

When God 611

Chapter 611 Strange Events One After Another

Li Xiu's body sank rapidly in the water, his body pulled like a sharp arrow breaking through the pool water and rushing downward.

Li Xiu immediately reached out to grab the Spiritual Mace hanging on his body, but as soon as he moved his arm, something wrapped around his wrist, tightly binding both of his hands so they couldn't move.

Li Xiu gathered Light Energy, attempting to break free from the things restraining his hands and feet, but those things were extraordinarily resilient. The Light Energy surging from the Evil Spirit Token and the Forbidden Spear couldn't shake off the things entangling him.

The water of Yanbo Pool was much deeper than he had imagined, and his body was pulled downward swiftly for quite a while without reaching the bottom.

However, as he ventured deeper underwater, the luminous mist-like glow began to diminish, as if passing through layers of clouds, and suddenly the surrounding water became clear, widening his field of vision dramatically.

Under the cloud-like radiance overhead, Li Xiu witnessed a scene he would never forget.

The lakebed stretched endlessly, covered with countless skeletons, and judging by their structure, they seemed to be human bones or those of some humanoid creatures.

"Could the story Jiuxiao Yun told be true, did the brutal Emperor really throw countless women's bodies into Yanbo Pool..." Li Xiu looked around and discovered that the thing entangling his limbs was actually a black lotus-like organism originating from the pool bottom.

Among the bone-laden lakebed, there grew a cluster of black lotus leaves and a black lotus.

The things binding his limbs extended from between the lotus leaves, akin to small vine buds.

Li Xiu's body was quickly pulled towards the lotus, and as he approached, he realized the lotus was far larger than expected, with its lotus pod harboring numerous eyes rather than seeds, all fixated on Li Xiu.

The black petals of the lotus were covered with fine, hair-like teeth.

No doubt, this lotus was an extremely rare plant-type Demon Spirit, yet it was unclear why, among the four who entered Yanbo Pool, the Black Lotus focused solely on him.

Seeing that he was about to be dragged into the colossal Black Lotus, Li Xiu's mind sprang into action, and the Fire Lotus Sword automatically sprang from his waist, its blade burning like flames, striking towards the black tendrils binding Li Xiu's arms.

Unexpectedly, the black tendril gave a fierce tug, directing Li Xiu's arm towards the Fire Lotus Sword's blade.

Just as the Fire Lotus Sword was about to slash his arm, it suddenly halted, and as soon as it did, a black ribbon-like thing coiled up, ensnaring the Fire Lotus Sword as well.

Bang!

Li Xiu's body was pulled to collide within the black lotus, and the petal covered with hair-like teeth immediately folded over, layering him snugly.

Li Xiu's heart was gripped with horror, watching as the tooth-laden petals were about to envelop his body; he even saw a strange liquid smeared on the petals.

But his limbs were firmly bound, with more black tendrils wrapping around him, rendering him utterly immobile.

Crack!

Just as Li Xiu considered summoning the Jedi Knight, he suddenly saw a crack appear on the heavily layered petals, and from this crack, a purple-black blade light beamed through.

"Jing Li!" Li Xiu saw the face emerging through the crack and was overjoyed.

When Li Xiu was pulled underwater, Jing Li, who had been closely watching Li Xiu, noticed something was amiss and dove down in pursuit.

However, because the Black Lotus had tugged so rapidly, Jing Li couldn't catch up immediately, only now finally reaching close to the Black Lotus and slashing its petals open with a blade.

The Black Lotus, hit hard, seemed to suffer greatly, its petals opening wide as if in a soundless scream of agony.

Countless black tendrils extended from the surroundings of the lotus leaves, curling towards Jing Li.

Jing Li's blade flashed repeatedly in his hand, forcibly severing the approaching black tendrils, his blade further slicing the lotus petals apart piece by piece.

Jing Li wielded the Ghost Head Blade, charging forward to cut the black tendrils binding Li Xiu, and at the moment Li Xiu freed himself, the Ghost Head Blade stabbed fiercely into the eye-filled lotus pod.

Strands of purple-black blade light flickered within the lotus pod, and in the next second, the entire lotus along with the pod shattered, breaking into pieces.

A Demon Core fell out of it, which Jing Li grasped and with Li Xiu rushed toward the water's surface.

After the two burst out from beneath the water, Li Xiu exhaled a long breath of relief, thankful that Jing Li was there; otherwise, this time would indeed have been quite troublesome.

"Let's get moving." Li Xiu shouted to Jing Li beside him, continuing to swim forward.

For some reason, Li Xiu still felt that the pool water was uncomfortably hot, and it hadn't returned to normal despite the black lotus being cut to pieces.

After the previous turmoil, Jing Li stayed close by Li Xiu, constantly vigilant of his situation to prevent a recurrence.

Until all four of them emerged from Yanbo Pool, nothing further happened.

Glancing at Yanbo Pool behind him, Li Xiu felt somewhat puzzled, having the uncanny sensation that a pair of eyes within Yanbo Pool was fixated on him.

"What just happened?" Sha Chu inquired, looking at Li Xiu and Jing Li.

"There was a Black Lotus Demon Spirit on the pool bottom, it pulled me under but thankfully Jing Li saved me in time." Li Xiu recounted the events.

"Even though we all entered Yanbo Pool together, the Black Lotus targeted only you, it seems to say something about your character, better accumulate some good deeds for virtue in the future." Jiuxiao Yun chuckled.

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"Let's hurry up and get to Elder Dao quickly to avoid any more trouble," Jing Li said.

Li Xiu nodded and left Yanbo Pool with them.

He couldn't tell if it was an illusion, but ever since he swam across Yanbo Pool, Li Xiu had a constant feeling that something was watching him.

But after paying close attention for a long time, he couldn't find anything. After he informed Jing Li, she couldn't find anything following them either.

Ever since they passed Yanbo Pool, the journey had been unusually calm. Even in the places marked on the map where magical creatures might appear, they didn't encounter any.

"The Single-log Bridge is just ahead. Once we cross it and head that way, it'll be much safer," Li Xiu said, looking ahead.

Though it's called a Single-log Bridge, in reality, it's a round jade pillar as thick as a bucket, extending into the cloud-like mist, and its length is unknown.

Jiuxiao Yun examined the bridge and said, "It's said that this Single-log Bridge originally leads to the road of ghosts, with endless Hell on either side. Once you fall off, there's no rebirth. I wonder if that's true."

"Whether it's true or not, as long as we cross using the method annotated on the map, we should be fine," Li Xiu said, looking at the map. "It's very clear; this bridge can only be crossed with closed eyes. On the bridge, you must never open your eyes; even a glance will cause you to fall instantly, and no power can save you. Once we're on the bridge, no matter what you hear or feel, absolutely do not open your eyes."

"Got it." Jiuxiao Yun was proactive, closing his eyes and, surprisingly, being the first to step onto the Single-log Bridge. He likely knew the story of the bridge beforehand, aware that as long as he didn't open his eyes, it should be safe.

