

When God 801

Chapter 801 Ming'Er's Origins (Part 2)

"Alright." Li Xiu nodded. As Lao Qian was about to leave, Li Xiu called out to him again: "Lao Qian, if you encounter any eerie events in the Land of the Sword Soul, mention my name. It might be somewhat useful."

"Eerie events? What kind of eerie events? Are you talking about the rain?" Lao Qian recalled that Li Xiu had previously asked him about the rain in the Land of the Sword Soul.

"Something like that. I can't guarantee it'll work, maybe it won't help at all. But if you're really at a dead end, it's worth a shot." Li Xiu laughed.

"Got it, I'll remember that." Lao Qian said as he headed out towards the Sword Soul Gate.

Li Xiu carried Zai Zai out the door, planning to make a trip to the Gem Market.

He was stuck at the threshold of advancing in Spirit Casting, needing a significant amount of energy to aid him, and he didn't dare venture into the Land of Trial recklessly, so he had to rely on external resources like Demon Cores.

Lately, he seems to encounter mishaps whenever he visits these trial grounds.

However, Li Xiu felt it wasn't a matter of luck but rather the rising disturbances from the Demon Spirit Realm. Many demon spirits seemed increasingly desperate to break through the Trial Gate.

Just like Xiao Shuang's parents, who, even with their child being so young, urged them to rush out of the Trial Gate at great expense, even sacrificing some offspring, which shows their urgency.

So, with nothing much going on recently, Li Xiu didn't want to mindlessly wander into the Land of Trial.

Fortunately, he's made quite a bit of money lately, making the purchase of some Demon Cores quite manageable.

But just as he stepped out the door and hadn't walked far, he saw Han Minghui approaching from the front.

"Commander Li." Han Minghui directly blocked Li Xiu's path, almost as if she were waiting just for him.

"What advice does Deputy Chairwoman Han have for me?" Li Xiu asked knowingly.

"Here's the banquet bill. Commander Li, you previously mentioned hosting it, so please settle the bill." Han Minghui handed a thick stack of bills to Li Xiu.

Feeding tens of thousands of people is no small expense, and since it was initially thought that Li Xiu had died, Han Minghui fronted the cost, but now that he's alive and had publicly said he hosted the event, the debt naturally falls on him.

Li Xiu glanced at the bill and then reached out to Han Minghui.

"That's all there is, Commander Li. You only need to settle the banquet costs; the other expenses are covered by the organization." Han Minghui assumed Li Xiu was asking for additional bills.

"Deputy Chairwoman Han, your words intrigue me. You've given me the bill but not the money." Li Xiu smiled.

"What money?" Han Minghui asked, puzzled.

"Deputy Chairwoman, isn't this a bit unfair? It makes sense for me to pay the banquet costs since those attendees came for my memorial. But since I'm footing the bill, wouldn't it be fair for me, the concerned party, to collect the white envelopes?" Li Xiu said.

"What white envelopes? The memorial was organized by the committee, not a private funeral; there aren't any white envelopes." Han Minghui sensed something amiss.

"Oh, if I haven't received any white envelope money, how am I to pay for this banquet?" Li Xiu queried.

"How should I know where you'll get the money, Commander Li? You were the one who offered to host the banquet." Han Minghui replied with a stern face.

"Of course, they attended my funeral, and naturally, I'd treat them to a meal. However, customarily speaking, they should provide white envelopes attending a funeral. Hence, I should pay the banquet with the envelope money, so I ask Deputy Chairwoman Han to collect those funds for me." Li Xiu replied politely.

"But we didn't collect any white envelopes." Han Minghui said through gritted teeth.

"Then I'm sorry, I've not received a penny, so how do I pay for the banquet?" Li Xiu laughed, "Since my memorial was managed single-handedly by Deputy Chairwoman Han, and you invited the guests, may I trouble you to collect the white envelope money and offset the banquet costs? If there's any surplus, notify me, and I'll collect it myself, sparing you the trouble."

"You..." Han Minghui was so angry she almost cursed.

"Well, if there's nothing else, Deputy Chairwoman, I'll take my leave." Li Xiu said, skirting around Han Minghui.

"Commander Li, this money is coming from the committee's funds, it needs to go through the official channels. You can't just shirk your responsibility." Han Minghui called after Li Xiu's retreating figure.

"Why would I shirk it? Just bring over the white envelope money, and I'll settle it immediately." Li Xiu said, walking away without turning back.

"Bastard!" Han Minghui seethed with rage.

She claimed the money was from the committee funds, but that wasn't exactly true. The Han Family had fronted the initial cost.

This situation arose because the original memorial didn't include a banquet; after the ceremony, people were supposed to return home.

Han Minghui herself paid for the banquet, intending to use this opportunity to give the Han Family some visibility, letting the citizens of Longevity City recognize who the leading family is now. Additionally, she intended to establish goodwill, especially with the Technician group, letting them know that the Han Family values honor and friendship—even extending such goodwill to someone like Li Xiu, who didn't get along well with them, thereby setting the stage for potentially taking over the Technician group.

Of course, Han Minghui had no true intention of letting the Han Family bear this cost; her plan was to find a way to allocate it as a committee expense eventually.

Chapter 802 Ming'Er's Origins (Part 3)

Who knew Li Xiu wasn't dead after all? The dream of taking over the technician group was shattered, and now the burden of socializing at banquets was falling on Li Xiu's shoulders. Han Minghui got nothing and still had to cover Li Xiu's expenses, making her scalp tingle with rage.

Li Xiu, however, didn't care much about this and headed straight to the Gem Market with Zai Zai.

Xiao Shuang was hiding inside Li Xiu's backpack, occasionally poking her little head out from the backpack's opening to observe the outside world, filled with curiosity about everything.

Along the way, many people enthusiastically greeted Li Xiu. Li Xiu's reputation was now so high in Longevity City that, apart from a few old elders and the old commander, he was far ahead among the younger generation—no one else could compare.

Part of this credit also went to Han Minghui, who was actively promoting, trying to make Li Xiu a hero.

After all, Li Xiu had no relatives, and no one could inherit his estate. So Han Minghui spared no effort in publicizing Li Xiu's glorious deeds, never expecting Li Xiu wouldn't die.

"Commander Li, feel free to pick anything you like, I'll give you twenty percent off... no... thirty percent off..." Many shop owners warmly welcomed Li Xiu.

Li Xiu smilingly declined each offer. What he needed this time were Demon Cores, and he needed them to meet certain levels, qualities, and quantities—something ordinary shops couldn't provide.

Li Xiu went all the way to Treasure Light Pavilion but didn't see the old immortal; only two clerks came over to greet him.

"Is the old commander not here?" Li Xiu casually asked.

