

Tang Sect 361

Chapter 361.1: Is He a Creator of Miracles?

However, Huo Yuhao suddenly had a strange feeling at this moment. He was stunned to realize that the aura of the Yin-Yang Love Querying Valley seemed to have experienced some form of transformation. The direct benefit of this transformation was that he could now connect to his spectral demiplane!

This meant that he could use the strength left behind by Electrolux if he had no choice. At the same time, he could also...

Huo Yuhao grabbed Wang Dong'er's hand and recited an incantation. A light flashed, and both of them vanished.

In the next moment, a cold and sinister world was right in front of them: Huo Yuhao's spectral demiplane!

The spectral demiplane created by Electrolux was indeed extraordinary. Huo Yuhao immediately sensed that the Love Querying Valley's control of him had disappeared the moment he stepped into this demiplane. This meant that he shouldn't be affected by the valley here.

However, it was a pity that he was even here at all!

Huo Yuhao sighed. The Love Querying Valley is too cunning. My mission is to save eldest and third senior, and thus some of the restraints I was under have also been released. **noVe**)Ib-In

It was true that he wouldn't be affected by the power of the valley in this spectral demiplane. However, could he really forsake Bei Bei and Xu Sanshi, and escape with Wang Dong'er? It was obviously not a practical choice.

"You're finally here. I thought that you were still a cheat," a resentful voice called out. A yellow figure flashed up, and the angry Ye Guyi appeared in front of them.

She was enraged. When Huo Yuhao defeated her with his abilities, she was already half-convinced by what he said. After that, Huo Yuhao's power brought her to this place, where undead were all around. She didn't know how he did it, but the undead didn't get close to her. However, the aura in this spectral demiplane was too uncomfortable and irksome for her, since she had the Holy Angel martial soul.

When Huo Yuhao left, he left for a long time. Ye Guyi was tempted to kill the undead on more than one occasion to vent her disgust towards this world she was in. However, she knew that the undead here were different. These undead were filled with the aura of light wouldn't give her any strength or strengthen her martial soul. Furthermore, there was an army of them. No matter how self-confident she was, she couldn't possibly clash with them directly.

After waiting for such a long time, Huo Yuhao was finally here! Naturally, she was angry with him!

Huo Yuhao was apologetic as he said, "I'm sorry, Ye Guyi. We've met with a bit of a special situation. I'll bring you out now. However, we'll need your help when we get out. Our friends are trapped in Radiant City. We need to rescue them."

Ye Guyi snorted coldly. “Why should I help you? You are a disgusting evil soul master. I’m still not even clear about who you are!”

Huo Yuhao was a little helpless as he answered, “Up to you. Anyway, I’m mainly here because I have to release you. If you don’t want to help us, you can leave as soon as you’re out. It’s very dangerous outside. Come on.”

As he spoke, he lifted his right hand and recited another incantation. A strange layer of greyish light engulfed the three of them. Although Ye Guyi revealed a disgusted look on her face, she didn’t try to avoid it. In addition, she started glancing in Wang Dong’er’s direction.

Wang Dong’er was dressed in a white warrior robe, which perfectly accentuated her petite figure. Although her figure seemed a little less mature than Wang Qiu’er’s, she had a more youthful aura. Her powdery-blue hair flowed behind her head, and her big, beautiful eyes seemed like the prettiest gems in the world. As she grinned, Ye Guyi was dazed, even though she had always been one who was confident in her ravishing looks.

However, she didn’t remain in a daze for too long. Very soon, they vanished in a patch of distorted light.

Ye Guyi was jolted awake by the aura of necromancy. These undulations, which sickened and disgusted her, lasted for a minute or so, until they were finally brought back to the familiar world.

It was nighttime here as well, but the sky above Radiant City was empty. The huge buildings emitted all sorts of lights. Even though they were still some distance away, they could still easily make out where they were.

Huo Yuhao was rushing to rescue Bei Bei and Xu Sanshi, and thus he couldn’t be bothered with Ye Guyi. He quickly pulled Wang Dong’er as he charged in the direction of Radiant City.

“Hey! You haven’t explained things to me!” Ye Guyi’s figure flashed, and she pursued the two of them before intercepting Huo Yuhao.

Huo Yuhao turned grim as he said, “Move away, I need to rescue some people. If you dare to block me, you’ll be my enemy. Although I think your Holy Angel will be very useful to deal with evil soul masters, I won’t hesitate to turn you into a specter, either! Get lost!”

As he spoke, Huo Yuhao’s eyes shone with golden light, and his immense spiritual power surged towards Ye Guyi.

“You, you...why are you so fierce?” Ye Guyi was shocked. After all, Huo Yuhao had defeated her once, and left a deep impression on her mind. As she saw how serious and assertive he was right now, she couldn’t help but feel a little afraid.

Huo Yuhao ignored and ran around her as he continued to pull Wang Dong’er along with him. His speed soared as he burst towards Radiant City.

Ye Guyi stomped her feet in indignation as she watched them leave. However, she still followed them.

“Hey! Wait for me. I’ll help you rescue your friends! However, you must tell me what’s going on with your evil soul master abilities after we rescue them!”

Wang Dong'er chortled and shot a flirtatious glance at Huo Yuhao before saying, "Loosening up to get her under your control. You sure have a way with chasing girls."

Huo Yuhao snapped, "We are in such a rush now, but you still have the mood to crack jokes. Help me." As he spoke, his armor flipped up, revealing his left hand. Their Haodong Power started to circulate through their bodies via the hand that was holding on to Wang Dong'er. Huo Yuhao's eyes also became brighter.

His vigorous spiritual power shot forward like a sharp sword. At this point, Huo Yuhao didn't bother hiding his spiritual cultivation anymore. His spiritual strength had reached an extremely high level, and his spiritual power changed into a beam of invisible spiritual light that shot into the distance to observe his surroundings. As he turned his head, he started to scan around.

Ye Guyi felt the vigorous spiritual power from Huo Yuhao wash past her, and was horrified.

The demand on her own spiritual power to use her Holy Angel was also very high. This was because her Holy Angel didn't just rely on the power of light to become stronger, it also relied on the power of belief, as well as the power of purification that was obtained from purifying evil. All these required immense spiritual power to control.

As a result, Ye Guyi had always been very confident in her spiritual power. However, she now discovered that her spiritual power couldn't compare to Huo Yuhao's. His cultivation is obviously only around six rings, but the strength of his spiritual power seems to be boundless and unpredictable. His terrifying spiritual suppression can even exceed that of a Titled Douluo!

After his quick scan, Huo Yuhao didn't find Bei Bei and Xu Sanshi's auras. However, he discovered a large number of the Sun Moon Empire's troops. They were all deployed to the west of Radiant City, and encircling it secretly. There were also several soul engineers equipped with soul tools among these troops. They were moving in an orderly manner, and it was obvious that they were prepared to react to any kind of situation.

Huo Yuhao took in a deep breath and slowly shut his shining golden eyes. A strange glow began to shine on his forehead. His Eye of Destiny opened silently, and a purplish-golden light shot out from it.

As he fully unleashed his spiritual power, Huo Yuhao also finally revealed one of his soul rings that he usually concealed with his Imitation.

White, purple, purple, black, black. His five soul rings appeared around him.

Yes, these were the true colors of Huo Yuhao's soul rings.

The words that the Skydream Iceworm told him before weren't exaggerated. His Spirit Eyes were able to become so strong because his soul rings evolved as his spiritual power increased, and later, after he fused with the Skydream Iceworm's spiritual origin

His first soul ring was a "ten year" soul ring, his second and third rings were thousand-year soul rings, and his fourth and fifth soul rings were ten-thousand year soul rings. Among soul masters of the same rank, he was unique.

Furthermore, his second and third soul rings might even evolve to ten thousand year soul rings as his spiritual power continued to increase.

Ye Guyi was shocked when she saw his five soul rings.

What's going on? Ten year, thousand year, thousand year, ten thousand year, ten thousand year? Is he normal? Aren't his soul rings supposed to be greyish? Why are they like that now? Which ones are real, and which ones are fake? He's only a Soul King, but he defeated me even though I'm a Soul Emperor. This, this...

This completely contradicted everything Ye Guyi knew about soul masters. Suddenly, she became very curious about Huo Yuhao.

Huo Yuhao's Eye of Destiny Spiritual Detection could cover more than seven kilometers if aimed in a single direction. It was the best that he could manage right now.

As he scanned the area with his Spiritual Detection, he sensed everything that was happening within the region he scanned...

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Finally, he revealed a delighted look on his face. "I've found them!"

"Let's go. Ye Guyi, follow us. Stay no more than ten meters away from us."

"I..." Ye Guyi wanted to retort, but Huo Yuhao had already pulled Wang Dong'er along with him as he charged forward. In addition, Wang Dong'er's body lit up with one yellow, three purple, and two black soul rings. They were better than what was normally the best combination possible! Her bluish-gold butterfly wings opened up on her back, and a captivating glow rendered her even more ravishing.

Hmph! I'm not inferior to her! Ye Guyi unleashed her Holy Angel following the rise in her competitive spirit. While she was drained in her fight with Huo Yuhao, she had completely recovered when she was in the spectral demiplane. The place was filled with a spectral aura, but there was also a dense aura of light. However, it didn't help her recover her soul power.

As she opened her four angel wings, Ye Guyi fluttered her feathery wings and chased after Huo Yuhao. There were white wings on one side, and bluish-gold wings on the other side. The three of them definitely formed a very dazzling lineup.

The Sun Moon Empire's troops were already watching them from afar. Huo Yuhao lifted his head to peer into the sky. With his vision, he had already located a few surveillance soul tools in the sky. n//o-(v(.e-(l-)&/.1-(n

A cold smile appeared on his lips. While these surveillance soul tools were effective against most people, they might not be effective against him.

A strange layer of spiritual undulations rippled from his body. Ye Guyi only saw his first, white soul ring shining before the light around them started to bend.

She was also inside, and thus she couldn't see what changes were happening to her body. The only feeling that she got was that the light that both she and Wang Dong'er emitted dimmed down before it

disappeared. Their surroundings also turned pitch-black. However, she could still see the bluish-gold from Wang Dong'er's wings. She became very curious as she witnessed this strange scene occurring.

However, she was astonished at the next moment. Huo Yuhao's gentle spiritual power was transmitted over. As she thought he was trying to connect with her, she naturally accepted his spiritual power. However, Ye Guyi opened her eyes wide in shock following this.

Everything around her became very clear in her mind. She could tell what was going for several square kilometers around her. She almost shouted out loud when she realized she had an all-around view of her surroundings.

Spiritual power can be used in this way? Isn't he an evil soul master? However, I can't feel any evil aura from him now. On the contrary, there's a very thick aura of light. What's with this guy?

Ye Guyi followed Huo Yuhao tightly as the questions piled up in her mind. Through his Spiritual Detection, he told her to follow him closely.

Very soon, the three of them got close to the troops who were stationed to the west of Radiant City.

Ye Guyi started to get a little nervous. Although the three of them were very strong, they were still outnumbered! Furthermore, the Sun Moon Empire's military would still have some soul engineers, even if there was no real soul engineering team around.

They were trying to make their way into Radiant City. If they were discovered, they would be surrounded. This guy doesn't seem like an idiot, why is he doing something as foolish as this?

However, she was shocked once again even before her doubts were answered.

The soldiers didn't seem to notice them at all. They didn't react even though the three of them were getting closer and closer.

In fact, the soldiers weren't able to see them at all!

Huo Yuhao had used his Imitation to hide from others on several occasions. It was even more effective at night. Unless one really tried to sense his aura, they wouldn't be able to detect him using the naked eye. In addition, only soul masters that were superior in cultivation to him and certain special soul beasts would be able to sense his aura while he was concealed this way.

They were able to charge past the troops into Radiant City openly!

Ye Guyi stopped trying to guess what Huo Yuhao's abilities were shortly thereafter. It was because she was more astonished by the dilapidated buildings and walls in front of her.

As she looked at several of the collapsed building in front of her, as well as the fissures on the ground that snaked around everywhere, Ye Guyi couldn't help but exclaim, "Is this really Radiant City? Why has it become like this?"

"Shut up!" Huo Yuhao transmitted this message to her through his spiritual power.

His Imitation couldn't isolate sound! Is she trying to tell the troops where we are?

Ye Guyi also realized her mistake, but she was still dissatisfied as she snorted at Huo Yuhao, “Am I supposed to shut up just because you want me to?” While she was speaking again, she tried her best to lower her volume.

Huo Yuhao didn’t have time to bother with her. Right now, he could sense that Bei Bei and Xu Sanshi were in a crisis. He quickened his footsteps and burst forward.

He didn’t choose to fly because he understood soul tools very well. The aerial surveillance soul tools in the air had very simple structures, as they were very large, and yet needed to remain in the air. However, the anti-air soul tools on the ground were different. He couldn’t hide from them even with his Imitation. The anti-air soul tools were aided by soul power detection soul tools. No matter what, Huo Yuhao couldn’t possibly conceal his soul power undulations completely. Once they were discovered, they couldn’t possibly handle the barrage of attacks that would be unleashed against them.

Bei Bei and Xu Sanshi were indeed in a disastrous situation right now. They had been surrounded by their enemies.

A bunch of soul engineers that had them surrounded. These soul engineers weren’t individually strong, the highest-ranked among them was only a Class 5 soul engineer. However, they had strength in numbers.

At least forty soul engineers had formed a loose circle, trapping the two of them.

The soul tools that were used were mainly Class 3 or Class 4. However, they were mainly used for rapid and long-range attacks. There were many rapid-fire cannons and explosive bombs that were targeting Bei Bei and Xu Sanshi. They weren’t given the opportunity to catch their breath.

The fighting strength of soul engineers would greatly increase after they achieved a certain numerical advantage. That was what was happening with this bunch of soul engineers. They were from the Sun Moon Empire’s soul engineering legion, and had great chemistry with one another. The soul tools that they used only exhausted their soul power, and didn’t drain any other resources.

If Bei Bei and Xu Sanshi had been at their peak condition, they wouldn’t find it a problem to fight their way out.

However, the two of them were critically injured during the Continental Elite Youth Soul Master Academy. Although they had received treatment in time, they were still far from fully recovered. After a series of fights, their injuries had relapsed. At this point, Xu Sanshi was using his Shield of the Xuanwu Turtle to protect Bei Bei. He tried to charge his way out a few times, but he was forced to retreat on every occasion.

Furthermore, a flashing red light silently appeared in the sky at this point. This ball of light very quickly locked onto Xu Sanshi.

It was an Eye of Fear!

Even though they weren’t soul engineers, Bei Bei and He Caitou recognized what it was. During the tournament, He Caitou used an Eye of Fear to create many opportunities for their team to beat their opponents.

However, they were the ones who were going to suffer from the wrath of this Eye of Fear right now. It wasn't a good feeling to be on the wrong side this time.

"Bei Bei, I didn't expect to die with you here. I'll fight all the way with them. Later, try to break out on your own when I unleash my full abilities. I can't take care of her anymore. Ask her to find a good guy and marry him," Xu Sanshi said to Bei Bei without any hesitation.

Bei Bei was flustered and exasperated as he said, "Nonsense! I don't think you can help me escape with your lacking abilities. I think you should get out of here. You're more likely to escape with that turtle shell you've got. I'm more explosive than you." In the face of this crisis, he was less refined than he normally was.

Xu Sanshi was furious. "Cut the crap! Anyway, Nannan has always nursed a grievance against me. She won't be too sad even if I die. You are different from me. You still have to save Xiao Ya! What will she do without you? Go on, get the Hell out of here! That Eye of Fear is about to finish charging."

As he spoke, he gave Bei Bei a forceful push.

However, Bei Bei's body shone with blinding golden light at this point. A sonorous dragon roar reverberated through the nine heavens. It was a sign that meant the Radiant Holy Dragon was about to be unleashed.

Bei Bei hadn't tapped into the abilities of his Radiant Holy Dragon earlier even though he was facing formidable enemies, due to his injuries. However, it was evident that he was going all-out by unleashing it now.

Xu Sanshi's eyes were red as he glared at Bei Bei. However, Bei Bei now appeared very calm and refined. He was smiling as he looked at Xu Sanshi. The golden bolts of lightning that surged around him started to gradually turn into a light fog. Everything within a region of several tens of square meters turned a blinding gold. In a matter of seconds, lightning flashed within this region, which seemed to have transformed into a special world. The golden glow around Bei Bei started to combust like flames!

He was burning his life energy to increase the strength of his soul power! His Radiant Holy Dragon was strong enough to increase his fighting strength significantly. By sacrificing his life energy, he made his fighting strength even more terrifying.

Xu Sanshi's eyes had already turned red. He wanted to stop Bei Bei, but he was flung far away by a strong bolt of golden lightning!

Chapter 362.3: Great Adventure of Sincerity!

Dai Huabin charged through the vegetation before witnessing a terrifying sight; an enormous centipede was assaulting Zhu Lu!

This centipede was more than three meters long, with uncountable legs. It was jade-green in color, and emanated a dark green toxic gas. Dai Huabin was still quite a distance away, but he could already smell a waft of its rotting stench.

Zhu Lu was using her agile hands against this giant centipede, but there was a gash extending all the way down from her pretty cheeks and across her entire right arm. Her right arm was hanging limply by her side, and it was evident that she had cried out in pain because of this wound.

Even though Dai Huabin had never seen this kind of soul beast before, his eyes became bloodshot when he realized that Zhu Lu was injured, and he unleashed a tiger's roar into the sky.

Dai Huabin's five soul rings rose up in an instant, while his already muscular body began to grow and expand. He was still relatively far away, so he opened his mouth as his second soul ring sparkled and fired a white beam of light towards that centipede.

The centipede looked very peculiar. It was like a tough spring, and suddenly spun around when it felt the threat coming from not too far away. It actually used its head to block Dai Huabin's White Tiger Fierce Light Wave.

White light was deflected in all directions, but the centipede was only knocked sideways slightly. Its body twisted and meandered as the lower half of its body bounced lightly against the ground, before it launched itself towards Zhu Lu again. The centipede was obviously more interested in Zhu Lu than in Dai Huabin.

Dai Huabin was charging forward at full speed at this point, and he used his first, third, and fifth soul rings without any hesitation.

Those soul rings gave him his White Tiger's Shield, White Tiger's Vajra Transformation, and White Tiger's Devilgod Transformation. These three soul skills were typically used together, and were the signature moves of the White Tiger lineage.

Dai Huabin transformed into an exceptionally muscular and burly giant more than two and a half meters tall. His entire body was covered in white fur, which radiated eye-catching color as his tiger claws protruded like razor-sharp blades. Dai Huabin raised his speed and strength to the highest possible level as he arrived beside Zhu Lu in a flash. He swung his tiger claws powerfully at the giant centipede.

The centipede opened its mouth, and a dense and dark green venomous fog erupted from its jaws. This fog sprayed onto Dai Huabin's White Tiger Shield, and sizzling sounds could be heard. Dai Huabin could feel his soul power being consumed at an exponentially faster rate than before.

However, his claws struck the centipede's body as well! This time, the centipede didn't have an easy time dealing with Dai Huabin's attack.

Dai Huabin felt as if he had slashed into a thick and sturdy metal rod. The centipede was remarkably elastic, and it bolted swiftly into the air, but Dai Huabin's sharp claws left several deep gashes behind on its tough body.

Dai Huabin's fourth soul ring lit up at this moment, and uncountable light rays instantly rained down on the centipede.

In terms of connecting soul skills, Dai Huabin lived up to his reputation as one of Shrek Academy's elites. How could anybody who could enter Shrek Academy's inner courtyard be a subpar fighter?

Dai Huabin looked back at Zhu Lu as he attacked the centipede and asked, "How are you feeling, Lu Lu?"

Zhu Lu was clearly very relieved when she saw him. Her delicate frame swayed a little as she sat down on the ground. "I think I've been poisoned. Be careful."

"I'll kill it first, before I help you treat your wounds." Dai Huabin roared angrily once more. Zhu Lu being injured gave him a massive heartache, and this was especially true after he had determined his true feelings for Zhu Lu earlier today.

Dai Huabin unleashed his full strength, and his body sprang into the air. He arrived before the giant centipede in almost the same instant as he stretched out his tiger claws and launched lightning-fast attacks upon it.

The centipede was quite formidable. Its body was three meters long, and was its strongest weapon, every single leg was like a sharp blade.

Dai Huabin couldn't be bothered with any tricks and techniques because he wanted to save Zhu Lu as quickly as possible. He relied on the effects of his White Tiger's three amplification soul skills stacking to fight force with force!

Shrill clashing sounds rang out again and again as more and more wounds appeared on the enormous centipede's body. Dai Huabin's white fur and his White Tiger's Shield became his most effective defensive abilities, and he continued fighting force with force just like that. Even though he was expending soul power at an alarming rate, he didn't seem like he was injured at all.

Dai Huabin smashed the giant centipede once more, sending it flying. The enormous centipede was already wounded all over, and it seemed to realize that it had lost. It arched and bounced back to its feet before escaping rapidly into the distance.

Dai Huabin couldn't be bothered with chasing it; he immediately returned to Zhu Lu's side.

Zhu Lu was almost unconscious at this point. Dai Huabin only realized how serious her injuries were when he knelt down beside her.

The giant centipede's venom was extremely intense. Black streaks webbed all over her body, and this was especially true for her facial wound and the gash down her right arm. Her skin was starting to smell of rot, and even her flesh and the muscles beneath her skin had become black. Zhu Lu's soul power could only prevent the toxins from reaching her brain and heart. But even so, it didn't seem like she could hold those toxins off any longer.

What should I do?? Dai Huabin's fighting strength was formidable enough, but he wasn't any good at first aid or treating wounds! Dai Huabin almost ground his teeth down as he watched Zhu Lu in the state she was in.

"Hold on, Lu Lu." Dai Huabin growled as he suddenly raised his right hand and sliced off the flesh and skin around the wound on Zhu Lu's right arm. His other hand swiftly transformed back into a human arm, and he helped her seal her blood vessels to prevent her from losing too much blood.

However, Dai Huabin drew a cold breath once more after slicing off her poisoned flesh – the bones underneath Zhu Lu's flesh had already become black; it was clear that she was heavily poisoned.

What should I do? I can't hesitate any longer.

Dai Huabin took a deep breath, and his tiger eyes welled up with tears as he swiped out vigorously with his right hand. Sharp tiger claws that resembled sharp blades instantly cut downward...

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Xu Sanshi's eyes were a little lost as he appeared along a street. The street was bustling with activity, and there were many people around him.

Eh? Why does this place look so familiar?

He was shocked to realize that he seemed to have returned to the real world, and felt an indescribable familiarity towards everything around him.

Xu Sanshi looked up at the sky. The sun was sliding down towards the west; it was evening.

"Second young master, second young master! Why are you still here? We've already made the reservation for you. Follow me, quickly. It's your birthday celebration today." A little fellow that seemed a little wretched raced over, and arrived before Xu Sanshi as he panted vigorously.

"What are you doing here, Chen Wen?" Xu Sanshi felt a surge of warmth in his heart when he saw the person who was speaking to him. The reason was because this fellow who seemed exceptionally wretched was Xu Sanshi's good friend that he had grown up with and played with as kid. This fellow was also his personal servant, and the two of them had been together since they were children. They were as close to one another as actual brothers.

However, Chen Wen's talent wasn't good, and he didn't have any soul power after his martial soul had awakened. Xu Sanshi, meanwhile, became stronger and stronger, and after he entered Shrek Academy, they no longer kept in touch like they had before. Xu Sanshi was elated when he saw Chen Wen here.

"What's wrong with you, second young master? Where am I supposed to be if I'm not supposed to be here? Quickly, follow me, or we'll be late! You have no idea, but I've found an exquisite one for you today. You will definitely be pleased. Haven't you been saying for years that you wished to experience that wonderful sensation as soon as possible? Today is your fifteenth birthday, and the house master has personally arranged everything for you. Why aren't you eager and in a hurry?"

Xu Sanshi could feel that something was wrong with his own voice when he spoke, and he suddenly snapped his head down and stared at his own body when he heard Chen Wen's words.

He realized to his shock that his body had become smaller and shorter, and even his clothes were different from what he was wearing in the Yin-Yang Love Querying Valley.

My fifteenth birthday – my fifteenth birthday! Can it be? Can it be that I...?

Xu Sanshi had an epiphany hit his brain like a thunderbolt at that moment. His mentality was typically stable and steady on normal days, but he couldn't help but feel a numbing and stinging feeling on his scalp, as if he had touched an electric current, and he was having trouble controlling himself. Xu Sanshi felt as if Bei Bei had unleashed his Vigorous Thunderbolt on him.

This is my fifteenth birthday! Today is actually my fifteenth birthday! I... I'm actually back, and I look like I did all those years ago. How is that possible? How is any of this actually possible?

Chen Wen hurriedly ran over and tried to pull Xu Sanshi along as he saw the sluggish look in his eyes. Xu Sanshi was entirely immersed in his own memories at this moment, and his eyes were still lackadaisical as he followed Chen Wen's lead. Xu Sanshi's mind was a mess.

Of course Xu Sanshi remembered his fifteenth birthday. His fifteenth birthday was the day that he had first met her...

This place was his hometown, and both of them came from the same city. Xu Sanshi came from the Heaven Dou Empire, and his family belonged to one of the Heavenly Dou Empire's reclusive sects, the Mysterious Underworld Sect. Everyone in his family had centered their hopes on Xu Sanshi to succeed as house master in his generation, and his family had nurtured him as best they could since he was a child. Xu Sanshi had entered Shrek Academy at the age of twelve, and he became an overnight celebrity along with Bei Bei when they amazed the world with their feats and became one of their class's most outstanding students.

He had already been at Shrek Academy for three years when his fifteenth birthday came to pass.

Chen Wen tugged and pulled as he swiftly led Xu Sanshi somewhere. This place's atmosphere seemed a little dubious. The lanterns that were hanging outside were pink, and there were pavilions and cocklofts inside, along with artificial rocks and landscapes. This place seemed exceptionally elegant and exquisite.

This place,,, it really is this place. I'm actually back! Does this mean that the Yin-Yang Love Querying Valley is giving me a chance to undo what I did?

Xu Sanshi's eyes suddenly became sharp and focused, and he suddenly felt his thoughts becoming clear and rational in that moment.

He raised his head and looked up at the sky. The moon had risen high into the sky, but it seemed like it was formed from a golden sun and a silver moon in Xu Sanshi's eyes.

If... if you're really giving me a chance to undo what I did, I am absolutely willing even if my life is shortened by ten years. It was today's stupidity all those years ago that distanced my true love from me, and she is still haunted up until this day. She isn't the only one... I feel the same way!

"We're here, second young master, it's right inside." Chen Wen's smile became a little wider and more wavy as he pointed at a small room in a corner in front of them, not far from where they were standing. nOVe/Lb-1n

This is the place.?Xu Sanshi's throat and mouth went dry at this moment. Everything was just as he remembered. He was back, he was actually back...

Chapter 363.1: But, I Don't Care. I Love You

Chen Wen suddenly turned serious, and said, "Second young master, every direct male disciple of our Mysterious Underworld Sect has to undergo a special awakening ritual of his martial soul when he's fifteen years old. This awakening is extremely important to you. Once it's completed, your martial soul might completely evolve. If it evolves to the Xuanwu Shield, you'll become the heir to the sect leader."

The martial soul that was passed down in the Mysterious Underworld Sect was the Shield of the Xuanwu Turtle. There was a secret that only those within the Sect knew: the evolution of the Shield of the Xuanwu Turtle!

They only developed this ritual after many attempts by the ancestors of the sect.

Chen Wen knew this secret not only because he was Xu Sanshi's personal servant, but also because five generations of his family had served under the Mysterious Underworld Sect. They were true, core disciples. Even though they couldn't undergo the awakening of their martial souls, they still held a very high status in the sect.

This ritual was very crucial in evolving the Shield of the Xuanwu Turtle to the Xuanwu Shield.

This ritual was carried out when he was fifteen, and still a virgin.

Regarding this, the Mysterious Underworld Sect had always kept it a secret. After all, it wasn't a very glorious thing. The Mysterious Underworld Sect was reclusive. To carry on the survival of the sect, they had no choice but to do this. When this time came, they would always choose a girl from a good family and offer her a huge sum of money if she was willing to have sexual intercourse with the chosen male disciple.

If the girl was willing to join the Mysterious Underworld Sect, she could at least become his concubine, and possibly his wife if their relationship developed well. If she wasn't willing, she could leave with that sum of money.

This had long become a rule of the Mysterious Underworld Sect.

As the most likely candidate to experience an awakening of his martial soul, Xu Sanshi was selected. A virgin was also picked out for him after a strict selection process by the Mysterious Underworld Sect. Not only did the girl have to be a virgin, but she had to be a soul master that wasn't older than Xu Sanshi, too! In addition, she had to be intelligent, and beautiful!

