Li Xiu's left hand viciously struck the Magic Armor Master's waist, and a strange ring imprint emerged on his left pinky finger.

"Such ignorant guys, the power of the demon armor is beyond your imagination. Not just you, even those Trial Takers who have been strengthened countless times can't harm the demon armor... at all..." The Magic Armor Master's tone suddenly changed.

Crack! Crack!

Cracks appeared in the seemingly monolithic demon armor, and in just an instant, it split into several components, peeling off from the Magic Armor Master's body.

Everyone was stunned. That was a Magic Armor Master, the strongest acknowledged human combat force. That the demon armor was shattered by a human punch from Li Xiu was an unimaginable, dreamlike scene.

Stunned by this scene, no one reacted. Li Xiu's gaze was as sharp as a blade as he reached out and grabbed something from the shattered demon armor.

In the next second, the scattered components flew to Li Xiu's body, wrapping him completely in a shell-like demon armor within moments.

"He... he's a Magic Armor Master..." Old Gu was terrified and retreated quickly.

The existence of Magic Armor Masters was so revered that he hadn't imagined one would come to such a place as a new Trial Taker.

Given the rarity of Magic Armor Masters, no matter how much debt they have, some force would be willing to repay it for them. How could they fall to such a point, risking their life here for a few demon cores?

Old Gu couldn't understand, nor did he have time to think further.

Because Li Xiu, now wearing the demon armor, burst forth with terrifying energy. The vents of the propulsion system on the back of the armor pulsed with a strange light, propelling Li Xiu's body to Old Gu's side in an instant.

Old Gu was decent among the Trial Takers, but in front of the Magic Armor Master, he was like a mere chicken or dog, directly grabbed by the neck and lifted by Li Xiu.

Old Gu's pupils dilated in pain as he struggled, his fingers, like iron hooks, clawing at the armor to no avail.

The other Magic Armor Master quickly moved behind Li Xiu, aiming a palm at Li Xiu's back, where the palm began to gather dazzling light, seemingly nurturing some strange, terrifying energy.

This was the unique weapon system of the demon armor, Demonic Light. Even nuclear weapons can't harm the demonic spirit; only Demonic Light can kill it. Similarly, besides demonic spirits, the only thing that can harm a Magic Armor Master is Demonic Light.

There's a saying going around the world now: only a Magic Armor Master can defeat a Magic Armor Master.

But just as the Magic Armor Master was nurturing demonic light in his palm, Li Xiu swung back a hand, and ball-shaped demonic light gathered instantly in his palm, without the long brewing like the other Magic Armor Master, and he threw the ball of white demonic light out instantaneously, hitting the Magic Armor Master's body.

Boom!

The Magic Armor Master's body was blasted away by the demonic light, smashed against a stone wall, collapsing a large area of it, and ended up buried in the rubble.

Old Gu's pupils contracted, full of disbelief. A Magic Armor Master capable of instantly casting demonic light with such an old-style armor, what kind of being was this? He couldn't fathom it.

"Looks like God is still in charge here," Li Xiu said, applying force with his fingers, Old Gu's neck was immediately crushed, killing him on the spot.

Even in death, he couldn't understand why such a person would appear here. If he had a million chances to do it over, he would choose to kill Li Xiu the moment he saw him, never giving him the chance to touch the demon armor.

The Magic Armor Master, whose armor Li Xiu had seized, was petrified. A Magic Armor Master capable of instantly casting demonic light was something he had only ever fantasized about.

A Fei stood there dumbfounded, watching everything, looking at that figure like a Demon God, as if it were all a dream.

Chapter 26: Chapter 26 Code Name "God"

Jin Zhenhuan was in a bad mood now. He originally thought he could definitely defeat Li Xiu this time, but who knew Li Xiu actually ran away.

"You really dare, I will definitely kill you!" Jin Zhenhuan was extremely angry in his heart and had already decided not to give Li Xiu any more chances. He would definitely kill him once they got out.

The reason he was unable to become a Magic Armor Master was all because of the shadow Li Xiu left on his heart, which was so great that he lost the confidence to

become a Magic Armor Master, and thus turned to become a Trial Taker. This unexpected encounter, he originally thought it could rid him of his Heart Demon, but who knew it left an even deeper psychological shadow.

Even though his physical fitness was far above Li Xiu's, he just couldn't win against him no matter what.

He was unconvinced, but could not deny that Li Xiu was simply a monster, a monster that made him insanely jealous.

"What's the use of your talent being so good, you've still fallen to this point, today is the day of your doom." After completing the trial, Jin Zhenhuan was the last to leave the Trial Ground. He didn't want to miss out on any enhancement he could get. After all, this was a B-level difficulty trial, and the enhancement effect was quite good, so enhancing once was once.

