

When God 271

Chapter 271 Gesture_3

They've only been apart for a few months; no matter how strong Li Xiu's physique is, how strong can he become? It's hard to compete with those veteran Trial Takers, so there's no need to act recklessly.

"With me here, don't worry." Li Xiu said as he headed towards the still-open door.

Hearing Li Xiu say this, Shale didn't argue further and followed Li Xiu inside. He had an inexplicable trust in Li Xiu.

After entering the Trial Gate, Li Xiu and Shale appeared on the stands of an arena, where Doge and his men were also present.

"You two really dared to come in." Doge saw Li Xiu and Shale and immediately laughed, "I appreciate your courage, but impulsiveness comes at a price—you'll have to leave your lives here."

Doge said this as he walked towards Li Xiu but was stopped by a tall man behind him.

"Doge, stand back; you're not his match." The man said sternly, his eyes fierce, staring at Li Xiu like a beast waiting to strike, ready to deliver a fatal blow at any moment.

"Didn't you hear that? Little henchmen should step aside." Shale said with a smirk.

Now that things had reached this point, Shale wasn't going to hold back. When it comes to sharp tongues, Shale was no less venomous than Doge.

Doge's face darkened, but he didn't dare say anything further, obediently stepping aside to stand behind the man.

"That's more like it; a dog should act like a dog." Shale said mercilessly.

Doge's face turned extremely sour but he dared not retort. The man glanced at the Fire Lotus Sword on Li Xiu's waist and the Dark Mirror on his face, saying expressionlessly, "Commander Pan of the 4th Army of the Guyue Corps. How should I address you?"

"Li Xiu, Shale's friend." Li Xiu replied.

"Are you a soldier?" Pan frowned, clearly displeased by Li Xiu's lack of military identification.

"I'm not a soldier." Li Xiu said.

Pan slightly frowned; he didn't believe Li Xiu because Li Xiu had the demeanor of a soldier—a trait only honed between life and death on the battlefield. Ordinary people couldn't possess such qualities.

"Since you're not a soldier, I see no need to observe military etiquette." Pan said as he slowly approached Li Xiu.

"Do you only adhere to etiquette with soldiers?" Li Xiu looked at Pan and asked.

"Not everyone is worthy of respect." Pan replied.

"What about respectable non-military individuals?" Li Xiu asked again.

"I'm not God; I don't distinguish between good and bad, so my principle is this: soldiers are worthy of respect, and you're not a soldier." Pan said, now within two meters, clenching his fist.

"How about this then?" Li Xiu extended his right hand, making a peculiar gesture.

Pan stopped in his tracks upon seeing Li Xiu's gesture, staring fixedly at Li Xiu's right hand.

"What's your code name?" Pan asked, eyeing Li Xiu's right hand.

"Forgotten." Li Xiu answered.

The soldiers behind Pan were puzzled, not understanding why Pan stopped or what Li Xiu's gesture meant.

Swish!

Amidst the puzzled gazes of the crowd, Pan suddenly stood at attention, his posture straight as a rod, saluting Li Xiu with formal military etiquette.

Doge and his companions were utterly shocked, jaws almost dropping to the ground.

Pan was the commander of the 4th Army of the Guyue Corps, second only to the overall commander of the Guyue Corps. In Guyue City, only two individuals were above Pan in rank: the overall commander of the Guyue Corps and the City Lord. At most, others were on par with Pan.

Now, Pan was saluting formally, as though being reviewed by a superior, which made their hearts race.

"Who is this guy? The Guyue City Lord? The Overall Commander of the Guyue Corps? That's impossible; I've seen those two from afar, and they aren't this young..." Doge was stunned, cold sweat pouring down his back.

Even Pan was treating him with such deference, Doge shuddered at the thought and cold sweat ran down his forehead.

Shale was also caught off guard, perplexed at how things had turned out this way; he was ready for a fight.

"Thank you for remembering." Li Xiu lowered his hand and smiled at Pan.

He knew Pan, but Pan didn't know him. Back when Li Xiu was testing Demon Armor for Space City in their No.1 laboratory, he hunted magical creatures at the border area with the Southern Cross Federation.

At the time, tensions between Space City and the Southern Cross Federation were high, with occasional skirmishes erupting.

Li Xiu wasn't a soldier of Space City and didn't participate in the war; he was only responsible for testing the new Demon Armor, opting to hunt magical creatures in the area for testing because of frequent magical creature appearances.

Because of frequent battles, Li Xiu didn't want the Southern Cross Federation soldiers to mistake him for an invading enemy, hence using this gesture.

This gesture signified to Southern Cross Federation soldiers that he wasn't an enemy.

Initially, the Southern Cross Federation ignored his gesture, treating him as an invader and dispatching Magic Armor Masters against him.

Yet no matter how powerful the Magic Armor Masters they sent, Li Xiu defeated them effortlessly, never injuring anyone or attacking Southern Cross Federation territories—only hunting magical creatures in the area.

Eventually, the Southern Cross Federation soldiers realized Li Xiu wasn't an enemy, merely hunting magical creatures; otherwise, the Southern Cross army would've been overrun.

Later, whenever Southern Cross Federation soldiers saw a Magic Armor Master using this gesture, they would proactively return the salute.

This gesture seemed simple, but achieving it was not easy. Many imitated it—struggling due to joint and finger length limitations—and failed to perform it correctly.

Pan, serving as a member of the Southern Cross Federation army, was stationed there for a while.

At his post, the base suffered a surprise magical creature attack without warning, resulting in severe casualties due to the absence of a Magic Armor Master.

Everyone thought the base was doomed, but Li Xiu arrived, controlling the Demon Armor to slay the creature.

As Li Xiu prepared to leave, Pan loudly asked for his code name.

Li Xiu replied that he forgot the code name because he was testing Demon Armor, never expecting Pan to remember.

Chapter 272 Ice Breaking

"You shouldn't have come to such a place." Pan's words were heard by Doge and the others, and they were all taken aback.

Even when Pan went to see the Commander, he never used the word "you"; he only addressed him by his title.

He actually used the honorific "you" for this young man, which showed the importance of this person in Pan's eyes.

Doge was now feeling a bit restless, thinking to himself, "What the hell is going on? Who is this guy?"

Li Xiu laughed and said, "I'm a Trial Taker now. If I don't come to such a place, where else can I go?"

"You're a Trial Taker?" Pan looked at Li Xiu with a strange expression.