"The old commander is at the VIP room on the second floor entertaining guests. Commander Li, please rest in a private room first, and I'll go notify the old commander," a beautiful clerk cautiously said.

"Tell the old commander I have a big business deal to discuss with him and ask him to come over soon." Li Xiu said as he followed the clerk up to the second floor.

"How big is the business?" From the VIP room on the second floor came a voice Li Xiu was familiar with.

"Guild Leader!" Li Xiu recognized the voice immediately, stopping in his tracks, stuck there unsure whether to go up or down the stairs.

"Weren't you looking to talk about a big business deal? The old commander is here with me, come on over." The guild leader's voice came from the VIP room again.

Having no choice, Li Xiu carried Zai Zai and walked up to the second floor.

He wasn't afraid of offending the guild leader but was worried the guild leader might notice something wrong with Zai Zai.

But when he thought about it carefully, Wan Chaocun taking Zai Zai away was something the guild leader must have known about beforehand, so it shouldn't be a problem.

Li Xiu knocked on the closed door as he reached the entrance.

"The door isn't closed, come in." The guild leader's voice came again.

Li Xiu pushed the door open and entered, seeing the old immortal and Mo Wuya on either side, sitting next to the guild leader.

"I wish I hadn't come here," Li Xiu sighed inwardly.

"The old commander is right here, just how big is this business deal? Tell the old commander about it." The guild leader looked at Li Xiu with a teasing smile.

"It's not that big, I just wanted to buy some Demon Cores," Li Xiu said.

"Buying a few Demon Cores doesn't count as a big business deal. Are you buying Divine Position Demon Cores? If you are, I have them; tell me how many you want and name your price." The guild leader said, looking at Li Xiu with a sly smile.

"Guild leader, that's a joke. How could I have the funds to buy Divine Position Demon Cores?" Li Xiu seemed helpless. He really did want to buy Divine Position Demon Cores, but such items are practically priceless, and even if they were available, he didn't have the financial capability to purchase them.

"Since you know you don't have the money, then why not go earn some?" The guild leader turned the conversation, continuing.

Li Xiu thought, "You think I don't want to make money? Only a fool doesn't want to earn money, but I have no avenues. I just managed to connect with the Chu Family and made my first gold coin, but that money isn't readily available whenever I want; I have to wait for them to sell the Demon Armor they create."

Of course, Li Xiu couldn't say this to the guild leader, so he could only sigh, "I'm just a humble commander, lacking people and connections—where can I go to earn money?"

"Jing Li, Lao Qian, Jiuxiao Yun—the younger generation of talent in Longevity City—these few outstanding people have been lured by you fairly thoroughly. Lao Ba is your sworn fourth brother, Wan

Chaocun your sworn eldest sister, the Chu Family's boy is also your sworn brother, with the Magic Armor Research Institute in your hands privately selling technology from the institute. I see you're not only well-staffed but also well-connected." The guild leader coldly stated.

"You be quiet," the guild leader didn't give Li Xiu a chance to speak, staring at him with a grim expression and saying, "Let's put those aside, you even dared to involve my daughter, do you think you're the hero of Longevity City now and can do whatever you please?"

"Guild leader, it's a misunderstanding. Miss Qingyi is pitying me, wanting to help, which is why she joined the technician group. I truly didn't make her do dangerous things." Li Xiu quickly explained.

"I'm talking about Ming'Er," the guild leader said coldly.

Li Xiu was taken aback, quickly realizing the answer—Li Ming'Er was truly the guild leader's daughter.

"Well... guild leader... I truly didn't know Li Ming'Er was your daughter... rest assured... I've always treated Ming'Er as an honored guest, ensuring she hasn't suffered any mistreatment under my watch..." Li Xiu quickly stated.

"Do you think you would still be alive if you had mistreated her?" The guild leader snorted coldly, "Let her continue staying at your seventh courtyard, she must not know about my affairs, and you must not let her feel any discomfort. If she experiences even a bit of discomfort, or learns about my affairs, I'll cut off your five limbs and set your head alight in the Temple of Heaven."

"Rest assured, guild leader." Li Xiu felt slightly depressed; this was indeed a thankless task.

After saying these words, the guild leader's expression suddenly changed like a dramatic face shift in a Sichuan opera, looking at Li Xiu with a smile, "You want to make money, right? Then let me point you in the right direction, guaranteeing you'll earn big money."

Li Xiu didn't believe the guild leader's sweet words one bit; if there were such fortune, why would it come to him? There was surely something hidden within this.

Chapter 803 Trial Taker Tournament

"Do you know what the path is?" Li Xiu couldn't refuse, so he had to ask.

"You held a Magic Spirit Competition in the City of Light before, just do it again." The chairman said slowly.

Li Xiu finally understood what the chairman meant by a way to make money. The chairman wanted him to hold another competition, but this time not just a pure Magic Spirit Competition, but one that the Trial Takers would also participate in.

Holding a Trial Taker Competition shouldn't be very profitable, so Li Xiu wasn't particularly interested.

But since the chairman already mentioned it, Li Xiu couldn't say no.

"Don't give me that look. Just organize the competition as you should. Besides, the association plans to establish a comprehensive market for Trial Takers, Magic Spirits, and related materials in your City of Light, selling various surplus resources from Changsheng Tian in your market with an exclusive agency." The chairman noticed Li Xiu was reluctant to agree and continued.

Li Xiu was overjoyed upon hearing this. This was the real big business opportunity.

Currently, the resources related to Trial Takers outside are relatively scarce, and the prices are relatively high.

With the resources from Changsheng Tian entering the market, the cultivation costs for ordinary Trial Takers outside will greatly decrease, and the safety factor of the trials will significantly increase.

Of course, such a market would mostly make the City of Light earn vast amounts of money.

"Rest assured, Chairman, I will definitely organize this Trial Taker Competition well." Li Xiu promised with a pat on his chest.

"When do you plan to start organizing this Trial Taker Competition, Chairman?" Li Xiu thought for a moment and asked again.

"As soon as possible." The chairman replied lightly.

"Alright, I'll start preparing right away." Li Xiu said and then took his leave.

On the way back, Li Xiu kept contemplating how to organize this Trial Taker Competition.

He roughly guessed why the chairman wanted to hold a Magic Spirit Competition and set up a market in the City of Light.

Recently, the Magic Spirits in the Land of Trial have been increasingly active, and after the Li Family's rebellion, even though it didn't cause major damage, Changsheng Tian still suffered losses and has fewer available people.

Li Xiu estimated that the chairman wanted to recruit more Trial Takers from outside into Changsheng Tian, otherwise, there wouldn't be enough manpower to suppress the Trial Gate in the future.

