

## When God 321

### Chapter 321 The Burrow\_2

Ximen Guan was getting more and more infuriated, cursing, "Those bastards of the Eternal Heaven are so short-sighted. If the Trial Taker can reach Super Spirit levels, then the technology of Demon Armor can also be innovated. Sooner or later, we can create Demon Armor that can easily kill Super Spirits. Damn it, I must create that kind of Demon Armor and make them regret it too late."

"Old Guany, rest assured, I will fully support your research on Demon Armor. As soon as the city's situation gets better, I'll immediately increase your budget to purchase the best equipment," Li Xiu paused and then added, "But before that, first, get my Demon Armor made."

"Don't worry, since we know Super Spirits exist, I certainly can't let you be in danger. If those guys from the Eternal Heaven, who can reach Super Spirit levels, come knocking, we must have the ability to respond. This set of Demon Armor must be made, and it must be constructed to the highest standards, capable of dealing with Super Spirit level demon spirits and Trial Takers," Ximen Guan said with a serious face, "One month is not enough; you have to give me more time."

"Alright, you can go all out; let me know if you lack anything, and I'll try to find a way," Li Xiu was overjoyed when he heard Ximen Guan say he would construct to the highest standards.

"This Demon Core is just right as the core of the new Demon Armor, and I'll keep the Super Spirit Gemstone for research first..." Ximen Guan immediately asked for the Super Spirit Gemstone.

Li Xiu didn't have any objections, leaving the Super Spirit Gemstone and the Demon Core to Ximen Guan. After leaving the lab, he had a good sleep.

It wasn't until just before noon the next day that Li Xiu woke up, stretched lazily, and was about to get something to eat when he heard Chu Jun's voice outside the door.

"Li Xiu, we're in trouble," Chu Jun pushed the door open and hurried inside, looking anxious after hearing Li Xiu's voice.

"What's wrong?" Li Xiu was slightly taken aback.

"Something happened at the construction site. Let's go take a look," Chu Jun said urgently.

"Construction site? What construction site? What happened?" Li Xiu didn't immediately understand what Chu Jun was talking about.

"It's the Demon Spirit Arena. Something happened at the construction site over there. Sha Chu said a hole collapsed, and workers fell in. They sent people down to rescue them, but they still couldn't get out," Chu Jun clarified the situation.

"Let's go take a look," Li Xiu quickly followed Chu Jun out the door.

Arriving at the construction site of the Demon Spirit Arena, the place was surrounded by tall iron sheets, making it impossible to see inside.

Entering through the main gate, they saw that the foundation had already been laid, and some buildings were starting to go up.

But now the site was cleared, with not a single person apart from Sha Chu present.

"The foundation is already finished, so how could there still be a collapse?" Li Xiu immediately asked upon seeing Sha Chu approaching.

"The City of Light was originally built by pushing the mountains, so it's all solid rock underneath. There wasn't a need to lay a foundation. After processing the rock, we added some seismic and waterproof layers and other works on top. Who knew that during last night's construction, that side suddenly collapsed into a hole..." Sha Chu explained while leading Li Xiu to the collapsed hole.

The hole wasn't very large, with a diameter of just over a meter, but looking down into the blackness, it was impossible to tell how deep it was; even a strong light couldn't reach the bottom.

"Did anyone go down?" Li Xiu frowned and asked.

One hole wasn't a big deal, but if there were larger cavities below, the City of Light would be like building on an eggshell, with the risk of collapse at any moment. If the entire city collapsed, all their efforts and investments would be for nothing.

"We sent someone down, but after not long, they suddenly lost contact. Pulling up the rope, we found the steel safety cable snapped. I dared not send anyone else down," Sha Chu showed the broken end of the steel cable to Li Xiu.

Li Xiu examined the break; it looked very smooth, as if it had been cut by a sharp blade, causing him to frown slightly.

"Didn't they do a detailed survey before?" Li Xiu asked again.

"They did, and there were no cavities found below," Sha Chu thought and added, "Could there be a demon spirit below?"

Li Xiu had his suspicions as well. The steel cable did not seem worn through, and in such a place, humans were unlikely, making a demon spirit the most probable cause.

"Xiyuan, come over and bring the Demon Armor," Li Xiu made a phone call to Ye Xiyuan.

Before long, Ye Xiyuan arrived with the Ghost-faced Magic Armor. Upon learning what had happened, Ye Xiyuan immediately said, "City Lord, the situation down there is unclear. Let me go down first to investigate."

"Can you handle it?" Li Xiu looked at Ye Xiyuan and asked.

"I can," Ye Xiyuan replied firmly, showing she genuinely wanted to go down and clear the way for Li Xiu.

"Next time; there will be more opportunities. I might have a guess about what's down there, but I need to go down myself to verify my thoughts," Li Xiu patted Ye Xiyuan's shoulder, took the Ghost-faced Magic Armor, and jumped down.

He didn't really know what was down there, just had some doubts.

He had wondered before why the Red Sand City Lord would spend such a huge cost to build a city in this place; it couldn't be just for the Trial Gate.

Chapter 322 The Hole\_3

But there are no minerals here, so Li Xiu has always been puzzled about the purpose of the Red Sand City Lord building the City of Light here.

Now, suddenly discovering such a cave, he was somewhat suspicious, wondering if it was related to the Red Sand City Lord's decision to build the city here.

The Light Pattern on the Demon Armor lit up, allowing Li Xiu to levitate and slowly descend, the fluorescence on his body illuminating the surroundings.

The cave walls were smooth stone, resembling a vertical tunnel. He descended two or three hundred meters, and the diameter of the cave did not widen or narrow.

This made Li Xiu very suspicious; perhaps this cave was not naturally formed but was pierced by some kind of force.

"Could it really be a hole drilled by the Red Sand City Lord? Why did he bore such a deep hole here? Could there be a gemstone mine below?" Li Xiu continued to descend, having exceeded five hundred meters without seeing the bottom.

The opening above had shrunk to the size of a cup, and the dark, narrow environment felt very oppressive.

Only the light from the Demon Armor brightened the surroundings. Even with the Dark Mirror, one couldn't see what lay below.

It's not because of the darkness, but because it was still very deep below.

Li Xiu estimated that the depth had exceeded one thousand meters, yet there was still no end.