Right now, everything had been prepared. The only thing left was for Xu Sanshi to enter the room and start the ritual.

Xu Sanshi's gaze was a little lost. Of course he recalled that night, or rather, this night. He was only fifteen years old then, but he was already very curious about the opposite gender, due to how his family attached such importance to this ritual and his natural development. He was very excited as he entered the room, but it had turned into a huge mistake...

At this point, he couldn't remain calm as everything played out again.

"Okay, young master, you can enter now. Do your best." Chen Wen's serious expression turned playful again. There was even a look of envy and perversion on his face.

"Young master, I've taken a look for you. This lady is extremely beautiful. Master even mentioned that you can wed her if you like."

Xu Sanshi took in a deep breath. As he looked at the door, he started to have mixed feelings.

"Nannan, I'm coming," he silently said to himself before walking over with big steps.

Is the Yin-Yang Love Querying Valley letting me try again because it wants to reawaken my martial soul again? No, it's testing my sincerity. It's testing what's really important in my heart.

What had happened then kept on playing in Xu Sanshi's mind.

When he had walked into the room, he had been eager to head to the bed. All he saw was a ravishing young lady who had shut her eyes under the dim lights. It was his first time seeing her. However, he didn't know that she was also...

Due to several reasons, he had had no choice but to do this. He pressed down on Jiang Nannan, but her rigid body was trembling.

Xu Sanshi tried a few times, but he didn't succeed. Finally, he decided to try the position that his uncles once joked about. He flipped her over and pressed down from behind.

However, he went into the wrong hole... only to find that he was unable to stop, as the evolution process had begun.

Xu Sanshi was extremely gifted. The Shield of the Xuanwu Turtle eventually still evolved, but the evolution wasn't complete. It was only a half-completed Xuanwu Shield.

This incident was the reason why Jiang Nannan ostracized him so much. Xu Sanshi also realized that he had made a big mistake, but he couldn't help what had already happened.

She left after the incident. When Xu Sanshi saw her again, she was already in Shrek Academy.

Right now, Xu Sanshi had mixed feelings as this scene replayed itself in his mind.

When he saw Jiang Nannan, he only had a burning passion towards her. However, Jiang Nannan treated him as if he were a brutal beast. Since then, he had gone through a lot before he finally got together with Jiang Nannan. With the help of the Sea God's Fated Blind Date, he managed to get Jiang Nannan to accept him.

However, he knew that she still hadn't forgotten what had happened, even though she accepted him now. It had also been affecting their relationship. It was only recently that she was willing to hold his hand, hug him, and kiss him.

Jiang Nannan had once told Xu Sanshi that she was still emotionally hurt from that incident, and needed more time.

Right now, Xu Sanshi had to face this girl whose eyes were shut, and who was waiting for him quietly.

Xu Sanshi pursed his lips tightly and looked into the sky. Right now, his emotions were surging, and were about to flow out.

"Thank you, Love Querying Valley. You let me live this out once again. Thank you for giving me this opportunity. I'm willing to start afresh from here. Thank you."

As he spoke, he bowed to the bright moon in the sky. After that, he pushed the door open and walked in.

Chen Wen was a little confused at how Xu Sanshi was acting, but still continued to guard the door for him. He stood outside the door and guarded the room.

As he entered the room, the lights were as dim as before. Xu Sanshi could still clearly recall that he was excited and nervous when he rushed to the bed.

Right now, he was taking slow steps. His body was even trembling. As he was agitated, he clenched his fists tightly.

He finally walked in front of the bed. He saw Jiang Nannan waiting silently for destiny, or rather misfortune, to arrive.

He lifted his head and forcefully held back his tears. He gently unveiled her and sat beside her on the bed.

Jiang Nannan shuddered when she felt someone coming, and she became very tense.

Yes! She was still very young then, around fourteen years old. I'm really a beast. Xu Sanshi lifted his hand and slapped himself on the face.

"Pak!"

Jiang Nannan seemed to be frightened by the sudden noise, and subconsciously opened her eyes. She was very nervous, and looked at Xu Sanshi with a frightened look on her face.

"Don't be scared." Xu Sanshi gently said. After that, he stood up from the bed and tried to comfort her.

Jiang Nannan gently bit her lower lip. She didn't move as she looked at him.

Xu Sanshi took in a deep breath. "I'm sorry for frightening you. Believe me, I won't let you come to harm. Not now. Not in the future."

After hearing his words, Jiang Nannan seemed a little lost. She didn't know what to say as she looked at him.

Xu Sanshi squatted down beside her so that he could get a closer look at her face. He gently said, "My name is Xu Sanshi. I know that they gave you money to consummate this ritual with me, but I won't do it. I don't want to hurt you."

Jiang Nannan was a little stunned. However, her fear and anxiety suddenly disappeared. It was just that Xu Sanshi was still overwhelmed with emotions right now, and didn't discover it.

"You..."

"You're Jiang Nannan, am I right?" Xu Sanshi asked softly.

Jiang Nannan nodded.

She was under a blanket as Xu Sanshi pointed at her and said, "I'll go to one side. You can put your clothes back on. I think you'll feel safer that way. We can chat afterwards. To put them at ease, I can't leave this room tonight."

Jiang Nannan was evidently stunned. "But, your martial soul has to be cultivated..."

Xu Sanshi interrupted her, "I can't be a beast even if that's the case. I told you that I won't hurt you. Not now. Not in the future. How can the awakening of my martial soul compare to you? So what if it's the Xuanwu Shield? So what if I become the sect master? They are nothing compared to you. I'm willing to give up everything for you. Even if I can't enter the inner courtyard of Shrek Academy in the future and become a member of Shrek's Seven Monsters, I'm still willing."

As he spoke, Xu Sanshi stood up and turned around. He walked into a corner and faced the wall. He smiled. The trauma in his heart had finally been removed. After so many years, the trauma, pain and guilt in his heart had finally vanished.

Yes! I can give up everything for you, Nannan. I love you. If we can start afresh, I'm willing to use everything I've got to make this right. I'll love you with all my heart so that you'll no longer be traumatized. Tears started to stream down his face as he smiled.

"I'm done changing. You... you can come over." Jiang Nannan's voice sounded behind him.

Chapter 363.2: But, I Don't Care. I Love You

Silence. Nothing but silence all around.

The moon was shining very brightly on this night. However, Jiang Nannan was feeling very mixed feelings.

Right now, she was standing outside a village as she carried something in her arms.

Everything around her felt very familiar and clear in her memory. Her heart seemed to be trembling as she felt the surrounding aura.

She gently bit her lip as her purple hair flowed behind her head. She looked up at the sun and moon, and silently asked, "Why am I back here? Why? Why am I back in this place, where I was once extremely frightened?"

Is this to remind me of my most painful memory? Is this to make me experience that pain once again?

No, I don't want to! I don't want to!

Jiang Nannan shook her head forcefully, and her tears flowed down uncontrollably.

She would never, ever forget this place.

That night, that guy, whose body suddenly started glowing black, brought me so much pain and humiliation. I've been traumatized ever since that experience, even though that guy...

Jiang Nannan was in low spirits as she walked forward. She still clearly remembered that she had sent the sum of money back after receiving it and immediately left for Shrek Academy. That was because she was too ashamed to see her mother anymore...

A few years had passed since then, but she had only communicated with her mother through letters. She also sent some money back to her, but she had never had the courage to return to see her. She was afraid of reliving the pain if she saw her mother.

I want to see my mom again and personally pass her money. Although she always claims to be well every time she writes me a letter, is she really well? I'm so foolish. No matter what I've done, mommy will always love me. She'll forgive me. Mommy, I really miss you.

Her tears flowed even more uncontrollably. Her yearning to see her mother seemed to lessen the trauma that she was experiencing.

She ran quickly. Even though her abilities had only recovered to the standard of a three-ringed soul master, she was still much faster than other soul masters of the same level, as her martial soul was a Softbone Rabbit.

Finally, she saw the place. It was a reputable clinic in the city, which offered the best treatment and rehabilitative services.

The reason why she had agreed to that guy's family's request was because her mother...

She was getting closer and closer to the clinic. Just like that day, the owner of the clinic was standing at the door. The owner passed her the sum of money and a Xuanwu Divine Pill that only the Xuanming Sect had to treat her mother. After she saw her mother consume the Xuanwu Divine Pill from outside the window, she quickly turned and ran away. She was tormented then, and that torment had lasted even until now.

Mommy, how are you?

She missed her mother incredibly. However, the clinic turned illusory just as Jiang Nannan was about to reach the front door. Everything around it turned illusory.

"No! No... why did you bring me into this illusion, but not let me see my mother? Please, let me see my mother!" Jiang Nannan shouted and wailed.

After that, she realized that everything in front of her had turned clear again. However, she was no longer able to control her body. The clinic in front of her seemed to turn transparent.

Everything distorted, and a thought suddenly appeared in her mind, "One day later..."

One day later? What does that mean?

Jiang Nannan started to become agitated even before she recovered from her confusion. This was because she finally saw her mother, who was lying on a bed, and appeared very pale. Right now, her mother's body rippled with a black glow. It was the effect of consuming the Xuanwu Divine Pill.

"Mommy, mommy!" Jiang Nannan shouted. However, her voice couldn't be heard.

At this moment, she saw another person. Another person had walked into her mother's ward.

Why, why is he here?

Jiang Nannan was stunned. The person who had walked into the ward was Xu Sanshi. Chen Wen was also following close behind him.

Xu Sanshi seemed very puerile, but Jiang Nannan knew that his cultivation was already close to four rings. He was stronger than her.

Suddenly, Xu Sanshi and Chen Wen started conversing with each other.

“Is she the mother of that girl? Why is she not here?”

Chen Wen scratched his head and replied, “I don’t know, either. I only heard that her mother was staying here. She sold her body to us because her mother was sick. Her mother has a congenital heart disease, and needed our Xuanwu Divine Pill to improve her condition. At the same time, she needs to rest for a long time before she can recover. I think she had no choice, thus she had to...”

Xu Sanshi clenched his fists tightly and furiously said, “Why didn’t you mention this earlier? She was doing it to save her mother, but I...” As he spoke, he punched the wall next to him.

“We have to find her no matter what. I need to make amends for my mistake! I’ll marry her once I find her! I’m, I’m really a jerk! Chen Wen, can you help me lift her up?”

Chen Wen was stunned. “Second young master, what do you want to do?”

Xu Sanshi said, “While the medicinal power of a Xuanwu Divine Pill is mild, it digests very slowly. Furthermore, the longer the time needed for digestion, the weaker the effect of the pill. I can use my soul power to speed it up, so she’ll be able to absorb the medicinal power of the pill much more easily. After all, my soul power is complementary to a Xuanwu Divine Pill.”

Chen Wen hurriedly said, “You can’t do this, young master. You’ve just experienced the second awakening of your martial soul. You can’t do this. You’ll hurt your vitality.”

Xu Sanshi was still furious. “I have to do it no matter what. I hurt her so badly! What’s a little vitality? Since I can’t find her now, I’ll help take care of her mother first.”

Chen Wen unwillingly lifted Jiang Nannan’s mother up under Xu Sanshi’s demands.

Jiang Nannan was in a daze as she watched all of this. She muttered to herself, “Sanshi...”

Everything in front of her seemed to suddenly speed up. Jiang Nannan saw Xu Sanshi sitting behind her mother and activating his soul power. Eventually, he fainted, but her mother woke up.

She also saw how Xu Sanshi told the clinic personnel to take good care of her mother before giving them a large sum of money.

Time passed quickly. The thought that had appeared in her mind earlier surfaced again,?One week later.

Chen Wen came to the clinic with a lot of food and daily necessities. He was visiting her mother on Xu Sanshi’s behalf.

Two weeks later, Chen Wen came to visit again. n))Ove/bIn

Three weeks later...

Every week, Chen Wen would come to visit her mother on Xu Sanshi’s behalf. However, he asked her mother not to include any of his visits in her letters to Jiang Nannan.

Half a year later...

Xu Sanshi personally paid Jiang Nannan's mother a visit. He's, he's actually here to visit mommy. But I never once returned...

Tears streamed down Jiang Nannan's face once again.

As she saw how her mother and Xu Sanshi had a pleasant conversation, how Xu Sanshi helped to massage her mother's shoulders and heal her body with his soul power, Jiang Nannan broke down in tears.

This idiot. He, he never once told me anything. He has been helping take care of my mother all these years. Idiot, fool, jerk! Why, why didn't you tell me?

Her mother's figure slowly faded away. However, her flushed, red cheeks, her benevolent smile and the affable look in Xu Sanshi's eyes were deeply imprinted on Jiang Nannan's mind.

All this are real. It must be real. Sanshi...

Everything in front of her suddenly changed. Her surroundings dimmed, and Jiang Nannan was stunned to realize she was lying down on a bed. After this, she heard a familiar voice.

"I'm sorry for making you so frightened. Trust me, I don't want you to come to any harm. Not now. Not in the future."

"My name is Xu Sanshi. I know that they gave you some money to consummate this ritual with me, but I won't do it. I don't want to hurt you."

"You..."

"You're Jiang Nannan, am I right?" Xu Sanshi asked softly.

Jiang Nannan nodded.

"I'll go to one side. You can put your clothes back on. I think you'll feel safer this way. We can chat afterwards. To put them at ease, I can't leave this room tonight."

Jiang Nannan was stunned. "But, your martial soul has to be cultivated..."

"I can't be a beast even if that's the case. I told you that I won't hurt you. Not now. Not in the future. How can the awakening of my martial soul compare to you? So what if it's the Xuanwu Shield? So what if I become the sect master? They are nothing compared to you. I'm willing to give up everything for you. Even if I can't enter the inner courtyard of Shrek Academy in the future and become a member of Shrek's Seven Monsters, I'm still willing."

As she looked at his resolute back and his determined words, Jiang Nannan could no longer keep her tears from flowing.

"I'm done changing. You, you can come over now."

Xu Sanshi turned around and walked to the bedside, but he panicked when he saw Jiang Nannan tearing up.

“Nannan, don’t cry. Don’t worry, I won’t do anything to you no matter what. I won’t harm you. I guarantee you that I won’t touch you.”

“I don’t care,” Jiang Nannan sobbed.

“What?” Xu Sanshi was in a daze as he watched Jiang Nannan sit up suddenly on the bed. She wasn’t wearing any clothes, and her movement revealed her delicate, white shoulders. “What did you say?”

Jiang Nannan suddenly leapt towards him and hugged his neck. Her voice was almost inaudible because of her crying. “I said I don’t care. Fool, I said I don’t care. I love you, Sanshi.”

Chapter 363.3: But, I Don’t Care. I Love You

Their surroundings instantly went completely quiet. However, both Xu Sanshi and Jiang Nannan’s bodies began to change. After a moment, they were less adolescent; they’d returned to their twenty-year-old selves.

The bed was still the same bed from five years ago. However, their bodies and hearts were wound tighter than they had been five years ago at this moment.

He wasn’t going to enter the wrong hole this time.

The black glow that signified the evolution of his martial soul surfaced once again.

Outside of their room, the golden sun and silver moon seemed to arc together in a smile.

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A boundless prairie spread out before her, jade-green vines of Bluesilver Grass swaying in the gentle breeze. As they swayed, they seemed to endlessly extend.

When Zhang Lexuan discovered herself in such a place, her eyes started to shine brightly. She had always loved this sort of boundless feeling. The endless green, the refreshing air, the bright sunlight, and the birds that occasionally flew by all left her in a pleasant mood. It was as if all her troubles were slowly slipping away, one breath at a time.

Where is this?? There was no such place on the continent in Zhang Lexuan’s memory, or at least, not that she knew of. If this place was real, she believed that she would’ve already fallen in love with this place.

“What is love?” A dull voice echoed through the air. This voice seemed to resonate from all directions, even the sky, as it did so.

What is love?? Zhang Lexuan was dazed as she lifted her head to peer into the sky. Afterwards, she gently shook her head. She’d never fallen in love; how could she know what love was? In her heart, there was only one person she was fond of.

“Love is about giving and devoting one’s self. It’s also about thoughtfulness and having no regard towards anything else.” The loud voice suddenly became gentle, as if it was a gentle breeze sweeping across her, comforting her soul.

“Love is selfish, possessive, and present everywhere. It’s also the root of much pain.

“However, we cannot live without love. A life without love is incomplete. Do you understand?” novel 1n

Zhang Lexuan laughed bitterly. “I understand. However, how can I forget something deep within my bones?”

“You’ll forget everything as a reward.” A gust of wind raged, causing leaves to billow upwards. Just like them, Zhang Lexuan’s spirits were also lifted into the air.

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Bitingly cold mountains and gusts of wind.

“Ah—!” Ning Tian tried to keep her balance as she let out a shriek of fear. She’d already broken out into a cold sweat.

She was shocked to find that she’d appeared at the edge of a cliff, and that there was a deep valley in front of her. If she were to take even half a step forward, she’d disappear into the deep valley in front of her, never to return.

There was a deep valley in front of her, but what about behind her?

When she turned around, Ning Tian saw a bunch of mountains behind her. She was standing atop the peak of a mountain.

“Who are you?” A deep voice echoed upwards from the valley.

“I’m Ning Tian.” Ning Tian subconsciously replied.

“Who are you?” The same question was posed to her again.

“I am Ning Tian from the Seven Treasures Glazed Sect! I’m the next sect leader of the sect!” As she stood atop the piercingly-cold mountain peak, Ning Tian felt that her emotions had gone out of control for some reason. Thus, she shouted as loud as she could without regard for anything else.

Her voice echoed far and wide and through the mountain range. Even after a long time had passed, it hadn’t completely faded.

“You are under too much pressure.” The deep voice echoed again. “Are you willing to relieve this pressure?”

“How do I do so?” Ning Tian asked agonizingly.

Ever since she’d been young, she’d been the lone daughter of the Seven Treasures Glazed Sect’s sect master. The Seven Treasures Glazed Sect had once met with a catastrophe ten thousand years ago, and been almost completely destroyed. After ten thousand years of development, it had finally re-established itself as the continent’s top auxiliary-type tool soul, and had once again become one of the strongest sects on the continent. However, Ning Tian had led a boring life as a direct female disciple. The only things she’d done throughout her life had been studying and cultivating.

She’d then proceeded to enter Shrek Academy at the apex of this boring life. Originally, she’d been considered a chosen child of heaven, and had thought that she would be the best amongst those the

same age as her. However, she soon came to know of Shrek Academy's golden generation. She met the unbeatable Wang Dong'er, the gifted Dai Huabin, Xie Huanyue and finally Huo Yuhao, the strangest person, who had twin martial souls, immense spiritual power, and even Ultimate Ice.

As she continued to mingle with them, she realized that she wasn't nearly as outstanding as she'd thought. Even though she was still extremely outstanding, her limelight had been completely stolen by the others.

It was evident how tormented she felt! She had once tried to cultivate even harder. However, her martial soul was an auxiliary-type! It was the Seven Treasures Glazed Pagoda, which couldn't be used to fight directly. It was thus very difficult for her to cultivate. In fact, it was just as difficult for her to cultivate as it was for Huo Yuhao to cultivate his Ultimate Ice. No matter how hard she'd tried, it didn't change the fact that an auxiliary-type soul master couldn't exceed a battle soul master.

When she saw that Huo Yuhao, Wang Dong'er, and Xiao Xiao were crowned champions along with their inner courtyard seniors in the last Continental Elite Advanced Soul Master Academy Tournament, Ning Tian hadn't just been filled with envy, she'd also been filled with jealousy.

And following that, she'd suddenly like she couldn't possibly catch up to the rest of them, no matter how hard she tried. At that point, she'd thought of another possibility, which was the hope that her family had held for her.

As a top-ranked auxiliary-type sect, many strong soul masters often looked to the Seven Treasures Glazed Sect for help. As one of the elites of the younger generation of soul masters, Ning Tian knew that she'd have to find a protector that would stay by her side one day. This person's strength wouldn't simply determine her future status in the sect and whether she could successfully take hold of the sect's reins, but it would also determine the future of the sect itself.

That was why she'd chosen Huo Yuhao during the Sea God's Fate. She'd chosen him because he was the most gifted, as well as most likely to be the strongest individual amongst the younger generation of soul masters in the future.

However, she hadn't expected to fail. She'd lost, and lost tragically at that. She'd been as embarrassed as a little girl when she'd taken the initiative to express her love, but had still been met with rejection. When that rejection came, it had felt as if her heart was stabbed by tens of thousands of blades—it was extremely painful.

She didn't really like Huo Yuhao very much. Rather, she just couldn't accept her failure.

The blow dealt to her from this failure was simply too huge. For a period of time, she was completely despondent. At that point, only Wu Feng remained at her side.

Wu Feng was angry with Huo Yuhao, and cultivated even more tirelessly than her. Yet, even when Ning Tian saw all of this, she still only treated Wu Feng as a sister.

"You can relieve all your pressure by jumping off of this cliff." The deep voice echoed yet again. It was asking her to die.

Ning Tian was dazed by the voice. ?Jump off? Everything will be settled if I just jump off... Yes! What could be better than death to alleviate this pressure? What could be more exciting than death?!

Death??She laughed.

Bring it on!A sharp gaze flashed through Ning Tian’s eyes, before she pursed her lips. The huge pressure that she’d been facing was instantly converted into persistence that now drove her to leap off the cliff. With that, she flung herself off the edge in front of her.

The moment that she leaped, she seemed to hear a tragic scream.

“No...!”

Gusts of wind raged around her, becoming even colder as they swept past her. At this moment, Ning Tian felt as if her spirit had detached from her body; it was a magical feeling. The pressure she felt seemed to slowly disappear as she fell.

I’m sorry, Wu Feng. If there’s such a thing as another life, I’ll become a man and will protect and take care of you. You’ll be my wife. We’ll run our family together, and I’ll make sure to love and repay you for all of the love you’ve shown me all these years.

Tears started to trail through the air above her. As they did, they formed pearl-shaped beads in the air.

Even though she was in free fall, Ning Tian realized that the voice had been right. The pressure that she’d felt seemed to have vanished. At this moment, nothing seemed important to her anymore.

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Wu Feng stood upon the mountain peak, gazing down at the deep valley that Ning Tian had disappeared into. As she stared into the endless drifts of snow, her tears started to flow uncontrollably.

“Ning Tian, why... why did you do this? Why did you jump off the cliff? Why?”

She’d appeared on the other side of the mountain, and had then been given instructions to walk around. Right when she’d been about to arrive, she’d been greeted with the scene of Ning Tian leaping off the cliff. No matter how hard she tried, she hadn’t been able to make it in time; she could only watch as Ning Tian disappeared into the valley below.

Everything seemed to lose importance when she saw that; Wu Feng seemed to have lost her soul. She staggered, about to fall.

“Follow her. If you really love her, you should seek a new life with her.” The voice echoed through the mountain valley.

Wu Feng was shocked. She looked at the deep valley before her, before lifting her head to gaze at the sky and wail, “Ning Tian, I’m coming!” Yes! Since the person she loved was already gone, what was the point of her staying alive?

The projection of a fire dragon grew behind her. This projection carried a sense of elegance and passion, before disappearing along with Wu Feng as she leaped off the cliff in pain and tears

Everything became silent and peaceful again afterwards, the mountains still as biting cold as ever.

Chapter 364: Forbidden Ice Peak

Where is this??Bei Bei was currently standing in the middle of a bustling street. Seeing this, he was quick to question his surroundings, as this place was unfamiliar to him. However, he'd been brought here after the golden lights flashed.

Suddenly, a dim light flashed, and a figure silently appeared in front of him.

"Bei Bei?" A voice softly asked.

"Eh?" Bei Bei focused his gaze on the person. All he saw was a smiling, handsome face. He couldn't describe his feelings when he saw who it was.

This person had long, flowing, sky-blue hair, while their azure eyes contained a gaze as deep and boundless as an ocean. He revealed a gentle smile on his face that made him seem very reliable.

"Follow me." The person slowly turned around. In just a single step, he'd already moved more than ten meters forwards.

Although Bei Bei didn't know what was happening, he was crystal clear that he was in an illusion of the Yin-Yang Love Querying Valley. He quickly followed the person that had just appeared.

The man wasn't walking too fast or too slow; he was moving at a pace that he could follow comfortably. Oddly, the bystanders didn't seem to notice their rapid pace.

Who exactly is this person??Bei Bei wondered as he moved.

Finally, the man stopped outside a house. He pushed the door open, before walking in.

Bei Bei hurriedly followed him inside.

The house's courtyard was very quiet. Everything about it seemed extraordinarily peaceful, too. Not even the sounds of birds or insects could be heard.

The man led Bei Bei into the main hall of this house. After passing the central hall, they stepped into the backyard, and finally came to a room.

The man signaled to Bei Bei and pointed at the room.

Bei Bei subconsciously walked towards the room. The door was already open. When he peeked in, his body shook tremendously.

"Xiao Ya!" Bei Bei shouted, before instantly charging into the room.

Yes, there was a lady seated cross-legged on a bed inside this room. Her body was currently flashing with a bluish-black glow.

Her hair flowed behind her back, while her expression was calm, albeit slightly pale. She was Tang Ya!

"Xiao Ya!" Bei Bei charged towards her and lifted his hands to grab her shoulders. However, he grasped nothing but air. After a moment, Bei Bei was stunned to realize that his hands had gone straight through Tang Ya's body.

Why? Why am I illusory?

“Xiao Ya!” Bei Bei, who was normally calm and refined, started to experience an outpouring of emotions. He wanted to hug her! He wanted to hug her slender body, hold her in his embrace, and use his body heat to warm up her icy-cold body.

Everything around him suddenly distorted slightly. Tang Ya gradually disappeared, followed by the house disappeared, and finally everything around him disappeared.

After this, a huge pinkish flower with a refreshing floral scent entered Bei Bei’s vision.

This flower turned into a halo before dispersing. Following this, he saw a sparkling, crystal-clear blue ball take its place. It looked like it had an extension of crystals, yet seemed like it had leaves too.

Everything around him turned illusory again. A strong wave of dizziness struck Bei Bei, and he lost consciousness.

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“Oh? Why am I here? Wasn’t this place already destroyed?” He Caitou was astonished as he looked around him.

His surroundings were filled with metal. There was a metallic glow and smell, which helped him immediately recognize that this was the underground research institute of the Illustrious Virtue Hall.

Both he and Huo Yuhao had once spent a long time in this research institute. However, it was completely empty now.

“Come out, Xu He,” A sinister voice echoed out.

The moment he heard the words ‘Xu He,’ He Caitou shuddered. He unwillingly turned towards the direction of the voice.

He saw Xu Tianran, who was slowly coming approaching him in his wheelchair.

Xu Tianran wore an aloof expression on his face, and several masked men in black were following him. All of them revealed strong auras from their bodies.

He Caitou slowly stood up. At this moment, he was shockingly calm.

“Xu Tianran!”

Xu Tianran smiled and said, “I bet you didn’t expect this, right? Xu He, we’re actually meeting under such circumstances. I didn’t expect a bastard like you to survive. Today, we can truly catch up as brothers. How’ve you been all these years? As your elder brother, I really haven’t taken care of you properly!”

He Caitou gnashed his teeth and said, “Xu Tianran, I’m going to kill you!” As soon as he shouted, he seemed to forget that he was a soul engineer, and leapt straight towards Xu Tianran.

Xu Tianran wore a scornful expression on his face. He lifted his hand and He Caitou was flung into the air, crashing into a forging table behind him. When he landed, he was in excruciating pain, and couldn’t even stand up anymore.

“You’re going to take revenge by yourself? The entire Sun Moon Empire is under my control now. Yes, a son should pay his father’s debts, but that entails being capable of doing so first! My father was ruthless when he massacred your entire family! I can still clearly remember how he impaled your younger sister with his spear. The desperate, pitiful look in her eyes. However, what could you do? What could you do as her elder brother? Could you have saved her? You couldn’t! You didn’t have the capability, am I right?”

“In fact, don’t you think that living is more painful than death? You’ve been carrying this hatred for years. How tiring must your life be? It’d simply be best if you died. Everything will be over when you die.

“Your father was fatuous; he wanted to keep the earlier agreement, but wasn’t willing to ramp up the development of soul tools by turning experimental products into weapons, nor start a war and get back what belonged to the Sun Moon Empire. He wasn’t fit to be emperor! Even though I’m not very satisfied that my old man has lived for so long, I have to admit that he’s been successful. Replacing your father was the greatest achievement of his life, and it has cleared all the obstacles in front of me. The future of the Douluo Continent belongs to me, Xu Tianran! It belongs to the Sun Moon Empire! After I conquer this continent, I’ll change its name to the Sun Moon Continent. I want the words ‘Douluo Continent’ to completely vanish from this world!”

The more Xu Tianran spoke, the more fanatical he became. He seemed exactly like an evil villain as he sat there.

He Caitou struggled up from the ground, his eyes already completely red. The hatred that he’d always been suppressing had been entirely unleashed at this moment. He let out a bestial roar of anger, before charging towards Xu Tianran again like a mad tiger.