After returning to Courtyard No. 7, Li Xiu gathered Sha Chu, Ah Fei, and Chu Jun to discuss the chairman's plan to hold a Trial Taker Competition and build a market in the City of Light.

"If we can have the exclusive rights to sell Changsheng Tian's resources in the future, the rise of the City of Light is just around the corner." Chu Jun said.

"It's good, but organizing such a large competition inevitably has its challenges." Li Xiu said.

"What kind of challenges? The City of Light has a ready-made arena, and it's been expanding. The venue shouldn't be an issue. Plus, we have experience organizing the Magic Spirit Competition, so there shouldn't be major mishaps." Chu Jun said.

"When we previously organized the Magic Spirit Competition, there were fewer Trial Takers outside, and even fewer recognized us. Those who attended were mostly nearby Trial Takers. This time, with the Trial Taker Competition, more people will likely come, requiring a lot of manpower to maintain order." Li Xiu said.

"Aren't you the Commander? You can deploy some Magic Armor Masters." Chu Jun said.

"After the Li Family's rebellion, Changsheng Tian already has a shortage of manpower. Even if we can deploy some, it wouldn't be many." Li Xiu said.

The group discussed late into the night, finalizing several plans before dispersing.

Li Xiu, holding Zizi, arrived at Wansheng Town and soon reached the slums where the Fishmen gathered.

Li Xiu stood at the alley entrance for a short while before a siren approached.

"Commander, do you have any instructions?" The siren greeted Li Xiu with a respectful bow.

"Siren, do you wish to change the fate of these Fishmen?" Li Xiu asked the siren.

"Yes, sir." The siren's eyes lit up instantly, looking at Li Xiu with delight.

"I need to select a batch of Magic Armor Masters. Will the Fishmen embark on this path?" Li Xiu asked the siren.

To quickly train a batch of people who can form combat power, Magic Armor Master is undoubtedly a shortcut.

As long as we find people with the talent for Magic Armor Master, even a month's short training, or just half a month, can form a decent combat force, an advantage not available to Trial Takers.

Among these Fishmen, many are descendants of Magic Armor Masters, likely possessing the talent for it. As long as the siren and those Fishmen are willing, Li Xiu can rapidly build a Magic Armor Master squad.

The difficulty lies in the low status of Magic Armor Masters in Changsheng Tian; previously, those Fishmen were unwilling to become Magic Armor Masters, and Li Xiu couldn't force them to serve him.

His visit now was in hopes of persuading the siren and those Fishmen.

"We'll take this path." The siren unexpectedly agreed straightforwardly, saying to Li Xiu, "Commander, when do you need them, and how many people in total?"

"Are those Fishmen willing to choose this path?" Li Xiu, having prepared some words, found himself at a loss as they were suddenly unnecessary.

"Among the Fishmen in Wansheng Town, many are descendants of Magic Armor Masters. Their ancestors, being Magic Armor Masters, shed blood and fought for Changsheng Tian, yet their descendants have fallen to become Fishmen. Hence, many Fishmen in Wansheng Town have vowed that they would never let their children become Magic Armor Masters again."

Chapter 804 Trial Taker Tournament_2

The merman looked at Li Xiu and slowly said, "Before you came to Longevity City, no one could take a single child from us, and no one was willing to become a Magic Armor Master. But now that you're here, we're willing to take another gamble."

"Why?" Li Xiu asked the merman.

"Because you have given us Fishmen hope." The merman knelt before Li Xiu with a thud, placing his hands on the ground, and prayed loudly, "Sir, the Fishmen are not afraid of death or bleeding for a cause, we only ask you to give our children's children a way to leave Wansheng Town, so that our descendants no longer have to struggle painfully at the bottom of society for generations."

"I have said before that any Magic Armor Master who joins my team of technicians, regardless of whether their children have the talent for becoming a Magic Armor Master in the future, will have a place in my team for generations." Li Xiu stated solemnly.

"With those words, I can rest assured handing those children over to you." The merman bowed three times before Li Xiu, stood up and said: "From now on, we Fishmen entrust our lives to you, sir."

As he spoke, the merman took out a conch from his body and blew a strange sound into it.

Soon, one by one, children walked out from the slum; some were as young as seven or eight, others were in their twenties, but most were teenagers.

Some of them had determined looks, while others seemed timid, yet most had eyes full of dreams. Regardless, they all stepped out of their homes and came to stand before Li Xiu.

Over a hundred children came before Li Xiu, and at the merman's command, they all knelt on one knee and said in unison: "We swear to follow you to the death, sir."

"Sir, these 132 children were born in Wansheng Town over the past twenty or more years and they possess the S-Class Magic Armor Master talent. I entrust their lives to you." The merman's gaze slowly passed over those children and finally rested on Li Xiu, his voice trembling as he spoke.

Li Xiu looked deeply at the merman, knowing that among the Fishmen there were many with the talent of a Magic Armor Master, yet he never expected there to be so many with an S-Class talent.

It was unimaginable the effort the merman had exerted to protect so many children from being taken to Longevity City.

"From now on, they are members of my team of technicians, and in the future, so will their children be." Li Xiu slowly said as he looked at the merman: "This is just the beginning; take good care of the others and wait."

"Merman, wait for the sir."

Li Xiu set off with the 132 children towards Longevity City. He hadn't initially expected there to be so many children with S-Class talents; he had intended merely to recruit children with any talent for

becoming a Magic Armor Master, even if it was just an A or B-Class talent, never anticipating this outcome.

When Li Xiu entered Longevity City with over a hundred Fishmen children, many pointed fingers at these Fishmen children, puzzled as to why Li Xiu would bring so many Fishmen children to Longevity City.

Li Xiu led the children directly to the large courtyard office of Han Minghui.

Having received prior notice, Han Minghui immediately came out to greet them.

"Commander Li, what is the meaning of this?" Han Minghui and her staff looked at the ragged Fishmen children behind Li Xiu with puzzled expressions.

"I brought them for registration." Li Xiu said with a smile.

"Registration? What kind of registration?" Han Minghui asked in confusion, not expecting Li Xiu to incorporate so many Fishmen children into the team of technicians.

Everyone knew that each group's resources were limited; the more members a group had, the less resources each person received. It was unusual for a Commander to recruit so many team members at once.

"They are to be members of my team of technicians. Please assist with their registration, Vice President Han." Li Xiu said lightly.

"You want to recruit so many Fishmen children into the team of technicians?" Han Minghui was somewhat astonished as she sized up the Fishmen children.

"Is there a problem?" Li Xiu retorted.

"There's no issue in doing so, but there's a rule within our organization that each group's resources and costs are the responsibility of the group itself. More members do not mean more allocated resources." Han Minghui explained.

"I'm aware of that. Is there any other issue?" Li Xiu said casually, seemingly unconcerned by Han Minghui's words.

