

When God 791

Chapter 791 Survival Rules

The little demonic spirit at the back swam over, extending its tiny paws to push the door, but alas, its strength was too weak, and no matter how it pushed, the door wouldn't budge.

The adult demonic spirits just watched outside the fountain, not showing any intention to help.

A few little demonic spirits used all their might, but the door remained utterly motionless.

"This is too cruel. Are they really not going to care about the little demonic spirit that drowned?" Shale couldn't help but say.

"The elimination of the weak is the law of nature. Even humans, despite seemingly trying hard to protect the weak, when a disaster strikes, it is still the weak that suffer first. It's something hard to avoid," Li Xiu sighed.

"But humans wouldn't just watch their own family die, right? Beasts are still beasts in the end." Shale seemed to care about this matter, still feeling a bit indignant.

"Are you sure about that?" Li Xiu smiled and said, "If a family had two children, one exceptionally outstanding, doing very well academically, possessing great talent in cultivation, anything learned instantly— achieving remarkable feats at a young age. And the other is very dull, unable to learn anything, lazy and greedy. To whom would the family's resources be inclined?"

"You're just twisting concepts. I'm talking about death, even if they prefer the outstanding child they wouldn't watch their child die like those beasts," Shale said.

"It's only a matter of time. The outstanding child gets better resources, achieves generally greater success, finds a better partner, and their children get even more resources. Conversely, the dull child receives fewer and fewer resources and opportunities, and their family and descendants are much less able to cope with risks. If both families face a crisis requiring a certain amount of resources to overcome life-and-death challenges, the outstanding child's family can easily provide enough resources, while the dull child's family cannot, resulting in the same outcome." Li Xiu paused, then continued, "Human fairness is only relative, not absolute, though it's cruel, it's a fact hard to change at present."

For a moment, Shale didn't know what to say, although he felt that Li Xiu was correct, there was still something unsettling.

Suddenly, a purple light emitted among the beasts pushing the door, as the strongest little demonic spirit's gemstone on its forehead actually shone with purple light. As the purple light radiated, the previously immovable door seemed to slightly waver.

Before long, another relatively strong little demonic spirit's gemstone began to shine.

As the gemstones on the foreheads of one little demonic spirit after another glowed, the door was eventually slowly pushed open by them.

Among the remaining five little demonic spirits, four had already emitted light; although the brightness varied, thankfully they all radiated. However, the smallest little demonic spirit's gemstone still hadn't shone.

When the door opened a crack, the strongest little demonic spirit suddenly leaped inside, bravely jumping through.

Lost without this strongest force, the slightly opened door began to close, with the remaining little demonic spirits all scrambling to leap outward as well.

As the door was about to shut, one little demonic spirit after another squeezed out, and even the little demonic spirit whose gemstone hadn't gleamed tried to jump in.

But without the support of Demonic Light, its strength was too weak, its speed too slow, and while the other spirits barely jumped out in time, by the time it jumped up, the door had already closed, crushing its body directly in between.

The door closed, leaving a trace of blood at the seam, and a broken tail fragment clinging to the door.

Witnessing this brutal scene, Shale lost interest in speaking.

From beginning to end, those two adult demonic spirits just watched from the side, without any intention to help.

Watching indifferently as one of their children got crushed to death by the door, they remained unmoved.

With the door completely closed, the adult demonic spirits glanced at the bloodstain on the door and the body sinking at the bottom of the pool, then turned away, quickly disappearing.

"They don't even care about their own child's corpse?" Shale said, speechlessly.

"What could they do? Even if they buried it, it would likely be found and eaten by other demonic spirits," Li Xiu said, pushing the door and walking out.

The two looked towards the direction the adult demonic spirits left, no longer seeing their figures.

Li Xiu moved to the edge of the fountain pool, where the Trial Gate had vanished. He jumped into the pool, fishing out the little demonic spirit's corpse from the bottom and holding it in his hand, sensing the vitality within.

The heart had stopped beating, body cold, seemingly dead beyond doubt.

Li Xiu placed the little demonic spirit on the ground, pressing its balloon-like belly with his hand, and soon water started to overflow from the little spirit's mouth.

While pressing, Li Xiu pulled out the Forbidden Spear, firing two shots at the little demonic spirit.

The two light bullets hit the little demonic spirit's body; one was an Undying Bullet, the other a non-seeking bullet.

Neither of these bullets has a killing ability; the Undying Bullet can heal, while the non-seeking bullet can stimulate the body's potential to a certain extent.

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The glow of the two bullets merged into the little demon spirit's body, yet the little demon spirit still showed no signs of movement, lying motionless on the ground.

"Looks like it's really beyond saving," Li Xiu sighed.

"Where are you going?" Shale asked curiously as he saw Li Xiu pick up the little demon spirit's body.

"To bury it," Li Xiu replied.

"Didn't you say that burying it would be useless?" Shale exclaimed.

"Don't humans like to do useless things? I'm human too, and I also like to do useless things," Li Xiu said.

"You are really something!" Shale shook his head with a wry smile.

As Li Xiu was walking with the little demon spirit's body, he suddenly felt it move slightly in his hands and couldn't help but be slightly startled.

Looking down at the little demon spirit in his hands, he saw its tail slowly moving, its heart also beginning to slowly revive.

"Has it really come back to life?" In Li Xiu's hands, the glow blossomed, a thread of Ultimate Light slowly seeped into its body.

After a while, the little demon spirit astonishingly and slowly opened its eyes, though still weak, lying in Li Xiu's palm, its pair of blue gemstone-like eyes somewhat vacant as they gazed at Li Xiu.

"This little fellow actually survived, what a strong life force," Shale said joyfully.

The little demon spirit's experience always reminded Shale of his own childhood, a hardened man, yet extremely sentimental at this moment.

"Indeed, a strong life force," Li Xiu said as he continued to infuse the Ultimate Light into the little demon spirit's body.

After a long while, the little demon spirit finally stood up on its own, standing on Li Xiu's palm, showing no intention of attack, merely looking at Li Xiu obediently.

As the Ultimate Light continued to pour in, the little demon spirit's expression gradually became lively, its blue fur slowly gaining luster.

Seeing it had recovered, Li Xiu placed it on the edge of the fountain pool.

The little demon spirit looked at Li Xiu, then at the fountain pool, before turning its head to call out to Li Xiu twice.

