

When God 451

Chapter 451 - Dragon Vein Spirit_3

Li Xiu ordered another bowl of porridge, and eating buns with the porridge was not too bad.

By the time Li Xiu finished one bun, Chu Qi had already devoured almost a whole plate, probably eating seven or eight buns.

When Li Xiu finished his second bun, there were only four buns left on the two large plates.

"I can't eat anymore," Li Xiu said, putting down his bowl.

"I'll eat the rest," Chu Qi said simply, stuffing another bun into his mouth.

"Chu Qi, doesn't the City Lord's Mansion provide meals?" Li Xiu looked at Chu Qi, feeling like he must have never had enough to eat before.

"They do, but not as delicious as these buns," Chu Qi replied.

Li Xiu finally understood that these Niujia buns must be something Chu Qi loved, not some famous dish of White Night City.

"Are you a Magic Armor Master?" Li Xiu glanced at the large backpack on Chu Qi's back, which was a huge mountaineering bag fully packed, and this guy never put it down.

"No," Chu Qi shook his head.

Li Xiu was a bit surprised; he thought Chu Qi was carrying some demon armor, but it turned out he wasn't a Magic Armor Master, so it wasn't demon armor.

If it wasn't demon armor, what was he carrying that never left his side?

"What's in your backpack?" Li Xiu couldn't help but ask.

"Demon Armor," Chu Qi's answer surprised Li Xiu again.

"You're not a Magic Armor Master, so why are you carrying a demon armor?" Li Xiu was even more curious.

"The old man is afraid this demon armor would be stolen, so he told me to carry it," Chu Qi answered.

The more Li Xiu heard, the stranger it seemed. In a place like White Night City, where demon armor is produced in vast quantities, how is there nowhere to store demon armor, leaving Chu Qi to carry it around all day?

If they're afraid of the armor being stolen, wouldn't having a person carry it make it easier to be stolen?

People do sleep after all, and it's impossible to stay alert twenty-four hours a day. Walking around with it so conspicuously, is it really safer than storing it in a warehouse?

"What kind of demon armor is it? Can I take a look?" Li Xiu asked with a smile.

"No," Chu Qi refused bluntly.

Not giving up, Li Xiu said, "Your old man is afraid the demon armor might be stolen, so he had you carry it. What if someone snatches it from you?"

"It can't be snatched as long as I'm here," Chu Qi said as he stuffed the last bun into his belly. He seemed slightly unsatisfied, but he paid and took Li Xiu out of the Niujia Bun Shop.

"So, you're a Trial Taker?" Li Xiu asked as they walked.

"Yes," Chu Qi nodded.

"What level?" Li Xiu was somewhat curious. There must be Trial Takers in White Night City, but likely not many, just like in Space City.

"S," Chu Qi said expressionlessly, his words very concise.

"Is there a Trial Gate in White Night City?" Li Xiu hadn't heard of there being a Trial Gate in White Night City.

"There's one over a hundred kilometers south of the city, you can get there quickly by express train," Chu Qi said.

"I'm a Trial Taker too. Can you take me to see it?" Li Xiu was genuinely curious about what a Trial Gate is like in a gemstone-scarce place like White Night City.

"Sure, but you'll have to use your own gemstone to open the gate," Chu Qi said.

"No problem, what kind of gemstone is needed to open the gate?" Li Xiu asked with a smile.

"Black Sapphire," Chu Qi answered.

"Shandong Sapphire?" Li Xiu thought for a moment and immediately understood what Chu Qi was talking about.

In the White Night City area, gemstone resources are indeed scarce. In places that produce gemstones, most are like aquamarine, and rarely have veins of the Five Great Gemstones.

Shandong Sapphire is a special case. Though it's a sapphire, it's a bit darker than sapphires from other regions, and as early as the old era, when its value was discovered by foreigners, most high-quality rough stones were looted.

Later on, high-quality rough stones became scarcer. Many were dim in color, lacked transparency, and even had pure black colors, hence why some call it Black Sapphire.

However, high-quality Shandong Sapphire is very distinctive. Its blue color is very unique, with some shades showing a green tint, unlike sapphires from other regions, and those in the know can easily recognize it.

It is said there are even dual-colored red and blue mandarin duck sapphires, though Li Xiu had only heard about them and never seen one.

"Is there a shop selling gemstones near the Trial Gate? I don't have any Black Sapphires on me and need to buy some," Li Xiu pondered aloud.

"Yes, we'll buy them when we arrive," Chu Qi took Li Xiu to the station. After they boarded the transport vehicle, they headed directly to the Trial Gate Chu Qi mentioned.

On the way, Li Xiu and Chu Qi talked about the topics surrounding the Trial Gate.

Chu Qi told Li Xiu the Trial Gate was called the "Demon Tower," and the Trial Ground was indeed a Demon Tower.

The trial project was very singular — climbing the Demon Tower. The higher the trial difficulty, the higher you need to climb, but how many floors this Demon Tower had was still unknown since no one had reached the top; it seemed as if the Demon Tower had no top.

Of course, it could also be because there are very few Trial Takers in White Night City, so it's normal for no one to have reached the top.

After getting off the station, Chu Qi called for another vehicle, riding with Li Xiu over the bumpy old asphalt road for half an hour before finally reaching the Trial Gate known as the Demon Tower.

The Demon Gate was unexpectedly located in an abandoned factory courtyard. This factory had long gone bankrupt, with many sections of the walls and plant buildings collapsed.

Not a single human shadow could be seen nearby, nor was there any guard for this Trial Gate. Clearly, the people from White Night City didn't value it, and it was unknown if any Trial Takers ever came here.

Next to the Trial Gate, in a small shack, a young man was lazily sitting in a chair. On the table in front of him laid a piece of torn cloth with various gemstones casually thrown on it.

Most of those gemstones were dark in color, some black and some an inky blue, and they didn't seem very transparent. There were also some blue-green gemstones that were slightly more transparent but had a lot of impurities.

The gemstones varied in size, the smallest being one or two carats, the largest possibly several tens of carats.

Many were polished into pebble shapes without any faceting, generally the way lower-quality gemstones were handled.

As Li Xiu examined those sapphires, he felt a sense of hunger in his stomach again, surprisingly.

Chapter 452 - Demon Tower

"Brother Qi, back to conquer the Demon Tower again!" The young shop owner saw Chu Qi and immediately stood up with a smile.

"Yes." Chu Qi responded with a nod.

"There aren't many people as persistent as Brother Qi nowadays; those coming to challenge the Demon Tower are getting fewer. I saw videos online; many places outside are hosting Demon Spirit competitions. I heard many who used to come here have gone to the Southern Cross Federation, and my business is getting worse." The young shop owner sighed.

"Why go so far when the Trial Gate is free here?" Li Xiu asked.

The young shop owner shook his head and said, "They have Demon Spirits over there. There's no such thing here; who would stick around here endlessly?"