Although the world's number one Demon Armor was God, for those Southern Cross Federation soldiers stationed at the borders during that time, the strongest Magic Armor Master wasn't God, but rather the Magic Armor Master who had no code name, only a hand gesture.

Such a Magic Armor Master telling him he was a Trial Taker was something Pan found hard to accept.

"If you have any accidents, it will be a loss for all humanity." Pan said solemnly.

Hearing Pan's evaluation, Doge felt like he was finished.

Shale was also bewildered; the leader of the Ancient Yue Corps would say such a thing to Li Xiu - it was as rare as a pig climbing a tree.

"You're questioning my professional skills." Li Xiu said with a smile.

"Every profession has its expertise, and your domain isn't here. I hope you'll consider it carefully." Pan felt that someone like Li Xiu shouldn't be risking his life here.

Li Xiu smiled and said no more, as the countdown for the trial was nearing its end.

Shortly, everyone was teleported into the arena, with a dummy standing in front of each of them.

Calling it a dummy wasn't quite accurate; "roly-poly toy" would be better.

However, the upper half of this roly-poly toy was identical to a human, while the lower part is replaced by a hemisphere.

This is a B-level trial, and the rules are simple: you can punch any part of the dummy. There is a numerical display on the hemisphere, showing the damage value the dummy withstands. If the value exceeds ten, it counts as a pass.

Each person only has one chance to punch. If the value is less than ten, they will be eliminated.

Everyone had a dummy in front of them. After entering, Shale chose a spot, stood firm, and punched the dummy in the chest directly.

Some people are accustomed to punching the face first, but for this test, the face is not the best choice.

Because this dummy is a roly-poly toy, the face's stress area is small and uneven, and when force is applied, the backward tilt will relieve part of the force, so the destruction value will be low.

If punched too low, it's not ideal for exerting force, so the chest position is the best choice.

Bam!

Shale's punch hit the dummy's chest, causing it to lean back until its back almost touched the ground.

The numbers on the hemisphere changed rapidly, finally stopping at 17.8.

Doge curled his lips, although he said nothing, he was obviously a bit disdainful.

He also punched the dummy's chest, causing the back of the dummy's head to hit the ground directly. The numbers on the hemisphere instantly exceeded twenty, ultimately settling at 21.7.

The other soldiers in the Ancient Yue Corps all had values above twenty, each stronger than Shale.

Pan casually threw a punch, and because of his particularly tall stature, his punch landed on the dummy's face, yet the value still exceeded thirty.

Everyone's gaze turned to Li Xiu; Doge and the others wanted to know how strong a person respected so highly by the Corps commander really was.

Shale wanted to know how much Li Xiu had grown during their time apart.

Li Xiu examined the dummy and the numerical display with interest, not knowing what the destruction value was calculated based on.

This calculation method was obviously different from the Primordial Embryo Quality calculation, so Li Xiu didn't know how much destructive power he could produce.

"Let's give it a try." Li Xiu struck a pose, pulling his arm back to its limit, and without using any skills, lightly punched the dummy's chest.

Bam!

The back of the dummy's head struck the ground heavily, then rebounded, shaking continuously.

The numbers on the display rapidly changed, finally halting at twenty-four.

"What, I thought you were powerful, but it turns out you're just so-so." Doge and the others were a bit disappointed, not seeing how strong Li Xiu really was.

Shale was somewhat depressed, seeing Li Xiu manage to hit over twenty in destructive power.

Previously, Li Xiu's power was inferior to his, but now he was much stronger than Shale.

"The first round of the trial is over, rewards are distributed, the second round of the trial will begin after the countdown. Trial Takers who do not participate in the second round can remove their trial wristbands to leave the Trial Ground."

The trial wristband transmitted a needle-like pain, but the strength enhancement was too low for Li Xiu to notice any obvious improvement in physique.

The second round of the trial requires reaching a destructive power of twenty to pass the test. Without choosing to exit, Shale also chose to continue.

After the second round began, Shale immediately used the Blood Boiling Skill, landing a punch with a destructive value of 29.4, earning Doge and the others' admiration.

Although Doge and his companions were true Trial Takers, they did not possess S-level skills. Even among true Trial Takers, those with advanced skills were scarce. In S-level trials, strength alone is not enough to pass. With the skill to produce such destructive values, Doge and the others would not be much stronger than Shale if they did not use the Symbiotic Contract, and might even be weaker.

Chapter 273 Ice Breaking_2

Li Xiu watched with a slight frown. Theoretically, S-level Blood Boil should double the strength. The last time, Shale's destruction value was close to eighteen, so this time it should be at least thirty-five.

However, this time he didn't even reach thirty, which was clearly due to Shale's incorrect exertion method.

This situation did not only occur with Shale; Doge and the others were in a similar situation.

Although they didn't have S-level skills, they all used some skills to stabilize their destruction power over twenty, but the force they exerted was only a bit over twenty, with none breaking thirty.

Only Pan easily broke thirty with a single punch.

Li Xiu punched again, and the value was still twenty-four, exactly the same as last time.

"I'm going out first." Shale didn't have the confidence to reach a destruction value of thirty, so he didn't dare participate in the next round of trials.

"Your exertion method is incorrect; otherwise, you should easily break thirty." Li Xiu said to Shale.

"Where am I wrong?" Shale's eyes lit up upon hearing this, and he asked eagerly.

Doge and the others, however, were dismissive of Li Xiu's words. For someone who could only exert a destruction value of twenty-four to say that someone with a value close to thirty was not enough was a bit laughable.

In their hearts, they already concluded that Li Xiu must have some special status for Pan to respect him so much, rather than being respected because of his strength.

"You're using too much force," Li Xiu thought for a moment and said, "This strike relies on explosive power, and explosive power isn't sustained strength. Before you even throw a punch, your whole body's muscles are already so tense, and before the punch is thrown, some muscle strength is already consumed. Try to relax first, and only let the power explode at the moment of punching, and the destruction power should easily break thirty."

"How do I do that?" Shale tried throwing a few punches but couldn't grasp the trick.

His combat techniques were all gained from fighting and hadn't been systematically trained; he did whatever felt comfortable, but sometimes a person's feeling can be deceptive.

Li Xiu walked over to Shale and guided him on what to do.

Doge and the others watched for a while and then directly removed their wristbands and exited the trial.

To them, what Li Xiu said was nothing more than clichés and not practical at all.

