

When God 281

Chapter 281 Underground Lake

"I'll go down and take a look." With just a tight white outfit and no need to take it off, Li Xiu directly plunged into the pool.

The pool water was bone-chilling cold, but fortunately, Li Xiu possessed the Ice Heart talent and the Ice Ashes skill, enabling him to not only be immune to the icy damage but also transform it into his own strength.

The pool water was extremely cold, yet Li Xiu felt as if an endless stream of warmth was pouring into his body, making his stamina increasingly abundant.

The water got darker as it went deeper, but with the Dark Mirror, the darker it was, the clearer he could see. The water was clear enough to see very clearly, although not too far.

He dived over ten meters down, still hadn't reached the bottom, nor had he found that insect-like Demon Spirit.

Fortunately, there were no other Demon Spirits appearing either, Li Xiu held his breath and continued diving down.

In his previous Magic Armor Master training, he could free dive over a hundred meters; now his physical condition far surpassed before, so it wasn't a big problem.

The pool didn't look big from above, but it seemed like an inverted bowl, growing wider as it went deeper.

Initially, Li Xiu intended to dive along the edge of the pool, but after several dozen meters, he realized that the stone walls were no longer visible around him; it was essentially a vast underground lake.

Li Xiu dared not let the light energy on his body burst forth, fearing that any lurking Demon Spirits in the underground lake would be alerted.

After diving over fifty meters, he still hadn't seen the Locust Demon Spirit, and was considering whether to give up when he suddenly noticed a faint blue glow flickering in the water below.

Though the water was very clean, the distance was too far to see clearly, making the faint blue light appear blurry and indistinct.

Li Xiu roughly estimated the position of the blue light; it was likely over a hundred meters down.

Feeling that the oxygen in his body was still abundant, Li Xiu hesitated for a moment before continuing to dive deeper.

The further down he went, the colder the water got, but Li Xiu felt more comfortable, surprisingly without any feeling of oxygen deficiency.

However, Li Xiu still missed Chu Jun a bit; if he were here, there would be no need for troublesome water diving.

As the distance to the blue light became closer, Li Xiu finally saw clearly that indeed, the glow was emanating from the Locust Demon Spirit.

The Locust Demon Spirit was lying on some object that emitted a very faint phosphorescence, which was so weak that it became unclear from a distance.

Curiously, Li Xiu dove a bit deeper, finally seeing clearly what the Locust Demon Spirit was lying on.

It was a phosphorescent stone about the size of a human head, and that creature was lying on it, gnawing frantically.

"Did that creature come down here just to chew on the stone?" Li Xiu came closer to examine the stone carefully.

The stone was irregularly shaped, seemingly a natural stone without any processing.

On the outside, a portion was covered with a black stony shell, and the part emitting faint phosphorescence appeared to be gnawed out by the Locust Demon Spirit.

It was desperately gnawing on the stone, but the stone seemed incredibly hard; it was unclear how long it had been gnawing, but it left only some nearly negligible faint marks on the stone that looked like white jade.

Li Xiu was astonished; that creature could effortlessly crush those hard crystal containers like biting into candy, its sharp teeth were evidently extraordinary.

This stone it couldn't gnaw through; its hardness was indeed extraordinary.

Li Xiu looked around, hoping to find more stones like this at the bottom of the underground lake, but he saw none.

The lake bed was all fine sand, extremely flat without any protrusions.

"Could this stone not originally belong to this underground lake?" Li Xiu wondered to himself, "I wonder which creature dropped this Demon Spirit here, could it be just to find this stone?"

But upon closer thought, it didn't make sense; if it was truly to find this stone, it would be inappropriate to send this creature that would eat everything; once it eats the stone, how could it retrieve it?

The Locust Demon Spirit kept gnawing the stone, but it was unable to chew through, remaining the same after a long time.

Li Xiu's stomach surprisingly started to growl with hunger, but he quickly realized that it wasn't his stomach being hungry; it was the hunger for gemstones.

"Could it be that this stone is also a gemstone?" Li Xiu was surprised.

It was the first time he felt hunger towards something in the Land of Trial; only gemstones from the Human World had ever caused such a feeling before.

Even Demon Cores wouldn't trigger such hunger.

In reality, although the Demon Spirit in his body continuously consumed Demon Cores, it never had any special feelings towards them.

Li Xiu glanced at that Locust Demon Spirit, gritted his teeth, and swam towards it.

As Li Xiu got closer to the Locust Demon Spirit, it immediately became alert, turned its head towards Li Xiu with its eerie greenish eyes.

"Hey, little darling, you're the best, let me take a look at that stone," Li Xiu extended his hand slowly towards it.

But just as Li Xiu was nearing, the wings of the Locust Demon Spirit suddenly flared up like a mother cat protecting her kitten.

Its wings buzzed violently, causing the surrounding water currents to rush swiftly, turning into a whirlpool that swept Li Xiu's body away.

Li Xiu felt as if he had been thrown into a washing machine, his body tumbling and spinning with the water current.

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His mind was clear, and his body relaxed as he moved with the flow of the water. After circling a few times, he suddenly exerted strength in his arms and used the momentum to break free from the water tornado.

Not daring to linger, Li Xiu vigorously paddled his arms and legs, swimming upwards.

In no time, he emerged from the pool and climbed onto the nearby stone platform.

"What tremendous power!" Li Xiu looked at the turbulent, bubbling surface of the pool, feeling greatly astonished.

To be able to create such a water tornado in those deep waters solely with the power of wings, such strength is already very close to an S-Class ordinary magic spirit.

If only he had the Demon Armor on him, Li Xiu could easily defeat it with his eyes closed. Unfortunately, he couldn't bring the Demon Armor in here, and he currently didn't have the ability to kill a magic spirit with strength close to S-Class in this place.

"Li Xiu, what's the situation down there?" Shale asked curiously.

"That thing is munching on rocks down there," Li Xiu replied.

"Munching on rocks? Was that thing air-dropped just to eat rocks? Those rocks must be something special, right?" Shale's first thought was similar to Li Xiu's.

"It looks like jade, wrapped in a layer of black skin on the outside, with fluorescent-like white jade inside," Li Xiu described the appearance of the stone.

"From what you're saying, it sounds a bit like emerald, which is produced in Red Sand City. I've heard some Trial Gates require emeralds to open. But this is the Land of Trial, why would there be such a thing as emerald here?" Shale pondered for a moment, her eyes lighting up as she said, "Do you think it might be that a Trial Taker has been here before us?"