Li Xiu extended his finger, and the little demon spirit excitedly stretched out its little paw, grasping Li Xiu's finger, calling out to him with a youthful voice, wanting to climb onto Li Xiu's hand.

Unexpectedly, Li Xiu applied a little force with his finger, directly pushing the little demon spirit into the fountain pool, causing it to panic and struggle in the water.

"Wow, are you a devil?" Shale exclaimed, wide-eyed at the scene.

Li Xiu said nothing, merely watching the little demon spirit struggle in the pool, making no move to intervene.

The little demon spirit kept struggling in the water, seemingly unable to learn how to swim. After choking on a few gulps of water, it was about to sink again.

Shale really couldn't bear to watch any longer, reaching out intending to pull the little demon spirit out, but was stopped by Li Xiu.

"Don't be hasty," Li Xiu shook his head and said.

"If you want to get out, you can wait for other demon spirits to open the door, there's no need to put it through this," Shale said.

"What it needs to learn, it must learn. This is the ability it needs to survive in the future. You can save it once, but can you save it for a lifetime?" Li Xiu released his hand and said, "If you plan to take care of it for a lifetime, I don't mind."

Shale looked at the little demon spirit in the pool, sighed, and then shook his head, retreating to one side without saying a word.

Just as the little demon spirit was about to sink to the bottom, Li Xiu was about to pull it out when he suddenly saw the blue gemstone on its forehead burst out with light, a blue glow like a membrane coating its body.

The little demon spirit leaped from the water, standing on the surface as if it were a piece of wood unable to sink.

The water beneath the little demon spirit's feet quickly froze, supporting its body from falling.

The little demon spirit still had a frightened look in its eyes, standing on the ice surface staring at Li Xiu.

Li Xiu extended a finger, pointing to the center of the fountain pool.

The little demon spirit was indeed smart, seemingly understanding Li Xiu's intention, its gaze turned toward the center of the fountain pool.

The little demon spirit looked at Li Xiu, then at the pool center, glancing back and forth several times, hesitating for a long while before suddenly turning and running to the center position, stepping on the water's surface. Where its paws landed, the water quickly froze, allowing it to run across the surface.

When it reached the central position, the blue gemstone on its forehead emitted an even brighter blue glow; though not as radiant as that of a full-grown demon spirit, it was much more luminous than that strongest little demon spirit from before.

Under the illumination of the blue light, the entire fountain pool began to freeze over, and the once-vanished Trial Gate slowly reappeared at the center.

When the great door fully emerged, the little demon spirit turned its head to glance at Li Xiu standing outside.

Li Xiu's finger firmly pointed at the Trial Gate, the little demon spirit gritted its teeth and extended its little paw to press on the door, exerting all its strength to push it open.

"Earlier five little demon spirits barely managed to open the door. Can it do it alone?" Shale asked as he watched the little demon spirit's efforts to push the door.

"This is its best chance of success. If it can't push it open now, it will have to remain here," Li Xiu said.

As the little demon spirit continued to push with all its might, the door remained unmoved. Just as Shale thought it would be unable to push it open, the blue gemstone on the little demon spirit's forehead brightened further, its entire body igniting with a blue Light Flame.

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The gate creaked open slowly, forcibly pushed ajar by the small demon spirit.

"I'll go out first." Li Xiu swiftly leaped towards the slightly opened gate and squeezed through the gap.

Almost simultaneously, the small demon spirit made a mighty jump and followed Li Xiu inside.

Bang!

The gate slammed shut, and Shale hurriedly blew out the Longevity Lamp by his side.

Shale appeared in front of the Gate of the Green Field, and the scene inside surprised him a little.

Li Xiu was standing not far from him with the blue small demon spirit perched on his shoulder. Outside the Gate of the Green Field was a mess, as if a battle had just taken place, with many injured Trial Takers groaning in pain on the ground.

Shale immediately understood; the four small demon spirits from earlier must have triggered this conflict when they rushed out.

He just wasn't sure if the injuries of these Trial Takers were from fighting each other for the small demon spirits or if they were injured by the small demon spirits themselves.

Shale grabbed a nearby injured Trial Taker and asked, "What happened here?"

"A few demon spirits rushed out just now, injuring many Trial Takers, then scattered and escaped. A lot of the Trial Takers went after them," said the injured Trial Taker, glancing at the small demon spirit on Li Xiu's shoulder.

"Wow, those small demon spirits are that vicious?" Shale wondered, as all the Trial Takers outside bore injuries, with several missing limbs, and even a fallen Trial Taker's body lying nearby.

"Don't underestimate them; their inherited blood and power are quite remarkable. It's not easy for an average Trial Taker to kill them," Li Xiu said, summoning the Masked Emperor and gesturing to Shale. "Let's go."

Although Li Xiu was eager to return to Longevity Heaven, he still made a stop by Tyrone City on the way.

Tyrone City was even more chaotic, showing no signs of improvement under Kun Sha's administration.

The economy of Tyrone City had long since collapsed, and it was difficult to turn things around based solely on Kun Sha's efforts.

When Li Xiu saw Kun Sha, it startled him so much that he almost didn't recognize him.

Kun Sha's vitality had deteriorated significantly since their last meeting. At only in his thirties, he already had quite a bit of gray hair.

"It's truly a pleasure to see you again," Kun Sha said, giving Li Xiu a hug, his smile still sincere.

"If you can't hold on any longer, the City of Light welcomes you anytime," Li Xiu said after releasing his embrace.

Kun Sha laughed, "I know I'm not doing well, but this is my home. I hope I can do my best. Maybe it won't change much, but it's the only thing I can do."

Li Xiu couldn't help but regard him with respect. Kun Sha had given much more to Tyrone City than he had received from it, and his unwavering dedication was truly beyond ordinary capability.

"Since you don't want to go to the City of Light, are you interested in doing business with me?" Li Xiu asked after thinking for a moment.

Kun Sha shook his head with a wry smile, "Most of Tyrone City's mines are no longer under my control. Even if I wanted to do business with you, I wouldn't have the capital. Also, I can't get you and the City of Light involved."

"I'm not talking about the gemstone business," Li Xiu said seriously. "To do business, naturally, it has to be profitable to last. Mercy can't save Tyrone City."

"What kind of business?" Kun Sha realized that Li Xiu wasn't just trying to help him and quickly asked, unable to think of anything apart from the gemstone trade that Tyrone City could collaborate on with the City of Light.

"Interested in the Demon Armor business?" Li Xiu said with a smile.