Sha Chu was next, Li Xiu third, and Jing Li at the back.

After stepping onto the Jade Bridge, the feeling of being watched from behind intensified, making him want to turn around and look.

Li Xiu forced himself to suppress this urge, following Sha Chu forward, knowing Jing Li was behind him, so if there was anything, it would have to pass Jing Li first.

The jade pillar wasn't wide, and with its smooth arc, crossing with open eyes would be difficult for most, let alone with closed eyes.

But for them, it wasn't much of a problem. With a bit of caution, they wouldn't fall off.

As Li Xiu walked, he suddenly felt a heaviness on his back, as if something was pressing against him. He quickly reached out to grab it but caught nothing but air.

He didn't make a sound, fearing that if he did, Jing Li behind him might be tempted to open her eyes and check his back.

Li Xiu kept quiet, continuing forward with the weight on his back, which felt like carrying a person.

More terrifying than anything, Li Xiu seemed to hear breathing by his ear, as if he truly was carrying someone whose head was right next to him, breathing.

But when he reached out to grab, he found nothing; there was only emptiness behind him.

"Commander, what's wrong?" Jing Li heard Li Xiu's unusual movement and asked with closed eyes.

"It's nothing, just a discomfort in my back." Li Xiu felt a bit uneasy but casually brushed it off.

Jing Li gave a soft acknowledgment and didn't say more but stepped ahead, closing the distance to Li Xiu.

The breathing continued, haunting Li Xiu as he silently wondered, "Could it be I'm really under some curse?"

With no solution, Li Xiu could only bear the discomfort and keep walking.

As he walked, he suddenly felt something sticky and wet slide over his face, like a cold tongue, making his hairs stand and goosebumps form.

Slap!

Li Xiu slapped his own face but touched nothing but his own skin.

"What's the matter?" Sha Chu and Jiuxiao Yun halted ahead, not daring to open their eyes, and turned to ask Li Xiu.

"Nothing, it felt like there was a mosquito. Didn't you feel it?" Li Xiu said.

"Nonsense, there are no mosquitoes here. If there was one, it would be a magical creature," Jiuxiao Yun said, continuing forward.

"I didn't feel anything." Sha Chu sensed something off with Li Xiu but truly hadn't felt anything herself.

"Let's keep going." Li Xiu urged Sha Chu forward, following her.

Li Xiu walked with his head down, the breathing by his ear becoming more pronounced, and the cold tongue-like thing constantly sliding across his cheeks and neck, causing his skin to erupt in goosebumps.

Having a particular dislike for such softness, and unable to see or touch it, made Li Xiu even more uncomfortable, involuntarily conjuring various images in his mind.

Yet each time he reached to grab, he found nothing, making him doubt whether he was hallucinating.

"Could it be that the black lotus was poisonous, and the toxin has influenced me, causing hallucinations?" Li Xiu could only guess this.

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Fortunately, although the feeling was unpleasant, there was no actual harm, and the four of them, led by Li Xiu, successfully crossed the Single-log Bridge.

Once Li Xiu stepped off the bridge, the sound of the breathing in his ears vanished instantly, and the heavy sensation on his back also disappeared.

"Thank you!" Just when Li Xiu thought his previous speculation might be correct, assuming the effect of the black lotus toxin had worn off, he suddenly heard a faint whisper nearby.

"Did any of you hear anything?" Li Xiu opened his eyes and looked around, but saw no one.

"What sound? Were you frightened in the Yanbo Pool? Why are you always so paranoid?" Jiuxiao Yun tilted his head to listen but found nothing.

"That's good then." Li Xiu checked the map and continued to move forward according to it.

The second half of the journey was much easier, without eerie places like Yanbo Pool and the Single-log Bridge.

In fact, there were still many peculiar places, but this route allowed them to bypass those odd spots, with Yanbo Pool and the Single-log Bridge being unavoidable.

When the four saw the majestic city gate ahead, they all breathed a long sigh of relief.

Although Jiuxiao Yun spoke casually, he knew Li Xiu must have encountered some problem. Therefore, they all felt a bit restrained along the way, fearing something might happen. It was only when they reached the city gate that the weight on their hearts lifted.

This side of the city gate was even more dilapidated than the other. The huge jade door was covered with cracks, of various sizes, countless.

The smaller cracks could fit a piece of paper through, and the larger ones were nearly wide enough for a motorcycle.

The group passed through those cracks and found yet another circular wall outside the gate. On the arched wall, there was another city gate.

That gate appeared much more intact, though it still bore various cross marks, as if they had been slashed by a gigantic sword or saber, yet the gate remained unbroken.

The group spotted from a distance, an old man in a security uniform sitting on top of the city wall—it was none other than Old Dao.

"Elder Dao, we've come to see you," Jiuxiao Yun called out warmly to the old man on the gate.

He only hoped that Old Dao wasn't aware of the outside situation, allowing them to rest there safely for a while.

Old Dao, seemingly asleep, opened his eyes, looked them over, and then leapt down from the wall to land in front of them.

"Li Xiu, you dare to come here?" Old Dao said coldly, staring at Li Xiu.

Jiuxiao Yun silently cursed, while Jing Li and Sha Chu watched Old Dao warily, their grip on their knife hilts tightening.

"Why wouldn't I dare?" Li Xiu smiled.

"Li Changyin specifically sent someone to inform me that if you came, I must make sure to take your life." Old Dao said with a straight face.

Jiuxiao Yun was puzzled. They had entered Heaven's Gate first, so Li Changyin's people shouldn't have arrived so quickly. How did Old Dao receive the message so soon? How did Li Changyin manage to convey the message?

"My life is right here. If you want it, come and take it." Li Xiu stepped forward and said to Old Dao.

"Then I won't stand on ceremony." Old Dao said as he walked over.

Jing Li, holding his knife, wanted to block in front of Li Xiu but was stopped by Li Xiu, who proceeded towards Old Dao.

"Is this guy looking for death again?" Jiuxiao Yun felt frustrated.

Watching Old Dao walk up to Li Xiu, Jiuxiao Yun was considering whether to flee or stay if Li Xiu was killed, when he saw Old Dao open his arms and embrace Li Xiu.

"I've been waiting for you for a long time, why are you so late?" Old Dao asked with a laugh after releasing Li Xiu.

"With my current capabilities, if I could make a living outside, why would I risk coming to a place like this?" Li Xiu laughed.

"What's going on? Weren't you doing well outside? Not only did you become the Commander of the Technician Group, but you also snatched resources from Bai Wanli of the Demon Armor Group?" Old Dao asked in confusion.

Seeing Old Dao unaware of the Light Planting Technique and the tournament, Li Xiu explained the situation.

"Haha, I knew I wasn't wrong about you. You're something else, being able to create something like the Light Planting Technique. Now the world will be in turmoil again," Old Dao laughed heartily. "Li Changyin previously sent someone to inform me to send you and Wan Chaoxin here to guard Heaven's Gate and

to treat you well. I didn't expect you to come on your own before he could bring you here. Rest assured, with me here, even if Li Changyin sends people, they won't find you."

