

When God 901

Chapter 901: Threat_3

"Commander Li, are you sure you won't reconsider? If Han Minghui and the others find out that you don't actually have the Divine Position Gemstone, you probably won't get anything from them..." Li Xianchun slightly frowned, feeling that Li Xiu was being somewhat rash.

"Say whatever you want, please leave." Li Xiu directly showed him the door.

Li Xianchun stared at Li Xiu in a daze, not expecting Li Xiu to be so resolute.

"Commander Li, you should think carefully, once I walk out that door, I can't guarantee those words I just said won't reach a third party," Li Xianchun said, staring at Li Xiu.

"You can tell anyone you like, be my guest." Li Xiu was very firm.

Seeing Li Xiu's determination, Li Xianchun couldn't help but mutter to himself, "Could it be that I guessed wrong, and the chairman didn't give the Jade Token to Li Xiu? That doesn't make sense; if that were the case, how do you explain all the things Li Xiu has stirred up?"

Li Xianchun still trusted his own judgment, reasoning that Li Xiu was determined to hold out to the end.

"If you're not willing to share anything with me, you can't blame me." Li Xianchun asked one last time while looking at Li Xiu, "Commander Li, are you really not going to reconsider?"

Li Xiu ignored him completely, and Li Xianchun said no more, turning and leaving Courtyard No. 7.

After leaving Courtyard No. 7, Li Xianchun went straight to the Han Family. Since Li Xiu wasn't willing to share any benefits, he'd get some himself, and perhaps gain a few significant favors in the process.

Although these favors might not compare to those benefits, they were better than nothing.

With these favors, life for the Li Family and him, Li Xianchun, would become much easier in the future.

Not long after Li Xianchun left Courtyard No. 7, rumors that Li Xiu might possess the Jade Token and was setting up a scheme spread quickly through Longevity Heaven.

The bosses who had previously brought treasures to trade with Li Xiu were startled into a cold sweat, each pondering how to hide their treasures and what pretext to use so that when Li Xiu came knocking, they wouldn't have to give him anything.

Now they regretted being blinded by the Divine Position Gemstone, unable to see through such a simple ploy.

They also secretly resented Li Xiu for being too devious, using this method to lure out their most prized treasures.

"Commander, your plan has been leaked. Should we now go to those families to get the items?" Old Jia, having received the news, rushed to Li Xiu to report the situation.

"There's no need." Li Xiu gently shook his head. He had never intended to personally go and demand the items.

All the family heads were racking their brains to hide their items. Simply hiding them wasn't enough; they also had to come up with a pretext, otherwise Li Xiu, having seen those items, might truly use the Jade Token to demand them, and they wouldn't be able to refuse.

Each family head was straining their brains, coming up with all sorts of excuses.

Some claimed to have lost everything in one night, so their treasures were already mortgaged away; others said they went to the Land of Trial, only to lose their treasures there.

In any case, they had thought up an array of excuses, colorful and countless.

"Ah, Li Xiu, if only you'd agreed to share a bit with me earlier, it wouldn't have come to this," Li Xianchun coldly chuckled to himself at home.

Li Xiu was playing with Zai Zai in the courtyard when Old Jia led someone over, and it was actually Sun Tianlei.

Back then, Sun Tianlei was the first to come and discuss a deal; now Sun Tianlei was the first to come over again. Li Xiu wondered what he was up to this time.

"Commander Li, this is for you." Sun Tianlei pushed a box in front of Li Xiu, his expression peculiar.

Li Xiu recognized this box; it was the one that previously held the Celestial Spirit Divine Weapon Fruit.

Li Xiu reached out, opened the lid, and indeed, inside were the Celestial Spirit Divine Weapon Fruits, all six present and accounted for.

"What's the meaning of this? I haven't even decided to trade with your Sun Family yet," Li Xiu asked, somewhat puzzled.

"Commander Li, please, don't tease me. We all know you've obtained the Jade Token," Sun Tianlei said with a bitter expression.

"Since you know, what do you mean by this?" Li Xiu asked with a smile.

"Sun Tianbing asked me to give this to you. He said the item is yours, no trade needed, and it doesn't need to be returned," Sun Tianlei said.

"Why?" Li Xiu was taken aback.

While others were busy hiding, Sun Tianbing actually wanted to give these six Celestial Spirit Divine Weapon Fruits to him; it was quite strange.

"He said, Commander Li, that you are fighting for us in the Longevity Heaven, and it is only right for us to contribute. If you need anything else, just ask; as long as it's something we can provide, you won't be disappointed," Sun Tianlei said earnestly.

"Brother Sun is truly an exemplary model of our kind," Li Xiu pondered for a moment, then took out two Celestial Spirit Divine Weapon Fruits and closed the box. "Please go back and tell Brother Tianbing, I'm borrowing these two Celestial Spirit Divine Weapon Fruits, and will repay the favor in the future."

"Commander Li only needs two?" Sun Tianlei was overjoyed.

He didn't understand why Sun Tianbing initially offered the entire set, but now that Li Xiu only took two, leaving four, it was a great relief for him.

"Two are enough." Li Xiu smiled.

"Alright, I will return immediately, and relay Commander Li's words without missing a single detail," Sun Tianlei carefully collected the box and left Courtyard No. 7.

"Sun Family's Sun Tianbing, now that's an interesting person," Li Xiu mused as he played with the two Celestial Spirit Divine Weapon Fruits in his hand. One was meant for the Fire Lotus Sword, while the other Li Xiu planned to keep for A Fei.

A Fei had no relatives, nor any background or connections to rely on; all he could depend on was Li Xiu.

Before Li Xiu even gave the Celestial Spirit Divine Weapon Fruit to the Fire Lotus Sword, someone else came to Courtyard No. 7.

"Why has Vice President Han come again?" Li Xiu noted that the visitor was Han Minghui.

"Naturally, I'm here to ask whether Commander Li has reconsidered and is willing to trade with me," Han Minghui said with a sweet smile as she sat across from Li Xiu.

"Haven't you heard the rumors going around?" Li Xiu asked with interest, surprised that Han Minghui would come under such circumstances.

"Not only have I heard them, but someone even came to my house specifically to tell me," Han Minghui smiled.

"You don't believe them?" Li Xiu inquired.

"I don't. I only believe in myself. What I saw was definitely the Divine Position Gemstone," Han Minghui said with a mischievous smile while looking at Li Xiu. "Don't you think so, Commander Li?"

"Let me ask you something, have you ever met with Jiuxiao Yun?" Li Xiu didn't answer Han Minghui's question but asked his own.

"Why would I?" Han Minghui was slightly taken aback.

"Who knows that the Samurai Star is in your possession?" Li Xiu asked again.

"I suppose not many people know," Han Minghui seemed to have realized something, staring at Li Xiu. "Did someone use the Samurai Star to bribe Jiuxiao Yun to steal your Divine Position Gemstone?"