"Are you stupid? Even if a Trial Taker had been here, how did he bring the emerald in?" Li Xiu laughed.

Only then did Shale remember that external items couldn't be brought into the Land of Trial: "Then it can't be emerald, as for what it could be from the Land of Trial, I have no idea."

Li Xiu looked at the still rippling pool water and thought, "The power of the Locust Demon Spirit is already very close to that of an ordinary S-Class demon spirit. It doesn't seem to have any Light Patterns

or brilliance, so it should be an ordinary S-Class demon spirit without quality. Yet, I always feel something's off, like it's not an ordinary demon spirit."

"Forget whether it's ordinary or not, I'm just asking if you can beat it?" Shale inquired.

"I can't," Li Xiu shook his head.

"If you can't beat it, then why think so much? Let's quickly find some magic spirits we can actually kill. I'm still hoping to get a Demon Spirit Ring," Shale said.

"Got a point," Li Xiu shook off water droplets from his body and was about to follow Shale to check outside the oasis.

However, when he looked up at the sky, Li Xiu frowned, "There's something wrong with this sky."

"Could there be another air-drop?" Shale was startled, glanced at the sky, and found no sign of the black bird-like thing, which made her sigh in relief and pouted, "Don't you know scaring people can make them die of fright?"

"I wasn't talking about that black bird thing, I was talking about the sun. Haven't you noticed? We've been here for quite a while, and the sun hasn't moved at all," Li Xiu pointed at the sun in the sky.

"Really? I didn't notice," Shale paused.

"We've been here close to four hours, it was midday when we arrived, and now it's still there," Li Xiu said.

"Are you suggesting there's no night here?" Shale understood but then pondered, "What does that matter? Isn't it better during the day? We can see more clearly, which is better than seeing nothing at night, right?"

Li Xiu removed the Dark Mirror and said, "A Land of Trial with various anomalies must have its reasons. If there's truly no night here, then there would be no dark-based creatures. With the temperature so high, there's a high chance of encountering magic spirits with heat abilities. How can it be insignificant?"

"You're not wrong there, but the magic spirit we encountered earlier didn't seem to have high-temperature abilities," Shale hesitated.

"It's always good to be cautious. Do you have any heat-resistant capabilities?" Li Xiu smiled.

"I don't, do you?" Shale looked at Li Xiu.

"Sorry, I do have a little," Li Xiu said, summoning the Ice Soul Sea Demon. This creature emitted a chill, although not enough to harm, having it around made things feel much cooler, reducing the heat significantly.

"Geez, how many magic spirits do you have? Are Demon Spirit Rings that easy to get?" Shale said sulkily, "You know it's easy to get yourself killed like this, with so many people hating the wealthy, myself included."

Li Xiu chuckled, "Let's go check it out."

With the loss of the Black Death Demon, Li Xiu could only have the Pink Nightmare scout ahead, heading in the direction where the magic spirit initially appeared from.

Climbing over a sand dune, the two of them stood on top of it and looked into the distance. They saw an endless stretch of undulating sand dunes stretching all the way to the horizon, an indescribably majestic sight.

"What do you think the Land of Trial actually is? Is it a planet somewhere in the universe, or the legendary Otherworld?" Shale said excitedly.

"I don't know if this is the Otherworld, but we better not go too far; it could be dangerous," Li Xiu said as he surveyed the surrounding sand dunes.

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"What danger? Did you find traces of the demon spirit?" Shale hurriedly asked.

"Not exactly, but look, aren't these sand dunes here a bit too many?" Li Xiu pointed at the undulating dunes and said, "Sand is something that moves easily. Normally, there shouldn't be so many dunes unless there are frequent sandstorms or earthquakes here, or perhaps..."

"Or what?" Shale asked in confusion.

"Or perhaps some external force has shaped them this way. This force could be a power unknown to us, or it might be the demon spirit." As Li Xiu explained, the Pink Nightmare ahead seemed to have discovered something, letting out a shriek on the sand dune ahead.

Li Xiu and Shale rushed over and climbed up the dune. Immediately, their expressions turned to astonishment. Below the dune was a vast depression filled with buildings made of yellow stone.

Those buildings weren't very tall, the tallest was about the height of a two-story building, with a rather ancient style, and very dilapidated, with collapsed walls everywhere. Many buildings had weathered beyond recognition, and some houses were even teetering on the brink of collapse.

This looked like an abandoned desert ancient city, and at the very center of the desert ancient city, the two saw a statue.

The statue was taller than any building in the ancient city and much more massive, resembling the demon spirit that Li Xiu and Shale encountered earlier, only this statue was dozens of times larger.

"Is that a statue or the demon spirit?" Shale stared at the enormous statue and asked uncertainly.

"It should be just a statue. I don't sense any demon spirit aura on it," Li Xiu replied.

"Then I'm relieved. Come on, let's go explore inside the desert ancient city. That demon spirit must have come from here, let's see if we can find any more." Shale said, but stood still, waiting for Li Xiu to send the demon spirit down to scout the path.

"There's no need for such trouble to find out if there are demon spirits inside." Li Xiu said, summoning the White Night Female Demon.

Li Xiu had studied the White Night Female Demon spirit carefully when he had free time, finding that her powers were far from as simple as previously imagined.

Even though she was just an E-level demon spirit, her abilities were even more overpowered compared to the Love God Shooter.

The Love God Shooter had only one ability, but the White Night Female Demon had abilities beyond just enhancing potential with her flying kiss.

During the day, she's a beautiful demon spirit in a blue dress, and her flying kiss can enhance potential.

But at night, the blue dress on the White Night Female Demon turns purple, and then she transforms into a deadly assassin; her flying kiss not only fails to enhance potential but also weakens people's bodies.

Here, there seemed to be no night, so the summoned White Night Female Demon was in a glittering blue dress, looking seductive and charming yet still not lacking a playful cuteness.

Li Xiu called her out, not to let her perform the flying kiss skill.

The White Night Female Demon has a hidden ability, which is her ability to attract the attention of demon spirits.

As long as she is present, whether day or night, if demon spirits are nearby, they will be attracted to her.

"This demon spirit... can it be touched?" Shale asked with an ambiguous smile, looking at the White Night Female Demon.

Now, he was immune to the demon spirits Li Xiu summoned, even if Li Xiu summoned a large army of demons, he wouldn't find it surprising anymore.

"Do you want to give it a try?" Li Xiu said with a smile.

"I'd rather not. Despite appearances, I actually have a cleanliness obsession, can't accept things used by others," Shale smiled cheekily.