"No, that's all." Han Minghui shook her head.

"Then please proceed with their registration, Vice President Han. A total of 132 members; they are all part of my team of technicians." Li Xiu scanned the faces of those children, speaking firmly.

Han Minghui had no choice but to have her staff register each Fishmen child and accept them into the team of technicians.

"I must remind you, Commander Li," Han Minghui said as the staff registered the Fishmen children, standing beside Li Xiu: "These Fishmen joining the team of technicians poses no problems on other fronts, but the Blood Seal Stone must be purchased personally by you. It is no small sum. Do you think these Fishmen are worth a Blood Seal Stone?"

Li Xiu was aware of the issue as he knew the management provided only a limited number of Blood Seal Stones each year. Having recruited so many team members at once, the cost of Blood Seal Stones for all 132 Fishmen children was substantial and would have to be covered out of pocket, given the cost of producing Blood Seal Stones.

Chapter 805 Trial Taker Tournament (Part 3)

However, compared to their value, Li Xiu didn't think the money mattered much.

"It's just a bit of money, I can afford it," Li Xiu said calmly.

Han Minghui thought to herself, "If you have money, then you should pay me back for the banquet expenses you owe me."

After completing the registration, Li Xiu paid the money, took the Blood Seal Stone, and led the children to the Magic Armor Master's courtyard.

The Blood Seal Stone was originally managed by Vice President Bai, but the Bai Family sided with the wrong faction during this rebellion, and Vice President Bai has already been imprisoned. All of his affairs are temporarily being taken over by Han Minghui, who made great contributions during the rebellion.

The fact that Li Xiu recruited over a hundred Fishman children quickly spread throughout Changsheng Tian, and many people discussed what Li Xiu intended to do with so many Fishman children.

When Li Xiu arrived at the Magic Armor Master's courtyard with these Fishman children, even the Magic Armor Masters were somewhat puzzled about why he brought them there.

"Commander, what are you doing?" Captain Qian Zhongshan came up to Li Xiu, looking at the Fishman children with confusion.

"In the future, they will all be part of the Magic Armor Master squad. I'll give you a month to train them properly," Li Xiu said to Qian Zhongshan.

"Commander..." Qian Zhongshan hesitated, seeming to have something he couldn't say.

"Speak your mind," Li Xiu said casually.

Qian Zhongshan gritted his teeth and said, "Commander, you should know that our profession as Magic Armor Masters values quality over quantity. In a place like Changsheng Tian, Magic Armor Masters below S-Class are practically useless. Sending them on missions to guard the Trial Gate would be akin to sending them to their deaths..."

"How do you know they're not S-Class Magic Armor Masters?" Li Xiu smiled and countered after Qian Zhongshan finished speaking.

Qian Zhongshan was slightly taken aback, then smirked bitterly, "Commander, stop joking. S-Class Magic Armor Master talent isn't as common as cabbages by the roadside. How could there be so many? When

Bai Wanli managed the Magic Armor group, he went to Wansheng Town each year to recruit children with Magic Armor Master talent and could only find one or two with S-Class talent at most..."

"Someone told me that they all possess S-Class talent. If you find it hard to believe, test them," Li Xiu said with a smile.

"Commander, you're too trusting. You believe whatever people say, but it's impossible for there to be so many Fishman children with S-Class talent. I'll take them for testing first. Those with S-Class talent can stay; those with poor talent should be sent back," Qian Zhongshan said earnestly while organizing people to test the children's Magic Armor Master talent.

Li Xiu just smiled without comment.

The other Magic Armor Masters administering the tests also thought Li Xiu was making quite a big joke.

But as they tested the children one by one, their expressions turned peculiar.

"S-Class talent... S-Class talent... still S-Class talent... This has got to be some kind of joke!" One by one, the Magic Armor Masters' expressions became serious.

Seeing the testers' expressions change, Qian Zhongshan quickly asked, "What's going on?"

"It seems the instruments malfunctioned... they're all showing S-Class talent... all of them," the Magic Armor Master responsible for checking results said, somewhat unbelieving.

Qian Zhongshan was both shocked and pleased, rushing over to check the test results and his eyes widened; they were all S-Class talents, not a single A-Class amongst them.

In previous years, Wansheng Town produced one or two S-Class talents at best, but Li Xiu suddenly brought back so many, which was almost unbelievable. Yet the evidence was there, forcing them to believe it.

"Qian Zhongshan, I'm entrusting you with these individuals. You have just one month; after a month, I need them to be an effective fighting force." Li Xiu said to Qian Zhongshan.

"Rest assured, Commander, I will accomplish the mission," Qian Zhongshan said excitedly.

After leaving the Magic Armor Master's courtyard, Li Xiu went to the research institute since the Demon Armor for these 132 Fishman children also needed to be addressed.

Creating over 130 sets of S-Class Demon Armor would require a substantial sum of money.

Li Xiu planned to have these Fishman children guard the City of Light, so their Demon Armor couldn't be subpar, and time was limited. Custom manufacturing would be too slow, so he hoped the research institute had some inventory available.

If he really couldn't gather enough, Li Xiu would have to find another way; he could get a batch of S-Class Demon Armor from the Chu Family and offset it with future technical usage fees.

Professor Xu didn't seem too surprised when he found out Li Xiu had recruited over a hundred S-Class talent children from Wansheng Town. However, the research institute didn't have that much S-Class Demon Armor in inventory, and some were reserved for active Magic Armor Masters, so not all could be used.

Li Xiu would have access to just over fifty sets of S-Class Demon Armor.

Building new ones wouldn't yield many sets in a month, since their facility isn't an assembly line and there isn't enough time to produce ordinary S-Class Demon Armor.

"Fifty sets will suffice, I'll figure out the rest," Li Xiu intended to obtain more from the Chu Family.

Over a hundred S-Class Magic Armor Masters stationed there, combined with the original staff in the City of Light, should be enough for the Trial Taker competition.

Sha Chu and Chu Jun had already left Changsheng Tian ahead of time to begin the preliminary preparations and publicity for the Trial Taker competition.

Of course, the main focus was to establish the market, as that's the key to making money.

When the news spread that the City of Light was hosting the Trial Taker competition, it immediately attracted the attention of trial takers from everywhere.

Although similar competitions had been held elsewhere after the Magic Spirit competition in the City of Light, they didn't have the expected success.

People still think of the City of Light when they mention trial takers and magic spirits.

When many trial takers saw the City of Light's announcement about the Trial Taker competition, and learned that prizes included various Demon Spirit Rings, Talent Gemstones, Skill Rings, and more, they were stunned.

"The reward for the Trial Taker competition champion is a Super Spirit level Demon Spirit Ring..." Seeing the ultimate prize, many trial takers felt ecstatic.

