

## **When God 601**

### Chapter 601 New Team Member\_3

"Do you want to learn the Vein Condensation Technique?" Li Xiu naturally understood Jiuxiao Yun's intentions and broke the silence with a smile.

"Yes, I do." Seeing an opportunity, Jiuxiao Yun quickly nodded in response.

"How about this, you don't need to participate in the big competition. Officially join the Technician's group, and I'll teach you." Li Xiu said.

"Sure." Jiuxiao Yun nodded eagerly, he didn't mind at all.

"Then leave the Blood Seal Stone here." Li Xiu said.

Upon hearing this, Jiuxiao Yun hesitated a bit. He wasn't originally from Longevity City, but he made quite a name for himself in Longevity Heaven, partly because he wasn't bound by a Blood Seal Stone.

His grandfather used to be the Commander and brought him into the society. At the time, a Blood Seal Stone was made, but it was under his grandfather's control. Eventually, before his grandfather stepped down from his position as Commander, he removed Jiuxiao Yun's Blood Seal Stone.

The succeeding Commander was aware that he didn't have Jiuxiao Yun's Blood Seal Stone in his possession, but chose not to say anything.

For one, it was out of respect for Jiuxiao Yun's grandfather, and secondly, he didn't want Jiuxiao Yun's family causing any trouble for him.

This family was full of thieves, as the saying goes, "Don't fear the thief stealing, fear the thief keeping an eye on you." The new Commander didn't want to be targeted by a family of thieves, so he pretended not to know, allowing Jiuxiao Yun to enjoy his freedom.

Now, if Jiuxiao Yun were to leave the Blood Seal Stone with Li Xiu, he would be under Li Xiu's control, which is not something the freedom-loving Jiuxiao Yun was inclined to do.

"If you don't want to give it, then please leave." Li Xiu said as he prepared to close the door.

"I'll give it, why wouldn't I give it? Commander, you're overthinking. I'm just wondering where to leave my Blood Seal Stone." Jiuxiao Yun quickly held the door, smiling widely.

In his heart, he had already decided that once he learned Li Xiu's Secret Technique, he would steal his Blood Seal Stone back.

As the heir of this generation of the Divine Thief Clan, stealing a Blood Seal Stone from Li Xiu should be a piece of cake, nothing to be afraid of.

"You don't need to look for it; I'll make a new one for you. Just fill out the group admission form first, and we'll talk afterward." Li Xiu said as he closed the door.

"Hmph, enjoy being smug now. Once I get the Secret Technique, you'll be the one crying. When the time comes, I'll not only steal back my Blood Seal Stone but also empty your entire house." Jiuxiao Yun thought happily as he went to find Han Minghui to get the group admission form.

After sending Jiuxiao Yun away, Li Xiu continued to train Qian Zhongshan. Qian Zhongshan's talent was decent, but it still lagged behind Ye Xiyuan.

Previously, teaching Ye Xiyuan only needed verbal instruction, whereas teaching Qian Zhongshan required hands-on guidance.

Fortunately, Qian Zhongshan was very persevering and showed no aversion to tedious training. In fact, he seemed to thrive on adversity, getting more motivated the tougher the training. He's been coming for training since before dawn these days.

When Li Xiu trained, he followed along. When Li Xiu rested, he would take a baseball and study, trying to learn Li Xiu's pitching method.

Initially, Li Xiu just wanted Qian Zhongshan to win one or two rounds, but seeing that Qian Zhongshan had some potential, he couldn't help but give a few more pointers.

Under Li Xiu's guidance, Qian Zhongshan improved not only in the Angel's Wings but also learned Li Xiu's Demonic Light Ball Manipulation Technique.

Of course, unlike Li Xiu, Qian Zhongshan couldn't freely control the Demon Light Ball and needed a lot of time to practice before he could master some techniques to alter the Demon Light Ball's trajectory.

Moreover, time was tight, and there wasn't much time to practice the various methods of the Demonic Light Ball Manipulation Technique.

So Li Xiu asked Qian Zhongshan to focus solely on the "Butterfly Technique," which sends the Demon Light Ball like a knuckleball in baseball, erratically swaying up and down, left and right, even the Magic Armor Master who throws it wouldn't know where it would eventually go, let alone the opponent.

Li Xiu could perfectly control the knuckleball, but Qian Zhongshan was not Li Xiu, so Li Xiu didn't demand that Qian Zhongshan perfectly control the knuckleball. They could rely on luck when the time came.

With Body Technique ensuring not to be defeated and relying on the knuckleball for luck, Qian Zhongshan had quite a good chance of winning.

"When condensing the Demon Light Ball, don't let the demonic light inside the ball be symmetrical as usual, create an offset point. The position of the offset point is crucial in affecting the trajectory..." Seeing Qian Zhongshan being so serious, Li Xiu explained in more detail.

After listening, Qian Zhongshan continued to practice.

After a while, Lei Qingfeng came over, telling Li Xiu that Qian Zhongshan's new Demon Armor was ready, and asked Li Xiu to take Qian Zhongshan to test the new Demon Armor.

"So fast?" The competition was still over ten days away, earlier than previously expected by several days.

"By the command of the Commander, how could the research institute dare to slack off? Professor Xu led a team of researchers working day and night to leave more time for you." Lei Qingfeng said.

The three arrived at the research institute and indeed saw the newly manufactured Demon Armor.

"Commander, according to your requirements, this Demon Armor utilizes thirty-two energy cores, with the light pattern transmission system enhanced, and the material is composite..." Professor Xu introduced the new Demon Armor's performance metrics.

"Thank you, this Demon Armor has exceeded expectations." Li Xiu said with a smile.

"If the thirty-two energy cores are simultaneously activated to maximum power, the produced demonic light can reach Super Spirit's standard, but multi-core control can be very troublesome. If coordination is poor, it may cause interference between core energy sources..." Professor Xu then explained the various drawbacks of the new Demon Armor in detail.

"Zhongshan, give it a try." Li Xiu had Qian Zhongshan put on the new Demon Armor and began testing its performance.

With thirty-two cores, even using chain-like Manipulation Technique, Qian Zhongshan still couldn't activate all the cores, and using the Demon Armor was very unsmooth, walking like a child who just learned to walk.

This state worried Professor Xu and Lei Qingfeng; if he really competed like this, let alone win, not falling down would already be quite fortunate.

However, Li Xiu seemed very satisfied and, after having Qian Zhongshan do some tests, took him back to Courtyard No. 7.

Under Li Xiu's request, after leaving the research institute, Qian Zhongshan kept wearing the new Demon Armor, even sleeping without taking it off, let alone during regular training.

#### Chapter 602 Confidence is Earned

At this moment, Han Minghui, Li Changyin, and Bai Wanli are studying the tournament match schedule.

"The three spots reported by the technician group are Jing Li, Li Qingyi, and Qian Zhongshan. Jing Li was expected, Qian Zhongshan is an ordinary S-Class Magic Armor Master and can be ignored, but Li Qingyi's participation is a bit troublesome. Should we still follow the previous plan to place Jing Li in the Light Base group or put Li Qingyi in the Light Base group?" Han Minghui looked at Li Changyin and said.

