

Tang Sect 421

Chapter 421.1: Rumbles from Afar

Today's training was on fighting together as a team.

The recruits were separated into several rows, and some held up shields, while others grasped spears. The shields were placed in front, while the spears were held in preparation behind the shields. The recruits were required to do everything neatly and in synchronicity with every step they took.

The equipment they were using for training had been specially enhanced – It was twice as heavy as their regular equipment, and was used to train the recruits' bodies and stability.

"Go!" Zhuang Tian hollered at the recruits.

The soldiers holding shields took a step forward in unison and raised their shields. They were adjusted to uniformity after today's training. Formations were very effective in a war, and an army which had gone through disciplined training could rely on formations to fight against scattered soldiers with numbers multiple times their own.

The recruits holding spears quickly stepped after the recruits holding shields and pointed their spears forwards as they aimed at the cracks between the shields. They moved as if they were about to lash out at any moment.

Every time Zhuang Tian shouted loudly, the formation shifted one step forward as a whole. The formation followed his various commands, and different recruits moved at different speeds and with different footwork.

Small Team One's movements were the neatest amongst the teams. Small Team One's leader, Tang Dong, was holding a spear, while vice-team leader Dai Luoli was holding a shield. They lead their entire small team, and they made sure that every action was done properly.

After today's observation, Zhuang Tian was sure that he would make sure that these two people were promoted to actual small team leaders after their basic military training was over. Soldiers of such quality were few and far between!

At this moment, a horseman came riding towards them from a distance. Dai Luoli was fully concentrated on completing his training when his frame suddenly froze as he saw this rider's figure. He subconsciously glanced at Huo Yuhao behind him.

This rider moved very quickly, and arrived in the blink of an eye.

"Attention!" Zhuang Tian hollered at everyone.

The recruits holding shields withdrew their shields in front of their chests, while the soldiers holding spears planted their spears vertically on the ground as they stood up straight.

"Battalion commander, ma'am!" Zhuang Tian saluted the rider. The little princess, Xu Yun, was the one who had ridden here.

Xu Yun could see Dai Luoli and Huo Yuhao with one look because they were standing in front of their group. She had just woken up after she had fainted, and she realized that the sky was already bright when she woke up, while she was back in her own tent. If waves of pain hadn't been coming from her abdomen, she would have actually thought what happened yesterday was all just a dream. However, that dream was just too real.

When she saw with her own eyes that Dai Luoli was standing in formation in perfect condition, she heaved a big sigh of relief. However, her eyebrows went vertical when she saw Huo Yuhao.

Of course, what happened last night couldn't possibly be a dream. Up until now, her abdomen was still throbbing agonizingly after being kicked twice last night.

Xu Yun was instantly infuriated when she saw Tang Dong standing solemnly within the formation. "This bastard really knows how to pretend! Shall I expose him?"

Xu Yun immediately extinguished this thought as soon as it appeared in her head. The reason for that was simple; both Dai Luoli and Tang Dong were both standing in formation perfectly. She thought back to everything that had happened last night, and she really wasn't sure why Tang Dong had joined the military. If he was a spy, he would have killed Dai Luoli and her a long time ago. If that was the case, how could Dai Luoli continue his military training with his body in perfect condition!

Xu Yun nodded in Zhuang Tian's direction as thoughts spun in her head. "Large Team Leader Zhuang, how is the recruits' training going?"

Zhuang Tian answered respectfully, "The recruits' performance is alright. Small Team One's performance is especially outstanding among them. They all have good potential." Zhuang Tian was never stingy with compliments about his outstanding subordinates.

"Oh? They've only been training for one month, and you're describing them as outstanding? Seems like they're quite impressive, after all. Soldiers can improve best when they are in actual combat. Why don't we do this... let my personal bodyguards accompany them for a practice battle. Shi Shuo, call my bodyguards."

Shi Shuo hesitated for a moment, and glanced at Zhuang Tian. Even though they didn't know where Xu Yun was from, they could faintly guess that this beautiful battalion commander came from an aristocratic family, and she was likely here to tilt her family. Therefore, the few of them were only respectful on the surface this entire time.

Letting her personal bodyguards have a practice battle with recruits... did the battalion commander actually think of that?

Battalion commanders had their own personal bodyguards. One medium team was assigned as a battalion commander's bodyguard, and they usually comprised the most outstanding soldiers in the battalion.

"What? Were my words not clear enough?" Xu Yun frowned deeply, and a formless pressure was unleashed from her body.

Zhuang Tian glared at Shi Shuo, and Shi Shuo hurriedly answered respectfully before jogging away. n/-o)-V-.ε/()b./l)n

Only then did Zhuang Tian turn towards Xu Yun with some hesitation in his expression. "Battalion commander... your personal bodyguards are all the best of the best. Don't you think they're a little overqualified for combat practice with these recruits? Why don't we let these recruits spar amongst themselves?"

Xu Yun waved her hand and said, "I want to show them how big the gap is between them and real soldiers. Don't worry, my bodyguards know their limits."

In the military, even a difference of one rank meant the lower-ranked officer would have to listen to orders. Zhuang Tian was feeling a little dispirited inside, but he couldn't say anything against her wishes.

It didn't take long before a squad of fifty soldiers jogged over neatly. These soldiers all seemed like they had wide waists and large arms, and everyone had a shield in their left hand, a long knife strapped to their waist, and was wearing leather armor. They were all Privates First Class, and in addition to the fact that their rows were very neat, they seemed very intimidating.

"Reporting, ma'am. Your personal bodyguards are all in position." The medium team leader of Xu Yun's bodyguards was a youth that looked especially tough and muscular. His eyes sparkled, and there were clearly some other things besides respect in his eyes as he stared at Xu Yun.

Xu Yun nodded and said, "The recruits that Zhuang Tian is responsible for have performed excellently. Wang Yue, pick thirty people and have a practice fight with Small Team One from the recruits. Your knives cannot leave their sheaths, and nobody can get hurt. Do you understand?"

Wang Yue's eyes sparkled as he shouted, "Understood!" He didn't need Xu Yun to instruct him. The battalion commander's decision to allow her bodyguards to have a practice fight against these recruits means one of two things: either she wants to teach the large team leader a lesson, or there are some troublemakers among the recruits who have made her angry. We'll just teach them a lesson.

"Small Team One, Two, and Three! Step out!" Wang Yue hollered at the top of his voice, and thirty guards swiftly jogged out and arranged themselves in one line.

Zhuang Tian came up beside Huo Yuhao and whispered, "Tang Dong, I'm not sure why the battalion commander wants to have a practice fight like this, but you have to be careful, and focus on defense. These fellows from her team of bodyguards are very rough and violent. Make sure you keep your formation in order. I'll ask the battalion commander to stop after you guys have held on for a little while."

"Yes, sir," Huo Yuhao acknowledged, but he was a little amused. This little princess is so childish! She wants to target me, but too bad for her, I am Small Team One's team leader. But is there any meaning to this? Does she think that her personal bodyguards can force me to release my martial soul?

"Listen up, Small Team One. Take three steps forward together and separate into two rows. Prepare for battle!" Huo Yuhao shouted at his team.

Small Team One's recruits stared at those bodyguards who had backs like tigers and waists like bears, and their faces turned yellow with fear. But strangely, after Huo Yuhao shouted at them, they all felt galvanized and invigorated, as if they had been injected with stimulants. They didn't seem afraid of the opponents in front of them anymore, and everyone took three broad steps forward with their chins

raised. Those who were holding spears turned their spears around at the same time. They were having a practice fight after all, and using their spears' handles prevented anyone from getting hurt.

Xu Yun waved her hand and said, "Begin!"

Wang Yue personally joined the formation, and eyed the recruits in front him mockingly as he shouted, "Shields, up!"

The guards raised the shields in their left hands, their right hands grasping long knives that were still sheathed. These long knives were different from those of normal foot soldiers. Foot soldiers' knives didn't have sheaths, but these bodyguards had long knives that came with sheaths, and their blades were made of steel. The sheaths made them more than twice as heavy as normal knives, and one needed a certain standard of strength to wield one.

"Charge!" Wang Yue shouted at the top of his voice, and the thirty bodyguards charged furiously and in unison at the recruits.

There were only thirty soldiers, but these bodyguards had been through much training and were cherry-picked. Their fighting strength was far superior to normal soldiers, and they pushed forward with large strides at incredible speed while maintaining their formation at the same time.

"Shields, bow stance; spears, barricade stance!" Huo Yuhao hollered. He didn't intend to use his abilities to affect this practice combat. Instead, he wanted to use the things he had learned today in his training. After his shout reignited the other recruits' will to fight, he didn't intend to use any soul power or spiritual power.

The recruits in the front row held their shields with both hands as they took a bow stance and placed their shields in front of them. They used a stance that was meant to barricade against a charge, and spears protruded through the gaps between two shields. The spears' tips were planted diagonally onto the ground, as if they were repelling cavalry. The shields in a bow stance, in addition to the spears in a barricade stance, were normally used against cavalry, but Huo Yuhao still commanded them to use this tactic against the bodyguards who were rushing at them. Of course, the spear tips were supposed to be pointing forward in normal situations.

Wang Yue was a little stunned, but immediately recovered and ordered, "Slow down, draw your blades and slash them!"

The bodyguards instantly slowed down when they were less than ten meters from the recruits. They raised their knives with their right hands and prepared to attack. Right at that moment, Huo Yuhao suddenly shouted, "Charge at full speed!"

The recruits holding shields in a bow stance instantly charged forward at full speed, while those who were holding spears followed closely behind. Huo Yuhao himself was holding a spear, and rushed right towards Wang Yue. Furthermore, he deliberately made sure that he was moving a little faster than his comrades, and he ran forward shoulder-to-shoulder with Dai Luoli. He whispered something in Dai Luoli's ear there.

Dai Luoli didn't really feel much about this contest, but his eyes instantly became sharp when he heard Huo Yuhao's words. Dai Luoli suddenly erupted with speed as he bolted forward and went straight for Wang Yue.

Wang Yue swung his long blade disdainfully against his sudden burst of speed, and sliced down with his sheathed blade at Dai Luoli.

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A dull sound could be heard as Wang Yue felt a huge force hit him, and his knife was bounced away as he slashed at the shield. Furthermore, the shield crashed heavily into him, sending him hurtling through the air.

Dai Luoli charged the fastest, so his clash with Wang Yue was naturally the first to take place. Wang Yue was the one sent flying through the air, and this unexpected outcome caused the bodyguards to be a little dazed, but lifted the spirits of the recruits.

A sudden change in morale was enough to affect the entire situation in a close-quarters battle! Furthermore, the recruits were the ones charging forward, and they received a great morale boost, while the bodyguards were demoralized as they clashed violently.

Bam, bam, bam...

The sounds of combat rang out. The recruits' formation had two layers, while the bodyguards only had one.

Initially, Wang Yue thought the bodyguards would have no problem dealing with the recruits, given their quality, even if they were one layer against two. However, under Huo Yuhao's ingenious command, the recruits' dual-layered formation's advantage was immediately unleashed.

The recruits' strength was quite a far cry from the bodyguards. However, the recruits weren't at a disadvantage when they clashed, because of their forward momentum. Both forces were presented as comparable to one another, and the spearmen in the second row lashed out at this moment. They jabbed the blunt end of their spears like poisonous snakes sticking out their forked tongues. The bodyguards had formidable fighting strength, but they were still sent into disarray.

The bodyguards who didn't clash directly with the recruits because of their single-layered formation wrapped around from the side. However, there was someone anchoring down the recruits' flanks... Small Team One's team leader, Huo Yuhao!

Huo Yuhao swung the blunt end of his spear as he smacked a bodyguard and sent him flying through the air. Huo Yuhao looked like he was very focused on trying to control the spear in his hands, and there didn't seem to be anything especially powerful about him, but the bodyguards on the flanks just couldn't cross his line. Furthermore, the recruits weren't surrounded thanks to Huo Yuhao's agile movement and footwork.

Dai Luoli's fighting strength had been unleashed at this point. He held his shield and charged through the bodyguards' ranks like a tiger running through a flock of sheep. He sent bodyguards flying through the air with his shield, one after another. His teamwork with Huo Yuhao was stellar; Huo Yuhao barricaded the flanks, while he helped the other recruits deal with the bodyguards. They already had

twice as many people, and in addition to the fact that he was a soul master who was hiding his abilities, the gap between the two forces was pulled even closer. More than half of the bodyguards had collapsed to the ground by the time Wang Yue got to his feet somewhere nearby, and the recruits' confidence was greatly boosted as they began to reinforce Huo Yuhao.

Zhuang Tian's eyes were open wide, and his jaw hung slack as he watched the battle's transformations. Not in his wildest dreams did he think that these recruits could reach such a standard under Huo Yuhao's command. Furthermore, Huo Yuhao and Dai Luoli's individual fighting strength was presented as finely as they could be.

Shi Shuo was a medium team leader, and directly in charge of Small Team One. He felt a little dazed as he muttered, "They... they won? What's happening?"

The contest was over when the last bodyguard was surrounded and knocked to the ground.

Xu Yun stared coldly at Huo Yuhao, and then at Dai Luoli beside him. She suddenly exclaimed, "Small Team One's leader and vice-leader, step out and come in front of me."

Dai Luoli was momentarily stunned, and only then did he realize that he had gone a little overboard. He had knocked down the largest number of people, and he didn't hold back his strength at all. Huo Yuhao had barricaded the bodyguards and stopped them from flanking the recruits, but his performance was clearly a lot more normal compared to Dai Luoli's performance. Dai Luoli couldn't help but feel great regret in his heart.

But how could he have held himself back? What Huo Yuhao said to him was far too provoking. Huo Yuhao's sentence was simple... he secretly told Dai Luoli that the bodyguards' team leader was his rival in love.

Rivals in love would be especially filled with anger when they met each other, so...

Dai Luoli glanced at Huo Yuhao, but Huo Yuhao was already casually walking towards Xu Yun.

Dai Luoli had no choice but to follow behind him, and walked towards Xu Yun as well.

They came up before Xu Yun and stood at attention. Dai Luoli lowered his head, but Huo Yuhao saluted Xu Yun very normally.

Xu Yun stared at them coldly and said, "The two of you are in cahoots, am I right?"

Dai Luoli raised his head. He responded with an astonished look on his face, "What cahoots?"

Xu Yun laughed coldly and said, "You still want to act? The two of you are clearly in cahoots, and your father has sent him here to protect you, except I am being kept in the dark. He's here to work together with you so that you can gain my sympathy, right?"

"No, no, it's not like that," Dai Luoli blurted with a stunned look on his face, "We weren't acquainted before this."

Xu Yun's eyes sparkled furiously. "You aren't acquainted with him? If you didn't know him before this, how can the two of you work together with such chemistry even after he gave you such a painful beating yesterday?"

"I..." Dai Luoli suddenly realized that there was no way he could explain himself, because even he suspected that the White Tiger Duke had sent Huo Yuhao, let alone Xu Yun.

Huo Yuhao felt a little speechless as he stood to one side. "Shouldn't the two of you find somewhere else to talk about this? We're on a military drill ground. Are you two trying to publicize your identities?"

Xu Yun's eyes focused. Wasn't that true? All the soldiers around them and even the officers were all looking at them. Even though Xu Yun had deliberately lowered her voice, there was no way she could hide her expression!

"The two of you, follow me," Xu Yun said loudly before she turned around and jumped back onto her horse. She turned the horse and cracked her whip as she galloped into the distance.

Dai Luoli glared at Huo Yuhao and said, "You've created so much trouble for me."

Huo Yuhao put on an innocent look and replied, "Then you should create some trouble for me, too. You raised your soul power two or three ranks in one go. I want something as good as that."

Dai Luoli was also rendered speechless. He tugged on Huo Yuhao's sleeve and said, "Hurry and follow me so we can explain ourselves. Otherwise, I'm finished." He pulled Huo Yuhao after Xu Yun as he spoke.

Huo Yuhao had no choice but to follow. Dai Luoli asked him as they jogged, "Are you really sent by my father?"

Huo Yuhao rolled his eyes and replied, "Of course not. I don't like your father at all." That was definitely the truth.

Dai Luoli looked at him in confusion and asked, "You don't like my father? He's a national hero!"

Huo Yuhao's mouth twitched, but he said nothing.

Dai Luoli was getting worried. "What should we do? Yun'er has misunderstood me. How am I supposed to explain myself?"

Huo Yuhao turned around to look at him. "Will you listen to me if I give you a suggestion?"

Dai Luoli was momentarily stunned. "Uh..."

Huo Yuhao rolled his eyes and said, "Let me tell you, there's no way you can explain yourself at a time like this. She will think that you're just trying to cover everything up no matter what you say, and she has already made up her mind that you pulled a trick by injuring yourself so you could gain her sympathy and get closer to her. Furthermore, you seemed as energetic as could be today. What resemblance was there to how you were almost beaten to death last night?"

"Isn't that your fault?" Dai Luoli answered angrily, "So, what should I do, exactly?"

Huo Yuhao said, "Why are you asking me if you are unwilling to listen to me? You can think of a solution yourself."

Dai Luoli pulled a long face and muttered, "Alright, big brother. You should stop being angry with me for nothing. Quick, teach me... I'll listen to you, alright?"

Huo Yuhao felt his heart quiver subtly when Dai Luoli called him “big brother”. Dai Luoli was his biological younger brother, after all! Furthermore, Huo Yuhao had no problems with him, like he did with Dai Yueheng and Dai Huabin. Huo Yuhao’s heart softened as he heaved a faint sigh and said, “You are confused because you are too concerned. You should...”

Huo Yuhao whispered something in Dai Luoli’s ear. Dai Luoli’s eyes grew bigger by the second, and his eyes were completely wide and his jaw hung slack when Huo Yuhao was finished.

“Are you sure this will work, boss? Don’t play me! I could die from this.” Dai Luoli’s cheeks were starting to spasm.

Huo Yuhao said plainly, “It’s up to you whether you want to believe me. What I told you is what you should do to deal with that arrogant princess.” Huo Yuhao wasn’t experienced with courting girls, and neither was he a flirt, but from his experience with Dong’er and Qiu’er as examples, and with the Tang Sect’s various relationships’ twists and turns, along with the fact that he was older than Dai Luoli by quite a bit, he had a deeper understanding about the romantic feelings between guys and girls.

Xu Yun had already stopped in her tracks not far from them. The two of them were coming closer, and Dai Luoli couldn’t think of a good solution by himself. He gritted his teeth and said, “Alright, I’ll trust you this once. If I succeed, then you’ll be my older brother.”

Huo Yuhao was the one who twitched his mouth this time. He thought to himself, “I am your older brother in the first place!”

They quickly arrived in front of an indignant Xu Yun. Huo Yuhao patted Dai Luoli on the back, and Dai Luoli immediately understood what he was trying to say. His expression changed swiftly. All his anxiety and worry from before disappeared, and he became very calm.

Xu Yun didn’t get down from her horse. She turned her horse around to face them and said, “Don’t you want to explain? Explain then. I want to hear what you have to say.” This sentence was clearly meant for Dai Luoli.

Dai Luoli said nothing. His expression was still plain and calm, and he grabbed his shirt’s collar as he suddenly lifted his hands and took his shirt off.

“Ah!” Xu Yun screamed as she hurriedly covered her eyes.

“Don’t you want an explanation? You can see for yourself,” Dai Luoli muttered plainly.

Xu Yun’s astonishment was temporary. She peeked at him through the cracks of her fingers when she heard his words, and she drew a cold breath in the next moment. She lowered her hands subconsciously in the next moment.

There were dozens of intertwining wounds all over Dai Luoli’s body. Some had already formed scabs, while others were still oozing with fresh blood. His appearance seemed unnaturally frightening.

Dai Luoli slowly turned around and turned his back to Xu Yun. His back had the same number of wounds.

“If you think I am injuring myself to gain your sympathy, then so be it. I can stand here today because some of my martial soul’s special abilities have been unleashed, and my martial soul has sublimated.

That is all I have to say, and you can believe whatever you want to.” He put his shirt back on after he finished his sentence. He then turned and walked back towards where the recruits were training.

Xu Yun called out subconsciously, “Come back here, Dai Luoli!”

Her words weren’t so effective this time. Dai Luoli seemed like he didn’t hear her at all as he continued striding back toward the other recruits.

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Huo Yuhao heaved a sigh, and he just stood there as he muttered under his breath, “You’ve really hurt his heart!”

Xu Yun turned and glared at him. “How have I hurt his heart? What about me? What about my heart?”

Huo Yuhao said plainly, “Your appearance was unexpected in the first place. You will know whether not I am a spy if you calm down and think about it. You’ve changed your opinion, and now you think I have been sent by the White Tiger Duke. This proves that you understand in your heart that I cannot possibly be a spy. I can tell you very frankly that I have no connection at all to the White Tiger Duke, and I even hate him. As for Luoli, I only think that he has a martial soul with huge potential and talent, but he hasn’t been able to unleash it, so I decided to help him a little. Let me ask you a question, princess.”

“What?” Xu Yun asked doubtfully.

Huo Yuhao continued, “There’s strength hidden within his martial soul, and this strength hasn’t appeared after almost twenty years. Do you think it’s that easy to draw out this strength? I’ve beaten him for more than a month. Why have I only beaten that strength out of him yesterday? Have you thought about that? Alright, you can think about that yourself. However, I advise you not to try and reveal my identity. Otherwise, I will leave this place. I only have one aim in joining the army, and that is to defend my empire. You don’t have to think too much about my identity, and you can just think of me as a soul master who cultivates independently.”

Huo Yuhao turned and left after he finished his sentence, and he didn’t give Xu Yun any chance to talk.

Dawdling explanations would only make this princess even angrier. In the state she was in, she couldn’t possibly think rationally or accept anything that Dai Luoli would have said to explain himself. Huo Yuhao could only use this method of “playing it cool”, and throw a hit back at her to achieve any effect at all. Furthermore, Huo Yuhao’s words were all true, and Dai Luoli did trigger his martial soul’s true strength because he wanted to protect Xu Yun.

A contemplative look flowed from Xu Yun’s eyes as she watched them leave. Everything that had happened last night played again and again in her mind... she couldn’t forget Dai Luoli’s eyes yesterday. Yes! How could he possibly fake an expression like that?

“Luoli, I’m sorry... I have blamed you wrongly.” Xu Yun muttered under her breath. She wanted to chase after him, but couldn’t get over her own pride, and she just watched Huo Yuhao and Dai Luoli return to their ranks as they followed the recruits back for training.

“He has so many wounds on his body. How painful must that be?”

The two of them returned to the recruits. All those recruits, along with the other team leaders, stared at them with a completely different expression from before.

The bodyguards had slunk away. The two of them had just returned when they were immediately surrounded by the recruits and tossed into the air in the next moment.

The two of them had led Small Team One's recruits to defeat the bodyguards. That battle made the blood in these fellows' hearts burn with passion, while Huo Yuhao and Dai Luoli immediately became like heroes to them.

Just as the recruits were hollering excitedly and tossing them up and down, Huo Yuhao's mood was originally very high when he suddenly felt his heart tense up for no particular reason. In that moment, he felt as if the world had become black and white, and an indescribable fear instantly spread across his entire body.

This sense of fear didn't come from a person or a living being. Instead, it became from an entire region of space. There seemed to be some force from the dark that was suppressing his heart and made him shudder with a fright that came from deep within his soul.

This unprecedented situation turned his face ghastly pale in an instant. Something had happened, and something big was about to happen. After Wang Qiu'er sacrificed herself, Huo Yuhao controlled the power of destiny, and this sudden fear gave him an extremely ominous feeling.

His eyes seemed to be guided by a mysterious wave of the power of destiny, and he gazed into the distance as he was still being tossed up and down through the air.

The sky suddenly seemed to brighten far into the horizon right at this moment. The flash that suddenly appeared was very intense, and even though it was extremely far away, it managed to catch the attention of all the recruits. Their frolicking stopped, and everyone turned and gazed in that direction.

Everyone could see an incandescent sphere of light flickering far beyond the horizon. This radiance was hemispherical, and it gradually expanded outwards while its light was very intense and dazzling. Many people couldn't help but shift their eyes away after staring straight at the flash for a moment, and nobody dared to continue staring right at it. Only Huo Yuhao's eyes were fixed on that flash from the beginning to the end.

Yes, something had happened.

The earth trembled faintly in the next moment, and booming sounds that resembled dull thunderclaps rolled forth and caused the entire army camp to quiver violently.

The recruits began to feel waves of dizziness, and some recruits who were relatively weaker even fell down on the ground from all those tremors.

Zhuang Tian murmured to himself, "What's happening? That direction... that direction seems to be where the Northwestern Field Army is stationed! That..."

Huo Yuhao and Dai Luoli were back on the ground, and their expressions changed at almost the same time.

Dai Luoli applied strength to his legs and was about to charge forward when Huo Yuhao pulled him back.

“Where are you going?”

Dai Luoli’s voice was quivering a little. “I want to take a look. That... that’s where the Northwestern Field Army is stationed. My father is there! That... that seems like...”

Huo Yuhao grabbed his shirt and dragged Dai Luoli in front of him. “Everything has already happened. What can you do even if you head over right now? From this moment onwards, you’re not allowed to leave my side. We’ll wait until we have more accurate intel before we do anything.”

Right at this moment, shrill and ear-piercing whistling sounds could be heard ringing out hysterically from the entire Sixth Reserve Legion. This was the whistle for an emergency assembly!

Large numbers of reserve troops swiftly came out of their tents and assembled from every camp, and the officers got into their respective positions. The entire reserve legion was mobilized, and even though they were just the reserves, the quality they displayed was impressive.

The order came down very quickly. All reserve troops were to prepare for battle, and that included recruits. Everyone was to pack up and get ready for battle at any moment.

Xu Yun was a battalion commander, and her battalion consisted almost entirely of recruits. Huo Yuhao and the three hundred recruits were her newest additions. Their battalion of recruits had twice as many people as normal battalions, at nine hundred soldiers in total.

Xu Yun was standing in front of everyone, and her expression was exceptionally black. Huo Yuhao and Dai Luoli could guess what had happened, and she naturally could as well.

Xu Yun hollered, “Tang Dong, Dai Luoli, step out.”

Huo Yuhao pulled Dai Luoli and they took a few steps forward and saluted her.

Xu Yun lowered her voice and said, “From now on, the two of you are promoted as my bodyguards, but your ranks will remain Private First Class. Stand behind me.” She couldn’t care about military rules anymore at a time like this. The recruits hadn’t even finished their basic military training, and they were officially not allowed to become bodyguards for a battalion commander. She was distraught with anxiety and confusion, however, and she needed a mainstay at a time like this. What she didn’t know was that this order that she had just given was the wisest decision she had ever made in her entire life.

Huo Yuhao and Dai Luoli stepped behind Xu Yun. At a time like this, Huo Yuhao wasn’t worried about Dai Luoli making a move by himself. Xu Yun’s presence was enough to calm him down a little.

Xu Yun continued giving orders, “Everyone, return to your bunks, pack and organize your things. Come back and assemble at the military drill ground afterward, and stay where you are to rest. After that, wait for further orders. Disperse!”

The soldiers returned to their respective destinations, but she kept Huo Yuhao and Dai Luoli behind.

“The Sun Moon Empire... the Sun Moon Empire must have made their move,” Xu Yun spoke as she fumed with rage between gritted teeth.

Dadi Luoli didn't have to pretend. His expression was black, and he nodded forcefully. "They've invaded us without declaring war. Furthermore, they've used soul tools which possess great power. I wonder how the frontlines are doing. My father..."

Xu Yun interjected, "The White Tiger Duke is a Titled Douluo, so he'll be fine. I wonder what class those soul tools are to give us such sensations... My only wish now is that the front lines haven't suffered excessively heavy losses. The army has already sent scouts to find out what's happening, and they should return quickly with definite intel."

Huo Yuhao's expression was solemn. Dai Luoli and Xu Yun weren't knowledgeable enough, and they didn't know enough to judge how forceful that explosion was. He was a gifted student from Shrek Academy's Soul Tool Department, so how could he not be able to judge? The feeling he got from that explosion's force could only be achieved with one type of soul tool.

That soul tool could only be a Class 9 stationary soul cannon shell. They were almost three hundred kilometers away from where the explosion had occurred, and they could still clearly see, hear, and feel the explosion's effects from such a distance away. Huo Yuhao had only seen an explosion like this once before, and that was when he had triggered an explosion in that underground warehouse within Radiant City. That apocalyptic spectacle was deeply imprinted in his memory.

This meant the explosion that had just occurred didn't come from just a single Class 9 stationary soul cannon shell. It was likely that more than one had been used. The Sun Moon Empire had held themselves back for more than half a year. Were they about to launch a full-scale invasion? The timing of their invasion was at least six months earlier than Huo Yuhao had predicted.

The Star Luo Empire became the Sun Moon Empire's first target after launching an invasion.

Huo Yuhao heaved a faint sigh inside. He felt very helpless and exasperated. The Star Luo empire was too far behind the Sun Moon Empire in terms of their research with soul tools. Otherwise, with the intense energy undulations that Class 9 stationary soul cannon shells gave off, those shells should have been intercepted at the border. However, it seemed the Star Luo Empire were unsuccessful at intercepting those shells, and the Sun Moon Empire managed to detonate their stationary shells near the armies stationed near the Star Luo Empire's borders. The Star Luo Empire had probably sustained heavy losses this time!

Dai Luoli wasn't the only one concerned about the White Tiger Duke...

They didn't have much to pack. Their personal belongings were all stored inside storage-type soul tools that they kept on their bodies all the time, while they were wearing all their military equipment, such as their uniforms, leather armor, number plates, and weapons. As for other items like their bedsheets and whatnot, they did not pack those burdensome things.

The booms that resembled dull thunderclaps continued ringing out in the distance. Even though the light wasn't as bright as before, everyone could hear those dense explosions from several hundred kilometers away. It wasn't hard to imagine how intense the battle at the border was...

Chapter 422.1: Huo Yuhao's Assistance

The entire Sixth Reserve Legion fitted themselves out within an hour, and everyone waited on the military drill ground. Even their tents and whatnot had been packed, and everyone was prepared to support the front lines at a moment's notice.

Scouts streamed in and out of the army camp continuously, and everyone could tell from their anxious and worried expressions that the battle wasn't going very well.

The officers who were at least battalion commanders were quickly called up for a meeting, while Xu Yun brought Huo Yuhao and Dai Luoli, who had become her impromptu bodyguards, along with her.

Xu Yun had no experience on the battlefield at all, and she was overcome with anxiety and confusion at a time like this. She wasn't just a battalion commander, she was also a princess! This war was connected to her nation's safety and survival, so how could she not be worried?

Huo Yuhao and Dai Luoli arrived at the corps commander's tent, but they were only bodyguards, so they could only wait outside. Huo Yuhao was worried, but he didn't use his spiritual power to sense what was happening inside. If there was a powerful soul master inside, he would be in trouble if that soul master discovered his spiritual undulations.

The meeting was strangely very brief, and Xu Yun hurriedly rushed out after less than ten minutes.

"Quick, follow me back to the battalion." She quickly got onto her horse as she spoke, and her two bodyguards could only jog along as they followed behind her.

"Yun... battalion commander." Dai Luoli was about to call her "Yun'er", but Huo Yuhao glared at him, and only then did he recall the method that Huo Yuhao had taught him. Dai Luoli hurriedly adjusted his expression, and put on a very serious appearance.

Xu Yun snapped around and stared at him. She didn't wait for him to ask, and said straightforwardly, "The front lines have been utterly crushed... the Northwestern Field Army has given the order for us to enter the city immediately, and to build our defenses around Imperial Radiant City. We are to wait for the retreating army and rendezvous with them."

"What? The front lines have been crushed?" Dai Luoli blurted out. The Star Luo Empire had spent thousands of years developing their defenses at the western borders! They had relied on the Ming Dou Mountain Range as a natural stronghold, and their fortifications could be said to be impenetrable.

Xu Yun's pretty face was a little pale. "Yes, the front lines have been decimated. The Sun Moon Empire's invasion came without warning, and they detonated several Class 9 stationary soul cannon shells on the relatively weaker regions of the Ming Dou Mountain Range, and created an enormous gap. They mobilized four soul engineer legions to launch continuous assaults on our army. The soul engineer legions' continuous blanketing onslaught forced the Northwestern Field Army back, and led the Sun Moon Empire's great army to charge through the gap in the mountains. One Class 9 stationary shell landed in the Northwestern Field Army's central region, and the soldiers on the front lines have sustained heavy losses, with many lives lost and many more injured. We can't hold on any longer, so we're retreating."

"What about my father?" Dai Luoli asked worriedly.

Xu Yun answered, "Marshal Dai is leading the Field Army to defend against the invaders with their full strength, but the Sun Moon Empire's assault is very ferocious. Their invading army isn't very large, but they've mobilized three out of the five fingers of the Hand that Protects the Nation. They've come too quickly and too suddenly, and they're way too destructive."

Huo Yuhao lowered his voice and asked, "Battalion commander, how many soldiers are stationed along our western borders?"

Xu Yun replied, "The Northwestern Field Army is the main defense for our western borders, while the Western Field Army supports them. The Northwestern Field Army controls eleven legions, while the Western Field Army consists of eight legions. Our fighting strength stands at eighty thousand soldiers. Other than that, we have two hundred thousand auxiliary soldiers, and our total strength is almost four hundred thousand. Seven cities contain reserve legions behind the borders, and our reserve legions have about two hundred thousand soldiers."