"Why aren't there Demon Spirits?" Li Xiu asked, puzzled.

"Only those who reach the top of the Demon Tower can enter the area that Trial Takers talk about. But the tower is too high; no one can reach the top. Without entering the Land of Trial, where can you get Demon Spirits? Not to mention the Demon Spirits, you can't even earn rewards like Skill Talents. Who would stick around here?" The young shop owner pointed to the gemstones on the table and said, "Brother, you're from out of town, right? Pick whatever you like, I'll give you a 10% discount for Brother Qi's sake. The prices have dropped today; the small ones are forty-five per carat, pick and choose as you like. These blue ones are one hundred sixty per carat, big ones aren't expensive either..."

The price really was cheap, though the quality was quite ordinary. Li Xiu looked at Chu Qi and asked, "How many gemstones are needed to open the gate?"

"Just ten carats or more of Black Sapphire will do," Chu Qi replied.

Li Xiu glanced at the gemstones on the table, split them with his hand, pointed at half of them, and said, "I'll take all of these. Calculate how much."

The young man had never seen such a lavish buyer; his eyes immediately lit up, his face beaming with smiles, "Today, I met a big boss; no wonder you're Brother Qi's friend. Let me calculate for you."

The young shop owner took out a precise electronic scale and weighed and packed the gemstones into small plastic bags, ten per pack.

"The small ones are one hundred and six carats, the bigger ones are one hundred thirty-seven carats, the blue ones are fifty-four carats, the larger ones are pricier..." The young shop owner was weighing and rapidly pressing the buttons on a calculator.

"The total is seventy-eight thousand and sixty-six, but I'll round off and give you an additional discount for being such a large customer; let's make it seventy thousand." The young shop owner said generously.

Li Xiu took out his phone and directly scanned to pay seventy thousand White Night currency without bargaining.

Having gotten a few million from Xiao Er, Li Xiu didn't lack money as he did before, and these gemstones were indeed very cheap.

Seventy thousand White Night currency would buy only two or three carats of premium Blue Sapphires from Red Sand City, but with these gemstones, he got several hundred carats.

Luckily, Li Xiu exchanged quite a lot of White Night currency before deciding to come to White Night City, so he wasn't worried about running out of money.

"Why did you buy so many?" Chu Qi asked Li Xiu after he packed away the gemstones.

"Just to save from buying again if I come back later," Li Xiu replied casually.

This was just one of the reasons; in fact, Li Xiu was interested in a particular Black Sapphire among them.

That single Demon Spirit Gemstone was worth much more than seventy thousand.

Chu Qi said nothing more, and the two of them arrived at the gray-blue Trial Gate. Li Xiu took out ten Black Sapphires and embedded them.

The Trial Gate opened with a roar, and they walked in together.

"Welcome to the Demon Tower Trial Ground, B-level trial initiated; trial rules are as follows..." A windowless octagonal room with only a staircase to the second floor showed trial rules on the light screen.

The rules were simple: climb to the second floor before the sixty-second countdown ends to pass.

Li Xiu glanced at Chu Qi beside him, somewhat doubting if he really was an S-level Trial Taker, as he wore only a white tight suit without any sign of a contract.

"You go first; with me here, don't be afraid. If you can't climb up, I'll push you up," Chu Qi said.

Li Xiu nodded and walked up the stairs.

As soon as Li Xiu stepped onto the stairs, he felt his body sink, as if bearing a weight.

Thankfully, this level of weight wasn't much for Li Xiu; he easily climbed to the second floor, followed by Chu Qi, whose relaxed appearance confirmed to Li Xiu that Chu Qi had a stronger physique.

The second floor was another octagonal room. The light screen indicated they had completed the first round of testing, granting reinforcement rewards, and offering the choice to exit or continue to the second round.

Li Xiu and Chu Qi both chose to continue, and after the countdown ended, Li Xiu ascended the stairs to the third floor.

The weight felt on his body intensified this time, but Li Xiu could still easily complete it.

Passing over ten levels, the weight increased on each floor, and by the eighteenth floor, Li Xiu felt it was very difficult to walk.

"How many floors does this Demon Tower have?" Li Xiu asked, looking at the stairs leading to the nineteenth floor with a frown.

This Demon Tower Trial Ground was indeed different from other trial grounds he had been to; although he could exit anytime, it seemed to complete the ultimate test, reaching the top might be necessary.

Chapter 453 - Demon Tower_2

Given his current physical condition, it seemed he couldn't complete even a B-rank test for the final trial. No wonder the Trial Takers here chose to flee.

"I don't know, but the highest I've reached was the thirty-sixth floor, and I still didn't reach the top," Chu Qi replied.

Upon hearing that even the thirty-sixth floor wasn't the top, Li Xiu knew he definitely couldn't make it to the top either. He decided to climb as many floors as possible, earn some physical enhancement rewards, and forget about the final rewards.

Li Xiu gritted his teeth and continued upward. His physical condition didn't allow him to keep climbing, but once he activated the Blood Boiling Skill, he immediately felt much lighter.

With the doubled physical enhancement, the sense of burden wasn't an issue anymore.

Every time Li Xiu climbed, he needed to activate his skill, while Chu Qi beside him never used his skill, showing how strong his physical condition was. He claimed to be S-rank, and it seems he wasn't lying.

"Chu Qi, did your S-rank status come from improving here?" Li Xiu asked curiously.

"Yes, I grew up in White Night City and never left. I've only entered this one Trial Gate," Chu Qi answered truthfully.

"Impressive!" Li Xiu couldn't help but give a thumbs up. To climb this tower multiple times and achieve S-rank using ordinary enhancement rewards, Chu Qi was rather tough.

"That's odd. You haven't been to other Trial Grounds and haven't reached the top. How did you obtain a Symbiotic Contract?" Li Xiu suddenly thought of a question and asked while observing Chu Qi.

"I once killed a Trial Taker and got the Symbiotic Contract," Chu Qi replied expressionlessly.

Li Xiu had to admit, to reach S-rank this way, this guy must have put in a lot of time and effort.

Understanding that his Symbiotic Contract was once someone else's Parasitic Contract, a Symbiotic Contract dies with its owner while a Parasitic Contract does not. Generally speaking, the quality of a Parasitic Contract is not as good as a Symbiotic Contract. Achieving S-rank with a low-quality Symbiotic Contract in a Trial Gate is unimaginably difficult.

On the subsequent stairs, the burden increased immensely just on the first level, so by the time Li Xiu reached the twenty-third floor, he had to activate his Dual Skill. Only under the enhancement of the Dual Skill did he reach the twenty-fourth floor.

Using the Triple Skill support, Li Xiu managed to reach the twenty-seventh floor, but his body was already struggling.

Even though he only needed to use skills when climbing stairs, the burden of three skills was too overwhelming on his body. Li Xiu felt that continuing like this would damage his body, and going further up seemed meaningless.