"Something's not right. Earlier workers only descended a hundred meters and suddenly lost contact. I've descended past a thousand meters; why haven't I discovered anything? Why isn't there a lack of oxygen?" Li Xiu was puzzled, even more eager to explore the truth.

When the depth exceeded two thousand meters, the cylindrical cave suddenly widened, revealing a vast underground space.

Li Xiu gazed at the subterranean space, instantly shocked by the scene before him.

The underground space was as large as a city, with a stone roof resembling the sky, a hemispherical dome hanging down.

In this enormous underground space lay a Demon Spirit, its body occupying nearly half of the space, unimaginably gigantic, rendering Li Xiu as insignificant as an ant before it.

Its body looked like Crystal Jade, and each scale on its body emitted fluorescence, yet the Demon Spirit was covered by a thick layer of crystal, seemingly sealing it within.

"Is this... a Qilin?" Li Xiu observed that the Demon Spirit's appearance closely resembled the Qilin from myth and legend.

A dragon's head, lion's body, horse's tail, its entire body clad in scales like Crystal Jade, with dragon-like crystal horns atop its head, its paws shimmering like jade—a terrifying, mysterious presence with an indescribable alluring charm.

On the Demon Spirit's body, Li Xiu noticed two workers' corpses, fallen upon the crystal encasing the Demon Spirit.

Strangely enough, their corpses were also encased under the crystal.

"What kind of Demon Spirit is this? Why is it here?" Li Xiu examined the four corners of the underground space. Besides the Demon Spirit and workers' corpses, there was also a pool in one corner of the space.

Li Xiu thoroughly inspected the pool, discovering its depths unfathomable, emitting a chilling aura.

To Li Xiu's surprise, a plant was growing in the center of the pool.

Even as Li Xiu stood at the pool's edge, though the water appeared as clear as pure liquid, he still couldn't see the bottom, nor estimate its depth.

With Li Xiu's vision and the water's clarity, seeing a dozen meters should be effortless.

This indicates the pool is at least more than a dozen meters deep. The plant growing from below must be at least a dozen meters long.

The part of the plant protruding from the water looked coral-like, snow-white, and crystal clear, emitting minute micro-lights.

Li Xiu thought it wasn't coral but a plant because atop the coral-like structure bloomed five snow-white flowers.

The translucent petals resembled finely carved jade, yet they emitted a faint fragrance.

The visible part underwater showed coral-like tendrils extending until they disappeared from view.

Li Xiu didn't know what this was, naturally trembling at the idea of disturbing it. Who knows if the crystal encasing the Demon Spirit was somehow related to the pool or the plant?

After observing for a while without understanding what it was, Li Xiu circled the subterranean space, but found nothing else.

Li Xiu examined the Demon Spirit again, suddenly narrowing his gaze.

He discovered an arrow embedded at the forehead of the Qilin-like Demon Spirit.

Half the arrow's shaft was inserted, and the exposed shaft and fletching resembled Ruby carvings.

This Ruby arrow had no luster itself, appearing more like an artwork than a functional weapon.

But since it was capable of penetrating the Demon Spirit's Scale Armor, it certainly wasn't ordinary.

"Did the Red Sand City Lord choose to build his city here for the Demon Spirit, or perhaps for the plant in the pool?" Li Xiu pondered, unable to understand.

After a moment of contemplation, Li Xiu flew toward the entrance he came from, resolving not to rashly act upon the Demon Spirit.

With such an enormous size, even if it were an ordinary S-Class Demon Spirit, the power it wielded would undoubtedly be horrifying. If it went berserk and collapsed the underground space, who knows if it might affect the City of Light above.

Though separated by over two thousand meters of rock layer, it shouldn't have too significant an impact, yet no one can be certain.

Furthermore, Li Xiu didn't believe it was an ordinary S-Class Demon Spirit. Though its fluorescence was dim, Li Xiu felt there was something extraordinary about it.

If it happened to be a Super Spirit, fighting it would surely lead to great trouble.

Li Xiu planned to return and grab a phone or something, to capture images of the Demon Spirit and the plant in the pool. He intended to get Ximen Guan or Lao Dao to examine it and hopefully identify what it was.

"Human..." Just as Li Xiu was about to fly out of the underground space, a voice suddenly echoed in his mind.

### Chapter 323 Unparalleled King

Li Xiu turned to look at the demon spirit within the crystal. It remained sprawled there, trapped inside the crystal, without even opening its eyes.

"Human, do not doubt it, it is I, the Unparalleled King, communicating with you. It's normal for a low-level carbon-based creature like you to not understand such an advanced form of communication, so don't feel inferior." The voice echoed in Li Xiu's mind once more.

Li Xiu was amused and puzzled. Where did this guy get the idea that he was feeling inferior, and where did this superior attitude come from?

"Human, your luck has arrived. I happen to need a subordinate. By becoming my subordinate, you will receive unparalleled glory." The voice continued.

Li Xiu stared blankly at the demon spirit in the crystal, thinking to himself, "Is deception this straightforward now? Not even a bit of technique. Who had this guy encountered before that they could be deceived into becoming a subordinate by someone like this? What gave it such confidence?"

"This approach is too direct, it's like kicking the ball right into my arms. At least make a detour, even a small detour. Even if you can't exhibit divine-like abilities, at least pretend to be grand and noble. What's with all this 'subordinate' talk? Is this fooling people or insulting my intelligence? Even if you had a high-end title like 'Divine Spirit Representative' or 'Demon Representative,' I might consider falling for it. The way you're doing it, if I fell for it, wouldn't that make me seem very foolish?"

Seeing Li Xiu remaining silent, the demon spirit seemed to misunderstand something and continued, "Human, you don't need to doubt it. You are indeed this fortunate, having received the favor of the Unparalleled King. But don't rejoice too soon; this is only temporary. Whether you can truly become my subordinate depends on your performance during the probation period."

"Is this demon spirit crazy? Trying to con me into becoming a subordinate, and there's even a probation period. I've never encountered anything like this in my life," Li Xiu thought as he looked at the demon spirit within the crystal, feeling that nothing in his life had been as absurd as this.

"So, how should I address you?" Li Xiu felt that this demon spirit seemed to have some mental issues, possibly not very bright, and perhaps he could have a proper conversation with it.

"Remember, I will only say this once. My revered title is the Supreme, Unmatched, Invincible, Peerless Unparalleled King of the Universe." Although the demon spirit remained motionless, its voice made it seem like it was looking up to the heavens.

