

## Soul Pets Bk2 441

### Chapter 441: Overlapping Flames, Three Layers of Burning Flames

Around the Xu Ying were many plant world soul pets that weren't inferior to tenth phase commanders. With Chu Mu's detection ability, there were approximately ten of them.

Chu Mu could only triple control, and since the Devil Tree Battle Soldier was also a plant world soul pet and possessed the life force absorb technique, it would probably be able to slowly whittle down the flower type Xu Ying.

The White Nightmare and Mo Xie's attributes could both suppress plant world soul pets and it wouldn't be a problem for the White Nightmare to fight alone against a tenth phase commander rank flower type soul pet.

Moreover, when night arrived, Mo Xie would be immersed in moonlight, and her strength would increase by a level. It wouldn't be a problem for her to deal with two tenth phase commander rank flower type soul pets.

Nonetheless, while Chu Mu could deal with four commander rank soul pets at once, there were six more which Chu Mu could do nothing about.

The edge of the Sacred Holy Region was comparable to a ninth rank bewildering world so pretty much every fight he took would mean encountering several soul pets that had strength much higher than his. The high level of difficulty was something Chu Mu finally experienced.

With Chu Mu's strength, it would probably be hard to do anything because the moment he started something, he would have to face ten tenth phase commanders!

"Night, go back first." Chu Mu recalled the Night Thunder Dream Beast back into the soul pet space.

The Night Thunder Dream Beast's dream realm effect wasn't exceptionally effective towards plant world soul pets. Chu Mu needed strong fighting strength right now, so he recalled the Night Thunder Dream Beast back into the soul pet space and summoned the White Nightmare in front of him.

The White Nightmare's was afraid its strength would fall behind Chu Mu's other soul pets and had diligently raised itself to the eighth phase ninth stage. Of course, the Binding Wind Spirit and Mo Xie's strength already surpassed its own. Unless it was able to evolve to the ninth phase, it would not be their opponents.

"Nie~.....~" the White Nightmare walked out of Chu Mu's flaming figure and using its other type ability, casually floated into the air...

"You want to deal with two? That's a bit much." Chu Mu saw the White Nightmare's desire to fight and was a bit surprised.

"Nie!!!" firmly said the White Nightmare.

"Ok, even if you can't beat them, we can still run away. When we fight, you have to listen to my instructions and cannot do things your own way. Otherwise, I'll lock you up for ten days to half a month." said Chu Mu.

The White Nightmare diligently nodded its head.

After making himself clear to the White Nightmare, Chu Mu quickly summoned Mo Xie.

While not fighting, Mo Xie would languidly maintain her pitiful state. Even after being summoned by Chu Mu, she promptly jumped onto Chu Mu's shoulders. One of her small tails wrapped itself around Chu Mu's neck; she looked dazed and tired.

"Your turn to fight. Time to focus." Chu Mu picked the small Mo Xie off his shoulders and placed him down on the ground.

The moment heard she could fight, Mo Xie immediately woke up. Her beautiful silver pupils shone a bit brighter, and her nine small tails slowly unfurled, changing into a different form.

Chu Mu quickly gave Mo Xie the method of fighting he wanted her to employ; however, Chu Mu still didn't know how to deal with the other five commanders which gave him a headache.

"Let's try it. Mo Xie, you're the strongest, so you have to get rid of the enemy as fast as you can. Do you understand?!" Chu Mu intentionally stressed Mo Xie as he spoke.

“Wu wu~~~” Mo Xie nodded her head and confidently gave a cry.

“Devil Tree, lay a trap.” Chu Mu gave the Devil Tree Battle Soldier an order.

Flower type and plant type soul pest didn’t have as large area range as wood type soul pets. Thus, the Devil Tree Battle Soldier’s trap was still a effective.

The sea of flowers under the moonlight was particularly tranquil. The pale white radiance from the starry sky shone down on and contrasted against the flowers... amidst the sea of flowers, a silver small fox gracefully walking. With its innocent and adorable appearance, it slowly approached the flower type commanders.

This small fox seemed to be playing around in the flowers before accidentally rolling over to the front of the incomparably powerful plant world soul pets.

The flower type soul pets slightly bent their stalks and the poison sword flower spikes hidden in the ground wriggled against their minute feelers as they prepared to attack. However, when they discovered that it was a small creature that potentially didn’t even have a soul core, the flower type commanders stealthily put away their weapons.

“Wu wu wu~~~~~” the small Mo Xie’s pitiful appearance had tricked many powerful soul pets before, so Chu Mu would employ this method in the face of powerful guardians!

The flower type commanders were so arrogant the thought of attacking this tiny life force didn’t even cross their minds. It was like an ant crawling beside them - they couldn’t even be bothered to raise their foot and crush it to death.

However, while these flower type commanders ignored this small fellow, they didn’t notice that the small Mo Xie’s pair of glistening silver pupils flickered with a cold and crafty radiance!

“Wu wu wu wu!!!!!!”

Suddenly, Mo Xie’s eyes locked onto the weakest flower type commander. She demonically jumped in front of it and her body suddenly split into five silver moonlit figures!

The five graceful Mo Xies outlandishly appeared in five directions around the flower type commander. Their nine tails abruptly unfurled and catching it off guard, locked down the flower type commander's stalk!!

Five Night Inferno Fox Diagram!

This was Mo Xie's strongest single target attack technique. Even in her pitiful appearance state, she could exhibit seventy percent of its strength. However, Mo Xie's tail was burning with high rank blood flames which dealt enough damage to plant world soul pets to compensate for the weakened effect of her effects in her pitiful state!!!

Five figures simultaneously rushed from five directions and forty five flaming fox tails smashed down at the same time, dealing serious damage to the flower type commander's stalk!

"Pi....~...~..."

This flower type commander didn't have any defensive preparations and under the moonlight, Mo Xie's strength rose by another level. This eighth rank powerful damaging ability nearly instantly killed the tenth phase flower type soul pet!

"Si....."

"Hu hu~~~~"

The sudden appearance of the flames immediately startled the surrounding three flowers and grass type commanders. It was now that they finally realized that this small fox was actually a powerful creature in disguise!!

Each of their powerful weapons appeared and they fiercely swung them at Mo Xie!

Mo Xie's figure quickly disappeared. After seeing the barrage of root and flower spike attacks, she decisively abandoned the chance to deliver the fatal blow to the heavily wounded flower type soul pet. She stepped on a large ball of scorching hot fire as she fled into the distance.

“Wu wu wu~~~~~” the fire followed behind Mo Xie as vigorous flames appeared on the ends of Mo Xie’s tail while she ran. Immediately after, it was as if the fire caught onto her body and began to burn her entire body starting from her tail....

During the course of the burning, Mo Xie seemed to exchange her body in the flames. She demonically and beautifully transformed into an Royal Flame Nine Tailed inferno Fox. Relying on her dodging abilities that surpassed all other types of soul pets, she fled back towards Chu Mu as fast as lightning amidst the torrent of flower spike and root attacks that split the earth and air.

The attacks from plant world soul pets were inherently extremely concentrated and numerous. These terrifying attacks wouldn’t leave any gaps and only Mo Xie’s extreme dodging ability and absolute speed allowed her to escape from them.

Mo Xie ran exceptionally fast and within a few second, she had made it a few hundred meters, fleeing outside the attacking range of the four flower type soul pets.

The flower type commander attacked by Mo Xie and the other three commanders naturally wouldn’t let Mo Xie who had launched a sneak attack on them flee. They began to move their bodies, using their unique moving mechanism to chase after Mo Xie.

“Devil Tree Battle Soldier, Natural Wood Trap!”

Chu Mu was waiting for this moment. When he saw the four flower type commanders enter the trap, he decisively had the Devil Tree Battle Soldier release the trap!

The Devil Tree Battle Soldier had lain a trap that was nearly a hundred meters in range. The moment these four flower type commander stepped into it, they fell into the pitfall trap.

However, plant world soul pets had their own unique abilities at the end of the day and the four flower type soul pets quickly extended their flower feelers into the surroundings, not giving the Devil Tree Battle Soldier the chance to drag them into the trap. Using their feelers, they hovered above the enormous trap.

“White Nightmare, Heavenly Flame Rite!”

“Mo Xie, Heavenly Flame Rite!”

Chu Mu decisively gave orders to his soul pets.

The moment his voice faded, Chu Mu's two black pupils quickly began to burn with a white devil flame. He lifted his two hands up into the air and in his palms burned two balls of quietly cold white demonic devil flames!

The White Nightmare's devil technique had already been prepared and when Chu Mu gave the order, the White Nightmare pointed its arms at the sky. Its fingers burning with devil flames released a white pillar of light that fell on top of the Natural Wood Trap.

The blood flames and demon fire evil flames burning on the running Mo Xie's body were even more vigorous. As an evil light blossomed from Mo Xie's eyes, two types of flames began to interweave as they ascended into the air, landing at the same location as the White Nightmare's white demonic devil flames!

“White Demonic Heavenly Flame Rite!”

Mo Xie finished the incantation! This time, he didn't use Chong Mei to replicate the fire type technique. Instead he directly chanted the seventh rank fire type technique, Heavenly Flame Rite!

Two months ago, Chu Mu had spent 30 million on the purest version of the seventh rank fire type technique - Heavenly Flame Rite. With Chu Mu's fifth remembrance spirit master strength, in addition with the white demonic devil flame effect, when he used the technique, Chu Mu's Heavenly Flame Rite on its own had the might nearing the ninth rank!

There was a layering of three Heavenly Flame Rites: three different colored flames blended together and a gorgeous pillar of light magnificently dropped down!!

A long flaming dragon let out a long dragon roar as it ascended from the depths of the the Natural Wood Trap. It managed to fully engulf the four flower type and grass type commanders!!

Body, blood, and soul. Three types of burning. Layered together, they produced a ninth rank mid stage fire type technique that completely swallowed up the four flower type soul pets!

The flower type commander that was already wounded by Mo Xie was burned to ashes by the three layered fire and completely disappeared.

The other three soul pets were heavily wounded by the fire. If it wasn't because plant world soul pets had the uniqueness of double the normal amount of life force, the completely healthy commanders probably would have been instakilled by the technique!

“Kill them before the other six commander make their way over!” Chu Mu immediately gave the order to kill!

Many flower type soul pets had powerful healing abilities, so he definitely couldn't give them the chance to rest. Otherwise, Chu Mu would have to face nine tenth phase flower type commanders!!!

#### Chapter 442: Wilted Sacred Blue Flower, Searching For Clues

Mo Xie's attack had dual flame effects and the White Nightmare's flame not only burned the body, but also fatally burned the soul.

Taking advantage of the Heavenly Flame Rite's rising torrential flames, Mo Xie and the White Nightmare each locked onto a flower type and grass type commander which they began to launch attacks on!

As for the other six flower and grass type commanders, they had already noticed the situation here and were in the process of coming over from 100 meters away to provide assistance.

However, these tenth phase commanders with slow reactions arrived too late. Mo Xie and the White Nightmare were each able to burn their opponents into crisps. Meanwhile, the Devil Tree Battle Soldier's life force absorb was able to suck the other flower type commander of all its remaining life force.

When the six commanders made their way over, the four commanders had already been thoroughly dealt with by Chu Mu's soul pets. Chu Mu then, according to his original plan, had Mo Xie deal with two tenth phase commanders, the White Nightmare deal with two and himself and the Devil Tree Battle Soldier deal with two together.

The soul power of soul pet trainers was limited, but if Chu Mu put his focus on the Devil Tree Battle Soldier and used soul techniques at crucial moments, he would be able to stall a bit of time. As long as Chu Mu could quickly end her fight, the six commanders could be gotten rid of.

After reaching the ninth phase, Mo Xie's attacks had become incredibly strong. If Chu Mu had summoned Mo Xie during the beast fighting, he probably wouldn't have had to use the stalling tactic and would be able to kill all of the fighting beasts.

The strength of a ninth phase first stage middle class monarch was equivalent to a tenth phase high class commander.

