

When God 261

Chapter 261 Mysterious Container_2

Who knows what will happen if this thing gets smashed and the light inside leaks out.

"This won't work, and those wooden planks need to be taken back as well." After some thought, Li Xiu took out two rings and tossed them to Chu Jun.

"Are these Demon Spirit Rings of the Death Contract? Where did you get them from?" Chu Jun caught the rings and quickly asked.

"Picked them up from the enemy. I originally planned to find a chance to sell them, but you use them first. Just don't use them in front of others. These are linked to the Longevity Heaven, and using them carelessly might bring trouble if spotted by people from Longevity Heaven," Li Xiu explained.

Chu Jun nodded and didn't say anything further. Had it been before, he would have pressed for more details. Now, his trust in Li Xiu didn't require asking so much. He knew Li Xiu wasn't the type to kill and pillage for personal gain.

After using the two Demon Spirit Rings, Chu Jun discovered one was a B-grade Magma Stone Man and the other a C-grade Demon Snake Person. The Magma Stone Man was a Radiant Demon Spirit, and the Demon Snake Person was a Shining Demon Spirit.

The two of them loaded some of the wooden planks onto the backs of the Masked Emperor and the Pink Nightmare, while Chu Jun and his own spirit carried the remaining planks.

Li Xiu had the Jedi Knight, Demigod Shana, and his Black Death Demon lift the container together.

As for the Love God Shooter and White Night Female Demon, Li Xiu didn't bother to summon them. Their E-grade strength was quite limited and wouldn't be of much help.

"Can we lift it like this? Should we give up on some of the planks?" Chu Jun knew very well that these spirits couldn't possibly lift that container.

"With my added strength, it should work. You head back first, clear the area in front of the Trial Gate, and don't let anyone see this." Li Xiu walked to the side of the container, grabbed the semicircular handle, and tried applying force.

"Okay." Chu Jun didn't waste any words, carrying the planks and blew out the Longevity Lamp beside him.

In an instant, Chu Jun and his demon spirits vanished, leaving only Li Xiu and his spirits in the city.

After waiting for a while to ensure Chu Jun had enough time to clear the area, Li Xiu took a deep breath, his body emitting a faint white light, with a hint of blood red in it.

This was Light Energy from the Forbidden Spear of the Symbiotic Contract. With the augmentation of the Forbidden Spear's Light Energy, Li Xiu's strength surged.

That's the advantage of the Symbiotic Contract, being able to share Light Energy with the master.

Before using the Forbidden Spear's Light Energy, Li Xiu's Primordial Embryo Quality was 1.2, with no boost other than skills.

With the Forbidden Spear's Light Energy, it's as if Li Xiu had the enhancement of a Glorious Quality, making his strength far surpass the usual.

This is also why Demigod Shana could contend with advanced demon spirits, relying on high-quality Light Energy augmentation.

Li Xiu lifted one side himself, while Demigod Shana and the Jedi Knight lifted the other side, with the Black Death Demon supporting the crystal.

The Skill Brands on his fingers appeared, emitting various strange Light Patterns, and together with his spirits, Li Xiu exerted force but still couldn't lift the container.

The light on Li Xiu's body changed again, with blue light emerging along with the red within the white light, derived from the shared Light Energy of the Evil Spirit Token.

This was equivalent to having two kinds of Glorious Quality Light Energy augmenting Li Xiu at the same time, making his strength no weaker than Demigod Shana's now.

Though Demigod Shana was already D-grade, with various skills and two kinds of Glorious Quality Light Energy augmentations, Li Xiu was no weaker than him, which is quite terrifying.

The container shook incessantly, seemingly about to leave the ground, but it was just a tiny bit short of lifting off.

A flash of light appeared in Li Xiu's eyes, the Ultimate Light activated, and his entire body became nearly transparent, unleashing terrifying power to alone lift his end of the container.

Demigod Shana, the Jedi Knight, and the Black Death Demon also poured their strength into it, and together they lifted the container.

The moment the container left the ground, Li Xiu blew out the Longevity Lamp. He felt a momentary darkness before finding himself outside the Trial Gate.

Bang!

The container landed heavily on the ground, embedding a small section into the ground, causing the surrounding stone pavement to crack like a spider web.

The light surrounding Li Xiu had dissipated. He surveyed the surroundings and, seeing that aside from Chu Jun, there was no one else in the courtyard where the Trial Gate was located, he let out a slight sigh of relief.

Chu Jun, who had somehow acquired a large thick piece of canvas, directly covered the container with it to prevent the bright light inside the container from attracting the attention of outsiders.

"What should we do now?" Chu Jun looked at Li Xiu and asked.

"Go and find Old Guanyu, have him take a look at what this thing is." Exhausted, Li Xiu found a chair and sat down.

By simultaneously using numerous skills like Frenzy, Super Exciting, and Boiling Blood to stimulate his body and unleash potential, the burden on his body was considerable, making his muscles ache all over.

Chu Jun responded, quickly fetching Ximen Guan over.

"What do you want? I told you, my experiment is at a critical point; I can't leave right now. Why insist on dragging me here? Can't it wait a bit?" Ximen Guan complained incessantly as Chu Jun hauled him over.

"Old Guanyu, have a look at what this stuff is," Li Xiu pointed at the pile of wooden planks and said to Ximen Guan.

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"What's so interesting about a pile of broken wooden planks?" Although Ximen Guan was somewhat reluctant, he still walked over to the pile of planks, reached out to grab one, planning to casually take a look.

But to his surprise, he couldn't lift the plank despite giving it a firm grip.

Ximen Guan was stunned for a moment, then carefully examined the planks. He picked up a palm-sized plank and struggled to raise it to his eyes.

After looking for a while, Ximen Guan's expression gradually became serious. He released the plank, letting it fall to the ground, cracking the stone floor and making a metallic sound.

Then he crouched down, using the metal ring on his finger to tap on the plank, listening closely to the sound it made.

Afterwards, he took out a magnifying glass he carried with him and almost lay on the plank, examining it closely bit by bit.

Finally, Ximen Guan even stretched out his tongue and licked the plank.

"Old Guan, have you figured out what kind of metal this is?" Chu Jun asked from the side.

"Metal my ass, this is wood." Ximen Guan snapped without looking up.

"Is it really wood?" Chu Jun was surprised; he thought it was made of metal.

"Where did you get these planks?" Ximen Guan raised his head, his eyes full of excitement.

"Never mind where we got them from for now. Do you know what they are?" Li Xiu looked at Ximen Guan and asked.