Li Xiu felt exasperated, thinking Shale's mouth was really something.

While they were talking, suddenly the bell rang loudly from within the desert ancient city, the jingling sound deafening.

From those ancient buildings came demon spirits wearing bells, identical to the one that the Jedi Knight had slain previously.

Moreover, a few of them had golden light patterns on their bodies, clearly Flowing Color-grade demon spirits.

Li Xiu wasted no time, calling back the White Night Female Demon, pulling Shale onto the Pink Nightmare, then turned around and ran.

The sound of bells immediately filled the air, the demon spirits charging out of the ancient city like a group of large hungry dogs, tightly pursuing Li Xiu and his companions.

Most demon spirits were left behind as the Pink Nightmare drew away, but those few Flowing Color demon spirits kept close, speeding up and gradually catching up.

Li Xiu secretly estimated, "To keep pace with a C-level Pink Nightmare, these creatures' level should be higher than Pink Nightmare. If they're the same level, Pink Nightmare's shiny quality should make it faster than the Flowing Color demon spirits. But judging by their speed, they're only slightly faster than Pink Nightmare, so they likely aren't S-level, probably A-level or B-level."

Li Xiu counted, a total of six Flowing Color demon spirits were catching up, while the other demon spirits had already fallen far behind.

Li Xiu suddenly came to a stop, then summoned Demigod Shana and the Jedi Knight to face the six Flowing Color demon spirits.

"Put this on." Li Xiu handed a gentleman's hat to Shale.

"Brother, keep the hat for yourself. I, Shale, will only ever give others a green hat to wear in my lifetime, never wear one myself," Shale said sternly.

"Alright then." Li Xiu didn't mind, placing the green hat on the Pink Nightmare's head.

The Pink Nightmare immediately reared its forelegs and let out a long bray. Sitting at the back, Shale was caught off guard and thrown off. The Pink Nightmare, as if injected with excitement, charged towards the Flowing Color demon spirits.

Li Xiu drew the Fire Lotus Sword into his hand, the imprint on his finger surfaced, and a terrifying force instantly filled his body, white fluorescence shimmering over Li Xiu, and the Forbidden Spear appeared in his other hand.

The Jedi Knight and Demigod Shana split up, luring away four Flowing Color demon spirits, while Li Xiu, riding the Pink Nightmare, charged at the remaining two Flowing Color demon spirits.

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"I haven't mounted the horse yet!" Shale shouted from the back.

But the Pink Nightmare had no intention of stopping, as Li Xiu charged towards the two magical beings with a sword in one hand and a gun in the other.

The two magical beings were seven or eight meters away from the Pink Nightmare when they suddenly leapt in the air, pouncing towards Li Xiu.

Li Xiu fired two shots from the Forbidden Spear with his left hand, and bullets tinged with blood and frost pinned onto the bodies of the two magical beings.

Li Xiu applied Ice Ashes and Super Exciting skills onto the bullets, causing a freezing and electric paralysis effect, making the two magical beings stiffen up in mid-air.

Taking advantage of the opportunity, the Pink Nightmare also leapt up and passed through the gap between the two magical beings.

The symbiotic contract combined with Li Xiu's own light energy activated simultaneously, infusing into the Fire Lotus Sword. The blade turned into a red transparent crystal, and the burning light flame transformed into a translucent red-blue hue, flickering twice in the air like lightning.

The two magical beings and the Pink Nightmare almost landed simultaneously; the Fire Lotus Sword had already returned to Li Xiu's waist. The Pink Nightmare landed as steady as a rock, while the two magical beings took two steps forward upon landing, and then a cracking sound was heard—they dropped their heads to the ground, detached from their bodies, which then crashed down.

From a distance, Shale only saw Li Xiu riding the Pink Nightmare, leaping up and passing by the two magical beings, then the sword gleamed twice, causing the magical beings to fall to the ground, headless.

"Damn, that's cool. Such a stylish thing should be done by me, Old Shale," Shale mumbled enviously.

Demigod Shana and the Jedi Knight weren't as clean and sharp as Li Xiu, but still held the upper hand, battling two at once.

Under their strong offense, the magical beings screamed miserably as they were chopped down.

Demigod Shana crossed gun and sword, forcing back one magical being and slaying another with the great sword.

The Jedi Knight, using the samurai sword, unleashed crescent blade lights, cutting the magical beings into a scatter of shattered stones.

Shale watched with boiling blood, wishing he could join and fight the magical beings himself.

Li Xiu only fired two shots and didn't shoot at the other four Flowing Color Demon Spirits.

During this time, he already tested and found that one Not-Kill Bullet restored every twenty-four hours, not always available.

Against these Flowing Color Demon Spirits, there's no need to waste so many bullets; he kept some bullets in case he encountered higher-quality magical beings.

Perhaps luck wasn't too good, as the two Not-Kill Bullets didn't yield anything, only condensed Demon Cores.

The other four Flowing Color Demon Spirits hadn't been dealt with when two more magical beings charged up. These two didn't have quality, but their level seemed relatively higher, estimated to be D or C level, faster than the other E-level magical beings.

"Leave a little guy for me, the other one's yours," Shale unexpectedly rushed up, facing one magical being.

Li Xiu wanted to stop him, but reconsidered and gave up, charging towards the other magical being, killing it with one strike.

"Kill!" Shale shouted, with Overlord Gloves emanating light as he dodged the magical being's pounce and punched its head.

The magical being's head turned, clashing with the Overlord Gloves.

Shale felt a tremendous force surging, involuntarily retreating seven or eight steps and plopping to the ground.

"Damn, how could it be so strong!" Shale was shocked, realizing that killing Flowing Color Demon Spirits was as easy as cutting vegetables and didn't expect a non-quality magical being to have such strong power.

The magical being on the side directly pounced, pinning Shale under its body.

"Li Xiu, help me!" Shale blocked one of the magical being's claws with one hand, while its massive bloody mouth came down to bite him, screaming for help in horror.

Li Xiu had been observing Shale's situation, letting him suffer a bit, otherwise, he'd really think the magical beings are easy to kill. Without minor setbacks now, he'd face major ones later.

Seeing Shale about to be bitten, Li Xiu flicked the brim of the gentleman's hat, tossing it directly to Shale.

The gentleman's hat landed perfectly on Shale's head.

With the gentleman's hat atop, Shale immediately felt a surge of power injected into his body, filling him with strength.

With a sudden force of his arms, he flipped the magical being away.

Shale was overjoyed, pouncing on the magical being and hammering its head with the Overlord Gloves in a frenzy, finally smashing its head to pieces with one final punch.

