

## **When God 81**

### Chapter 81 The Value of Gemstones\_2

"Within this Kashmir Chrysanthemum lies a Demon Spirit. If you wish to become a member of the Eternal Heaven, it will be yours, and you can personally verify the truth of those words." Sha Chu's voice was as alluring as a devil's whisper.

"Didn't you say that the Eternal Heaven hasn't found a method to identify which Gemstone contains a Demon Spirit? How can you be sure that there's definitely a Demon Spirit in this Gemstone?" Li Xiu pointed out the flaw in Sha Chu's words.

"Indeed, there's no method to identify which Gemstone contains a Demon Spirit before the Demon Spirit chooses a master. But as soon as the master of a Demon Spirit dies, the remaining Gemstone doesn't need to be identified anymore." Sha Chu said lightly.

"I see." Li Xiu was taken aback. Since Demon Spirits can be plundered, if Sha Chu discovers the Jedi Knight Demon Spirit Ring on his finger, it might be another problem.

"So, are you willing to join the Eternal Heaven?" Sha Chu asked again.

"After hearing so many secrets, can I still say no?" Li Xiu retorted.

"You can, but you can only take the secrets with you to the Yellow Springs." Sha Chu laughed.

"Since there's no choice, why ask me? How can I summon the Demon Spirit from this Gemstone?" Li Xiu asked, taking the Gemstone box.

"This isn't your pet. You can't just summon it at will. You need a bit of time and patience." Sha Chu handed a diary to Li Xiu and then walked to the door, "The diary has the method to summon the Demon Spirit. There's food and water in the cabinet beside you. I'll come to get you in a month. By then, you should be able to summon the Demon Spirit."

With that, Sha Chu exited the stone chamber, and the chamber door slowly closed.

Li Xiu glanced at the stone chamber door, not seeking a way to escape, but sat on a nearby stone bench to read the diary under the light.

In truth, Li Xiu already knew that there must be a Demon Spirit within this Kashmir Chrysanthemum.

Because when he saw this Gemstone, that feeling of hunger surfaced once again.

Now he just wanted to see what method the Eternal Heaven had developed to summon the Demon Spirit from the Gemstone, and whether it would resemble how he swallowed the Gemstone himself.

After reading the diary, Li Xiu realized he had overthought it; the method wasn't what he imagined at all.

The Eternal Heaven's method was much clumsier and slower than Li Xiu's.

He needed to keep the Gemstone next to him constantly and drip a bit of his own blood on it every day.

The Gemstone wouldn't absorb his blood, but this process was indispensable. If repeated continuously for about thirty days to a year, if there is a Demon Spirit within the Gemstone, a connection could be established, allowing the Demon Spirit to be summoned.

Unlike Li Xiu who directly swallowed the Gemstone, transforming it into a ring, the Gemstone would still keep its original form. If intending to wear it, a special Gold or silver ring or pendant setting would be needed.

The use of Gold or silver is because, as researched by the Eternal Heaven, Demon Spirit Gemstones are not affected by Gold or silver, unlike some other metals that disrupt the connection between the Demon Spirit and its owner.

Just like the Gemstone Sha Chu used to summon the Double-headed Demon Spirit, it was set in a Platinum Ring.

"This method isn't as good as just swallowing it." At this moment, Li Xiu understood how difficult it was for the Eternal Heaven to identify whether a Gemstone contains a Demon Spirit. Even with this method, the Eternal Heaven discovered it after many years of research.

Li Xiu put away the Gemstone, walked to the iron cage, and shouted a few more words to the wild-man-like Ximen Guan: "Are you really Ximen Guan? Interested in chatting? Can you give me any response?"

But Ximen Guan ignored him completely, just gnawing at his food. After eating to his fill, he lay on the ground and fell sound asleep.

When he woke, he drank from a flowing water trough inside the iron cage, showing Li Xiu the most disgusting scene.

The guy not only drank from the trough but also relieved himself there; although the trough was flowing water, seemingly drawn from an underground river, it nearly made Li Xiu vomit just watching.

"What a madman." Li Xiu shook his head helplessly,

After staying here for two or three days, Li Xiu estimated that Sha Chu should be gone and began to research how to leave this stone chamber.

Li Xiu knocked around the stone chamber for a long time and found it was in the mountain's belly. Other than the doorway he came in through, everything else was made of an unknown thickness of rock, impossible to open by human means.

"A Magic Armor Master without Demon Armor is really at a loss in a place like this. Pity, I'm no longer a simple Magic Armor Master." With a thought, Li Xiu's ring transformed into a Jedi Knight.

Li Xiu commanded the Jedi Knight to chop at the stone door. The Samurai Sword in the Jedi Knight's hand glittered with light, splitting the stone door with a long crack.

However, Li Xiu quickly discovered that the stone door was only a few centimeters thick stone layer. Inside it was a gray-white substance, where the Samurai Sword could only leave shallow white marks.

Unwilling to give up, Li Xiu had the Jedi Knight chop at the stone wall beside the door, only to find the same gray-white substance inside.

The Jedi Knight relentlessly hacked away for half a day, making only minor scrapes, unable to penetrate the unknown thickness of this gray-white material in an unknown timeframe.

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#### Chapter 83 The Diamond of Misfortune

Li Xiu ignored him, focusing on training his physical abilities and controlling the Jedi Knights and Knights of Chrysanthemum.

He had to fight personally and simultaneously control both the Jedi Knights and Knights of Chrysanthemum. Doing three things at once was certainly a challenge, but it was nothing for Li Xiu.

Of course, Li Xiu could choose not to control them, merely issue a command and let them fight based on their instincts.

If it were a normal battle, that approach would be fine; both the Jedi Knights and Knights of Chrysanthemum had strong combat abilities and would not be at a disadvantage against opponents of the same level.

However, the current situation was different. If it came to a real confrontation, he had to strike with precision and couldn't afford to give Sha Chu any opportunity.