Explaining it would take too long. Li Xiu just wanted to know what these planks were.

"If I'm not mistaken, these should be Demon Spirit Wood..." Ximen Guan said, looking at the pile of wood on the ground with a peculiar expression. "But it shouldn't be... this much Demon Spirit Wood..."

"What is Demon Spirit Wood?" Chu Jun asked.

"Just as the name suggests, it's wood grown using a demon spirit." Ximen Guan replied.

"Demon spirits can grow wood?" Chu Jun was greatly surprised.

"Of course they can. Capture a live demon spirit, transplant a sapling into its body, let the sapling absorb the demon spirit's flesh and energy to grow until the demon spirit's energy is completely drained. The resulting wood is called Demon Spirit Wood. Of course, it's not an ordinary sapling. A while back, in the

Eternal Heaven, some Demon Spirit Wood was cultivated, but I don't know where they found those saplings."

"Those saplings are very special themselves, as hard as iron and stone. After absorbing the demon spirit's energy, the resulting wood is as hard as a gemstone, yet retains the toughness of wood. It's the best material for making Demon Armor..."

As Ximen Guan spoke, his gaze swept over the pile of broken planks. "However, not many Demon Spirit Trees were cultivated in the Eternal Heaven, and not every Demon Spirit Tree grows successfully. Even if they do grow successfully, because different demon spirits are used to grow them, the resulting Demon Spirit Wood can vary... These planks look uniformly special, and they're so large. If they are all Demon Spirit Wood, it's unimaginable what kind of demon spirit they grew from... Moreover..."

"Moreover, what..." Li Xiu asked.

"If these planks are indeed Demon Spirit Wood, I feel they're somewhat different from the Demon Spirit Wood I've seen in the Eternal Heaven and might be of even higher quality than those used in Demon Spirit Techniques... Of course, that's assuming these really are Demon Spirit Wood." Ximen Guan looked at Li Xiu and asked, "Where exactly did you get these planks?"

"Black Death City." Li Xiu replied.

"Black Death City has such things?" Ximen Guan was skeptical.

"How can we confirm if these are really Demon Spirit Wood?" Li Xiu asked.

"That's easy. I'll take them back for testing. It won't take more than a few hours." As Ximen Guan spoke, he wanted to take the samples back, eager to find out if these were really Demon Spirit Wood.

"Wait, there's something else I need you to take a look at." Li Xiu stopped Ximen Guan, pointing at a strange container covered with canvas.

"There's something else?" Ximen Guan walked over in confusion and lifted the canvas with his hand.

"What... what's this thing..." Ximen Guan looked at the glowing container, his mouth agape in shock.

"That's what I wanted to ask you." Li Xiu said helplessly.

Ximen Guan's eyes changed. He didn't respond to Li Xiu, instead, he leaned on the container, staring at the light inside through the crystal container without even blinking, mumbling incoherently, "This isn't scientific... How can light energy appear out of nowhere... How can light energy be produced without the presence of an energy source... No, no..."

Seeing that Ximen Guan was about to lose it, Li Xiu quickly signaled to Chu Jun, who rushed forward to pull Ximen Guan away, while Li Xiu covered the container with the canvas again to prevent the light from attracting attention outside.

"Let me go... What are you doing... Only I can figure this out... If you don't let me see it, are you going to keep it just for childbirth?" Ximen Guan struggled to lunge back.

"Old Guan, don't be anxious. You can take it back to the lab and study it slowly. But we have a deal: once there's a result, you must notify me first, and without my permission, you cannot use these things for experiments." Li Xiu said.

"But..." Old Guan was somewhat unhappy.

Before he could say anything, Li Xiu said, "If you don't agree, go back and continue studying your Demon Armor. I'll just keep these things stored for now."

"There's no use storing them anyway... Fine... I get it..." Seeing Li Xiu's expression, Ximen Guan realized that if he argued further, he'd probably really lose access to these things, so he grudgingly conceded.

He also knew he had been a bit insensitive before, using Li Xiu's materials for his research without notice. He was, after all, suffering the consequences of his own actions.

However, Ximen Guan understood very well that eventually, these materials would still be given to him to use, so he wasn't too worried.

"Let's move these things to my lab first." Ximen Guan quickly forgot about the recent unpleasantness, eager to take them back for research. The mysterious container filled him with intense curiosity.

Li Xiu and Chu Jun quietly transported the items to Ximen Guan's laboratory. Fortunately, the container could be pushed; otherwise, they wouldn't be able to find a tool in the City of Light to transport it.

Chapter 263 The Bride's Mask

"Li Xiu, I've got some good news for you. All that wood is Demon Spirit Wood, and not just any kind of Demon Spirit Wood. Based on my initial tests, it seems this Demon Spirit Wood grew from an S-Class Demon Spirit, and not an ordinary one at that. I still need to run detailed tests for specific data... These instruments really are a hassle..." In the afternoon, while Li Xiu was refueling the Masked Emperor's tank with Topaz, Ximen Guan called him, his voice trembling with excitement.

"Oh, got it." Li Xiu didn't seem particularly thrilled.

Demon Spirit Wood is great, but unfortunately, it can't be exchanged for Gemstones. If he tried to trade the Demon Spirit Wood for Gemstones, Ximen Guan would probably go nuts.

Of course, Li Xiu had no intention of exchanging the Demon Spirit Wood for Gemstones. He was, after all, quite invested in Ximen Guan's research. If his resources weren't limited, he would have already increased funding for Ximen Guan.

Now that Ximen Guan had materials to work with, how could he sell them off?

"What kind of attitude is that? Don't you realize what this means?" As Ximen Guan spoke, he seemed to realize something, letting out an awkward laugh: "My bad, you probably really don't know yet."

"Let me put it this way, with this Demon Spirit Wood as a material, I can make at least three more sets of Demon Armor. And I'm talking about the kind of Demon Armor that I research, not those crappy ones... actually... they should be even better than the set I made before. After all, the materials I used back then were far inferior to this Demon Spirit Wood..." Ximen Guan was so excited he could hardly string a sentence together.

"That's great, now you won't have to worry about materials anymore." Li Xiu laughed.

"Well, it's not that simple. Demon Spirit Wood is just one of the key materials. To create a complete set of Demon Armor, we still need more materials, like high-quality S-Class Demon Cores..." Ximen Guan was trying to hit up Li Xiu for materials again.