Shale fought aggressively, spotting more magical beings charging, heading towards them with the gentleman's hat.

Li Xiu didn't rush forward; he wasn't interested in those E-level cuties. With the gentleman's hat enhancing, though those E-level magical beings were numerous, they likely wouldn't cause Shale much trouble.

After Demigod Shana and the Jedi Knight dealt with the four magical beings, only Demon Cores remained, not even a Talent Gemstone.

Li Xiu's taste had been spoiled by the Blood Moon Black Death City and the Forbidden Spear. He'd forgotten that not yielding anything was normal.

Fortunately, these Flowing Color Demon Cores were of a high level, with A and B levels, perfect for nurturing Demigod Shana and the Jedi Knight.

After some thought, Li Xiu gave all six Demon Cores to the Jedi Knight. Demigod Shana needed resources at least two or three times more than the Jedi Knight to level up, so first elevating the Jedi Knight's level, then slowly supporting Demigod Shana.

After the Jedi Knight consumed five Demon Cores, his body ignited with a blazing crimson flame, clearly ready to advance, and awakened a Talent Skill.

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After the scarlet flames receded, the armor on the Jedi Knight appeared as if it had been dyed in fresh blood, unlike the previous dullness. The glow of the Jedi Saber in his hand grew stronger, rising from C-level to D-level.

Li Xiu sensed that the Jedi Knight had acquired an additional skill named "Martial Spirit." As expected, every level up awakens a skill; the parasitic effect of the Evil is truly bizarre.

It's a pity that only two Evils have been discovered; otherwise, if each Demon Spirit were to have one, forming an all-skill Demon Spirit Legion would certainly be formidable.

The remaining Flowing Color Demon Spirit was still fed to the Jedi Knight, quickly advancing him to S-level, which will ensure fewer concerns in the Land of Trial.

Over there, Shale had gone into a frenzy, charging left and right within the Demon Spirit horde like a humanoid beast.

The Overlord Gloves gleamed brilliantly, with a green halo overhead. With each punch, a little cutie was taken down, making Shale feel ecstatic.

Li Xiu retracted the Demon Spirits, sitting aside and watching Shale unleash carnage. Shale's combat abilities were indeed formidable, with an extremely brutal and fierce fighting style, especially favoring headshots—no Demon Spirit corpse on the ground had a complete skull.

Not sure how much time had passed, over a hundred Demon Spirits were hammered dead by Shale. Shale stood arrogantly on the last fallen Demon Spirit's corpse, shouting, "Why are they gone so fast? Bring me another batch of Demon Spirits; I want to fight ten more."

Li Xiu gestured with his hand, and the gentleman's hat automatically flew back into his grasp.

Just moments ago, Shale was energetic and vigorous, but suddenly a wave of fatigue overwhelmed him, muscles all over his body starting to ache, and he seemed to wither, his vigor falling far short of before.

The gentleman's hat can trigger potential, but utilizing it bears the risk of exhaustion. Shale had been in high-intensity combat for over an hour, and his stamina was already depleted.

"Uh... can I borrow your hat again... there might be more Demon Spirits over at the Desert Ancient City..." Shale ran up to Li Xiu, smiling broadly.

"You tidy up the battlefield first. The Demon Spirits you killed, their spoils belong to you. See if there are any Talent Gemstones, Skill Rings, or Demon Spirit Rings among them." Li Xiu didn't let him wear it again; overuse might leave Shale unable to even stand later.

Shale was so caught up in the killing spree that he forgot about it. Li Xiu's reminder made him recall, and he eagerly ran over to collect the spoils.

He rummaged and picked for quite a while, returning angrily, "What is going on? I've killed so many Demon Spirits, and yet it's all Demon Cores. Forget Demon Spirit Rings, there's not even a Talent Gemstone. Is this targeted against me?"

"You've only killed a bit over a hundred ordinary E-level Demon Spirits; it's hardly surprising they didn't drop anything worthwhile." Though Li Xiu thought this, he said aloud, "Possibly. A new, fierce Trial Taker like you probably hasn't been seen before, definitely targeted."

"Well, nothing can be done; it's because I'm so strong." Shale laughed heartily.

"Rest for a while; I'll go check the Desert Ancient City to see if there are more Demon Spirits." Li Xiu again headed to the top of the dunes, examining the deserted ancient city below, and summoned the White Night Female Demon.

The White Night Female Demon stood there for a good while, yet no Demon Spirits emerged from the ruined ancient city, prompting Li Xiu to finally walk down.

Close-up, the ancient city appeared even more dilapidated. Despite being constructed of stone, it was seriously weathered. When Li Xiu tried to pick up a stone brick, it crumbled like brittle candy with slight force.

With caution, Li Xiu searched through the city. He found nothing all along the way.

At the giant Demon Spirit Statue, Li Xiu found it somewhat peculiar.

The Demon Spirit Statue was reclining, lying on the ground with its mouth half-opened, as if unconsciously yawning while dozing, or perhaps exposed its fangs while snoring.

When Li Xiu reached its mouth, he discovered golden flames burning inside, seemingly connected to subterranean fire.

Li Xiu saw the intense blaze, unsure of how long it had burned, making the stone inside the statue's mouth glisten like glass.

Just about to leave, Li Xiu suddenly felt the Fire Lotus Sword at his waist tremble, then it unexpectedly flew out and entered the statue's mouth.

Li Xiu was first startled, then delighted beyond measure.

Every advancement in the Parasitic Contract requires certain opportunities, and it seems the chance for the Fire Lotus Sword has arrived now.

When the Fire Lotus Sword entered the flames, they suddenly intensified. The golden flames that had only burned within the statue's mouth surged forth, bursting out.

The roaring gold flames spurted several meters, forcing Li Xiu to step back a bit.

Li Xiu held some anticipation for the Fire Lotus Sword's advancement.

Though the Fire Lotus Sword was of Shining Quality, its Primordial Embryo Quality reached as high as 0.9.

Primordial Embryo Quality and quality level don't have an inherent relationship. Higher quality doesn't necessarily mean higher Primordial Embryo Quality. The Radiant Quality Dark Mirror only has a Primordial Embryo Quality of 0.7.

Quality merely determines the strength of Light Energy. Primordial Embryo Quality refers to the inherent quality of the contract, and the two are different.

Excellent Primordial Embryo Quality means little if Light Energy isn't strong enough. Only when both are high is it considered top-grade.

