

When God 301

Chapter 301 Frenzy Immunity_3

The old man took the bag, opened it, and glanced inside. It was filled with demon cores from Frenzied Beasts, and there was even a Flowing Color Demon Core, which surprised him even more.

"Did you go down the mountain to hunt Frenzied Beasts?" the old man looked at Li Xiu and asked.

"Killed a few," Li Xiu nodded.

"What quality level is your Symbiotic Contract?" the old man asked again.

"Radiance E-Level," Li Xiu replied.

"Rare indeed," the old man nodded, glanced towards Chu Jun speaking with Qin Shi on the other side, and asked again, "How about him?"

"Radiance D-Level," Li Xiu answered truthfully.

The old man was somewhat surprised, as Radiance Symbiotic Contracts were indeed rare, but that wasn't what surprised him.

Those two Gate Guardian Beasts had at least Radiance C-Level strength; coupled with the ability to summon a Blood Moon, an ordinary Radiance C-Level might not survive there.

For a Radiance E-Level and a Radiance D-Level to come out alive, and even hunt Frenzied Beasts within half a day, was indeed unexpected.

"Do you have high-quality, high-level demon spirits?" the old man scrutinized Li Xiu's ring.

"Our highest level demon spirit is B-Level," Li Xiu replied.

"That's still quite rare," the old man sighed softly, "I would have liked to continue guarding the gate for you, but alas, I don't have the time."

Without waiting for Li Xiu to speak, the old man continued, "Which Commander's disciples are you two?"

"Are you referring to the Commander of the Longevity Association? We're not members of the Longevity Association," Li Xiu said.

"You're not members of the Longevity Association?" the old man was slightly taken aback and scrutinized Li Xiu up and down, evidently doubtful.

"My friend Chu Jun is a young master of the Chu Family in White Night City; I am the City Lord of the City of Light," Li Xiu saw through the old man's thoughts and introduced their identities.

"The Chu Family of White Night City; no wonder he hasn't joined the Longevity Association. However, it's quite curious that someone from the Chu family became a Trial Taker," the old man nodded and asked Li Xiu, "I've never heard of the City of Light."

"The City of Light used to be Zhongshan City..." Li Xiu explained the origin of the City of Light.

The old man was surprised, "That's even stranger; I've heard of Red Sand City Lord before. It's quite surprising he could accommodate you."

"I find it quite surprising too; I didn't expect Red Sand City Lord to be so accommodating," Li Xiu said with a smile, though he felt a bit confused inside. This old man seemed to be from Longevity Sky, yet he didn't know Red Sand City Lord was also from Longevity Sky. Longevity Sky truly is a mysterious organization, with members not recognizing each other internally.

But since the old man asked which Commander's disciple he was, he should know those commanders. How could he not recognize Red Sand City Lord?

"Are you really looking to buy the Golden Gate?" the old man suddenly asked.

"Yes," Li Xiu nodded.

"In that case, I have a favor to ask of you, a task that, if accomplished, will benefit you as well," the old man pondered as he spoke.

"If it's within our capabilities, we certainly won't disappoint you," Li Xiu said.

"You've been very cautious," the old man chuckled, "You haven't opened the door to the main hall in the temple, have you?"

"No," Li Xiu wasn't surprised at all, knowing the old man knew about the White Dog Jade Lamp. It wasn't surprising he knew there was an S-Class demon spirit within the main hall.

Probably the old man wanted to say, had they opened the door to the main hall, they likely wouldn't return.

"Inside the main hall, there's a very terrifying demon spirit. Even if you don't open the main hall's door, if the time is right, it will charge out, and you know very well what the consequences could be," the old man paused and then continued, "If you truly want to buy the Golden Gate, you must eliminate that demon spirit first. What I ask of you is to help me remove it, and it'll benefit you too."

"That's a good thing, but what can we offer with our limited strength?" Li Xiu pondered.

"In the temple, you might not be of much help, but outside is different. Your friend is an S-Class Magic Armor Master, and she can help quite a bit. You two can perform some auxiliary tasks," the old man glanced at Qin Shi wearing the demon armor in the distance.

"That demon spirit can come out?" Li Xiu was shocked.

"If it couldn't, where did those demon spirits on earth come from? That demon spirit is a bit different, not so easily charging out, but..." The old man seemed to recall something and didn't continue, "Anyway, I have a way to lure it out, but I need you to help me with some tasks. Are you willing?"

"Happy to oblige." If it was to go into the temple and kill that demon spirit, Li Xiu would not agree so easily with the old man.

But it was different outside; even if it was an S-Class demon spirit, with magic armor in hand, Li Xiu feared no demon spirit.

"Alright, rest assured, it involves only auxiliary tasks. You'll just follow my plan without actually fighting the demon spirit," the old man reassured Li Xiu.

"May I ask for your name?" Li Xiu still didn't know what the old man was called.

"Just call me Old Dao," the old man laughed.

Li Xiu initially wondered what the old man wanted them to do, only to find the old man took out a list instructing them to prepare everything on it for use when eliminating the demon spirit.

"Old Dao, are you asking us to run errands and buy stuff?" Li Xiu looked at the list and asked.

"Do you expect to fight the demon spirit? That wouldn't be helping; that'd be sending you to your deaths." Old Dao laughed, "Just prepare everything on the list and have your Magic Armor Master friend transport it over; that's already a great help."

An S-Class Magic Armor Master being used by Old Dao as a delivery person was a bit unexpected for Li Xiu.

He thought Old Dao needed the S-Class Magic Armor Master to help encircle and kill the demon spirit.

"What kind of demon spirit is he planning to kill that makes Old Dao not even regard an S-Class Magic Armor Master?" Li Xiu pondered internally.

Chapter 302 The Anxiety of Gain and Loss

"These things must be prepared within ten days," the old man said to Li Xiu.

"Let me calculate how much money all these things will cost," Li Xiu said as he looked over the list.

Li Xiu looked at the lengthy list, which included many gemstones, with green tourmaline being the most required. Additionally, there were rubies and sapphires, making this quite an expense.

Li Xiu himself was currently extremely poor, so he certainly couldn't pay for these things himself.

As for that demon spirit, whether to kill it now or not actually had little impact on Li Xiu.

Since the demon spirit would eventually emerge, once it did, it would be easy for Li Xiu to kill it. He wouldn't need these things at all, so he definitely wouldn't spend money to buy them.

"One of you is from the Chu Family, and the other is the City Lord. You're still short on money? If I, the old man, pay out of pocket, then what's the point of you helping?" Old Dao stared at Li Xiu with wide eyes.