Huo Yuhao understood the situation as he listened to her. The Star Luo Empire's western borders had about six hundred thousand soldiers stationed there, and of them, there were about three hundred thousand fighting soldiers. It was a very large number. Furthermore, the two Field Armies stationed at the western borders undoubtedly possessed the greatest fighting strength within the entire military, while they also had the best equipment. In the end, the Sun Moon Empire was the Star Luo Empire's greatest enemy. At least the Zhuge Divine Crossbow Cannons that the Star Luo Empire had purchased from the Tang Sect had been transferred to the western front...

Under such circumstances, war had suddenly erupted at the borders, yet the Star Luo Empire's defenses were still torn apart. The Star Luo Empire's strongest army, the Northwestern Field Army, had been utterly crushed. It wasn't hard to imagine how shocking the Sun Moon Empire's blow was.

The Sixth Reserve Legion was quickly mobilized, and they swiftly entered Imperial Radiant City, along with their armaments.

Intel streamed in continuously back and forth from Imperial Radiant City and the front lines. The city's gates were immediately sealed after the Fourth and Sixth Reserve Legions entered the city, and everyone was on high alert. Many soldiers were deployed to protect the city's most important granaries and armories. The atmosphere was unprecedentedly tense, and the air was so heavy and dense that it seemed as though it could drip with water.

Huo Yuhao and the others belonged to the Third Battalion of the Sixth Reserve Legion, which was part of the Seventh Division. They were arranged on the eastern side of the city. They had too many recruits, so if the fighting did reach the city, the western front would be the first place to be assaulted. Therefore, the recruits were deployed near the eastern side of the city.

Xu Yun went for another meeting before she returned to her provisional battalion with a gloomy face, while she arranged for Huo Yuhao and Dai Luoli to wait inside the room with her.

"What's the situation, battalion commander?" Dai Luoli asked worriedly. This matter was closely related to his father's safety, so there was no way he couldn't be anxious.

Xu Yun's face was filled with concern and anxiety. "The situation is terrible. The number of dead or injured at the front lines is still unclear, but we know that the White Tiger Duke has led his personal

soldiers to cover the rear so that most of his army can withdraw from the Sun Moon Empire's range. The front lines have sustained severe losses, while the Western Field Army has been hit with a destructive assault at the same time. The Sun Moon Empire has used another Class 9 stationary soul cannon shell, as well. Our conservative estimate is that the Sun Moon Empire has used more than six Class 9 stationary cannon shells this time."

Huo Yuhao drew a cold breath when he heard her words. Because he knew how powerful stationary soul cannon shells were, he could understand how frightening their destructive power was.

Dai Luoli's face was ghastly pale, but his eyes suddenly became determined and resolute. "I'm going to look for my father. I'm leaving, Xu Yun." With that, he turned and began to walk out.

Huo Yuhao grabbed his shoulder and heartlessly pulled him back. "You're not going anywhere. It's useless even if you go, so you're going to stay here and do nothing. Do you think that you, a Soul Elder that doesn't even have four soul rings, can turn the tide even if you go to the front lines?"

Dai Luoli's eyes were bloodshot. "I can't just wait here! My father is fighting with his life for our country's survival. I am his son, and even if I have to die, I will bleed with him and die valiantly on the battlefield! We have enlisted in the army to defend our nation! I am a soul master, so what will I be if I wait here with the recruits?"

Huo Yuhao slapped Dai Luoli right across his face and sent him crumpling to the ground. He said coldly, "Your intentions are good and you're very brave, but that's brainless bravery. So what if you're a soul master? Do you really think you can get out of the city when the city gates are sealed shut? Or are you intending to expose your identity as the White Tiger Duke's son, and embarrass your father at the same time?"

"You should hate yourself because you're not strong enough, and can't help him at a time like this. If you have sufficient determination, you should use that on cultivation! Imperial Radiant City is positioned behind the front lines, and once they can't hold on any longer, the army will have to retreat through Imperial Radiant City. Do something you can afford to do with your strength, and is far better and more useful than throwing away your life like that."

Perhaps Dai Luoli was used to being beaten by Huo Yuhao, but he wasn't furious because of this slap. He got back to his feet, his expression grave and stern, but he said nothing.

Xu Yun sat down on a chair by the side. Her eyes were scattered, and she was beside herself with panic. Faced with an all-out war of such a scale, the little princess was completely lost with worry and panic.

Huo Yuhao glanced at the sky outside. He lowered his voice and said, "The two of you, stay here and cultivate. I'll take a look at the front lines, and bring first-hand intel back to you guys."

"You're going?" Dai Luoli and Xu Yun stared at him at the same time.

Huo Yuhao walked up before Dai Luoli, and his cold eyes suddenly became warm. He patted him on the shoulder and said, "Call me your older brother."

"Older brother!" Dai Luoli called out subconsciously,

Huo Yuhao smiled faintly and said, "Stay here and don't go anywhere. I'll come back to look for you very soon." With that, Huo Yuhao vanished into thin air soundlessly in front of Dai Luoli.

"You..." Dai Luoli stared at the space in front of him with widened eyes and slack jaw. He didn't feel any soul power undulations from Huo Yuhao, and only his martial soul, which had finished its mutation, seemed to feel something.

Xu Yun's eyes were equally frozen. "Now I firmly believe that he wasn't sent by your father."

"Why?" Dai Luoli asked subconsciously.

Xu Yun answered, "If your father had sent him here, he wouldn't have beat you so cruelly. However, you seem to be a lot stronger than before he beat you up."

"....."

Huo Yuhao surged into the sky in a flash after he left the army camp. He unleashed his Imitation, and his entire being seemed to integrate into the air. His spiritual power spread out in all directions like an enormous web, instantly blanketing the entire city.

Huo Yuhao possessed spiritual power that astonished even the Beast God, Di Tian! Only spiritual power at such a level could possess such prowess.

Huo Yuhao couldn't help but shake his head when he made a brief survey of the city. Imperial Radiant City didn't have a single aerial surveillance soul tool, and there were only several soul power detectors on the battlements. Imperial Radiant City's defenses were a far cry from the Sun Moon Empire's Sunrise City back then, the result of the Star Luo Empire lagging behind in industrial standards. He didn't know how much longer the Star Luo Empire could hold on this time.

He continued contemplating as he started to move, transforming into a beam of flowing light and surging towards the west.

Huo Yuhao left Imperial Radiant City's borders and put his Butterfly Wings on, his speed rising exponentially as he infused soul power into his wings.

Huo Yuhao quickly saw the defeated soldiers who were retreating from the front lines. They were truly and utterly crushed! Large amounts of soldiers were retreating from the western front with their heads hanging dispiritedly, crestfallen, while many others were injured. Even their formations seemed a little messy and disorganized.

Chapter 422.2: Huo Yuhao's Assistance

How did this happen? Huo Yuhao could tell from his training that the Star Luo Empire had very solid foundations, and even their recruits were controlled with strict military discipline. Why were the defeated soldiers so dispirited?

Huo Yuhao landed quietly on the ground and merged himself into the defeated army. He was dressed like a normal soldier in the first place, and he discovered from the other soldiers that the Sun Moon Empire's sudden assault was a lot more ferocious than he had imagined.

The Star Luo Empire's aerial surveillance was simply too weak, to the point where the Sun Moon Empire managed to transport powerful individuals through their western borders in different batches. They assaulted the Star Luo Empire in full force, and after their Class 9 stationary soul cannon shells wreaked havoc with their frightening power, these powerful individuals rushed into the army camps that were sent into disarray. They focused on killing officers and creating even more chaos, and they caused the entire Northwestern Field Army to descend into utter chaos and confusion.

If not for the White Tiger Duke's strict handling of his soldiers, and the fact that he had formidable prowess at controlling his army, the Northwestern Field Army would have sustained even heavier losses. The front lines had already lost about seventy thousand people.

According to the defeated soldiers, beams of powerful light rained down from the sky continuously after that terrifying explosion occurred, and decimated the Star Luo Empire's stronghold on the mountaintop. Afterward, large numbers of soul engineers flooded into the Ming Dou Mountain Range and massacred everyone.

This was clearly a fighting style where top-tier fighting strength was used to open a path. Furthermore, with the soul engineer legions' ability to fly, the Sun Moon Empire's aerial army had an absolute advantage. The Sun Moon Empire had complete air supremacy, and they had used it to great advantage.

The Star Luo Empire always knew that they were lagging behind the Sun Moon Empire in terms of soul tools, but only after this all-out war had erupted did they understand how big this rift was.

Yes, this rift was truly far too big.

—

Huo Yuhao returned to his journey after obtaining that information. He understood that with the frightening power of soul tools, the defense mechanisms in traditional wars of the past were far from enough to withstand the Sun Moon Empire's assault. The Sun Moon Empire had come prepared, and the Star Luo Empire was in deep trouble after they lost the Ming Dou Mountain Range, which was their first line of defense. This defeat was likely to be impossible to turn around!

Huo Yuhao didn't take long to fly over two hundred kilometers. Huo Yuhao could sense intense soul power undulations that were rippling and exploding from a distance. The sky was beginning to darken, and flashes of varying colors that bloomed and flickered continuously on the borders were thus even more obvious.

He quickly noticed what had happened to the Ming Dou Mountain Range.

There was an enormous gap in the Ming Dou Mountain Range. This gap had a very strange, extremely sinister shape, and was burned black. It was evidently caused by the frightening explosive force of Class 9 stationary soul cannon shells bombarding the mountains. Huo Yuhao could see from a long distance away that large numbers of soldiers from the Sun Moon Empire were streaming into the Star Luo Empire's borders through this gap.

The Star Luo Empire's defensive perimeter had been utterly crushed on all fronts. But what about the White Tiger Duke and the others? Could it be that the White Tiger Duke and his personal guards had been slaughtered?

The remnants of the Star Luo Empire's armies were battered and bruised. Voluminous aerial surveillance and land surveillance soul tools dotted the sky roughly ten kilometers away, while soul tool fronts and positions constructed by soul engineers were gradually taking shape on the ground. Brilliant flashes that flickered from time to time slowly disappeared at the same time.

The Northwestern Field Army's front had been completely lost after just half a day.

Huo Yuhao gulped as he hovered in midair; even he was a little lost.

That was the Star Luo Empire's most formidable fighting strength! Were they actually crushed that simply?

Huo Yuhao couldn't tell which soul engineer legions were stationed beneath him, and he closed his eyes as he withdrew every inch of spiritual power that he had let out.

He was under the cover of Imitation, and even aerial surveillance soul tools couldn't detect his presence. Only thermal detectors could possibly discover his presence.

A rose-gold vertical eye gradually surfaced behind Huo Yuhao's back, and his head glowed at the same time as a rose-gold wheel of light appeared behind his head. The aura of destiny undulated outward at the same time.

His Spiritual Detection's range was ultimately limited, and his spiritual power wasn't as powerful as that of the Evileye Tyrant King, who could reach five hundred kilometers away with Spiritual Detection. When Huo Yuhao's Spiritual Detection reached a range of ten thousand meters, his accuracy would be greatly reduced. Furthermore, the battlefield at the border was so large, it was clearly impossible for him to find the White Tiger Duke with Spiritual Detection. Therefore, he opted for another method. He wanted to try a method that he felt he could have used a long time ago, but had never tried before. He wanted to try to use destiny to guide him.

This wasn't a soul skill. Huo Yuhao possessed the power of destiny, and he was using his heart to feel, sensing for palpitations that stemmed from destiny.

The vertical eye behind Huo Yuhao was withdrawn after a moment, and his eyes turned towards the north. Something in the dark was guiding him, that the White Tiger Duke should be to the north.

He turned around and sped up once again, racing towards the north.

The Northwestern Field Army was not just stationed at the western borders; they were also near the Heavenly Soul Empire at the same time. They could reach the Heavenly Soul Empire's borders if they traveled less than five hundred kilometers north from their position. The White Tiger Duke was actually taking what was left of his forces and retreating towards the north. Why was he doing that?

Huo Yuhao flew forward rapidly with some doubts in mind. His thoughts were slowly ironed out, and his expression immediately grew ugly. However, traces of admiration tinged his eyes.

The White Tiger Duke didn't retreat toward the east, but toward the north. There could only be one reason for that. The White Tiger Duke was one of the main targets for the Sun Moon Empire's sudden onslaught. The Sun Moon Empire would attempt to take him down at all costs, so their most formidable fighting strength should have been directed at him. He retreated to the north to draw this force away to give the Star Luo Empire's defeated armies time to retreat. The Sun Moon Empire's soul engineer legions were still flying through the air, and the threat and damage they could cause to normal soldiers were far too heavy and severe.

Even though the hatred that Huo Yuhao felt towards the White Tiger Duke wasn't reduced by much, he still admired the White Tiger Duke's bravery and heroism. He was the marshal, but he wasn't the first to retreat, and he placed himself in grave danger so that he could buy time for his armies to retreat. This deed wasn't something that normal people could perform.

Huo Yuhao released his spiritual power at the same time as he continued flying towards the north. Indeed, there were many scars and traces of battle left behind on the ground. Some were left behind by soul tools, and others were left behind by soul masters and the armies. Huo Yuhao saw corpses from time to time, and he could tell from these traces that the battle was violent and vigorous, but there weren't that many people fighting. The total number couldn't be more than ten thousand people, but this group had to be the most elite members from both sides.

The Star Luo Empire had few soul engineers and soul tools, but their numbers of true soul masters wasn't something the Sun Moon Empire could compare to. There was at least one soul master legion in the Northwestern Field Army, with at least a thousand people that consisted entirely of true soul masters. Even though they weren't the White Tiger's personal guards, they only listened to the White Tiger Duke's orders and commands.

The Star Luo Empire had a total of ten such soul master legions. Unfortunately, these soul master legions were far too powerful, to the point where the Star Luo Empire's royal family didn't dare to hand them over to the White Tiger Duke for him to command. The entire Northwestern Field Army had only been assigned one such soul master legion.

Huo Yuhao couldn't fly that quickly because he was surveying the traces of battle on the ground, but the good thing was that he knew he was going in the right direction. The further he flew, the more he understood how much the Sun Moon Empire wanted to kill the White Tiger Duke.

Huo Yuhao could tell from the corpses on the ground that there were at least two soul engineer legions chasing down the White Tiger Duke and his soldiers. Furthermore, these two legions were members of the Hand that Protects the Nation. Huo Yuhao had seen one of them before; that legion had trapped Huo Yuhao and the others, which had ultimately resulted in Wang Qiu'er sacrificing herself for him. That legion was the Evil Tyrant Legion, and from what the soul engineers who had been killed were wearing, the other legion should be the Terrorclaw Soul Engineer Legion.

These two legions had top-tier equipment; they were beast-ranked soul engineer legions! They were equipped with large amounts of top-tier soul tools, and their average fighting strength was equal to that of a Class 4 soul engineer or higher! Furthermore, they were exceptionally adept at teamwork and cooperation.

Huo Yuhao flew for another hour before he could faintly see waves of flickering light in the distance.

These lights were flickering at an incredible rate; it wasn't hard to see that the battle was extremely intense.

Huo Yuhao found the right direction, so he no longer had to determine his destination. He hurriedly accelerated as much as he could and flew in that direction.

He could see shadows and figures flickering with beams of light in the air over the horizon. This group was mainly split into two groups: the first group belonged to the Evil Tyrant Soul Engineer Legion, whose flying-type soul tools sparkled with blue light, and the other group belonged to the Terrorclaw Soul Engineer Legion, whose flying-type soul tools flickered with dark golden light.

These two soul engineer legions were spread out in midair, and were maintaining their soul engineer front in the air just like that. A blue dome protected the Evil Tyrant Legion, while a dark gold dome protected the Terrorclaw Legion. Huo Yuhao could see that the soul power from these domes came from a spike-shaped soul tool at the tips of their flying-type soul tools. Everyone was releasing soul power from this soul tool, and their soul power congregated and transformed into these enormous domes.

The ratio of corpses that Huo Yuhao saw on the way here was heavily in favor of soul engineers. There were far too few soul engineers who had perished, that number stood at a little over ten, while the Star Luo Empire had left behind far too many corpses. The White Tiger Duke's personal guards had suffered heavy losses and injuries, and many individuals who should be powerful soul masters were killed in action.

The two soul engineer legions that were hovering in midair were firing thick soul rays towards the ground, again and again. They weren't firing among themselves or at their own discretion, the soul tools they were using seemed to have a combined effect. Three to five people formed one team, and every soul ray they fired would cause intense explosions on the ground beneath them.

The situation on the ground was far more tragic and disastrous compared to the soul engineers. Huo Yuhao possessed necromantic abilities, and as he reached out with his spiritual power, he could already feel many spiritual undulations on the ground. Those spirits belonged to the dead!

Compared to the two distinct domes in the sky, there were also domes on the ground, and they were also used for defense, but they could only be described as multicolored.

There were almost a hundred different kinds of light, and the situation seemed very scattered and disorganized. It was clear that the soul masters were the main defensive force on the ground.

Chapter 422.3: Huo Yuhao's Assistance

The White Tiger Duke's personal guards couldn't do much in a battle at this level, and most of those who died on the ground consisted of the White Tiger Duke's personal guards.

There were seven or eight people hovering amongst the two soul engineer legions in the sky. These people didn't unleash any attacks, and were just watching the battlefield coldly. They were inside the protective barriers, but Huo Yuhao could still feel how powerful and frightening these people were.

Huo Yuhao had seen three of them before. They were judges for the Radiant City Elite Soul Engineer Tournament in the Sun Moon Empire's Radiant City, and the person he was most familiar with was this

group's leader. Wasn't he the Starsky Douluo, Ye Yulin, who had given him the Sunmoon Divine Needle back then? At this moment, a Class 9 Sunmoon Divine Needle was hovering above his head. Furthermore, there wasn't just one... there were two!

Huo Yuhao didn't have to ask to faintly guess that the Starsky Douluo's appearance here probably had something to do with the Sunmoon Divine Needle that he had given the White Tiger Duke back then. At this moment, one of the two Sunmoon Divine Needles above his head was likely to be the one that Huo Yuhao had given Dai Hao back then.

These formidable individuals, who were some of the strongest soul engineers in the Sun Moon Empire, were undoubtedly holding down the fort here so that they could eradicate whatever resistance there was on the ground.

Huo Yuhao took a deep breath, and calmed and steadied himself as much as he could. Even though he was far stronger than he was last time, his strength was still far too small and weak on a battlefield such as this.

Huo Yuhao was the only finished product from the Ultimate Soldier Plan, and he knew that he had to use every possible resource he could to turn the fight around, and those resources didn't just comprise strength and abilities.

Huo Yuhao lowered his altitude and moved his spiritual power towards the Star Luo Empire's soldiers. Right now, he wasn't even sure if the White Tiger Duke was still alive.

The situation quickly became clear.

The Star Luo Empire had less than two thousand soldiers left. The White Tiger Duke's personal guards made up about thirteen to fourteen hundred of these two thousand soldiers, and they relied on about five to six hundred soul masters defending with their full strength to barely maintain the current situation.

None of these soul masters were weak, and some had stronger soul power than the two soul engineer legions in the sky. Their soul rings sparkled on their bodies, and even the weakest of them had five soul rings.

The Star Luo Empire's royal family still strongly supported the Northwestern Field Army. This soul master legion comprised the best of the best soul masters in the Star Luo Empire. Even though they had lost quite a few people, they were the reason why the White Tiger Duke could still hold back the Sun Moon Empire's soul engineer legions so that the Northwestern Field Army could retreat.

However, these soul masters' faces were filled with fatigue, and everyone wore solemn and grave expressions.

None of them would be afraid of the soul engineers in the sky if they were one against one, and there were even four Titled Douluo among these soul masters. The White Tiger Duke was still among this group, but he seemed like he was in a bad state – half his body was scorched black, and he was supporting himself with a yard-long knife as he commanded the battle. He had sustained severe injuries.

The other three Titled Douluo spread out and continuously cooperated with other soul masters to defend the group. They seemed like they had expended a lot of their soul power as well!

The White Tiger Duke was panting with heavy breaths. His eyes were still as resolute as ever, but they were already flowing with determination and a grim resignation to fate. He had been suppressed on this hill for almost two hours, and reinforcements couldn't possibly come for them, no matter what happened. Even though the Sun Moon Empire's army had entered the Ming Dou Mountain Range, the White Tiger Duke and his army would probably be eliminated today if he didn't make a decision soon.

Dai Hao lowered his voice and growled, "Invite the Big Dipper Douluo here."

Dai Hao's eldest son was standing beside him. Dai Yueheng, who had graduated from Shrek Academy. Five years had gone by, and Dai Yueheng was now a powerful seven-ringed Soul Sage. He was just twenty-five years old, and he was definitely considered an elite among the younger generation. He could represent Shrek Academy in battle as their vice-team leader back then, which sufficiently displayed his talent.

"Yes." Dai Yueheng acknowledged, and he quickly called an elderly man who was in his seventies over to Dai Hao. This man was one of the three powerful Titled Douluo in the soul masters' formation.

This elderly man came beside Dai Hao, and suddenly arched his eyebrows as he pointed towards the sky with his right hand. A silver-white beam of light surged into the sky, and this light beam webbed out as it transformed into an enormous umbrella more than fifty meters in diameter. This umbrella blocked the soul rays and whatnot that were raining from the sky, and some of these attacks even included attacks from Class 8 soul engineers.

These soul rays and soul cannons didn't just land on the umbrella's surface. These attacks seemed like they were immediately dispelled when they touched the silver-white radiance on the umbrella's surface, and they were parsed and consumed by countless thin and fine spaces in the air. Therefore, no explosions rang out.

This elderly man was the commander of the Star Luo Empire's First Soul Master Legion, the Big Dipper Douluo, Xuan Ji. He was one of the Titled Douluo who belonged to the older generation within the Star Luo Empire, and his real name had long been forgotten, so he had always been called Xuan Ji. His soul power stood at Rank 94, and his martial soul was a Big Dipper Umbrella. He was very good friends with the last generation's White Tiger Duke, and one generation older than Dai Hao. The previous generation's White Tiger Duke had pleaded with him to protect the White Tiger lineage, and he was one of the strongest core forces in the White Tiger Duke's camp.

"Duke." The Big Dipper Douluo's face looked a little pale as he blocked the attacks that rained down from the sky. His expression was also extremely grave at this moment. The Sun Moon Empire had clearly planned and schemed their sudden ambush for a long time, and the ferocity of their assault exceeded everyone's expectations. The Sun Moon Empire didn't send their forces swiftly into the Star Luo Empire. Instead, they sent their strongest fighting strength against the White Tiger Duke, Dai Hao, which clearly meant that they had planned this. The White Tiger Duke was the Northwestern Field Army's marshal, and he was also the mainstay for the Star Luo Empire's western defense perimeter. Once he died, the Northwestern and the Western Field Armies would be dealt an unprecedentedly large psychological blow. This result would be exceptionally beneficial for what the Sun Moon Empire wanted to do next.

Furthermore, Dai Hao wasn't the invaders' only target. They were also going after the Star Luo Empire's First Soul Master Legion, because this legion represented ten percent of the soul masters that the royal

family controlled. Soul masters were inferior to soul engineers on the battlefield if legion fought against legion, but if these soul masters were used or deployed in another fashion, their impact and force would be comparable to that of a soul engineer legion. The First Soul Master Legion was also the strongest legion overall amongst the Star Luo Empire's ten great soul master legions.

From the sudden bombardment from those Class 9 stationary soul cannons until now, the First Soul Master Legion had lost about one-third of their soul masters. This painful price was paid in exchange for an opportunity for the remnants of the Northwestern Field Army to retreat. The Big Dipper Douluo had requested the White Tiger Duke to lead his army in retreat a long time ago, but Dai Hao had insisted otherwise. He led his personal guards to cover the rear, and worked together with the Big Dipper Douluo's First Soul Master Legion to do so. If he hadn't done that, the First Soul Master Legion would probably have been destroyed by now. However, if their current circumstances were allowed to persist, they would still be unable to escape their fate of eradication and complete defeat.

"Duke." The Big Dipper Douluo came beside the White Tiger Duke, and heaved a faint sigh when he saw the wounds all over Dai Hao's body.

The White Tiger Duke's most severe injury came from the Starsky Douluo's Sunmoon Divine Needle. Initially, the White Tiger Duke had had a Sunmoon Divine Needle of his own, but the Starsky Douluo took his Sunmoon Divine Needle away as soon as he appeared, and even used this Sunmoon Divine Needle to heavily wound Dai Hao. If the White Tiger Duke hadn't had several defensive soul tools on his body, and if not for the fact that his martial soul was powerful, he would probably have died from that hit.

Dai Hao raised his hand, and a layer of white light was released from his hand. This white light encompassed himself and the Big Dipper Douluo within it.

Dai Hao's eyes were still as bright as ever. He clenched his fists tightly and said, "Uncle Xuan Ji, we can't continue on like this. We can't escape our fate of losing every single soldier if this goes on."

The Big Dipper Douluo stared at him and said, "What are your plans?"

Dai Hao lowered his voice and said, "I am their target. After a while, I will order my personal guards to charge out and scatter in all directions to create an illusion that I want to charge out. I will run by myself towards the north to attract the enemy's attention. You will take the First Soul Master Legion and break through towards the southeast. Run as far as you can, and preserve as much life and strength as possible. Preserve your strength so that we can retaliate in the future."

"No," The Big Dipper Douluo's expression changed drastically as he retorted angrily, "What nonsense are you spouting? Your father has given me the task of protecting the White Tiger's lineage. How can I just leave you behind and run away? If I did that, how could I face your father in the afterlife?"

Dai Hao said calmly, "Uncle Xuan Ji, now is not the time to talk about sentiments. My decision is for my empire's future. It's meaningless if everyone dies in battle here today, and right now, there's no way we can deal any conceivable or effective damage to those fellows in the sky. Their collective defensive soul tool formation is too powerful, and even Transcendent Douluo probably couldn't break through. You have to go, and you'll take Yueheng away. He will take over as the White Tiger Duke after my death. Time is of the essence, Uncle Xuan Ji, so you must listen to me. Only I will remain to draw their attention

and create an opportunity for you guys to survive. It won't be that easy for them to kill me either, and I will try my best to survive as long as a chance exists. We can't unleash our full strength if we stay together."

The Big Dipper Douluo's chest puffed heavily in and out. He understood in his heart that the White Tiger Duke's solution was the best one for now. But how could he abandon Dai Hao when he had watched Dai Hao grow up since he was a child?

"Uncle Xuan Ji, please make a move while everyone still has soul power. The plan has been decided, and I will be at ease handing Yueheng over to you." n()Ovel&In

He dispelled the soundproofing barrier that he had just released as he spoke. He turned to Dai Yueheng beside as he lowered his voice and said, "You will follow grandpa Xuan Ji, and we will break out in two different groups. You will listen to grandpa Xuan Ji's orders after breaking out. Do you understand?"

Dai Yueheng hesitated for a moment and asked, "What about you, father?"

Dai Hao muttered coldly, "I will break out from another direction. Only in this way will we have a higher chance of breaking out. Go... it's up to you now, uncle Xuan Ji."

The Big Dipper Douluo heaved a long sigh as he stared at the deep determination and resolve in Dai Hao's eyes. He grabbed Dai Yueheng as he turned and left.

Chapter 423.1: The White Tiger's Crisis

There couldn't be any more delays. Every soul engineer of the two large soul engineering legions of the Sun Moon Empire brought along Milk Bottles that corresponded to their rank, each having at least two. However, the Star Luo Empire's soul master legions weren't equipped in the same way. Among the three empires of the Douluo Continent, the Star Luo Empire was the most traditional. They were the ones who disregarded the development of soul tools the most. As there were too many traditional sects in the Star Luo Empire that discriminated against soul tools, the imperial family wasn't able to advertise the use of soul tools on a large scale.

It was only after Princess Jiujiu interacted with the Tang Sect that they decided to start using Zhuge Divine Crossbow Cannons. It was just that the Sun Moon Empire had managed to completely destroy the cannons on the Western Border before they could even unleash their full strength. Only some of the cannons in the military camp were able to have some effect.

Seeing that the Big Dipper Douluo was about to take Dai Yueheng away, the White Tiger Duke revealed a gentle expression on his determined face. While Dai Yueheng was a slightly haughty person, he had become much better after following his father for a few years. Furthermore, his cultivation talent even exceeded the White Tiger Duke's. With both Dai Yueheng and Dai Huabin around, the White Tiger Duke's lineage would definitely last beyond him. However, whether this national crisis would...

Dai Hao lifted his head again after sighing silently. He had already made his decision. He could only make a choice now, and it was only by sacrificing his White Tiger bodyguards and himself that he could save those soul masters. War was brutal. As a commander, he had to be decisive.

"White Tigers, listen to my command!" Dai Hao shouted.

If the First Soul Master Legion retreated, his defense here would immediately disappear. When that happened, his White Tiger bodyguards were likely to be killed by the attacks of the aerial soul tools even though their individual fighting strength could compare to either a one or two-ringed soul master.

As he clenched his lips tightly, Dai Hao took a deep look at all the brothers and comrades that had followed him for years. He tried his best to hold back his tears. After this short half a day's worth of war, there were only slightly more than a thousand of his White Tiger bodyguards left.

My brothers, I've let all of you down!

All the commanders among the White Tiger bodyguards quickly gathered in front of Dai Hao to receive their orders. These commanders were also soul masters, and their cultivations were quite high, too.

Dai Hao said, "Later, we'll need to cover the First Soul Master Legion as they retreat towards the north."

One of the leading commanders asked, "Marshal, are we creating a diversion?"

"Yes." Dai Hao nodded.

This bunch of commanders knelt down on the ground at the same time, "Marshal, please retreat along with the First Soul Master Legion." They understood the White Tiger Duke very well. They could naturally see the determined look in his eyes.

Dai Hao smiled and lifted his hands. A strong force lifted these loyal commanders to their feet. "Do you think those guys from the Sun Moon Empire will let me off if I'm among those who are trying to escape? More people can escape if I'm the bait. White Tigers like us cannot be cowardly, given that we lead the Northwestern Field Army. Are all of you willing to die with me?"

"Marshal!" All of them exclaimed sorrowfully. They weren't afraid of death, and were willing to sacrifice their lives for the White Tiger Duke. It was just that they couldn't watch helplessly as the White Tiger Duke perished along with them!

"We don't have much time left. This is an order. All of you should understand that no one can change my course after I've made up my mind. Go and prepare! After I make my move, all of you shall follow me! Quick!"

This bunch of commanders held back their tears as they turned around. Dai Hao's tears finally flowed as he watched their backs. He lifted his head to look into the sky and muttered to himself as he watched the soul rays that were coming from the sky, "If there's a next life, I'm willing to be brothers with all of you again. I'm sorry that I can't protect all of you." He clenched his fist, and the veins on his arms became very obvious. His aura started to rise rapidly, and nine soul rings rose from beneath his feet. The aura that he released was extremely wild, and even the Starsky Douluo Ye Yulin and the other strong individuals could sense it clearly.

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Ye Yulin said coldly, "The White Tiger Duke is going to go all-out. Be prepared to unleash all of your strength." As he spoke, his body also shone brightly. A large amount of soul power was poured into his Sunmoon Divine Needle. He only had one goal... kill Dai Hao! As long as this White Tiger Duke was dead, all the defenses on the western side of the Star Luo Empire would be compromised. Of course, he didn't

think that the White Tiger Duke's presence could affect the big picture that much either way. Whether it was the Star Luo Empire, the Heavenly Soul Empire or the Dou Ling Empire, he believed that they were on the cusp of annihilation. This world already belonged to soul tools. While these three empires had started to realize this in recent years, they were still a little too late.

Just as things got tense between both sides and the battle was about to reach its end, a strange aura suddenly filled the entire place.

A rose-gold vertical eye suddenly opened in the sky without any warning. It appeared between the two soul engineering legions in the sky and the remaining White Tiger bodyguards on the ground.

When it appeared, the soul rays that shot towards the ground would instantly be diverted away by some strange force when they came within a hundred-meter diameter from it. These soul rays were then unable to pose any threat. nDVe-Lb-1n

Rose-gold sunray patterns slowly spread out. Under the influence of these magical patterns, everything in the area turned weird.

The White Tiger Duke heard a familiar voice in his head. "Aren't you going to carry out your plan? What are you waiting for?"

When he heard this voice, Dai Huo was first shocked. After this, he immediately recalled something, and revealed a delighted look in his eyes. He shouted, "White Tigers, follow me. First Soul Master Legion, retreat!"

The White Tiger Duke was the first to move, and he led his bodyguards towards the north. He led the charge, and quickly burst into the distance. He intentionally ran very quickly, and widened the gap between him and his bodyguards. He knew that he was his enemies' most important target. The closer his men were to him, the faster they would die!

On the other side, the Big Dipper Douluo was already tearing up. Dai Yueheng, who planned to save his father, led the First Soul Master Legion towards the southeast. Figures rose roughly five meters from the ground and flew in that direction using flying-type soul tools they had already prepared. Otherwise, they wouldn't have been able to protect the White Tiger bodyguards and flee so far. Without the White Tiger bodyguards to burden them now, they were able to flee much more quickly.