"Although Li Qingyi has just advanced to the Light Base level, her Symbiotic Contract is extraordinary, coupled with the resources she can enjoy, it's estimated she has already consolidated at least six veins. Even if she is placed in the Light Base group, those people probably won't go all out against her, perhaps even intentionally hold back." Li Changyin said calmly, "Rather than letting her enter the Light Base group, it's better to use the Light Base group to suppress Jing Li and let Li Qingyi win; consider that resource as a gift to her."

Han Minghui smiled and said, "The Patriarch and I thought alike. After all, she is the president's daughter; since she wants to join the technician group, this respect must be given."

"Then it's decided, put Li Qingyi in the weakest group, Jing Li in the group with all Light Base Trial Takers, and the other Magic Armor Master in another group. Besides Li Qingyi, ensure the technician group doesn't win any matches." Bai Wanli laughed.

"By the way, there's something very strange." Han Minghui put down the match schedule and said.

"What is it?" Li Changyin asked.

"Jiuxiao Yun applied to join the technician group, but I haven't approved it yet." Han Minghui said.

"Li Xiu seems quite capable, trying to get Jiuxiao Yun to substitute. Unfortunately, it's too late, don't approve for now. Wait until the match list is announced, and replacements can't be made, then approve." Li Changyin said.

"Alright, then that's settled. I have other matters to attend to, so I'll head back first." Han Minghui got up to leave.

After Han Minghui left, Bai Wanli held the match schedule and said to Li Changyin, "Patriarch, something seems odd with the Seek Path group. Wan Chaocun isn't representing the Seek Path group in the tournament; instead, it's a Light Base level super member from the Seek Path group participating."

Li Changyin smiled and said, "Wan Chaoxin's control over the Seek Path group was inevitable, just didn't expect it this quickly. It seems Wan Chaocun put in a lot of effort; Vice President Han must be quite troubled now."

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The annual tournament of Changsheng Heaven is much like a festival outside, considered the most important event each year.

The results of this tournament determine how much resources each family or group can obtain for the next year and whether their days will be easier, closely tied to the interests of every member of Changsheng Heaven. Essentially, everyone is focused on this tournament.

The grand Martial Arts Arena is already a sea of people, waiting for the opening match to begin.

Previously, each year's opening match was always between the Changsheng group and the Undying group, the two oldest and first groups participating in the tournament.

Initially, the eight major families did not participate in the tournament and received fixed resources.

With the passage of time, Changsheng Heaven now has seven groups, and the eight major families have become four families, leading to significant changes in the rules.

Unexpectedly, this year's opening match also changed, completed by participants not from the Changsheng group and Undying group but from the technician group and the Heartless group.

The seven Changsheng groups plus the four families make a total of eleven, with thirty-three participants.

The thirty-three participants are split into three subgroups, each subgroup having eleven participants who must compete against each other. Winning a match earns one point; losing a match does not deduct points. The total points across the three groups will determine the additional resources allocated besides the base amount.

The opening match is between the technician group's Magic Armor Master Qian Zhongshan and the Heartless group's Trial Taker Wu Xingyun.

Within Changsheng Heaven, everyone knows that the Heartless group is currently controlled by the Li Family. If someone claims there's no personal vendetta involved in this fight, no one would believe it.

"The Li Family wants to give Li Xiu a warning!" The Old Undying, sitting in the stands with a thermos cup in hand, said with a smile while sipping hot water.

"Such a warning doesn't have much practical effect. With Li Qingyi representing the technician group, they're sure to take a portion of resources; the other two are basically cannon fodder." Mo Wuya laughed.

"That's what I'm saying, but look at the expressions of those Magic Armor Masters." The Old Undying nodded toward a spot in the audience.

"Sword Saint, Spear Saint, Feng Zheng, and Hua Mei have all come; they seem concerned about this match." Mo Wuya thought for a moment and smiled wryly, "Right, this match affects how many resources the technician group can get in the future. If the technician group gets less, their share decreases, and maybe even the already small amount could further lessen, so it's no surprise they're concerned."

"Heh, Li Qingyi can get some resources for the technician group, but it's much less compared to before; it's hard to say how much they will receive." The Old Undying laughed.

Sword Saint, Spear Saint, Feng Zheng, and Hua Mei sat in the front row of the Magic Armor Master formation, their expressions grim.

Though everyone knows that Qian Zhongshan will surely lose, placing his match as the opening match is somewhat excessive, not only putting the technician group to shame but also all Magic Armor Masters.

Chapter 603 Confidence is Earned\_2

"If I had known this, we should have gone in ourselves. Even if we lost, at least we would lose with dignity. Qian Zhongshan's abilities are still too weak," sighed the Gun Demon.

"What's the point of saying that now? When the Commander came to ask you to fight, why didn't you agree?" Hua Mei interjected.

"There's no point anyway—all we would do is lose," shrugged the Gun Demon helplessly.

"Since you all know this, what else is there to say?" Hua Mei watched as Qian Zhongshan entered the Martial Arts Arena and exclaimed lightly, "That's odd, has Qian Zhongshan changed his Demon Armor? I've never seen this set before."

"Changing Demon Armor won't help. His Spiritual Sense is too ordinary to activate special Demon Armor. No matter how much the armor is updated, he still struggles to compete with the Super Spirit Testers. That old fellow Wu Xingyun has been a Super Spirit for ten years now, though he forgets his Light Base in this lifetime. Still, he isn't considered weak at the Super Spirit level. Qian Zhongshan doesn't stand a chance," Sword Saint coldly stated.

"If you all look down on Captain Qian so much, then why come here to spectate?" Lei Qingfeng, sitting behind, said discontentedly.

"It's not about looking down on anyone; I'm merely stating a fact," Sword Saint replied.

"What do you mean by 'fact'? The fact is you haven't even watched the match yet, and you're already undermining it. The fight hasn't happened yet, so how do you know Captain Qian and his Demon Armor aren't good?" Lei Qingfeng retorted.

"For a Magic Armor Master, Spiritual Sense dictates everything. The result is clear without having to watch," Sword Saint said.

As the two argued, Wu Xingyun entered the Martial Arts Arena as well, and the people from Wuyun Line and the Li Family cheered for him, presenting a stark contrast to the indifference from the Magic Armor Masters.

Li Xiu and Sha Chu sat atop the platform, observing the scene below, without any particular reaction.

Seeing Qian Zhongshan looking at him from within the Martial Arts Arena, Li Xiu gestured an OK sign to him.

Qian Zhongshan, upon seeing Li Xiu, felt a sense of calm, took a deep breath, and looked across at Wu Xingyun.

Wu Xingyun stood boldly in the Martial Arts Arena, holding a Skinning Knife Coexistence Contract, and said to Qian Zhongshan while keeping his hands behind his back, "Strike first. If I attack, you won't get a chance."

The words were arrogant, yet few considered Wu Xingyun arrogant because he indeed had the right to say them.

Although Wu Xingyun wasn't a genius like Jing Li or Su Bancheng, he toiled until his fifties before becoming a Super Spirit, and after over ten years of this state, he reached only an eighty-plus Super Spirit Limit.

Even so, he was already considered a remarkable person. Many Trial Takers never even dream of becoming Super Spirit.

Moreover, Wu Xingyun wasn't without outstanding skills. It's said that before joining Longevity Heaven, Wu Xingyun was a martial arts expert, particularly skilled in a body technique known as Eight Trigrams Body Traveling Step.