"Supreme, Unmatched, Invincible, Peerless Unparalleled King of the Universe, may I ask what rank of demon spirit you are?" Li Xiu found this demon spirit quite amusing.

"Not bad, not bad. You, this subordinate, are quite decent, unlike those previous humans who were so foolish they couldn't even remember my revered title, yet still wanted to be my subordinate. How could I possibly give them such a chance? You're quite good, being able to remember my revered title." The Unparalleled King seemed very pleased that Li Xiu could remember its revered title and repeatedly praised him.

"However, you don't need to know about my matters. You just need to wholeheartedly complete the tasks I assign, and you'll naturally receive unparalleled glory," the Unparalleled King said.

"I wonder what you would like me to do?" Li Xiu asked.

"First, bring me ten Radiant Demon Cores," the Unparalleled King said offhandedly without thinking.

"Who knows how long this guy has been trapped underground, just dreaming of good things every day—like ten Radiant Demon Cores. Who knows how many years it's been fantasizing about this," Li Xiu mused and said, "Supreme, Unmatched, Invincible, Peerless Unparalleled King of the Universe, your request is very reasonable. However, as a mere weak carbon-based creature, I probably don't have the ability to kill a Radiant Demon Spirit. How can I obtain ten Radiant Demon Cores?"

"What you've said makes sense. Human beings, such weak creatures, indeed lack the ability to obtain the Radiant Demon Cores I need." The Unparalleled King seemed somewhat troubled. After pondering for a while, as if struck by inspiration, it said excitedly to Li Xiu, "I've remembered. When I emerged from the Trial Gate, I saw a Ruby Mine nearby. You can mine the Ruby Mine and trade the rubies in Black Death City to purchase the Radiant Demon Cores. The entire Ruby Mine should be enough to exchange for ten Radiant Demon Cores."

"Are you the king of Black Death City?" Li Xiu wondered internally.

If this creature truly came from within Black Death City, it meant that very close to the City of Light, there should be a Ruby Mine. That would be incredibly good news.

"Hmph, the king of Black Death City is nothing. I am far stronger than him," the Unparalleled King retorted before adding, "I'll now tell you the location of the Ruby Mine. Quickly excavate all the rubies there and take them to Black Death City to exchange for Radiant Demon Cores."

Li Xiu was puzzled, wondering how the Unparalleled King would reveal the location of the Ruby Mine to him when he suddenly sensed a map appearing in his mind.

The map resembled a 3D image, like a miniature sand table, showing mountains, water, and forests.

The central location showed a mountain, which should be the stone mountain before the construction of the City of Light. At a certain distance from the stone mountain, a red dot was blinking, which should indicate the location of the Ruby Mine marked by the Unparalleled King.

Chapter 324 Unparalleled King\_2

Li Xiu roughly judged that the flashing red dot should be around ten miles northwest of City of Light.

"I recall that area is supposed to be a rocky valley. However, I've never heard of anyone discovering rubies there. When the Red Sand City Lord built the city here, he must have investigated the surroundings. How could a ruby mine exist so close without being discovered?" Li Xiu remained skeptical.

"As my temporary underling, if you can handle this matter well, I might consider promoting you to my official underling." The voice of the Unparalleled King echoed again in Li Xiu's mind.

"Don't worry, I'll go check it out immediately. I hope that gemstone mine hasn't been discovered by anyone else." Li Xiu said, but did not move.

"Why aren't you going yet?" asked the Unparalleled King, confused by Li Xiu's lack of action.

"I have a question, could you possibly answer it for me?" Li Xiu mused aloud.

"Speak." The Unparalleled King replied briskly.

"For someone weak like me, digging up a gemstone mine would undoubtedly take a long time. Why don't you accompany me? With your immense power, it could save a lot of time." Li Xiu asked, puzzled.

"Fool, if I could leave, why would I need you..." The Unparalleled King seemed to realize they might have misspoken, and the voice in Li Xiu's mind abruptly stopped.

"So, you can't get out. I suppose I'll have to dig on my own. Even though it might be slow, with enough time, I should be able to unearth all the rubies." Li Xiu said.

Seeing that Li Xiu didn't notice the slip-up in its words, the Unparalleled King said arrogantly again, "It's alright if it takes time. Just do your best. I absolutely will not treat you unfairly. Once it's done, you'll be my official underling, and I'll bestow upon you supreme glory."

"I'll go handle it." Li Xiu turned, ready to leave.

Since this entity can't get out itself, there's no need to worry about it. Anyway, being buried two thousand meters underground, it hardly influences the City of Light, and it probably knows nothing about it.

If it were aware of the City of Light, the map transmitted into Li Xiu's mind wouldn't remain just a stony mountain.

Moreover, when looking at other landscapes on the map, there are slight differences from the vicinity of the City of Light now, which means it's been trapped here for who knows how long, completely unaware of the outside changes.

"Hold on." Before Li Xiu left the underground space, he was called back again by the Unparalleled King.

"Is there anything else?" Li Xiu turned to look at the Unparalleled King and asked while secretly thinking, "Could this guy be afraid I won't return, trying to pull some trick?"

"You, a weak human, if you encounter trouble outside, it wouldn't matter if you die, but it would be bad if you delayed my important tasks." The Unparalleled King pondered before speaking.

Li Xiu realized he had overestimated the intelligence of the Unparalleled King, understanding this creature wasn't ordinary, and shouldn't be measured by human standards.

"Go check under that pool. There should be several scales. Retrieve them and keep them with you. When you face an unbeatable enemy, just throw the scales at them, and it'll have miraculous effects." The Unparalleled King muttered hesitantly after a long pause.

Li Xiu, hearing its tone, already guessed something.

It's likely those scales belong to it, and it's too embarrassed to admit that they were plucked off by someone, such a disgraceful matter indeed.

Li Xiu approached the pool, looked at the coral-like plant, and asked: "What is this plant?"

"Never mind what that is, don't touch it, take the scales and quickly handle your business." The Unparalleled King hastily said.

Li Xiu immediately realized that this plant was certainly something valuable; otherwise, the Unparalleled King wouldn't be so anxious.

The water within the pool was cold and icy, but Li Xiu, with his Demon Armor for protection, and his Ice Heart talent alongside the Ice Ashes skill, naturally was unafraid of the cold.