Dai Hao flew forward with all his speed. Given his abilities as a Titled Douluo, his speed was very high even though he wasn't an agility-type soul master. However, he found it very strange that the soul engineers in the sky didn't unleash their all-out attack against him even though he was fleeing at top speed. Even if the Starsky Douluo's attack could cover a huge region, was he really so self-confident?

However, the White Tiger Duke didn't know that all the soul engineers, including Ye Yulin, were seeing things quite differently. Just as Dai Hao heard that mysterious voice, the Starsky Douluo and every soul engineer heard that mysterious voice as well.

"I come from the Holy Ghost Church, and I was tasked by my leader to assist all of you. I'll use a secret technique to freeze all of them below. After that, you can attack them with all your might and destroy them." A cold voice sounded in everyone's head. Even the Starsky Douluo was moved, even though he was normally a proud person.

They were in a defensive formation formed by several hundred soul engineers working together. Even a Transcendent Douluo wouldn't be able to breach this formation easily. It was a combination of the strength of a few hundred soul engineers. Although this huge protective barrier wasn't completely impenetrable, it should be able to resist a few attacks from an Ultimate Douluo. This was also the strongest trump card of the five soul engineering legions of the Sun Moon Empire's Hand that Protects the Nation.

However, the person with that mysterious voice was still able to transmit his spiritual intent even under such conditions. It showed how strong his spiritual power was.

Furthermore, Ye Yulin felt a very familiar feeling when he heard that voice, although he couldn't recall where he had heard it before.

However, he still chose to believe that mysterious voice as he had no other choice, given what happened below.

The light released from the scarlet-gold vertical eye engulfed the entire area below, and the entire White Tiger Duke's remaining army was hugely affected. All of them were disoriented, and their defense against aerial attacks weakened significantly.

Ye Yulin wouldn't forgo such an opportunity. He immediately pointed his right hand downward and shouted, "All-out attack!"

Soul rays immediately rained down. His Sunmoon Divine Needle that had just been fully charged unleashed a streak of golden-silver light towards Dai Hao, who had exposed himself.

Suddenly, there was a bloody scene below. Along with the coordination of the rose-gold vertical eye, there was a massacre. Patches of bloody light shone, and lives were quickly taken. Only the defenses of some soul masters were still effective. Even so, they were still completely annihilated after some time.

After Ye Yulin unleashed his Sunmoon Divine Needle, he immediately retrieved a Milk Bottle to recover his soul power. While his Sun Moon Divine Needle was strong, it greatly drained his soul power. He had already used it twice today. As a soul engineer, he knew that he had to keep himself at his peak in enemy territory. He didn't continue attacking. The White Tiger Duke would definitely be unable to hold on for much longer!

?Chapter 423.2: The White Tiger's Crisis

As he recovered his soul power, Ye Yulin monitored the situation beneath him. When he saw the White Tiger bodyguards and the soul engineers of the Star Luo Empire's First Soul Master Legion being killed, he felt something wasn't right. The vertical eye had appeared at a very weird time. If he was sent by His Majesty, why didn't he show himself immediately? Furthermore, why didn't he discuss it with us before he appeared?

After he thought of all this, Ye Yulin was suddenly shocked. He shouted, "Stop!" His voice was transmitted through a sound amplifying soul tool. The soul engineers from the Terrorclaw Soul Engineering Legion and Evil Tyrant Soul Engineering Legion could hear him clearly.

Soul engineer legions were very disciplined. They needed to coordinate extremely well within their ranks in order to unleash their greatest fighting strength. All the soul engineers stopped instantly, and the entire place went silent.

Things didn't seem amiss below. Tragic screams and sorrowful cries could be heard. The remaining White Tiger bodyguards quickly gathered.

The White Tiger Duke had already disappeared under the attack of Ye Yulin's Sunmoon Divine Needle and there was only a huge crater in the ground where he had been standing. Everything seemed to be very normal. However, Ye Yulin felt that something wasn't right.

"Remove the barrier," Ye Yulin ordered.

The two soul engineer legions trusted him. After all, it seemed like everything had been decided. It wasn't possible for those on the ground to attack them or fly into the sky. The two huge protective soul barriers were quickly retracted and turned into streaks of lights that fused with the soul tool behind every soul engineer's back.

When these protective soul barriers were retracted, Ye Yulin's expression suddenly changed, and he shouted furiously, "No! It's an illusion!"

Yes, he could immediately sense intense spiritual undulations the moment the barriers were retracted. If not for the fact that he was wary, he might not have noticed these spiritual undulations at all. However, these spiritual undulations weren't aimed at the ground.

They were clearly engulfing the airborne legions. If that person earlier was helping them, why would his spiritual undulations be engulfing them?

While a joint protective soul barrier was very strong, there was still one problem: it completely isolated the outside world. As a result, they weren't able to sense the strong spiritual undulations earlier.

Once he discovered that something was wrong, Ye Yulin couldn't be bothered with conserving his soul power anymore. His Sunmoon Divine Needle immediately turned and faced the rose-gold vertical eye before firing an intense beam of light.

This beam of golden-silver light immediately turned illusory and disappeared when it got close to that rose-gold vertical eye. Initially, everything within the view of all the soul engineers completely changed.

There was no longer a bloody scene below. Yes, there were many holes that were blown apart in the ground. However, there wasn't even a single corpse.

The First Soul Master Legion had already vanished. After such a long time, they had already flown more than five kilometers with their flying-type soul tools.

The White Tiger Bodyguards had also disappeared from their line of sight. The White Tiger Duke was nowhere to be seen. What left Ye Yulin even more depressed was that he didn't know who had released the rose-gold vertical eye. Given how strong that illusory soul skill was, it had to be at least the work of a Titled Douluo who possessed great spiritual power.

"Chase them! The White Tiger Duke won't forsake his bodyguards. He must be over there." As he spoke, Ye Yulin quickly activated his flying-type soul tool and chased after the White Tiger bodyguards.

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Just as Ye Yulin and the others were attacking with all their strength, Dai Hao discovered that something was wrong. He could hear tremendous booms behind him. As he turned, he saw the countless soul rays that were raining down on them, but these soul rays were still striking the original spot they were in.

They didn't chase after them. The rose-gold vertical eye was still flashing brightly in the sky.

This was...

His doubt instantly turned into extreme delight. He understood that someone must have used some method to misdirect the two soul engineer legions, and made them think that they were still in their original spot.

When he heard that voice earlier, he could tell that it was a familiar one. It sounded like the guy who gave him the Sunmoon Divine Needle before.

After he realized all this, Dai Hao didn't bother running far away anymore. If he wanted to escape, he had a lot of opportunities to do so right now. No matter how strong Ye Yulin was or how magical his Sunmoon Divine Needle was, it wasn't a problem for him to escape the detection range of Ye Yulin's Sunmoon Divine Needle given his abilities.

However, he still turned back without any hesitation. This was because he had to leave with his brothers even if he wanted to escape. They would either survive together or die together!

Dai Hao returned to his White Tiger bodyguards and shouted at the top of his voice, "White Tigers, run with all your might! Don't care about what's happening behind! This is our only chance!" He just hoped that the powerful individual would be able to delay Ye Yulin a bit longer. While he knew that it would be very difficult to escape with so many White Tiger bodyguards, he had no choice right now. At this moment, he saw a beam of light penetrating the rose-gold vertical eye in the distance, and the aerial attacks on the ground had already ceased. After this, he heard Ye Yulin roaring furiously before the two soul engineering legions attacked again. They flew extremely quickly towards them.

Are we still unable to escape in the end?? Dai Hao revealed a lost look in his eyes. However, this was already the best result they could achieve. At least those from the First Soul Master Legion had left. There was still a glimmer of hope for the empire.

Dai Hao wasn't cowardly, and there was a determined look in his eyes. Just as he was about to fly up to fight his enemies, that mysterious voice sounded again. In addition, his voice now reached every White Tiger bodyguard.

"White Tigers, continued to run forward and enter the black doors in front of you. When you enter, don't act recklessly no matter what you see. This is your only chance to survive. Quick! Or else it'll be too late." At the end, that voice sounded very anxious.

Dai Hao was stunned and quickly turned around. He was shocked to discover that several pitch-black doors had risen behind him. There were twelve of these doors. Every door was around three meters wide and ten meters tall. They gave off a very mysterious feeling.

The magnificent demonic patterns around these doors revealed a sinister aura.

At this point, Dai Hao's decisiveness was revealed. He didn't hesitate and immediately gave an order.

"Enter those black doors in order. There must be no confusion." The best way to enter those doors wasn't just by running towards them. The White Tiger bodyguards had to adopt a strict and neat formation.

The White Tiger bodyguards were already prepared to die. However, how could they not be delightfully surprised now that they were offered a glimmer of hope? If they could live, who would be willing to die?

Instantly, the fit White Tiger bodyguards sprinted towards those twelve black doors. However, they tried their best to maintain their formation as they charged, and weren't messy as they made their escape.

Dai Hao didn't leave. He rose into the sky. He had already calculated very clearly that during this short period of time they were offered, his White Tiger bodyguards would be within the attacking range of the two soul engineering legions before they entered the black doors. He was not going to leave until the last White Tiger bodyguard was safe.

How could the White Tiger Duke be ordinary, given that his subordinates were willing to risk their lives for him?

He heard a sigh and subconsciously turned his head to one side. He only saw a black figure floating not far away from him.

This person was completely covered in black and he was even wearing headgear that concealed his appearance. From his body shape, it seemed like he was a slender man.

"White Tiger Duke, why aren't you leaving?" This man in black had evidently altered his voice. He sounded low-pitched and hoarse right now.

Dai Hao replied, "I've never forsaken any soldier under me. Even if we have to retreat, I have to be the last man."

The man in black asked, "Don't you think that's very foolish? You can only protect the lives of more citizens of the Sun Moon Empire if you are alive."

Dai Hao laughed. His laughter sounded very free and easy, "Of course I know how foolish it is. However, this is what White Tigers believe in. Even if I'm foolish, I have to stay true to this belief. I have descendants, so what if I die? Thank you, Sir. You must be the one helping us. You must be the same guy from before, am I right?"

The man in black remained silent for a moment before answering, "Are you really planning to be the last to leave?"

"Yes." Dai Hao answered his question and his nine soul rings flashed.

"Alright, I'll stay with you, then." The man in black sounded like he was in a bit of a dilemma. However, he also sounded very relieved when he finished speaking.

"Sir, you don't have to do this. You've already helped us enough."

“Stop talking nonsense and prepare to receive our enemies. I hope that your subordinates can run faster.” As he spoke, the man in black vanished into thin air.

After a few seconds, a rose-gold vertical eye appeared a thousand meters away in mid-air and blocked the advance of the soul engineer legions.

Initially, Ye Yulin could have fired his Sunmoon Divine Needle immediately, as Dai Hao was within range. However, he was greatly drained after firing his Sunmoon Divine Needle twice. He had already started preparing other soul tools, which were still very threatening in his hands

Chapter 423.3: The White Tiger’s Crisis

However, the rose-gold vertical eye reappeared before he could lock onto the White Tiger Duke. Furthermore, everything in front of him turned blurry the moment it appeared. The White Tiger Duke and his bodyguards immediately became very unclear. If they were so unclear, how could Ye Yulin lock onto Dai Hao?

He wasn’t the only one who felt that way. All the soul engineers had the same feeling.

“Idiot, you are courting death! Turn him into waste!” Ye Yulin shouted. Countless soul rays instantly streamed towards the golden vertical eye.

When these soul rays were still dozens of meters away from the vertical eye, the vertical eye instantly transformed into bubbles and disappeared.

However, its appearance had also caused the two soul engineer legions to stop. Before the soul engineers were even able to react, the rose-gold vertical eye silently appeared again in mid-air after the soul rays passed through it.

What’s going on? Even if this is an illusion, it has to be created by a soul master! Why is it able to vanish on its own just as it’s about to be attacked, and reappear after that? What kind of ability is this?

Naturally, they didn’t know that this was what Huo Yuhao was capable of after his spiritual power reached the concrete-material realm. n)/OVeLbIn

The rose-gold vertical eye was created by Huo Yuhao, but it wasn’t just an illusion. As long as Huo Yuhao was willing, he could make it real. In fact, all the illusions that had affected them earlier were created by this vertical eye.

The greatest difference between the concrete-material and concrete-immaterial realm was that spiritual power in the concrete-immaterial realm could only spawn a spiritual avatar that could detect and survey things, but not do anything concrete. Huo Yuhao’s spiritual power in the concrete-material realm was an extension of his own body. Within a certain region, this extension of his body possessed some of his powers. Huo Yuhao could retract this extension with just a thought. As he released and retracted this extension, he managed to slow the advance of the two soul engineer legions.

Huo Yuhao couldn’t possibly beat the Starsky Douluo in a duel. However, he was able to use all sorts of confusing tactics through his spiritual power and Spirit Eyes. On such a huge battlefield, capturing him would be very difficult. As long as Huo Yuhao didn’t risk his life, it would take a Transcendent Douluo to lock onto him with his spiritual power.

Others might be afraid of Ye Yulin's Sunmoon Divine Needle, but Huo Yuhao wasn't. His Sunmoon Divine Needle couldn't lock onto Huo Yuhao unless the Evileye Tyrant King was helping Ye Yulin accurately target him. The best way of targeting Huo Yuhao was a powerful area of effect attack or a soul tool, and would also depend on one's own cultivation. However, Huo Yuhao could predict things. Even in the face of such situations, he could still choose to flee. While his fighting strength wasn't anything much on a battlefield, his survival skills were much better than most Titled Douluo.

However, using his spiritual power in the concrete-material realm was still quite draining. After all, Huo Yuhao was the only one apart from Ultimate Douluo and those with the same spiritual cultivation who could use his spiritual power to unleash a soul skill. In terms of spiritual cultivation, Huo Yuhao could compare to an ordinary spiritual-type Titled Douluo.

As the rose-gold vertical eye appeared once again, things turned blurry in front of the Starsky Douluo yet again. His expression also turned serious, and his fury grew.

Given his experience, how could he not tell that this person didn't want to fight it out with him? They wouldn't have performed so many tricks if otherwise. Given the two soul engineer legions he had with him, he was confident of fighting an Ultimate Douluo!

Ye Yulin snorted and said, "Blow up the entire region straight ahead and between five hundred and a thousand meters away. Make sure the angle covered is a hundred and eighty degrees. Find that guy!"

Under his command, all the soul engineers started to move. They changed their soul rays to soul cannons, and explosive shells quickly filled the air.

Ye Yulin revealed a cold smile. "I don't believe I can't blow this entire place up and make you appear. You have to be within range in order to use your soul skill." The region he had ordered the soul engineer legions to cover was extensive.

The tremendous booms that ensued turned the sky completely red. The energy storm generated from the explosions raged out, and terrifying lights flashed. Every time they flashed, the air would start to distort furiously.

Huo Yuhao had already turned back and fled the moment Ye Yulin ordered the two soul engineer legions. Ye Yulin was simply too vicious, and Yuhao couldn't possibly handle such an attack. Once he was stuck in the explosions, his Imitation was bound to be overcome. Given the abilities of Ye Yulin and all the Class 8 and 9 soul engineers with him, Huo Yuhao would be wasted by their advanced soul tools the moment his position was exposed.

He had no choice but to flee.

As the explosions ensued, seven to eight figures also quickly flew out from the two soul engineer legions. They advanced in different directions as they pursued the retreating White Tiger bodyguards.

These soul engineers were some of the strongest in the Sun Moon Empire. Naturally, they understood what the most effective way to deal with an illusion was. They had caught a fleeting glimpse of the black doors earlier. Although they didn't know what those doors were, they could roughly guess that their pursuit would be unsuccessful once these White Tiger bodyguards entered those doors. They had to stop them from retreating.

Huo Yuhao didn't return to the White Tiger Duke's side. Under such circumstances, he knew that they could only prevail by surprise, and delaying the incoming soul engineers.

The White Tiger Duke was fearless even against the handful of soul engineers that were advancing towards them. He flew into the sky, and his third and fifth soul rings shone brightly, bringing up his White Tiger's Vajra Transformation and White Tiger's Devilgod Transformation. His body instantly grew to more than three meters in height, and his muscles bulged. His dominating aura, along with his strong killing intent, welcomed the incoming soul engineers.

Among the seven soul engineers, three of them were Class 9 soul engineers, including Ye Yulin. The remaining four were Class 8 soul engineers. If these soul engineers weren't equipped with soul tools, they wouldn't be able to compare to the White Tiger Duke given the strength of their martial souls. Even if the White Tiger Duke couldn't challenge all of them, his strength was still close to their combined abilities. Advanced soul engineers devoted their energy towards soul tool research, and thus their individual fighting strength was pretty weak.

Ye Yulin flew at the center of the group. The Sunmoon Divine Needle above him had also already started charging. He knew that the White Tiger Duke wasn't going to be easy to deal with. Without his destructive Sunmoon Divine Needle, they wouldn't be able to kill Dai Hao quickly. If the others were able to stall Dai Hao and he dealt the fatal blow, things would be settled. As for the hidden enemy, his position would immediately be revealed the moment he dared to appear. He would also be killed. Right now, both Sunmoon Divine Needles were charging!

Ye Yulin didn't know that this strategy would get him into huge trouble.

A figure was silently creeping up on him. In terms of soul tools, Ye Yulin was one of the strongest in the entire continent. However, his senses weren't any better than an ordinary Titled Douluo, while the person who was creeping closer to him was the Eye of the Asura, whose spiritual power had shocked even the Beast God, Di Tian!

Huo Yuhao knew the goal of these soul engineers. As long as Dai Hao was still around, they wouldn't give up their attacks on him. To save the White Tiger Duke, the best way was to fight!

Right now, Huo Yuhao was following behind Ye Yulin. He didn't use any soul tools to aid him in flying, but his own cultivation. While Ye Yulin was flying very quickly, he still flew behind the other soul engineers, as he needed to charge his Sunmoon Divine Needle and locate Dai Hao. He was the rearmost point of their encirclement.

Huo Yuhao estimated his spiritual power. Under the effect of his Imitation, he believed that he wouldn't be discovered even if he got within fifty meters of Ye Yulin. If he inched any closer, however, he was unsure of what would happen. Furthermore, he also believed that Ye Yulin had already taken precautions against him.

The Starsky Douluo posed the greatest threat to him and the White Tiger Duke of all these soul engineers. The offensive power of the Starsky Douluo's Sunmoon Divine Needle was simply too scary. Many Titled Douluo were unable to handle the power of even a single strike from his Sunmoon Divine Needle. They only had a chance of escaping if they settled the Starsky Douluo first.

When Huo Yuhao was fifty meters away, he stopped inching closer. Instead, he silently followed the Starsky Douluo as he drew closer to Dai Hao.

In order to not draw fire on his subordinates, Dai Hao had already flown into the sky. These soul engineers had no issue with the White Tiger bodyguards escaping. They were content as long as the White Tiger Duke was killed. As the soul engineers drew closer to Dai Hao, Ye Yulin's Sunmoon Divine Needle was about to finish charging.

The other two Class 9 soul engineers and four Class 8 soul engineers acted at almost the same time. Without any exceptions, their soul tools were all control-type. Light nets and powerful soul paralysis rays were unleashed towards the White Tiger Duke.

Dai Hao's eyes lit up as he witnessed the incoming attacks. White sparks instantly flashed from his body. As his body shook in mid-air, he unleashed his seventh soul skill, his Martial Soul True Body. Just as he was about to risk his life, something weird suddenly occurred.

In an instant, that huge white tiger vanished in thin air, while the Starsky Douluo sensed a huge threat at that moment.

Two figures appeared behind Ye Yulin at the same time. One of them was Dai Hao, who was already in his White Tiger form now. The other figure was Huo Yuhao, who was still dressed in black. It was too sudden, and Ye Yulin was unable to react in time!

Chapter 424.1: Sparing Nothing for the Rescue

When they appeared behind Ye Yulin, all the soul engineers were stunned. How is this possible? Since when was the White Tiger Duke able to use Instant Teleportation? Furthermore, there isn't any known Instant Teleportation skill with that kind of range!

Of course, Instant Teleportation couldn't teleport someone so far away, and neither did the White Tiger Duke possess such a skill. However, Huo Yuhao did. More accurately speaking, it was Xu Sanshi that possessed such a skill.

Wang Qiu'er had once taken Huo Yuhao to the Great Star Dou Forest to attain a strange soul skill. Huo Yuhao rarely used this soul skill. However, it was able to turn the tides every time it was used. This soul skill was called Duplication.

Before Huo Yuhao's spiritual cultivation reached such a high level, his Duplication had limited effects. There were some powerful soul skills that he couldn't duplicate. However, his spiritual power was at the concrete-material realm now! No matter how strong a martial soul was, he was able to duplicate all its soul skills. Of course, the strength of the soul skills he duplicated corresponded to his cultivation when he unleashed them.

Before leaving Shrek City, he had found Xu Sanshi and duplicated Xu Sanshi's evolved fourth soul skill, Xuanwu Displacement. From afar, his opponent or partner could be instantly shifted in front of him. It wasn't just a displacement, it was more like a summoning. The skill should have been called Xuanwu Summoning instead.

In fact, Huo Yuhao used two soul skills at once. His first soul skill was his Instant Teleportation, a skill from his soul bone. Instantly, he crossed the fifty-meter gap between him and the Starsky Douluo and

appeared behind him. He wasn't restricted by distance when he unleashed his soul skills. However, such a distance was undoubtedly more suitable for the White Tiger Duke to launch an attack! n(.o/)V()ε).L- /b)-1))n

After he used his Instant Teleportation, he unleashed his Xuanwu Summoning. Both he and Dai Hao unexpectedly appeared behind the Starsky Douluo.

Purplish-gold light flashed, and Huo Yuhao's linked third soul skill also took effect. He didn't open his Eye of Destiny earlier to control his aura, and right now, they didn't have much time left, so he used his normal Spiritual Shock.

However, it was important to note that Huo Yuhao already had a seven-ringed cultivation! Along with his immense spiritual power, his Spiritual Shock could even affect someone as strong as Ye Yulin.

However, Ye Yulin demonstrated his strength as a Class 9 soul engineer. When Huo Yuhao's Spiritual Shock was about to reach him, a black headband suddenly shone on his forehead. On this headband was a silvery-white gem, which was crushed instantly. As he moved slightly, everything in front of him turned black. However, he wasn't greatly hurt by Huo Yuhao's Spiritual Shock.

However, this momentary delay was still enough, because he was delayed just as Dai Hao was being teleported over.

The White Tiger Duke was very experienced. While he was shocked by the fact that he was suddenly behind Ye Yulin, he still hated the Starsky Douluo greatly. How would he show any mercy?

Streaks of blinding white light instantly shone behind Ye Yulin. It was the White Tiger Duke's sixth soul skill, White Tiger's Extermination. He unleashed it on the Starsky Douluo while he was in his Martial Soul True Body.

Ye Yulin couldn't even turn around right now, but he still managed to smack his right hand against his chest, and something strange happened. Countless spots of golden light shone on his body. These golden lights were like stars in the night sky. When Dai Hao's attack landed on Ye Yulin's body, these spots of lights immediately joined together and formed a web. This web of light blocked Dai Hao's attack.

For Titled Douluo, Invincible Barriers didn't have much effect anymore, because there was a limit to the class of an Invincible Barrier. The strongest Invincible Barrier that existed as of now was only Class 7, and could only be able to resist one strike from an assault-type Titled Douluo. For someone of Ye Yulin's standards, it didn't offer much protection.

The protective soul tool that Ye Yulin owned and had just unleashed was called the Starsky Barrier. It was his strongest defensive soul tool at Class 9.

There were no soul engineers that weren't concerned about their own defense. They knew about the gap between them and higher-tier soul masters in terms of physical strength.

When the White Tiger Duke's all-out attack collided with Ye Yulin's Starsky Barrier, Ye Yulin exploited its momentum to unleash his soul thruster and widen the gap between him and Huo Yuhao and Dai Hao. However, he still groaned and spat out blood when he was struck. Huo Yuhao had a fantastic and rare

opportunity in front of him. How could he possibly give it up? With the Starsky Douluo around, they practically had no chance to escape!

When Ye Yulin's Starsky Barrier lit up, Huo Yuhao had already started making his move. His Eye of Destiny opened, and a strange halo instantly landed on the Starsky Douluo's body. The sixth soul ring of Huo Yuhao's Spirit Eyes shone. This rose-gold soul ring was covered in a magical glow. He had unleashed one of the two soul skills of this soul ring that Wang Qiu'er had given him, Spiritual Reaving.

Instantly, Ye Yulin felt a little dizzy. The headband that he had specially created to resist spiritual-type attacks didn't have any reaction. One of the three silvery-white gems on his headband was already crushed, but the other two gems didn't react at this moment.

An indescribable sense of crisis turned Ye Yulin pale at this moment. His reaction was on point. The light from his flying-type soul tool and soul thruster were instantly extinguished. He even gave up his control of the two Sunmoon Divine Needles in the air. His body immediately crashed toward the ground, as if he were in freefall.

After Huo Yuhao unleashed his Spiritual Reaving, he followed it with an all-out strike of his Spiritual Shock.

Boom, boom!

The two remaining gems on Ye Yulin's forehead instantly blew apart. His headband, which was roughly as strong as a Class 8 soul tool, was completely destroyed at this moment. Not only that, but he also groaned as blood started flowing from his pores.

After being struck by Huo Yuhao's Spiritual Reaving, his defense against spiritual attacks became effectively useless! This was the most effective attack Huo Yuhao could use on powerful soul masters and soul engineers. Of course, the prerequisite had to be that his opponent wasn't prepared for it.

Dai Hao wanted to chase Ye Yulin, but he was immediately stopped by Huo Yuhao. "Quick, rise into the sky and take control of his Sunmoon Divine Needles."

Dai Hao immediately understood what he was trying to do. Following this, he felt a streak of spiritual power linking with him. Everything around him was presented mentally through Huo Yuhao's Spiritual Detection.

Right now, almost all the White Tiger bodyguards had successfully escaped. The last wave of bodyguards was entering the twelve black doors right now. Under such circumstances, their escape plan would be perfect as long as the two of them were able to flee successfully.

Under the guidance of Huo Yuhao's spiritual power, the two of them quickly rose into the sky. As the Starsky Douluo's spiritual sea had been hurt, and he was afraid that the White Tiger Duke would chase him, he was rapidly descending at this moment. It was too late for him to stop Huo Yuhao and Dai Hao. In addition, the rest of the soul engineers were still attacking in the direction Dai Hao was earlier. As they regained awareness, they only managed to relocate Dai Hao at this point.

Everything happened too quickly. Seeing that Huo Yuhao and Dai Hao were rising into the sky, streaks of light shot towards the both of them. All the soul engineers believed that the two of them were trying to escape.

The distorted rays flashed around Huo Yuhao and Dai Hao. Huo Yuhao used his Spiritual Interference Domain. He had already demonstrated the strength of his Spiritual Interference Domain earlier. Not even a Titled Douluo could see through it. Suddenly, the rays weren't able to lock onto them and struck nothing.

"Area of effect attack." Ye Yulin managed to stabilize his body at this point and flew up once again. Right now, he looked very pale, but he was also very angry. He had been subjected to a sneak attack. Not only was a Class 8 soul tool destroyed, but he was also seriously hurt. At this moment, he was suffering from a splitting headache. If not for his Class 8 headband, he would be half-dead. He put on another soul tool that defended against spiritual power and flew up again.

However, Huo Yuhao and Dai Hao had a much greater head-start. As they flew at their quickest speed, they were already inching close to the two Sunmoon Divine Needles.

Dai Hao had used a Sunmoon Divine Needle before. Naturally, he knew how to control it, and immediately used his soul and spiritual power to complete his connection to one of the two Sunmoon Divine Needles. Furthermore, the Sunmoon Divine Needle that he had used before was given to him by Huo Yuhao. While Huo Yuhao wasn't strong enough to use this Class 9 soul tool in the past, he did research it before! Thus he wasn't unfamiliar with its controls, either. The two of them quickly controlled the two Sunmoon Divine Needles. In addition, both these needles had been charged up by the Starsky Douluo earlier.

"Ye Yulin, you can have a taste of the strength of your Sunmoon Divine Needles, too. We shall blow you apart!" Huo Yuhao shouted.

Ye Yulin almost wet his pants. He had invented these two Sunmoon Divine Needles and understood how powerful they were. His Starsky Barrier could defend against other attacks, but he was bound to be evaporated from the face of the earth if the attacks of two Sunmoon Divine Needles hit him.

Instantly, he descended again without any hesitation. At the same time, a Class 7 Invincible Barrier also rose up, and streaks of defensive soul rays were continuously being unleashed.

He only had one life. He wasn't going to gamble with it!

Just as Huo Yuhao spoke, the two Sunmoon Divine Needles had already been unleashed. However, they weren't fired towards the Starsky Douluo.

Dai Hao was startled while Huo Yuhao was speaking. This was because his Sunmoon Divine Needle was being aimed through Huo Yuhao's spiritual power, but the target wasn't Ye Yulin!

?Chapter 424.2: Sparing Nothing for the Rescue

Two streaks of golden-silver light formed two thin beams of light in the air. The most terrifying thing about a Sunmoon Divine Needle was that it could compress a huge amount of energy into a wisp. The destructive power of a single streak of light unleashed by a Sunmoon Divine Needle was extremely terrifying.

Dai Hao had resisted one strike today, and all his defensive soul tools were crushed. He was even badly scorched.

Right now, the two Sunmoon Divine Needles were aimed at the other two Class 9 soul engineers.

Huo Yuhao had shouted very loudly before. Naturally, these two Class 9 soul engineers heard him. However, hearing him and seeing what was going on were two different things. From the looks of it, those two beams of light were about to shoot towards them!

These two Class 9 soul engineers couldn't be bothered with their image anymore. Both of them screamed, and different-colored protective barriers flashed wildly. It was more important for them to save their own lives, no matter the cost of the defensive soul tools they had to use!

Two tremendous booms resonated across the sky. Two golden-silver suns seemed to have lit up the sky.

"Quickly, flee!" Huo Yuhao shouted at Dai Hao and quickly unleashed his Imitation, which engulfed both of them. At the same time, they flew diagonally downward. However, they weren't flying towards the twelve black doors.

While Huo Yuhao's Imitation could conceal them, they would still be revealed if they were struck by an area of effect attack. Huo Yuhao couldn't possibly take any risks right now.

The two soul engineer legions had already chased after them, and all the soul engineers could naturally tell what was happening. They also possessed a wealth of experience and instantly unleashed area of effect attacks using their soul tools. The area that they covered included the route that Huo Yuhao and Dai Hao had to take to reach the twelve black doors.

If Huo Yuhao's earlier choice had been wrong, they wouldn't have been able to escape in the face of this barrage of attacks.

Dai Hao's back broke out in a cold sweat as he watched the patches of light descend from the sky.

Right now, he and Huo Yuhao were flying towards the two soul engineer legions, aiming for the space beneath them.

At times, the most dangerous place was the safest place. The carpet attacks that they unleashed would certainly not target the region they were in.

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Ye Yulin had risen into the sky again, and the other two Class 9 soul engineers were well-prepared. Before they entered the Star Luo Empire this time, they had made rich preparations, and thus managed to preserve their lives even when facing attacks from the two Sunmoon Divine Needles.

What left Ye Yulin pale was that Huo Yuhao didn't just tap into the power of his Sunmoon Divine Needles, but also disappeared with them as he and Dai Hao vanished. Those were Class 9 soul tools! Their value couldn't be measured in terms of money! Furthermore, they were Sunmoon Divine Needles that possessed immense destructive strength. He only had one Sunmoon Divine Needle left with him now!

The twelve black doors quickly shut after the last White Tiger bodyguard entered.

All the soul engineers were furious and charged towards those twelve black doors after they failed to locate Huo Yuhao and Dai Hao.

However, it was a pity that these doors that came from Huo Yuhao's spectral demiplane weren't real entities. Soul rays and cannon shells were unable to enter through or damage the doors. Only living creatures and specters were able to cross through them.

By the time the soul engineers reached the doors, they had already shut and disappeared.

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Huo Yuhao had already fled far away, along with Dai Hao. It was already too late for the two soul engineer legions to use their thermal detectors and aerial surveillance soul tools. Thermal detectors could only operate within a limited range. It was impossible for them to locate Huo Yuhao and Dai Hao anymore!

Huo Yuhao was panting heavily now. While he had only fought for a short time earlier, he had put everything he had into that fight. Not only were his soul and spiritual power greatly drained, but his energy was also expended. Both he and Dai Hao had faced many powerful soul engineers earlier. If they had made even one mistake, they would have died!

Dai Hao put the Sunmoon Divine Needle away in his storage-type soul tool and said sincerely, "Thanks. You've saved me once again."

He had already resigned himself to the fact that he was going to die today, but hadn't expected this miraculous person to appear and save not just his subordinates, but himself as well! He knew how dangerous things had been earlier. Right now, his back was still covered in cold sweat. However, this person in front of him didn't care about anything else and saved him. In addition, this person also demonstrated all sorts of strange abilities. It seemed like he would appear every time he was in danger. Who exactly was he?

Huo Yuhao glanced at Dai Hao, and a complicated look flashed across his eyes. He only shook his head and didn't say anything else.

The two of them flew close to fifty kilometers before Huo Yuhao led Dai Hao to a remote area.