"Nope." Li Xiu cut off Ximen Guan's wishful thinking. If he had a high-quality S-Class Demon Core, he'd use it to feed the Demigod Shana. No way would he give it to Ximen Guan to make Demon Armor.

Boosting Demigod Shana to S-Class as soon as possible was much more reliable than however long Ximen Guan would take with his Demon Armor research.

Ximen Guan also knew Li Xiu didn't have any money. Managing to snag this batch of Demon Spirit Wood was already a windfall, and Ximen Guan didn't feel comfortable asking for additional budget increases.

To ensure Li Xiu would keep getting him materials in the future, Ximen Guan unexpectedly dangled a little bait this time.

"I'm planning to rebuild the basic components of your Demon Armor from scratch, using Demon Spirit Wood as the base material. This will dramatically enhance the Demon Armor's performance, improving not just its defense but also significantly boosting the transmission speed of Demonic Light and reducing loss during transmission..."

"When can it be ready?" Li Xiu showed a bit of interest.

"I've already allocated manpower to work on your Demon Armor first, but remaking the base materials will still take some time. Should be less than a month," mused Ximen Guan.

"Hurry it up. Hope it can be done before the magic tournament starts." Li Xiu calculated the time; it should be feasible.

"No problem." Ximen Guan paused before his voice took on an odd tone: "As for that peculiar container, I still haven't figured out exactly what it is, but from my initial tests, it seems quite formidable."

"What do you mean by formidable?" Li Xiu didn't quite understand Ximen Guan's choice of words.

"Every movement requires energy. Whether it was old thermal weapons or today's Demon Armor, they all need an energy source to function. It might look like Demon Armor doesn't need an energy source, but that's not true. The energy source for Demon Armor, simply put, is the core Demon Core array. Once the energy from the Demon Core array is depleted, the Demon Armor becomes useless."

"Of course, it's not easy to completely exhaust a Demon Core's energy. Plus, Demon Cores can automatically absorb free energy to recharge themselves. However, this recharging speed is limited; it's somewhat akin to solar charging. During prolonged intense battles, the energy replenished by the Demon Core array can't keep up with consumption."

"Tell me something I don't know." Being a Magic Armor Master, Li Xiu naturally knew these things.

"Upon my examination, that container seems like an enormous energy battery. The energy inside feels inexhaustible. If we can figure out how it works and apply it to Demon Armor, we might be able to create Demon Armor with a never-ending energy supply..." Ximen Guan got excited again.

Li Xiu quietly listened to Ximen Guan finish. Before he could get a word of praise in, Ximen Guan hung up and returned to his research.

"That old guy, he's a real Demon Armor fanatic." Li Xiu chuckled, placing his phone on the table, and poured the rest of the Topaz into the tank.

"Even the Topaz is all used up. How am I going to scrounge up some money? Even if I can't come up with the cash to buy Gemstones, getting some Demon Cores to feed Demigod Shana and the Jedi Knight would do." Li Xiu looked at the Masked Emperor spinning circles and burning Topaz to absorb energy, feeling quite troubled.

Chapter 264 Bride Mask_2

It's not easy to earn money, and it's equally hard to obtain Demon Cores. The randomness of the entry tickets is too high, and there are only a few Demon Spirits in Black Death City, making it hard to find suitable ones to get Demon Cores from.

"The Godslayer Shrine has been quiet recently. If I could enter Blood Moon Black Death City one more time, all problems would be solved." Li Xiu fed all the remaining E-grade Radiant Demon Cores to Demigod Shana, but it still wasn't enough to advance him to C-grade.

The appetite of Demigod Shana is even larger than that of a Jedi Knight, requiring more resources for advancement.

Li Xiu calculated; not only does he have to nurture the Demon Spirits, but the contracts on him require resources to improve both Primordial Embryo Quality and level.

"Having too many things can also be a headache." Just as Li Xiu was lamenting, his phone suddenly rang.

Li Xiu glanced at it and saw it was a call from Kun Sha.

"Li Xiu, do you have time? Can you come to Tyrone City?" Kun Sha seemed to be in a hurry, skipping the pleasantries.

"What happened?" Li Xiu asked.

"Something happened to Qin Shi..." Kun Sha explained the situation anxiously.

Initially, Li Xiu thought Qin Shi was injured in battle or maybe someone attempted an assassination, but it turned out Qin Shi fell ill.

However, Qin Shi's illness was strange. Her body was in a constant state of high fever, which had persisted for more than a day. Kun Sha had consulted every available doctor and provided the best treatment for Qin Shi, yet the fever showed no signs of abating, and the cause could not be identified.

Now, Qin Shi was already in a coma. Kun Sha was afraid that if the fever continued, even if Qin Shi woke up, her brain might be damaged from the heat.

"The doctors have no ideas; what can I do?" Li Xiu felt puzzled. He wasn't a doctor, so why was Kun Sha asking for his help?

Kun Sha said helplessly, "At first, Qin Shi's temperature shot up to forty degrees. The doctors said that if it didn't go down soon, her life would be in danger. Now it's almost fifty degrees and still climbing. However, despite being in a coma, her bodily functions remain undamaged, with normal EKG and other tests. It's an illness I've never seen before; a normal person at such a high temperature wouldn't survive. I'm wondering if it's somehow related to the nature of being a Magic Armor Master, so I thought of you. Maybe you know what's going on."

After hearing Kun Sha's explanation, Li Xiu frowned. A Magic Armor Master, apart from having higher Spiritual Force, doesn't have a body different from ordinary people. Surviving temperatures over fifty degrees without dying, while tests are normal, seems quite mysterious.

"You're a Magic Armor Master too. Do you think this illness is related to being a Magic Armor Master?" Li Xiu asked in return.

"I've never encountered anything like this. Asking you is like trying to rescue a dead horse as if it were still alive. If Qin Shi's fever doesn't go down, she really won't make it." Kun Sha said helplessly.

"Do you know why Qin Shi collects rubies?" Li Xiu suddenly asked a question unrelated to the illness.

"I have no idea. Qin Shi never mentioned it. Previously Pa Shan also asked her, but she just smiled and said nothing more." Kun Sha asked suspiciously, "Do you mean her illness is related to the rubies? That seems unlikely; rubies themselves don't emit harmful radiation enough to cause illness." Kun Sha knew that some gemstones have radiation that could adversely affect human health, but rubies don't have such high radiation levels.

"Has she been collecting new rubies recently?" Li Xiu didn't answer Kun Sha, continuing to ask.