Li Xiu nodded slightly, and Han Minghui immediately scoffed coldly, "If there is such a person, it's definitely Li Xianchun."

"Do you have any evidence?" Li Xiu also believed it, but he still asked.

"No, but I know it must be him," Han Minghui said coldly. "You don't need to worry about this. Last time he tried to sow discord between us, and now he even tries to frame me with such methods. If he doesn't get taught a lesson, he'd still think of Li Xiu as the previous head of the Four Great Families."

Chapter 902: Not Enough

"The grievances between you all have nothing to do with me; those are your own issues," Li Xiu said blandly.

Han Minghui laughed and said, "How can you say it has nothing to do with you? With Li Xianchun causing such a scene, I'm afraid no one besides me dares to transact with Commander Li now."

"I never intended to trade with anyone; they insisted on seeking me out." Li Xiu replied.

Han Minghui was slightly stunned, "Commander Li, do you mean you never planned to exchange the Divine Position Gemstone?"

"If it were you, would you exchange it?" Li Xiu smiled as he said.

Han Minghui looked at Li Xiu, remaining silent for a long time.

Li Xiu reached into his pocket and took out the golden box, placing it on the table, slowly opening it to reveal the Divine Position Gemstone inside.

Han Minghui's beautiful eyes instantly lit up, "It really is the Divine Position Gemstone, I knew I wasn't mistaken."

Seeing Li Xiu cover the box again, Han Minghui frowned and asked, "Commander Li, what do you mean by this?"

"Do you think this Divine Position Gemstone is precious?" Li Xiu pressed his hand on the box, speaking disdainfully.

"To me right now, the Divine Position Gemstone is the most precious treasure." Han Minghui didn't understand what Li Xiu meant by his words.

"How precious?" Li Xiu pressed on the box, asking with interest.

"I am willing to give up everything I currently have." Han Minghui stared at Li Xiu, speaking word by word, "To exchange everything I have now for this Divine Position Gemstone, will you agree, Commander Li?"

"What do you think?" Li Xiu asked in return.

Han Minghui continued to stare at Li Xiu and said, "Commander Li seems to not have understood what I meant."

Saying so, Han Minghui took out a small box and placed it in front of Li Xiu, opening it directly without waiting for Li Xiu to ask what it was.

Li Xiu looked down and saw a blood-red stone inside the box.

"Blood Seal Stone... could it be..." Li Xiu raised his head in surprise to look at Han Minghui, realizing something.

"That's right, this is my Blood Seal Stone. Everything I mentioned includes myself and the entire Han Family. Commander Li, would you consider such a trade?" Han Minghui's gaze burned intensely as she stared at Li Xiu.

Li Xiu knew very well what this signified. If this truly was Han Minghui's Blood Seal Stone, it meant she intended to trade everything she had for a chance to ascend to a Divine Position. With the Blood Seal Stone in hand, even if she ascended, she could only follow Li Xiu's commands, or her life would be at risk—essentially selling herself as a slave.

"Is it worth it?" Li Xiu lifted his head and scrutinized Han Minghui, her actions indeed caught him by surprise, forcing him to reassess this Vice President.

"It's worth it." Han Minghui earnestly nodded.

"It's a pity, I still can't sell this Divine Position Gemstone." Li Xiu shook his head, sighing.

"Commander Li, are you worried about the authenticity of this Blood Seal Stone?" Han Minghui thought for a moment and said, "If Commander Li has such concerns, then they're unnecessary. By handing you this Blood Seal Stone, you can even form a new contract with me using another Blood Seal Stone..."

"Vice President Han, you've misunderstood." Li Xiu shook his head, "I don't doubt your sincerity; it's just that I need this Divine Position Gemstone myself to ascend, so how could I sell it to you?"

Upon hearing this, Han Minghui was greatly disappointed, but felt it was reasonable; after all, the Divine Position Gemstone would be needed by someone like Li Xiu, and not needing it would seem strange.

"From the beginning, Commander Li planned to use that rumor to preserve this Divine Position Gemstone; did you intentionally give Li Xianchun the tip-off?" Han Minghui sighed.

"Not quite; I indeed desire the resources of various families."

Li Xiu's answer left Han Minghui slightly stunned, puzzled as she asked, "If so, why not act sooner, letting Li Xianchun get the information? Now it's probably not as easy to seek resources from the families."

Li Xiu gave a slight smile, "No rush, they haven't brought out their best yet; the things they have offered so far are still insufficient."

Han Minghui felt a chill in her heart from what she heard, yet quickly felt more puzzled, "You tell me all this, aren't you afraid I'll leak the information?"

"I want you to leak it," Li Xiu said indifferently.

Han Minghui was initially stunned, then her expression fluctuated, her gaze upon Li Xiu became complex and increasingly apprehensive.

She already understood what Li Xiu intended—using her to complete the Yin-Yang Array.

Now everyone thinks Li Xiu wants to deceive their resources. But once they know Li Xiu actually possesses the Divine Position Gemstone, and that she, Han Minghui, will go to any lengths for it, Li Xianchun and others will likely regret deeply, feeling even more urgent to restore the situation, vying to exchange with Li Xiu.

By then, if Han Minghui leaks this, Li Xianchun and others will assume she used tactics to obtain the Divine Position Gemstone.

She has already become Li Xiu's bait, unable to escape, facing constant criticism, and even the truth will be disbelieved. By then, when Li Xiu sweeps up resources from all families, everyone will think she's Li Xiu's stooge, and the Han Family will become a target of the masses.

"Commander Li, why make things difficult for a woman like me?" Han Minghui said smiling bitterly.

"It's not difficulty; just intending to make a transaction with Vice President Han," Li Xiu smiled.

Chapter 903: Still Not Enough_2

"Deal? Didn't you say..." For a moment, Han Minghui couldn't understand what exactly Li Xiu wanted to do.

"Indeed, this Divine Position Gemstone, I plan to use it myself, and will not trade it to anyone. But there are more Divine Position Gemstones in this world than just this one. Would Vice President Han care to gamble?" Li Xiu looked at Han Minghui calmly and said.

Han Minghui, being a clever person, naturally understood what Li Xiu meant.

Now that Li Xiu had obtained a Divine Position Gemstone, once he ascended to the divine position, he would have the ability to kill Divine Position Demon Spirits. At that time, he might be able to get a second Divine Position Gemstone.

"Obtaining a Divine Position Gemstone depends on luck. Commander Li, you're asking me to gamble on fate." Han Minghui shook her head with a bitter smile.

She knew that having the ability to kill Divine Position Demon Spirits did not guarantee obtaining a Divine Position Gemstone.

