

## Tang Sect 436

### Chapter 436.1: Roasting Fish for Her

Xu Sanshi chuckled said, "I'm experienced. The two of them have been watching you ever since you returned. Isn't this obvious enough? Furthermore, both of them are always mumbling to themselves when they see you. They wear resentful looks whenever they look at you! Nan Qiuqiu is more obvious than Ye Guyi. However, Ye Guyi spends more time looking at you compared to Nan Qiuqiu. I don't know what's so good about you. Why are all the beauties interested in you instead of me?"

"Because you're ugly," Ji Juechen said from one side.

Xu Sanshi snorted furiously. "Are you trying to embarrass me? Can't you just play along?"

Ji Juechen flipped his hand and whipped out his Judgment Sword, "Do you want to play?"

Xu Sanshi snorted, "I'm not scared of you. Little junior, since there's a river here, there are naturally fish here as well. Why don't you make some fish soup for us? I know how good you are. You haven't demonstrated your cooking skills in a while. Since you have such a good opportunity now, go on and take it!"

Huo Yuhao asked, "What? Are you really going to spar with Brother Ji?"

Xu Sanshi said delightfully, "No, I'm going to settle him. I already have seven rings now, I'm not scared of him anymore. Old Ji, see how I'm going to settle you today. Come on, let's go to one side and spar!" Usually, he avoided Ji Juechen. However, today was an exception. He had just become a Soul Sage, and just fused with a Golden Tortoise. How could he resist challenging Ji Juechen? After all, he had an extroverted personality to begin with.

Ji Juechen didn't expect Xu Sanshi to readily agree with his request. His eyes flashed before he turned around and walked towards an empty clearing that wasn't very far away. He used his actions to prove his words, that he wasn't just taunting Xu Sanshi.

Huo Yuhao felt a little helpless as he shook his head. He turned around and walked towards the river. If Tang Wutong weren't around, Huo Yuhao might still not have taken the initiative to cook. It wasn't that he was unwilling to cook for everyone else, it was because he didn't want Ye Guyi and Nan Qiuqiu to misunderstand his actions.

However, things were different now. Tang Wutong was around now. He wanted to do what they used to do before to jolt her memories. As for Ye Guyi and Nan Qiuqiu, they shouldn't overthink it since Tang Wutong was around.

As he walked to the side of the river, Huo Yuhao rolled up his trousers before he walked in.

A few ladies who were washing themselves immediately threw furious glances at him.

Nan Qiuqiu was displeased as she said, "Hey, you've dirtied the river water."

Huo Yuhao was a little annoyed as he replied, "Student, please watch carefully."

“I’m the one swimming in the water. I’m not even complaining about the water that you’ve used to clean yourself. If you’re good enough, don’t eat the food that I’m going to cook later.”

He had already started as he spoke. He didn’t even need any tools. His hands were his tools. He gently pressed his hands against the river’s surface before making a flinging motion outward.

Suddenly, a small fish around twenty centimeters long shot out of the water. The ripples that it generated looked extremely captivating under the sunset glow.

Small fish started to jump towards the shore one after another, landing on the shore. In a matter of seconds, more than ten small fish were already onshore.

The five ladies were stunned when they saw what Huo Yuhao was doing.

It wasn’t difficult for them to catch fish from the river, given their cultivations. However, Huo Yuhao was extremely swift and accurate, without making a single mistake. The gentle suction force that he produced also didn’t cause too much river water to splash around. His every movement would force a small fish to accurately shoot out of the water towards the shore, increasing the difficulty level of catching them.

From the time he entered the river until he went back onshore, including the time he used to converse with Nan Qiuqiu, he only took two minutes to finish catching all the fish he needed.

When he returned to shore, he sat down by the riverside. As he waved his right hand, a small fish landed in it. Jade-green light flashed before his Life Guardian Blade jumped out in between his fingers.

The life aura of his Life Guardian Blade retracted under Huo Yuhao’s control. During this process, green lights flashed a few times, and a small fish was completely de-scaled. He then proceeded to wash the fish in the river before throwing it into a pot beside him

Huo Yuhao finished de-scaling and cleaning all the fish in less than ten minutes. He was very sharp and neat during the entire process. Everything felt very smooth and natural.

The five ladies, including Tang Wutong, were all drawn over. As for the fight that had just begun on the other side, they were completely uninterested. Even Jiang Nannan, who was already familiar with Huo Yuhao’s capabilities, was attracted.

Compared to before, Huo Yuhao was much faster now. They were all either Soul Emperors or Soul Sages. Naturally, they were much more observant than ordinary people.

They could clearly see that only the backs of the gills and tails of the fish were slit, apart from a single cut in the belly of every fish. These two slits were made to remove the tendons of the fish.

Apart from these slits and cuts, the small fish weren’t treated in any other way. However, they were completely de-scaled.

Everything happened too quickly and cleanly.