"Let me think; the rewards I've promised her so far are shares in gemstone mines, but it's not time for dividends yet. However, she seems to have taken on a private job recently, reportedly acquiring quite a few benefits, probably rubies." Kun Sha said.

"Tell me more." Li Xiu hurriedly pursued.

He suspected Qin Shi might have tangled with Demon Spirit Gemstones, as her illness seemed very unusual.

"I'm not very sure about this. You know, Qin Shi is practically working for free for me now, so how could I feel right about asking her about such things?" Kun Sha said apologetically.

"I'm heading over now." Li Xiu arranged some city affairs and then set off for Tyrone City.

There wasn't much to arrange, as he hardly ever meddled in those city matters.

Fortunately, he hadn't left the Southern Cross Federation, and though Tyrone City wasn't as close as Red Sand City, it wasn't too far either.

He rode the Masked Emperor whenever possible, and when he couldn't, he rode the Pink Nightmare. He hurried for more than two days to reach Tyrone City.

When Li Xiu saw Qin Shi lying in bed, he was taken aback. Qin Shi's originally pale face was now as red as an apple. Standing next to her, he could feel warmth akin to a radiant heater coming from her.

"It's definitely more than fifty degrees, isn't it?" Li Xiu looked at the thermometer connected to Qin Shi, which registered at fifty-four degrees; any higher, and it seemed they could fry an egg on her.

"Her body temperature keeps rising, and the doctors dare not use physical methods to cool her down..." Kun Sha said helplessly.

"You all go out first; let me examine her." Li Xiu ushered Kun Sha and Pa Shan out, then walked to the bed, first examining Qin Shi's hands and then pulling down her collar a little to check if she was wearing a necklace.

Chapter 265 Bride Mask_3

Qin Shi wore no rings on her hands, no bracelets on her wrists, nor any gemstone necklaces around her neck.

"Could it be that it's not the Demon Spirit Gemstone causing trouble? Then there's real trouble." Li Xiu was not a doctor; if it was indeed some mysterious illness, he had no way to handle it.

At this point, there was nothing else to be done but to leave it to fate. Li Xiu reached out to turn over Qin Shi's clothes pocket, wanting to see if she had any gemstones on her.

Qin Shi was dressed in a patient's gown, with only two pockets in her jacket; a quick feel revealed nothing inside.

"It seems I can't be of any help here either." Li Xiu stood up preparing to leave when he suddenly noticed a backpack hanging next to the bed.

Li Xiu remembered having seen this backpack before; it seemed to have been with Qin Shi all the time, and she treasured it even more than the Phoenix Magic Armor, keeping it close even while sleeping.

Li Xiu's intuition stirred, and he reached out to grab that backpack.

The moment he grabbed it, Li Xiu realized the backpack was made from special materials, appearing like fabric but was actually a type of composite material, with alloy wires and some special fibers embedded inside.

Not only was it waterproof and fireproof, but also extremely resilient, unable to be cut by ordinary knives.

Previously, in the Space City's laboratory, many researchers wore work clothes made of this material.

The backpack had no zippers, and its opening was drawn close by a cord of the same material, tied in a special knot that required intricate work to untie for those unfamiliar with it.

Li Xiu effortlessly untied the knot, opened the backpack, and found a metal box inside, likely made from some alloy, with nothing else in it.

He took out the box, noticing it had a fingerprint lock installed on it.

Luckily, with Qin Shi right beside him, Li Xiu tried her fingers one by one and quickly unlocked the box.

Lifting the lid with utmost care, Li Xiu immediately saw a red gemstone, resembling a crystal formed from blood, its rich, deep, vivid color having an indescribable beauty with a devilish charm under the lamp's glow, akin to flowing magma inside.

Just a glance told Li Xiu there was something wrong with this gemstone, as he suddenly felt a strong hunger pang.

The gemstone was cut in a marquise shape, wide in the middle, tapered at the ends, resembling a red gemstone shuttle.

And this marquise-cut red gemstone was inlaid in a Golden Mask, right at the brow center, appearing like a blood-red vertical eye.

The mask was complete except for hollowed-out eye areas, resembling a woman's face, and, combined with the gemstone, exuded an inexplicable, sinister allure.

Seeing this object, Li Xiu breathed a slight sigh of relief. He might not know how to treat illnesses, but dealing with Demon Spirit Gemstones was something within his capabilities.

"Qin Shi, oh Qin Shi, I'm not trying to take your gemstone; I'm trying to save your life. I don't have any other options." Li Xiu spoke to Qin Shi and then pricked his finger, letting his blood drip onto the marquise-shaped red gemstone.

As soon as the blood contacted the gemstone, the red gem flashed an internal light, instantly evaporating Li Xiu's blood.

"Huh!" It was Li Xiu's first time encountering a Demon Spirit Gemstone resistant to his blood, causing him to feel startled.

With a slight frown, Li Xiu called Kun Sha and Pa Shan in from outside.

"How's it going? Is Qin Shi going to be alright?" Kun Sha hurriedly inquired upon entering.

"Have you seen this thing or know of it?" Li Xiu didn't answer him, holding up the Golden Mask to show Kun Sha and Pa Shan.

Kun Sha and Pa Shan inspected it for a while, both looking perplexed.

As Li Xiu felt a hint of disappointment, he suddenly heard Shale shouting as he came in, "Li Xiu, you came without giving me a heads-up, that's really inconsiderate."

Shale walked over to greet Li Xiu, but upon seeing the Golden Mask in his hands, he suddenly exclaimed.

"Where did you get this thing? Is it real?" Shale pointed at the Golden Mask and asked.

"You know this thing?" Li Xiu thought to himself, realizing, "How could I have overlooked Shale?"

"Of course I know, it's the Bride Mask isn't it? Whether yours is genuine or not, if it is, you'll be rich." Shale said.

"What do you mean?" Li Xiu quickly asked.

Taking the mask to examine it closely, Shale explained, "The Bride Mask is worn by brides, a mask used by brides during weddings in an Ancient Country."

Shale elaborated on its detailed origin, leaving Kun Sha and Pa Shan bewildered.

Before the Southern Cross Federation existed, there was an ancient country on this land, which upheld a tradition that brides had to wear masks on their wedding day, not taking it off until allowed by the groom during the bridal chamber candlelight night.

Initially, bride masks were typically made of wood, and some noble families would craft them from silver.

Gold Bride Masks were rare even then; legends mention how a favored princess of the emperor had one at her wedding.