The slight enhancement rewards were not worth the bodily damage.

As Li Xiu was about to give up, he suddenly had an idea and looked at Chu Qi, asking, "Chu Qi, have you ever tried going down?"

"No, why would I go down?" Chu Qi shook his head.

"You see, the rule says to enter the next level before the countdown ends to complete the trial. This next level, in normal terms, means the place which hasn't been visited yet counts as the next level. But looking at it separately, the next level can also mean going down a level, right?" Li Xiu said with a smile.

"Seems... it could be interpreted that way... but what's the point? Even if we could go downward, what's the point in returning?" Chu Qi asked uncertainly.

"Let's go ahead and try. If we can't go down, we'll just climb another floor upward," Li Xiu said.

"Alright." Chu Qi nodded and didn't say anything more, although he felt it was pointless.

With the countdown ending, a new round of testing began, still with sixty seconds to enter the next level.

Li Xiu and Chu Qi moved toward the stair entrance leading to the twenty-sixth floor and followed the stairs downward.

Without obstruction, they smoothly climbed onto the stairs, indicating it was possible to go down.

However, going down seemed useless, as the octagonal room on the twenty-sixth floor remained the same as when they ascended.

The burden on the stairs leading from twenty-six to twenty-seven was identical, without any differences.

"Let's return to climb the twenty-eighth floor. There's nothing different here. If we descend now and return to the twenty-seventh floor, climbing the twenty-eighth floor might leave you with insufficient time," Chu Qi said, following behind Li Xiu.

"You're here, aren't you? Let's descend the stairs and see," Li Xiu checked the light screen on the twenty-sixth floor, also displaying a countdown, allowing them to see the time, which made Li Xiu feel something was off.

Chu Qi grabbed Li Xiu and said, "Stay here, don't move. I'll go."

With that, Chu Qi bypassed Li Xiu and descended. His speed was much faster than Li Xiu's, slightly slower than normal stair descent, and shortly he reached the bottom of the stairs, returning to the ground of the twenty-sixth floor.

The moment Chu Qi left the stairs, his timing appeared unexpectedly on the light screen, suggesting he had completed the trial.

Chu Qi was slightly stunned, while Li Xiu nodded slightly, as he had envisaged this possibility but wasn't entirely sure; Chu Qi had now validated his guess.

Li Xiu no longer hesitated and slowly descended from the stairs, moving much more gingerly, as even with the Triple Skill, he could only inch forward step by step.

Chapter 454 - Demon Tower_3

Thankfully, time was rather ample, and when there were only a few seconds left in the countdown, Li Xiu also came down.

The countdown stopped, and his timing appeared on the light screen.

"Final trial completed, rewards are being randomly generated, each person can choose one reward..." The prompt on the light screen made Chu Qi's eyes widen.

"How could this happen... How did you know?" Chu Qi looked at Li Xiu, full of incredulity.

"I didn't know, just liked trying new things, it was completely a fluke." Li Xiu smiled.

"The sea of suffering is boundless, but turning back is the shore. Perhaps this Demon Tower Trial Ground wants to make the Trial Taker understand this principle. Unfortunately, I've been suffering here for so many years and still couldn't grasp such a simple truth." Chu Qi sighed, but his face remained expressionless, looking rather peculiar.

"Principle is principle, doing is doing. Isn't there also a saying about the mountain of nine ren falling short because of one imperfection, which teaches you not to give up? The so-called principles will always have their reasons no matter how they are said. So principles, whatever they are, don't matter; just persist in doing what you believe is right. You never once turned back, and haven't you already reached S-level? If you had turned back and entered the Land of Trial, you might have long died there, or perhaps been distracted by its contents and wouldn't have ascended to S-level so quickly." Li Xiu said.

Chu Qi seriously looked at Li Xiu for a while before nodding and saying, "No matter what, I must thank you for helping me discover the real clearing method, otherwise I would be stuck at S-level, unable to advance further in the Trial Ground and would have had to stop here."

"Looks like we both got lucky." Li Xiu saw the shield icon appearing on the light screen; both of them had randomly obtained entry tickets.

Both chose an entry ticket, and soon they were sucked into a black vortex separately.

Copper Lamp stone table, on top of the stone table was a piece of black clothing.

"Clothes!" Li Xiu's eyes instantly lit up. He had long wanted a piece of clothing but didn't know where to get a contract-type clothing.

Every time he entered the Trial Ground, he was clad in a tight white outfit, and if it was all men, it was fine, but when women were present, it was somewhat uncomfortable with some body parts being prominent.

The clothes on the stone table were folded neatly like a tofu stall, impossible to tell the style, but it looked rather complex, not like ordinary outerwear, with a texture resembling a piece of black satin.

Li Xiu reached out to grab the clothes; with his current physical fitness, picking up a typical contract was quite easy.

The clothes lifted easily, and the Longevity Lamp immediately emitted that elusive voice.

"Insignificant..."

Li Xiu didn't give it the chance to finish, directly dropped his blood onto the clothes, and the clothes burst forth with black light, unfolding automatically and swirling onto Li Xiu's body without assistance.

This attire was somewhat complex, with a short robe on top and a skirt on the bottom, purely black with a satin-like texture, exuding a unique charm on the wearer and a bit of ethereal elegance in the spirit.

"Is this a Confucian skirt?" Li Xiu looked at the black attire on himself, slightly surprised.

This was a Confucian skirt from ancient Han culture, considered a type of Hanfu, unexpectedly appearing as a contract-style garment.

Though it included a skirt, it was men's attire; in ancient times, skirts weren't exclusive to women.

Haoran Master Robe: Parasitic Contract.

Quality: Radiant.

Grade: E-level (evolvable).

Original quality: 0.9

Talent Skill: Vast Righteous Qi.

"Turns out, it's a Radiant Contract!" Li Xiu was somewhat surprised, originally thinking the contract from this place wouldn't be of high quality, yet it turned out to be Radiant quality, and having a Talent Skill at E-level was quite rare.

"Hopefully I'll get a pair of shoes soon." Li Xiu glanced at his shoeless feet; his feet were still wrapped in the white tight suit, making them look as if he was wearing white stockings, which felt very mismatched after donning the clothes.

Longevity Lamp guided Li Xiu into the darkness, and when Li Xiu's eyes brightened enough to discern his surroundings, he discovered he was still in an octagonal room, with stairs leading upwards.

Yet this building wasn't bright and clean like the previous Demon Tower; it was exceedingly old and rundown, made entirely of black wooden combinations, pure wood architecture with mortise and tenon joints, not a single nail.

Despite its dilapidation, even slightly eerie and horrific, the entire building was intricately crafted with exquisite beauty.

On each wooden pillar was carved a peculiar creature, a bird, a black bird, resembling a phoenix or eagle, its eyes full of savage intent, seemingly poised to attack.