Sha Chu was definitely a genuine Trial Taker, unlike Kun Sha, who was a novice. Her abilities far surpassed Kun Sha's in many ways.

Therefore, Li Xiu required perfect coordination between himself, the Jedi Knights, and the Knights of Chrysanthemum, which meant he had to personally control them to achieve this level of synergy.

Nevertheless, it might not come to that, as he had already summoned the Knights of Chrysanthemum. If he could make Sha Chu mistakenly believe she had control over him, he could easily extricate himself.

Li Xiu just didn't want to gamble everything on luck. If something went wrong, he could still rely on his own strength to turn the tables.

"Come over here." While Li Xiu was diligently training, he suddenly heard Ximen Guan, who had been silent for several days, speak.

"What do you need? Food?" Li Xiu thought Ximen Guan might want to change his diet. The food Sha Chu provided was all compressed biscuits, which could stave off hunger but weren't particularly tasty; it was easy to grow tired of them over time.

"How about a trade?" Ximen Guan shook his head, declining the food Li Xiu offered, appearing very clear-headed at the moment.

"What kind of trade?" Li Xiu still held respect for Ximen Guan.

Regardless of whether he researched the Demon Armor himself or stole it from Changshengtian, it did not diminish the positive impact his Demon Armor had on humanity.

Even if the Demon Armor was actually researched by Changshengtian, if they hadn't published it and allowed mass production, humanity's situation would be much more difficult than it is now.

"You're a Trial Taker and already possess a demon spirit, so you should be aware of the benefits. If you help me with something after you get out, I can give you a Top-Grade Demon Spirit Gemstone," Ximen Guan said slowly.

"What do you want me to do?" Li Xiu asked, looking at Ximen Guan.

Ximen Guan nodded slightly and said, "Not asking about the gemstone first shows me you're more trustworthy. Rest assured, what I need you to do is definitely within your capabilities; I won't ask you to

take revenge on Changshengtian for me, nor will I ask you to find a way to rescue me. It won't be anything unethical either."

"Clarification is necessary," Li Xiu remained unmoved.

Ximen Guan pondered for a while before saying, "Before I was imprisoned by Changshengtian, I was researching a new type of Demon Armor. Although it hasn't been completely developed yet, it's almost done, lacking only the final stages and human testing. Once you're out, retrieve this Demon Armor, find a reliable Magic Armor researcher, complete it, and assign a suitable controller for it."

"Is it really that simple? The Demon Armor isn't stored in Changshengtian, right?" Li Xiu found it hard to believe that what Ximen Guan wanted was so straightforward.

"No, I've hidden it in a safe place, and Changshengtian doesn't even know it exists." Ximen Guan suddenly raised his head and locked eyes with Li Xiu, demanding, "But you must swear never to sell it casually, or keep it for yourself, or give it to friends or family. You must find the most suitable controller for it."

"I'm not interested in your Demon Armor." Li Xiu spoke earnestly.

The development of Demon Armor is incredibly rapid, with new types emerging almost every year, each more advanced than the last.

Ximen Guan has been trapped here for decades; the Demon Armor he developed at that time should be outdated by now.

Even if he made an S-Class Magic Armor, it certainly wouldn't compare to the performance of current new models of S-Class Magic Armor.

The Ghost Mask Li Xiu obtained from the Zhengde Vault is already an old model of S-Class Magic Armor, but it's certainly much better than the goods from decades ago.

Li Xiu even suspected that the S-Class Magic Armor Ximen Guan developed might be inferior to current A-Class or even B-Class Magic Armor.

It's like computers; a high-end computer from decades ago would be considered rubbish today. Not to mention comparing it with current high-end computers; even a general-purpose computer could easily outperform the top models from those years.

Of course, the gap in Demon Armor isn't that extreme, but there would definitely be a significant impact.

"As a Trial Taker, you naturally wouldn't be interested in my Demon Armor, but you must find it the best owner and never keep it for yourself." Ximen Guan said straightforwardly.

"What if I can use it?" Li Xiu laughed.

"Use it my foot; even if you have the talent of a Magic Armor Master, it won't be much. Otherwise, why did you switch to being a Trial Taker? Don't ruin my Demon Armor. You can't use it yourself; you must find it the best owner." Ximen Guan called out.

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"Alright, I promise you that I won't use it for myself, nor will I casually give it away or sell it. I will definitely find a suitable owner for it." Li Xiu said calmly, without any anger.

"Swear a blood oath," Ximen Guan demanded firmly.

Li Xiu didn't mind and made a blood oath as Ximen Guan requested.

The main reason he agreed to Ximen Guan wasn't for the Demon Spirit Gemstone that Ximen Guan mentioned but because Ximen Guan is the Father of Demon Armor.

If Ximen Guan hadn't spread Magic Armor Technology worldwide, there wouldn't be the profession of Magic Armor Master, and Li Xiu wouldn't be the Magic Armor Master he is today.

After hearing Li Xiu's blood oath, Ximen Guan's emotions finally calmed down a bit, and then he said to Li Xiu, "Actually, my Demon Armor is not useful to you. For the Eternal Heaven, the Demon Spirit Gemstone I am giving you is the truly precious treasure. The reason they haven't killed me all these years and have only trapped me here is because they haven't found that Demon Spirit Gemstone."

"What kind of Demon Spirit Gemstone could be so important to the Eternal Heaven?" Li Xiu asked.

"Have you ever heard of the Hope Diamond?" Ximen Guan's lips curved in a smirk as if he was thinking of something that made him very proud.

"You mean the Diamond of Misfortune?" Li Xiu had indeed heard of the name Hope Diamond.

He wasn't someone who specifically researched diamonds, but this diamond was just too famous.

Since its extraction, the diamond has been accompanied by death and cursed misfortune, with several owners dying under mysterious circumstances.