"Li Xiu, you're dead." Jin Zhenhuan's heart could no longer restrain his desire to kill Li Xiu. As soon as he was transported out, he shouted angrily.

But the next second, Jin Zhenhuan was stunned.

Li Xiu was indeed here, but something seemed off.

The underground cavern was in shambles, and there was no sign of Laogu, not even a single administrator was in sight. Only Afei was standing beside Li Xiu, with no other living soul around.

"Where is Laogu?" Jin Zhenhuan frowned, sensing something was wrong.

"Gone." Li Xiu answered.

"Where did they go?" Jin Zhenhuan looked around, already noticing something amiss. There were obvious traces of a battle all around, even a blind person could see the collapsed rock walls.

"If you're fast enough, you might catch up to him." Li Xiu said leisurely.

"Fast enough for what?" Countless thoughts flashed through Jin Zhenhuan's mind: "What on earth happened? Where did Laogu and the others go? What about the administrators who just came out? Why would Laogu let Li Xiu and Afei be here? Could it be..."

"Of course, the speed of death, Laogu is waiting for you on the Yellow Springs road." Li Xiu spoke, reaching out to grasp the black box beside him.

The moment Li Xiu's hand gripped the handle of the black box, it promptly disintegrated, transforming into pieces of armor that wrapped around Li Xiu's body, encasing it tightly with no gaps left.

"Magic Armor Master... you..." Jin Zhenhuan's face changed drastically. He had thought Li Xiu, like himself, ultimately failed to walk the path of a Magic Armor Master, which was why he'd fallen to this point.

But now it seemed that wasn't the case at all. Li Xiu had already become a Magic Armor Master, he just didn't know it.

Jin Zhenhuan turned and ran, trying to dash into the passageway. Facing a Magic Armor Master, he didn't even have the courage to fight.

This couldn't be blamed on Jin Zhenhuan. The powerful image of a Magic Armor Master had already deeply engraved itself into people's hearts.

Bang!

Driven by Demonic Light, Li Xiu's figure flashed like an illusion to appear behind Jin Zhenhuan, stamping a foot down to pin Jin Zhenhuan directly to the ground. No matter how he struggled, he remained firmly subdued on the ground.

"Li Xiu, you're only relying on your Demon Armor. In the Trial Ground, if I wanted to kill you, you'd have died several times already..." Jin Zhenhuan shouted.

"Jin Zhenhuan, do you know why you lost to me?" Li Xiu smiled, Jin Zhenhuan's mouth was really something else.

"I was just unlucky. Those trials weren't my strengths. If it were a 400-meter hurdles trial from the start, you'd have died for sure." Jin Zhenhuan said bitterly.

"How long have you been a Trial Taker?" Li Xiu nonchalantly asked.

"Over a decade, so what?" Jin Zhenhuan replied.

"In over a decade, you must have undergone many trials. How many times have you completed the final test?" Li Xiu asked again.

Jin Zhenhuan's expression was unpredictable, yet he did not answer.

"If I'm not mistaken, probably not many. From start to finish, you've had only one Trial Taker skill, indicating you've hardly completed any final trials." Li Xiu stated.

"What nonsense are you talking about? The final trial isn't so easy to pass. Even Trial Takers stronger than me wouldn't dare easily attempt the final trial. What are you,

having passed a few final trials? Possessing a few Trial Taker skills gives you the right to lecture me here?" Jin Zhenhuan said, his eyes suddenly widened.

Jin Zhenhuan saw on Li Xiu's fingers two Brand Rings, unmistakably two Trial Taker skills.

But Li Xiu had been at the Abyss Base for such a short time, and he already possessed two Trial Taker skills.

"You lost because you lack skill. It has nothing to do with anyone or anything else. When you repeatedly chose to retreat in the face of life's challenges, you were already doomed to failure in life." Li Xiu spoke slowly.

Jin Zhenhuan's face turned ashen, at that moment, it was more painful than being killed.

Over a decade, he'd only obtained one skill, while in just a few short days, Li Xiu acquired two skills. Such a blow caused Jin Zhenhuan's dignity to completely collapse.

"You're the one who's pathetic!" Jin Zhenhuan, humiliated into anger, threw a punch at Li Xiu with all his might, a Brand Ring appearing on his finger, showing he indeed had only one skill and was holding nothing back.

Crack!

Fists collided, the Trial Taker's skill crumbling easily before the Magic Armor Master. Jin Zhenhuan's finger bones were directly shattered by a punch from Li Xiu, his forearm broken, eliciting a painful scream.