While Li Xiu was scrutinizing this building, he saw Chu Qi's figure appear beside him, accompanied by another floating Longevity Lamp.

Li Xiu noticed Chu Qi wasn't clad in a Confucian skirt but had a black glove on his left hand, likely the parasitic contract he obtained here.

"Righteous Gloves, Radiant Parasitic Contract." Chu Qi directly stated, seeing Li Xiu look at his gloves.

"You don't need to tell me." Li Xiu shook his head with a wry smile: "This Chu Qi is quite frank."

"Is this the Land of Trial?" Chu Qi curiously surveyed his surroundings; though he was already S-level, it was surprisingly his first time in the Land of Trial, making him quite unique among Trial Takers.

"Yes, the Land of Trial is full of peculiarities, we must be careful; even seemingly insignificant things could be fatal." Li Xiu knew it was Chu Qi's first time entering the Land of Trial, so he offered a couple of warnings.

"Just follow me, I'll ensure your safety." Chu Qi misunderstood Li Xiu's intention.

Previously when traversing the Demon Tower, Chu Qi noticed Li Xiu's physical fitness was far inferior, naturally assuming he should protect Li Xiu, especially since this was the order from the old man.

"Thank you for your efforts." Li Xiu smiled without contesting.

"What should we do now? Should we go up?" Chu Qi looked at the stairs leading to the second floor.

"We should go up, but..." Li Xiu was about to suggest using magic spirits to probe the path, yet Chu Qi had already dashed up, ascending to the second floor in a few strides.

"Ah!"

As Li Xiu was shaking his head and sighing, suddenly hearing a scream from the second floor, his heart tightened, promptly summoning the Black Death Demon King and Black Death Demon army to charge upward.

Encircled by a group of minions and mini-minions, Li Xiu ascended to the second floor, initially bracing for a fierce battle, but the sight before him left him genuinely stunned.

Chapter 455 - Beating

Chu Qi was bound by a black rope around his hands, hung from the beam, being whipped by a magic spirit.

The magic spirit looked extremely peculiar, resembling a mummy, but instead of bandages, it was wrapped in a black ribbon-like material all over its body, which looked more like paper tape.

On top of that ribbon, numerous mysterious symbols emitted a faint white glow.

The rope suspending Chu Qi was formed from the ribbon-like material of the magic spirit, and the whip that struck Chu Qi was also made from that material.

Snap!

The whip made from the black belt struck Chu Qi's body, causing him to grunt, tearing his white tight-fitting clothes and leaving a whip mark.

It was evident that although this magic spirit was strange, its level should not be high, probably around D or C level.

When the whip landed on Chu Qi, it left only shallow marks and didn't heavily injure him, indicating that Chu Qi's physical resilience was far superior to this magic spirit.

Li Xiu couldn't quite understand how this magic spirit, clearly lower in level than Chu Qi, managed to hang him up? Was there a mechanism within the tower that even an S-level like Chu Qi couldn't resist?

In the next moment, Li Xiu's doubts were quickly answered, not lingering for too long.

After a whip from the magic spirit, Chu Qi broke free from the ropes binding his hands, landed on the ground, and rushed towards the magic spirit, intending to punch it to death.

But what happened next left Li Xiu dumbfounded as the magic spirit's hand flung out the black belt, which seemed alive, binding Chu Qi's body, reversing his hands and feet behind him, pulling tightly and suspending him again.

Chu Qi's body hung in the air in an awkward position, and then was whipped directly across the face by the magic spirit.

After a whip, Chu Qi once again freed himself from the restraint of the ropes, trying yet again to charge at the magic spirit.

But he was suspended again, in an even stranger pose, and Li Xiu couldn't bear to watch.

The sound of whips continued, as Chu Qi was bound and whipped repeatedly, despite his superior physical resilience compared to the opponent, he couldn't dodge the ropes. Once bound, his joints locked, his body felt powerless, leaving him only to be whipped.

Li Xiu could see clearly that the black belt thrown by the magic spirit was almost a guaranteed hit, impossible to dodge, and Chu Qi couldn't sever the black belt either, which was why he found it so frustrating.

Strangely, Li Xiu didn't see Chu Qi use the Symbiotic Contract, his hand was equipped with a gauntlet obtained from the Parasitic Contract just now.

At this point, why didn't he use the Symbiotic Contract? If it transformed into a weapon like a sword, he could potentially cut through the black belt directly, avoiding many problems.

But Chu Qi seemed to have no means against this peculiar magic spirit, repeatedly being whipped, though luckily his physical resilience was strong enough that the magic spirit couldn't really harm him, only causing minor superficial injuries.

"Chu Qi, let me handle it, you don't mind, right?" Li Xiu asked Chu Qi.

"Go ahead." Chu Qi, hanging from the beam like a butterfly, responded immediately without hesitating.

Li Xiu didn't use the Black Death Demon regiment, instead, he summoned back the Black Death Demon King, then walked toward the magic spirit himself.

The mummy-like magic spirit saw Li Xiu approaching, its arm wrapped in black belt swung, instantly a black belt flew over, aiming at Li Xiu's body.

Li Xiu didn't draw his sword to cut the black belt, but rather made a peculiar gesture.

He bowed to the magic spirit, and the black belt that was flying towards him did not bind Li Xiu's body; after Li Xiu's bow, it flew back on its own, wrapping back around the magic spirit's arm.

Chu Qi was stunned, after freeing himself, he didn't rush up immediately but stood aside, gazing at Li Xiu with a complex expression, murmuring to himself: "Are magic spirits so particular? Just a bow and no binding? What's going on? Does killing magic spirits require proper etiquette?"

Taking advantage of the moment when the magic spirit's black belt returned to its body, Li Xiu drew the Fire Lotus Sword from his waist, charged like a startling rainbow past the magic spirit, and cleaved its body in half with one strike.

The light flame on the Fire Lotus Sword ignited the black belt on the magic spirit, burning its body to ashes in no time, leaving only a Flowing Color Demon Core to fall.

"Excuse me, I'll keep this Demon Core." Li Xiu smiled, picking up the Demon Core.

"It's your spoils after you killed the magic spirit, there's nothing to apologize for, I should thank you for helping me out of confinement." Chu Qi said, striding toward the stairs leading to the third level, needing to solve the mysteries within his mind.

Li Xiu made no move to stop him, judging from the second level's magic spirit, the third level probably wouldn't present a much stronger magic spirit.

Chu Qi, after all, is an S-level elite, ordinary magic spirits wouldn't easily kill him. The recent whippings had already healed him.

Li Xiu followed Chu Qi up to the third level, where the third level still displayed those mummy-like magic spirits wrapped completely in black belt.

The magic spirit saw Chu Qi rushing up, immediately flung out a black belt, and Chu Qi seeing the black belt flying over, didn't dodge or evade, but rather bowed to the magic spirit.