Kun Sha reacted with a bitter smile, "Isn't it too late to start in the Demon Armor business now? Never mind the lack of technology, I fear I can't even afford the equipment. Moreover, the equipment we could buy can't produce high-end demon spirits."

"No need to make Demon Armor, just produce a component. The component requires gemstones as raw materials. Though you have few gemstone mines now, this is still a production area. Even by purchasing and reprocessing, you can still profit," Li Xiu explained.

"What component? Who would we sell it to?" Kun Sha immediately asked.

"To me," Li Xiu said, pointing to his nose.

Kun Sha was slightly taken aback but then overjoyed, "Come, let's discuss this in detail in the office."

Li Xiu indeed wanted to help Kun Sha but not purely out of charity. He genuinely needed a place to produce this component.

A component in the new type of Demon Armor required gemstones as raw materials. However, the gemstone supply from White Night City was severely lacking. The cost of importing and processing gemstones from the Southern Cross Federation remained high.

If a production line could be established in Tyrone City, it would not only solve a significant portion of the employment issues but also allow Kun Sha to earn some profits.

After all, Kun Sha's cost to acquire gemstones was much lower than White Night City's, and the labor costs in Tyrone City were currently very cheap.

If successful, the final product price for the Chu Family would be much lower than producing it from purchased materials themselves.

The Chu Family's production of Demon Armor would increase, and Li Xiu's share of the profits would also significantly rise—indeed, a triple win.

"If this production line could really be set up, it would be a huge help to Tyrone City! You would be Tyrone City's great benefactor!" Kun Sha didn't know what to say after hearing what Li Xiu had to say, filled with excitement.

"You're overpraising me. I'm also just looking to make money. There are still many details to resolve. After I return, I will contact the Chu Family as soon as possible, then proceed with a three-way meeting to assess the feasibility. Whether it will succeed depends on the final evaluation," Li Xiu said, not daring to guarantee success.

Kun Sha understood that if Li Xiu were merely in it for profit, there would be no need to entrust him with such business. In fact, other major cities in the Southern Cross Federation were far more suitable than the chaotic Tyrone City.

Li Xiu also had his own considerations. Tyrone City was indeed turbulent, but just because of this turbulence, the gemstone resources and labor were cheap. Tyrone City needed this production line more, and they would invest more to maintain it and hence be easier to control.

After a general discussion with Kun Sha, the detailed plans still required a professional team to handle, so Li Xiu didn't elaborate much.

As they left Kun Sha's office and entered the lounge, they saw Qin Shi and Shale sitting on the sofa in the lounge.

Chapter 794 The Banquet Begins

Today in Changshengtian, it's a solemn and dignified day.

However, Han Minghui's mood is quite good, sitting on her soft, bouncy bed, humming "Our ancestors, truly happy today," while pulling black stockings over her perfectly shaped, beautiful legs.

The smooth and delicate stockings slowly rolled upwards, seemingly extending infinitely.

After putting on the stockings, Han Minghui donned the black suit from the bed, walked to the mirror, and struck a few poses, youthful, beautiful, and sexy, she felt very satisfied with herself.

Her loose, jet-black long hair was gathered up by Han Minghui, and soon styled into a more mature look.

She opened the drawer, picked out a pair of large, dark sunglasses from a row of glasses, and put them on her face, then checked herself out in the mirror from various angles.

"Perfect!" Han Minghui was very pleased, especially with the wide and large sunglasses.

Today's memorial service is hosted by Han Minghui; she has to go on stage to read the eulogy. These sunglasses can perfectly conceal her expressions, so even if she can't manage her expressions well and shows an inappropriate smile, others might not notice.

Of course, Han Minghui is a professional in this area and rarely laughs during solemn occasions unless she can't help it.

With the Li Family's fall from grace and the Bai Family implicated, now with the Han Family in the lead among the four, Han Minghui was naturally in a very good mood.

Of course, what made Han Minghui happiest was the sacrifice of Li Xiu. The reason she wore the sunglasses was to prevent herself from showing a smile while reading Li Xiu's eulogy.

"A perfect ending, Comrade Li Xiu, you died gloriously, heroically, greatly, beautifully..." Practicing her expressions for the stage in front of the mirror, Han Minghui couldn't help but start early. By the end, her eyes couldn't help but squint, and a smile appeared on her face.

"Perfect." Realizing her uncontrolled expression was completely covered by her sunglasses, Han Minghui was very satisfied.

After leaving her office, most of the people Han Minghui encountered along the way were wearing dark clothes, and the atmosphere was quite somber.

Han Minghui arrived at the venue, directed the staff to finish some remaining trivial tasks, and then waited in her lounge for the memorial service to begin.

She had some snacks with red tea, and seeing that it was almost time, Han Minghui called the staff to start receiving attendees for the memorial service.

A lot of people came to today's memorial service, with many attendees from the four great families and the seven groups, along with some smaller families sending representatives to participate.

With almost an hour until the start of the memorial service, the venue was almost packed with people, and even outside the hall, there were many standing.

The technicians, led by Professor Xu, unusually dressed in dark formal attire, and the Magic Armor Masters were uniformly wearing the latest Demon Armor.

"Professor Xu, today's a memorial service; isn't it inappropriate to wear Demon Armor into the venue?" The staff, seeing the neatly lined-up Magic Armor Masters, asked with some curiosity.

"No, this is the most appropriate attire today. This new Demon Armor was developed under Commander Li's guidance; without him, there would be no unveiling of these armors. He should see the Magic Armor Masters in these armor," Professor Xu said.

The staff sighed, "Commander Li truly was a loss. He not only led the trend in Demon Armor but also created the Light Planting Technique, which had a profound impact on us Trial Takers, and generously shared it with everyone. Such magnanimity and breadth of mind are unparalleled, but unfortunately, good people don't live long."

The staff sighed and allowed them to pass without much trouble.

After entering the venue, the Magic Armor Masters occupied a corner, quietly waiting for the memorial service to start.

Groups and families were entering one after another. When the Undying Group entered, the Leader Old Undead, for once, took off his flowery cotton jacket and wore a gray Zhongshan suit instead.

"Old Commander, you actually took off that flowery jacket?" Sun Wuxi, seeing Old Undead's attire, said with some surprise.

Old Undead solemnly said, "For sending Commander Li off on his final journey, proper attire is a must. We cannot let Brother Li hold a grudge in the afterlife."