Seeing how close Old Dao and Li Xiu were, Jiuxiao Yun and Jing Li were quite surprised.

Old Dao was famously irascible, giving no face to anyone aside from the Chairman and Li Changyin.

No one expected Old Dao to have such a strong bond with Li Xiu, even risking offending Li Changyin for his sake.

"Old Dao, I heard your Blood Seal Stone is with Li Changyin?" Li Xiu asked.

"At my age, who cares about that anymore? Don't worry about it," Old Dao said pulling Li Xiu along. "You're just in time. If you hadn't come, I'd have to dispose of something, and the benefit I promised would be lost."

"What is it?" Li Xiu asked curiously.

"You'll know when you see it," Old Dao said, leading Li Xiu up the steps of the gate tower.

Jing Li, Jiuxiao Yun, and Sha Chu also followed. Soon, they arrived inside the gate tower where, in the Jade Tower, a more than two-meter high Brass Furnace was placed, with golden flames burning violently inside.

Li Xiu and his companions heard piercing, agonizing cries coming from within the golden flame-filled Brass Furnace.

"Is this furnace what you promised to give me?" Li Xiu asked, puzzled, as he looked at Old Dao.

Old Dao chuckled. "No, what I promised is not the furnace but the fellow inside it."

Chapter 614 Demon Refining Furnace

"What's inside? A demon spirit?" Li Xiu seemed puzzled, unsure what Old Knife meant.

If Old Knife wanted to give him a demon spirit, he could just gift him a Demon Spirit Ring. Why put the demon spirit in a furnace to burn?

If it was a wild demon spirit trapped inside the furnace, then Old Knife could kill it himself and leave something for him. There was no need to wait for Li Xiu to come and kill it himself.

"How should I put it, you could say it's a demon spirit, or you could say it's not," Old Knife pointed to the Brass Furnace and said, "This furnace is called the Demon Refining Furnace, and it's been around for a long time. The demon spirit inside was thrown in by an elder who guarded the Celestial Gate ages ago. It's been refining inside this Demon Refining Furnace for at least sixty or seventy years. Whether it's still a demon spirit now, that's hard to say."

"What do you mean? Can this furnace turn a demon spirit into a human?" The more Li Xiu heard, the more intrigued he became.

"You're thinking too fantastically. Turning it into a human is obviously impossible. This furnace is named the Demon Refining Furnace, naturally used for refining demons. The demon has had the 'demon' refined away, so what remains is the spirit," Old Knife tapped on the furnace, and a clang resonated from inside.

The entity inside seemed to sense Old Knife's provocation, desperately ramming against the furnace walls, producing clanging sounds.

Old Knife continued, "The great elder who guarded here before me stayed here for decades and couldn't watch until this thing's body was entirely refined. In the end, he lost his life. Before I came, I estimated that the demon spirit inside was almost refined to a Pure Spirit state, and sure enough, the demon spirit's body has been completely refined now, leaving only pure spirit. This is the right time to use it, so you're in luck, kid."

"What use does pure spirit have?" Jiuxiao Yun asked, his face full of curiosity as he had never heard of such a thing.

"Its uses are plenty. The most common method is to directly merge the spirit into a contract. The Primordial Embryo Quality of the contract we use determines the contract's inherent strength. The higher the Primordial Embryo Quality, the stronger the contract's intrinsic essence. However, what determines the contract's quality and level is the purity, quality, and quantity of the energy within the contract. Some low-quality contracts have higher Primordial Embryo Quality than higher quality contracts, which means the contract's body is strong, but the internal energy's purity and quality are lacking. If you merge pure energy spirit into the contract, enhancing the energy's purity and quality, you can improve the contract's quality and level..."

Pausing for a moment, Old Knife continued, "But to refine a demon spirit's body so that only pure energy remains while preserving its spirituality, that takes skill. Besides the Demon Refining Furnace, there aren't many things that can complete this step, and refining demons requires a long time to refine demon spirits fully. Most people don't have the lifespan to wait. The stronger the demon spirit refined in the Demon Refining Furnace, the longer the time required. The demon spirit here was an S-class Radiant Demon Spirit, and it took decades to refine its Demon Spirit Body completely, leaving only pure spirit. The two old guys before me didn't have the fortune to enjoy the results. It's of no use to me, so it benefits you, kid."

"Old Knife, are you saying that this spirit can enhance the contract's quality and level? If it's a Radiant Contract, can it be enhanced further?" Li Xiu was astonished.

"Stop dreaming about good fortune all day. If you could enhance a Radiant Contract further, do you think you'd get to use it? I'd use it myself," Old Knife explained, "Such a spirit can only upgrade the contract's quality to match that of the demon spirit in quality and level. It can only be used on low-quality contracts. If you have any low-quality, low-level contracts you want to enhance, bring them out, and I'll help you infuse the spirit. It can probably be upgraded to radiant quality S-class, which should be of some help to you."

"Is that all?" Li Xiu felt a bit disappointed.

Old Knife immediately got annoyed, "I'm giving you an S-class Radiant Quality contract, and you're still not satisfied? Do you want to fly to heaven? If you don't want it, I'll give it to someone else; you have no idea how many people are hoping for this!"

"It's impolite to refuse a gift from an elder. Why wouldn't I want it?" Li Xiu summoned his Forbidden Spear, "This is my Symbiotic Contract, Old Knife, kindly help me upgrade it to S-class."

"Symbiotic Contracts can't be used for this; only Parasitic Contracts can," Old Knife said.

"Why?" Li Xiu was instantly frustrated again.

"The Symbiotic Contract is integrated with your body. If its level is enhanced using this method, its energy will far exceed what your body can handle. When you take it back, its energy will be shared with your body. With just that bit of Primordial Embryo Quality, your body might explode from the excess energy unless you throw both yourself and the Symbiotic Contract into the furnace to refine. Otherwise, stop dreaming about that," Old Knife chuckled.

"For Parasitic Contracts, I have a few. Let me think about which one to use." Li Xiu looked at several of his Parasitic Contracts.

The Gentleman's Hat itself is of radiant quality, so using it to enhance the level, but not the quality, seems a bit wasteful.

The Dark Mirror has strong night vision ability, and enhancing it doesn't seem too beneficial either.

After thinking it over, Li Xiu pulled out the Fire Lotus Sword and handed it to Old Knife, "Let's enhance this one."

Chapter 615 Demon Refining Furnace_2

"A Fire attribute Parasitic Contract, this is more suitable. I was really afraid you'd throw something like a kettle in and make me toss it inside." Old Dao said, lifting the lid of the Demon Refining Furnace. Inside, there seemed to be a golden light trying to burst out, but was slapped down by Old Dao before he threw the Fire Lotus Sword in as well.

Inside the Demon Refining Furnace, there was an immediate chaotic crackling noise. Old Dao pressed a few times on the furnace, specifically on the four beast heads protruding from its sides.