Xu Tianran wasn’t bothered by this at all. He lifted his hand once again and flung him back once more.

“Die. Dying will end everything. It’s a pity that you won’t get to see how prosperous the Sun Moon Continent will be in the future. When you reach the afterlife, remember to tell your dead father that a ruler that doesn’t know how to invade isn’t fit to be one. Ask him to repent over there.”

He Caitou was under immense pressure right now, but a voice suddenly screamed, “No! I won’t let you hurt him!” and a tender figure suddenly appeared in front of him.

He Caitou saw two yellow, two purple, four black and one red soul ring, which were extremely dazzling.

“Xiao Xiao...”?When did Xiao Xiao become a Titled Douluo?

Right now, Xiao Xiao seemed to have grown up, and her figure had become more slender. She seemed to have a greater heroic aura and more mature elegance about her right now. As soon as she lifted her right hand, a beam of blinding, dark-golden light descended from the sky. Suddenly, everything started to tremble. The beam of dark-golden light was akin to extremely huge meteor that struck Xu Tianran and the masked men behind him.

Boom!

The beam of light exploded with earth-shattering power. The terrifying explosion turned everything around it into powder.

The Illustrious Virtue Hall disappeared. Everything disappeared. The only thing left was a huge depression left, as well as the tragic screams left behind by Xu Tianran and the masked men.

He Caitou was dazed as he looked at Xiao Xiao. The physical pain that he felt seemed to have disappeared. By the time he crawled up, she'd already turned around.

"Caitou." Tears streamed down her face, sparkling beneath the illumination of her soul rings.

"Why were you so silly? Why didn't you tell me about the hatred in your heart? Why didn't you let me share your burden? Am I not your woman?"

"Xiao Xiao..."

"Fool! Even though you aren't handsome or romantic, I never despised you for anything when I decided to get together with you. Caitou, you idiot! In the future, you have to share your pain with me, no matter what! Your enemy will be my enemy!"

Xiao Xiao had already leapt into He Caitou's embrace as she spoke. She hugged his muscular body tightly.

Tears flowed uncontrollably down He Caitou's face. "Xiao Xiao, Xiao Xiao, Xiao Xiao..."

— —

Gusts of chilly wind blew as snowflakes drifted in the air. It was completely white everywhere. Snow fluttered through the air, and the ground was completely frozen.

Located at the top of a mountain, there was less than two hundred square meters of available surface area.

There was a thick layer of snow on the ground. Not only was it cold, but it was also very tough.

There were two identical-looking people on the mountain peak right now. Their eyes and hair were powdery-blue, and they were both extremely ravishing.

"Where is this?" Wang Dong'er was a little confused as she looked at Wang Qiu'er opposite her.

Wang Qiu'er seemed to have sensed something. She looked very stern as she scanned their surroundings.

"This is the location of your Sincerity Adventure: A final fight on the summit of this icy peak! Huo Yuhao will go to whoever wins." An aloof-sounding voice echoed in the air.

Wang Dong'er straightened her gaze. "Can matters of the heart truly be settled through violence?"

"It's the best way to resolve things. The two of you look the same, and are equally outstanding. However, only one of you can be with him. The survivor will have the right to remain with him; he won't know what happened. Today, only one of you can leave here alive. There are countless icy mountains around you. If neither of you dies, you will both remain here forever."

Wang Dong'er and Wang Qiu'er moved at the same time. They didn't charge towards each other. Rather, they turned around and rushed towards the edge of the icy peak they were on to look down.

Even with her cold character, Wang Qiu'er's expression changed drastically as she gazed down.

They were on a free-standing icy peak. There was only a deep valley beneath, the depth of which couldn't be determined. Gusts of chilly wind continuously blew upwards. Even as she glanced downwards, Wang Qiu'er could feel her body turning stiff.

Yes, this was a forbidden zone. It was a forbidden zone with no escape.

Compared to Wang Qiu'er, Wang Dong'er seemed very calm once she glanced down.

She slowly walked towards Wang Qiu'er and sat down in the middle of the ice peak.

"Qiu'er, let's talk." Wang Dong'er gestured to Wang Qiu'er.

Wang Qiu'er regained her cold and serious look and sat down five meters in front of Wang Dong'er.

"What do you want to talk about? About how much he loves you?" she asked coldly.

Wang Dong'er shook her head and said, "Not him. Let's talk about us. Let's talk about this place, about the Yin-Yang Love Querying Valley."

Wang Qiu'er's eyes brightened and she said mockingly, "Indeed! There's no need to talk about him. You're always the winner to him. What else is there to talk about? Even if I were to kill you now, would he ever fall in love with me? No. Even though I haven't spent as much time with him compared to you, I'm certain that he won't be with me even after you die." *noVe)lb-1n*

Wang Dong'er furrowed her brow. "Qiu'er, what's wrong?"

Wang Qiu'er shook her head. "I'm fine."

Wang Dong'er lifted her head to look at the sky and breathed in the refreshing air. "We won't be in danger. While this place is supposed to be filled with death, it is in fact filled with compassion. If you are sincere, you won't be punished."

"What?" Wang Qiu'er lifted her head and looked at Wang Dong'er doubtfully.

"Can't you tell?" Wang Dong'er said confidently, "It's trying to help us repair our relationship. It's the Yin-Yang Love Querying Valley, not the Yin-Yang Love Destroying Valley. It only detests those who turn their backs on love. It's evident from the problems that it's posed us. We only rescue people; we don't kill people."

"That's why it's clear that this is a test of whether we care about each other."

Wang Qiu'er became normal again. "Then how do we leave this place?"

Wang Dong'er shook her head and answered, "I don't know either. Let's get going. If the Love Querying Valley is testing us, how could it not be testing him? Don't you think it's weird? Where do you think Yuhao is?"

Wang Qiu'er furrowed her brow. "You're smart and calm. But..."

Wang Dong'er smiled. "There are no buts. What's there to show off in front of your man? He's my heaven."

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He's my heaven! These three simple words dealt a huge blow to Wang Qiu'er. She stared at Wang Dong'er dazedly, not responding for some time.

Wang Dong'er felt a little weird as she looked back. "Am I wrong?"

Wang Qiu'er's gaze suddenly turned gentle. "Perhaps you're right. This is probably also the reason why I'll never be able to compare to you in his heart."

Wang Dong'er shook her head and said, "I don't think so. The difference between us is only the time that we met. I simply met him first, thus I managed to occupy a spot in his heart. Else, you definitely would've been capable of gaining his attraction, given your talents. If you couldn't, he wouldn't be a normal man." When she said this, Wang Dong'er couldn't help but laugh. As she gazed at the identical yet more cold-looking face in front of her, Wang Dong'er was in a weirdly peaceful mood.

Wang Qiu'er mocked herself. "No, you don't understand. In fact, I'd already lost at the start, and lost terribly at that. I can't compare to you no matter what."

Wang Dong'er was stunned. "Sister Qiu'er, I would've thought you were my long-lost sister if not for the fact that I know I'm the only child in my family. We simply look too alike."

Wang Qiu'er suddenly became agitated. "Maybe I'm wrong. Or maybe I shouldn't have done what I did from the start. But... if I'd met him earlier, before you revealed your identity to him, I truly might have had a glimmer of hope."

Wang Dong'er was confused. "Sister Qiu'er, why can't I understand what you're trying to say?"

Wang Qiu'er silently shook her head and continued to speak to herself, "In fact, it's also because I've never understood my own heart. It'd be great if I did. Or perhaps... perhaps I shouldn't have gone out to find him. I'm wrong; I've always been wrong."

Wang Dong'er stopped speaking, and only listened to her speak silently.

"Are you confused by what I'm saying?" Wang Qiu'er laughed, her laughter carrying a weird, sarcastic tone. However, she was being sarcastic to herself.

Wang Dong'er nodded slightly.

Wang Qiu'er chortled and said, "There aren't any coincidences in this world! Do you really think that we'd look so alike if our blood didn't come from the same origin? Don't you think that I look quite like the Goddess of Light he holds in his heart?"

Wang Dong'er was dazed. "Sister Qiu'er, what do you mean?"

Wang Qiu'er said, "My looks came from you. Or rather, it came from the projection of you that is imprinted the deepest in his heart, and which he was filled with love towards. That's the reason why I transformed myself into this appearance and appeared in front of him. However, I didn't expect that your so-called elder sister was false; it was actually you! This projection in his heart was actually a representation of you when you grew older."

Wang Dong'er finally couldn't remain seated anymore. She suddenly stood up, and stared at Wang Qiu'er, stunned. "Qiu'er, what're you talking about? You... are your looks real or fake?"

Wang Qiu'er's grin grew wider and wider as she said, "You've doubted me for a long time, am I right? Truthfully, they aren't really fake. They're quite real. The only thing I've done is establish this identity.

"Do you know why I'm telling you all this? It's because I suddenly feel like being selfish for once. Today, only one of us can live to see him again. If I can kill you, I might just have a chance, however small it may be, with him. I can still convince him to accept me through my hard work. However, if I don't do this, I won't have a chance at all. I'm sorry, Dong'er. I've only ever loved him in my life. The moment I fell in love with him was when he disregarded everything and swallowed the scorching water from the Blazing Sunspring. Did you know that he almost died after he plucked that Yearning Heartbroken Grass for you? I saved him because there was another Yearning Heartbroken Grass nearby that I plucked for him. I fed it to him; if I hadn't, he wouldn't have been able to return alive to see you again. When I plucked that Yearning Heartbroken Grass for him, I realized that I'd fallen deeply, hopelessly in love with him.

"Love is a selfish and possessive thing. He died for you in his past life; the life that he has now was given to him by the Yearning Heartbroken Grass that I plucked. He should belong to me. I love him; I really do love him."

Wang Qiu'er's smile turned into tears. She continued to sit where she was, but tears had already filled her face.

Wang Dong'er was silent as she saw Wang Qiu'er tears. However, there wasn't any shock or hostility in her eyes.

She gently lowered her waist and bowed to Wang Qiu'er, "Qiu'er, thank you. Thank you for letting Yuhao survive. If not for you, he would have died for me. I can sense your love for him—it's very sincere. However, I have the same amount of passion and love for him.

"You're right. Or rather, this Yin-Yang Love Querying Valley is right. Of the two of us, only one can remain together with him. No matter who wins or loses, I believe that we'll both still treat him well and love him well. Qiu'er, I only have one request. If you win, and if you can, please transform into me to continue loving him. I don't want him to mourn my death. Can you do so?"

Wang Qiu'er's tears suddenly stopped flowing, and she shook her head silently. "My transformation is final; I can only do it once. Moreover, you are you, and I am me. You are Wang Dong'er, and I am Wang Qiu'er. I want him to love me."

Wang Dong'er asked, "Then, if I die, don't tell him how I died. Just tell him that I went missing. In this way, at least he'll still find some repose in his heart. In the future, you must love him and slowly transfer his love for me to yourself."

Wang Qiu'er opened her eyes wide, her pupils dilating. She roared, "Why are you saying all of this? Are you trying to make my determination waver? Dream on!"

As she spoke, she sprung up from the ground. Her Golden Dragon Spear instantly appeared in her hand, turning into a streak of golden light as it pierced towards Wang Dong'er.

Her spear seemed to be surrounded by countless golden snakes and formed a huge golden dragon, its dominant aura seeming to pierce through the heavens and the earth. Suddenly, everything around it turned dim. This spear seemed to encompass all of Wang Qiu'er's internal rage and persistence towards her love.

A dazzling glow shone from Wang Dong'er's back. She pointed her toes slightly towards the ground, before she drifted into the air. The wings of the Goddess of Light opened up and propelled her backward as if she were sliding on water.

Yellow, purple, purple, black, black, black. Six soul rings began to shine. Her second soul ring shone the brightest, and countless streaks from her Light of the Butterfly Goddess were released from her butterfly wings to strike the golden dragon that was coming towards her.

Tremendous booms shook the air. Wang Dong'er retreated as Wang Qiu'er pointed her spear at her while pursuing her. In the blink of an eye, Wang Dong'er had already been forced to one edge of the icy peak.

Suddenly, Wang Dong'er's body sank down and the lights behind her were retracted. Instead, a pitch-black hammer appeared in her hand.

Sweep!

Dang!

Followed by a piercing sound, Wang Qiu'er's spear revealed its form. However, the strength of the hammer wasn't enough to force it away completely. It was only knocked away from Wang Dong'er's torso. n.-D-.V)-e/(L.)B(/1/-n

Bloody light appeared as the spear stabbed Wang Dong'er's left arm, piercing it.

Suddenly, the terrifying life-devouring ability of the Golden Dragon Spear was fully activated. However, golden halos shone from Wang Dong'er's left arm. It was the power of the Golden Light Left Arm Bone, which kept the spear from devouring Wang Dong'er's life energy. However, Wang Dong'er's arm still rapidly lost color.

"Why?" Wang Qiu'er's gaze was sharp as she stared ruthlessly at Wang Dong'er. She knew that she couldn't hurt Wang Dong'er with this one strike given her abilities. Even if there was a gap between them, it wasn't huge. Although Wang Dong'er didn't have an Ultimate martial soul, she had twin martial souls. In terms of cultivation, she wasn't much inferior either.

Wang Dong'er smiled slightly. "Take this strike as repayment for saving Yuhao. However, don't worry; I won't give up on this fight. On the contrary, I'm still going to fight for my happiness. After suffering from this strike, I feel more at ease fighting for my happiness. Come on, Qiu'er. Show me the best you've got."

As she spoke, Wang Dong'er's eyes brightened. Her powdery-blue eyes turned completely blue, and her Clear Sky Hammer disappeared. Once again, the wings of her Butterfly Goddess appeared. Following this, she turned into a streak of bluish-gold light and rose into the air.

Wang Qiu'er only felt her spear tremble slightly before Wang Dong'er had freed herself from it. Following this, a streak of bluish-gold light shot up into the sky.

It was Wang Dong'er's sixth soul skill, the Butterfly Goddess' Dance.

Wang Dong'er had once used it against Yan Feng. Even though he was a Soul Sage and a Bone Dragon, he'd almost been defeated by her Butterfly Goddess' Dance. This time, Wang Dong'er was using it at the beginning of the fight.

"Qiu'er, be careful. I won't show mercy!" Wang Dong'er's voice suddenly echoed out.

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Wang Qiu'er was furious. "Who needs your mercy?" She squatted down, before shooting upwards like a golden arrow. Her sixth soul ring shone as she shot up and unleashed her sixth soul skill, Golden Dragon's Bloodlust. She'd decided to pit her sixth soul skill against Wang Dong'er's sixth soul skill. Wang Qiu'er was like a goddess of war right now; she had natural instincts for fighting. When she realized that something was different about Wang Dong'er, she quickly increased her fighting strength to its maximum.

A furious-looking golden dragon coiled around her body as it appeared. It slowly rose up along the Golden Dragon Spear's shaft. Its instantaneous explosive power seemed to tear the entire sky apart.

Wang Dong'er was glowing brightly with dazzling light when she stopped in mid-air. Following this, the light scattered, and countless, small Radiant Butterfly Goddesses suddenly dispersed, before suddenly beginning to engulf Wang Qiu'er.

Butterfly Goddess' Dance. This was indeed Wang Dong'er's Butterfly Goddess' Dance.

A sonorous dragon roar reverberated, and Wang Qiu'er's fifth soul ring instantly lit up.

Wang Dong'er had used her strongest skill immediately. Even though Wang Qiu'er didn't know her intention, she was still determined to pit her strongest skills against Wang Dong'er. The combination of her Golden Dragon's Bloodlust and Golden Dragon's Roar was the strongest pairing of soul skills she could form.

The Coiling Golden Dragon instantly grew larger, and started to cover Wang Qiu'er's body entirely. Its eyes were completely red now, marking a sign of bloodlust. The entire icy peak was illuminated by the light coming off its body.

The countless Radiant Butterfly Goddesses were like dazzling, bluish-gold clouds that bore down on Wang Qiu'er, whereas the Coiling Golden Dragon charged towards them as if it were searching for light.

When both parties came into contact with each other, Wang Qiu'er's dragon stopped, and the countless Radiant Butterfly Goddesses gently adhered to it. They didn't clash forcefully with the dragon, but rather landed on it gradually.

This was using softness to conquer strength.

Wang Dong'er was clearly aware that she would lose to Wang Qiu'er in a direct confrontation, even with the Chaotic Splitting Wind Hammer Technique of her Clear Sky Hammer. Wang Qiu'er would never let

her have the opportunity to unleash her Chaotic Splitting Wind Hammer Technique at its full strength. That was why there was only one way she could beat Wang Qiu'er—using her softness to conquer Wang Qiu'er's strength. Only her Butterfly Goddess' Dance was capable of suppressing Wang Qiu'er.

The golden dragon instantly turned bluish-gold as it was engulfed by the Radiant Butterfly Goddesses. A huge bluish-gold projection also surfaced in the sky at the same moment.

The golden dragon started to contort tremendously as it tried to break out of the trap set by the Radiant Butterfly Goddesses. However, Wang Qiu'er's explosive strength and dominant aura were continuously weakened as she tried to escape.

Against Yan Feng, Wang Dong'er had unleashed seven consecutive explosions using her Butterfly Goddess' Dance. Even with Yan Feng's evil soul master abilities, he'd still needed to use his Martial Soul True Body to break free. However, even then he'd still been hurt. *noVe)lb-1n*

Wang Dong'er's Butterfly Goddess' Dance was only possible because she could metamorphosize her abilities. She was no less gifted than Huo Yuhao. After all, she also had twin martial souls.

At this point, Wang Qiu'er finally experienced how strong Wang Dong'er was.

Boom!?The first explosion rang out, and a huge Radiant Butterfly Goddess projection suddenly appeared, causing the Coiling Golden Dragon to turn even more bluish-gold.

Boom, boom, boom...?Another three explosions sounded. The golden dragon started to twist and contort tremendously. The Radiant Butterfly Goddesses surrounding it had also turned into bluish-gold patterns on Wang Qiu'er's body.

Boom, boom...The fifth and sixth explosions rang out, the terrifying explosions causing the golden dragon's aura to weaken significantly.

However, the sky suddenly turned silent at this moment. The bluish-gold butterfly projection that appeared after the sixth explosion reverberated seemed to materialize in the air.

Following this, a golden dragon projection appeared beneath it, and started to rapidly knock its way into Wang Qiu'er's body.

Weng...! Ang...!

The piercing golden lights seemed to create another small sun in the sky. Afterwards, an unprecedentedly domineering aura instantly erupted. The bluish-gold light faded away, and the dragon finally managed to break free from its restraints, escaping the encirclement before the last explosion occurred.

Wang Dong'er's figure surfaced in the air, formed from a combination of countless streaks of bluish-gold light. Right now, she seemed very pale, and her left arm sagged beside her body. However, her fifth soul ring also lit up, and she turned a transparent gold.

This was her fifth soul skill, Goddess of Light's Possession.

In the next moment, the golden dragon that had risen up clashed with Wang Dong'er's Radiant Butterfly Goddess once again.

Although they were both golden, they both had different styles and auras. The golden light from their bodies weaved in the air as they clashed.

Wang Dong'er's Radiant Butterfly Goddess and Wang Qiu'er's Coiling Golden Dragon both disappeared. Only two ravishing figures descended from the sky and gradually landed on the icy peak.

Both Wang Dong'er and Wang Qiu'er seemed a little pale. However, their gazes were equally sharp.

Although they'd only clashed for a short period of time, they'd already given their all.

Their long, powdery-blue hair fluttered in the air, and they were both very persistent and focused. Their resolve caused the icy peak to be filled with a somber air.

As they were landing, they were also recharging themselves. Their next clash was bound to be just as spectacular as before. It might even decide who the victor of this fight was.

However, the sky lit up at this point. It was as if the sun had graced the icy peak with its presence. The bright golden light quickly attracted their attention.

They lifted their head to look into the sky. What they saw left them both astonished and anxious.

Amidst the golden lights, a figure was quickly charging towards another figure. However, the former figure was flung backwards every time he tried to attack. Blood continuously flowed from his body. However, he still crawled up in persistence and charged towards the illusory figure.

"Yuhao?"

"It's him?"

Both of them spoke at almost the same time. Their strong fighting intent dissolved at this moment.

The bluish-gold lights behind Wang Dong'er started to ignite again. She couldn't be bothered to recover her powers anymore; the wings of her Goddess of Light quickly opened. As she fluttered them with force, she propelled herself towards the figure in the air that kept on being beaten down.

Wang Qiu'er couldn't fly, but this didn't affect her movement. She sank down, before suddenly springing up like a cannon shell. The strength of her Golden Dragon propelled her body upward towards the other's figure at an even faster speed than Wang Dong'er.

However, an indescribably terrifying force suddenly descended from the sky when they reached a certain altitude, causing them to be forced back down to the icy peak.

"No...!" Wang Dong'er cried out in sorrow when she saw Huo Yuhao flung back yet again.

As Wang Qiu'er's character was different than hers, her reaction was also different. She didn't cry out, but rather gritted her teeth. She disregarded everything and sprang up into the air again.

However, they were too weak compared to the force that had descended from the sky. All of their efforts were simply wasted.

A bluish-gold figure slowly walked towards Huo Yuhao, and a shining trident appeared in his hand.

“No...!” This time, Wang Qiu’er finally shouted along with Wang Dong’er. They both had a desperate look in their eyes.

At this point, the light projection paused, and the indifferent voice from earlier sounded yet again.

“No conclusion will be reached from this duel between the two of you. Since that’s the case, we’ll use another method. Huo Yuhao is on the brink of death right now. However, he’ll survive so long as one of you is willing to sacrifice your life for his. However, you must remember that he might end up with the other person if he survives and you die. This means that you might grant your love rival her wish if you sacrifice your life to save him. The two of you will have three seconds to decide.”

— —

“Three...”

“Isn’t this a little cruel to them? Wasn’t his test sufficient?” A dull voice asked.

“If it was just to be my son-in-law. However, my personal expectations of him aren’t nearly that simple. Moreover, there’s also a prerequisite to becoming said son-in-law. Have you forgotten?” A soothing voice replied.

“It’s not easy becoming your son-in-law! Why do I feel like you were trying to exact revenge earlier? Are all fathers like that when they see their daughters fall for someone else? You must be having fun with the fight, right?”

The soothing voice coughed, before saying, “Don’t malign me! I’m very impartial. Without a storm, how can there be a rainbow? I’d already decided this when I let Xiao Qi descend on this world. In the future, if he can’t let Xiao Qi... I’ll consider that nothing happened at all, then.”

“You’re too vicious!”

“How could it be easy to be my son-in-law? Hmph! She’s my favorite!”

“Aren’t you going a little overboard on your daughter as well...”

“Without a storm, there’s no rainbow. Without setbacks, one won’t learn how to treasure things.”

“Alright, alright. You win...”

“Without a storm, there’s no rainbow.”

“Shut up before I complain to your wife! Oh yeah, does the boss know that you’re doing this to his descendant?”

“I forgot to tell him...”

“Deliberately?”

— — —

Huo Yuhao struggled to crawl up from the ground. He didn’t know how many times he’d been beaten to the ground at this point.

He'd been battered as soon as he'd begun, and gone through the entire process death and coming back several times at this point. He'd slowly gotten used to this feeling, and had pestered his opponent longer and longer.

Throughout this process, he'd practically felt every type of pain one could imagine. He could even clearly remember the specific pain tied to a specific bone when it was crushed. This inhumane torture that he was suffering was akin to a form of baptism.

However, this baptism seemed to make him stronger. Every time he experienced pain and gritted his teeth before charging towards his terrifying opponent, he felt that his mental resilience had become ever so slightly stronger.

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It wasn't a good feeling, but Huo Yuhao could clearly sense his improvement.

The reason that he was able to last longer and longer against his opponent wasn't because his abilities had risen to a level where he could rival his opponent. Rather, it was because his opponent's abilities seemed to become weaker as time passed. Naturally, this enabled him to last longer.

The longer he lasted, the greater the beatings he suffered. As time passed, he even felt that it would be better to be killed in one hit—at least the pain would only last an instant. That, and he'd only have to suffer the pain of death, rather than suffering the inhumane torture that he was currently being subjected to.

Slowly, he was beginning to collapse, and became extremely weak and confused. The only thought left was that he knew he had to charge towards his opponent with all his strength. He had to attack, fight, and go all-out.

After some time, he was on the verge of collapse. He fainted, but his opponent didn't kill him this time.

In this strange place, injuries healed at a miraculous speed. Huo Yuhao was able to clearly feel his crushed bones reassembled, his broken passageways re-connected, and his blood begin to circulate through his body once again. He'd already slowly gotten used to the terrifying pain the longer he fought.

It's so comfortable to just lie down! Why hasn't he killed me yet?

When he finally crawled up from the ground once again, everything around him was empty, replaced by an omni-present golden light. The bluish-gold figure had disappeared.

Did I pass, or not?

Huo Yuhao was in a daze as he wondered this. Going through that unforgettable experience should be enough for me to pass, right? If he had to go through it again, he might really lose his mind.

However, was the abuse that he'd gone through really all the test was about? It didn't feel like things would be so simple.

At this point, his surroundings turned into a light fog that rose from the ground. The fog then started to form layers, before distorting.

Huo Yuhao focused his gaze. At this point, he'd already fully recovered. Although he didn't know if there would be any more tests for him or if everything had ended, he felt extremely confident. Not only did he not possess any fear, he was instead eager.

The brutal torture that he'd experienced hadn't been for nothing. His abilities and mental resilience had both improved significantly.

A light flashed, turning the ground into a huge hexagonal projection. Countless esoteric symbols flit about and transformed within it.

Everything here was unrestrained, unlike before. Huo Yuhao sensed that his soul power was still circulating properly, and that his spiritual power was no longer suppressed.

The only depressing thing was that his lower limbs had been frozen once again. The earlier neutralization of the origin energy of Ultimate Ice had lost its effect. Furthermore, he couldn't connect with his ring in order to unleash his human-shaped soul tool to carry his body. As a result, he could only sit on the ground, using his arms to steady himself.

At this point, two beams of golden light shone vertically not far in front of him. Two figures slowly became clear and appeared in front of him.

These two figures were supporting each other. Their entire bodies were stained with blood as they appeared. If not for the fact that Huo Yuhao was familiar with them, he wouldn't have recognized them.

"Dai Huabin, Zhu Lu?" Huo Yuhao exclaimed in shock.

Dai Huabin also saw him. He lifted his head and struggled to nod. After Huo Yuhao had helped his father the previous time, he was no longer hostile towards him. However, there was a sorrowful look in his eyes at this moment.

Dai Huabin was heavily wounded; it was as if he'd just climbed out of a dye vat—his entire body was stained with blood. However, he still remained standing, and was supporting Zhu Lu in his arms. Zhu Lu's body was convulsing, and she groaned from time to time.

Huo Yuhao could immediately tell that something was wrong with her using his Spirit Eyes.

When he focused on Zhu Lu's body, he was extremely shocked to find out what was happening to her.

Zhu Lu was in a tragic state: Her entire right arm had been bent out of shape. As for her face, it was only possible to see half of it, as it was covered in blood and wounds; only half of her nose and one ear remained. The remaining side of her face was extremely pale.

"Dai Huabin, Zhu Lu, what's going on?" Huo Yuhao couldn't help but ask. It was very difficult for him to move right now, thus he could only sit where he was and question the two of them.

Dai Huabin struggled to speak. "She's been poisoned. To save her..."

Huo Yuhao understood what was going on. As he looked at the wounds all over Dai Huabin's body, he suddenly felt that his hatred towards him had slightly diminished.

No, no! I can't forget my hatred towards him. He was the one who hurt mom, who caused her to...

However, why didn't mom let me take revenge, and instead tell me that it was destiny?

Huo Yuhao felt slightly tormented, and shut his eyes. To Dai Huabin, he had a commiserating expression on his face.

Dai Huabin helped Zhu Lu to the ground as he sat down next her. He lowered his head and let her lie on his thighs. Right now, he didn't appear nearly as fierce as before. There was only a gentle look in his eyes as he examined Zhu Lu's injuries. Tears also started to stream down uncontrollably from his eyes.

"Lulu, don't worry. When I decided to chop off your arm, I'd already decided that I'd love you and wed you as my wife no matter what became of you. You'll always be the most beautiful in my eyes. I'll kill whoever calls you ugly. I'll take care of you well. Even if I die, I'll make sure you don't come to any harm."

Dai Huabin was sobbing. Tears fell from his eyes with every word he said. All the promises in the world couldn't compare to a real-life experience. As he braved life and death with Zhu Lu, he'd only managed to pass his Sincerity Adventure round after a few close brushes with death. He finally understood his own heart, and what the most important thing to him was.

At this point, another two beams of golden light shone.