If Shale really believed him and continued with the third round of trials, he'd probably be doomed.

"We don't even know what that guy's status is to make our leader respect him so much. Could that guy be a privileged child from some super metropolis, bossing people around just because he has some status? It's really harmful," Doge muttered quietly.

"What nonsense are you spitting? Is our leader that kind of person? If the leader respects someone so much, there must be a reason," the other comrades dismissed Doge's statement.

Even though they didn't think much of Li Xiu's prowess, they didn't believe Pan would lower himself so much just because someone was from a privileged background.

"Heh, you've all heard what he said; do you think it's reliable? In battlefield combat, it's all about momentum and a surge of hot blood. Relax first, and what kind of fight is that?" Doge sneered, "In my view, that guy is just a theoretical blowhard without any real strength, yet he's teaching others how to do things. Only an idiot like Shale would believe him. You can believe that if Shale doesn't step out in this round, he's gonna get screwed. As for that guy himself, if he has skill bonuses, he might survive the third round, otherwise, he'll meet the same fate."

The others stayed silent, also feeling that what Li Xiu said had more theoretical value than practical use.

In the Trial Ground, when the countdown ended, Shale didn't choose to give up; he now had the confidence to pass the third round.

Pan watched from the side without saying a word. Although Li Xiu seemed to be guiding Shale, in reality, he was also speaking to him, and he'd taken it to heart.

Standing from different heights, the understanding varies. In Doge's view, Li Xiu's theories were useless, but for Pan, they were like a wake-up call.

"In the past two years, have I been exerting too much force?" Pan reflected on some of his actions within.

For an ordinary soldier fighting on the front lines, courage and a surge of passion are needed, but for a commander, excessive aggression may not be a good thing.

Over the past two years, the Fourth Army has been renowned for its bravery in the Gu Yue Legion, with a very fierce combat style and frequent victories in battle.

But the Fourth Army's casualty rate was also the highest among the ten armies of the Gu Yue Legion.

Previously, Pan wasn't aware of this issue, but thinking it over now, some battles didn't require such urgency; if he had the patience to wait and accumulate enough power instead of forcing a small force to win against a larger one, the casualties among his soldiers would have been much less.

Reflecting now, Pan broke into a cold sweat, realizing his mistakes over the past two years: he had been too impatient.

As a commander, courage is commendable, but reckless bravery shouldn't be a long-term strategy.

Of course, because those words were spoken by Li Xiu, Pan was willing to listen and reflect.

Chapter 274 Ice Breaking_3

If an ordinary soldier had said these things to him, Pan might not have listened, and probably wouldn't have thought so much about it.

The logic is the same, but different people saying it have different impacts. It's not the logic that's the issue, it's the people.

Bang!

The third round had already begun. Shale swung a punch at the dummy, the numbers on the display quickly rising and eventually reaching 32.7.

"Damn it, I originally thought brute force would work, but it turns out I still have to rely on technique in the end," Shale muttered with a smile, not sure whether he was excited or frustrated.

Li Xiu used the Blood Boiling Skill, directly doubling the previous value of twenty-four, reaching as many as forty-eight points.

With the same S-level Blood Boiling Skill, when Li Xiu used it, he could directly double the value, and it was impressively stable.

Pan went up to the dummy and only managed to score over thirty points. This wasn't because he couldn't do more, but his mind wasn't focused on this trial anymore.

After completing the test, Pan walked up to Li Xiu, stood up straight, saluted him, and then exited the trial without saying a word.

The trial was no longer important to Pan; he had more significant things to do.

While Doge and the others were whispering among themselves, they saw a flash of light at the Trial Gate, and a figure appeared at the entrance.

Seeing it was Pan, Doge and the others thought that Li Xiu and Shale must have already been finished.

"Legion Commander, where are those two?" Doge asked, pretending to already know the answer.

"They are still continuing the trial." Pan's answer was a surprise to Doge and the others.

Pan was already out, yet those two were still in the trial. How was that possible?

"From now on, when you see that person, you need to be courteous, understand?" Pan said to Doge, as if remembering something.

"Don't worry, Legion Commander. I will definitely be courteous to your friend," Doge quickly said.

Pan glanced at him and spoke lightly: "So, I owe you a favor."

"What's the fuss about a favor? You're my Legion Commander; this is what I should do," Doge scratched his head in embarrassment.

"You're pretty sensible," Pan said.

"It's all thanks to your excellent guidance, Legion Commander," Doge said gleefully, not realizing anything was amiss.

"Oh, if I only taught you, then I've truly failed. You're over there thinking you're doing great, but I'm afraid you'll get killed with a single punch," Pan turned away from Doge, sighing inwardly, "Luckily, I was awakened. Otherwise, I'd be bringing up a bunch of fools like this. That would certainly be the end."

Inside the Trial Ground, Li Xiu looked at Shale and said, "Your strength is insufficient. Wait outside for me."

Upon hearing this from Li Xiu, Shale chuckled, "Don't rush. We came together, so we have to leave together. I'll accompany you in the final trial."

"Accompany me?" Li Xiu glanced at Shale in surprise. The destruction value requirement for the third round was thirty, and the final trial should be forty. Even if Shale could push Blood Boiling to the limit, he couldn't hit forty in destructive power.

Shale said proudly, "With those guys here earlier, how could I show my trump card? You've been growing in this time, and I haven't been idle either. Though I haven't advanced to an official Trial Taker, I do have a few skills."

"I still have an S-level skill that I normally don't use, saved for a surprise attack. Even Kun Sha and the others haven't seen it. Today, I'll show you," Shale squinted and said.

"I'm curious, what S-level skill is that?" Li Xiu laughed.

"Hehe, my S-level skill is called Ice Breaking. Although it doesn't enhance physical attributes, it can boost destructive power, particularly effective in the Punch Dominator trials. Previously, I wasn't confident of passing a B-level final trial, but after learning your techniques, I'm sure it's no problem now. Breaking forty will be a breeze," Shale said confidently.

The final trial of the fourth round began, and indeed, the pass line was forty. Li Xiu looked at Shale and saw him standing in front of the dummy, suddenly punching the dummy's chest.

With a muffled boom, the dummy, like a wobbling toy, remained unmoved, yet its chest had lots of fine cracks.

The number on the display instantly broke forty, stopping at forty-three.

"This skill is impressive!" Li Xiu was a bit surprised.

This Ice Breaking skill is evidently a technique of concentrated force.