Even if they don't win the championship, the top ten receive considerable rewards—a scale unheard of before.

Chapter 806 Land of the Nine Dragon Profound Ice

The preparations for the Trial Taker competition are being carried out intensely under the organization of Sha Chu and others.

The number of registrations on the website is rapidly increasing daily, but this is just the initial registration. A test will occur a few days before the competition starts, and only the Trial Takers who pass this test will qualify as official participants in the Trial Taker competition.

Li Xiu, far away in Changsheng Heavenly, is frowning and pondering over the registration list.

The list sent by Sha Chu includes many familiar names, likely from Changsheng Heavenly, even participants from the Four Great Families.

Li Xiu estimates that several members from Group Seven of Changsheng have likely registered for the competition, although there are some members he does not recognize.

This makes Li Xiu quite troubled; he offered the Demon Spirit Ring of the Super Spirit Level as the championship prize because the President has arranged this competition that he must execute well. On the other hand, he plans for his people to win, so he can reclaim that Demon Spirit Ring.

With so many families participating in Changsheng Heavenly now, and with participants who aren't just ordinary individuals, there are already several Super Spirit Testers on the list making it unlikely to win the championship easily.

Originally not planning to participate himself, Li Xiu is now considering whether he should participate or not.

"Initially, I thought having Chu Jun and A Fei participate should be enough to secure the championship, but now it seems too unreliable. Yet, as the dignified Commander, personally entering the competition seems somewhat undignified." As Li Xiu contemplated this dilemma, Li Qingyi arrived at Courtyard Seven.

"Long time no see, what brings you here today?" Li Xiu, curious about Li Qingyi's unexpected visit after not seeing her for a while, asked.

Considering the significant rebellion in the Li Family, Li Qingyi hadn't appeared, so her sudden visit today was intriguing.

Li Qingyi, smiling, stated, "I've heard you're organizing the Trial Taker competition, and I'm here to register for the competition."

"You want to participate?" Li Xiu was a bit surprised.

Not knowing Li Qingyi's identity in the past, he thought she joined the Demon Spirit competition for fame and fortune. But now, knowing she is the President's daughter, he no longer thinks so, as she doesn't need the competition to make a name.

That Demon Spirit Ring of the Super Spirit Level might be attractive to others, but for this young lady, it hardly means anything.

Not to mention Super Spirit, even if it were Spirit Casting, as long as she wants it, the President would not hesitate to get it for her.

"Is there anything strange about my participation?" Li Qingyi, smiling, looked at Li Xiu and said, "To my knowledge, the Four Great Families have sent high-level Spirit Forging participants to compete."

"What!" Li Xiu exclaimed in shock.

Seeing the Super Spirit Level testers on the registration list participating, he already felt a bit uncomfortable, but he hadn't expected the Four Great Families to send should high-level Spirit Forging participants to compete.

If this is truly the case, his intention of having his people win the championship might be dashed because, apart from himself, no one under his command has reached the Spirit Forging level, making it impossible to compete against them.

"Is it necessary for senior Spirit Forging participants to compete in such a small-scale Trial Taker competition?" Li Xiu couldn't comprehend why the Four Great Families were involving senior Spirit Forging participants, which seemed excessive.

Li Qingyi said, "Haven't you received the news? The President has decided that after the competition, the rankings of each family will be linked to the recruitment quotas for newcomers; the higher the ranking in the competition, the more recruitment quotas they will have."

"Why do they need so many recruitment quotas? With so many people in Wansheng Town, they can recruit as many as they want without needing to recruit externally?" Li Xiu was somewhat puzzled.

"Of course, it's different." Li Qingyi explained, "Trial Takers from outside are different from those in Changsheng Heavenly. To become advanced Trial Takers, they generally need two conditions. First, they must have support from behind; otherwise, they won't have resources for the Trial Gate. Second, their innate talent shouldn't be too poor, or their luck should be good; otherwise, they wouldn't survive to become advanced Trial Takers without much intel. Trial Takers that meet these two conditions are incredibly valuable resources, more so since the newcomers recruited this time will be given some resources within the association."

"So that's how it is." Li Xiu understood Li Qingyi's point.

To put it plainly, the newcomers recruited by Changsheng Heavenly this time must either have background and resources or have exceptional talent.

Like the Southern Cross Federation, many noble offspring in the past wanted to join Changsheng Heavenly, but they never had the chance. Now that the opportunity presents itself, they naturally won't miss it.

With these noble offspring joining, for them to establish themselves within Changsheng Heavenly, it would inevitably lead to considerable expenditures, providing Changsheng Heavenly with excellent human resources and bringing in substantial wealth.

"Is Changsheng Heavenly's situation that dire now?" Li Xiu pondered and asked.

The President suddenly made so many significant reforms, indicating Changsheng Heavenly has reached a point where change is unavoidable, and the situation is far from optimistic.

"It's likely worse than you imagine," Li Qingyi sighed and said, "The rebellion in Li Family caused considerable damage to Changsheng Heavenly, depleting several capable and powerful Trial Takers. Those originally needed to suppress the Trial Gate now must find replacements, and manpower is genuinely lacking. Compounding the issue is the increasing surge of Demon Spirits escaping from the Trial Gate over the past year, nearly doubling compared to the previous year. Under these circumstances, it's uncertain how long Changsheng Heavenly can persist, emphasizing the urgent need to quickly cultivate more advanced Trial Takers."

Chapter 807 Land of 9 Dragons Profound Ice (2)

After a pause, Li Qingyi continued, "Now that the Changsheng Sky can stabilize the situation, the engineering team has played a significant role. The emergence of new types of Demon Armor allows S-Class Magic Armor Masters to unleash power equivalent to a Super Spirit. Without so many Magic Armor Masters stepping up, we would have run out of people long ago."

Li Xiu hadn't expected the situation with Changsheng Sky to be worse than he imagined, and he could somewhat understand why the guild leader was making such big moves.

"Every major family is competing to vie for talent and resources. Why are you competing?" Li Xiu looked at Li Qingyi and asked.

"I'm a member of the engineering team, so naturally, I also need to contribute to the team," Li Qingyi replied with a smile.

Li Xiu was startled at her words, then shook his head and said, "Since there are Spirit Forging Level experts competing, your participation doesn't mean much. You should stay in Changsheng Sky instead."

"Why can't I be at Spirit Forging level?" Li Qingyi's sudden words left Li Xiu stunned.

"You've achieved Spirit Forging? So quickly?" Li Xiu remembered helping Li Qingyi advance to the Light Base not long ago; it wasn't much time ago, and she's already at Spirit Forging? This was too fast!

"I'm not at Spirit Forging yet," Li Qingyi shook her head.

"Then what do you mean?" Li Xiu was somewhat confused about what Li Qingyi meant.