He directly leapt into the pool, causing a splash.

"Be careful not to damage the Gem Species." The Unparalleled King shouted anxiously.

Li Xiu instantly knew what that thing was called, Gem Species. He had deliberately caused that commotion, and didn't expect the Unparalleled King to fall into the trap so easily.

He moved away from the Gem Species, trying his best to stick to the edge of the pool and dive towards the depths.

The pool was not as deep as imagined, probably just twenty or thirty meters, with corallike Gem Species attached to the rocky bottom.

The rocks at the bottom of the pool were all gray-white. Initially, Li Xiu thought the scales from the Unparalleled King would be so huge they'd be immediately visible.

But after a careful search at the lake bed, he found three palm-sized jade-white scales, leaving him highly doubtful of how the Unparalleled King, being so large, could have such small scales.

"Could I have been mistaken, and these scales aren't from the Unparalleled King? Then whose scales could they truly be?" Li Xiu searched once more, finding only these three scales and nothing else before slowly surfacing from the pool.

"Are these the three scales?" Li Xiu held them up and asked the Unparalleled King.

"Correct, they are. Later if you encounter danger, just throw them at your enemy." The Unparalleled King said.

Chapter 325 Unparalleled King\_3

"Do we need to hit the enemy with it? Will it explode?" Li Xiu asked carefully about the scales' function.

"No need, and it won't explode; just follow what this king says and stop the nonsense. Hurry and dig the ruby." The Unparalleled King urged repeatedly.

Li Xiu had no choice but to leave the underground space with three Jade Scales. When he came out, Sha Chu and the others were still guarding the entrance of the cave.

"What's the situation down there?" Chu Jun asked hurriedly.

"Those two workers are already dead; there's no need to go down and look. There's a very dangerous demon spirit below; without my order, no one is allowed to go down." After finishing, Li Xiu looked at Sha Chu and continued, "For the unfortunate workers, give their families double compensation. Build a gate over this hole for me, the sturdier the better, and then revise the design plan, marking this small area separately. Construct it to vault standards, and without my order, no one is allowed near here. You must personally follow up on this and ensure that no one goes down into the cave, lest the demon spirit inside is released by them."

Sha Chu currently has money at her disposal, so she didn't engage in unnecessary chatter with Li Xiu, just responded with acknowledgment and made calls to get things done.

"What kind of demon spirit is down there? Is it really that terrifying that even you can't handle it? Will such a demon spirit below affect our City of Light?" Chu Jun asked with some surprise.

"I really can't handle it; I've never seen such a demon spirit in my whole life." Li Xiu spoke honestly, as he truly had not seen such a bizarre demon spirit before.

"As for the impact on the City of Light, there shouldn't be any immediate effect. I will think of ways to deal with it." Li Xiu did not want to kill the Unparalleled King yet.

First, because he wasn't sure what level the Unparalleled King was; if it was a Super Spirit, it would be difficult to resolve. Before Ximen Guan finished making his new Demon Armor, he didn't want to act rashly.

Secondly, the Unparalleled King currently didn't seem to pose any threat, and might even be beneficial, so there was no rush to act against it.

Li Xiu brought the three Jade Scales to find Ximen Guan, hoping Ximen Guan would help him discern what kind of demon spirit the scales belonged to.

Ximen Guan researched the scales for a long time and couldn't come to a conclusion, only knowing they were demon spirit scales, but was unable to determine which kind.

He only told Li Xiu that, according to instrument detection, these three Jade Scales contained very strong energy. However, the energy was peculiar, fluctuating between strong and weak intermittently, making it extremely unstable.

This kind of unstable material was unsuitable for Demon Armor crafting, and Ximen Guan lost interest, returning them to Li Xiu directly.

Li Xiu then described the demon spirit's appearance and the gem species' appearance, but Ximen Guan hadn't heard of them either, so he decided to drop the matter.

"If possible, ask Lao Dao about it." Li Xiu put the scales away, called Chu Jun and A Fei, and set out.

This time, he didn't bring Qin Shi, nor did he call the Ye Family siblings, because this matter involved only the ones he trusted most; he was heading out to find the ruby mine that the Unparalleled King spoke of.

If there was indeed a ruby mine, all future money issues would be resolved. Even if it's not a major mine, it should be enough to support several demon spirits.

If the ruby stock is substantial and of good quality, he could use the excess to buy some equipment from Ximen Guan, helping him create even stronger Demon Armor.

"Why bring us here?" Chu Jun examined the sparsely vegetated valley, somewhat puzzled.

"Dig for gemstones." Li Xiu scanned the valley and said, "Didn't you deal with gemstone business before? You should be somewhat familiar with gemstone veins. Do you think there might be a ruby mine here in this valley?"

"I dealt with finished gemstones, rarely dealt with raw stones; exploration is entirely different. How would I know if there's a ruby mine here?" Chu Jun also surveyed the valley and asked, "Who told you there's a ruby mine here?"

"The demon spirit below the cave mentioned it." Since there were no outsiders present, Li Xiu recounted his encounter with the Unparalleled King underground, leaving the two bewildered, as they hadn't seen such a demon spirit either.

Not only hadn't they seen it, but they hadn't even heard of it.

"Such a peculiar demon spirit?" Chu Jun said, with a strange expression.

"Forget about peculiarities; how can we find out if there's actually a ruby mine beneath this valley?" Li Xiu said.

"If there's truly a ruby mine, not a word must leak, as this area is between Guyue City and Red Sand City. If they find out, they'll definitely come to seize it..." Chu Jun mused, "How about this? Since it's been confirmed the gemstone mine is within the valley, let's dig in a few places. We'll dig more holes, and if there truly is a gemstone vein, we should hit raw stones eventually. Worst case scenario, we just waste some time."

Li Xiu had no other options; they didn't have a Prospector around them nor a trustworthy Gem Hunter. Hiring outsiders seemed too risky—none of them could commit such acts as murder to silence—so they had to dig themselves.

Luckily, they all had demon spirits to act as free labor, sparing them the hard work.

So those demon spirits became laborers for digging holes. If other Trial Takers saw them using Radiant Demon Spirits as miners, they would surely curse at them for wasting rare treasures.

Good thing demon spirits had much more strength than ordinary people, with hands more effective than shovels, digging holes quite swiftly.

The valley was filled with rocks, with a dense mix of stones in the soil, which was honestly hard for regular folks to dig through.