The Hope Diamond was initially 112.5 carats after a rough cut upon its discovery. After several transitions, it was finely cut into a heart shape, totaling over sixty carats.

Tragically, the Hope Diamond, presented to King Louis XVI of France at the time, brought him a fatal calamity as he was sent to the guillotine.

Later, the Hope Diamond came into the hands of a gemstone cutter. To avoid the French government's pursuit, he cut the gemstone down to over forty carats, which is the form in which the Hope Diamond became known.

Unluckily, the cutter's son stole the diamond, and he too eventually committed mysterious suicide.

These were just two of the Hope Diamond's owners; many more died mysteriously, with very few living out their lives in peace after owning it.

Such a renowned Diamond of Misfortune is hard for Li Xiu not to know of in this era.

However, since the advent of the Demon Spirit era, the Diamond of Misfortune's whereabouts have been unknown, and no one knows where it is.

Unexpectedly, the Diamond of Misfortune ended up in Ximen Guan's hands, and according to Ximen Guan, it seems to be a Demon Spirit Gemstone.

"Precisely, it's that famous blue Diamond of Misfortune. It's an unparalleled Demon Spirit Gemstone. The Eternal Heaven has operated covertly for thousands of years, secretly controlling most of the world's gemstone mines, collecting countless gemstones, and discovering many Demon Spirit Gemstones, yet none can compare to the Diamond of Misfortune."

"What kind of Demon Spirit is inside the Diamond of Misfortune?" Li Xiu curiously asked.

To his surprise, Ximen Guan shook his head and said he didn't know.

"How could you not know? Since it's confirmed as a Demon Spirit Gemstone, someone must have established contact with it, so how could you not know what kind of Demon Spirit it is?" Li Xiu puzzledly asked.

"According to the Eternal Heaven's method, to establish contact with a Demon Spirit, one must use blood to nurture the gemstone. But everyone who did so has died; not a single person survived doing this. Using blood to nurture the Diamond of Misfortune is a death wish. Let alone letting the Diamond of Misfortune touch blood, even those who possess the Diamond end up dying mysteriously."

"All of this indicates that within the Diamond of Misfortune lies not only a Demon Spirit but also a terribly ferocious and powerful one. Even if it hasn't established contact with anyone and remains trapped inside the gemstone, it exerts such a terrifying influence on the outside world. How strong this Demon Spirit must be, no one knows..." Ximen Guan grew increasingly excited; possessing such a gemstone indeed made him proud.

Li Xiu considered that the torment Ximen Guan suffered over the years might very well be due to the Diamond of Misfortune.

"If this Demon Spirit is so fierce, giving it to me would spell my doom," Li Xiu thought it was wise to avoid meddling with such a dangerous Demon Spirit Gemstone.

"Countless Trial Takers from the Eternal Heaven sought to possess this gemstone, only to end up dead. But you're different; you don't need to use your own blood to nurture it, nor do you need to carry it for an extended period. Just as you did with the cornflower, you only need to swallow it to cause gemstone transformation and possess the Demon Spirit inside the gemstone. Perhaps you're the only one in this world who can subdue the Demon Spirit inside the Diamond of Misfortune. For others, it's a curse; for you, it's a great fortune," Ximen Guan said.

"Sounds plausible; I might as well give it a try. Where did you hide the Diamond of Misfortune? Once I get out, I'll take it and see," Li Xiu said.

"Haha, you also believe I've hidden the Diamond of Misfortune outside, don't you? The foolish ones from the Eternal Heaven have thought the same, wasting years searching outside without success," Ximen Guan laughed heartily.

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"Did you hide the Diamond of Misfortune on your person?" Li Xiu was a bit surprised. Didn't Longsheng Tian use X-rays or something similar to scan Ximen Guan's body?

"Those fools think they know everything, assuming I definitely wouldn't carry my life-saving chip with me. So I purposely went the other way and left clues to make them think the Diamond of Misfortune was hidden somewhere outside... all idiots... fools..." Ximen Guan started to appear a bit deranged again.

"Where exactly did you hide the Diamond of Misfortune?" Li Xiu thought it over and realized swallowing it seemed the only possibility. If it were hidden on his body, no matter how arrogant Longsheng Tian was, they wouldn't leave even things on his body untouched.

"Don't worry, I'll get it for you. This thing is only useful to you, it's utterly useless to me, just a life-saving talisman. When you swallow it, the Diamond of Misfortune will completely disappear, and Longsheng Tian won't be able to find it. My life-saving talisman will become a death-proof card." Ximen Guan said as he squatted down, then touched his backside, mimicking an indecent gesture.

Li Xiu realized this seemed a bit inappropriate. When Ximen Guan held the gemstone out to give to Li Xiu, he quickly backed away.

"What are you afraid of? Compared to the Demon Spirit Gemstone, this bit of dirt is nothing." Ximen Guan said, rinsing the gemstone in the sink before offering it to Li Xiu again.

"Uh, forget it; I don't want it. I'll still do what you asked of me. You can count on that." Li Xiu took two steps back, refusing the gemstone from Ximen Guan's hand.

What a joke, asking him to eat something like this—he'd rather not have that worthless demon spirit.

Ximen Guan glared and shouted, "I said I'd give it to you, so you must take it. I, Ximen Guan, am not someone who breaks their word. Take it, eat it, let it become your demon spirit."

Saying that, Ximen Guan directly threw the gemstone through the bars of the iron cage. Li Xiu was unwilling to catch it, letting the Hope Diamond fall to the ground.

Under the light, the Hope Diamond emitted a gentle blue glow, with that lustrous brilliance, vivid and radiant.

Unlike the noble elegance of a sapphire or the sharpness of a blue apatite, the blue of the Hope Diamond had its unique charm.

The gemstone was gorgeous; even without the demon spirit within, its beauty alone made it priceless.

But looking at this gemstone, Li Xiu didn't even want to pick it up.