Each time Old Dao pressed, the golden Light Flame inside the furnace grew stronger by a third. After four presses, the golden Light Flame was as fierce as the sun, making it impossible to look at directly.

The crackling collision sounds inside gradually diminished and soon it was completely quiet.

"Let's wait. Spiritual Infusion takes some time, at least two or three days." Old Dao pointed inside the city and said, "There's no place to hide people within Weng City. Later, I'll take you inside to find a place to hide. Once the Li Family leaves, you all can come out."

"Alright." Li Xiu nodded. He didn't want Old Dao to get implicated because of him.

"By the way, Old Dao, on the way here, I encountered some strange things. Can you help me figure them out?" Li Xiu recounted the odd events he encountered on his way.

Jiuxiao Yun, Jing Li, and Sha Chu also knew that Li Xiu must have encountered something on his way, but since he didn't mention it, they hadn't asked. Listening now, they mostly understood why Li Xiu hadn't spoken at the time.

If Li Xiu had mentioned it at the time, they might also have become paranoid, potentially leading to unexpected incidents.

"While swimming across Yanbo Pool, only he felt the water was hot. Didn't you all feel anything?" Old Dao, after a moment of contemplation, looked gravely at Jiuxiao Yun and the others and asked.

"No, the water was cool, no warmth at all." Jiuxiao Yun replied.

Sha Chu and Jing Li also shook their heads, indicating they noticed nothing unusual.

Old Dao then looked at Li Xiu and asked, "After cutting down that Black Lotus, did that sensation of heat still not disappear?"

"No, I still felt the water was hot." Seeing the odd expression on Old Dao's face, Li Xiu asked, "Is there a problem?"

"There is a big problem, you might really be in major trouble." Old Dao examined Li Xiu with a grave expression.

"How big of a trouble?" Li Xiu didn't ask what trouble he had gotten into; he just wanted to know if it could be resolved.

"Compared to this trouble, the Li Family's issue is nothing at all." Old Dao chuckled, "Do you know what Yanbo Pool is?"

"Is it where the Emperor's Concubine lies dormant?" Ever since seeing the skeletons at the bottom of the pool, Li Xiu felt the story Jiuxiao Yun told was quite credible.

"Nonsense about the Emperor's Concubine, that's just a fabricated story by the Demon Kingdom people. There was never any such concubine by the Emperor's side." After a pause, Old Dao continued, "But that story is not completely baseless. Though there was no concubine, and the Emperor was not a debauched tyrant, a lot of people did indeed die in Yanbo Pool."

"Elder Dao, stop keeping us in suspense." Jiuxiao Yun, full of curiosity, wanted to know what was really going on.

"I also heard this from the Great Elder in the past. He knew the Demon Text and once read some records in a Divine Hall." Old Dao retold the story.

It differed somewhat from the stories Jiuxiao Yun and Jing Li told, but there were similarities.

Back when the Demon Kingdom was powerful, it waged war everywhere, conquering countless Demon Spirit Races, even capturing some royal members of the Demon Spirit Races and holding them hostage in Celestial City.

Among the Demon Spirit Races fighting the Demon Kingdom, one of the most threatening groups was known as the "Evil Ghost" race.

Even at the height of its power, the Demon Kingdom could not completely subdue the Evil Ghost race. It was by trickery that they captured the king of the Evil Ghost race and suppressed him beneath Yanbo Lake. Many powerful Demon Kingdom warriors died during the suppression of the Evil Ghost King, nearly filling Yanbo Pool with corpses.

Utilizing the suppressed Evil Ghost King, the Demon Kingdom lured the Evil Ghost race to recklessly charge into the Celestial Gate, using a well-laid trap to slaughter countless Evil Ghost demon spirits. Even so, a portion of the Evil Ghosts survived and used their special Talent Skill to parasitize some people of the Demon Kingdom.

Among those parasitized by the Evil Ghosts, many were relatives of high-ranking officials of the time. To kill the Evil Ghosts parasitizing them would require also killing their relatives.

This was something even the Emperor couldn't bear to do, so those parasitized by Evil Ghosts were imprisoned.

"If I'm not mistaken, the place sealing and suppressing the Evil Ghost King is where the Black Lotus was. By cutting down the Black Lotus, it's estimated that the Evil Ghost King has likely escaped. You felt something on your back while on the Single-log Bridge because the Evil Ghost King was using you to cross it."

"That bridge's real name is Immortal Crossing Bridge. Only people of the Demon Kingdom can cross it; Demon Spirits can't. As people of Earth, we are somewhat connected to the Demon Kingdom, thereby able to cross Immortal Crossing Bridge. The Evil Ghost King couldn't cross by itself and used you to get across. It's likely now gone to free the other Evil Ghosts previously inhabiting Demon Kingdom people."

"So, we've created a huge disaster." Sha Chu said with a grim expression.

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"It's not exactly a catastrophe. Celestial City has long been destroyed beyond recognition. Many Demon Kingdom people possessed by Evil Ghosts have already escaped, and it's only a matter of time before the other Evil Ghosts break free too. As for the Evil Ghost King, it's likely about time for it to escape; otherwise, this kid wouldn't be having these bodily issues." Old Blade chuckled as he spoke, "There's no need to be afraid; with me here, those Evil Ghosts can't get through the Trial Gate."

"But the Evil Ghost King is so formidable that even the Celestial Emperor could only imprison it and not kill it. Is it really okay if it escapes?" Li Xiu asked with a frown.

"The stronger it is, the less likely it can break out. At most, it will leave Celestial Gate City and return home, so there's no need to worry." Old Blade was quite optimistic about the situation, saying, "Even if it eventually escapes, the world's already in chaos, so what's one more Evil Ghost King."

Seeing Old Blade's apparent confidence, Li Xiu and the others relaxed a bit.

"However, if those Evil Ghosts do escape, then the safe places inside Celestial City might not be so secure anymore. So stay here and avoid roaming around aimlessly." Old Blade pondered aloud.

"What if the Li Family arrives?" Li Xiu asked Old Blade.

"With the Evil Ghosts escaping, it's hard to say if the Li Family could even make it here. We'll assess the situation when it occurs." Old Blade didn't have a better solution.

With no other options, the group decided to hide in the gatehouse for now and figure out a plan if the Li Family eventually made it here.

During the two to three days that followed, no Evil Ghosts were seen, and the golden flames within the Demon Refining Furnace continued to burn.

"You all will watch over the Demon Refining Furnace. Once the fire extinguishes, it signifies successful soul melding, and you can open the lid to retrieve the spirit token." After advising them, Old Blade leapt down the wall, "I'll take a stroll in the city to see if the Evil Ghosts have left. They should have departed from Celestial Gate by now."

After Old Blade left, Li Xiu and the other three stayed in the gatehouse, chatting and watching the furnace.

"It's been two or three days; I guess the Li Family won't come anymore. If they were going to come, they would've arrived earlier." Jiuxiao Yun said, lying on the ground and resting his feet.