"White Tiger Duke, I'll only be with you until here. Your White Tiger bodyguards have been sent into another dimension. I'll lead them out now. Quickly, take them and leave." As he spoke, Huo Yuhao recited a few incantations and a black door opened.

There was only one door this time. Opening twelve doors at once was extremely draining on his soul power. If not for the fact that he wanted the White Tiger bodyguards to escape as quickly as possible earlier, he wouldn't have opened so many doors.

Huo Yuhao had thought out his plan to save the White Tiger Duke in a very short period of time. First, he unleashed his Spectral Doors at a distant location before making them invisible in the air. At the same time, he dispelled all the undead at the entrances of his Spectral Doors as he entered his spectral demiplane. They wouldn't get close to the entrances for a while. In this way, the White Tiger bodyguards wouldn't easily uncover the secret of his demiplane.

Next, he returned to the battlefield and told the White Tiger bodyguards that they could make their move. After that, he rose into the sky.

When he came up with this plan, Huo Yuhao had devised it according to the orders that the White Tiger Duke gave. Otherwise, there wouldn't have been so many coincidences!

Following this, he had unleashed all the abilities of his Spirit Eyes to their fullest. When he devised his plan, Huo Yuhao had clearly delegated himself a role. His role was to pester, and not to attack or fight. Given his individual strength, it was impossible for him to resist so many soul engineers. Fighting was a surefire way to die. He only had a chance by using his spiritual-type soul skills to pester his opponents.

Indeed, they were very effective on the battlefield. He eventually completed his rescue mission, an almost impossible task. He had performed a miracle. Whether it was the White Tiger Duke or the Starsky Douluo, they still weren't able to figure out his true identity.

The White Tiger Duke started tearing up when he saw his White Tiger bodyguards streaming out from the black door. If not for this person in front of him, all of his brothers would have died on the battlefield!

"Benefactor, can you let us see your true appearance? You've saved us twice. I have to repay these two favors. In the future, I'll help you fulfill any requests you have unless they betray my own principles and beliefs."

Dai Hao would never say something like this if Huo Yuhao had only saved him. However, Huo Yuhao had saved the lives of both him and his bodyguards on two different occasions. Given what he had done, Dai Hao couldn't help but make this heavy promise.

Huo Yuhao was slightly stunned, and replied, "Alright, remember what you've said today. As for my appearance, I won't reveal it. You'll get to see it one day."

Dai Hao was stunned for a moment. He noticed the slight surprise in Huo Yuhao's tone of voice. "Don't tell me I know this man?" However, he had no impression of this man, whether it was in terms of his voice or his figure.

Soon, the thirteen-hundred-plus White Tiger bodyguards had walked out of the Spectral Door and gathered around Dai Hao.

Huo Yuhao nodded at Dai Hao and said, "It's not safe here. Those soul engineers can fly. I estimate that they'll be searching this place soon. Quickly, retreat and mount your defenses."

"Benefactor, why don't you follow us back to our camp? Given your abilities..."

Huo Yuhao interrupted him by rising up and flying into the distance. In the blink of an eye, he had assimilated with the darkness and disappeared.

The White Tiger bodyguards all knelt as they watched as Huo Yuhao leave. He was their benefactor! Although the White Tiger Duke didn't kneel, there was a strong look of gratitude in his eyes.

Huo Yuhao's body shook a little after flying to a point where the White Tiger Duke and the rest couldn't see him anymore. Then, he spat out a mouthful of blood onto the black scarf he had used to mask his face.

His Butterfly Wings opened up, and he managed to stabilize himself.

Huo Yuhao's face was very pale as he pulled the black scarf down. There was a lost look in his eyes and he muttered, "Why? Why did I risk everything to save him? Aren't I supposed to hate him? However, I feel so relieved after saving him. This is... why..."

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Dawn. The sun slowly rose.

A bright sunrise was an indication that the weather would be good, and good weather always lifted one's spirits.

However, today was an exception. Even though the weather was good, those from the Star Luo Empire weren't in a good mood.

The defense of their Western Border had broken down, and news of this had quickly spread through various channels to the entire continent. The imperial family of the Star Luo Empire was shocked. As they dispatched their military, they requested aid from the Dou Ling and Heavenly Soul Empires.

No one had expected the Sun Moon Empire to make a move so quickly, and even come in such a ferocious manner. All three empires had expected the Sun Moon Empire's fighting strength to be great. However, they found out that their estimations were still too low when this terrifying crisis occurred. The Sun Moon Empire was much scarier than they had expected. The influence of soul tools on war had also exceeded their expectations.

Chapter 424.3: Sparing Nothing for the Rescue

A few soul engineer legions teamed up together to launch a lightning assault, and completely overwhelmed the Star Luo Empire's Northwestern Field Army. Disregarding the fact they had Class 9 stationary soul cannon shells to open the way for them, they still managed to demonstrate the strength of soul engineer legions.

Suddenly, the entire continent was in an uproar.

The Sun Moon Empire didn't launch any attacks on the neighboring Heavenly Soul Empire but deployed several soul engineer legions at the border.

After learning that the Sun Moon Empire had attacked the Star Luo Empire, the Heavenly Soul Empire deployed the Body Sect to lead a bunch of strong soul masters to launch a surprise attack the next day. However, they were intercepted by the Holy Ghost Church. Given the number of strong evil soul masters in the Holy Ghost Church, as well as the strength of their evil abilities, the Body Sect was forced to return without making any advances. If they didn't retreat, they might have been encircled by soul engineer legions, which would have made it difficult for them to flee.

On the other side, at the Star Luo Empire's Western Border, the Sun Moon Empire's military had already made their way into the Star Luo Empire's territories through the huge gap they had made. However, they didn't rush to attack, but quickly took control of several forts that had belonged to the Northwestern Field Army at the border. They consolidated their gains and strength at the border. Even so, everyone knew that they weren't going to stop attacking.

Ever since the Sun Moon Empire's Crown Prince Xu Tianran had ascended the throne, the three other empires on the continent knew that this war was unavoidable. However, there had been a huge explosion in the Sun Moon Empire's Radiant City, causing the empire to suffer huge losses. The hostages that they had held captive were also freed. In everyone's opinion, the Sun Moon Empire should be laying low for some time. However, they made their move before half a year was up. They were irresistible!

A storm was brewing over the continent, and a war of survival and destruction was about to begin. However, Huo Yuhao still returned to Imperial Radiant City that night.

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When he returned, it was almost midnight. However, Dai Luoli and Xu Yun were still waiting for him. Although they didn't know what Huo Yuhao's exact cultivation was, they knew that his abilities should be quite good, given that he could completely suppress them. Since he was able to sneak out to explore, he should be able to bring back some news.

Right now, the Star Luo Empire's military had sealed all information very tightly, so there wasn't much news leaking out.

"Tang Dong, how is it?" Dai Luoli quickly went up and asked Huo Yuhao after seeing him sneak in through a window and change into his military uniform.

Huo Yuhao replied, "The defense of the front line has indeed fallen. However, our troops seem to have successfully retreated. From afar, I saw that the White Tiger Duke's flag has already been withdrawn. He should be fine." He naturally wasn't going to tell Dai Luoli everything. It would be contradictory to his plan.

After hearing that the White Tiger Duke was fine, Dai Luoli heaved a sigh of relief. "It's great that my father is fine. Do you know where he retreated to?"

Huo Yuhao shook his head and said, "I'm not sure, but I'm certain he's within our territories. As for which city he retreated to, I'm not sure. Don't harbor any thoughts of finding him now. To you, the thing you should be focused on is to perform well in the defense of Imperial Radiant City. Once our enemies arrive, we'll go all out to kill them. The White Tiger Duke can't take care of you right now."

After Huo Yuhao pinpointed what he wanted to do, Dai Luoli turned red and nodded. He replied, "Alright, I'll listen to you."

Xu Yun, who had been standing to one side without making a sound, suddenly stood up and said, "Since the White Tiger Duke is fine, I'm relieved too. I'll go and find some more news. The two of you can rest first." After she finished speaking, she walked out.

Huo Yuhao directly sat cross-legged on his bed and entered deep meditation. To him, it had been an exciting night!

The room they were in right now had been allocated to them by Xu Yun. Xu Yun lived right beside them. The two of them had a room all to themselves. Even though they were bodyguards, this was already very good treatment.

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When Huo Yuhao awoke from his deep meditation, it was already the evening of the second day. Dai Luoli wasn't in the room. After he grabbed a bite to eat, he returned to his bed and sat down.

While it was a close shave yesterday, he managed to gain a new understanding of the control of his spiritual power. After getting his Martial Soul True Body, unleashing his soul skills through it had provided him with valuable experience.

Huo Yuhao discovered that he couldn't use his avatar to directly unleash the powerful soul skills he had, given his cultivation. However, it was much easier for him to use some auxiliary-type soul skills. For example, he could use his Imitation, Spiritual Interference Domain, and Mass Enfeeblement.

As his cultivation increased, his spiritual power gave him abilities that were similar to his avatar. Although his avatar didn't possess the abilities of his actual body, the greatest benefit to having an avatar was that it could be forsaken at any time!

This was the greatest enhancement in terms of his spiritual cultivation. It was a pity that he wasn't able to divide his attention, given how great his spiritual power was. He couldn't control both sides perfectly at the same time. This was the next step he was trying to achieve.

Ever since he had crossed Rank 70, his soul power had improved at a faster rate. Even though he didn't have the Haodong Power anymore, he was still likely to become an eight-ringed Soul Douluo within five years, given his current speed. This included the assumption that he didn't meet with any favorable circumstances.

He wasn't even twenty years old yet. In five years, he would only be around twenty-four years old. When he was thirty, he might even be close to becoming a Titled Douluo.

Furthermore, he wasn't any ordinary soul master. He was a soul master with an Ultimate martial soul.

A simple example would be last night's fight. If Dai Hao had possessed an Ultimate martial soul, he would have been able to inflict significant casualties on the two soul engineer legions, given his cultivation, even against their formidable defenses. Furthermore, a Titled Douluo with an Ultimate martial soul wouldn't be afraid of the Sun Moon Divine Needle, either!

Huo Yuhao thought of something. ?Yes! I brought back a Sunmoon Divine Needle yesterday. That Starsky Douluo has suffered great losses this time. Not only did I get back the Sunmoon Divine Needle that I gave the White Tiger Duke the last time, but I even got an additional one for free. I indeed have great fate with this Starsky Douluo.

It was very difficult for Huo Yuhao to use a Sunmoon Divine Needle, given his current cultivation. However, he had twin martial souls. His overall soul power was much greater than other soul masters of the same rank. Furthermore, his soul power was also much purer, given his Ultimate martial soul. If he unleashed his full strength and risked everything, he might be able to unleash an attack from the Sunmoon Divine Needle once. This was because he still had one more advantage, his immense spiritual power! He didn't have to drain too much of his soul power to accurately aim a Sunmoon Divine Needle.

Of course, only a nine-ringed Titled Douluo could unleash the true strength of a Sunmoon Divine Needle. He had managed to unleash that strike yesterday because he was fortunate. After sneaking in an attack

against the Starsky Douluo, he had gained control over a fully-charged Sunmoon Divine Needle. His spiritual power wasn't inferior to a Titled Douluo, and thus aiming and firing it that time didn't pose much of a problem.

At this moment, Dai Luoli returned. He looked quite frantic.

"You're back? How's the situation outside?" Huo Yuhao looked at Dai Luoli. He was already much calmer compared to yesterday after he learned about the invasion and saved the White Tiger Duke.

Dai Luoli looked very gloomy as he said, "It's bad. They've already calculated the losses that we've suffered. More than seventy thousand soldiers from the Northwestern Field Army are dead. Among them, more than fifty thousand were combat troops. They all died from soul tools. There are also more than twenty thousand people who are injured, and ten thousand people missing. I'm afraid that those missing are unlikely to be alive. This means that more than eighty thousand of our soldiers were killed after the Sun Moon Empire's surprise attack yesterday."

After he finished speaking, Dai Luoli's eyes had already turned red. He punched a wall beside him hard enough to crack it.

Huo Yuhao also turned gloomy. The Sun Moon Empire was too vicious. They had used Class 9 soul tools against ordinary soldiers. This was very rare in the history of the continent. This time, the Star Luo Empire had finally seen how terrifying soul tools were.

Class 9 soul tools were threatening to Titled Douluo, but this wasn't absolute. It depended on the Titled Douluo's cultivation. However, the destructiveness of a Titled Douluo could not compare to that of a Class 9 stationary soul cannon shell.

This wasn't to say that Titled Douluo couldn't cause mass destruction, but time was required for them to do so. However, Class 9 stationary soul cannon shells didn't need any process. Once they blew apart, they could wipe out a huge amount of lives. They were too scary.

"What's next? What's the situation now?" Huo Yuhao suppressed the rage in his heart and tried to stay calm.

Dai Luoli painfully said, "What else can we do? We've requested help from the capital and the other two empires. At the same time, we've tightened our second line of defense and deployed all our resources there.

"My father has indeed returned. However, he didn't come to Imperial Radiant City, but went to Dawn City instead, which is a hundred kilometers away. That city is about as large as this one. The Northwestern Field Army has also changed their strategy and expanded their area of defense so that the Sun Moon Empire can't use soul tools to break down their defense again. My father has also submitted a script of penitence to His Majesty, expressing his wish to fight to the death in Dawn City. Right now, the orders are that we have to delay the Sun Moon Empire's military with all our might to buy some time for reinforcements to arrive. We can't let them gain any further ground.

"The Northwestern Field Army has operated here for years. Whether it's in terms of city defense or military strength, this city is better than the interior cities. Once our line of defense here is breached, our enemies will charge forward without any obstacles. I'm afraid they'll be unstoppable. I estimate it'll

take half a month for any military reinforcements to arrive. However, a few soul master legions have been deployed to assist us.”

Huo Yuhao nodded. This was probably the best that could be done for now. In their current situation, the Sun Moon Empire could still be resisted once the Dou Ling Empire’s reinforcements arrived, given the deep foundations of the Star Luo Empire. After all, the Star Luo Empire was the strongest of the three native empires on the Douluo Continent. The Star Luo Empire also had the greatest number of soul masters in the entire continent, including the Sun Moon Empire. There were more than ten thousand soul masters in ten soul master legions, a force that couldn’t be ignored.

Chapter 425.1: Brothers Acknowledge Each Other

However, Huo Yuhao felt that something wasn’t right for some reason. It was like some aspect had been miscalculated.

This was what the power of destiny was telling him. However, it was very unclear. He only felt something, but he couldn’t think of what was wrong.

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The Sun Moon Empire didn’t seem to be in a rush to attack. In the blink of an eye, three days had passed, and the Sun Moon Empire still seemed to have no intention of invading further. All surveillance at the borders was performed using aerial surveillance soul tools, and the Sun Moon Empire’s soul engineering legions filled the airspace completely. This meant that any surveillance attempts by the Star Luo Empire against the Sun Moon Empire’s forces would be futile.

The White Tiger Duke did send some powerful individuals to survey the situation, but there was a high concentration of aerial surveillance soul tools and thermal detectors over the Sun Moon Empire’s forces. If they got close to a certain region, they would immediately be discovered. Once discovered, they would be attacked by powerful soul tools.

What exactly is the Sun Moon Empire doing? Even if they just wanted to consolidate their borders, wouldn’t three days be enough? Since they started this war, they should have completed their preparations and been ready to launch an all-out attack now! However, why aren’t they doing anything? Why did they give the Star Luo Empire enough time to gather and deploy their military?

Huo Yuhao had been thinking about this for many days, and the discomfort he felt grew more intense

However, this was obviously an advantageous situation for the Star Luo Empire. The longer their enemies delayed, the closer their reinforcements would be.

Within these three days, six soul master legions, the Northwestern Field Army, and the Western Field Army had already gathered. Along with the original soul master legion, there were now eight other soul master legions. This already comprised eighty percent of the Star Luo Empire’s fighting strength! Even though the First Soul Master Legion had suffered great losses, they still possessed fighting strength.

The current lineup showed the determination of the Star Luo Empire. Princess Jiujiu personally led the front line forces and had already met up with the White Tiger Duke in Dawn City. She was also the commander of all six soul master legions that had arrived as reinforcements. After all, she couldn’t just hand over such great authority to the White Tiger Duke.

Xu Yun also received news that the Dou Ling Empire's reinforcements had arrived in the Star Luo Empire's territory. They split into two waves with the Star Luo Empire's own reinforcements and were rushing to the front line now.

It seemed like the situation was slowly stabilizing. In slightly more than ten days, all the reinforcements would have arrived. Adding in the Star Luo Empire's preparations, the Sun Moon Empire wouldn't find it easy to succeed in their invasion.

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Huo Yuhao idled over these few days. After becoming Xu Yun's bodyguard, and as war was about to break out, he didn't need to train every day. He just needed to follow Xu Yun as she attended meeting after meeting. However, he and Dai Luoli couldn't listen in on the exact details, given their status. Huo Yuhao spent more of his time on his own cultivation. As for his identity, Xu Yun stopped probing. Whether it was her or Dai Luoli, they treated him as someone sent by the White Tiger Duke. Otherwise, how could they explain the conditions surrounding Dai Luoli's White Tiger Awakening?

After Dai Luoli's martial soul Awakened, his cultivation improved by leaps and bounds under Huo Yuhao's guidance. He was about to reach Rank 40. Once he obtained four soul rings, he could become a Soul Ancestor. He was also very hardworking. Unless Xu Yun summoned him, he would remain in his room to cultivate.

Huo Yuhao was also very reassured that his little brother was so hardworking. At least he hadn't wasted his energy teaching him!

—

In the blink of an eye, another three days passed. The first batch of reinforcements from the Heavenly Soul Empire, consisting of thirty thousand soldiers, had already arrived. Furthermore, they brought twenty Zhuge Divine Crossbow Cannons along, which came from the Tang Sect.

The Star Luo Empire had been attacked by the Sun Moon Empire, and Shrek Academy naturally knew about this. After the Academy discussed it with the Tang Sect, the Tang Sect decided to supply all types of soul tools to the Star Luo Empire first, especially their Zhuge Divine Crossbow Cannons. The effective range of such a cannon was impressive, which made it very useful for defensive purposes. This theory had been tested against the beast tide from the Great Star Dou Forest.

—

"Why has there been no movement yet? This is weird." Dai Luoli sat on his bed and muttered. He had just eaten his dinner. At this time every day, he would ask Huo Yuhao for guidance.

Huo Yuhao looked outside and saw that it had already turned dark. He agreed, "Yes! It has been seven days since the war has started. Even if they were consolidating their foundations, the Sun Moon Empire's next attack should have started already."

Dai Luoli said, "The most hateful thing is that those fellows completely cut off all our surveillance of them. We have no news of what's happening at the border. I really don't know what they want. Soul tools are too despicable. Extensive surveillance has already been performed on the borders of our Star Luo Empire and the Heavenly Soul Empire. It was already very difficult to find out what the Sun Moon

Empire was up to back then. Those fellows are too mysterious. I don't know what intentions they're harboring."

After hearing Dai Luoli's words, Huo Yuhao's body suddenly shook. "Mysterious and sealing all surveillance? Don't tell me there's some kind of scheme? Luoli, continue your cultivation. I'll go out and take a look."

Dai Luoli was stunned for a moment. "Brother Dong, what are you doing? Are you going to the front line? It's different now than before. The sky is filled with their aerial surveillance soul tools. Once they discover you, it'll be difficult for you to come back. Don't take the risk!"

Recently, the two of them had drawn closer to each other, especially after the war started. Huo Yuhao stopped beating him up, and even passed down all types of cultivation methods and experiences to him without holding back anything. To Dai Luoli, Huo Yuhao was both a mentor and a friend right now. Naturally, he didn't want Huo Yuhao to do anything reckless. Furthermore, he and Xu Yun already treated Huo Yuhao as someone sent by the White Tiger Duke.

Tang Dong was definitely not a spy. If he were a spy, there wasn't any use for him to be a lowly soldier, given his abilities. He would at least be part of a soul master legion for him to be of any use, and to obtain useful information. However, he stayed in the recruits' camp, and only guided Dai Luoli every day. Whoever it was, they would certainly think that Huo Yuhao was an instructor the White Tiger Duke had especially found to guide Dai Luoli. The only problem was that he was a little too young.

As for his violent teaching methods, it was probably because he had been beaten into a martial soul evolution. Dai Luoli didn't hate him for using such a method. He felt that his improvement seemed to be slower now than when he was being beaten up by Huo Yuhao.

Huo Yuhao smiled and shook his head before saying, "Don't worry, I'll be fine. I'm just going out to take a look."

"Let me follow you then," Dai Luoli said, a little impulsively.

Huo Yuhao was stunned for a moment. "You?"

Dai Luoli nodded determinedly. "I'm about to go crazy being cooped up in this city every day." In fact, he wasn't the only one who thought that way. Almost all of the Star Luo Empire's military felt the same way. They were extremely tense waiting for the war to continue. The Sun Moon Empire's military had yet to arrive, but they were still under great psychological pressure. Under such circumstances, all of them were under great stress.

Huo Yuhao pondered for a moment before saying, "Alright, I can bring you along. However, you must keep everything that you find out along the way a secret. You can't even tell Xu Yun, or your father when you see him in the future. If you promise me this, I'll bring you along."

Dai Luoli was stunned. He looked at Huo Yuhao's serious face and was puzzled.

"So serious? Weren't you sent by my father? Why can't I tell him?" **noVE/lb.1n**

Seeing the doubt on his face, Huo Yuhao said after remaining silent for a moment, "Let me show you something."

After these few days of interaction, he had gained a deeper comprehension of Dai Luoli's character. After weighing the pros and cons, he made a decision.

Huo Yuhao quickly rubbed his face a few times. Very soon, a thin mask was removed from his face, revealing his true appearance.

The original thick-skinned youth had changed completely.

Dai Luoli was shocked as he looked at the graceful and slightly handsome-looking Huo Yuhao. He sat where he was for some time.

"You..."

Huo Yuhao didn't say anything but retrieved a small bowl from his storage-type soul tool. He poured in some clean water before mixing it with some fluid.

"Water and silver ink. Isn't that what you'd use to see if someone is related to you? What are you doing?" Dai Luoli was stunned as he looked at Huo Yuhao.

Huo Yuhao smiled and lifted his head. He looked at him and said, "Didn't you just describe what I'm doing?" As he spoke, he retrieved a needle and poked his finger, dripping a drop of his blood into the bowl.

His blood didn't consolidate into one drop as it entered the inky silver water but drifted in it. It seemed completely independent.

Huo Yuhao passed the needle to Dai Luoli and said, "It's your turn, now."

Dai Luoli was in disbelief as he looked at him and asked, "You, you're trying to test if you're related to me? We, we..."

Huo Yuhao interrupted him, "Drip your blood in first."

Dai Luoli took a few deep breaths and tried to calm down. Gritting his teeth, he took a few steps to the bowl. He poked his finger with the needle, and a drop of his blood entered the bowl of water.

Both drops of blood drifted independently in the water. They were like two ruby pearls.

Huo Yuhao gently shook the bowl, and the two drops of blood drifted closer to one another. Dai Luoli watched the bowl closely. He knew that he was related to Huo Yuhao if the two drops of blood fused together. If they weren't related, the two drops of blood would remain separate.

The two drops of blood were drawing closer. Dai Luoli subconsciously clenched his fist. He was an intelligent person and naturally knew that Huo Yuhao wasn't doing this test for no reason. However, he was still in disbelief.

Chapter 425.2: Brothers Acknowledge Each Other

The two drops of blood finally fused with one another. Initially, they only gently touched each other before they bounced away, like two rubber balls. Just when Dai Luoli heaved a sigh of relief and thought this had all been a meaningless game, he suddenly realized that there was a trace of blood connecting

the two drops. Before he could react, the two drops fused together rapidly, turning into a bigger drop of blood.

“Ah!” Dai Luoli was shocked, and snatched the bowl away from Huo Yuhao. He brought the bowl up to his eyes, and was in a daze when he saw that there was only one big drop of blood left in the bowl.

Huo Yuhao sat on the bed next him and revealed a bitter smile. “Yes, I’m just like you. We are both sons of that guy, it’s just that our mothers are different. I was born one year earlier than you, so I’m your biological elder brother. It’s a pity that I’m similar to you in another aspect, as I’m also a bastard child. Furthermore, my mother’s status is even lower than your mother’s. She was only the maid of that person before.

“When I was small, I also lived in the Duke’s Mansion. Your mother took great care of my mother. If not for her initial support, I might not even have survived. My mother was always very grateful to her. Even just before she died, she still didn’t forget how good your mother was to her.

“My mother passed away, and I was forced to live with the servants in the Duke’s Mansion. I lived a treacherous life. It took her great pains to raise me. After that, she contracted a serious disease, and never got up after she was kicked by Dai Huabin once. That year, I was only ten. I can’t even remember things clearly anymore, because that memory was one of the darkest in my life.

“After that, I left the Duke’s Mansion and roamed around on my own. Fortunately, my martial soul is mutated like yours. However, I didn’t inherit that person’s White Tiger, but got my martial soul from my mother, instead. My martial soul is my eyes.”

Huo Yuhao looked at the shocked Dai Luoli and revealed the dim golden light of his Spirit Eyes. Dai Luoli could clearly see the pupils in Huo Yuhao’s eyes slowly split into two pupils. One pupil was purplish-gold, while the other was rose-gold. It was extremely strange.

Polycoria. This was the greatest peculiarity of the White Tiger’s lineage!

“I hate almost everyone from the Duke’s Mansion, not including you and your mother. Your mother was the benefactor of me and my mother. This was why I decided to help you after I discovered your identity.”

Dai Luoli took in a few deep breaths again, and his chest shook tremendously.

“You, are you really my elder brother?”

Huo Yuhao pointed at the bowl he was holding. “That proves it.”

“Did you join the military because of me? When did you find me?” Dai Luoli asked.

Huo Yuhao shook his head and said, “No, I didn’t join the military because of you. I’m also from the Star Luo Empire. I won’t admit that I come from the Duke’s Mansion, but I belong to the Star Luo Empire. Since the empire is in trouble, I have a responsibility as a citizen. I became a soldier to protect my nation. I chose to start as a recruit because I want to prove to him that I’m not inferior to him. When I manage to achieve a high ranking in the military through my own merits, I’ll personally get everything that the White Tiger Duke owes me.”

Dai Luoli placed the bowl he was holding to one side and walked a few steps closer to Huo Yuhao. The two of them didn't look exactly alike. Huo Yuhao's facial lines were gentler, while Dai Luoli's looked colder. He resembled the White Tiger Duke more.

"You, you want to deal with dad?" Dai Luoli's voice sounded very uncertain.

A lost look flashed across Huo Yuhao's eyes, but he soon regained his determination. "When this crisis is over, and I'm strong enough, I will do so. I'll return to the Duke's Mansion and demand justice for my mother."

Dai Luoli sat down beside Huo Yuhao and softly said, "Elder brother."

Huo Yuhao's body trembled a little after Dai Luoli called him that. Even with his strong willpower, he wasn't able to control his emotions at this moment. His eyes suddenly turned red, and his tears flowed uncontrollably.

Huo Yuhao stretched his hand out and grabbed Dai Luoli's shoulder. He bit his lips tightly.

How much time had passed since he had left the Duke's Mansion? All these years, he had no relatives, and treated the Tang Sect and Shrek as his family. However, everyone shared a blood relationship with someone else. Right now, the person sitting beside him and calling him 'elder brother' shared a blood relationship with him!

Dai Luoli's eyes turned red when he saw the tears on Huo Yuhao's face. Huo Yuhao's earlier description had sounded very plain. However, he could tell that Huo Yuhao had suffered a lot. A ten-year-old child roamed the world on his own. How did he manage to survive all these years? Soul masters have to hunt and kill soul beasts. He handled all those dangers by himself!

"Elder brother, how did you manage to survive all these years?" Dai Luoli asked curiously.

Huo Yuhao shook his head gently and said, "There are some things I can't tell you yet. You'll find out later. I told you about our relationship because I want you to trust me completely. From now on, you need to follow me. I'll make you stronger as quickly as possible. At the very least, you mustn't be worse than Dai Yueheng and Dai Huabin!"

"Yes!" Dai Luoli nodded. He didn't have a close relationship with Dai Yueheng and Dai Huabin. Both of them were legitimate children, and went to Shrek Academy when they were young. They didn't really interact with him. On the contrary, it was Huo Yuhao's tears that left him moved.

Huo Yuhao wiped his tears away and put his mask back on. He said, "I'm Tang Dong here. Don't tell anyone about my identity or background, especially that person. If you reveal anything, you won't be able to see me again. Do you understand?"

Dai Luoli was stunned and said, "Elder brother, you and father..."

Huo Yuhao waved his hands and said, "I don't want to make him sound bad in front of you. That's why you shouldn't mention him in front of me."

Dai Luoli laughed bitterly. "Alright, don't worry, I'll keep this a secret for you. Elder brother, are we still going out?"

Huo Yuhao said, "Yes. I've been feeling a little uncomfortable these past few days. Something must be about to happen. It has been almost ten days since the Sun Moon Empire breached our border, but they haven't done anything since. This is completely abnormal. Almost all our reinforcements have arrived. Are they trying to fight us in our peak state? Why didn't they exploit the opportunity when we were weaker? This is too weird. It doesn't fit military strategy. Follow me."

As he spoke, Huo Yuhao left with Dai Luoli and headed towards the city wall.

Right now, the sky had already turned dark. After dinner, the city was filled with a rare, relaxed atmosphere. It was just that the defenses at the top of the city wall were still very tight, as enemies could arrive at any time. This was especially true for the western side of the city wall.

Dai Luoli whispered to Huo Yuhao after looking at the soldiers at the top and bottom of the city wall, as well as the surveillance soul tools. "Elder brother, how do we leave? The defense is very tight now to prevent enemies from sneaking in."

Huo Yuhao shook his head and said, "Compared to the Sun Moon Empire, our Star Luo Empire is far inferior in terms of surveillance soul tools. Such a level of surveillance is completely useless in preventing our enemies from spying on us. Let me tell you, there's a super-high aerial surveillance soul tool three thousand meters above Imperial Radiant City right now."

"What?" Dai Luoli was shocked. "A surveillance soul tool three thousand meters in the sky?"

Generally speaking, even a Titled Douluo couldn't fly more than a thousand meters into the sky. The higher one flew, the greater he would be drained. Even with a clear sky, it was impossible to see three thousand meters into the sky. It was already quite commendable if the Star Luo Empire's ground-based surveillance soul tools could even see five hundred meters into the sky.

Huo Yuhao sighed, "This is an industrial-level difference! Otherwise, why would the Sun Moon Empire be daring enough to attack three empires? They are extremely powerful!"

Dai Luoli asked, "Doesn't this mean that they can monitor our every movement?"

Huo Yuhao replied, "Just about. However, it's also very difficult to create a high-altitude aerial surveillance soul tool. There aren't many of them in the Sun Moon Empire, and each of them is very costly to produce. This is why they can only keep an eye on some important locations, and the clarity of their surveillance isn't going to be very good."

Xuan Ziwen had once discussed high-altitude aerial surveillance soul tools with Huo Yuhao before. As they were too far away, it was very difficult to control them. If any mistakes were made, one might immediately lose control of a high-altitude aerial surveillance soul tool. Furthermore, they were located too far from the ground, and thus lost effectiveness when night fell. They were still considered to be in the experimental stage. Evidently, the Sun Moon Empire wanted to use this war to test these soul tools.

Of course, a high-altitude aerial surveillance soul tool was still able to track any large military movements on the ground, even though it wasn't very precise. This was already very useful in a war.

Even a Titled Douluo wouldn't be able to detect a high-altitude aerial surveillance soul tool from the ground. It was a pity for the Sun Moon Empire that Huo Yuhao wasn't any ordinary person.

Naturally, it was very difficult for Huo Yuhao to fly three thousand meters into the air, but height didn't affect his Spiritual Detection! Whenever he was free in the city, he would use his Spiritual Detection to scan the city for any anomalies. His unidirectional detection had an effective range of five kilometers even without his Eye of Destiny. When he scanned the sky, he was able to detect that high-altitude aerial surveillance soul tool!

Chapter 425.3: Brothers Acknowledge Each Other

"Should we inform the military? They can think of a way to bring that surveillance soul tool down." Dai Luoli said.

Huo Yuhao shook his head and replied, "There's no need too. We can do it ourselves. Haven't you flown before? I'll let you experience what it's like to soar in the sky."

Dai Luoli didn't even have four rings yet, and couldn't use flying-type soul tools. Naturally, he hadn't flown before. Before he could even react, Huo Yuhao placed one hand under his armpit, and Dai Luoli felt the light around him distorting slightly. He and Huo Yuhao rose up, and quickly flew into the sky.

He almost shouted because it was too sudden.

"Elder brother, you are too brazen. We'll be shot down!" Dai Luoli tried his best to suppress his voice as he spoke to Huo Yuhao. He was shocked when he turned around to look at Huo Yuhao. This was because there was no flying-type soul tool on his back. This meant that Huo Yuhao was propelling them through his own soul power.

What did this mean? It meant that Huo Yuhao was at least a Soul Sage!

"Elder brother, are you really only one year older than me?" Dai Luoli was almost speechless. A nineteen-year-old Soul Sage. This... is too unbelievable.

Huo Yuhao smiled and replied, "Yes! Didn't you see my original appearance? Do I look that old?"