"Li Xiu, even if you win, so what? You still can't kill me. If you kill me, even as a Magic Armor Master, you'll face certain death." Jin Zhenhuan shouted somewhat frantically.

"Oh?" Li Xiu looked at Jin Zhenhuan expressionlessly, unmoved, as Demonic Light gathered into a mass on his palm, shining eerily.

"Since you're a Magic Armor Master, you must have heard of the name Changsheng Tian, right? The Abyss Base belongs to Changsheng Tian's property, and I'm also a part of Changsheng Tian. If you kill me, no matter how you run, above or below ground, you won't escape death..." Jin Zhenhuan's expression grew more fervent, seeming to possess immense confidence in the three words Changsheng Tian, as if saying them would make Li Xiu not dare to kill him and have him submit like a dog before him.

Boom!

Demonic Light erupted, shattering Jin Zhenhuan's head with a face full of disbelief.

"Changsheng Tian couldn't save your life either." After dealing with Jin Zhenhuan, Li Xiu picked up the remaining Gemstones of Laogu and company, preparing to go back for a rest, to wait for that special time to use these Gemstones to open that S-level special trial.

This Abstention S-level skill will surely be useful in future trials, so it's only natural to get one when there's a chance.

"Why aren't you leaving?" Seeing Afei following him back to the room, Li Xiu asked somewhat surprised.

"The End of the World Trial requires at least two people to be triggered. Going in alone won't do you any good." Afei said.

"You already have the Abstention skill, so there's no need to risk it again. Why stay and help me?" Li Xiu asked, observing Afei.

"I can help you complete the End of the World Trial, but I have one condition." Afei said without hesitation.

"What condition?" Li Xiu genuinely didn't have many other choices. Although he hadn't killed all the administrators, just confined them, teaming up with them obviously wasn't a good option.

"Help me kill someone." Afei gritted his teeth.

"I think you misunderstood. I'm not a killer nor do I like killing. The killings here were only for self-defense." Li Xiu said calmly, "Besides, you are already a Trial Taker. If you want to kill someone, do it yourself. If you can't beat them, keep participating in trials. With the abstention skill, you'll become a top-tier Trial Taker sooner or later."

"I can't kill that person, even a top-tier Trial Taker can't. He's a Magic Armor Master; only a Magic Armor Master can kill another Magic Armor Master." Afei's eyes were filled with murderous intent.

"A Magic Armor Master? Which one?" Li Xiu was somewhat intrigued upon hearing this.

"I don't know his name, only that his code name is 'God'." Afei's words nearly made Li Xiu choke on his own breath.

Chapter 27: Chapter 27 Demon Spirit Egg

"You said his codename is God?" Li Xiu looked at A Fei with a strange expression.

As far as he knew, among the current Magic Armor Masters, he was the only one who dared to use that as a codename.

Actually, it wasn't his codename, it was a title given by others; his original codename was "Red Flower Gentleman."

"Yes, his codename is God." A Fei's expression was serious, looking very honest, not like she was joking.

"Is he the world's number one Magic Armor Master, God?" Li Xiu wondered if there could be other Magic Armor Masters who used the codename God.

"I don't know if he's the world's number one; I only know others call him God, and he's a Magic Armor Master," A Fei said.

"When did you meet this Magic Armor Master called God?" Li Xiu asked again.

"Three years ago." A Fei answered almost without thinking, and it seemed something unforgettable happened after she met God.

Li Xiu felt a bit awkward; three years ago the timing really matched up. His fame had only grown in the past three years.

A Fei had been trapped in the Abyss Base for three years, not knowing God was the world's number one Magic Armor Master, and the timing was just right.

"What did God do to make you want to kill him?" Li Xiu thought for a while and asked again.

"That has nothing to do with you; you just need to tell me if you can help," A Fei said through gritted teeth.

"I already said, I'm not a killer, and I won't kill without reason." Naturally, Li Xiu couldn't agree to A Fei's request; that would mean killing himself.

A Fei seemed to struggle deeply, and after a while, she spoke with a painful expression: "He killed my entire family, do you think such a person should be killed?"

"Killed your entire family? Where?" Li Xiu was slightly startled.

Now he was sure the God A Fei talked about couldn't be him, because ever since he became a Magic Armor Master, he had been battling Demon Spirits and had no time to kill anyone.

"Haishi Town." A Fei's eyes were full of hatred: "The Ends of the Earth Trial opens only once every six months, and if you miss this chance, you may never have another. If you are willing to help me, I will aid you in reaching the end to get the skill rewards."