Sun Wuxi thought, "You actually care about that? Back when you attended other commanders' funerals, you always wore that flowery jacket. You didn't think it was inappropriate then."

"Even Commander Bodoss has come?" Just when Sun Wuxi was about to speak, he saw Commander Bodoss, dressed as usual, with a black veil and black clothes, leading the Forgetting Group's members, surprising him even more.

The members of the Forgetting Group mostly follow the path of detachment, and they typically avoid attending such occasions. It was unexpected that they came today.

Their attire hadn't changed much, as this is how they usually dress.

As soon as the Forgetting Group entered, the people nearby instinctively made space. While the other areas were packed tight, around them, there was hardly anyone, as if there was something radioactive on their side, noticeably dropping the surrounding air's temperature.

"Commander Bodoss, you too have come to attend the memorial service? That's rare indeed." Sun Wuxi walked over with a grin and said.

Chapter 795 Starting the Feast_2

"Such a man deserves to be sent off." Bodoss said expressionlessly, then stopped speaking.

Sun Wuxi felt a bit bored and returned to the old immortal's side, seeing him looking at the entrance, not knowing what he was looking at, he followed suit and looked over.

On closer inspection, it turns out that the Li Family people are entering the venue, and although these Li Family members did not participate in the rebellion, they still received strange looks as they entered.

"The Li Family dares to come today?" Sun Wuxi said.

"They still want to gain a foothold in the Eternal Heaven, so they have to come today, even if they're spat to death by others, they must come." The old immortal said lightly.

"That's true." Sun Wuxi nodded slightly.

People kept entering the venue, and it was already getting crowded, with many having to stop outside. Inside, thousands had already gathered.

When the president personally arrived at the memorial service, the entire venue fell silent.

"The level of this memorial service is shockingly high, even the president personally came; he hasn't attended such an occasion for years." Sun Wuxi whispered to the old immortal.

The old immortal picked up on Sun Wuxi's implied meaning and whispered back, "Don't speak nonsense, do you have a death wish?"

"You're thinking the same as I am, right?" Sun Wuxi grinned.

It wasn't just them, many seeing the president personally attending the memorial service secretly thought to themselves, "Commander Li can't really be the president's illegitimate son, can he?"

Han Minghui quickly went to the president's side, but he just said calmly, "Don't mind me, go and do your work."

When the memorial service began, it was Han Minghui's turn to take the stage. She adjusted her expression in the mirror and with a warm heart under a cold facade, walked onto the stage.

"Today, with a heavy heart, we deeply mourn the loss of Technician Group Commander Li Xiu, Commander Li. Commander Li had the wisdom to sacrifice himself for others; he was a pure and noble person, detached from lowly tastes. During his tenure as Technician Group Commander, he actively promoted the Light Planting Technique that had a profound impact on Trial Takers, selflessly contributing to pave an unprecedented broad road; he was public-minded, unwilling to eat well or dress well, but used his meager income to support the Demon Armor's transformation and upgrade, leading the numerous staff of the research institute to overcome numerous challenges and develop the world's most advanced Demon Armor, allowing Magic Armor Masters to go further on the world stage..."

Han Minghui stood on stage, delivering the eulogy she had memorized many times, full of emotion and sincerity, moving the thousands present.

If it were previously, even though Han Minghui would stick to the script, she herself would find the wording nauseating.

But today the script was even more sickening than those she had read before, yet she was enjoying it, almost moved by herself.

"Mountain high, water long, person not far, hard to see your face again at the end of the world, let us all join in three minutes of silence for Commander Li Xiu, wishing him a smooth journey." Han Minghui said, lowering her hands, slightly bowing her head, and closing her eyes in mourning, even shedding a tear at the corner of her eye.

The venue was silent, everyone followed Han Minghui in mourning.

Han Minghui kept her head down, her mouth slightly curling up, silently calculating time, amusing herself, "Li Xiu oh Li Xiu, this big beauty personally hosts your memorial service, forcing myself not only not to laugh but also to tearfully mourn you, beneath the nine springs, you should be content, go peacefully, your Technician Group and those businesses, this big beauty will slowly take over, help you carry them forward, use your people, make your money, enhance this big beauty's influence... when it's time to eat...what should I taste first..."

The more Han Minghui thought, the happier she became, her mouth nearly curling up to the sky, she greatly admired her wise decision, if not for these big dark glasses blocking her expression, if anyone saw her face now, it would be hard to explain in front of thousands.

As soon as the three minutes passed, Han Minghui raised her head, with a smile completely vanished from her face, she looked out at the crowd with heartfelt emotion and said, "Commander Li Xiu was honest, kind-hearted, straightforward, approachable, helpful, thrifty, rich in compassion and responsibility, he sacrificed himself for others, took a firm stand in matters of great importance, remained true to his original intentions, made indelible contributions to all humanity, left behind immortal achievements..."

Han Minghui was brewing up emotions, about to make the final summary, her emotions had nearly reached their peak, when suddenly she saw someone in the audience laughing.

In such a setting, even Miss Han had self-hypnotized herself, getting this emotional, but someone dared to laugh here.

"I nearly pinched my leg to bleeding earlier to suppress my laughter and you dare laugh...huh...that face...so familiar...this...this this...ah..." Han Minghui suddenly widened her eyes, uncontrollably let out a sharp scream.

The crowd still immersed in the mournful atmosphere was dumbfounded by Han Minghui's scream, they all looked up at her, not knowing what she was doing.

Everyone just saw Han Minghui's face full of astonishment, raising her hand pointing towards the audience, both her finger and lips trembling.

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Everyone followed the direction in which Han Minghui was pointing, and those nearby were almost as shocked as Han Minghui, nearly jumping up.

Those farther away couldn't see who Han Minghui was pointing at, so they all wore puzzled expressions, unable to push through and not knowing what was happening.

"Li Xiu!" Sun Wuxi couldn't help but call out, causing those outside who couldn't see the situation to be startled.

The person standing below the stage with a smile on their face was, naturally, Li Xiu, who had just hurried back to the City of Love.

He hadn't expected that just because he returned a few days late, the City of Love would hold such a grand memorial service for him, so he had no choice but to come over quickly.

Li Xiu walked onto the stage with a smile, standing beside Han Minghui, he said with a laugh, "Thanks to Vice President Han for the praise. If it weren't for you, I wouldn't have known I was so exceptional."