Huo Yuhao quickly turned his attention to these two beams of light. While he was in low spirits because of Dai Huabin and Zhu Lu's condition, he knew that—with the appearance of these two beams of light—it signified that Dai Huabin and Zhu Lu had successfully passed their rounds. This meant that they should be able to leave this place alive. What about the rest of them? The remaining few people were all closely connected to him. They were either his good friends or his seniors. Most importantly, there was also his lover!

The two beams of golden light that had just appeared became clear. This time, the two people who'd appeared were in a completely different state than tragicness that had befallen Dai Huabin and Zhu Lu.

They were still close together, but they were embracing each other.

Xu Sanshi seemed very delighted, and was in high spirits.

The ravishing Jiang Nannan was leaning against him in his arms with a blush on her face. She hugged one of his arms and wore a satisfied smile. Although there were tear stains next to her eyes, the two of them exuded a blissful aura.

"Third senior, fourth senior, are the two of you fine?" Huo Yuhao hurriedly asked.

"I'm great. I'm feeling extremely great! Hahahaha!" Xu Sanshi looked at Huo Yuhao and immediately broke out in delighted laughter. However, he soon saw both Dai Huabin and Zhu Lu, and furrowed his brow. He shot an enquiring look at Huo Yuhao afterwards.

Huo Yuhao pursed his lip and said, "They're critically hurt. Zhu Lu..."

Xu Sanshi could see everything for himself even though he didn't finish his words. He was extremely shocked by the condition Zhu Lu was in.

No matter what, they were still from the same academy. He didn't gloat over their misfortune, and quickly went over to the both of them before squatting down. He slowly released his gentle Xuanwu soul power.

Behind him, the projection of a turtle-snake appeared . It was no longer flawed, and didn't need to be activated with force. It was a pure Xuanwu!

The gentle power of water quickly cleansed Dai Huabin and Zhu Lu's wounds. Not only did it remove the bloodstains, but it also cleaned up their wounds.

Although Xu Sanshi didn't know how to perform any medical treatment, the pure water element from his Xuanwu martial soul was very beneficial towards healing their wounds. At the very least, it would be able to remove the remaining poison in their bodies.

Dai Huabin lifted his head, his eyes filled with gratitude as he nodded towards Xu Sanshi.

Xu Sanshi sighed and said, "If we can leave this place alive, we can return to the academy and find someone to treat her. There's a healing and auxiliary-type teacher who's a Titled Douluo in the inner courtyard. Perhaps she can help heal her."

"Okay." Dai Huabin seemed to be slightly disinterested, choosing only to hug Zhu Lu tighter.

Another beam of golden light shone. This time there was only one beam.

"Eldest senior sister?" When they saw Zhang Lexuan, Huo Yuhao, Xu Sanshi, and Jiang Nannan couldn't help but call out to her. Another person had returned, which proved that another person had passed their test. It was a good thing to them.

Zhang Lexuan smiled and nodded at them. After that, she also saw Dai Huabin and Zhu Lu and immediately rushed over. However, she didn't know how to treat them, and could only comfort them.

Huo Yuhao watched from the side, and was stunned to realize that Zhang Lexuan seemed to have become different. In the past, she rarely smiled. However, she now seemed to be casually grinning. Even though she'd furrowed her brow after seeing Zhu Lu's critical injuries, the resentment that was normally there was gone. She seemed more approachable, and her eyes were brighter too. She was different!

It seems like everyone has experienced different things in their Sincerity Adventure test. It's also the same with third and fourth seniors.

However, what exactly happened to these two? Dong'er, when will you return? Qiu'er isn't here yet either. How's she doing?"

Chapter 366.1: Dong'er, Don't Die!

At this point, another two beams of golden light shone. Huo Yuhao was eager as he turned his attention in that direction.

"Ah—!"

Two people fell from the sky screaming and crashed to the ground.

The two of them were hugging one another. However, they rolled on the ground after crashing, and seemed very disheveled.

Huo Yuhao was disappointed. These two weren't the ones he was waiting for. They were Ning Tian and Wu Feng!

Ning Tian and Wu Feng were panting heavily, and took some time to catch their breath. When they saw everyone looking at them, they started to cheer at the same time.

"We're alive!"

"We aren't dead!"

As they cheered, they hugged each other tightly. They seemed to be delighted to be alive.

Eight out of the earlier thirteen had returned. What about the remaining five?

Just as Huo Yuhao was thinking that, another three beams of golden light shone down simultaneously. The first person to appear was Bei Bei, who seemed to be in a daze. He seemed to be trying to recall something.

Huo Yuhao was stunned to see that Bei Bei was looking at him with a doubtful look in his eyes. The unfamiliar feeling in his eyes made it seem like he didn't know him.

The other two who appeared with Bei Bei weren't Wang Dong'er and Wang Qiu'er. They were He Caitou and Xiao Xiao!

They also looked very weird. Xiao Xiao was sitting on He Caitou's right shoulder, swinging her legs. She was smiling sweetly, and hugging He Caitou's neck with her left hand. He Caitou was also grinning ear to ear.

They're all back and they're all fine. What about Dong'er and Qiu'er?

Huo Yuhao clenched his fists tightly. He was finally becoming a little anxious. Why aren't Dong'er and Qiu'er back? What has happened to them? No, they're fine. They won't meet with any problems. They're both so outstanding. No matter what situation they encounter, they should be able to deal with it!

Huo Yuhao was becoming more and more nervous. The more he cared, the less able he was to keep calm.

A projection suddenly lit up, but no one returned. Instead, a strange light screen was presented in front of everyone. n.(0vElbIn

The light screen turned from ethereal to clear. Everyone saw an icy mountain peak in front of them.

"Dong'er, Qiu'er!" Huo Yuhao immediately noticed Wang Dong'er and Wang Qiu'er, who were both seated on this ice peak.

Apart from the unconscious Zhu Lu, the rest were also drawn to this light screen.

Bei Bei was also jolted out from his dazed state right now. He quickly hurried to Huo Yuhao's side. He clapped Yuhao's shoulder as he squatted down. "Little junior, don't worry. They'll be fine."

Huo Yuhao didn't open his mouth. While he was a resilient person, how could he remain calm when Wang Dong'er was about to get into trouble? The more he cared, the more vexed he was!

A voice came from the light screen. When Huo Yuhao heard that voice and realized that only one of them could survive, he clenched his fists. If Bei Bei wasn't tightly holding onto his shoulder, he would have charged forward without any hesitation.

"Calm down, Yuhao. You must calm down and watch what happens. There must be a reason why we are being shown this."

Huo Yuhao took in a deep breath. He knew that Bei Bei was right. At such a time, being impulsive wasn't going to solve any problem.

Wang Dong'er and Wang Qiu'er's voices were both audible. Everyone wore a weird look on their faces when they heard their conversation.

Although many of them knew that things were ambiguous between Wang Qiu'er and Huo Yuhao, they hadn't expected her feelings for Huo Yuhao to be so intense. Even Wang Dong'er seemed to approve of her love towards Huo Yuhao.

In the light projection, their conversation...

.....

"“Love is selfish and possessive. He died for you in his past life. The life that he has now was given to him by the Yearning Heartbroken Grass that I plucked. He should belong to me. I love him. I really love him.”"

"Qiu'er, thank you. Thank you for letting Yuhao survive. If not for you, he would have died for me. I can sense your love for him... it's very sincere. However, I have the same passion and love for him.”"

"You are right, or rather this Yin-Yang Love Querying Valley is right. Of the two of us, only one can be together with him. No matter who wins or loses, I believe that we'll still treat him and love him well. Qiu'er, I only have one request. If you win, and if you can, please transform into me to continue loving him. I don't want him to mourn my death. Can you do so?"

"My transformation is final. I can only do it once. Moreover, you are you, and I am me. You are Wang Dong'er, and I am Wang Qiu'er. I want him to love me.”"

"Then, if I die, don't tell him how I died. Just tell him that I went missing. In this way, he'll at least still find some repose in his heart. In the future days, you must love him and slowly transfer his love for me to you.”"

"What are you saying all this for? Are you trying to make my determination waver? Dream on!"

.....

Everyone was stunned after hearing their conversation. Wang Qiu'er's looks were based on Wang Dong'er? Who is she, then? What final transformation? She can turn into a human? Even Elder Xuan can't detect her transformation? What, what exactly is this?

Huo Yuhao noticed something different from the rest. When he heard Wang Dong'er said "I only have one request. If you win, and if you can, please transform into me to continue loving him. I don't want him to mourn my death. Can you do so?" His eyes immediately turned red.

"Dong'er...!" he shouted loudly. However, he couldn't influence what was going on in the projection.

Bloody light scattered as Wang Qiu'er's spear stabbed into Wang Dong'er's arm. However, Wang Dong'er remained as calm as ever.

Huo Yuhao shut his eyes in torment. He couldn't make himself watch their fight.

Wang Dong'er was his lover. However, what about Wang Qiu'er? Wang Qiu'er said that she was the one who gave Huo Yuhao his current life. If not for her, he would have died in the Icefire Yin Yang Well. Was he supposed to hate Wang Qiu'er for hurting Wang Dong'er? He couldn't possibly do so. Right now, he only felt that he was the one in the wrong. He didn't manage his relationships with Wang Dong'er and Wang Qiu'er well, which led to this current tragedy.

What do I do? What do I do? I can't bear for either of them to be hurt!

Tremendous booms sounded, and Huo Yuhao's fingernails had already pierced into his palm. Right now, he was feeling very conflicted and helpless.

"Yuhao, look." Huo Yuhao opened his eyes as Bei Bei shook him tremendously. He was stunned to find out that he had appeared in the projection. He had appeared in another projection above the ice peak. The bluish-gold figure that he had fought earlier also appeared.

Wasn't this the moment when he charged at that figure for the last time?

Where are Qiu'er and Dong'er? They've stopped fighting, and they were suppressed by some kind of force. They must be very anxious because of me...

In that light projection, the bluish-gold figure was walking step by step towards him. There was a bright-golden trident in his hand too.

"No...!" Wang Qiu'er and Wang Dong'er shouted at the same time. They both had a desperate look in their eyes.

At this point, the projection paused, and the indifferent voice from earlier sounded once again.

"There's no conclusion from this duel between the two of you. Since this is the case, we'll use another method. Huo Yuhao is on the brink of death right now. He'll survive as long as one of you is willing to sacrifice your life for his. However, you must remember that he might end up with the other person if he survives and you die. This means that you might grant your love rival her wish if you sacrifice your life to save him. The two of you only have three seconds to decide."

"Three..."

Huo Yuhao couldn't help but shout in fury when he watched until here. "Scoundrel! You can't do this! You can't do this! I'll die, let me die instead!" He struggled to break free from Bei Bei's grasp and crawled towards the projection in front of him. It was also at this point that it suddenly dissipated, turning into spots of light. A thick beam of light descended from the sky and landed not far away from him.

Huo Yuhao opened his eyes wide to see who was in it.

He saw two figures in it.

Yes, there were two figures!

However, they weren't standing side by side. One person was carrying the other person.

Wang Qiu'er was the one standing. Wang Dong'er was peacefully lying in her arms.

Huo Yuhao was stunned. At this moment, he had already focused his gaze. He opened his eyes wide, and couldn't believe the scene in front of him. Following this, he struggled to use his hands to support his body and crawl towards Wang Qiu'er with all his strength.

"Dong'er, Dong'er, Dong'er! How are you? Dong'er!"

Chapter 366.2: Dong'er, Don't Die!

Everyone else stood quietly at the side. At this moment, they didn't know how to comfort Huo Yuhao. Even though they could guess what had happened, they didn't want to believe it was the truth.

Wang Qiu'er also appeared to be in a daze as she carried Wang Dong'er. Tears streamed down her cheeks and dripped onto Wang Dong'er's body.

Finally, Huo Yuhao crawled over in front of her. He tugged at her pants and wanted to get up to see Wang Dong'er.

Wang Qiu'er squatted down and passed Wang Dong'er to Huo Yuhao.

Right now, Wang Dong'er wasn't breathing. However, her eyes were wide open. Even though she was already dead, Huo Yuhao could still see the reluctance and yearning in her eyes.

"Dong'er, Dong'er..." Huo Yuhao peered into the sky and wailed tragically. His hysterical voice echoed loudly in the air. Tears flowed down his face; he had broken down completely now.

What happened? What happened after the projection disappeared?

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"There's no conclusion from this duel between the two of you. Since this is the case, we'll use another method. Huo Yuhao is on the brink of death right now. He'll survive as long as one of you is willing to sacrifice your life for his. However, you must remember that he might end up with the other person if he survives and you die. This means that you might grant your love rival her wish if you sacrifice your life to save him. The two of you only have three seconds to decide."

"Three..."

Wang Qiu'er was in a daze. She subconsciously looked at Wang Dong'er, and was stunned.

There was a pair of milky-white hands that radiated fearlessness....

There was a pair of eyes that yearned for life and love...

There was a sorrow that carried a sense of reluctance...

There was a natural stroke of decisiveness that gave no regard for anything else....

There wasn't any hesitation. There was no delay or waiting. It was just for Huo Yuhao, so that he could escape danger a second earlier.

"Chi—"

Wang Dong'er's pressed her milky-white hands against her forehead, and a blinding golden light shone.

Her Radiant Butterfly Goddess' wings instantly changed into countless spots of light before dissipating.

She wasn't looking at the sky, but at Wang Qiu'er. There was a look of pleading and exhortation in her eyes. There was also a strong look of reluctance...

"Dong'er!" Wang Qiu'er shouted, and she turned into a beam of flowing light before charging towards Wang Dong'er. She grabbed Dong'er before she collapsed to the ground.

Wang Dong'er didn't hold back as she attempted suicide. At this moment, there was no longer any vibrancy in her eyes. Blood oozed out from her pores too. However, there was also a tinge of satisfaction in her eyes even though she was reluctant.

"I... have... won..."

Tears flowed uncontrollably from Wang Qiu'er's eyes at this moment. "You've won. Yes. You've won. Dong'er, Dong'er, don't die... you..."

Wang Dong'er smiled, but didn't shut her eyes. She looked into the sky instead, at the figure that had retracted his golden trident. She also looked at Huo Yuhao, who still hadn't risen to his feet.

The bluish-gold figure holding the trident seemed to be staring back at her. The light from his body dimmed, and he silently vanished from the sky.

Wang Dong'er was trying to look at Huo Yuhao, even though she was slowly losing her life. However, she still couldn't bear to shut her eyes even as she was about to die. She still wanted to take a last look at Huo Yuhao.

I really want to be your wife...

I really want to be with you every moment...

I really want to bear our kids...

I really want to love you forever...

I really want to...

The shiny beads of tears in her eyes also seemed to turn powdery-blue as they streamed down Wang Dong'er's cheeks...

Wang Qiu'er was in a daze as she lifted Dong'er up. Her tears continuously fell onto Wang Dong'er's clothes. As she watched Wang Dong'er slowly lose her life, she knew that she had lost.

"You win. You love him more than me. You can be completely selfless for him. At that moment, I actually wished that you would die for him so that I could be with him. I don't feel maligned losing to you. However, why am I in so much pain? Dong'er, I should be the one who's dying. I've lost. I've really, completely lost this time. You died for him, and I can't bring myself to lie to him. I've lost, and you've won. He'll only love one person in his entire life. It'll never change..."

Boundless golden light descended from the sky and quickly engulfed them. In the next moment, the stars realigned, and time was distorted.

—

"She won. She used her life to tell me that she loves you more than me. She won." Wang Qiu'er was smiling bitterly as she stood up. Her body trembled as she turned around and walked away step by step. She walked toward the boundless golden world.

No one stopped her. No one could stop her.

No one had expected that the person to perish in this Yin-Yang Love Querying Valley would eventually be Wang Dong'er.

Huo Yuhao hugged Wang Dong'er's body tightly. He only felt that his heart had left with her. At this moment, the others were surrounding him. Bei Bei squatted down and softly clasped Huo Yuhao's shoulder.

However, no one was able to say any comforting words. Xiao Xiao and Jiang Nannan were already crying miserably.

Dong'er's dead. Dong'er's actually dead... she's dead because she wanted Yuhao to remain alive...

Suddenly, Huo Yuhao lifted his head and opened his eyes wide. He shouted, "Dong'er isn't dead. Dong'er isn't dead. This, this is the Yin-Yang Love Querying Valley. You can revive her, right? Right?" Huo Yuhao looked into the sky. After this, he placed Wang Dong'er down beside him and crawled forward a bit before starting to kowtow.

"Please, please, revive Dong'er. I'm willing to exchange my life and spirit for hers. Please..."

He was crying his guts out at this moment. In just a few kowtows, Huo Yuhao's forehead was already bruising and bleeding.

Xu Sanshi wanted to go forward to pull him up, but he was stopped by Bei Bei. Bei Bei knew that this was the only way in Huo Yuhao's eyes.

The entire place suddenly lit up. Wang Qiu'er was dragged back by an irresistible force. Different streaks of light illuminated everyone's bodies, sealing them all.

At this point, the indifferent voice that everyone was afraid of echoed forth.

“Dai Huabin, have you realized what you truly want after going through so much?”

Dai Huabin was stunned. He lifted his head into the sky and replied, “I just want to be with my Lulu. Nothing else matters.” Zhu Lu’s injuries left him grief-stricken. However, he felt that he was very fortunate as he looked at Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong’er. At least Zhu Lu was still alive...

“You were drawn by beauty, but you managed to find yourself in the end. This shows that affection is important to you. You’ve passed your Sincerity Adventure round, and you’ll be rewarded. Your reward will be a Substitution of Love. You can choose to move Zhu Lu’s injuries to your own body to fully heal her. If you don’t want to, you can choose to increase both yours and Zhu Lu’s soul power by five ranks.”

After hearing the the voice, Dai Huabin’s eyes lit up. “I choose to accept the Substitution of Love. Please begin.”

After hearing until here, even Huo Yuhao lifted his head. He was surprised as he looked at Dai Huabin and Zhu Lu. Substitution of Love. If there’s such a thing, does it mean I can substitute my own life for Dong’er’s? He suppressed his sorrow and hugged Wang Dong’er tightly as he watched Dai Huabin and Zhu Lu’s bodies change.

A streak of golden light flashed by and landed on their bodies. Something strange occurred instantly. Dai Huabin’s right arm vanished like melting ice, while Zhu Lu’s right arm was slowly growing out. She was also trembling slightly.

Dai Huabin seemed to be in great pain, but he didn’t even look at his right arm. He only grit his teeth and bore the pain.

It wasn’t just his right arm that was experiencing changes. His face was also experiencing changes... it was starting to rot!

Dai Huabin lowered his head to look at Zhu Lu. Seeing that her injuries were slowly healing, the look in his eyes turned gentler even though he was perspiring from the intense pain.

Suddenly, the golden lights that engulfed them became stronger before vanishing along with the two of them.

“Xu Sanshi, you were willing to give up your future as a soul master for love. It’s very touching. You are also filled with kindness. You’ve passed your Sincerity Adventure round. I believe you’ve already obtained the best reward that you could possibly get.”

Xu Sanshi’s gaze shifted away from Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong’er. He nodded and said, “Yes, I’ve obtained the best reward. I’ll treasure Nannan in the future.”

“Jiang Nannan, you’ve also rid yourself of the trauma in your heart. You are gentle and kind, but you couldn’t fulfill your filial duties because of what happened to you. But Xu Sanshi fulfilled them for you, and thus you’ve also passed. Compared to Xu Sanshi’s complete awakening of his Xuanwu, your reward will be less grand. Your soul power will be increased to Rank 60. You can go and find a suitable soul ring now.”

A huge beam of golden light descended from the sky and engulfed them. Jiang Nannan also lit up with white halos. As the light flashed, the two of them disappeared.

Rewards. They all passed, and are being rewarded.

The sorrow in Huo Yuhao's eyes slowly turned into hope. When will it be my turn? When will it be our turn? I don't want anything else but to revive Dong'er...

Chapter 366.3: Dong'er, Don't Die!

"Zhang Lexuan," the voice said.

"Yes?" Zhang Lexuan lifted her head to peer into the sky. There was a confused look in her eyes.

"Love is never a punishment. However, you'll only hurt yourself if you indulge in a love without an outcome. You'll also receive the best reward possible; an opportunity to forget. Go and find your true love."

A golden light flashed, and Zhang Lexuan disappeared.

"Ning Tian, Wu Feng."

Ning Tian and Wu Feng were standing side by side right now. They lifted their heads to look into the sky.

"Dying for love and walking away from the pain. The two of you have passed your Sincerity Adventure rounds. The reward that you are going to get is going to be quite heavy, thus the two of you will share one reward. This reward will solve all your problems. Ning Tian, you'll be a man from today onward. Go."

Two beams of golden light shone at the same. Ning Tian and Wu Feng were shocked as they looked at each other before they were taken away.

Ning Tian's familial pressure would be greatly alleviated if she were a man. In addition, the dilemma that she and Wu Feng faced in their relationship could also be resolved. After going through the three rounds, this was what she wanted too. Changing her gender was indeed the best way to solve the root of their problems.

"Bei Bei!"

"If I'm going to get a reward, I want Xiao Ya!" Bei Bei said eagerly.

"You barely passed your Sincerity Adventure round, as your lover isn't around. This was also the reason why it was easier for you to pass. You've already received your reward. Remember, there are clues in everything you've seen. You'll have three opportunities to release the final glow to inquire of other people. Go."

Before Bei Bei could say anything, a golden light flashed, and he was dragged away and vanished.

Everyone's situation was indeed different. At this point, the only people left were He Caitou, Xiao Xiao, Huo Yuhao, Wang Qiu'er, and Wang Dong'er.

Huo Yuhao pursed his lips tightly, and felt his forehead swelling. There were even some bloodstains on his forehead. Considering how strong his body was, he must have kowtowed strongly...

The voice echoed again, but it didn't call Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong'er.

"He Caitou, Xiao Xiao."

He Caitou and Xiao Xiao looked into the sky at the same time. Xiao Xiao was holding onto He Caitou's arm. Even though they knew that they weren't going to be punished, Dong'er's death still left them very tense. In this valley, they simply could not control their own destiny.

"Revealing your true feelings in the face of a crisis. He Caitou, the release of the knot in your heart is your reward. Are you content?"

He Caitou nodded forcefully and replied, "I am. However, can you revive Dong'er...?"

The voice seemed to ignore his request, "Xiao Xiao, you used your love to untie the knot in your lover's heart. You deserve to be rewarded. He Caitou, reveal your original appearance as Xu He. This will be the greatest reward for Xiao Xiao. At the same time, Xiao Xiao's soul power will be increased to Rank 60."

A beam of golden light descended from the sky and engulfed both of their bodies. He Caitou's appearance started to transform strangely. As his face contorted, he slowly turned into someone else.

His skin was still tan, and he was still bald. However, he now had bushy eyebrows and huge eyes, and his overall look was very charming.

This was the true He Caitou! He was actually Xu He, but he had used a secret technique of the previous dynasty to alter his appearance!

Xiao Xiao was in a daze as she looked at He Caitou. She was a little stunned, and asked, "So you are actually this handsome?"

He Caitou laughed bitterly. "In fact, I'd already forgotten how I looked. Since the knot in my heart has been untied, then let me regain my own appearance. It no longer matters if I'm recognized. I'll be me, and I'm Xu He. However, I'll always be your He Caitou too. Xiao Xiao, I promise you that I won't hide anything from you from today on."

"Okay." Xiao Xiao nodded, but she was still a little worried when she looked at Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong'er. Among Shrek's Seven Monsters, she shared the best relationship with Wang Dong'er. They had grown up together, and had been together ever since they entered Shrek Academy. They had gone through too many things together. She wasn't any less sad than Huo Yuhao over Wang Dong'er's death. Right now, she was still very sorrowful.

However, both she and He Caitou vanished as golden lights flashed, before she managed to make any requests.

At this point, only Huo Yuhao, Wang Dong'er, and Wang Qiu'er were left in this place.

Wang Qiu'er was still a little stunned. Her eyes were lifeless, as if she had lost her spirit. Huo Yuhao's forehead was bruised, and he was shuddering slightly. This was a testament to how tense he felt right now.

“Huo Yuhao, Wang Dong’er, Wang Qiu’er. Your three fates are closely interlinked. However, true love is always mutual, and it can only be between two parties. That’s why only two of you can get together eventually. Wang Dong’er is already dead. Huo Yuhao, are you willing to give your love to Wang Qiu’er and love her properly in the future?”

“No, I’m not. I only want Dong’er to be revived. Please revive Dong’er. No matter what you do to me, I hope you can revive Dong’er.” Huo Yuhao’s voice was still trembling. He was sobbing heavily, and tears flowed down his face uncontrollably.

“The death of one person is a win-win situation for all three of you. At least one person will be spared the pain. Isn’t this good? Don’t be obstinate.” The indifferent voice sounded a little angry.

“No, it’s not good at all. I only want Dong’er, and I only love her. If you are unwilling to revive her, then kill me too. Even if I go to another world, I want to be with her. I don’t ever want to separate from her.”

Huo Yuhao hugged Wang Dong’er tightly and stuck his face close to hers. He already seemed to be very dazed as his tears fell onto Wang Dong’er’s cheeks. At this point, the fear and sorrow in his heart slowly diminished. If Wang Dong’er was dead, he would choose to die. If Wang Dong’er was alive, he would remain alive. While this Yin-Yang Love Querying Valley could decide a person’s fate, there wasn’t much for him to be worried about after Wang Dong’er’s death, since his heart had already died with her.

Wang Qiu’er suddenly lifted her head and shouted, “I’m the one who should be dead! Let me die in exchange for Dong’er’s life. In this way, they can be together. I shouldn’t have appeared in their lives. I affected them. Just let me die. Let *me* die!”

The indifferent voice went silent. It seemed to be thinking, or rather, hesitating.

Huo Yuhao lifted his head to look at Wang Qiu’er. He took in a deep breath and shook his head slightly. He said, “No, Qiu’er, you didn’t do anything wrong. You never did anything wrong at all. I was the one in the wrong. I hurt both you and Dong’er. Now that things have come to this stage, you must live well. Yin-Yang Love Querying Valley, does it mean that we are all entitled to a reward since we’ve reached this stage?”

“That’s right. However, the dead person will not be rewarded.” The Yin-Yang Love Querying Valley answered.

Huo Yuhao nodded and said, “Alright, I shall not plead for you to revive Dong’er. Instead, I hope that you can make Qiu’er forget me and everything that happened between the three of us. Can you do that? After that, let us leave this place.”

“Forgetting everything might be a good thing at times. However, are you willing, Wang Qiu’er?”

Wang Qiu’er shook her head with strength and replied, “No, I don’t want to forget. I would rather bear this pain than forget this experience. This is the most painful yet unforgettable memory of my life. Whether I’m dead or alive, I want to preserve this memory. Don’t take it away!”

“Ahhhhh... there will never be happiness in a love triangle. Alright, I’ll grant both of your wishes, since this is the case.”

A beam of golden light descended from the sky and shone on Wang Qiu'er's body first. In the next moment, she had already vanished.

Following this, another beam of white light shone on Wang Dong'er's body. Huo Yuhao could clearly sense the warmth from this beam of white light.

"Wang Dong'er sacrificed herself for love. Her utterly fearless spirit is commendable. I'll revive her. However, you must remember today's lesson and hold fast to your words, Huo Yuhao. Otherwise, you'll face tougher tests in the future. You'll need to be even tougher than this. Do you understand?"

After hearing that the Love Querying Valley was willing to revive Dong'er, Huo Yuhao was suddenly full of energy. He started to become very excited, and nodded his head desperately. His tears immediately stopped flowing.

"Death is sometimes not scary. The path that you're going to take is destined to be tough. Do your best."

Wang Dong'er's rigid body slowly became softer. Her complexion slowly regained its color too, and her chest also started to rise and fall. Her life energy was restored under the nourishment of that beam of white light.

Huo Yuhao only felt that he had never felt so weak before. Wang Dong'er's death to her resurrection tortured him more than the three tests he had had to go through earlier.

Seeing that Wang Dong'er was slowly recovering, he hugged her body as if he were holding a treasure. He was choking with his sobs.

After a brief moment, Wang Dong'er's breathing became normal again, and her face regained its rosy color.

Alive, my Dong'er is alive!

Huo Yuhao finally smiled. At this moment, he only felt that Wang Dong'er was the most beautiful thing in this world.

"Eh..." the indifferent voice suddenly sighed. At this moment, it seemed to become slightly more emotional.

Huo Yuhao had been in a very tense state for a long time. After hearing this sigh, he reacted quickly and blurted out, "What's wrong?"

"There's a problem with Wang Dong'er's resurrection." The voice sounded even more helpless.

Chapter 367.1: The Slumbering Dong'er

"Problem? What problem?" Huo Yuhao's voice instantly became a lot sharper. He hugged Wang Dong'er even tighter, not willing to let go at all.

"I have gathered her life energy, but it's still flowing away by itself, as if she's lost her spirit. However, I've already reassembled her spirit. This problem should stem from her own body, except it's been

triggered by what she just went through. That's not something that I can deal with, so you'll have to think of another solution to sustain her life."