"Ahem, Old Dao, you know the troubles of managing a household. I'm the City Lord, but I'm already heavily indebted. I really can't fork out the money," Li Xiu said sincerely, spreading his hands.

"I don't have money," Old Dao said.

"Then there's no way out. We can stay here to help you, but we definitely can't afford to buy these things," Li Xiu said, spreading his hands.

Old Dao looked at Li Xiu with mixed feelings; he had never seen someone like Li Xiu who prioritized money over their own life.

"Without these things, what's the use of staying here?" Old Dao couldn't help but swear, then shook his head helplessly and sighed, "Fine, here's the deal. I have a Demon Spirit Ring here, let's treat it as compensating for these things."

As he said this, Old Dao took out a Demon Spirit Ring from his pocket, fondly holding it between his fingers.

After some time, Old Dao handed the Demon Spirit Ring to Li Xiu and said, "This is the relic of an old friend of mine. It's a B-grade Radiant Demon Spirit. You must cultivate it carefully; don't feed it casually. You must feed it sapphires. Perhaps at the S-grade level, it might have a high chance of comprehending another Talent Skill, making it a Dual Talent Skill demon spirit."

"May I ask if, besides this Demon Spirit Ring, you have anything else?" Li Xiu asked, not particularly interested in the Demon Spirit Ring.

He already had so many demon spirits to feed, yet this one required sapphires. With that money, wouldn't it be better to level up the Love God Shooter and the White Night Female Demon instead? Or wouldn't the Demigod Shana and Jedi Knight be more powerful if leveled up?

"Young people shouldn't be too greedy; this is a rare Top-Grade Demon Spirit. If it weren't... forget it... do you not want it?" Old Dao was tired of exchanging pleasantries with Li Xiu.

Demon Spirit Rings differ from Contracts. Once you understand the Trial Gate's rules and the pattern of Contracts, getting a Radiant Contract is fairly manageable.

Changsheng Tian has a distinct advantage in this aspect, so when Li Xiu mentioned he and Chu Jun had Radiant Contracts, Old Dao wasn't overly surprised.

However, Demon Spirit Rings are different; acquiring one could be life-threatening and isn't guaranteed, depending heavily on luck.

Li Xiu, a mere E-grade Trial Taker, was already extremely lucky to get a B-grade Radiant Demon Spirit. Yet he was still dissatisfied, wanting more, causing Old Dao to question Li Xiu's character.

Li Xiu saw Old Dao's expression and realized he truly couldn't offer anything else. So he accepted the Demon Spirit Ring and said with a grin, "I didn't mean it like that. The Demon Spirit Ring is great, but you need the right buyer to sell it for a good price, get the money, and then buy the things we need. Isn't that somewhat troublesome?"

"Sell? You're thinking of selling the Demon Spirit Ring?" Old Dao looked at Li Xiu as if he were crazy.

Within Changsheng Tian, countless members yearned for such a demon spirit, and if ordinary members could possess one, they would probably wake up laughing.

If not for knowing his time was limited, and that keeping it wouldn't be useful, perhaps even following him to his grave, he wouldn't have given the Demon Spirit Ring to Li Xiu.

Li Xiu saying he wanted to sell it made Old Dao's mouth twitch, feeling like murdering someone, with his impression of Li Xiu worsening.

"Ahem, I was just saying that. I accept the Demon Spirit Ring, and I'll guarantee to get the items without a hitch within ten days," Li Xiu felt Old Dao's odd gaze, quickly turned around, and left, calling Chu Jun and Qin Shi to leave together.

"Is Old Dao reliable?" After leaving the Golden Gate, Li Xiu explained the situation to the two, and Chu Jun furrowed his eyebrows.

"Reliable or not, the Demon Spirit Ring is already in my hands," Li Xiu tossed the Demon Spirit Ring that Old Dao had given him to Chu Jun, "Do you want to give it a try and see if this Demon Spirit Ring is real? If it is, it can offset some of the money you lent me."

"My demon spirits haven't even reached their level caps yet, what's the use of having it? It's not a Radiant Demon Spirit," Chu Jun tossed the Demon Spirit Ring back to Li Xiu.

"People from Changsheng Tian are tough to deal with; be cautious," Qin Shi said worriedly.

"I know," Li Xiu actually found Changsheng Tian not as intimidating as others imagined. He had someone from Changsheng Tian working diligently for him at the moment.

Chapter 303 Gaining and Losing_2

"What are you planning?" Chu Jun asked Li Xiu.

"First, let's get the things ready and send them over to him. Let's see what he really intends to do. Just as he said, if he can summon the demon spirit and eliminate it, it would be a good thing for us. After all, once we buy the Golden Gate, the S-Class Demon Spirit within the main hall will also be a problem." Li Xiu said.

"Whatever you say, we'll do." Chu Jun didn't have any objections; he was quite curious about the demon spirit that Old Dao mentioned and wanted to see it for himself.

The three people originally set to go to Guyue City had to return to the City of Light, allowing Sha Chu to prepare those materials.

Since the City Lord's Mansion was really out of money, Chu Jun had to cover part of the funds for buying the Golden Gate.

"Old Guan, how is my set of Demon Armor coming along?" Li Xiu went to the laboratory and found the busy Ximen Guan.

"Why rush? We're working day and night on it, all other work has stopped just to make your Demon Armor. It will take another twenty days." Ximen Guan said.

"Can it be finished in ten days? I need the Demon Armor for something." Li Xiu planned to take a set of Demon Armor to Old Dao. If this set couldn't be finished, he would have to take the Ghost-faced Magic Armor instead, though Li Xiu preferred not to show the Ghost-faced Magic Armor to the people of Changsheng Heaven.

"At least twenty days." Old Guan said without looking up.

"This could be a problem." Li Xiu pondered silently.

"What is so urgent?" Old Guan lifted his head, curious about why Li Xiu needed the Demon Armor so hastily.

"I might have to kill a demon spirit." Li Xiu explained the situation with Old Dao and the Golden Gate.

"Old Dao? You mean Elder Dao?" Old Guan asked in surprise.

"You know him?" Li Xiu realized he had overlooked Old Guan, who used to mingle a lot in Changsheng Heaven.

"Of course I know him. I can't believe he's still alive. Back when I was in Changsheng Heaven, he was already an elder. I interacted with him quite a bit. He was a decent guy. Unlike the other elders and commanders, who were all high and mighty, Elder Dao did everything slowly and was easy to talk to, with a good temperament."