Dai Luoli's eyes brightened. "Elder brother, you're a genius."

Huo Yuhao recalled Shrek's motto and answered, "No, I'm a monster!"

At this point, Dai Luoli realized that there wasn't any reaction from Imperial Radiant City. There was no sign of any attacks directed towards the sky. However, he didn't know why nothing was happening.

"I specialize in spiritual power. My martial soul is my eyes. It's spiritual-type martial soul. I have a soul skill that can conceal me. It's like cloaking my body. I've already cloaked us and hidden our auras. They won't discover us," Huo Yuhao patiently explained to his younger brother.

Dai Luoli was enlightened. He looked down, and realized that the city was becoming smaller and smaller from their point of view. However, he couldn't sense any air currents flowing against him. It was very exciting!

"It feels really good to fly! I must work harder. Once I obtain four rings, I can finally use flying-type soul tools!" Dai Luoli said excitedly.

Huo Yuhao chortled, "It's exciting, right?"

"It's very exciting. The feeling of flying is extremely good!" Dai Luoli replied sincerely.

Huo Yuhao said, "There are even more exciting things. I'll tell you about them later." As he spoke, he opened his Butterfly Wings and flew even higher into the sky.

They were already beyond the region that the surveillance soul tools in Imperial Radiant City could detect. It was fine for Huo Yuhao to use his flying-type soul tool now. Given his abilities, it was impossible to fly up to three thousand meters in the air, especially since he was carrying another person right now.

Details of Imperial Radiant City had become extremely tiny by now. In the dark, they even slowly disappeared. Everything around them was pitch black now. They didn't feel any air flowing against them, either. Dai Luoli felt like everything was a bit unreal. It was like he had entered another world under Huo Yuhao's guidance.

It took some time to fly three thousand meters into the air. Huo Yuhao discovered that his soul power was being drained more and more after he crossed the thousand-meter mark. Fortunately, he had the help of his flying-type soul tool. However, the soul power in his flying-type soul tool would also be greatly drained the higher he went. With the help of a few Milk Bottles, Huo Yuhao managed to keep up with the amount of soul power that was being drained. However, they rose at a slower speed because of it.

Huo Yuhao's spiritual power had long locked onto that high-altitude aerial surveillance soul tool. The complexity of this soul tool meant it qualified as a Class 8 soul tool. It could be controlled from afar, and remain in the air for surveillance at an extremely high altitude. This was definitely the future developmental direction of surveillance.

After more than ten minutes, Huo Yuhao finally brought Dai Luoli in front of this surveillance soul tool, which was the current highest technological standard.

This high-altitude aerial surveillance soul tool was like a huge ball. The bottom was made using synthetic quartz, while there were four metal sails on the top of it, which helped to balance it in the air. There were twelve Milk Bottles installed into these four sails.

These Milk Bottles were used to replenish the soul power being drained by this soul tool. When this soul tool flew along, these sails were retracted. After it reached its location, these sails would then open up to balance it. In addition, this soul tool could even adjust its angle and position in the air to deal with inclement weather. The Sun Moon Empire had taken many years to research this, and only completed it after the Sealed Milk Bottles were invented. Otherwise, it couldn't be used long-term.

Huo Yuhao smiled, and golden light shone in his eyes. Dai Luoli immediately saw tremendous, distorted undulations around this surveillance soul tool.

This surveillance soul tool didn't emit any light, and thus was almost invisible at night. However, these distorted rays were a dim gold, which made them extremely obvious. Right now, Dai Luoli could clearly see what this high-altitude aerial surveillance soul tool looked like. Its diameter was only around two meters.

It started to shake slightly as the distorting rays appeared, as if it were struggling. It was a pity for it that Huo Yuhao's spiritual power had reached the concrete-material realm, and he was using his Spiritual Interference. This soul tool's struggle was futile.

Huo Yuhao quickly rushed forward. As he dragged Dai Luoli with one hand, he used his other hand to quickly tap the surveillance soul tool a few times. The Sealed Milk Bottles were quickly pulled from the soul tool, and Huo Yuhao put them in his storage-type soul tool. After all twelve Sealed Milk Bottles were taken out, the soul tool lost power. All soul power undulations disappeared, and it only managed to remain in the sky because of its sails.

Huo Yuhao pulled out his Starlight Sapphire storage-type soul tool. The sapphire flashed brightly before the entire high-altitude surveillance soul tool was stored away in his storage-type soul tool.

Dai Luoli mouth was gaping. He thought to himself, "What did my elder brother do? Not only is his cultivation shocking, but even his familiarity with soul tools is astounding." He had no idea how to react. He would have attacked the surveillance soul tool and destroyed it.

Huo Yuhao couldn't bear to destroy it. It was a technologically-advanced Class 8 soul tool. He would take it back for Teacher Xuan to research it. By researching it, they could expedite their research into their own high-altitude aerial surveillance soul tools by ten years!

Huo Yuhao hadn't been wasting time over these past few days. From the city, he had scanned this surveillance soul tool with his Spiritual Detection a few times. He had also discovered the key points about it. If he hadn't used his Spiritual Interference to break its connection to the Sun Moon Empire, it would have been able to automatically release a Class 7 protective soul barrier to protect itself. When that happened, it would most certainly shrink rapidly before escaping.

It wasn't that the Sun Moon Empire's protective measures weren't tight or secure enough, it was just that they had met someone like Huo Yuhao, who could use his Imitation to hide from them.

"Elder brother, why did you keep it?" Dai Luoli asked curiously.

Huo Yuhao said, "For research purposes, of course. I'm not just a soul master, I'm a soul engineer too. Oh yes, didn't you think that flying was very exciting earlier. Do you want something even more exciting?"

Dai Luoli was excited as he asked, "What's more exciting?"

"This." Huo Yuhao smiled and relaxed his grip on Dai Luoli's armpit. Before Dai Luoli could even react, he was already free-falling.

"Ah!..." Everything happened too suddenly, and Dai Luoli wasn't prepared at all. His tragic screams echoed in the sky, and he was extremely frightened as he felt a strong sense of weightlessness.

Huo Yuhao continued to drift where he was, and wore a smile on his face. He muttered to himself, "Oh, not bad. The strength of his spiritual power soars when he's fearful. This has further increased the mutation of his martial soul."

The feeling of free-falling was extremely exciting. It was so exciting that Dai Luoli tightened his lower abdomen, and felt he was about to wet his pants.

He unwittingly unleashed his martial soul. The strands of white fur on his body were exuding a dim red glow, while the 'king' on his forehead turned blood-red. His tragic screams stopped as he unleashed his soul power with all his might, hoping to reduce the speed of his descent.

After he lost Huo Yuhao's protection, he truly understood why it was so dangerous to be so high up in the sky. The temperature in the sky was much lower than on the ground. The sinister chill and unknown darkness left him terrified. More importantly, he had no way of reducing the speed of his descent. Given his current cultivation, he couldn't control his soul power to reduce the impact of his fall.

Why? Why do you have to harm me like this?

Why?? Dai Luoli slowly revealed a desperate look in his eyes. He hadn't expected this to be the way he was going to die.

Just as his mind was going completely blank, he felt his body becoming lighter, and the strong air currents rushing against him as he descended disappeared. The intense chill that he felt also vanished. A hand had grabbed his armpit and he was drifting in the sky once again.

"Exciting?" A gentle voice sounded in his ears. Dai Luoli turned his head, and saw Huo Yuhao, smiling slightly.

Dai Luoli was furious as he roared, "You, were you trying to kill me!?"

Huo Yuhao smiled and replied, "Didn't you say you wanted to try something exciting? You're still around a thousand meters from the ground, but you can't take it anymore? If I caught you just before you hit the ground, wouldn't you even be more unable to handle it?"

Chapter 426.1: The Sun Moon Empire's Marshall, Ju Zi!

Dai Luoli said angrily, "That's excitement? I might have died!" Even though he had already stopped moving through the air, his butt was still quivering as his legs shook uncontrollably. He was still panting heavily.

"Look at your fur," Huo Yuhao pointed out to him.

Dai Luoli looked down subconsciously, and was surprised to see that his white fur had become a faint red after he unleashed his martial soul. Furthermore, he wasn't in the hysterical state that he was in back then!

"Do you know what this means? The spiritual element in your martial soul is fusing with your original martial soul, the White Tiger's element. When your fur is entirely blood-red in color when you release your martial soul under any circumstance, it means the evolution of your martial soul is complete. When that happens, your martial soul should be stronger than typical White Tigers, and any offensive soul skills should contain spiritual elements."

The corner of Dai Luoli's mouth twitched as he listened to Huo Yuhao's explanation. "Are you really my biological brother?"

"Of course," Huo Yuhao said seriously.

Dai Luoli forced a laugh and said, "Can we not use such methods where I'm frightened to death next time!? Do you know that I really thought I was going to die just now?"

Huo Yuhao chortled and said, "This will only work if you feel such sensations. Otherwise, how can your martial soul's mutations be entirely triggered and released? If your mutations were so easily released, why haven't you been able to do so over the past ten years? Intense excitement is the best way to accelerate that release. However, I've already used this method before, so it won't be as effective and inspiring next time. Let's go."

— —

He activated his flying-type soul tool, and Huo Yuhao brought Dai Luoli into the air once more. He kept them at roughly a thousand meters in altitude as they flew west.

Huo Yuhao had already used his spiritual power to survey everything as far as he could around them, and had not detected any other high-altitude aerial surveillance soul tools.

The sky was limitless. Even though he could cover quite a large area with his spiritual power, he couldn't possibly search every inch of the sky. Of course, Huo Yuhao had his plans. These high altitude aerial surveillance soul tools would only appear in locations of substantial strategic importance. For example, they would only appear over cities responsible for frontier defense, or at important travel routes. He should have an easier time if he searched for those soul tools in those kinds of places. They were all Class 8 soul tools! Such soul tools would be very useful in the future...

However, Huo Yuhao had to take a look at the western front before all that. He had to see what the Sun Moon Empire had in mind, since they hadn't launched another invasion for such a long time.

Huo Yuhao flew towards the west, and quickly covered two hundred kilometers. However, he started to slow down after about a hundred and fifty kilometers.

"Impressive... the Sun Moon Empire has really invested everything into this! There are aerial surveillance soul tools everywhere. They are covering every single corner like a carpet. There aren't any blind spots at all." Huo Yuhao paused in midair and couldn't help but marvel at the sight.

Dai Luoli's vision wasn't that good, but he had support from Huo Yuhao's Spiritual Detection. He could see masses of aerial surveillance soul tools in the three-dimensional spiritual world of Huo Yuhao's Spiritual Detection. Within that range, there were more than fifty such soul tools, and there were even more further from their position.

"Elder brother, do you think you can conceal us from those things?" Dai Luoli asked nervously. After flying for a period of time, his emotions had settled down from being scared shitless just now. He knew that Huo Yuhao was doing everything for his own good, and after his martial soul's mutation accelerated with that episode, he clearly felt that his soul power had risen further, and he was about to break into Rank 40.

Huo Yuhao said, "I can't conceal us from every single type they have out there, but my Spiritual Detection's area of effect is large enough. We just have to avoid those specific types."

There were several aerial surveillance soul tools among those in the sky that were specifically meant to detect spiritual power. However, these spiritual power detectors had relatively smaller ranges, and the

level of spiritual power they could detect was limited in the end. Huo Yuhao concealed his own spiritual power exceptionally well, and he wasn't afraid of these soul tools discovering him. However, he would be discovered if he used Imitation and entered those spiritual power detectors' areas of effect. Those were the soul tools that Huo Yuhao had to avoid.

They proceeded forward slowly, Huo Yuhao continuously avoiding the aerial surveillance soul tools that could detect them as they gradually neared the Ming Dou Mountain Range.

Huo Yuhao marveled in silence as he flew. The Sun Moon Empire's fighting style was so much more advanced than the Douluo Continent's three native empires.

The Sun Moon Empire emphasized aerial surveillance, and would use soul engineer legions to initiate blitz attacks. These soul engineers executed accurate and precise attacks and decapitation strikes. In addition to the fact that the Sun Moon Empire's industrial standards were far superior to those of the Douluo Continent's three native empires, the victor in this war was truly hard to predict!

Huo Yuhao had to make judgments and evade surveillance soul tools continuously, so he was flying at a much slower speed than normal. It took fifteen long minutes before he finally got past where those large swathes of aerial surveillance soul tools reached. The Ming Dou Mountain Range came into view far on the horizon underneath the night sky.

Huo Yuhao didn't fly too close. Instead, he stopped when they were about ten kilometers away from the Ming Dou Mountain Range, and opened the Eye of Destiny on his forehead.

His rose-gold Eye of Destiny opened, and Dai Luoli was overcome with astonishment once more. He felt as if his spirit were about to be sucked out of him as he stared at that peculiar vertical eye. Fortunately, his martial soul's spiritual elements had been Awakened, and he had certain foundations in spiritual power. He hurriedly turned his gaze away when Huo Yuhao reminded him.

The combined effects of Huo Yuhao's Eye of Destiny and his Skull of Destiny allowed him to reach a maximum distance of ten kilometers with his Spiritual Detection in a single direction. Of course, doing so would consume a lot of spiritual power.

Huo Yuhao's spiritual power touched the Western Mountains in the distance, and he gradually started sweeping the area horizontally. Afterwards, he surveyed the base of the Western Mountain, where the Star Luo Empire's army camps were originally located. Huo Yuhao's expression gradually became extremely grave and solemn.

Dai Luoli didn't make a single sound. He didn't even dare to take deep breaths. There were aerial surveillance soul tools all over the place, and one mistake could likely expose their location. He was very intelligent, so he hadn't said a single word ever since they entered this region. He allowed Huo Yuhao to lead him, and all he did was survey and observe his surroundings.

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Huo Yuhao continued surveilling for more than ten minutes. He didn't say anything at all when he was done, but turned around and carefully flew back the way they had come.

Dai Luoli realized that his elder brother's expression was as black as could be. Evidently, Huo Yuhao had realized something important, but even though he was worried and anxious, he couldn't open his mouth to ask! He could only wait quietly until they flew out of this region.

They flew more quickly on the way back, since they had prior experience. Huo Yuhao didn't attempt to destroy the aerial surveillance soul tools when they left the region which was under heavy surveillance. Instead, he hurriedly sped up and flew towards Imperial Radiant City.

"Luoli."

"Yes." Dai Luoli hurriedly acknowledged when he heard Huo Yuhao call his name.

Huo Yuhao lowered his voice and said, "I'm afraid you can't continue concealing your identity. You will look for your father immediately after you return, and I will take you and fly into that city. You'll find someone to reveal your identity to, and tell him an important piece of intel. The Sun Moon Empire is playing a large and deadly scheme this time. Everyone has been tricked."

"Ah?" Dai Luoli felt the fine hair on his neck stand on end when he heard his words.

"What are you talking about, elder brother? What scheme is that?"

Huo Yuhao lowered his voice and said, "The Sun Moon Empire isn't planning to attack the Star Luo empire at all. We are not their targets."

"Wait, wait a minute," Dai Luoli was a little confused as he said, "Why won't they want to invade the Star Luo Empire? They've used Class 9 soul tools and forcefully blasted open a path, and they've also utterly crushed our Northwestern Field Army!"

Huo Yuhao took a deep breath, and a thread of fear flashed beneath his eyes. He only felt how terrifying the Sun Moon Empire was when war truly broke out. No wonder they had to seal the Star Luo Empire's surveillance so tightly and strictly! They were actually using a double bluff strategy.

"Do you know what I discovered just now? Let me tell you, the Sun Moon Empire took over the Northwestern Field Army's camp, but there isn't a single soldier from the Sun Moon Empire in that place, or anywhere in its vicinity. There are only voluminous defensive soul tools set up on the Ming Dou Mountain Range, and they've built the Ming Dou Mountain Range into something like a fortress."

"I still don't understand!" Dai Luoli muttered a little exasperatedly.

Huo Yuhao lowered his voice and said, "That means the Sun Moon Empire never had any intentions to invade us. They mobilized their great armies to launch an all-out attack before this, but everything was an illusion, and they did that so that they could deceive us into thinking that they are launching a great invasion against us. Their soldiers haven't crossed the mountain range, so how are they going to launch a great invasion? Those who started this war were those highly mobile soul engineer legions, and their rearguard entered the Ming Dou Mountain Range after them and placed large amounts of defensive soul tools on our side to form a defensive front, as well as an aerial surveillance front."

"They've done all that so that they can sever all information and surveillance from the Ming Dou Mountain Range, so that we are unsure about what their true circumstances or situation is."

Dai Luoli asked, "How are these actions beneficial for them?"

Huo Yuhao's expression was frighteningly grave and stern. "Their actions are beneficial for them because they've managed to conceal their true aim in this war. They never intended to invade the Star Luo Empire with their full strength. Damn it, I should have thought about this a long time ago. If I had been the one launching an invasion, and if I really wanted to invade the Star Luo Empire, I would definitely do everything in one go; how could I pause in the middle like that?"

"I would have gone all the way to destroy the Star Luo Empire's second defense perimeter, and I would have ruined the granaries and all military supplies and stores, or I would pillage and loot the cities. Afterwards, I would consolidate and stabilize defenses in the areas that I have conquered, and wait for more soldiers to arrive. I wouldn't stop my invasion right at the border!"

Chapter 426.2: The Sun Moon Empire's Marshall, Ju Zi!

"Their other goal is to attract the entire continent's attention with this assault. They want everyone to think that they're making a move against the Star Luo Empire. What will that do? This will mobilize the Star Luo Empire's main forces, and this will concentrate those forces along the western front. The Dou Ling Empire will mobilize reinforcements as well, and the Heavenly Soul Empire's reinforcements may even be deployed to our western front. After all has been said and done, their true intentions will be revealed. If my guess is correct, their true target isn't the Star Luo Empire, but the Heavenly Soul Empire!" Huo Yuhao was resolute and decisive when he uttered his final sentence, but there was a lot of pain and agony among all that resolution.

Dai Luoli finally understood, and he drew a cold breath as he said, "Elder brother, your guess is just too frightening. However, isn't the Sun Moon Empire paying an excessively heavy price for this? They've mobilized several elite soul engineer legions, and they've expended several Class 9 soul tools! Why would they turn around and attack the Heavenly Soul Empire when they've already made a breakthrough here?"

Huo Yuhao lowered his voice and said, "The war has already begun, and the situation can change at any time. The Sun Moon Empire has their reasons for this choice.

"First, the Star Luo Empire has the longest history amongst the three native empires; we have been around for ten thousand years. Back then, the Heavenly Soul Empire and the Dou Ling Empire were still one, and they were called the Heaven Dou Empire. The Heaven Dou Empire's national strength was comparable to ours back then.

"As of now, even though the Star Luo Empire's strength can't be said to be stronger than the Heavenly Soul Empire and the Dou Ling Empire combined, we are still much stronger than any of the two by themselves, and our foundations are deep and solid. Class 9 soul tools are fearsome, and they forcibly tore a hole through our defenses.

"However, the Northwestern Field Army and the Western Field Army are still in place; even though we have sustained heavy losses, our losses can't be considered fatal. When an all-out war erupts, the Sun Moon Empire can't be using Class 9 stationary soul cannon shells every day, can they? They have limited numbers of those things, and one use means one less in their stores. They are intended to be used as strategic existences, while the Star Luo Empire will definitely receive full support from the Heavenly Soul Empire and the Dou Ling Empire. In that case, it's hard to say who will emerge as the final victor. The Star Luo Empire's foundations are definitely the strongest and deepest in terms of national strength."

“Comparatively, the Heavenly Soul Empire’s national strength is considerably inferior to ours. Furthermore, judging from the Sun Moon Empire’s borders, the Heavenly Soul Empire’s borders that connect with the Sun Moon Empire are about the same length as our borders with the Sun Moon Empire. If you had to choose, who would you choose to attack?”

“This misdirection is truly scheming and cunning, and I have to admit it’s quite spectacular! First, they invade our borders, and they blew open a gap so that their armies could be brought in from the Sun Moon Empire at any time. Afterwards, they took the Ming Dou Mountain Range. The mountain range in our hands means different things than when the mountain range is in their hands. The Sun Moon Empire is famous for their soul tools, and in addition to the Ming Dou Mountain Range’s fantastic topography, the Sun Moon Empire has an absolute advantage with their surveillance soul tools. Even if we had two more field armies on our side, we might not be able to take down their defenses on the mountain range. They just have to leave a few elite soldiers behind to cooperate with their soul engineers to defend the gap that they have created in the Ming Dou Mountain Range, and that will be enough. With this gap around, the Star Luo Empire will not dare to mobilize too many soldiers to reinforce the Heavenly Soul Empire, because we have no idea when the Sun Moon Empire will attack us.

“In the future, if the Sun Moon Empire achieves a conclusive victory on the battlefield against the Heavenly Soul Empire, they can still attack us through the gap in the Ming Dou Mountain Range if and when they want to. First, they obtain an absolute advantage and restrain us, and then they turn their forces against the Heavenly Soul Empire. This series of tactics has been ingeniously planned, and we have been kept in the dark because they’ve blocked all of our reconnaissance and surveillance efforts. Nobody will think that they are changing targets when they’ve already obtained an absolute advantage. Therefore, you have to report all of this to the White Tiger Duke as quickly as possible, so that he can pass the news to the Heavenly Soul Empire, so the Heavenly Soul Empire can be careful, and he also has to request that the Dou Ling Empire reinforce the Heavenly Soul Empire.

“The Sun Moon Empire is waiting for all our reinforcements to concentrate over here. When that happens, they will launch another invasion against the Heavenly Soul Empire, and our reinforcements will be unable to reach them in time.”

Dai Luoli’s back was soaked with sweat as he listened to Huo Yuhao’s analysis. Not in his wildest dreams did he expect such a situation. If everything was as Huo Yuhao had predicted, the Heavenly Soul Empire was truly in danger!

“Brother, is there a chance that your guess is wrong? Perhaps the Sun Moon Empire doesn’t have that in mind at all, and they haven’t considered starting an all-out war at all?”

“Childish!” Huo Yuhao grunted coldly and said, “Don’t dispute and deny the situation just because it’s disadvantageous. Are you trying to be a coward? My guess has almost a ninety percent chance of being correct. Just relay everything to the White Tiger Duke, and he will understand.

“Don’t mention me, just tell him that you thought about everything yourself. Tell him that you snuck over to the border, and there were coincidentally no aerial surveillance soul tools in a particular region, so you took a look, and surmised all these possibilities afterwards. You have to say everything with sincerity and honesty, because time waits for no man! The Heavenly Soul Empire’s defeat will spell disaster for us in the future!”

Dai Luoli gulped as he felt the pressure coming from Huo Yuhao's body. He nodded and said, "I understand, I will definitely explain everything to my father clearly. Elder brother, you're really a genius! If I were in your shoes, I wouldn't have been able to calculate anything at all."

Huo Yuhao forced a laugh and said, "Genius? How can I be a genius if I've only realized what's happening after everything's been said and done? The person from the Sun Moon Empire who plotted this scheme is a true genius. Right now, I can only hope that their movements are a little slower, so that we can have a little more time. However, I'm afraid..."

— —

There was an enormous tent inside the army camp. This tent was different from other tents, because it was made entirely from leather, and it was actually dark red, as if it had been painted over with blood.

Lights and lanterns lit up the entirety of this large tent. Soldiers walked in and out continuously, and even though it was already late at night, everyone still seemed extremely busy.

"Eh? A super-high aerial surveillance soul tool has gone missing?" rang out a voice tinged with astonishment inside this tent. *novE(lb-1n*

"Yes, marshal," the messenger spoke respectfully as he knelt on one knee.

There was a fair and graceful figure standing within the commander's tent. She was clad in red armor, which perfectly brought out her elegant frame. She had a rose-gold cape draped behind her, and a picture of heroism and valor. A picture of a fiery-red phoenix was painted on her chest, its wings outstretched as if it were about to soar into the sky.

Her skin was extremely fair and tender, and seemed like it had been formed from frozen water crystals, and water would be squeezed out if one pinched gently on her skin. Her face was beautiful, but she seemed a little haggard, and her eyebrows were tightly knit together as a contemplative look came over her face.

Huo Yuhao would have been astounded if he saw her, because this person, whom the messenger had addressed as "marshal", was the Sun Moon Empire's current empress, and also someone that Huo Yuhao was very familiar with... Ju Zi!

Ju Zi stood up and started to pace inside her tent. After a few moments, she stopped and lowered her voice as she said, "Pass on my orders immediately, and as quickly as possible – increase our surveillance lockdown against the Star Luo Empire at their western border. Don't allow even a fly to come over. We have to sever every possible surveillance method they possess."

"Yes!" The messenger bowed, then immediately turned and left.

There were several tall officers standing on either side of the tent. They all had looks of admiration and respect on their face as they watched Ju Zi.

The Sun Moon Empire's emperor, Xu Tianran, had appointed Ju Zi as the commander-in-chief of their three armies. When that was first announced, almost every military general and every non-military official thought he was joking.

How could a girl only about twenty years old be commander-in-chief? The emperor was clearly appointing people from favoritism!

However, Xu Tianran was too overbearing. With the Holy Ghost Church supporting him, he quickly suppressed every voice who objected against his decision, and insisted that Ju Zi be appointed the three armies' commander-in-chief. Shortly afterwards, the war quietly entered its preparation stage.

Was Xu Tianran appointing someone because he was biased towards that person? Yes, he was, but he had seen this person's abilities, and this person was worth supporting at all costs.

Xu Tianran had never doubted Ju Zi's loyalty and commitment. In other words, Ju Zi was the one who he trusted the most among everyone beside him.

If he hadn't had Ju Zi all those years ago, Xu Tianran would have died from an assassination attempt by his younger brothers when they were trying to claim the status of crown prince. Ju Zi had always been beside him and served him for so many years.

However, Xu Tianran wasn't just biased towards Ju Zi enough for him to have so much faith in appointing her commander-in-chief of his three armies. More importantly, he approved of her abilities.

Many years ago, he had allowed her to join the military. In the beginning, he just wanted her to be trained and tempered in the military, but he had never expected her to have an extraordinary talent for military affairs. Ju Zi had achieved exemplary results when she led her troops to put down several revolts, and managed to suppress the rebellions with the lowest possible casualties, and within the shortest possible time.

Xu Tianran was always surprised whenever Ju Zi reported the various strategies and plans that she had used in battle. Ju Zi was simply too talented in military affairs, and the battle strategies and tactics that she used were always different each time. Her ideas were bold and imaginative, yet they were stable and grounded in rationality at the same time. Xu Tianran knew that she was better than he was at such things.

Ju Zi had gradually established her own reputation and prestige within the military within a few short years. Xu Tianran had given direct command of the Phoenix Soul Engineer Legion, one of the five great soul engineer legions that formed the Hand that Protects the Nation, over to her.

He had contemplated long and hard about his decision to appoint her as commander-in-chief of his three armies. He only made up his mind after she devised a scheme and proposal for the coming war.

Chapter 426.3: The Sun Moon Empire's Marshall, Ju Zi!

Ju Zi was now executing that plan, and had already completed the first step in her proposal. Everything was proceeding according to her strategy.

This time, the Sun Moon Empire's mobilized army was smaller than the Star Luo Empire had imagined; they only had two hundred thousand soldiers. However, they were all the sharpest and most elite soldiers. Six of the Sun Moon Empire's ten great soul engineer legions were participating in this war, and three of them belonged to the Hand that Protects the Nation: the Fire Phoenix, the Evil Tyrant, and the Terrorclaw Soul Engineer Legions!

The Evil Tyrant Legion and the Terrorclaw Legion were responsible for attacking the Star Luo Empire. Ju Zi deeply lamented the fact that they couldn't kill the White Tiger Duke, who was rescued by someone from a hopeless situation. If the White Tiger Duke was dead, Ju Zi believed that her plan would have been one hundred percent successful!

The Star Luo Empire's western forces would be sent into disarray without the White Tiger Duke in command, and would be messy and chaotic for a long period of time. She could then execute and complete her strategy casually.

She was surprised that the White Tiger Duke wasn't killed, but she still stuck to her plan, relying on their formidable surveillance. The Sun Moon Empire's control over the borders was simply too strong. They were watching every single move the Star Luo Empire was making.

Just as Huo Yuhao had guessed, Ju Zi was waiting for the best opportunity!

The Starsky Douluo, Ye Yulin was among those inside the tent. This tent wasn't at the Star Luo Empire's borders. Instead, it was located not far from the Heavenly Soul Empire's borders.

After the Starsky Douluo missed his chance to kill the White Tiger Duke Dai Hao, he immediately brought his two soul engineer legions back within the Sun Moon Empire's borders and rendezvoused with Ju Zi as fast as he possibly could.

Only the handful of powerful individuals inside this tent truly knew Ju Zi's battle strategy and plans.

The Evil Tyrant Legion's commander, Wang Yiheng, lowered his voice and asked, "Marshal, are we going to continue waiting?"

Ju Zi lowered her voice and said, "We can't wait any longer, and the time is almost right. One of our high altitude aerial surveillance tools has been discovered, and that is quite ominous. I'm afraid that problems may arise if we continue waiting. The Dou Ling Empire's reinforcements for the Star Luo Empire are in position there, and our plan is starting to take shape. We don't need to seek perfection, so we can make a move on our side. Master Ye, may I trouble you to inform the Holy Ghost Church so that they can cooperate with us? We will make a move at daybreak tomorrow. Generals, go back and get ready. We have to do everything in one breath this time. We have to break through all the way to Heaven Dou City!"

"Yes!"

These generals and powerful individuals were more than a little unconvinced of Ju Zi in the beginning, but they had done everything according to her plan, easily destroying the Star Luo Empire's border defenses, and almost killing the White Tiger Duke. They were now starting to be convinced, especially by Ju Zi's baffling style of deploying and mobilizing their soldiers. Many times, these generals were still confused, when they had already achieved the goals of their battle strategies. The intel that they had received from the front lines confirmed that the Star Luo Empire was being pulled along in the way that they wanted, and even the White Tiger Duke, who was a reputable marshal across the entire Continent, didn't discover their plan!

Ju Zi placed a lot of emphasis on surveillance. This time, she had deployed almost every single surveillance soul tool in the empire, and even mobilized the aerial surveillance soul tools that the

empire's cities used for defense. Her reasoning was simple: if they used these surveillance soul tools at the borders, why would their cities need those surveillance soul tools for defense, as long as their borders weren't broken through?

Ju Zi got to her feet. Lights flickered in her beautiful eyes. Xu Tianran wasn't very mobile and because of his status, she was practically battling on Xu Tianran's behalf. He trusted her more than anyone else. Her revenge had begun, and even though the Heavenly Soul Empire wasn't the Star Luo Empire, destroying the Heavenly Soul Empire was a prelude to decimating the Star Luo Empire.

War is about to break out on all fronts. Where is that fellow? What is he doing? I hope I don't meet him on the battlefield.

— —

Huo Yuhao quietly returned to Imperial Radiant City and went back to the room that he shared with Dai Luoli. Obviously, Dai Luoli wouldn't be coming back for quite some time. Huo Yuhao had sent him off to the city that the White Tiger Duke was stationed in before he discreetly returned to his room. He had exhorted Dai Luoli again and again before they separated to not not reveal anything about him.

"Why are you standing there, princess?" Huo Yuhao saw Xu Yun standing next to the window once he came in .

Xu Yun turned around and glared at him. "Do you two still have the awareness that personal guards should have? Where did the two of you go for the entire night?"

"Uh..." Huo Yuhao shook his head exasperatedly as he stared at Xu Yun's indignant expression. Xu Yun was different from Dai Luoli. She was part of the Star Luo Empire's royal family, and she couldn't know about the things that Dai Luoli knew.

"Dai Luoli has disappeared. I was looking for him in the city just now, but I didn't find him even after searching for a long time. I was just about to find you and ask you where he'd gone."

"He's disappeared?" Xu Yun was momentarily stunned as she heard Huo Yuhao's words. "When did he disappear?"

Huo Yuhao answered, "He disappeared not long after dinner! I don't know where he's disappeared to. He said nothing as he left in the cover of the night, and he hasn't come back since then."

Xu Yun frowned tightly and said, "The city's gates have been sealed. Where could he possibly be? Let's go, we'll go search for him again."

She turned and walked out as she spoke, and Huo Yuhao could only follow her.

They searched the city for a while, but how could they possibly find any trace of Dai Luoli? Eventually, a whistle that signaled an emergency assembly rang out. The sun was about to peek out over the horizon, and Xu Yun immediately shivered coldly when she heard this whistle. She blurted, "Is the enemy here?"

Huo Yuhao lowered his voice and said, "Calm down, don't be worried. Let's gather our people first and await orders."

“Alright.” The astonished look on Xu Yun’s face faded away at Huo Yuhao’s reminder, but she was still breathing heavily. After all, this little princess hadn’t participated in a war before. She couldn’t help but feel her heart beat faster when she thought that the Sun Moon Empire’s army might have crossed over to her side.

Every soldier stationed in the city swiftly assembled, and every officer that was ranked battalion commander or higher was summoned for a conference.

