

When God 71

Chapter 71 Jedi Knight

"Pa Shan, why aren't you taking anything?" Shale observed that Pa Shan remained still, taking nothing, and couldn't help but ask curiously.

"I want to leave my share for Kun Sha. To stabilize the situation in Tyrone City, he can surely make use of these items." Pa Shan replied.

"Foolish, he doesn't want us to take anything. Li Xiu, what else do you want?" Shale cursed under his breath and continued to loot the place, his large backpack, procured from who knows where, almost filled to the brim.

"These suffice for me." Li Xiu shook his head; there weren't many things here that interested him. This Ghost Mask already met his current needs.

He had never lacked money, so he didn't have much desire for it.

Li Xiu didn't take anything, and A Fei only took a few gemstones before stopping.

"Damn, you all are saints, while I'm the villain. If you don't take, I'll take it myself." Shale cursed as he stuffed his bag with items.

"I'm leaving first, see you around if fate permits." Qin Shi packed up a Ruby, ready to leave.

"Want to make some extra?" Li Xiu suddenly called out to Qin Shi.

"Are you trying to hire me?" Qin Shi looked Li Xiu up and down, laughing, "But you don't seem like a wealthy person, and besides, I don't need money, I only want the top-grade Rubies."

"There are quite a few Ruby Mines in Tyrone City. Once Kun Sha governs Tyrone City, he shouldn't mind sharing a part with you." Li Xiu said.

The current situation in Tyrone City is not only internally troubled with economic collapse but also externally threatened by other Southern Cross Alliance cities, which requires a strong Magic Armor Master to maintain order. Kun Sha, an S-grade Magic Armor Master, isn't enough.

"Seems to make a bit of sense. Let's wait for Kun Sha to come back and talk then, see what price he offers; I'm quite expensive." Qin Shi, ever sharp, immediately understood Li Xiu's implication.

"You can discuss it when he returns." Li Xiu said.

Kun Sha hadn't returned. After packing all the valuables, they left the Vault and found a place to rest.

This place was where Qin Shi originally lived, a large three-story building which previously housed only Qin Shi.

The first floor had a hall, kitchen, and bath facilities; the second floor, a gym; and the third, over a dozen luxuriously decorated suites.

Pa Shan went out to find Kun Sha and returned to inform Li Xiu of the dire situation in Tyrone City.

A large number of residents were queuing at the Gemstone shops to exchange Tyrone coins for gemstones, but all major Gemstone shops were closed, refusing any exchange.

Several Gemstone shops had been smashed by angry residents; things were bound to get messier, and it was uncertain if Kun Sha could stabilize the situation.

The branch offices of the Gemstone shops from other cities in Tyrone City had already ceased exchanges of Tyrone coins and other currencies, clearly abandoning Tyrone City, and might even want to kick them while they're down.

Kun Sha went to Sha Chu's house with his men but didn't find her there; she likely had already left Tyrone City.

"The Eternal Sky group is indeed ruthless; they want to destroy the entire Tyrone City." Qin Shi sighed.

It wasn't just Qin Shi; they all suspected Sha Chu was part of Eternal Sky. Apart from them, they couldn't think of any organization capable of pulling off such ruthlessness.

Returning to his room, Li Xiu took out that Red Apatite and played with it between his fingers.

He searched on his phone for information about Apatite. As Shale mentioned, Namiya Jedi Knight Apatite is indeed top-notch among Apatites.

Common Namiya Apatites contained many inclusions and were generally small. Before the magic spirit descended, even sub-carat Namiya Jedi Knight ones could fetch several thousand dollars, and two- to three-carat ones could start in the five-figure range.

This one weighed over 11 carats. If auctioned, it would fetch an astronomical price.

Li Xiu wasn't concerned about its value; he was contemplating whether to consume it or not.

The Demon Core he had on him was already one less; Li Xiu was certain there was something wrong with his body, though he couldn't yet determine if it was good or bad.

So far, his body hadn't shown any negative effects, still being very healthy.

Li Xiu even vaguely felt his physique had improved, though not as obviously as the enhancement rewards from the Trial Gate.

"Since it's already like this, one more or less doesn't matter. Let's see what effect this Gemstone has on me." Li Xiu put the Gemstone in his mouth, trying to bite it.

He couldn't bite through it, nor did he taste anything pleasant.

Li Xiu could only grit his teeth and swallow the Gemstone down.

Even if it couldn't be digested, he could take a laxative the next day to expel it from his system, so there was no worry about it harming his body.

With the Apatite in his stomach, Li Xiu kept feeling for any changes within his body, hoping to find some clues.

For a while, there was no reaction, just as Li Xiu thought there would be no outcome, a sudden sharp pain emanated from his stomach, causing Li Xiu to clutch his abdomen, curling up in agony.

He felt something flowing in his body towards his stomach, cramps causing him to twitch, sweat soaking through his entire outfit.

"Damn it!" Li Xiu couldn't help but curse under his breath. The pain was unbearable, driving him to the brink of wanting to cut open his stomach to retrieve the Apatite.

Suppressing the pain, Li Xiu got up to fetch his Demon Armor.

The Fire Lotus Sword still coiled around his waist; without donning the Demon Armor, he could hardly walk. He intended to put on the Demon Armor and find Qin Shi, ask her to perform an abdominal surgery to remove the Apatite.

Li Xiu's outstretched fingers hadn't yet reached the Demon Armor when he suddenly felt something moving from his stomach, burrowing out, swiftly making its way through his tissues and bones towards his arm.

Li Xiu even saw a bulge moving beneath his skin, arriving at his fingertip in the blink of an eye.

The pinky finger's skin stretched into a ring-like bulge.

In the next second, a pink radiance seeped from beneath the skin. The bulging skin gradually returned to normal, and the pink light converged on his finger, forming a strongly luminescent red Gemstone Ring.

The entire ring was made of Namiya Jedi Knight Apatite, though Red Apatite itself doesn't glow. This Sharp Crystal Ring emitted a strong pink fluorescence like a Fluorescent Stick wrapped around his finger.

In no time, the ring's glow dimmed, returning to its original appearance, while some strange information appeared in Li Xiu's mind.

Jedi Knight (Upgradeable): E-level magic spirit, capable of summoning an E-level magic spirit, Jedi Knight.

Chapter 72 Demon Spirit Ring

The red ring was worn on Li Xiu's hand, and unlike the Skill Ring, it did not turn into a hidden brand.

"What is going on?" Li Xiu's brain was already feeling overwhelmed.

A gemstone from Earth could actually become a Demon Spirit Ring, far exceeding Li Xiu's understanding of demon spirits and gemstones.

"Could it be that Sha Chu could control demon spirits because he obtained some unique gemstone like that of the Namiya Jedi Knight? Or is it that the rewards in the Trial Ground naturally include Demon Spirit Rings..." Li Xiu rubbed the Demon Spirit Ring, his mind flashing with various thoughts, yet unable to confirm them.

With a thought, the Demon Spirit Ring immediately sparkled, flying off from Li Xiu's finger, transforming into a warrior clad in dark red armor right before him.

His armor was somewhat different from human armor, resembling an insect's shell, but with a different texture, shimmering like jade wrapped in a protective patina.

The Jedi Knight felt less like a human warrior, more like a half-human, half-demon monster, with its samurai sword drawing out, revealing a blade radiating intense fluorescent light — a sword of Red Apatite.