Ximen Guan thought for a moment and continued, "I remember his Symbiotic Contract was a knife, and he was nicknamed Demon Blade. Legends say that no one has ever seen him draw his blade, not because everyone who saw it died, but because his blade was too fast. Even those who saw him draw it couldn't see its form, hence the name Demon Blade."

At this point, Ximen Guan's expression turned serious. "You said he's guarding the Golden Gate, so it must be right. It surely means there's a remarkable demon spirit inside that Golden Gate ready to break out; otherwise, they wouldn't send these elders to guard it."

"Changsheng Heaven would do such a thing?" Li Xiu was shocked. In his impression, Changsheng Heaven wasn't anything good, yet they sent people to guard the Trial Gate to prevent the demon spirits from escaping, which could be considered a public good.

Ximen Guan smirked and said, "Once the demon spirit breaks out, it'll look for gemstones to swallow. Do you think Changsheng Heaven would let the demon spirit devour gemstones? That's their foundation."

"I see, the motive may be impure, but it's indeed a good deed." Li Xiu nodded.

"Having Elder Dao personally guard it means the demon spirit about to burst from the Trial Gate is no ordinary one." Ximen Guan mused, "Here's the plan, I'll assemble the Demon Armor within ten days so you can use it temporarily, and once you're back, we can add some other main components."

"Missing main components?" Li Xiu was hearing for the first time about such a thing.

Since it's usable, the Demon Armor should be completed. How are there main components not yet installed?

"The primary parts of this Demon Armor are almost done; with some haste, ten days should suffice. However, its weapon system isn't complete. You can use it first without the weapon system." Ximen Guan explained.

"How am I supposed to kill a demon spirit without a weapon system?" Li Xiu felt Ximen Guan was joking; without a weapon system, would he have to fight the demon spirit bare-handed?

"The weapon system I'm referring to isn't what you understand. Conventional Demon Light Weapons are part of the Demon Armor's energy system, which is nearly ready. The Demonic Light Skills you usually employ would work fine." Ximen Guan chuckled.

Li Xiu suddenly became interested and quickly asked, "What weapon system are you talking about?"

"Hehe, it's a special weapon system I designed for your Demon Armor, using that Monster Horn and weapon you brought as materials to develop a unique weapon system. Once I install it, you'll see the benefits. Alright, don't disturb us anymore; we need to rush the work, otherwise, it won't be finished in ten days." Ximen Guan shooed Li Xiu away.

Li Xiu became even more excited about the Demon Armor Ximen Guan was constructing, especially the weapon system.

He was already aware of the situation at the Golden Gate, so he decided not to go to Guyue City and had Sha Chu send someone directly to meet with that boss Qiu to see if the Golden Gate could be purchased.

"You make me do all the work while you spend your days with that beautiful Magic Armor Master, traveling, being lovey-dovey, inseparable. Is this fair?" Sha Chu scoffed at Li Xiu.

Chapter 304 Worrying About Gains and Losses_3

"Why don't you come with me to travel around, have some fun, never leave each other's side, and let Qin Shi take care of those things?" Li Xiu smiled.

"Forget it, don't gross me out." Sha Chu rolled her eyes at Li Xiu, swung her long legs, and walked away with a twist.

"Her figure is really impeccable, it's just her personality that's a bit lacking." Watching Sha Chu's departing figure, Li Xiu stroked his chin in thought.

Qin Shi finally saw the large and soft bed Li Xiu had mentioned. Despite her repeated refusals, Li Xiu still let her have the room that used to belong to the Zhongshan City Lord.

"Pervert! What man decorates a room like this?" Looking at the big bed with pink sheets and a lace pink princess canopy, Qin Shi's pretty face blushed as she couldn't help but curse softly.

Apart from the pink bed, there were some paintings on the wall. The women in these paintings were very beautiful, yet their clothing was quite revealing, and their eyes seemed to be alluring, making Qin Shi blush even more.

"Is he hinting something to me... Will he suddenly barge in at night... Should I lock the door... But if I lock the door... will he think I don't trust him..." Qin Shi was very conflicted inside.

Qin Shi somewhat misunderstood Li Xiu; this room was left by the previous Zhongshan City Lord, and the arrangement hadn't changed.

Primarily, Li Xiu didn't care about these things at all and had no money to spend on them.

As for those paintings, Li Xiu found them quite beautiful. Sha Chu mentioned that they seemed to be works of a particularly famous painter and were worth some money.

The first night, Qin Shi didn't sleep well at all. Every little sound outside would make her open her eyes immediately.

Unfortunately, after a restless night, no one came to open her door.

Early the next morning, it was still A Fei who came to call her to breakfast, and Qin Shi felt a bit miffed inside.

After breakfast, Li Xiu stopped Qin Shi: "I've noticed you seem in pretty good shape these days, interested in doing some activities?"

"What do you mean?" The word 'activities' made Qin Shi think of something inappropriate, and her cheeks turned slightly red.

"I have a rookie Magic Armor Master here; how about you give some pointers?" Li Xiu figured since Qin Shi was staying for a while anyway, she might as well help Ye Xiyuan with practice.

Although Ye Xiyuan's talent was excellent, she lacked combat experience. Qin Shi had abundant combat experience, and her abilities were stronger than Qing Shan's, better able to unleash Ye Xiyuan's potential.

"Okay." Qin Shi agreed with delight.

Previously, she couldn't be of any help when out with Li Xiu and didn't understand the Trial Taker stuff, making her feel like a useless housewife.

Now Li Xiu asked her to instruct the Magic Armor Master, which was her field of expertise, and she thought she'd better perform well to avoid Li Xiu looking down on her later.

When Qin Shi saw Ye Xiyuan, she unexpectedly felt a bit of hostility.

Ye Xiyuan was just too beautiful. Qin Shi was a great beauty herself, but seeing Ye Xiyuan made her feel somewhat insecure about her looks.

Both of them could be said to be equally beautiful, but Ye Xiyuan had an indescribable femininity, or rather charm, which attracted men and was something Qin Shi lacked.

"This girl... could she be Li Xiu's kept lover... All men are the same, none of them are good..." Qin Shi examined Ye Xiyuan and felt that in terms of appearance, age, or attractiveness to men, she seemed to be at a disadvantage.

"So what if she's young and beautiful, she's just a pretty face." Qin Shi thought a girl like Ye Xiyuan probably just dabbled for fun and wouldn't actually aim to become a Magic Armor Master to fight on the battlefield.