Huo Yuhao followed Xu Yun to the military headquarters. Xu Yun went in for the meeting, and he waited outside. He didn’t even need Spiritual Detection to eavesdrop on this meeting for him to imagine that this emergency meeting had nothing to do with the Sun Moon Empire invading them. The Sun Moon Empire didn’t even have soldiers at the Star Luo Empire’s borders, so how could they launch an invasion? This meeting probably happened because the news that he had instructed Dai Luoli to pass on to the White Tiger Duke was taking effect.

Xu Yun came out after a few moments, and her expression was clearly a lot more relaxed than before.

“We’re not being invaded,” she told Huo Yuhao softly.

“Oh? Then what was the meeting about?” Huo Yuhao asked obligingly.

Xu Yun was very excited. “The White Tiger Duke has come up with a plan: we’re preparing a counterattack on the Ming Dou Mountain Range, and we will attack as soon as possible. This time, our reserve troops will also participate, and we will be responsible for providing support. Recruits will be all the way at the back, so no harm should come to them, and we will treat this as a training exercise. But no matter what, the recruits are still going to an actual battlefield! Come, let’s hurry back.”

They’re counterattacking at the Ming Dou Mountain Range??Huo Yuhao was momentarily stunned when he heard the news, but he understood immediately afterwards.

The White Tiger Duke... he lives up to his name as one of the most reputable marshals of his generation!

It seemed the White Tiger Duke had believed the intel that Dai Luoli conveyed to him. At a time like this, the Star Luo Empire couldn’t support and reinforce the Heavenly Soul Empire in time, even if they wanted to. Furthermore, that could only happen on the basis that Dai Luoli’s conjecture was true.

With the White Tiger’s Duke’ intelligence, his decision should be a probing attack, so that he could observe and find out how the Sun Moon Empire was deploying its armies by attacking the borders. If the situation was what Dai Luoli had said, then the Star Luo Empire’s best choice would be to use their full strength to take back control over the Ming Dou Mountain Range. Afterwards, they would invade past the Sun Moon Empire’s borders, putting pressure on the Sun Moon Empire so that they wouldn’t dare use their full strength against the Heavenly Soul Empire.

This decision was far better than reinforcing the Heavenly Soul Empire directly. The Dou Ling Empire’s reinforcements should be used directly against the Ming Dou Mountain Range. They were only several hundred kilometers away, and were much further from their destination if they were to travel towards the Heavenly Soul Empire. They were too far away to save the Heavenly Soul Empire, so the best choice was to attack the invaders and draw their forces away from the Heavenly Soul Empire.

Hopefully this decision will be effective,?Huo Yuhao sighed to himself. At the same time, he asked himself,?If I were the marshal, what would I have done? Could I have been like the White Tiger Duke, and made such an immediate and decisive choice?

He definitely would have made the same choice, but Huo Yuhao knew that he wouldn't have been as decisive as the White Tiger Duke. Huo Yuhao was more confident in dealing with the Sun Moon Empire, because nobody could do better than him at targeting and destroying the Sun Moon Empire's surveillance soul tools.

The Star Luo Empire's reserve troops were mobilized, but the situation should be like Xu Yun had said; they were to treat this like a training exercise. The White Tiger Duke was probably leading his most elite troops into battle in a situation like this, but he still hadn't forgotten to train his soldiers. At the very least, he intended the urgency of this war to temper his soldiers so that he could better control the entire situation.

Imperial Radiant City's four gates quickly opened wide. The armies would be a lot quicker if they exited from all four gates at the same time, while their lines and progress would be staggered if they all had to leave through the same gate. Huo Yuhao and the other recruits were furthest away from the battlefield, so they were naturally placed behind everyone else.

"Battalion commander!" Huo Yuhao followed Xu Yun out of the city, and called out to her from beside the horse she was riding.

"Yes?" Xu Yun glanced at him. Xu Yun had always had her doubts about Huo Yuhao, but because she had absolute faith in Dai Luoli, in addition to the fact that Huo Yuhao might be from the White Tiger Duke's Mansion, she had forced herself to accept him. Furthermore, Huo Yuhao had given her reminders at crucial moments in several instances. She didn't even realize it, but she was subconsciously starting to rely on this "Tang Dong".

"I want to take a look at the situation in front, and then I will bring back firsthand news for you. How's that?" Huo Yuhao whispered.

"You want to go to the front lines?" Xu Yun exclaimed softly.

Huo Yuhao tilted his head slightly.

Xu Yun was hesitant. "That's too dangerous, no?"

Huo Yuhao chortled and said, "How dangerous can that be? I'm just going to take a look from far away. Furthermore, you've forgotten that I'm also a soul master! Don't worry, I'll come back to find you very quickly."

Chapter 427: Battle in the Ming Dou Mountain Range

Xu Yun thought for a moment, then said, "Alright, you can go. But be careful... that's weird, I wonder where Dai Luoli is? He's been gone for a long time."

Huo Yuhao said, "He mentioned the Duke before this. Could he have gone to find the Duke? Maybe he couldn't stand the loneliness here anymore."

Xu Yun was momentarily stunned. "And he didn't bring you along?"

Huo Yuhao forced a laugh and replied, "Maybe he's afraid of my beatings?"

Xu Yun's face became a little strange. "But he seems to be improving very quickly recently..."

Huo Yuhao looked up, and a mischievous grin appeared at the corner of his mouth. "Why, do you want to try?"

"No!" Xu Yun exclaimed almost instantaneously. There was no need to mention being beaten like Dai Luoli was. Her stomach still throbbed painfully when she remembered Huo Yuhao punching her in her abdomen.

Huo Yuhao shrugged. He sounded a little disappointed as he said, "If you are willing to participate, I believe he will work even harder. I'm going to leave now, and if he comes back, make sure he doesn't go anywhere!" He began to walk faster as he spoke, and ran off to one side before swiftly disappearing into the darkness.

Xu Yun's other personal guards were following behind her, and were confused about what he was doing, but Xu Yun said nothing, so naturally none of them dared to ask.

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Huo Yuhao used Imitation to merge into the night sky, and flew towards the Ming Dou Mountain Range. He thought to himself as he flew, "I haven't been back for long, and now I'm going back... what a hassle! I wonder what the White Tiger Duke will achieve with this counterattack?"

Huo Yuhao stretched his Spiritual Detection out like a web in all directions as he rose into the sky, and quickly discovered the large armies of the White Tiger Duke moving forward on the ground. The Star Luo Empire had brought out their full strength... however, he could only see legions formed by normal soldiers at this moment.

According to what Xu Yun told him, eight of the Star Luo Empire's ten great soul master legions had reached their western borders under Princess Jiujiu's command. Huo Yuhao thought to himself, "They should be all the way in front of everyone else, because normal soldiers will only be massacred if they go up against soul tools. But can the Star Luo Empire's soul masters break through the Sun Moon Empire's defenses?"

Huo Yuhao was still thinking to himself when a place in the Ming Dou Mountain Range ahead suddenly glowed, and large patches of light flickered again and again.

The battle has already begun?

Huo Yuhao contemplated calmly for a moment before picking up his pace once more. He didn't fly directly towards where the battle was happening, instead taking slight detour, and proceeding towards the edge of the battlefield.

Huo Yuhao wasn't sure how much strength both sides had invested in a battle as intense as this. He would probably be treated as an enemy by both forces if he ventured forward brashly and was discovered.

The flashes became increasingly clear as he drew closer. Furthermore, most of those flashes were flickering in the sky, and powerful lights were being released continuously as rays of light flowed and circulated in the sky.

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Huo Yuhao arrived at his destination in fifteen minutes. He carefully reached out with his Spiritual Detection, sweeping it towards the battlefield.

The most intense parts of the battle were happening in the sky. Countless beams from soul rays and soul cannons waltzed left and right through the air, and large patches of energy storms were sweeping up into the sky. Huo Yuhao could reach out with his Spiritual Detection, and only observe the battle from afar. Otherwise, he ran the risk of being torn to pieces.

This battle was clearly one between thousands of soul masters and soul engineers. Such a vast spectacle could be said to represent a contest between the entire Continent's strongest and most top-tier forces.

Huo Yuhao continued observing from the distance as he carefully approached the Ming Dou Mountain Range from one side. He could see with greater clarity if he was closer, and he had already opened his Eye of Destiny fully to reduce the interference brought about by the intense soul power undulations.

Astonishment gradually appeared in Huo Yuhao's eyes. The Sun Moon Empire's defenses that they had deployed in the Ming Dou Mountain Range truly surprised him.

Huo Yuhao could see only a little bit when he was observing the battle earlier. However, because he was observing from far away, and even when there were no soul power undulations from soul tools, he couldn't possibly see everything. In this moment, the soul tools' powers were on full display, and Huo Yuhao could see more than three thousand assault points were firing continuously. These assault points consisted mainly of soul cannons, with soul rays supporting them.

Soul rays were a lot more accurate than soul cannons, and they were easily adjusted and a lot more penetrating. However, their range couldn't compare to that of soul cannons, and both weapons had their own advantages and were complementary to one another. Soul cannons were responsible for bombarding at a distance, while volumes of soul rays swept out horizontally at any soul masters who managed to break through within a certain area.

The Sun Moon Empire had actually set up so many soul tools at the Ming Dou Mountain Range. There were probably more soul tools on the Ming Dou Mountain Range than every single soul tool within the Douluo Continent's three empires added together.

Huo Yuhao felt fortunate. If he hadn't triggered an explosion in that massive warehouse, there would probably be twice as many soul tools here today!

There were so many soul tools, and naturally, there were many soul engineers controlling them. The Sun Moon Empire had absolutely made sufficient preparations. With the support of sealed Milk Bottles, even low-level soul engineers could unleash the power of mid-tier soul tools. They could continue operating higher level soul tools as long as there were enough Milk Bottles, and their destructive and offensive capabilities were naturally exponentially boosted.

The Ming Dou Mountain Range was like a giant porcupine at this moment. This “porcupine” continuously straightened its pricks, and didn’t let anyone near.

Huo Yuhao discovered at the same time that the aerial surveillance soul tools in the air had evidently been withdrawn inside an area that the Ming Dou Mountain Range’s firepower could protect. These soul tools were still carrying out their reconnaissance tasks, except their areas of coverage were smaller than before. *noVE/LB(1n*

As for whether there were high altitude aerial surveillance soul tools much higher in the sky, Huo Yuhao couldn’t detect any for now. He had to concentrate and sweep region by region at such altitudes, and he currently didn’t have the time for that. Protecting himself and making sure that he wasn’t discovered was more important right now.

The Sun Moon Empire’s defenses were strict and tight, but the Star Luo Empire’s battle strategies and tactics were also exceptionally appropriate.

The Star Luo Empire had mobilized at least five thousand soul masters this time, but there were less than five hundred people participating in this assault. However, even the weakest of these soul masters were Soul Sages.

Five hundred soul sages... what kind of frightening power was that? If this fight was one against one, even if there were three times as many Class 7 soul engineers in a fixed area, those soul engineers would be no match for these Soul Sages.

Most soul masters couldn’t be threatened by average and typical soul tools after they became Soul Sages, and only soul tools that were incredibly powerful, or many soul tools trained on them at the same time, could hurt them. Furthermore, these soul masters weren’t blindly committing to the assault. Instead, they attacked in probes, expending the Sun Moon Empire’s inventory of Milk Bottles as they waited for the right opportunity to strike.

This was undoubtedly the best fighting method. The soul masters ground their opponents down continuously, while they relied on their strength as Soul Sages to minimize their own consumption as much as possible. If this was allowed to continue, the time would come when the Sun Moon Empire’s soul engineers would be whittled down to nothing. Furthermore, the soul masters would also launch surprise attacks on the aerial surveillance soul tools in the sky. Each one of these things destroyed would reduce the Sun Moon Empire’s vision by a little bit.

Huo Yuhao didn’t have to guess that the White Tiger Duke and Princess Jiujiu had discovered from their probing attack that Dai Luoli’s conjecture was correct. The Sun Moon Empire hadn’t sent their armies into the Star Luo Empire’s borders, and had only taken the Ming Dou Mountain Range, which they had then rebuilt into a defensive front. In that case, since the Sun Moon Empire had already made their move, what was their main target? There was no question that the Sun Moon Empire was heading towards the Heavenly Soul Empire.

All the Star Luo Empire could do now was work on breaking the Sun Moon Empire’s lockdown on the Ming Dou Mountain Range. Afterwards, the Star Luo Empire could directly threaten the Sun Moon Empire’s own territories in a bid to reduce the pressure on the Heavenly Soul Empire.

The Sun Moon Empire had probably predicted this, except they probably didn't guess that the Star Luo Empire's reaction would be this quick. However, based on how strong the Sun Moon Empire's defenses looked, they had deployed at least three soul engineer legions to defend the mountain range. At the same time, they had also mobilized large amounts of low-level soul engineers to support those legions. They had also made use of the Ming Dou Mountain Range's topography, and the Star Luo Empire faced quite a challenge if they really wanted to advance all the way through the mountain range.

Huo Yuhao could tell that this battle would continue for quite some time without a clear victor from how both forces were fighting. The Star Luo Empire's great armies were gradually bearing down on their borders, and with the White Tiger Duke's love for his soldiers, he probably wouldn't charge forward by using human wave tactics.

Individual strength had become irrelevant and minute on a battlefield of such scale. The Sun Moon Empire had definitely activated every one of their surveillance soul tools, and Huo Yuhao didn't have any confidence at all in infiltrating their camp. He could only observe the front lines and see where the battle was going from afar, and pray in silence for the Star Luo Empire.

The Star Luo Empire almost didn't use any soul tools at all to retaliate against the Sun Moon Empire's soul tools. A soul master's range was very limited most of the time, and this was true even for powerful Titled Douluo. Soul Engineers had an advantage in this regard.

The Star Luo Empire had to suffer because they were not as advanced! With the Star Luo Empire's national strength, if they had focused on developing soul tools as much as possible after the Sun Moon Empire had launched their first Holy War back then, the situation today wouldn't have been so bad. The Star Luo Empire's ideology that soul masters were invincible didn't change because of that war. Instead, the ideology was further strengthened.

Hopefully, this war would allow the Star Luo Empire to wake up a little earlier. Even though it was delayed, if the Star Luo Empire could win this war, then it wouldn't be too late.

After some time, the bombardment from the soul cannons and soul rays that were firing from the Ming Dou Mountain Range gradually began to weaken. Sealed Milk Bottles couldn't sustain them indefinitely, after all. Soul tools that were strong enough to threaten seven-ringed Soul Sages consumed a lot of soul power. After such a long time, the Sun Moon Empire had consumed an uncountable number of Milk Bottles, and their soul engineers had consumed far too much soul power.

The Star Luo Empire naturally realized that the Sun Moon Empire's defenses were starting to weaken, and they began pushing forward gradually to put more pressure on their opponents.

The Sun Moon Empire's soul cannons and soul ray attacks suddenly strengthened a little, and forced the Star Luo Empire's soul masters back. However, after this resurgence, they seemed to have consumed the last ounces of their strength, and their firepower weakened even further.

The Star Luo Empire seemed to have gained the upper hand completely. In the end, they had thousands of soul masters who hadn't joined the battle yet. Once their top-tier soul masters achieved an unambiguous and decisive advantage, then their regular soul masters should have no problem charging down the Ming Dou Mountain Range's defensive perimeter. The mountain range's topographical advantages were nothing much to these soul masters.

However, Huo Yuhao was still observing the battle from afar when he suddenly felt a little stifled. He kept having this feeling that something was wrong, and he even felt a faint ominous sensation.

The Star Luo Empire's soul masters were pushing forward once more, while the Sun Moo Empire's resistance was conspicuously weaker this time. The soul masters were slowly pushing forward to the point where they could use long-range soul skills to attack the Ming Dou Mountain Range's defensive front, where the soul engineers were stationed.

Is my premonition wrong?? It seemed like the Sun Moon Empire had no strength left to continue resisting, and strong lights were starting to flicker on many of the Star Luo Empire's top-tier soul masters. The circles of light from soul rings were even more glaring in the night sky, a sign that these soul masters were about to unleash long-range attacks. There were so many seven-ringed Soul Sages that as long as even a third of them could unleash their offensive capabilities, it would be a great blow against the Sun Moon Empire. The Sun Moon Empire would have almost no chance to turn the tides of battle when that happened.

Huo Yuhao was still thinking to himself when he suddenly grunted, and plummeted from the sky.

An indescribable fear coursed over his body in an instant. The Spiritual Detection he had released was shattered, and he felt as if the entire world was being annihilated in that moment. He hurriedly activated his soul power to control his body, but his terror made him quiver and tremble uncontrollably.

That... what is that...?

He had only felt an aura as apocalyptic as this once before, when the Beast God, Di Tian, erupted in uncontrollable fury above Shrek City, as he prepared to decimate Shrek City, whatever the cost.

But back then, Di Tian's strength wasn't released in the end.

This frightening aura that suddenly appeared in this moment was spreading out quickly. A ray of white light burst out from one of the Ming Dou Mountain Range's tall peaks without any warning at all.

This white pillar was as thick as a water tank, but it didn't feel or seem very powerful at all. It was ghastly white in color, and transformed into a pillar several thousand meters long as it appeared in the sky and swept outwards horizontally.

What kind of light was that!? Time itself seemed to freeze in the moment that this pillar appeared, and all space was sliced open wherever it crossed. However, the typical phenomenon that would happen when air was being torn apart, where immense suction forces were produced, didn't occur. It felt as though space in another world had been completely frozen and intimidated by this pillar.

It was too quick, to the point where nobody had the time to react.

The top-tier soul masters that were suppressing the Ming Dou Mountain Range were a lot more compact than before, and this white pillar swept across the people that were packed close together.

Emptiness!

After this white pillar swept across them, the first feeling that everyone else felt was emptiness!

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Chapter 428.1: Light of the Death God

Just like a piece of cloth sweeping across the sky, all life was wiped out wherever it passed.

There were more than five hundred soul masters who were at least Soul Sages there. They had already unleashed their martial souls, and many of them were even preparing to unleash powerful soul skills. However, more than two hundred of them were killed as this ray of white light swept past. No trace of them was left behind.

Huo Yuhao opened his mouth. He hadn't expected the ominous feeling to precede such a terrifying catastrophe. What was that ray of white light that flashed before disappearing? It was extremely terrifying. It was so frightening that he was unable to react in time, even with the strength of his spiritual power.

He would have ended up in the same state as those Soul Sages if that ray of white light had swept in his direction. He wouldn't have been able to react in time, and would have been obliterated, just like that.

Not only this, but the soul rays and soul cannon shells that had dimmed earlier were now unleashed with greater firepower than before. They were ferociously attacking the high-tier soul masters from the Star Luo Empire, who were all stunned at this moment. Instantly, the five-hundred-man soul master legion collapsed, and they all fled frantically. The sky was immediately cleared.

Huo Yuhao hadn't expected this. He was only observing the situation at the Ming Dou Mountain Range. As for the Star Luo Empire, they were likely to be in an even worse situation.

The Star Luo Empire had been tricked once again. The soul cannon shells and soul rays had weakened twice earlier, but it was all part of a ploy to trick the Star Luo Empire.

The Star Luo Empire didn't have any experience fighting soul engineers. They didn't have any opportunity or experience in resisting a defensive front that was completely formed using soul tools! After being drawn over, more than two-fifths of the Star Luo Empire's strongest soul master legion was wiped out by an attack from their opponent's transcendent soul tool. This was a huge blow to the Star Luo Empire!

How difficult was it to nurture a Soul Sage? In just an instant, more than two hundred Soul Sages had been killed. They didn't even manage to hurt their enemies at all. This wasn't very difficult to understand, but it was very difficult to accept.

Huo Yuhao opened his mouth wide, but wasn't able to say anything. An indescribable fear had risen in his heart. It wasn't his first time feeling that he was close to death, but his previous few experiences always came with a process. However, he didn't feel that there was any process when that ray of white light swept across earlier. Fortunately that ray of white light hadn't swept in his direction. Otherwise, he would have been killed before he was able to think of anything.

After a momentary daze, he started to pant heavily. He regained his thinking ability, and the fear in his eyes slowly turned into astonishment.

Perhaps the soldiers of the Star Luo Empire weren't able to guess what that ray of white light was, but he could. This was because he had a teacher called Xuan Ziwen, who was once the chief researcher of the Sun Moon Empire's Illustrious Virtue Hall.

Xuan Ziwen had once told Huo Yuhao about the strongest soul engineers in the Sun Moon Empire. Among them, Huo Yuhao had faced the Starsky Douluo Ye Yulin before. In terms of overall abilities, he was ranked third in the Sun Moon Empire. He was a powerful existence that even a Transcendent Douluo might not even be able to defeat.

However, there were still a few soul engineers in the Sun Moon Empire that were close to Ye Yulin. They included the Hallmaster of the Illustrious Virtue Hall, Jing Hongchen.

There were two other soul engineers ranked higher than Ye Yulin. Their abilities were unrivaled by any other Class 9 soul engineers. Even Ye Yulin was extremely respectful to both of them when he saw them, and called them Seniors whenever he greeted them.

Why was the Sun Moon Empire daring enough to associate themselves with the Holy Ghost Church? Xuan Ziwen had once come up with a theory: it was because the Sun Moon Empire was very confident in their abilities. Or rather, it was because the Sun Moon Empire was very confident in their soul engineers. Those two soul engineers were the true stabilizing force of all the soul engineers in the Sun Moon Empire.

The number one soul engineer was already more than a hundred and eighty years old. Only the Sun Moon Empire's Emperor and Crown Prince knew where he lived, and were qualified to see him. He was only loyal to the imperial family. He had been the Hallmaster of the Illustrious Virtue Hall two generations ago. Even Xuan Ziwen had never seen him. However, he had heard of him before in the world of soul engineers in the Sun Moon Empire.

He was recognized as the person closest to becoming a Class 10 soul engineer. In the hearts of soul engineers, a Class 10 soul engineer was almost equivalent to a god!

He possessed the strongest soul tool in the Sun Moon Empire, and thus the entire Douluo Continent. He spent thirty-two years creating that soul tool. It had enabled him to ascend to the peak of soul engineers, and made him extremely respected among them. Through this soul tool, he established himself in the supreme position in the Sun Moon Empire's world of soul engineers. As long as he was alive, he remained the Chief Soul Engineer of the Imperial Court.

The soul tool that he possessed was called Death God. When the Death God appeared, all light was lost!

This soul tool only had one effect, which was to unleash a streak of light, the Light of the Death God. Its effective range was five thousand meters, be it in the sky or on the ground.

Once the Death God appeared, there was no living creature or material that continued to exist after this Light of the Death God swept past it.

This was why this Light of the Death God was also called the Light of Eternal Obliteration. No one knew what the Death God looked like, and no one was aware of what the Death God Douluo, the owner of the Death God, looked like when he unleashed the power of his Death God. Some soul engineers in the Sun Moon Empire even wondered whether the Death God really existed.

However, he had always been the Chief Soul Engineer of the Imperial Court.. Those in the Sun Moon Empire also replaced his name with Death God, and respectfully called him Lord Death God.

The Light of the Death God came in the form of a pale white light.

Other than the Light of the Death God, Huo Yuhao couldn't think of any other soul tool that could produce such great power. It wasn't just Soul Sages that would perish against the Light of the Death God, even a Titled Douluo might not be able to survive.

As for Transcendent and Ultimate Douluo, Huo Yuhao was unsure if they could resist the Light of the Death God. However, his Spiritual Detection was crushed by the aura released by the Light of the Death God earlier, and his spiritual sea had been shaken. If not for the power of destiny protecting him, his spiritual sea would have been crushed.

The Light of the Death God wasn't just a simple soul power attack. It contained a very weird spiritual intent. Its strength was already far beyond what Huo Yuhao could comprehend. The feeling earlier was etched in his mind, but he didn't dare to think about how it felt.

It was deservedly recognized as the number one soul tool on the continent! Huo Yuhao hadn't expected the Sun Moon Empire to invite the Death God Douluo out to hold the fort at the Ming Dou Mountain Range.

Xuan Ziwen only knew a little about the Death God, and no one else knew more than him. No one knew what kind of price one had to pay in the face of the Death God, and no one knew how many times it could be unleashed. Even what it looked like was a mystery. However, Huo Yuhao had now personally witnessed how destructive it was.

It was too frightening, it was simply beyond belief. Huo Yuhao was still shaking slightly even now.

The Star Luo Empire's attacks had ceased now. The Star Luo Empire's military was already in position below, but they didn't make a move. They had no intention of advancing further.

Without even asking, Huo Yuhao could guess that the Star Luo Empire must be in a state of chaos right now. More than two hundred Soul Sage or stronger soul masters had died. This was too huge of a blow to them. More importantly, the Star Luo Empire's attacking momentum had been stopped by the Light of the Death God. No matter how strong their confidence, they couldn't possibly resist the Light of the Death God. Huo Yuhao didn't have any confidence in doing so, and he didn't think the Titled Douluo of the Star Luo Empire had any confidence, either.

The Sun Moon Empire was indeed scheming and astute! Given this strategy, they must have had thought of everything, down to the tiniest details.

They weren't afraid of the Star Luo Empire seeing through their scheme. Their scheme had already been completed when the Star Luo Empire sent reinforcements. After that, it only depended on how long the Star Luo Empire would remain tricked. The Sun Moon Empire had set up their front very early on, and the fort was personally held by the number one soul engineer on the continent.

If the Star Luo Empire had an Ultimate Douluo, they might be daring enough to continue trying. However, did they have one? They didn't. The number of Ultimate Douluo on the continent could be counted on one hand. Among them, only the Dragon Emperor Douluo was a true Ultimate Douluo. Du Busi and Elder Xuan were only close to becoming Ultimate Douluo.

After the Star Luo Empire was dealt such a huge blow, the Ming Dou Mountain Range became a territory that they couldn't cross anymore. They couldn't advance any further. What about the other side? What about the Heavenly Soul Empire?

Huo Yuhao slowly shut his eyes. He seemed to see the Heavenly Soul Empire being overrun by the Sun Moon Empire. Once the Heavenly Soul Empire was destroyed, the Sun Moon Empire would attack the Star Luo Empire from two fronts, and further fulfill their goal of ruling the entire continent.

The Sun Moon Empire's planning was indeed ingenious! They had fully tapped into the advantages of soul tools!

Chapter 428.2: Light of the Death God

After seeing the Light of the Death God, Huo Yuhao realized that he couldn't do anything. He could only pray in his heart, and hope that the Death God Douluo wasn't a Class 10 soul engineer.

The Sun Moon Empire was already supported by the Holy Ghost Church. If the Dragon Emperor Douluo Long Xiaoyao teamed up with a Class 10 soul engineer, would the three empires of the Douluo Continent still have a future?

Huo Yuhao knew that he couldn't continue being a trooper. No matter how much he liked being in a military camp and guiding his own younger brother, the safety of the continent was more important than his own wishes.

He had to return and tell the Academy about the situation here right away, so that the Sea God's Pavilion could make a decision. This concerned the future of the Douluo Continent. Shrek Academy definitely couldn't sit and watch as everything unfolded. It was just that he didn't know whether the Spirit Pagoda had been fully constructed. Fortunately, it seemed like there wouldn't be any action taken by the Great Star Dou Forest for the moment.

After taking one more deep look in the direction of the Ming Dou Mountain Range where the Light of the Death God had been unleashed from, Huo Yuhao bit his lip forcefully before turning around and quickly flying to the east.

There wasn't any need to watch the fighting here. The Sun Moon Empire didn't need to attack. They just needed to guard the Ming Dou Mountain Range, and they would achieve victory. As for the Heavenly Soul Empire, it was probably too late for any news to be sent to them. The Sun Moon Empire's attack should have already started.

What Huo Yuhao could do now was immediately return to the Academy and recount everything he had witnessed so that the Academy would know how to prepare. At the same time, they could make a decision.

He couldn't be bothered to tell Xu Yun as he rushed back. To him, every second and minute was now extremely crucial. After crossing the Star Luo Empire's military camp, he rapidly flew across Imperial Radiant City. After he passed the entire region covered by the military, he activated his flying-type soul tool and increased its speed to the maximum.

The view beneath him changed continuously, and the night air was very clear. It was also slightly damp. One would normally feel refreshed after taking in a deep breath. However, Huo Yuhao only felt very cold and anxious inside.

After the Sun Moon Empire started their attacks, they were actually so terrifying. It was something no one had expected. Even though they fought on two fronts, it was likely that they would still be able to suppress two empires at the same time. What should they do?

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The Star Luo Empire's temporary commander's tent...

The White Tiger Duke Dai Hao looked very grim right now. Beside him was Princess Jiujiu, wearing a suit of white armor.

Xu Jiujiu look equally grim, and her expression was also a little pale.

The fighting had already stopped, but the hazy Ming Dou Mountain Range seemed to epitomize the gloom that hung over the Star Luo Empire right now. When the Light of the Death God swept across earlier, she felt as if her heart had been torn apart. Two hundred soul masters who were at least Soul Sages had been killed! The number included more than ten Soul Douluo. This was an unprecedentedly huge blow to the Star Luo Empire.

More importantly, they weren't able to hurt their enemies at all, even after they suffered such heavy casualties. This was completely unacceptable.

She was the one who had devised their strategy. After all, all the soul master legions were under her control.

The White Tiger Duke's original plan had been to send some strong individuals to destroy the Sun Moon Empire's blockade in the air before thinking of a way to make a breakthrough.

However, Xu Jiujiu was a little confused when she heard that the Sun Moon Empire hadn't kept anyone on the border. She was fully aware that the Star Luo Empire would be in a crisis if the Heavenly Soul Empire fell. It was why she insisted on sending soul masters that were at least Soul Sages to probe and drain the Sun Moon Empire's defenses. After that, they could take them down in one fell swoop.

However, the final result mercilessly proved that her strategy was a mistake. Leading the soul master legions as a princess of the Star Luo Empire, she had only brought huge losses and casualties to them. Right now, all the commanders of the soul master legions were present. All of them looked very dismal, and the way they looked at Princess Jiujiu was very different from before.

After taking a deep breath, Xu Jiujiu stood up and bowed. She wasn't a person who shirked her responsibilities. "Today's defeat is on me. I was the one who made the decision, and my incorrect strategy brought us heavy losses. Marshal, I'll account to His Majesty myself. At the same time, I'll fully coordinate with all of you from now on, and listen to all of your arrangements."

Xu Jiujiu was an important member of the imperial family. She was fully aware that the most important thing for the Star Luo Empire right now was resisting the Sun Moon Empire. She put down her face as a princess and admitted her mistake to the White Tiger Duke.

Dai Hao stood up and walked over to Xu Jiujiu's side. He made a lifting gesture, and lifted her up with his soul power. "Your Highness, you don't have to act like this. Our failure this time cannot be attributed to you alone. As a marshal, I'm not blameless, either. Furthermore, things happened beyond our expectations. The Sun Moon Empire unleashed that ray of white light from the Ming Dou Mountain Range. We don't even know what it is. However, I can clearly sense that even a Titled Douluo wouldn't have been able to resist it.

"Our priority now is to find out what the strength of that ray of white light is, as well as what price the Sun Moon Empire has to pay to unleash it. We've already alerted the Heavenly Soul Empire. I suggest that we let the reinforcements from the Dou Ling Empire enter the Heavenly Soul Empire's territories to aid them, and also send some of our reinforcements to support them. I'm afraid it'll be very difficult for us to breach the Ming Dou Mountain Range temporarily."

While Dai Hao was extremely displeased with Xu Jiujiu's decision earlier, he also understood what it meant to look at the big picture at the right time. Their priority now wasn't putting the blame on anyone, but how they could turn things around on the battlefield.

They were already in a very disadvantageous situation. The Sun Moon Empire had demonstrated the edge soul tools possessed in this battle. With that terrifying ray of white light threatening them, how could it possibly be easy to breach the Sun Moon Empire's defenses? It was a completely irresistible attack! Furthermore, it wasn't that ray of white light that dampened their chances the most, it was the lack of surveillance.

According to the White Tiger Duke's original plan, he had wanted to attack before the Sun Moon Empire discovered them, and invite all the Titled Douluo to move at the same time to destroy the surveillance soul tools of the Sun Moon Empire. This would allow them to retrieve some control over the air, as well as reduce the Sun Moon Empire's surveillance on them.

However, Xu Jiujiu's impatience had lost them this opportunity. The Sun Moon Empire's surveillance soul tools had already been pulled back within their defensive perimeter. It would be much more difficult to destroy them now. With the presence of that ray of white light that could even threaten a Titled Douluo's life, which Titled Douluo would be willing to take action now? It was equivalent to courting death!

Under such circumstances, they were completely unaware of the Sun Moon Empire's troop deployments in the Ming Dou Mountain Range. In addition, they were completely under surveillance over here. How were they going to fight? They didn't stand any chance of breaching the Sun Moon Empire's defenses.

They could only be content with an alternative option right now, and use the stupidest methods to aid the Heavenly Soul Empire. The effect wasn't going to be very good. At the same time, the Star Luo Empire's northern defense line had to be strengthened.

Xu Jiujiu didn't continue. After she expressed her full support for the White Tiger Duke, she quickly returned to her position and sat down.

She was dealt the heaviest blow this time after their defeat. She was initially still a little unconvinced by the White Tiger Duke. However, she now realized that she was lost in the face of this crisis, while the

White Tiger Duke was still able to seek opportunities in the midst of it. He neatly disseminated orders to his subordinates. n.-OvEℓBIn

It was only at dawn the next day that the White Tiger dispersed the military conference. The commanders all left, while Princess Jiujiu remained where she was without moving at all.