After becoming a Tester, Wu Xingyun furthered this body technique and proved ferocious in combat, especially adept at dodging and seizing opportunities.

With Wu Xingyun's Super Spirit Force, it's not only challenging for an S-Class Magic Armor Master but also hard for fellow Super Spirit Testers to hit him; his body technique is impressively slick.

Wu Xingyun's arrogance in the arena was also due to his proficiency in body techniques, coupled with Li Changyin specially instructing him to suppress the Technician group's pride in this battle; thus, Wu Xingyun was this arrogant.

"Let me oblige you," Qian Zhongshan coldly said, conjuring a Demon Light Ball with his right hand, and flung it straight towards Wuyun Line.

Qian Zhongshan himself felt uncertain, so this Demon Light Ball was hurled with utmost care, meeting the highest standards practiced usually.

The Demon Light Ball flew directly at Wu Xingyun. Seeing Qian Zhongshan using an attack any Magic Armor Master could deploy against him, Wu Xingyun sneered, "You underestimate me too much, Wu Xingyun. I gave you a chance; use your full strength. Miss this opportunity, and you'll regret it when I make my move."

While speaking, Wu Xingyun side-stepped, attempting to evade Qian Zhongshan's Demon Light Ball.

He thought he had dodged successfully, but the Demon Light Ball suddenly veered violently, catching him off guard, even without entering the Super Spirit State, blasting directly onto his left shoulder.

Boom!

Wu Xingyun's body was sent flying to one side, his arm pulverized and bloodied, as the Coexistence Contract dropped from his grasp.

As Wu Xingyun fell to the ground, everyone watched, stunned, unable to comprehend how Wu Xingyun fell just like that.

Li Changyin on the platform wore an exceedingly unpleasant face, inwardly cursing Wu Xingyun as an idiot.

Wu Xingyun himself was stunned. He calculated precisely, should have dodged the Demon Light Ball; how was it able to change direction?

Covering his wounded arm, Wu Xingyun tried to get up and grab his Skinning Knife but hadn't yet stood when he saw Qian Zhongshan already rushing over, madly throwing Demon Light Balls at him.

One after another, Demon Light Balls traced strange arcs, wildly bombarding Wu Xingyun.

Without his Coexistence Contract enabling the Super Spirit State, Wu Xingyun could only rely on Eight Trigrams Body Traveling Step to evade.

This is the drawback of Super Spirit Testers; they inherently lack Light Energy reserves, relying wholly on Coexistence Contracts—unlike the Light Base level, which can unleash terrifying Light Energy even without Coexistence Contracts.

Chapter 604 Confidence is Earned\_3

But those Demon Light Balls were really too strange, swaying left and right, up and down as they flew through the air. Wu Xingyun clearly felt that he had dodged them, yet he was struck by the Demon Light Balls, unsure of where to hide.

Bang bang! Bang bang!

The Martial Arts Arena was continuously exploding. Wu Xingyun managed to dodge some Demon Light Balls, but he was still hit by several of them, leaving him covered in wounds and bleeding all over. His tattered Parasitic Contract clothes were almost reduced to ragged beggar's attire.

He desperately tried to summon back his Symbiotic Contract, but as soon as the Skinning Knife flew up, it was knocked away by the Demon Light Balls, unable to return to Wu Xingyun's hand.

"Damn, when did Qian Zhongshan become so fierce?" Lei Qingfeng widened his eyes.

Although he was not convinced by the words of the Sword Saint and the others, he knew that against Wu Xingyun, Qian Zhongshan shouldn't have much of a chance.

But now the situation was the exact opposite. Qian Zhongshan was brutally thrashing Wu Xingyun on the Martial Arts stage, a scene that even the Magic Armor Masters couldn't believe, let alone the other Trial Takers watching.

Wu Xingyun couldn't dodge the Demon Light Balls, getting bombarded and severely injured. He desperately tried to retrieve his Symbiotic Contract but with no success, and had no choice but to admit defeat, making Li Changyin's face turn green with anger.

"What's going on? Since when did Qian Zhongshan's Magic Armor Control become so formidable? How can those Demon Light Balls have such strange trajectories and even turn on their own? What kind of Magic Armor technique is this..." The Sword Saint, Gun Demon, Feng Zheng, and Hua Mei were also surprised, not knowing why Qian Zhongshan became so powerful or when he learned this Demonic Light Control technique.

Suddenly, from behind came a heartfelt exclamation from Qiu Tianyu: "The Commander is indeed the Commander. He only trained Captain Qian for just over a month, yet he elevated Captain Qian's level to such an extent, it's truly impressive."

"This Demonic Light Ball Manipulation Technique is fantastic. When I get back, I must ask the Commander to teach me this technique as well..." Lei Qingfeng drooled as he spoke: "I thought the Chain Manipulation Technique was already amazing, but I didn't expect the Commander to have such excellent stuff, I must learn it."

"The Commander doesn't have time to teach you. If it weren't for the big competition, Captain Qian wouldn't have had the chance for personal instruction from the Commander," Qiu Tianyu said.

"No worries, Captain Qian has already learned it, right? If the Commander is busy, he could have Captain Qian teach instead. With the Commander's personality, he would definitely agree," Lei Qingfeng said.

The Sword Saint and the Gun Demon exchanged glances. They found it hard to believe that Li Xiu trained Qian Zhongshan to such a level in just over a month.

"Who was the one saying Captain Qian is not good enough?" Lei Qingfeng couldn't help taunting the Sword Saint.

The Sword Saint coldly said, "It was just luck. If Wu Xingyun hadn't been too arrogant and entered the Super Spirit State at the first opportunity, Qian Zhongshan couldn't have won. His next opponent won't give him such a chance."

"Some people are just stubborn as a dead duck," Lei Qingfeng said, pursing his lips.

The opening match was unexpectedly fast, and the result was also unexpected, with the Magic Armor Master Qian Zhongshan managing to win, which nobody anticipated.

However, most people still believed that Qian Zhongshan's victory was primarily due to Wu Xingyun's arrogance and carelessness and did not consider that Wu Xingyun could continue to win.

Regardless of what others thought, this battle gave Qian Zhongshan confidence, and he no longer felt as tense as before.

"Why should I be nervous? Although I've trained for so long, I still can't dodge the Commander's throws, but they are not the Commander. I can't avoid the Commander's balls, what are their attacks supposed to be, they can't even dodge the Demon Light Balls I cast, what's a Super Spirit Tester compared to the Commander, they are nothing. I've been personally taught by the Commander, there's no need to be nervous. As long as I display my training results, I'll surely win... Yes... The Commander already said before... As long as I don't mess up myself, those guys can't possibly hurt me..." As Qian Zhongshan walked off the Martial Arts stage, his mindset had completely shifted.

Match after match took place, dazzling the spectators with the battles involving various contracts and magic spirits, truly cool and dazzling.

Especially those Radiant Level battles, it was like a chaotic barrage of lasers, terrifyingly inhuman.

But for some reason, even though these matchups were more exciting than the one between Qian Zhongshan and Wu Xingyun, many still hoped to see Qian Zhongshan's matches again.

Of course, it wasn't because they thought Qian Zhongshan was so powerful, but out of curiosity; curious whether this Magic Armor Master, in his subsequent encounters with a Super Spirit Tester, could continue to win.