Li Xiu thought, "That's even more wrong. I've never been to Haishi Town; the God A Fei spoke of definitely isn't me."

"I can only agree to help you uncover the truth. If the God you mentioned is indeed a monstrous criminal, I can help you seek revenge," Li Xiu said solemnly.

"Okay, I trust you." A Fei stared at Li Xiu for a long time, then turned to her bed, lying down with her back to Li Xiu and said.

"What the heck is going on with the guy named God?" Li Xiu's heart was filled with doubt.

In the Magic Armor Master industry, no one should be unaware of his title God; no one should use this codename. Did the Magic Armor Master using the codename "God" do this intentionally or unintentionally? This left a question mark in Li Xiu's mind.

Even if A Fei doesn't ask for his help, he must find out who that guy is.

While there was still time, Li Xiu put on his Demon Armor, explored the exit path, and confirmed there was indeed a section of the tunnel that had collapsed, as Lao Gu had said.

Since it was underground, Li Xiu didn't dare to simply blast open the collapsed area, so he could only excavate the tunnel.

With the assistance of the Demon Armor, Li Xiu could be said to possess immense strength, moving away those stones and broken steel beams and wooden frames wasn't difficult.

After clearing twenty to thirty meters, the front was still a collapsed tunnel. Li Xiu moved away a stone nearly two meters high, just as he was about to push it to a safe place, behind the giant stone he found piles of colorful stones.

No, those were not ordinary stones, but various gemstones, mostly rubies and sapphires, some were diamonds, others were crystals, tourmalines, garnets, and some gemstones Li Xiu didn't recognize.

Thousands of gemstones piled together dazzled the eyes; even Li Xiu, who wasn't much interested in money, couldn't help but have his eyes shine.

In this era, gemstones were extremely valuable and had not depreciated despite the chaotic times.

That's because to open the Trial Gate, various gemstones were needed, like opening the Sea Heaven Trial Ground required more than thirty one-carat sapphires each time.

Among these thousands of gemstones, there were many precious sapphires, rubies, diamonds, and even not few that weighed over ten carats.

As the saying goes, three red and five blue; rubies over three carats are collectible grade, sapphires over five carats are the same.

Li Xiu just glanced around and found many rubies and sapphires not less than ten carats, and even larger ones.

The diamonds were even more valuable, not less than rubies and sapphires, and Li Xiu even found some very large colored diamonds.

Soon, Li Xiu's gaze was attracted to something in the middle of the pile of gemstones. It was a semi-transparent milky white egg-shaped crystal about the size of a fist.

At first, Li Xiu was attracted to the pile of gemstones and thought it was a piece of jade or something similar, but now he smelled a familiar aura.

"Demon Spirit... Egg..." Li Xiu's expression changed as he looked at the egg.

Despite battling Demon Spirits for many years, Li Xiu had never seen a Demon Spirit Egg, but he had heard of such a thing.

Demon Spirits lay eggs in extremely secret places, and it's challenging for ordinary people to find them; only a few are fortunate enough to encounter Demon Spirit Eggs.

These Demon Spirit Eggs are taken back to labs for study, and their value is considerable.

Rumor has it that some labs have already developed methods to hatch, control, and tame Demon Spirits, but these methods apply only to unhatched Demon Spirits.

Li Xiu had heard about it but had never seen a human-tamed Demon Spirit himself.

"Could it be that Lao Gu wasn't lying, and there really was a Demon Spirit attack outside?" Li Xiu thought carefully, believing the Demon Spirit attack to be true, but doubting Lao Gu's intent to kill, possibly wishing to take advantage of this Demon Spirit attack to monopolize the Sea Heaven Trial Ground's secret.

"Wonder which idiot Demon Spirit chose this place as its nursery, allowing me to enjoy such a windfall." Li Xiu found a large box and intended to pack these gemstones up.

With so many gemstones plus a Demon Spirit Egg, after leaving the Abyss Base, he could live a lavish life without having to do anything for the rest of his life.

Li Xiu removed his Demon Armor, grabbed a handful of gemstones, and was about to throw them into the box when he realized the gemstones he touched instantly shattered like sand, trickling through his fingers.

"What's going on?" Li Xiu grabbed a few more handfuls of gemstones, and the same thing happened: as soon as he touched them, they shattered into pieces quickly leaving only debris, and were of no value.

Seeing the great fortune slip away like this, even Li Xiu, who wasn't much interested in money, couldn't help but be a bit dazed.

Just as Li Xiu was feeling frustrated, the Demon Spirit Egg suddenly moved a little.

Chapter 28: Chapter 28 Dead Skin

Crack! Crack!