Chapter 286 Opportunity_3

Ever since discovering those lights outside Black Death City that could enhance the Symbiotic Contract quality, Li Xiu had been thinking about whether he could upgrade the quality of the Fire Lotus Sword as well.

If the Fire Lotus Sword's quality could also be upgraded to Radiance, combined with its 0.9 Primordial Embryo Quality, it would be quite powerful.

Unfortunately, those lights are things one can only stumble upon by chance, and it might not be easy to get hold of them anytime soon.

After waiting for more than an hour, the flames were still burning continuously. Shale came running over, looked at the flames, and said, "I thought something happened to you, so here you are playing with fire, what's the situation?"

"I don't know either, the statue's mouth seems connected to earth fire, one of my Parasitic Contracts went in by itself, perhaps it wants to use the earth fire here to temper its Primordial Embryo, enhancing its quality to level up," Li Xiu replied.

"This works too? Then I'll give it a try." Shale took off the Overlord Gloves and was about to throw them into the fire.

However, the Overlord Gloves seemed to be stuck to his hand, and no matter how many times Shale tried to throw them, he couldn't get them off.

"Don't mess around; different contracts require different opportunities for upgrading. This earth fire may not be suitable for your contract," Li Xiu said, somewhat helplessly. Shale could be a real daredevil at times.

Only then did Shale give up and put away the Overlord Gloves. But he was still not willing to let it go, so he ran to explore other parts of the Ancient City, circling around but coming back empty-handed.

"What a crappy place, besides this flaming statue, there's nothing good here," Shale muttered in frustration.

Li Xiu just smiled and said nothing. Shale was quite the chatterbox; when Li Xiu first joined the football team, Shale was the first to jump up and tease him.

"Old Sha, I have something to ask you." Since there was nothing else to do, Li Xiu looked at Shale and said.

"What is it?" Shale looked at Li Xiu warily; he always felt there was nothing good when Li Xiu spoke to him in this tone.

"I think you're pretty decent, so why do you have such a bad reputation?" Li Xiu actually wanted to know why everyone said Shale was a ruthless and cruel murderer before.

Shale sighed, "I didn't want to kill anyone either, but I couldn't survive. That year a plague of locusts struck my hometown; there wasn't even tree bark to eat, let alone crops. My parents and several younger siblings all starved to death. I was so hungry I couldn't stand it any longer, so I went to steal from the neighbor's house. The man of the house did business outside, not exactly rich, but far better off than us farmers. At least they could eat."

Li Xiu fell silent, not sure what to say. When one is pushed to the brink of starvation, there's nothing they won't do.

But then unexpectedly, Shale laughed and punched Li Xiu's chest, "I'm not what you think, I didn't kill those people."

"At that time, I was so weak from hunger. It was my first time doing something like that, so naturally, I was really nervous and clumsy. I got caught by that family in the act. But they didn't beat me. Instead, they gave me a bowl of rice. I'll never forget how that couple had their daughter pass me the bowl of rice. The feeling... that rice... was so damn fragrant..."

"Later, when I really had no food and was desperately hungry, I would sneak over and steal some food. Every time, I would find something in the kitchen cabinet. Not much, but enough to keep me alive. I knew they left it for me on purpose."

At this point, Shale's face twisted with anger, "Then one night, when I went to their house to steal food, I found the whole family lying in a pool of blood, everything taken away."

"I later found out after inquiring around; some bastards robbed their food and killed the whole family. I planned for over half a month and sneaked into one of the guy's houses at midnight, ate his food, then stabbed the guy a few times while he was sleeping and bound him up. I didn't kill him; he bled to death... Not one of those bastards got away... I personally took them all down..." Shale sighed, "Then I ran away and risked my life in the Trial Ground. Life has gotten better, but now, no matter how sumptuous the meal is, nothing tastes as good as it used to."

Li Xiu had never experienced such a life, so naturally, he couldn't fully empathize, but he listened in silence.

"I don't believe in any morality now. Whoever pays me, I'll work for them. Do you need people? As long as the money is right, I'll leave Kun Sha and work with you," Shale said with a laugh.

"You've probably heard about my situation. Things are going well in the City of Light. You're welcome to come over anytime, but I'm really short on cash now, so I can't offer a high salary," Li Xiu laughed.

"That's fine. What's a salary? Just take me into the Land of Trial a few times, and I'll have everything I need," Shale chuckled.

As they spoke, they noticed the flame in the mouth of the Demon Spirit Statue starting to weaken. In a moment, the flame receded into the statue's mouth and kept shrinking inside.

Soon enough, the flame became lower and lower, until it disappeared completely.

Li Xiu and Shale walked to the edge of the statue's mouth to look down and saw a pitch-black opening. They couldn't tell how deep it was; there was no light inside anymore.

Suddenly, a red glow flashed out from the darkness below, skimming past Li Xiu, swirling a few times in the air before stopping in front of him.

At this moment, the Fire Lotus Sword was thinner than ever, with a faint red glow emanating from its blade, with hints of gold within the red glow.

Upon closer inspection, the blade seemed to be covered with fine scales, originally crossed with faint golden thin light patterns covering the blade, resembling scales, yet also like layers of lotus petals overlapping on the blade.

Sensing the information from the Fire Lotus Sword, it had indeed upgraded from E-level to D-level and even gained a Talent Skill.

Fire Lotus Sword: Parasitic Contract.

Quality: Radiant.

Level: E.

Primordial Embryo Quality: 1.9.

Talent Skill: Fire Lotus Sword Spirit, Fire Lotus Birth.

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The Primordial Embryo Quality actually turned out to be 1.9. Logically speaking, 1.8 should be the limit, reaching 1.9 indicates it has hidden values beyond, and they aren't low. After the upgrade, it directly broke through to 1.9.

Li Xiu didn't have time to figure out what Fire Lotus Birth was all about when the wind suddenly picked up.

"This is bad, let's go." Li Xiu instantly pulled Shale onto the Pink Nightmare, riding frantically towards the outskirts of the Desert Ancient City.

The wind grew fiercer, carrying yellow sand that blocked out the sky, turning half the sky yellow.

"What the hell is that!" Shale looked back and saw the yellow sand behind them swallowing up the Desert Ancient City like a monster, chasing hard after them.

The sand hit Shale's face, stinging him painfully, his eyes couldn't open at all, feeling only the sand being whipped up by the wind beside him, which grew stronger with more sand lifted.

The Pink Nightmare sprinted wildly in the wind and sand, behind it was a monstrous sandstorm, racing against death it seemed.

Fortunately, the Pink Nightmare was fast enough, the sandstorm hadn't caught up yet, but catching up was only a matter of time and wouldn't take long.