The probability of getting a Divine Position Gemstone is indeed low. Even ascending to the divine position and killing Divine Position Demon Spirits carries significant risks. Killing hundreds of Divine Position Demon Spirits would not necessarily yield a single Divine Position Gemstone if luck is bad.

In the past, those big shots in the Longevity Heaven tried to find ways to kill Divine Position Demon Spirits. She too had such plans. But over the years, the number of these spirits slain by Longevity Heaven was not small, yet they secured few Divine Position Gemstones.

Li Xiu was fortunate enough to obtain a Divine Position Gemstone from the Demon Country Ancient Golden Box, which does not mean he can slay Demon Spirits to obtain Divine Position Gemstones.

Han Minghui could not expect Li Xiu to repeatedly take risks to hunt Divine Position Demon Spirits, as it is gambling with life, and the odds are too low.

What Li Xiu was saying now seemed like mere exaggeration to Han Minghui.

Seeming to have seen through Han Minghui's thoughts, Li Xiu played with the Divine Position Gemstone, saying playfully, "Vice President Han, you don't really think this Divine Position Gemstone came from the Demon Country Ancient Golden Box, do you?"

Upon hearing this, Han Minghui was first taken aback, then her expression became exceedingly complex.

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Li Xianchun has been in a good mood lately. Originally, after the last rebellion, the Li Family's situation within Longevity Heaven was very dire.

Though everyone knew that the current Li Family leadership was not of Li Changyin's line, who would want to get close to a family with a history of betrayal?

This time, Li Xianchun uncovered Li Xiu's conspiracy, allowing various families to preserve their treasured items, gained over generations of blood and sacrifice. This favor was well received.

Although it wouldn't allow the Li Family to return to its former glory, things had improved considerably.

"Preserving the family's significant status... this task is long and arduous..." Li Xianchun sighed deeply, having done so much now just hoping to maintain the Li Family's esteemed position.

Currently, the strength of the Li Family has greatly diminished compared to the other three prominent families. Losing its esteemed position would vastly reduce the resources it can access, making circumstances progressively worse, rendering a return to prominence nearly impossible.

"The Li Family's strength has indeed waned considerably. Without robust power as backing, no matter how many tactics we have, it will only ensure short-term security..." Li Xianchun sighed silently as he reviewed intelligence reports.

Li Changyin sacrificed too many of the Li Family's powerhouses. What the Li Family desperately needs now is top-tier combat strength, but such strength cannot be cultivated overnight.

Suddenly, an intelligence report caught Li Changyin's eye. He read it several times, his brows furrowing deeper each time.

"Strange, why is that woman Han Minghui secretly contacting Li Xiu?" Li Xianchun stared at the contents of the report, his brows never relaxing.

Even though he notified Han Minghui first, even if he hadn't, the news had already become common knowledge. Han Minghui could not have failed to hear it.

Knowing full well that Li Xiu was trying to swindle resources from various families, she still secretly approached him. This seemed somewhat suspicious.

Li Xianchun pondered for a long while, then reviewed recent intelligence reports on Han Minghui and the Han Family, his expression becoming increasingly complex.

"This is indeed peculiar. Following that, Han Minghui secretly met with Li Xiu twice. What on earth is she trying to do... Could it be..." Li Xianchun stared at the intelligence report for a long time before appearing to make an important decision, rising to open the secret chamber's door, taking something, and hurriedly leaving.

In the Land of the Green Field Trial, Li Xianchun stood silently in a small grove.

Soon, a shadow entered the grove, arriving opposite Li Xianchun.

"Why contact me for a meeting at such a time?" The shadow looked at Li Xianchun, frowning.

"Unexpectedly, the chief steward of the Han Family turns out to be Feng Zheng," Li Xianchun remarked to the elegant middle-aged man before him.

In the past, Li Changyin planted undercover agents in various prominent families, some of whom have never been activated, with Feng Zheng being among them.

Since Li Xianchun took over the Li Family, these undercover agents have fallen into his hands. However, he knows the current situation of the Li Family is not suitable for utilizing these agents, so he hasn't contacted them for a long time.

Furthermore, Li Changyin left only contact methods and agent codes, leaving Li Xianchun unaware of their true identities or whether they still remained loyal to the Li Family.

He arranged to meet Feng Zheng and was surprised not only by Feng Zheng's attendance but also by his role as the chief steward of the Han Family, earning him some silent admiration for Li Changyin's accomplishments.

"Did you ask me here just to discuss these matters?" Feng Zheng's face appeared slightly displeased.

Chapter 904: Still Not Enough (Part 3)

"If it weren't a matter of great importance, I wouldn't have arranged this meeting. I need you to do something for me, something that concerns the future prosperity of the Li Family. Only you can accomplish this." Li Xianchun said.

"Speak." Feng Zheng's expression eased somewhat.

"Can I trust you?" Li Xianchun asked slowly, staring at Feng Zheng.

Feng Zheng met Li Xianchun's gaze and after a while, spoke: "Li Changyin is like a mentor and father to me, he gave me my life, and I only pledge loyalty to him alone."

"And so?" Li Xianchun asked, staring at Feng Zheng.

"For all these years, he dedicated everything to the Li Family. Now that he's gone, I can work for the Li Family, but only for matters concerning the Li Family." Feng Zheng said.

"That's enough." Li Xianchun walked up to Feng Zheng and whispered a few words.

"Wait for my news." After Feng Zheng finished speaking, he turned and left.

After watching Feng Zheng leave, Li Xianchun waited for a long time before departing.

Two days later, Li Xianchun had a confidential letter in his hand, and after reading it, his face turned very grim.

Though the contents of this report didn't directly relate to what he wanted to know, just scraps and clues, from this, Li Xianchun could conclude that maybe Li Xiu really does have the Divine Position Gemstone.

"On a non-festival day, Han Minghui went to the Han Family's ancestral hall, and then met with Li Xiu. The items stored within the Han Family's ancestral hall..." The more Li Xianchun read, the more anxious he became.

Han Minghui dared to use the items in the Han Family's ancestral hall; if he wasn't certain that Li Xiu had a Divine Position Gemstone, it would be nearly impossible.

"If Li Xiu truly has the Divine Position Gemstone, why hasn't he explained anything... Could it be that he's using me to make others believe he doesn't have it, thereby preserving the Divine Position Gemstone, waiting for his own elevation... With this difficulty between us now, how will the Li Family manage afterward... He doesn't have the Jade Token, hence all these elaborate measures..." Li Xianchun's face grew darker.

After a long time, Li Xianchun clenched his teeth, burned the report, and immediately left the Li Family, heading to courtyard number seven.

"Patriarch Li visits late at night, what might you advise?" Li Xiu sat in his chair, watching Li Xianchun standing there, showing no sign of inviting him to sit down, speaking indifferently.

"Commander Li, I, Li Xianchun, have wronged you." Li Xianchun deeply bowed to Li Xiu, his sleeves touching the ground.