Huo Yuhao started retrieving all types of bottles from his storage-type soul tool. He didn’t even measure or take a closer look at the amount of seasonings he was using before he started treating the fish in the pot. Four or five of the fish were removed beforehand, and weren’t seasoned.

Some of the condiments were very heavy in taste, while some were very refreshing. When they were mixed together, they seemed to create a very special fragrance.

Jing Ziyao had tasted Huo Yuhao's grilled fish once before, but she only a little. Nan Qiuqiu had also tasted one before, but Ye Guyi had naturally not tried his grilled fish.

Tang Wutong squatted to one side and observed Huo Yuhao. She was filled with curiosity. She could naturally tell that he was whipping up a meal for everyone. But can he cook? Will it be delicious? He looks like a chef!

Don't tell me that this fellow is also very impressive at cooking? Is he really talented in every aspect?

Very quickly, Huo Yuhao finished seasoning all the fish. After that, he started to mix the spices with the fishes in the pot. In addition, he even rubbed them in the fish's bellies. Not only were the fish seasoned on the outside, but they were also seasoned inside.

Huo Yuhao smiled as he asked, "Can someone get me some tree branches? I need some that are about as thick as a pinky and around forty centimeters long. Their thickness must be uniform. I will also need some firewood."

"If you move fast, we can have our meal earlier."

Tang Wutong was stunned for a moment. Before she could even react, Ye Guyi had already opened her mouth, "I'll do it." Even as she said it, she had already stood up and quickly walked towards trees.

Nan Qiuqiu glanced at Tang Wutong. Seeing that she wasn't moving, she was slightly stunned. Has she really lost her memory? Why hasn't she reacted to Sister Guyi's action?

In fact, Tang Wutong reacted internally. When Ye Guyi said that she was going to help Huo Yuhao, she suddenly felt a little disappointed. However, she was adamant about not helping him!

Ye Guyi wasn't slow either. Very soon, she managed to grab a bunch of tree branches and firewood.

Huo Yuhao had already filled another pot with clear water, and placed the fish that he didn't season into this pot.

Jiang Nannan laughed as she said, "Yuhao, it seems like you only know how to cook fish. You always use this same recipe when you want to give us a treat! Don't you have anything new?"

Huo Yuhao chortled and replied, "I can make some vegetables. However, where can we find greens in this remote area? I'll make some dry rations for everyone later. We can also eat something beforehand. Fourth senior, my family was very poor when we were young. We were only able to catch one or two fish occasionally and improve the quality of our meals. I'm not too good at whipping up other dishes. It was already very rare for me to eat fish when I was young."

He spoke very naturally. No one reacted except Tang Wutong, who felt slightly sour in her heart. She secretly thought to herself, His life was actually so tough when he was young? Why am I feeling sad for him?

After gathering firewood, starting a fire was naturally very easy. Ye Guyi started the fire personally. She used her Holy Fire to light up the firewood, a sight that would no doubt make any evil soul masters who saw it throw up blood!

On the other side, a bonfire had also been prepared. Huo Yuhao didn't rush to grill the fish. Rather, he waited quietly. The fish had to be marinated longer so that they would taste better. He wasn't in a hurry.

He turned around and looked at the two who were sparring. As expected, Ji Juechen and Xu Sanshi were fighting very intensely.

Just as Huo Yuhao was cooking his fish, Ji Juechen and Xu Sanshi clashed again.

No matter how close Ji Juechen was to anyone, personal relationships never influenced him in a fight.

Once he entered his fighting mode, Ji Juechen wasn't Ji Juechen anymore. He was the Sword Fanatic.

He focused his gaze, and his seven soul rings rose from beneath his feet. However, all his soul skills were peripheral to him. This was because he only had swords in his heart.

He pointed his Judgment Sword toward the ground. He wasn't holding his sword with both hands, but only with one hand. He wasn't looking at Xu Sanshi either. Instead, he was calmly looking at his own sword.

Xu Sanshi stood firmly thirty meters from Ji Juechen, at the position he had chosen. He had never once doubted Ji Juechen's fighting strength. Ji Juechen was extremely lethal!

During the rescue mission in Sunrise City, it was Ji Juechen who had killed the most people.

Xu Sanshi unleashed his Golden Xuanwu Shield, and seven soul rings rose immediately. Xu Sanshi focused his gaze, and a layer of dark gold light surrounded his body. Behind him, a huge Golden Tortoise projection surfaced in the air. Naturally, it appeared because Xu Sanshi called it.

"Old Ji, let's begin!" Xu Sanshi shouted, lifting his Golden Xuanwu Shield.

### **Chapter 436.2: Roasting Fish for Her**

Ji Juechen finally moved. Xu Sanshi's words were like a horn that signaled the beginning of the fight. Ji Juechen instantly increased his speed, and he launched a swift attack at Xu Sanshi. Just as he burst out, he swept his Judgment Sword, its point close to the ground, towards Xu Sanshi.