"Hehe, you have a good eye. Don't underestimate Ice Breaking; it may seem inconspicuous with no special display, but for surprise attack, it's extremely useful," Shale said proudly.

"Yes, it's a pretty good thing," Li Xiu nodded, then moved to his dummy.

Bang!

Li Xiu, like Shale, punched the dummy's chest, and the dummy remained unmoved, yet its chest had even more cracks than Shale's.

The number on the display directly broke fifty, making Shale's eyes widen, his eyeballs almost popping out.

"You have Ice Breaking too?" Shale asked, wide-eyed.

"No, I just learned a bit of technique from your Ice Breaking," Li Xiu said.

While he couldn't understand and learn skills like Blood Boiling that awaken potential, Ice Breaking was a technique of focused force, and Li Xiu could learn and utilize some of its technique components.

"Skills can be learned?" Shale was somewhat stupefied.

The skill Shale had fought tooth and nail for in the trial ground, Li Xiu learned merely by observing, which was just unfair.

"Not all skills can be learned; this one is relatively simple," Li Xiu said.

Shale gazed at Li Xiu with a complicated expression, holding back for a moment before managing to spit out two words: "Beast!"

Once the rewards came out, Li Xiu randomly got a Trial Badge, but unfortunately, this time he could only choose one reward, so he chose the Trial Badge.

While Li Xiu was choosing, he heard Shale's excited shout from his side: "I've finally waited for this."

Li Xiu turned his head and saw that among Shale's rewards, there was an entrance ticket.

"Li Xiu, you're really my lucky star," Shale seemed ready to jump up and kiss Li Xiu.

"That's quite the coincidence. You pick the entrance ticket first; I'll go in with you to check it out," Li Xiu said.

Chapter 275: Oasis

In the darkness, the Copper Oil Lamp emitted a blurred light, and on the stone table lay a blue-green glove, seemingly made of bronze, yet resembling steel.

Shale's eyes lit up at the sight of the glove, and he wanted to rush over to grab it.

However, Li Xiu, who had followed with the Trial Badge, held him back and said, "Hold on a moment, the contract also varies in quality, you should ask what its quality is first."

"Ask who?" Shale asked, puzzled.

"The Copper Oil Lamp," Li Xiu replied.

With a mix of belief and doubt, Shale looked at the Copper Oil Lamp and asked, "What is the name of this contract, and what is its quality?"

A strange voice resonated from the Copper Oil Lamp: "Its name is Overlord Gloves, and it is of Radiant Grade."

"There are four grades: Lustrous, Shining, Radiant, and Glowing, with Radiant just below Glowing. Whether to choose it or wait for a better Symbiotic Contract is up to you. Once a Symbiotic Contract is chosen, it can't be changed," Li Xiu explained some basics to Shale.

"Is the probability of getting a Glowing Contract high?" Shale asked again.

"That depends on luck," Li Xiu replied, not knowing the exact probability of encountering a Glowing Contract.

"Then there's no need to wait," said Shale as he walked up to the stone table and forcefully picked up the glove with both hands.

As the glove left the table, it burst into blue-green light, with streaks of blue-green light patterns extending from the wrist up to the palm, finally dispersing to the five fingers.

A bright "Overlord" character pattern emerged on the back of the glove, its light radiantly dazzling like the stars.

"Insignificant carbon-based lifeform, use your blood to form a life bond with the Overlord Gloves, from now on, it will be your companion in life and death, your cornerstone on the path of trials..."

Without hesitation, Shale let his blood drip onto the Overlord Gloves. The Overlord Gloves transformed into a stream of blue-green light, merging into his right hand, and soon reappeared, encasing his right hand.

"I have finally become a true Trial Taker," Shale exclaimed excitedly, waving his right hand.

"What is your Primordial Embryo Quality?" Li Xiu asked.

"Point nine, is that high or low?" Shale replied.

"It's first-class; generally, the highest is just point nine," Li Xiu said with a smile.

"Haha, it turned out to be a blessing in disguise. If I had gotten the ticket earlier, my Primordial Embryo Quality probably wouldn't be so high," Shale said enthusiastically.

At that moment, the Copper Oil Lamp floated up on its own, drifting into the depths of the darkness.

Li Xiu hastily called Shale to follow the Longevity Lamp into the dark, and as they walked, the scenery before their eyes changed, and there was light.

"What is this place?" Shale asked in amazement, looking around.

"This should be an oasis," Li Xiu had already surveyed the surroundings.

They were situated in a small oasis, able to see from one side of the oasis to the other at a glance.

In the center of the oasis was a stone-built pool, with a few dilapidated wooden huts beside it, and around the oasis was a circle of wooden stake fencing.

Each wooden stake was carved into a pointed tip, standing just over a meter tall. The entire oasis had a wooden gate made from the fence in only one direction, but it was damaged. The wooden bars of the gate had all come apart, scattered outside the gate in a mess.

While the two were examining the small oasis settlement, a bell sound suddenly came from outside the gate.

The two quickly ran to the entrance to look into the desert outside, and the bell's sound came from somewhere distant in the desert.

But everywhere outside were sand dunes, blocking their view. They could only hear the bell without seeing what it was.

Li Xiu immediately summoned the Jedi Knight and Love God Shooter, placing the Jedi Knight to guard the entrance, while the Love God Shooter stayed behind, gripping her bow and waiting for the opportunity.

"What the heck, what are these?" Shale asked, wide-eyed, staring at the Jedi Knight and Love God Shooter.

"These are the demon spirits from the Demon Spirit Ring, similar to Sha Chu's demon spirit that you saw before. The Trial Taker can use..." Li Xiu explained how to acquire and use the Demon Spirit Ring, and by the way, briefed Shale on Skill Rings and Talent Gemstones.

"I never knew being a Trial Taker was this cool, but why haven't I seen other Trial Takers use demon spirits, and Kun Sha doesn't have them either?" Shale wondered aloud.

"The drop rate for Demon Spirit Rings is quite low. To obtain them requires a bit of luck," Li Xiu said with a smile.

"Looks like you've got some good luck, getting two demon spirits in such a short time. What level are these within the demon spirits?" Shale asked, a bit envious, looking at the Jedi Knight and Love God Shooter.

"Just average. The Jedi Knight doesn't have a quality rating, but it can evolve and is now a C-grade demon spirit. Love God Shooter is Radiant Quality, can also evolve, but I haven't nurtured her yet, so she's still at E-level," Li Xiu explained.