Mo Xie had the moonlight effect and the sub-attribute of fire. This was equivalent to making her strength stronger than the high class commanders by two levels. Further adding on the fact that her attribute countered the commanders', it was essentially an entire three levels of difference.

The environment factor could probably only compensate one level for these flower type soul pets, so Mo Xie's strength was two levels higher than the two high class commanders she was about to face!

When Mo Xie's strength was within a level of a difference, she was practically undefeatable, even less so if her strength was higher than the opponent's by two levels!

The question for Mo Xie wasn't whether she could defeat these two tenth phase commanders, but how long it would take.

Fortunately, Mo Xie's fight didn't last too long. Her nine tails completely wrapped up one of the high class flower type commanders and the combination of snapping its body and the royal flame strength allowed her to kill it in a short period of time.

After removing one of the commanders, the other one was of no problem. Soon, the grass type commander could no longer resist Mo Xie's savage claws and was ripped to pieces by her!

“Wu wu wu wu~~~~~”

After killing two of the commanders, Mo Xie immediately locked onto the two commanders fighting with the Devil Tree Battle Soldier and Chu Mu.



It was indeed hard for Chu Mu and the Devil Tree Battle Soldier to deal with the two commanders and if another minute had passed, the Devil Tree Battle Soldier probably would have struggled to persevere.

However, Mo Xie made her way over with determination!

Mo Xie didn't immediately launch herself at the two flower type soul pets. Instead, she stood a hundred meters away; her silver and proud body stood there arrogantly and she raised her head towards the curved moon, letting out a long howl!!

“Hu hu hu hu hu~~~~~”

The wind of royal flames chaotically swayed, blowing over Mo Xie's beautiful silver fur.

As Mo Xie fermented her royal flames, a gorgeous crown of fire appeared around her body. This crown of fire had thirteen layers and was incomparably luminous!

Eighth rank fire type technique - Thirteen Inferno Hells!

Thirteen layers of fire wildly shot into the sky and reached a high peak before suddenly dropping down. They were like thirteen flaming foxes that swooped down in an imposing manner; they were full of a scorching fire power!

Mo Xie's eighth rank fire type technique was launched only at the flower type commander. The flower type commander was barely able to put up a floral hoop and resist the baptism from the Thirteen Inferno Hells.

However, while it was able to resist the first few waves of the inferno hells, it was unable to completely stop the entire thirteen waves of inferno hells from burning it.

The flames quickly caught onto its body before seeping into its heart and organs and burning them!

After releasing the technique, Mo Xie's entire body began to burn with flames and she used the Death Assault technique!

Phantom Inferno Flame Claw!

Five flaming nine tailed foxes flew at the flower type commander and five sets of claws ripped at five vital locations on its body.

The flower type commander was already burning with a torrential flame before suffering from the five claw attacks. Its body immediately snapped...

“Devil Tree Battle Soldier, Piercing Branch!” Chu Mu seized the opportunity and immediately had the Devil Tree Battle Soldier launch an attack on the heavily wounded flower type commander.

The sharp piercing branch struck the wound opened up by Mo Xie allowing poison to enter while also engaging in life force absorb!

The flower type commander’s life force was quickly consumed and within a few seconds in the burning flames, its life force slowly faded away...

“Get rid of the other!” Chu Mu fighting tempo was exceptionally fast. After killing the flower type commander, in the next second, he locked onto the other flower type commander!

The other flower type commander was clearly at a disadvantage and it used a fleeing technique.

A large pile of flower petals drifted through the air. The flower type soul pet’s body was already bound by the Devil Tree Battle Soldier, but when the flower petals landed on the ground, the small flower type soul pet mysteriously disappeared in the blanket of flowers. It was unknown where it went.

“It’s feld far away. The ability of flower type soul pets to flee is among the very best. Young master doesn’t have to pay heed to it. Get rid of the other two.” said Old Li.

Chu Mu recovered from the shock of the flower type commander’s escape. He immediately had the Devil Tree Battle Soldier and the Mo Xie enter into the White Nightmare’s difficult fight. With the coordination of the three soul pets, the last two grass type commanders were finally killed by Chu Mu.

Next, there was only the Xu Ying which strength reached the peak commander rank.

Although the Xu Ying's strength was a bit stronger than the flower and grass type commanders, it hadn't entered the fight just now. Since it was the only one left, Chu Mu's soul pets got rid of it extremely easily.

Before long, Chu Mu had swept through all the obstacles.

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Two hundred meters in front of the area which the Xu Ying was defeated was the very center of the flower sea.

It was night time and Chu Mu slowly stepped towards this location which he had previously been before. A familiar feeling and an old memory drifted into his mind, making Chu Mu slowly grow absent minded.

"Young master, the Curved Spirit Root is still here. Haha, this great thing can make the Devil Tree Battle Soldier's strength rise to the middle class monarch rank. Moreover, once you finish the realm breakthrough mission is finished, young master will be able to accumulate about 400 million. Although it's a bit expensive, it's probably worth to use the 400 million to raise the Devil Tree Battle Soldier to the ninth phase middle class monarch level. In this manner, young master will have more assurance!" Old Li diligently ran to the Curved Spirit Root and took matters into his own hands to begin digging out the spirit item.

A smile rose on Chu Mu's face. After the second realm was finished, the Devil Tree Battle Soldier's strength would rise by two levels, meaning he would have a total of three ninth phase middle class commanders!

Old Li's method of digging out the spirit root was fine; since he was so passionately digging away, Chu Mu was able to examine this area in detail.

The scenery at night time was a bit different from the scenery in his memory, but Chu Mu was sure he had encountered the young woman who defected in this place. The beautiful flowers that had blossomed around this area were also of the same color and arrangement.

Chu Mu walked towards the area which the Sacred Blue Flower had blossomed and began to look at the soil in detail.

“Devil Tree Battle Soldier, see what’s below the soil.” Chu Mu said to the Devil Tree Battle Soldier.

Chu Mu remembered how back then after he had signed a soul pact with the young woman who defected, the blossoming Sacred Blue Flower had withered. If this was really the place, the the Sacred Blue Flower’s withered flower petals should be buried in the soil. Even if it had already decomposed in the time span of twelve years, there should still be some vestiges left.

“O~~~~~”

The Devil Tree Battle Soldier rapidly used its roots to search through the soil. It was possible to visibly see the ground wriggle as the Devil Tree Battle Soldier’s roots searched...

A short while later, the Devil Tree Battle Soldier’s feeler-like roots withdrew from the ground and it indicated that it didn’t find anything.

“Expand the area a bit. Take out anything you find for me to see.” said Chu Mu.

The Devil Tree Battle Soldier nodded its head and stuck all of its roots underground. It began to conduct a blanket search over an even larger area of the center of the flower sea.

Chu Mu remembered that when he saw the young woman who defected, she was completely naked. She had exposed her perfect body in front of him and Chu Mu felt that if she was innately a human, then it was strange how she didn’t have anything on. Even if she was originally wearing something, there was no need to have nothing on.

If she did have something, then perhaps she had thrown it away here before it was slowly buried by the soil. Or perhaps she had hidden her things herself.

.....

The Devil Tree Battle Soldier searched a large area and really did find many strange objects in the soil:

A few low rank soul crystals, a few special petals from plant soul pets that wouldn't decompose, a few nearly decomposed flower petals, a rock he had never seen before, a few crystals that had crystallized due to their unique earthen nature, a natural metal that was as large as a thumb with a few earthen marks, and numerous fragments from medicine bottles...

Chu Mu happened to remember the fragments from medicine bottles. After he had signed a soul pact with the young woman who defected, his soul had suffered an enormous shock and in order to protect his soul, Liu Binglan had given him soul medicine.

These fragments should have been from the medicine bottles that held the soul medicine. Liu Binglan had crushed them out of anger and twelve years later, they had sunk into the soil.

"Put these items away first." said Old Li.

"What use are these items?" asked Chu Mu. These items didn't seem to have anything to do with the young woman who defected; nor were they items he wanted.

"Put them away first. In any case, we don't have any clues. When we go back, have scholars who are proficient at researching plants, earth quality and rocks look at them. See if any of the items are abnormal appearances. For example, the leaves and flower petals that haven't decomposed. There are many old scholars in Soul Palace who are so old all their teeth have nearly fallen out. Have them take a stab at it. They can also determine what soul pet it is so to a certain extent, it will be able to determine the lineage of the young woman soul pet who defected." said Old Li.

Chu Mu felt this was logical and promptly nodded his head as he put away these random objects.

#### Chapter 443: Sacred Region, Surprised Discovery of the Cyan Hidden Dragon!

Old Li was an experienced seeker of treasure. His short figure quickly did a round in this flower sea. Even Chu Mu didn't know where he went.

After not too long, Old Li quickly ran back and said to Chu Mu, "Young master, young master, there's good stuff."

"What treasure?" Chu Mu's eyes lit up.

“If young master captures an Iridescent Iris Demon, you will be counted as success in the first realm, correct?” Old Li said.

“Be concise, don’t waste my time.” Chu Mu was too lazy to hear the old man blabber.

“Young master chose Holy Stem Sacred Region, meaning after capturing any soul pet, your ranking will become last place of the first tier of the hunting realm honor challenge.

Yet, to true first tier experts, though the Holy Stem Sacred Region is dangerous, capturing the Iridescent Iris Demon isn’t too hard. So, there are other soul pets that should be captured in this region.” Old Li still continued his rant.

Chu Mu understood what Old Li said. In the hunting realm segment, the first tier had many regions to pick from, many of which needed commander ranks or even monarch rank captures to advance to the next segment. If one caught similar ranking soul pets here, then one’s ranking would be further ahead.

Holy Stem Sacred Region was the hardest region, so selecting it is equivalent to an honor challenge, similar to Chu Mu’s honor challenge in the Beast Fighting segment. In the beast fighting segment, surviving for ten thousand minutes could cause one to reach THE last place of the Battle of the Realm leader board. Past that, the ranking was dependant on time as well as beast amount.

Similarly, in the Holy Stem Sacred Region, capturing a lowest difficulty Iridescent Iris Demon was like succeeding the honor challenge. If everyone completed it, it would be decided by time to completion.

But, if the competitors had even stronger skill and could capture a higher difficulty soul pet, they could definitely raise their rankings.

When Chu Mu entered the Holy Stem Sacred Region, he specially looked at the realm requirements. Capturing the Iridescent Iris Demon was the lowest difficulty. There was also capturing a Heavenly Vine Demon, an Ancient Tree Demon, a Ghost Spider Flower Demon, and various other harder soul pets. There was even a requirement to capture a monarch rank Flower Matriarch, which was incredibly difficult.

With Old Li's excited shouting, the fellow definitely found a soul pet that could push Chu Mu's honor ranking higher!

"Can it be that you found a young Flower Matriarch?" Chu Mu immediately questioned.

A young Flower Matriarch was extremely difficult to find. If Chu Mu could get one, he would definitely solidify his ranking in the top few. If a third tier member's name appeared in the forefront of a first tier honor ranking, it would definitely shock all of Tianxia City.

"Young master, stop daydreaming. A monarch rank in Holy Stem Sacred Region isn't that easy to hunt. At least wait until all your soul pets reach tenth phase before you decide on that. I saw a young Ghost Spider Flower Demon. There are many same species guardians around it, similar to the amount young master just had to face recently." Old Li said.

Those so called experts in second tier could at most handle a couple tenth phase commanders, since tenth phase high class commander ranks were basically equivalent in fighting strength to ninth phase middle class monarchs. So, even experts with all four main soul pets at ninth phase middle class monarch rank, they could only fight five tenth phase commanders normally.

Chu Mu fighting in this Holy Stem Sacred Region could easily face more than nine commander ranks at once. Luckily, if Chu Mu displayed all of his strength, he could still manage that. Yet, not many other second tier experts could do such a feat.

"Young master, find a safe place to rest first, and let your soul pets' fighting strength and your soul power recover. Once you fight again, you can probably call it a day and go back. Loving challenges is a good thing, but challenging over frequently is just brash. Young master has to learn to stop." Old Li said.