A streak of sharp black sword aura shot towards Xu Sanshi. Wherever this sword aura passed, there were a series of sharp wails in the air.

These wails were deafening, and the sword aura was extremely devastating.

Xu Sanshi's gaze instantly turned stern. This Sword Fanatic seems to have gotten even more impressive.

Shrek's Seven Monsters weren't the only ones who had improved. Ji Juechen had improved, too. Furthermore, the rate of his improvement wasn't any slower than the others. It was easy to forget that he was more focused than anyone else in terms of his cultivation.

Furthermore, his cultivating speed had reached a whole new tier after he established his relationship with Jing Ziyang, due to his emotional release. From his original Solitary Domain, it had slowly evolved into his Love Domain.

Yes, he was no longer heartless, and had feelings now. He was now the Sword Fanatic with the Sword of Love.

Xu Sanshi used his Golden Xuanwu Shield to block Ji Juechen's attack. Given his experience, he was able to accurately resist the sword aura that came towards him.

However, Xu Sanshi felt a little stunned when he resisted the sword aura. There was immense soul power contained within that sword aura, and there was also extremely strong spiritual power too.

Ji Juechen could do this in the past, and was able to fuse his spiritual and soul power very well. However, his sword intent was much more domineering in the past, as if it could destroy everything instantly. The after-effect, however, was much weaker.

However, the sword aura that he had just unleashed was starkly different. Even after his soul power was crushed, his spiritual intent continued to penetrate the Xuanwu Shield streak by streak. It seemed almost irresistible and unstoppable.

This was a fundamental change. After all, Xu Sanshi was one of the top-ranked experts among the younger generation's cultivators, and also a top student from Shrek Academy. Naturally, he discovered this change immediately.

"Old Ji, impressive!"

However, Xu Sanshi was not an easy target, even though Ji Juechen's attack was very strong. After fusing with the Golden Tortoise, the defensive strength of his Golden Xuanwu Shield had increased several times over.

When those streaks of spiritual power started to penetrate the shield, gentle, golden ripples started to spread on the surface of it. Xu Sanshi didn't even need to summon anything before the spiritual power was naturally dispelled.

Ji Juechen had already leapt up by now. He didn't attack directly with his Judgment Sword like before. Rather, countless sword projections were formed, engulfing Xu Sanshi.

Within those sword projections, there was only his sharp sword aura, but no elemental undulations could be felt. The dark and light Elements carried by the Judgment Sword had been hidden.

This was a magical feeling. Even as Xu Sanshi sensed this, he didn't retreat. Instead, he took a step forward, and his Golden Xuanwu Shield shook slightly. He unleashed his first soul skill, Xuanwu Shield Formation.

A huge patch of gold instantly turned into a huge golden wall. It was still circular in shape, but it now covered more than fifteen square meters. All of Ji Juechen's sword lights landed on this huge wall and were devoured completely, without even making a ripple.

Ji Juechen also revealed a look of astonishment. Xu Sanshi had indeed improved, and it wasn't just a slight improvement. His defensive strength was extremely great now, even better than many Soul Douluo that he had fought before.

However, Ji Juechen was more motivated when his opponent was stronger. He gently tapped his toes against the shield wall and seemed to change into a whirlwind. Countless sword projections gathered and viciously struck Xu Sanshi's Xuanwu Shield Formation.

The strange thing was that no sound was made when his attack landed on the Xuanwu Shield Formation. It was like a ray of light that disappeared after it struck the shield formation.

Ji Juechen exploited the momentum to rebound away.

At this point, cuts started to appear on Xu Sanshi's shield formation. A layer of pitch-black started to spread outwards from the point of collision earlier. It didn't spread very fast, but a dark aura soon engulfed the Golden Xuanwu Shield.

The Judgment Sword instantly turned bright gold, and the intense light Element was set ablaze. At this instant, Ji Juechen seemed to possess Ye Guyi's strength. His entire body was filled with a holy aura.

He finally grasped his sword with both hands, and lifted his Judgment Sword up high.

Ji Juechen instantly disappeared, and there was only a holy sword that existed in this heaven and earth. The intense holy aura soared furiously, while his sharp sword intent was completely contained within it. The might of his attack even caused the sunset glow in the distance to lose its color.

Xu Sanshi immediately retracted his Xuanwu Shield Formation, and was a little astonished as he watched Ji Juechen.

It was his first time facing an elemental attack from the Judgment Sword. Right now, a deep gust of darkness had surged furiously into his body. Even with the defense of his shield, he wasn't able to expel the aura of darkness from his body. That aura even felt very thick, and surged into his body in streaks.

Impressive!

No wonder that sword is a Class 8 close-combat soul tool!