Wild, terrifying, fierce, powerful, cool — these seemingly contradictory adjectives were perfectly unified in the Jedi Knight.

With just a thought from Li Xiu, the samurai sword in the Jedi Knight's hand was infused with Demonic Light, and with one slash, it cleaved the table before him in half, as if cutting through tofu.

"It really is E-level Demon Spirit standards!" Li Xiu approached, touching the Jedi Knight's body, which to him felt like a large figurine, albeit one that could move.

All Li Xiu now had was one thought — whether to visit the Gem Market. If he could find a few more gemstones like the Jedi Knight, he could form a Demon Spirit army.

Yet it was merely a thought. Among so many gemstones, only this one gave him that strange hunger feeling, indicating it was exceptional. Finding another such gemstone would likely not be easy.

"Could I use demon spirits during the trial?" Li Xiu was eager to find out the answer.

If they could be used, the difficulty of trials would greatly decrease for him.

No matter how good his skills were, those trials that truly tested physical attributes, like athletics trials, still posed challenges.

If he could use the Jedi Knight during trials, then physical trials wouldn't be a worry, greatly increasing his survival prospects in the Trial Ground.

If he couldn't run fast himself, he could have the Jedi Knight carry him.

The appearance of the Jedi Knight seemed to open a gateway to a new world for Li Xiu.

In the days that followed, Tyrone City became increasingly chaotic. Kun Sha united the remaining major families in Tyrone City, took over the forces Zheng De left behind, and tried to stabilize the situation.

Unfortunately, people need to eat, and no amount of Tyrone currency could exchange for a grain of rice now. When people are starving, they'll do anything, regardless of who the City Lord is.

The entirety of Tyrone City was in madness, with lootings and chaos everywhere. Kun Sha's workforce was far from enough to control the situation.

The critical issue was a lack of food, unable to feed all the residents.

What was even sadder was that those supposedly allied major families secretly raised prices, trading large amounts of food for gemstones and making a fortune amidst the chaos.

After Kun Sha talked with Qin Shi, offering her unknown conditions, she agreed to temporarily stay and help defend Tyrone City.

"What's wrong?" Li Xiu got up to have breakfast in the first-floor hall, seeing Shale looking sickly, almost sprawled across the sofa.

"All gone... all gone..." Shale repeated like a zombie.

"What happened to him?" Li Xiu asked Pa Shan, who was having breakfast nearby.

"He gave all the treasures he got from the Vault to Kun Sha." Pa Shan smiled as he spoke.

"You gave all those antique gemstones to Kun Sha?" Li Xiu asked, surprised at Shale.

He could hardly imagine Shale doing such a thing.

Upon hearing Li Xiu's words, Shale suddenly leapt up from the sofa like a cat whose tail was stepped on, pointing at Li Xiu and shouting, "What do you mean 'gave'? It's a loan, a loan; I'm charging interest!"

"Oh, that's good then." Li Xiu released the Demon Armor and sat down to have breakfast.

After the outburst, Shale again wilted, sprawling back onto the sofa.

"Old Sha, what did you do in the past?" Li Xiu had heard that Shale killed many back home, was a fierce bandit, and fled to Tyrone City because he couldn't make it in his homeland.

"None of your business." Shale responded weakly.

Li Xiu wasn't angry and continued, "Later, I want to visit the Gem Market; do you know of any reliable gem markets nearby?"

"In this situation, which Gem Market would dare to open? Aren't they afraid of being robbed?" Shale rolled his eyes as he spoke.

Li Xiu felt some head pain upon hearing this. Despite the low chances, he still wanted to take a look, hoping to find a gemstone like the Jedi Knight.

"Don't wander around now; Kun Sha has already taken over parts of Zheng De's remaining estates, including several Trial Gates. Let's seize the opportunity to improve ourselves at the Trial Gate so we can become real Trial Takers sooner." Pa Shan was very focused on becoming a Trial Taker.

"Let's go now. Once I become a real Trial Taker, anyone who messes with me will get hammered to death." Upon hearing this, Shale stood up directly.

"Do you have the gemstones to open a Trial Gate?" Li Xiu asked.

Upon hearing Li Xiu's words, Pa Shan and Shale wilted; their gemstones had been taken by Kun Sha, leaving only small fragments that were far from enough to open any Trial Gates.

"I have some." Qin Shi walked over with a smile, shaking a bag of rubies in front of them. "I can help you open a Trial Gate, but you need to take me with you and ensure my safety."

"Why would you, a Magic Armor Master, want to go to that crappy place?" Shale muttered.

"Oh, it's nothing much, just suddenly got interested in Trial Gates." Qin Shi said indifferently.

"Okay, we guarantee your safety, but all you have are rubies. Among the Trial Gates Kun Sha controls, only two require rubies. We don't have enough people for the Mad Ball Trial Ground, so we have to go to the Blood Bird Trial Ground. But for that trial ground, your bag of rubies won't suffice; we'd need at least thirteen 1-carat pigeon blood rubies." Pa Shan pondered aloud.

Upon hearing the need for thirteen pigeon blood rubies, Qin Shi hesitated, but soon realized that they were only 1-carat rubies. Having recently made a fortune, she wasn't overly concerned.

"Thirteen pigeon blood rubies, no problem. Just take me there and ensure my safety." Qin Shi said.

"Alright, let's go." Pa Shan somehow found a Jeep and took Li Xiu, Qin Shi, Shale, and A Fei to the Blood Bird Trial Ground.

Chapter 73 Blood Pigeon

While on the road, Pa Shan explained the rules of the Blood Bird Trial Ground in detail, so that Li Xiu and the others could decide whether to participate in the trial.

The rules of the Blood Bird Trial Ground are relatively simple; they mainly focus on archery. As long as you're skilled with a bow, passing the test shouldn't be difficult.

"Bows and arrows, this is my forte," Shale said somewhat arrogantly.

During his time on the run, he often shot small animals in the jungle and even claimed to have killed a bear.

A Fei wasn't skilled with a bow, so she gave up the opportunity to enter the Blood Bird Trial Ground.

Although she possessed the divine skill of abstaining, she didn't want to reveal it in front of outsiders.

"I thought the trial at the Trial Ground would be difficult, but this is all." Qin Shi evidently had practiced archery too, which made her even more determined to go to the Blood Bird Trial Ground.

Li Xiu was indifferent. Although he hadn't specifically trained with a bow, such technical skill was his forte, and most importantly, participating in such a trial didn't require him to move quickly. He just needed to stand and shoot arrows, which suited Li Xiu, who was encumbered by the Fire Lotus Sword, perfectly.

The Blood Bird Trial Ground is located in the jungle outside Tyrone City, accessible only by a dirt road, and the jeep shook violently.

When they arrived, they found a few simple wooden huts, which were considered the soldiers' base.

However, the soldiers inside had long vanished without a trace; it was unclear whether they had fled or were driven away by hunger.

"Even amidst chaos, there are advantages. In the past, this wasn't a place we could just come to," Shale said optimistically.

Under Pa Shan's guidance, they found themselves before a large red door in the jungle.

Qin Shi handed thirteen one-carat Pigeon Blood Rubies to Pa Shan and instructed him to embed them into the door, and soon a seam split open.

Aside from A Fei, who stayed outside, Li Xiu and the others entered single file, appearing in an ancient arena constructed of stone.