Huo Yuhao had just received hope when these words fell into his ears and struck him like thunderbolts. Huo Yuhao felt like he was going insane.

Calm down, calm down. I have to be calm. At a time like this, Huo Yuhao's training as an Ultimate Soldier came into effect. At least, Wang Dong'er was breathing, and there was life energy in her body. This meant that she was alive, and as long as Wang Dong'er was still alive, Huo Yuhao wouldn't be as disoriented and panicky like he was before.

The Yin-Yang Life Querying Valley's mysterious entity mentioned that Wang Dong'er is experiencing this because of issues that originate from herself. But what's wrong with her body?

A thought occurred to Huo Yuhao as he contemplated this issue. He suddenly recalled the secret letter that the Clear Sky Sect's sect leader, Niu Tian, and Tai Tan had given to him. Wang Dong'er mentioned afterwards that the contents of their letter were made up, and everything was meant to test him. However, if Dong'er's body is having its own problems, can it be...?

With this thought in his head, Huo Yuhao immediately retrieved the storage-type soul tool from Wang Dong'er's pockets that he had given her some time ago without any hesitation at all, and retrieved the Yearning Heartbroken Grass that possessed mystical and miraculous powers.

This herb had pristine white petals, and blood threaded through each one. This was the immortal herb that Huo Yuhao had almost paid his life to retrieve.

A long time had passed, but this herb was still fresh, pristine, and filled with the energy of life.

The Yearning Heartbroken Grass had miraculous medicinal effects, and it could save any person's life as long as that person was still breathing. Yes, this herb will definitely save Dong'er!

Huo Yuhao no longer hesitated as his thoughts stopped here, and he carefully placed the herb next to Wang Dong'er's lips.

But he quickly realized that there was no way Wang Dong'er could eat this medicinal herb.

With hope in his heart, Huo Yuhao's mind was especially agile and flexible. He instantly stuffed the herb into his mouth without any hesitation at all, and chewed it up into juice with a few chomps as he sealed his own throat. He wasn't about to let a single drop flow down his throat, and he lowered his head as he carefully poured the juice into Wang Dong'er's mouth.

The Yearning Heartbroken Grass was a little bitter, but there seemed to be a tinge of sweetness amidst that bitterness. Love was the same; bitterness and sweetness would always exist at the same time.

Dong'er's lips were warm and tender, and kissing her was indescribably mesmerizing. Huo Yuhao carefully parted her rosy lips, and allowed every single drop of the herbal juice in his mouth to flow into hers.

Huo Yuhao stared nervously at Wang Dong'er after he was done. He believed that what he had done was right, but how could he be confident of success before Dong'er was revived? Wang Dong'er's illness was something that not even the mysterious Yin-Yang Love Querying Valley could treat.

Time continued to pass, and Dong'er's pretty face was still ruddy, looking very delicate and charming. Huo Yuhao had gently closed her beautiful eyes, and she seemed like a sleeping beauty laying in a deep slumber.

Huo Yuhao was starting to feel threads of anxiety building up in his heart when a faint aroma finally wafted up from Wang Dong'er's body. This aroma was very faint and plain, but it was exceptionally fragrant and refreshing. A vague layer of light could be seen circulating beneath Wang Dong'er's skin, and her body slowly began emanating a dense life energy.

"Did it work? Dong'er, she..." Huo Yuhao looked up at the sky and asked nervously.

"You gave her a Yearning Heartbroken Grass, didn't you? I didn't expect you to have an immortal herb like that..." That mysterious entity seemed to sound a little anxious. "Back then..."

Huo Yuhao couldn't be bothered with whatever else that voice wanted to say, and he hurriedly pressed the issue. "Is she alright?"

The voice seemed a little dissatisfied because Huo Yuhao had interrupted it. It answered plainly, "She's full of life energy, so her condition is stable. However, her spirit is still messy and disorganized, and this condition isn't something that external forces can treat. She has to adjust her spirit by herself so she can wake up."

Huo Yuhao was momentarily stunned. "What do you mean?"

"She will be in a coma indefinitely. I have no idea how long she will remain in this state. She has to rely on her own strength to wake up, and it remains to be seen whether she has it in her to do so. Alright, the two of you may leave. I will reward you, Wang Dong'er, and Wang Qiu'er by raising your soul power by five ranks. You may go."

"No! Wait! Dong'er shouldn't have to die. This was just your test for her! You should be able to save her! Please let her wake up, let her wake up..."

Huo Yuhao shouted frantically, but no matter how much he yelled, the mysterious entity didn't entertain him at all. Intense golden light shone down on them and swept him and Wang Dong'er away as heaven and earth spun around them. Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong'er disappeared from this mysterious place just like that.

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Hexagonal light continued to flicker, and some mysterious, magnificent glyphs grew brighter and brighter.

"Is this what you wanted? Those two children are so pitiful." The voice that belonged to the Yin-Yang Love Querying Valley's mysterious entity seemed very upset.

Another melodious voice could be heard. "That's enough. I have my reasons. If they don't experience some winds and rain..."

"I've fulfilled my duty. I'm going back. I'm going to look for your wife for a chat when I get there! Hmph!"

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Golden light sparkled as Huo Yuhao reappeared with Wang Dong'er in his arms. When he could see his surroundings clearly, he realized to his surprise that the valley he was in was filled with people.

Elder Xuan, Xian Lin'er, and several elders from Shrek Academy, along with everyone else, were all here.

There were scars and marks of battle around him. The valley's inner regions had been severely damaged, and it was evident that a great battle had just occurred in this place not too long ago.

Elder Xuan came to them in a flash when he saw Huo Yuhao appear with Wang Dong'er in his arms. He lifted his hands, and a thread of gentle soul power supported Huo Yuhao so that he could stand up straight. Everyone's eyes landed on Wang Dong'er, who was still in Huo Yuhao's embrace, at the same time.

The other five members of Shrek's Seven Monsters gathered around first. Bei Bei asked in grave concern, "Yuhao, Dong'er..."

Huo Yuhao turned and looked at Bei Bei, and Bei Bei could see his fortitude and perseverance in his eyes.

"Dong'er is alright, she's just asleep. I want to take her home; perhaps only the people in her family have any hope of awakening her. I can't return to the Academy for now, Elder Xuan, I..."

Elder Xuan placed his hand on Wang Dong'er's wrist to check her pulse, and a look of pleasant surprise flashed across his eyes. He had just heard from the others that Wang Dong'er was dead, but it was evident that Wang Dong'er was very much alive. However, she was in a coma for some reason.

"Don't be hasty, Yuhao. Tell us what happened. It's better if everyone can brainstorm together to think about how to save her."

"Alright." Huo Yuhao wiped the tears off his face, and recounted everything that he and Wang Dong'er had gone through after everyone else had left.

Everyone exchanged looks with one another as they listened to his story, but they were all a little lost and confused.

Their experience in the Yin-Yang Love Querying Valley was truly quite an adventure, and everyone went through life and death before they managed to leave this place alive.

With Huo Yuhao's initial reminder, nobody told any lies inside the valley. This was how everyone managed to escape unscathed, with the exception of Wang Dong'er.

Elder Xuan was the first to come out. He only heard that plain voice once, and it said, "You are too old, so you don't have to go through the Sincerity Adventure. You don't have any hope for love anymore, so you're allowed to leave." n--0V**elb**1n

Elder Xuan came out, and he coincidentally ran into several evil Titled Douluo who were standing guard in this place. The great battle that happened afterwards was inevitable.

Evil soul masters were powerful, but Elder Xuan was also a formidable individual, and almost an Ultimate Douluo. Elder Xuan could unleash his full abilities because he didn't have to protect anyone around him, and he relied on his incredible prowess to force those evil soul masters away.

Everyone's faces didn't look so good at this moment. They had each had their own gains from Sincerity Adventure, but everyone had been taught a lesson, and everyone had been dealt a heavy blow. Wang Dong'er's current situation worsened everyone's mood. Who could be happy at a time like this?

Several elders checked Wang Dong'er's body one after another, and all they could do was shake their heads repeatedly. Wang Dong'er's circumstances were just as the Yin-Yang Love Querying Valley's mysterious entity had said.

Her body was normal, and she was full of life energy, while her soul power was stronger than before. She was five ranks higher than before, putting her above Rank 66. However, the problem was in her spiritual sea. There was something very wrong with her spiritual sea. Her spiritual sea was sealed shut, and her spirit seemed to be undulating in a disorderly manner within her spiritual sea.

The human brain had always been the most profound and mysterious entity. Not even Elder Xuan dared to force his way into Wang Dong'er's spiritual sea, because her life would truly be lost if something went wrong.

Everyone discussed it for a short time before Elder Xuan said, "We've exited the Yin-Yang Love Querying Valley. This experience has been very strange and sinister, but at least everyone is safe and sound in the end. We should return to the Academy as soon as possible. Yuhao, you'll take care of Dong'er, and when we enter the Heavenly Soul Empire's borders, you can take her back to the Clear Sky Sect so that her family can help treat her."

"Yes!" Huo Yuhao was back inside his human-shaped soul tool at this moment, and could stand up once more. Soul power rippled in his body as well, but the difference between Wang Dong'er and him was that Huo Yuhao wasn't far from Rank 60 now, after being given five ranks of soul power. He would become a Soul Emperor if he made another breakthrough.

Huo Yuhao possessed an Ultimate martial soul, and an Ultimate martial soul's true strength and might could only be seen and realized after Rank 70. However, every step to Rank 70 was very difficult. Huo Yuhao had acquired many painful memories from his time in the Yin-Yang Love Querying Valley, but at least he had gotten some rewards in return...

Chapter 367.2: The Slumbering Dong'er

Elder Xuan led the group, and Shrek Academy's various powerful individuals protected everyone else as everybody activated their flying-type soul tools and soared into the sky. They wanted to avoid any more conflicts with the Sun Moon Empire's powerful individuals, so they flew towards the west for a little while longer before they went around in a large circle towards the Heavenly Soul Empire.

No matter how strong the Sun Moon Empire's soul engineers were, they couldn't scout and patrol every single inch of the empire's borders. Everyone flew at full speed for a day and a night before they exited the Sun Moon Empire's borders and entered the Heavenly Soul Empire.

Elder Xuan made sure that they were safe before he took everyone to a relatively tranquil and remote forest. They descended into the forest, and Elder Xuan instructed everyone to rest where they were.

Huo Yuhao had been carrying Wang Dong'er this entire time, and he had even activated a protective soul barrier to protect her while they flew.

Wang Dong'er was still in a very, very deep sleep. She seemed to have entered a peculiar state of hibernation, and her blood circulation became a lot slower after flying through the air for an entire day. However, her life energy was still exuberant, but she almost didn't expend any energy at all, to the point where it was almost undetectable. She resembled a winter animal that was hibernating for the winter.

Huo Yuhao scanned her sealed spiritual sea with his spiritual power, but didn't detect any changes at all. Wang Dong'er's spiritual undulations had become exceptionally weak, but Huo Yuhao found it easier to come to terms with this fact – no matter what, Wang Dong'er's condition was relatively stable, at the very least.

The other five members of Shrek's Seven Monsters conscientiously circled around Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong'er so that they could protect them.

Bei Bei heaved a faint sigh as he watched the grief that flowed from Huo Yuhao's eyes from time to time. He squatted down and patted Huo Yuhao on his shoulder as he carefully placed Wang Dong'er on a woolen blanket that had been laid out for her. Bei Bei said, "You don't have to be so depressed, Yuhao. Dong'er will definitely recover. Everyone has absolute faith that she will recover. Remember to ask if she needs any exotic herbs of whatnot after you take her back to the Clear Sky Sect, and the few of us will bring those things to you even if we have to risk our lives."

Huo Yuhao looked up at Bei Bei. "Eldest senior brother, Dong'er will definitely recover. You guys don't have to worry about me – I'll be alright. I have to be even stronger, more resilient, and calmer for Dong'er's sake. I will definitely make her better. I'll take her back to the Clear Sky Sect after a little while, and I'll meet you guys back at the Academy when Dong'er has recovered."

"Alright. Send us a letter if something happens when you're there, and everyone will try their best to help you. We'll hold down the fort at the Tang Sect, so you don't have to worry too much. Treating Dong'er and helping her recover is more important and urgent."

Huo Yuhao's eyes shifted between his companions. Xu Sanshi and He Caitou nodded in his direction and made encouraging gestures and hand signs, while Jiang Nannan and Xiao Xiao remained silent with reddened eyes as they squatted down next to Wang Dong'er.

Jiang Nannan said, "Give way, everyone. Xiao Xiao and I will help Dong'er clean her body. Yuhao, you can go take a break. You can't be too exhausted. You can only take her away when you've had enough rest."

"Thank you, fourth senior sister." Huo Yuhao nodded.

Bei Bei suddenly muttered irresolutely, "Yuhao, how about this – you shouldn't go by yourself, since we're not very assured by your current state. Why don't we follow you, and when we're there, and if Dong'er's family can help her, then we will wait. If her family members can't do anything, then we will think of some other way."

Warmth coursed through Huo Yuhao's stifled heart as he heard Bei Bei's words. He understood that his eldest senior brother was worried that Huo Yuhao would be mentally and psychologically affected if Dong'er couldn't be treated.

"Thank you, Bei Bei. Don't worry, I will be strong. Dong'er's life is not in danger after she ingested the Yearning Heartbroken Grass, while the Tang Sect needs you guys back there to direct things. You guys don't have to follow me. I can do this by myself." The Tang Sect had created quite a stir during this tournament. This was their best opportunity to expand and develop as much as they could. Furthermore, people like Nan Qiuqiu and Gao Dalou had joined the Tang Sect, and arrangements had to be made for them when everyone returned. There were so many things they had to do, so Huo Yuhao couldn't affect the Tang Sect's development because of his own interests.

Bei Bei thought for a moment, then said, "Let's do it this way – not all of us will follow you there. Sanshi, you and Nannan will follow Yuhao to the Clear Sky Sect. Taking care of Wang Dong'er will be more convenient with Nannan around. Everyone else will follow me back to the Tang Sect. Alright, that's enough. If you keep pushing and rejecting, Yuhao, you won't be treating me like an elder brother."

"Alright." Huo Yuhao stared at Bei Bei's determined gaze and nodded in acknowledgment. The Tang Sect was his home, and every single senior brother and senior sister had shown him care and concern as if they were family. Bei Bei's arrangement was also appropriate – He Caitou was a soul engineer, and he was a lot more important for the Tang Sect's current development strategy, so tasking Xu Sanshi and Jiang Nannan to follow Huo Yuhao was the most appropriate decision.

Two hours later, Elder Xuan nagged Huo Yuhao and reminded him to take care of himself again and again before he led everyone else into the sky, and the company flew in the direction of Shrek Academy. Elder Xuan was the Master of Shrek Academy's Sea God's Pavilion, and he had to bear immense pressure on his shoulders at this time. Shrek's Seven Monsters, who represented the Tang Sect in combat, and in addition, Shrek Academy's team members who represented the academy, consisted of the academy's elites who possessed the greatest potential in the younger generation. Anything bad that happened to these children would be a huge blow to Shrek Academy.

Nobody had expected the Sun Moon Empire would be so extreme when they came for the tournament. Nobody had expected that the Sun Moon Empire would use the tournament to snipe students from academies all over the Continent so that they could weaken the Douluo Continent's three native empires, and so that they could weaken the three empires' soul masters' strength and future.

The other teams' situations were still unclear, and Elder Xuan and the others had to return to Shrek Academy as quickly as possible so that they could receive firsthand intelligence, and so that they could take action based on whatever information they could obtain.

The enormous explosion that had rocked Radiant City completely knocked the Sun Moon Empire off course and sent their plans into disarray. Without discussing other things, the destruction of the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy, the Illustrious Virtue Hall, and the countless soul tools that the empire had prepared was painful enough for them. War was temporarily avoided, but that didn't mean war wouldn't come in the future. The Douluo Continent's three native empires had to form an alliance and pressure the Sun Moon Empire, and they had to take this opportunity to do everything they could to save the students from those academies who had been trapped in the Sun Moon Empire.

Huo Yuhao was still carrying Wang Dong'er as they got back on the road, while Xu Sanshi and Jiang Nannan followed by his side.

Bei Bei and Xu Sanshi had exchanged a few looks before they parted ways. The two of them were too familiar with each other, and there was nothing more that needed to be said for Xu Sanshi to understand what Bei Bei was trying to convey.

They activated their soul power and channeled their flying-type soul tools at full power as they tore through the clouds and flew rapidly through the sky. They were flying more than a thousand meters above the ground toward the north.

There was a lonesome and solitary figure who was still standing there as she watched them leave. She didn't follow Shrek Academy's company back to the academy, and she didn't follow Huo Yuhao and the others to save Dong'er. She was just standing there and watching everyone depart.

Wang Qiu'er's eyes were full of desolation, and the corner of her mouth curled into a self-mocking smile. "You are far more important to him than I am even after your death. It's time for me to return, as that is my world, after all."

Wang Qiu'er tapped her foot lightly on the ground as she bolted into the air. She had told Elder Xuan that she wouldn't return with everyone to the Academy because she wanted to visit her home. Elder Xuan knew that she was feeling a little despondent, so he didn't try too hard to keep her. He only told her that she should return to the Academy as soon as possible after she returned home.

But would she really go back? Shrek Academy was no longer a home to her, but instead a place of grief and sorrow.

Wang Qiu'er transformed into a golden beam of light as she leapt through the air, and disappeared beyond the horizon like a shooting star.

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Huo Yuhao carried Wang Dong'er and flew through the sky almost without any rest at all, while Xu Sanshi and Jiang Nannan followed him quietly. They could both feel Huo Yuhao's urgent concern and his anxiety, and they also knew that no words of consolation could compare to simply accompanying him to reach their destination as quickly as possible. Xu Sanshi insisted forcibly that they had to rest every four hours, and they were only allowed to continue travelling after having something to eat.

Jiang Nannan helped Huo Yuhao take care of Wang Dong'er. Wang Dong'er hardly expended any energy at all because she was in her state of hibernation, while her vitals were normal and stable the entire time. Her life energy seemed even stronger than before, and everything about her couldn't be better, except for the fact that she wouldn't wake up. The state of Wang Dong'er's body didn't change at all over the next two days, and this calmed Huo Yuhao's turbulent emotions a little.

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Finally, the snowcapped mountain came into view.

At the end, they had to climb into the clouds, and up a steep and perilous mountain path. Huo Yuhao had only been here once, but his mighty spiritual power had allowed him to memorize the path up the

mountain the last time he was here, and his spiritual power was a lot stronger than back then. He shared his Spiritual Detection with Xu Sanshi and Jiang Nannan as he led them swiftly up the mountain, and they arrived at the mountaintop in no time.

Clear Sky Castle was still as it was before, and nothing much seemed to have changed. It also seemed especially calm and quiet at this moment.

Right when Huo Yuhao and the others were walking towards the castle's main gate, the gate suddenly opened, and two rows of people streamed out. Niu Tian had a dark and gloomy look on his face as he and Tai Tan followed behind everyone else and walked out.

Huo Yuhao heaved a sigh of relief when he saw them. His mind had been wandering a lot throughout their journey, and he had contemplated many things. He had even considered what he would do if the Clear Sky Castle's two lords weren't around. Huo Yuhao felt a lot more relaxed when he saw these two reclusive and incredibly powerful individuals, and even Wang Dong'er's biological uncle was present.

Tai Tan strode towards Huo Yuhao. He didn't utter a single word as he took Wang Dong'er from his hands.

Huo Yuhao was momentarily stunned as he watched Tai Tan turn back towards Clear Sky Castle with Wang Dong'er in his hands.

"Uncle Tai Tan, Dong'er..."

Niu Tian raised his hand to interrupt Huo Yuhao. He lowered his voice and said, "You don't have to say any more. We already know about what happened, and you don't need to ask how we found out. Dong'er followed you, but she has landed herself in such a situation. You're responsible for this. You may go – Dong'er needs a good rest, and we will take care of her."

Niu Tian actually turned and walked back into the castle as he spoke.

Huo Yuhao became incredibly worried and anxious as he took a few brisk steps forward and caught up to Niu Tian. "Uncle Niu Tian, when will Dong'er wake up? Is this happening to her because her old injury is acting up?"

Chapter 367.3: The Slumbering Dong'er

Niu Tian glanced at him coldly and said, "All that has nothing to do with you. Don't come back here to find her from today onwards, you are not worthy of asking about whether she can wake up and what she will become in the future. Leave – don't force my hand!"

"You're so unreasonable!" Jiang Nannan instantly grew frustrated, and she pushed away Xu Sanshi's attempts to stop her as she dashed to Huo Yuhao's side and glared at Niu Tian.

"How can you blame Yuhao for what happened to Dong'er? If you're powerful enough, you can look for that Yin-Yang Love Querying Valley to settle this debt, because the valley was responsible for what happened to her. Yuhao is sad enough, so how can you add oil to the fire? Can you guys help Dong'er or not? If you can't, return her to us, and we'll take her away."

Niu Tian glared back at her. Suddenly, fierce winds cut across the mountain peak as frightening pressure erupted from his body.

Niu Tian seemed to have become one with all the celestial and astronomical phenomena around him in that instant. Huo Yuhao, Jiang Nannan, and Xu Sanshi had the feeling they were facing off against the entire world.

Jiang Nannan stumbled a few steps back from this immense pressure and leaned on Xu Sanshi. Xu Sanshi's face was dark and gloomy, and he could barely hold on by channeling his full strength.

Huo Yuhao didn't move an inch from where he was; his legs were planted into the ground like nails. An extremely chilly aura permeated from his body, and even though Niu Tian could control the elements around him, he couldn't suppress Huo Yuhao's connection with ice and snow.

"Eh?" Niu Tian exclaimed softly in surprise, but his expression swiftly changed to one of disdain and indifference. His entire body shook as dull and thunderous booms echoed throughout the sky. It was as though the dragon god had descended onto the world amidst rolling dragon roars. The pressure that the three of them felt rose exponentially.

Xu Sanshi and Jiang Nannan were forced backwards as they stumbled again and again from that rising pressure. They unwittingly retreated to the edge of the cliff – and strangely, this pressure automatically lightened once they moved past a certain range.

Huo Yuhao was still standing there, motionless, and his legs gradually sank down on the spot.

Huo Yuhao had to resist terrifying pressure and squeezing from all directions, and he felt as if his body were going to be crushed to pieces in any moment. However, he stood his ground forcefully, and he didn't even take one step back.

The multiple tests of life and death that Huo Yuhao had gone through in the Yin-Yang Love Querying Valley proved to be very important at a time like this. Huo Yuhao didn't feel afraid at all, no matter how great the pressure was. The resilience in his heart had transformed into a toughness of his cultivation, as his spiritual power, soul power, and his Ultimate Ice element fused perfectly together.

A greenish-golden light erupted from Huo Yuhao's body – the green hues came from a fusion between the Ice Empress' jade-green colors and the Snow Empress' pristine white colors, while the golden luster originated from the Skydream Iceworm's one million years worth of spiritual power. Huo Yuhao had merged everything together into one furnace, and each force could no longer be told apart from the other. This was strength and power that truly and completely belonged to himself.

The disdain and contempt in Niu Tian's eyes gradually disappeared, and was replaced by shock and surprise. He watched Huo Yuhao's forceful attempt to stand his ground, and snorted as a green lightning streak stretched across the sky. Dragon roars resonated through the sky as the clouds began to transform. The rolling clouds seemed to have transformed into uncountable enormous green dragons that were baring their fangs and brandishing their claws.

"Retreat, Yuhao!" Xu Sanshi hollered at the top of his voice as his expression changed. They were not at amongst the strongest individuals on the Continent, but they were Shrek Academy's elites of the younger generation, and they had seen what powerful individuals looked like when they fought.

Xu Sanshi could clearly feel at this moment that the Clear Sky Sect's leader, the master of the Clear Sky Castle, was as powerful as Elder Xuan was. How could they fight against someone as powerful as him?

Niu Tian didn't mean any ill against them, because they would have been blown into smithereens otherwise. Xu Sanshi was afraid that Huo Yuhao would infuriate Niu Tian with his actions and bring death upon himself.

However, Huo Yuhao didn't retreat at all. He possessed strong spiritual power, and he had his own instincts about many things. At this moment, he felt that retreating would mean that he had completely given up. He didn't know why Niu Tian and Tai Tan were suddenly so hostile towards him, but there was no way Huo Yuhao could retreat, because he had to stand his ground for Wang Dong'er, and so he could see Wang Dong'er and be together with her once more.

Blood trailed out from Huo Yuhao's eyes, nose, ears, and mouth. Huo Yuhao could crumble at any moment against such terrifying force that seemed to resemble might from the heavens. Niu Tian was simply too strong, and Huo Yuhao was in the storm's epicenter, so Niu Tian could easily grind him to dust if that was his wish. But for some reason, Huo Yuhao was quite happy at this moment, because the stronger Niu Tian was, the higher the chance that Dong'er could be healed.

"Do you wish to die?" Niu Tian muttered as all that pressure vanished in an instant, and everything returned to normal.

Huo Yuhao didn't feel any pressure anymore and his body swayed as a mouthful of blood burst out from his mouth. His face had turned ghastly pale.

Xu Sanshi and Jiang Nannan hurriedly came forward to support him up as they glared at Niu Tian.

Niu Tian stared at Huo Yuhao and nodded lightly. "You have improved a lot, and you're actually able to fuse so many different energies into one. You have proved yourself to be one of the most talented youngsters of your generation. Alright, I'll explain this issue to you because I can tell that you're still in love with her.

"Dong'er's father came back, and he told us that Dong'er's hidden injury had been triggered. You were responsible for that, and if you hadn't already found the Yearning Heartbroken Grass and given it to her to prove that you're still in love with her, you would have been a corpse by now. n-(OveLbIn

"We've watched Dong'er grow up since she was a kid, and we are absolutely unwilling to see her wronged or aggrieved in any way. She is in bad shape, and her soul and her spirit are currently very messy and chaotic. We've already scrutinized her. With the current state her spirit is in, she is the only one who can wake herself up. Clear Sky Castle is most suitable for her to stay and rest. You can leave, and you are not welcome in this place, at least before Dong'er wakes up. I will send someone to Shrek Academy to inform you when she's awake, and if she's still willing to be together with you, then... we'll see."

Niu Tian swung his baggy sleeves after his speech, and a strong wind swept Huo Yuhao and his two companions up and blew them far into the distance. Niu Tian then brought everyone else from the Clear Sky Sect back into Clear Sky Castle.

Huo Yuhao and the others put in a lot of effort to stabilize themselves and regain their balance. Niu Tian propelled them away with just the right amount of strength so that they wouldn't fall off the mountaintop.

“Dong’er!” Huo Yuhao exclaimed, and controlled his human-shaped soul tool as he immediately bounced back towards Clear Sky Castle. Niu Tian’s voice could be heard once more when Huo Yuhao arrived at Clear Sky Castle’s main gate.

“Leave immediately. If you stick around and continue pestering us, don’t blame me for not showing you any more mercy. If that happens, you won’t be able to be with Dong’er anymore, and you might even throw your life away in this place. Let me give you a reminder – even if Dong’er wakes up, you are not allowed to be with her until you have enough strength to protect her. You have to become stronger if you wish to be together with Dong’er again.”

Huo Yuhao stood outside the Clear Sky Castle’s main gate and stopped. He didn’t attempt to knock on it. He just stood there, quiet and motionless.

Jiang Nannan was just about to run forward to console and persuade Huo Yuhao, but Xu Sanshi grabbed her and stopped her.

Xu Sanshi heaved a faint sigh and said, “Don’t go. We have to trust Yuhao. He’s only seventeen, and a blow such as this will only be motivation for him. Everything is alright as long as Dong’er is fine.”

Jiang Nannan rolled her eyes and said, “You speak as if you’re old and proud of your age and experience, as if you’re that much bigger and older.”

Xu Sanshi chortled and said, “Won’t you know if I’m big or not?”

Jiang Nannan blushed and pinched him forcefully as she said, “He’s in so much pain, and you’re still in the mood for jokes and banter.”

Xu Sanshi continued, “Yuhao’s strength has been growing too rapidly over these years. The truth is, he hasn’t experienced any excessively great setbacks or failures. What happened to Dong’er can let him grow up and mature more quickly. He’s a man, and setbacks are nothing much to him. Look at me! I have experienced so many setbacks, and I have failed for so many years, and yet, have I not become stronger and braver with each failure? In the end, I have a beautiful girl in my arms. In my opinion, the Clear Sky Sect’s two sect leaders don’t harbor any ill intentions toward Yuhao. Listen to what Niu Tian is trying to convey! His words can be interpreted as words of encouragement and motivation. Since that’s the case, they should be confident in their ability to help Dong’er recover. At the very least, they can ensure that her life won’t be in danger.”