Qin Shi didn't even realize she unconsciously saw Ye Xiyuan as a rival.

When Qin Shi discovered that Ye Xiyuan's armor was the Ghost-faced Magic Armor, she was taken aback.

"She can use the S-rank Ghost-faced Magic Armor?" Qin Shi found it hard to believe.

When Ye Xiyuan donned the Ghost-faced Magic Armor to spar with Qin Shi, Qin Shi felt a deep sense of failure.

Though it was apparent that Ye Xiyuan's combat experience was lacking, probably due to not experiencing much actual combat, her talent and abilities were at least on par with Qin Shi's, if not superior.

Qin Shi's prideful advantages seemed insignificant in front of Ye Xiyuan.

"With such an outstanding girl by his side, is Li Xiu really destined to be my man?" Qin Shi felt somewhat insecure.

The second night in the City of Light, Qin Shi again didn't sleep well, but this time it wasn't because she was worried about Li Xiu barging in at night; she was pondering whether Li Xiu had any feelings for her and why he hadn't shown any signs.

If he wasn't interested, why was he so nice to her? If he was interested, why hadn't he made a move?

Could it be that she was too cold and scared him off, making Li Xiu afraid to express his feelings?

But if she were too enthusiastic, would Li Xiu think she's a frivolous girl?

For so many days, nothing unfortunate happened around her; he should be her true love, and she shouldn't be so guarded against her. Could he have misunderstood something?

That night, Qin Shi was anxious and didn't sleep much at all.

She suddenly hoped her door would be pushed open, and if Li Xiu really came in forcefully, she might as well go along with it. After all, she was just a weak woman, and it was normal to be powerless against a Trial Taker.

Unfortunately, there was no movement at the door.

If Li Xiu knew Qin Shi was actually waiting for him to push her over, he might have really gone in, but he knew none of this. Currently, Li Xiu was focused on recent news—something had happened in Red Sand City.

Near a small town under Red Sand City's jurisdiction, several terrifying demons had appeared, nearly razing the small town to the ground, thousands perishing, and the town completely destroyed.

Li Xiu looked at the address the Red Sand City Lord had given him before, and it was precisely near the small town mentioned in the news.

Chapter 305 Lightspeed One

"It seems the Red Sand City Lord didn't deceive me, and there's really something going on." Seeing the news, Li Xiu showed some interest in the Super Spirit Gemstone mentioned by the Red Sand City Lord.

However, if such a gemstone were to appear, the people from the City of Light would definitely not let it slide. If there was a fight for it, not only would they have to face those Demon Spirits, but also compete with the City of Light people. Even if they snatched it away, the City of Light might come knocking later; it's just a lot of trouble.

The key issue is Li Xiu doesn't even know what the Super Spirit Gemstone looks like; even if he saw it, he might not recognize it.

With so many stones in the gemstone mine, who knows which one is the Super Spirit Gemstone?

"Let's wait until the old guy finishes my Demon Armor first." To avoid causing trouble for the City of Light, creating a set of unseen Demon Armor to snatch it might be a plan.

Li Xiu was waiting for news from Sha Chu while frantically entering the Trial Ground with A Fei, Chu Jun, and Ye Yuzhen. When he finally improved the Primordial Embryo Quality to 1.4, news came from Sha Chu that Old Boss Qiu agreed to transfer the Golden Gate at a reasonable price, but he had one condition.

"He wants to invest in the Demon Spirit Tournament? That's interesting; I'll consider it," Li Xiu said thoughtfully after hearing the condition from Sha Chu.

"Old Boss Qiu's terms are excellent; he might even waive the Golden Gate fee, directly exchanging for shares, and also pay us 30 million space credits. In total, it equals 30% of the Demon Spirit Tournament shares. Where else can you find such favorable conditions? What's there to consider?" Sha Chu always thought the Demon Spirit Tournament was a losing venture, potentially causing major trouble. Having someone willing to take over was the best outcome.

"Our initial investment is roughly 30 million space credits, exchanging 30% of shares for breakeven. It's a rare opportunity even with a lantern. Furthermore, the money Chu Jun invested is approximately 30 million space credits, and didn't you also give him 30% of the shares?" Chu Sha said.

"How much to buy the Golden Gate without selling shares?" Li Xiu pondered aloud.

"You wouldn't really consider rejecting Old Boss Qiu, would you?" Chu Sha looked at Li Xiu in shock, unable to think of any reason not to sell.

A full investment only gets back 30% returns; it's hard to imagine what went through Old Boss Qiu's mind for him to make such a move. It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

"He's asking for 30% of the Demon Spirit Tournament shares, not just profits from this tournament, which means he could take 30% of the profits for every future tournament. 30 million and a Golden Gate aren't worth that price. Tell Old Boss Qiu that investment is possible, but only for 5% of the shares," Li Xiu said.

"Have you gone mad, or have I? For a tournament with only ten participants so far, you don't know if there'll even be a next one. They're offering 30 million plus a Trial Gate, and you only give them 5% of shares?" Sha Chu said, wide-eyed.

"I've already given a lot; if it weren't for recognizing Old Boss Qiu's good judgment as our first investor, even this 5% wouldn't be given." Li Xiu calmly replied, "Just relay what I said to Old Boss Qiu, and if he disagrees, no further discussions are needed; we'll forego the Golden Gate."

Sha Chu reluctantly conveyed Li Xiu's terms to Old Boss Qiu's team.

Upon proposing the 5% offer, their team shared the same incredulous expression as Sha Chu had upon hearing the terms from Li Xiu.

During the video conference, the team looked at Sha Chu like she was insane.

Sha Chu had no choice but to feign confidence, stubbornly refusing to budge on the 5% and even directly stating that if they couldn't accept it, there would be no need to continue negotiating.

The opposing team urgently requested to pause the video conference, needing to hold a meeting for further discussion.

They said it was for research, but they were likely consulting with Old Boss Qiu.

Sha Chu thought the deal was definitely off; no fool would invest 30 million in a tournament with only a dozen participants and exchange for only 5% of shares.

After all, it's 30 million space credits, not cheap ancient Yuet currency.

To everyone's surprise, after requesting another video conference, they agreed to the terms outright and smoothly concluded the negotiations, leaving only the final agreement signing.

Sha Chu felt like she was dreaming; it was surreal.

In the following two days, the team came to the City of Light to sign the agreement and delivered the first batch of funds worth millions.

According to the contract, the 30 million would be divided into three installments in the City of Light's account, with the first batch being one million.