Cracks appeared on the milky white semi-transparent eggshell. In just the blink of an eye, the Demon Spirit Egg shattered, and a creature resembling an oversized silkworm rolled out from inside.

This creature's body was also semi-transparent milky white, not like flesh and blood, but more like an art piece carved from Crystal Jade.

After the Demon Spirit rolled to the ground, it wriggled its body somewhat cutely, as if struggling to lift its head.

Upon seeing the Demon Spirit, Li Xiu immediately grabbed the Demon Armor without hesitation, resonating with it.

The box-like Demon Armor disassembled and wrapped around Li Xiu's body.

Just as the parts were sticking to Li Xiu but hadn't fully combined, the Demon Spirit on the ground suddenly leaped up, like a white lightning bolt, giving Li Xiu no chance to react, and drilled into the gaps of the not fully combined Demon Armor.

The gap was under Li Xiu's armpit, the pudgy body of the Demon Spirit wriggled rapidly, and without knowing how, it managed to meld with the clothes and burrow into Li Xiu's skin, in a blink, more than half of its body had squeezed in, leaving half its body outside wriggling wildly.

Li Xiu reached to grab the Demon Spirit's body, his five fingers covered by the Demon Armor struggled to exert force, but he couldn't pull it out, in fact, it burrowed even further.

Li Xiu made a decisive decision, his palm erupted with Demonic Light, intending to destroy the small portion of the Demon Spirit's body left outside.

The force of the Demonic Light burst struck the Crystal Jade-like body, only cracking the surface, and in pain, the Demon Spirit burrowed faster, in an instant it had completely burrowed in.

A bump the size of an egg rose under Li Xiu's skin, which quickly moved within his body.

Determined, Li Xiu relentlessly extended his fingers, grabbed at his own chest muscle, tore the skin open, and grabbed the bump that had wandered there.

The power of the Demon Armor was pushed to the maximum by Li Xiu, the Demonic Light in his palm burst out like a small sun, intending to completely destroy the Demon Spirit entwined with his flesh.

Unfortunately, this particular Demon Armor model was too outdated and was only manufactured with a low-grade E-level Demon Core, the intensity of the Demonic Light it could emit was insufficient.

The full-powered blast of Demonic Light only tore open the Demon Spirit's body with cracks, a clear liquid seeped out from the fissures.

Li Xiu was shocked; although it was only an E-level Demon Armor, the Demon Spirit was just born, and the fact that it could withstand such an attack was quite astonishing.

He almost didn't think, throwing his captured flesh along with the Demon Spirit juvenile outward.

Yet the flesh flew away, while the Demon Spirit juvenile clung to Li Xiu's right palm like superglue.

More terrifyingly, the body of the Demon Spirit juvenile quickly seeped into the palm wrapped with Demon Armor, yet again drilling into Li Xiu's right hand.

Li Xiu immediately started to dismantle the Demon Armor, though dismantling it also took time, by the time it was off his palm, the Demon Spirit had already drilled into his palm, the swelling was almost imperceptible, hardly visible.

Without thinking, Li Xiu's left hand, still wrapped in Demon Armor, bloomed with Demonic Light, turning into a bladed Light Blade, slashing at his own right hand.

He had fought many Demon Spirits over the years, yet he had never encountered such a Demon Spirit.

Demon Armor manufactured using Demon Cores naturally restrained Demon Spirits, capable of blocking the regeneration of a Demon Spirit's body.

Although E-level Demon Armor was rather basic, easily destroyed by high-level Demon Spirits, Li Xiu was encountering for the first time a Demon Spirit capable of directly penetrating Demon Armor.

Allowing it to permeate into the body would almost certainly assure death, losing a hand was better than losing his life.

Clang!

The Demon Light Slash came down on the wrist, but it made a sound like jade striking against jade, the wrist only had a bloody mark slashed on it, the skin and flesh split, yet the bone inside wasn't severed.

The white bone appeared coated in a layer of milky white Crystal Jade-like membrane, and the milky white crystalline membrane was even flowing, traveling upwards along the arm bone.

Li Xiu launched the Demonic Light again, transformed into a Light Blade, slashing upwards on the arm repeatedly, each time only seeing the flesh split open, but the bone inside remained undamaged due to the crystalline membrane, which continued to advance upwards.

Li Xiu hardened his resolve, directly slashing at his shoulder, preferring to lose an arm rather than let the Demon Spirit juvenile invade his body.

The Demon Light slashed at the shoulder-arm bone junction, yet with a strange sound, somewhat different from before, besides the sound of skin tearing and bone colliding, there was a noise as if something shattered.