Li Xiu wasn't a germaphobe, but he really couldn't bring himself to put this in his mouth.

"What are you hesitating for? Quickly pick it up and swallow it, the Unparalleled Demon Spirit is right in front of you. Whether you can stand against Longsheng Tian in the future entirely depends on it..." Clearly, this old madman Ximen Guan still hadn't grasped the situation, urging Li Xiu to hurry up.

Li Xiu found himself in a dilemma—unable to take it, unable to not take it either.

He certainly wasn't going to swallow it, but if he didn't and just carried it with him, the Diamond of Misfortune had already brought about the downfall of so many owners, one more wouldn't make a difference.

No matter how strong Li Xiu's abilities, he was powerless against such superstitions. He really didn't dare to try.

"Ahem, I say, Brother Ximen, you see, I'm actually not that interested in the Demon Spirit Gemstone. How about you just put it back and give it to someone else later?" Li Xiu adamantly didn't want to take it.

Ximen Guan was momentarily stunned, finally coming to his senses, his old face blushing.

"Well, it's a bit dirty, but it can be washed. At a time like this, don't mind such trivialities. This is a once-in-a-millennium treasure that drove Longsheng Tian almost crazy. A real man shouldn't mind small details... shouldn't mind small details... anyway, I've already given you the gemstone; I'm not taking it back." Ximen Guan said awkwardly.

Li Xiu looked at Ximen Guan's demeanor and knew he definitely wouldn't take it back. He probably also feared being killed by the Diamond of Misfortune.

This situation was awkward indeed, the two of them staring each other down—one unwilling to take it back, the other unwilling to pick it up. The unmatched gemstone lay lonely on the ground, like an orphaned child.

"Kid, do you want to get out of here alive?" As they remained at an impasse, Ximen Guan suddenly asked.

"Of course," Li Xiu nodded.

"There's only one way you can get out of here alive, and that's by pretending to be controlled by the Blood Seal. But you don't know what it's like to be controlled by the Blood Seal; there's no way to fake it. If you swallow it, I'll tell you how to pretend to be under the Blood Seal's control, fooling that woman without a flaw." Ximen Guan wanted Li Xiu to swallow the Hope Diamond for his own safety as well.

Only by making the Diamond of Misfortune disappear completely, would Longsheng Tian never find it.

"I appreciate the thought, but if I truly can't fool her, I'd rather take my chances." Li Xiu shook his head.

"Take your chances? With what? That woman is not simple; as a fellow Trial Taker, you are nowhere near her level, you have no chance." Ximen Guan sneered. "Have you seen the gemstone on her finger ring? If I'm not mistaken, it was owned by a palace-level figure within Longsheng Tian: the Demon Spirit of Virtue and Punishment, a type of evolving demon spirit. Before I was trapped here, it had already evolved to A-level, and now after so many years it might have reached S-level. Do you think you stand a chance of surviving against an S-level demon spirit? Even an A-level could take your life in an instant."

"I won't give her the chance to summon the demon spirit," Li Xiu said.

"Who do you think you are? God? You think by saying she can't summon, she won't?" Ximen Guan retorted angrily. "A man must know when to yield, stop fussing around, swallow the gemstone, and summon the demon spirit of the Hope Diamond."

Seeing Ximen Guan was dead set on not taking back the Diamond of Misfortune, Li Xiu hesitated for a moment, then used a food wrapper to cover his hand before picking up the Diamond of Misfortune.

#### Chapter 86 Demigod Shana

He took a bottle of water, rinsed the Diamond of Misfortune clean, then put it in a clean packaging bag, folded it, and tucked it into his pocket.

While washing the Diamond of Misfortune, a strong hunger emanated from Li Xiu's stomach, but psychologically, it made him want to vomit.

It's not that he's being squeamish; he's just unable to overcome this psychological hurdle.

If he hadn't seen it, it would've been fine, but having witnessed such a scene with his own eyes, he really couldn't bring himself to swallow it in front of the person involved.

And even if he summoned the magic spirit from the Diamond of Misfortune now, it probably wouldn't make much of a difference.

According to Ximen Guan, magic spirit gemstones that haven't been used by humans generally summon spirits of relatively low levels.

Only a few magic spirits with evolutionary abilities can grow alongside their master.

For example, Li Xiu's Jedi Knight should be stronger than the Knight of Chrysanthemum, but only limitedly so; yet its potential far exceeds that of the non-evolutionary Knight of Chrysanthemum.

The Diamond of Misfortune has never been summoned before; it's likely similar to the Jedi Knight and is merely an E-level at best, which wouldn't provide much help to Li Xiu either.

Seeing that Li Xiu had put away the Diamond of Misfortune even though he hadn't swallowed it, Ximen Guan didn't say anything further.

Li Xiu didn't find his days of confinement particularly dull; he maintained his exercise routine daily.

The Diamond of Misfortune didn't seem as terrifying as imagined, and Li Xiu hadn't noticed any impact it had on him.

"I heard that a previous owner of the Diamond of Misfortune ultimately donated it to a museum and ended up having a good ending. Once out, at worst, I could donate it," Li Xiu said, though deep down, he didn't really want to part with the Diamond of Misfortune.

Ximen Guan's condition varied; at times he was like a normal person, even more lucid, speaking of things with philosophical insights.

Yet sometimes he would go off the deep end, saying things Li Xiu couldn't comprehend.

Li Xiu didn't truly believe Ximen Guan was that mad. Though he didn't understand the words, he had heard similar language in some Magic Armor Laboratories before, likely related to principles and formulas of magic armor.

"This man is truly pitiful, having made such great contributions to humanity, yet forced to live a life worse than pigs and dogs for decades." Li Xiu sympathized with Ximen Guan and would chat with him during his lucid moments.

Ximen Guan would also inform Li Xiu about matters regarding the Blood Seal, teaching him ways to deceive Sha Chu.

