

When God 731

Chapter 731 Land of the Sword Soul

Sha Chu, as usual, got up early in the morning to open the gate, preparing to go out and buy breakfast.

But today, as soon as she pushed the door open, she saw a disheveled person sitting in front of the door, staring at the gate with blood-red eyes, not blinking.

This startled Sha Chu, she thought perhaps Li Xiu had killed someone's parents, and the son was sitting in protest at the gate of courtyard number seven.

Seeing Sha Chu come out, the person sitting on the ground gave a smile that looked worse than crying: "Please, young lady, pass on the message, saying the old fraud is here to apply to join the group of technicians."

Sha Chu had heard from Li Xiu about the old fraud, and upon hearing those two words, she knew what had happened. She opened the door and said: "Please sit in the hall for a moment, I will notify the Commander."

The old fraud got up from the ground, his stature seemed somewhat staggered, the whole person looked like a sick man seriously ill, even unable to walk steadily.

Li Xiu was called by Sha Chu and came to the hall neatly dressed, seeing the old fraud's appearance startled him.

"What happened to you? I should have only used two layers of the Illusion Realm, correct?" The old fraud's appearance made Li Xiu think whether he had made a mistake, using more than just two layers, and tortured the old fraud into such a state.

Actually, Li Xiu knew he wouldn't make a mistake, but the old fraud looked too frightening, like a person so doomed to disease, almost at their end.

The old fraud said bitterly: "Commander Li, you've tortured me miserably, now I cannot distinguish what is real and what is illusion."

"I only used two layers of the Illusion Realm." Li Xiu said.

"I know you only used two layers of the Illusion Realm, but how do I know it's not within my fantasy that you only used two layers? Perhaps right now it's still an illusion, and I'm within it... perhaps... I think more and more, the more I think, today almost driving me mad..." the old fraud said painfully.

Li Xiu laughed at the words: "Fearless are the ignorant. You think more and understand fear, because you are knowing more, only when you know more will you have reverence and know fear. It seems you are close to truly understanding the Dao."

"I can't even distinguish if I am real or illusion, what Dao should I understand?" the old fraud sighed.

"What if real? What if illusion? Life in the world is merely a feeling, whether true or illusion, do what you want, follow your desired Dao, as long as you feel happy and free." Li Xiu said.

"But I am not sure if I am still myself now." Mentally, the old fraud struggled unceasingly.

"Is that important? Is who you are truly that important? Perhaps you should think about who you want to be." Li Xiu said slowly.

The old fraud stared at Li Xiu, startled, after a long moment, suddenly kneeled on one knee: "Commander, please accept me into the group."

"You are already a member of my group of technicians." Li Xiu helped the old fraud up: "I'll have Sha Chu take you to handle the joining procedures, for this time you should stay here and think carefully."

"About the Sword Soul Gate..." the old fraud hesitated.

"I will arrange matters at the Sword Soul Gate, wait until you've figured things out and then return to continue your defense." Li Xiu planned to first himself defend the Sword Soul Gate, just in time to gather some Light Vein for the Fire Lotus Sword.

After transferring the old fraud to the group of technicians, Li Xiu directly reassigned him from the Sword Soul Gate.

Other groups cannot casually exchange members defending the Trial Gate, but for the group of technicians, this is not an issue at all.

The Magic Armor Masters defend the Trial Gate, only guarding outside the gate, unlike the Trial Takers who can enter the Land of Trial to defend.

Back when it was the Demon Armor group, only the Demon Armor group could decide on their own to rotate duties, no other groups had this privilege.

No one thought that the Demon Armor group would transform into the group of technicians, and have so many high-level Trial Taker members, thus it became a unique BUG, belonging only to the group of technicians.

Li Xiu estimated the Han Family wouldn't let this go lightly, surely they would unite with others to confront the chairperson.

Li Xiu was not concerned about when this BUG would be fixed, as long as he took advantage of the situation.

After making himself the Defender of the Sword Soul Gate, he immediately without hesitation used a Gemstone to enter the Sword Soul Gate.

"Unfortunately, I can't bring Afei and Chujun here." Li Xiu appeared within the Trial Ground.

"Welcome to the Sword Soul Trial Ground, the S-level difficulty Sword Soul trial is about to begin, the rules are as follows..."

The rules matched the old man's given data, just follow the Sword Soul to learn a set of swordsmanship, then wait for the screen to score, scoring determines if you can pass.

For C-level difficulty Sword Soul trial, as long as you learn the swordsmanship to about five or six points of similarity, you can pass; the higher the difficulty, the more you must learn to resemble. In S-level difficulty Sword Soul trial, if scoring doesn't reach S-level, then trial failure is directly determined.

Li Xiu directly encountered S-level difficulty, for others it's bad luck, but for Li Xiu, it's rather fortunate.

A Sword Soul on the field, its face unclear, emanating light throughout, began its demonstration.

Low difficulty Sword Souls will demonstrate multiple times, lower the difficulty, fewer demonstrations and easier swordsmanship.

S-level difficulty Sword Soul trial, the Sword Soul will only demonstrate once, and the swordsmanship difficulty is the highest.

Chapter 732 Land of the Sword Soul_2

Li Xiu watched as the Sword Soul demonstrated the complex swordsmanship once and then vanished without a curtain call.

Li Xiu wielded the sword given automatically by the Trial Ground and replicated the swordsmanship demonstrated by the Sword Soul exactly, with movements identical in every way.

With no suspense, he received an S-level pass approval, and the reward icons followed.

Attributes, Demon Core, Trial Badge, and admission ticket were options, and Li Xiu immediately chose the Trial Badge and admission ticket.

The Trial Badge is considered hard currency among advanced Trial Takers, even more effective than the Demon Core. The admission ticket, needless to say, was what Li Xiu came here for. His luck was good this time as he obtained it in one go.

As the admission ticket transformed into a vortex portal, Li Xiu was also absorbed into it.

The familiar scene, on the stone table lay a sword, reputedly all contracts in the Sword Soul Trial Ground are sword contracts, without other types.

The Illusion Sword belonging to Old Qian was said to be obtained from the Sword Soul Trial Ground as well.

Li Xiu didn't want to hear the Longevity Lamp's nonsense. As he was about to reach for the sword, he suddenly saw a flash of red light from his waist, and the Fire Lotus Sword flew out on its own, directly striking the sword on the stone table, cutting it in half.

This kind of contract, which was not yet contracted by anyone, is the lowest E-level, unable to withstand the Fire Lotus Sword's strike, and was severed in one blow.

After the Fire Lotus Sword struck, it flew back to Li Xiu's waist and coiled back around.