Ignoring Han Minghui, who was still stunned and couldn't react after his dream was shattered, Li Xiu directly addressed the crowd below the stage, "Thank you all for coming. No need for the mourning, let's just start the feast. Today, it's on me. Enjoy the food and drink. If anything is amiss, don't blame me. After all, I have no experience. Next time, it will be done even better."

The once-sad atmosphere instantly turned a bit odd, and some people couldn't help but laugh out loud.

The Technician Group all rushed over, with Chu Jun and Old Qian leading the charge directly onto the stage.

"Vice President Han, please help take care of the guests and arrange the seating. All today's expenses will be on my tab," Li Xiu said as he was already surrounded by the Technician Group.

The free feast was lively and filled with laughter. It's rare to see such a unique gathering anywhere else.

Li Xiu, however, did not join in the meal. Although he wanted a free meal too, he had more important things to do at the moment.

While others went to have the feast, Li Xiu ran over to the President and returned to the City Lord's Mansion with him.

"You're really lucky to be able to return alive in such a way," the President said with a smile, looking Li Xiu up and down.

"It's all thanks to you, Mr. President. I met an acquaintance of yours at the Jade Castle. If it weren't for her, I would have lost my life." As Li Xiu spoke, he took out the piece of emerald from his bosom and presented it to the President: "She asked me to bring this to you."

The President received the emerald, looking at Li Xiu with some surprise, and said, "She didn't take your life?"

"What do you mean? When she heard I was under your command, she was extremely kind to me and even gave me an emerald stone." Li Xiu took out the piece of emerald that was even larger than a human head.

The President looked at Li Xiu in a daze for a long time before smiling and saying, "You really are blessed, lucky indeed."

Li Xiu wanted to say more, but the President seemed unwilling to discuss matters related to Jiang Linglan further, only asking Li Xiu to recount the events that occurred.

This time, Li Xiu was more cautious and dared not speak recklessly again.

He only recounted the incident of meeting Jiang Linglan, avoiding mentioning the child and the eventual defeat of the Jade Demon King together with Jiang Linglan.

"Her name isn't Jiang, nor is it Jiang Linglan." The President's words immediately made Li Xiu break out in cold sweat.

Li Xiu immediately understood that Jiang Linglan hadn't truly believed him at that time. She probably didn't take his words seriously.

His survival was likely influenced by matters related to the City of Love, or perhaps Jiang Linglan originally had no intention of killing him and wanted to use him to take something out.

However, Li Xiu didn't tell the President about the matters concerning the City of Love.

"For you to come back alive is indeed miraculous." The President patted Li Xiu on the shoulder, smiling as he said, "Go back and enjoy the feast. There aren't many in the world who can attend their own feast."

Li Xiu didn't dare say much more, taking his leave.

Of course, he wouldn't actually go to the feast, nor did he truly plan to pay.

The cost of the feast and the goods had already been covered by Han Minghui, he played the good guy, and there was no way to ask him for money.

Instead of going home, Li Xiu directly went to find Old Guan, placing the Light-Speed No. 3 and Light-Speed Spear in front of him.

Old Guan, looking at the Light-Speed No. 3 and Light-Speed Spear that appeared like thoroughly burnt iron blocks, emitting a brilliant glow, said in astonishment, "How did it become like this? How come there's such terrifying Light Energy inside the Light-Speed No. 3 and Light-Speed Spear?"

Li Xiu recounted the series of events. He was absorbing the Jade Divine Light of the Jade Demon King at the time, but because the Light Energy of the Jade Divine Light was too strong, he couldn't directly absorb it into his own body and could only use the Light-Speed Spear and Light-Speed No. 3 as a buffer.

But suddenly the gate shut, and the Light-Speed Spear and Light-Speed No. 3 couldn't enter the Land of Trial, vanishing into thin air.

At that time, most of the Jade Divine Light absorbed by Li Xiu remained stored within the Light-Speed Spear and Light-Speed No. 3. With their disappearance, that Light Energy stayed in the Light-Speed Spear and Light-Speed No. 3.

When Li Xiu emerged from the Gate of the Green Field, the Light-Speed Spear and Light-Speed No. 3 returned with him, but they could no longer be controlled; just like now, the entire Demon Armor and Light-Speed Spear emitted extremely strong light energy waves.

"In theory, once the Light-Speed Spear and Light-Speed No. 3 are separated from you, you shouldn't be able to control them. They're storing such terrifying Light Energy. If this Light Energy can't exit, over time within the Demon Armor it will erode and damage it. This is evident from the current state of the Light-Speed Spear and Light-Speed No. 3. It's clear they're severely eroded by the Light Energy. Almost all the materials and components are filled with this terrifying Light Energy. What's strange is, they don't seem to be damaged..." Old Guan reached out, wanting to touch the Light-Speed No. 3, but Li Xiu stopped him.

"Don't touch. The Light Energy on them is too strong now, even the overflow of Light Energy waves has considerable destructive power." Li Xiu said as he brought a teacup close to the Light-Speed No. 3.

The teacup shattered to pieces with a pop as it approached the Light-Speed No. 3.

"Such violent Light Energy, yet the Light-Speed No. 3 and Light-Speed Spear remain intact. This is intriguing. Help me take them to the test platform. I must conduct a thorough test on them." Old Guan's eyes lit up, intensely fixated on the Light-Speed No. 3 and Light-Speed Spear.

Chapter 797 Whose Child

Li Xiu had just returned to Courtyard No. 7 after leaving the Lightspeed III with the old man, when he saw Wan Chaocun sitting in the yard of Courtyard No. 7, holding a bottle and feeding a child.

"Spring Jie, whose child is this?" Li Xiu walked over and asked.

"Yours," Wan Chaocun replied with a smile.

"Don't joke around, I don't have such a small child," Li Xiu said, glancing at the child in Wan Chaocun's arms.

The child was chubby and fair-skinned, with a cute face, sucking on the bottle while looking at Li Xiu with big, sparkling eyes.

Li Xiu immediately felt that the child looked familiar, like the one the Jade Demon King spat out the other day.

As expected, Wan Chaocun shoved the child into his arms and said, "That day, you had just entered the Jade Gate, and she stepped out right after. If she's not yours, whose is she?"

With that, Wan Chaocun took two steps back, scrutinized Li Xiu and the child in his arms, and said, "Look at her nose, eyes, and mouth; she looks just like you. If you say she's not yours, I don't believe it."