This time they appeared within the Trial Ground, surrounded by a circular high wall, and on that wall were human-sized holes, possibly thousands in number.

Each person suddenly found themselves holding a bow and carrying a quiver on their back containing ten arrows.

"Welcome to the Blood Bird Trial Ground, the A-level trial is about to begin. The trial rules are as follows..."

"What's going on... A-level trial..." Pa Shan's face turned very grim. He had researched beforehand and, according to previous patterns, the Blood Bird Trial Ground should've been an E-level trial at this time, not suddenly an A-level.

After looking at the trial rules, Qin Shi's expression turned sour, but she didn't complain, only smiled bitterly, "Magic Armor Masters really aren't suited for the Trial Gate. This time, we'll have to rely on fate."

Four people were participating in the trial, and among the thousands of holes around the arena, thirty-nine Blood Pigeons would randomly fly out.

Each person must shoot and hit ten Blood Pigeons to complete the first round of the trial.

Each person only had ten arrows, meaning that all ten must hit to pass the trial.

Blood Pigeons randomly emerge from different directions on the arena walls, making it impossible to prepare in advance. They are moving, flying targets, making it inherently difficult to hit ten out of ten, which is already challenging.

Moreover, there were only thirty-nine pigeons in total, meaning even if everyone hit perfectly, one person would still be missing a pigeon.

In this situation, Qin Shi wasn't wrong to say it depended on fate.

Even Shale, who was skilled with a bow, couldn't guarantee he would hit all ten with certainty.

"This time it's my fault, and I'll bear the consequences myself." Pa Shan threw his bow to the ground.

"It's not that desperate; the rules only say you need to hit the target, without specifying that two people can't simultaneously hit the same pigeon. We could all still pass the trial alive." Li Xiu, habitually examining the trial rules, quickly found a way for everyone to pass the test.

"It's not that simple. Archery depends on aim, and aim isn't related to strength. No matter how strong you are, that doesn't guarantee accuracy. It's already difficult to hit ten flying Blood Pigeons, and even harder for two people to hit the same pigeon." Qin Shi shook her head, "You're also a Magic Armor Master; you should understand the difficulty. Using this is harder than hitting with Demonic Light."

The trial bows were all recurve bows, without sights; reliant purely on touch and eyesight, making accuracy difficult for those not familiar with recurve bows.

Even professionals couldn't guarantee a perfect score on every shot, let alone on moving airborne targets.

"If Li Xiu says it's possible, then it must be possible," Shale suddenly said.

"Li Xiu, tell us what to do," Pa Shan picked up his recurve bow again, looking at Li Xiu.

Shale and Pa Shan's actions left Qin Shi somewhat bewildered.

Seeing them, it seemed like they took Li Xiu as their leader, yet Qin Shi had previously assumed Li Xiu, like her, was a top Magic Armor Master, probably not skilled at such things.

She dared to enter the Trial Ground because Shale and Pa Shan were leading the way, but now it seemed that might not be so.

"Rest assured, since we said we'd ensure your safety, we'll definitely get you through the trial safely," Li Xiu reassured.

Qin Shi thought to herself, uncertain of Li Xiu's basis for saying those words, as even if Li Xiu was a professional archery expert, hitting ten out of ten, he couldn't guarantee her ten out of ten.

Qin Shi lacked that level of confidence, believing she couldn't hit all flying pigeons perfectly with ten arrows.

Seeing the countdown, Li Xiu noted the urgency and said, "Let's proceed in order: Qin Shi first. Once she hits all ten, Shale, you're second; Pa Shan, you're third, and I'll go last."

"Okay." Shale and Pa Shan agreed immediately and without hesitation.

"Qin Shi, prepare yourself, after the pigeon emerges, don't take too long to aim; be quick, don't wait for the pigeon to fly too high, or it'll be too late," Li Xiu urged Qin Shi several pointers.

Despite some skepticism, Qin Shi had no choice but to follow Li Xiu's instructions.

Qin Shi drew an arrow and prepared her bow, ready for action, as the countdown came to an end.

Suddenly, a blood-red pigeon darted from a hole in the wall behind them, immediately flapping and rushing skyward.

Without eyes on her back, Qin Shi hadn't noticed the Blood Pigeon emerging, until Li Xiu shouted "behind you" and she turned sharply, quickly drawing and shooting.

The arrow soared into the sky, piercing through the Blood Pigeon's body; Qin Shi couldn't help but clench her fist in excitement over her impressive shot, even admiring herself for it.

Yet, as the pigeon was struck, it suddenly burst into a scattering of blood-feather fragments and vanished.

A point appeared behind number 4 on the screen, which was Qin Shi's bracelet number indicating she had the poorest physical condition among the four.

Watching the blood feathers disperse, their facial expressions turned heavy.

If a Blood Pigeon disappeared upon being struck, it meant they couldn't shoot another arrow to hit the same pigeon, preventing two from shooting the same pigeon.

Chapter 74 Trust

"It seems that the plan isn't working, everyone trust your luck," Qin Shi said upon seeing the situation.

"It's not time to give up yet. We still have a chance, don't get distracted, just focus on shooting according to the plan," Li Xiu said.

"There's no need for that. I, Qin Shi, don't want to owe anyone anything. Since there's no way back, let's rely on our luck," Qin Shi replied.

"Stop talking nonsense. Li Xiu asked you to focus on archery, so just concentrate on shooting and don't worry about anything else," Shale retorted directly.

Qin Shi was slightly taken aback, underestimated the trust Shale and Pa Shan had in Li Xiu, but she couldn't understand why Shale and Pa Shan trusted Li Xiu so much.

It's definitely not because of Li Xiu's identity as the Magic Armor Master. Outside, the status of a Magic Armor Master might be useful, but inside the Trial Ground, it's worthless.

Like how Shale showed no respect for her at all, Qin Shi wanted to know what made such a fierce person like Shale listen to Li Xiu.

While Qin Shi was in a daze, a Blood Pigeon flew out from a side wall hole, spreading its wings and soaring into the sky.

"Damn!" Qin Shi hurriedly rushed to shoot an arrow, but as soon as she released it, she knew it wouldn't hit.

Her reaction was already a bit slow, combined with the distance too far, by the time the arrow reached the Blood Pigeon, the force would start to dwindle.

Sure enough, when the arrow was still ten meters away from the Blood Pigeon, the force began to weaken, unable to catch up with the speed of the Blood Pigeon.

Just when Qin Shi thought this was the end, suddenly there was a whooshing sound, and an arrow flew like a meteor into the sky.

Bang!

That arrow unexpectedly caught up with Qin Shi's arrow, skillfully changing its direction while accelerating its speed.

Whoosh!

The two arrows, like intertwined snakes, almost simultaneously pierced into the Blood Pigeon's body.

Blood feathers scattered in the sky, and new scores appeared on the light screen.

Qin Shi's 4th number turned into two points, and the 3rd number also gained a point.

Qin Shi looked at Li Xiu with a gaze full of suspicion, only to see his hands lowering the bow, leaving no doubt that the arrow was shot by him.

"What a skilled shot!" Qin Shi began to understand why Shale and Pa Shan trusted Li Xiu so much, possessing such archery skills, even better than a Divine Archer, in such a place as the Blood Bird Trial Ground, who wouldn't trust him?

Qin Shi believed she had understood the reason for Li Xiu's trust and felt much more at ease.

"I knew Li Xiu could handle it, it doesn't matter if it might disappear, as long as both arrows hit simultaneously, it'll be fine," Shale laughed heartily.