"What is the reason for such an extravagant gift from Patriarch Li? I am unworthy." Li Xiu feigned surprise.

Li Xianchun rose, speaking sincerely: "Commander Li, the rumors I spread previously caused very negative impacts on you, this crime is unforgivable."

"Idle gossip, I haven't paid it any mind, Patriarch Li need not be this way." Li Xiu said lightly.

Li Xianchun, hearing this, became more convinced of his hypothesis, bowing again deeply, without raising his head, saying: "Though my actions were greatly erroneous and wronged Commander Li, I do not regret them, for if I cannot drive away those formidable rivals, the Li Family fears having no chance at all. Only thus can the Li Family have a slim opportunity."

"I cannot understand a word of what Patriarch Li is saying." Li Xiu said coldly.

"Commander Li, please view this, it is my Li Family's sincerity as well as an apology to you." Li Xianchun said while placing a list in front of Li Xiu.

Li Xiu glanced at the list; the first few items alone were astonishing, especially the few words on the first line, even Li Xiu was surprised.

"Two bottles... Truth Liquid..." Li Xiu slowly raised his head to look at Li Xianchun.

Few people knew what Truth Liquid was, but Li Xiu was not among them.

Li Xiu had witnessed the power of Truth Liquid with Li Changyin; it was a treasure that allowed a Spirit Casting to possess exclusive Truth Force at the Divine Position Level.

Owning a bottle of Truth Liquid meant one could possess power comparable to a Divine Position in a short time.

Li Changyin had vividly demonstrated the terrifying strength of Truth Liquid, and despite its many deficiencies compared to a real Divine Position, it was still shocking.

Originally, Li Xiu thought such an item, having one bottle within the Li Family would be fortunate.

Even if there were more, they should be with Li Changyin; he hadn't expected that the Li Family still retained two bottles of Truth Liquid after Li Changyin had gone.

"Indeed, two bottles of Truth Liquid. If Commander Li is willing, I would exchange all this for your Divine Position Gemstone." Li Xianchun stared into Li Xiu's eyes as he spoke.

He was ninety percent sure that Li Xiu indeed possessed the Divine Position Gemstone, but maintained a shred of doubt. Thus, he only brought the list, not the Truth Liquid directly, and if any aspect seemed amiss, he would never let the Truth Liquid fall into Li Xiu's hands.

"Patriarch Li truly shows great sincerity, but unfortunately, as you say, I have no Divine Position Gemstone." Li Xiu said lightly.

"Four bottles of Truth Liquid, my Li Family has exhausted everything, hoping Commander Li will agree." Li Xianchun knew words were useless now, only the greatest benefit might sway Li Xiu.

"Is it really four bottles of Truth Liquid?" Li Xiu was honestly somewhat surprised; the Li Family's resources were richer than he imagined.

"If there weren't, how could I dare face you?" Li Xianchun said.

Li Xiu pondered silently, four bottles of Truth Liquid, combined with the value of the other items, theoretically outmatched the Divine Position Gemstone.

The value of a Divine Position Gemstone was high because it was so rare, difficult to obtain, and in great demand, thus making it scarce.

If in the future there are more entities at the Divine Position Level, the value of the Divine Position Gemstone will decrease.

Of course, that's a matter for the future; presently, the value of the Divine Position Gemstone exceeds these items.

But the Divine Position Gemstone cannot be used immediately, while Truth Liquid can instantly grant one the Truth Force. The value depends on circumstance.

Seeing Li Xiu seemed somewhat interested, Li Xianchun gritted his teeth and added: "If Commander Li is willing to exchange, my Li Family also possesses a complete set of Divine Position Demon Spirit corpse materials to offer you, as compensation for my rude actions."

Chapter 905: Harvest

"Is the Patriarch Li's statement true?" Li Xiu looked at Li Xianchun and asked.

"As long as you are willing, I will immediately bring the items for the trade." Li Xianchun immediately said.

"Since the Patriarch Li is so sincere, let it be so." Li Xiu said.

"Commander Li, before the trade, would it be possible for me to have a look at the Divine Position Gemstone... Please don't misunderstand, I have no other intentions. This trade will exhaust the resources of the Li Family, and although I am the patriarch, I must give an account to my clan members... I hope Commander Li will understand..." Li Xianchun seemingly pleaded.

"Of course, the Patriarch Li is spending a considerable amount, naturally, you have the right to examine the goods." Li Xiu did not say much, and took out the Golden Small Box containing the Divine Position Gemstone, opening it in front of Li Xianchun.

At the moment when the mysterious and dreamlike glow entered his view, Li Xianchun was already certain that it was indeed the true Divine Position Gemstone, and his heart couldn't help but race.

Li Xianchun reached out to take the Divine Position Gemstone from the box, but before his fingers could touch it, Li Xiu pressed the lid shut.

"Without seeing the Truth Liquid and the Divine Position Demon Spirit's remains, it's better for the Patriarch Li not to move for now." Li Xiu said indifferently.

"Of course, of course. When can we conduct the trade?" Li Xianchun suppressed the excitement in his heart and looked at Li Xiu to ask.

"I can do it any time." Li Xiu casually replied.

"I wonder if it would be convenient for Commander Li to proceed with the trade at my Li Family tomorrow. Other items can be sent over, but the remains of the Divine Position Demon Spirit are truly inconvenient to move and may require Commander Li to come personally to receive them." Li Xianchun remained cautious, not losing all reason despite the appearance of the Divine Position Gemstone.

"That's fine." Li Xiu said.

Li Xianchun took his leave to prepare all the items on the list back home, apart from the Truth Liquid and the remains of the Divine Position Demon Spirit, a large amount of resources also need preparation.

As long as a Divine Position Level Trial Taker can be created for the Li Family, Li Xianchun would spare no expense, even bankrupting the family.

But things going so smoothly made Li Xianchun feel slightly uneasy.

The arrival of Feng Zheng turned Li Xianchun's unease into apprehension.

"Why are you here?" Li Xianchun frowned when he saw Feng Zheng come directly to the Li Family to find him, as this move effectively exposed his identity.

"There's something you must know, contact was too late, so I had to do this." Feng Zheng directly said: "Han Minghui secretly visited various branches of the Han Family tonight and borrowed a lot of stuff. He's now headed to Courtyard Seven."

Li Xianchun's heart sank upon hearing this. He can hide his whereabouts from Han Minghui, but Han Minghui's movements likely couldn't be hidden from him either.

If Han Minghui is openly borrowing resources from every branch of the Han Family, he must have known about his deal with Li Xiu and is planning to make a desperate gamble to seize the initiative before the trade.

Now Li Xianchun started to worry, if Han Minghui persuades Li Xiu into trading the Divine Position Gemstone tonight, everything would be over.