Chapter 456 - Beaten Up_2

And then he was doomed, the Black Belt wrapped around his hands and feet, hoisting him up like a pig.

"What's going on? Why doesn't Li Xiu get tied up when he bows, but I do?" Right now Chu Qi's mind was buzzing, completely unable to figure out what was happening.

Smack!

The demon spirit's whip cleared his thoughts a bit. After breaking free from the Black Belt, refusing to accept defeat, he bowed to the demon spirit once again, only to be hoisted and beaten again without suspense.

Chu Qi was a bit dumbfounded. He clearly saw Li Xiu do this, so why does it work for Li Xiu but not for him? He really couldn't understand.

"How about I give it a try?" Li Xiu laughed straight out.

Chu Qi didn't understand the Demon Kingdom's characters, so naturally, he couldn't grasp what was happening.

In fact, the weaknesses of these demon spirits were all written on their bodies.

The white light symbols on those black belts were the Demon Kingdom's writing, and the one on the previous demon spirit's body read 'bow'.

So Li Xiu tried a bow, which is commonly known as a hand salute, to see if it had any effect.

As a result of his bow, the Black Belt on the demon spirit flew back by itself, and its body seemed to pause for a moment, which allowed Li Xiu to easily slay it.

Chu Qi appeared a bit wooden, but his mind was quite nimble; he's not truly a fool.

Seeing Li Xiu use a bow, he mimicked him, completely disregarding his face.

Unfortunately, the white light symbol on the Black Belt of this demon spirit did not mean 'bow'. Naturally, his bow was useless.

"Want to switch?" Li Xiu smiled.

"Switch." Chu Qi answered without hesitation.

Li Xiu walked toward the demon spirit, watching as the demon spirit threw the Black Belt over, he put his hands down and bowed to the demon spirit.

With this bow, the Black Belt flying towards Li Xiu instantly returned, and Li Xiu charged forward, the Fire Lotus Sword once again slaying the demon spirit.

Unfortunately, it still didn't drop anything good, just a Flowing Color Demon Core.

Chu Qi stared wide-eyed, thinking to himself: "First it was bowing, now it's kneeling, how come killing a demon spirit needs so many rituals. Is this a quest to kill demon spirits or learn etiquette?"

Despite the complaints in his mind, Chu Qi figured out the pattern: killing demon spirits requires manners, etiquette must be in place, otherwise it won't kill the demon spirit and he'll be hoisted up for a beating.

Though the injury was really nothing to him, it was embarrassing to be beaten like this.

Chu Qi gritted his teeth and proceeded to the next level.

Sure enough, there was another demon spirit wrapped all over in black bands, swinging the Black Belt right away.

Chu Qi did a double-bow and double-kneel, thinking: "Showing manners can't hurt, I've shown you such respect, just let me kill you peacefully."

Smack!

Chu Qi was once again hoisted up and whipped, this time even harder than the previous occasions, his white tight shirt was about to turn into a beggar's outfit, and red whip marks appeared on his body.

"Why?" Chu Qi was tearful, truly unable to understand why things turned out this way.

Why can Li Xiu succeed, but he cannot?

"Did I misunderstand from the start, it's not a matter of politeness? Does the demon spirit judge based on appearances? A pretty face can bow freely, but when I try, I get hoisted up and beaten? It's not my fault that I'm not attractive, I didn't choose my deathly pallor, I was born with it and can't change it.

Killing demon spirits also involves appearance discrimination, what kind of world is this..." Chu Qi was frustrated to the point where he almost started swearing.

"It's really rough being illiterate." Li Xiu watched Chu Qi getting repeatedly beaten, secretly grateful for his time spent learning the Demon Kingdom's writing in the Nether House, able to read the words on the demon spirits, otherwise he could have been hoisted up carelessly too.

These demon spirits were strange, their Black Belt seemed capable of restraining all living things, even Chu Qi, who was S-ranked, couldn't evade it, nor could he.

"After going back, I must read more books in the Nether House and study the Demon Kingdom's writing thoroughly, maybe it'll be useful someday." Li Xiu resolved to master demon text, determined not to remain illiterate.

"Chu Qi, do you know why you keep getting hoisted and beaten?" Li Xiu didn't approach himself this time, standing at the stairway, he spoke to Chu Qi.

"I know it's a matter of looks, you don't need to remind me." Chu Qi gritted his teeth, speaking.

"What nonsense is that?" Li Xiu was both amused and annoyed, utterly clueless about Chu Qi's conclusion, and had no choice but to say: "This has nothing to do with looks. When a demon spirit wants to beat you, would it really care if you're pretty or ugly?"

"Then why do they stand for you while you can bow and they let you kill them, but I do the same and get hoisted up and beaten? Isn't it because of looks? My character is impeccable." Chu Qi argued indignantly.

"You're overthinking it." Li Xiu said seriously: "Alright, if you trust me, do as I say, and I guarantee that you can kill these demon spirits however you want."

"Alright, tell me what to do." Chu Qi freed himself from the Black Belt once more, landing on the ground as he spoke.

"Give it a worship." Li Xiu said directly.

The reason Li Xiu didn't approach this time was that the text on this demon spirit read 'worship', and he wasn't keen on kowtowing to a demon spirit.

Though these demon spirits were indeed peculiar, even placing their weaknesses on their bodies, and in the form of various rituals.

Chapter 457 - Beaten Up_3

More bizarrely, after the Black Belt hoists someone up, it only whips once, and then the Black Belt will automatically loosen. This doesn't seem like fighting a monster; it's more like teaching someone manners.

When Chu Qi heard Li Xiu tell him to bow, he was first stunned, then gritted his teeth, and actually made a thud sound as he knelt before the Demon Spirit, bowing directly to it.

As soon as he bowed, the Black Belt thrown by the Demon Spirit indeed did not bind him again. Taking advantage of the moment when the Black Belt flew back, Chu Qi burst up, his gloves on his fists emitting a black light, and punched a massive hole through the chest of the Demon Spirit.

Just now, he was really frustrated, and now he finally vented his pent-up anger, instantly feeling much relieved inside.

"Do you want to continue? If you want to, I tell you what to do, and we can split the items we get, how about that?" Li Xiu said with a smile.

Chu Qi nodded, agreeing to it, but in fact, he was more curious about what these Demon Spirits were all about, but he was too embarrassed to ask.

Li Xiu surprisingly knew how to deal with these Demon Spirits, and from his perspective, it was unrealistic for Li Xiu to casually reveal such secrets to him.

The two went up another level, and on this level, there were actually two Demon Spirits.

Chu Qi looked at Li Xiu, who took a glance at the two Demon Spirits and only said to Chu Qi:

"Bow to the left, bend to the right."

Only then did Chu Qi rush forward, directly sending the two Demon Spirits away with a combo bow and bend.

Li Xiu and Chu Qi, one directing, the other slaying Demon Spirits, continued charging to higher levels.