"Especially with that innocent smile she has, who else's could she be? Be honest, which family's girl did you mess with to have such a child?" Wan Chaocun laughed as she spoke.

"Does she really?" Li Xiu lifted her up to his face, staring at her eye-to-eye for a while, then looked at Wan Chaocun and said with a smile, "Spring Jie, I think you're mistaken. Many people look alike; it's just a coincidence."

"Look, look, and you say she's not yours." Wan Chaocun pointed at Li Xiu and the baby.

Li Xiu turned his head and saw that the child was looking at Wan Chaocun and smiling, a smile that seemed to have a warm and comforting power, making it impossible not to smile back no matter how upset one might be.

Just then, Afei happened to pass by, and Wan Chaocun pointed to the child and Li Xiu, asking Afei, "Little Afei, don't they look exactly the same?"

"They came out of the same mold," Afei answered confidently.

She remembered Li Xiu's frequently smiling expression vividly. When Li Xiu first went to the Sea Heaven Trial Ground, she noticed him at first sight because of that very smile.

"Do you think that little girl is his child?" Wan Chaocun asked again.

"Definitely," Afei confirmed again.

"Is it really that alike?" Li Xiu looked back and forth, still not seeing how the child resembled him.

"See for yourself." Wan Chaocun held a mirror in front of Li Xiu.

Li Xiu looked into the mirror, saw the child also looking into it, and the large and small reflections in the mirror did seem somewhat similar.

Li Xiu looked at the mirror again, then at the child, and the child's actions almost mirrored his own.

Li Xiu looked at Wan Chaocun and Afei, laughing, "It's just a coincidence, they just look alike."

But then the child also looked at Wan Chaocun, cooing and babbling with expressions and actions in perfect sync with Li Xiu's.

Wan Chaocun and Afei looked at Li Xiu as if they were looking at a liar, clearly not believing that the child had nothing to do with him.

"Anyway, I've delivered the child to you, deal with it yourself." With that, Wan Chaocun turned and left, not wanting to hear any more of Li Xiu's explanations.

"Spring Jie, when the child came out, did she have anything else with her?" Li Xiu quickly asked.

"No," Wan Chaocun said as she exited Courtyard No. 7.

Li Xiu examined the child closely but didn't find anything unusual about her, just like any ordinary human child.

"How did this little one end up inside the Jade Demon King? And why did Jiang Linglan suddenly go all out to take down the Jade Demon King after hearing that she sent the child out the Jade Gate?" Li Xiu couldn't figure out the logic. Without seeing anything special about the child, he said to Afei, "Afei, find someone to take care of her for now."

"Parents should take care of their own child," Afei said as she left.

"She's really not mine," Li Xiu thought, depressed, wanting to explain, but Afei had already returned to her room and closed the door.

Li Xiu had no choice but to take the child back to his room. Fortunately, the child didn't cry or fuss, seeming very well-behaved.

He placed her on the bed, and she just sat there hugging the bottle quietly. When Li Xiu looked at her, she would smile back at him.

"Stop giving me that look. I told you, we're not related. At most, I'll find you a good family to raise you. There's no way I'm keeping you; I'm a single man after all. How would I find a wife if I had to care for you?" Li Xiu said, pointing at the child.

The child just smiled at him, whether she understood or not was a mystery.

"Why am I even talking to a child about this?" Seeing that she wasn't crying or fussing, Li Xiu left her alone and took out the two pieces of jade Jiang Linglan had given him.

He set the rough stone aside and picked up the icestone jade, carefully examining the Demon Text on it.

Li Xiu had already studied the text on the other piece, the Spring Color Jade, meant for the president. It was a poem about romance.

He hadn't had time to look at the Demon Text on this piece since he needed to return the other one to the president.

Chapter 798 Whose Child_2

"This piece of icy jade isn't a love poem, is it?" Li Xiu read the characters on it word by word.

As he read, a peculiar expression appeared on Li Xiu's face.

It wasn't a love poem at all, but a list of names, listing thirteen people in total, including Wu Xinglie and Zhang Ping.

Li Xiu suspected that the thirteen people on the list might all be from the City of Love.

Because earlier, when Jiang Linglan asked him about people from the City of Love, she asked exactly about thirteen people, which likely wasn't just a coincidence.

"If I get the chance to go to the City of Love again, I can take this jade with me to ask Old Man Wu and the others what this list means. This shouldn't be an ordinary piece of jade, I wonder if it can be taken into the Trial Gate." Li Xiu put away the piece of icy jade and placed the rough jade stone on the table.

Taking out the Food Knife, Li Xiu planned to peel off the rough stone to see what kind of jade was inside.

A hint of golden light appeared on the blade of the Food Knife, and Li Xiu peeled off a layer of the stone skin like he was slicing a winter melon.

With just a thin layer peeled off, he immediately saw color inside, and it was an extremely rich red.

"Red Jade!" Li Xiu observed the rich color inside, noting its excellent transparency, much like dyed glass.

Without further hesitation, he continued peeling away the remaining stone skin along the red color, and also removed the misty layer connected to it, revealing a blood-like, vibrant, glassy jade.

Looking at the crystal-clear Blood Jade before him, the hunger in Li Xiu's stomach intensified. He pricked his finger to drop a bit of blood onto the Blood Jade, and in no time, a bloody glow emanated from it. The Blood Jade, the size of a human head, melted into red liquid and flowed into the wound on his finger.

Soon, a blood-red jade ring appeared on Li Xiu's thumb, while bizarre information surged into his brain.

Blood Linglong: Evolvable Demon Spirit.

Level: Spirit Casting.

Quality: Radiant.

Super Upper Limit: 100%.

Light Vein: Fifty-eight lines.

Spirit Casting Form: Third Form.

Talent Skills: Blood Evil, Seven Weapons, Exquisite Heart, Celestial Killer Lone Star, Gem Seed.

"A third-form Spirit Casting!" Li Xiu was somewhat surprised.

Gem Demon Spirits on Earth should be at the lowest level when born, yet this Blood Jade appeared in the third form of Spirit Casting, clearly different from Earth's Demon Spirit Gems.

At Li Xiu's mental command, Blood Linglong flew from his finger and transformed into a human-like demon spirit before him.

This human-like demon spirit was a bit short, standing about one meter tall, clothed entirely in armor resembling blood crystals, like a child in heavy armor—a bit like a chibi armored warrior.