Li Xianchun now regretted why he did not choose to trade with Li Xiu on that very day when he already confirmed that Li Xiu had the genuine Divine Position Gemstone. What was he hesitating for?

If Han Minghui gets a head start, it would be exceedingly difficult for the Li Family to return to its former glory.

Li Xianchun gritted his teeth and instructed his trusted subordinates to gather information while loading the prepared resources onto the vehicles, ready to set out at any moment.

Soon, the news came back that Han Minghui indeed went to the Han Family and hauled away several large carts of items. Although he acted quietly at night, it couldn't escape people's notice.

Han Minghui's urgency clearly shows his determination to succeed.

Li Xianchun stopped hesitating and directly ordered the vehicles, which had been loaded and ready, to set off without delay towards Courtyard Seven.

"Mr. Jia, please help notify him that I request a meeting with Commander Li." Li Xianchun knocked on the door and courteously asked the old Jia.

"Sorry, the Commander is currently entertaining guests, and it should be this late, I'm afraid it's quite inconvenient. If it's possible, Patriarch Li, please come back tomorrow." Old Jia said as he was about to close the door.

Li Xianchun quickly reached out to stop the door and said, "Mr. Jia, this is of utmost importance; please assist us. The Li Family will surely remember your great kindness."

"Patriarch Li, it's not that this old man is unwilling to help you, but the Commander has instructed not to meet anyone today. Please return." Old Jia said while attempting to close the door again.

Li Xianchun's eyes flashed with a sharp glint, and divine light suddenly burst from his palm. With a sudden exertion of power, he forced the door open and dashed in like a phantom.

Old Jia was furious, not expecting Li Xianchun to be so brazen as to intrude directly, catching him off guard and allowing the door to be forced open.

"Get out!" Old Jia's hand moved like cold lightning, reaching for Li Xianchun's neck with incredible speed, leaving no chance for Li Xianchun to dodge.

But when Old Jia's grasp reached Li Xianchun's neck, he realized that it was merely an illusionary decoy, shattering into light and shadow after the grab.

Meanwhile, Li Xianchun had already dashed into the courtyard, immediately noticing many boxes set up in the yard. Li Xiu and Han Minghui were standing at the main entrance talking, and he immediately shouted, "Commander Li, I have come as promised. I request a word."

Old Jia, as quick as a spirit, caught up, eerily appearing behind Li Xianchun, reaching out to grab him.

"Old Jia, let him come over and close the door." Li Xiu said.

Chapter 906: Harvesting (Part 2)

Old Jia retreated upon hearing the words, and Li Xianchun walked up to Li Xiu, ignoring Han Minghui on the side, saluting Li Xiu and saying: "Commander Li, I have brought the items for the transaction. Shall we proceed as agreed?"

"Well..." Li Xiu glanced at Han Minghui.

Han Minghui smiled and said: "Patriarch Li did not sign a contract with you, Commander. Naturally, you are free to choose. Since ancient times, the highest bidder wins. Even if it's first-come, first-served, I was the one who discussed with you multiple times first... Besides, you've seen my sincerity, everything is here."

"Commander Li, some things can only be offered by our Li Family. Please consider carefully." Li Xianchun spoke, opening the box containing four bottles of Truth Liquid: "Other items, except for the corpse of the Divine Position Demon Spirit, which you need to receive personally, are outside the door. You can inspect them anytime."

"Since Patriarch Li is so sincere, then leave the items here." Li Xiu smiled and said.

"What do you mean, Commander?" Li Xianchun sensed something amiss in Li Xiu's tone and immediately closed the box, staring at Li Xiu.

Li Xiu reached out and took out the Jade Token, clearly showing it to Li Xianchun, and said calmly: "Did Patriarch Li not already say it? I am using the Jade Token to borrow resources from various families. Since Patriarch Li is so gracious in delivering them, I shall gladly accept."

Li Xianchun was struck hard, standing stunned, staring intensely at the Jade Token, trembling all over.

"You... You really have the Jade Token... You're going to destroy my Li Family..." Li Xianchun's eyes turned blood red, like a trapped beast ready to devour.

"Patriarch Li, this is misjudged. You stirred trouble between me and Vice President Han repeated times, disrupted my plans, yet I have not quibbled with you. Knowing I have the Jade Token, you still came personally to offer resources. How could this be my doing to destroy your Li Family?" Li Xiu said calmly.

Li Xianchun's face twisted, appearing extremely grim, he hugged the box and immediately turned to rush out.

"If you wish to leave, I won't stop you, as long as you've thought it through." After finishing, Li Xiu instructed Old Jia to open the door.

Li Xianchun stood at the open door, breathing heavily like a dying beast.

The open door lay ahead, with no one barring him, yet he remained inside, unable to take that step.

His face was extremely contorted, his body trembling, he was speechless for a long while, his teeth grinding harshly.

It was easy to step out, but here in the eternal sky, seeing the Jade Token without obeying, would be equivalent to defying the President's orders. If he did that, the Li Family would have no path forward.

"Bring everything inside." Eventually, Li Xianchun commanded the convoy outside through clenched teeth.

After speaking, Li Xianchun turned to Li Xiu, handing over the box with the Truth Liquid, seeming to use all his might to suppress his anger, squeezing out a few words from between his teeth: "Write an IOU."

Li Xiu took the box with the Truth Liquid, smiling: "No need to bring in the outside items, I only require the Truth Liquid and the corpse of the Divine Position Demon Spirit."

Li Xianchun was slightly startled, quickly realized something, and signaled his family to stop moving.

After Li Xiu took the Truth Liquid, wrote the IOU and pressed his fingerprint, Li Xianchun left the No. 7 courtyard without saying a word.

Han Minghui watched the entire process, feeling secretly fearful.

Li Xiu not wanting the other resources brought by Li Xianchun wasn't out of kindness, nor because he undervalued them, but to use them as bait for bigger fish.

By now, it's likely other families have already received the news, knowing Li Xianchun brought resources to Li Xiu. They'll understand what Li Xianchun wanted with a simple thought.

Now, with Li Xianchun pulling back the items, others will think he failed to exchange them for the Divine Position Gemstone, Li Xiu didn't keep his resources, and previously spoken accusations by Li Xianchun won't stand. At that time, other families will come more frantically to find Li Xiu, seeking to trade for the Divine Position Gemstone.

Li Xianchun suffered such a loss, although this time, he absolutely won't disclose it; even if one beats him to death, he won't speak, swallowing even tooth fragments.

Not because he fears Li Xiu, nor because he's worried Li Xiu won't return the borrowed items. Truth is, even with an IOU, the chances of Li Xiu returning them are quite slim.

What truly scares Li Xianchun is the loss of such important items by the Li Family, another major blow to their strength, widening the gap with other families.

If the strength gap can't be narrowed, then other families must also suffer losses for the Li Family to remain among them.