Chu Mu nodded. If he could capture the Ghost Spider Flower Demon, his ranking should be able to increase a little further, and would gain him some extra gold. This trip would be worth!

Chu Mu could hide himself very well in a non-combat situation. He specially left the flower sea and found a safe place in the dense jungle. After resting for two days, he adjusted himself back to his peak state and waited until the night before starting his operation.

Having two powerful fire type soul pets was crucial in his fights in the plant world, or else Chu Mu wouldn't easily go and challenge nine commanders.

Overlaid Heavenly Flame Rites was something Chu Mu had to use. Without this technique's powerful destructive abilities, nine commander rank attacks wasn't something Chu Mu's soul pets could withstand. His tactic was to focus fire and get rid of a few in the least time possible, and then take them down one by one after.

The commander ranks that protected the young Ghost Spider Flower Demon were much stronger than the previous wave. At the beginning of this battle, the White Nightmare and Mo Xie both were often injured, many times even falling into utter danger.

Devil Tree Battle Soldier suffered heavy injuries at the very beginning. Unable to cause true harm to the Ghost Spider Flower Demons, he couldn't utilize Life Force Absorb either.

Retracting Devil Tree Battle Soldier, Chu Mu summoned Ning and Ghost King, and told them to take turns defending.

Plant World soul pets all had powerful rooting abilities and resistance to wind, so Chu Mu never summoned Binding Wind Spirit to fight.

What was rare was, White Nightmare used its Resentment Gathering, and forcefully raised itself to ninth phase. It then used its frightening strength and explosive power to kill a tenth phase Ghost Spider Flower Demon to shift the situation a little.

Chu Mu was very good at controlling the big picture. With this as a breakthrough point, Chu Mu could defeat the rest.

After killing one tenth phase Ghost Spider Flower Demon, the pressure clearly was alleviated a little, and Chu Mu slowly turned the situation around.

Though the battle was tough, he could still achieve the final victory. After defeating all the Ghost Spider Flower Demons, Chu Mu's soul power was depleted, finally exhaustingly putting the young Ghost Spider Flower Demon into his soul capture ring.

Chu Mu rested for another two days before following the symbols he made back towards the Sacred Region gate.



Regarding hints about the girl who had defected, Chu Mu could only put the hope in the random items he found in the dirt. Preferably, he could figure out the defected young girl's soul pet bloodline. This way, if there was news of a person who could use powerful soul pet powers or news about her, Chu Mu could pin it accurately onto the defected girl and not be left looking around blindly.

Of course, ideally, he could find some hint that could directly lead to her..... Chu Mu entered the Holy Stem Sacred Region and caught the Ghost Spider Flower Demon in six days. On the way back, he also had an accident, and encountered a group of violent tree demons' attack.

Chu Mu specially waited for himself to recover fully just to prevent such a situation. Yet, after the tough battle, Chu Mu was again rendered tired as he crawled out of the fringes of the Sacred Region.

If Chu Mu encountered this issue again, he would definitely lose the ability to make it back. So, when his own fighting strength was depleted, Chu Mu was extra careful. He spent another three full days before slowly nearing the safety belt. The Sacred Region Door was already in front of him, and Chu Mu didn't want his soul pets to waste their stamina anymore, so he pulled his tired body slowly towards the Sacred Region Gate in a slow walk.

The cruelty and danger of a ninth level bewildering world was something Chu Mu truly experienced. If Chu Mu encountered a trap like that right before the flower sea, he wasn't even sure he could have completed this realm challenge.

Sacred Region Gate was on a spacious grass plain. The vision was extremely clear here, and with the sacred guards constantly "cleaning up" the area, it was an absolutely safe region.

Reaching here, Chu Mu's tired face finally split into a smile, and he quickened his steps towards the gate.

He finally managed to climb out of the Holy Stem Sacred Region.

This challenge definitely caused a lot of people to be worried for him. Once he walked out of the gates, he could tell them to all stop hosting his funeral and mourning.

"Huhuhuhuhu~~~~~"

Suddenly, a gust of wind appeared from far away, quickly approaching Chu Mu!

Even as tired as he was, Chu Mu would never let his guard down unless he was in complete safety. Feeling a powerful organism near him, Chu Mu immediately raised his head and started chanting the incantation for Displacement Specter!” “Huhuhuhuhu!!!!!!”

The wind grew stronger and stronger, starting a cyclone like movement and lifting up a huge amount of dirt. In the dustiness, Chu Mu could see a huge cyan body wave its wings full of raw power as it passed over Chu Mu’s head in a dominant fashion. It landed about 100 meters from the gate!

“Beng~~~~~”

When the organism landed, the land around shook. It didn’t willfully release its aura, but standing 200 meters away, Chu Mu could still feel the intimidating aura!!

Chu Mu was silently in shock, wondering what soul pet could have such a chilling aura.

Yet, once Chu Mu saw the organism’s appearance, his heart started beating frantically!

A cyan body full of power, wings capable of soaring the skies, proud and noble head, and claws able to destroy anything!!

“Cyan Hidden Dragon!!” Chu Mu let out involuntarily.

Just as Chu Mu said, the organism in front of him was the utmost noble Cyan Hidden Dragon!!!!

Chapter 444: Soulless Dragon Species

“Don’t worry.”

A sound suddenly came from this Cyan Hidden Dragon’s back.

As Chu Mu's heart was in shock, he suddenly realized that there was a man on the Cyan Hidden Dragon's back.

This man jumped agilely from the Cyan Hidden Dragon and landed on the ground. His words weren't to Chu Mu, but towards the Cyan Hidden Dragon!

From the man's expression and tone, Chu Mu could tell that the man riding the Cyan Hidden Dragon simply didn't take him seriously at all, but instead only wanted his fierce dragon to ignore Chu Mu.

The Cyan Hidden Dragon turned his head. Its cyan pupils stared at Chu Mu with anger and resentment before slowly turning back around.

This Cyan Hidden Dragon's body was only ten meters long, but its dragon species aura was still full of shock. When the Sacred Region Gate opened up, even the Sacred Guards looked shocked at the sight of the Cyan Hidden Dragon.

The man didn't look at Chu Mu much. Chanting an incantation, he quickly retracted his formidable Cyan Hidden Dragon into his soul pet space.

After doing so, he walked through the gates with acuity.

Chu Mu stood in place and watched as the man walked step by step into the Golden Holy Stem Sacred Region.

The man has an arrogance and apathy that was innate. Even the Sacred Region Guards that were usually extremely prestigious were just like normal guards to him.

He very impatiently threw his soul capture ring and spatial ring to Sacred Guards to check and then walked off arrogantly. On the way, he didn't salute any of the elders of Sacred Palace Guards; in fact, he didn't even look at them directly!

"Young master, that is a ninth phase high stage Cyan Hidden Dragon. The Cyan Hidden Dragon's species is high class monarch rank, but in reality its fighting strength was near top tier monarch. Even after it hides its aura, the dragon species' aura was still formidable." Old Li's voice slowly came.

Chu Mu was still standing in place. Though Old Li didn't say it out loud, he knew that the Cyan Hidden Dragon was most likely an offspring of the Empyrean Cyan Hidden Dragon!

Soul Alliance controlled the Empyrean Cyan Hidden Dragon for a very long time. In this period of time, the Empyrean Cyan Hidden Dragon would split an egg off every time it fell into deep slumber. Soul Alliance was also very tyrannical in their ways, seizing these eggs and capturing them for their own!

Indubitably, the man who had just walked past Chu Mu was from Soul Alliance, and was a first tier member with high ranking within Soul Alliance, or else Soul Alliance would never give a rare Cyan Hidden Dragon to him!

A soul pet trainer with a Cyan Hidden Dragon!

When Chu Mu first saw the Empyrean Cyan Hidden Dragon as a small cyan bug, the little fellow would feel joy with just a little food offered to it.

It would spit silk, have no aggressive nature, and zero memory, only deciding to follow Chu Mu around. Before, Chu Mu thought it was the Empyrean Cyan Hidden Dragon losing its memory after being weakened.

Yet, after knowing about the existence of Memory Fluid, Chu Mu realized that the Empyrean Cyan Hidden Dragon regressed to its primal stage not because of a technique, but purely because of the poison of Memory Fluid, truly wiping its memory!

Soul Alliance couldn't truly control the Empyrean Cyan Hidden Dragon's heart, so in the decades of slaving, Soul Alliance constantly fed the Empyrean Cyan Hidden Dragon memory fluid, wiping its memory.

Presumably, the reason Empyrean Cyan Hidden Dragon could escape the Soul Alliance's control was because a deep memory of it suddenly welled up. It then killed its way through the surroundings of Soul Alliance and ran to the far away Western Kingdom. It ran to the edges of Nightmare Palace's power, into Nightmare Island before finally losing its memories to heavy wounds, forcing it to become its most primal form to escape enemy hunting.

Soul Alliance's constant wiping of the Empyrean Cyan Hidden Dragon's memories was utterly devastating and humiliating for a dragon with life, soul, and dignity.

These actions of Soul Alliance were utterly devoid of humanity!

Chu Mu was a soul pet trainer that heavily believed in himself. It was this belief that caused him to be a spiritual soul pet trainer that could truly hear a soul pet's heart. To Chu Mu, such actions by the Soul Alliance were abominable!

This was why Chu Mu held the deepest of resentments towards Soul Alliance, regardless of whether it was because of his father's tragedy or the Empyrean Cyan Hidden Dragon's environment!

Now, a man from soul alliance riding the Empyrean Cyan Hidden Dragon's offspring appeared before him.

Chu Mu had felt the Jade Spring's blessing, so he could be said to have the Empyrean Cyan Hidden Dragon's inheritance. Seeing the eyes of that Cyan Hidden Dragon, Chu Mu saw nothing other than killing intent and obedience, unable to hold any other emotions!!

If the Cyan Hidden Dragon were treated well and grew together with the soul pet trainer and decided to sign a soul pact willingly with a soul pet trainer, its pupils definitely would have more than two things. It would have the attitude and pride of a high ranking organism. Even if they signed a soul pact, it should have a soul of its own.

Yet, Chu Mu couldn't even see the soul of this cyan hidden dragon. What he saw was just a corpse full of destructive power, without any individual thought or emotion!

The only reason such a situation could exist was that the man used Memory Fluid to forcefully sign a soul pact with the Cyan Hidden Dragon, forcing it to become his slave!

The soul pact between soul pets and humans were in itself somewhat predatory, with the human having a forceful and dominant position. However, any soul pet contract must also gain the soul pet's recognition.

With things like memory fluid, if soul pet trainers who were hasty in achieving success using it, Chu Mu wouldn't mind too much; after all, people have different ways of becoming powerful and

obtaining soul pets, some of which don't mind destroying soul pets' souls and memories. That was their soul pet trainer mentality, and Chu Mu would only scoff at it at most.

Yet, seeing a proud Cyan Hidden Dragon fall to a slave under this arrogant man, seeing the Cyan Hidden Dragon's numbness and pain under the cruel and ruthless eyes, Chu Mu felt a blazing anger inside his heart!

It was like he was watching his own species facing torture under the hands of evil!

Chu Mu was sure, if the Cyan Hidden Dragon could be any bit stronger, the Cyan hidden Dragon's soul under the numbing violence would awaken, struggling free of the man's control!

"It's probably the brother closest to the dragon egg in young master's spatial ring. In my recollection, there are four more people who have Cyan Hidden Dragons, and these four are all ridiculously powerful soul alliance experts. This man just now was a near young master level character in Soul Alliance, or else he wouldn't be able to own a Cyan Hidden Dragon." Old Li's voice slowly came.

Chu Mu nodded, letting his heart settle down.

No matter how angry Chu Mu was feeling, he would remain logical, because he probably couldn't even deal with the Cyan Hidden Dragon alone.

So, Chu Mu would push his emotions down and, when the opportunity arose, he would act. Whether he would kill this soulless Cyan Hidden Dragon or save it, Chu Mu couldn't stand Soul Alliance's members to continue to destroy this Cyan Hidden Dragon. At least, Chu Mu believed that the Emyrean Cyan Hidden Dragon would do the same after this sight.