"What is happening here?" Li Xiu was bewildered, wondering why the Fire Lotus Sword suddenly ran out and cut the contract he was about to take.

With the contract severed, the Longevity Lamp floated up, and Li Xiu followed it into the Land of Trial, pondering the matter; after much thought, there seemed to be only one possibility.

The Fire Lotus Sword was too possessive; it didn't allow Li Xiu to have other sword contracts.

"This one's temper indeed isn't good." Li Xiu remembered it was originally because he once said something bad about the Fire Lotus Sword, that it clung hard to him, its temper being evident.

He hadn't expected it to be to such a degree, not allowing Li Xiu to use other sword contracts; this was absurd.

As the contract was severed, Li Xiu had no other options. Fortunately, he had not intended to cultivate another parasitic sword contract anyway.

Not to mention parasitic contracts, Li Xiu had neither the resources nor the time to cultivate various parasitic contracts, even struggling to cultivate the Symbiotic Contract.

The Land of the Sword Soul was somewhat different from Li Xiu's imagination. He heard from Old Immortal that there were many sword-soul type magic spirits here, not only numerous but also many of advanced levels, with high chances of dropping Talent Gemstones and Skill Rings, and even Demon Spirit Rings.

However, the talents and skills obtained here are all related to swordsmanship, so those who don't practice the sword are at a loss here.

Originally, Li Xiu thought the Land of the Sword Soul should be a place filled with swords planted everywhere, with countless flying swords swirling in the sky.

Instead, upon entry, Li Xiu was somewhat disappointed; the place seemed like a huge workshop with many machines Li Xiu had never seen before.

Those machines were different from Earth's, lacking screws or seams, as if they naturally grew that way.

The whole machinery resembled an assembly line, from the initial steel furnace to the final forging machines, constantly hammering out Sword Embryos, which were then transported out of the workshop by conveyor belt.

Li Xiu didn't see any magic spirits, so he followed the direction of the conveyor belt outwards, and upon reaching the workshop's entrance, he saw many magic spirits outside.

Those magic spirits, looking somewhat like ghosts, guarded the outside of the workshop. As soon as a Sword Embryo was sent out, they scrambled to seize that Sword Embryo.

The foremost magic spirit rushed into the Sword Embryo, and the embryo immediately burst with light, as if suddenly endowed with life, rising with an astonishing sword light, disappearing swiftly.

"This is interesting. What's the deal with this factory? Did the magic spirits create it themselves or was it the people of the Demon Kingdom? What benefits do the magic spirits gain by attaching themselves to the Sword Embryo?" Li Xiu pondered secretly.

There were too many magic spirits outside, and the workshop's speed of crafting Sword Embryos was too slow; a single Sword Embryo going through the process from steel refining to sword forging would not emerge in less than three to five days.

The magic spirits outside were wandering around, gathering more and more.

Li Xiu observed closely, finding no particularly high-grade magic spirits outside; the highest estimated was S-level, uncertain if there were Super Spirits. Light Base was definitely absent.

However, their quality was quite good; just from what Li Xiu saw, there were two Brilliant and several Dazzling and Flowing Color ones.

Li Xiu directly pushed open the workshop door and walked out; before he could make any moves, the Fire Lotus Sword rushed out on its own.

Flame Sword Light bursts from it, slashing across the sky, instantly killing many magic spirits with its sword light.

The Light Base level Fire Lotus Sword was like a tiger among sheep; where its sword light passed, not a single living magic spirit was left, and even the Demon Core was shattered by the Fire Lotus Sword, absorbing the energy released from the Demon Core into the sword.

"This one's truly domineering!" Li Xiu had no intention of stopping it. After all, his purpose in coming here was to enhance the Light Vein of the Fire Lotus Sword. With it taking such initiative, it saved Li Xiu from any worry.

Chapter 733 Land of the Sword Soul_3

The Fire Lotus Sword continued its relentless slaughter nearby, and before long, it had wiped out the demons gathered at the workshop's entrance.

Unfortunately, the demons the Fire Lotus Sword killed left behind no Demon Cores, but two Talent Gemstones and a Skill Ring were found.

For such drop rates, it was already quite good; Li Xiu pocketed the Talent Gemstones and Skill Ring and surveyed his surroundings.

This was a vast plain, and in the distance, barely visible, there seemed to be other workshops similar to this one, also likely teeming with demon spirits waiting for sword embryos.

Unfortunately, the Longevity Lamp could not leave this workshop; embarking to other workshops would mean taking a risk.

Fortunately, Li Xiu's current strength was not what it used to be; even Spirit Casting had fallen by his hand. Such places posed little danger to him.

Li Xiu summoned the Pink Nightmare and rode it toward the distant workshop.

Though Li Xiu himself was faster than the Pink Nightmare now, he didn't want to waste his energy on travel.

From afar, upon seeing the demon spirits gathering outside another workshop, the Fire Lotus Sword darted forward on its own, ruthlessly exterminating every last one.

Li Xiu examined this workshop; from the outside, it wasn't much different from the previous one, nearly identical.

The only difference was the door to this workshop — Li Xiu couldn't push it open. Trying to force it, the Light Energy he released was diffused by the electrical discharge appearing on the door.

"These workshops are really peculiar, they even have self-defense mechanisms." Li Xiu grew increasingly curious about these workshops that created sword embryos.

Unfortunately, no sword embryo had emerged yet; otherwise, Li Xiu would have liked to take a look at one to see what kind of creation these workshops were producing.

As Li Xiu studied the workshop door, the Fire Lotus Sword had already dealt with all the demon spirits, acquiring more Talent Gemstones and Skill Rings.

Li Xiu, along with the Fire Lotus Sword, continued searching for other workshops — these plains had a workshop every few dozen miles, but there was no telling how many there were.

By now, the Fire Lotus Sword had slain no fewer than a thousand demon spirits along the way, yet they hadn't encountered any Super Spirits or Light Bases — plenty of Talent Gemstones and Skill Rings, but not a single Demon Spirit Ring.

The Demon Cores from so many demon spirits weren't enough for the Fire Lotus Sword to coalesce a Light Vein. It seemed that simply killing low-level demon spirits made gathering enough energy for a Light Vein too troublesome. Who knew how many had to be killed to form one — or it required killing high-level demon spirits.

After wiping out another group of demon spirits outside a workshop, just as Li Xiu was about to head to the next, he suddenly heard a sound from the portal beside the workshop door, and a sword embryo fell out.

With no demon spirits around to contest it, Li Xiu reached out and caught the sword embryo, only to see that it was shaped like a Bronze Short Sword, with a total length of less than two feet including the blade and the hilt, which was cloud-shaped, while the blade bore fine fish-scale patterns.