Shale was about to ask something else, but the bell sound had grown closer, as a figure slowly emerged from behind a nearby sand dune.

Soon, they could clearly see what appeared on the hill. It was a demon spirit with a body like a green stone statue, resembling a lion, but without mane on its neck. Instead, there were semicircular protrusions on its head, resembling the topknot of a Buddha.

It had three claws at the front and one at the back, with a bell resembling green jade hanging from its neck, emitting a faint glow. Its body size was slightly larger than a lion, comparable to a grown bull.

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The demon spirit also noticed Li Xiu and Shale in the city. With a flash of blood-red light in its eyes, it sprinted across the sand towards them.

"What do we do?" Shale looked at Li Xiu. He had killed many people, but had never fought a demon spirit before, so he was a bit lacking in confidence.

"Wait." Li Xiu said.

Shale had no choice but to stand with Li Xiu inside the fence, watching as the demon spirit charged towards them, and when it was five or six meters from the gate, it leaped forward, pouncing toward the Jedi Knight standing at the gate.

The Jedi Knight swiftly drew his sword, and although he didn't use the Blood Light Slash, he cleaved the demon spirit in two with one strike.

Bang!

The remnants of the demon spirit fell onto the sand, with a Demon Core rolling out from its head.

Li Xiu noticed that the body of this demon spirit was hollow, just a shell on the outside.

"This demon spirit looks intimidating, but it's actually pretty weak." Shale said, smiling, as he saw the Jedi Knight take it down with one blow.

"If you want to survive longer in the Land of Trial, it's best not to underestimate any demon spirit. This was just an ordinary, low-level demon spirit, but its power is likely beyond yours. If you encountered it alone, you shouldn't engage it head-on." Li Xiu said seriously.

His gaze turned toward the desert. With his experience in Black Death City, he knew that more demon spirits would soon appear.

But after waiting for a while, they didn't hear the sound of the bell again.

"Strange, just one ordinary demon spirit?" Li Xiu felt a bit puzzled, as this was much less challenging than Black Death City.

"It seems like it's not as dangerous as the legends say. Should we go out and hunt some demon spirits?" Shale said, a bit impatient.

"Let's first search the oasis village." Li Xiu was not as optimistic as Shale.

Li Xiu let the Jedi Knight and the Divine Archer guard the gate, and summoned a Black Death Demon to scout ahead.

"You have more demon spirits?" Shale said, a bit envious.

"Having many demon spirits is useless; only those of high quality and level are valuable." Li Xiu replied.

"What level is this demon spirit?" Shale's mood improved slightly upon hearing Li Xiu's words.

"A Radiant Demon Spirit." Li Xiu casually said.

"..." Shale felt an urge to strangle Li Xiu.

The two followed behind the Black Death Demon, completing a search of the oasis village.

The oasis covered only a few acres of land, with a dozen or so dilapidated wooden houses. They quickly went around it but found nothing.

The wooden houses were in terrible condition, incomparable to Black Death City. Some even lacked doors, and there was nothing special inside, just some broken beds and chairs covered in thick dust.

They didn't see any living people or traces of demon spirits, let alone mysterious Stone Coffins like those in the stone houses of Black Death City.

If it weren't for the earlier demon spirit they killed, Li Xiu would have thought this was just an oasis abandoned by humans.

Even after searching for so long, there were no abnormal changes in the desert outside the gate, and no demon spirits appeared again.

Buzz!

While the two were puzzled, they suddenly heard a roaring sound from the sky, similar to the sound of an air conditioning unit.

Li Xiu quickly looked up at the sky, with the scorching sun causing some dizziness.

The roaring sound came from a direction in the sky. As Li Xiu focused, he saw a black object, like a black bird, flying toward the oasis from a distance.

"What kind of bird is that? Could it be a demon spirit? It's flying quite high." Shale shaded his eyes with his hand, also looking at the bird.

"That bird probably isn't small at all; it just looks small because it's flying so high." Li Xiu continued with a serious expression, "And it might not be a bird."

"Of course, it's not a bird. It's a demon spirit. I meant that it's a bird-shaped demon spirit." Shale corrected him.

"It might not even be a bird-shaped demon spirit." Li Xiu gazed at the shadow in the sky.

"No matter how I look at it, it looks like a bird." Shale said, unconvinced.

"Have you ever seen a bird make such a sound?" Li Xiu said with a peculiar expression, "And have you ever seen a bird that doesn't flap its wings while flying?"

Upon hearing this, Shale was stunned. Indeed, he hadn't seen the "bird" flap its wings; it seemed to be in a gliding state with its wings spread open.

It's not unusual for birds to glide in the air, but it was weird that it had flown from the horizon nearly above the oasis without moving its wings. This configuration was indeed strange.

"If it's not a bird, what is it? Could it be a plane?" Shale said casually.

"A plane?" Li Xiu was taken aback, looking again at the obscure shadow in the sky. With a peculiar expression, he said, "You know, the shape and the sound do resemble a plane..."

"Don't make nonsense. How could there be a plane in the Land of Trial? Don't assume I know nothing about the Land of Trial. I've heard Kun Sha mention some things about it. The Land of Trial is full of those demon spirits. Where would a technological thing like a plane come from..." Shale pouted.

As the two discussed, the shadow had already reached the sky over the oasis. It showed no intention of coming down and continued flying high above. Because it was so far, they could only see the shadow, which was about the size of a Yanzi, and couldn't clearly discern what it was.

As both stared intently at it, they suddenly noticed several small dots appear in the sky after the shadow passed by.

Chapter 277 Oasis_3

The shadow did not linger over the oasis and quickly flew past, while the small dots that had appeared before remained over the oasis, gradually increasing in number and growing larger.

"Damn... are those parachutes?" Shale widened his eyes, finally able to see what those things were.

As those small dots grew larger, it finally became clear that they were black parachute-shaped objects falling from the sky, unmistakably looking like parachutes.

"Is this some kind of ghost sighting? Could that really be an aircraft? How could there be aircraft in the Land of Trial, and damn it, with parachutes? Is someone playing airdrop games here?" Shale tilted his head back and kept staring, cursing under his breath.

Li Xiu was accustomed to Shale's personality. He's not a good person, but he's not a bad person either. At least for Li Xiu, Shale was someone trustworthy.

Li Xiu remained silent, staring intensely at those black parachutes. He removed the Dark Mirror, allowing him to see more clearly than Shale.