Huo Yuhao was just standing outside the Clear Sky Sect’s main gate. Fifteen minutes passed, and he hadn’t moved an inch. A few more moments passed before Huo Yuhao gradually took a few steps back, and he bowed respectfully towards Clear Sky Castle before he turned around and walked towards Xu Sanshi and Jiang Nannan.

“Third senior brother, fourth senior sister – let’s go.”

“Are you alright, Yuhao?” Jiang Nannan asked concernedly.

Huo Yuhao shook his head lightly and said, “I’m alright, fourth senior sister. Uncle Niu Tian is right; I am currently incapable of protecting Dong’er. Keeping her here is the best choice. Let’s go back to the Academy – I want to start my closed-door cultivation so that I can smooth out and clear my passageways as quickly as possible.”

Jiang Nannan eyed Xu Sanshi with a surprised look in her eyes. Seems like Xu Sanshi was right!

Xu Sanshi smiled faintly and said nothing else as he patted Huo Yuhao on the shoulder and said, "Let's go."

They followed the same steep mountain path that they had taken to get here, into the clouds and fog. Huo Yuhao suddenly snapped his head around in the moment before they entered the clouds and stared deeply at the Clear Sky Castle, and he clenched his fists tightly as he said, "You have to get well, Dong'er! I will come back as fast as I can to see you."

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Inside Clear Sky Castle...

Niu Tian and Tai Tan were both standing by a window as they watched Huo Yuhao's actions right before he left. A disturbed look flashed across Tai Tan's eyes as he said, "Big brother."

Niu Tian waved his hand and said, "Let's follow his instructions, since this is his decision. Don't you trust him? This blow may not be a bad thing for Yuhao. Come, let's take a look at Dong'er. That girl! Everything will be different when she wakes up."

Chapter 368.1: The Increasingly Prosperous Tang Sect

Nan Qiuqiu had been extremely frustrated and irritable over the past few days. She had been in Shrek City for more than half a month, and news travelled continuously from various sources. She had become very unstable and anxious ever since she heard that her mother and the Earthdragon Sect's team members who had participated in the tournament didn't return to their sect.

She didn't think too much into it when they first departed the Sun Moon Empire, because she had faith in her mother's abilities. Her family's inherited powers of annihilation meant her mother should be able to escape even if she had to fight against someone stronger than she was.

However, things didn't turn out the way she had hoped. Her mother was the sect leader, but she hadn't returned to the sect. Fortunately, the Earthdragon Sect was still being guarded by several of its senior members, and the sect had managed to avoid any problems for now.

But...

Nan Qiuqiu and her mother had depended on each other ever since she was a child. Nan Shuishui was very strict with her, but their relationship was intimate, and their love for each other ran deep. If the Tang Sect's other members hadn't successfully persuaded her, she would have succumbed to her impatience and rushed back to the Sun Moon Empire to search for her mother.

Nan Qiuqiu was a little unruly, but she was very smart. She knew very well that the news that came from Shrek Academy in Shrek City would be a lot more accurate than if she had been back at her own sect, and she would also receive news a lot faster here than elsewhere. Furthermore, the Tang Sect's members told her unambiguously that they would help her save her mother once they received definite and reliable intel.

At this moment, Nan Qiuqiu was pacing outside the Tang Sect's main gate. She was waiting for something.

“What are you doing, Qiuqiu? You didn’t eat much for lunch.” A voice rang out, and Nan Qiuqiu turned around as she saw Gao Dalou, who was picking his teeth with a toothpick, walk out from inside the Tang Sect’s main gate.

In contrast to Nan Qiuqiu, Gao Dalou was as proud and pleased as punch ever since he had arrived at the Tang Sect. He was all alone in the world, and had no strings attached anywhere. To him, wherever he was was his home.

Bei Bei took him to see Xuan Ziwen as soon as they arrived back at the Tang Sect, and Xuan Ziwen tested him a little before he frowned and reluctantly allowed Gao Dalou to stay.

Gao Dalou had only been here for half a month, but he had displayed stunning talent and potential in crafting soul tools over this period of time. He was like an enormous sponge as he continuously absorbed all kinds of knowledge.

The large amounts of rare metals that Huo Yuhao and the others had stolen from one of the Sun Moon Empire’s underground warehouses became the most substantial guarantee for taking the Tang Sect’s development one step further. There was no need to mention Gao Dalou’s reaction; even Xuan Ziwen’s eyes froze and grew lifeless for fifteen minutes when he saw those incredibly precious and exotic rare metals piled up into a small mountain before he recovered his senses.

Gao Dalou had thrown himself onto the mountain of rare metals, crying and wailing. He was hollering at the top of his voice, “In life, I am part of the Tang Sect as a human. In death, I am part of the Tang Sect as a ghost!” Gao Dalou was a classic embodiment of greed and avarice, and he would follow anyone that would give him benefits. However, he had a very straightforward personality, and he was simple and honest, and even a little silly at times. This, in addition to his passion for crafting soul tools that was comparable to that of Xuan Ziwen, quickly gained him the Tang Sect’s approval.

Nan Qiuqiu and Gao Dalou weren’t the only ones who had joined the Tang Sect. Mo Xuan, who was also from Shrek Academy’s inner courtyard, had also joined. Mo Xuan was already in the Tang Sect when Shrek’s Seven Monsters had represented the Tang Sect for the big tournament. Mo Xuan was also incredibly interested in soul tools, and even though he didn’t choose to learn how to craft them, he had been working hard at understanding soul tools and learning how to use many different kinds.

The Tang Sect had entered a stage of sound and steady development. They needed one more month, at most, before they could hand over the first batch of Zhuge Divine Crossbow Cannons that the Heavenly Soul Empire and the Star Luo Empire had purchased. Fifty percent of the cannons’ costs were paid in golden soul coins, while the rest was paid entirely with rare metals. This was the Tang Sect’s first bucket of income next to the financial aid that Shrek Academy had given them. In addition to the enormous amounts of rare metals and stationary soul cannon shells that Huo Yuhao and the others had taken from the underground warehouse, it was enough to establish a solid foundation for the Tang Sect.

Nan Qiuqiu glanced at Gao Dalou and said, “I’m waiting for eldest senior brother. He’s having a meeting at the academy. Why aren’t you in the underground cave?”

Gao Dalou seemed a little displeased as he said, “What underground cave? That’s our underground research facility, the Tang Sect’s Soul Tool Hall.”

Nan Qiuqiu snapped, “It’s beneath the ground. What else can it be if not an underground cave?”

Gao Dalou sounded a little exasperated. "It's an underground cave if you insist, then. I'm going out to buy some wine. Do you want some?"

Nan Qiuqiu shook her head and said, "No thanks, I'm not going to drink. Mummy taught me that girls cannot drink wine casually, especially with men. It'll be easy for girls to be taken advantage of." Her eyes became a little red when she mentioned her mother.

Gao Dalou was a little slow regarding human interaction and the ways of the world. But even so, he knew that Nan Qiuqiu hadn't been in a very good mood in the past few days. He hurriedly said, "Alright, then you can wait for eldest senior brother. I'm going to get going." With that, he walked away as briskly as he could.

"Qiuqiu, Qiuqiu!" A shrill and high-pitched voice came from within the Tang Sect's walls right at this moment.

Nan Qiuqiu was momentarily stunned before a helpless and exasperated look appeared on her face. "Don't drag me in, sister Guyi..."

"Come, quickly! I can't hold on any longer." Ye Guyi's worried voice rang out once more.

Nan Qiuqiu slapped herself on the forehead as she walked back through the Tang Sect's main gate with a helpless look on her face.

Smoke and fog permeated the Tang Sect's sparring arena at this moment. Two beams of sword light flashed by in an instant. One was black as ink, while the other was a brilliant gold.

"Clang!" The two sword lights clashed as they passed by each other, and Ye Guyi stumbled backwards as her Angel's wings flickered behind her back. She had a hard time dispelling that forceful impact, and the sharp auras that she had directed from her body into her surroundings were still slicing through the air, and ear-piercing rending and tearing sounds could be heard again and again.

Nan Qiuqiu could imagine how powerful her opponent was, because her opponent was strong enough to force a Soul Emperor whose martial soul was an Angel into a corner like that.

The person standing opposite them had a grave look on his face, his eyes were exceptionally focused, and burned with passion – the sword maniac, Ji Juechen!

The person who had gone through the Yin-Yang Love Querying Valley with the least dangers and without any rewards at all, besides Elder Xuan, had to be Ji Juechen. He didn't know anything about sentiments and emotions, and he was a sword maniac, so how could he have had any experiences with love? When the Yin-Yang Love Querying Valley tested him, it only received one answer – no!

There was nothing at all...

The Yin-Yang Love Querying Valley only had one thing to say to him as his final evaluation – he was a stone!

The valley let him go after that, and didn't give him any rewards at all.

As for Ye Guyi, she came to Shrek City directly after she and Huo Yuhao were separated. She had initially wanted to join Shrek Academy, but the academy wasn't taking students at this time, so she could only wait in the academy for Huo Yuhao and the others to return.

However, Huo Yuhao didn't show up, and when Elder Xuan and the Tang Sect's other members returned, Elder Xuan suggested that she temporarily stay with the Tang Sect, and so here she was.

Ye Guyi was proud and arrogant all the way to her bones, and she was still very unconvinced about her defeat to Huo Yuhao back then. Her pride began to show when she arrived at the Tang Sect, and naturally, a certain sword maniac was excited by the thrill of the hunt when he discovered that her martial soul was an Angel. *n017e-1b(1n*

Birds of a feather flocked together. This saying was as accurate as always – Ye Guyi and Nan Qiuqiu had quite similar personalities, and it took but a few days before these two arrogant girls grew close.

Ye Guyi's martial soul, the Angel, was strong, but she was still one class beneath Ji Juechen, who was already a Soul Sage. This gap was especially obvious because Ye Guyi was not used to Ji Juechen's extreme fighting style at all.

Ye Guyi had never defeated him one-on-one. Ji Juechen's fighting style had always been giving everything he had in one strike, and the two of them rarely exchanged more than ten moves in their fights. Ye Guyi was exasperated, and so she had dragged Nan Qiuqiu into the fray.

Nan Qiuqiu had also received some benefits from the Yin-Yang Love Querying Valley. She didn't have a lover, but she was very honest. The valley was conspicuously more tolerant and forgiving towards girls than it was towards guys, and Nan Qiuqiu ultimately gained a reward from her experience, and her soul power was raised a little bit.

Nan Qiuqiu was only a five-ringed Soul King, but her martial soul's annihilation element wasn't a joke. Nan Qiuqiu teaming up with Ye Guyi had a very complementary feel, and Ji Juechen would have an exceptionally hard time trying to defeat them both one-on-two, unless he unleashed his martial soul true body.

This was the reason why Ye Guyi couldn't help but call for reinforcements when she faced off against Ji Juechen. She was like a punching bag if she had to fight him by herself.

"Come help me, Qiuqiu! I can't deal with him by myself," Ye Guyi panted, but she was staring vindictively at Ji Juechen.

Ji Juechen didn't continue attacking Ye Guyi as he watched Nan Qiuqiu approach. He just quietly waited for her. His personality as a sword maniac meant he always hoped that his opponent would be stronger than he was. If you were weaker than he was, he probably wouldn't consider fighting you at all.

Nan Qiuqiu tapped her feet on the ground and drifted over beside Ye Guyi. "Come, come. Coincidentally, I feel a need to vent. You'll take the front, Sister Guyi."

Ye Guyi gestured to her to signal that she had no problem with this arrangement, and she took a step forward as she blocked Nan Qiuqiu behind her. Golden light erupted, and her Angel's wings rose up once more.

Ji Juechen raised the Judgement Sword in his hands, and his sharp and grave eyes became focused and concentrated once more. Ghastly, silent sword qi surged into the sky, but it condensed, and didn't dissipate. If a bird flew through the sky a hundred meters above his head, his razor-sharp sword qi would cut it in half.

Nan Qiuqiu positioned herself behind Ye Guyi, and she pointed into the sky with her right hand. Translucent, crystalline pink dragon scales extended from the tip of her index finger, and these scales began to web down her hand, quickly covering her entire arm.

Nan Qiuqiu was also an assault-type soul master, but she was more adept at mid-range and long-range combat. She wasn't very good with close-range combat, and this was the reason she had Ye Guyi stand in front of her.

With Ji Juechen's strength, the gap in their strengths would be revealed in no time if Nan Qiuqiu faced him directly. She probably couldn't take a single strike from Ji Juechen's sword, but everything was different now that she was behind Ye Guyi.

Ye Guyi raised her right hand at the same time. Brilliant golden sword light instantly emerged from her hand, and her fifth soul ring sparkled at the same time. Holy Sword!

Ye Guyi's first fight against Ji Juechen had ended disastrously almost as soon as it began, because she had attacked with the intention to probe his abilities, while Ji Juechen used his full strength from the get-go. Ye Guyi didn't dare to probe his abilities this time; she knew she would pay bitterly if she did!

Chapter 368.2: The Increasingly Prosperous Tang Sect

Once her Holy Sword was unleashed, dazzling golden light covered the entire Sparring Arena. Ye Guyi's flourishing holy aura buffeted her clothes and made her even more elegant and enchanting. She deliberately compressed her Holy Sword's radiance continuously, making her sword stronger.

There were quite a few people spectating this fight. Besides Ji Juechen's close friend Jing Ziyang, Xu Sanshi, Jiang Nannan, and Xiao Xiao were also here. Swords didn't have eyes, they were afraid problems could arise in this fight, and someone could get hurt. Xu Sanshi, who was known as the Eternal Defense, should be able to dissolve any dangers at a crucial moment. Xu Sanshi's Mysterious Underworld Displacement was more than suitable, and even Ji Juechen couldn't break through Xu Sanshi's defenses with a single strike after he had completely evolved his Xuanwu Shield, even if he used his full strength.

Ji Juechen's eyes were luminous, but his expression was always ice-cold. For him, no matter who his opponent was and what his opponent's abilities were, he would break them with one strike. That was his sword heart.

Ye Guyi's eyes were still as stern as ever, but they had now become entirely golden. She tapped lightly on the ground with her left foot, and her wings stretched out behind her back. Ye Guyi seemed to be defying the pull of gravity as she gradually floated upwards, and the Holy Sword in her hands became even brighter than before, as if she were holding a small sun in her hands.

Ji Juechen suddenly took a step forward with his left foot, and his sword intent that had just surged into the sky abruptly descended. He hadn't unleashed his sword yet, as his sword intent came first, and sharp sword intent instantly plummeted from the sky and rained down towards Ye Guyi.

However, a pink ray suddenly burst out from beneath Ye Guyi's feet without any warning at all – Nan Qiuqiu was making her move.

Light of Annihilation. That pink light beam seemed translucent and clear, and it stretched across more than ten meters without dissipating.

Ji Juechen suddenly pressed down forcefully with his left foot, and a rich and vigorous aura transformed into grey sword intent that almost seemed material as it erupted outwards.

The pink beam clashed against his black sword intent, and was instantly annihilated. However, that black sword intent paused for a moment, and couldn't attach itself to Ji Juechen's Judgement Sword.

Ye Guyi was quite proficient at grasping opportunities, and she immediately slashed out with her Holy Sword. A brilliant golden beam that resembled a stunning rainbow that seemed like it was going to slice the entire Sparring Arena in half descended from the sky and went straight for Ji Juechen's head.

Ji Juechen finally used his Judgement Sword, and pressed down with his left foot once more. He leaned forward and supported himself with his toes as he lifted his Judgement Sword into the sky.

Ji Juechen's seven soul rings sparkled at the same time in that instant.

Ji Juechen was different from almost every single other soul master. Soul rings were equivalent to a soul master's life force, and determined how powerful their soul skills were. This meant that soul rings determined how powerful a soul master's abilities were.

But for Ji Juechen, his soul rings' effects had become entirely redundant. He didn't care about what soul skills his soul rings gave him, and he didn't even think about what kind of soul rings he had to attach to himself. He was only concerned about his soul rings boosting his physique and his soul power. Ji Juechen's pure sword intent was his own unique invention, and infusing every single ounce of his strength into his sword intent was something that was engraved deep into his bones.

Black light soared into the sky as the darkness side of Ji Juechen's Judgement Sword burst out with black light.

Darkness was naturally at a disadvantage against the holy element. However, once this darkness reached a certain level, it would become so powerful that not even the holy element could suppress it.

The black light that surged into the sky instantly consumed the golden light that was slashing down from the sky. Golden light exploded and flashed inside all that darkness in the next moment, but the rich and powerful black sword intent was like an evil dragon as it swallowed every inch of Ye Guyi's golden sword light.

Ye Guyi was unwilling to resign herself to defeat as her first and second soul rings sparkled at the same time. Holy Light Illumination and Holy Praise!

Intense golden light emerged from her body once more, and white light flickered at its core. This light didn't just land on her body, it also covered Nan Qiuqiu below her.

Nan Qiuqiu pushed forward with her right hand, and a pink layer of light appeared as it transformed into a pink fan-shaped light that expanded outward. Her second and third soul ring lit up at the same time, and she lifted her left hand as pink light cocooned both herself and Ye Guyi. Annihilation Barrier!

Ji Juechen couldn't disregard that pink light no matter how powerful he was. He took another step forward as black sword intent erupted from his body once more, and clashed directly against Nan Qiuqiu's pink fan-shaped light.

Ji Juechen slashed down through the air with his Judgement Sword, and the black sword light that was condensed in the sky sliced down from the sky like a black lightning bolt, going straight for Ye Guyi.

Ye Guyi's eyes were solemn and grave as she raised her Holy Sword once more. This time, her second soul ring lit up, and her Holy Sword changed from gold to an incandescent white as she slashed back at Ji Juechen.

This was her Angel's second soul skill, Holy Ghost Slash!

"Boom –" Intense explosions caused the entire Sparring Arena to tremble. Fortunately, the Tang Sect's Sparring Arena was spacious enough, and the two who were fighting deliberately controlled the spread of their attacks. Otherwise, it would have been very difficult to ensure that the Sparring Arena remained undamaged.

Ye Guyi and Nan Qiuqiu were quite powerful when they teamed up, and even Ji Juechen's sword light was weakened when it touched Nan Qiuqiu's Light of Annihilation. His sword light was far too dense and concentrated, however, so Nan Qiuqiu had a hard time absorbing her opponent's strength to feed back into her own body through Annihilation's effects. However, Ji Juechen's attack was still weakened to quite an extent.

Ji Juechen and Ye Guyi collided forcefully once more, and Ye Guyi was still on the losing end. This time, she was sent plummeting from the sky, though she wasn't hurt because she had used so many soul skills, and she had Nan Qiuqiu protecting her.

In the moment that Ji Juechen's black sword intent touched Nan Qiuqiu's pink light, Nan Qiuqiu placed one of her fists into her other palm.

Deafening booms that resembled thunderclaps could be heard in the next instant as large patches of pink light exploded one after another.

Chained Annihilation Explosions! This was a powerful area of effect skill.

Ji Juechen could only temporarily defend himself as his sword intent faced off against Nan Qiuqiu's Chained Annihilation Explosions, and he couldn't continue attacking Ye Guyi for now.

Furthermore, his sword intent couldn't condense within her Chained Annihilation Explosions like when he was attacking. Part of his sword intent was blown to smithereens, and that peculiar pink light swallowed everything up as it fed everything back into Nan Qiuqiu's body.

This was the Ruby Dragon's annihilation element's most powerful attribute – Nan Qiuqiu could use her opponent's strength to replenish herself. If Ji Juechen's sword intent hadn't been powerful enough, she would have absorbed even more. She could weaken her opponent while strengthening herself at the same time, and even some who were stronger than she was could lose to her in the end.

Ye Guyi managed to catch her breath with Nan Qiuqiu's help as light burst out from her beautiful eyes. How could she be convinced by her loss to Ji Juechen with her arrogant personality? She tapped lightly

on the ground with the tip of her foot, and glided forward. This time, every other soul ring's lusters was withdrawn, and only her sixth and final soul ring sparkled brilliantly.

Her wings flickered as two illusory wings of light glimmered faintly. Ye Guyi resembled a waltzing angel as she drifted towards Ji Juechen, and her Holy Sword became a pristine white longsword as her elegant frame became illusory as she glided outward. It was impossible to lock onto her body.

This was Ye Guyi's strongest soul skill – Angelic Dance.

This wasn't Nan Qiuqiu's first time teaming up with Ye Guyi. Nan Qiuqiu watched Ye Guyi unleash her Angelic Dance, and her last soul ring lit up at the same time.

Nan Qiuqiu's black ten thousand year soul ring sparkled as a pink diamond-shaped crystal glowed dazzlingly on her forehead. A single bright and crisp dragon roar rang out from behind her back, and a pink dragon shadow flickered behind her back. A dash of pink light swiftly caught up to Ye Guyi and attached itself to her body, while Nan Qiuqiu's body also became a little illusory.

Nan Qiuqiu's fifth soul skill, Annihilation Body.

A body that was formed from the power of Annihilation would shimmer into view once this skill was used. This body would be identical to Nan Qiuqiu's own body, and it would even possess part of her spirit. This skill's most formidable trait was that it could enhance Nan Qiuqiu's annihilation element by three hundred percent, and her opponents would have to break through her Form of Annihilation first if they wanted to hurt her original body.

At the same time, her Annihilation Body would form the foundation for Nan Qiuqiu to use other powerful soul skills when she became stronger in the future.

Ji Juechen used his sword and swiped a "Z" through the air as he faced Ye Guyi's Angelic Dance, and black sword light covered an enormous area.

However, Ye Guyi didn't have to defend herself as the Form of Annihilation that was attached to her body rushed forward.

Pink light flickered incessantly, and Ji Juechen's sword light was actually decimated just like that when it touched Nan Qiuqiu's Form of Annihilation.

Nan Qiuqiu couldn't absorb her opponent's strength to feed herself through her powers of Annihilation when she was using Annihilation Body. However, her powers of Annihilation would also be raised to their highest possible level, and even Ji Juechen's coagulated sword light was dispelled. Even though Nan Qiuqiu's Annihilation Body became a little more illusory after that collision, the chance that this collision had created for Ye Guyi was enough.

Ye Guyi's Angelic Dance closed in on Ji Juechen, and her white longsword shone with brilliant light as countless streaks of sword light rained down on Ji Juechen's body.

Ji Juechen had just attacked with his sword before this, and he was currently in a state when his strength was weakest. However, his expression didn't change at all even though he facing such a disadvantageous situation, and he pulled his Judgement Sword back lightly as he flipped the sword

around in his hands. The sword's black surface suddenly became white, and its darkness was instantly converted into light.

When Ye Guyi's Holy Aura clashed against the body of Ji Juechen's sword, which was now filled with an aura of light, the sword's body erupted with dazzling light.

Ji Juechen raised his sword horizontally before his body, and he exclaimed vigorously as a biting sharp and cold sword intent suddenly emerged from his body. Black sword intent became white, and darkness became light. Everything happened very naturally.

Ye Guyi's Angelic Dance clashed against his sword intent just like that, and Ye Guyi had no chance to evade Ji Juechen's counterattack at all. Nan Qiuqiu's Form of Annihilation had been forced away after she dispelled the Z-shaped sword intent, and her Annihilation Body couldn't rush back in time.

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The power of Annihilation was incredibly strong, and Ji Juechen's sword light, which currently possessed the power of light, instantly became a lot dimmer than before. However, the strength of Nan Qiuqiu's Annihilation Body was ultimately limited, and she didn't dare to use every ounce of energy in that body, as she could risk damaging her origin if she did so. The pink light transformed into a beam of flowing light and flowed back into her body, while Ye Guyi returned to her side at this moment.

Their faces were a little black. They had used their full strength, but they were still unable to obtain any sort of advantage.

"You guys are no match for me. Go back and work harder." Ji Juechen didn't continue attacking. He withdrew his Judgement Sword as he turned and walked away.

Nan Qiuqiu's pretty face grew even darker than before. "Why is he being so condescending? The winner of this fight is still undecided. How does he know we are no match for him?"

Ye Guyi forced out a bitter smile as she said, "Forget it. If we are no match for him, then so be it. We are no match for him now, but that doesn't mean we won't be his match in the future. He has shown me mercy before this, and when he converted darkness to light, he borrowed my strength! If he had used his full strength in that attack, I wouldn't have been able to emerge unscathed, and your Annihilation Body might have been damaged as well. Furthermore, he didn't use his martial soul true body. I didn't expect the gap between us to be so huge..."

Nan Qiuqiu hugged Ye Guyi across her shoulder and said, "Don't be so dejected, sister Guyi. He's older than us, and we will surpass him one day!"

Ji Juechen was still nearby, and suddenly stumbled when he heard her words. Jing Ziyang was following behind him, and couldn't help but laugh at Nan Qiuqiu's remark.

Ji Juechen was only a little over twenty. Could he be really be considered old? However, he was actually the oldest one amongst these people from the Tang Sect...

"You're back, eldest senior brother." Nan Qiuqiu suddenly exclaimed and jumped for joy. She completely disregarded a certain someone's despondence.

Bei Bei walked in from outside, but his expression seemed a little grave. He waved to everyone and said, "Come, let's talk inside."

Bei Bei took everyone into the Tang Sect's Conference Hall. Everyone sat down, and besides their subordinates, everyone here formed the Tang Sect's core.

Nan Qiuqiu couldn't hold herself back anymore, and blurted, "How is it, eldest senior brother? Is there news about my mother and the others?"

Bei Bei nodded and said, "We have intel. The good news is that they're all fine and still alive. The bad news is, they are indeed in the Sun Moon Empire's hands."

Nan Qiuqiu leapt to her feet, turned, and was just about to walk out. Fortunately, Ye Guyi moved quickly and grabbed her in time.

Bei Bei frowned slightly and said, "Don't be rash, Qiuqiu. Let me finish. We have to save your mother, but do you think you can do that and bring everyone back by yourself?"

Bei Bei's voice became a lot stricter and severe towards the end.

Nan Qiuqiu pouted, and tears welled up in her eyes. Nan Qiuqiu and her mother had depended on each other since she was young, and her mother had doted on her back in the Earthdragon Sect. She wouldn't have developed such a prideful and arrogant personality otherwise. Joining the Tang Sect and leaving her mother's supervision was a happy event for her, but that didn't mean she wasn't still close to her mother. Quite the opposite; Nan Qiuqiu had a very close relationship with her mother, and her mother's danger and peril made her as anxious and frustrated as could be.

Everybody within the Tang Sect's inner circle quickly arrived at the Conference Hall. Ye Guyi pulled Nan Qiuqiu to one side and sat down, while everyone else sat down in their respective seats. He Caitou, Xu Sanshi, Jiang Nannan, and Xiao Xiao were all present. Over at the Soul Tool Hall, Xuan Ziwen and Gao Dalou didn't participate in the Tang Sect's policy decisions; they were only immersed in their soul tool research, and didn't typically participate in such conferences. Mo Xuan was at Shrek Academy's inner courtyard to further his training, as the inner courtyard placed a lot of emphasis and effort on his nurturing and education.

"Everyone is here. Let's begin the meeting." Bei Bei was sitting in the main seat as he spoke with a grave look on his face. "According to the academy's intel, the Sun Moon Empire have unambiguously and outrageously announced that the sects and academies that participated in the tournament are in their hands. They are still alive for now."

Xu Sanshi cut in and said, "What are they trying to do? Are they taking the initiative to declare war on the Douluo Continent's three native empires?"

Bei Bei shook his head. "They haven't officially declared war, but this means they are even more treacherous and vicious. The first consequence from their announcement is that the Sun Moon Empire is officially antagonizing the sects and academies who have people in the empire's hands. But at the same time, they have also told us unambiguously that those people are in their hands, and this will lead to the second consequence, that we will be afraid to fight against their evil for fear of harming innocents."

Bei Bei surveyed everyone around him, and his eyes paused for a moment longer when they came to Nan Qiuqiu. "Think about it, guys. Everyone who was able to represent those reputable sects and academies in the tournament were elites of the younger generation. Almost every single one of them will become future cornerstones and mainstays. In addition to them are the teachers of the teams, who had brought them to Radiant City, or even sect leaders who personally came forward, like the Earthdragon Sect. Everyone is now in the hands of the Sun Moon Empire... what does this mean?"

He Caitou, or Xu He, was a lot more handsome than before. He lowered his voice and said, "This means that the various sects and academies won't dare to use violence against the Sun Moon Empire lightly. At least, they won't do so before they rescue their compatriots."

Bei Bei nodded and continued, "That's the first possibility. The second possibility is that those academies and sects will venture into the Sun Moon Empire to save their compatriots, and they will mire themselves in their enemies' traps if that happens. The Sun Moon Empire will break them down, one by one. At the same time, with this restraint in place, every country will have to consider the opinions of those sects and academies who are powerful enough to affect a nation's high-level fighting strength if they wish to make a move against the Sun Moon Empire. The Sun Moon Empire can take this opportunity to regain their strength and replenish what they've lost. Their strategy has killed four birds with one stone, and it is very treacherous and cunning, indeed."