However, that wedding ended tragically with the princess perishing in flames, marking the Golden Bride Mask as a symbol of misfortune. Since then, no one has used the Golden Bride Mask, which became known as the Princess Mask.

"The more I look at this Golden Mask, the more it seems like an actual Princess Mask," Shale remarked, his expression changing.

"How can you tell if this is a genuine Princess Mask? Earlier you said the Princess Mask is just a legend, and no one knows if it's real," Pa Shan questioned.

"Look at this red gemstone, doesn't it seem off?" Shale pointed at the red gemstone inlay at the mask's brow and commented.

Chapter 266 Punch Dominator Trial Ground

The group carefully examined the Ruby on the Golden Mask and soon discovered there were indeed some issues.

Most gemstones are considered better the larger and cleaner they are. However, this Ruby was quite large, but not particularly clean, with some inclusions that looked like color paste.

"Is this a fake Pigeon Blood Ruby? Has it been heated or color-enhanced?" Kun Sha asked.

In the past, Ruby could be treated with heat to reduce inclusions, enhancing its color's brilliance.

Such heat-treated Ruby is called "burned" Ruby, whereas non-heat-treated Ruby is termed "non-burned" Ruby.

Burned Ruby is not considered fake but is far less valuable than non-burned Ruby. Unscrupulous merchants sometimes sell burned Ruby as non-burned, which is deceitful.

As for color enhancement, that is true fakery and is extremely unethical.

On such a valuable Golden Mask, it's unlikely to use such an inclusion-rich Ruby, so Kun Sha thought this was a fake Ruby, and the original Ruby might have been replaced.

Unexpectedly, Shale shook his head and said, "No, this is a real Ruby and indeed a Pigeon Blood Ruby. The current standard for Pigeon Blood Ruby is to be as clean as possible, but during that Ancient Country's era, true Pigeon Blood Rubies were like this."

"Was the standard for Pigeon Blood Ruby so low in that Ancient Country?" Kun Sha exclaimed.

"You're mistaken; the standards from that era were far from low, they were extremely high. Not just any inclusion or color band could be considered a Pigeon Blood Ruby." While saying this, Shale took out his phone, turned on the flashlight function, and shone it on the Ruby in the Golden Mask.

The group was surprised to find that under the light, the Ruby inside looked like the color of magma, displaying a flowing fireworks effect.

The marquise-shaped Ruby glowed with flowing red light, resembling burning flames.

"According to legend, the Princess Bride already had a beloved, but was forced by the Emperor to marry a powerful noble. On the wedding day, she leapt into the roaring fire wearing the Golden Bride Mask, sacrificing her life to defend her love and dignity. After the fire was extinguished, only the Golden Bride Mask was found among the ashes, and the originally pure Ruby on the mask had turned into this. Later,

this Ancient Country's standard for Pigeon Blood Ruby also became this form. Only this kind of Ruby in that Ancient Country could be termed Pigeon Blood, representing the most top-tier Ruby." Shale caressed the Golden Mask and said, "Although it's just a legend, whether the Golden Bride Mask and the Princess existed is unknown, yet the Ruby on this is indeed priceless, incomparable to ordinary Pigeon Blood Ruby."

By this point, Li Xiu understood why Qin Shi had a persistent high fever.

However, Li Xiu still didn't comprehend why Qin Shi had the Princess Mask, nor the reason for her collecting Ruby.

The Ruby on the Princess Mask, though precious, and with a beautiful, poignant story behind it, had a legend no less striking than that of the Ominous Diamond.

Why could he contract with the Ominous Diamond but be rejected by this Ruby?

Qin Shi's fever was unyielding, her temperature steadily rising. At this rate, in a few days, she might be cooked alive. Unable to form a contract with the Ruby, Qin Shi couldn't be saved.

Actually, Li Xiu had serious doubts; even if Qin Shi was saved now, her brain might have already been damaged by the heat.

With temperatures exceeding fifty degrees, how could an ordinary human body withstand it?

Li Xiu reached out and took the Golden Bride Mask from Shale's hands, then directly pried off the Ruby.

"Don't, this thing sells for a higher price with the Golden Mask," Shale said, somewhat pained.

Ignoring him, Li Xiu placed the Golden Mask back into the box and quietly popped the Ruby into his mouth, swallowing it directly.

If blood didn't work, he had to resort to the original method.

The Ruby went down Li Xiu's throat. Fortunately, his body's degree of enhancement was sufficient; otherwise, swallowing such a large Ruby would have been difficult.

Moreover, with both ends of the Ruby being sharp, swallowing it might injure the esophagus.

Once the Ruby was in his stomach, Li Xiu immediately felt as if he had swallowed a ball of fire, a burning sensation pulsing in his stomach.

With a thought, Li Xiu exuded a white glow, the Light Energy from the Forbidden Spear.

With the Light Energy's blessing, the burning sensation in Li Xiu's stomach lessened considerably and gradually calmed down.

As the burning sensation in the stomach subsided, everyone was delighted to see Qin Shi's high temperature start to gradually decrease.

"Li Xiu, you're something else. Is that your Symbiotic Contract's light? It can also heal and treat?" Shale marveled, inspecting Li Xiu.

"It can't save just anyone, nor cure any disease. It just happens to be able to help Qin Shi," Li Xiu replied, not in the mood for chatting with Shale.

Though the burning sensation in his stomach had dissipated, the Ruby hadn't turned into a Demon Spirit Ring on Li Xiu's finger, indicating it hadn't been fully subdued.

Li Xiu's method proved more effective than high-powered fever medicine; Qin Shi's fever subsided in no time, and her body temperature soon returned to normal.

Chapter 267 Punch Dominator Trial Ground_2

"I'm so thirsty..." Qin Shi miraculously woke up from her coma. Her mind didn't seem damaged, but she looked very weak, her complexion pale without a trace of blood, resembling Lin Daiyu during a serious illness, quite different from her usual self.

A few people hurried to pour water for Qin Shi and brought her some thin porridge. After drinking some water and eating a bit of porridge, Qin Shi's spirits lifted significantly, at least enough to sit up by herself.

"Li Xiu, why are you back?" Qin Shi was a bit surprised to see Li Xiu.

"If Li Xiu hadn't returned, you wouldn't have survived." Kun Sha explained the course of events.

Qin Shi was initially fine, but when she heard that Li Xiu had taken out her Golden Bride Mask, her expression changed drastically.

"You all go out; I have something to say to Li Xiu." Qin Shi said, biting her lip.

"What can Li Xiu hear that we can't?" Shale teased.