"Yes, I calculated just now, as long as the two arrows hit the Blood Pigeon within one second, there's no need to worry about the Pigeon disappearing after being hit," Li Xiu nodded.

With Li Xiu's assurance, Qin Shi's mindset stabilized, and the next few arrows she shot all hit the Blood Pigeons, even she felt somewhat incredible.

When she fired the tenth arrow, Qin Shi thought she had it secured this time, but unexpectedly, two Blood Pigeons flew out simultaneously from different holes, and she felt a sense of crisis.

But there was no room for hesitation now, if both Blood Pigeons were missed, the predicament would worsen.

Qin Shi shot an arrow towards one of the Blood Pigeons, but this time the Goddess of Fortune didn't assist her, and the arrow went astray.

Qin Shi's face showed displeasure. When she turned to look at Li Xiu, she saw he had already released the bowstring, his arrow chasing after Qin Shi's arrow at a faster speed.

Qin Shi felt full of guilt; even if Li Xiu could help her shoot the Blood Pigeon again, ultimately, she let one escape, increasing the difficulty ahead.

Bang!

The two arrows collided, changing Qin Shi's arrow's direction, directly piercing into the Blood Pigeon she aimed for.

Li Xiu's arrow, however, didn't pierce into the same Blood Pigeon as Qin Shi's, unlike last time.

"Finished!" Seeing Li Xiu's arrow veer off, Qin Shi thought Li Xiu made a mistake, wasting an arrow, meaning certain death.

However, in the next second, Qin Shi widened her eyes in disbelief, as Li Xiu's arrow bent in direction after the collision, miraculously killing the other Blood Pigeon.

"This... how is it possible..." Qin Shi stared at Li Xiu in disbelief, never seeing someone with such archery skills.

"The plan is changing now; there might be more than one Pigeon appearing at once, Shale, Pa Shan, if there are two Pigeons, focus on this line, Shale handle the one on the left, Pa Shan the right. If there is a third or fourth, don't concern yourselves, just choose one and shoot, without using power-enhancing skills," Li Xiu immediately altered the previous strategy.

The reason Li Xiu's arrow could catch up was due to using S-level Blood Boiling Skill; if Pa Shan and Shale also used S-level Blood Boiling Skill, his arrow wouldn't catch up with theirs.

Shale and Pa Shan immediately took positions most convenient for their movements, eyes constantly scanning the surrounding wall holes.

Sure enough, two Pigeons flew out simultaneously again, but this time further apart, with one from the far left side of the arena and one from the far right.

Shale and Pa Shan, without hesitation, followed Li Xiu's instructions, each shooting an arrow at their targets.

Bang Bang!

The two Blood Pigeons were shot dead on the spot; Shale and Pa Shan's archery skills were far superior to Qin Shi's.

A pair of Blood Pigeons flew out, only to be shot down by Pa Shan and Shale; each of them had an arrow that veered off course and was salvaged back by Li Xiu's arrow.

Watching from the side, Qin Shi could deeply sense how terrifying Li Xiu's archery was.

He was like an archery robot, having calculated all trajectories in his brain; his first arrow was frighteningly accurate, as if accounting for every possible outcome.

By the fifteenth round, three Blood Pigeons flew out at once, Li Xiu himself shot down one, and then shot another arrow, correcting Pa Shan's trajectory, bringing his error-prone shot back on track, with two arrows hitting one Pigeon simultaneously.

Li Xiu had already shot six arrows so far, with only four arrows left, accumulating six points.

Shale and Pa Shan each had five points; they needed to hit five more Blood Pigeons.

"Shale, next round fire two arrows, solve two Blood Pigeons," Li Xiu suddenly said to Shale.

"Alright." Shale agreed without questioning.

Three more Blood Pigeons flew out, Pa Shan hit one, and Shale shot twice, both hitting.

"Look at me kicking ass, huh?" Shale roared crazily holding his bow and arrow.

Chapter 75 Trial Badge

Li Xiu and Pa Shan both turned their heads to the side, pretending not to know him.

Once again, three Blood Pigeons took to the air, and Shale hit two more in a row. He had reached nine points, Pa Shan had seven, while Li Xiu, having not yet loosed a single arrow, remained at six points.

"Shale has only one arrow left. No matter how many Blood Pigeons come out next round, besides the one Shale targets, Pa Shan, you must try your best to shoot the rest. Even if there are four pigeons, you need to fire three arrows," Li Xiu said to Pa Shan.

"Understood," Pa Shan nodded.

Suddenly, Blood Pigeons flew out from all directions. All the remaining pigeons appeared in this round.

Shale hurriedly shot an arrow, and Pa Shan, too startled to hesitate, rapidly shot three arrows.

The sky filled with swirling Blood Pigeons, and arrows flew chaotically as well. At some point, Li Xiu's four arrows were also loosed.

Shale's shot was precise, but two of Pa Shan's arrows veered off course. Shooting three arrows in succession had proven too much for him—neither his aim nor speed matched up.

Clang clang!

Two of Li Xiu's arrows collided with Pa Shan's, knocking them back on track, but there were no Blood Pigeons near his own arrows anymore.

Just when Qin Shi thought that amidst the chaos, Li Xiu had finally made a mistake, two more arrows flew over, striking Li Xiu's arrows, once again changing their trajectories.

The four arrows scattered like a celestial maiden scattering flowers, bringing down four Blood Pigeons under their assault.

"Is he even human?" Qin Shi simply could not imagine how Li Xiu managed it.

Just being able to calculate a single collision trajectory and control it precisely had already left Qin Shi astounded, but Li Xiu could even calculate the change in trajectory after two collisions, which made Qin Shi feel he was almost beyond human.

"The first trial round is over. Rewards being distributed... Countdown for the second round begins. Anyone not participating in the next trial round, please remove your trial bracelet and leave the Blood Bird Trial Ground..."

After receiving the body enhancement reward and Demon Core, Qin Shi removed her bracelet and gave Li Xiu one last deep look before leaving.

Shale and Pa Shan also removed their bracelets and left. With the high unpredictability of this archery trial, even professional archers couldn't guarantee success every time, rendering further reliance on Li Xiu meaningless.

Li Xiu was left alone in the Trial Ground. Another ten arrows appeared on his back. The rules were still the same—he had to hit all ten shots.

As soon as the trial countdown ended, ten Blood Pigeons flew out from different directions.

Li Xiu activated his Blood Boiling Skill immediately, rapidly pulling the bowstring with both hands. All ten Blood Pigeons were killed instantly, not one escaping.

Feeling the prickling sensation from the bracelet and the surging power inside his body, Li Xiu became more accustomed to this feeling.

Receiving the Demon Core reward, Li Xiu awaited the beginning of the final trial.

He still didn't know what mode the A-level final trial would take. It should be different from the E-level and C-level final trials.

Indeed, when the final trial rules appeared, even Li Xiu furrowed his brow.

The Trial Ground contained 3,654 pigeon holes. Once the final trial began, all 3,654 Blood Pigeons would take flight simultaneously. Li Xiu had only one arrow, and he needed to hit the one unique pigeon among them.

The rules didn't specify what made that pigeon different, meaning that within those few fleeting seconds, Li Xiu must distinguish the unique Blood Pigeon among the 3,654 and shoot it down.