The Masked Emperor wasn't chosen because it's not practical in this environment.

Too many undulating dunes, affected by the wind, causing the sand to shift around, the Masked Emperor's tires could easily get stuck.

As the Pink Nightmare charged over a dune, Li Xiu saw from afar that the oasis hadn't been hit by the sandstorm, so he urged the Pink Nightmare towards the oasis.

The oasis wasn't far from here, with no tall buildings to withstand such a sandstorm, it would likely be swallowed in an instant.

But Li Xiu had no choice, the Pink Nightmare couldn't outrun the sandstorm, so he had to dash into the oasis and extinguish the Longevity Lamp for a chance at survival.

Li Xiu faintly felt that perhaps the oasis wouldn't be swallowed by the sandstorm.

The Pink Nightmare raced for its life, with more sand whipping around them, stinging their faces.

Li Xiu couldn't see the road ahead, charging blindly in the swirling sand towards the direction seen before.

Shale clung tightly to Li Xiu's waist, fearing he might be thrown off, his mouth muttering something.

Sadly, Li Xiu couldn't hear at all, the sound of the wind and sand drowned everything, the storm behind wound sand, causing the dunes to move, like a landslide chasing them.

Seeing the Pink Nightmare about to be caught by the quicksand behind, it suddenly leapt into the air, soaring over ten meters in the wind and sand.

Bang!

The Pink Nightmare landed hard, seeming to hit something, with both man and horse tumbling over, rolling a fair distance before stopping.

Li Xiu got back up, realizing the storm's sensation was gone, yet everything ahead was dark, he couldn't see anything.

Realizing this, Li Xiu hurriedly wiped the sand off the Dark Mirror, discovering they'd crossed into the oasis's barrier.

Inside the oasis was calm and serene, outside the oasis was sand swallowing the sky, separated by just a barrier, yet they seemed like two different worlds.

Only near the broken gate, some wind and sand blew in, quickly clogging the broken gate with sand, after which there was no more wind.

Li Xiu and Shale exchanged glances, inwardly relieved to have escaped death.

The storm came quickly and left just as fast, not long after, the sand gradually receded, and the sun shone brightly again.

Shale wanted to go out and see, but the gate was piled with sand, so he tried jumping over the barrier.

Who knew he'd leap up only to hit an invisible wall, seeing stars as he fell back, head bleeding and swollen, dazed for quite a while before somewhat recovering.

Seeing Shale was alright, Li Xiu then had the Jedi Knight dig out the sand blocking the gate.

After clearing the sand from the gate, Shale also felt less dizzy, both walked out the gate and were shocked by the scene before them.

The dunes' positions had all changed, if they hadn't made it back to the oasis, they might not have found their way back.

Li Xiu felt a sudden urge, riding the Pink Nightmare to the location where the Desert Ancient City was discovered earlier, searching for a long time without finding the Desert Ancient City, not even the depression could be found.

"It seems the Desert Ancient City has been buried under the sand once more, unsure if it can be seen again," Li Xiu speculated that the terrifying sandstorm was caused by the Fire Lotus Sword absorbing the earth flames.

Why else would it be so coincidental, the earth flames were just absorbed by the Fire Lotus Sword, and the sandstorm came right after.

"Li Xiu, something strange has happened." Li Xiu had just returned to the oasis when Shale ran over, calling out.

"What strange thing?" Li Xiu asked in confusion.

"Didn't you notice? Those supply pods are all gone." Shale pointed inside the oasis.

Li Xiu paused slightly, turning to look, indeed the supply pods weren't visible, but the pits they left were still there.

It made sense if the supply pods outside the oasis were swept away or buried by the sandstorm, but now even the supply pods inside the oasis were gone, which was rather odd.

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"Has the locust demon spirit come out?" Li Xiu surveyed the surroundings but didn't see any trace of the locust demon spirit.

"No, I haven't seen it." Shale shook his head.

"That's strange." Li Xiu walked over to a pit created by an airdrop pod but found no signs of movement, as if the pod had vanished into thin air.

"This broken place is really peculiar." Shale muttered.

Li Xiu walked to the edge of the pool and looked down but didn't notice anything unusual. After thinking for a moment, he said to Shale, "We've been here for quite a while; it's time to leave. Next time you come here, be more careful."

"This broken place, I don't dare to come again. My little life can't take such a toss." Shale shook his head.

After extinguishing the longevity lamp, the two returned to the trial gate. It was already late at night, yet the place remained bustling.

After returning to the manor, it was already dawn. Shale eagerly displayed his Overlord Gloves to Pa Shan.

Qin Shi, who had recovered from her fever, was well enough to get up and have breakfast on her own.

While drinking yesterday, Li Xiu had already told Kun Sha that he would take Qin Shi back to the City of Light. Qin Shi needed to be observed for a while.

After breakfast, Li Xiu left Tyrone City with Qin Shi, while Shale reluctantly saw them off.

Now that Qin Shi was leaving for some time, Tyrone City was in need of manpower, and Shale was embarrassed to ask Kun Sha to let someone go now, so he had to stay in Tyrone City.

Kun Sha specifically arranged a car and driver to take Li Xiu and Qin Shi to the City of Light. Along the way, Qin Shi spoke very little, staring absentmindedly out the window.

"Unfortunate things haven't happened yet. Could he truly be my destined true love?" Occasionally coming back to her senses, when Qin Shi turned to look at Li Xiu, her expression was quite complex.

Due to the absence of a direct road to the City of Light, the car had to detour via Red Sand City before reaching the City of Light, delaying them considerably.

By the time Li Xiu arrived back in the City of Light, several days had passed.

Over in the City of Light, no special events had occurred, and everything was progressing in an orderly fashion.

The funding from Chu Jun was fully in place, and the Demon Spirit Arena was under construction. The foundation for the initial projects had been laid.

After arranging Qin Shi's accommodation, Li Xiu went to check on Old Officer. This time, Old Officer hadn't caused any mishaps; the demon armor Li Xiu wanted was in production, with very promising progress.

The new parts with demon spirit wood material were partially completed and looked quite effective.

However, unlike contracts, demon armor's performance couldn't be assessed until assembly testing was complete.

"My lord, the City Lord." Upon hearing Li Xiu had returned, Ye Yuzhen excitedly ran over and summoned a demon spirit in front of Li Xiu.

He had surprisingly contracted an A-grade mechanical skeleton, though it was unclear how he managed it.