Looking at so many zeros in the account, Sha Chu suddenly wondered if she had misunderstood something about the world or money before.

"Money is blown by the wind?" Sha Chu could only marvel at how wealthy people don't seem to consider money as money.

Seeing that the agreed meeting time with Old Dao was fast approaching, Li Xiu assumed he couldn't count on Ximen Guan. But just then, Ximen Guan finally called: "Your Demon Armor is assembled; you can pick it up and use it now."

Li Xiu hurried to the laboratory, where Ximen Guan was waiting behind his desk.

"Where's the Demon Armor?" Li Xiu frowned as he didn't see it and asked.

Chapter 306 Lightspeed One_2

"Isn't it right here?" Ximen Guan chuckled.

"Right here... you couldn't mean this, could you?" Li Xiu's gaze turned to the object on the desk.

He had spotted it when entering the room but never imagined it was his Demon Armor.

The object on the desk looked exactly like a laptop with a black case; although slightly thicker, it was no bigger than a gaming laptop, even smaller than the Ghost-faced Magic Armor.

The key was that its appearance was so similar to a laptop that even a Magic Armor Master, if not informed in advance, would definitely mistake it for one.

"Old Guan, your skills are getting more impressive." Li Xiu had to give Old Guan a thumbs-up. This level of craftsmanship and skill surpassed that of Space City's first laboratory.

The remarkable part was that Old Guan's equipment was much simpler than the first lab, making it indisputable that he's indeed the Father of Demon Armor.

"Read more books when you have time, learn how others compliment people; you keep repeating the same old words. Aren't you tired of saying them? I'm tired of hearing them." Ximen Guan crossed his arms, looking nonchalant, but his boastful little eyes had already given him away.

"Alright, I'll read more poetry when I have time, learn those praiseworthy verses, and make you feel cultured next time." Li Xiu studied the armor for a long time and couldn't find the activation switch. "Old Guan, where's the activation switch?" he wondered.

"What era do you think we're in? I've added fingerprint recognition for you. Only your fingerprint can open it, and the real activation device is revealed once the lock is unlocked." Old Guan pouted as he explained.

Following Ximen Guan's instructions, Li Xiu input his fingerprint on the side, and using fingerprint activation revealed the real device.

Li Xiu thought these flashy things were useless. Space City had designed fingerprint locks before, even iris recognition at one point.

But they were of little use, too easy to tamper with, and Magic Armor Masters activated armor via Spiritual Sense. Even powerful Masters could activate armor through the outer shell.

Moreover, such features affected the rapid equipping of the armor. It was embarrassing to hear, "Fingerprint error, please re-enter," while demons were right in front of you.

Eventually, such gimmicks were abandoned; most armors were unlocked, and only the boxes containing armors might be locked.

Ximen Guan seemed to read Li Xiu's thoughts and smirked, "Try activating it without fingerprint unlocking."

With Ximen Guan's prompting, Li Xiu gave it a try.

His spiritual sense was so strong that even without crossing certain boundaries, it was of world-class standard.

Since he knew the location of the activation device, not just through a thin panel but even through a metal block, Li Xiu could activate it.

Yet when he tried, the armor didn't respond at all, making him suspect it was faulty and simply couldn't be activated.

"Heh, ordinary fingerprint locks don't work because the materials aren't right. This armor has materials refined from Demon Spirit Wood—without unlocking, no matter how strong your spiritual sense is, you can't activate it." Ximen Guan chuckled.

"Interesting." A white light flashed in Li Xiu's eyes as he tried again to activate the armor without unlocking it.

"Heh, even if you try ten thousand times, it won't..." Ximen Guan's voice abruptly stopped before the word "work" was out, as his eyes nearly popped out watching Li Xiu.

The laptop-like armor began to glow with streams of blue light. As the light progressed, the entire armor transformed, spreading from Li Xiu's hand over his body, covering him entirely in an instant.

The black lacquered shell had each component in the perfect streamline, with blue Light Patterns flowing across its surface. The faceplate resembled a black mirror with occasional flashes of blue light, exuding a sense of technology and futurism.

Wearing this armor, Li Xiu looked like a future warrior traveling back through time, completely unlike a product of contemporary technology—simply too sci-fi, too cool, too dreamy.

Li Xiu's mind moved, and the blue light on the shell flowed, lifting his body off the ground as if he were an alien in super armor.

"Impossible... how was it activated... could it be malfunctioning?" Ximen Guan was still puzzled about how the armor had been activated.

Li Xiu moved around the office as if floating in water before settling back in front of the desk.

Although he hadn't tested the magic light strength of this armor, just the speed of magic light transmission, its efficiency, and its sensitivity to spiritual sense, Li Xiu knew this armor's performance far exceeded that of the Ghost-faced Magic Armor.

"Old Guan, what do you call this armor?" Li Xiu was very satisfied with it, noting its performance was far superior to his previous user, the Red Hibiscus Shield.

"I'm not in the mood to name armors like this. Except for my personal armor, none of the others deserve a name. If you want a name, think of one yourself." Ximen Guan replied proudly.

Chapter 307 Speed of Light 1_3

"Let's call it Lightspeed No.1." Li Xiu thought for a moment and said.

"Why that name?" Ximen Guan didn't understand Li Xiu's logic. To him, this set of Demon Armor ought to have some godlike name. After all, he, Ximen Guan, made this armor, and even though he himself thinks it's junk, to others, it's a godlike piece.

"Because I like it." Li Xiu laughed.

"That's a very good reason. As long as you like it." Ximen Guan continued, "Why don't you take the armor off first, and I'll take a look. It seems to be malfunctioning."

Li Xiu removed Lightspeed No.1 and handed it over to Ximen Guan for inspection. But after using all sorts of instruments to test it, they couldn't find any issues.

Lightspeed No.1 was as good as new, the fingerprint lock was completely normal, without any damage, and it couldn't be activated through the lock.

"How exactly did you activate it earlier?" Ximen Guan couldn't help but ask Li Xiu.

"With strong Spiritual Sense, naturally." Li Xiu laughed.

Ximen Guan didn't know if Li Xiu was serious or joking. At least to Ximen Guan, this seemed implausible. Lightspeed No.1 had undergone rigorous tests, and even an S-Class Magic Armor Master's Spiritual Sense shouldn't activate it through the lock.

Li Xiu didn't explain further. It was only after his Spiritual Sense crossed that line that he could activate Lightspeed No.1, proving that Ximen Guan's design was indeed effective. A regular S-Class Magic Armor Master couldn't bypass the fingerprint lock to activate Lightspeed No.1; the defense mechanism was sufficient.