Chu Mu stepped forward, slightly weighted as he walked towards the Sacred Region Gate.

Walking out of the Sacred Region Gate, Chu Mu quickly noticed that the guards were still face full of disappointment. Clearly, the man with the Cyan Hidden Dragon had caused even these guards to feel belittled and disrespected.

The Sacred Guard was one of the most sacred duties of Soul Palace. They were always serious, careful, and solemn in their actions. Very rarely would they have individual emotions. However,

even they were somewhat angered by that soul alliance man, which goes to show just how despicable the person was.

However, when the sacred guard noticed that another teen walked out, they saw his face and slowly revealed surprised expressions.

They remembered that, around nine days ago, a teen of twenty some years came into the Holy Stem Sacred Region. Many soul palace members including the old soul teacher and Yu Palace master all came to say their “farewells”.

Though none of the Sacred Guards spoke, they all knew that the chances of Chu Mu returning alive were near zero. What caused them shock was, after nine days, the teen walked out.

He was full of scars and was tired, but his eyes were full of vigor. Most importantly, he walked out alive!

“Did you even walk into the Holy Stem Sacred Region? Holy Stem Sacred Region is straight forward from the gate.” It wasn’t that the sacred guards were belittling Chu Mu. It simply was common knowledge that entering this sacred region at Chu Mu’s age was certain death.

“I walked around in the outer thirty kilometers of the region. This is my spatial ring and soul capture ring. I have a Curved Spirit Root and a Ghost Spider Flower Demon young soul pet.” Chu Mu said as he gave his spatial ring to the Sacred Guard.

Before the sacred guards finished speaking, the surprise on their faces were amplified.

Not only did this young teen step into the sacred region, he even caught a soul pet and dug up a valuable soul item along the way!!

“Who was the person just now? Do you know him?” Chu Mu handed his spatial ring and soul capture ring over, adding on a question.

The sacred guards were stunned for a while. Only until Chu Mu asked a second time did they respond, “If I remember correctly, its the third tier final honor winner from last year, Soul Alliance Li Huang. Now, he’s one of the most powerful members of first tier, also a strong contender for the final honor of first tier.”

“Soul Alliance Li Huang” Chu Mu muttered, quietly memorizing the name!

“Then, let me notify Elder De. These days, he has constantly been asking whether you have walked out.” Sacred Guard composed his face full of shock and walked down the high stairs quickly!

#### Chapter 445: The Name that Shook the Realm, Soul Palace Chu Chen

Chu Mu knew that he couldn't see people in this state, so under the lead of the holy guards, he went to the healing hall in the Sacred Holy Realm's palace. He let the Sacred Holy Realm's Soul Teachers help him heal his body.

The wounds on his bodies weren't anything serious to Chu Mu; rather, his depleted soul power was the main problem. When Chu Mu's mind slowly relaxed and after he was healed, he unconsciously fell into a sleep.

Chu Mu had only entered into a light sleep when he sensed someone walk next to him, his eyes gradually opened.

An elderly face full of wrinkles and a face with a serious expression filled with shock and gratification entered his eyesight. It happened to be Old Soul Teacher De and Palace Lord Yu.

Old Soul Teacher De was a famous old urchin from Soul Palace. He had never been as dignified as the other Soul Palace elders. When he saw Chu Mu lying on the stretcher, his small eyes opened much wider, and he didn't say anything for a while out of shock.

Old Soul Teacher De naturally didn't believe that Chu Mu had entered Sacred Holy Region. Just now, from the holy guards, he had received the explanation that this fellow had not only finished the realm breakthrough round, but had also brought back a Ghost Spider Flower Demon, which was one even higher level of difficulty!

A third grade member challenging the first grade honor was enough to make these elderly generation people stroke their beards and sigh in pity: yet another young person who is going to send himself to his death.



Yet, at the end of the day, this young man who had been essentially determined to enter hell had completed the mission that even first grade honor experts would not be able to complete. This was too inconceivable!

“Brat, are you still concealing some powerful soul pet? A tenth phase monarch?!!” the old Soul Teacher immediately stared at Chu Mu as he asked him a question.

Chu Mu shook his head and explained: “I’ve spent a long time training in the wild, and to a certain extent can freely traverse bewildering worlds that are several ranks higher than me. This time, my luck was pretty good, and I encountered the Ghost Spider Flower Demon shortly after entering.”

“Even if it’s at the edge of the Sacred Holy Region, if one doesn’t have one or two tenth phase monarchs, then one doesn’t have the qualifications to even attack. Could it be that this Ghost Spider Flower Demon delivered itself into your soul capture ring?” the old Soul Teacher was still a bit unconvinced.

“This is a hunting trick. There are times that one doesn’t have to attack in order to capture a soul pet. In truth, the Sacred Holy Region is very dangerous. In the past, I was able to freely travel around ninth rank bewildering worlds and could even enter Kingdom Lord territories if I didn’t fight. However, in Sacred Holy Region, I suffered from attacks; otherwise, I wouldn’t have crawled back in this state.” bitterly laughed Chu Mu.

Back when Chu Mu had entered the forbidden region’s Blue Galactic Demon Emperor’s demon home, Chu Mu had been very unobstructed; however, the Sacred Holy Region’s difficulty level was clearly much higher than that place.

“Old De, don’t bother asking. Help heal him and his soul pets.” Palace Lord Yu timely stopped Old Soul Teacher De’s interrogation.

It was then that Old De finally reacted. He glared at Chu Mu and said: “I’ll heal you first. Then after a short rest, I’ll squeeze the information out of you. This old man doesn’t believe that I can’t figure you out! Don’t bother going anywhere else today. Lie here and sleep for a day. Your soul power is depleted beyond shambles... I’ve never seen a young man who disregards his own life more than you...”

Chu Mu was helpless. It seemed that this Old Soul Teacher De hadn’t finished with him.

Then again, Old Soul Teacher De's edginess wasn't faultless. Sacred Holy Region was inherently opened practically only to middle generation and elder generation people. Moreover, if one's strength hadn't reached a certain level, even the edge of the region couldn't be entered. It was very hard to convince Old Soul Teacher De that a third grade expert had obtained a Ghost Spirit Flower Demon from there.

When Chu Mu had returned, it happened to be the tenth day of the second round. Old Spirit Master De was the main judge for Chu Mu in this round, so he quickly reported Chu Mu's name to the competition authority.

The competition authority would specially have a group of people rank the difficulty of the realm breakthrough missions. On the eleventh day of the second realm, the Tianxia Realm would be published.

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In Tianxia Plaza, there was another sea of people. This scene would appear once every six years while also lasting for a long period of time.

On the plaza, numerous expectant faces and invigorated gazes could be scene. Of these people. Many of them had travelled a long way in order to imprint their names on this enormous stone ranking of honor. Even if they appeared once on there, they would be able to honorably return to their homeland.

However, the Tianxia Ranking was limited in quota. With expectation came joy, but also came disappointment and frustration. It was frequently possible to visibly sense how large the waves of emotions were in the competitors just from looking at their face.

"That's strange, why did the very well-regarded in the first realm Soul Palace Chu Chen not appear?" a few people who didn't have hope began to comment. A majority of these people who had no hope came to look for the young experts they revered in hopes that they would be able to obtain the highest honor that belonged to them. In this manner, these soul pet trainers would be able to feel a bit of happiness. It was essentially a tide of chasing after and worshipping experts.

Chu Mu was a third grade expert, and his performance had been extremely prominent in the second grade. Due to his fight with Shen Yicheng, he already had many supporters. Thus, during this honor challenge, Chu Mu received attention from even more people. There were therefore several people who Chu Mu was unfamiliar with in Tianxia City who had continuously paid attention to his competition outcome.

“I’ve searched through the whole thing but can’t find him. Could he have lost?” although there were many people on the second grade, even after carefully searching through, his name really couldn’t be found.

“There’s a high chance of him hiding his strength. I estimate he only successfully broke through the realm.” said someone in defense of Chu Mu.

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As everyone was discussing Chu Mu, Ye Qingzi who was standing in the crowd had an unsightly expression...

The Tianxia Rankings had already been published, but Chu Mu had yet to return. Ye Qingzi didn’t even see his name. She stared with a somber expression at the ranking, but didn’t bother finding her own name.

“You obtained third place which fortunately has a 200 million honor reward.” Ye Wansheng quickly found Ye Qingzi’s name and told her about it.

When Ye Qingzi had been in Li City, her strength wasn’t much weaker than Chu Mu’s. Chu Mu was fighting those stronger than him by advancing a grade, but Ye Qingzi and Ye Wansheng were also doing the same in order to obtain the second grade’s honor.

Moreover, even despite obtaining third place, Ye Qingzi had hidden a portion of her strength.

Ye Wansheng turned his head and saw that Ye Qingzi wasn’t saying anything. He consoled her by saying: “Nothing happened to him. He happens to be the so-called Western Kingdom’s Prison Island King, and his training skills in the wild are extremely strong. The Sacred Holy Region is dangerous but if he doesn’t act rashly, he should be able to crawl his way back out.”

Truthfully, Ye Qingzi believed as well that Chu Mu would be able to return; after all, she knew his strength wasn’t as it seemed on the surface. Especially his half devil transformation; at least when a crisis came, he would be able to escape by using the half devil transformation.

However, she hadn't gotten any news of Chu Mu yet and her heart was still uneasy. This emotion had mysteriously become extremely intense as if her brain was worried about that one in a million chance; yet, this one in a million chance was already capable of affecting her emotions at all times.

"Huh, that's strange. Does Soul Palace have a second person named Chu Chen?" at this time, an astonished voice rang out.

"There should only be one. Why'd you ask that?"

"Look at the first grade's hunting realm ranking..." most of the crowd in Tianxia City was focused on the third grade. When those that were focused on the first grade abruptly discovered that Soul Palace's Chu Chen had his name profoundly imprinted on the hunting realm's honor ranking, sounds of doubt and astonishment rang out.

"This... this really is Soul Palace's Chu Chen. How did his name make its way to the first grade? Moreover its the 39th rank!"

"The competition authorities must have made a mistake."

"Yes, I feel that way as well."

"They must have made a mistake. Is this even a question?"

.....

Voices accusing the competition authorities of making a mistake on the rankings quickly rang out.

This was the first feeling people had when they saw this name. To them, they would rather believe that the competition authorities had made a rare mistake for the first time in the past twelve years than believe that a third grade member had obtained an honor ranking on the first grade.

This voice quickly put the competition authorities in a state of fear, and caused them to hastily verify the results. These results had been counted and ranked by specialists and if there was a mistake, then there would definitely be a lot of trouble.

However, after verifying the results, the competition authorities quickly discovered that the rankings were perfectly correct!

“There was no mistake with the ranking. Soul Palace’s Chu Chen obtained the highest honor of the second grade in first realm’s beast fighting realm and obtained the 39th place of the first grade in the second realm’s hunting realm! If you don’t believe this to be the truth, please do not wantonly spread false rumors. If this happens another time, then the competition authorities will deliver punishment!” with great dignity, the Tianxia Competition Authorities announced the results on the Tianxia Rankings.

The moment this result was delivered, the sea of people in Tianxia Plaza suddenly went silent.

However, in the next second, the entire plaza erupted!!!

The third grade Soul Palace Chu Chen had truly obtained the first grade honor!!

“Isn’t... isn’t he a third grade member?!!!”

“This is impossible. This is definitely impossible! Even if he was stronger, he still shouldn’t be able to obtain honor of the first grade!! It’s the first grade after all!!”

Wave after wave of astonished and shocked shouts, each one louder than the previous, rang throughout Tianxia Plaza. They started from the very center of the Tianxia Plaza before spreading outwards and even spread throughout Tianxia City!!

“Qingzi!!! Qingzi!!! It really is that fellow!!” Ye Wansheng pried apart the crowd and excitedly spoke to Ye Qingzi.

Ye Qingzi had originally believed she heard incorrectly. Even after Ye Wansheng confirmed it, she was still a bit doubtful and went herself to look at the first grade’s hunting realm!