"I'll chat with Qin Shi briefly, and we can catch up afterward." Li Xiu, knowing what Qin Shi wanted to say, spoke to Shale.

"Alright, I'll go get someone to prepare food and wine." Shale obeyed Li Xiu without hesitation and turned to leave.

Kun Sha was last to leave but thoughtfully closed the door.

Once they left, Qin Shi immediately grabbed the box, opened it, and although the Golden Mask was still inside, the Ruby on it was gone, making her face turn even paler.

"What did you do with that Ruby?" Qin Shi asked Li Xiu, biting her pale lip.

"If I hadn't dealt with it, would you be well?" Li Xiu was a bit surprised. Apparently, Qin Shi knew her illness was related to the Demon Spirit Gemstone, but how much she knew remained unclear.

"It's over, it's all over." Qin Shi murmured, looking ashen-faced.

"What exactly happened? If you trust me, you can tell me, maybe I can help." Li Xiu said.

"You can't help me." Qin Shi's face was full of bitterness, but she continued, "Do you know why I've been collecting rubies all these years?"

"Is it related to that Ruby?" Li Xiu followed her lead.

Qin Shi nodded, "Sort of. I've been collecting those rubies to feed the Princess Bride's Golden Mask."

"Feed?" Li Xiu was confused by the term.

That Ruby hadn't yet turned into a Demon Spirit; how could she feed it?

Qin Shi sighed and explained the whole story.

Qin Shi's father was also a Magic Armor Master but not an outstanding one, just an ordinary E-rank, practically cannon fodder.

During a battle with a Demon Spirit, Qin Shi's father unfortunately died.

Originally, a Magic Armor Master dying at the hands of a Demon Spirit is not uncommon.

But later, Qin Shi learned that her father died because the commander deliberately abandoned him. Her father had offended the commander, so when battling the Demon Spirit, the commander should have given a retreat order but didn't, leading to her father's death.

Knowing the truth, Qin Shi couldn't seek justice for her father and had to flee to avoid further persecution from the commander.

Although Qin Shi had the talent of a Magic Armor Master, lack of financial means, powerful support, and systematic training left her struggling with the spare E-rank armor her father left behind, just managing odd jobs to get by.

She couldn't obtain a set of advanced Magic Armor, let alone seek justice for her father.

Until one day, Qin Shi took a job, joining a Gem Hunter team exploring the ruins of an ancient city.

Within those ruins, they found an ancient palace site. The Princess Bride's Golden Mask was discovered there.

Upon finding the Princess Bride's Golden Mask, the Gem Hunter team was attacked by Demon Spirits, resulting in their annihilation.

The armor Qin Shi's father left was also destroyed in that battle, and she thought she was doomed.

Strangely, the Demon Spirit glanced at Qin Shi lying on the ground but didn't deliver the final blow, and simply left.

When Qin Shi came to, she crawled out from the wrecked armor to find the Golden Mask beneath her, soaked with her blood, its Ruby glowing with a flame-like, bloody light.

Since obtaining the Golden Mask, Qin Shi's life started turning lucky; every job she took turned out favorably, earning a lot quickly.

But soon she discovered a grave problem with the Ruby on the Golden Mask; it would periodically become extremely hot, sometimes enough to burn her hand.

Only when the Ruby was placed with the Golden Mask did its temperature gradually decrease, and over time, the Ruby would vanish without a trace.

Since then, Qin Shi began using rubies to feed the Golden Mask. She tried selling or even burying the mask.

But whenever she left the Golden Mask, misfortune would befall her until she retrieved it, then her luck would return, and she would once again prosper.

Chapter 268 Punch Dominator Trial Ground_3

All these years, Qin Shi had been using rubies to feed the Golden Mask, but the Golden Mask's appetite was growing larger.

At first, an ordinary one-carat ruby could satisfy it, but later, ordinary rubies could no longer quench its thirst; it required high-quality rubies.

In the past two years, only pigeon blood rubies could cool down the rubies on the Golden Mask, which is why she only accepted pigeon blood rubies as payment.

Qin Shi had thought of many ways to solve the Golden Mask's problem and even found out the origin of the Golden Mask.

In the region where that ancient country once stood, Qin Shi heard a legend about the Princess Mask from an old man.

A woman who puts on the Princess Mask must find a man she truly loves to break the curse of the Golden Mask.

Otherwise, the Golden Mask would cling to the host until the host's death.

Before the curse is lifted, if the Golden Mask is damaged, the host will also encounter misfortune.

Qin Shi had already experienced the misfortune brought by the Golden Mask. Not to mention damaging the mask, even abandoning it would bring about misfortune.

Now that Li Xiu had made the gemstone on the Golden Mask disappear, Qin Shi thought she was doomed.

Qin Shi wasn't afraid of death; she was only afraid of dying before she could avenge her father.

"Don't worry, as long as I'm here, you won't encounter any more misfortune." Li Xiu knew very well that Qin Shi's misfortune wasn't due to the Golden Mask, but because of the demon spirit inside the ruby.

Now that the ruby had been swallowed by him, though it hadn't yet been turned into a Demon Spirit Ring, it was already suppressed. Qin Shi shouldn't be affected by it anymore.

Of course, Li Xiu wasn't completely certain that Qin Shi was entirely free from its influence, so he planned for Qin Shi to stay by his side for a while to continue observing. After all, this ruby was the first Demon Spirit Gemstone he hadn't directly contracted.

Upon hearing Li Xiu's words, Qin Shi's pale cheeks blushed slightly, clearly misunderstanding his meaning.

She had just told Li Xiu that she must find a man she truly loves to break the curse of the Golden Mask.

And now, Li Xiu had confidently assured Qin Shi that with him around, she wouldn't encounter any more misfortune.

If that wasn't a confession, what was it? Li Xiu was implying that he was the man Qin Shi truly loved.

"To be safe, you'll follow me around for the time being," Li Xiu said to Qin Shi.

"Alright," Qin Shi replied, head lowered, face red and heart pounding, unable to meet Li Xiu's gaze.

Li Xiu didn't notice Qin Shi's expression. Seeing her head down, he thought she was tired, so he said, "You should rest first. Tomorrow, come back with me."

"Isn't this a bit too fast?" Qin Shi felt flustered inside. "Is it too soon to be defining our relationship? We hardly know each other... But if the curse really is lifted... it means he truly loves me... Still, it feels too fast... What if he wants something more... What should I do?"