Right now, Xu Sanshi finally understood why no one could fight Ji Juechen during their rescue mission in Sunrise City, and also why Ji Juechen had never summoned the power of his Judgment Sword when they sparred previously.

If this were the past, he wouldn't be able to resist this interwoven power of darkness and light. The strength of the Judgment Sword was simply too frightening. Even with Ji Juechen's current cultivation, he still wasn't able to completely unleash the strength of the sword.

There were many Class 9 soul tools in the world of soul engineers. However, there were only three close-combat Class 9 soul tools.

What Xu Sanshi didn't know was that Ji Juechen's Judgment Sword was once recognized as the top close-combat soul tool among all close-combat soul tools below Class 9. Otherwise, Jing Hongchen wouldn't have risked all the dangers and come to Shrek Academy to get it back!

Even the soul engineer who carved this sword wasn't able to completely unleash its strength. Swords were the king of weapons. In the Douluo Continent, there might be someone who loved swords more than Ji Juechen, but it would be very hard to find them.

After he received this Judgment Sword, Ji Juechen had almost never let it out of his sight. His understanding of it had completely transcended the understanding of even its creator.

Right now, Xu Sanshi was at an extremely disadvantageous situation. However, he didn't panic at all.

He was already a Soul Sage. How could he possibly be the same as he was in the past?

He unleashed his Strength of the Xuanwu, and the light from his body instantly turned a dark gold. This dark golden glow didn't just make him taller and bigger; but it also caused dark gold rings to surge outward, expelling a huge portion of the dark Element from him.

The Golden Tortoise that was drifting behind him also moved at this moment. A golden glow was released from the Golden Tortoise's body and landed on Xu Sanshi. It actually caused him and the Golden Xuanwu Shield to appear slightly illusory. They even looked like they were translucent.

As golden lights flashed, the Judgment Sword slashed down.

Ji Juechen was around thirty meters away from Xu Sanshi when he slashed out. However, the massive golden sword light that was formed swept ten meters into the sky before descending terrifyingly like a rainbow. Everything within the area illuminated by the holy aura became extremely clear.

There was a muffled bang. Golden light shot everywhere, and the aura of light surged into Xu Sanshi's body. In addition, the tip of the Judgment Sword was much more condensed with power compared to before, and the aura of darkness hadn't been completely expelled from Xu Sanshi's body yet.

Suddenly, Xu Sanshi felt that his body was about to be torn apart by the intersection of light and darkness.

Fortunately, this feeling only lasted for an instant. However, there was an additional, one-centimeter mark on the surface of his Xuanwu Shield. The turtle-snake on his shield also seemed to be groaning in pain.

Ji Juechen had a completely different feeling. When his Judgment Sword struck the Golden Xuanwu Shield, he was stunned to discover that the sharpness and strength of his sword had been instantly dispelled by nearly thirty percent by the translucent Golden Xuanwu Shield. After that, his blade struck the Xuanwu Shield.

Xu Sanshi groaned slightly and staggered three steps back before he managed to stabilize himself. His arms felt sore. Immense spiritual power had turned into a sharp blade that struck him after penetrating his Golden Xuanwu Shield.

Fortunately, this blade had already been weakened by his shield. Even so, Xu Sanshi's Strength of the Xuanwu was still flashing intermittently. He had also tried to use his Ghost Shadow Perplexing Track to try escaping.

However, it wasn't that easy to avoid the spiritual blade. His groan was mostly because of the impact of the spiritual power.

It was very difficult for him to detach himself from this feeling. Xu Sanshi's spiritual power wasn't that weak, but he was still in a state of confusion.

A streak of gentle white light shot out from the Golden Tortoise behind him and landed on his head. Xu Sanshi only felt the burden on his head lessening, and the intense, prickling pain from earlier eased slightly.

His Judgment Sword is too strong, Xu Sanshi gulped. If not for the fact that his own abilities had increased, his shield would have been cut apart earlier.

In terms of offensive strength, Ji Juechen was undoubtedly the best among anyone of the same age that he knew. A Soul Douluo who wasn't a pure defensive-type soul master wouldn't have been able to resist Ji Juechen's attack, it was too frightening. Ji Juechen specializes in the cultivation of swords. His offensive strength is crazy! Surely it should be close to the standard of a Titled Douluo?

While Xu Sanshi was thinking all this, Ji Juechen's attacks didn't cease.

### **Chapter 436.3: Roasting Fish for Her**

Xu Sanshi was forced back, while Ji Juechen also jerked slightly in the air. After unleashing such a strong attack, he needed to catch his breath. However, his Judgment Sword soon turned into countless streaks of black light, sweeping towards Xu Sanshi.

The Element was changed to darkness. The pitch-black sword light started to engulf Xu Sanshi in streaks.