So even knowing Li Xiu's plan, despite being deceived so badly by him, Li Xianchun will still assist Li Xiu in fulfilling his plan, even hoping it'll succeed, with other families suffering more.

Being ensnared, one becomes involuntary.

"This person's ruthlessness is truly terrifying." Han Minghui commented, looking complexly at Li Xiu.

"You can transport your items back too." Li Xiu glanced at Han Minghui's boxes brought overnight.

Those boxes truly held resources, but they were of little use to Li Xiu now, as Han Family's real top treasures were already in his possession.

Chapter 907: Harvesting (Part 3)

"Please do not forget your promise, Commander Li," Han Minghui sighed.

"As long as I live, you will certainly have one of the Divine Position Gemstones that I acquire," Li Xiu said solemnly.

Although Han Minghui was reluctant to hand the initiative over to Li Xiu, as it was not her style, she had no other option and could only hope that Li Xiu would keep his word.

The events that occurred during that night's incidents quickly spread amongst the major families, and early the next morning, they gathered at the entrance of Courtyard Seven to find Li Xiu.

The high-ranking officials of the families were now gritting their teeth in anger towards Li Xianchun, believing he intentionally spread those rumors to exchange them for the Divine Position Gemstone.

Li Xianchun had to swallow this bitter fruit in silence, as the Li Family's days in Longevity City grew even more difficult.

Meanwhile, Li Xiu entered harvest mode, collecting anything he set his eyes on, leaving behind a collection of IOUs.

The families that Li Xiu harvested shared the same sentiment as Li Xianchun, refusing to suffer losses alone, as it would compromise their future standing in Longevity City.

In tacit agreement, they didn't mention their losses, while Longevity City maintained a false peace as each family swallowed their grievances.

The Sun Family and Mo Family were the only ones spared from Li Xiu's collection; the Sun Family because Sun Tianbing had preemptively given offerings to Li Xiu, and the Mo Family likely because an elder had forewarned them.

Only after Li Xiu completed his harvesting did the family leaders run to the president, crying and lodging complaints, only to be dismissed by a single comment from the president.

Li Xiu was representing Longevity City to risk his life, and if they wanted their things back, they were welcome to risk their lives in his place.

After completing his collection, Li Xiu stayed in seclusion, not even attending the Trial Taker Tournament. He needed to quickly enhance his strength.

The vast resources he acquired this time were enough to advance him to the Spirit Casting Peak.

Several days later, Li Xiu arrived at the Li Family to view the Divine Position Demon Spirit remains that Li Xianchun mentioned.

It was completely different from what Li Xiu had imagined; not a decaying corpse but a complete demon spirit corpse.

The corpse, larger than a Blue Whale, appeared entirely like an orange gemstone, emitting a dreamlike glow.

This demon spirit had the form of a creature with a lower body like a crab and an upper half resembling a human, possessing three heads and six armed blades.

From afar, it looked like a colossal gemstone sculpture forged from orange sapphire, sinister yet splendid, as if an Evil God had descended.

"Patriarch Li, what is the origin of this demon spirit?" Li Xiu asked as he examined the remains.

Li Xianchun showed no temper in front of Li Xiu, expressionless as he said, "This was a demon spirit hunted by an elder from the old generation of the Li Family, with the help of the president. I only heard that it resided in a place called Flame Mountain. That elder discovered it was about to give birth and gathered many friends to attempt to trap and kill it during childbirth, but they suffered heavy losses. Even in labor, it was ferociously unmatched, beyond the power of several Spirit Casters. Ultimately, it required the president's intervention to be killed."

Li Xianchun paused, then continued, "Unfortunately, this demon spirit did not produce a Demon Spirit Gemstone, nor did it yield anything else, only leaving behind this corpse. The Divine Position Level Demon Core had long been extracted, and now only this corpse material remains."

"With such advanced materials, why didn't your Li Family use it?" Li Xiu found the situation peculiar.

Materials at the Divine Position Level, even without any technical refinement, could be used as weapons or armor with formidable capabilities.

This corpse is more than sufficient to create a dozen sets of armor, with more potential for weapons. How could it be left unused here for decades?

Li Xianchun smirked coldly, "We want to use it, but we must be able to. The energy contained in this corpse is extraordinarily peculiar. If a Trial Taker's body is exposed to its glow for an extended period, it causes mutations."

"Mutations?" Li Xiu was somewhat surprised.

"Similar to cancer," Li Xianchun shrugged.

"Is it like nuclear radiation?" Li Xiu then understood why the Li Family sealed it in an underground chamber unused for so long.

Armor and weapons made from such materials would be too dangerous to wear, equivalent to suicide.

"That Li Xianchun, no wonder he's willing to trade this away; he can't even use it, probably hoping to see my downfall," thought Li Xiu, sending for Old Wen to deliver a message.

Not long after, Old Wen arrived at the chamber with men and equipment.

Unexpectedly, Old Wen brought Professor Xu and other veteran researchers, all clad in special protective suits.

At the sight of the Divine Position Demon Spirit remains, Old Wen, Professor Xu, and the researchers' eyes gleamed like wolves encountering blood.

"Complete materials at the Divine Position Level... magnificent..." Without needing instruction, they set about examining the materials.

Li Xianchun watched coldly, saying nothing.

He doubted Li Xiu would be able to utilize the remains; previous family elders had researched it, and if a solution existed, it wouldn't be neglected here.

Old Wen and the old men tinkered with the remains for quite a while before Old Wen approached Li Xiu with a serious expression.

Seeing Old Wen's demeanor, Li Xianchun smirked inwardly, assuming Old Wen was also stumped.

"Old Wen, how is it?" Li Xiu inquired of Old Wen.

"This thing is quite peculiar..." Old Wen replied with an odd expression.

"How so?" Li Xiu prompted again.

"This thing... it might be alive..." Old Wen's words changed the expressions of both Li Xiu and Li Xianchun.

Chapter 908: Miracle Born in the Womb

"Alive? That's impossible... The Demon Core has already been extracted... how can it be alive?" Li Xianchun felt that the old man was insulting his intelligence.

This Divine Position Demon Spirit's corpse has been here for decades. If it were alive, how could it have stayed here all this time?

Even if it didn't rush out to kill all the Li Family, it should have escaped. How could it possibly stay here honestly for decades?

Moreover, the Demon Core has been extracted; how can it still be alive?

Li Xiu said nothing, merely looking at the old man, waiting for him to explain.

The old man glanced at Li Xianchun and then said, "According to our inspection, the Light Energy inside the corpse is active, so it must be alive. Otherwise, there's no way to explain why the Light Energy is still active."

After speaking, the old man looked at Li Xianchun and asked, "When you hunted this Divine Position Demon Spirit, was it giving birth?"

They had not previously told the old man the origin of this Demon Spirit, nor had they mentioned the matter of the Demon Spirit giving birth.