"I can't help it. I have many things to attend to back there, and I can't stay here long. I can only take you back with me. The conditions there are somewhat harsh, but if you don't mind, you can sleep in my room. The bed and furniture were left by the previous City Lord, top-quality stuff, the bed is big and soft," Li Xiu said.

"That's impossible..." Qin Shi's heartbeat intensified, and she felt a bit of reproach in her heart. "How could he say such things to me? Does he think I'm that kind of casual woman?"

Noticing Qin Shi's demeanor, Li Xiu quickly realized his words might have been misunderstood. He chuckled and said, "It's not impossible, you can sleep in my room, and I'll take the guest room."

When Qin Shi heard this, she realized she had misunderstood and felt embarrassed. Just as she was about to say something, Li Xiu added, "Of course, if you're not used to sleeping alone, I can stay as your companion, but I must warn you, a gentleman can only talk, no hands or feet, chatting is fine, any other requests... that would cost extra..."

"Get out!" Any trace of apology Qin Shi had felt moments ago vanished in a wave of fury, and she hurled a pillow at Li Xiu.

"Alright, I'm going. Have a good rest." Li Xiu caught the pillow and gently placed it by the bed before leaving Qin Shi's room, closing the door behind him.

"Is this person really the one who can break the curse of the Princess Mask for me?" Qin Shi looked at the closed door with a complex expression, standing still for a long time without moving, lost in her thoughts.

Shale had prepared food and drink, waiting for Li Xiu. Kun Sha and Pa Shan were also present, and after not seeing each other for days, they fell right back into easy camaraderie, drinking, eating, and chatting boisterously.

"Li Xiu, are you interested in going to the Trial Ground with me? Recently, luck has been terrible. I've entered the Trial Ground over twenty times recently, yet I haven't come across a single entry ticket. I still haven't become a real Trial Taker," Shale said, a bit drunk, with an arm around Li Xiu.

"Which Trial Ground? The Mad Ball Trial Ground?" Curious at the mention of the Trial Ground, Li Xiu's interest piqued. Aside from Black Death City, he hadn't been to other Lands of Trial, and if luck favored him, he might find an entry ticket and experience another Land of Trial.

"No, the Mad Ball Trial Ground doesn't suit me. I'm more suited for the wilder trials; recently, I've been going to the Punch Dominator Trial Ground. It's much more interesting than the Mad Ball Trial Ground," Shale chuckled.

"Punch Dominator Trial Ground? Haven't heard of it before. What are the rules?" Li Xiu hadn't heard of this Trial Ground back when he was in Tyrone City.

"Rules? There are no rules. The only rule is whose fists are harder..." Shale's eyes sparkled. "It's much more fun than kicking a ball, no restrictions or limitations, just go for it."

Chapter 269 Gestures

"You let Li Xiu, a super technical Trial Taker, play strength games with you. I can't believe you thought of that," Kun Sha laughed and swore.

"What kind of trial projects are there?" Li Xiu was quite interested.

Shale hasn't been able to become a true Trial Taker yet, so if he can handle it, Li Xiu should have no problem.

Li Xiu's strength now is not what it was when he entered the Trial Ground with Shale. Even Kun Sha's strength is no longer comparable to Li Xiu's.

Shale detailed the trial projects at the Punch Dominator Trial Ground, and actually, the projects are really simple. For trials below Grade A, it's all about comparing punching power.

There are designated trial-use mannequins in the Trial Ground. As long as you cause a certain degree of damage to the mannequin with your fists within a specified time or number of attempts, you can pass the trial.

With Shale's strength, he can pass the first round of an A-level trial smoothly, as long as he doesn't continue further, it won't be too dangerous.

As for the S-level Punch Dominator trial, Shale hasn't encountered it yet, and the chance of it appearing is extremely low.

"This trial is pretty good, at least you don't have to kill each other. We'll go check it out together sometime," Li Xiu said with a smile.

"There is also mutual slaughter, it depends on what kind of people you're trialing with," Shale replied with a cold smile.

"What do you mean?" Li Xiu heard Shale's words and understood that the Punch Dominator trial also has uncertainties.

"The trial itself doesn't require mutual slaughter, but there's no restriction before the trial begins, and there are no rules to protect the participating Trial Takers. When you meet those reckless guys, you're bound to encounter some trouble," Shale said with a sneer.

"That doesn't matter. Anyway, we're just going to the trial together, and there are no outsiders," Li Xiu said.

Shale is impatient; as soon as he decides to go, he pulls Li Xiu out the door, not even drinking his wine, drives him to the Punch Dominator Trial Gate in a jeep.

Li Xiu could see from a distance that the area outside the Punch Dominator Trial Gate was crowded with people and surprisingly bustling.

"What's going on here?" Li Xiu looked at Shale and asked.

"You know the current situation in Tyrone City. Many Trial Gates that originally belonged to Tyrone City are now being encroached upon by people from other cities. Kun Sha has no choice but to temporarily compromise and open those Trial Gates that can no longer be controlled. The Punch Dominator Trial Ground is now shared by Tyrone City and Guyue City. We can come, and people from Guyue City can come too," Shale explained.

"It shouldn't be this lively, though. It's practically like a marketplace," Li Xiu said as he looked at the crowd at the Trial Gate, which was brightly lit with many people setting up stalls on the ground.

"Let me finish. Neither side wants to lose, so they sold the slots for the Punch Dominator Trial Ground. Now, many families from both cities have the qualification to enter the Punch Dominator Trial Ground, so a lot of people come, and it's gradually become like this," Shale said with a sneer. "This actually makes things convenient; we need blue-green tourmalines, which aren't produced here, to enter the Punch Dominator Trial Ground. Many of these stall owners specialize in exchanging blue-green tourmalines for other gemstones, saving us a lot of trouble."

"What are blue-green tourmalines?" Li Xiu had heard of Blue Tourmaline and Green Tourmaline.

Blue Tourmaline and Green Tourmaline each have many color classifications. For instance, the Trial Ground Li Xiu went to before required Electric Green Tourmaline.

But the name blue-green tourmaline was something Li Xiu really hadn't heard of before.

"It's actually just a name based on the colors of tourmaline. The tourmaline produced here is either blue or green, and it's rare to find one that has both colors. Even if there is, it's extremely rare. Tourmaline produced in the Ancient Afghanistan Region used to have a variety that had both blue and green colors, with better quality and brilliance than the tourmalines produced here, and the price was much cheaper. So, we usually use Afghan blue-green tourmalines to open the door," Shale walked to a stall, took out some Red Apatite, and exchanged it with a vendor for some blue-green tourmaline.