"I'm not at Spirit Forging now, but that doesn't mean I can't reach Spirit Forging before the competition starts. If you're willing to help me, I should be able to achieve Spirit Forging before the competition begins. By then, securing a placement for you shouldn't be difficult," Li Qingyi said with a playful smile.

"Stop joking around. You're the guild leader's daughter. If you need anything, you can just go to the guild leader. Why would you need me?" Li Xiu responded with a wry smile.

"Although I am the guild leader's daughter, I can't go to him for everything, right? If I can't handle small things like this, how can I live up to the title of the guild leader's daughter?" Li Qingyi looked at Li Xiu with a faint smile and continued, "Besides, I am now part of the engineering team. If I don't look for you, the Commander, who else can I look for?"

"Alright, what exactly do you want me to help you with? It won't be going back to the Execution Platform, right?" Li Xiu asked.

"Execution Platform Breaking Contract is doable, but it's no help for Spirit Forging. Foundation Establishment requires destructive force, while Spirit Forging needs Light Energy; they're not the same concept," Li Qingyi thought for a moment and said, "I have enough resources, and enough Light Energy too, but to forge a powerful spirit, I need something special."

"What special thing?" Li Xiu asked.

"I don't know, that's why I need to find it," Li Qingyi replied.

"Where are you going to find it?" Li Xiu suddenly felt frustrated.

"Don't worry, I know where to go. I have to go to the Trial Gate where I obtained the Symbiotic Contract; only there can I find the special Light Energy for Spirit Forging," Li Qingyi said.

"Why can you only find special Light Energy at the Trial Gate for the Symbiotic Contract? Isn't there special Light Energy at other Trial Gates?" Li Xiu asked with much interest.

He wasn't at Spirit Forging either, so if Li Qingyi's method worked, he could give it a try too.

"Of course, other places have it too, but it may not suit my Symbiotic Contract. However, at the Trial Ground where the Symbiotic Contract was born, the special Light Energy there is sure to suit my Symbiotic Contract," Li Qingyi explained.

"In that case, I'll accompany you," Li Xiu was interested, then asked, "Which Trial Gate did your Symbiotic Contract come from?"

"The Nine Dragon Profound Ice Sect," Li Qingyi said casually.

Li Xiu's expression changed upon hearing this, for he knew of the Nine Dragon Profound Ice Sect.

When he was browsing through the Trial Gates of Changsheng Sky, he had noticed the Nine Dragon Profound Ice Sect.

The information at the time was simple, just introducing the rules and difficulty of the trials inside the Nine Dragon Profound Ice Sect, which was very high; ordinary humans should find it hard to complete.

But that wasn't what caught Li Xiu's attention; it was the last two lines about the Nine Dragon Profound Ice Sect that did.

"In the Land of Nine Dragons Profound Ice, those who enter face certain peril, no exceptions."

The description of the Land of Nine Dragons Profound Ice was brief, yet made it clear just how dangerous it was.

The phrase "no exceptions" was the most frightening, meaning that regardless of what level of Trial Taker you are, entering the Land of Nine Dragons Profound Ice means near-certain death.

Seeing Li Xiu's expression, Li Qingyi knew he had read the information about the Nine Dragon Profound Ice Sect.

"What? Are you scared?" Li Qingyi teased Li Xiu.

"Since you're not afraid, why should I be?" Li Xiu knew how scary the Land of Nine Dragons Profound Ice was, but since Li Qingyi dared to go, she must have confidence and not intend to throw her life away. Hence, he wasn't that scared either.

"Then pack up, and we'll leave shortly," Li Qingyi said.

"So soon?" Li Xiu was slightly taken aback, then said, "Wait for me a moment, I'll make some arrangements."

Li Xiu went to Li Ming'Er's room, putting down Xiaoshuang and Zizai; going to the Land of Nine Dragons Profound Ice meant they couldn't come along.

Xiaoshuang had always been obedient, and Li Xiu had been worried about Zizai, but who knew that this time Zizai behaved well, even letting Li Ming'Er hold him willingly.

Chapter 808 Land of the 9 Dragons Profound Ice (Part 3)

After arranging for them, Li Xiu then headed to the Nine Dragon Profound Ice Sect with Li Qingyi.

The trial rules of the Nine Dragon Profound Ice Trial Ground are generally difficult for most people to pass.

Within an enclosed space, the temperature will drastically drop, and the terrifying cold can easily kill the Trial Taker inside.

The higher the level of the trial, the lower the temperature and the longer one must endure inside.

Li Qingyi used the Trial Badge and directly triggered a trial with entry ticket rewards. After entering, they found they were unlucky and encountered an S-level trial.

The two needed to endure for seventy-two hours in the cold, which is three days, to pass the test.

The rules didn't state the exact temperature, only that it was extremely low.

Li Xiu didn't care; he had the Ice Heart talent and Ice Ashes skill, and the cold hardly harmed him.

However, three days is indeed quite long. Three days without food or water, then entering the Land of Trial, it's uncertain if they can find water and food there.

If they can find water and food, great. If not, they must come out quickly.

In the trial ground like an ice cave, surrounded by ice walls, even the ceiling and floor are made of ice.

Li Xiu moved around a bit, finding the temperature bearable, not as cold as imagined, merely around minus twenty to thirty degrees.

Seeming to see through Li Xiu's thoughts, Li Qingyi said: "It's just the beginning now. As time progresses, the temperature will drop further. If you can't endure, make sure to tell me. I'll think of a way to help you."

"Alright." Li Xiu nodded, found a spot to sit down, and used Ice Ashes to convert the cold into energy for himself.

Li Qingyi sat across from Li Xiu, wearing thick clothes, surprisingly a fur coat and boots, with a hooded coat, the thick fur of which looked very warm.

Li Xiu glanced at his white tight-fitting clothes and couldn't help but sigh about his bad luck. He had managed to get a scholar robe that was quickly destroyed; Li Qingyi had countless sets of clothing type Parasitic Contracts, truly incomparable.

As time passed, the temperature indeed dropped further, fortunately Li Xiu had his talent and skills, this cold still didn't affect him much.

"Cold?" After a while, Li Qingyi looked at Li Xiu and asked.

"Not cold." Li Xiu shook his head.

"If you feel cold, make sure to tell me." Li Qingyi said, then closed her eyes, leaning against the wall and continued sleeping.

After sleeping for a while, Li Qingyi asked again if Li Xiu felt cold, and he still said he wasn't.

For three days, as the temperature in the trial ground continued to drop, Li Qingyi asked if Li Xiu felt cold regularly.

Li Xiu initially answered he wasn't cold, as he indeed didn't feel cold.