Those things that looked like parachutes were indeed parachutes, but beneath them were not paratroopers, nor were they any skydiving athletes, and not even demonic spirits.

After clearly seeing what was beneath the parachutes, Li Xiu's pupils contracted sharply. He shouted for Shale to run and summoned the Pink Nightmare, leaping onto its back.

Shale was still in a daze; he hadn't seen what was beneath the parachutes yet. Li Xiu, riding the Pink Nightmare, rushed over and pulled him onto its back, charging at full speed towards the gate of the village.

Shale didn't have time to marvel at Li Xiu having a mounted demonic spirit; by now, he could see what was beneath those parachutes.

Under the parachutes were green oval-shaped objects, with tails resembling arrow feathers and fronts like a shark's head.

They were the shapes of bombs dropped by bombers, and judging by the size of those bombs, they're much larger than those typically dropped by bombers.

A dozen giant bombs were dropped from the sky, targeting the oasis. If they exploded within the oasis, not to mention the oasis itself, even hundreds of meters outside it wouldn't be safe.

"Run faster!" Shale was now more anxious than Li Xiu, watching as those gigantic bombs got closer and closer to the oasis. He wished he could lend his legs to the Pink Nightmare.

Now the two had no time to think about why there were bombers and bombs in such a place, nor to ponder why parachutes were attached to the bombs; they just wanted to get as far away from the oasis as possible.

When the Pink Nightmare charged through the gate, Li Xiu effortlessly retrieved both the Jedi Knight and the Love God Shooter, maintaining speed as they continued rushing into the desert.

They had rushed out about two or three hundred meters when they heard a loud boom from behind; the foremost bomb had already smashed into the oasis.

Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom!

One bomb after another fell, some hitting inside the oasis and others outside.

The closest giant bomb to Li Xiu and Shale landed less than a hundred meters away.

Oddly enough, those giant bombs struck the ground, creating deep craters, yet none of them exploded.

A dozen giant bombs, not one exploded, each with a part buried into the sand, leaving more than a meter-long portion exposed, thicker than a bucket.

The parachute cords attached to the tails were loosely falling along with the parachutes.

Even though those giant bombs didn't explode, Li Xiu still only watched from afar, daring not to approach them.

Shale was still in shock, eyeing those bomb-like objects from a distance and said, "Something isn't right. What kind of bomber drops bombs and ties parachutes to them? The parachutes are obviously meant for deceleration. Could those things not be bombs at all?"

"I don't know." Li Xiu noticed those things looked like green metal, while the parachutes and cords were black silk and couldn't make out any reason for them.

There were no characters or markings on the parachutes or green metal objects. If they were the product of human civilization, there wasn't a single human mark or symbol.

If they weren't human products, why would demonic spirits make parachutes and such things?

Crack!

While the two men speculated, they heard something cracking open.

It startled them both, thinking the things might have a delayed explosion function and were finally about to explode now.

But upon closer inspection, they realized it wasn't the thing about to explode, but rather a door-like seam that had opened on it.

Crack! Crack! Crack!

Those giant bomb-like metallic objects continually emitted sounds, with each one opening a door-shaped seam, and then they fell silent again.

Li Xiu and Shale looked at each other, their predicament having surpassed their understanding, unable to fathom what was happening.

"Is there a possibility," Shale guessed aimlessly, "that some humans live here, worried about the oasis dwellers going hungry, and dropped some supplies with these things? Maybe these things are just tools for storing supplies?"

Having experienced the Black Death City shipwreck incident, Li Xiu was no longer surprised by such things.

However, he was still a bit shocked. If the technology involved in making sailboats isn't very high, then planes, parachutes, and airdrop pods involve extraordinary technological prowess.

"Could demonic spirits also engage with technology? Or could there be human forces within the Land of Trial, having developed to the extent of building aircraft?" After mulling over the airdrop pods opening door seams and falling silent, Li Xiu summoned the Black Death Demon again, sending him toward the nearest airdrop pod.

Chapter 278 Locust

Li Xiu controlled the Black Death Demon, cautiously approaching the drop pod while he and Shale stood at a distance observing.

When the Black Death Demon finally reached the front of the drop pod, there was still no movement.

Li Xiu commanded the Black Death Demon to extend its hand into the crack of the door, then slowly pulled the hatch open.

As the hatch opened, Li Xiu and Shale's eyes were fixed on the interior of the drop pod, discovering that there was only a strange egg-shaped object inside.

It was considered strange not because it was large, although it was indeed somewhat large, over half a meter in height, but that wasn't the strangest aspect of it.

The object was egg-shaped, but its structure resembled a metal mechanism, with visible external gears and parts tightly interlocked together, and through the gaps between those parts, blue light could be seen emanating from inside.

The blue light flickered rhythmically, as if mimicking a heartbeat.

Every time the light brightened, the surface of the metal egg seemed to be covered with blue light patterns.

"What on earth is that thing? Mechanical or a magic spirit?" Shale craned his neck to scrutinize the metal egg and asked.

"Kachak! Kachak!" Just as Li Xiu was about to respond, a strange noise came from the metal egg.

The gears on the metal egg rotated, various parts began to operate, and individual components split apart.

Li Xiu quickly maneuvered the Black Death Demon to retreat, keeping his eyes firmly fixed on the transforming metal egg.

Boom!

The metal egg rolled out from the hatch, and under the action of various gears and transmission devices, an internal structure began to unfold.

To the disbelief of both observers, the metal egg transformed like a robot into something with a vastly altered form.

In just a moment, that mechanical egg turned into something resembling a mechanical spider, with a body of blue metal, green crystalline eyes, and blue light rhythmically flashing within its body.

The mechanical spider's green eyes rotated and, upon spotting the Black Death Demon, immediately moved its blade-like six legs, quickly scuttling towards the Black Death Demon.

Under Li Xiu's control, the Black Death Demon let out a roar and broke the shackles on its hands. Chains exuded black light, lashing out like two laser whips toward the charging mechanical spider.

Just as the Black Light Whip was about to hit the mechanical spider, the blue light inside the spider's body suddenly erupted, filling its entire body momentarily. The six blade-like legs exerted force.

The mechanical spider's body, compressed to the extreme like a spring, suddenly launched with incredible speed, bypassing the Black Light Whip and landing on the Black Death Demon, its six legs clawing into the demon's body.