Li Xiu refrained from continuously using the Demon Light to slash his body, as further slashing wouldn't just cost him his arm, but his life too.

Oddly, that crystalline membrane also ceased advancing, gradually evaporating like water vapor.

As the crystalline membrane evaporated, the flesh and skin slashed open by the Demonic Light also slowly healed, and soon scabbed over.

After a while, the scabs fell off, leaving behind pink scars, the new skin appeared smooth and transparent.

Looking down at his chest, the muscles previously clawed by Li Xiu also regenerated completely from the torn flesh.

"Did I kill it?" Li Xiu was unsure, but it seemed like he had, otherwise, why would the Demon Spirit juvenile cease?

Li Xiu dismantled the Demon Armor, inspected his body, and found no anomalies, which gave him a little relief.

"What on earth is this Demon Spirit? I've never seen it before. A newly born juvenile that's already so terrifying, I can't imagine how powerful an adult would be. I must leave here quickly, if the parents of the Demon Spirit juvenile return, it'll be big trouble, I fear E-level Demon Armor might be useless," Li Xiu glanced at the still sealed passage ahead, relaxing slightly.

The area where the Demon Spirit Egg was located was blocked, indicating that the Demon Spirit that birthed it shouldn't be back soon.

Li Xiu hesitated for a moment, but decided to complete the S-level trial before leaving here, the allure of the S-level skill enticed him to take some risks. Otherwise, who knew when he would encounter another S-level trial to pass?

Returning to the base, A Fei was already awake, sitting there waiting for him.

"What's the soonest time to start the S-level trial?" Li Xiu asked A Fei.

"In about four hours," A Fei replied after checking the phone scavenged from the base and calculating the time.

"Complete the trial as soon as possible, then we'll leave here," Li Xiu said before lying down on the bed, seizing the moment to recover his strength.

Messing with the Demon Spirit juvenile earlier had worn him out a bit.

As he slept, Li Xiu felt his right arm itch, reaching to scratch, accidentally tearing the skin.

Li Xiu awoke immediately, thinking he had scratched a new wound, but upon sitting up for a closer look, he found it wasn't the case.

The torn spot wasn't where the scars were, but dead skin on his arm.

Li Xiu's expression changed slightly, he'd seen calluses and dead skin on hands and feet, but never dead skin on an arm.

The dead skin resembled a semi-transparent white plastic, and as Li Xiu pulled along the tear, he actually peeled off a whole layer of dead skin from his arm.

Underneath the dead skin was new, white and crystalline skin that looked newborn-like, with the previous scars completely invisible.

Chapter 29: Chapter 29: S-Class Trial

Li Xiu got up and left the room, heading to Old Gu's former office, where there was a separate bathroom, complete with a flush toilet with a water tank and a shower.

He took off his clothes, revealing his beautifully contoured muscles. Li Xiu touched his right shoulder with his left hand, as expected, he could feel the edge of the dead skin that had been torn before.

Piece by piece, Li Xiu tore off the dead skin; you can hardly imagine how much dead skin could be torn off a person's body.

His fingers slid across the scalp, and dead skin fell like dandruff. Li Xiu was uncertain whether there was any difference between the two; regardless, watching it made his scalp tingle.

The dead skin looked grotesque and disgusting, yet while tearing it off, there was an inexplicable sense of relief in his heart.

More than half an hour passed before Li Xiu had torn off a layer of dead skin all over his body; if all the dead skin were pieced together, it would form a complete human skin.

Making sure there was no more dead skin on his body, Li Xiu flushed all the dead skin fragments into the septic tank.

After a shower, Li Xiu carefully checked his body and found no discomfort other than the dead skin he just removed.

Beneath the dead skin was tender new skin, fully developed, and the process of tearing off the dead skin had not caused any bleeding.

Li Xiu now couldn't find a single pigmented scar or spot on his skin, not even a trace of the old scars left from training.

All the skin looked as delicate as that of a newborn baby, smooth and seemingly gleaming.

If a woman had skin like this, she would be ecstatic; however, Li Xiu was somewhat worried, fearing it might be poison or aftereffects left by the Demon Armor Spirit that died inside him.

Aside from shedding skin, could there be other symptoms?

Even if it were just shedding, if it happened daily, it would be psychologically challenging to accept.

With things having reached this point, the only option was to take it one step at a time. After ensuring his body was temporarily fine, Li Xiu returned to where A Fei was.

"Why did it take you so long? Time is almost up," A Fei, who was packing up, spoke without looking up upon hearing Li Xiu's footsteps.

"While we have a bit of time, let's go over our previously decided choices again," Li Xiu didn't answer A Fei, but sat on the bed and recited what they had agreed upon.