Later, Li Xiu suddenly thought that since Li Qingyi kept asking if he was cold, she might have some way to help him with the cold.

Li Xiu was curious about what method Li Qingyi might have.

So after the second day, Li Qingyi asked again if he was cold, Li Xiu said he was a bit cold.

"If you're a bit cold, then just hold out a bit longer." Li Qingyi looked at Li Xiu and said.

Li Xiu was instantly speechless, her solution ended up being him holding out a bit longer.

"Really a scam." Li Xiu was somewhat speechless.

Having gone without food or drink for two days, Li Xiu felt somewhat hungry and extremely thirsty.

He tried to chip some ice off the wall to melt it into water to drink.

Unexpectedly, this ice was as hard as rock, to the point that even Li Xiu's strength, punching the ice wall left no mark, yet his finger bones felt like they were about to break from the pain.

"Don't bother trying, the Profound Ice here is incredibly hard; even if you could use the Symbiotic Contract, it wouldn't affect the ice walls." Li Qingyi calmly said while sitting there.

Li Xiu had no choice but to sit back down. Without food or water, he simply lay on the ground and slept.

After sleeping for a while, he heard Li Qingyi ask if he was cold again. Li Xiu was too lazy to respond, knowing she'd just tell him to hold out longer even if he was cold.

Li Xiu didn't respond to Li Qingyi and continued to sleep.

After asking several times without hearing Li Xiu's response, Li Qingyi stopped asking.

After a while, Li Xiu heard Li Qingyi seem to have stood up, walked over to him.

Shortly after, Li Xiu felt Li Qingyi's hand on his forehead.

Since Li Xiu hadn't responded to Li Qingyi earlier, he naturally felt too embarrassed to open his eyes and say he was sleeping and simply let her touch his forehead.

Anyway, with his Ice Heart and Ice Ashes on him, his body temperature was higher than a normal person, with Li Qingyi touching it, she should know he's fine.

However, Li Xiu was somewhat off guard, after Li Qingyi touched his forehead, she immediately changed her expression.

In such a cold place, Li Xiu's body temperature was unusually high, lying motionless on the ground; although his heart and breathing were normal, it still indicated something abnormal about his body.

Li Xiu felt Li Qingyi's hand finally leave his body, thinking she knew he was fine, ready to leave.

Unexpectedly, Li Xiu suddenly felt a slight chill over his body, followed by a soft touch, then felt his upper body lifted up and thick things wrapping around him.

Li Xiu felt his face seemed to be pressed against something soft and elastic like a pillow.

Li Xiu immediately realized what was happening; Li Qingyi had hugged him and wrapped him in her coat.

Feeling the soft comfort, smelling the fragrance, Li Xiu decided to continue sleeping; this was far better than sleeping on the hard icy ground.

Li Qingyi held onto Li Xiu, feeling warmer and warmer; Li Xiu's body was like a large hand warmer, making Li Qingyi feel increasingly hot, almost wanting to sweat.

Chapter 809 Glacial Crystal Worm

"Isn't the fever too severe?" Li Qingyi felt the temperature on Li Xiu's body, extremely worried.

Trial Takers generally don't get sick, but once they do, it's particularly severe.

Li Xiu's body is so hot, if it were a normal person, I'm afraid their brain would be burned out.

Li Qingyi was somewhat worried, even for a Trial Taker's body, if this high fever continues, their brain might also have problems.

"I should have helped him warm up earlier. The S-level difficulty of the Nine Dragons Profound Ice trial does indeed pose a considerable risk to Trial Takers without ice cold resistance." Li Qingyi regretted not helping Li Xiu warm up sooner.

Now it's too late to say anything, Li Qingyi can only pray that Li Xiu can withstand the trial.

In the trial, many abilities and Symbiotic Contracts, and magic spirits can't be used; we have to wait until leaving the Trial Ground to find a way to treat Li Xiu, then more means can be utilized.

Now, Li Qingyi only wishes that Li Xiu can endure this period and nothing bad happens.

Opening a corner of her coat, Li Qingyi saw Li Xiu leaning against her, seemingly sleeping, with a bit of crystal gleaming at the corner of his mouth, as if he were drooling.

"Could it be his brain is already damaged?" Li Qingyi's heart skipped a beat.

Typically, brain damage leads to uncontrollable behaviors, drooling being one manifestation of brain damage.

If Li Xiu's brain is indeed seriously damaged, and it's incurable after they leave, she doesn't know how she'd face everything.

"Li Xiu... wake up... you can't have anything happen..." Li Qingyi pinched the spot between Li Xiu's nose and mouth several times, but received no response, her heart grew more anxious.

Time passed by second by second, Li Qingyi felt every minute was as prolonged as a century, every second was torment.

Finally making it to the end of the trial, Li Qingyi just wanted to help Li Xiu up, take the reward and leave the Nine Dragon Profound Ice Sect without going to the Land of Nine Dragon Profound Ice first, she decided to find someone to treat Li Xiu outside.

Li Qingyi reached out to support Li Xiu's shoulder, just intending to help him up, when suddenly Li Xiu opened his eyes wide, stood up himself, stretched lazily, and wiped the drool off his mouth.

"The trial is over, right? Time to choose a reward." Li Xiu stood up and looked at the reward icons appearing on the light screen.

Seeing that both of their rewards included a ticket, Li Xiu chose the ticket without hesitation and told the still stunned Li Qingyi, "I'm going in first," and then entered the vortex formed by the ticket.

"Li... Xiu..." Li Qingyi bit her lip, calling Li Xiu's name, but he had already gone in.

"That bastard!" Thinking of Li Xiu lying on her chest sleeping and drooling, Li Qingyi's cheeks turned red.

In front of Li Xiu appeared the familiar Longevity Lamp and stone table, with an item placed upon it, he looked around but still couldn't tell what it was.

Inside normal Trial Grounds, weapons are common in contracts, and armor, clothing items sometimes appear.

Other miscellaneous contracts are rarely seen but occasionally show up.

Li Xiu still hadn't grasped what this contract was, at least he hadn't seen something of this shape before, unsure what it could be.

"Insignificant carbon-based being..." The familiar eerie voice came from within the Longevity Lamp.

"Can you tell me, what is the name of this contract?" Li Xiu asked while scrutinizing the contract on the table.

The contract's shape was somewhat similar to a flashlight, just a cylindrical object, over ten centimeters long, the wider end's diameter was around three centimeters, the narrower end's diameter was over two centimeters, wholly black, resembling smooth black glass.

If one end were transparent, and it had a button, this object truly resembled a flashlight.

Unfortunately, the item's top was still black glass, rather than transparent, and had no button.

"Nine Dragon Profound Ice Tube." The Longevity Lamp actually answered Li Xiu's question.

"What's its use?" Li Xiu asked again.