The fact that the old man could inspect and find that the Demon Spirit was giving birth when it was killed was somewhat surprising to Li Xianchun.

"Yes." Li Xianchun nodded.

"Then there's no mistake. What about the Demon Spirit offspring it gave birth to?" the old man asked again.

"The president took it away." Li Xianchun replied.

"How many?" the old man asked suddenly, slightly startling Li Xianchun.

"Naturally, only one. A Demon Spirit of such level could not possibly give birth to many offspring." Li Xianchun replied truthfully.

The old man pondered and said, "Based on the current information, this Demon Spirit should have been nurturing two offspring. It was killed after giving birth to the first, and the second offspring, which had yet to be born, remained inside its corpse. However, the offspring that didn't have time to be born didn't die; it continued to grow inside the Demon Spirit's corpse."

"You mean there's still a Demon Spirit offspring inside the Demon Spirit's body?" Li Xiu exclaimed in surprise.

"It may no longer be an offspring. Over these years, it has been absorbing the mother's Light Energy and may have already grown up," the old man said.

"Can you detect what level it is now?" Li Xiu asked.

"I'm afraid it's difficult to detect," the old man shook his head.

Li Xiu stared at the corpse, frowning silently. If the offspring inside had already grown to the Divine Position Level, he might not be able to kill it.

The thing is undoubtedly valuable, but if brought back, it could indeed become a big problem.

"I want to bring it back. What do you think?" Li Xiu asked the old man.

"Although it's somewhat troublesome, it can be brought back for research," the old man said expressionlessly.

Li Xiu felt assured immediately. Knowing the old man so well, he could tell from his expression that he was determined to obtain this.

"In that case, thank you, Patriarch Li." After speaking, Li Xiu said to the old man, "Take the thing back."

Li Xianchun's expression changed unpredictably. If there was indeed a developing Divine Position Demon Spirit descendant inside, it might be able to ascend to the Divine Position Level.

If it could be trapped now, they could kill a Divine Position Demon Spirit at a very low cost in the future.

If it released a Divine Position Gemstone, it would undoubtedly be a great boon for the Li Family.

Even if no Divine Position Gemstone came forth, obtaining Divine Skills or Demon Spirits could significantly boost the Li Family's strength.

But now he could only watch helplessly as Li Xiu's people took the corpse away, which made Li Xianchun nearly want to spit blood in frustration.

He had calculated everything meticulously, yet he always seemed to suffer great losses in front of Li Xiu.

Li Xiu wrote an IOU and had the Demon Spirit's corpse brought back.

Li Xiu originally wanted to take the Demon Spirit's corpse to the institute first, but after leaving the Li Family, the old man approached, whispering, "This thing must be taken to Compound No. 7; it can't go to the institute."

"Why?" Li Xiu asked.

"Earlier, with Li Xianchun present, I didn't explain clearly. The Demon Spirit offspring in the mother was not fully developed at birth, and its connection to the mother was not cut. It regarded the mother as part of itself, and over the years, it has merged with the mother, turning the corpse into a new Demon Spirit," the old man whispered excitedly. "Now, it's a Divine Position Demon Spirit, but one that hasn't learned to fight or even move. It's a living treasure. Killing it now makes anything possible."

Li Xiu also rejoiced upon hearing this, understanding the old man's implication.

"Anything possible" referred to the possibility of breaking out a Divine Position Gemstone, the Demon Spirit Ring, the Skill Ring, etc.

The key is it has no ability to resist, making killing it much easier than killing a real Divine Position Demon Spirit.

"The institute can't handle any disruptions; your Compound No. 7 has a special defense system. If anything goes wrong, it can provide some resistance," the old man said.

"Okay, then take it to Compound No. 7," Li Xiu nodded slightly, having them take the Demon Spirit's corpse to Compound No. 7.

After the corpse was transported to Compound No. 7, the old man and Professor Xu brought some instruments to re-examine the corpse.

The results were as the old man and they had previously predicted. It was certain that the offspring had become part of the mother and had merged with the corpse into a new Demon Spirit.

Chapter 909: Miracle of Nativity_2

However, because the juvenile itself is not fully developed, it has not acquired various inherited abilities and knowledge, merely merging with the corpse of the mother body through instinct, relying on the energy of the mother body's corpse to sustain its life growth.

It only knows how to absorb the mother's energy, nothing else, effectively becoming an idiot vegetable Divine Position Demon Spirit.

"If we want to kill it now, there will be some risks," Lao Guan analyzed. "Although it understands nothing now, doesn't even know how to drive its body to action, if attacked, its instincts might drive it to seek survival, at which point it might instinctively learn to act and fight. Therefore, if we want to kill it, it's best to resolve it swiftly, giving it no chance to resist, otherwise we'd need to set up suppression techniques in advance, so even if it fights back, we'll still be able to control the situation."

"I don't have the skill to suppress a Divine Position Level Demon Spirit. Trying to kill it in a single strike would be even more challenging," Li Xiu shook his head.

When it comes to suppression setups, Li Xiu can come up with a few, but whether they will suppress a Divine Position Demon Spirit is a big unknown.

"If those two paths don't work, I have another proposal," Lao Guan seemed prepared, continued, "We can take a gentler approach, first trying to extract Light Energy from its body. When its internal Light Energy decreases to a certain level, it naturally loses its ability to resist, making control easier."

"Will extracting Light Energy make it develop a resistance consciousness?" Li Xiu asked.

"This requires timely observation and control, starting shallow and probing deeper..." Lao Guan roughly explained his plan.

"Alright, let's do as you say," Li Xiu nodded slightly.

With Li Xiu's approval, Lao Guan immediately began preparations.

Though the institute lacks many suppression techniques of the trial takers, using technological methods to impose restrictions and techniques on an immobile demon spirit is not a difficult task.

Before they start extracting Light Energy, they first set up various instruments and machinery for convenience in controlling the Divine Position Demon Spirit.

In case of issues, they could restrict the demon spirit for a while, allowing Li Xiu time to make other plans.

Some equipment needed manufacturing and modification, which took several days.

During these days, Li Xiu continually used various resources to improve his Spirit Casting.

Once their preparations were complete, Li Xiu was still uneasy, discussing with Lao Guan, letting him make some small holes at inconsequential places on the demon spirit.

Ordinary materials cannot leave marks on these corpses, but Professor Xu brought a set of tools made of Divine Position Level materials, similar to drills, barely managing to make a tiny hole at insignificant parts of the corpse.

Just making a less than one-centimeter-deep hole took nearly another two days.

After making several small holes, Li Xiu summoned the Forbidden Spear, firing bullets into each of the small holes.

Only then did Li Xiu feel assured enough to let Lao Guan and the others begin extracting the demon spirit's Light Energy, which would be sent into the Light Energy container researched by Professor Xu.