The blade had not been opened, so it wasn't sharp at all. When Li Xiu ran his fingers across the blade, he felt a chill seep into his fingertips.

"Strange, there's no trace of Light Energy on this sword embryo, so why are those demon spirits so eager to rush into it?" Li Xiu glanced at the Fire Lotus Sword, which showed no inclination to destroy this sword embryo.

Holding the hilt with one hand and pinching the blade tip with the other, Li Xiu applied pressure to the sword embryo causing the blade to curve slowly.

Crack!

When the blade curved to a certain extent, it snapped, breaking the Bronze Short Sword into three pieces.

"The sword embryo's strength is only about the same as ordinary S-Class materials, so it makes sense for low-level demon spirits to want it as protection. But for S-Class demon spirits whose own strength isn't inferior to the sword embryo, why would they need it?" Li Xiu still couldn't figure it out.

Mounting the Pink Nightmare, Li Xiu continued his search for the next workshop. As he neared a new one, he saw from a distance that there was only one demon spirit in front of its door, unlike the chaotic gatherings outside other workshops.

"Super Spirit or Light Base?" Li Xiu observed the demon spirit, whose radiant blue light shone so brightly it nearly blinded him, indicating not just a high-quality light attribute but also a very high level.

As Li Xiu pondered, the Fire Lotus Sword was already charging forward with a shower of sword light.

However, unlike previous demon spirits, this ghostly blue demon spirit wasn't easily overpowered by the Fire Lotus Sword. Its arms transformed into blue Light Sabers, clashing repeatedly with the Fire Lotus Sword's beams.

Red and blue hues exploded continuously, with shockwaves sweeping down from the air, stirring up clouds of dust from the ground.

Sitting atop the Pink Nightmare, Li Xiu observed from afar as the Fire Lotus Sword fought the demon spirit, surprised to find the Fire Lotus Sword at a disadvantage.

"Although its Light Energy surpasses the Fire Lotus Sword's, it hasn't reached a level of overwhelming power; it hasn't used Spirit Casting, likely indicating a Light Base level. It's just that it possesses more

Light Veins than the Fire Lotus Sword, giving it much greater Light Energy, enabling it to suppress the Fire Lotus Sword." Li Xiu roughly gauged the demon spirit's strength.

Despite lacking the Light Energy that demon spirit possessed, the Fire Lotus Sword continued its aggressive assault, with its beams forming layers like lotus petals slashing toward the demon spirit.

Unfortunately, all the Fire Lotus Sword's beams were shattered by the demon spirit's transformed Light Saber arms, unable to harm it.

Just as Li Xiu was about to intervene, he suddenly heard a noise from the workshop door; another sword embryo had fallen out from the opening.

It was a dark two-handed broadsword, its blade as black as ink, the hilt and guard engraved with strange symbols and patterns. Although its edge wasn't opened, it gave off an eerie chill.

The demon spirit currently fighting suddenly abandoned the Fire Lotus Sword, charging straight for the freshly fallen sword embryo.

Chapter 734 Demon in the Rain

Li Xiu was about to summon the Forbidden Spear. Who would have thought that before he could act, the Fire Lotus Sword suddenly transformed into a Sword Lotus form, enveloping the magic spirit within the massive Sword Lotus.

Inside the Sword Lotus, continuous explosions of light occurred, making it impossible for the magic spirit to escape, as if it was trapped in a prison.

"The Sword Lotus can be used like this?" Li Xiu was somewhat surprised, as he hadn't seen the Fire Lotus Sword used in such a way before.

Within the Sword Lotus, the sword light repeatedly intertwined, colliding with the Demonic Light of the magic spirit, producing fearsome crackling sounds. Despite bearing the brunt of these terrifying light explosions continuously, the Sword Lotus was neither destroyed nor forced open.

Li Xiu noticed the Sword Lotus itself was spinning rapidly, the gear-like sword light revolving around with it like a massive shredder, continuously grinding.

Upon the collision of the magic spirit's Demonic Light and the sword light, the resulting explosions and shockwaves became the driving force for the Sword Lotus's rotation, accelerating the spinning and enhancing the grinding power.

Even though the magic spirit's light energy was stronger than the Fire Lotus Sword, its might decreased once trapped.

"What an incredible Fire Lotus Sword, it actually has such a technique." Li Xiu secretly marveled, knowing that the magic spirit had no chance of winning and that being ground down was just a matter of time.

Li Xiu lost interest in watching and went to the workshop door to pick up the dual-handed sword.

The weight was extremely heavy, likely weighing a thousand pounds. Though not sharpened, it exuded a chilling aura. Most people wouldn't even be able to lift, let alone use, this dual-handed sword.

Li Xiu, with his current physical abilities, could easily lift the Sword Embryo, but actually wielding it in battle seemed somewhat cumbersome.

He held the sword hilt with one hand and grasped the sword body with the other, wanting to see if he could break it. Unexpectedly, the sword was incredibly hard; even when he unleashed all his light energy, he couldn't bend, let alone break, the Sword Embryo.

"It seems that the forged Sword Embryos in this workshop are made from different materials. Some are good, some are bad. But where do these sword-making materials come from? Is someone sending materials to the workshop, or are they originally present in the workshop?" Li Xiu drove the Sword Embryo into the ground. It was too heavy, and holding it continuously was tiring.

It's a pity the workshop's door couldn't be opened; otherwise, he could enter to find out.

If the workshop originally had raw materials, it seemed unlikely. If that were the case, these workshops would have run out of materials after operating for many years.

The continuous production of Sword Embryos indicated that raw materials were being sent regularly. If no one was sending them, then where were the materials coming from?

Li Xiu couldn't figure it out temporarily and could only enter the workshop to see.

This workshop was inaccessible, but he could return to the initial workshop, as the principle should be the same.

While Li Xiu pondered, the battle with the Fire Lotus Sword was reaching its conclusion. Contrary to being at a disadvantage, the Fire Lotus Sword brutally shredded the magic spirit, leaving no trace, even crushing the Demon Core, absorbing all the light energy.

The Fire Lotus Sword's Light Vein rapidly expanded to eight, greatly enhancing its power.

"One Light Base manifested so many Light Veins. With a few more, the Fire Lotus Sword's Light Veins should almost be full. But who knows about its potential—how many Light Veins could it eventually gather?" Li Xiu wondered if he could use his Light Planting Technique to increase the light vein limit of the contract with magic spirits.

Contracted magic spirits differ from humans, and Li Xiu hadn't yet decided how to approach it. The Fire Lotus Sword could serve as a test; once it reached its light vein limit, he would use the Light Planting Technique to see if he could expand its number of light veins.