"I wonder how Kun Sha and the others are doing. Would Ah Fei think I broke my promise and ran away?" Li Xiu pondered, but doubted it. Given Ah Fei's cleverness, she'd figure he wouldn't flee without taking his Demon Cores and Ghost-faced Magic Armor first.

The stone chamber was well-stocked with food and water, and Li Xiu always ate his fill, yet the persistent hunger in his stomach was induced by the Diamond of Misfortune.

In the stone chamber, he couldn't tell day from night; he ate when hungry and slept when tired. That day, upon awakening from a nap, Li Xiu felt refreshed, his body light and at ease.

"So comfortable!" Li Xiu stretched lazily, feeling great; not only had the fatigue from exercising dissipated, but he also no longer felt hungry.

"Not hungry anymore!" Li Xiu shuddered instantly, hastily reaching into his coat pocket.

Upon searching, Li Xiu's expression turned somewhat grim.

Inside his coat pocket, only the packaging bag remained, while the Diamond of Misfortune had disappeared.

He quickly looked down to find that besides the Jedi Ring and the Knight of Chrysanthemum Ring on his fingers, there was now an additional sapphire ring.

Undoubtedly, this sapphire ring was the transformed Diamond of Misfortune.

"How did it just become a Demon Spirit Ring on its own? Does it eat Demon Cores and magic spirit gemstones alike?" Li Xiu's mind gradually cleared, realizing he had acquired some new information.

Demigod Shana (Evolvable): E-level magic spirit (Glorious), capable of summoning the E-level magic spirit Demigod Shana.

As Li Xiu expected, the magic spirit formed from the Diamond of Misfortune was just an E-level spirit, albeit with evolvable properties.

"But what does this 'Glorious' mean? Could it be that magic spirits also have quality distinctions?" Li Xiu only knew of four grades of contracts: Luminous, Brilliant, Radiant, and Glorious.

Besides this explanation, Li Xiu couldn't think of any other possibilities.

Originally, Li Xiu thought the Jedi Knight was already quite powerful, but it didn't even have a Luminous suffix, making it much less compared to Demigod Shana.

Based on the information Li Xiu currently knew, Demigod Shana might be the highest grade of magic spirit.

Since it had already transformed into a Demon Spirit Ring, Li Xiu had no more misgivings and directly summoned Demigod Shana.

"This is just too spectacular!" Li Xiu gazed at Demigod Shana before him, eyes wide open.

Unlike the Jedi Knight and Knight of Chrysanthemum, Demigod Shana's entire body appeared as though it were a statue carved from sapphire.

The body was a transparent blue, with light shimmering across the whole figure, as if countless blue stars shined inside.

Every movement of Demigod Shana carried a dazzling blue radiance, with light flickering as it walked, as if a myriad of stars had gathered around him, giving the illusion that his body was not solid but a translucent blue light shadow.

#### Chapter 87 Demigod Shana\_2

Even without the radiant lights, Demigod Shana's body was exceptionally dazzling, resembling a transparent blue crystal mechanoid, yet without a hint of rigidity.

With a sleek, streamlined body similar to a human, Shana was taller than Li Xiu by more than a head, likely over two meters tall, holding a large blue diamond sword in one hand and an exaggerated Blue Diamond Pistol, even bigger than a Desert Eagle, in the other.

Upon closer examination, one could see faint, vein-like bloodlines within the blue diamond-like body and among the gun and sword.

These bloodlines were much finer than veins, even thinner than hair strands, and being translucent, they were almost invisible among the blue radiance without a careful look.

Li Xiu wasn't sure how to describe the feeling Demigod Shana gave him; perhaps this was the form all boys dreamt of.

"That's right, men should be more open-minded and not be bogged down by trivialities," Ximen Guan, waking up at an unknown time, was staring at Demigod Shana: "Is this the Demon Spirit inside the Diamond of Misfortune? It's truly beautiful, simply a piece of art. What is his name?"

"Demigod... Shana..." Li Xiu didn't explain anything, just said his name.

"Excellent, it's perfect. It's a pity that I have no chance to get out; otherwise, I would surely design a new set of Demon Armor based on his appearance," Ximen Guan sighed.

Li Xiu tested it out, and whether in strength or speed, Demigod Shana was evidently much stronger than both the Jedi Knight and Knight of Chrysanthemum, not just slightly but overwhelmingly so.

What's more, Demigod Shana didn't only have close combat means but also that Blue Diamond Pistol capable of firing Demon Light Bullets, whose power surpassed those of the Demon Light Balls from Li Xiu's Iron Armor Magic Armor by much.

The power of this Demon Light Bullet was feared to be even stronger than the most potent demon light that a D-grade magic armor could emit.

"If this guy could grow to S-grade, how terrifying would that be? Perhaps even stronger than the S-grade Red Flower Magic Armor I used to wield!" Li Xiu marveled in his heart, though he also knew upgrading the magic spirit's level wasn't so easy.

Just like wild magic spirits, they need to consume gemstones to grow, and one cannot even say how many gemstones are required to advance a level.

With Demigod Shana, Li Xiu redeployed his tactics, coordinating with Demigod Shana, Knight of Chrysanthemum, and the Jedi Knight, significantly enhancing Li Xiu's actual combat capability.

Whenever seeing Demigod Shana, Li Xiu would feel an impulse, thinking if he could gather more gemstones like the Diamond of Misfortune, when they all grew, even without magic armor, he could still walk unbridled anywhere, perhaps even single-handedly destroy those major forces with numerous advanced Magic Armor Masters.

Of course, such things were merely a thought for now; Demon Spirit Gemstones were already hard to find, let alone ones like the Diamond of Misfortune.

"What a pity, you're a Trial Taker; if you were a Magic Armor Master, such control ability would be tremendously powerful," remarked Ximen Guan, noticing Li Xiu's excellent control ability while observing his practice.