"Then what should we do? Are we not going to save them?" Nan Qiuqiu couldn't help but feel a little worried and anxious.

Bei Bei said, "Calm down, don't be hasty. Of course we have to save them, but we have to plan and scheme before we make a move. Our actions will be counterproductive otherwise, and we will achieve the opposite of our desired result if we try to save them rashly and without prior planning. Don't worry, your mother will not be in danger for the time being. At least, she will be fine until the Sun Moon Empire decides to officially launch an invasion. The Sun Moon Empire's hostages will be valuable to them until they are actually prepared to start a war. This will take at least one or two years."

Nan Qiuqiu settled down a little as she listened to Bei Bei's calm analysis, and nodded pitifully.

Bei Bei continued, "Everyone must have noticed that certain entities are not included among the people that I mentioned who are afraid to take action against the Sun Moon Empire for fear of harming innocents... Shrek Academy and the Body Sect! The Body Sect is considered the Heavenly Soul Empire's National Defense Sect, and they will do something to save the Heavenly Soul Empire soul masters who have been captured. Shrek Academy is incumbent and bound to our duty. At the same time, the Tang Sect doesn't share the same fears."

He Caitou glanced at Nan Qiuqiu and said, "Eldest senior brother, do you think that the Tang Sect participating in high-level conflicts between empires will..." A worried look appeared in his eyes as he spoke.

Nan Qiuqiu slammed the table in front of her and leapt to her feet. She glared at He Caitou and said, "Such a waste that you've grown up to be so tall and big. Are you afraid?"

He Caitou frowned, and Xiao Xiao cut in before He Caitou could say anything. She leapt to her feet as well and said, "What did you say? Afraid? Do you think we're afraid?"

He Caitou hugged Xiao Xiao at her waist with one arm. He was tall, so he could still do that easily even though he was sitting down. He pulled Xiao Xiao back into her seat as he turned towards Nan Qiuqiu with a calm look in his eyes. "I hail from the Sun Moon Empire. More accurately put, I come from the Sun Moon Empire's royal family. More than ten years ago, my father and several hundred of my family members were murdered by the previous Sun Moon Empire's emperor, who has just passed away not too long ago."

He Caitou recounted his story calmly as if he were talking about something that was completely unrelated to him, and not a single ripple of emotion appeared on his face. In the beginning, Nan Qiuqiu was a little surprised, but her reaction gradually became one of intense shock. Her pretty face flushed red, and she desperately wanted to hide herself in some hole in the ground.

"I'm... I'm sorry..." Nan Qiuqiu was a little arrogant and pampered, but she wasn't an unreasonable girl, and she hurriedly lowered her head and sat back down.

He Caitou smiled and continued, "It's alright. You're losing your cool because you're too concerned. We will brainstorm and discuss this carefully because we have to find the best solution and strategy to save your mother. Saving the Earthdragon Sect's members will be our topmost priority. I am just worried that the Academy will not let us participate in this operation, so we need to have a detailed plan before we think about taking any action."

Bei Bei nodded and said, "That's correct. We need to have a detailed plan before we take any action. The Tang Sect is just starting to take shape, and our foundations are still unstable. At this time, we can only assist everyone else in this operation. The Academy will be the main strength which will venture forward to rescue the hostages. Even if the Academy's operation fails, the Sun Moon Empire cannot vent their anger on anyone. However, the Sun Moon Empire must have already made sufficient preparations, and they're just waiting for us to walk into their trap by ourselves. Therefore, this rescue operation will be extremely difficult, and we must ensure that we are absolutely prepared for anything and everything before we take any action. So Qiuqiu, I need to remind you that you must trust everyone, and you cannot do anything rash by yourself. Rashness and impulsiveness will not resolve any of our problems, and your only choice right now is to trust us. Do you understand?"

Nan Qiuqiu nodded lightly.

Bei Bei continued, "The Sea God's Pavilion's various elders have already discussed this. In terms of strength, rescuing those hostages under the watchful eyes of the Sun Moon Empire's throngs of soul engineers and the Holy Ghost Church's evil soul masters will be exceptionally challenging. We have sent out scouts to figure out what's happening in the Sun Moon Empire and figure out their situation. At the same time, this isn't the right time for us to launch a rescue operation; the Sun Moon Empire must have already made sufficient preparations if they dared to handle this issue this way, which is just a little short of declaring war. Therefore, we have to wait, and we have to wait until they are a little less vigilant for us to have any chance or opportunity at all."

Nan Qiuqiu didn't say anything anymore. She seemed to have learned her lesson from before, and she was a lot calmer and more composed.

Ye Guyi glanced at Nan Qiuqiu and asked, "How long do we have to wait?"

Bei Bei shook his head and said, "I'm not sure. We have to wait for the most opportune moment, and everything depends on the intel from our scouts... and also on the Academy's plans and arrangements. We can no longer make any decisions about a conflict at this level."

Chapter 369.1: Yuhao Exits Seclusion

"Everyone, hurry up and cultivate. Any increase in strength is a powerful guarantee for us. I've already applied to the Academy. Tomorrow, Dean Yan will personally bring Nannan and Xiao Xiao to the Star Luo Forest to find a suitable soul beast for their sixth soul rings. Sanshi and Caitou, go along too. This will give you peace of mind."

While the Yin-Yang Love Querying Valley did cause them many injuries, some of them benefited, too. Of the Tang Sect members, four of them had experienced an increase in soul power: Huo Yuhao, Wang Dong'er, Xiao Xiao, and Jiang Nannan. Of course, this also included Wang Qiu'er, who had disappeared.

Among them, Xiao Xiao and Jiang Nannan's soul power had reached Rank 60. After they returned to the Tang Sect, the two girls had cultivated to solidify their foundations. They now needed to obtain their sixth soul rings to become Soul Emperors. After the two of them rose in rank, Huo Yuhao was the only one of Shrek's Seven Monsters who had yet to rise in rank.

However, Huo Yuhao's soul power had increased by five ranks. He was very close to Rank 60! n--
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Everyone nodded. The increase from five rings to six was not as difficult as the increase from six rings to seven, but it was still a huge milestone for soul masters. The increase from Soul King to Soul Emperor was an exponential increase in power, which would further strengthen the Tang Sect.

"Alright, let's do this. Everyone, hurry up and cultivate. I'll inform you about the rescue operation as soon as I can. Dismissed."

Everyone started to leave. However, Nan Qiuqiu sat there for a long while before standing up.

Ye Guyi, who had been sitting next to her, asked in a low voice, "Qiuqiu, are you alright?"

Nan Qiuqiu shook her head and said, "I'm fine. Sister Guyi, do you really think we can save my mother?"

Ye Guyi sighed and said, "On the continent, if there's something Shrek Academy can't do, then no one else can do it. Please don't do anything dumb. All we can do is wait. Since Bei Bei has spoken, the school will naturally make its own arrangements. All we can do now is cultivate with all our might. The important thing is to strengthen ourselves. You should endeavor to become a Soul Emperor as soon as you can! All of our martial souls are special. The stronger we are, the more powerful our unique traits will become. Let's work hard together!"

"Okay!" Nan Qiuqiu nodded vigorously. "I'll do my best to save my mother."

Ye Guyi gave her arm a squeeze and said, "I don't know what happened to him. Ever since our return, he seems to be doing nothing but training. I heard that he almost escaped from the jaws of death. I don't know what he's doing. His lover..."

"Shh!" Nan Qiuqiu silenced her with a gesture. She shook her head and said, "Let's not talk about Wang Dong'er. It's taboo for all of us. Originally, I hated Huo Yuhao. However, he's pitiable, indeed. This time,

in the Yin-Yang Love Querying Valley, he lost the girl he loves the most. Now, he is turning his anger and grief into strength for cultivation. It's really..."

Ye Guyi grunted and said, "He's a freak, but he's strong too. Let's go and cultivate. One day, I'm going to beat him!"

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The entire Tang Sect was training and cultivating intensely. While the Tang Sect had no powerful people to back them up, they were undoubtedly the most powerful group of young soul masters on the entire continent. Their growth would surely impact the world of soul masters.

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Darkness!

Everything was dark and silent. One could not even see one's hands.

"Smack!" A sound rang out. A shadow flew into the air, and something stopped it.

A strong hand had grabbed it. Light jade-green light started to shine, giving light to this pitch-black world.

The jade-green light shone from someone's body. It came from Huo Yuhao!

At that moment, his hand had grabbed a small vat, which contained extremely strong alcohol.

He opened its seal, and the pungent smell of alcohol appeared in the secret, black room. He lifted the vat and drank the alcohol down in huge gulps. For a normal person, one small cup would have sufficed. The green light on his body shone even more intensely.

After his return from the Clear Sky Sect, Huo Yuhao chose to go into closed-door training. For its silence, he chose the deepest part of the Tang Sect's Soul Tool Hall for its silence, where he dug out an area to be his own cultivation cave.

Here, he would not be affected by the outside world. He cultivated furiously in absolute silence.

This time, his closed-door training was do-or-die. If he did not reach his target, he would not leave. His objective was simple: he wanted to open the passageways in his legs once more, allowing the origin energy of Ultimate Ice, which he had absorbed in the Icefire Yin Yang Well, to fully flow throughout his body.

He had cultivated behind closed doors for almost half a month. In this half a month, he had completely calmed his heart. Even though there was no way he could suppress his thoughts, he slowly returned to the intensity of the time when he had just joined Shrek Academy.

It was an indescribable sensation. In this cultivation, he did his best to improve himself. At the same time, he tried to fuse his spiritual power, his soul power, his Ultimate Ice, his Spirit Eyes, and even his Necromancy, which he had derived from the Divine Law of Necromancy, and which had been taught to him by the Calamity Necromancer Electrolux, into one.

In the past few years, his power had increased rapidly. His twin martial souls gave him an innate advantage. In this period of time, his paralysis was not necessarily a bad thing, as it made him realize that innate talent was not everything.

Right now, he had managed to accomplish something even Titled Douluo found difficult. He was combining of all his powers as he tried to refine them!

His strong spiritual power gave him the ability to do so. Aided by the distilled wine, he was able to absorb the origin energy of Ultimate Ice faster and faster. His soul power also increased quickly.

Cultivating an Ultimate Strength martial soul was hardest before one possessed seven rings. However, as Huo Yuhao's soul power was increased by five ranks after the Yin Yang Love Querying Valley, coupled with his continual absorption of the origin energy of Ultimate Ice, this process became a lot simpler.

All this while, he had felt as if the increase in his soul power had reached a bottleneck. His soul power was becoming stronger, but he did not feel it increasing. The soul power he had absorbed from the origin energy of Ultimate Ice appeared to be hidden in the bones of his four limbs, and was unable to fuse with his own soul power.

When he first started, he was worried. After a while, he understood that he had reached a bottleneck, and this bottleneck was for the sixtieth rank.

He himself could not believe that he had reached Rank 60 so quickly.

In fact, when he took part in the Continental Elite Youth Soul Master Tournament in the Sun Moon Empire, he was in a state of high alert and constant fighting. Bei Bei's injuries meant that he had to carry the banner of the Tang Sect. As he fought, he improved non-stop. With all his might and energy, he brought the Tang Sect forward, and even helped Shrek Academy out.

Regardless of whether it was actual fighting experience or just plain hardship, he was the one who bore the most of it among everyone from the Tang Sect.

His return from the jaws of death, from the Yin-Yang Love Querying Valley, had allowed him to further demonstrate his full potential. It further sharpened his body and mind, greatly increasing his soul power. Coupled with his final reward of an increase in five ranks, he was finally able to reach Rank 60.

Had it been any other soul master, he would have ecstatically started searching for a soul ring once his rank reached a multiple of ten. However, Huo Yuhao did not do so. The passageways in his legs were still blocked. Furthermore, 10,000 years ago, one of the founders of Shrek Academy, Ancestor Yu Xiaogang, who was widely known as The Grandmaster, said that when a soul master's soul power reached a bottleneck, it would not stop increasing because one stopped adding soul rings to it. If one had a chance to further increase one's soul power, there was no rush to look for a soul ring. As long as one added a soul ring later on, the excess soul power from the earlier cultivation would still materialize.

Hence, Huo Yuhao was in no rush. His target was to finish absorbing all of the origin energy of Ultimate Ice in his body, returning his body to normal. Like this, he would return to his optimal state. As for getting a soul ring later, it would all come down to luck for a spirit-type soul master like him. It was better for him to focus on cultivation and solving his issues now than to search for a ring, which required both time and luck.

Furthermore, he could sense that after the fusion of his abilities, the overall increase in strength would be more delightful to him than the increase in soul power. He understood that this was a chance that he had to seize.

He could still clearly remember Elder Mu saying that to become a soul master, one had to find one's own path. At that time, Huo Yuhao had believed that finding one's path was to find a direction for cultivation. At that time, he had chosen the Tang Sect's Secret Techniques.

Elder Mu said nothing. Instead, he let him cultivate according to his own plans.

Right now, Huo Yuhao slowly started to understand what Elder Mu meant by path. It did not mean the direction of cultivation, but instead turning one's own strength into a straight, flat road.

Huo Yuhao had found the entrance to this road. He was slowly walking it, and to him, this process of understanding his powers was more important than improving his Ultimate Ice or any other of his abilities. His own powers would improve through this process, and Huo Yuhao deeply believed that once he completely understood his powers, his strength would increase exponentially once again!

Chapter 369.2: Yuhao Exits Seclusion

In the dark underground room, one could not feel the passage of time. There was vat after vat of wine, which Huo Yuhao consumed to help his cultivation.

To devote more of his time to pure cultivation, he only ate a little bit of food every day, along with some nourishment pills the Academy provided him. He used all his remaining time for cultivation.

This method was extremely lonely. However, every time Huo Yuhao started to get frustrated, he only needed to recite two words to calm himself and get his focus back. They served as his source of motivation. The words were "Wang Dong'er"!

Days passed, and Shrek Academy and the Tang Sect stayed peaceful.

In the blink of an eye, two months passed.

Shrek was not the only calm one. The entire continent was strangely calm.

After the Sun Moon Empire experienced so many changes, the entire continent appeared to have lost its will to fight. Every country was extremely peaceful. The original three countries of the Douluo Continent did not try to find those responsible from the Sun Moon Empire, and the Sun Moon Empire did nothing, either. Even the occasional border skirmishes disappeared in this period of time. Everything was eerily quiet.

The only significant thing that happened, which was expected by everyone, was the ascension of the Crown Prince of the Sun Moon Empire, Xu Tianran, to the throne. He became the new Emperor of the Sun Moon Empire. After he ascended the throne, he did not do anything significant, either. All he did was issue a few orders for the rebuilding of Radiant City. Other than that, he did nothing else.

In the eyes of the people, peace was a good thing. However, to those who were more discerning, this was just the calm before the storm. Those who knew Xu Tianran knew of his ambition. How could he be content with keeping a low profile?

The original three countries of the Douluo Continent continued to make their preparations. War would come at any moment. To them, any additional days they got would greatly help in their preparations.

Due to the difference in soul tool technology, they had completely lost the initiative. If they wanted to catch up to the Sun Moon Empire in terms of technology, they needed time!

It was under this political context that the Tang Sect was able to further expand its influence.

The Tang Sect was originally located at the outskirts of Shrek City, but it now managed to expand once more, occupying a significant plot of land in the western part of Shrek City. This expansion was because of the Soul Tool Hall.

Due to the development of the Tang Sect, Shrek Academy and the Tang Sect came to a further agreement. The Soul Tool Hall of the Tang Sect would be where the top graduates of Shrek Academy's Soul Tool Department would go. They would be treated well and, coupled with personal instruction from the former Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy's chief researcher, it was bound to attract many people. Shrek Academy's Soul Tool Department made a name for itself through its cooperation with the Tang Sect.

Huge amounts of various types of ordinary and rare metals entered Shrek City, having been bought elsewhere at high prices. These were turned into soul tools, which were quietly shipped back out.

In just a span of two months, the Tang Sect gave the Heavenly Soul Empire and the Star Luo Empire three batches of soul tools, most of which were Zhuge Divine Crossbow Cannons.

After careful testing, the Tang Sect decided to take even more orders. As Shrek Academy was the Tang Sect's backer, the profits from the Soul Tool Hall benefitted both the Tang Sect and Shrek Academy. The Tang Sect in particular used the rare metals and gold soul coins obtained from selling soul tools to great effect, allowing the Soul Tool Hall to develop as rapidly as a rocket.

There was no doubting Xuan Ziwen's abilities. He was not only the Hallmaster of the Tang Sect's Soul Tool Hall, but also the Honorary Dean of Shrek Academy's Soul Tool Department. Every week, he had to spend two days lecturing at Shrek Academy. As he brought with him the newest theories of soul engineering, as well as much technical expertise, Shrek Academy's Soul Tool Department was able to develop at an astonishing pace. The original situation, where Shrek Academy was weak in terms of soul engineering and strong in terms of soul masters, was changing rapidly.

The original three countries of the Douluo Continent continued to send their elite students to study at Shrek Academy. $n(-\sigma)V.(e--l(-B(l)))n$

No matter their age or background, they would always be crucial talents. The development of Shrek Academy seemed strong and unstoppable.

Shrek Academy, inner courtyard, Sea God's Pavilion...

“How is everything?” Elder Xuan asked the elder standing next to him.

“It’s ready.”

These two words made Elder Xuan’s eyes lit up. He nodded slightly and said, “Alright, if that’s the case, let’s make our preparations. Inform the elders that we shall have a meeting at the Sea God’s Pavilion!”

“Yes.”

— —

Tang Sect...

Boom!

An explosion rang out. Nan Qiuqiu and Ye Guyi flew in opposite directions. The figure of the sword fanatic, Ji Juechen, could gradually be seen.

He had an ugly expression on his face, and his clothes were torn in many places. Only his gaze was sharp. One could see light flashing on his Judgment Sword.

Nan Qiuqiu stood there wheezing. Her eyes brimmed with excitement as she said, “Success, the experiment was a success!”

Ye Guyi gave her a thumbs-up. She was excited, too!

In the past two months, Ji Juechen was in both pain and joy. As a sword fanatic, he feared not having a regular opponent. However, over the past two months, he had found two people who were more burdensome than him, and that was these two beauties.

Nan Qiuqiu, in her attempt to save her mother, searched for him as a sparring partner every day. Ye Guyi was also a fanatic when it came to cultivation. The two of them went to Ji Juechen to spar almost every single day.

The difference in cultivation made him slightly hesitant about fighting them at first. However, the two of them used extreme methods to achieve their aims. They did not care whether he was willing or not. Whenever they saw him, they would attack him straightaway, as they knew that he would not actually hurt them.

In the end, in these two months, Nan Qiuqiu and Ye Guyi learned to coordinate extremely well with one another. In particular, they came up with a special joint attack, fusing the Holy Angel’s holy element with the Rouge Dragon’s Annihilation. While it was not a true martial soul fusion skill, it was close enough that it could be called one. Now, it was much harder for Ji Juechen to beat them. Once he lost his focus, they would take advantage of him.

Of course, both Nan Qiuqiu and Ye Guyi knew that this was because Ji Juechen had no intentions of killing them. If not, they would still be the losers. Even so, their improvement in the past two months was shocking. Nan Qiuqiu was very close to Rank 60, and she had accumulated a lot of fighting experience.

Ji Juechen shook his head helplessly. He looked at himself and walked away with his Judgment Sword.

Nan Qiuqiu made a fist and said, "We must beat him next time!"

Ye Guyi smiled and said, "Then you should hurry up and increase your soul power. Once you get your sixth soul ring and sixth soul skill, I think we'll stand a chance."

"What chance? I think the two of you are closer to death," Xu Sanshi said lazily.

Nan Qiuqiu looked at him angrily and said, "Third elder brother, all you know how to do is douse cold water on us. Why are we closer to death?"

Xu Sanshi said, "Do you think the sword fanatic really can't beat you? We're the Tang Sect, and in terms of individual fighting prowess, even Bei Bei and I have to be wary of him. While the two of you have special martial souls, your foundations are weak. Ji Juechen's strongest trait is that his sword intent is unstoppable. He does not dare to go all-out against you, as he cares about you. If your power improves even more, he'll be forced to use all his strength. By that time, he may not be able to rein in his powers. Hence, aren't you closer to death?"

Ye Guyi and Nan Qiuqiu looked at one another. Their expressions changed. Xu Sanshi was right. From the first moment they had attacked Ji Juechen, they had already had this notion in mind, but as they fought more and more, they gradually forgot about it.

An idea flashed in Ye Guyi's mind as she smiled at Xu Sanshi.

She was already very beautiful. With that smile, she became even more attractive.

Xu Sanshi's face froze. He took a few steps back as he folded his arms in front of his chest. "What do you want? Let me warn you, I have a woman waiting for me! Furthermore, I have a strong will. Don't tempt me; if not, I'll be a goner for sure!"

Nan Qiuqiu chuckled and said, "Who's tempting you? Don't dream. If not for the fact that Sister Nannan fell for you, with your appearance... Tsk!" As she said that, she waved her hand in front of her nose disrespectfully.

Ye Guyi chimed in, "That's right. We don't like you. Third elder brother, you see, you said that the increase in our strength would make Ji Juechen an unsuitable sparring partner for us. Hence, do you think we should change that?"

An uneasy feeling rose in Xu Sanshi's heart as he said with a straight face, "I have something to do." As he said that, he turned to leave.

"Don't go! Watch me!" Ye Guyi and Nan Qiuqiu, the two little devils, dominated the Sparring Arena. Ye Guyi's feet lightly touched the surface of the ground as she flew into the sky. Her angel wings extended outward, and a golden blade of light sliced toward Xu Sanshi.

Nan Qiuqiu was not idle, either. She pointed out with her right hand, a pink ray of the Light of Annihilation appeared behind Xu Sanshi. Mysteriously, when it was less than two meters away from him, it blew up and turned into countless strands of light that sought to cover him.

"Not fair!" Xu Sanshi shouted. He stumbled as he took a few steps forward.

Weirdly, with his odd footwork, he was able to dodge the sharpest part of Ye Guyi's Holy Sword as he dodged to the side.

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Chapter 369.3: Yuhao Exits Seclusion

He turned around, and a soothing black light shone from him.

The black light looked as gentle as ripples on water. It entangled with the Light of Annihilation that came from behind him. The moment the Light of Annihilation entered the black light, it started to ripple intensely. However, every single black ripple continued to twist and turn, stopping every single strand of Light of Annihilation from entering it.

Another black light flashed, and a huge shield appeared, blocking Ye Guyi, who came down from the sky.

The shield was completely black. On it, one could see the carving of a huge, deep-blue turtle. On the back of the turtle was a small, coiled blood-red snake with jade-green eyes.

When the shield appeared, the entire Sparring Arena was covered by a layer of black ripples. It was like this entire area had turned into the bottom of a lake. Both Ye Guyi and Nan Qiuqiu felt discomfort, as if they were stuck in mud.

Yes, this was the Xuanwu Shield, the complete form of the Xuanwu Shield!

Who benefited the most in the Yin-Yang Love Querying Valley? It was definitely not those whose soul power had increased, but Xu Sanshi!

In the valley, he had resolved his relationship issue with Jiang Nannan, and the two of them were finally together. Furthermore, he had experienced that scene once more, and this time, his Xuanwu Shield was fully awoken. Now, he had a martial soul which descended from a pure, ancient bloodline.

Among Shrek's Seven Monsters, Bei Bei was no longer the strongest. Xu Sanshi, who now wielded his pure Xuanwu Shield, was the strongest!

When he unleashed his Xuanwu Shield, Xu Sanshi appeared to have increased in size. Countless black ripples pulsed from his body. Xu Sanshi took a step forward, and his Xuanwu Shield doubled in size once more. A powerful energy could be felt from it.

Black light filled the entire Sparring Arena. The black ripples instantly turned into countless rising dots of black light. It was like a plate filled with water, which someone had just hit from underneath.

A power energy vibrated out, and instantly, Ye Guyi and Nan Qiuqiu's attacks were destroyed. The two girls felt that the soul power they had used to launch their attacks had been instantly destroyed by this powerful energy. In shock, they retreated.

However, black ripples appeared once again. The vibrations made their movements sluggish. The movements of the two girls became visibly slower.

"Hehe, continue to work hard. After Qiuqiu gets her sixth ring, you can consider looking for me," Xu Sanshi chuckled as he waved his hands at the two girls. The surrounding black light became even more

intense, forcing the two girls to go on the defensive. However, the moment the black light receded, Xu Sanshi had already disappeared.

“He’s... he’s so strong,” Nan Qiuqiu said in shock.

“His martial soul is very powerful,” Ye Guyi said with a heavy expression on her face. “While it’s water-type, it had the thickness of a soil-type martial soul. Furthermore, I feel that his martial soul is not on the same level as ours. I estimate that he’s around Rank 68, very close to Rank 70.”

Nan Qiuqiu exclaimed in shock, “So our Tang Sect will soon have a second Soul Sage?”

Ye Guyi nodded and said, “In the past, he didn’t seem so strong. In the past two months, however, he has become very powerful.”

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Xu Sanshi heard the two girls’ conversation clearly, and could not help but laugh. He was delighted.

Ye Guyi was right. Right now, his soul power was at Rank 68.

His soul power did not increase in the Yin-Yang Love Querying Valley. However, after his martial soul turned completely into the Xuanwu, his cultivation entered a strange state. It was like a form of refinement.

The refinement of his martial soul caused his own soul power to become refined as well. His past two months of cultivation had allowed his soul power to change completely. Over the past two months, his evolved martial soul was able to complete its fusion, and his soul power naturally rose to Rank 68. Xu Sanshi estimated that in less than half a year, he had a chance of surpassing Rank 70. With the strength of his martial soul, the Xuanwu Shield, he would not even fear Rank 80 Soul Douluo once he hit Rank 70!

He was not the only one who had improved. Through the Continental Elite Youth Soul Master Tournament, everyone from the Tang Sect who had participated benefited greatly from it. Their fights in the tournament and their struggles in the Yin-Yang Love Querying Valley had allowed them to reap many benefits.

Jiang Nannan and Xiao Xiao, under Dean Yan Shaozhe’s personal supervision, had successfully retrieved their sixth soul rings. They reached the rank of Soul Emperor, improving the Tang Sect even more.

Ye Guyi and Nan Qiuqiu both had great potential. The reason why they were unable to fight those from the Tang Sect was because of their foundations.

Shrek Academy was not known as the top Academy in the world for nothing. Its method of education was excellent, and reigned supreme. In particular, they were able to produce the best soul masters, who no one else could beat. Nan Qiuqiu and Ye Guyi were both now on the path that Shrek’s Seven Monsters trod. Their shaky foundations, after the intensity of the past few months, solidified. Soon, they would improve faster and faster. With excellent instruction from good teachers, and Shrek’s Seven Monsters as their peers, their cultivation had been improving rapidly.

“Third elder brother,” a clear voice suddenly called out..

“Yes? Xu Sanshi replied without thinking. In the Tang Sect, other than Bei Bei, He Caitou, Xuan Ziwen, and a few others, almost everyone else called him that. He was thinking about the overall strength of everyone from the Tang Sect, so he did not pay much attention to the voice.

“Let’s spar,” said the voice once more.

“Sure. Wait!” Xu Sanshi finally woke up from his reverie. He raised his head to look. Who wants to spar with me?

When he saw a smiling, confident youth, his eyes opened wide in shock. Then, brimming with joy, he shot forward like an arrow to hug him.

“You rascal! You finally ended your closed-door cultivation,” Xu Sanshi said excitedly.

“That’s right! I’m done. I took a shower and changed. Just when I walked out, I saw a good show. Third elder brother, your power has improved so much! I almost didn’t recognize you.”

Xu Sanshi chuckled and said, “Don’t try and flatter me. Eh, what’s this? You can walk again?”

The one who had appeared in front Xu Sanshi, who delighted him so much, was none other than Huo Yuhao, who was ranked number six among Shrek’s Seven Monsters. His closed-door cultivation had indeed made everyone worry deeply for him.

Huo Yuhao lifted his right leg and kicked out. He nodded at Xu Sanshi and said, “That’s right, I’ve healed fully. All of my passageways are clear once more. I’ve absorbed all the energy into my body.” As he said that, his eyes shone with a faint light.

While Xu Sanshi’s sight was not as good as Huo Yuhao’s Spirit Eyes, it was not weak either. He saw the instantaneous change in his junior’s eyes. To his shock, Huo Yuhao’s eyes shone with a pale white light. It was not as powerful or dazzling as his original golden eyes. Instead, it looked as clear and silky as jade. His entire body appeared to be holding in great power.

“Little junior brother, you’ve changed!” After Wang Dong’er was revealed to be a girl, Huo Yuhao was naturally the youngest male disciple. Xu Sanshi, He Caitou, and Bei Bei all called him ‘little junior brother’.

Huo Yuhao smiled and said, “Do you want to try fighting me?”