The Fire Lotus Sword returned to Li Xiu's waist, seemingly not interested in Sword Embryos, indicating its hostility was towards sentient swords rather than the swords themselves.

"Take the Sword Embryo back to Old Official to see. With such good material, it might be usable for Demon Armor." Finding carrying the Sword Embryo too tiring, Li Xiu summoned the Masked Emperor to bear it.

One person and one sword continued forward, searching for more workshops. On the way, the Fire Lotus Sword moved like a God of Slaughter, unstoppable even by gods and Buddhas.

Afterwards, there was no particularly strong magic spirit encountered, with the strongest being only a Super Spirit.

Li Xiu wanted to gather more Sword Embryos but didn't know when the workshop would produce more and couldn't wait indefinitely, rarely coinciding with Sword Embryos emerging from the workshop.

Finally encountering one, it proved too weak; a light fold by Li Xiu broke it—bringing it back was of little use.

Until Li Xiu grew somewhat tired, he retrieved the Fire Lotus Sword and returned to the initial workshop.

Li Xiu studied the workshop's production line and discovered the raw materials originated from a large column, its diameter exceeding twenty meters, and height over thirty meters, with materials continuously supplied from within.

Other than the opening for material delivery, the entire cylinder was sealed, leaving the origin of the materials unknown.

Li Xiu guessed that if no one was delivering materials, the column might be a drilling device, extracting materials directly from underground.

Chapter 735 Rain Demon_2

Since he couldn't see inside, Li Xiu was unsure if his guess was correct.

This workshop held some special significance, but Li Xiu did not know why Trial Takers had to enter or guard the Sword Soul Gate here; the primary task was to prevent any Demon Spirits from breaching the workshop.

Generally, no Demon Spirits would break into the workshop. Regular Demon Spirits only desire the Sword Embryo and do not wish to burst out from the Trial Gate.

Before sleeping, Li Xiu took stock of his gains this time.

Eleven Talent Gemstones, seven Skill Rings, and one Demon Spirit Ring.

The Talent Gemstones and Skill Rings appeared similar, suggesting they might belong to the same category of talents and skills, so Li Xiu didn't use them immediately.

"I wonder if Talent Gemstones can be synthesized?" Li Xiu summoned the Synthetic Capsule, wanting to see if the Talent Gemstones could be merged.

After feeding the Talent Gemstones to the Synthetic Capsule, it spit them back out.

Li Xiu thought the Talent Gemstones couldn't be synthesized, but then he heard a childish voice from within the Synthetic Capsule: "Gemstone level exceeds E-level, fusion cannot be completed."

"The Synthetic Capsule is at E level, meaning gemstones exceeding its level can't be synthesized." Unfortunately, Li Xiu didn't possess any E-level Talent Gemstones, so he decided to try synthesizing two Talent Gemstones later.

Of course, Li Xiu wouldn't specifically seek E-level Talent Gemstones, instead aiming to level up the Synthetic Capsule directly.

The Synthetic Capsule was hatched from synthetic diamonds and likely only needed to consume synthetic diamonds, which were quite cheap. Li Xiu could let the Synthetic Capsule consume them freely, with no need to worry about its appetite.

Li Xiu initially wasn't interested in swordsmanship; he wasn't impressed by common skills, planning to sell them after leaving.

As for the Demon Spirit Ring, he also planned to sell it; Li Xiu had too many high-quality Demon Spirits to nurture, leaving no room for this ring.

Li Xiu continued guarding the Land of the Sword Soul, only able to leave once a month. He wasn't in a hurry and kept hunting Demon Spirits with the Fire Lotus Sword to increase its number of Light Veins.

The old immortals had portrayed the Land of the Sword Soul as dangerously packed with Super Spirits, with occasional appearances of Light Bases.

Unexpectedly, after a month of searching, Li Xiu had only encountered a few Light Base Demon Spirits beyond those met earlier, barely encountering eight or nine Super Spirits, despite actively seeking them with the Fire Lotus Sword.

Clearly, Li Xiu had overthought the situation. If there truly were vast numbers of Light Bases and Super Spirits, the old wily inhabitants here would likely have perished long ago.

The previous guardians remained passive during their duty. Unlike Li Xiu, who actively pursued challenges and provoked Light Base Demon Spirits.

Luckily, the Land of the Sword Soul certainly housed many Demon Spirits. After clearing the workshop entrance, new groups of Demon Spirits gathered within a couple of days, eliminating the need to travel too far to find them.

Under a heap of Demon Spirits, the Fire Lotus Sword's Light Vein count reached twelve, but it showed no further activity after reaching twelve veins.

"Being able to consolidate twelve Light Veins, which would be considered top-notch for a typical contract, remains insufficient for me," Li Xiu planned on experimenting with the Fire Lotus Sword to see if the Light Planting Technique could help exceed the vein limit.

Li Xiu gripped the Fire Lotus Sword's handle, transparent Ultimate Light gradually manifested upon the hilt, and he began pouring it bit by bit into the sword.

Although Li Xiu understood human body Light Veins inside and out, the distribution on a sword was a mystery.

When the Ultimate Light infiltrated the sword's body, Li Xiu encountered tremendous resistance; the sword trembled, its humming akin to a painful wail.

"Apparently, a contract's Light Veins do not align with humans. The Light Vein Map of the Evil Spirit Token corresponds to humans, not contracts," Li Xiu wondered internally, "Why does the Evil Spirit Token's Light Vein Map match humans when it is itself a contract?"

Unable to resolve this query immediately, Li Xiu hesitated to proceed until a series of Light Patterns appeared along the Fire Lotus Sword's blade.

One, two, three... all the way up to twelve, Li Xiu realized the Fire Lotus Sword was demonstrating its Light Veins.

Perhaps the Ultimate Light overburdened the Fire Lotus Sword, causing it to show its Light Vein locations willingly.

Examining the sword's Light Veins, Li Xiu noticed they were concentrated on one side of the blade, with none manifesting on the opposite side.

"Might a contract's Light Veins correspond to human inversely?" Li Xiu speculated, channeling the Ultimate Light along the twelve consolidated Light Veins first, encountering no obstruction, and the blade no longer vibrated intensely like before.

"Though the distribution differs, apart from positioning, the Light Veins closely resemble those of humans. There may be another layer to the veins, the key lies in finding the connection between the direct and inverse veins. Breaking that link may reveal and coalesce the veins on the other layer." Li Xiu didn't know the link's location, forcing him to trace the twelve consolidated veins for hints. If contracts did possess such a link, it would certainly reside within the veins.

Chapter 736 Rain Demon_3

Li Xiu didn't have any particularly good method, so he could only try point by point in the areas where the Light Veins were distributed.