Sha Chu was about to say something when Jing Li suddenly stood up, left the gatehouse, and went to the wall to look at the gate of Celestial City inside Weng City.

Li Xiu and the others quickly followed Jing Li's sight, and they saw a figure emerging from the crack in the jade gate.

The cloud light within Weng City was much thinner, making it clear that the figure coming in through the jade gate was not Old Blade.

"Could it be that Old Blade just left and the Li Family arrived? Did Old Blade betray us?" Jiuxiao Yun squinted at the figure and said.

"That's not the Li Family or even a person," Jing Li replied coldly.

Through the thin cloud light, Li Xiu also saw that the figure indeed looked unlike a human.

Although it appeared very human-like, how could a human have two sharp horns on their head?

As the figure continued to approach, Li Xiu and the others could see it clearly.

The face looked like blue iron, with a pair of blue horns on the head, eyes radiating blue light, clothes tattered like a beggar's, and the exposed skin beneath the clothes shone with blue iron-like luster.

"Could this be a Demon Kingdom person possessed by an Evil Ghost?" Jiuxiao Yun observed the strange figure with interest.

"It likely is." Li Xiu stared at the entity and said.

"Stay here. I'll go have a look." Jing Li said and leapt down. While mid-air, he drew out his Tang Blade and, gripping it with both hands, slashed towards the odd figure with dazzling brilliance.

The strange figure looked a bit dazed but reacted quickly, raising its head and eyes glowing blue, glaring at Jing Li, revealing vampire-like fangs.

Faced with Jing Li's forceful Tang Blade, the odd figure did not dodge but reached directly for the falling blade.

Its blue iron-like palm collided with the Tang Blade, emitting a sound like metal clashing.

Jing Li's slash failed to sever its hand, and instead, it grabbed hold of the Tang Blade.

Li Xiu and the others were quite astonished. Although Jing Li hadn't entered the Super Spirit State or used Light Vein, an S-grade strike being caught barehanded showed that the monster's ability was not trivial.

Seeing his blade caught, Jing Li's eyes flashed cold, his body and blade simultaneously emitting purple-black light, entering the Super Spirit State.

Jing Li pulled back the Tang Blade, severing the monster's palm in the process, with half of the hand and four fingers falling to the ground.

The monster seemed completely unaware of pain, as blue light like smoke or fog, along with what seemed like blue silk threads, wrapped around it as it leapt towards Jing Li like a specter.

Jing Li's Tang Blade slashed continuously, and as the ghostly figure dodged two strikes, the third cut off its head.

"Well, Evil Ghosts aren't all that," Jiuxiao Yun said dismissively. Jing Li hadn't even used the power of Light Vein; he could handle it too at this level.

But the next second, Jiuxiao Yun closed his mouth.

After the monster's body fell to the ground, the blue light within it came alive, floating out and condensing into a transparent human shape, resembling a ghost in the air, with its body emanating blue light like smoke and fog.

The Evil Ghost-like apparition charged at Jing Li, and with Jing Li's Tang Blade slashing fiercely, various Sword Light Slashes hit the apparition, dividing the ghostly body into segments.

But after the blade passed, the smoke-like body of the Evil Ghost condensed back together, continuing to attack Jing Li, shocking Jiuxiao Yun: "Oh man, is that thing an Undying Body? No wonder the Demon Country Celestial Emperor couldn't completely kill them."

Jing Li backed while slashing, with his Tang Blade transforming into a ghastly blade as the Light Vein was mobilized. A thunderous Sword Light Slash attacked the Evil Ghost, slicing it in two. But once the blade passed, its body seamlessly reformed as if unharmed.

Jing Li's eyes focused sharply as ghostly blades flashed repeatedly, Sword Light Slashes crisscrossing and slicing the charging Evil Ghost into numerous fragments.

"This time, it's got to be dead, right?" Jiuxiao Yun asked, slightly relieved as he saw the Evil Ghost cut into pieces.

Yet in the next moment, the fragments flew together again, reassembling into a phantom-like blue ghost charging at Jing Li.

Li Xiu and the others looked rather grave. Even with Jing Li's powerful Light Energy, he couldn't slay the Evil Ghost; they could do nothing against it—it was an unkillable monster.

As the three were fretting, they saw through the crack in Celestial City's gate more and more Demon Kingdom people possessed by Evil Ghosts entering, and their numbers kept rising.

Jiuxiao Yun was instantly flabbergasted. They hadn't even dealt with one Evil Ghost yet, and now dozens more were coming in—a truly perilous situation.

Chapter 617 The Path of Old Knife

Jing Li saw one possessed Demon Kingdom person after another rushing over. Unable to open the main gate of Weng City, they turned and charged up the stairs towards the gate tower.

"What should we do?" Sha Chu asked, holding a knife and looking at Li Xiu.

Jiuxiao Yun had already summoned the Demon Shark, prepared to escape at any moment.

Li Xiu summoned the Jedi Knight, blocking the staircase entrance, and slashed at the approaching Evil Ghosts with Blood Light Slash.

Pop!

The Super Spirit's level 99 Blood Light Slash instantly severed the arm of the leading Evil Ghost, but it seemed unaware of the pain and continued charging forward.

The Jedi Knight furiously slashed with twin blades, dismembering the oncoming Evil Ghosts. As their bodies fell, strands of cyan light wafted out, coalescing into Cyan Light Evil Ghosts that launched at the Jedi Knight again.

The Jedi Knight's Blood Light Slash struck again, slicing the phantom-like Evil Ghosts' bodies open, with the same result as Jing Li encountered.

No matter how fierce the Jedi Knight's attacks were, it couldn't truly kill the Evil Ghosts.

"This is real trouble, let's run!" Jiuxiao Yun exclaimed in fright.

"Sha Chu, return to the building and guard the Demon Refining Furnace," Li Xiu instructed Sha Chu.

Sha Chu murmured a quick acknowledgment and ran back inside.

Seeing the Jedi Knight being forced to retreat by the overwhelming Evil Ghosts, Li Xiu summoned the Forbidden Spear and shot at them.

The Evil Ghosts weren't particularly fast and lacked external Demonic Light, so Li Xiu thought to try different methods to see if he could kill them.

Li Xiu used the ominous bullet from the Seven Great Taboos. The bullet lodged in the cyan light-condensed body of an Evil Ghost.

It seemed to have some effect, yet at the same time, it didn't.

The bullet remained stuck inside the Evil Ghost's body, emitting an eerie blood light. The blood pattern on the bullet flickered intermittently. The blood light seemed to be seeping into the cyan light-condensed body, faintly tingeing the cyan with red. Yet, it appeared to have no effect as the Evil Ghost still rushed at the Jedi Knight unaffected.

The Jedi Knight once again swung its blade at the Evil Ghost, easily cleaving the Evil Ghost's body apart with Blood Light Slash.

Oddly, this time, the Evil Ghost's body did not recombine as before. The cyan light-like body exploded and quickly disappeared.

"How did you kill it?" Jiuxiao Yun asked, delighted.