Most of the Demon Spirits in the tower were Flowing Color Demon Spirits; there were practically no ordinary Demon Spirits. Those killed before were all just D-level or C-level.

The further up they went, the more Demon Spirits there were, but the types were only bow, bend, and kowtow. After climbing over a dozen levels, they still didn't find any other ceremonial Demon Spirits.

Although they were all Flowing Color Demon Spirits, the drop rate was still low. After killing dozens of Flowing Color Demon Spirits, they hadn't even seen a single Talent Gemstone, let alone a Demon Spirit Ring.

Chu Qi was no fool. After killing so many Demon Spirits, he also noticed that the symbols on those Demon Spirits were slightly different, likely corresponding to bow, bend, and kowtow.

"Those symbols correspond to different etiquettes, right?" Chu Qi asked Li Xiu.

"Correct." Li Xiu nodded.

"You can actually understand these symbols!" Chu Qi didn't feel proud for discovering the secret; instead, he admired Li Xiu even more.

"I can understand a little, and if you look at them enough, you can understand them too. Now you already understand these symbols, don't you?" Li Xiu chuckled.

"That's different. Without you, I would never have guessed the meaning of these symbols." Chu Qi said seriously, "You've discovered the real way to clear the Demon Tower and taught me how to kill these Demon Spirits. For me or even the whole White Night City, this is too important. With this knowledge, White Night City can hold onto Trial Takers in the future and cultivate its own Trial Takers. I should thank you on behalf of White Night City."

"What's there to thank? White Night City shouldn't care much about these, right?" Li Xiu replied with a laugh.

Chu Qi said helplessly, "Trial Takers are an unstoppable trend. Whether White Night City is willing to accept it or not, the future will be a stage for Magic Armor Masters and Trial Takers alike. It will be needed here sooner or later."

Li Xiu nodded and said, "If Chu Jun could inherit the City Lord position, Trial Takers would surely have a spot in White Night City in the future."

Chu Qi understood Li Xiu's meaning and expressionlessly said, "The Master raised me; I am loyal only to him."

Li Xiu smiled and didn't say anything more as they continued to ascend to higher levels.

"I can already understand the symbols; you don't need to waste your breath. Let's still split the items equally." Saying this, Chu Qi walked toward a group of seven or eight Demon Spirits with an imposing figure like a God of Slaughter ready to cleanse the battlefield.

Then he went up with a set of bowing, bending, and kneeling in a three-hit combo.

Ah!

Just after Chu Qi completed the three-hit combo, before he could get up, he was hoisted up, surrounded by the seven or eight Demon Spirits who mercilessly whipped him, driving him to scream in agony.

"Such a naive guy!" Seeing Chu Qi entangled by the Demon Spirits with no chance to come down, Li Xiu couldn't help but shake his head and smile bitterly.

"What's going on? Why doesn't it work?" Chu Qi, while screaming, asked.

"You got the sequence wrong." Li Xiu explained, "Didn't you see? One of the Demon Spirits has two types of symbols; you must make the gestures according to the sequence represented by the symbols, otherwise it won't work."

"Why didn't you say earlier!" Chu Qi said, tears streaming down his face.

"Didn't you say you already recognized them? Besides, I hadn't had time to say anything before you rushed in." Li Xiu laughed.

Chu Qi was frustrated to the point of almost spitting blood as he gritted his teeth and said, "There are too many Demon Spirits; I don't even have the chance to unbind. You'll have to handle it."

Li Xiu knew he couldn't count on Chu Qi and had to take matters into his own hands.

Chu Qi watched Li Xiu approach, eyes wide as he waited for Li Xiu to perform the bow, bend, and kowtow combo. After all he put into bowing and bending along the way, it was Li Xiu's turn.

Who would have thought that Li Xiu would stop walking toward him and directly summon the Black Death Demon King?

The Black Death Demon King summoned a horde of minions, and the seven or eight Demon Spirits' Black Belts couldn't ensnare them, and they were directly swarmed by the Black Death army.

"This... this works too..." Chu Qi watched, dumbfounded, realizing that all his bowing and kneeling were unnecessary; it was just a matter of having enough people.

"You're at least an S-level Trial Taker. In the future, get more Demon Spirits; there's no need to do everything yourself. A Trial Taker should behave like one." Li Xiu said with a smile, "If you want to buy Demon Spirits, the City of Light always welcomes you. I'll give you a 20% discount."

"I'm not buying; I'll kill Demon Spirits myself to get a Demon Spirit Ring." Chu Qi said through gritted teeth, "There's no need to split today's gains; you didn't need me at all, so I can't take the stuff."

"That's not how it is. Just because I don't need you now doesn't mean I won't need you later. There are still many levels above us. It's like the saying goes, prepare soldiers for a thousand days to use them at a critical moment. We'll split things as usual, and when I need you, just don't let me down." Li Xiu pointed upward.

Chapter 458 - Chu Sanhu

"Elder..." Chu Jun looked at the elderly man eating at the same table, feeling like he was sitting on pins and needles.

He came to see the Elder in the morning and ended up waiting outside the courtyard for half a day before being called in at lunchtime.

At the dining table, it was just him and the Elder. The Elder said nothing at all, not even mentioning the City of Light or the Magic Spirit Contest, which made Chu Jun even more uneasy.

"Eat first, we'll talk after the meal," the Elder said calmly.

Chu Jun had no choice but to swallow back the words that were on the tip of his tongue, eating this meal without tasting anything.

After finally finishing the meal, Chu Jun said, "Elder, organizing the Magic Spirit Contest is certainly not an intention to ruin the Chu Family. It's basically the trend of the times; even if I don't do it, it's only a matter of time before the Trial Takers step into the spotlight. The sooner we face it, the more time we have to prepare. If we wait until the Trial Takers are fully developed before trying to respond, then we'll be too passive..."

Chu Sanhu watched Chu Jun calmly. After he finished speaking, he smiled and said, "You can decide on these matters yourself, there's no need to inform me."

"Elder, aren't you angry with me?" Chu Jun was slightly taken aback, not expecting the Elder to say such things.

"Why would I be angry with you? My grandson wants to do something, and he has achieved something of such magnitude that it can change the world's balance. Why would I be angry? Isn't this something to be happy about?" Chu Sanhu smiled.

Chu Jun never expected the Elder to say such words and was too excited to know what to say.

"Xiao Jun, you've grown up. It's time to carve out your own world. The current status of the Chu Family isn't built on one profession or another, but on the roads paved by countless Chu descendants. Your path is also the Chu Family's path; walk it as you desire. Remember, the Chu Family and this old man will always be behind you, always your support. No matter how times change, whether Demon Armor will be replaced by Trial Takers, it's all irrelevant. As long as there are still Chu Family members and they dare to step forward, even if the Chu Family withers, it's a preparation for a more splendid bloom next time." Chu Sanhu patted Chu Jun on the shoulder: "Go ahead and do it. Show this world that no matter how it changes, the Chu Family will always stand at the top, no one can defeat us, nor can anything cause the Chu Family to decline."