However, to see Qian Zhongshan's match again would have to wait for the next round to begin.

While pondering this, another pair of contestants entered the Martial Arts Arena, and upon seeing who the contestants were, the spectators were involuntarily drawn to them.

In one of the three groups, the majority were Radiant Level, with only one exception, who was now on the stage, Jing Li.

Despite how strong Jing Li might be, he still hasn't ascended to Radiant Level. No one thought he could win.

When the matchups were announced, many had already assumed that Jing Li would be completely defeated and might even directly withdraw.

Jing Li's opponent was Mo Family's Light Base, Mo Shougui, who was Mo Weidao's half-brother. Although not as renowned as Mo Weidao, his talent and abilities were equally remarkable.

Mo Shougui was clad in heavy armor, looking like a heavily armored robot. It was the body formed after merging with a Symbiotic Contract upon reaching the Light Base level.

Originally with the armor as his Symbiotic Contract, merging with the Radiant Level armor contract and his body made his physique and contract become even more indestructible.

Jing Li was the same as before, draped in a robe with a sword slung over his shoulder, carrying a deadpan expression that seemed to disdain everyone.

"I don't want to hurt anyone from the Mo Family. Just admit defeat," Jing Li suddenly said to Mo Shoufu.

## Chapter 605 Selling Secret Technique

"That Jing Li is truly unbearably arrogant." The old immortal shook his head with a wry smile.

Mo Tianya chuckled and said, "For young people, a little arrogance is not a bad thing. With Jing Li's temper, that's considered quite polite already."

"Arrogance also depends on whom it's directed at. No matter how powerful he is, he hasn't advanced to Light Base yet. Being arrogant towards those at the same level is one thing, but doing so towards those at Light Base level is a bit much," said the old immortal.

Many shared the old immortal's view. Jing Li is very strong, arguably the strongest among the Super Spirits.

But that only pertains to those below Light Base. Among the Light Bases, Jing Li's formidable strength isn't much.

Any random Light Base, as long as they have condensed even a single Light Vein, can crush Jing Li in terms of Light Energy.

Moreover, Mo Shougui is not the type who has only condensed one or two Light Veins. He has condensed ten Light Veins, a Light Base level Tester, whose pure Light Energy far surpasses Jing Li, making them incomparable.

So when Jing Li spoke like that to Mo Shougui, it indeed felt somewhat discordant.

Mo Shougui, hearing Jing Li's words, chuckled and said, "Feel free to hack at me boldly. If you can hurt me, the Mo Family won't blame you. Instead, we will honor you as a distinguished guest."

Mo Shougui was not mocking Jing Li. He excelled in defense. If Jing Li, a Super Spirit, could hurt him, the Mo Family would indeed need to learn from him.

The majority of the Mo Family, like Mo Shougui, followed the path where defense is king. If they can't defend against an attack from a Tester of a lower level than theirs, it clearly shows a flaw in the Mo Family's path. It would be worthy of honoring those who can point out such flaws.

Seeing that Mo Shougui had no intention of conceding, Jing Li said no more and directly drew the Tang Blade from his shoulder.

As the Tang Blade was unsheathed, the blade entered the Super Spirit State, transforming into a ghost-head blade style, with the blade and Jing Li simultaneously emanating a terrifying purple-black glow.

"Use that farewell technique of yours," Mo Shougui said, knowing that Jing Li had created a farewell technique but had never witnessed it firsthand. He had only heard that the farewell technique's intent approached that of the demon blade of the Knife Elder, reputed as the first blade of the Eternal Sky, so he wanted to witness it for himself.

Jing Li raised the ghost-head blade above his head and calmly said, "I told you, I don't want to harm anyone in the Mo Family. Once the farewell is out, it results in death or injury, so I won't use the farewell technique on you."

Saying this, Jing Li's blade slashed down towards Mo Shougui, using the self-harming move he had used in his battle with Li Xiu.

Forgetting emotions, the self-harming slash originated from the Path of Forgetting Emotions taught by Jing Li's mentor. However, the current Jing Li executing the slash differed from the one used in his battle with Li Xiu.

"Oh!" Li Xiu was also surprised to see this slash from Jing Li.

He was surprised not because the slash was altered, but because he discovered that the Light Veins flowing in Jing Li's body were not entirely consistent with what he had taught in "The Unspoken Words and Mysterious Forces."

Besides "The Unspoken Words and Mysterious Forces," it seemed there were other Light Veins developed as well.

As Jing Li slashed down, the purple-black blade light descended like a sky-splitting blade towards Mo Shougui's head.

Mo Shougui looked at the immense purple-black blade light, and his arm emitted black light, moving to block Jing Li's blade light.

At the moment of contact between blade light and arm, a black circular chord-shaped Light Shield appeared on Mo Shougui's arm, blocking the purple-black blade light.

This was Mo Shougui's Super Spirit Skill, "Guardian of the Celestial Vault," which condensed Light Energy to form an impregnable defensive Light Shield. Moreover, this Light Shield could absorb and decompose portions of Light Energy. Under the Guardian of the Celestial Vault, even a Light Base Tester with stronger Light Energy than Mo Shougui would find it challenging to break, let alone Jing Li, who was just a Super Spirit Tester.

Seeing Mo Shougui use Guardian of the Celestial Vault, many familiar with this Super Spirit Skill thought he was overdoing it for such a minor threat.

If Jing Li had advanced to Light Base, using Guardian of the Celestial Vault for defense would have been appropriate, but Jing Li hadn't advanced to Light Base yet, so there was no need for such a technique.

However, at the moment the blade light collided with the Light Shield, the spectators widened their eyes.

Amid everyone's gaze, Jing Li's blade light fiercely pressed down, forcefully shattering the Guardian of the Celestial Vault into fragments, and the ghost-head blade struck harshly on Mo Shougui's arm.

Only then did people see that Jing Li had used the back of the blade for the slash. The back of the blade crashed onto Mo Shougui's arm, knocking him to the ground, causing cracks on the stone floor, and Mo Shougui's arm guard was dented and covered in cracks.

This was still with the back of the blade; if the blade edge had been used, Mo Shougui's arm might have been severed.

"Impossible!" Mo Wuya suddenly stood up, staring in disbelief at Jing Li, who had already sheathed his blade and stood in the arena.

The entire Martial Arts Arena was deathly silent. The Commanders, Patriarchs, and those who understood the scene were filled with disbelief at this moment.

The old immortal's mouth gaped open, unclosed for a long time, making no sound, his eyes fixed on Jing Li.

Mo Shougui sat on the ground, staring blankly at Jing Li, and after a long pause, he climbed up and asked Jing Li with a complex expression, "Have you advanced to Light Base?"

Chapter 606 Sell Secret Technique\_2

"No." Jing Li shook his head.

"Impossible, if you haven't condensed the Light Veins, how could you possess such terrifying Light Energy..." Mo Shougui frowned.

"I just haven't advanced to the Light Base, but I never said I didn't condense the Light Veins." Jing Li said calmly.

As soon as these words were spoken, everyone was shocked, even more incredulous, each one staring hard at Jing Li, as if trying to see through his mind and determine whether what he said was true or false.

"Impossible, you haven't advanced to the Light Base, how can you condense Light Veins?" Mo Shougui immediately shook his head.