Being able to control three magic spirits simultaneously requires such multi-tasking ability, even among Magic Armor Masters, is commendable, only achievable by top-notch Magic Armor Masters, and even they struggle to reach the meticulous level of Li Xiu.

"I can also use Demon Armor," Li Xiu smiled.

"Forget it, you should just honestly be a Trial Taker; with Demigod Shana, your path as a Trial Taker will become much easier in the future," Ximen Guan dismissed nonchalantly, his traditional mindset causing him to mistakenly believe Li Xiu wouldn't have become a Trial Taker if he was truly a strong Magic Armor Master.

Ximen Guan, at his core, somewhat looked down on Trial Takers, always believing humans are superior to ordinary animals because humans possess the wisdom to create tools.

Simply evolving the body, in Ximen Guan's view, is the wrong evolutionary path since the body's evolution speed can never match the pace of technological evolution.

Those beasts evolved for millions of years, yet their destructive power cannot compare to a single human-made bullet.

He firmly believed humanity would eventually rely on Demon Armor to defeat invading magic spirits and destroy those Trial Gates.

"Do you know how the path of a Trial Taker should be?" Li Xiu's curiosity was piqued, wondering what world awaited him after making a life pact with the familiar to become a true Trial Taker.

"I don't know, but during the Celestial Longevity Days, I met some formidable Trial Takers. Some relied on peculiar weapons to even contend with high-level magic spirits or Magic Armor Masters; some could summon advanced magic spirits, yet they still faced the risk of dying inside the Trial Gates, indicating that the worlds within are not as straightforward as they seem on the surface. It's said that the real Land of Trial is incredibly eerie, with top-tier Trial Takers perishing as easily as chickens and dogs, even without knowing how they died."

Ximen Guan, as if having his itch scratched by Li Xiu's question, continued: "External objects cannot enter the Trial Gate, but Demon Spirit Gemstones, Demon Spirit Rings, and those peculiar Trial Taker weapons can be taken inside. It's said these items cannot be used inside the Trial Ground, but after passing the trials, they can be used in an even more mysterious Land of Trial, giving Trial Takers a significant advantage. However, this advantage is only temporary, as the Demon Armor I'm developing is intended for the Trial Gate; if it succeeds, Magic Armor Masters will be able to wear demon armor and enter the Trial Gate, and then, what role will Trial Takers have?"

Chapter 88 Demigod Shana\_3

"The set of Demon Armor you asked me to find, is it the one that allows entry into the Trial Gate?" Li Xiu was greatly surprised, not expecting Ximen Guan to have such a trick up his sleeve.

"That's right, but I haven't completely finished that set of Demon Armor. Before I could, I was imprisoned by Changshengtian. For it to be successful, it still needs the last few key steps and human experimentation." As Ximen Guan said this, he angrily cursed again, swearing at the ancestors of Changshengtian.

"All these years, no one has ever been known to create a Demon Armor capable of entering the Trial Gate. If Ximen Guan's research succeeds, even if the Demon Armor he creates is somewhat outdated, the technology could still be applied to other Demon Armors. This is a technology that could affect the rise and fall of humanity." Li Xiu thought to himself about how he could get Ximen Guan out of here; he couldn't let him die in this place.

Day by day passed, and Li Xiu's estimation was quite accurate. On the thirtieth day, the stone chamber's door was indeed opened.

Sha Chu walked in, wearing a red bodycon dress and leather boots, with a Tang Blade on her back.

"How is it? Did you succeed?" Sha Chu looked somewhat fatigued, lazily sitting on a stone bench, looking at Li Xiu and asking.

"It's already succeeded." Li Xiu summoned the Knight of Chrysanthemum.

"That's right, it's the Knight of Chrysanthemum. Now that you are a member of Changshengtian, I'll take you to the headquarters to attend the membership ceremony and receive your membership badge after

some time." As Sha Chu spoke, she seemingly casually tidied her hair, her fingers brushing over the gemstone hair clip.

"Ah!" Li Xiu suddenly clutched his heart in pain, squatting down as if struck by angina, with large beads of cold sweat dripping from his forehead.

"Are you alright?" Sha Chu seemed to ask with concern.

"I'm fine, not sure what happened, but my heart suddenly felt uncomfortable just now; I'm better now." Li Xiu stood up, wiping the cold sweat from his forehead.

"Good if you're alright, maybe it's because you've been in this place for too long. Follow me; before heading to the headquarters, you'll need to participate in a Trial Gate trial first." Sha Chu said, turning to leave.

Li Xiu didn't look back at Ximen Guan, following Sha Chu out of the stone chamber.

"What trial do you want me to participate in?" Li Xiu asked after the Double-headed Demon Spirit took flight.

"We're running out of time, we must hurry back; we'll discuss it in detail once we get there." As soon as Sha Chu's voice fell, the Double-headed Demon Spirit flapped its wings, breaking through the clouds and flying swiftly.

The speed was innumerable faster than before, and combining the high altitude's low-oxygen environment and the cold air currents, Li Xiu would barely be able to sit still if he hadn't entered the Trial Gate to enhance his physical endurance.

Seeing Li Xiu manage to hold on, a flash of surprise appeared in Sha Chu's eyes. She once again increased the speed of the Double-headed Demon Spirit.

Li Xiu could only cling there, pressing closely to the body of the Double-headed Demon Spirit, gripping the protruding parts tightly with both hands.

"His physical resilience is somewhat stronger than I expected." Sha Chu, seeing that even though Li Xiu was in a sorry state, he could withstand the impact of the cold air without freezing, became even more surprised.

In fact, it wasn't that Li Xiu's physical resilience was stronger than Sha Chu imagined, but that Li Xiu had an S-rank Ice Heart talent, giving him some resistance to the cold, which kept him from freezing in the cold air.

But under such pressure and temperature, Li Xiu was merely struggling to maintain himself.