"The A-level final trial difficulty truly is quite daunting. No wonder, after all these years, only a few Trial Takers have managed to acquire an A-level skill," Li Xiu took a deep breath, quietly waiting for the final trial to start.

He didn't have an Abstention Skill, so exiting was not an option now, nor did he have the intention to quit.

Woosh!

As the countdown ended, from the 3,654 pigeon holes, the Blood Red Pigeons surged out, like a red cloud instantly covering the entire Trial Ground.

Everywhere Li Xiu looked, there were blood-red wings intertwining and dancing. No matter where he looked, the scene was a swirling mass of red, like a red sandstorm.

"No other colors." In that moment, Li Xiu made his judgment—the unique Blood Pigeon wasn't different because of its color.

Li Xiu wasn't flustered by this. His eyes quickly scanned the entire Blood Bird Trial Ground in one swift gaze.

He waited patiently as the pigeons ascended, the chaotic scene becoming clearer as they moved away, his eyes shifting into an eerie compound form.

Just as the pigeons were about to fly out of his range, Li Xiu suddenly drew his bow and shot an arrow into the vast red cloud.

Thud!

The arrow hit a Blood Pigeon, and that pigeon immediately dispersed into a shower of blood-red feathers, vanishing into the air.

"Shot the five-clawed Blood Pigeon, passed the final trial... Reward is being randomly generated... Trial Taker may choose one reward..."

Feeling the stimulation from the bracelet, Li Xiu let out a slight sigh of relief.

It was indeed somewhat dangerous, mainly because the time was too short. Given more time, even without the Fly's Eye, he could have found the five-clawed Blood Pigeon, different from the others having four claws.

But without enough time, the Fly's Eye had helped significantly.

Soon, four reward icons appeared on the light screen.

"No entry ticket?" Li Xiu was a bit disappointed. More than other rewards, he yearned to enter that mysterious place.

The four randomly generated rewards were Attributes, Talents, Demon Core, and Trial Badge.

"What is a Trial Badge?" Li Xiu had neither seen nor heard of a Trial Badge. Driven by curiosity, he chose the Trial Badge.

A badge shaped like a door was projected before Li Xiu. The entirely white badge had the black words "Trial" on the front, but nothing on the back.

Upon touching the Trial Badge, its information flooded into Li Xiu's mind.

Trial Badge: Can be used to open any Trial Gate, initiating a random trial once.

"It's alright, I guess," Li Xiu was somewhat disappointed. It was merely a key to open a Trial Gate, equivalent to saving a few Gemstones, holding little importance for him.

But since he had chosen it, there was no need for regret. In a flash of white light, Li Xiu left the Trial Ground.

He got into the jeep, and the group returned to Tyrone City together. The situation in the city seemed to have improved somewhat. Kun Sha purchased a batch of rice and distributed it to the residents without food, stabilizing the situation temporarily.

However, this was just a temporary solution and not a long-term fix. Kun Sha couldn't continue giving like this endlessly since he didn't have unlimited funds.

Chapter 76: A Person of Noble Character

Li Xiu grew increasingly uneasy along the way, because he kept hearing people mention words like "God."

A Fei clearly heard it too, leaning against the car window, her eyes occasionally observing the people speaking on the street.

The closer they got to the City Lord's Mansion, the more the discussions increased, and Li Xiu and the others finally understood what was happening.

The reason Tyrone City suddenly became so quiet was not just because Kun Sha had given out rice; more importantly, "God" had arrived in Tyrone City and promised to help it through its crisis.

A Fei's face was grim, and a cold gleam flashed in her eyes.

She remained silent, but Li Xiu knew very well what she was thinking inside.

If "God" truly was in the City Lord's Mansion, she would definitely look for an opportunity to assassinate "God."

Right now, she looked very calm, but it was simply the calm before the storm.

Pa Shan drove the car straight into the City Lord's Mansion, and the soldiers guarding the gate let them in without questioning them.

"Tyrone City is saved." When Li Xiu and the group met Kun Sha, Kun Sha was all smiles and looked quite excited.

"What happened?" Li Xiu asked.

"Just a while ago, God came to Tyrone City and said that he would help us through this crisis..." Kun Sha said excitedly.

It's no wonder Kun Sha was so excited; the title of God was almost equivalent to a deity among Magic Armor Masters, an undefeated existence.

Moreover, behind God was Space City, which was the holy land for Magic Armor Masters, enough to rival the entire Southern Cross Federation, or even stronger.

God's arrival in Tyrone City, indicating support for Kun Sha to rebuild Tyrone City, was of great significance to the city.

"Where is God?" A Fei suppressed the killing intent in her chest and asked calmly.

But she was still a bit too naive, unable to fully conceal her excitement.

Fortunately, Kun Sha and the others mistook this excitement for a young girl overwhelmed by meeting her idol and didn't think in other directions.

"Yes, where is God?" Qin Shi was also somewhat excited. Unlike A Fei, she truly wanted to meet God; she was a genuine fan of God.

"He's gone to other main cities. God promised to help us persuade other main cities to abandon the idea of annexing Tyrone City..." Kun Sha grew more and more excited.

In just a few days, the gemstone veins surrounding Tyrone City had been occupied by other main cities; if nothing changed, Tyrone City would inevitably fall into their hands.

Now, God's presence from Space City stood behind Tyrone City; other main cities wanting to forcefully occupy Tyrone City would have to think twice.

"Are you sure this is really okay? Space City's relationship with the Southern Cross Federation has always been strained, and accepting God's help means publicly breaking ties with other members of the Southern Cross Federation?" Li Xiu frowned and said.

"Even if Tyrone City doesn't accept God and Space City's help, those people won't spare Tyrone City, sooner or later." Kun Sha said helplessly.

If there were a choice, he wouldn't want to involve Space City, but he currently had no choice. Without borrowing the powers of God and Space City, Tyrone City would head towards annihilation sooner or later.

"You should think about it again," Li Xiu more or less understood what Guan Jinghao intended to do.

Space City may be the holy land of Magic Armor Masters, advanced in magic technology, but it lacked gemstone resources.

The Southern Cross Alliance was one of the world's richest gemstone regions, and previously, with the alliance being a tight-knit block, Space City couldn't get involved.

But with Tyrone City as a breakthrough point, Space City could enter the Southern Cross Alliance, and Guan Jinghao's ultimate goal was apparent.

Unfortunately, Kun Sha didn't understand this; all he knew was that Tyrone City needed to survive now, failing to consider that truly attracting Space City might lead to the destruction of much more than just Tyrone City.

Li Xiu realized saying anything now was useless; unless he could solve Tyrone City's current difficulties, Kun Sha would have no choice but to follow this path.

Now Li Xiu only hoped there was no inevitable link between the elusiveness of Chang Shengtian and God's appearance in Tyrone City; otherwise, it would be too terrifying.

"Can Guan Jinghao be connected to Chang Shengtian?" Li Xiu increasingly felt that he shouldn't return to Space City just yet.

Li Xiu obtained video records after God arrived in Space City; that person wore armor identical to his Red Flower Wolf, and his behavior was very similar to Li Xiu's.

The Red Flower Wolf descended from the sky, hovering over the city, and when he announced like a true god that he would help Tyrone City through its difficulties, the residents of Tyrone City erupted with cheers, constantly chanting God's name.