Li Xiu was stunned, the speed of the mechanical spider exceeding his expectations, faster even than Demigod Shana.

Without much hesitation, Li Xiu directly summoned Demigod Shana, and upon appearing, Demigod Shana fired continuously at the mechanical spider on the Black Death Demon.

But the Black Death Demon moved on its own without Li Xiu's command, dodging Demigod Shana's shots, its speed significantly faster than before.

Kachak! Kachak!

The form of the mechanical spider on the Black Death Demon changed again, gears turning, and its body mysteriously merged with the Black Death Demon.

In an instant, the Black Death Demon and the mechanical spider fused into a hybrid of armor and mechanics.

A portion of the Black Death Demon's body was covered in blue metal, its internal black light was tinged with blue, and once void of eyeballs, a pair of green eyes appeared in its eye sockets, with six sharp blades emerging from its back, making it look even more grotesque and terrifying.

Demigod Shana continuously fired but missed every shot as the Black Death Demon possessed by the mechanical spider dodged them all.

The Black Death Demon leapt into the air, suddenly reaching behind to grab two blades glowing with blue light and flung them towards Demigod Shana, like two bolts of blue lightning.

Demigod Shana swung the greatsword in his hands, forcefully knocking away the two blades of blue lightning.

However, the next second, the two blades seemed to be pulled back by some force, returning directly to the Black Death Demon's hands.

Upon closer inspection, Li Xiu realized the ends of the blades were connected by an almost invisible filament, with the other end of the thread attached to the blue metal covering the Black Death Demon's hand.

Thud! Thud!

The Black Death Demon moved swiftly, continually hurling blades, pulling two more blades from its back after throwing the initial two, and tossed them again.

Demigod Shana shot and slashed, sending those blades flying away.

Controlled by the Black Death Demon, the six blades traversed the air like six streaks of lightning, making it difficult for Demigod Shana to cope momentarily.

Thud!

A Jedi Knight appeared beside Demigod Shana, wearing a gentleman's hat, and with one slash sent a blue blade flying.

After such a prolonged battle, Li Xiu had developed a comprehensive understanding of the Black Death Demon possessed by the mechanical spider.

Maneuvering the Jedi Knight and Demigod Shana, the two magic spirits joined forces to besiege the Black Death Demon, quickly surrounding it.

As the Black Death Demon fought with the two magic spirits, suddenly a cold arrow struck its body.

It was a Light Arrow from the Love God Shooter. The Light Arrow landed on the half of the Black Death Demon's face covered with blue metal, transforming into a heart-shaped mark.

Chapter 279: Locusts_2

The Black Death Demon's body hesitated for a moment, and in that hesitation, Demigod Shana's greatsword slashed the demon's chest from the front, while the Jedi Knight's Blood Light Slash struck its back.

The blue metal covering its chest and back was immediately shattered, with broken gears and parts falling off.

Despite such heavy hits, the Black Death Demon was still out of control, letting out a roar as the Black Light Whip in both its hands lashed out violently, aiming at Demigod Shana and the Jedi Knight.

Demigod Shana broke the Black Light Whip with a single shot, driving the greatsword directly into the Black Death Demon's mouth, shattering the blue light flashing inside its head.

The Black Death Demon finally quieted down, the blue metal components on its body quickly peeling off and falling away, and the green light in its eyes shattered as well.

However, the Black Death Demon also lost its vitality, with black smoke billowing out from within, its body decomposing into a pile of scrap metal.

Li Xiu frowned slightly, having lost his Black Death Demon just to kill the mechanical spider, only to find a blue Demon Core.

"That mechanical spider is quite strange, but what's with all these demon spirits? There are just too many, and they're too fierce," Shale said, eyeing Demigod Shana and the Jedi Knight hungrily.

Li Xiu didn't have the time or energy to explain it all to Shale, and controlled the Jedi Knight and Demigod Shana to charge towards another drop pod.

As soon as the hatch was opened, a Blood Light Slash and a greatsword with a sword glow struck at the mechanical egg inside the drop pod.

Crack!

The mechanical egg was cut open by the Blood Light Slash, and the greatsword with sword glow drilled in, shattering the blue light inside.

The moment the blue light inside the mechanical egg extinguished, it decomposed into a pile of gears and parts.

Demigod Shana and the Jedi Knight quickly rushed to the next drop pod, consecutively breaking six mechanical eggs, and when the seventh drop pod's hatch was opened, a mechanical spider leaped out.

Luckily, Li Xiu was prepared, and the Jedi Knight's Blood Light Slash cut the mechanical spider down, with Demigod Shana's greatsword stabbing into it again.

With the cooperation of the two demon spirits, mechanical spiders were slayed one by one.

Only after the last mechanical spider was killed did Li Xiu slow down slightly, heading towards an open drop pod.

The mechanical spider from this drop pod was already dead outside, and Li Xiu peered inside, merely wanting to observe the pod's internal structure. To his surprise, beneath where the mechanical egg was supposed to be, there was a transparent container housing an egg-shaped object about the size of a fist, covered with blue light patterns.

"This is... a Demon Spirit Egg..." Li Xiu immediately realized what it was.

He reached out to retrieve the transparent container, which was a square crystal box containing only one Demon Spirit Egg, with nothing else inside.

After confirming there was nothing else inside the drop pod, Li Xiu and Shale searched the other drop pods separately and found that each contained a crystal box with a Demon Spirit Egg.

They placed all the retrieved crystal boxes on the ground, totaling seventeen. The Demon Spirit Eggs all seemed to be of the same species, looking identical.

"Are these Demon Spirit Eggs laid by those mechanical spiders?" Shale wondered as he examined the eggs.

"Probably not, those mechanical spiders seem more like they're protecting these Demon Spirit Eggs," Li Xiu replied, looking at the Demon Core scavenged from the mechanical spiders, adding, "These mechanical spiders are a bit strange, different from the demon spirits I've encountered before."

"Different how?" Shale asked.

"I can't say exactly, just feels a bit off," Li Xiu replied, unable to articulate the differences, just sensing something odd.

"I used to think demon spirits were just beasts with superpowers. I didn't expect such advanced technology; it's eye-opening today," Shale remarked, staring at the Demon Spirit Eggs, "What should we do with these Demon Spirit Eggs? Should we destroy them to prevent them from turning into demon spirits and causing harm?"

"Might as well," Li Xiu nodded slightly.

Shale picked up a crystal box to examine it, finding no seams, so he donned the Overlord Gloves and punched the crystal box.