Xu Sanshi was depressed. If he used his shield wall, these dark Elements would quickly attach themselves to it. The power of darkness earlier wasn't a lot, but when he was Judged by the light Element earlier, the impact was incredibly strong. If he absorbed more of these dark Elements, he would be subjected to greater stress during Judgment. Light and darkness were incompatible, but they were fused under the effect of the Judgment Sword. The sword tapped into their incompatibility to increase its offensive strength to the extreme, showing how frightening the Class 8 Judgment Sword was.

His figure flashed, and Xu Sanshi switched positions with Ji Juechen. As their positions switched, Ji Juechen was now on the ground, while Xu Sanshi was in the air.

Ji Juechen's sword lights were naturally pointed diagonally down, so they could hit Xu Sanshi again.

However, he was very familiar with Xu Sanshi's abilities. Xu Sanshi used his Mysterious Underworld Displacement, and Ji Juechen reacted immediately. He didn't even look up before he swept a streak of black light at his former location with his sword.

Xu Sanshi's shield was in front of him, and he staggered backward in the air as he was hit by Ji Juechen's attack. Just as he was feeling depressed, he formulated a plan.

Intense dark gold light was released from his body and quickly into his surroundings. His sixth soul ring also shone brightly. Wasn't that his Xuanwu's Domain?

The main difference from before was that his black Xuanwu's Domain had turned dark gold now. This Xuanwu's Domain was like a vast ocean!



Ji Juechen felt that his entire body was being covered in a viscous fluid as the domain covered him. His movements were extremely restricted.

Xu Sanshi's seventh soul ring also lit up following this. His body started to shine bright gold, and his Golden Tortoise turned into a ray of golden light that sticking close to his back. On the other hand, his Golden Xuanwu Shield stuck close to the front of his body. With this, Xu Sanshi formed a gigantic turtle shell.

He shrank his body into the shell and disappeared.

This was his seventh soul skill, his Xuanwu True Body!

There was a small, thin snake laying on the surface of his Xuanwu True Body. What was truly astonishing was that this snake had turned blood-red at this moment.

In his Xuanwu's Domain, Xu Sanshi's speed was much faster than under normal conditions. In this domain, Ji Juechen was greatly restricted, and his movements extremely slow.

Bright golden light flashed, and the Golden Xuanwu drifted within the domain. Everything around it seemed to have transformed.

Streaks of immense soul power were unleashed towards Ji Juechen. These streaks of soul power were like waves and undercurrents as they furiously struck Ji Juechen's body.

Ji Juechen wanted to react, but the waves and undercurrents were interfering. More frighteningly, Ji Juechen could clearly sense undercurrents sweeping into his blood. These undercurrents interfered with the circulation of his soul power, causing his entire body to be greatly restrained. He found it difficult to move at all!

Xu Sanshi's Golden Xuanwu shone brightly, and transformed into a ball of golden light that raced towards Ji Juechen. If Xu Sanshi didn't exploit this perfect opportunity, he wasn't fit to be called the Eternal Defense!

Ji Juechen turned very serious. He gripped his Judgment Sword tightly with both hands before sweeping it up, unleashing all his soul power.

However, his abilities were weakened by half in the Xuanwu Domain. When his Judgment Sword collided with the Xuanwu that approached him, he was flung away by the collision.

Streaks of flowing dark gold light surged out from the Xuanwu's Domain and engulfed Ji Juechen. The massive Golden Xuanwu suddenly opened its mouth, and an intense dark gold wave was unleashed towards Ji Juechen.

Even Ji Juechen didn't expect Xu Sanshi to be so strong after unleashing his Martial Soul True Body!

Ji Juechen's seventh soul ring shone at this moment. One face of his sword shone with golden light, while the other face shone with black light. The intense lights flashed in time with the dark golden light from the Xuanwu's Domain. Ji Juechen's body started to turn illusory, and his sword became the center of this illusion.

A two-colored sword appeared and broke free from the restraint of the Xuanwu's Domain. It turned into a frightening arc of light and collided with the Golden Xuanwu.

A crisp ding vibrated out, and lights shot everywhere. This time, Ji Juechen didn't gain an advantage over Xu Sanshi. When his streak of sword light struck the Golden Xuanwu, the streaks of flowing, dark gold light in the Xuanwu's Domain kept surging towards the blade of his sword, weakening the huge sword he had formed. No matter how hard he tried to advance, he was significantly drained in the process.

Ji Juechen's terrifying sword light suddenly stopped and deflected up. At this moment, dark gold ripples were released from the Golden Xuanwu's body. A strong attractive force pulled at the huge sword that was flying away.

Ji Juechen was being completely restricted right now. The blade of his sword suddenly turned black. The black light adopted a wavy structure, and started to spread out.

Against Xu Sanshi, Ji Juechen finally unleashed the full strength of his Judgment Sword.

Suddenly, the water in the Xuanwu's Domain seemed to have been corroded by the aura of darkness, and turned black at an alarming rate. Once this power of darkness was judged by the power of light later, the destructive power of Ji Juechen's attack was bound to be very great.