Every time Li Xiu used the Ultimate Light to charge, the Fire Lotus Sword's blade would shake violently for a moment, presumably feeling quite uncomfortable.

Li Xiu even began to suspect that if he really annoyed the Fire Lotus Sword, it might turn around and stab him.

Fortunately, that didn't happen. No matter how violently the blade shook, it never stabbed towards Li Xiu.

Li Xiu tried for a long time, testing many places on the twelve Light Veins, yet he still hadn't found that point, making him doubt if there was no such point, nor another side of the Light Vein in the bond.

Just when Li Xiu was about to give up, he suddenly felt a slight loosening at the point where the Ultimate Light struck.

Li Xiu was overjoyed and quickly transmitted more Ultimate Light over, continuously surging towards that point.

Sure enough, that point was becoming increasingly loose. Under the burn of the Ultimate Light, something gradually seemed to burn through, with slender threads of Ultimate Light passing through.

Li Xiu could clearly see, on the other side of the blade, a hair-thin Light Pattern appeared. Though it was just a faint speck, it was already enough to bring joy.

"There is indeed another side of the Light Vein." Li Xiu continuously used the Ultimate Light to burn that point, penetrating the point connecting the two sides.

This was somewhat different from the Light Planting Technique, which involves refining that point into a Light Seed, continuously watering the Light Seed with Light Energy, allowing the Light Seed to sprout and grow, the vines from the Light Seed being Light Veins.

Now what Li Xiu did was piercing that point, thereafter allowing the Fire Lotus Sword itself to coagulate the Light Veins, with the methods being entirely different.

It's hard to say which method is superior, as this depends on individual cultivation. No matter the path, there are differences between strength and weakness, still hinging on one's own cultivation level.

Finally, Li Xiu used the Ultimate Light to completely burn and melt that point, allowing the Light Veins on both sides to interconnect.

The Fire Lotus Sword had previously amassed quite a bit of Light Energy because its potential was only twelve Light Veins. With its potential exhausted, no more Light Veins had coagulated, hence the light energy absorbed later was accumulated.

Now that the point has been penetrated, the amassed Light Veins flowed to the other side, and before long, a Light Vein coagulated on the other side. The remaining energy was insufficient to coagulate a second Light Vein.

The remaining Light Veins still require the Fire Lotus Sword to absorb more Light Energy. If the hypothesis is correct, the other side should also be able to coagulate twelve Light Veins, which combined, would allow the Fire Lotus Sword to achieve the level of Twenty-Four Vein Light Base.

Now Li Xiu was in no mood to take the Fire Lotus Sword to kill the Demon Spirit. The month-long time was up, and he could go out to rest for two days. Such a good chance to take a break, Li Xiu naturally wouldn't miss it.

Primarily because during this month, he got quite a few Talent Gemstones, Skill Rings, and Demon Spirit Rings, planning to take them out to Sha Chu, for her to sell and exchange for resources.

Also, the Synthetic Capsule needed to be fed some Synthetic Diamonds, primarily to raise its level.

Just as Li Xiu was about to extinguish the Longevity Lamp and head out, he suddenly heard a peculiar sound coming from outside the workshop.

That sound was like thunder, terrifying to hear rumbling.

"What's going on? Does this weird place actually have thunderstorms and rain?" Li Xiu walked to the workshop door to take a look outside.

The sky indeed was covered in dense dark clouds, ominously low like mountains in an ink painting, with occasional flashes of blue lightning flickering among clouds, like elusive blue electric snakes.

The subsequent thunder roared, painfully shaking the eardrums.

Before long, pea-sized raindrops poured down, a curtain of rain seemed to descend upon the world, dense and vast, in a state of open and roll amidst thunder and lightning.

The ground quickly accumulated quite a bit of water, with bubbles rising rhythmically under the hammering raindrops.

Li Xiu was absorbed in watching, but suddenly noticed a cluster of light moving in the distance.

Beneath mountain-like dark clouds, a mysterious purple light moved in the distance, raindrops falling on that mysterious purple light instantly scattering to the sides, appearing from afar as if someone held a purple umbrella, unveiling rain curtains as they came.

"A Demon Spirit?" Li Xiu gazed at that purple light, but unfortunately, the distance was too far to see clearly. Judging by the direction the purple light was coming from, it seemed headed towards him.

As the one guarding the Sword Soul Gate, Li Xiu couldn't possibly ignore such a situation, reluctantly abandoning plans to leave the Land of the Sword Soul, focusing on the distant purple light.

The purple light was indeed coming this way, before long, Li Xiu could see more clearly. It really was an umbrella.

A purple light-emitting umbrella moved through the rain, beneath it was a woman clad in purple, whose body emitted a hazy light like clouds, like mist, or like smoke, swaying as if in the wind and rain.

The umbrella shielded her face, making it impossible to discern her appearance, only seeing her purple garments swaying, long legs as white as jade fleetingly visible, her bare feet stepping through the rain yet untouched by any raindrop.

Drops of water on her bare insteps flowed like dew on lotus leaves, stunningly smoothed.

Before long, the woman with the umbrella arrived in front of the workshop, Li Xiu standing inside, watching her through the small window for transmitting the Sword Embryo, not daring to open the door and go out.

From Li Xiu's experience, humanoid Demon Spirits generally aren't easy to deal with, with this woman appearing so mysteriously, Li Xiu was reluctant to take risks and act.

A torrential downpour suddenly started here, with a humanoid Demon Spirit appearing in the rain at this time, Li Xiu didn't believe this was merely a coincidence.

The Demon Spirit stopped less than five meters from the workshop door. Her umbrella remained still, still lowered, keeping her face concealed.

"Human, do you wish to die or live?" The Demon Spirit's voice was extremely seductive, uttering clearly vicious words yet sounding like the tender murmur of a lover.

Chapter 737 The Mute

"What do you want for living? What do you want for dying?" Li Xiu was quite interested in these high wisdom magic spirits and asked from inside the door.

"On a stormy night, if you want to die, it's simple. You just have to blow on that Longevity Lamp and you'll know what death feels like." The spirit under the umbrella said slowly.

Li Xiu's face changed slightly, sensing a bad omen. However, he didn't blow on the Longevity Lamp but said, "It seems you've had your eye on me for quite some time."

The spirit under the umbrella didn't answer Li Xiu's question, but continued, "If you want to live, hand over the Sword Embryo."

"Sword Embryo? What Sword Embryo?" Li Xiu was somewhat surprised. This spirit was after the big sword's embryo he had obtained; he thought the spirit wanted to break out from the Land of Trial.

Li Xiu had been here for a month and had seen more than a dozen sword embryos, but most were useless. The only useful one he'd brought back was this one.

The spirit wanted him to hand over the Sword Embryo, and it could only be this one.