Indeed, the four words “Soul Palace Chu Chen” were profoundly engraved on the awe-inspiring honor ranking!!

There wasn’t much of a difference between the name Soul Palace Chu Chen and the names surrounding it. There were even names ranked ahead of Chu Mu’s.

Yet, he was a third grade member. Being able to obtain such honor was even more shocking than obtaining the highest honor of the second grade!!

“Qingzi, he’s definitely returned already. Let’s go to Soul Palace soon to see!” Ye Wansheng said to Ye Qingzi.

A smile finally blossomed on Ye Qingzi’s sullen face and she immediately forced her way out of the crowd and sprinted towards Soul Palace.

#### Chapter 446: Twelve Years, Exposed with One Word

Chu Mu acted according to Old Soul Teacher De’s wishes and rested for a day.

Old Soul Teacher De’s healing abilities were extremely strong and after resting according to his instructions, Chu Mu could feel that much of his soul power had recovered.

“This brat has really become famous.” the moment Chu Mu woke up, Old Soul Teacher De’s words floated into his ears.

After he became clear-headed, he realized that Old Soul Teacher De was referring to the Battle of the Realm. Resounding fame was something every soul pet trainer wanted and was something Chu Mu never rejected.

Of course, Chu Mu didn’t need to become inflated with ego because of this. To him, this small amount of honor and reputation was only a small step towards his goal. His name had only appeared near the back of the first grade honor ranking, and Chu Mu needed to raise his name to the first position.

“Elder De, there’s something I need you to help me with.” Chu Mu didn’t bother being courteous with Old Soul Teacher De and promptly took out the random objects he had collected. He hoped that Old Soul Teacher De would be able to help him find someone to appraise these things.

“What are these things? What did you bring them back for?” Old Teacher De asked curiously.

“They’re some things I found in the dirt. They’re very important to me.” said Chu Mu.

“Although I am not a supreme Soul Teacher, I can still appraise these random objects. Just give them to me. I’ll see if I can use the healing palace’s equipment to appraise them.” said Old Soul Teacher De.

“Thank you.” Chu Mu hastily gave his thanks. “There are a few people outside who have been wanting to see you. Go and let them see that you’re still alive. Appraising these objects shouldn’t take too much of my time.” said Old Soul Teacher De.

Chu Mu nodded his head and put on his jacket before walking out to the healing hall.

Indeed, a few people were sitting in the healing hall. There was Ye Qingzi, Ye Wansheng, Ting Lan, Shang Heng, Chu Mu’s maid - Jia Jing, and another man sitting next to Ting Lan.

Chu Mu had never seen this man before, but he was presently whispering with Ting Lan. From Ting Lan’s tone and expression, this was probably someone Ting Lan respected.

Shang Heng sat next to this man and from his expression, this man was clearly someone with superior status to him.

Chu Mu was inwardly confused. Shang Heng and Ting Lan were considered young generation members in Soul Palace with extremely high status. What kind of person would be able to unconsciously make them show slight expressions of reverence.

This man, from the looks of things, probably wasn’t much older than Chu Mu; perhaps his age was in between the third and second grade. His clothes were ordinary and he didn’t seem too different than normal Soul Palace young men. His facial features hadn’t reached the grandeur and majesty of many noblemen; he could only be described as handsome. And from his temperament, this man didn’t divulge any overbearing temperament. Even though he didn’t belong to the gentle and humble class of people, he at least gave people a carefree feeling. From his brownish-black pupils, one could sense his confidence and his unique way of thinking... after observing the man, Chu Mu quickly discovered a fresh scent that he was extremely familiar with. The freshness brought along an aromatic and flowery fragrance with it. It was a unique fragrance that would make Chu Mu’s heart feel strange every time he smelled it, and always made him think about pulling it over to smell it in detail.

The owner of the fragrance was naturally Ye Qingzi. She stood in front of Chu Mu - her beauty was like a cotton rose that would make one's heart hurt even while picking it...

"I truly thank the heavens and the earth that you made it back alive!" Ye Wansheng's tone was exaggerated as he suddenly walked in between Ye Qingzi and Chu Mu. Then, he gave Chu Mu a hug someone would give to an old friend.

After hugging him, Ye Wansheng immediately pushed Chu Mu very close to Ye Qingzi, allowing him to more clearly smell her fragrance.

Chu Mu quickly understood Ye Wansheng's intention. He couldn't be freeze up now and so he promptly opened up his arms and decisively hugged this fragrant soft body into his arms.

This was different than the last hug because this time, Chu Mu's two hands wrapped around Ye Qingzi's waist, making it an extremely intimate hug.

Ye Qingzi's cheeks suddenly flushed red. Chu Mu's hug was even more wanton, as if he was taking advantage of her. It caused her body to surge with heat, and she could even feel the heat from Chu Mu's body at the same time. This heat was clearly only a bit higher than normal body heat, but it seemed like it was going to burn her.

Ye Wansheng, standing to the side, was stunned, but soon after he laughed and said: "Haha, this brat moves rather quickly.

Shang Heng stood to the side and cracked a smile. Ting Lan kept her smile as well.

"Whatever. We know that he's still alive. Moreover, he didn't break his arms or legs either, which is good. Everyone should just go do whatever they have to do." Ye Wansheng was very good at giving Chu Mu opportunities. He ignored whoever that man was and promptly helped Chu Mu clear the scene.

"I originally planned to get to know him. Since he has even more important matters to attend to, then I'll do it next time." this man didn't pay heed to it. He could clearly see that Chu Mu and Ye Qingzi were at a relatively crucial stage in their relationship. Ting Lan and Shang Heng said their hello's before leaving.



Ting Lan and Shang Heng didn't really say anything. After Ye Wansheng spoke, they casually added a few things before leaving the hall.

Soon, the only people left in the hall were Chu Mu and Ye Qingzi. Although Chu Mu had let go of Ye Qingzi, his mischievous hand was still placed on her supple and firm waist.

Ye Qingzi not only had a pair of enchanting legs, but her waist was so thin that merely one of Chu Mu's hand was nearly capable of grabbing it. And when he accidentally let his hand slip down, Chu Mu's mind couldn't help but admire how wonderful the curve between her waist and her butt was. It was something that couldn't help but make people want to touch it more, while also wanting to move further down.

Ye Qingzi blushed and she didn't say anything; she could only stand there in embarrassment.

Just as Ye Wansheng had said, once this rare piece of ice thawed, a type of beauty would emerge from the bashfulness. And it was enchanting. It even made Chu Mu stunned silly, and he didn't know what to do next.

"What... what... what progress was made..." finally, it was Ye Qingzi who opened her mouth and spoke in a voice that she could hear.

Yet, next to Chu Mu's ear, he could hear it very clearly. He promptly pulled Ye Qingzi next to him as he sat down and recounted the two theories of the young woman defector, lineage and attempt.

Ye Qingzi's analysis abilities were rather strong, and there were many times when Chu Mu would discuss things that he found difficult to understand since she would always be able to point something out to him.

"Are you sure it happened twelve years ago? You're twenty one years old right now." softly said Ye Qingzi.

"Precisely speaking, I was still a few months away from ten years old then. Right now, in a few more months, I'll be twenty two. Before participating the Battle of the Realm, they tested my spirit ring and this age should be my most accurate age." said Chu Mu.

The so called spirit ring was similar to the rings of a tree, and could be used to determine how many years a person had been alive for. Those that participated in the Battle of the Realm all underwent

this spirit age test to determine their age. This method was employed to prevent people who had passed the age limit but had used some life force spirit fluid to make them younger in order to enter this young generation competition; this would destroy the balance of the competition.

Chu Mu was about fifteen on Nightmare Island and had entered Prison Island half a year later. Three years later, he arrived in Nightmare City and ended his family matters, making him nearly nineteen at that time.

Liu Binglan had planned on taking Chu Mu with her when he was eighteen. Ultimately, Chu Tianmang's matter caused a crisis, and Liu Binglan delayed for a year before entering Western Kingdom.

Chu Mu himself hadn't counted his own exact age, and he assumed his age was around twenty one. He never expected himself to be nearly twenty two.

Those under twenty four were all considered of the third grade. Thus, the twenty one year old Chu Mu was actually relatively young in the third grade. There were a few people under twenty but they had pretty much all come just to join in on the fun. There wasn't much of a chance to obtain honor.

"Move the time twelve years forward." said Ye Qingzi.

"Move it forward twelve years?" Chu Mu didn't understand the meaning behind Ye Qingzi's words.

However, when Ye Qingzi's pretty eyes stared at him, Chu Mu finally reacted and excitedly squeezed Ye Qingzi's white and delicate hands a bit tighter.

"It was the Battle of the Realm!" exclaimed Chu Mu in shock.

Ye Qingzi earnestly nodded her head and said: "According to the time, you were nine years old, nearly ten, when you entered Sacred Holy Region. It was very likely to be just after the Battle of the Realm. I'm not sure if it's because I'm too sensitive about time, but there really is something fishy about this timing."

"Regardless if it's fishy or not, the holy guards have all explicitly recorded the time each person has entered the Holy Regions. If I find the Holy Guard Captain, I'll be able to know the time for sure." said Chu Mu a bit excitedly.

Ye Qingzi's words made Chu Mu come to a sudden realization. He saw that he was still squeezing Ye Qingzi's small hand and without regarding courtesy, moved over and kissed Ye Qingzi's cute bright red face. He said: "Qingzi, you're truly too good."

The red blush on Ye Qingzi's face had just subsided only for it to now fill her face. She pouted: "We still don't know if it's a coincidence. You hoodlum."

"At least we have a clue!" said Chu Mu.

Chu Mu didn't care if the analysis was correct or not. He immediately grabbed Ye Qingzi and ran over to Sacred Holy Palace to determine the time he entered Sacred Holy Region. This way, at least the clues would be even clearer.

He would also be able to determine if he had entered the Sacred Holy Region during the Battle of the Realm.

#### Chapter 447: Black Hand Behind the Scenes, Defector Young Woman

Chu Mu wanted to look at the Holy Stem Sacred Region entrance and exit records, but it wasn't something a seventh level Palace Foreman could look at at command. Chu Mu specially went to find Yu Palace Master to ask for this favor.....

Yu Palace master didn't even question it, very easily giving Chu Mu his Decree. With the decree, Sacred Guards let Chu Mu check through the entrance and exit records of the past twelve years.

Yet, after looking for a long while, Chu Mu still didn't find record of Liu Binglan entering the region, causing Chu Mu to feel strange.

"Is it possible that they simply recorded a time?" Ye Qingzi pointed at the only record without name or identity.

Liu Binglan could enter the Holy Stem Sacred Region at ease, not needing to seal her soul pacts. It was possible that this nameless entry was her.

After some comparing, Chu Mu quickly discovered that the time Liu Binglan took him into the Holy Stem Sacred Region was also the time the Battle of the Realms happened twelve years ago.

“The time matches perfectly. That says something on its own.” Ye Qingzi said slowly after seeing this record.

“There are very many possibilities here, so guessing randomly won’t result in anything.” Ye Qingzi continued.

“Let’s return to the healing palace and check it out. I have De Soul Teacher some things. I’m not sure if he would be able to find anything in there.” Chu Mu said.

Very quickly, Chu Mu dragged Ye Qingzi to the healing palace. At this point, Old De seemed to have completed his appraisal of the bunch of random things and so placed them all in front of Chu Mu. Pointing at each of them, he explained, “These are the leaves of a Ghost Spider Flower Demon with special strengthening, causing them to stay in the dirt for a long time without decay. These rocks are a rare mineral that can be used to create soul equipment. The last flower petals, they’ve either been overly rotten or belongs to a soul pet that doesn’t appear on the Pet Encyclopedia.”

“Nothing else special? Can these rotten flower petals be the petals of a Holy Stem Flower?” Chu Mu immediately asked.

“Not possible, it is some other organism” De Old Soul Teacher shook his head.

Chu Mu looked disappointed. After a second, he seemed to remember that there was still some metal in the items, so he asked about it, “How about the metal?”