However, Ji Juechen was quickly surprised. The suction force from the Golden Xuanwu increased significantly. The aura of darkness released by his Judgment Sword was absorbed by it, and left none behind in the Xuanwu Domain. Just like before, dark gold undercurrents continuously pestered the blade of Ji Juechen's sword. Because of this interference, his soul power was draining quickly.

On the other side, the Golden Xuanwu had turned completely black instantly, and released a very strong aura of darkness.

Both sides seemed to be in a stalemate. Both Xu Sanshi and Ji Juechen stopped taking the initiative to attack. The Judgment Sword was still releasing the power of darkness, while the Xuanwu's Domain kept on weakening Ji Juechen.

In such a situation, both of them were clearly aware that the next attack could decide victory for this fight.

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While they were fighting very intensely over there, Huo Yuhao was about to finish the preparations for his grilled fish and fish soup. Everyone turned their attention to watch this exciting fight.

"Who do you think will win?" Tang Wutong asked Huo Yuhao. She wasn't familiar enough with Xu Sanshi and Ji Juechen. She could only make a prediction based on what she was observing.

Huo Yuhao smiled and said, "What do you think?"

Tang Wutong rolled her eyes at him and said, "You're not gentlemanly at all. I was the one who asked first."

Huo Yuhao laughed and said, "Alright then. I think third senior will win."

Tang Wutong snorted and replied, "Then I think Ji Juechen will win."

Huo Yuhao was a little stunned as he inquired, "What's the reason? I'm the one asking first."

Tang Wutong lifted her head and said, "Because you think that fellow will win. That's why I choose the other person."

Huo Yuhao laughed and asked, "Do you want to make a bet?"

"What bet?" Tang Wutong asked.

Huo Yuhao thought for a moment before replying, "I haven't thought of one yet. Alright, let our stake be a favor. Whoever wins can ask the other party to do them a favor. However, this favor can't be too difficult. It can't flout moral and ethical codes, either. What do you think? For example, you can tell me to clean up your room, and I can make you massage my back."

"Nonsense, you are obviously at an advantage here! Who's going to massage your back? We can't have body contact!" Tang Wutong immediately retorted.

Huo Yuhao laughed and said, "Alright, we won't have any body contact. It's just for fun. Even if you lose, I won't ask anything from you. Even if I ask you for something, you can refuse to acknowledge it. It doesn't matter."

Tang Wutong was furious, "Am I a sore loser to you? Let's bet. I don't believe that the fellow who's not offensively adept will be able to win. The intersection of light and darkness is so powerful. He has absorbed too much of that power of darkness. Once he's struck, he'll definitely lose. He shouldn't be able to use the skill that he uses to switch positions anymore. There's too much darkness corroding his body. He'll definitely lose."

Huo Yuhao chuckled slightly and said, "Alright, we'll wait and see. Let's hook our pinkies." As he spoke, he reached out his right pinky in front of Tang Wutong.

Tang Wutong was stunned. After this, she reached out her right pinky to hook with Huo Yuhao's right pinky.

Tang Wutong's pinky was a little cold. It might be because she had cleaned herself in the river earlier. Her pinky was thin and delicate. On contact, it felt very cool, and indescribably comfortable.

Huo Yuhao was in a slight daze. Tang Wutong immediately pulled her hand back. "Alright, let's do it this way. Whoever reneges on this bet is a dog!"

At this point, the fight on the other side had already experienced changes.

Ji Juechen finally couldn't wait anymore. He had been accumulating his strength but he was also being drained by the Xuanwu's Domain at the same time. He needed to find a balance. This balance was almost achieved when he managed to summon the power of light, just as Xu Sanshi absorbed the power of darkness. It was only at this point that his final attack was at its strongest.

Bright golden light shot into the skies. The huge sword that was formed by Ji Juechen instantly turned golden. The intense aura of light was furiously unleashed. It was like a small golden sun had appeared above the ground.

Even Ye Guyi's holy soul power was being drawn in and unleashed as dim golden light, showing how strong the power of light carried by Ji Juechen's sword was.

Once the Judgment Sword changed its state, it immediately freed itself from the restraint of the Xuanwu's Domain. The Xuanwu's Domain around him that had restrained him earlier was now slightly infected with the aura of darkness. At this moment, it became the target of his Judgment Sword!

### **Chapter 437.1: Golden Tortoise Molting**

Exploiting this opportunity, the Judgment Sword fell from the sky and slashed straight towards Xu Sanshi. It was extremely terrifying as it unleashed its full strength.

The Golden Xuanwu had been dyed black by the power of darkness. When the Judgment Sword turned into a beam of golden light that descended from the sky, the power of darkness started to rumble. The clash between darkness and light would never be peaceful. The terrifying strength that was unleashed was sufficient to make anyone afraid.