"I don't know. Try using different attributes of Light Energy to attack the Evil Ghosts," Li Xiu suggested, not overly thrilled with the ominous bullet's effectiveness against Evil Ghosts, since like the Impossibility Bullet, only seven could be used consecutively, rendering them quite ineffective against so many Evil Ghosts.

Upon hearing this, Jiuxiao Yun hurriedly summoned his magic spirits to attack the Evil Ghosts, but various attributes had no effect on them.

Li Xiu also summoned the Black Death Demon King and Love God Shooter. Black Death Demon King summoned a group of minions to pounce on the Evil Ghosts.

As a result, those cyan light-like Evil Ghosts directly rushed into the body of the Black Death Demon, controlling it to counterattack Li Xiu and the others.

Jing Li below was already unable to hold on. Inside Weng City, all around were Evil Ghosts that he had separated from the Demon Kingdom people's bodies, swooping down on him from all directions.

Jing Li swung his knife, slashing open the Evil Ghosts' bodies, and leaped up onto the city wall, shouting at Li Xiu and the others, "These Evil Ghosts have an Undying Body and mustn't touch our bodies, or we'll be controlled."

"Damn, how can we fight this? Let's get out of here!" Jiuxiao Yun shouted as he retreated.

"We must find a way to stop them. If they break through the Trial Gate, Changsheng Tian might be doomed," Jing Li said coldly as he slashed open the advancing Evil Ghosts' bodies.

"Stop them? How do we stop them? Show me how. These things are Undying, and without the power to counter them, we can't kill them," Jiuxiao Yun shouted.

Bang!

An Evil Ghost lunging at Li Xiu suddenly shattered into fragments of light and dissolved.

Jiuxiao Yun and Jing Li both turned to Li Xiu, only to see Li Xiu holding a strange mace. When it struck the Evil Ghost, it immediately shattered its Undying Body, causing it to dissipate.

"What kind of weapon is that?" Jiuxiao Yun asked in shock.

Li Xiu didn't respond, merely wielding the Spiritual Mace to obliterate the Evil Ghosts charging the Jedi Knight.

"Hold the gate tower. As long as the gate tower isn't breached, they can't exit through the Trial Gate," Jing Li shouted at Li Xiu.

"Understood," Li Xiu replied, retreating inside with his magical spirits.

Holding the gatehouse doors, he shattered the rushing Evil Ghosts one by one. The Spiritual Mace demonstrated immense power; Evil Ghosts struck by it had no resistance, instantly dissipated.

"What a powerful weapon!" Jiuxiao Yun drooled with envy, feeling a strong urge to defeat Li Xiu and seize his items.

Unfortunately, he didn't know that even if Li Xiu gave him the Spiritual Mace, he wouldn't be able to use it.

The Spiritual Mace wasn't driven by Light Energy but by Li Xiu's Spiritual Sense.

The Jedi Knight and Jing Li stood on either side of Li Xiu, first slashing the Evil Ghosts out of the possessed Demon Kingdom people, then having Li Xiu smash them with the Spiritual Mace to prevent them from attacking simultaneously and overwhelming Li Xiu.

But more Evil Ghosts kept coming. Weng City was already brimming with them, the stairway crowded, and those that couldn't climb were scaling the walls. The city walls were also crawling with Evil Ghosts.

In no time, Evil Ghosts had covered the gatehouse town, and some were climbing through the windows, leaving Li Xiu and his companions struggling to cope.

Chapter 618 Old Knife's Road_2

Jiuxiao Yun was also wielding a slender sword, relentlessly slashing at the Evil Ghosts, while Jing Li occasionally struck towards Sha Chu's side to help her fend off the Evil Ghosts.

Li Xiu frantically swung the Spiritual Mace, but these Evil Ghosts were endless, more and more of them surged in, and there was no time to kill them all.

Just as they were about to be overwhelmed, a flash of black light suddenly appeared before their eyes, and all the Evil Ghosts that had rushed into the gateway disappeared, as if absorbed by that black light.

"Lao Dao!" Li Xiu saw Lao Dao's figure appear at the gate, with a broken blade in his hand emitting an eerie Demonic Light.

"Fall back, all of you." Lao Dao ignored Li Xiu and the others, stood straight at the gate and said flatly.

Previously fearless Evil Ghosts indeed retreated like a tide.

"Elder Dao, you're amazing!" Jiuxiao Yun shouted excitedly.

Li Xiu was somewhat surprised that the Evil Ghosts were so afraid of Lao Dao, it was beyond his expectations.

Jing Li intensely stared at Lao Dao's back. In Longevity City, where the Trial Takers for the Refining Blade resided, even if they weren't fans of Lao Dao, they certainly aimed to defeat him in their training, and Jing Li was among the latter.

The city walls, once teeming with Evil Ghosts, were now completely cleared. Inside Weng City, not a single Evil Ghost could be seen.

Lao Dao stood atop the city wall but did not sheathe his blade; he merely coldly stared at the gate inside.

"Others nurture people with contracts, but you nurture a contract with people; you are indeed an oddity." A ghostly voice came from behind the inner city gate.

Lao Dao looked at that inner city gate and grinned, saying, "Would you like to test my blade?"

"How many more strikes does your body have left?" the ghostly voice asked once more.

"One strike is enough to cut you down," Lao Dao replied with a smile.

"And then? Hand your life over to that blade?" the ghostly voice continued, "Step aside from that path, and this king can revive your body so that you are no longer tormented by pain."

"I, the old man, enjoy carrying a few injuries on me; having lived so many years with them, if I suddenly felt nothing, I wouldn't be used to it," Lao Dao said.

"Since you seek death, this king shall grant your wish," the voice said, and then there was silence.

BOOM!

The already heavily cracked gate of the inner city suddenly shattered, and swarms of Evil Ghosts came storming frantically towards Weng City's gateway like a tidal wave.

Lao Dao narrowed his eyes slightly, his broken blade in hand shone with bright light, the Demonic Light on the broken blade coalesced into a tangible blade, and it regenerated, transforming into a complete demonic sword.

"Blade... rise..." Lao Dao raised the demonic sword in his hand.

At the moment the demonic sword rose, the wave of Evil Ghosts inside the city seemed to be cleaved by innumerable invisible blades, their bodies instantly split in two, the city of Weng turned into rivers of blood, and not a single one was left alive.

Countless Cyan Lights floated out from the remnants, transforming into a vast cloud of Cyan Light Evil Ghosts, sweeping towards Lao Dao standing atop the city gate as if repressing a mountain.

"Blade... fall..." Lao Dao lowered the demonic sword in his hand, and the vast Cyan Light Evil Ghosts were drawn by some kind of magical force, rushing frantically towards the demonic sword, and were actually absorbed into it.

The Demonic Light on the demonic sword grew increasingly eerie, as if a demon was twisting and roaring on the blade, seemingly ready to devour someone at any moment.

The frenzied tide of Evil Ghosts inside the inner city no longer dared to charge into Weng City.