"I also didn't believe it was possible to condense Light Veins before reaching the Light Base level, but the Commander made me realize it's not that difficult. With the Commander's help, although I haven't advanced to the Light Base, I have already condensed twelve Light Veins." Jing Li said calmly.

Jing Li's twelve Light Veins actually equate to the time others take to condense six Light Veins, because the Light Veins condensed by "Zibu Yu's Strange Power and God Technique" are paired, allowing two at a time.

"Are you saying that the method of condensing Light Veins was taught to you by Li Xiu?" Mo Shougui was even more incredulous, looking at Li Xiu seated on the high platform.

Not only Mo Shougui, but everyone's eyes involuntarily turned towards Li Xiu.

"Indeed, without the Commander's help, I couldn't have condensed Light Veins before advancing to the Light Base... no... I shouldn't say 'condense Light Veins'... but 'plant Light Veins'... the Commander specifically researched a Light Planting Technique... that allows any low-level Trial Taker to plant Light Veins... without needing to advance to the Light Base..."

These words were like thunder clapping overhead, making people's heads buzz with noise.

"Without needing to advance to the Light Base... any low-level Trial Taker can condense Light Veins... the Light Planting Technique..."

The impact of this information on the Trial Takers was unimaginable, as it was common knowledge that only those at the Light Base level could condense Light Veins, and Light Veins were also a noble identity symbol for Light Base Trial Takers.

But now someone was telling them that any Trial Taker could condense Light Veins, the mental shock was palpable.

"Impossible... absolutely impossible..." Mo Shougui still couldn't believe Jing Li's words.

If it were just that Jing Li had extraordinary talent and could condense Light Veins before reaching the Light Base, it would be somewhat acceptable.

But now Jing Li told them that his method of condensing Light Veins was created by Li Xiu and taught to him by Li Xiu, which was simply unimaginable.

After all, it's Li Xiu—though competent with Demon Armor, he's only a C-level Trial Taker. A C-level Trial Taker researching Light Veins and solving a problem that so many Light Base experts in the Eternal Sky couldn't solve—isn't that absurd?

But the fact was undeniable, leaving them with no choice but to believe; Jing Li actually hadn't advanced to Light Base, otherwise his Symbiotic Contract and body should have shown changes.

And Jing Li unquestionably had condensed Light Veins, otherwise, how else could he have shattered Mo Shougui's Guardian of the Celestial Vault with one cut?

"Do you want to continue?" Jing Li asked Mo Shougui, who was looking incredulous.

"No need, I lost. Is your Light Condensation Technique really created by Li Xiu?" Mo Shougui asked, unwilling to give up.

"Why would I, Jing Li, need to lie?" Jing Li said and then turned to walk out of the Martial Arts Arena.

Following matches no longer drew any interest, especially from the higher-ups of the four great families and six groups.

Their gazes frequently turned towards where Li Xiu was seated, each calculating in their minds.

A Light Condensation Technique that all Trial Takers could cultivate—what a terrifying thought. It would overturn the entire Trial Taker system, a heaven-defying technique that could potentially reshape the world's order.

Whoever could seize this opportunity might accomplish unimaginably great feats.

The very thought was frightening. If humans could cultivate the Light Condensation Technique from birth, regardless of how slow the cultivation speed, with ten or twenty years of accumulation and experience, not only would advancing in levels become effortless, but advancing to the Light Base level

could even become straightforward, possibly even eliminating the need to break the Symbiotic Contract and merge with oneself to advance to the Light Base.

Merging the Symbiotic Contract is meant to give oneself the ability to condense Light Veins; since Light Veins can already be condensed, what difference does merging or not merging make?

One could say that Li Xiu's Light Planting Technique is a direct shortcut to the Light Base level. Currently, only a very few Trial Takers can merge the Symbiotic Contract to advance to the Light Base. Learning the Light Planting Technique would make everyone a Light Base Trial Taker, it's simply outrageous.

Including Li Changyin and Han Minghui, many were plotting how to seize Li Xiu's Light Planting Technique for themselves.

Competitions became worthless in their eyes, and those resources were insignificant compared to the Light Planting Technique.

As matches continued, Li Changyin approached Li Xiu's location with Bai Wanli.

Only then did the other Patriarchs and Commanders react, each itching to move, though unable to due to Li Changyin's presence, hoping Li Xiu would reject Li Changyin quickly, giving them a chance to approach him.

Jiuxiao Yun watching from the periphery was quite speechless, only cursing Jing Li as a big fool. Winning was enough; was pretending to be Light Base level such a big deal? There was no need to expose this earth-shattering secret, indirectly pushing Li Xiu into a pit of fire.

Chapter 607 Selling Secret Technique\_3

It's not a big deal if Li Xiu is dead; he hasn't gotten the Light Planting Technique yet.

Wan Chaoxin looked peculiarly at Li Xiu talking with Li Changyin in the distance, still somewhat incredulous, and asked Wan Chaocun beside him, "Auntie, did Li Xiu really create that Light Planting Technique?"

"Jing Li is standing right there, so it probably can't be wrong." Wan Chaocun's expression was also somewhat unusual. She pursed her lips and lightly smiled, saying, "If you want it, I'll go ask for a copy for you."

"Is this... convenient?" Wan Chaoxin was proud and ambitious. If it were just for himself, he would never ask for Li Xiu's things. However, the Light Planting Technique that Li Xiu came up with could influence the whole dynamic of Longevity City. If other families have it and Wan Chao's family doesn't, the decline of Wan Chao's family would be foreseeable.

"There's nothing inconvenient about it. Don't forget, he's my fourth brother." Wan Chaocun smiled as she stood up, "Let's go, we'll go now."

Wan Chaoxin gritted his teeth and followed Wan Chaocun towards Li Xiu, his expression shifting unpredictably, feeling somewhat anxious and unsettled.

Wan Chaocun, however, wasn't as anxious and unsettled as Wan Chaoxin; she knew that since Li Xiu had brought up this thing, he definitely hadn't planned to enjoy it alone. Once people knew, it wouldn't be something he could keep to himself.

That's why she would go to ask Li Xiu for it; she knew Li Xiu would give it.

Of course, Wan Chaocun didn't intend to get it for free either.

Li Changyin originally thought that negotiating with Li Xiu would be very troublesome. After all, his relationship with Li Xiu was already like water and fire, and now getting such a thing from Li Xiu might require unimaginable sacrifices.

Li Changyin had already made up his mind. No matter what kind of sacrifice he would have to make, he must get Li Xiu's Light Planting Technique, and he couldn't let it fall into others' hands.

What Li Changyin didn't expect was that Li Xiu didn't mention the previous matters at all and was actually very willing to trade with him, and the terms weren't as demanding as Li Changyin imagined.

Li Xiu just wanted to take back those Blood Seal Stones from the former Demon Armor team, and additional gemstone resources—nothing else.

Although the gemstones Li Xiu wanted were many, it was already much less than the cost Li Changyin had anticipated.

"Are you sure the Light Planting Technique you're giving me can be cultivated by all Trial Takers?" Li Changyin looked at Li Xiu and asked.

"If it can't be cultivated, the Patriarch of the Li Family is welcome to come and take my head." Li Xiu said calmly.

"Alright, Wanli, go get the Blood Seal Stones and the gemstones Li Xiu wants, not one less." Li Changyin ordered Bai Wanli to fetch the gemstones.