"Your memory is excellent, not a single mistake, no need to go over it again." A Fei continued packing; she had found many useful items at the base and planned to take them.

"Your memory should be excellent too, right?" Li Xiu said as he watched A Fei's busy silhouette.

Upon hearing this, A Fei paused her task, turned to stare at Li Xiu and said, "If you don't trust me, you can go find someone else to participate in the Ends of the Earth Trial."

Li Xiu met A Fei's gaze, yet said nothing, quietly taking the backpack and Magic Armor Box he'd packed earlier. Once up, he said, "Let's go, it's about time."

The two arrived once more in front of the blue stone door. At the time A Fei calculated, she took out the remaining blue gemstones from Old Gu's box, embedding them one by one into the door's grooves.

Once all the grooves were embedded with gemstones, they lighted up, and then the patterns on the door lit up, and the stone door slowly opened.

The two exchanged a glance and entered the trial ground one after the other.

Not the familiar arena; Li Xiu found himself atop a peak with a platform.

The peak seemed like a sharp sword piercing the clouds; Li Xiu looked down and saw only a vast sea of clouds and a ninety-degree stone cliff.

The platform was a square, with sides about five meters. In the center stood a one-meter-high column with black and white buttons on the round top.

Besides this, there was nothing else, and A Fei was nowhere in sight.

"Welcome to the Sea Heaven Trial Ground. S-level trials are initiated. Trial participants: 2, automatic team formation, directly starting the final trial. The trial rules are as follows..."

Above the sea of clouds, a phantom screen appeared, floating mysteriously.

Li Xiu finished reading the rules and found them consistent with what A Fei had said, except for a slight difference.

A Fei mentioned ten questions; however, Li Xiu saw eleven, marking one round of trials, no rewards before completing a round.

Moreover, according to A Fei, her trial had only one button, unlike the two shown here.

"Are the number of questions varying for each trial, or did A Fei get the count wrong?" Li Xiu pondered, frowning.

The trial didn't allow Li Xiu much time for thought. As the countdown ended, the first question appeared on the screen.

"Black or white, choose one answer. Team members' answers must match; differing answers lead to team trial failure... Answer countdown starts..."

If it were two people entering the Ends of the Earth Trial for the first time, they would have no opportunity to communicate, making getting this first question right a fifty percent possibility.

Having to select the same answer for all eleven is unfathomably low in survival odds.

Additionally, it's a double failure mode; one death means both die, making the S-level difficulty much higher in mortality rate than before.

However, the two already made agreements, having more than one plan, so even with slight deviations, like two buttons instead of one, they could still coordinate.

Li Xiu glanced at the black and white buttons, directly pressing the black one.

They previously agreed to choose the first answer in case of two options.

Choosing the wrong answer would mean A Fei dies as well; Li Xiu wasn't worried about any mishap on A Fei's side.

"Team answers matched; first question passed. Entering next trial after countdown ends."

Between questions, there weren't any physical enhancement rewards; the second trial began swiftly.

"Are you male or female? Male: white button, Female: black button..."

Such a question would make choosing difficult for a male-female pair without tacit understanding. Fortunately, the two were already in sync.

Li Xiu unhesitatingly chose the white button, quickly passing the trial once again.

The initial questions passed using the first option preference, but the method ceased working by the fifth question.

"What's your favorite color? Counting down... ten... nine... eight..."

Li Xiu frowned at the black and white buttons before him; only these two colors could be chosen, but which should he pick?

No order in answers and unable to communicate with A Fei, the ten-second countdown was quickly nearing its end.

The two had previously discussed numerous plans; however, none included such a question, perhaps because A Fei had participated in an Ends of the Earth Trial before, prompting increased difficulty against her.

Black or white?

Chapter 30: Chapter 30: The Final Choice

Li Xiu looked at the black and white buttons, and with five seconds left on the countdown, he pressed the black button.

He chose the black button for the first question, since there was no way to determine the priority for this one, he decided to stick with the priority from the start of the trial, which was black.

Although Li Xiu and Fei hadn't made this agreement, Li Xiu believed that with Fei's intelligence, she would figure it out.

Of course, he could only hope Fei understood this. From what he knew about her, she was definitely not a foolish woman.

Staring intently at the screen, Li Xiu waited for the countdown to end.

"Three... two... one... countdown over. Answers match, proceeding to the next round of the trial..."

Having passed the trial unscathed, Li Xiu sighed in relief. If Fei hadn't figured it out and relied on luck to choose, they both would have been doomed.

Even if they didn't die this round, they would die in the next one anyway.