"This person, absolutely not coincidental, capable of copying my behavior so well, and their techniques and habits in controlling the Red Flower Wolf, cannot be developed in a short period. Without Guan Jinghao's help, no one could achieve this level." Li Xiu increasingly felt this was a massive conspiracy.

"Guan Jinghao has long been meticulously finding someone to replace me; what exactly is he trying to do?" Li Xiu fell into deep thought.

After browsing, A Fei went back to her room without saying a word.

"What a pity, just so coincidentally, I missed the chance to meet God while going through the Trial Gate. If I had known God would come here, I shouldn't have gone to the Trial Gate." Qin Shi sighed.

"Why do you want to meet God so badly?" Li Xiu asked in confusion. He had never crossed paths with Qin Shi and didn't understand why she had this notion.

"You are also a Magic Armor Master, how can you not understand the emotions we Magic Armor Masters feel for him? Since God appeared, how many revolutionary magic armor control techniques he has created and publicized, selflessly sharing even the key points of those techniques, uplifting the overall technology of the Magic Armor Master community by several levels. Have you seen any Magic Armor Master as selfless as God? In the past, those top Magic Armor Masters guarded magic armor manipulation techniques like family treasures, taking them to their graves rather than letting any outsider learn even a fragment. Only God is truly noble and pure; in today's Magic Armor Masters, who hasn't learned God's manipulation techniques? These techniques have saved countless Magic Armor Masters in battles with magic spirits. Has he ever sought any compensation? Without the manipulation techniques God publicized, I couldn't have come this far; perhaps I would've died long ago. I see you using magic armor manipulation techniques created by God, so why don't you feel grateful?" Qin Shi became more excited, not targeting Li Xiu but expressing her deep respect for God.

Li Xiu listened and was amused, genuinely unaware of how other Magic Armor Masters viewed him.

He had publicized those magic armor manipulation techniques only because, to him, they didn't even qualify as techniques.

Moreover, with the overall level of Magic Armor Masters being higher, occasions where he needed to make an appearance would lessen. He just wanted to take it easy a little and help a few Magic Armor Masters in need while doing so; how did he become the noble person Qin Shi painted him to be?

Chapter 77: Father of Demon Armor

Qin Shi's words made Li Xiu furrow his brows, not out of anger, but because he thought of some troubling things.

The higher God's status becomes in the Magic Armor Master's mind, perhaps the greater the harm it will cause in the future.

"Maybe I should do something." Looking at Qin Shi, Li Xiu felt that if he did nothing, someone might get hurt because of him.

But what can he do now? Stand up and say that he is the true "God"?

Without Demon Armor, who would recognize him as the true God?

"Guan Jinghao, I don't care what you're trying to do, but you can't use the name of God to do those things." Li Xiu didn't have a good relationship with Guan Jinghao.

Guan Jinghao is the ruler of Space City, and Li Xiu is just an employed Magic Armor Master. It is because Space City could provide him with the best magic armor and the best treatment, coupled with some personal reasons, that he signed a long-term employment contract with Space City.

But regarding Guan Jinghao, Li Xiu didn't have any ill feelings before, nor any fondness, just two people with different thoughts and not much in common.

Li Xiu also admitted that Guan Jinghao is a very capable person and also ambitious.

However, Li Xiu couldn't completely agree with some of his methods of handling things.

All along, Li Xiu was only responsible for killing demon spirits in Space City and didn't participate in other decisions and work in Space City.

Guan Jinghao had also talked to Li Xiu several times, hoping Li Xiu could truly become part of Space City's core, but Li Xiu refused each time.

If it were Li Xiu, he wouldn't have come to Tyrone City.

He could understand why Guan Jinghao would find someone to replace him, considering Guan Jinghao's position, he also had his reasons.

Li Xiu didn't care whether he could continue staying in Space City, nor did he care about the top-tier Demon Armor; originally, he felt indifferent about the title of God.

But Qin Shi's words struck a chord with Li Xiu.

If someone like Qin Shi gets hurt because of the title of God, that is something Li Xiu does not want to see.

"Maybe the person under the name of God is not what you imagine, seeing him in person you might be disappointed." Li Xiu said to Qin Shi.

"It doesn't matter what he looks like; I only care about what he's done, not what he looks like." Qin Shi clearly misunderstood Li Xiu's meaning.

Li Xiu shook his head without saying more and got up to return to his room.

When he reached the door of his room, he saw Afei standing outside, obviously waiting for him.

"My enemy is stronger than I imagined," Afei said as he looked at Li Xiu.

"Maybe we already share a common enemy." Li Xiu understood what Afei meant, and he didn't let Afei continue speaking.

"What do you mean?" Afei looked at Li Xiu, puzzled.

"You've waited for so many years, this doesn't matter waiting a bit longer. Figure things out first, since I promised you, I will see it through to the end." Li Xiu didn't explain much.

Returning to his room, Li Xiu lay on the bed to rest. Carrying the Fire Lotus Sword every day kept his body constantly tired.

As usual, he checked the collection of Demon Cores he kept on him. Sure enough, another one was missing. The recently disappearing Demon Cores were gradually getting higher in rank, making Li Xiu a bit uneasy.

Li Xiu put the Demon Cores he collected in a box, planning to test what happens if he doesn't carry Demon Cores on him.

The next morning, Li Xiu dragged his heavy body out for a walk.

Simply lying down every day is not a solution. Putting on the magic armor to go out is no different from lying down; both only require using the mind, not physical exertion.

Walking slowly along the street, he hadn't walked far before his clothes were almost soaked with sweat.

Unable to walk far, Li Xiu needed to sit down to rest for a while before continuing.

Passing by a basketball court, Li Xiu saw someone shooting hoops, which surprised him.

Such dilapidated courts that are close to being abandoned, are mostly used by children of ordinary residents.

Given Tyrone City's current situation, how could children from ordinary families feel like coming here to play basketball?

Just as Li Xiu was tired from walking, he sat on a bench next to the basketball court to rest, watching the person shoot baskets.

The person was wearing sports attire; her silhouette indicated she was a woman with a ponytail.

Her position had her back facing Li Xiu, so he couldn't see her face.

The woman's basketball skills were evidently not great; out of ten shots, she'd make maybe one or two. Once the basketball bounced towards Li Xiu's direction, when she turned to retrieve the ball, Li Xiu finally saw her face clearly.

"Sha Chu?" Li Xiu became alert. Sha Chu, this woman, was extremely dangerous, and Li Xiu hadn't brought any magic armor when he came out.

"Am I really that scary looking?" Sha Chu picked up the ball, smiled, and walked over to sit beside Li Xiu on the bench.

"The scary part has never been about the looks." Li Xiu knew that running away now wouldn't help, so he remained still, resting while speaking: "You're not going to tell me this was a chance encounter, are you?"

"Are you interested in joining Changshengtian?" Sha Chu's straightforwardness surprised Li Xiu a bit.

Originally, they only suspected Sha Chu was part of Changshengtian; now that she had admitted it herself, there was no doubt left.

Chapter 78 Father of Demon Armor_2

"Am I qualified to join the Longevity Society?" Li Xiu chuckled, speaking ambiguously.

"Those who can join the Longevity Society are either masters of their domains or top talents in their fields. You have a natural gift for Demon Armor, already considered a top Magic Armor Master. With my recommendation, of course, you're qualified to join the Longevity Society," Sha Chu said.

"Since you know I'm a top Magic Armor Master, you should also know that people like me are quite in demand. Why should I join the Longevity Society?" Li Xiu laughed.