“Your Highness, you’ve also toiled an entire night. Go back and rest,” Dai Hao said to Xu Jiujiu.

Xu Jiujiu’s body jerked a little, and she was a little lost as she looked back at Dai Hao. She stood up and walked in front of him. Suddenly, her knees fell to the ground with a thud, and she knelt in front of Dai Hao.

“Duke, I was wrong. I was the one who caused the empire to suffer such heavy losses. I...”

Dai Hao hurriedly lifted her up and furrowed his brow as he said, “Your Highness, why do you have to do this? I mentioned that you can’t be solely to blame for our failure. No one expected the Sun Moon Empire to possess such a terrifying soul tool.”

Xu Jiujiu shook her head mournfully and said, “No, I know that it’s my fault. If I had followed your original plan and destroyed the enemies’ surveillance soul tools first, we wouldn’t be so passive now. No matter how strong that ray of white light is, it can only cover a certain region. If not for my impatience and concentration of all the soul masters, we wouldn’t have suffered such huge losses. Duke, save the empire...”

Dai Hao sighed and said, “Your Highness, the empire is also my home. As long as I’m still alive, I won’t allow any invaders to destroy my home. Don’t worry, I’ll do my best. However, please help me tell His Majesty that our northern defense line needs to be strengthened. In addition, we can’t stop resisting the Sun Moon Empire’s attacks here. We must put pressure on them. This is the greatest help we can give the Heavenly Soul Empire. At the same time, I’ll need you to think of a way to send a batch of outstanding soul masters to try to sneak into the Sun Moon Empire. Without any surveillance and intelligence, we can’t win this war.”

“Alright, I’ll do my best to coordinate with you.” Xu Jiujiu left in a hurry. She couldn’t possibly rest!

After watching Xu Jiujiu leave, Dai Hao said, “Someone call Luoli over for me.”

“Yes.”

It was not long before Dai Luoli was led into the tent by the White Tiger’s bodyguards. After arriving at the front line, the White Tiger Duke had arranged for Dai Yueheng to temporarily look after Dai Luoli and stop him from running about.

When Dai Hao saw Dai Luoli last night, he was also stunned. The defense around the city he was in was very strict. He didn’t know how Dai Luoli had entered without being spotted.

After that, Dai Luoli shocked him by telling him everything he knew. He didn’t have the time to probe any further then, and had immediately called for a conference before the military set out.

Things had finally settled down, and he had time to call Dai Luoli over.

Chapter 428.3: Light of the Death God

Dai Yueheng came over with Dai Luoli. He didn't ostracize his younger brother, but wasn't close to him, either. After all, they had the same father, but different mothers. Dai Yueheng even treated Dai Huabin, who shared the same parents as him, as his competitor. As for Dai Luoli, he hardly felt any kinship with him at all.

"Marshal." Dai Luoli addressed Dai Hao as Marshal instead of father. At the same time, he performed a military salute.

Dai Hao furrowed his brow as he noticed Dai Luoli was dressed like a small team leader. "How did you enter the city? Did you join the military?"

Dai Luoli nodded. "I'm the small team leader of a group of recruits from the Sixth Reserve Legion. I'm a Private First Class. No one knows I'm a soul master, though. When I was doing my recruit training, I was promoted to a bodyguard of the battalion commander. As for how I entered the city, I'm afraid I can't tell you right now."

Dai Hao's face turned gloomier. "Tell me. If you don't, you'll be punished as a spy."

Dai Yueheng hurriedly said, "Father, the information Luoli is offering is very important. Don't you think..."

Dai Hao glared at him and said, "There are no families in the army. There are only superiors and subordinates. What did you call me?"

"Yes, Marshal." Dai Yueheng quickly changed the way he greeted Dai Hao. Dai Hao was very stern towards all his sons.

Dai Hao returned his attention to Dai Luoli, who appeared very persistent. He said, "Luoli, the information that you have brought us this time is indeed very important. However, the source of your information is also very important. If you're being used by an enemy, the entire Northwestern Field Army will be killed along with you. This is why you must report the source of your information and how you managed to enter the city. I can only judge it accurately if you tell me this."

After listening to his father's words, Dai Luoli seemed to waver a little. However, he still resisted, "Marshal, I'm confident that the person who told me all this information isn't an enemy. His information is definitely accurate."

Dai Hao was already fatigued after an entire night spent in a military conference. He wasn't in a good mood now, and thus shouted, "Who is he!?"

Dai Luoli said, "He's, he's my master."

"Master?" Dai Hao was stunned. "Since when did you have a master?" He asked doubtfully.

Dai Luoli had already expected his father to interrogate him. He had also promised Huo Yuhao that he wouldn't reveal his identity. This was why he thought of a way to talk his way out of this interrogation. The clever thing about him was that he didn't say everything the moment he appeared in front of Dai Hao. Instead, he revealed everything slowly. This enabled him to gain his father's trust more easily.

"He only became my master a short while ago. He was also the one who allowed me to join the military, as he thinks that the military is a good way to train myself. He's normally absent, and will only appear

when he's teaching me. He managed to find out that there aren't any soldiers from the Sun Moon Empire at the Ming Dou Mountain Range before he proceeded to inform me. He knows my relationship with you, and thus he asked me to travel the entire night to deliver this information to you. As for how I entered the city, my master has a special ability that allows him to conceal himself. He brought me into the city by concealing both of us."

After hearing the word 'conceal', Dai Hao twitched visibly. He hurriedly asked, "Is your master's martial soul a spiritual-type?"

"How did you know that?" Dai Luoli was the shocked one now. Just because he possessed the ability to conceal himself didn't mean that his martial soul was spiritual-type. Some special martial souls possessed such an ability, as well.

Dai Hao paused for a moment, then asked, "Is his height around one meter and ninety centimeters, and he has a slender and proportionate figure?"

"What?" Dai Luoli became more and more shocked. Dai Hao was describing Huo Yuhao!

From the look on Dai Luoli's face, Dai Hao guessed his answer. He also looked much friendlier now. "I might know who he is. If he's the one, the information should be fine. How did he take you as a disciple? What did he teach you?"

Dai Luoli replied, "I met him when I was cultivating outside the Duke's Mansion for the first time. He was alone then, and he wore a mask. I couldn't see him clearly. He didn't say he wanted to teach me at the start, but suddenly attacked me. I retaliated as I was attacked, but he managed to take me down without even using his martial soul. After that, he kept on provoking me and making me furious so as to make me keep fighting him. It was only when I couldn't get up anymore that he left.

"Ever since then, he has kept on appearing. Every time he appears, he beats me up very badly." As he spoke until this point, Dai Luoli's true emotions started to flow. During those days, every day had seemed very long!

Dai Yueheng was doubtful as he asked, "He always beats you up? Why did he become your master then?" From the look in his eyes, he was hinting that Dai Luoli deserved to be beaten up by accepting the person who had beaten him up as his master.

Dai Luoli was not very close to his brother, and so snorted, "Yes, he beats me up. However, he has helped to greatly increase my abilities. Father, I'm already at Rank 40. I'll be a Soul Ancestor once I obtain my soul ring." The moment he talked about this joyous matter, he couldn't be bothered to address Dai Hao as 'Marshal' anymore.

"Oh?" Dai Hao's eyes brightened. He hadn't had much expectations for Dai Luoli. After all, he had improved much slower than Dai Yueheng and Dai Huabin even though he cultivated tirelessly because of the mutation of his martial soul. He had not even qualified to enter Shrek Academy. He was only at Rank 30 not long ago. In a just a few months, he was now Rank 40. This rate of increase wasn't achievable by just any ordinary soul master.

The mysterious guy Dai Hao was thinking of was naturally the masked man who had saved him twice and given him a Sunmoon Divine Needle. He was indeed very grateful to that guy. Not only did that guy

save him twice, but he even saved his bodyguards. If that guy was Dai Luoli's teacher, everything would make sense.

"How did your cultivation increase so quickly? Did your master make it happen for you?" Dai Hao asked.

Dai Luoli laughed bitterly. "You could say that. My master said that while my martial soul is mutated, it's not a bad mutation. It's because the mutation was incomplete, and the strength of my martial soul wasn't stimulated. He beat me up to intensify the mutation of my martial soul under extreme emotional conditions so that the strength of my martial soul would be completely unleashed.

"I myself don't understand what happened. However, my soul power has increased very quickly, and my martial soul seems to have changed too."

After hearing his words, both Dai Hao and Dai Yueheng couldn't help but be shocked.

The mutation of a martial soul wasn't very uncommon in the continent. However, most mutations of martial souls were for the worse. After these mutations, the original pure bloodline became much weaker. Only a few martial souls became stronger after mutating.

Dai Yueheng also came from Shrek Academy. However, he could recall that the Academy had expended a lot of effort on research into mutated martial souls. Even so, the results that they achieved weren't ideal. If it was possible to alter the level of mutation of a soul master's martial soul, then this mysterious guy could be considered the best in his research of mutated martial souls.

Dai Hao said, "Alright. Unleash your martial soul for me to see."

"Alright." Dai Luoli acknowledged, and also heaved a sigh of relief. From the looks of it, he had managed to scam his way through!

Lights shone, and three soul rings slowly rose from beneath his feet. At the same time, he became much taller, and white fur started to grow from his body. Just like before, there weren't any black stripes that were special to White Tigers. Rather, his body was completely white.

However, Dai Hao and Dai Yueheng were both astonished.

After Dai Luoli's martial soul had been completely unleashed, his soul power started to change. Dai Luoli seemed to become illusory in their eyes. After this, the fur on his body also exuded a dim blood-colored glow.

This blood-colored glow didn't have any unclean aura, but was instead filled with elegance. It even carried strong spiritual undulations within it.

Dai Hao suddenly lifted his hand and grabbed towards Dai Luoli's chest.

Dai Luoli's body subconsciously flashed, and he squatted down towards his side. At the same time, he reached out against his father's palm with his tiger claws. He was extremely quick.

Dai Hao withdrew his hand and was impressed as he said, "It's indeed different. Your reaction speed is far beyond your cultivation! How do you feel after your martial soul has mutated?"

Dai Luoli said, "Master said that my martial soul should be called a Blood Tiger after this mutation. Under certain circumstances, it can enter a berserk state on its own once stimulated. However, my cultivation is still lacking now, and my spiritual power isn't strong enough yet. Once it's stronger, I can become much calmer even when I go berserk. What my master means is that my spiritual and soul power can fuse with each other perfectly after I go berserk, which enables me to unleash a fighting strength that is beyond my original abilities. It's just that I can't be in that state for very long, but that duration will increase along with my cultivation."

Dai Hao seemed to be thinking of something. Dai Yueheng was doubtful as he asked, "Don't tell me you'll develop some innate skill after your mutation is completed? Isn't this something only soul beasts possess?"

Dai Luoli was unhappy as he asked, "Who said so? Elder brother, I can't believe that you're a scholar from Shrek Academy. My master said that this is similar to the Body Sect's Second Awakening of body souls. This is because the strength of all my soul skills will increase after I enter a berserk state."

Dai Hao was suddenly enlightened after he heard Dai Luoli drawing a comparison to the Body Sect. "Yes, it's a Second Awakening, just like what happens in the Body Sect. I didn't expect it, I really didn't expect it! Where is your master now?"

?Chapter 429.1: I'm Tang Wutong!

Dai Luoli shook his head and said, "I don't know. Didn't I tell you earlier that he's very mysterious? He can only find me, I can't find him. He has never even let me see his true appearance. Dad, surely he's not a bad guy, right?"

Dai Hao nodded and laughed bitterly. "Of course he's not a bad guy. I know this person you're talking about. From your description of him, he should be the person who's saved me twice now. So it turns out that he's your teacher... no wonder. Perhaps he saved me because of you. Not only is this person mysterious, but he's also very powerful. If your teacher finds you again, you must help me express my gratitude to him. If he's willing, I even want to thank him face-to-face."

"He saved your life twice?" Dai Luoli was shocked. Although he couldn't believe that the mysterious guy his father mentioned was his own elder brother, he still believed that Huo Yuhao was capable of saving his father twice! Elder brother, why do you have to be like that? Why aren't you willing to reunite with him?

Huo Yuhao naturally wouldn't reunite with the White Tiger Duke. He would not do so before he believed he was strong enough.

By the time he reached Shrek City, it was already noon. Shrek City's reconstruction was in full swing. From afar, a lot of construction work could be seen, especially the Spirit Pagoda, which was near the Great Star Dou Forest and undergoing a grand construction. Huo Yuhao didn't even return to the Tang Sect first, but immediately went to Shrek Academy. He wanted to pass the information on to Elder Xuan for him to make a decision.

Even though he was one of the members of the Sea God's Pavilion, Huo Yuhao didn't fly directly into the Academy. He stopped outside the gate before briskly walking into the Academy.

It was lesson time now, the Academy was empty. After passing the statues of the members of the first-generation Shrek's Seven Monsters and Golden Triangle, Huo Yuhao came to the lakeside of the Sea God's Lake. It was only then that he rose into the air before riding the waves towards the Sea God's Island.

The expansion of Shrek City was a good thing for Shrek Academy. Furthermore, the relationship between Shrek and the Great Star Dou Forest was unprecedentedly harmonious because of the Spirit Pagoda, even though the beast tide had caused huge losses to both parties.

It had been months since students from Shrek Academy had entered the forest to hunt for soul beasts. The Great Star Dou Forest was very pleased regarding this. To them, this was a demonstration of Shrek Academy's sincerity.

Of course, more students were obtaining Spirits through the establishment of the Spirit Pagoda and under the cooperation of both parties. Without a doubt, they were the greatest beneficiaries of the Spirit Pagoda.

As he stepped onto Sea God's Island, a sense of familiarity swept over Huo Yuhao. The refreshing air lessened his anxiety. It's great to be back home! It'd be nice if Dong'er were still around. If Dong'er were around, and there was no more hatred, I could just live with her on this island. Our days would be so happy!

Dong'er...

Dong'er!

Suddenly, Huo Yuhao's eyes widened. He couldn't believe it as he looked forward, and his body started to shake uncontrollably.

This, this is...

A young lady was walking towards him. Her eyes were powdery-blue, and her eyelashes were long and curly. She was very slender, and her long, powdery-blue hair flowed behind her hand. She was dressed in a white dress that accentuated her ravishing looks. She looked like a goddess.

"Dong'er!" Huo Yuhao exclaimed. As he was overly agitated, his voice sounded very high. In the next instant, Huo Yuhao used his Instant Teleportation and appeared in front of this young lady. He opened his arms and tightly embraced her.

Huo Yuhao hadn't expected to see Wang Dong'er again under such a circumstance and at such a time. All his worries and anxiety disappeared at this moment. All his emotions and yearning erupted. His tears flowed uncontrollably, and his vision had already turned blurry from all the tears.

The young lady stood where she was. She seemed to have been stunned by the sudden embrace that she had received.

"Dong'er, Dong'er, Dong'er..." Huo Yuhao's tears dripped onto and slipped off her wavy, powdery-blue hair. They seemed to add a glow to it.

“Are you courting death?” an embarrassed voice sounded. Immediately after this, Huo Yuhao felt as if the person he was hugging had turned into an active volcano.

She unleashed a massive force and broke free from his embrace. Following this, Huo Yuhao saw the fury in her eyes. Her thin and slender hand reached out for his chest.

Huo Yuhao subconsciously used his Ghost Shadow Perplexing Track to avoid the terrifying force that was coming towards him. At the same time, he used his hands to block in front of him.

Bang! Vigorous soul power was unleashed.

Huo Yuhao felt an aura of light filled with strength sweeping towards him. It was like huge waves were crashing in front of him.

After he fused with Wang Qiu'er as a Sacrifice, he had inherited part of her Golden Dragon's strength. However, he was still forced back more than ten steps, as he wasn't prepared for Wang Dong'er's palm.

A gap opened between them, and Huo Yuhao was a little stunned. He couldn't believe that Wang Dong'er had made a move against him.

She wore a fierce look on her face, and her soul rings rose from her feet. Six of them were black and one was red.

She had seven soul rings of unbelievable colors!

However, Huo Yuhao wasn't astonished by the lights from her soul rings. He seemed intoxicated as he stared at her. He didn't blink at all, and tears still streamed from his face.

The young lady was also stunned when she saw the tears on his face, but as she unleashed her martial soul, a pair of huge dragon wings opened up behind her.

The color of her dragon wings was extremely dazzling. There was a bright blue glow close to her back that extended towards the sides. As it extended, it slowly changed from blue to gold. The edges of her dragon wings were extremely weird; they were wavy like butterfly wings, and also exuded a dim golden glow.

There was a bright golden trident rune on her forehead, which started flashing. She grew slightly taller, and her dominant aura turned the space behind her into a bluish-gold ocean.

She had already lifted her right hand towards Huo Yuhao. Her face was very cold, and there was an embarrassed look in her eyes. It was evident that she was cross that Huo Yuhao had hugged her earlier. She even felt that she was being squeezed right now, which made her feel weird.

An intense bluish-gold light formed on her palm, and her second soul ring lit up. The dazzling bluish-gold lights adopted the form of a whirlpool, and a terrifying sense of suppression instantly locked onto Huo Yuhao's body.

Huo Yuhao became more clear-headed when he was subjected to this heavy pressure. As he looked at the young lady's eyes, he shuddered. “You aren't Dong'er!”

He was sure that Wang Dong'er wouldn't look at him like this!

Just as he was speaking, the young lady had already slapped her right hand towards him. A ball of blinding bluish-gold light carrying the sound of a low-pitched dragon roar surged towards his chest.

As this ball of bluish-gold light was unleashed, the bluish-gold glow behind her also surged and turned into countless streaks of light that suppressed Huo Yuhao from all directions. A strong sense of restraint engulfed Huo Yuhao.

She's so strong. She's definitely not Dong'er. However, I can feel a trace of Dong'er in her strength.

While he thought of this, Huo Yuhao also moved. He also lifted his right hand. His three red and four orange soul rings shone brightly. His first soul ring flashed, and his right hand was covered in diamond ice crystals. Every crystal was shining extremely brightly, helping him block the ball of bluish-gold light.

The moment that ball of light touched Huo Yuhao's right hand, streaks of light were deflected by the ice crystals in all directions. Only a portion of them managed to take effect against him.

The diamond ice crystals quickly spread across Huo Yuhao's entire body, blocking the suppression and shockwaves that came as the ball of bluish-gold light blew apart.

It was the first soul skill of the Ice Jade Empress Scorpion, Ice Empress' Armor. n-/o--v-.e-}l)-b)/l..n

A layer of dim azure light was also released from Huo Yuhao's body, preventing the restraint from affecting him.

"What?" The young lady was stunned that her attack didn't have much effect. Her eyes flashed again, and the lights from her other soul rings also started to surge.

"Stop. We might have a misunderstanding," Huo Yuhao hurriedly said. Whether this young lady was Dong'er or not, how would he be willing to lay his hands on her?

The young lady retracted her bluish-gold light slightly, but she still seemed as unfriendly as ever, "Misunderstanding? How dare you violate me and claim that it's a misunderstanding!"

Her voice was crisp and captivating. However, she indeed sounded different from Wang Dong'er. She was more arrogant than Wang Dong'er, and she was also colder. However, they were equally sweet.

Huo Yuhao was simply too familiar with Wang Dong'er, so he could differentiate between them.

Huo Yuhao laughed bitterly. "I'm sorry, I might have recognized you wrongly. You look too much like my friend. That's why I..."

The young lady was still furious. "Can you just hug me whenever you want just because I look like her? I don't believe that anyone looks like me. Ever since I came to this irksome Academy, many people have told me that I look like someone. But I'm me. The rest are fine. They only comment that I look like that person. But you've offended me and even hugged me! If I don't whack you today, I won't be appeased!"

Chapter 429.2: I'm Tang Wutong!

As she spoke, the bluish-gold light from her body became stronger, and she lifted her right hand towards Huo Yuhao again.

“Hey, it’s really a misunderstanding.” Huo Yuhao was also confused. From the details, this young lady was indeed not Wang Dong’er. However, they looked too alike. Wang Qiu’er and Wang Dong’er had been lookalikes because of Wang Qiu’er’s transformation ability as the Auspicious Emperor Beast. However, what was with this young lady? From her long, wavy hair, it wouldn’t be wrong to say that she looked like Wang Qiu’er!

“Remember, my name is Tang Wutong!” the young lady shouted and pointed her toes to the ground. Behind her, a pair of dragon wings opened up, and she was lifted into the air. Her first soul ring shone, and her wings fluttered. The arcs that she created as her wings moved instantly shone with a strong, golden glow. The golden glow was like water, and her sharp aura caused a tearing sound in the air. As she fluttered her wings, she charged towards Huo Yuhao.

Words were of no use right now. He had to deal with her attack first!

He pointed his toes to the ground and quickly retreated. At the same time, his body shone with deep blue light, and the little Snow Lady separated from his body.

The little Snow Lady’s figure twisted slightly in the air and a streak of deep blue light flashed. It was Huo Yuhao’s Unparalleled Chill, Empress Sword.

The little Snow Lady’s appearance instantly caused the surrounding temperature to drop significantly. Ever since Huo Yuhao had fused with the Star Anise Mysterious Ice Grass, his Ultimate Ice had improved and was now even closer to absolute zero.

Tang Wutong was affected by the extreme chill in the air, and her movements were delayed slightly. However, the bluish-gold light from her body also instantly became stronger. She swept out her dragon wings to resist Huo Yuhao’s Unparalleled Chill.

A crisp note echoed out, and Tang Wutong descended from the sky. A strong chilling wave quickly spread towards her body through her wings. The strength of Ultimate Ice was displayed at this moment!

However, Tang Wutong was also quite impressive. As she shouted, a layer of strong golden sparks rose from her body, and the Ultimate Ice from Huo Yuhao’s Unparalleled Chill wasn’t able to continue seeping into her.

After he forced Tang Wutong back with his sword, Huo Yuhao also quickly retreated. He wasn’t just an assault-type soul master, but also a control-type soul master. Widening his gap with his opponent was a better way for him to fight.

However, it was very difficult for him to fight right now. He couldn’t bring himself to lay his hands on Tang Wutong, as she looked too much like Wang Dong’er!

A distorted glow rippled around his body. He quickly unleashed his Spiritual Interference, which caused everything around him to turn unclear. A strong chill continued to surge forth in the area.

The little Snow Lady drifted behind Huo Yuhao, and he unleashed his Snowy Dance of Ultimate Ice. Large patches of snowflakes surrounded Huo Yuhao’s body and quickly engulfed both him and Tang Wutong with the help of his Spiritual Interference.

Under Huo Yuhao's deliberate control, his Snowy Dance of Ultimate Ice didn't cover a huge region. However, the temperature in this region instantly dropped to negative one hundred degrees Celsius, even though Huo Yuhao was deliberately controlling the temperature. Otherwise, it would have been even lower!

Tang Wutong suddenly felt as if she were trapped in this domain. However, she didn't panic, and her eyes shone brightly. On her forehead, the golden trident rune shone silently once again, adding a layer of golden light to her eyes.

Tang Wutong let out a sonorous dragon roar. As she stood in place, a suit of bluish-gold armor silently surfaced on her body.

This armor was made of blue diamond-shaped dragon scales and outlined her slender figure perfectly. The pauldrons were especially long, poking out from both sides of her shoulders. Her dragon wings expanded and looked even more bluish-gold. A huge, golden V-shaped beam of light flashed. Along the part of the armor covering her belly, there were even butterfly patterns spreading out.

Her uniform adopted the shape of waves, just like the edges of her dragon wings. Glaring, bluish-gold light surged and resisted the chill coming from Huo Yuhao's Snowy Dance of Ultimate Ice.

This was her fourth soul skill, Dragon God's Possession!

Tang Wutong's dragon wings suddenly stuck close together and rose up high behind her. Bluish-gold light shone very brightly on her as she unleashed her Dragon God's Possession. All traces of her suddenly disappeared. Following this, a large bluish-gold blade more than ten meters long and several meters wide suddenly appeared and slashed towards Huo Yuhao's head. His Spiritual Interference didn't have any effect on her!

This was her third soul skill, Radiant Dragon God's Slash.

As it was strengthened by her Dragon God's Possession, her Radiant Dragon God's Slash suddenly became extremely powerful. Before the snowflakes in Huo Yuhao's Snowy Dance of Ultimate Ice touched the sharp blade of light, they were already crushed into powder and scattered in the air. Huo Yuhao was also revealed in his domain, facing the blade directly.

However, something happened that left Tang Wutong stunned. Huo Yuhao didn't dodge as he faced her attack. Furthermore, he actually shut his eyes and slowly punched his right fist out against her sharp blade.

For some reason, Tang Wutong couldn't bear to harm Huo Yuhao when he punched his fist out. She even experienced a very weird feeling, and subconsciously lessened the might of her attack. If Huo Yuhao was unable to resist her attack, she could still retract it in time. After all, there wasn't any deep enmity between the two of them. Although she was cross that Huo Yuhao had hugged her, she didn't have the intention of killing him.

Clang!

When Huo Yuhao's right fist clashed against her Radiant Dragon God's Slash, the huge blade stopped in mid-air.

Following that, the diamond ice crystals formed from Huo Yuhao's Ice Empress' Pincer were rapidly crushed, revealing his naked right hand.

However, layers of golden light also spread from Huo Yuhao's right fist towards Tang Wutong's Radiant Dragon God's Slash, just as the two of them clashed against each other.

An indescribable and inexplicable feeling was in the air. It was a combination of sorrow and boundless remembrance. While Huo Yuhao's fist had stopped, his emotions continued to surge.

It was his Fist of Remembrance, a fist that contained a surging feeling of remembrance.

Tang Wutong's light projection instantly retracted, and she did a reverse somersault in mid-air before landing on the ground. When her feet touched the ground, she staggered two steps back before she managed to stabilize herself. She could only feel that there were countless images flashing across her mind, and she was suddenly filled with immense sadness.

Huo Yuhao didn't stagger back, but fresh blood dripped from his right fist. Before it landed on the ground, it turned into beads of blood-red ice under the effect of his Ultimate Ice. As these beads of ice landed on the ground, they were crushed into red powder and scattered everywhere.

When he opened his eyes again, his eyes were filled with boundless remembrance and gentle feelings. It was like the wound on his right fist didn't belong to him.

"Dong'er, it's you. You are my Dong'er," Huo Yuhao muttered to himself.

The words of Niu Tian, the Clear Sky Sect's sect leader, echoed in his mind right now.

Dong'er is fine. She has been treated by her father. However, she's no longer Dong'er. She has lost a portion of her memory.

While Tang Wutong was unable to recognize him now, there were signs of Dong'er in her abilities! When she unleashed her Dragon God's Possession, the v-shaped Radiant Butterfly Goddess' glow that appeared on her dragon wings was continuously telling Huo Yuhao things.

She's Dong'er. She's Dong'er, but she's changed her name, and forgotten who I am.

Tang Wutong jerked a little, and she took a while to recover from the intent of Huo Yuhao's Fist of Remembrance. When she looked at him again, there was a horrified look in her eyes.

"What, what did you do to me?"

Huo Yuhao shook his head gently. "I didn't do anything to you. You only sensed the remembrance in me."

Tang Wutong had a wary look in her eyes as she snorted, "I don't know what you're talking about. Don't let me see you again." After she said that, her dragon wings opened up again, and she rose into the air before flying towards Sea God's Lake.

Huo Yuhao's expression turned gentler as he watched her back.

"Dong'er, have you really forgotten me? Even if you have, so what? I'm willing to pursue you again and bring you close to me again through my love for you. You'll definitely see me in the future, and you'll

keep seeing me. No matter what, I won't let you leave my side again. I'll use my life and everything to protect you. Dong'er, whether you're Wang Dong'er or Tang Wutong, you'll have to be my wife!"

Tears once again flowed from his eyes. However, they were blissful tears now.

Wang Dong'er had gone into a deep sleep, Wang Qiu'er sacrificed herself, and Shrek was attacked by a beast tide. This series of heavy blows had polished his heart. He had concealed his internal weakness and tried to face everything resiliently. However, he was still human!

When he saw his younger brother Dai Luoli and sensed the warmth of kinship, his cold and resilient heart melted a bit. And right now, everything in the world seemed to be filled with life and everything turned beautiful as he saw Tang Wutong, who had to be Wang Dong'er.

"How is she? Did you manage to tell anything?" a benevolent voice asked.

Huo Yuhao turned around and saw Elder Xuan.

Elder Xuan walked towards him slowly and chortled, "She doesn't recognize you anymore. However, it's really still her."

Huo Yuhao also smiled and quickly rubbed the tears off his face, "Yes! Even if she doesn't admit it, and has forgotten me, she's still my Dong'er! This is a fact that can't be changed! I'll make her remember me!"

Elder Xuan smiled, "She came to Shrek a week ago to interview for a teaching role. Every one of us was stunned when we saw her, and thought that she was Dong'er. However, she said that she's not Dong'er, but Tang Wutong. She doesn't know anyone called Wang Dong'er. She's very different from Dong'er in many aspects, including her martial soul. However, I can clearly see Dong'er's shadow on her. I remember you mentioned that Dong'er was in a deep sleep. Did you go and find her?"

Chapter 429.3: I'm Tang Wutong!

Huo Yuhao nodded, and recounted his encounter with the Clear Sky Sect.

Elder Xuan retracted the smile on his face and furrowed his brow slightly before saying, "If this is the case, she should be Dong'er. It's just that, did you sense traces of Dong'er on her? There's also Qiu'er's..."

"Qiu'er's?" Huo Yuhao shook a little, and quickly recalled the situation when he had fought Tang Wutong earlier. He recalled her strength, and her martial soul.

As the saying goes, "The person on the spot is baffled, while the onlooker sees clearly". Elder Xuan's words quickly alerted him. If Huo Yuhao had to describe Tang Wutong's martial soul, he would have to say that it was a combination of Wang Qiu'er's Golden Dragon and Wang Dong'er's Radiant Butterfly Goddess.

How is that possible? Dong'er is the young sect leader of the Clear Sky Sect, while Qiu'er is the Auspicious Emperor Beast. How is it possible that...

Elder Xuan had a thoughtful look on his face as he said, "It seems unbelievable, but Wang Qiu'er is the Auspicious Emperor Beast. She controls the power of destiny. Is it possible that her feelings continued to

exist with her spirit after she died, and the strength of her spirit managed to fuse with Dong'er? As a result, Dong'er woke up and reached her current state?

"Yuhao, you must understand how magical martial souls are. Even after thousands of years of research, our Academy is still unable to solve some riddles. For example, why do humans have martial souls, and under what conditions do martial souls mutate? How are martial souls inherited? Through a person's father or mother? All these seem like simple questions, but no one has the exact answer to them. There is nothing impossible in this world. However, I'm afraid you'll need to find out the answer to Tang Wutong's secrets by yourself."

"Oh, thanks. No matter what, I'll find out what happened to her! Elder Xuan, I rushed back because I have something important to report to you."

Elder Xuan immediately turned serious. "Are you talking about the Sun Moon Empire starting the war so abruptly? Were you in the Star Luo Empire?"

Huo Yuhao nodded and replied, "Yes, I wasn't just in the Star Luo Empire. I was even at a place not far from the Ming Dou Mountain Range."

Elder Xuan lifted his hand and stopped him from speaking further. He said, "Let's return to the Sea God's Pavilion first."

After they reached the Sea God's Pavilion, Huo Yuhao greeted the Golden Tree by bowing as usual, before following Elder Xuan in.

The two of them sat at the conference table normally used for meetings on the first level. Huo Yuhao started to describe everything that he had seen and heard after arranging his thoughts.

At the same time, he concealed his relationship with the White Tiger Duke, and didn't talk about how he had saved him. He only described the situation of the war.

Elder Xuan turned grim as he listened to Huo Yuhao's words.

Elder Xuan furrowed his brow and said, "They created a diversion, and their target was actually the Heavenly Soul Empire. We haven't received any news from the Heavenly Soul Empire yet. They have the support of the Body Sect over there. Perhaps it won't be so easy to take them down."

Huo Yuhao laughed bitterly. "I hope so, too. However, only the Sun Moon Empire's soul engineer legions were present when they attacked the Star Luo Empire. The Holy Ghost Church was missing. I was a little skeptical at that time. After I tried to figure things out, I realized that it's likely that the Body Sect will face the Holy Ghost Church.

"The Holy Ghost Church has the Dragon Emperor Douluo Long Xiaoyao and many other evil soul masters. If they really fight the Body Sect, I'm afraid the Body Sect might be unable to resist them! Furthermore, I don't think the Heavenly Soul Empire is even comparable to the Star Luo Empire in terms of strength. They won't be able to last long if they are really embroiled in a fight. The Sun Moon Empire doesn't have only three Class 9 stationary soul cannons! The situation is very dire now. Elder Xuan, should our Academy..."

Elder Xuan said, "Wait here. I'll immediately call for a conference."

“Okay.”

Elder Xuan stood up, and a strong layer of yellow light shone from his body. Suddenly, the entire pavilion rippled with a layer of dim golden light.

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Outside the Sea God’s Pavilion, the Golden Tree shone brightly, and golden halos started to undulate. Formless spiritual undulations and the special aura of the Golden Tree started to spread out.

Figures swiftly and silently entered the Sea God’s Pavilion. The first to arrive were all the elders who lived in the Sea God’s Pavilion.