“Oh, that’s just Sun Gold, a rather expensive metal sold on the market. Usually, its used to make special accessories, like rings, bracelets, seals...” De Old Soul Teacher said.

“The Honor Seals of the Battle of the Realms is made using sun gold.” As a soul teacher, Ye Qingzi knew a lot about different materials too, so she reminded Chu Mu.

With this reminder, Chu Mu again connected the dots!

“De Old Soul Teacher, how long has this sun gold been decaying for?” Chu Mu asked.

“About ten to fifteen years. Why have you suddenly asked about this? Aren’t young people more interested in powerful soul pets?” De Old Soul Teacher asked.

After De Old Soul Teacher finished talking, Ye Qingzi and Chu Mu fell into deep thought. After a while, both of them seemed to have an answer in heart. At least, the owner of this seal could be the hint Chu Mu was looking for!!

“Twelve years ago in the Battle of the Realms, was the Holy Stem Sacred Region open to any participant?” Chu Mu asked the old soul teacher.

Old soul teacher was an old-timer of soul palace, so he definitely know some things about that year.

“There probably was?” De Old soul teacher wasn’t too sure either.

“Then has there been any participant that entered and never exited, a young girl especially?” Chu Mu continued.

Chu Mu’s guess was that the defected girl may have been a female soul pet trainer that had entered the Holy Stem Sacred Region like he had twelve years ago, except a special situation occurred in Holy Stem Sacred Region that made her half person half soul pet.

Because of some special reason, her identity could easily be seen through by Sacred Guards, so she laid in wait in Holy Stem Sacred Region, waiting and hoping for someone to bring her out.

“Here, I have records. Let me go check. It has been a long time, and an old man like me can have trouble remembering.” De old spirit teacher said, very willing to help them.

After De old spirit teacher left, Chu Mu told his judgement to Ye Qingzi.

Ye Qingzi initially thought this as well, but then she realized that things weren’t that simple. The main reason was, if she was a Battle of the Realm participant, then she should know that there almost would never be people who can sign soul pacts in the region. In the end, it was possible, but there are hard-to-understand problems with that explanation.

Not long after De old soul teacher walked back, face graver.

Chu Mu and Ye Qingzi both could see the change in expression, so they realized there may be further stories behind this all.

“I’ve finished searching and did some cross-checking. The metal was indeed from a Battle of the Realm seal. And, that year, there indeed was a soul pet trainer who stepped in, but there aren’t any records of MIA’s or deaths.” De Old spirit teacher said and looked up past Chu Mu and Ye Qingzi.

Chu Mu and Ye Qingzi realized that someone had walked in and turned around, only to discover a grave faced Yu Palace Master standing there.

“Yu Palace Master?” Chu Mu said with surprise.

Standing behind Chu Mu and Ye Qingzi was Yu Palace Master. He kept his solemn expression from beginning to end!

“I just heard that the things you’ve been searching was strange, so I came to see.” Yu Palace Master said.

De old soul teacher looked at Yu Palace Master and said, “You should ask Yu Palace master yourselves.”

Hearing De old soul teacher say that, Chu Mu’s eyes widened while looking at Yu Palace Master’s face. Yu Palace Master smiled bitterly and said, “I think the person you are looking for from twelve years ago is my friend. In reality, when you insisted on entering Holy Stem Sacred Region, I guessed that you may be going for that incident, even if I only know about it vaguely…….”

“Then why didn’t you just tell me what I wanted to know?” ChU Mu was very confused. He didn’t even understand how this had anything to do with the palace master.

“Yu Palace master sat down and put the sign in De old soul teacher’s hands. After watching for a while, he said, “You shouldn’t think too much about it. In reality, I’m just a person who happened upon this situation. It was my friend’s situation that caused me to feel that there’s something scary hidden in Holy Stem Sacred Region.”

“My friend is called Hao Ting. He was ?? year old that year, so it was his last chance to attend the Battle of the Realm. In the hunting round, he chose the Holy Stem Sacred Region without hesitation. He wasn’t one of ours, so he didn’t know the Holy Stem Sacred Region that well, so before entering, he specially came to ask me about the situation inside, hoping to succeed.”

Chu Mu and Ye Qingzi both sat down and listened very closely to Yu Palace Master’s descriptions because he felt that there was something even larger behind all this.

“Hao Ting came out without any accidents, but once he came back, he cut off almost all communication with me. At first, I thought he was sad at not capturing any higher difficulty soul pets, so I didn’t pay it attention. However, later, I slowly found an even larger issue.” “What issue?” Chu Mu asked.

“His character changed, becoming different from the Hao Ting I knew. He and I were always brothers. I knew him better than anyone else; he could hide from everyone else, but he couldn’t escape my scrutiny.” Speaking of the situation then, Yu Palace Master’s emotions clearly shifted.

A change in character? Chu Mu quickly connected it to the defected girl’s charming flower demon capabilities. Since this Yu Palace Master’s honor seal fell near there, this Hao Ting very likely met the defected girl.

He Ting’s soul pacts were sealed, so he couldn’t possibly bring her out of the region, but she most likely charmed Hao Ting and implanted some terrifying thoughts to cause him to change completely.

“Then? Where is this Hao Ting right now, and what strange things did he do that caused you to notice a change? Did you have any discoveries in the Holy Stem Sacred Region?” Chu Mu immediately asked.

“In reality, I don’t understand much about the sacred region at all. I just knew that he definitely experienced something inside, causing the following events.” Yu Palace Master said.

“Following events?” Chu Mu really wanted to know what Hao Ting did to see if he truly was controlled by the defected girl.

If he truly is controlled, then when the defected girl entered the human world, she would definitely utilize him to do things.

“The things he did.” Yu Palace master took a deep breath.

Seeing Yu Palace Master, though this middle aged man didn’t show any pained or sorrowful emotions, keeping his stern and grave look, he imposed upon everyone a sense of helplessness and submission to fate.

“I won’t mention earlier matters. This event, you would know.” Yu Palace master finally said.

“I know about it?” Chu Mu was even more confused.

“My son Yu lang’s death is most likely orchestrated by him.” Yu Palace Master delivered in a slow tone, but he couldn’t hide the emotion in his heart!

Yu Palace Master’s words again suppressed Chu Mu!

Yu Palace master saw the shock on Chu Mu’s face and didn’t hide it intentionally. Opening his mouth, he said, “This Hao Ting is the mastermind behind the opposition from Merchant Alliance and the person behind Shen Yicheng. He has done many things that only I know of. At first, I didn’t expose him due to our brotherly relationship. However, his actions became increasingly wanton, but also well hidden, so later even I couldn’t find any loopholes, only able to stop him secretly.”

Chu Mu felt his heart shake! Yu Palace Master meant that the mastermind that was provoking relations between Soul Palace and Elemental Sect was very likely his first soul pet, the defected girl!!!

Chapter 448: Nightmare Realm Defender, Not Letting Even One Person Pass (1)

Chu Mu’s heart didn’t calm down for a long time as many new questions floated into his mind.

Though Chu Mu didn’t know why the defected girl wanted to try so hard to enter the human world or where she came from, Chu Mu felt that she had some other goal in mind. She completely didn’t need to run into the center of a faction struggle and mastermind it behind the scenes.



In the fight between factions, those involved are usually those with great power. They do it to get higher positions and power, and they rack their brains to try to find ways to gain more through devious schemes.

Yet the defected girl was in itself a humanoid soul pet. She shouldn't fall under the category. However, Palace Master Yu's words suggested that she was the one inciting conflict between Elemental Sect and Soul Palace.

What else did Hao Ting do?" Chu Mu immediately asked.

He really wanted to know what type or actions someone controlled by the defected soul pet did. Only through these actions can he discern what the defected girl really wanted.

"During the Battle of the Realm at the time, to get what he wanted, he did a lot of mind-boggling things in the dark. It was when I found out about these that I realized his character changed.

In reality in these years, his attention had solely been on Battle of the Realm. He spent large fortunes to buy experts from all different factions just in hopes of truly capturing the result of the Battle of the Realm.

"Battle of the Realm clues have come back." Ye Qingzi said quietly.

"Then what else did Palace Master Yu discover, for example between the two Battle of the Realms?" Chu Mu continued to ask.

"He was very discreet. There aren't any clear clues right now, but there is one thing for sure: he wants to get the final honor of Battle of the Realm, either second tier or first tier." Palace Master Yu said.

"What are the respective rewards for the final honors?" Chu Mu asked.

Palace Master Yu shook his head and his eyes fell on old soul teacher De.

Old soul teacher De's reputation was well known in soul pet world. He was also one of the main judges of the battle, so he definitely knew about the rewards for the final honor of each tier.

Old soul teacher De stared back at them, acting as if he were simply an observer. Realizing that everyone was staring at him, he coughed and said, "I have to keep it a secret, its a matter of principles."

"Old soul teacher De, after my years of tracking, I found that Hao Ting indeed is doing many things in the dark. My abilities are limited, so I could only see the tip of the iceberg. Now, I feel that he may have some actions in this Battle of the Realm. If we can't stop it, it could cause immense impact, not only on the young generation; our soul palace, along with other factions, will all be affected. Hao Ting's influence has long since reached into every large faction....."

"Old soul teacher De, we still hope you can tell us." Chu Mu said genuinely.

Old soul teacher De's two patches of mustache could always give away his true emotions. After hesitating for a bit, Old soul teacher De said, "Second tier, a soul pet egg, high class monarch rank, and a flask of limited edition soul liquid that can increase any type soul pet's fighting strength based on their strength. First tier, emperor rank young soul pet. That's it."

"Old soul teacher De, everyone knows these." Chu Mu said.

"I also only know this. Do you want me to go and crack open the soul pet egg to see what it is? Also, the emperor rank young soul pet hasn't even been decided yet, so how would I know exact details." Old soul teacher De replied.

Chu Mu looked at Ye Qingzi and used his soul remembrance to tell Old soul teacher De, "Is it that soul liquid? Is there any special meaning about the flask of soul liquid?"

"The effects Old soul teacher De already went over. The contents of the will is something no one else knows. Can it be that your defected soul pet also wants to get my teacher's will? Hao Ting is someone I know; My brother and I have always suspected that he was the one that set up a trap for teacher....." Ye Qingzi replied.

"Then is it that he wants to get your teacher's will that caused her to constantly look for you and your brother?" Chu Mu continued to question.

"It's possible, but I think that the main reason he wants to find us is so we can concoct soul liquid that can quickly recover soul power." Ye Qingzi said.

Palace Master Yu fell into deep thought. After a long while, he said, "Seems like figuring out what Hao Ting wants to do is impossible. The only plan right now is to get the final honors of first and second tier. Maybe with the progression of the Battle of the Realm, his plot will slowly be revealed. Then, we can find a better countermeasure."

All the clues cut off here, so Chu Mu knew that there wasn't much purpose in looking for more. Then, the current mission is to constantly beat realms and eventually meet people like Shen Yichen in the last few realms before they could find a better plan.

"Chu Chen, getting the second tier final honor is incredibly difficult. The true experts of each faction haven't even been revealed yet. Stay vigilant in your following realms. Of course, the most important thing is to get through the next few realms. Only then can we find more clues as to what they are about to do. In first tier, I will find Teng Lang and tell him to stay aware for me." Palace Master Yu said.

The Teng Lang that Palace Master Yu mentioned is someone Chu Mu vaguely remembered. It was the third young master he met in the soul palace hall, where Chu Mu replied to a servant girl's call in his place.

Teng Lang gave off a feeling of a clean and sophisticated scholar, but from his direct language, one could tell that he was also decisive and outspoken.

"In second tier, I will tell Fang Ze to try his best to win the final honor. Taking the initiative is always better." Palace Master Yu continued.

Fang Ze was the eighth young master. Chu Mu hadn't seen him before, but he heard of him from Ting Lan and Shang Heng. Chu Mu secretly guessed whether the man he saw not long ago was eighth young master Fang Ze.

"I want the final honor of second tier." Chu Mu said very straightforwardly to Palace Master Yu.