"Elder..." Chu Jun was so moved he could barely speak.

"But this time when you go, take Chu Qi with you, don't make this old man worry." Chu Sanhu smiled.

"How could that be, if Brother Qi isn't by your side, in case..." Chu Jun's words were interrupted by Chu Sanhu.

"In the past, when Chu Qi wasn't by my side, hadn't I still come through these many years? The Chu Family isn't as fragile as you think. You should be worrying about yourself; the road between you and the City of Light isn't easy to walk..." Chu Sanhu said gravely.

...

On the thirty-sixth level of the Demon Tower, Li Xiu and Chu Qi fought their way up, slaughtering two to three hundred magic spirits. When they reached the thirty-sixth level, the magic spirits here were somewhat different.

Within the tower on this level stood a magic spirit wrapped entirely in black bands. The light pattern symbols on its body were as brilliant as stars, constantly flowing and changing as if they were alive, on the black bands.

In the previous tower levels, there were at least several magic spirits; this time there was only one, which was unusual.

The Black Death Demon King roared, fifty A-level Radiant Black Death Demons charged at the magic spirit.

The magic spirit opened one eye, and the black bands on its body bloomed like chrysanthemums, the flowing light pattern symbols on them entangling the necks of the Black Death Demons, hanging them up one by one.

In the blink of an eye, all fifty Black Death Demons were hanging from the rafters, struggling in vain, looking like fifty hanged ghosts.

Crack!

As the black bands tightened, the heads of the Black Death Demons snapped, and their bodies went limp.

Li Xiu and Chu Qi both felt a chill in their hearts. The power and abilities of this magic spirit were clearly many times stronger than those of the previous ones.

"Chu Qi, the three-kneel-nine-bow obeisance." Li Xiu said, staring at the demon text on the magic spirit's body.

Chu Qi immediately stepped forward to perform the obeisance. After the three kneels and nine bows, those black bands that resembled spider webs retracted.

Chu Qi exploded into action, his gauntlets radiating terrifying Demonic Light, landing a punch on the magic spirit.

The light talismans on the magic spirit's body trembled chaotically but weren't pierced by the punch. In contrast, the glowing black bands entwined Chu Qi's body.

A flash of bloodlight streaked through the air, and the black bands on the magic spirit flew out, entangling into a black pillar that collided with the blood-red blade light.

Yet the black pillar was cleaved open directly by the blood-red blade light, the blade light cut through the black pillar and split the magic spirit's body into halves, and a demon core fell out.

"Is this the Jedi Knight? It's much stronger than what I saw on TV!" Chu Qi gazed at the Jedi Knight in awe.

Li Xiu picked up the demon core, frowned, and said, "Let's stop here for today, we won't go to the next level for now."

Chapter 459 - Chu Sanhu_2

Chu Qi nodded without saying anything. Since Li Xiu had already decided not to go further, he wouldn't be able to go any further either.

The two of them extinguished the Longevity Lamp and returned to the Trial Gate.

The reason Li Xiu didn't proceed was simply that he didn't want to take any risks.

There were already S-Class Demon Spirits on the thirty-sixth floor. Going further might encounter Super Spirits. Although Li Xiu also had a Super Spirit, there was no need to take risks. He planned to wait for Chu Jun to come to the Demon Tower first to sense the kinds of Demon Spirits above. Knowing oneself and knowing the enemy meant no need for reckless risks, so why not take advantage of it?

On the way back, Chu Qi didn't say a word. Just as they were approaching the Chu Family's home, Chu Qi suddenly turned to Li Xiu and said, "If you want to continue to the Demon Tower, I can scout the way for you. My Symbiotic Contract can protect me so I don't die easily; you don't have to worry about that."

"I found it strange that you hadn't used your Symbiotic Contract yet," Li Xiu asked curiously.

"My Symbiotic Contract is called the Five Elements Inner Armor. It attaches to my five internal organs, protecting them from serious injury and also boosting my potential, making my physical strength and regeneration ability far exceed that of ordinary people. So you don't have to worry about my safety; I can go scout the way." Chu Qi explained the abilities of his Symbiotic Contract, clearly unwilling to let Li Xiu underestimate him.

This trip to the Demon Tower, he hadn't been able to help at all, which made him a bit frustrated.

"That's indeed a strong contract with powerful effects. If you have the chance to go to the City of Light, we could team up to the Land of Trial," Li Xiu said thoughtfully.

"There will be an opportunity," Chu Qi nodded.

In the past, he always underwent trials alone without any interaction with other Trial Takers. But today, after entering the Land of Trial with Li Xiu and seeing all of Li Xiu's Demon Spirits, he started to have higher expectations for Trial Takers.

After they had their meal, Li Xiu returned to his room, while Chu Qi stood outside, continuing to keep watch.

Although he knew that Li Xiu's Demon Spirits were strong enough to protect him, Chu Qi still had no intention of leaving.

Soon, Chu Jun returned and informed Li Xiu that they could head back to the City of Light now.

"Not staying a few more days?" Li Xiu smiled.

"No need, there will be plenty of time to come back in the future. There are many things waiting for us to do back in the City of Light," Chu Jun replied with a smile, clearly in a good mood.

"By the way, Brother Seven will be coming with me to the City of Light; it's something the old man instructed, and I couldn't refuse. However, he's only responsible for my safety. I won't let him get involved in the city's affairs." Chu Jun was worried that Li Xiu might think he wanted to infiltrate and control the City of Light.

"Chu Qi is a good person. The city is currently short of manpower, so if you don't mind, maybe he could help with some tasks," Li Xiu replied, open to utilizing anyone helpful, including Chu Qi.

"As long as you don't mind," Chu Jun chuckled.

The three of them set off, and Chu Qi still carried that large backpack, having not left it in White Night City.

Li Xiu was quite curious about the Demon Armor inside the backpack, wondering what kind of Demon Armor it was that required Chu Qi to carry it like that.

Li Xiu had privately asked Chu Jun about it, but unfortunately, Chu Jun didn't know what kind of Demon Armor was inside the backpack either.

When he left the Chu Family for the Southern Cross Federation, Chu Qi wasn't carrying such a backpack, so he was seeing it for the first time as well.

Chu Jun also told Li Xiu a bit about Chu Qi; he was an orphan taken in by the old man from a young age and had been following him ever since, acting as the old man's bodyguard and one of his most trusted individuals.

Even though Chu Qi wasn't related to the Chu Family by blood, he was essentially regarded as family, such that when Chu Jun saw him, he would call him Brother Seven.

But Chu Qi was very modest, always addressing Chu Jun as Young Master without any arrogance from being favored.

The three of them returned to the City of Light together. Li Xiu kept in touch with Afei and knew there wasn't much going on in the City of Light, apart from minor issues with Xiao Er.