"Naturally, it's the Radiant Sword Embryo you have on you." The spirit said.

"What Radiant Sword Embryo? The sword embryo I brought back is as black as ink, without a hint of light." Li Xiu replied.

"Ignorant human, the Radiant Sword Embryo refers to a sword embryo that can withstand the Radiance Force, which has nothing to do with whether it emits light." The spirit said disdainfully.

"Are you referring to the Radiance Force as the light qualities of Light Energy?" Li Xiu asked.

"You could say that." The spirit replied.

"So there are four qualities of sword embryos: flowing color, shining, brilliant, and radiant?" Li Xiu asked again.

"Correct." The spirit answered.

"What do you want this Sword Embryo for?" Li Xiu continued to ask.

"You really have a lot of questions. I don't have time to explain so much nonsense. Decide now if you want to live or die." The spirit snorted coldly.

Li Xiu didn't speak; he quietly blew towards his Longevity Lamp's flame.

The originally dim yellow flame, upon Li Xiu's blow, transformed into an eerie blue, not only not extinguishing but growing larger.

"Sure enough, it won't extinguish." Li Xiu had already guessed this might be the result but was still somewhat surprised.

The spirit being able to make the Longevity Lamp inextinguishable was something he had never encountered before, nor heard of.

"Possessing such terrifying abilities, what level is this spirit?" Li Xiu frowned privately; escaping was out of the question now, and if he didn't hand over the Sword Embryo, he might not be able to fight this spirit.

The main problem was not knowing the spirit's abilities and level, making the battle too risky.

Li Xiu tried blowing several more times, and the result was that the more he blew, the brighter it burned; the Longevity Lamp's flame was almost turning into a blue torch.

"You can keep blowing." The spirit outside seemed to know Li Xiu was blowing the Longevity Lamp and said mockingly.

"You can have the Sword Embryo. What will you exchange for it?" Li Xiu abandoned the idea of extinguishing the Longevity Lamp and addressed the outside.

"Already on the brink of death, and you still wish to bargain with me?" The spirit's voice grew colder.

"Why not negotiate? If you could come in, you would have already, rather than standing outside speaking so much nonsense. Since I can't escape and you can't get inside, discussing a price... isn't that normal..." Li Xiu hadn't finished speaking when he froze in place.

The workshop door creaked open, and the spirit with an umbrella pushed the door with one hand and walked right in.

"Continue." The spirit stood before Li Xiu and said mockingly.

The atmosphere became somewhat awkward; Li Xiu coughed lightly and said, "A spirit as cultured as you wouldn't rob me of my belongings, right?"

"What do you think?" The spirit slightly raised the umbrella, revealing a beautiful face, half smiling half teasing, with enchanting eyes looking at him.

"You wouldn't, right?" Li Xiu replied.

"Since you said I'm a cultured spirit, of course, I wouldn't rob your belongings," the spirit nodded with a smile but then added, "But taking things from a dead person isn't robbing; it's collecting. Isn't that right?"

"Seems to make sense." Li Xiu sighed lightly, "Looks like it's better to give you the Sword Embryo rather than you bothering to collect it."

"You're also quite cultured, for a human." The spirit smiled.

"I'm just unclear on one thing. Could you help me understand?" Li Xiu asked.

The rain outside grew heavier, and thunder roared continuously, sounding as if the sky were about to collapse.

The spirit glanced outside lightly and said, "I don't have much time left, and neither do you. It's still not too late to hand over the Sword Embryo now, otherwise, even if I didn't intend to kill you, you wouldn't survive."

"Besides you, who else wants to kill me?" Li Xiu asked.

"You really are troublesome. Seems it's easier just to collect." The spirit said and started moving towards Li Xiu.

Li Xiu's gaze sharpened as he prepared to launch Ghostly Eye Covering.

Lao Qian's Illusion Technique was carried by the Illusion Sword, requiring Light Energy and Spiritual Sense to be used.

Li Xiu was able to trap Lao Qian in an Illusion Realm by touching the Illusion Sword and using Spiritual Sense to rebound the force of the Illusory Sword. He himself doesn't possess the ability to combine Light Energy and Spiritual Sense, being able to only use Spiritual Sense alone or simply Light Energy, lacking the ability to fuse the two thus unable to wield that Illusory Sword.

Chapter 738 Mute_2

Just as Li Xiu was about to use Ghostly Eye Covering, he suddenly saw the figure of the bride-to-be flash and float away from him, landing next to the Longevity Lamp.

"Husband, do you need me to blow out the lamp for you?" The bride-to-be, her face covered by a red veil, said as she approached the Longevity Lamp.

Her red veil swayed slightly, the beads hanging beneath it swaying, stirring a slight breeze. To his surprise, the breeze made the flame of the Longevity Lamp flicker, and the originally torch-like flame shrank significantly, almost reverting to its original size.

The demon spirit that was originally stepping towards Li Xiu suddenly stopped, looking at the bride-to-be with some confusion.

"Who are you?" The demon spirit studied her for a long time, its eyes still filled with doubt.

The bride-to-be ignored it and continued to ask, "Husband, do you need me to blow out the lamp for you?"

"You get ready first, I'll have a word with her." Li Xiu was pleasantly surprised, not expecting the bride-to-be to have such abilities.

The bride-to-be hummed softly in agreement, standing by the Longevity Lamp, ready to extinguish its flame at any moment.

"Can we have a proper conversation now?" Li Xiu looked at the demon spirit and said.

The demon spirit sighed lightly, "We can discuss the price."

"That's not urgent. Can you tell me your name?" Li Xiu asked, looking at the demon spirit.

"Mute," the demon spirit replied.

"What?" Li Xiu looked at the demon spirit in confusion, thinking he heard it wrong.

"My name is Mute," the demon spirit repeated.

"But you are not mute, not only are you not mute, but you have a pleasant voice," Li Xiu said.

"Being able to speak doesn't mean you're not mute," the demon spirit said flatly. "Whether you're mute depends on whether what you say has any effect. If your words are completely useless and have no influence, then what's the difference from being mute?"

"That actually makes sense," Li Xiu nodded slightly. "Let's just say you're called Mute. Where do you come from? In the Demon Spirit Race, a demon spirit like you shouldn't be a nobody, right?"

"I come from Longevity Island," Mute said.

Li Xiu wanted to ask more, but Mute glanced at the increasingly oppressive dark clouds outside the door and said, "Neither of us has time now. You only have two choices: blow out the Longevity Lamp and

never come here again, or give me the Sword Embryo, and everything will have nothing to do with you; you can continue to live your previous life."

"What's there?" Li Xiu also looked at the dark clouds outside the door, which seemed like mountains hovering above the workshop, creating an oppressively suffocating feeling.