Elder Song, Elder Zhuang, and the rest quickly streamed down from the higher levels.

Elder Song couldn’t help but ask when she came to the first level, “Elder Xuan, what’s going on? Didn’t we just have a conference yesterday, and decide to continue observing the war? Why is there another conference today?”

Before she finished speaking, she saw Huo Yuhao standing up. As she focused on him, she understood that Huo Yuhao must have had brought back some new information.

“Elder Song, Elder Zhuang...” Huo Yuhao took a few steps forward and greeted all the elders respectfully.

At this moment, Zhang Lexuan had already rushed over. As she entered the Sea God’s Pavilion, she also greeted all the elders.

Following this, Yan Shaozhe, Xian Lin’er, Qian Duoduo and Cai Mei’er also arrived. Apart from the Tang Sect’s sect leader Bei Bei, who was given a seat at the table in the Sea God’s Pavilion, the rest had already arrived.

Zhang Lexuan looked much more capable now compared to before. Furthermore, she had forgotten all her past feelings after her experience in the Yin-Yang Love Querying Valley, and appeared to be much more cheerful now. However, she still hadn’t found a partner yet. She was too outstanding, such that there were only a few people who dared to pursue her.

Before Huo Yuhao left the last time, he had heard that it wouldn’t take long before she reached Rank 90. She would become the youngest Titled Douluo in Shrek Academy to date.

“Eldest senior sister.” Huo Yuhao also greeted Zhang Lexuan.

She smiled and said, “I heard from Bei Bei that you went out to roam. Do you know? There’s a new person in our Academy who looks just like Dong’er and Qiu’er. Come to think about it, we’re all confused. She insists that she’s Tang Wutong. Furthermore, the weird thing is that her martial soul is different from Qiu’er and Dong’er. Yuhao, do you know what’s going on?”

Huo Yuhao laughed bitterly as he shook his head. He replied, “I have no idea. I’m trying my best to understand what’s going on, too.”

Just as they were speaking, Bei Bei also finally arrived. When the Golden Tree made a summoning call, an Elder would be able to sense it immediately, as long as they were in the area. While Bei Bei was slightly late, it was because he was further away than the rest.

Bei Bei was startled to see Huo Yuhao. He quickly greeted the rest of the elders before sitting down beside Yuhao.

He softly said, "Little junior, you're here because of Tang Wutong, right? Who told you? We wanted to tell you, but we couldn't find a way of communicating with you."

Huo Yuhao laughed bitterly. "Eldest senior, I'm really not here for her. However, I've already met her. Let's talk about her after the conference." n(OvεLBIn

"Alright," Bei Bei nodded.

Elder Xuan coughed and turned everyone's attention to him. "Since everyone is here, we'll start. Yuhao, will you recount what you said to me earlier to everyone?"

"Yes." Huo Yuhao began with how he had joined the Star Luo Empire's military. He avoided talking about his purpose for joining, and mainly talked about what had happened after the Sun Moon Empire started the war.

Just like Elder Xuan, the rest of the elders turned serious after listening to him.

Shrek City and Shrek Academy had been developing significantly because of the Spirit Pagoda. If this continued, the Academy would reach new heights very soon, and the influence of the Academy on the continent would grow even stronger.

However, the Sun Moon Empire had started a war at this time. Furthermore, they had even ferociously destroyed the Star Luo Empire's northwestern defense line. Right now, they had adopted war strategies, and were likely to be threatening the Heavenly Soul Empire already.

Shrek City was now located at the center of the junction between the three empires of the Douluo Continent. Once the situation became unfavorable for the Heavenly Soul Empire, Shrek City was likely to be implicated, too. After all, Shrek City was located within the territory of the Heavenly Soul Empire.

Elder Xuan gestured to Huo Yuhao to take his seat. After that, he looked at the other elders. "Everyone, please tell me your opinions. What do you think the Academy should do regarding this situation so that we can stabilize it?"

Elder Song said, "The situation now is still unclear. The information that Yuhao has brought back should be accurate. However, we don't know to what extent the Heavenly Soul Empire is involved in the war. While the strength of the Heavenly Soul Empire isn't comparable to the Star Luo Empire, they are still one of the three empires of the Douluo Continent. They also have a strong foundation, and the help of the Body Sect. Even if the Sun Moon Empire invades them, I reckon that the Heavenly Soul Empire should be able to hang on for some time. Currently, we should maintain the status quo as a means of dealing with all the changes around us. At the same time, we should speed up our own development, and try our best to obtain information from the frontline before we decide what to do."

After hearing Elder Song's words, many of the elders nodded their heads in approval.

Yan Shaozhe also said, "I agree with Elder Song's opinion. After experiencing the beast tide earlier, the Academy has also been greatly affected. Although we've attracted many outstanding talents from the various empires of the continent to join us because of our Spirit Pagoda, we still need some time to consolidate everything. Given the Academy's current situation, I also feel that we shouldn't rush to get involved in the war. Personally, I feel that we should increase our focus on our Soul Tool Department and the Tang Sect. In addition, we should make it a priority to equip the Shrek City Defense Army and establish our own soul engineering legion."

Chapter 430.1: Selection

"Yuhao has already described the importance of a soul engineer legion on a battlefield. Shrek Academy doesn't lack soul masters, but we lack high-tier soul tools. We need to put more effort into this aspect. At the same time, should we also contact the Great Star Dou Forest?"

Xian Lin'er's eyes widened and she asked, "Regarding? Tell them that there's an internal conflict between humans? So that they can exploit this opportunity?"

Yan Shaozhe furrowed his brow. If this were the past, he would have rebuked Xian Lin'er. However, he felt very guilty every time he saw her after they resisted the last beast tide. He opened his mouth, but didn't manage to say anything.

Elder Xuan said, "Lin'er, what's your suggestion then?"

Xian Lin'er replied, "I agree that we should increase our focus on the Tang Sect and developing the Soul Tool Department. I also agree that we should monitor the situation at the front line. However, we have to send capable people to do these things. If we wait for the Heavenly Soul and Star Luo Empires to pass information to us, it'll be too slow. n/.OVELb1n

"At the same time, we have to intensify the training of the Shrek City Defense Army. The army is mainly divided into soul engineers and normal soldiers. After the Spirit Pagoda was constructed, we now have three thousand soul masters and soul engineers in the army. Among them, most are graduates that we've recalled from various places, as well as the original crew of soldiers. There are also a few strong soul masters that came from different empires. I believe that we should intensify their training and equip them with soul tools so that they'll be prepared to support the front line."

"Yes." Elder Xuan nodded his head and looked at Bei Bei before saying, "Bei Bei, how's the production of soul tools in the Tang Sect? Especially Zhuge Divine Crossbow Cannons and All-Terrain forts, as well as more advanced soul tools."

Bei Bei said, "We've been developing very smoothly with the resources of the Academy and other empires. We've managed to deploy soul engineers in the Shrek City Defense Army to help in simple soul tool production. At the same time, we've also increased their knowledge of soul tools and taught them how to better use soul tools, among other things."

Elder Xuan said, "If we enter the war now, how many packages of soul tools can the Tang Sect provide?"

Bei Bei thought for a moment before replying, "If you're talking about fully equipping the soldiers, I think we're able to fully equip two hundred soul engineers right now, which is our current limit. This includes Self-Driving Forts and human-shaped soul tools, as well as some accessory stuff, surveillance

soul tools, etc. We can form a small legion. If we maximize our production and training, I believe we can equip five hundred people within three months.”

Elder Song furrowed her brow and commented, “Only five hundred people? That seems too little. Why did I have the impression that the Tang Sect’s Self-Driving Forts could already arm hundreds of people? It’s already been so long, but only so few people can be armed?”

Bei Bei said, “Elder Song, arming the soldiers now is different from before. We need to fully equip them. Teacher Xuan will be the one customizing the class of soul tools that our soldiers will be equipped with, and it’s definitely not inferior to the standard of the Sun Moon Empire’s soul engineer legions. Given Shrek City’s financial strength and the support of the other three empires, this is the speed that we can proceed with. If we go any faster, we can’t ensure the quality of the soul tools produced. In addition, we must try our best to tap into the advantages of this legion we’re arming. I believe that we should equip the strongest soul masters, and not soul engineers. Through countless experiments, we’ve discovered that what Yuhao said was right. Asking soul masters to use soul tools is in fact better than asking pure soul engineers to use soul tools. After all, they just need to learn how to use soul tools to complement their martial souls. In many instances, this can bring about unexpected results.

“For example, Yuhao is able to use his Spirit Eyes to aim, which allows him to be more adept at using long-range soul tools. Positioning and firing are his strengths. That’s why we can’t just teach this batch of soul masters how to use soul tools as we nurture them. At the same time, we must equip them with soul tools that are most suitable for them. This will require more time. As for Self-Driving Forts, they don’t suit this legion we’re trying to form. They are more useful for city defense, as well as group attacks and defense. We’ll continue to produce them, but we won’t equip this legion with self-driving forts.”

After hearing Bei Bei’s explanation, Xian Lin’er’s eyes brightened. “Does this mean that you have a brand new concept for this legion? How about counting me in?”

Bei Bei laughed bitterly. “We’d also like someone as strong as you to join. However, the problem is that we can only equip Soul Emperors, given the quantity of soul tools that we’re trying to produce. If we let more advanced soul masters use our soul tools, I’m afraid the soul tools will not be strong enough. However, Teacher Xuan has also started producing Class 9 soul tools. After receiving the full support of the Academy, his cultivation is getting closer and closer to a Titled Douluo.”

The Sun Moon Empire had medicine that could increase one’s soul power. How could Shrek Academy not possess such stuff, too? In terms of martial soul research, Shrek Academy had thousands of years of experience and accumulation. Many sects, academies and empires couldn’t compare to Shrek Academy in this area.

It was just that Shrek Academy didn’t encourage using medicine to increase one’s soul power. Using medicine restricted the future development of a soul master. He wouldn’t be able to become a Transcendent Douluo in the future.

However, it was already almost impossible for Xuan Ziwen to become a Transcendent Douluo, anyway. Part of his cultivation was achieved through medicinal help when he was still in the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy, so it didn’t matter to him anymore. Through the medicine that Shrek Academy had specially customized and concocted for him, his soul power had achieved an increase, and he was now at Rank 89.

Given his importance, Qian Duoduo and Xian Lin'er would often accompany him during his research, and learned a lot from him. They were partly there to protect him, and also taught him about the principles of cultivation that some soul masters in Shrek Academy had adopted.

If Xuan Ziwen could become a Titled Douluo, it would be very significant to Shrek Academy. Xuan Ziwen's foundation already gave him the potential to be a Class 9 soul engineer. If his cultivation continued to increase, his class as a soul engineer would also rise. When that happened, there would finally be a Class 9 soul engineer that belonged to the Douluo Continent. This was extremely important to the future development of Shrek Academy's soul tools!

Xuan Ziwen was definitely the busiest man in Shrek Academy and the Tang Sect. Not only did he have to create his own soul tools, but he also had to come up with a syllabus to teach the students. At the same time, he controlled the entire Soul Tool Hall. He was extremely busy, but he enjoyed this feeling. He was already a workaholic. Here, he was the core of all resources. Whatever he wanted, the Academy would do their best to satisfy. It was much better compared to when he was in the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy, where he was supervised all the time!

Xian Lin'er laughed, "After hearing you, I'm becoming more and more curious. This soul engineer legion should have a name, right? Elder Xuan, why don't you give it a name?"

Elder Xuan laughed slightly and replied, "Let's call it the Tang Sect Soul Engineer Legion. We'll name it after the Tang Sect."

Bei Bei and Huo Yuhao were both stunned. Bei Bei hurriedly said, "Elder Xuan, how can you do this? Our soul engineer legion completely relies on the support and resources of the Academy. The name of the soul engineer legion should be related to the Academy. How can we use the Tang Sect to name it?"

Elder Xuan smiled as he shook his head and replied, "A name is just a designation. As long as you can give this soul engineer legion extremely great fighting strength, it doesn't matter what it's called. Furthermore, the Tang Sect has also poured in a lot of effort to build this soul engineer legion. Although we provided the resources, you are the ones doing all the work, especially Teacher Xuan. His influence on this soul engineer legion is something we can't replicate. Don't be too bothered about this. Let's just call it the Tang Sect Soul Engineer Legion. It's a simple name, but let's hope it'll exist forever. In the future, we'll depend on all of you to turn the tide."

Bei Bei and Huo Yuhao looked at each other, and neither of them continued to say anything. However, both of them subconsciously clenched their fists. The Tang Sect had only managed to progress so quickly with the support of the Academy. When Shrek City was fully constructed, and the Tang Sect Soul Engineer Legion was fully established, the Tang Sect would finally be able to compare to some of the bigger sects.

There was a deep significance behind Elder Xuan's decision to name this soul engineer legion after the Tang Sect. This meant that he was passing the authority over this soul engineer legion to the Tang Sect. His trust in them was invaluable!

Elder Xuan looked at Xian Lin'er and Qian Duoduo before saying, "I think we can pass the Ultimate Soldier Plan to them too, and they'll be in charge of nurturing these soul masters in all aspects. Since the soul tools produced by the Tang Sect can equip Soul Emperors, we should start picking Soul Emperors

out. I don't think we'll really need five hundred people. Quality trumps quantity. Let's use all the Soul Emperors we've got, and start from the inner courtyard. After that, we'll start choosing from the army.

"This is the Academy's decision. Whoever is unwilling to listen to orders will be punished according to the Academy's rules. If soul masters from the other three empires are willing to join, they must first sign a pact with the Academy, and they'll need to undergo a series of tests first. Lin'er, Duoduo, the two of you will be in charge of this matter. Shaozhe, coordinate with them, too. Send some teachers to the Tang Sect to help them train this soul engineer legion. If I remember correctly, the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineer Legions seem to only consist of Soul Kings. They aren't even real soul masters. Since we're going all-out, we must nurture a soul engineer legion that surpasses theirs!"

Chapter 430.2: Selection

There was a determined look on Elder Xuan's face as he spoke.

The Sun Moon Empire's soul engineer legions had already revealed their strength in the war. , They couldn't rely on traditional methods against such legions anymore. It was only possible to overcome them by unleashing the potential of soul engineers.

Another series of strategies were discussed before Elder Xuan dismissed the conference. Bei Bei and a few deans left together. They needed to get busy preparing for the Tang Sect Soul Engineer Legion's formation. Elder Xuan kept Huo Yuhao behind.

"Yuhao, I'm afraid that you'll need to return to the front line. You aren't just the only Ultimate Soldier nurtured by the Academy, you also have immense spiritual detection abilities. Although it's dangerous, no one can compare to you in terms of your surveillance skills. It's because of your timely discovery that the Star Luo Empire was able to uncover the Sun Moon Empire's scheme. Return to the Star Luo Empire and continue to aid them. At the same time, get some of the Sun Moon Empire's surveillance soul tools if possible. They will be very important to our future. I have discussed this matter with Teacher Xuan before. He said that producing surveillance soul tools requires a lot of special and rare metals. Only the Sun Moon Empire produces them, especially aerial surveillance soul tools. Can you bring some of them back?"

Huo Yuhao nodded and replied, "I'll try my best."

"You must be careful." Elder Xuan said with a serious look, "I'm afraid that the strength of that Death God's Ray is something even I can't bear. I'd be seriously hurt if I was the one resisting it. However, the person unleashing such a powerful attack definitely has to pay a huge price for it. It doesn't just operate based on soul power, it also involves a fusion of spiritual power. Its strength can even exceed an attack from an Ultimate Douluo. If you have the opportunity, you must uncover the secret of this Death God so that it's more convenient for us to deal with it in the future. Otherwise, I don't know how many lives from the Star Luo Empire will be lost before we can tackle it."

Huo Yuhao nodded seriously. Just like Elder Xuan had mentioned, the entire Star Luo Empire, and even the other empires of the Douluo Continent, would be greatly threatened in the future if this Death God couldn't be handled!

Many lives would be lost because of the terrifying strength it possessed! Furthermore, higher-end combat strength would be needed. An ordinary attack wasn't sufficient to allow the Sun Moon Empire to fire such a powerful soul tool.

Elder Xuan said, "Go back and discuss things with Teacher Xuan. Although the production method of such a soul tool is very mysterious, there are definitely ways to find out how it was made.

"Oh yes, the Academy will also send a few people to follow you to the front line this time. Otherwise, your powers won't be sufficient. Furthermore, it's not very appropriate for you to remain there using the identity of a normal soldier. The Academy will produce a document which will recommend the few of you meet the marshal of the Star Luo Empire's Northwestern Field Army, the White Tiger Duke. All of you will coordinate with him. You're from the Star Luo Empire. It's fine if you undertake a military role."

Huo Yuhao's eyes brightened and he said, "Elder Xuan, do you mean that we'll start aiding the Star Luo Empire now?"

Elder Xuan shook his head and replied, "I don't consider it to be aiding them. We still can't touch the higher-end combat strength of the Academy, because the Heavenly Soul Empire might be attacked by the Sun Moon Empire. At this time, the Academy can't incline itself towards either the Star Luo or Heavenly Soul Empire. Otherwise, tongues will wag. As a result, those who are following you this time will be mostly from the Tang Sect. In my opinion, Xu Sanshi and Jiang Nannan should follow you. They aren't that useful when it comes to soul tools, anyway. He Caitou should remain here. Given that Xiao Xiao is so close to He Caitou, she can remain here too. I'll not touch Bei Bei, so you can choose one more person from the Tang Sect, and the Academy will send one person as well. What do you think about Tang Wutong?"

When Elder Xuan finished speaking, there was already a smiling intent on his face.

Huo Yuhao was stunned, and revealed a surprised look on his face. In fact, he was also very conflicted. When Elder Xuan said that he should return to the front line, the first feeling that he had was that he was unwilling to do so. There was only one reason... Tang Wutong! It didn't matter whether Tang Wutong had anything to do with Wang Dong'er and Wang Qiu'er. Her appearance already left Huo Yuhao very conflicted. He was willing to pay any price to remain here. If Tang Wutong was Wang Dong'er, he had to try his best to help her to regain her memories. If she wasn't, he still had to at least interact with her to be certain.

He was in a much better mood when Elder Xuan said he was going to send Tang Wutong to the front lines. He hesitated a little before saying, "But didn't she apply to be a teacher in the Academy? Will there be any problems if she follows us?"

Elder Xuan smiled and shook his head. He said, "Don't worry, she isn't just here to apply for a teaching role. She also wants to apply for a position in the Shrek Guardians. The Academy will use this opportunity to test her, and I'm going to use the excuse that you're the chief examiner, so she'll follow your orders. She's also a Soul Sage, and her abilities aren't weak. Didn't you experience them before? As for the sparks that could potentially form between the two of you, and whether she really has lost her memories, that'll depend on your own efforts to find out. You are so outstanding. Even if Tang Wutong isn't the same person as Wang Dong'er, I believe you can still successfully chase her."

Huo Yuhao's eyes turned a bit dimmer, and he shook his head. He said, "Why would I chase her if she's not Dong'er? But I believe she is! Thanks, Elder Xuan." As he spoke, he took a step back before bowing seriously to Elder Xuan.

Elder Xuan smiled and said, "Silly kid, the Academy will always be your strongest backer, no matter what. Go now. I'll talk to her immediately. Rest for a day and return to the Tang Sect to choose your people. Tomorrow morning, return here, and take her along with you."

After leaving the Sea God's Pavilion, Huo Yuhao bowed towards the Golden Tree once again before he flew across Sea God's Lake and left the Academy. He rushed towards the Tang Sect.

Right now, he was feeling very complex. He was excited, delighted, and even a little uncomfortable. He was most afraid of finding out that Tang Wutong and Wang Dong'er weren't the same person. If that was the case, all his hopes would be dashed.

If this were the past, he certainly wouldn't be so nervous about everything. After all, Tang Wutong and Wang Dong'er were simply too alike. However, things were different now. Given there was also a Wang Qiu'er, he was unsure whether Tang Wutong was Wang Dong'er. He had to find out everything for himself.

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He quickly returned to the Tang Sect with these feelings. Bei Bei, who had returned to the sect earlier, had already informed everyone, and they were all waiting for Huo Yuhao in the Conference Hall.

"Little junior!" He Caitou was the first to rush up and gave Huo Yuhao a big hug. Xu Sanshi was next.

When Huo Yuhao opened his arms towards Jiang Nannan and Xiao Xiao, he was stopped by the both of them.

Xu Sanshi fiercely asked, "Rascal, what are you trying to do?"

Huo Yuhao chuckled and said, "Of course I'm trying to get closer to my senior sisters! It took me so long before I returned. I must treat everyone the same way, right?"

"Don't even think about it!" Xu Sanshi and He Caitou said at almost the same time. Everyone was so amused that they burst out laughing.

Huo Yuhao was a little annoyed as he shrugged his shoulders and said, "Alright, I won't hug them."

Xu Sanshi also relaxed his grip on Huo Yuhao and touched him lightly before saying, "Little junior, you should know about Tang Wutong, right? She's too much like to Dong'er. What's going on? First, it's Dong'er. Then, it's Qiu'er. Now we have a Tang Wutong. Don't tell me they're triplets?"

When he said the word 'triplets', his eyes immediately brightened.

"Aiyo!" Xu Sanshi screamed immediately after that. One of his ears was already being pulled by a delicate hand. Jiang Nannan said fiercely, "What are you thinking of? Triplets? You're even salivating. Hmph!" **noVE(lb).1n**

Xu Sanshi hurriedly laughed, "I wouldn't dare, I wouldn't dare! Don't even talk about triplets. Even if there were ten of them, they couldn't compare to my Nannan! Yuhao, look at you. The moment you return, you cause an internal conflict in my family."

Everyone laughed again. Huo Yuhao smiled as he said, "This has nothing to do with me. It's your own problem." He paused for a moment before saying, "As for Tang Wutong, I don't know if she's Dong'er. However, I believe that I'll be able to tell if I interact with her more."

Xu Sanshi said, "Good luck, little junior. Whether she is or she's not, just get it done first. Anyway, guys will never be at a disadvantage."

"Are you itching for a beating again?" Jiang Nannan shouted and pulled him to one side.

Huo Yuhao was a little helpless as he shook his head.

Bei Bei smiled and asked, "Little junior, are you leaving again after returning?"

Huo Yuhao nodded and replied, "I'll be leaving tomorrow. Elder Xuan held me back to tell me that he wanted me to help the Star Luo Empire's military do some surveillance work. At the same time, he wants me to obtain some aerial surveillance soul tools. Oh yes, I brought one back this time. I'll send it to Teacher Xuan later."

Bei Bei furrowed his brow and said, "Little junior, you are always running about so much. Won't it delay your cultivation? Furthermore, the frontline is so dangerous. What if the Death God's Ray that you were talking about..."

Huo Yuhao replied, "I'm not really that afraid of the Death God's Ray. Ever since Qiu'er sacrificed herself, I took over her power of destiny. Before the Death God's Ray appears, I'll definitely have some kind of premonition. That transcendent soul tool isn't much of a threat to me, I'll be fine as long as I don't get close to it.

"According to my observations, the effective range of the Death God's Ray is around five thousand meters. The most frightening part about it is that it doesn't just target one spot. It can perform a sweep, which makes the area that it covers much wider. There's another mission that I have to perform when I go to the front line this time: find out as much as I can about the Death God's Ray! I'm supposed to find out what happens when it's fired, and what kind of destruction it brings."

Chapter 430.3: Selection

Bei Bei was shocked, and blurted out, "Little junior, that Death God's Ray is used by the Death God Douluo! He's very mysterious. This mission is going to be very difficult. No, I must talk to Elder Xuan. How can he let you do something like this?"

Huo Yuhao hurriedly said, "Eldest senior, don't be anxious. Elder Xuan didn't force me to go on this mission. He told me that I could explore further if I had the opportunity to. Furthermore, I have my Spiritual Detection! My Spiritual Detection can cover a greater distance than that Death God's Ray. It wouldn't be too much of a problem for me to examine it from a distance. If I can't win, I can still flee. In addition, Elder Xuan also asked me to bring a few people along with me this time. I can choose from the Tang Sect's members."

He recounted everything that Elder Xuan had told him to the others.

Bei Bei didn't say anything, but Xu Sanshi was already jumping in excitement. "This is great! I can finally leave Shrek City! Little junior, you don't know how bored I've been. I've been helping Bei Bei deal with all types of matters in the Tang Sect over these past few days. It's been extremely annoying. It'll be great to step onto a battlefield. This is set, Nannan and I will follow you. Oh yes, my soul power is at Rank 70 already. Can you help me get a Spirit when we return? Nannan's soul power is also almost at that stage too. I want a nice and smart Spirit. Oh, seven rings is just suitable."

Huo Yuhao was stunned when he looked at Xu Sanshi. Everyone's abilities had been growing very quickly. He then turned to look at Bei Bei and asked, "Eldest senior, what about you?"

Bei Bei smiled as he nodded and said, "I'm at around the same level as him. I'll need a Spirit soon, too. If you don't return again, we'll have to go to the Spirit Pagoda. Of course, we'll have to wait for Nannan. Caitou is also at Rank 70."

After passing the tests in the Yin-Yang Love Querying Valley, everyone's soul power had improved by leaps and bounds. Apart from Xiao Xiao, they were all at the Rank 70 bottleneck.

Huo Yuhao said, "Why don't we enter the Great Star Dou Forest directly and ask for suitable soul beasts as Spirits? That would be the most effective solution."

Xu Sanshi chuckled as he answered, "It'll definitely be the most effective if you lead us in. Those savage beasts treat you like a gem."

Jiang Nannan knocked his head and said, "Can you speak more nicely? What gem? Huo Yuhao is now the one controlling the destiny of the entire Great Star Dou Forest."

Huo Yuhao thought for a moment before replying, "Since this is the case, let's leave in two days. We'll go to the Great Star Dou Forest tomorrow. Xiao Xiao, how far off are you?"

Xiao Xiao was a little depressed as she answered, "Three ranks. I'm at Rank 67 now."

Huo Yuhao laughed. "Don't be depressed. At our age, we're already considered some of the best on the continent with our current soul power. If you continue being depressed, the other soul masters are better off being dead. Don't worry, I'll return soon. Once you reach Rank 70, don't be too impatient to obtain another soul ring. Wait for me to come back, and we'll help you get one."

He turned to Bei Bei and asked, "Oh yes, eldest senior, I forgot one more thing. What about our two Darkgolden Terrorclaw Bears?"

Bei Bei replied, "They're in the outer courtyard. Speaking of those two fellows, they are almost bankrupting our sect with the amount of food that they eat. They eat everything, and the amount of food that they eat is almost equivalent to the total amount of food that all of us consume. It hasn't even been two years, but the two of them are already more than two meters tall. Their claws are also very destructive, no construction material is able to resist the strength of their claws!

"The last time, Big Blackie even secretly ate the medicine that the Academy gave to Teacher Xuan. But that fellow is quite interesting. He gave some of the medicine that he stole to Lil Blackie. After eating the medicine, the two of them became much more obedient, and fell asleep for a few days. However, their

appetite became even more voracious after they woke up. We are slowly becoming unable to feed them anymore. If we can't feed them, we'll have to release them back into the Great Star Dou Forest."

Huo Yuhao shook his head and said, "We can't send them back. The blood lineage of Darkgolden Terrorclaw Bears is too strong. They are the enemies of almost all soul beasts. They are still so small now. If we send them back now, they'll definitely be attacked. We'll be harming them. How's their relationship with everyone right now?"

Jiang Nannan laughed, "It's great. The two of them deliberately act cute all the time. They make everyone very happy."

Huo Yuhao smiled and said, "That's great. Eldest senior, what do you think if we send both of them to the Setting Sun Forest?"

"Setting Sun Forest? You're saying?" Bei Bei suddenly thought of something, and exchanged a glance with Huo Yuhao.

Huo Yuhao nodded and said, "The development of soul beasts is greatly tied to their energy intake. That place is most suitable for them. Since the Sun Moon Empire started this war, and things are getting more and more chaotic, the Tang Sect also needs a stronger force to be protected by. If we let them remain there for some time, I believe they'll grow even faster."

Bei Bei hesitated a little. "Will it be too much?"

Huo Yuhao replied, "Nothing will happen to them. Many of the plant-type soul beasts there are ten-thousand year soul beasts. They'll be strong enough to restrain them. With us around, those plant-type soul beasts won't dare to do anything to them, either. Let's just leave them there. There aren't any other soul beasts or natural enemies of Darkgolden Terrorclaw Bears in the Setting Sun Forest anyway. It's the most suitable place for them."

Bei Bei said, "Since this is the case, let's do it. I'll make a trip later and send them there."

Huo Yuhao said, "Eldest senior, the poison over there is lethal, you..."

Bei Bei said, "Don't worry, Teacher Xuan's newly-invented protective barrier for Class 7 All-Terrain Self-Driving Forts will be able to protect me. With my previous experience, I'll be fine as long as I'm careful. It's enough as long as I can fly across the mountain valley with my Self-Driving Fort."

Huo Yuhao was stunned. "Self-Driving Forts can fly now?"

Everyone laughed when they heard him ask that. He Caitou chuckled and said, "Of course they can fly. Furthermore, we even gave them an apt name... Flying Pigs!"

Huo Yuhao was speechless. Calling them Flying Pigs is indeed very apt. All-Terrain Self-Driving Forts are very round. If they fly in the air, they will indeed seem like pigs. It's just that if Teacher Xuan learns about this nickname...

Xiao Xiao laughed, "Alright, Yuhao just came back. Let's not talk about that, let's eat first. I'll go to the kitchen to take a look."

Everyone sat down around a table. Not only was this a place for them to hold meetings, but it was also a place for them to dine together.

Bei Bei looked at Huo Yuhao and asked, "Yuhao, who are you thinking of bringing along with you? Apart from Sanshi and Nannan?"

"Me, me too!" Before he even finished speaking, a voice already sounded eagerly. When Huo Yuhao turned his head to look, he saw Nan Qiuqiu sitting somewhere further away. She stretched out her hands with all her strength and looked very impatient.

Huo Yuhao shook his head speechlessly and said, "I wouldn't dare to bring you along. You can remain in the Tang Sect." **noVE(lb.1n**

Nan Qiuqiu was displeased. "Why? Am I that weak? I'm a six-ringed Soul Emperor. Bring me along."

Ye Guyi, who was sitting beside her, said, "I want to go, too. We'll listen to your instructions when we are performing missions."

The two of them looked at Huo Yuhao and seemed very eager. They had been cultivating in the Tang Sect since the beast tide. They couldn't help out much in terms of the Tang Sect's daily matters. They were both young ladies, and thus they were very bored as time passed. Huo Yuhao was about to go on another mission after returning this time, and they were extremely eager as they volunteered themselves. As for whatever other intentions they harbored, only they themselves knew.

Huo Yuhao furrowed his brow. In terms of abilities, Nan Qiuqiu and Ye Guyi were rather good. They were both Soul Emperors now, and their martial souls were very special. Nan Qiuqiu's martial soul was of the Annihilation Element, while Ye Guyi's martial soul was of the Holy Element. They were both very effective at dealing with evil soul masters. Naturally, it would be great if they could tag along. However, the two of them weren't like the rest of them in the Tang Sect. It was very possible for them to get themselves into trouble. Under such circumstances, Huo Yuhao didn't know whether it was a good idea to bring them along.

Bei Bei said from one side, "Just bring them along. It'll be beneficial for them if they can venture outside. However, Qiuqiu and Guyi, I have something that I have to say to the both of you."

Bei Bei turned serious and said, "This mission isn't an ordinary one. It concerns your lives. The both of you must think about it carefully. At the same time, you must listen to Yuhao's instructions outside. Otherwise, the Tang Sect won't be able to keep you. I hope you understand what I'm saying."

Nan Qiuqiu flattened her lips. She wanted to say that he was biased, but she didn't dare to. Ye Guyi tugged her slightly and nodded. She said seriously, "Eldest senior, don't worry. We'll definitely listen to Huo Yuhao's arrangements when we're outside. We won't make trouble for him."

Bei Bei's expression turned much friendlier, and he replied, "That's great!"

"We want to go too." Jing Ziyan, who was sitting to one side, raised her hand. She also tugged at Ji Juechen, who was beside her. Ji Juechen nodded strongly.

Huo Yuhao was much less worried about the two of them. He smiled and said, "Great! Brother Ji and Sister Ziyang, come along too. However, eldest senior, I'm going to take so many people with me. What about things over here..."

Bei Bei smiled and said, "Things will be fine here. The few of them won't be able to help me much even if they remain here. I won't have to be so worried if Brother Ji leaves."

Ji Juechen didn't have any expression on his face even after Bei Bei mocked him. He only looked at Huo Yuhao seriously. Even though he didn't say anything, Huo Yuhao could roughly guess what he was thinking. He sighed helplessly. He wasn't against sparring with Ji Juechen. Someone like Ji Juechen putting pressure on him was actually very beneficial to his cultivation.

Bei Bei nodded and said, "This is it, then. Sanshi, Nannan, Ziyang, Brother Ji, Qiuqiu and Guyi, all of you will follow Yuhao to the Star Luo Empire's front line. He will be the one commanding all of you on this mission. You must all listen to his instructions. Tomorrow, we'll follow him into the Great Star Dou Forest first, before you all set off. Yuhao, do you have anything to add?"

Huo Yuhao shook his head.