"That depends on what your goals are," Sha Chu said, gently brushing a few strands of hair from her forehead. In the morning light, she unexpectedly had a bit of a student's innocent look.

"What other goals could I have?" Li Xiu said calmly.

"Indeed, as a Magic Armor Master, your space for further advancement is quite limited. But as a Trial Taker, perhaps you haven't even stepped through the door," Sha Chu said.

"I'm willing to hear more," Li Xiu was genuinely interested in what Sha Chu would say next.

"What people now think of as the Trial Ground, to use an analogy, is merely a warm-up room, not truly a place to enter. Do you know where those demon spirits come from? What is the world of demon spirits like? What is a true Trial Taker? Do you... want... to live... forever?"

"Immortality?" Li Xiu looked at Sha Chu in surprise, thinking she must be crazy. Did she really believe that as a member of the Longevity Society, she could become immortal?

"Do you know the story of Emperor Qin searching for immortality?" Sha Chu disregarded Li Xiu's gaze and asked with a smile.

"Of course, you're not going to tell me that you've created an Elixir of Longevity, are you?" Li Xiu felt Sha Chu was increasingly like a swindler, and a particularly clumsy one at that.

"There is no Elixir of Longevity, but there is someone who has lived for thousands of years, unaging and undying, residing in the Longevity Society. If you join the Longevity Society, you can share in the secrets of immortality," Sha Chu said, enunciating each word carefully.

"Have you studied pyramid schemes?" Li Xiu laughed.

"I know it's hard to believe, but that's okay. You will believe," Sha Chu stood up and said, "Come with me to a place."

"Can I not go?" Li Xiu didn't move.

"Yes, you can." Sha Chu extended her hand. A streak of light flew out from her palm and landed in her hand, revealing the sheathed Tang Blade she had previously carried on her back.

Sha Chu held the hilt and made a drawing motion, yet it didn't look as if she actually drew the blade out.

Snap!

The topmost button of Li Xiu's shirt snapped in half and fell to the ground.

"Can I make a request?" Li Xiu knew that this time he probably had no choice but to go. With a blade that fast, even without the Fire Lotus Sword on him, he couldn't react in time.

He could still use the Jedi Knight, but the Jedi Knight was, after all, only an E-grade demon spirit, incomparable to the Double-headed Demon Spirit that Sha Chu had ridden earlier.

"Speak."

"Can I go back to get my Demon Armor?" Li Xiu asked, smiling.

"Do I look like an idiot?" Sha Chu leaned her refined face closer to Li Xiu, letting him take a good look.

"So that's a no, then. Can I request a ride? I'm a bit tired and can't walk," Li Xiu said again.

"Here, there's a more advanced mode of transportation guaranteed to satisfy you." Sha Chu casually tossed the gemstone set on her ring finger, and the ring transformed in mid-air into a demon spirit resembling a steel double-headed dragon.

With a leap, Sha Chu landed on the demon spirit more than ten meters high.

"It's a bit too high." Li Xiu approached the demon spirit but did not move. With the Fire Lotus Sword, let alone jumping up, even climbing up was difficult.

One of the demon spirit's heads lowered down, bit onto Li Xiu's collar, and lifted him directly, placing him beside Sha Chu.

With a flap of its wings, the demon spirit carried the two into the sky. The flight was smooth, but the wind rushing towards them was so strong, it contorted the muscles on Li Xiu's face.

"The downside of being a Magic Armor Master is that no matter how powerful you are, without your Demon Armor, you're just an ordinary person," Li Xiu now wished he could immediately become a true Trial Taker. Without the Fire Lotus Sword on him, at least he could think of a way to escape; now, there wasn't even a chance to run away.

Accepting what comes, Li Xiu sat on the back of the Double-headed Demon Spirit, taking in the view below.

"How do you feel?" Sha Chu asked with a smile.

"It's my first time on such an advanced mode of transportation. Aside from the wind being a bit strong and cold, everything else is fine," Li Xiu said casually.

"Once you become a true Trial Taker, this wind will be nothing to you," Sha Chu said softly.

As she said this, Sha Chu had the Double-headed Demon Spirit slow down, making it slightly more comfortable for Li Xiu.

After flying beyond the limits of Tyrone City, the Double-headed Demon Spirit descended a bit, flying almost close to the forest canopy, making the air currents less cold.

"Where are you taking me?" Li Xiu asked.

"You'll know when we get there," Sha Chu didn't answer his question.

So, Li Xiu didn't ask anything further and just lay on the back of the demon spirit to rest.

A recess extended between the two necks of the Double-headed Demon Spirit, leading to the back, so sleeping here didn't pose a risk of falling off.

Chapter 79 Father of Demon Armor_3

The body of the demon spirit feels as hard as steel, not very comfortable to sleep on. Li Xiu adjusted to a more comfortable position to continue resting.

"Aren't you afraid that this might be your last glimpse of this world? Don't you want to take a closer look?" Sha Chu said, feigning indifference as Li Xiu seemed unafraid or anxious.

"What's the use of being afraid? Does fear mean I won't die? If fear would make you spare me, I'd kneel before you right now," Li Xiu said with his eyes closed.

"You are quite pragmatic," Sha Chu said without further comment.

Perhaps because the Double-headed Demon Spirit flew very slowly, or perhaps the place Sha Chu was headed was too far, it took a whole day of flying without reaching the destination.

Li Xiu woke up hungry, witnessing a sky full of twinkling stars.

"Are we there yet?" Li Xiu stretched lazily, sitting up.

"Almost," Sha Chu glanced at Li Xiu, saying, "It's incredible you can still sleep."

"Got anything to eat?" Li Xiu ignored her, rubbing his stomach as he asked.

"Use this to hold you over first," Chu Sha handed Li Xiu a small pack of bread.

Li Xiu didn't hesitate, took the bread, ripped open the packaging, and started stuffing pieces into his mouth.

Before Li Xiu finished the bread, the Double-headed Demon Spirit began decreasing its altitude and landed in a canyon within the forest.

"We're here," Sha Chu jumped down from the demon spirit's back.

Li Xiu didn't jump; he slid down along the demon spirit's back.

"Follow me," Sha Chu gestured, and the Double-headed Demon Spirit transformed back into a ring and returned to her finger.

"It's quite a transportation tool—green, natural, pollution-free, and requires no fuel," Li Xiu praised.

Sha Chu walked ahead while Li Xiu followed her. Carrying the Fire Lotus Sword, and with the canyon path being difficult, Li Xiu walked very slowly.

"With us already here, is there any point in delaying?" Sha Chu turned her head, somewhat displeased as she glared at Li Xiu.

"I'm not delaying; I truly can't walk fast, my body isn't cooperating," Li Xiu replied.

"Oh? Men also have those days every month?" Sha Chu found Li Xiu rather interesting and spoke more relaxedly.

"Not just a few days," Li Xiu didn't mind and smiled as he answered.

"Alright then, let's see what tricks you might pull," Sha Chu stopped urging him and stood there, watching Li Xiu move slowly step-by-step.

Li Xiu not only moved slowly but also had to rest every few hundred meters, looking like a sickly weak person.

Seeing him sweating continuously and soon soaking his clothes, seemingly not faking it, Sha Chu asked curiously, "What's wrong with you?"

Li Xiu shook his head without answering and continued to walk forward, gritting his teeth.