Putting Lightspeed No.1 into his backpack, Li Xiu left the lab and called upon Chu Jun, Qin Shi, and the Ye siblings to head to the Golden Gate together.

Li Xiu had taught Xiyuan all the necessary skills, and it was about time for her to participate in a real battle.

Xiyuan and Qin Shi used their magic armors to carry the goods packed in containers, while Ye Yuzhen and Chu Jun cleared branches and vines ahead to make a path.

The group soon arrived at the Golden Gate and saw Old Dao sitting there, sipping tea.

They placed the two containers on a nearby open space. Li Xiu sat down next to Old Dao without hesitation, pouring himself a cup of tea and gulping it down. Wiping his mouth, he said, "Old Dao, I've gathered everything you wanted. What's next?"

"You're quite something, having two S-Class Magic Armor Masters under your command." Old Dao, instead of answering Li Xiu's question, glanced at Qin Shi and Xiyuan and said with a smile.

"Just two S-Class Magic Armor Masters, nothing special." Li Xiu laughed.

Old Dao shook his head, thinking that Li Xiu was good-natured but overly boastful.

Other City Lords in the Southern Cross Federation would rather keep their S-Class Magic Armor Masters hidden, as deeply as possible, to avoid detection by others.

But here's Li Xiu, seemingly afraid that people wouldn't know he has S-Class Magic Armor Masters.

"The tallest tree in the forest is sure to be toppled; take care of yourself," Old Dao said as he stood and walked toward the containers, unceremoniously organizing Chu Jun, Qin Shi, and the others.

Li Xiu sat leisurely at the tea table, sipping tea and watching Chu Jun and the others work happily under Old Dao's direction.

"Kid, why aren't you helping?" Old Dao, after distributing the tasks, returned to find Li Xiu relaxing with tea and peanuts, and said, not too pleased.

"Have you ever seen a City Lord doing such dirty and tiring work personally?" Li Xiu chuckled.

Old Dao was a bit taken aback, then laughed, "I forgot you're a City Lord!"

"Do I not seem like a City Lord?" Li Xiu asked.

"Not at all, it's just that you're too young," Old Dao mused for a moment before suddenly asking, "What's your Symbiotic Contract?"

"It's this." Li Xiu summoned the Forbidden Spear and placed it on the table for Old Dao to see.

Old Dao glanced at it but didn't reach out to touch it, slightly disappointed he said, "What a pity."

"Pity about what?" Li Xiu asked.

"Pity that your Symbiotic Contract isn't a blade. Now that I find you quite pleasing, I could teach you a thing or two, since I'm idle anyway." Old Dao said with a sly smile.

"I don't have a blade, but I do have a sword!" Li Xiu reached out, drawing the Fire Lotus Sword from his waist.

"But that's not your Symbiotic Contract, teaching you would be pointless." Old Dao shook his head.

"Why does it have to be a Symbiotic Contract? Does blade technique really differ between Symbiotic Contract and Parasitic Contract?" Li Xiu said, pursing his lips, "If you don't want to teach, just say so, no need for so many excuses."

Old Dao wasn't angered, still smiling, "Even if I told you, you wouldn't understand; if you understood, you wouldn't know; and even if you knew, it would be useless, so even if you learned, it would just be for nothing."

"You said you're idle anyway, consider it a way to pass time." Li Xiu said lazily.

He was quite interested in the magic blade Ximen Guan mentioned, curious to see how extraordinary Old Dao's blade technique was, not really aiming to learn anything.

"True, I'm idle anyway, so I'll teach you a couple of tricks." Old Dao said, extending a finger from each hand, dipping them into the teacup, and then began drawing on the table.

One hand drew a circle while the other a square, both hands moving simultaneously, completely independent of each other.

"Want to try?" After finishing, Old Dao withdrew his fingers and looked at Li Xiu, smiling.

"Isn't this just multitasking, a fundamental skill of a Magic Armor Master, what's there to try?" Li Xiu said.

"You said it yourself, it's a fundamental skill for Magic Armor Masters, not for you, do you think you can do it?" Old Dao said.

"Is this all you're going to teach me?" Li Xiu wasn't interested in this sort of thing—talk of multitasking was nothing to him, not even three or four tasks at once were difficult for him.

"Don't be in a rush, haste makes waste. Some things you have to take slowly. Before teaching you, I'll share a principle with you first." Saying this, Old Dao took out a photo, held it up for Li Xiu to see.

Chapter 308 Problematic Black Card

The photo showed a sensual, cold, and beautiful woman in a deep V nightgown sitting behind a desk, fully proving what "cute is worthless in front of sexy" means.

Almost all the men's eyes were immediately attracted to that half-revealed, nearly perfect great mountain, unable to look away.

Old Knife suddenly took back the photo and then said, "There's a cute figurine on the office desk, can you tell me what it is?"

Old Knife secretly chuckled to himself: "Kid, if I don't teach you a bit of how the world works, you won't understand that I've lived so many more years than you, not for nothing."

"Is it the figurine of the girl in the school uniform?" Li Xiu asked in return.

Old Knife was taken aback, quietly thinking: "Impossible! How could any man, in front of such a superb beauty, notice anything else? Does this kid not like women, or has he seen this photo so many times before that he's become immune?"

Old Knife didn't want to ask Li Xiu if he didn't like women, so he looked at the picture and asked, "What's on the bookshelf behind the woman, besides books?"

"A pot of green plant."

"What's the color of the books on the first shelf?"

"All are black covers with gold lettering."

"What's the color of the fourth book from the right on the third shelf?"

"Red cover with black letters."

"What's the name of the book next to it?"

"To the left is the Classic of Mountains and Seas, to the right is The Three Musketeers."

Old Knife's eyes gradually widened; this wasn't about liking women. Even if he had seen the photo before, it was impossible to remember so much detail.

"Old Knife, what exactly are you trying to teach me?" Li Xiu asked Old Knife with a smile.

"The lesson, the lesson is to tell you not to look aimlessly. There's such a beauty in front of you, and you're looking at all that random stuff. It's because of young people like you that the world's population is decreasing..." Old Knife forced himself to say.

"Isn't the world's population decreasing due to high life pressure?" Li Xiu said.

"What do you know? No matter how great the pressure of life, could it be greater than during times of war? Back then, one couldn't even eat but still had children." Old Knife pouted, "Forget it, enough of this. Didn't I say I'd teach you a couple of moves? Let's start now."