Hearing Shale's explanation, Li Xiu understood what was going on.

The colors of tourmaline are very abundant, with many different colors available, including quite a few bicolor tourmalines. Among the famous bicolor tourmalines is the Watermelon Tourmaline.

The so-called Watermelon Tourmaline is a bicolored tourmaline with red and green colors together, resembling a watermelon, hence the name.

Legend has it that Cixi, the empress dowager of ancient times, had a very exquisite Watermelon Tourmaline, which she cherished greatly and kept by her pillow, playing with it every day.

Of course, this is just a legend, and whether Empress Dowager Cixi really had a Watermelon Tourmaline, Li Xiu didn't know, but Afghan tourmalines are quite famous among tourmaline producing regions.

Tourmalines from other regions tend to have relatively dull colors, while Afghan tourmalines are particularly bright. The same color appears much more vibrant in Afghan tourmalines, which were already very popular in the old days. Nowadays, Afghan tourmalines are priced much higher than ordinary tourmalines from other regions.

The reason Afghan blue-green tourmaline is actually cheaper than those from other regions is due to the high production volume. Other places rarely produce blue-green tourmalines, so the price is naturally higher. It's not because other regions' blue-green tourmalines are of better quality than Afghan blue-green tourmalines.

Of course, there's an exception for a type of blue-green tourmaline called Paraiba, known as the king of tourmalines. No matter where it is, Paraiba is extremely expensive, incomparable to the price of ordinary tourmalines, with its price per carat even rivaling high-quality rubies and sapphires.

Chapter 270 Gesture_2

Paraiba comes in both blue and green, with blue Paraiba being the most expensive.

The Afghan blue-green tourmaline that Shale exchanged couldn't possibly be Paraiba, although it's been heard that Afghanistan produces Paraiba.

Li Xiu saw the blue-green tourmaline that Shale obtained, realizing it wasn't quite what he had imagined. Afghan blue-green tourmaline blends blue and green together, rather than showing distinct watermelon tourmaline colors where red is red and green is green.

The blue-green tourmaline color is incredibly fresh, combined with the bright quality of Afghan tourmaline, making it indeed look very appealing.

Shale was leading Li Xiu to open the Trial Gate when they were suddenly blocked by someone ahead.

"Shale, attempting the Trial Gate again? With your lousy appearance, no matter how many times you try, it won't work. Instead of wasting gemstones, you'd be better off trading them for a woman, go home and work hard to have a kid; they'd surely be better than you," the person standing in front of Shale said with a mocking smile.

Li Xiu expected Shale to punch the person's face with his temper, yet Shale simply snorted and bypassed him.

Li Xiu followed Shale around, still hearing the man behind continue to mock, "Take a brotherly advice, stop wasting gemstones. Earth's gemstone resources are limited; if you're useless, have some conscience, don't waste them."

Li Xiu felt he couldn't listen anymore and was about to turn around when Shale yanked him and said, "That guy is from the Ancient Military Corp, intentionally provoking, don't mind him."

"Intentional provocation? Are you worthy? I'm a real Trial Taker, what are you?" the man sneered disdainfully upon hearing Shale.

Ignoring him further, Li Xiu left with Shale, and after some distance, Shale explained, "Tyrone City has managed to sustain itself largely because of the deterrent power of your battle. People from other Southern Cross Federation cities don't dare to openly annex Tyrone City but continually encroach on frontier resources, and they always look for excuses to gain more benefits."

Turning his tone, Shale continued, "That fellow named Doge arrived here roughly the same time I did. Previously, when both cities entered the Trial Ground together, I had some friction with him inside the Trial Ground. Later, when restrictions loosened, we each went our way; within a month, he became a real Trial Taker, but I haven't been fortunate enough to get a ticket entry, hence why he can still act arrogant in front of me."

Li Xiu understood Shale's intent, firstly not wanting to cause trouble for Kun Sha, and secondly unable to defeat Doge, dying would be pointless.

"Becoming a Trial Taker a bit later may not necessarily be a bad thing," Li Xiu smiled.

He clearly understood that if one becomes a real Trial Taker without their Primordial Embryo Quality reaching its limits, they would be at a significant disadvantage later.

For someone like Shale, it's ultimately a blessing in disguise; he's entered the Trial Ground so many times, probably his Primordial Embryo Quality should be fully developed.

"No need to console me, when I become a genuine Trial Taker, I'll solve this myself," Shale said darkly.

"It's not just consolation; there are real benefits," Li Xiu explained the Primordial Embryo Quality matter to Shale.

"Really, there's such a thing?" Shale listened and was delighted: "Indeed a blessing in disguise, while strengthening in recent Trial Grounds, I didn't feel it; it implies my Primordial Embryo Quality must be full by now."

As the two were preparing to open the Trial Gate, Doge led several people over and cut in line right ahead of them.

Doge was the last among those people, even turning to glance at Shale and Li Xiu with eyes full of provocation, then disdainfully spat before turning away.

Shale forcibly held his temper without saying a word.

Li Xiu glanced at him, calmly saying, "Didn't your elders teach you first-come, first-served? Don't you know how to queue?"

The people ahead all turned to look at Li Xiu, Doge sneered at him, "I'm doing you a favor, anyway, it's wasting gemstones. Entering later keeps the gemstones covered a bit longer; why rush to give them away?"

"Go to the back of the line," Li Xiu said coldly.

"You're upset, aren't you? Fine, I won't make you wait; I'll pay the gemstone fee to enter the Trial Ground together; do you dare?" Doge said with a sinister smile.

Shale pulled on Li Xiu from behind, but Li Xiu ignored him; he glanced at the people behind Doge, quietly saying, "Thanks a lot then."

Doge didn't expect Li Xiu to really dare agree and was somewhat surprised, sizing him up for a moment, "Alright then, let's go in together."

With that, several people approached the Trial Gate, embedding a dozen blue-green tourmalines on the gate, opening it.

"The gate is open; come inside if you dare," Doge said as he and the others went in sequentially.

"Those guys are all officers of the Ancient Military Corps, the one at the end should be the chief of the Fourth Corps. They don't dare to openly attack us outside, but inside the Trial Ground is a different story," Shale whispered to Li Xiu.

His impression of Li Xiu was still based on their previous Trial participation together.

Shale knew Li Xiu's Demon Armor level was high, personal skills were strong, but physical qualities weren't his strong suit.