However, the armor's design made Blood Linglong appear somewhat sinister, particularly its blood glowing eyes with seven-petal star-shaped pupils.

Unable to test skills in the room, Li Xiu retracted Blood Linglong and planned to test its abilities later in the Land of Trial.

The child sitting on the bed beside them remained quietly, holding a bottle and watching Li Xiu without crying or fussing, unusually well-behaved for a toddler.

Li Xiu thought for a moment, then picked up the toddler and intended to find Sha Chu, asking her to find someone to look after the child until he figured out the child's origins.

"Commander, although the child's young, if she doesn't stay with her parents, she might develop a psychological shadow. You might want to keep her and foster some emotional bonds," Sha Chu suggested after hearing Li Xiu's words.

"She's really not my child," Li Xiu said helplessly.

"I understand," Sha Chu nodded. "Rest assured, I won't tell anyone."

"What do you understand? Stop talking nonsense and find someone to care for her," Li Xiu said, not wanting to explain further.

As he handed the child over to Sha Chu, the child clung to Li Xiu, refusing to let go, with her small hands holding tightly onto his clothes.

Despite her small size, the child's grip was surprisingly strong, and both of them found it hard to pry her fingers off.

Sha Chu brought some toys and food to coax her, but she ignored them, only clutching tightly to Li Xiu and trying to climb into his arms.

"Commander, as you can see, the father-daughter bond is strong. Maybe you should take care of her, or find her mother to look after her," Sha Chu said with a smile.

"Who knows who her mother is," Li Xiu said, frustrated, holding the child.

Left with no choice, Li Xiu decided to hold her until she fell asleep, planning to have Sha Chu take her away then.

"Brother Xiu, you already have a child?" Li Ming'Er exclaimed in surprise upon seeing Li Xiu holding the child.

"She's not my child," Li Xiu explained weakly.

Li Ming'Er sighed, "Brother Xiu, don't worry. Whether or not you introduce her as your child, I'll love her as my own."

"What is all this? She really isn't my child," Li Xiu reiterated, explaining the child's origin.

He trusted Li Ming'Er more, as she was a demon spirit herself with nowhere else to go, so she had to stay with him for the time being.

Chapter 799 Whose Child_3

"Jade Castle, I feel like I've heard of this place somewhere before." Li Ming'Er said thoughtfully after hearing this.

"Do you know that place?" Li Xiu was overjoyed.

"Let me think." Li Ming'Er pondered for a moment, then suddenly her eyes lit up and she said, "I remember now, the Jade Castle you're talking about should be called the Jade Imperial Court, right?"

"Seems like that's the name." Li Xiu nodded quickly, "So what exactly is that place?"

Li Ming'Er said, "I remember once hearing the Ancient Corpse mention the Jade Imperial Court. It seemed he wanted to go there but couldn't find the way."

"Couldn't find the way?" Li Xiu found it curious. These humans weren't familiar with the Demon Spirit Realm, but since the Ancient Corpse knew of a place like the Jade Imperial Court, how could he not find the way?

Li Ming'Er continued, "Yes, couldn't find the way. I remember the Ancient Corpse said that the Jade Imperial Court has a Time Tunnel. Through the Time Tunnel, one can go to the past and future. If one could find the Time Tunnel, they could return to the past to change previous regrets. They could even go to the future to see future scenes, achieving the purpose of foreseeing and changing the future."

Li Xiu estimated that the Jade Tunnel should be the Time Tunnel the Ancient Corpse spoke of.

However, saying that the Time Tunnel could return to the past to make up for regrets seems a bit far-fetched. The Happy Hometown Station is a place akin to an Illusion Realm, it's not possible to change the past, and even less likely to change the future, it's most likely just an exaggerated rumor.

Li Ming'Er continued, "But the Ancient Corpse wants to go to the Time Tunnel not to change the past or future, but to head to the Gate of the World."

"What is the Gate of the World?" Li Xiu had taken two rides on the little train but didn't see any gate.

Li Ming'Er smiled, "That's the Ancient Corpse dreaming. Saying that at the end of the Time Tunnel there's a Gate of the World, and passing through it one can transcend worldly constraints, achieving ultimate evolution to become an invincible existence. Unfortunately, both the Jade Imperial Court and the Time Tunnel are just legends, even the Three Corpses of Longevity couldn't find their way there."

At this point, Li Ming'Er looked strangely at the little girl in Li Xiu's arms and said, "According to you, the place you went to sounds like the legendary Jade Imperial Court. If it truly is the Jade Imperial Court, how could a human woman live there and a human child emerge from inside? That's too bizarre."

"It is indeed a bit bizarre." Li Xiu frowned in thought.

Li Ming'Er suddenly brightened up, "Brother Xiu, do you think it's possible that the woman and this little girl both came out of the Time Tunnel?"

Before Li Xiu could follow her train of thought, Li Ming'Er excitedly continued, "Brother Xiu, this little girl looks so much like you. Could she really be your child, except she's not your child from now, but rather your future child after you get married, coming through the Time Tunnel to this place?"

"That's impossible. How can there be a past and future? Time should be irreversible; the so-called Time Tunnel is at most a predictive Illusion Realm." Li Xiu directly dismissed Li Ming'Er's conjecture.

However, Li Ming'Er was very excited, scrutinizing the little girl she continued, "What if though? Otherwise, how do you explain the origin of this child? She looks so much like you, no one would believe she's not your child."

"If she's your future child, then who would her mother be?" Li Ming'Er moved closer and carefully examined the little girl, placing her face next to the girl's: "Brother Xiu, see if any part of her looks like me? I think the eyes are quite similar."

Li Xiu was amused, but after closely examining for a while, the eye shape did indeed look a bit similar.

"Does she look like it?" Li Ming'Er asked again.

"Why don't you have one and compare?" Li Xiu said.

Li Ming'Er blushed slightly, "How can that be, if I were to get married, I must return to Longevity Island first, otherwise even the Longevity Treasure Chopsticks wouldn't agree."

Speaking of the Longevity Treasure Chopsticks, Li Xiu had something he wanted to ask Li Ming'Er, "Ming'Er, I remember you said the Longevity Treasure Chopsticks were a treasure born alongside Longevity Island, and the Three Corpses of Longevity are ancient spirits nurtured by Longevity Island, so why isn't the ruler of Longevity Island them, nor has the Longevity Treasure Chopsticks recognized them as its master?"