"You've said so much nonsense, I almost forgot about it. What do you really want to teach me?" Li Xiu asked like Chu Chuxing.

"Of course, I'm going to teach you sword techniques, it's all I'm good at." Old Knife picked up a bamboo chopstick, held it in his hand, and suddenly flicked his wrist. Before Li Xiu could see what happened, the chopstick flicked against his neck and then was pulled back.

The whole process was as fast as lightning, making it impossible to see anything clearly.

"This move is called Sword Swinging, how about it?" Old Knife put down the chopstick, somewhat smugly.

"Isn't it just using the power of wrist flicking to achieve acceleration? Doesn't seem that impressive to learn." Li Xiu said, somewhat disappointed.

Old Knife couldn't stand Li Xiu's attitude and snorted coldly, "It looks easy, but it's not that easy to master. And even if you master it, using it in real combat is even harder. Of course, everything seems easy when you just talk about it."

After hearing Old Knife's words, Li Xiu picked up the chopstick on the table, flicked his wrist, and the chopstick shot towards Old Knife's neck with an afterimage.

Although Old Knife leaned his upper body back and dodged the chopstick, he looked at Li Xiu as if he'd seen a ghost.

"Have you practiced Sword Swinging?" In Old Knife's view, without two or three years of practice and exceptional talent, it would be impossible to execute it as smoothly as Li Xiu.

Li Xiu's use of the Sword Swinging technique and his familiarity with it were not beneath Old Knife's level at all.

"Besides this, is there anything else you can teach me?" Li Xiu didn't answer, just looked at Old Knife and asked.

"Since you've already mastered this simple trick, I'll teach you something real." Old Knife reached inside his clothes and fiddled around.

After fiddling for quite a while without pulling his hand out, Li Xiu wondered if Old Knife was just rubbing dirt inside there.

Fortunately, Old Knife finally pulled his hand out, holding a crumpled sheet of paper.

"My sword technique insights come from this, take a look at it yourself. If you ever become an S-level Trial Taker, it might be of some help to you." After Old Knife finished speaking, he lazily lay back on the rocking chair.

Li Xiu unfolded the paper, discovering that rather than paper, it was more like cloth. It looked neither like hemp nor silk, more like some kind of leather, but not like a parchment scroll—it was much finer and thinner, indistinguishable from ordinary paper.

The paper depicted an illustration of a knife, a seemingly unremarkable ghost head knife.

Ghost head knives are known as ruffians of the blade; in ancient times, few craftsmen made them specifically, nor had official specifications for them.

Most ghost head knives were homemade, with poor craftsmanship. Both soldiers and heroes were unlikely to use such knives as weapons.

Historically, the ones who used ghost head knives the most were executioners.

The knife in the painting was entirely pitch black, seemingly unremarkable. But upon closer inspection, it emitted an indescribable aura of evil. Clearly just an illustration, it somehow sent chills down the viewer's spine, as if worried that the ghost head knife, with its overwhelming aura, would leap out from the drawing and decapitate them.

Chapter 309 Problematic Black Card_2

"The ghostly sword in this painting seems a bit eerie," Li Xiu remarked, looking at the sword in the painting.

"Of course it's eerie. This painting was ripped from the execution platform in front of the Heavenly Gate," Old Dao chuckled.

"Heavenly Gate? What's that place?" Li Xiu thought for a moment, as if he had never heard of such a name.

"The Heavenly Gate is a Trial Gate, where mysterious things abound. If you encounter a demonic spirit there in your lifetime, it means your ancestors must've wronged people for eight generations, and you're destined to have bad luck in this life."

"What sort of demonic spirits are that sinister?" Li Xiu asked curiously.

"You still have a long way to go; knowing won't help you anyway. It's the kind of demonic spirit that makes you wish you were dead the moment you see it. In that place of the Heavenly Gate, any demonic spirit is of that caliber; no one can stop them," Old Dao's eyes seemed to glaze over, as if trapped in a memory.

"Aren't they just some demonic spirits? They only hide in the Land of Trial. If they come out, they would've been finished off by Magic Armor Masters by now," Li Xiu said.

"You're still too young," Old Dao sneered coldly, "Magic Armor Masters? They're nothing compared to those demonic spirits. The high status of Magic Armor Masters now is just because the truly fearsome demonic spirits haven't stormed out of the Trial Gate. Those that have come out are just trash that doesn't even count as small fry."

"Let's put it this way: things were better in the past. If it weren't for the Longevity Sect holding the front line these years, guarding the Trial Gate, the world would've been in chaos long ago. Kid, you've got decent talent. If you get the chance, you can join the Longevity Sect and take a look. With your talent, you should have the opportunity to come in contact with those things."

With these words, Old Dao sighed, "Forget it, let's not talk about this. Let's get back to the Heavenly Gate. The Land of Trial of that gate is incredibly bizarre. Once inside, there's another door, as massive as a mountain, practically endless. The door is tightly shut, and in front of it stands an execution platform with a stone tablet, and this painting hangs on that tablet."

"Sounds like this painting has quite a history. Are you really going to give it to me?" Li Xiu asked in surprise.

The two had only met recently and didn't have any life-and-death bond. Why was Old Dao suddenly giving him something so precious? This made Li Xiu a bit suspicious of Old Dao's intentions.

"Don't overthink it. The painting is real, but it's just a replica. The original is not with me," Old Dao said with a grin.

"So it's a replica. Where's the original painting then?" Li Xiu asked curiously.

"Still hanging on the execution platform in front of the Heavenly Gate. Back then, when we took the painting down, it nearly caused a catastrophe. We were fortunate to hang it back in time to avoid any major trouble. But ever since then, things have been unstable near the Heavenly Gate," Old Dao sighed again, "At the time, we had several replicas made, and this is one of them. My swordsmanship was deduced from this painting. However, having seen the original myself, just looking at this replica without having seen the original is much less effective."

"Better than nothing. I'll gratefully accept it then, thanks," Li Xiu appreciated the painting for a moment before folding the paper and tucking it into his backpack.

The paper was very special; it had almost been squeezed into a paper ball in Old Dao's arms, yet it appeared unwrinkled when opened, so there was no worry about it being damaged.

While the two were talking, Chu Jun and the other three had just about finished all the tasks Old Dao had assigned.

After all, with two Trial Takers and two Magic Armor Masters working, they were not to be compared with ordinary people.

"Your people are quite good. Two S-Class Magic Armor Masters are impressive, and those two Trial Takers aren't bad either," Old Dao commented, glancing at Chu Jun and the others.