"The blade has been demonized, seizing control from its master; you are lifeless, is it worth guarding the gate with your life?" that ghostly voice came again from the inner city.

"As long as I'm here, the blade is here; no ghost or spirit can open this gate. When I'm gone, the blade remains; even heaven itself must stand obediently before this gate," Lao Dao said flatly.

The inner city fell silent, and after a moment, the Evil Ghosts within slowly faded away, with not a trace left.

Puh!

Lao Dao spat out a mouthful of fresh blood, and even as it lingered in the air, it was absorbed into the demonic sword in his hand, disappearing within.

"Lao Dao!" Li Xiu wanted to go support Lao Dao upon seeing this, but Lao Dao stopped him with an outstretched hand.

"I'm not dead yet." Lao Dao wiped the blood from the corner of his mouth. The hand holding the demonic sword was trembling all along, though it was unclear whether it was his hand trembling or the sword.

After a long while, the demonic sword gradually ceased its tremors and was inserted back into his chest, disappearing from sight.

"Has the Fire Lotus Sword fusion succeeded?" Lao Dao turned and walked into the building, looking at the Demon Refining Furnace.

The three of Li Xiu also turned their gaze towards the Demon Refining Furnace, the golden flame within having extinguished at some unknown time.

Lao Dao approached the Demon Refining Furnace, lifted the lid, and a crimson-gold sword light flashed out, flying right in front of Li Xiu.

The Fire Lotus Sword's appearance hadn't changed much, but the Demonic Light on the sword now flickered like a fire lotus, gracefully swaying, blossoming and fading like lotus petals.

"Oh, it actually became a Super Spirit!" Lao Dao glanced at the Fire Lotus Sword, seemingly surprised.

The Radiant Demon Spirit refined in the Demon Refining Furnace was supposed to be just an S-level Spirit, capable of raising the contract to at most an S-level. But the Fire Lotus Sword clearly displayed Spirit Shadow, indicating it had reached a Super Spirit state.

Li Xiu extended his hand, grasping the hilt of the Fire Lotus Sword, sensing an infinite power circulating endlessly within it. As he casually swung it, the sword light bloomed like lotus flowers, though he had only swung once, countless sword lights appeared on their own.

Fire Lotus Sword: Parasitic Contract.

Chapter 619 Old Dao's Path_3

Level: S.

Quality: Radiant.

Primordial Embryo Quality: 60.8

Super Spirit Limit: Ninety-nine percent.

Talent Skill: Fire Lotus Sword Spirit, Fire Lotus Birth, Fire Lotus Furnace Sword, Fire Lotus Body-Protecting Sword Light, Fire Lotus Sword Intent.

Li Xiu looked astonished; these are attributes that can advance to Light Base at any moment, and it embodies all five skills.

The old knife glanced at the Fire Lotus Sword and said, "You've hit the jackpot, kid. The primordial embryo quality of this sword is quite impressive."

Li Xiu strapped the Fire Lotus Sword Disc to his waist and said to the old knife, "What's going on with you? That Evil Ghost King said you would die, is it true or false?"

"I've been living with old wounds for ages, dying is not surprising at all." The old knife said indifferently.

"What's the deal with your knife? Your body hasn't reached Light Base level, but your knife..." Li Xiu could clearly see that the old knife was just a Super Spirit Tester, but his knife was even more terrifying than the Light Base level.

"Choosing a different path, while others integrate the Contract Foundation Establishment, I simply took another route." The old knife joked, "This path is a bit hard to tread, but I like it. Even though I may not live as long as those guys, I've walked further than them. Do you have any interest in taking my path?"

"Not interested, I want to live a bit longer." Li Xiu replied.

A trace of disappointment flashed in the old knife's eyes; he was not merely joking but genuinely hoped Li Xiu would walk his path.

"Knife Elder, if you're willing to teach, I'm willing to take your path." Beside them, Jing Li suddenly spoke.

The old knife was slightly stunned, scrutinizing Jing Li, he said, "You can advance to Light Base at any time, why bother taking this path?"

"I am myself, and the knife is the knife; I don't want to become the knife." Jing Li replied.

"Haha, you don't want to abandon the Path of Forgetting Emotions, but you also don't want to truly forget emotions, you want to distinguish between material and self, right?" The old knife laughed as he looked at Jing Li.

"Indeed, I hope the Knife Elder will grant me this." Jing Li bowed.

"Well, though it's not what I wish, it seems I have no choice. If I don't teach you, this path will be severed for good." The old knife pondered for a moment then said, "You won't need to apprentice under me, I only have three days to teach you, how much you can learn depends on your own fate."

Jing Li nodded, not saying anything more.

"You all go out. I need to teach him the Demon Blade Technique. If you don't have any business, clean up Weng City, it looks quite unsightly." The old knife shoed Li Xiu and the other two out.

The three of them entered Weng City, cleaning up the bodies and bloodstains on the ground.

These bodies were of the Demon Kingdom's people possessed by Evil Ghosts. They appeared indistinguishable from humans; if you didn't say they were from the Demon Kingdom, you couldn't tell they were different from Earth's humans.

Jiuxiao Yun said while cleaning, "Li Xiu, you missed a golden opportunity. Even though the Knife Elder's Demon Blade takes a different path from normal Light Base, it stands uniquely on its own. Not a single person among the Four Great Clans dares say they can withstand the Knife Elder's Demon Blade. If this method were to complement your Light Planting Technique, you wouldn't need to integrate with the Symbiotic Contract to Condense Vein. Why not do it?"

Li Xiu glanced at the gate tower, shook his head slightly, sighed, and said nothing.

The three of them spent a great deal of effort, finally cleaning up the inside of Weng City, burying all the bodies in a large pit within the inner city, covered by collapsed building bricks.

For two or three consecutive days, neither Jing Li nor the old knife emerged from the gate tower; on the third day when it was about to end, Jing Li walked out alone and came to Li Xiu, saying, "Commander, the Knife Elder wants you to come over."

Li Xiu nodded, briskly walked up the gate tower, and pushed the door open to enter.

Li Xiu saw the old knife leaning against the Demon Refining Furnace, his body thin beyond recognition, his face almost devoid of flesh, like a layer of skin stretched over the bones, with no hint of color.

Beside him, the Demon Blade was thrust into the ground, not reverting to its broken blade form even without being in the old knife's hand.

Li Xiu noticed the faint bloody aura emanating from the Demon Blade, causing him to frown unconsciously.

"Kid, do you really not want to try my path?" The old knife puffed on his tobacco pipe, exhaling smoke as he spoke slowly.

"Why not cut off your path? You can start another one." As soon as Li Xiu said this, the Demon Blade beside him emitted a piercing knife sound, its blade shaking violently, turning toward Li Xiu as if it was about to fly out and slash him.

The old knife pressed down the hilt with one hand, smiled and said, "Old friend, don't be angry."

After a moment, the Demon Blade ceased its knife sound, but its edge remained pointed at Li Xiu, clearly displeased with him.