Palace Master Yu blanked, and then responded, "Chu Young master is still young. Let Fang Ze handle something like this. He is often in Tianxia City and knows the struggle between factions better too. He is also far stronger than Shen Yichen. Chu Young master might not be his match."

Palace Master Yu admitted that Chu Mu was a very outstanding expert, especially since he could tell Chu Mu had hidden strength now that Chu Mu successfully finished the realm challenge in Holy Stem Sacred Region.

Except, Palace Master Yu knew way more than Chu Mu. The first few realms' rankings aren't really indicative of anything. By the fourth realm, faction experts will slowly appear. By the seventh realm, those people who were on the realm rankings may be completely gone.

Yu Palace Master has a lot of experience. He knew that the waters in Tianxia City were incredibly deep. [1]

"No matter what, I will get it." Chu Mu didn't explain further.

No matter his own goals, or for Ye Qingzi's teacher's will, or for the secrets of the defected girl, Chu Mu will strive for the second tier final honor!

Once Chu Mu had a definitive direction to go, he would naturally march forwards without hesitation.

Understanding that the defected girl's goal is also on Battle of the Realm, Chu Mu had even less reason to back off. He didn't waste time on small clues here and there and started to prepare the soul item for Devil Tree Battle Soldier to increase its strength significantly.

The first tier reward gave Chu Mu one trillion gold in reward. Adding on the previous amounts, he could use the Curved Spirit Root to increase Devil Tree Battle Soldier from low class to middle class monarch rank. Adding on Chu Mu spending a trillion, he could raise Devil Tree Battle Soldier's rank to ninth phase. A ninth phase middle class monarch rank devil tree battle soldier would then be born!

The process wasn't too complicated. After Devil Tree Battle Soldier's rank raised twice, it clearly learned a new technique, causing it to become very excited.

The blood natural wood energy crystal didn't change much, but one could still tell it was slowly moving towards a higher rank wood type crystal. Presumably, once it jumps to high class monarch rank, Devil Tree Battle Soldier's energy crystal will become the next state too.

After the second realm finished, it was time for the third realm. This realm was called challenge. Chu Mu challenged a Nightmare Palace expert, obviously choosing a difficulty that could gain him the highest honor.

This fight, Chu Mu didn't take out all his strength, staying with the Ghost King, Ice Air Fairy, and Zhan Ye to fight.

This time, Chu Mu didn't get the highest honor as he hoped, getting 57th place and gaining about a trillion again.

After the third realm was the fourth.

From leaked news, every three realms in Battle of the Realm was usually a jump in difficulty that would cut off many people.

In reality, the first three realms didn't have a high elimination rate. However, by the fourth realm, people would start to realize just how steep and dangerous the road was!

In realm four, simply the mission announcement was enough to cause everyone to start complaining and get annoyed. From everyone's expressions one could tell that, before fourth realm even started, a large amount of people were destined to be eliminated.

Chu Mu's realm mission was somewhat surprising, but also expected!

That is because the fourth realm is something Ting Lan had mentioned - Realm Defender!!!

Chapter 449: Nightmare Realm Defender, Not Letting Even One Person Pass (2)

Heading south from Tianxia City were two towering rock mountains. From far away, they looked like two swords that stood perfectly erected in the expansive horizon. In terms of length, width and straightness, they were completely identical.

If one were to tilt his head and carefully watch the two rock mountains, he would be able to see a boundary of mist floating between the two mountains. The feeling one received was as if one was looking at a majestic towering mountain. On the other side of the mountain peak was its reflection reflected on the surface of water. The mountain and its reflection stood side by side...

This was the famous southern part of Tianxia City called Mirroring Sword Peaks. In between these two mountain peaks was a chain of countless stalactite rocks. These rocks formed rock bridges, podiums and pagoda; however, no matter what objects these things were like, from far away, as a whole, they looked like a sternum from an enormous malevolent beast!

In between the two Mirroring Sword Peaks, these stalactite rocks reached a height past halfway up the Mirroring Sword Peaks. Since the two peaks reached a height of two thousand meters, the stalactite rocks reached a height of one thousand five hundred meters. The vast sea of stalactite rocks looked extremely tiny from far away; but in reality, the highest point of the rocks had a width of three meters, allowing a few relatively large soul pets to stand on top of them.

“Although people compare it to a sternum, why do I feel like this looks even more like two lofty towerings demarcating the gates of hell.” the realm breakthrough competitors were standing on the Tianxia City city wall, as they stared off into the distance at the Mirroring Sword Peaks.

“There’s something you don’t know about them. In truth, the Mirroring Sword Peaks have another name; they’re called the Departed World Gates. Legends say that the Departed World Gates are a boundary for another world. With only an incantation, one will be able to freely travel between Tianxia City and a region filled with departed spirit world soul pets.” someone kindly gave an account of the legend.

“Something like this really exists? Did someone just make this up?” many people were unconvinced.

“Unconvinced? Then you can wait until the lunar eclipse that occurs every year in the second month. At that time, when you see what the Mirroring Sword Peaks look like, you’ll definitely believe my words.” said the person mysteriously.

The supposed legend about it being another region’s entrance had, in actuality, been heard before by many people. However, legends were ultimately legends and nobody had ever seen this enormous sternum-like entrance open before.

Before the Realm Defender round had begun, nobody was allowed to enter this area. Therefore, right now, practically all the realm breakthrough members were congregated on the southern wall. All together, there were several thousand people.

These several thousand people weren't split by grades. In other words, no matter which grade the person was in, he or she would have to face the same realm defender!

Of course, there was a selection of difficulty here; therefore, first grade members would unconditionally choose quadruple control realm defenders. Only by being able to defeat quadruple control realm defenders could they be considered to have passed the first test.

As for second grade members, they had to select triple control and above defenders.

Third grade members had to select dual control and above defenders. Only by defeating dual control realm defenders did they have the qualifications to pass the first test.

There were a total of three realm defenders. In other words, three tests. The defenders were respectively chosen from the third grade, second grade and first grade.

Regardless of which grade the realm breakthrough competitor was in, he or she had to start from the first test. If the realm defender felt the competitor's strength was too high, he could choose to let him or her pass. This way, it wouldn't affect his next fight. Normally, the first test realm defenders would let second grade and first grade competitors pass. After all, the first test was pretty much only created for third grade members.

"Guess who the first test's realm defender is. This is already the fourth realm, and the competition authorities definitely picked an extremely strong person to defend the realm. I wonder how many third grade members will be stopped by the first test's realm defender." on top of the southern city wall, many people were already beginning to speculate.

Who assumed the position of realm defender was extremely important to the competitors. There were a few competitors in the third grade who had unreasonably strong strength. This would directly implicate their ability to pass the fourth realm.

The realm breakthrough had yet to begin, but the southern city wall was already abuzz. Everyone was waiting for midday, because that was when the competition authorities would announce the name of the realm defenders.

Finally, the splendid midday sun hung high above in the air. Several thousand people were crowded together in a black mass. All of them raised their heads and watched the towering city gate tower.

A short while later, a competition authority member would walk out of the city tower, and then announce to the several thousand people the name of the first test's realm defender while also announcing the commencement of the realm breakthrough round!

"I hope it's not someone who's been on the Tianxia Ranking. That way, we'll actually have some hope." a few people who had never competed in honor challenged were already beginning to silently pray.

"Relying on luck like this isn't good." said a few people who still had much confidence in their strength.

"With or without luck, as long as I can pass the fourth realm, I will have face when I return. You must know that until now, there hasn't been a single person from our city who has passed the fourth realm. As long as I can pass...."

Several sounds of discussion didn't stop. It wasn't until a cold and elegant woman wearing a purple and black dress walked out did the clamor finally quiet down a bit.

"The fourth realm, the first test's realm defender, a third grade member." the woman's cold voice that drew one into a daydream reverberated around the southern part of the city. Everyone's eyes were fixated on her. A few people who were extremely concerned about this round had very tense expressions, as if she was about to announce the end of their realm breaking through.

"The first test's realm defender is the third grade member - Soul Palace Chu Chen!"

Finally, the cold and arrogant voice rang out!

Before this, a few people who were confident in their strength were vividly examining the figure of this woman wearing a purple and black dress and ranking her cold yet sexy voice. However, they abruptly woke up with a jolt when they heard that the first test's realm defender was Chu Mu, and their normally calm demeanor suddenly darkened!

A wave of cries rang out around the southern part of the city, causing numerous citizens to mistakenly believe that some powerful soul pet group was breaking into the city.



The numerous cries came together as at least half of the several thousand of people couldn't help but curse. This was an extremely rare occurrence at such a prestigious event like the Battle of the Realm!

The competitors weren't cursing the first test's realm defender, Chu Mu; instead, they were cursing the competition authority's seemingly brainless choice for the realm breakthrough round!

Of all the Battle of the Realm competitors, there weren't very many people anymore who didn't know of Soul Palace Chu Chen!

In the first realm, this fellow had obtained the second grade's highest honor and in the second realm, he had even more terrifyingly made his way onto the first grade's honor ranking!

There were an innumerable number of third grade young experts for the competition authorities to pick, yet they happened to pick this young man. Who didn't know that Soul Palace Chu Chen was an abnormal young man who was skipping grades in the Battle of the Realm!

The competition authority's choice led to all of the competitors fiercely cursing. This was because by having Soul Palace Chu Chen guard as the first test, even the second grade members would encounter a wall, let alone the third grade members!

At least the third grade members had an area of solace; at least they could pick the lowest difficulty and choose the dual control. However, the second grade members were met with a calamity!

No matter what, they had to face the triple control Soul Palace Chu Chen and use their soul pets to compete against Chu Chen's. In such a situation, in order to preserve their own success rates, the realm defenders couldn't let them pass, and the people who were originally confident in passing the fourth realm would be forcibly stopped in the fourth realm due to the competition authority's mad decision!

"Unfair! It's too unfair! How can you have a person who obtained the highest honor in the second grade and entered the first grade's honor ranking assume the position of realm defender. Isn't this blatantly preventing us from passing? How can the competition authorities do something so brainless!" curses rang out everywhere!

Those people that hoped they would be able to pass a few more realms let out their anger. Just as the competitors had said earlier, nobody in their city had ever passed the fourth realm before. This

moment was extremely important to whether these competitors could pass the next few realms. The competition authority's decision had thus practically throttled any hopes they had.

"Silence!" the woman wearing the purple and black dress coldly called out!

Her soul remembrance instantly swept down. It was so powerful that it silenced every single protestor; none of them dared make a sound!

"This decision was made half a year ago, and was unanimously agreed upon by all the large factions. If you have any objections, you can seek out your faction's Battle of the Realm representative and ask why they agreed to have him be the realm defender!" said the purple and black dress woman incomparably coldly. Her two frosty eyes swept over everyone and in an imposing manner, she continued, "Right now, you can either proceed with the realm breakthrough, or you can forfeit! There's no need for those without courage and strength to come to the Battle of the Realm to bring disgrace to himself!"

The woman's words caused another string of curses from several thousands of people. Wanting them to just accept this outcome was too hard. After all, the other realm breakthrough rounds weren't as hard as this!

"Who is that woman? Is her position so high that she can act so tyrannically?!" suddenly rang out a voice that was extremely displeased.

This voice was very high pitched and virtually everyone could hear it, including the purple and black dressed woman high above. Her pair of eyes turned ice cold, and she immediately located the rude fellow among thousands of people.

A soul pact incantation was chanted and a wild power suddenly swept through the city tower. In a split second, a brown light surged up to the sky all the way to the clouds. A torrential force caused people to feel like an ocean tide was surging towards them!

The cloud layer violently trembled and from the summoning pact, an enormous creature abruptly jumped out. It landed heavily on the city tower as if it was about to trample it!!

"Cloud... Cloud Snake Ape Monarch!!!"

A wave of sharp cries were heard. The thousands of people on the wall all had their eyes opened wide as they stared with fear at the tenth phase monarch which was halfway up the enormous city wall. A powerful beast aura pervaded the air above everyone's heads!!

The person who had spoken rudely before had now falled backwards onto the ground out of shock. His face was incomparably pale, because the tenth phase monarch was staring him right now. The feeling was akin to being watched by the death god!