"Teacher, you're finally back!" As soon as Li Xiu returned to the City Lord's Mansion, before even sitting down, Xiao Er rushed over, eyes blood red.

"What happened?" Li Xiu was startled by Xiao Er's bloodshot eyes and messy hair, looking like a bird's nest.

"Teacher, I discovered what was different," Xiao Er grabbed Li Xiu's arm, stating with urgency.

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

He knew Xiao Er was referring to the practice of Military Boxing with Sword and Shield Soldiers, but Li Xiu had suggested it merely to kill time, with no actual differentiation between the two. But now Xiao Er was telling him he had found something different, which intrigued Li Xiu, making him curious about what exactly Xiao Er had discovered.

"It's truly remarkable, sir, your ability to simultaneously control fifty Demon Spirits is beyond my reach. Your painstaking efforts, I understand now," Xiao Er said, a touch of excitement in his voice.

"What have you understood?" Li Xiu asked in confusion.

"Teacher, you don't need to test me any longer. I'll demonstrate for you now. Although it's not perfect, it shouldn't betray your teachings," Xiao Er said, pulling Li Xiu outside.

Once they reached the courtyard, Xiao Er summoned his Sword and Shield Soldier Demon Spirit and began practicing Military Boxing with it.

After watching for a moment, Li Xiu's expression turned peculiar.

Chapter 460 - Chu Sanhu_3

Xiao Er manipulated the sword and shield soldier while saying to Li Xiu, "Although it's still Military Boxing, the way you control the Black Death Demon to execute Military Boxing has spirituality, whereas when I manipulate the sword and shield soldier, it's just a rigid copy. You're telling me that controlling magic spirits emphasizes intention rather than form."

"No matter how strong a person's Spiritual Sense is, it's impossible to focus on fifty tasks at once and control each magic spirit down to the details, that's simply impossible. Therefore, there's no need for such detailed control; you just need to grasp the intention, allowing the magic spirit to understand it. It will naturally accomplish the manipulation I desire. It's like a general commanding soldiers in war; you can't teach those soldiers hand-by-hand how to fight, but as long as the soldiers understand the general's intentions, they'll know what to do... Controlling by intention, unifying intention and spirit, is the true essence of multi-control. As long as I control by intention, I can navigate as many magic spirits as needed. Thank you for the teaching; I understand now..." Xiao Er said excitedly.

Li Xiu stared blankly at Xiao Er; he truly hadn't thought of these things at all, and it was entirely Xiao Er's own thinking.

Because Li Xiu directly used his powerful Spiritual Sense to multitask, he never used the method Xiao Er mentioned, so how could he have taught Xiao Er such a method.

"Not bad, very not bad." Li Xiu watched the video Xiao Er recorded over and over. Anyway, he couldn't see any spirituality in his control of the Black Death Demon, nor did he know how Xiao Er saw it.

"Teacher, I've understood your multi-control technique, so I'll take my leave now." After gaining Li Xiu's approval, Xiao Er put away the sword and shield soldier and turned to leave.

"Where are you going?" Li Xiu was somewhat dazed, not knowing what was up with this kid.

Spent millions, and now just leaving.

"I've grasped the essence of your multi-control technique. I can practice on my own in the future. You have nothing more to teach me; staying here would just be a waste of time. I'll head back first," Xiao Er said.

Li Xiu cursed inwardly, "This guy is really a dog, learning and then running, calling me teacher at every turn while learning, then criticizing the teacher for being incompetent once learned."

"This is fine, but I won't refund the tuition." Li Xiu thought this was just as well and wouldn't stop Xiao Er from leaving. He'd received the money, and whether Xiao Er learned or not was his own affair; no time wasted on him, earning millions easily—this was quite nice.

"The money was originally the tuition for the multi-control technique, and since I've learned it, I certainly won't make you refund it." Xiao Er said indifferently, waving his hand, "City Lord, we'll meet again, when you hold the magic spirit competition next, I'll also participate, and I will use the multi-control technique you taught to defeat your multi-control technique."

With that, Xiao Er walked away, full of pride.

"This guy is no ordinary dog; just now calling me teacher, now turned into City Lord, and wants to take me on in the magic spirit competition... Damn, he's a dog..." Li Xiu was left speechless, never having seen such a person.

Li Xiu certainly wouldn't take Xiao Er's words to heart, only feeling like he'd gained more insight—there are all kinds of people in this world.

After Xiao Er left, Li Xiu returned to his office, picked up his phone, and pulled up Red Sand City Lord's phone number, hesitated for a moment, and dialed it.

"Have you made up your mind?" After connecting, Red Sand City Lord's voice came over with a hint of laughter, as if already knowing why Li Xiu was reaching out.

"I've made up my mind; I want to join Longevity Heaven." Li Xiu didn't waste words, directly stating his intentions.

"Alright, come to Red Sand City and find me, I'll recommend you for membership." Red Sand City Lord said with a chuckle.

"Can I ask you a question?" Li Xiu pondered.

"Go ahead," Red Sand City Lord responded readily.

"What is your position in Longevity Heaven? If you recommend me to join, what kind of treatment can I expect? I don't want to start as an ordinary member," Li Xiu said.

Red Sand City Lord said with a smile, "For talent like you, how could you possibly be an ordinary member? My position in Longevity Heaven will be clear to you later, but I can assure you, as long as you're willing to join, the treatment will surely not be low."

Li Xiu still wanted to confirm what "not low" meant, but was interrupted by Red Sand City Lord, "Though after joining now, there might be a bit of trouble."

"What kind of trouble?" Li Xiu frowned and asked.

"Did you take the Super Spirit Gemstone from Wan Chaoxin and Li Qingyi at the old mining site?" Red Sand City Lord said one sentence, surprising Li Xiu, not knowing how he confirmed it was Li Xiu who took the Super Spirit Gemstone, or whether Red Sand City Lord was just bluffing.

Li Xiu was about to deny, but Red Sand City Lord didn't give him the chance, continuing, "You don't need to deny; denying in front of me is meaningless. You just need to think about how to handle things with Wan Chaoxin after joining, preventing him from discovering this, or deciding how to deal with it if discovered."

"The Wan family's influence in Longevity Association is significant; if he targets you, it could be very troublesome." Red Sand City Lord said with a smile, "But I can offer one suggestion so that even if Wan Chaoxin knows it was you who took the Super Spirit Gemstone, he still can't touch you."

"I'm listening," Li Xiu said.

"Few people in Longevity Association make Wan Chaoxin wary; the six Commanders and two Vice Presidents are such people, and there are those elders as well. If I were you, after joining Longevity Heaven, I'd choose to affiliate with one of them."

"Haven't I already joined under you?" Li Xiu asked confusedly.

From Red Sand City Lord's implication, he seemed not to be a Vice President or Commander or elder—what on earth was his identity?