"This old man doesn't care for the name Symbiotic Contract. To live and die together, what a precious feeling that is. If one can casually sacrifice the other, how can it be called living and dying together? I die, the knife stays, and that's quite good; it's what I wish." The old knife murmured, stroking the Demon Blade.

"Is it really more important than your life?" Li Xiu couldn't fathom the old knife's sentiments.

"My life is life, its life is also life." The old knife shook his head and sighed, "I understand why you won't take my path; well, differing philosophies can't be imposed."

After a silent moment, the old knife seemed to mutter something to himself.

"Old knife, why are you doing this? Jing Li has already inherited your legacy." Li Xiu smiled bitterly.

"I'm saying what I want to say. You can choose to listen or not." The old knife said and continued to murmur.

Li Xiu listened as the old knife sat down, hearing him recite word by word.

His memory was naturally impeccable; after hearing the old knife recite once, he memorized it completely.

When the old knife was about to recite a second time, Li Xiu said, "No need to repeat, I've already memorized it. Let's talk about something else."

"Memorizing it is good." The old knife smiled.

"Is there anything you need me to do?" Li Xiu asked.

"I have no children or family, a lonely old man; there's nothing left for me here. If I say I have anything I can't let go of, it's only this." The old knife said while stroking the Demon Blade.

"How do you want to handle it?" Li Xiu inquired.

"When I die, the knife stays; afterward, only the Heavenly Gate can be guarded by it, how else can you handle it?" The old knife sighed, "Visit him when you can; if one day... I mean if there's such a day... when it's no longer needed here... find a way to take him away... this place is too dull..."

Chapter 620 Pig Farm

Jing Li and the two others were sitting on the stone steps resting when they suddenly saw a few people coming from inside the city.

After clearly seeing the appearance of those people, Jing Li and Sha Chu stood up and stared at the person leading them.

The person in the lead was Li Changyin, followed by Bai Wanli and several other members of the Li Family. Among them was one person from the Li Family, the Light Base Trial Taker Li Changmian, Li Changyin's younger brother who participated in this year's tournament.

"You are indeed here." Li Changyin glanced at them, not concerned about their presence.

Even for Jing Li, who had already condensed the Light Vein, he was of no consequence in Li Changyin's eyes.

Before Jing Li and the others could speak, Li Changyin noticed Li Xiu walking out from the city gate tower, standing on the wall looking at him.

"Where is Elder Dao?" Li Changyin frowned slightly.

He thought Elder Dao should have already dealt with Li Xiu, but now it seemed Li Xiu was fine, indicating something was amiss.

"Patriarch Li." Elder Dao's voice came from inside the city gate tower.

"Elder Dao, why is Li Xiu still alive?" Li Changmian coldly questioned the tower.

Elder Dao's laughter came from inside: "Li Xiu is my friend, of course he lives."

"Well, since Elder Dao values friendship, we won't trouble you. We will handle our own matters." Li Changmian said and started walking towards Li Xiu.

Clang!

The Blade Demon flew out from the city gate tower, landing in Weng City, blocking Li Changmian's path. The intense light waves forced Li Changmian to step back several paces before steadying himself.

"Elder Dao, what do you mean?" Li Changmian asked coldly.

"Patriarch Li, please leave." Elder Dao simply said, ignoring Li Changmian.

Li Changmian was furious, just about to say something, but was stopped by Li Changyin.

"Elder Dao, farewell." Li Changyin took a deep look at the city gate tower, then turned and left with the others.

"Brother, why let Li Xiu go? Even if Elder Dao protects him, so what? You have his Blood Seal Stone; no need to fear him overturning heaven?" Li Changmian questioned after leaving Weng City.

"Elder Dao is dying." Li Changyin said casually.

"Dying?" Everyone was shocked.

"He used humans to cultivate the Blade Demon, which reached fruition, but his life is gone." Li Changyin explained.

"Isn't that more convenient, saving even the Blood Seal Stone?" Li Changmian was more puzzled.

"He is different from us. We die, and our Symbiotic Contract perishes too. Elder Dao dies, yet his blade remains, inheriting his will. To kill Li Xiu, one must consider if they can withstand that Blade Demon first." Li Changyin said.

"Really such a thing?" Li Changmian couldn't believe it.

Li Changyin sighed: "A generation's Blade Demon, probably gone forever. With the Blade Demon guarding the Gate of Destiny, unless some Heaven-Defying Demon Spirit breaks through, the gate is effectively sealed, which is good for us, Heaven-Rulers. Unexpectedly, Li Xiu has such a relationship with Elder Dao, no wonder he escaped into the Gate. He cannot be killed here."

"This Li Xiu is indeed strange; he just entered the Heaven-Rulers not long ago, yet has sworn brotherhood with Uncle Ba and Wan Chaocun, and now such a bond with Elder Dao—it's peculiar." Li Changmian said gloomily.

"No matter, he must leave the Gate of Destiny sooner or later. It won't be too late to kill him then. Let's return; Elder Dao's matter needs to be reported to the President, who probably anticipated this outcome and thus had Elder Dao guard the Gate of Destiny." Li Changyin said indifferently.

They left the Gate of Destiny, following the original path back.

After Li Changyin and the others left, Li Xiu walked back into Jade Tower to see Elder Dao sitting on the ground, his hand clutching the tobacco pipe drooped, his breaths more outgoing than incoming, barely able to keep his eyes open, seeming near death.

Li Xiu approached Elder Dao, examined him carefully for a moment, then suddenly summoned two Forbidden Spears and fired twice at Elder Dao.

One bullet struck Elder Dao's heart, another his abdomen.

Afterward, Li Xiu put away the gun and extended a finger, pointing at Elder Dao's forehead, as transparent light, like a lamp flame, seeped into Elder Dao's forehead.

Elder Dao used humans to nurture the blade, but couldn't condense a Light Vein, while the Blade Demon had surpassed the Light Base.

The contract strong but the person weak, coupled with old injuries inside his body, unable to bear the energy brought by the Blade Demon, causing his body to deteriorate further.

Were it not for the President of the Heaven-Rulers using something to temporarily seal Elder Dao's old wounds, Elder Dao would've long been unable to wield the Blade Demon, like last time at the Golden Gate, where Elder Dao used the Blade Demon's Super Spirit, only to be hurt by its power.

Ultimately, all this stemmed from Elder Dao himself being too weak, even without this battle with the Evil Ghost, being overwhelmed by the blade was only a matter of time.

Li Xiu intended to use the Light Planting Technique to establish a Light Foundation within Elder Dao's body, allowing him to condense a Light Vein. Once the Light Vein forms, his capacity to endure Light Energy increases, resolving the Blade Demon's hidden dangers.

But whether it can succeed, even Li Xiu is not entirely sure, needing to try to know.

Elder Dao's body is now very frail, with old wounds and on the verge of being drained by the Blade Demon. Li Xiu first used two Undying Bullets to heal Elder Dao's injuries, stabilizing his body before daring to kindle a light for him. Whether Elder Dao can endure until the light succeeds depends on his fate.