Even Jiang Nannan started to tense up, and subconsciously took a few steps forward.

Given their current levels, they couldn't withhold too much of their power, even if they did withhold some. Otherwise, they wouldn't be able to fully unleash their potential. Jiang Nannan wasn't confident that Xu Sanshi could block the Judgment Sword. Without being able to use his Mysterious Underworld Displacement, Xu Sanshi could only use his defensive strength to resist the attack! Could he possibly resist it?

Gold and black were about to clash!

However, it was at this moment that something weird appeared. When the huge golden sword clashed with the black, the black seemed to turn illusory for a moment. Following this, the aura of light on the huge golden sword met the power of darkness and exploded!

The tremendous boom reverberated, the Judgment Sword unleashing great power at the core of the Xuanwu Domain. Even the sword was affected to some extent, and shook tremendously at the center of the explosion. However, with the protection of the power of light, it wasn't harmed too much. Even so, Ji Juechen's soul power was almost entirely drained after this attack.

Just as everyone was worried about Xu Sanshi, they were shocked to see a trace of gold silently appearing at an edge of the Xuanwu Domain. When it first appeared, it wasn't very evident. However, the golden light soon shone brightly.

Wasn't this the Golden Xuanwu?

The Xuanwu Domain disappeared in the next instant, but the Golden Xuanwu surfaced at its edge immediately. After that, blinding golden light was suddenly released from the Golden Xuanwu. The red snake that had always been attached to the Golden Xuanwu's body turned into a beam of red light and fused with the Golden Xuanwu. A fierce blood-red aura immediately spread out.

It was Xu Sanshi's Martial Soul True Body, the Turtle God's Strike!

The Golden Xuanwu was like a huge glowing ball charging straight towards the huge sword that had been greatly drained of soul power by its previous attack.

All Ji Juechen could do was turn his sword around and point the tip accurately towards the Golden Xuanwu. At the same time, he tried his best to summon his soul power.

“Ah!” Jing Ziyang exclaimed. Everyone could tell that Ji Juechen would be unable to block Xu Sanshi’s attack, no matter what.

Gold light flashed past, and the sword was completely fine. The Turtle God’s Strike suddenly fell when it was around three meters away from the sword, where it struck the ground.

The ground shook, and even the small stream beside Huo Yuhao and the others started to ripple a little. Suddenly, jets of water shot out from the stream, and sparks started to fly from the bonfire boiling the water. The pot of fish soup flew up into the air, along with the fish inside.

Fortunately, Huo Yuhao’s reactions were very quick. He waved his right hand and grabbed the boiling metal pot. At the same time, his figure flashed, and he managed to prevent any soup or fish from dropping to the ground. No soup was spilled at all. The other metal pot that was filled with marinated fish also flew up, but there wasn’t any water inside. He only needed to catch the fish inside.

Nan Qiuqiu seemed to be amused as she looked at Jing Ziyang beside her. She said, “Indeed, one feels pain over her own man!”

Jing Ziyang’s face turned red, and she laughed. “Sister Qiuqiu, you should find someone who will make you feel pain, too!”

Nan Qiuqiu stuck out her tongue and ran to one side to help Huo Yuhao control the bonfire.

The sword turned back into Ji Juechen when it landed on the ground. He looked a little pale, but stood firmly. He turned around to look at the Golden Xuanwu behind him.

Ever since Ji Juechen had come to the Tang Sect, he had never stopped finding Xu Sanshi to spar with. Xu Sanshi was a defense-type soul master, which meant that he was able to last longer in a fight. However, there was still a gap between Xu Sanshi and Ji Juechen’s cultivations. Ji Juechen’s sword was extremely sharp, and Xu Sanshi would always be on the losing end. He had lost so many times such that he would hide whenever he saw Ji Juechen.

Things had finally gone his way today. Xu Sanshi managed to defeat Ji Juechen through the Golden Tortoise that he had fused with.

“How did you manage to get away?” Ji Juechen furrowed his brow slightly. He was still thinking about their last collision.

If it were any other soul master, Ji Juechen would immediately be frowned upon if he dared to ask about the other soul master’s ultimate move. However, everyone from the Tang Sect was like brothers. While Xu Sanshi always hid from Ji Juechen, he still admired his focus greatly.

“Hehe, the Golden Tortoise is a hundred-thousand-year soul beast, and it gave me a trunk bone. Earlier, I used one of the two soul skills of its trunk bone, Golden Tortoise Molting. By using that soul skill, I’m able to overcome all problems and teleport myself to any specific spot in my Xuanwu Domain. It’s much more effective than Instant Teleportation. However, it costs one-third of my soul power every time I use it. I am drained a lot by using it.”

“Oh.” Ji Juechen acknowledged his words and turned around before walking towards the side of the river.

Xu Sanshi was a little depressed as he said, “Hey, can’t you just praise me for being strong?”