Sha Chu led him into a cave beside the canyon. Fortunately, the cave had been artificially modified, making the path smooth, with electric lamps installed, making it not too hard to traverse.

"We're here."

Finally hearing Sha Chu say they arrived, Li Xiu collapsed exhaustedly on the ground, gasping for air.

Observing his surroundings, he saw it was the cave's end. Sha Chu groped on the rocky wall at the cave's end, which surprisingly slid open like an electric door to reveal a carved-out room inside.

Inside the room was a large iron cage, and within the cage was an unkempt man.

His clothes were torn and ragged, long hair messy and greyish-black, his face scarred so much that he was hardly recognizable as a person.

"Could this be the immortal you mentioned who has lived for thousands of years?" Li Xiu said breathlessly.

"The Undead wouldn't let you see him so easily," Sha Chu walked to the iron cage and opened a small locked window atop the cage, scattering the food she brought inside.

The imprisoned man rushed forward immediately, grabbing the food and tearing into it wildly, paying no attention to Sha Chu or Li Xiu.

Li Xiu patiently observed without questioning further, knowing that since Sha Chu brought him here, she would reveal something to him.

"Have you heard of the name Ximen Guan?" Sha Chu locked the small window back and then said to Li Xiu.

"Ximen Guan?" Li Xiu was startled, his eyes widening as he scrutinized the prisoner who looked like a madman: "You don't mean to say this person is Ximen Guan?"

Li Xiu certainly knew the name Ximen Guan. The concept and idea of Demon Armor were proposed by Ximen Guan. He even created the first prototype of Demon Armor, hailed as the Father of Demon Armor.

Undeniably, Ximen Guan was one of the greatest figures of the Demon Spirit era. Without him and his research on Demon Armor, humans would have long been extinct by demon spirits.

"He is exactly who you think; he is Ximen Guan, the Ximen Guan who invented the Demon Armor," Sha Chu confirmed Li Xiu's speculation.

"How can he be here?" Li Xiu found it hard to believe that Ximen Guan, missing for so many years, would be imprisoned here.

"Because he is a traitor to Changsheng Tian. Those who betray Changsheng Tian receive due punishment," Sha Chu stated blandly.

"Ximen Guan was part of Changsheng Tian?" Li Xiu was astonished, unable to ascertain whether Sha Chu's words were true or false.

"Are you really Ximen Guan?" Li Xiu couldn't help but approach the iron cage, loudly questioning the person inside.

But the man utterly ignored him, continuing to gnaw at his food. He did so with an animalistic ferocity rather than human.

"There's no point in asking; he's been imprisoned here for decades, essentially having no human interaction, with his language ability significantly devolved."

Sha Chu paused before continuing, "Do you know how he became a traitor?"

"I don't know, but I want to find out. Could you enlighten me?" Li Xiu asked Sha Chu.

"Because he leaked Changsheng Tian's research," Sha Chu said flatly.

"Demon Armor?" Li Xiu's expression turned somewhat complex.

Chapter 80 The Value of Gemstones

"That's right, it's Demon Armor. In fact, it's something created by the Celestial of Longevity, and it's just an auxiliary product of the experiment." Sha Chu's words were becoming increasingly unbelievable.

Li Xiu didn't know what to say, so he could only wait for Sha Chu to continue.

"What do you think the demonic spirits are?" Sha Chu didn't continue but instead teased Li Xiu with a question.

"I don't know, maybe creatures from a different civilized planet in the universe, or maybe beings from another dimension." Li Xiu shook his head.

"What if I told you that demonic spirits have long existed on Earth, for a very long time, would you believe it?" Sha Chu asked.

"That's quite hard to believe." Li Xiu thought of the Jedi Knight Spinel, such a demonic spirit, could it be considered an ancient existence on Earth?

"Alright then, let me ask you, what do you think is the inherent value of a gemstone?" Sha Chu didn't clarify but instead changed the subject.

"Of course, the value of gemstones is very high." Li Xiu replied.

"What about before the appearance of demonic spirits and the Trial Gate? Do you think the use of gemstones justifies their price?"

"Probably not." Li Xiu thought carefully, without demonic spirits and the Trial Gate, most gemstones are just ornaments, and their utility doesn't quite match their price.

"Have you ever wondered why gemstones, which are mostly used as ornaments, are so valuable?"

"Because they're rare?"

"Some gemstones are indeed rare, but most are not as rare as you think. Take diamonds, for example, their reserves are astonishing. For industrial use, synthetic diamonds can completely replace natural diamonds, yet their prices kept rising even before the demonic spirits appeared. Have you ever wondered why?"

"Why?" Li Xiu had always thought it was a capitalist ploy, but from Sha Chu's tone, it seemed like it wasn't the case.

"Thousands of years ago, someone obtained a gemstone, and due to an accident, discovered there was a strange creature inside it..."

Sha Chu told a story, vaguely, but it was clear this was the origin of the Celestial of Longevity organization.

Someone, thousands of years ago, obtained a demonic spirit from a gemstone, and by harnessing its power, became immortal, living on to this day.

This person continued to research the relationship between gemstones and demonic spirits, and to acquire more gemstones, founded the Celestial of Longevity organization.

With technological advances, gemstone mining became more efficient, yielding more gemstones and more research achievements for the Celestial of Longevity.

Yet they still couldn't fully understand the relationship between gemstones and demonic spirits; most gemstones couldn't nurture demonic spirits, only a few could.

There seemed to be no definitive pattern, but generally, gemstones harboring demonic spirits were top-grade, large, and pure.

But this wasn't absolute, as sometimes smaller gemstones also contained demonic spirits.

And even for top-grade gemstones, the chance of a demonic spirit emerging was low, and they still had no method to discern which had demonic spirits.

Through thousands of years of research, they made numerous findings.

Until one day, a deep underground gemstone mine was discovered, unveiling an unimaginable gemstone.

Once touched, this gemstone ushered humanity into the era of demonic spirits.

Li Xiu was aware of what happened next: numerous demonic spirits descended upon Earth, and mysterious Trial Gates appeared globally.

Those who contacted that gemstone mostly died, and only a few survived. That gemstone mine was sealed by a gigantic Trial Gate, preventing anyone from entering again.

The Celestial of Longevity was the first to encounter and study demonic spirits, and they were the ones who developed Demon Armor.

Ximen Guan used to be a member of the Celestial of Longevity but stole Demon Armor's research for personal gain, becoming the world's recognized "Father of Demon Armor."

"At the Celestial of Longevity, you can get the best of everything, be it Demon Armor or demonic spirits. Their research on the Trial Gate is unmatched—someone like you should join them. Only there can your talents truly shine, not to mention the secrets to immortality." Sha Chu said.

"In the end, these are just stories." Li Xiu mused.

"Then I'll skip the stories. Look at this." Sha Chu took out a small box and opened the lid, showing it to Li Xiu.

Inside the box was a gemstone, a sapphire, with a deep blue hue and velvety texture, its brilliance like a blooming daisy.

Even someone like Li Xiu, who wasn't keen on gemstones, could recognize this as a top-grade Kashmir Chrysanthemum sapphire—Kashmir refers to its origin, and Chrysanthemum is the name given to the color by later generations.

The Kashmir mines had long been nearly depleted, and even before the demonic spirits descended, Kashmir Chrysanthemum was hard to find on the market.

Those blue sapphires named as Chrysanthemum color later weren't true Kashmir Chrysanthemums.