Li Xiu watched the demon spirit, fully bound and connected with equipment, as an orange Light Energy was extracted along transparent tubes, slowly fed into the container.

Shaped like a gas tank but several times larger, with a transparent upper half and metal lower half, the Light Energy container gradually accumulated orange brightness.

Clusters of orange light made the container increasingly bright, and Lao Guan and others monitored the data on the demon spirit's instruments closely.

"All is normal... Light Energy Activity within the corpse is stable... value 76... value 75..." The researchers monitoring various instruments continuously reported data.

Lao Guan and Professor Xu listened to various data while giving out commands.

Everything went smoothly. The second transmission pipe lit up, extracting Light Energy from the corpse alongside the first.

Due to the immense amount of Light Energy contained within the Divine Position Demon Spirit's body, a single pipe's extraction would not diminish the body's Light Energy to the required level within a year.

After the second pipe activation, Lao Guan and Professor Xu were somewhat tense, repeatedly inquiring about numerous values while observing the data.

Fortunately, there were no mishaps, and after a certain period of second pipe activation, the corpse's situation remained stable.

After an hour, Qiu Tianyu asked, "Guan Lao, all values are very stable, should we open the third pipe?"

"Let's stop here for today, maintain two pipes for now, and observe for two days before deciding," Lao Guan wiped the sweat off his forehead.

Even he felt substantial psychological pressure at this time, with the risk of potentially losing many lives upon any misstep, so he was certainly not negligent.

Professor Xu nodded, saying, "We cannot rush this; the two pipes should remain stable, observed for at least seven days. During this time, you will split into two group shifts, rotating vigilantly. Any data fluctuations, no matter how minute an abnormality, must be immediately reported. Guan Lao and I will rotate watching over."

Chapter 910: Miracle from Birth_3

The group responded with a nod, and under Professor Xu's command, they divided into two teams, one to rest and the other to keep an eye on the data.

Li Xiu kept watching from the side; with such high-tech stuff, he couldn't offer much help, just observing.

The tall demon spirit corpse emitted a dazzling orange light, and Li Xiu wore the same special work suit as the researchers to protect against the orange light affecting his body.

His eyes never left the demon spirit's body. Even though all the data seemed normal, Li Xiu felt uneasy.

Everything was too smooth. Even if it was an imbecile demon spirit, an imbecile should still have some sense.

No matter how foolish someone is, if blood is drawn from them, they should know pain and fear.

Yet this demon spirit showed no reaction, like a vegetative state.

Li Xiu wasn't sure if vegetative people felt anything; he hoped they didn't and wished for everything to continue smoothly.

"Commander, you should go rest for now. We've got everything here covered, and I'll have someone notify you immediately if anything unusual happens," Professor Xu said, walking over.

"No need, seven days are nothing for the Trial Taker," Li Xiu planned to oversee everything from start to finish, ready to address any emergency immediately.

"This isn't just a one or two-day task. Can you sustain vigilance for seven days, or perhaps a month? To reduce the demon spirit divine position's light energy to the ideal level, it would take at least two months to complete even if all pipelines were activated simultaneously. Can you stay sleepless for two months?" Old Guan said, approaching.

"Old Guan, I feel a bit uneasy — are all the metrics truly stable?" Li Xiu hesitated and spoke.

"I just checked, very stable, not a ripple — don't worry," Old Guan replied.

"It's precisely because there's not a ripple that makes me uneasy. If there were disturbances we could fix, that would be better," Li Xiu said.

Professor Xu and Old Guan exchanged glances, then Professor Xu said, "Your worries aren't unfounded. I have similar concerns. Yet, with the current stability and no anomalies, we can't just stop now, can we?"

Old Guan remained silent, walked over, and checked all the instrument readings again. After reviewing them, he returned to Li Xiu and said, "All values are indeed stable to the point of unease. Do you have any thoughts?"

Li Xiu shook his head. "I don't have any thoughts or discoveries, just a feeling of unease."

"Unease isn't just a feeling; it's your subconscious realizing something, hence the unease. Since we're all a bit uneasy, let's halt for now," Old Guan decisively commanded the researchers to shut down the light energy extraction devices.

The transparent pipelines transporting the orange light energy gradually dimmed and finally ceased extracting light energy.

Staff approached and disassembled the light-absorbing devices from the demon spirit.

The first light-absorbing device was removed smoothly, but while the staff were disassembling the second one, the demon spirit's body suddenly shook.

The sudden jolt sent the staff tumbling from the scaffold, but Li Xiu reacted quickly, catching both workers mid-air with his hands.

As Li Xiu descended, he saw the demon spirit's body shivering, and at its abdomen, armor-like orange-blue crystals swelled up rapidly, soon resembling a pregnant woman's belly.

Everyone's faces changed drastically. Old Guan and Professor Xu immediately commanded everyone to activate various containment devices.

Light burst forth from the devices containing the demon spirit, crisscrossing its body like rainbow webs, enveloping it within.

Enclosed by the light web, the demon spirit's body trembled less, yet the bulging abdomen showed no signs of stopping and continued to enlarge.

The rainbow-like radiance had already sunk into its belly, yet the belly continued to grow.

At the first moment, Li Xiu activated the Evil Spirit Token's Dual Casting Spirit, merging the red and blue casting spirits with his body.

Simultaneously, he summoned the Forbidden Spear in Gatling form, and blood vine-like casting spirits surfaced on its barrel.

Li Xiu aimed the Forbidden Spear at the demon spirit but did not immediately attack.

"Light Energy Activity...1785...1986...2059...Huh...Light Energy Activity began decreasing...1987...1682...957...571...271...168...88...now within normal range..."

Although staff reported values returning to normal levels, most already back to standard levels, no one believed the demon spirit truly returned to normal.

The demon spirit's inflated belly suddenly contracted, condensing into a strange face in its abdominal cavity.

The face, egg-shaped, was much smaller than the three faces atop the demon spirit's head and resembled a face-shaped belt buckle in its abdominal area.

The small face had ears, eyes, and a mouth but no nose. The mouth curved just like a clown's smile, slightly upturned at both corners.

While the small face had eyes, they lacked pupils, emitting orange light and drooping in a crescent-shaped manner.

As the little face began to grin, what appeared to be a smile suddenly transformed into a demonic grimace, with saw-like teeth showing inside its mouth.

The containment setup proved effective; no matter how the little face twisted, it couldn't tear through the rainbow light web that entrapped it.

Seeing the apparition break free, the researchers collectively let out a sigh of relief.

Although the containment might not last long, it was better than having no buffer time.

Old Guan intended to say something to Li Xiu, but suddenly, an eerie moment occurred.

The little face ceased its writhing, its drooping eyes glaring at Li Xiu, emitting an eerie voice: "Commander, are you here to kill me?"