Xu Sanshi laughed and said, “Bring it on.” As he said that, he dragged him outside.

The moment the two of them walked out the door, they bumped into the two frustrated beauties. They did not react when they saw Xu Sanshi dragging someone over. However, when they finally got a closer look, they could not help but open their mouths in shock.

Nan Qiuqiu exclaimed in surprise, “Huo Yuhao, you’ve completed your closed-door training?”

“Good! You finally came out!” Ye Guyi also said excitedly.

When Huo Yuhao looked at the two of them, his smile brightened. After three months of solitary cultivation, it was good to see some familiar faces.

“Hello, Qiuqiu and Ye Guyi. That’s right, I’ve completed my training.”

“You rascal!” Ye Guyi said indignantly, “You brought me here, but the moment you returned, you went to do your closed-door training. You didn’t even say hi! Why? Hmph! Let me tell you, my powers have increased quite a bit in this period of time. Come! Let me take my anger out on you!”

Nan Qiuqiu fanned the flames and continued, “That’s right! You’re terrible. Sister Guyi, let’s take care of him together.”

Xu Sanshi said with a smile, “My pretties, don’t you think you should wait? Little junior brother and I agreed to spar first. We should follow this order. Furthermore, don’t fight a battle you can’t win. Watch us fight first to see how powerful he has become before taking him on yourselves.”

Huo Yuhao chuckled bitterly and said, “Third senior brother, you just want to see the world burn.”

Xu Sanshi looked into the sky and said, “If the Heavens have caused trouble for you, it’s forgivable. If you cause trouble for yourself...”

Huo Yuhao’s feet left the ground. Ye Guyi and Nan Qiuqiu only saw a blur. They lost sight of him.

“Come on, third senior brother,” Huo Yuhao’s voice rang out from afar.

The two girls turned, and realized that Huo Yuhao was already at the other end of the Sparring Arena.

“He’s so fast,” said Nan Qiuqiu.

Ye Guyi was not impressed. “So what’s if he’s fast? A man must have endurance.”

Xu Sanshi was walking into to the Sparring Arena, but when he heard that, he stumbled, and could not help but turn around and retort angrily, “That’s so wrong! You two are in cahoots with him!”

Chapter 370.1: Fist of Remembrance, Sword of Longing

Ye Guyi chuckled and said, “Did I touch a sore spot? Go, go, third elder brother, beat him up.”

Xu Sanshi did not know what to say. He did not know how this girl, who did not even have a boyfriend, knew so much about this subject.

However, when he turned to look at Huo Yuhao, the look in his eyes changed. At that moment, Xu Sanshi stood upright, and his body felt like an immovable mountain that would never fall to everyone. Before he even released his martial soul, faint black air swirled around him, making him appear even heavier.

Huo Yuhao, however, gave off a different feel. Compared to Xu Sanshi’s weightiness, Huo Yuhao was like a snowflake. It seemed impossible to grab onto him. While he stood there, he seemed to not exist. The aura Xu Sanshi gave off disappeared by the time it reached Huo Yuhao.

Xu Sanshi nodded and said, “You’ve changed indeed, little junior brother.”

Huo Yuhao raised his right hand and replied, “Third senior brother, please!”

“Alright,” Xu Sanshi replied as he took a step forward. The black light from his body started to shine intensely as dark ripples rushed toward Huo Yuhao, just like in his fight against Nan Qiuqiu and Ye Guyi. Darkness which enveloped heaven and earth surged toward Huo Yuhao like a giant beast.

When Nan Qiuqiu and Ye Guyi saw this, their mouths twitched, unhappy with Xu Sanshi. Earlier, in their fight against him, he was not so careful. The martial soul he released was not as powerful, either.

Ye Guyi thought in her heart, 'Can one Soul Emperor and one Soul King be weaker than Huo Yuhao?'

They did not know that Xu Sanshi was even warier of Huo Yuhao than they thought. After knowing Huo Yuhao for so many years, Xu Sanshi had seen the full strength of his little junior brother many times. In his heart, he had never viewed him as a mere Soul King. Not only did Huo Yuhao have countless abilities and an extremely flexible fighting style, but Sanshi also did not know how powerful Yuhao had become after his closed-door cultivation. All he knew was that Huo Yuhao and his Spirit Eyes were a big reason why Shrek's Seven Monsters could achieve such results in the past two tournaments. Huo Yuhao's role was far bigger than his own!

Faced with the black light that surged toward him, Huo Yuhao smiled and nodded. "Third elder brother has improved drastically indeed! Your Xuanwu's Domain has been absorbed into your soul power already. This should be a complete fusion with your martial soul, right?"

As he spoke, he struck out, too. Five soul rings rose from underneath his feet.

The colors of the five soul rings were shocking indeed. The first one was blood-red with four golden streaks. The rest were orange-gold. When the five soul rings appeared, the temperature of the Sparring Arena dropped. Two figures appeared behind Huo Yuhao.

The two shadows were shocking to behold. They were both women. The one on the left had a clear, but cold expression on her face, and wore an emerald-green dress. Due to the illusory nature of the light, one could not see her face clearly. However, her jade-green eyes, which brimmed with a conquering aura, were extremely clear.

Opposite her was a girl clad in a white dress. She was as regal and haughty as ice and snow. She gazed down on all creation arrogantly and had a pair of deep blue eyes like glaciers which had existed for more than ten thousand years, shocking and moving.

When the two figures appeared, everything around Huo Yuhao changed, too. When the black light surging toward him was only five meters away from him, it turned into snowflakes. The air was windless, yet the snowflakes swirled around Huo Yuhao's body.

This scene could only be described as 'strange'. Even Xu Sanshi was shocked by it.

"Little junior brother, that's not nice," he said as he reacted immediately. He lifted his right hand and slapped out at Huo Yuhao.

Instantly, the colors of the sky changed, and the light around them dimmed. In mid-air, the giant Xuanwu Shield appeared. Like a cloud that obscured the sun, it covered the sky above Huo Yuhao.

The huge turtle and the blood-red snake on the shield came alive. Both brimmed with powerful auras. Like a mountain, it crashed down on Huo Yuhao's head.

Huo Yuhao stood there unmoving. His expression became as gentle as sunlight as he looked into the distance. In his eyes, there was only one emotion, and that was melancholy!

A golden figure appeared and flashed past the two cold figures behind him. Compared to the two other figures, this one was way too real.

Long hair billowed down her back. Her entire body was golden. Was that not Wang Dong'er? This was not the Goddess of Light, but Wang Dong'e! Her hair was straight, not wavy. This was Huo Yuhao's Wang Dong'er, his beloved!

The golden figure appeared in front of Huo Yuhao and then turned to look at him. They stared at each other, and Huo Yuhao's eyes turned misty. At the same time, an indescribable aura could be felt from his body.

It was a bright-golden sword light. The sword light was not long, only three feet in length. However, it appeared between Huo Yuhao and the golden figure.

The sword light flashed, blocking the falling Xuanwu Shield!

With a clangor, the Xuanwu Shield started to vibrate vigorously. As it shook, the golden sword light did not dissipate, but instead remained firm.

The golden Wang Dong'er took a step forward as she entered Huo Yuhao's body. Huo Yuhao's body turned smooth and clear. It was the same color Xu Sanshi had seen in his eyes.

Huo Yuhao took a step forward and punched out.

This punch looked very simple. Anyone could do it. However, the moment he punched, the expression on Xu Sanshi's face changed.

His Xuanwu Shield appeared in front of him instantly, and he stepped back with his right foot. His left leg twisted sideways as he stood in this classic stance. At the same time, countless layers of light appeared on top of his Xuanwu Shield, which now shone with black light.

Nan Qiuqiu and Ye Guyi suddenly felt like vomiting blood. They discovered, to their shock, that the space in the Sparring Arena appeared to have collapsed completely the moment Huo Yuhao punched out.

A huge explosion resounded in the air, and Xu Sanshi slid back three feet behind his Xuanwu Shield before he managed to straighten himself.

Huo Yuhao lifted his right hand immediately. As he did that, the two figures behind him disappeared. The clear light on his body glowed even more intensely and became unbelievably sharp. At that moment, Huo Yuhao's entire body was like a sword which had left its scabbard!

His right palm came down.

There was no color. All one could see was a distorted ray of clear light dropping from the sky.

Oddly, Huo Yuhao's eyes were still dazed and lost. He did not seem to be fighting Xu Sanshi, but instead appeared to be thinking of Wang Dong'er.

The fourth soul ring on Xu Sanshi's body started to shine as he used his Xuanwu Displacement.

As a defensive soul master, he was extremely sensitive to his opponent's attack strength. While he told himself in his heart that Huo Yuhao could not hurt him at his level, the moment Huo Yuhao raised his

right palm, a powerful sense of danger forced him to unleash his fourth soul skill. He wanted to displace Huo Yuhao to reduce the accuracy of his attack.

However, something shocking happened to Xu Sanshi. This soul skill, which had never failed him and helped him successfully move much stronger opponents, failed on Huo Yuhao.

His soul skill was now Xuanwu Displacement, not the Mysterious Underworld Displacement. Even if his opponent was a Titled Douluo, Xu Sanshi believed it had a thirty percent chance of succeeding!

However, when Xuanwu Displacement was used Huo Yuhao, he felt like there was nothing there. There was no one to displace!

He did not have much time to think about it as his sixth soul ring lit up. The turtle-snake on Xuanwu Shield came alive as the shield instantly shrank to a length of only one foot. He seemed to be holding a turtle now, which had a snake on it.

The clear light flashed past, and Xu Sanshi was sent flying like a cannon shell. He crashed into the back hall. All one could hear was explosions and the sound of stuff getting wrecked. No one knew how much damage it caused.

Nan Qiuqiu and Ye Guyi stood at the side, staring at the scene in shock.

They could not believe that Xu Sanshi, who had defeated them as easily as if he was cutting vegetables, lasted only two moves before Huo Yuhao! They did not even see Huo Yuhao use any soul skills as he defeated Xu Sanshi.

Huo Yuhao was stunned too. He lowered his right palm and rushed toward the back hall. "Third elder brother, are you alright?!" he called out urgently.

After a long interval, he helped Xu Sanshi, whose face was clouded with dirt and dust, out of the mess. Xu Sanshi was truly embarrassed.

Xu Sanshi was in a terribly disheveled state. His clothes looked like those of a beggar. Weird objects hung all over his body, and even the corner of his mouth was bloodied. Xu Sanshi, who had made a name for himself through his defensive abilities and was given the moniker?The Eternal Defense, was injured by Huo Yuhao, just like that.

Ye Guyi and Nan Qiuqiu were not the only ones who did not believe this. Even he had trouble coming to terms with this fact!

Chapter 370.2: Fist of Remembrance, Sword of Longing

At this moment, his right arm was still trembling. What was even more terrifying was that he could feel his soul shaking. He had used all his might to block Huo Yuhao's attack, but he still felt as if his Xuanwu Shield almost broke because of it. If his martial soul broke, he would be severely injured!

"What the hell, little junior brother?" Xu Sanshi asked with a bitter laugh.

Huo Yuhao scratched his head awkwardly and said, "Third elder brother, if I tell you I don't know what I did, will you believe me?"

“You rascal!” Xu Sanshi said unkindly. “Who the hell would believe you?”

Huo Yuhao said, “This is an ability that I came up with over the past few days. It comprises just one punch, one sword, and one palm strike. The punch is called the Fist of Remembrance, the sword is called the Sword of Longing, and the palm strike is called the Haodong Palm.”

Xu Sanshi was stunned. “There’s still a palm strike?. Had the sword not sent me flying, would you have struck me with your palm?”

Huo Yuhao shook his head and said, “No! I need to accumulate strength for my Haodong Palm. Right now, I can’t link them together. I don’t think I’m strong enough.”

Xu Sanshi’s mouth twitched as he said, “If you’re not strong enough, how can you beat me so badly? That’s not right! You haven’t gotten a new soul ring yet, so your cultivation should only be at Rank 60. How can this be possible? How can this be possible!? Why are you so strong? Just now, when you slashed with your sword, I felt as if a strange power was tearing my martial soul apart! With my defensive abilities, it would not be hard for me to resist the attack of an eight-ringed Soul Douluo! How did you do this?”

A dazed look crossed Huo Yuhao’s eyes as he said, “I don’t know myself. I thought about many things in the past few days, and I fused all my powers together. When I finally saw the light at the end of the tunnel, I was able to use these three moves I invented. When I use them, all I can think about is Dong’er. I don’t know how this came to be. If I did, I would have held back just now. I’m sorry, third senior brother. How bad are your injuries?”

Xu Sanshi asked suspiciously, “This is so strange! Have you become too obsessed?”

“Can you stop being so negative?” Bei Bei’s voice rang out.

When he saw Xu Sanshi in his pathetic state, he was shocked too. He turned to look at Huo Yuhao joyfully as he said, “Congratulations, little junior brother! You’ve recovered!”

Huo Yuhao rushed up and said, “Sorry for making you worry, elder brother.”

Bei Bei hugged him tightly and said, “It’s good that you’re alright! There’s no need for formality. It appears that you benefited greatly from your closed-door training! Recently, someone’s improvement made him as proud as a peacock. It’s good that you’ve taught him a lesson.”

“Bei Bei, you’re not the one who beat me,” Xu Sanshi retorted angrily. “What are you so happy about? If you think you’re strong enough, come fight me one-on-one!”

Bei Bei looked at him from the corner of his eyes and said, “I don’t have time for you, as I have things to do. Qiuqiu, Guyi, gather the rest of them. We have a lead, and I think we’ll head out soon. It’s fortunate that little junior brother has already recovered. With him, we have a much bigger chance of success.”

Before Ye Guyi could react, Nan Qiuqiu whooped in joy. She rushed into the back hall to gather the rest of them.

“Elder brother, what do we have a lead on?” Huo Yuhao asked curiously.

“On the matter of rescuing someone from the Sun Moon Empire. Let’s go, we’ll talk inside!” Bei Bei replied with a serious expression.

As he said that, he brought Huo Yuhao and Xu Sanshi into the back hall. The moment he entered, he saw the destroyed tables and chairs. Even the wall at the back had a huge human-shaped hole in it. He could not help but say gleefully, “Sanshi, you should change your nickname from?The Eternal Defense. What about?The Eternal Wreck?”

“Wreck... wreck your face,” Xu Sanshi retorted in frustration. “Don’t be too happy. If you dare, try and spar with him. Little junior brother’s punch and sword are terrifying! His first punch almost shattered my martial soul, and I could not block the sword. These are not powers that he should be able to use at his level! I think there’s been a change in his abilities!”

“You have been happy recently because of your relationship,” Bei Bei said unkindly. “Little junior brother’s punch and sword surpass his cultivation by a lot, but it did not come from nothing. This came from his longing for Dong’er. He fused his intent with his emotions and his spiritual power beautifully, and this is the result.

“Do you think it’s easy? His soul power is weaker than yours, but his spiritual power is far beyond yours or mine. He turned his spiritual power into soul power, and achieved this beautiful fusion. Only like that is he able to strike with so much power. However, little junior brother, I advise you not to use this power too often. I’m afraid that if you become too engrossed in this state, you may never be able to snap out of it.”

“Right,” said Huo Yuhao. He had the same thoughts. His eyes were still dazed. It seemed like he had yet to escape from his longing for Dong’er.

With great power came great sacrifices. Huo Yuhao’s Fist of Remembrance, Sword of Longing, and Haodong Palm had the same problem. He devoted all his attention to his longing for Wang Dong’er, which allowed his spiritual power and soul power to fuse perfectly. Then, he injected bits of the power of his Spirit Eyes and Ice Jade Empress Scorpion. At last, his Haodong Palm was a terrifying skill that combined most of his abilities. Even Huo Yuhao himself did not know what would happen if he used this Haodong Palm!

When he heard Bei Bei’s words, Xu Sanshi woke up from his reverie as he said, “Little junior brother, Bei Bei is right. Your attack is problematic. Please don’t be too engrossed in it. Don’t use it unless you have to. Try not to use it too often.” As he said that, he pressed down on Huo Yuhao’s power, channeling cool and clear Xuanwu soul power into him.

Huo Yuhao felt himself tremble. Only then did he regain some lucidity.

“Thank you, elder brother, third elder brother. However, even without these three moves, I’ll still miss Dong’er terribly. But don’t worry, I’ll be fine.”

Bei Bei sighed and said, “Little junior brother, you’re a prodigy indeed. This perfect fusion of soul power, spiritual power, and emotion surpasses even my ancestor’s Sovereign’s Descent. If he were still alive, he’d be proud of you.”

When Bei Bei mentioned Elder Mu, a look of respect crossed Huo Yuhao's face as he nodded slightly and said, "Don't worry, elder brother. I'll continue to work hard."

Xu Sanshi took this time to slip into something clean, not hard since he always carried his storage-type soul tool with him. He tidied himself up so he would look presentable for Jiang Nannan.

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The three of them entered the conference hall. After a short while, the upper echelons of the leadership of the Tang Sect arrived, too. This time, even Xuan Ziwen, He Caitou, and Gao Dalou came from the Soul Tool Hall. The seats on both sides of the table in the conference hall were all filled. The hall was crammed.

After he saw everyone arrive, Bei Bei said, "Everyone is here. Let us begin."

Other than Huo Yuhao, the rest of them intoned, "We of the Tang Sect will always be unrivaled!"

Xu Sanshi, who sat next to Huo Yuhao, whispered, "This is the motto of the Tang Sect from now on. Remember it."

"Alright," Huo Yuhao nodded back. He looked at everyone else, who were all staring at him happily. Only Xuan Ziwen seemed slightly displeased. The rest were all delighted.

Bei Bei smiled and said, "Everyone, Huo Yuhao has completed his closed-door training. This is great news. With Huo Yuhao's Imitation, the rescue mission will be much easier."

When he said that, his face turned serious as he said in a heavy voice, "From what the Academy has told us, the Sun Moon Empire did not imprison their hostages in Radiant City. Instead, they are located in Sunrise City.

"Sunrise City is to the south of Radiant City. It's surrounded by plains that stretched for as far as the eyes can see. Its geography is simple, and so, detrimental to our rescue efforts. Hence, this is why I say that it'll be much easier with Huo Yuhao's Imitation. According to assessments made by the Academy, the Sun Moon Empire has become much more wary after the last explosion. As Sunrise City isn't big and has walls, it is very defensible. Not only are there many soldiers there, there are also evil soul masters and powerful soul engineers. In particular, the surveillance soul tools there are going to be a big problem. I don't think little junior brother's Imitation can fool them. This rescue operation will be very difficult!"

He Caitou spoke up, "Elder brother, can we go by a subterranean route?"

Bei Bei shook his head and said, "No. The Body Sect did this twice, and each time, the Sun Moon Empire was dealt a heavy blow. They surely have their preparations for that tactic now. To us, our greatest advantage is that the Sun Moon Empire blames the Heavenly Soul Empire and Star Luo Empire for the explosion. They'll keep a much tighter watch on those two countries, at least compared to us.

"After waiting for two months, while the Sun Moon Empire's defenses are still tight, they should have relaxed psychologically. The Academy has come up with a plan. After a while, those taking part in this mission will meet with them. Teacher Xuan, please help look after the Tang Sect while we're gone. Among all of us here, Nannan and Xiao Xiao will stay behind."

When Jiang Nannan and Xiao Xiao heard that, they were shocked. However, before they could speak, Bei Bei raised his hand, indicating to them that they should let him finish.

“This rescue operation will be extremely dangerous. The Tang Sect’s development is going smoothly, so it’s best for the two of you to stay behind. I, Caitou, Sanshi, Yuhao, Guyi, Qiuqiu, and Juechen shall take part in this operation. The rest of you shall stay behind.”

Chapter 370.3: Fist of Remembrance, Sword of Longing

“Oi, elder brother, how can you forget me?” Jing Ziyan said unhappily.

Bei Bei thought for a while, and then said, “Alright, you can come along, too. It’s decided then. Nannan, Xiao Xiao, and Na Na shall stay behind. The Academy has its own arrangements for Mo Xuan. Dalou, stay behind with Teacher Xuan to continue the work of our Soul Tool Hall.”

“Elder brother,” Huo Yuhao said suddenly.

“Yes?” Bei Bei said as he looked at Huo Yuhao.

Huo Yuhao said, “This operation is important, but we still need someone from the Tang Sect to manage everything. You should stay too. This time, second elder brother and third elder brother shall lead us. Stay at home and look after the sect. We’ll feel more at ease like this, too.”

Bei Bei frowned and said, “How can I do that? I...”

Xu Sanshi said, “Huo Yuhao is right. Bei Bei, you should stay. The Tang Sect has enough things for you to take care of already. If you give them all to Nannan and Xiao Xiao, they’ll be under a lot of pressure. Orders from the Heavenly Soul Empire, the Star Luo Empire, and the Dou Ling Empire are coming in like snow during a blizzard. Do you want Teacher Xuan to take care of them personally? If Yuhao had not ended his closed-door training, you would have had to go. But now that we have Yuhao, what’s the point in you going? Once Huo Yuhao recovers fully, he’ll be stronger than you in all aspects. So I advise you not to go.”

Bei Bei laughed and replied, “While I know you’re speaking the truth, you should think about my feelings too, right? Looking at it, I really should try and work harder. Yuhao, you...”

Huo Yuhao could tell what his elder brother was worried about. He nodded and said, “Don’t worry, elder brother, I’m fine. After I come back from the rescue operation, I’ll look for Dong’er. Then I’ll resume my closed-door training.”

Bei Bei was not someone who was prone to hesitation. He also knew that the Tang Sect needed him to stay behind. This rescue operation could not be allowed to affect the overall development of the sect!

“Okay, it’s decided. This time, Yuhao shall lead. Yuhao, don’t shirk from your role. I can only be at ease if I hand everyone over to you. Bring all of them back to me safely.” *nove(IB)1n*

“Yes, elder brother,” said Huo Yuhao. He did not refuse the role. A clear, smooth light shone in the depths of his eyes. The cold light flashed and disappeared.

If not for the Sun Moon Empire, we would not have entered the Yin-Yang Love Querying Valley. If we hadn’t entered the valley, how would Dong’er...

Regardless of whether it was because of national or personal reasons, he stood firmly against the Sun Moon Empire. He could not imagine what it would be like for the Sun Moon Empire to rule the continent while following the religion of evil soul masters. He was already a youth, but he was fighting for the ones he loved. He wanted revenge for Dong'er, and he sought to increase his own strength. The words of the leader of the Clear Sky Sect, Niu Tian, were seared into his mind. As a man, if he could not even protect his own woman, what right did he have to be with her?

Dong'er, wait for me! After I rescue them, I'll look for you! It's been almost three months, are you awake yet?

When he thought of Dong'er, Huo Yuhao could feel his heart burning. Fighting intent blazed fiercely inside him.

Jiang Nannan and Xiao Xiao looked unwilling, but Bei Bei had already made up his mind. There was nothing else for them to say. Originally, Bei Bei did not even want He Caitou to take part. However, once he thought about the dangers of this operation, he realized that he needed the extra firepower He Caitou could provide, and allowed him to go.

"Yuhao, come over." Right after the meeting, Xuan Ziwen called Huo Yuhao over.

"Do you still want to study soul engineering? Don't tell me you've decided to give up on it completely!" Xuan Ziwen said angrily. He had not seen Huo Yuhao working in the Soul Tool Hall for many months.

Huo Yuhao scratched his head and said, "Teacher Xuan, I don't intend to give up on soul engineering. However, I can't research the latest technology in soul engineering with you anymore, I..."

"It's alright. Say no more. We all have our own aspirations, and I won't force you. Before you go, however, pop over by my table. I've helped you do some maintenance and made some tweaks to your human-shaped soul tool. Look at what you've done. Everything is a mess! How much material did you waste? Hmph!" After he said that, Xuan Ziwen turned to leave.

As he watched Xuan Ziwen walk off, Huo Yuhao felt his heart grow warm. While Teacher Xuan might be strict, he cared for Yuhao deeply. Before he commenced his closed-door training, he had passed his human-shaped soul tool over to Xuan Ziwen. When he made it, he did use many rare metals, but that was so that he could bring more types of rare metal back, and Xuan Ziwen definitely knew that!

Of course, his human-shaped soul tool was still rough and unpolished, as he had not had a lot of time to make it. Since Xuan Ziwen said that he had made some tweaks to it, it was likely that he had come up with a revolutionary new design for the human-shaped soul tool! Even the Sun Moon Empire, which did not have the mechanical technology of the Tang Sect, could not come up with such a perfect design.

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Everyone went back to pack. Of course, the two couples also said their goodbyes to each other. After two hours, they gathered in the Sparring Arena of the Tang Sect.

Huo Yuhao, He Caitou, Xu Sanshi, Ji Juechen, Jing Ziyan, Ye Guyi, and Nan Qiuqiu, seven of them in total. Six were Soul Emperors, plus Huo Yuhao, who could be said to be a pseudo-Soul Emperor.

Bei Bei walked over in front of Huo Yuhao and said, "Little junior brother, this trip is dangerous. I'm entrusting you with everyone's safety. There's only one instruction from me, and that's to come back alive no matter what happens. Do it for the Tang Sect, and for yourselves."

"We of the Tang Sect will always be unrivaled! Elder brother, I'll bring everyone back safely, even if I..."

"Alright, go!" Bei Bei did not wait for him to finish. He slapped his shoulder and walked ahead of everyone in the direction of the main door.

Huo Yuhao and his partners caught up quickly. Under Bei Bei's leadership, they walked out in the direction of Shrek Academy.

Shrek Academy was still the same. Due to the rapid development of soul tools, Shrek Academy was in a new stage of prosperity. The expansion of the Soul Tool Department meant the school had added three new classes for soul engineering across all grades.

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When Huo Yuhao arrived at the door of the Academy, it was already noon. The students had ended their lessons, and were streaming out the doors. Outside the Academy, hawkers sold their food and merchandise to the students. It was a lively sight.

Xu Sanshi squeezed Huo Yuhao's shoulder, sighed, and said, "Every time I see this scene, I'll think back to the moment when we first met. At that time, weren't you one of them?" As he said that, his expression turned to anguish. "Little junior brother, when was the last time you made grilled fish for us? This time, you must cook grilled fish for us!"

"Alright," said Huo Yuhao. He looked forward, and noticed that Bei Bei's body stiffened visibly when Xu Sanshi mentioned grilled fish. He sighed in his heart. He knew that this scene filled elder brother with memories. How could he not think of Teacher Xiao Ya?

Xu Sanshi was smart. When he saw Huo Yuhao's gaze, he too noticed the change in Bei Bei's emotions.

"Oh right, Bei Bei, do you mind showing your drawing to little junior brother? He went to the Icefire Yin Yang Well before, right? Perhaps what you need is over there."

Bei Bei stopped and turned around. He slapped his forehead in self-remorse and said anxiously, "Oh right! How could I have forgotten? Sanshi, you finally did something right! Little junior brother, have you seen these two types of plants? When I was in the Yin-Yang Love Querying Valley, it gave me this hint. I believe we need these items to save Little Ya."

As he said that, Bei Bei carefully took a manual out from an inner pocket. He opened it, revealing two exquisite drawings.

The first one was a huge, pink flower. Its alluringly-pink petals were in full bloom, and the very sight of it was astounding.

The second one was a blade grass that looked crystal-blue.

"Is this... the Delicate Silk Immortal?" Huo Yuhao asked in shock.

When he heard him say this name, Bei Bei's body froze, and he said, "Little junior brother, you recognize it?" Since his return from the Sun Moon Empire, he had used his prize to find the best artist. He described this image, and got the artist to draw it. However, while he did manage to get an image for it and prepared the money for it, not a single soul master or shop in Shrek City knew what these two items were.

After a few months, even Bei Bei had lost hope. He had never expected that Huo Yuhao would be the one with the answer.

Huo Yuhao nodded and said, "I should be right. I saw this plant in the Icefire Yin Yang Well, and it left a deep impression on me, too. I named it the Delicate Silk Immortal, as it was an extremely rare and expensive type of plant. In the Icefire Yin Yang Well, one of them had even become sentient. Elder brother, after we come back, I'll search for it with you. Furthermore, the Delicate Silk Immortal's knowledge of plants is superb. Even if we don't recognize the second one, it will."

Bei Bei's breathing quickened. After a long while, he nodded and said, "Alright, we'll speak upon your return." It took a lot of self-restraint to prevent himself from dragging Huo Yuhao off to search for the Delicate Silk Immortal immediately. No matter how much he loved Tang Ya, no matter how much he wanted to find the medicine to cure her, he had to place the interests of the sect above his own.

Huo Yuhao noticed his frustration. "Elder brother, we'll come back soon!"

"Yes."

As he said that, they were already at the gate of the school. Facing them, a group of young students was walking out. The two groups bumped into each other, as the road was obstructed on both sides by hawkers.

At the back of the student group was a young student in a purple uniform. He should be in the fourth grade in the outer yard. His hair was deep blue, and he looked energetic, with a proud expression.