But several demon spirits separated, dug numerous deep pits, and piled up the dug-out stones nearly into a mound. Yet, they didn't find any raw stones.

"Li Xiu, could it be that we've been deceived by the demon spirit? If there's truly a ruby mine here, we should have found some raw stones after digging for so long." Chu Jun said while sifting through the stones.

"Is the Unparalleled King pretending to be foolish? If so, that acting is Oscar-worthy." Li Xiu was also beginning to suspect they fell for the Unparalleled King's trickery.

"It's strange; come take a look at this!" Just as the two were feeling suspicious, A Fei, who was directing demon spirits to dig far away, suddenly beckoned them over.

Both thought A Fei had found raw stones, and hurried over.

#### Chapter 326 Stone Breaker

The two of them were greatly disappointed, as Afei hadn't unearthed the original stone. Instead, her Black Death Demon had only dug up a strange object.

"What is this thing?" Chu Jun examined the object in the pit, his eyes filled with confusion.

Li Xiu also studied the object but couldn't figure out what it was.

The Black Death Demon had just dug a pit more than three meters deep, and within it was a red sphere about the size of a large yoga ball that women use for yoga practice.

The sphere wasn't made of artificial materials; its surface was covered with scale-like things, which appeared more like metallic.

Had it been a demonic spirit, none of them could sense any demonic presence from it. Chu Jun had the Inspiration Skill; if it really was a demonic spirit, he would have detected it early on.

If it wasn't a demonic spirit, then what was this thing? An undiscovered species on Earth? Or something human-made?

Afei commanded the Black Death Demon to take out the object; the three of them studied it for quite a while, but couldn't make sense of it.

There were no seams on the sphere, ruling out the possibility that it was something curled into a ball.

Nobody had heard of any creature's egg having scales. And for such a huge egg to be laid, how big would the creature have to be? Even if dinosaurs came back to life, it's uncertain if they could lay an egg this large.

"Could it be something man-made? Who would make such a thing, and what's the purpose of burying it here?" Chu Jun touched the scales on the object; it felt like normal metal.

"Do you think there's a chance it could be a fruit?" Afei mused.

"Fruit? What kind of fruit could grow so deep underground?" Chu Jun thought Afei was just being whimsical.

"Perhaps I expressed it wrong. I meant to say, could it be some kind of plant, like a lotus root buried in mud, or something like a potato or sweet potato?" Afei clarified.

"We'd have to cut it open to find out." Chu Jun thought it unlikely, since no fruit would have a metallic shell with scales growing on it.

After studying it for half a day without figuring out what it was, they decided to cut it open for a look.

The three of them ran far away, hiding behind a large rock, while Chu Jun controlled the Deep Blue Knight to slash at the metal sphere that lay on the ground.

With a resounding clang, the metal sphere rolled away from the strike of the Deep Blue Knight's blade, but it wasn't damaged.

"So hard; it definitely doesn't seem like a fruit." Chu Jun was speaking when suddenly the thing started moving on its own.

The scales on the surface of the metal sphere folded downwards, quickly revealing what was inside.

Inside, it was still the same kind of scales. As the outermost scales folded down to the sphere's bottom, the second layer of scales began to fold down as well.

Layer after layer, this object was like an onion, with scales continuously peeling away, yet inside it remained the same scaly structure.

"It's been over ten layers. How can this thing have more layers than an onion? What on Earth is it?" Chu Jun stared at the now nearly blue ball-sized metal sphere, his expression odd.

"If I knew what it was, I wouldn't be hiding here." Li Xiu said, staring at the object.

More layers of metal scales peeled away, folding at the bottom into a column resembling a pineapple, while the top continued to peel away scales.

Finally, after the last layer folded down, the three were astonished to find, amidst the layers of scales, a fist-sized, translucent white sphere that resembled jelly.

Afei suddenly seemed to recall something, pointing at the object and saying, "I just realized, earlier I thought this thing looked like a fruit. Doesn't this thing look like a giant lychee, only with a thicker outer skin, and inside is its flesh?"

As Afei said that, Li Xiu and Chu Jun felt it did resemble a lychee, but with thicker skin and less flesh. After peeling layers from such a large item, only a fist-sized amount of flesh remained.

"Could this thing really be a fruit?" Chu Jun swallowed.

"Why don't you taste it?" Li Xiu joked.

"How to taste it? Who knows if it's actually a fruit. Even if it is a fruit, what if it's poisonous?" Chu Jun wasn't foolish enough to try it.

The three of them exchanged glances, none daring to be the first to taste the forbidden fruit.

After waiting for a while and not encountering any danger, the trio emerged from behind the rock, approaching the item for a closer look.

"Wow, it even has a fruity scent. Could it really be a fruit?" Chu Jun said as he leaned closer to smell it.

Li Xiu also smelled it, nodding, "It indeed has a bit of a lychee's sweet aroma, mixed with a fragrance reminiscent of pears and bananas. It might actually be a yet undiscovered fruit species. Want to give it a try?"

"Forget it, too risky. Let's continue mining; is that demonic spirit reliable? If there were a Ruby Mine in this valley, we should have found it by now." Chu Jun muttered.

No one dared try the item. Li Xiu controlled the spirit to move it to a corner, while he and Afei continued digging to find rubies.

Chapter 327 Stone Breaker\_2

Who would have thought they didn't dig up any rubies, but after a while, they dug up those red balls again.

Without finding any rubies, they ended up digging up seven or eight of these red balls, which left the three of them feeling somewhat depressed.

The shells of these red balls were indeed quite hard, so Li Xiu planned to take them back for Ximen Guan to examine, thinking they might be useful as materials for Demon Armor.

"Looks like we were more likely than not deceived by that so-called Unparalleled King; there's simply no Ruby Mine in this damn place," Chu Jun said, exhausted just from looking at the rocks they had unearthed, slumping to the ground.

"But that doesn't add up. If Unparalleled King is really that cunning, there must be some reason it tricked me into coming here; there should be some benefit for it. How does us digging here benefit it? It can't be that it just wanted to eat some fruit and tricked me into digging up these fruits to take back?" Li Xiu somewhat doubted this conclusion.

"Then what do you think we should do? Keep digging?" Chu Jun inquired.

"Let's do this, gather the demon spirits and dig a deep pit here; if there's still no result, let's head back," Li Xiu conceded, fearing the chances of finding rubies were slim.