Sitting on the back of the Double-headed Demon Spirit, Sha Chu appeared to be unfazed; in her scant short skirt, she seemed completely indifferent to the cold air currents.

Li Xiu even saw a faint aura emanating from Sha Chu's body, splitting the airflow to both sides before it reached her; not even her hair was disturbed, and her clothes clung to her body, showing no signs of movement.

This phenomenon, Li Xiu had seen before in some rare Demon Spirits, whose bodies would emit a strange aura capable of resisting Demonic Light attacks to some extent.

Li Xiu felt somewhat relieved, relieved that he had abandoned his previous plan to rescue Ximen Guan; if he had actually ambushed Sha Chu, breaking her aura would be a question in itself.

"Your physical endurance is stronger than I thought." After the Double-headed Demon Spirit landed, Chu Sha, seeing that Li Xiu could still get down by himself, unexpectedly praised him, although the compliment sounded somewhat harsh.

Li Xiu thought to himself, "Next time, after I put on the Demon Armor, I'll take you for a spin in the sky and let you feel it out."

"Not bad." Li Xiu said with a calm demeanor, his eyes scanning around.

The place was full of earth mounds, with obvious excavation marks, as if someone had deliberately dug large pits all over.

Next to those earth mounds were small piles of rock fragments, looking like they had been deliberately selected.

In some places, there were small pits, big enough to hold one person, with scaffolding over the openings.

"Is this a Gemstone mine?" Li Xiu recognized it as a Gemstone mine but didn't know which one.

"Yes, this was originally a small mine belonging to Guyue City, primarily producing spinel." Sha Chu explained as she walked forward: "Although Guyue City's spinel isn't as famous as Red Sand City's, the quality of the spinel from the Ancient City isn't necessarily inferior. Guyue City's spinel tends toward pink, not reaching the red of Jedi Knights, but top-grade pink apatite has a special color term called Hot Pink, valued no less than that of Jedi Knights. To my knowledge, a Demon Spirit has been found in hot pink apatite."

"Didn't you bring me here for a trial? Why did we end up at a spinel mine? Are we supposed to mine first?" Li Xiu frowned and asked.

"This small mine was exhausted long ago; even if you wanted to dig, there's nothing to mine. The Trial Gate is inside this mine." Sha Chu said.

#### Chapter 89 Mine Shaft

"Where is it?" Li Xiu looked around, but saw no sign of the Trial Gate.

Sha Chu walked over to a small pit, glanced down, then turned to Li Xiu and said, "It's right here. Once you go down, you'll naturally see the Trial Gate. You go down first."

"Such a small hole, why not make it bigger?" Li Xiu leaned over to look down.

All he could see was a pitch-black abyss, with no idea how deep it was. Moreover, the opening was just big enough for one person to pass through.

"Do you think I don't want to? The geological conditions here make it prone to collapse, not suitable for digging a large mine, and there's no time for that. Be careful not to collapse the mine when you go down," Sha Chu urged Li Xiu to hurry down.

Li Xiu had no choice but to tie the rope from the scaffolding around himself. He originally wanted to jump down like that, but Sha Chu made him enter the mine headfirst, feet up.

Sha Chu slowly lowered the rope from above, frowning involuntarily. Li Xiu's body was extraordinarily heavy, heavier than usual. If it were an ordinary Trial Taker, they probably couldn't even pull Li Xiu down.

Li Xiu descended bit by bit, the darkness growing deeper and soon he couldn't see anything, relying solely on touch.

The opening didn't widen as it went down, still just enough for one person's body to pass through. He kept descending, not sure how many meters, until he finally felt the bottom of the mine.

Looking up, the opening seemed smaller than a teacup. He felt around the sides and quickly found a horizontal opening, just big enough for one person to pass through.

He untied the rope from his body and gave it three hard tugs before feeling it rise upward.

Soon, Li Xiu saw the small patch of sky overhead was completely blocked, meaning Sha Chu had come down.

Li Xiu explored and crawled toward the horizontal passage, moving in to create space for Sha Chu coming down.

Suddenly, Li Xiu felt a soft sensation under his palm, and his whole body broke out in sweat. He quickly pulled his hand back and retreated to the vertical shaft position.

He had no idea what he had just touched—that soft, mushy feeling was definitely not soil or rock, more like some kind of soft creature.

It felt like a snake or frog, the slimy sensation making his skin crawl.

Boom!

Li Xiu felt a heavy object hit his body, causing him to groan in pain, then he felt something soft and fragrant pressing against him.

"Why are you still here? Didn't I tell you to crawl in first before I came down?" Sha Chu's voice sounded in his ear.

She had jumped straight down without using a rope.

Luckily, Li Xiu was sitting against the shaft wall. If his head had been forward a little more, and Sha Chu had landed on his head, it might have snapped his neck.

Sha Chu used the shaft wall to cushion, occasionally pressing her hands and feet against it to slow her descent, so she didn't step on Li Xiu when she landed, and the impact wasn't too strong. Otherwise, even if he wasn't killed, his legs would surely be ruined.

Now the two of them were squeezed together in the narrow mine shaft, bodies pressed tightly together.

The shaft was tight for even one person to crawl through, and now two were cramped together—Li Xiu sitting and Sha Chu straddling his legs, their upper bodies pressed together.

"I seemed to touch something alive just now, so I backed out. If I'd known we were going to such a place, I should've brought a headlamp. Why come down in the dark?" Li Xiu said.

"There was no time to prepare for that. What could possibly be alive in here? Don't scare yourself. Let me go and look first," Sha Chu said, twisting her body to move toward the horizontal passage.

In such a cramped space, their bodies touched as Sha Chu moved over him into the passage, with Li Xiu cooperating.

Quickly, Li Xiu realized why Sha Chu hadn't brought a headlamp; her body once again emitted a glow he'd seen before.