Soon, Bai Wanli came back with boxes of Blood Seal Stones and gemstones, piling them directly in front of Li Xiu.

Li Xiu took out a small box from his chest and handed it to Li Changyin with great care, "Patriarch, this technique is extremely precious; I hope you won't easily spread it."

"I naturally understand this." Li Changyin took the box and opened it. Inside was a beautifully bound small booklet. He flipped through it, and it was filled with handwritten techniques, clearly a manuscript, which made Li Changyin quite satisfied.

After looking at it for a while, Li Changyin realized Li Xiu's Light Planting Technique was indeed feasible. Although there were special requirements, as long as there were Light Base experts to assist, indeed everyone could condense Light Veins.

He felt excited, but his face turned cold, pretending to be annoyed, "This method is not something everyone can cultivate; the requirements are too high, and it needs verification to know if this technique is feasible. After I verify it, if it's not feasible, I'll surely take your head."

"The Patriarch may go ahead." Li Xiu knew that Li Changyin's words were actually sowing a thorn in the minds of the other high-ups so they wouldn't come to him for the Light Planting Technique so quickly.

Seeing that Li Xiu didn't refute his words, Li Changyin was satisfied and left with the box, urgently leaving the Martial Arts Arena.

Since the Light Planting Technique was of unknown authenticity and so many gemstones were required for exchange, it is believed other families would also consider whether it is worth spending a huge amount now to compete for the Light Planting Technique.

Wan Chaocun had already brought Wan Chaoxin near to Li Xiu. Wan Chaoxin looked at the boxes of gemstones, and he felt troubled in his heart.

If Wan Chao's family really had to take out so many gemstones at once to exchange for the Light Planting Technique, then before the resources were distributed next year, Wan Chao's family would have to tighten their belts.

"Sister Chun." Seeing Wan Chaocun coming over, Li Xiu stood up and greeted her willingly.

"Fourth brother is indeed a genius, having researched such a secret technique as the Light Planting Technique." Wan Chaocun said with a smile.

"Is Sister Chun interested too?" Li Xiu laughed and asked.

"Indeed very interested. Xiao Xin leading Wan Chao's family to reach this stage wasn't easy, and this time our Wan Chao family can't lose the advantage." Wan Chaocun said.

Li Xiu understood Wan Chaocun's meaning and smiled as he handed a copy of the Light Planting Technique to Wan Chaoxin, saying, "Last time I didn't bring a gift for our meeting, so consider this as making up for our last meeting gift."

Wan Chaoxin was surprised and delighted, not expecting Li Xiu to say this. For a moment, he didn't know whether to accept it or not.

"Thank your fourth granduncle." Wan Chaocun said beside him.

"Thank you, fourth..." Wan Chaoxin gritted his teeth and took the Light Planting Technique from Li Xiu's hands, but those four granduncle words were really hard to say, and he only managed to say fourth uncle.

"Family doesn't need to be polite." Li Xiu said with a smile.

Originally hesitating due to Li Changyin's words, the senior members of each family, seeing this, also came over.

Rather be deceived than fall behind. If Li Xiu really deceived them, seeking it back from him later wouldn't be difficult. No matter how formidable Li Xiu was, he wouldn't dare to deceive everyone.

Li Xiu did not refuse anyone who came, selling the Light Planting Technique to whoever asked for it. He started selling it expensive, but later it kept getting cheaper until even some small families could afford to buy a copy. At first, some wanted to resell it, but realized Li Xiu sold it cheaper than they did, turning the stands in the Martial Arts Arena into a marketplace.

No one watched the tournament at all. Li Changyin hurriedly took the Light Planting Technique back; he'd already decided that even at the risk of being punished by the president, he couldn't let Li Xiu leave the Martial Arts Arena alive.

He didn't know that after he left, Li Xiu had already started a big sell-off; he hadn't thought Li Xiu would bring so many handwritten copies.

Walking and walking, Li Changyin suddenly felt something was wrong. There seemed to be a lot of garbage in Longevity City today.

Someone had posted some papers on the walls of Longevity City; he looked at the contents carefully, and suddenly he was almost spewing blood in anger.

The content written on the paper was unexpectedly the Light Planting Technique that Li Xiu had sold to him at high prices, identical in writing, including the penmanship.

Chapter 608 Yanbo Pool

Those who bought Li Xiu's Light Planting Technique at the Martial Arts Arena were almost fuming.

Now the Light Planting Technique is everywhere, plastered all over the streets and alleys; many people have copied it and taken it home, so it's impossible to keep it secret.

"Li Xiu... What an interesting person... By doing this, he's practically offended almost all the major forces in Longevity City. Can he still survive in Longevity City?" The old immortal said with a crooked smile.

He and Mo Wuya didn't spend money on it, so they are feeling very comfortable now.

"If he hadn't done that, then he really couldn't have survived. If only Li Changyin had gotten the Light Planting Technique, do you think the Li Family would have allowed Li Xiu to survive?" Mo Wuya said.

"It's like he can survive now. Li Changyin probably wants nothing more than to skin and disembowel him; it's surely a situation where they'll fight to the death." The old immortal laughed, "And it's not just the Li Family; those families who bought the Light Planting Technique are now blocked at the gate of Courtyard No. 7. If Li Xiu doesn't refund the money, the other families might tear him to pieces without the Li Family having to act."

"It's no use; word just came from over there that Li Xiu and his close confidants didn't return to Courtyard No. 7. They quietly headed to Wansheng Town; I reckon they should have already entered the Land of Trial by now." Mo Wuya laughed.

"That kid sure runs fast; it seems his plan wasn't made yesterday. He's thought through his escape route. Which Land of Trial did he go to? Isn't he afraid someone will chase him inside to kill him?" The old immortal said.

"He entered the Celestial Gate. How many people do you think can chase him into the Celestial Gate to kill him?" Mo Wuya laughed.

"Others can't go, but the Li Family members can. Isn't that even more dangerous?" The old immortal pondered.

"He went to the Celestial Gate with other plans; do you really think he's the kind of person who would brainlessly send himself to death?" Mo Wuya said.

"No, that kid is sly like a fox." The old immortal chuckled.

Without waiting for the big match to finish, Li Xiu took his people and fled. After leaving the Martial Arts Arena, he met up with Sha Chu, who had been posting flyers in Longevity City, and the group headed straight for the Celestial Gate with the resources exchanged for selling the Light Planting Technique.

With Li Qingyi's help, the group smoothly entered Celestial Gate City. With Li Qingyi, Jing Li, and Jiuxiao Yun present, leading them upstream to complete the trial was not a problem at all.

Li Xiu plans to hide out at Old Knife's place for a while; there's no way he's refunding the money. Once his level is higher, who would come asking for a refund; then he wouldn't be so polite.

"Are you really planning to hide inside Celestial Gate City and not come out? This is not a proper solution in the long run." Li Qingyi looked at Li Xiu with a peculiar expression after sending him into Celestial Gate City.

She's never seen anyone as reckless as Li Xiu; she truly can't understand whether Li Xiu is a genius or a madman.

Being able to invent the Light Planting Technique, he's undoubtedly a genius, but how could a genius let himself fall into such a situation, becoming the world's enemy? This is something only a madman could do.