"It's hard to explain in a few words, and if I explain, it'll be too late for everything." Mute looked at Li Xiu and said, "In the last bit of time, what do you want?"

"What can you offer?" Li Xiu retorted.

Time seemed really urgent, and Mute had no intention of wasting words with Li Xiu. She pulled something from her hair and tossed it to him: "Use this to exchange for the Sword Embryo. If you want to trade, give me the Sword Embryo. If you don't, we'll part ways; I'll leave, and you blow the lamp."

Li Xiu caught what she tossed and saw it was a slender rod like Amethyst, one end round and the other square, looking like a chopstick, but there was only one.

"Is this a chopstick?" Li Xiu asked, holding the slender rod.

Mute did not answer, just turned around and walked towards the door, saying as she went, "Fend for yourself."

"Catch." Li Xiu, holding the chopstick, pondered a bit and then tossed the two-handed great sword's Sword Embryo towards Mute.

Mute did not turn around, catching the great sword with a backhand. The weighty great sword, in her hand, felt as light as foam. She carried it with one hand and propped an umbrella with the other, walking out of the workshop door.

"Don't lose it, you'll have your benefit," Mute's voice came from the rain. As the voice faded, she clearly only took a few steps but had already gone very far.

As Mute walked away, the oppressive clouds like mountains overhead gradually rose, the rain subsided, and the thunder slowly faded into the distance.

When Li Xiu could no longer see the amethyst glow of the umbrella, the thunderstorm had ceased, the overcast sky dispersed, and the world outside returned to its usual brightness, with the rainwater on the ground vanishing without a trace as if it hadn't rained a drop.

If not for holding the Purple Crystal Chopsticks and the Sword Embryo already gone, Li Xiu would have thought those events were just illusions.

"What a strange demon spirit," Li Xiu thought with many doubts in his heart, but unfortunately, he hadn't had the chance to ask.

Looking at the Purple Crystal Chopsticks in his hand, he saw a faint strange purple light flowing inside, but not very strong, only a very weak light energy fluctuation.

It didn't seem like a contract nor related to a demon spirit, seemingly a type of demon spirit material.

Unable to figure it out, Li Xiu had to put it away, planning to take it back and have Old Master inspect it.

Li Xiu looked towards the bride-to-be beside the Longevity Lamp, but she had somehow disappeared, and glancing down, he realized that at some point, she'd transformed back into a ring on his hand.

Li Xiu walked out the workshop door to look around, the sky clear, and far and wide, he found no traces of demon spirits.

Li Xiu had no choice but to follow his original plan, returning to the workshop to blow out the now-normal Longevity Lamp, and in an instant, he was back outside the Sword Soul Gate.

Li Xiu returned to Courtyard Seven, which besides Old Qian, had not a single person.

Chapter 739 Mute_3

After asking, I learned that they each went to different Trial Gates, and no one knows when they'll return.

"Lao Qian, what exactly is the Sword Casting Workshop in the Land of the Sword Soul?" Li Xiu took the opportunity to ask Lao Qian about the Land of the Sword Soul.

"I don't know." Lao Qian shook his head and said, "Those Sword Casting Workshops seem like the handiwork of the Demon Kingdom, but there's no trace or writing of the Demon Kingdom there, so nobody knows if those workshops are really something they built. People previously were sent to study them, but no conclusions were ever drawn."

"According to those researchers, the materials for forging Sword Embryos might be drawn up by the machines from underground, and these materials are very unstable. As a result, the forged Sword Embryos vary in quality. For this reason, many Sword Embryos were collected specifically to study them, hoping they could be used as materials for Demon Armor. However, the material properties of the Sword Embryos were found to be quite peculiar and unable to transmit inactive Demonic Light, so Demon Armor couldn't use those materials either, and the matter was left unresolved."

"Unable to transmit inactive Demonic Light means that only the Demonic Light of living Magic Spirits can be transmitted through the Sword Embryos?" Li Xiu asked.

"That's probably what it means." Lao Qian nodded.

"That's really strange." Li Xiu recounted the events of encountering a storm and the mute.

Lao Qian was a bit surprised upon hearing this: "I've been guarding the Land of the Sword Soul for three years and have never seen it rain there. I've seen many Magic Spirits, but I've never encountered the kind you mentioned."

"It seems the storm is indeed related to that Magic Spirit." Li Xiu pondered.

Lao Qian couldn't make sense of it either, and Li Xiu had no choice but to let it go.

"How are you doing now?" Li Xiu asked.

"I still haven't figured it out." Lao Qian shook his head.

"Take your time, no rush." Li Xiu took a shower, had a good night's sleep, and the next morning, after Sha Chu returned, he gave her those Talent Gemstones, Demon Spirit Rings, and Skill Rings to exchange them for resources.

Li Xiu himself went to Sun Tianlei to buy some of the Synthetic Diamonds he had bought last time and fed them to the Synthetic Capsule.

To Li Xiu's surprise, the Synthetic Capsule didn't consume the Synthetic Diamonds; instead, it combined two Synthetic Diamonds into one larger diamond and then spit it out again.

Curiously, Li Xiu tried several more times and discovered that Synthetic Diamonds could be infinitely synthesized, with small diamonds continuing to combine into larger ones.

However, there was a certain amount of consumption during synthesis, with about a quarter of the gemstones being consumed during the synthesis process.

Li Xiu also tried synthesizing some other types of gemstones, and similarly, there was no restriction. Natural gemstones like sapphires and rubies could all be synthesized, though the consumption was slightly higher than that of Synthetic Diamonds, roughly about a third.

This kind of synthesis wasn't very meaningful for regular gemstones.

Small gemstones worked just as well, so there was no need to synthesize larger ones.

However, in the process of synthesis, the Synthetic Capsule leveled up from grade E to grade D. Apart from the level up, no new Talent Skills were awakened.

"I wonder if synthesizing Demon Spirit Gemstones would have any special effects." Li Xiu planned to try some Demon Spirit Gemstones in the future.

After tidying up his things, Li Xiu returned to the Sword Soul Gate, and after three consecutive attempts, he randomly got a pass to enter the Land of the Sword Soul.

The Land of the Sword Soul hadn't changed much since he left. However, there were more Magic Spirits gathered outside the workshop.

Li Xiu took the Fire Lotus Sword and continued to slay Magic Spirits to fully concentrate its Sword Vein.

Day after day of Magic Spirit hunting led the Sword Vein of the Fire Lotus Sword to slowly concentrate one by one.

A month passed quickly, and because he hadn't encountered a Light Base Magic Spirit, the concentration of the Fire Lotus Sword's Sword Vein was not fast. It had only reached twenty lines, still four lines away from completion.