"They're alright," Li Xiu replied offhandedly.

"If you continue developing like this, sooner or later, those Commanders will set their sights on you. If you plan to join the Longevity Sect in the future, I have some advice for you," Old Dao pondered for a moment before continuing, "Join the red, not the black, and don't entangle with any vice presidents."

"What do you mean by 'join the red, not the black'?" Li Xiu had a vague feeling something was amiss.

"When the Longevity Sect invites you to join, there are two types of invitation cards. A red card means inviting you to be a regular member, while a black card means inviting you to be a super member," Old Dao explained.

"Isn't being a super member better? Sounds like better treatment and more power. Why join the red, not the black?" Li Xiu, who received a Black Card from the Red Sand City Lord, asked.

"Regular members don't get great treatment and have little power within the sect. But there's a perk to being a regular member—you don't have to be on duty, while super members do," Old Dao chuckled.

"What does being on duty entail?" Li Xiu knew it probably wasn't as simple as it seemed.

"Being on duty means when it's your turn, you have to guard the Trial Gate. If any demonic spirits rush out from within, you're the first line of defense," Old Dao said, taking a sip of tea, moistening his throat before continuing, "As for why not to get involved with those vice presidents, it's not something I can say. You'll have to figure it out yourself once you join the sect."

"What if I've already received a black invitation card?" Although Li Xiu wasn't afraid to guard the Trial Gate, he still wanted to be clear about the situation.

Chapter 310 Problematic Black Card_3

"Have you received a black invitation card? Show it to me. I should have guessed that someone like you would not go unnoticed by Long Life Hall," the old knife sighed.

Li Xiu took out the black invitation card given to him by the Red Sand City Lord and handed it to the old knife. The old knife took a careful look and his expression suddenly changed: "There's a problem with this black invitation card."

"What problem?" Li Xiu asked, puzzled.

"Only the six commanders of Long Life Hall have the authority to recruit new members externally. Even the deputy chairmen don't have the power to recruit new members. This is a rule set by the chairman, which has never been changed, and no one dares to violate it," the old knife said as he flipped the black card over to show Li Xiu. "All invitation cards look the same, no difference, but on the card itself, there are actually hidden messages. Different messages represent different commanders, and just by this invitation card, you can know which commander invited you to join."

"How come I didn't see any messages on the card?" Li Xiu scrutinized the card, confused.

"Of course, you can't see them. The messages on the card aren't meant to be seen with the eyes but to be felt with the hands, like braille. Only those who know can sense these messages and understand what they mean," the old knife said with an odd expression. "But your invitation card doesn't have these hidden messages."

"What do you mean? Is my invitation card fake?" Li Xiu was taken aback by what he heard.

"The material and craftsmanship should be genuine, but it lacks the hidden messages. This black invitation card is half genuine and half fake, truly perplexing. Who knows what the person who made this card is trying to do," the old knife said with a cold glint in his eyes.

Li Xiu had no doubt that if the person who made this card were in front of him, he might have already cut them down with one sweep.

"Who gave you this card?" the old knife asked, staring at Li Xiu.

"The Red Sand City Lord," Li Xiu said, curious about what was going on, so he didn't hide it and mentioned the Red Sand City Lord.

"The Red Sand City Lord?" The old knife was taken aback by the answer.

"What's wrong?" Seeing the old knife's reaction, Li Xiu sensed something was off.

"Didn't I mention earlier that only the six commanders have the right to invite new members? I don't know if the Red Sand City Lord is one of Long Life Hall's people, but he's definitely not one of the six commanders. How could he have such a problematic super member invitation card and even give it to you? He can't possibly have the authority to issue this invitation card," the old knife said with a frown.

"If you don't know, then I have even less idea about what's going on," Li Xiu said, spreading his hands.

"I've always thought that the Red Sand City Lord must be a member of the Hall. Such a figure, Long Life Hall cannot ignore. After all, the Southern Cross Federation is rich in gemstones, an area Long Life Hall must control. It's not surprising if the Red Sand City Lord is one of their people. What's strange is why he gave you such a problematic invitation card. Be careful if you run into him; the Red Sand City Lord is likely not a simple figure," the old knife advised.

"Can I use this card to join Long Life Hall?" Li Xiu hadn't expected such an issue to arise.

He had originally been considering when to sneak into Long Life Hall, but now it seemed like getting in would be a problem.

"Without a recommendation from a commander, just having this card won't work," the old knife chuckled. "I suggest you wait for a commander to notice you and give you a new card. Make sure it's a red card, not a black one."

"Thank you, old knife." Li Xiu didn't expect the old knife to tell him so much about Long Life Hall.

"Nothing to thank for, just casual talk," the old knife laughed.

Li Xiu didn't ask the old knife about his identity within Long Life Hall. If he wanted to tell, he would have already done so.

"Old knife, everything's ready. What do we do next?" Chu Jun ran over, pointing toward the Golden Gate.

"Wait until it's dark, then light the piles of wood arranged there. After that, there's nothing more for you to do, just rest nearby. Once I deal with the magic spirit, there shouldn't be any problems here for some time, and you'll be able to enter the Land of Trial safely," the old knife said, glancing at the sky.

Li Xiu and the others also looked at the sky. It was already evening, with about an hour left before sunset.

Soon, the sun fully set, and following the old knife's command, Li Xiu, along with Chu Jun and Ye Yuzhen, lit the piles of wood in front of the Golden Gate.

The wood was brought by Li Xiu and his group; it was not ordinary wood but natural deadwood.

Deadwood is wood that has fallen naturally; it's much rarer for wood to die naturally than for people.

People have a lifespan of several decades, but a tree, if healthy, could live for hundreds or even thousands of years.

The Southern Cross Federation has abundant trees, with ancient trees hundreds of years old everywhere in the deep mountains. Finding a few dead giant trees isn't difficult.

Each pile of wood had a large iron pot placed on it, filled with strange items that Sha Chu had bought. Many of them Li Xiu didn't even recognize.

Under the intense burning of the firewood, the water in the pots quickly began to boil, releasing a stench.

But strangely, although it smelled foul, once smelled, it made you want to sniff it again.

It's addictive to smell.

"Move away from here, don't wander around, or you might end up hurt," the old knife said, approaching the iron pots and removing the flask from his waist. He opened the cap and poured some of the liquid into the pots.

As soon as the liquid touched the water, the foul odor was replaced by a fragrant aroma, causing everyone to unconsciously take deeper breaths, immediately feeling an indescribable sense of comfort, as if injected with a stimulant.