"Running away might be shameful, but it's definitely useful." Li Xiu laughed, "I couldn't bring the puppies in; help me take care of them once you're out."

Li Qingyi sighed, "Celestial Gate City isn't a safe place either; it's actually more perilous than outside. You can encounter terrifying demons at any time. Moreover, Li Changyin can bring people into the Celestial Gate too. I can help you outside, but here, no one can save you. You're in more danger here than outside; why not go back and refund the money, and live your life peacefully?"

"It's fine, I have my arrangements." Li Xiu bid goodbye to Li Qingyi, and led Sha Chu, Jing Li, and Jiuxiao Yun into Celestial Gate City.

"You really screwed me over; since you've plastered the Light Planting Technique all over the streets, why couldn't you give me a copy earlier?" Jiuxiao Yun followed Li Xiu, feeling extremely gloomy.

Li Xiu made a mess and dragged him into it; his Blood Seal Stone was in Li Xiu's hands, so he had no choice but to follow him.

"Even if you had the Light Planting Technique, could you use it to Condense the Vein?" Li Xiu said casually.

Jiuxiao Yun felt even gloomier. He now knew that the Light Planting Technique requires a Light Base-level Light Foundation Establishment to condense the Light Vein.

But his family's only Light Base-level has gone off somewhere to enjoy life, and with his "great reputation" in Longevity Region, he really can't find a Light Base-level to do Light Foundation Establishment for him.

"So can I Condense the Vein by following you?" Jiuxiao Yun said with a pout.

Li Xiu is only a C-level, miles away from Light Base; the only Light Base-level here is Jing Li, but would Jing Li help him with Light Foundation Establishment?

"Since you're one of my technician group, it wouldn't be a big deal to help you with Light Foundation Establishment. But there's a sequence for everything; once we're settled, we'll first help Sha Chu, then you with your Light Foundation Establishment." Li Xiu said casually.

Hearing Li Xiu say that made Jiuxiao Yun feel a bit better. After all, it's Li Xiu who deceived people, not him. Once Jing Li helps with his Light Foundation Establishment, he'll find a way to steal his Blood Seal Stone back and immediately sever ties with Li Xiu.

He thought Li Xiu intended Jing Li to help with his Light Foundation Establishment, without truly understanding Li Xiu's meaning.

Li Xiu took the map given by Li Qingyi and followed it into Celestial Gate City; this was a safe route explored and confirmed in Longevity Region, and shouldn't pose too great a risk. Furthermore, with Jing Li present, as long as luck wasn't terribly bad, there was nothing to fear.

Chapter 609 Yanbo Pool\_2

The door Elder Dao guarded was on the other side of the city, requiring a journey across the entire Celestial Gate City to reach it.

"Where exactly are you planning to go?" Jiuxiao Yun couldn't help but ask after following Li Xiu for half a day.

Sha Chu and Jing Li followed Li Xiu without saying a word, which annoyed Jiuxiao Yun.

"To Elder Dao who guards the Celestial Gate," Li Xiu replied with a smile.

Jiuxiao Yun almost jumped up at those words: "Are you trying to get yourself killed? Do you even know who Elder Dao is?"

"Of course, Elder Dao is one of the top ten elders, currently substituting for the Grand Elder's position as the guardian of the Celestial Gate, serving as the interim Grand Elder," Li Xiu answered as he walked.

"That's not what I mean. Do you know the relationship between Elder Dao and the Li Family?" Jiuxiao Yun said.

"What relation does Elder Dao have with the Li Family?" Li Xiu asked, puzzled.

Jiuxiao Yun was almost infuriated: "Elder Dao was recruited into the Longevity Heaven by the Li Family through the Seeking Path group, and now Elder Dao's Blood Seal Stone is still in the hands of the Li Family. Going to Elder Dao is as good as walking into a trap!"

"Oh, I see, that's a bit troublesome," Li Xiu hadn't expected that Elder Dao's Blood Seal Stone was actually with the Li Family.

He wasn't afraid that Elder Dao would be manipulated by the Li Family to deal with him. With Elder Dao's personality, threatening him with his own life was futile.

Li Xiu was worried that if the Li Family really brought Elder Dao's Blood Seal Stone, Elder Dao might end up clashing with the Li Family and losing his life.

Li Xiu knew how to handle the Blood Seal Stone, but that method was only applicable before the contract. Once the Blood Seal Stone was contracted, Li Xiu had no means to resolve it.

"Good that you understand. You mustn't go to Elder Dao's place. Find somewhere to hide instead, and light a lamp for me so we're a bit safer," Jiuxiao Yun suggested.

"I'll decide after I meet Elder Dao," Li Xiu replied.

"After everything I've said, you're still intent on meeting Elder Dao?" Jiuxiao Yun was almost furious.

Li Xiu smiled and said nothing more, continuing to follow the map forward.

Seeing Li Xiu's demeanor, Jiuxiao Yun had nothing to say, closed his mouth, and walked on his own, thinking to himself, "Anyway, I have no grudge with the Li Family. Even if Elder Dao receives the Li Family's orders, he'd only kill you, Li Xiu, what does that have to do with me? Good advice is wasted on those who are doomed."

The Celestial Gate City was really vast. After several hours, they'd only traversed less than a quarter of the map's route.

Fortunately, they had the map and the route marked by Qingyi. Without it, who knows if they'd survive reaching Elder Dao.

As the group reached a jade pavilion, Li Xiu stopped to examine it.

"This is the Yanbo Pavilion. According to the map's mark and notes, we need to rest here at Yanbo Pavilion for a while. Only after the lotus in Yanbo Pavilion blooms can we wade through the water across the Yanbo Pool in front of us," Li Xiu said as he entered Yanbo Pavilion.

The Yanbo Pavilion had four corridors and eight pillars, built quite peculiarly. More strange, in the center of Yanbo Pavilion was an ancient well, the water almost spilling out, with two lotus leaves and an unopened lotus bud on the surface.

Without the lotus blooming, they couldn't cross the Yanbo Pool ahead.

As per the map, there was no bridge for crossing the Yanbo Pool, it could only be crossed by water. The eighty-mile Yanbo Pool could only be swum across, and if the lotus didn't bloom, something strange might occur in the Yanbo Pool, making it dangerous to get into the water.

Besides swimming, there was another method. There was a small boat within the Yanbo Pool. Sitting on this small boat could also cross the pool, but the boat was usually controlled by those guarding the Celestial Gate. Unless Elder Dao happened by during his patrol, they wouldn't have a boat to use.

Jing Li gazed at the Yanbo Pool enveloped by a mist of light outside the pavilion and said, "I've heard people say there's an incredibly terrifying spirit hidden in the depths of the Yanbo Pool. It lurks at the bottom, hidden, and if anyone or any spirit tries to cross the pool, it will pull them into the water to devour them. Even Light Base level beings aren't spared. Only when the lotus blooms does that spirit slumber, and once the lotus closes again, it awakens. It's best to cross the Yanbo Pool during this time."

Jiuxiao Yun chimed in, "I've heard a slightly different tale."

"What version?" Li Xiu asked.

Jiuxiao Yun looked at the swirling mist of light outside the pavilion and said, "The story I heard differs from Jing Li's. There's no spirit in the Yanbo Pool but an emperor's consort sleeping."