Because based on Li Xiu's judgment, the upcoming questions wouldn't allow them to cheat so easily.

Sure enough, the next question broke away from their agreed-upon plan.

"Do you believe in the existence of God? Press any button if you believe, don't press if you don't."

Because Fei said there was only one button, according to their previous agreement, questions where pressing or not pressing was optional required a button press.

But now there were two buttons, and if they had to choose one, it made the task even harder than before.

The best way was to choose not to press, which would be the easiest answer to agree upon; it's the most straightforward and also the way most people choose to resolve issues.

When faced with unsolvable difficulties, and there's a possibility to escape, most ordinary people tend to choose to avoid. Even knowing that the situation might become irrevocable, they still avoid taking the risks they should bear.

If both people think like this, they could easily reach a consensus.

However, Li Xiu did not choose not to press, because the agreement was the agreement. He believed Fei would also follow the agreement rather than wishfully thinking his partner would give up on a tough choice.

Li Xiu pressed the black button, still following the logic of the previous question, calculating the optimal choice from the start of the trial.

After pressing the black button, Li Xiu squinted his eyes at the countdown because he couldn't be sure whether Fei relied on luck in the previous question, or if she really thought of this method, or if she had other thoughts.

Time ticked by second by second, Li Xiu's heart beat faster and faster. Even the strongest minded person would find it hard not to be nervous at this moment.

Now, Li Xiu could only trust his judgment and his judgment of Fei.

The final digit, 1, on the light screen shattered and vanished, and the wristband on Li Xiu's hand didn't explode, making Li Xiu completely relax.

After this question, Li Xiu confirmed that Fei judged the same as he did; she wasn't someone who solved problems in a simple, brute-force way.

With this understanding, they resolved the remaining questions one by one, reaching a perfect consistency on all ten questions.

Through these questions, Li Xiu and Fei developed a sense of mutual understanding, and with this, one could even argue they understood each other better than anyone else in the world, transcending blood relatives or romantic partners.

The final question appeared on the screen, and the cold electronic voice read out each word of the question.

Reading the question, Li Xiu hesitated for the first time.

The question was very simple, and the choice was clear. Even two complete strangers could make a consistent choice, allowing both to survive and claim their reward.

By choosing the black button, both could complete the End of the World Trial and receive their deserved reward.

But besides this option, there was another choice.

If one person chose to press the white button and the other chose the black button, the person pressing the white button would receive double the reward, while the person pressing the black button would fail the trial.

Beyond this, there was no rule indicating what would happen if both pressed the white button.

Li Xiu looked at the black and white buttons but did not press decisively like before; such a simple choice was a hundred times more dangerous than the previous ones.

If following the agreement, Li Xiu should press the black button.

But Fei participated in The Ends of the Earth Trial for the first time, survived, and obtained the S-grade skill reward "Forfeit."

The Ends of the Earth Trial requires two people as a team to participate, meaning there must have been someone teamed with Fei during her trial.

So what happened to the other person? They must have reached the last step with Fei; otherwise, Fei wouldn't have received a reward.

But what about the person who teamed up with Fei? If they survived, they should also have obtained an S-grade skill, right? Why is there no mention of such a person in Abyss Base?

If such a person truly existed, Old Gu wouldn't have let him leave, just like he didn't let Fei go.

What is more frightening is that Fei told Li Xiu there were a total of ten questions, but now there was an eleventh, and this additional question involved such a choice.

Could it be possible that Fei originally knew there were eleven questions, and during her previous trial, faced the same choice where her teammate chose the black button, while Fei chose the white button?

Looking at the black and white buttons, Li Xiu remained silent.

If both people pressing the white button means failure in the trial, maybe someone as smart as Fei would choose the black button.

But the rules did not explain what would happen if both press the white button; perhaps they might both receive double rewards by pressing the white button.

This thought is dangerous, but it's possible, and it's precisely because of this slight possibility that someone who might have chosen the black button would switch to the white button, raising the probability.

Choosing the black button offers a fifty percent chance of dying, and even if surviving, grants only one reward.

Choosing the white button might not require dying, offering a fifty percent chance to get two rewards, perhaps even more.

The choices between angels and demons often find the demon side more alluring.

Li Xiu doesn't care about an extra reward, but what about Fei? After all, they had just known each other for half a month; Fei could still be someone with a questionable past.

"Four... three... two..." The countdown reached the last second; it was time to make a choice.

"S-grade difficulty truly lives up to its name; in the face of reality, the ugliness of human nature often triumphs over goodness. Fei, what will you choose?" Li Xiu looked at the two buttons before him, exhaled slowly, and reached out to press one of them.