Upon inquiry, Li Xiu learned this A-grade mechanical skeleton was contracted with Ah Fei's assistance.

They had already taken a trial taker inside to test, and the lights there did indeed enhance contract quality.

However, the trial taker they brought in initially had a Flowing Colors quality symbiotic contract, which after absorbing lamp flames only upgraded to the Shining quality, and didn't reach Chu Jun's Glorious quality.

It was expected; those lamp flames also varied in quality. The gate Ah Fei led the trial taker through was a D-grade area gate, so enhancing one quality was fortunate.

Li Xiu conjectured, if that trial taker's contract were of initially high quality, it likely wouldn't increase even by one level.

The ruby in the stomach hadn't transformed into a demon spirit ring or been extracted, leaving Li Xiu clueless about the situation.

Luckily, Qin Shi hadn't had any further issues, indicating the ruby was suppressed, suggesting the transformation into a demon spirit ring was just a matter of time.

What troubled Li Xiu was that the City of Light had only one trial gate, connected to the Black Death City, making it difficult to acquire high-level demon cores, which was unfavorable for feeding the Jedi Knight and Demigod Shana.

"Where else can I find a trial gate?" Li Xiu studied the distribution of nearby trial gates.

The entire Southern Cross Federation had many trial gates, unlike Space City, where there were fewer than ten trial gates within its controlled territory.

In Southern Cross Federation, each of the five main cities had over ten trial gates within its area.

This was possibly because Southern Cross Federation was rich in gemstones. Early speculations linked the appearance of trial gates with gemstone mines, granting Southern Cross Federation numerous trial gates.

Southern Cross Federation was essentially a paradise for trial takers, although only one trial gate belonged to Li Xiu within this paradise.

After studying for a long time, Li Xiu found that among the publicly known trial gates, the closest one to the City of Light was Guyue City's Golden Gate.

The straight distance from the City of Light to the Golden Gate was less than forty miles, but the route was obstructed by primitive jungle, making travel inconvenient.

The Golden Gate belonged to a wealthy tycoon in Guyue City, requiring golden green tourmaline gemstones to open.

Chapter 289 The Light in Life_3

The name Golden Green Tourmaline feels awkward at first, as if it were a two-tone gemstone, but that's not the case. Golden Green Tourmaline is actually a yellow gemstone.

Green Tourmaline is a general term for a type of gemstone. Among the Green Tourmaline family, the most famous is the Emerald, one of the Five Great Gemstones, followed by Aquamarine.

Golden Green Tourmaline is far less famous than these two, so its price is naturally much cheaper.

Li Xiu is interested in the Golden Gate, partly because it's relatively close, but also because the gemstones used to open it are cheaper.

To open a Trial Gate requires dozens of rubies, sapphires, and the like. Li Xiu can't afford that. Even if there's a gate there, he doesn't have the money to open it daily.

Of course, another important reason is that the wealthy magnate in Guyue City doesn't highly value the Golden Gate. Perhaps he could acquire it for the City of Light at a low cost.

The reason that magnate doesn't value the Golden Gate is, for one, the trials inside are quite difficult, with an extremely high mortality rate, and also because the rewards inside aren't very impressive; the skills and talents rewarded aren't exceptional.

Of course, for Li Xiu, these aren't problems. His main goal is to enter the Land of Trial.

Moreover, once the Demon Spirit Arena becomes popular, the value of the Trial Gate will definitely multiply, even increase higher.

Li Xiu approached Sha Chu, expressing his idea of buying the Golden Gate.

"We really have no money left, let alone buying a Trial Gate; we don't even have money to open it," Sha Chu stated firmly.

"Didn't Chu Jun just transfer a large sum over? Can't we use a part of it first?" Li Xiu asked.

"That money is for building the arena. Unless you don't want the Demon Spirit Competition, not a penny can be touched," Sha Chu felt that Li Xiu was just a spendthrift, feeling uncomfortable unless he spends money every day.

Li Xiu was immediately troubled. The Demon Spirit Arena indeed needed to be built, but Li Xiu also wanted the Golden Gate.

If he hadn't already decided to give the Ghost-faced Magic Armor to Ye Xiyuan, Li Xiu would've considered trading it for the Golden Gate.

The wealthy in the Southern Cross Federation are crazy about S-Class Magic Armors and definitely wouldn't refuse such a deal, but unfortunately, he couldn't trade it.

Just when Li Xiu was at a loss, the light in his life appeared once more.

When Chu Jun stood before Li Xiu, saying he could invest and help Li Xiu purchase the Golden Gate, Li Xiu felt as if he saw an angel clad in Holy Light, with a halo above.

Sha Chu looked at Chu Jun as if admiring a big spender.

She disagreed with Li Xiu buying the Golden Gate, not just because they were indeed short on money, but for two important reasons.

Firstly, although the City of Light is less than forty miles away from the Golden Gate, there's no road leading there. If they can't channel traffic in large quantities to the Golden Gate, what's the point of buying it?

If you're just thinking of entering for a trial, wouldn't it be better to spend a little instead?

Secondly, she'd also heard of the Golden Gate's reputation and had some understanding of the Trial Ground there, knowing that the trial's difficulty is high and the rewarded skills and talents are exceptionally poor. Facing the same risks, wouldn't other Trial Grounds offer better skills and talents?

Sha Chu quickly explained her thoughts to Chu Jun and Li Xiu, preventing these two who couldn't treat money seriously from causing more trouble.

Yet, Li Xiu didn't listen at all, and neither did Chu Jun, as if his money was blown in by the wind.

However, on second thought, Sha Chu felt Chu Jun's money seemed even easier to come by than being blown in by the wind.

When it's blown in by the wind, you still have to pick it up, but the young master of the Chu Family in White Night City has the money delivered directly to his hand.

Li Xiu and Chu Jun hit it off instantly, and they decided right on the spot to head to Guyue City to discuss the purchase of the Golden Gate with that magnate.

"These two are truly insane," Sha Chu remarked, watching the two plan out their grand future vision. She had to admit that rich people truly have the freedom to do whatever they want.

While musing, Sha Chu felt a bit uncomfortable. She used to be well-off too—not as wealthy as Chu Jun, but quite well off. Now, at this point, she couldn't help but feel inexplicably melancholic.

Qin Shi shouldn't remain in the City of Light. If the influence of the Princess Mask she bears remains, staying in the City of Light would be a problem, so she must be brought along.

Qin Shi was somewhat perplexed. After just arriving in the City of Light for a day, without even having slept, Li Xiu wanted to take her out again.