"An emperor's consort? Why would the emperor's consort be sleeping in this pool?" Sha Chu inquired with interest, looking at Jiuxiao Yun.

"The tale goes that the emperor was extremely tyrannical, finding pleasure every night with different women and torturing them to death, tossing their bodies into the Yanbo Pool. No one knows how many innocent women the tyrant killed, leaving them to rest in the Yanbo Pool. Eighty miles of the Yanbo Pool, the burial ground of vengeful spirits and lost women, it's said the pool's bottom is covered with those women's bones."

After a pause, Jiuxiao Yun continued, "Until one day, a woman named Lian became the tyrant's consort, and she amazingly walked out alive from the tyrant's chambers. After that, the tyrant required Lian Consort's service every night, never harming other women again."

"If that's the case, why was Lian Consort also thrown into the Yanbo Pool in the end?" Sha Chu asked further.

Chapter 610 Yanbo Pool\_3

"The Lotus Concubine was not thrown into the Yanbo Pool; she jumped into it herself." Jiuxiao Yun continued, "The tyrant reveled night after night, lost in wine and women, completely ignoring the affairs of state, causing the Demon Kingdom to be filled with resentment. The Lotus Concubine, understanding the greater good, tried in vain to persuade the tyrant and threw herself into the Yanbo Pool, sacrificing herself to inspire the tyrant to be diligent in governance."

"Was the tyrant moved?" Sha Chu, being a woman, still held a hopeful sentiment.

"It's uncertain if he was moved at the time, but clearly, he did not change. Otherwise, the Demon Kingdom wouldn't have perished." Jiuxiao Yun chuckled, "The story isn't over yet. Let me continue. The Lotus Concubine, with a pure heart, after entering the Yanbo Pool, unlike other women who turned into vengeful spirits, transformed into a pond full of lotus flowers. When the lotus blossoms open, it marks the time when the Lotus Concubine awakens. The vengeful female spirits in the Yanbo Pool are then calmed and do not harm people. If one enters the pool when the blossoms have not opened, they will be dragged to the pool's bottom and drowned by the vengeful spirits..."

"You're making it sound quite story-like, but it's not very logical," Sha Chu said.

"A story is just a story; if it were too logical, it wouldn't be one, would it?" As Jiuxiao Yun was speaking, they saw the lotus flower in the well bloom.

The lotus flower was as white as snow, with a cluster of pink at the tip, blooming as if snow has been dyed with rouge.

"The flower has opened; let's head into the pool." Li Xiu glanced at the blossoming lotus and then turned to walk toward the pool's edge.

A group of them walked down into the water one after another, descending the steps. Jing Li led at the front, Li Xiu and Sha Chu were in the middle, and Jiuxiao Yun was at the back.

With those light clusters resembling clouds and mist covering them, they couldn't see the water below. They walked several steps along the stairs before feeling the water soak over their ankles.

Continuing forward, the water quickly reached above their thighs.

The cloud and mist-like light clusters in front grew denser, making it nearly impossible to see each other's faces even at close range.

"Be careful, everyone." As Li Xiu spoke, he suddenly felt the ground beneath his feet give way, and his whole body plunged into the water. The stairs were no longer there; beneath his feet was the unfathomable pool water.

Although the group was close together, they could no longer see each other and could only hear the continuous sound of water nearby.

Li Xiu started swimming forward, listening to the nearby water sounds to stay in sync with Sha Chu and the others.

The legend says the Yanbo Pool stretches eighty li. With their physical condition, swimming across eighty li shouldn't take long.

Jing Li and Jiuxiao Yun slowed down considerably to wait for Li Xiu and Sha Chu; otherwise, they would have long disappeared into the distance.

The water in the Yanbo Pool was somewhat chilly. Li Xiu didn't fear the cold, but after swimming for a while, he felt the water getting hotter.

Initially, he could barely stand it, but soon, the water felt as if it were boiling, scalding Li Xiu to the point of discomfort.

"Why is the water so hot, Sha Chu, are you okay?" Li Xiu tilted his head back, paddling with his hands, and shouted towards Sha Chu's direction.

He wasn't worried about Jing Li and Jiuxiao Yun. With their physical resilience, even boiling water couldn't harm them.

"Hot? Why would it be hot? This water is quite cool!" Soon, Sha Chu's voice came from beside him.

As Sha Chu spoke, she swam closer to Li Xiu, soon reaching his side, kicking her legs in the water, paddling with one hand while reaching out to touch Li Xiu with the other.

"Cool?" Li Xiu was full of questions.

Although the water around him wasn't bubbling like boiling water, its temperature seemed close to boiling; even with good physical resilience, he shouldn't feel cool.

"Yes, it's cool but not too cold." Sha Chu reached Li Xiu's arm and leaned against him, her fingers tracing up his arm until she found his face.

Sha Chu touched Li Xiu's forehead with her hand, "It feels normal; you don't have a fever. Why do you feel hot?"

"If it's not a fever, it must be enthusiasm. Is it because you heard my story about female ghosts in the pool, and a little spark in your heart can't be contained?" Jiuxiao Yun teased from the side. He and Jing Li also heard Li Xiu's words, stopping and floating in the nearby water.

"Xiao Li, do you feel hot?" Li Xiu ignored Jiuxiao Yun.

"No," Jing Li answered definitively.

Li Xiu thought, "This is strange. All four of us are in the same pool; there's no reason why only I feel hot."

"Is there a problem?" Jing Li asked in a deep voice.

"There's no problem, keep moving." Li Xiu knew that even if there was an issue, they couldn't panic. They had to swim across before the lotus closed.

Jing Li acknowledged and continued swimming forward. Li Xiu, Sha Chu, and Jiuxiao Yun hurriedly followed.

Yet, the more Li Xiu swam, the hotter it felt, as if he were swimming in boiling water.

Fortunately, his physique was decent. Had he not become a Trial Taker, he might have been cooked by now.

Strangely, Sha Chu and the others were unaffected.

Jing Li occasionally asked if he was okay, seemingly aware that something might be wrong and ready to assist at any moment.

Apart from the heat, Li Xiu didn't feel anything amiss. Thankfully, although the water was uncomfortably hot, he could barely manage to endure it. They had no choice but to swim forward rapidly; stopping was not an option.

Hearing Li Xiu speed up, Sha Chu and the others followed suit.

Swimming along, Li Xiu felt something brush against his foot, startling him. He quickly drew his leg back, calling out, "There's something in the water..."

"What is it?" Sha Chu's voice came to him.

"I don't know. It was gone after it touched me, like something swam past my leg." Li Xiu frowned; whatever it was disappeared after brushing against his calf, like a fish.

"Commander, could you not scare us? Are you worried there are female ghosts in the water after hearing my story? If you're scared, just say so. I'll swim holding you, let the female ghosts come for me." Jiuxiao Yun's teasing voice came from the left.

"Stop talking nonsense and swim out quickly." Li Xiu urged them to swim onward, certain that something was strange about the pool.

"You're the one talking nonsense." Jiuxiao Yun muttered.

Setting off again, Li Xiu swam while keeping an ear out for any underwater movement. But the water, like before, was filled with cloud-like omens reflecting the water like milk, obscuring visibility underwater.

Suddenly, Li Xiu felt something like a rope entangle his ankles. Before he could react, a mysterious force yanked him underwater.