The faint glow wasn't very bright, but it illuminated the nearby area a bit, allowing them to see some things clearly.

"There's nothing here," Sha Chu said, crawling slowly ahead, somewhat displeased.

"Strange, I definitely felt something soft just now," Li Xiu said, looking toward the general area he had explored previously, only to find nothing there.

There were no openings on the shaft wall, and surely whatever it was couldn't have vanished into thin air?

"With such little courage, why try to be a Trial Taker? Why not stick to being a Magic Armor Master?" Sha Chu crawled further, urging Li Xiu to keep up.

Li Xiu followed, watching her glowing backside and chuckled, "I see why you wanted me to go down first."

"Shut up," Sha Chu coldly told Li Xiu to be quiet.

Li Xiu didn't mind a little time to admire the beautiful view, but now wasn't the right time, place, or person.

He crawled after Sha Chu, pondering as he moved: "Why was Sha Chu in such a hurry to get here? What's special about this Trial Gate? She mentioned not enough time—what kind of timing issue is there? The Trial Gate can't just up and leave, so what's the rush?"

## Chapter 90 Mine\_2

"Ah!" Li Xiu was thinking when suddenly there was that soft sensation under his palm again, the same slippery mushy feeling as before, making Li Xiu's hairs stand on end. He swiftly pulled his hand back as if shocked.

"What's wrong with you again?" Sha Chu asked from ahead upon hearing Li Xiu's exclamation.

Because the passage was too narrow, Sha Chu couldn't turn around to check and could only stop to inquire about Li Xiu's situation.

"Nothing... nothing..." Li Xiu looked at the spot his palm had just pressed against; there was nothing there, making him doubt whether his previous sensation was an illusion.

But he knew in his heart that it was not an illusion. Although he had never liked soft creatures and even stayed away from them, it was certainly not a fear-induced hallucination; it was a real tactile sensation.

However, after observing for a while with the light from Sha Chu's body, he still found nothing, leaving him very puzzled.

"Don't scream without a reason." Sha Chu snorted coldly and continued to crawl forward.

This time, Li Xiu no longer let his mind wander and watched the passage ahead carefully, fearing he would miss seeing what he touched as before.

After crawling for a while, Li Xiu didn't encounter that sensation again, making him somewhat doubt if he really had a hallucination earlier.

Just as Li Xiu was beginning to relax, his body suddenly stiffened; it felt as if something crawled into his pants by the ankle and was moving up his calf.

The thing was cool and soft, making Li Xiu feel as if a very large caterpillar was crawling on his calf.

Li Xiu felt himself on the verge of exploding. He was afraid of such creatures — no matter how ugly those giant steel beasts or demonic spirits were, he wasn't scared of them, but soft-bodied creatures like this genuinely unsettled him.

This might have something to do with his childhood experiences; back then, Li Xiu feared nothing and was quite the reckless child.

Once, while playing in a small grove, Li Xiu suddenly found a colorful, semi-transparent caterpillar which looked very beautiful.

Ignorant at the time, he reached out and picked up the caterpillar, playing with it in his palm.

The caterpillar crawled over his small hand, even climbing up his arm.

Li Xiu was ecstatic and even wanted to keep the caterpillar as a pet, but before he could make it home, he collapsed to the ground.

That incident left Li Xiu in the hospital, hovering between life and death for over half a month, barely clinging to life. His entire arm was swollen thicker than his thigh, with black spots emerging where the caterpillar had crawled. After those spots festered, they oozed pus continuously.

The pain tormented Li Xiu, creating a psychological shadow. From that point on, he kept his distance from soft-bodied creatures, eliminating any that posed a threat.

The sensation on his leg now was very similar, as if a larger caterpillar was wriggling on his calf.

Li Xiu was instantly on edge. With his movements restricted, he couldn't reach his calf and could only frantically shake his leg, as if powered by an electric motor.

After several shakes, he felt the thing on his leg finally come off, and Li Xiu desperately crawled forward.

Some unknown surge of strength enabled him to speedily crawl despite the Fire Lotus Sword's usual weight feeling significantly lighter.

"There's a bug... there's a bug behind us..." Li Xiu shouted as he pushed Sha Chu from behind.

"What bug?" Sha Chu felt Li Xiu pushing her butt and was instantly furious. But upon hearing there was a bug behind them, her face changed, and she quickened her pace.

Both of them scrambled forward with all their might. Shortly after, Li Xiu felt nothing below his hands and tumbled out of the passageway.

It turned out the passage had ended, opening into a hollow space.

"Where's the bug?" Sha Chu stood at the passageway's entrance, scrutinizing its interior before turning around to glare coldly at Li Xiu.

Li Xiu ignored her, rolling up his pant leg to inspect the area where the soft thing had crawled over.

Examining it over and over, his leg seemed fine, without so much as a trace.

Lowering his pant leg, he looked up at Sha Chu, seeing her staring at him with icy eyes, he could only clear his throat and say, "Perhaps the bug didn't catch up."

"Li Xiu, I'm warning you, not just because you're not yet a formal member of the Eternal Heaven, but even if you become one, I sponsored your entry. I'm your direct superior, and your life is still in my hands," Sha Chu said coldly.

"I understand, but there really was a bug," Li Xiu admitted, knowing he was at a disadvantage.

Sha Chu glanced into the passageway again, still seeing nothing, then looked at Li Xiu, unable to discern anything.

"Move on, don't waste time," Sha Chu said no more, stepping forward.

With Sha Chu's light, Li Xiu finally saw that this cave wasn't too large, at most two meters high and the size of a room, with a mud wall embedded with stones that housed a pink door.

Unlike the Trial Gate Li Xiu had seen before, this door was very small, less than a meter high, entirely pink, appearing like a hybrid of jade and stone, and there was no telling what it was made of.

Sha Chu approached the small pink door, pulled out a plastic bag, and took out several pink spinals, embedding them one by one into the grooves of the door.