The group got the demon spirits into a pit, digging down, hauling up the earth and stones, picking out rocks, and discarding the debris; these demon spirits worked tirelessly, even more diligently than sweatshop workers.

Bang!

When the pit was dug over twenty meters deep, one Black Death Demon suddenly lost footing, like stepping into air, and disappeared as a hole appeared at that spot.

"No way, could there be an underground tunnel spirit here too?" Li Xiu was shocked, quickly ensuring the surrounding ground was stable before rushing to the edge of the hole.

Looking downward, he saw a tunnel-like passage about two meters deep extending in both directions.

Li Xiu jumped in to inspect both ends of the passage and was startled.

At one end of the passage, a giant creature was writhing. The thing resembled a massive earthworm but was clad in red scales, currently drilling its way through the ground.

"What's going on down there?" Chu Jun called from the opening above.

Li Xiu quickly made a hushing gesture and signaled for Chu Jun and A Fei to join him quietly.

After Chu Jun and A Fei carefully descended, they too saw the huge worm consuming soil to excavate the tunnel, and their expressions changed slightly.

The creature operated like a tunneling machine, its lotus-flower-like mouth constantly ingesting soil and excreting it from a hole at the back end, moving at a remarkable digging speed.

The creature didn't seem to notice Li Xiu and the others; it continued drilling away.

Chu Jun quickly used his Inspiration Skill and whispered to Li Xiu, "This thing's a demon spirit, called the Stone Breaker, an A-Level demon spirit. I suspect there might indeed be a Gemstone Mine here, but any rubies in it have probably been filtered through and devoured by this thing, which is why we can't find any rubies."

Li Xiu had a similar thought and was just about to summon the Jedi Knight to take it down when the Stone Breaker suddenly stopped.

The three thought the Stone Breaker had detected them, but then it convulsed, ejecting a red spherical object from another slightly smaller hole at the back, before resuming its tunneling.

Li Xiu and the others glanced at each other, feeling thoroughly disgusted.

No matter how you looked at it, that red ball seemed like the Stone Breaker's waste after overeating, and recalling how close they had been sniffing it earlier, commenting on its supposed fragrance, made them nauseous.

Li Xiu immediately summoned the Jedi Knight to charge forward; the Jedi Knight pursued the Stone Breaker, executing a Blood Light Slash that tore a gaping wound in the Stone Breaker's body, nearly severing it into two, yet it still struggled to move, attempting to escape.

This demon spirit was odd indeed; its body, though large, wasn't suited for combat, and the Jedi Knight sliced it into pieces after only a few strikes, leaving it motionless.

During its desperate escape, the Stone Breaker partially collapsed the newly excavated tunnel. As the trio cleared the debris, they discovered a Demon Core within its remains.

The Demon Core was ordinary, just a standard A-Level Demon Core, not even remotely special.

However, aside from the Demon Core, they also found a Ruby within the Stone Breaker's body.

"Is this really a Ruby?" Chu Jun exclaimed, his eyes wide with disbelief as he gazed at the massive crystal ball before him.

In fact, this large, transparent, impurity-free sphere, resembling a ruby, was only about the size of a basketball.

But if it truly was a ruby, describing it as gigantic would be no exaggeration; a ruby this size, weighing dozens of pounds, was a behemoth compared to rubies measured in carats.

"It does look somewhat like it, but I've never seen or heard of rubies this large and pure," Li Xiu marveled, closely examining the Ruby Ball, so pristine it was hard to believe it was a ruby.

"Let's take it back first and see. Who knows if there are more Stone Breakers down there; if there are a few more of these things, this Ruby Mine might be doomed, and finding rubies would be impossible," Li Xiu conceded with resignation.

Chapter 328 Stone Breaker\_3

I thought I was finally going to be rich, but it turned out to be all for nothing.

Now he could only hope that there were no other Stone Breakers below, and that the Gemstone mine hadn't been exhausted.

Li Xiu himself didn't plan to dig any further, but asked Sha Chu to find a few professional Prospectors or Gem Hunters to take a look.

Hesitating for a moment, Li Xiu still decided to transport those red spheres back, letting Ximen Guan test them to see exactly what they were.

Though he suspected that these red spheres were the excrement of Stone Breakers, their scaly outer shell seemed more like metal, which might be useful.

When Li Xiu placed a Ruby Ball, slightly larger than a basketball, in front of Ximen Guan, Ximen Guan took one look and frowned, saying, "Why did you bring a glass ball here?"

"What glass ball, this is a Ruby," Li Xiu replied.

"A Ruby, are you sure?" Ximen Guan looked at the Ruby Ball skeptically; even synthetic rubies of such size and purity would be difficult to produce.

"You just need to test it to know." In his heart, Li Xiu wasn't sure either; who knew if this ball from the Stone Breaker's body was actually a Ruby.

If it really was a Ruby, Li Xiu felt that this trip wouldn't have been in vain, as such a large Ruby Ball could be sold for an astronomical price.

Ximen Guan didn't believe this thing could be a Ruby at all, but after testing, it was indeed a Ruby, and no signs of synthesis were found; all metrics matched those of a natural Ruby.

Ximen Guan thought the test was faulty and personally adjusted the instruments, using several different types of equipment to test it again; the results were the same—this was a natural Ruby, remarkably pure, with almost no visible impurities.

"How could such a large Ruby exist?" Even though Ximen still couldn't quite believe it, the test results were undeniable.

"Where did you get such a natural Ruby? This thing is incredibly valuable. Why not sell it and get some equipment in return?" Ximen Guan wasn't particularly interested in gems; he only thought of trading them for equipment.

"I still need it." Li Xiu immediately took the Ruby Ball back; kidding, how could he casually sell such a thing?

To appease the somewhat disgruntled Ximen Guan, Li Xiu had Sha Chu and A Fei, who were waiting outside, bring in a large box filled with those red metal balls.

"Old Guan, I found some good stuff for you. See if you can use it," Li Xiu said, pointing to the red spheres in the box.

"What are these things?" Clearly, Ximen Guan didn't recognize them either.

"Good stuff." Chu Jun, operating the Black Death Demon, placed a metal sphere on the table in front of Ximen Guan, then smashed it forcefully.

The next moment, the scaly shell peeled away layer by layer, revealing a fist-sized, lychee-like substance inside.