With a clang, Shale's arm trembled, but the crystal wasn't damaged at all.

"This thing is so hard!" Shale exclaimed, clutching his trembling arm in surprise.

Li Xiu had the Jedi Knight use Blood Light Slash, striking the crystal, which only left a shallow mark.

After four consecutive slashes, the crystal of the box was finally shattered, and the Demon Spirit Egg rolled out.

The Demon Spirit Egg, surprisingly fragile, shattered like an egg upon touch, with the blue light inside dispersing, and the blue transparent liquid quickly evaporating.

They went on to chop open each crystal box, smashing the Demon Spirit Eggs one by one, leaving the ground in a mess.

Li Xiu held a sense of reverence for Demon Spirit Eggs, as the parasitic demon spirit inside him had yet to be dealt with, unknown whether it was a blessing or a curse.

The last crystal box was cut open, and before Li Xiu could smash the accompanying egg inside, the egg unexpectedly cracked on its own.

This startled Li Xiu, who instinctively reacted by quickly retreating, like a startled rabbit.

Chapter 280: Locusts_3

Shale initially didn't think much of it, but he was startled by Li Xiu and immediately retreated in a flash, even further back than Li Xiu.

If Li Xiu, who was so formidable, was this scared, how could he dare to take the risk?

After the Demon Spirit Egg cracked open, none of the previous volatile liquids flowed out; instead, a small bluish metallic head emerged from inside.

"Is such a small demon spirit really worth this much fear?" Shale looked at the demon spirit crawling out of the egg, filled with doubt in his heart.

The demon spirit was not even as big as a palm, made entirely of bluish metallic components, resembling a blue mechanical locust.

Not only had Shale seen locusts before, but he also deeply loathed them.

When he was a child, his hometown suffered a locust plague. Locusts that filled the sky flew over the rice fields, leaving the once verdant fields gnawed to nothing.

Wherever the locusts passed, not even tree bark was left, as anything edible would be devoured.

If it hadn't been for that locust plague, his family wouldn't have starved to death.

So, it could be said that Shale hated locusts the most, and seeing the demon spirit in the form of a locust, his anger surged instantly.

Moreover, this little demon spirit without even a Light Pattern didn't seem particularly strong to him, so he directly activated his Overlord Gloves. The Tyrant Rune glowed as he punched the locust demon spirit on the ground.

Bang!

Shale's punch landed on the locust demon spirit, but the demon spirit tilted its head, causing Shale's body to stagger back repeatedly, taking seven or eight steps before he could steady himself, his face full of shock.

Li Xiu was about to step in to rescue Shale, but saw the locust demon spirit had no interest in him. It flapped its wings and half-hopped, half-flew onto a piece of the crystal box fragments nearby, and started nibbling on it with its bizarre mouth.

Li Xiu and Shale exchanged bewildered glances; this mechanical locust-like demon spirit wasn't attacking them but was instead nibbling on the crystal fragments—how peculiar.

The locust demon spirit was only palm-sized, yet its appetite was incredibly voracious. In no time, it had devoured an entire fragment of a crystal box.

Without any intention of stopping, it leaped onto another fragment and started munching away.

Li Xiu and Shale both felt their scalps tingle. Those crystal boxes were harder than steel.

Even a Jedi Knight wearing a gentleman's hat could only barely leave a scratch on them using the Blood Light Slash.

Yet the locust demon spirit devoured the crystal as if it were sugar, which was terrifying in itself.

Li Xiu gave Shale a look, and the two of them quietly backed away, retreating to where the Longevity Lamp was before stopping.

"That locust-like demon spirit is a bit unusual. I'm not entirely sure I can kill it. I'll give it a try in a while; you stay by the Longevity Lamp. As soon as I shout, extinguish it immediately," Li Xiu said to Shale.

"No problem," Shale nodded in agreement.

Li Xiu took a deep breath, pondered for a moment, and decided to have Demigod Shana fire a shot from a distance to test the locust demon spirit's strength.

Bang!

A bullet composed of blue light hit the locust demon spirit, but the bullet shattered like fireworks.

However, the locust demon spirit was unscathed, merely pausing its eating to glance at Demigod Shana.

Li Xiu was surprised; the locust demon spirit didn't even have a Light Pattern and seemed not even to be a Flowing Color Demon Spirit, yet it could withstand Demigod Shana's bullet—this was too bizarre.

After glancing at Demigod Shana, the locust demon spirit lowered its head and continued to munch on the crystal, showing no intention of fighting Demigod Shana.

Li Xiu's expression turned even more peculiar. This demon spirit seemed strange in every aspect. Any other demon spirit, even if not attacked, would instinctively attack upon seeing humans or human-controlled demon spirits.

"What kind of demon spirit is this anyway?" Li Xiu pondered with a frown.

Li Xiu couldn't be certain if the thing dropped by the airdrop pod was an aircraft.

If it was indeed an aircraft, was it controlled by demon spirits or by humans?

Earlier, on that wrecked ship, the eyes Li Xiu had seen resembled human eyes.

If there were humans creating these things within the Land of Trial, why would they drop such things into this oasis?

If the demon spirits performed the airdrop, what was their goal?

Li Xiu felt that this oasis probably held more significance. Whether the locust demon spirit was sent by humans or demon spirits, they must have a purpose beyond letting it feast here.

What could possibly be here? Aside from the oasis' vegetation, there were only those dilapidated wooden huts, which the locust demon spirit clearly wasn't interested in.

The locust demon spirit's eating speed was incredibly fast, devouring all the crystal box fragments in no time.

The fragments of a single crystal box combined were nearly the size of its body, yet after consuming seventeen fragments, its size hadn't changed at all—how it managed to eat them was unknown.

While Li Xiu was pondering, the locust demon spirit suddenly fluttered its wings and flew towards the oasis' only water pool.

The water pool was only a few square meters in size, surrounded by stones, with a stone staircase on one side that descended three to four meters to reach a pool of water, too deep to see its bottom.

From the surface, the pool had no ripples, suggesting it wasn't formed by an underground river passing through, and was likely connected to an underground water table.

Li Xiu quickly ran over, looked down from above the pool, and saw the locust demon spirit had already leaped to the edge of the pool.

Li Xiu thought it might be drinking water and was still pondering whether demon spirits needed to drink water when the locust demon spirit unexpectedly plunged into the pool and instantly vanished without a trace.