"If there's a next time, then I'll feed your corpse to my Cloud Snake Ape Monarch!" the purple and black dressed woman pointed at the person and spoke in an extremely frosty voice!

Using force to quell a disturbance was indeed the most direct method of doing so. At this moment, nobody else dared raise any voices of protest. They could only obediently act according to the competition authority's decision and string up the courage to draw lots to see who would be the first to be quashed by the abnormal realm defender.

The first test's realm defender scared so many people that they wanted to give up on the realm breakthrough. These people were standing on the city wall right now and were staring at the woman who had summoned a tenth phase Cloud Snake Ape Monarch. They were inwardly shocked, never expecting that there was such a young woman in the Battle of the Realm with such shocking strength; yet, this woman hadn't participated in the Battle of the Realm.

Chu Mu was guessing which faction's hidden expert this purple and black dressed woman was.

"What are you looking at? If there are five people within the ten people that break through, you'll be eliminated!" the purple and black dress woman quickly noticed Chu Mu's gaze and spoke to him with a frosty expression.

Chu Mu was stunned. He never expected this woman to be so fiery. He could even sense the arrogance of looking down on everyone in this woman's eyes. Such arrogance and a fiery spirit made Chu Mu feel very uncomfortable.

Ye Wansheng was next to Chu Mu and felt the same as him. He looked very unfavorably upon this woman's domineering attitude and sneered, "Do you think that the sighs of sorrow from those people were just for fun? Five out of ten breaking through? Although Chu Chen is a third grade member, it will be rare for even one out of ten realm breakthroughers to actually breakthrough; that person will also be a first grade member!" after Ye Wansheng finished speaking, the woman's gaze turned ice cold.

At this time, a man standing next to the woman with the appearance of an attendant sneered: “Six years ago, when Young Lady Shan was a third grade realm defender, she didn’t let anyone pass through her realm defense. Young lady didn’t even have any thoughts of participating in today’s Battle of the Realm. When searching for your own ego, please understand what you are first before speaking with young lady!”

Chu Mu swept his gaze over the attendant next to the woman and his eyebrows pricked up. He was inwardly shocked that this woman’s strength had reached such a surprising level. It seemed that this tenth phase Cloud Snake Ape Monarch potentially wasn’t even this woman’s main pet.

“The experts in the second grade are like clouds. Very soon you will understand that the honor you obtained earlier is practically a joke to those true experts. I admit that as a third grade member, you being able to reach such strength at such an age is seldom to come by. However, arrogance right now is still too early!” said the woman called Young Lady Shan as she coolly and elegantly stared at Chu Mu and spoke to him as if she was lecturing him.

Chu Mu had no good will towards this woman who thought she was holier than thou. In truth, Chu Mu didn’t plan on letting a single person pass in this realm defense!

The highest reward was 400 million; the moment he let one person pass, that number would become 300 million. Thus, he had already reached a decision that even if a first grade expert appeared, he wouldn’t let that person easily through!

#### Chapter 450: Nightmare Realm Defender, Not Letting Even One Person Pass (3)

The people present all knew that Soul Palace Chu Chen had always enjoyed challenging every realm for the highest honor. In this realm guard round, he would definitely strive for the highest honor, so when they found that the rules couldn’t be changed, everyone hung their heads in low spirits, and none of them had any interest in breaking through the realm.

“You people, stop looking like frozen eggplants. Can one of him deal with so many of us? Although it’s not all of us at once against him, his fighting strength cannot be unlimited. After his soul pets lose strength, he will definitely be forced to let us pass. Just hope that you pick a number towards the end.”

Despite these words, very quickly, there were still some miserable groans that rang out!

Those miserable groans naturally came from the people that picked a number towards the beginning. Clearly, these people would be the first corpses to lie down in the Departed World Gates.

On top of the city tower, Chu Mu saw that the realm breakthrough was beginning and promptly jumped to the ground, heading out of the city towards the spacious land.

It was noon at the moment; ample sunshine was shining on the city wall, giving people a feeling of warmth. However, as Chu Mu neared the Departed World Gates, he slowly felt a dark cold feeling rushing at his face.

This feeling he received was akin to the feeling of walking from a place of heat towards the dilapidated entrance of a tomb. The closer he got to the tomb, the more he felt that cold air.

Perhaps it was the product of the Mirroring Sword Mountains' mist or the mountain's innate light absorption, but when he entered this place, the heat from the sunlight was sucked away. The full sunlight slowly changed a bit in color, making it impossible for people to tell the difference between light and shadow.

Walking to the foot of Mirroring Sword Mountains, Chu Mu rose his head up briefly before jumping onto the stalactite in between the mountains as he started going up.

Soon, Chu Mu reached a height of a hundred meters. He looked down from high above at the black mass of Battle of the Realm competitors on the southern city wall.

"The realm defender has already given his indication. The first realm breakthrougher, He Qing." said the woman called Young Lady Shan towards the thousands of people.

Everyone looked around, trying to find the competitor who was unlucky enough to be picked first.

"He Qing!" Young Lady Na repeated once more.

Then, a lazy voice rang out.

The voice came from the corner and people quickly discovered a rather untidy man leaning against the wall. He looked completely bored and seemed to ignore what others considered a misfortune that had befallen him.

“He Qing... where have I heard this name before?” a few sounds of discussion came from the crowd of people as they ostensibly were all trying to remember this man’s identity.

“It’s Soul Pet Palace’s beast fighting young man. He has obtained a high ranking in several prominent Beast Fighting Competitions. It’s said that although people have watched his competitions, they still don’t know his real strength!”

“So it’s him! Then if there are more people like He Qing, we’ll have a chance of breaking through the realm in the later rounds!”

He Qing lifted the corners of his mouth as he passed through the crowd. His eyes intentionally swept over the beautiful woman standing high above on the city wall and he languidly said: “Can I choose for him to dual control?”

“Yes.” Young Lady Na nodded her head and used soul remembrance to transmute He Qing’s choice of difficulty to Chu Mu.

As a third grade member, He Qing probably had a bit of strength; otherwise, he wouldn’t have been recognized when his name was announced.

“He Qing’s strength isn’t normal. I think that even if it’s Chu Chen, he could very likely not be willing to have his soul pets exhaust their fighting strength on a strong third grade expert like this. Perhaps he’ll let him pass quickly.” the realm defenders had the power to choose to pass or fight. Normally, the more conservative first test realm defenders would choose to let the second grade and first grade competitors go. Otherwise, if they exhausted their fighting strength on the second and first grade experts, it would be even harder to stop other competitors.

In between the two peaks, high up on the stalactite, a white garment Chu Mu apathetically stood. He stared at the third grade member called He Qing as he quietly waited for him to arrive under the Departed World Gates.

Chu Mu didn’t let him immediately jump to the top of the Mirroring Sword Mountains. Instead, as he approached the mountains, he began to slowly chant an incantation...

An unusual wind began to whirl around Chu Mu’s body. It was like a black colored ribbon that softly danced around Chu Mu before slowly transforming into a hurricane in front of him.

From amidst the black colored hurricane, the Binding Wind Spirit's tiny body gradually appeared and the slightly cold wind all came under the Binding Wind Spirit's control. As the Binding Wind Spirit's will changed the direction of its flow, the wind gave people a comfortable feeling as it blew on their bodies.

The Binding Wind Spirit flew a few circles around Chu Mu and gracefully landed on his shoulder. It let out a series of crisp noises and it sounded like a spoiled child.

"You can put on as much of a performance today as you want." a smile rose on Chu Mu's face. From hundreds of meters above, he stared at the incomparably tiny realm breakthrough competitor.

"Qin~~~~~" it had been a while since the Binding Wind Spirit had fought. After obtaining Chu Mu's command, it quickly flew down the stalactite rocks that spanned between the two mountains.

He Qing naturally knew Soul Palace Chu Chen's strength was extremely high among the second grade. In order to prevent himself from having any mishaps in the proceeding realm breakthrough, he conservatively chose the lowest difficulty.

He naturally knew he wasn't Soul Palace Chu Chen's opponent, but he could be sure that when the opponent's two soul pest fought his four soul pets, the opponent would realize that he wasn't an easy opponent. Afterwards, this realm defender would decide against fighting him to the bitter end and would let him pass.

The height of Mirroring Sword Mountains was shocking. In between the two mountains drifted a strange chilly wind preventing He Qing from being able to clearly see what soul pet Chu Mu had summoned. He Qing didn't hesitate to summon his four strongest main pets.

"Hu hu hu hu hu~~~~~"

He Qing had just finished summoning when he suddenly felt an extremely strong wind around him. This wind lifted up everything around him into the air, and felt like an imposing force bearing upon him!

"Wind type soul pet? I don't recall hearing that Soul Palace Chu Chen had a wind type soul pet. This should just be his secondary pet. If he's underestimating me, then he'll suffer a loss." a smile cracked on his face and he ordered his soul pets to use a defensive technique.

“Hu hu hu hu hu hu!~~~~~”

The violent wind grew stronger and stronger. The wind bit at them like enormous sickles, wantonly leaving long deep scars in the incomparably vast earth underneath the Departed World Gates!!

The chilly wind in the Departed World Gates was demonic, and He Qing was still unable to clearly see the soul pet Chu Mu had summoned. He could only feel the abnormality of the wind force, but the confidence and his lackadaisical nature gradually turned serious!!

Suddenly, countless chaotic black streams of wind appeared in front of him. These chaotic wind streams terrifyingly formed several death sickles, each one reaching a length of over twenty meters!!

They surged forth like a black wind tide, frighteningly whirling and spinning in the air as they swept towards He Qing and his four soul pets!!

“This is a ninth rank wind type technique!” seeing the black wind sickles cover the sky and earth as they attacked him, He Qing’s face instantly turned pale white, making him freeze in place!

Ninth rank wind type technique! The average strength of He Qing’s soul pets was an eighth phase monarch. He barely had any soul pets that could actually resist a ninth rank wind type technique. Moreover, this ninth rank wind type technique had an extremely wide attack area and despite his soul pets being spread apart, they were still all swept within the attack range!

“Shua!!! Shua!!!! Shua!!!!! Shua!!!!!!!”

The chaotic wind sickles swept passed and immediately left astonishing scars in the earth. It was as if a devilish ghost was hidden in the chaotic wind and was using its fierce claws to rip apart everything!!

He Qing had already added defensive techniques onto his soul pets, but the ninth rank wind technique wasn’t easy to withstand. After it swept passed, He Qing’s four soul pets had all been swept up and the black color sickles had streaked across their bodies, leaving deep scars from which blood spurted out!!



Thousands of meters away on the city wall, people watched as the numerous black wind sickles devilishly surging forward in the distance. Seeing the shocking scars left in the vast and flat earth, these people who had been locked in discussion instantly quieted down. They stared, eyes wide open, at the terrifying wind type technique!

“Hu hu hu hu~~~~~”

The remnants of the black chaotic wind blew over from the distance and when it swept past everyone, they couldn't help but tremble with fear!

After the black colored energy had dispersed, it could be seen that the large patch of earth in front of the Departed World Gates had been severely damaged.

Moreover, not far away from there, He Qing and his four soul pets lay battered and bruised on top of the vast earth!!

He Qing howled in grief as he struggled. His four soul pets were all lying in a pool of blood and although they were still alive, none of them stood up again!

Nobody from the thousands of people watching had properly prepared to watch the fight, but the fight had come to an end with just one stunning technique!

Nobody would have predicted such an outcome!

Equivalently a third grade member, He Qing's age wasn't too different from Chu Mu's. The former had summoned all four soul pets and prepared a defense, while the latter had only summoned one soul pet and only used one technique. Yet, the latter managed to nearly instakill all four of his opponent's soul pets. The difference in strength was truly capable of making people's blood run cold!!!

Previously, Chu Mu had only competed in beast fighting and hunting realm breakthroughs. His only challenge had been hidden and ended in obscurity. Everyone knew that he was an abnormal third grade young man, but nobody expected his strength to be so much higher than the so-called experts of the third grade. This was already no longer on the same level of strength!!