"Is this an artificial device? Doesn't look like it. Could it be a plant? That doesn't seem right." Ximen Guan leaned in close to sniff the fruity substance, seemingly thinking of something, then suddenly extended a finger and scraped it on the substance; some transparent liquid stuck to his finger, which he then casually put into his mouth.

This action disgusted the three of them, almost making them vomit on the spot.

After tasting it, Ximen Guan looked excited: "Where did you find this? It's a natural catalyst that can be used in refining Demon Spirit Materials. I've seen some in Changsheng Heaven before; this is the taste. So the catalyst was extracted from this stuff. Where did you get it? With this, I can save a lot of time refining Demon Spirit Wood."

"Uh." Li Xiu and the others exchanged glances, none of them speaking up.

"What are you looking at, hurry up and tell me; this is good stuff! Is there more? Can you get more in the future?" Ximen Guan asked urgently.

"There is more..." Seeing Chu Jun and A Fei remain silent, completely ignoring his cues, Li Xiu reluctantly cleared his throat and recounted the origin of the stuff.

Originally, they thought Ximen Guan would have some uncomfortable psychological or physiological reaction after hearing the full story.

Who knew, after listening, Ximen Guan chuckled, "For a tech worker, we only see the constituent elements of substances; nothing else matters, let alone mere excrement. For research, I've tasted everything you can imagine. You're making a fuss over nothing. Such good stuff can't be let out of our hands; organize a team and dig up every last piece as soon as possible."

"See, that's professionalism; you all should learn from this, stop being so jumpy," Li Xiu said. Indeed, in the past, Ximen Guan had been imprisoned for decades, and had done everything in a tank, even drinking and relieving himself there; this was nothing. So he said to Chu Jun and A Fei.

Chu Jun and A Fei looked at Li Xiu with contempt; earlier, his reaction was the most exaggerated.

"Old Guan truly has a broad perspective; I was shallow," Chu Jun admitted his mistake to Ximen Guan.

"You're still young, it's normal not to have a broad perspective. Just learn it with time. Enough talking, go organize a team to dig," Ximen Guan urged them to hurry and excavate the red metal spheres.

After the three left, Old Guan closed the door and dashed to the bathroom, vomiting so violently that the noise was scary enough to seem he might puke his very stomach out.

Back in the day, he had survived by drinking and relieving himself in a tank, but it was live water, he drank from upstream and relieved downstream, plus it was his own waste, so he could psychologically bear it.

Moreover, he had gotten used to a better life now, and couldn't bear such hardship anymore.

Li Xiu had Chu Jun and A Fei dig the metal spheres, while he went to the construction site, wearing the Ghost Mask Armor, and ventured back into the tunnel.

Chapter 329 Certain Death in 7 Days

"Your efficiency is quite impressive, my King is very satisfied. Where is the Radiant Demon Core?" The Unparalleled King saw Li Xiu return, thinking he had already exchanged for the Radiant Demon Core, and was full of joy.

"Sorry, I haven't obtained the Radiant Demon Core yet," Li Xiu said.

"How come you haven't obtained it? Why did you come back if you haven't?" The Unparalleled King frowned.

"I went to the Ruby Mine you mentioned, but unfortunately, I didn't find any rubies. I only discovered some red metal balls. When those metal balls are opened layer by layer, inside is a white soft body..." Li Xiu explained.

"Damn it, how could there be trash bugs there? Did it eat the entire Ruby Mine?" The Unparalleled King became furious upon hearing the name Stone Breaker.

"I dug for a long time, and didn't find even a single raw ruby, only those red spheres. I don't know what trash bug that is," Li Xiu said honestly. He only knew about the Stone Breaker, not any trash bug.

"Damn it, humans are truly incompetent. How could they allow trash bugs to get here? Don't they know that letting those things into a gemstone mine is a disaster?" The Unparalleled King seemed irritated.

"What exactly is a trash bug?" Li Xiu asked.

"It's also a kind of demon spirit, without any other skills, just eating gemstones, hence called a trash bug. Those red spheres you encountered are called Garbage Balls. The trash bug eats raw stones but can only digest parts of the elements within them. The remaining undigested components in the raw stone condense into Garbage Balls and are expelled. Garbage Balls are aggregates of various trace elements, mainly metallic, because they contain many other elements, it's a somewhat special metal material. As for the soft body inside, it's a substance secreted by trash bugs, allowing them to separate needed elements from gemstones..."

After the Unparalleled King's explanation, Li Xiu roughly understood what a Garbage Ball was.

To put it nicely, it's an aggregate of elements that the trash bug doesn't need. To put it bluntly, it's excreted waste.

"It's a pity you didn't find that trash bug, otherwise after killing it, you might find rubies not yet completely digested inside it. The rubies it swallowed naturally fuse together, and because impurities have already been separated out, the gemstones would be especially pure..." The Unparalleled King assumed Li Xiu hadn't seen the trash bug.

"Can a single trash bug eat up an entire Ruby Mine? Could there still be uneaten rubies in the Ruby Mine? Should I go back and dig again?" Li Xiu said intentionally.

"Hmph, how many do you think there would be? Just one trash bug, let alone that small mine, even if it were a large mine, given enough time, the trash bug could eat it all up." The Unparalleled King sighed, "Since you've dug up so many Garbage Balls, that mine is probably almost eaten up and is as good as wasted. Looks like we'll have to think of another plan."

Li Xiu stood by, waiting for the Unparalleled King to come up with a solution.

The Unparalleled King, being stuck here, couldn't think of anything. After pondering for a long time, he still didn't come up with an idea.

"If you don't have a plan, I have an idea, though I don't know if it will work," Li Xiu said as the Unparalleled King remained silent.

"What idea do you have?" The Unparalleled King asked, somewhat surprised.

"First, you must tell me how to trade for the Radiant Demon Core inside Black Death City?" Li Xiu was always curious about this matter, but never found the right opportunity to ask.

Especially how to bring gemstones into Black Death City. If gemstones could be brought inside, does it mean Demon Armor can be brought in too? In that case, he could wear the Demon Armor into the Land of Trial.

"Of course, you exchange for the Radiant Demon Core with the Demon Spirit Merchant in Black Death City. Don't you even know how to conduct a trade?" The Unparalleled King said.