Luckily, Qin Shi also felt some inexplicable discomfort over the mention of that large, soft bed Li Xiu had described. After packing her things, she once again followed Li Xiu out the door.

When Ah Fei came to see Li Xiu off, he casually glanced at Qin Shi a few times but said nothing.

Qin Shi greeted Ah Fei, to which Ah Fei only responded with a "hm."

The trio planned to directly pass through the jungle, first exploring the road to the Golden Gate to see if conditions might allow a road to be constructed there in the future.

Though the distance wasn't too far, it was indeed not an easy journey. Within the jungle, not only were there venomous snakes and beasts, but the most frightening were actually the mosquitoes and such.

The jungle's mosquitoes were even more terrifying than snakes and beasts, swarming like locusts. A single bite would cause an ordinary person to develop a swelling the size of an egg, transforming within seconds into a grotesque figure covered in welts.

In some areas, there were ant nests and these were not ordinary ants. A single step could engulf a leg, causing one to pass out from the bites in no time.

Li Xiu and Chu Jun were protected by Light Energy, guarding against these mosquitoes, while Qin Shi had to wear magic armor to repel their bites.

Fortunately, the path wasn't long, with no mountains blocking the way. It only took the three of them a few hours to reach the Golden Gate.

From afar, they saw a massive gate of yellow jade, like a dam, obstructing a river's course, forcing the water to flow around its two sides.

Surprisingly, there were no guards outside the Golden Gate, nor was it fenced off. There was merely an elder wearing a security uniform reclining on a chair atop a nearby hill, basking in the sun.

"Hey, you three, keep your distance. This is private property; no wandering around," the security elder said to Li Xiu and the others as they neared the Golden Gate, still reclining, shouting to them.

Chapter 290 Golden Gate

"Mister, is this the Golden Gate of Boss Qiu?" Li Xiu surveyed the surroundings as he spoke.

The area was surrounded by a primeval jungle, and actually, the Golden Gate was dozens of miles from Guyue City, about as far as it was from the City of Light.

This Golden Gate lay within the primeval jungle, and no one could quite understand what madness drove Boss Qiu to locate such a Trial Gate within this wilderness, only to gain nothing from it.

But he has already registered the Golden Gate and obtained ownership, which is recognized by the Southern Cross Federation. Unless Li Xiu plans to go to war with Guyue City, the only option is to find a way to buy it—theft is not feasible.

"You know this is Boss Qiu's place, so why are you wandering around here?" The old man fanned himself without any intention of getting up.

"We're just here to talk to Boss Qiu about buying this Trial Gate. Could you help us get in touch?" Li Xiu and his two companions approached the security guard grandpa.

A few wooden huts had been built on a small hill, which seemed to be where the old man lived.

"You want to buy the Golden Gate? Have you lost your mind? Why would you buy this godforsaken place?" The security guard grandpa sized up Li Xiu as he spoke.

"At least it's a Trial Gate, so it's somewhat useful, right? Could you help us get in touch?" Li Xiu said cheerfully, without getting angry.

"I can't even get in touch. This place has no cell signal. Even if it did, how could an old man like me possibly contact someone like Boss Qiu?" The security guard grandpa said, "I advise you not to waste your time here. This broken gate is fifty miles from Guyue City and seventy to eighty miles from Red Sand City. It's surrounded by primeval jungle, teeming with venomous insects and fierce beasts, not to mention the occasional appearance of magical spirits. I heard Boss Qiu sent people to explore the Golden Gate, and none came back alive. A place like this isn't worth anyone's trouble."

"How could there be no benefit at all? Aren't there rewards within the Trial Gate?" Chu Jun asked.

"What rewards? Haven't you heard that the reward in the Trial Ground within the Golden Gate is a skill called the Golden Radiance Lamp? This skill enraged Boss Qiu because it's about as useful as a lighter. You can conjure a small golden flame on your fingertip, but it's smaller than a lighter's flame. Other than providing light, it's useless. What's even more ridiculous is that this skill only works in the presence of light—if there's light, it lights up; if not, it doesn't. What good is that?" The security guard grandpa said.

"But aren't there talents and Demon Cores?" Chu Jun added.

"What Demon Core? There's no such reward. They say the only rewards within the gate are talents and skills—no Demon Cores or Attribute Rewards. The talent, they say, is what really made Boss Qiu furious. They say he almost fainted when he heard about its ability." The security guard grandpa chuckled.

"What kind of talent is so infuriating?" Chu Jun asked, curious.

"They say the talent is called Sudhana. Once you have this talent, you'll keep losing money for no apparent reason. If you don't lose money, everything you do goes wrong—businesses lose money, lottery tickets never win, and anything valuable at home somehow ends up broken. It's not 'Sudhana'

but 'Dispersed Wealth'!" The security guard laughed again and added some advice for them: "You young people like messing around with these things, but sooner or later you'll find out that a peaceful life is better than anything else."

"Is it really that strange?" Chu Jun and Li Xiu exchanged glances.

Li Xiu stared at the security guard and asked, "Mister, how come you're here all alone? Aren't you afraid of those venomous snakes, fierce beasts, and magical spirits?"

"I'm an old man with no children, no money, and halfway in the grave. What do I have to fear? Boss Qiu takes good care of me, and I treat this place with its flowers and grass as my retirement. If I really encounter a magical spirit, it would save me even the trouble of buying a coffin..." The security guard grandpa was quite at ease.

"Mister, can we go inside the Golden Gate to take a look?" Li Xiu asked again.

"That won't do. Boss Qiu said no outsiders are allowed inside. It's his property, and you need his permission." The grandpa quickly shook his head.

"We just want to see it since we're considering buying it. Could you make an exception?" Chu Jun said, slipping a crystal stone into the grandpa's hand.

"This... I don't really need these things in a place like this..." The grandpa said, but his fingers tightly clutched the crystal stone, his eyes on Chu Jun.

"You can keep it for later use. You'll need it when you're out." Chu Jun added another crystal stone to his hand.

The grandpa's demeanor immediately softened, and he smiled, saying, "Since you're interested in buying the Golden Gate, you may as well take a look. But I must warn you, it's really dangerous inside. Don't risk your life. Boss Qiu's men are skilled, and yet few made it out alive."

"Thanks, mister. We're aware of that," Chu Jun thanked him, and then headed to the big gate with Li Xiu and Qin Shi.

"Qin Shi, you stay here while we go in and check it out," Li Xiu said to Qin Shi.

"Be careful..." Qin Shi was a bit worried, as she always felt something unfortunate might happen after her Princess Mask was broken.