"You'll understand once you pick it up," the Longevity Lamp responded.

Li Xiu was too lazy to ask further, as long as he picks it up, he'll know everything.

He directly reached out to take the Nine Dragon Profound Ice Tube, feeling slightly heavy, but with Li Xiu's current physical quality, this was no problem.

Easily lifting the Nine Dragon Profound Ice Tube with one hand, it immediately emitted Profound Light.

Li Xiu let a drop of his blood fall on it, completing the contract, claiming the Nine Dragon Profound Ice Tube as a Parasitic Contract, simultaneously receiving its information.

Nine Dragon Profound Ice Tube: Parasitic Contract.

Level: E-level (Can evolve).

Quality: Radiant.

Primordial Embryo Quality: 0.9.

Talent Skill: Nine Dragon Lamp.

"What ability is Nine Dragon Lamp? I've heard of Nine Dragon Fireproof Shield, a mythological defense artifact, is Nine Dragon Lamp also defensive?" Li Xiu, with doubts, followed the Longevity Lamp into the darkness.

As Li Xiu regained vision, he found himself in an expanse of white, icy, snowy land, as far as the eye could see, everything silver-clad, thousands of miles ice-bound, tens of thousands of miles snow-laden, earth and heaven shared the same hue, all was pure white.

Li Qingyi was standing beside Li Xiu, glaring at him fiercely.

"Where should we go?" Li Xiu appeared as if nothing had happened, looking at Li Qingyi and asking.

Li Qingyi huffed lightly, summoned a white bear, rode it and moved in a direction.

Chapter 810 Glacial Crystal Worm (Part 2)

Li Xiu summoned the Pink Nightmare and chased after it, but soon he discovered that the Pink Nightmare was really not suitable for running in such snowy terrain; its speed was much slower than Li Qingyi's white bear and it couldn't keep up.

He had no choice but to recall the Pink Nightmare, catch up with the white bear, and follow it, trudging through the snow.

After traveling dozens of miles, Li Xiu hadn't seen a single magical creature; it seemed that apart from the snow, there was nothing else in this ghostly place.

Li Xiu also realized that the Land of Nine Dragons Profound Ice was different from other Lands of Trial he had visited, which usually had some human structures at the entrance.

Just like Black Death City, as long as you're inside Black Death City, the Longevity Lamp will always follow, but if you leave Black Death City, the Longevity Lamp won't go out with you and will just stay inside the city.

The Land of Nine Dragons Profound Ice, however, was different. There were no buildings at the entrance, not even a trace of human presence, just a field of snow.

Even more eerie, they found themselves without the Longevity Lamp. Without it, how were they supposed to leave this land?

"Qingyi, why don't we see the Longevity Lamp? How are we supposed to get out later?" Li Xiu asked as he walked.

"The Longevity Lamp isn't at the place where we entered, so we have to find it first before we can leave." Although Qingyi was angry, she still answered Li Xiu's question, albeit with a cold tone.

"Where do we find it?" Only then did Li Xiu understand why the materials he had read before entering said that entering the Land of Nine Dragons Profound Ice was almost certain death.

Needing to find the Longevity Lamp just to leave, no wonder the mortality rate was so high.

The temperature here was below minus tens of degrees, and just resisting such low temperatures was already difficult for a typical Trial Taker. With nothing to eat and no idea where to find the Longevity Lamp, even without attacks from magical creatures, one might very well die from hunger alone.

"The Land of Nine Dragons Profound Ice has nine fire points. Reaching these fire points might lead you to the Longevity Lamp," Qingyi said.

"What do you mean by might find the Longevity Lamp?" Li Xiu noticed something wrong with Qingyi's statement.

"Because the Longevity Lamp randomly appears at those nine fire points, so when we get to a fire point, we might not find it," Qingyi explained.

"That's fine. As long as we know where it is, finding it is just a matter of time," Li Xiu said with relief.

"It's not that simple. Each fire point is guarded by a large number of magical creatures. Even if we find the Longevity Lamp, getting through those magical creatures is another matter," Qingyi discerned the path as she rode the white bear towards a glacier canyon.

"What level are the magical creatures guarding the fire points?" Li Xiu followed behind, chatting idly.

"They can be of any level. If we're lucky, we might run into Spirit Casting," Qingyi pointed ahead in the canyon. "At the end of this canyon is the nearest fire point to us. Listen to my commands; if you mess up again, don't blame me if I don't save you."

"Understood," Li Xiu performed a military salute, pretending to be very serious.

Qingyi gave him a sidelong glance, "You're never serious."

The two of them walked along the canyon, not encountering a single magical creature. Li Xiu observed that the canyon meandered like a dragon or an abyss, stretching for hundreds of miles without an end in sight.

After walking for a long time, Li Xiu only felt hungrier and thirstier. He grabbed a handful of snow and stuffed it into his mouth, relishing the cold snow melting into sweet water.

After eating several handfuls of snow, Li Xiu no longer felt thirsty, but his stomach was still extremely hungry.

Hearing Li Xiu's stomach growling, Qingyi jumped down from the white bear, scrutinized the surroundings, and walked over to an ice wall. She had the white bear dig open the ice layer beside the mountain wall.

Though the white bear was just an S-rank magical creature, its claws were very powerful, and it was impervious to cold. Before long, it had excavated a large ice cave.

Underneath the ice cave, black rocks were exposed, topped with a layer of brownish material, somewhat resembling moss.

Qingyi crouched down, took out a small knife, gently pushed aside the fragments of ice, and scraped the brown material off, quickly gathering a lump the size of a ping-pong ball.

Qingyi divided it into two halves, squeezed them a bit, forming two brownish blocks, and tossed one to Li Xiu.

"Make do with this; there's not much food to be found here," Qingyi said as she put the remaining piece into her mouth.

Li Xiu caught the brown block, sniffed it—it had a fungus-like smell—and chewed on it. It tasted a bit bitter, but there was an underlying fragrance.

The taste wasn't great, but the texture was good—crisp and smooth, somewhat like eating enoki mushrooms.

"What is this?" After swallowing, Li Xiu felt his stomach fill up significantly. Though he had eaten so little, he miraculously didn't feel hungry anymore and even felt a bit bloated as if he were full.

"The secretion of the Glacial Crystal Worm," Qingyi answered.

"Isn't this a fungus?" Li Xiu had thought it was some kind of fungus.

"There are no fungi in the Land of Nine Dragons Profound Ice," Qingyi said as she got back on the white bear and continued on their way.

With Qingyi not speaking, Li Xiu felt a bit bored and asked from behind, "What kind of magical creature is the Glacial Crystal Worm? And its secretion—is it like honey collected by bees? Given that flowers can't grow here, what does the Glacial Crystal Worm collect?"