"I have also been to Black Death City, but saw no Demon Spirit Merchants there, only some Black Death Demons," Li Xiu immediately realized that the Unparalleled King's knowledge of Black Death City seemed outdated compared to its current situation.

"How is that possible? Tell me in detail what Black Death City is like now," The Unparalleled King seemed shocked and hurriedly asked.

Li Xiu described what he had seen in Black Death City. The Unparalleled King, after listening, did not make a sound.

After a long time, the Unparalleled King sighed, "I didn't expect even Black Death City to have fallen. Who knows how many places in the Demon Kingdom haven't fallen yet."

"What do you mean by 'fallen'?" Li Xiu hurriedly asked.

"You wouldn't understand even if I told you." The Unparalleled King had no mood to explain further to Li Xiu and urgently asked, "What plan do you have?"

"Honorable Supreme... Unparalleled King, although someone like me is weak, the Demon Armor I wear can unleash decent Light Energy. If it can be brought into Black Death City, I can use it to kill demon spirits and obtain Demon Cores from them, thus helping you collect Radiant Demon Cores. But as a human, besides myself, nothing else can be brought into the Trial Gate. Do you have any way?" Li Xiu went on and on, trying to find out whether the Unparalleled King had any means to bring Demon Armor into the Land of Trial.

Chapter 330 Dead in 7 Days\_2

"Hmph, the things created by you humans, no matter how strong, are just trash. Even if you could bring them in, they'd be useless, not to mention it's completely impossible to bring them in," the Unparalleled King said disdainfully.

"Why is it impossible to bring them in?" Li Xiu pressed. If he could understand the reason, maybe Ximen Guan's research could succeed sooner.

"What kind of place do you think the Demon Kingdom is? It's not somewhere just any trash can be brought into. The things made by humans are just spiritless junk, and spiritless things can't enter the Demon Kingdom," the Unparalleled King's tone was extremely contemptuous, holding no regard for the creations of humans.

"When you say 'spirituality,' do you mean it must have autonomous consciousness?" Li Xiu asked with a frown.

"Something like that," the Unparalleled King said impatiently. "Do you have any other methods? The path you're suggesting is not feasible at all."

Upon hearing this from the Unparalleled King, Li Xiu felt his heart sink. It seemed that Ximen Guan's attempt to develop a Demon Armor capable of entering the Trial Gate was exceedingly difficult.

To give the Demon Armor autonomous consciousness was akin to giving a robot a soul. That difficulty is no less than God creating humans.

Though artificial intelligence has existed for a long time, it relies on algorithms and doesn't really have autonomous consciousness.

"Besides this, I don't have any good methods," Li Xiu asked, puzzled. "Since things without spirituality can't be taken in, even if I got a Ruby, the Ruby wouldn't have spirituality. How would I bring it in?"

"Humans are really foolish. Can't you swallow the gemstone into your stomach? The energy contained within the gemstone is what the Demon Kingdom needs. You can bring it in this way," the Unparalleled King mocked.

Having gotten answers to most of the questions he wanted to ask, Li Xiu was already planning in his mind how to find an excuse to leave here.

He wasn't planning on tearing his face off with the Unparalleled King, because if he encountered any questions he didn't understand in the future, he could come back to ask it.

"I've always known you humans are unreliable," the Unparalleled King seemed to have already made up his mind and continued, "In the end, I'll have to personally resolve the problem."

"Otherwise, how could you be the supreme... Unparalleled King?" Li Xiu laughed.

"Makes sense," the Unparalleled King greatly agreed with Li Xiu's words and said proudly, "Then let this King show you the right path. Go to Black Death City again, find the smallest stone house inside. There will definitely be a Stone Coffin in that stone house. You should place a pile of gemstones in front of the Stone Coffin, the more the better, the purer the better, the bigger the better. Do not bring those junk gemstones. Then, kneel in front of the Stone Coffin and pray. If the Stone Coffin opens on its own, respectfully take out the shrine inside and bring it back to me."

Li Xiu felt increasingly uneasy as he listened. "The Unparalleled King mentioned the smallest stone house, and it seems the stone house from which I took the Godslayer Shrine was indeed very small. I don't know if it's the smallest stone house in Black Death City. But from what he said, it seems like he's referring to that Stone Coffin and the Godslayer Shrine. Yet, from his tone, he seems to be quite apprehensive about the Godslayer Shrine. What on earth is the origin of the Godslayer Shrine?"

"What is that shrine?" Li Xiu quickly asked.

"A thing? Hmph! If it heard you say that, you'd be doomed. It's very fond of holding grudges," the Unparalleled King thought for a moment and then said, "Don't worry about it. Just do as this King says. Once you bring it here, no matter where you are or whether it's with you, you absolutely must not say such things again, understand?"

"Sigh, where can a poor and weak human like me find so many exquisite gemstones? What if I just smash the Stone Coffin and bring the shrine back for you?" Li Xiu tentatively asked.

The Unparalleled King was immediately startled: "Don't do that under any circumstances. If you want to die, don't drag this King down with you. You absolutely cannot offend it. You must summon it to me with the most humble attitude, understand?"

By the end of his speech, the Unparalleled King was extremely stern, not even referring to himself as 'this King' anymore, showing how much he feared the shrine.

"Such an arrogant fellow, yet he's so scared of that shrine. It seems he isn't talking about the Godslayer Shrine," Li Xiu thought, not believing that the Godslayer Shrine was formidable enough to frighten the Unparalleled King to such an extreme.

"Next time I go into Black Death City, I must carefully search for that smallest stone house." Li Xiu thought he was overthinking it before. With the Godslayer Shrine's capabilities, even he, a Trial Taker, couldn't handle it. The Unparalleled King, at least an S-level, could not possibly fear it.

"I do want to summon it out, but what can I do without gemstones?" Li Xiu tossed the problem back to the Unparalleled King.

"Why would I accept such a useless lackey, always letting this King solve your problems? What do I need you for? Find a way to get the gemstones yourself," the Unparalleled King said angrily.

"All right, I'll go out and try every possible means to get gemstones. But my capabilities are limited, so it might take some time. Please wait patiently," Li Xiu said as he flew towards the exit.

"This lackey, though a bit lacking in ability and not very bright, is quite loyal. When this King escapes, I can give him some benefits, so he understands what an honor it is to follow this King..." the Unparalleled King thought happily, waiting for Li Xiu to get gemstones and summon the shrine.