Li Ming'Er laughed at this, "The Three Corpses of Longevity are indeed natives of Longevity Island, but before they emerged, my father had already come to Longevity Island. It was my father who unearthed the Longevity Treasure Chopsticks and the Three Corpses of Longevity. Without my father, who knows when they would have come out."

"So you're saying, your parents weren't originally magical spirits of Longevity Island?" Li Xiu was a bit surprised, not expecting the previous generation owner of Longevity Island was not an indigenous magical spirit.

"No, my mother is a magical spirit of Longevity Island, but my father is not," Li Ming'Er explained, "The magical spirits nurtured by Longevity Island include my mother. But I've never met her, I heard she died giving birth to me."

"I'm sorry." Li Xiu hadn't anticipated Li Ming'Er's background was so tragic.

"It's okay, because I've never met my parents, so I don't feel much. The words 'parents' to me are just titles, with no actual impression or meaning," Li Ming'Er said.

"Your mother died in childbirth, what about your father?" Li Xiu asked curiously.

"I heard from the island people that after my mother gave birth to me, my father disappeared soon after, leaving me only this pair of Longevity Treasure Chopsticks," Li Ming'Er laughed, "I have no idea what my parents look like, I don't even know my father's name. I only inadvertently heard from the island's Black and White Double Evil that my father's name seems to be Li Boyang. I don't know why he has a name similar to a human's. I heard my name was given by him, which is why it's like a human's name too."

"Li Boyang!" Li Xiu was shocked on hearing this, looking at Li Ming'Er in disbelief.

Chapter 800 Ming'Er's Origins

"Are you sure your father is named Li Boyang?" Li Xiu looked at Li Ming'Er and asked with a peculiar expression.

"I think so. I heard it accidentally earlier—they refused to tell me." Li Ming'Er said.

Li Xiu looked at Li Ming'Er with a complex expression, having only recently learned the name Li Boyang from Jiang Linglan, and was sure it was indeed the president himself.

Unless it's a case of identical names, Li Ming'Er might very well be the president's daughter.

"Can humans and magical beings have offspring?" Li Xiu wondered silently.

For anyone else, Li Xiu would think it unlikely, the chance of identical names being high.

But when it comes to the president, Li Xiu couldn't be certain.

He remembered when the president took him to see those human skin collections in Red Sand City; at that time, Li Xiu felt the president was not like an ordinary person.

Moreover, the resemblance between Longevity Heaven and Longevity Island raises questions about possible connections, but it's all unclear.

Of course, Li Xiu could only ponder these things to himself, not daring to tell Li Ming'Er. If she decided to confront the president, who knows what might happen.

"Better to figure things out first." Li Xiu was curious about this matter, though he knew unraveling the truth wouldn't be easy.

"Ming'Er, have you ever seen your father's portrait or anything else?" Li Xiu asked, observing Li Ming'Er.

On closer inspection, Li Ming'Er did resemble Li Qingyi a bit; they both had oval faces, though Li Qingyi's features were more defined, with a heroic look.

Li Ming'Er's features were more charming, very feminine.

"No." Li Ming'Er looked at Li Xiu with some confusion and asked, "Brother Xiu, why do you ask about my father?"

"No reason, just a bit curious." Li Xiu refrained from saying much.

Li Ming'Er wanted to help Li Xiu with the little girl, but she clung tightly to Li Xiu, refusing to let go. So Li Xiu had to keep the little girl for now and wait until she fell asleep.

After Li Ming'Er left, Li Xiu looked at the little girl and murmured, "I wonder when I'll learn more about her origin. Better give her a name for now; what should it be?"

"Coming from the Jade Gate, calling her Little Jade seems inappropriate, as it would share a name with the Jade Demon King..." Li Xiu pondered what to name her.

Li Xiu looked at the well-behaved little girl, who was adorably chubby, feeling that a jade gemstone name would be too rigid.

"Though I'm not your father, meeting you here counts as destiny. It's not suitable for you to take my surname, so I'll take half of my name for yours." Li Xiu dipped a finger in tea and wrote on the table, "Take the character 'zi' from 'Li,' and the character for 'single person' from 'Xiu,' combining to form 'Zi.' Calling you Little Zi sounds off, like a small brat, so I'll name you Zi Zi."

"Zi Zi, how do you like this name?" Li Xiu pinched the little girl's chubby hand.

"Ya yi ya yi!" The little girl uttered some sounds, leaving it uncertain whether she understood.

"You like it, don't you? Then Zi Zi it is." Li Xiu happily picked her up and kissed her chubby little cheek.

"Ya yi ya yi!" Zi Zi's little hand pressed against Li Xiu's face, showing a bit of resistance.

Li Xiu didn't mind; he thought the name was quite fitting.

"Ka ka... ka ka..." another tiny voice called nearby. Li Xiu turned and saw a little blue demon spirit tugging at his pants, looking eagerly at him as if wanting a name too.

"You want a name too? All right, let's give you one." Li Xiu picked the blue demon spirit up and placed it on the table, examining it for a moment, "You're skilled in cold magic, so I'll call you Little Frost."

"Ka ka... ka ka..." Little Frost seemed to understand and appeared to be pleased.

"This little guy is easily satisfied." Li Xiu patted Little Frost's fluffy head, musing inwardly.

Little Frost came from the Gate of the Green Field, coincidentally, the gemstone needed to open it was also jade.

The Southern Cross Federation is a major jade production site, and there's a lot of jade in Longevity Heaven, though quality varies and prices differ. Li Xiu now has money and buying premium jade to feed Little Frost won't be an issue.

For safety, Li Xiu dripped a drop of Little Frost's blood onto the Blood Seal Stone. A daily drop would prevent future troubles, given its parents are Divine Position Level magical beings, requiring some restraint.

Initially, Li Xiu planned to take Zi Zi away once she fell asleep, but she clung to him, waking at the slightest movement, making it impossible to move her.

"Never mind, I'm not planning to go to the Land of Trial soon, so I might as well care for them a few days." After staying a night, Li Xiu went early the next morning to see Old Qian, asking if he'd had any epiphanies lately, curious if he understood things.

If Old Qian hadn't figured things out, Li Xiu would find someone else to replace him at the Sword Soul Gate, as he didn't wish to return himself.

"I haven't quite cleared things yet." Old Qian said, "But I think that's not needed. Let me return to guard the Sword Soul Gate. Some matters aren't meant to be understood through thought alone; I need more hands-on experience."