He also obtained some Sword Embryos, but never encountered a Sword Vein like that of a two-handed great sword.

Since there seemed to be no more Light Base Magic Spirits nearby, Li Xiu had no choice but to take the Fire Lotus Sword further out.

"The Fire Lotus Sword has slain over a dozen Super Spirits, yet not a single Super Spirit Gemstone has appeared. Could they all have been devoured by it?" Li Xiu wondered to himself as he watched the Fire Lotus Sword slay another Super Spirit, leaving nothing behind.

Given the Fire Lotus Sword's solitary nature, this was entirely possible. Otherwise, it wouldn't make sense for over a dozen Super Spirits to be slain in two months without a single Super Spirit Gemstone.

If it was indeed that solitary, Li Xiu considered taking matters into his own hands when encountering Super Spirits in the future.

Boom!

Just as Li Xiu was thinking this, a thunderclap roared across the clear sky. Li Xiu looked up to see dark clouds covering the sky densely.

Daylight dimmed as bolts of lightning darted through the clouds, and thunder rumbled incessantly. As the dense clouds descended, it was obvious another storm was brewing.

"Here it comes again!" Li Xiu quickly summoned the Masked Emperor, twisted the throttle to its maximum, and dashed forward.

Li Xiu's entire body was encased in a golden riding suit and helmet, merging with the golden motorcycle. Like a golden lightning bolt, he sped across the plain.

The clouds descended lower and lower as continuous explosions of thunder resounded in the sky.

Having ventured too far, Li Xiu couldn't make it back to the workshop in time before the sky unleashed a torrential downpour.

"I haven't even secured a high-grade Sword Embryo, and it's coming again?" The downpour drenched Li Xiu and the Masked Emperor, though it didn't hurt, everything around him was a misty haze, leaving him to rely on his sense of direction to continue forward.

A massive lightning bolt like an electric dragon ripped across the sky, illuminating the darkened heavens. Staring ahead in the lightning's light, Li Xiu thought he glimpsed a terrifying silhouette emerging from the clouds.

Chapter 740 Cabin in the Rain

"What the hell is that?" Under the prolonged lightning, Li Xiu caught a glimpse of two eerie figures within the clouds, seemingly standing among them.

One in black, the other in white, their bodies resembling humans, but their faces were ghastly like fierce ghosts. The black-clad figure held a black rod, and the person in white draped a white cloth over their shoulder, peering down from the clouds, seemingly fixated on Li Xiu.

As the lightning flashed and disappeared, Li Xiu lost sight of them, but the images of those two creatures were etched into his mind, especially their eyes, much larger than a human's, giving them an exceedingly strange proportion.

But that wasn't the main reason they left a deep impression on Li Xiu; it was the expression in those eyes, cold, evil, and bloodthirsty, like beasts eyeing their prey, that made even Li Xiu feel uncomfortable.

Another bolt of lightning illuminated the clouds, and Li Xiu looked again at where those figures had appeared, only to see nothing there; the clouds were empty, as if there had never been anything.

Li Xiu frowned slightly, having no time to ponder, and continued to charge forward in the rain on the Masked Emperor.

The world seemed to be draped in curtains of beads, as Li Xiu accelerated continuously through the rain, pushing the speed of the Masked Emperor to its limits. The exhaust and Light Flame sprayed from either side sent the water splashing in all directions, and where the wheels passed, the water dispersed like unfolding lotus leaves.

Rumble!

The thunder above grew louder, the dark clouds seemed almost close enough to touch Li Xiu's head, hanging thick and heavy, nearly ready to drip down.

Suddenly, a dark shadow appeared in front of Li Xiu's eyes. The black-clad, rod-wielding creature was now standing not far ahead.

With the rain obscuring his view, Li Xiu only noticed it when he was almost upon the shadow.

It was too late to brake; at such speed, and with the ground covered in water, turning would likely cause a crash, even with the Masked Emperor's side flames for support.

Unable to steer and too late to brake, Li Xiu made a split-second decision; lifting his rear off the seat, legs slightly bent, hands pulling up, he made the Masked Emperor lift its nose and soar into the sky, leaping over the shadow's head.

The motorcycle landed heavily on the ground, the wheels slipping and shaking uncontrollably, but Li Xiu clung tightly to the handlebars, forcing the Masked Emperor to stay upright.

But just after landing, Li Xiu's face turned grim, as the white-clad creature, unnoticed, was standing right in front of him.

The Masked Emperor's drop point was less than two meters from the white-clad creature, rushing towards it in an instant.

Despite Li Xiu's reflexive abilities, he had no better solution then; the Masked Emperor hadn't even stabilized yet, leaving no time for any adjustments.

Gritting his teeth, Li Xiu tightened his grip on the handlebars and aimed the Masked Emperor straight at the white-clad creature.

The anticipated collision didn't happen; Li Xiu and his bike passed right through, as if the white-clad creature was just an illusion, not a tangible existence.

After passing through, Li Xiu instinctively turned back, only to find nothing where the white-clad creature was, just the relentless downpour continuing to fall.

Li Xiu frowned slightly, gritting his teeth as he rode forward.

After riding for a while, Li Xiu noticed something seemed amiss; despite the distance he'd covered, he hadn't seen a single Sword Casting Workshop.

Along this route, he should have seen several Sword Casting Workshops; even if some were too far to see in the rain, one should have been on his way back, one he should have reached by now, but he hadn't seen a thing.

"This isn't right!" Li Xiu kept riding, his sense of distance and direction was keen; even with no visible references, he couldn't have taken the wrong path, giving him an uneasy premonition.

After riding a bit further, not seeing any more black or white-clad creatures, Li Xiu stopped, retracted the Masked Emperor, and stood in the rain, observing all around.

According to his judgment, he should have reached the workshop location by now, yet there was nothing there.

"Could it be an Illusion Realm?" Li Xiu immediately dismissed that thought; with his Spiritual Sense, he would have recognized it if this were an Illusion Realm.

This definitely wasn't an Illusion Realm, but for some reason, the Sword Casting Workshop, which should have been there, was missing.

"What on earth is happening?" Li Xiu looked up at the clouds sporadically flashing with lightning, watching countless raindrops fall from the sky and hit him, soaking his close-fitting clothing.

Crack!

Another thunderclap rang out, sounding almost directly beside Li Xiu's ears, nearly deafening him.

Covering his ears, Li Xiu lowered his head, shaking the water from his face, but when he looked up again, he was startled; the white-clad creature's ghostly pale face was right before him, nearly face to face.

Li Xiu pushed off sharply with his toes, exerting a powerful force to spring back three zhang (about 10 meters) away.