Ji Juechen turned his head to look at him and said, “We’ll decide whether you’re strong after we fight again.”

“I... am I digging my own grave?” Xu Sanshi looked at Ji Juechen and was completely speechless.

The two of them returned to the side of the river, and Jiang Nannan was the first to run over. She pulled Xu Sanshi’s ears, “Why are you showing off? You still smashed the ground. Do you have too much energy and nowhere to use it? See how bad you shook this place! Don’t eat later. Starve! I’m afraid you can’t fully use all your energy!”

Xu Sanshi coughed, “It wasn’t intentional...”

Huo Yuhao chortled, “I agree with fourth senior’s opinion. Third senior, you should be starved.” The bonfire had already been messed up and had to be reassembled. The pot of fish soup that was supposed to be done soon had to be re-boiled as well.

Xu Sanshi wore a toady smile on his face. “Don’t! I have waited so long for my little junior to cook. How can I not taste his cooking? Come, come, everyone move away. I’ll perform some chores.” As he spoke, he quickly leaped over and helped Huo Yuhao with the bonfire.

Tang Wutong stood by the side of the river and watched as everyone joked around. She was a little dazed when she saw how happy everyone was. Although she felt that she didn’t blend in with them, she discovered that she rather liked such an atmosphere.

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The bonfire was soon reassembled, and the fish soup was cooking once again. Due to Xu Sanshi’s earlier mistake, he offered to watch the fish soup. On the other side, the grilled fish were almost completely marinated. Huo Yuhao assembled the branches that Ye Guyi had washed earlier and stacked them above the bonfire on the other side before starting to grill the fish. At the same time, he took some dry rations over and started to heat them up.

All of them were very young, and thus it was natural that ladies were given the first priority. As the fragrance of the grilled fish diffused in the air, the first to start digging in became a huge topic of debate.

Everyone formed a circle as they sat beside the fires.

Jiang Nannan laughed, “The grilled fish smell really good. Who’s going to start first?”

As they were limited by the conditions, they could only grill one fish at a time. Huo Yuhao didn’t choose to grill more than one fish at once in order to ensure that they were of the utmost quality. If he grilled too many fish at once, there might be some flaws in his control of the fire, as well as the seasoning of the fish.

Jing Ziyang laughed and said, “The youngest can eat first. We should go by age. I’m the oldest. I’ll go last.”

Jiang Nannan said, "Alright. I'm twenty years and four months old. What about the rest?" She looked at Tang Wutong, Ye Guyi and Nan Qiuqiu.

Ye Guyi was a little depressed as she said, "I'm already twenty-two."

Nan Qiuqiu's eyes brightened, "I'm twenty years and three months old. Haha, Sister Nannan, I'm younger than you."

Jiang Nannan pursed her lips and laughed. She looked at Tang Wutong and asked, "Wutong, what about you?"

Tang Wutong was stunned for a moment and said, "All of you can eat first. I..." She wanted to say that she wasn't from the Tang Sect, and she was fine with some dry rations. However, the fragrance of the grilled fish was simply too strong. She couldn't control her appetite, and ended up swallowing her words.

Jiang Nannan laughed, "No no, we've agreed that the youngest should eat first. Wutong, how old are you?"

Ji Juechen was calm as he sat to one side, not making a sound. Xu Sanshi would occasionally glance over, and his smile seemed to be filled with meaning. Nannan is indeed very supportive! She's helping little junior without being obvious! The rest didn't know how old Wutong was, but how could he not know? Huo Yuhao had mentioned before that Tang Wutong was Wang Dong'er.

Tang Wutong replied, "I'm, I'm eighteen years old..." Yes, she was eighteen years old. In terms of age, she was slightly younger than Huo Yuhao.

Nan Qiuqiu was depressed as she slapped her forehead. "You're so young? How did you manage to develop so well?"

Tang Wutong's face turned red as she glared at Qiuqiu. She thought to herself, "These people from the Tang Sect act like hooligans! For some reason, she seemed to have ostracized both Nan Qiuqiu and Ye Guyi. They always wore a weird expression when they looked at her. The weird looks that they gave her made her extremely uncomfortable."

"I've finished grilling the fish. Who's going to eat first?" Huo Yuhao asked.

Jiang Nannan pursed her lips at Tang Wutong, who was still slightly shy. She even seemed a little young and ignorant as her face turned even redder, accentuated by the bonfire. When Huo Yuhao turned his attention to her, he appeared to be in a daze.

Tang Wutong stood up and walked up to Huo Yuhao before extending her hand.

Huo Yuhao passed her a grilled fish and a baked bun.

Tang Wutong couldn't help but say, "Fragrant!"

There was a fresh smell that came from the grilled fish, while the aroma of heated sesame came from the baked bun. Both were extremely tempting.

“Thank you,” Tang Wutong nodded at Huo Yuhao before turning around and walking away. She returned to where she was sitting and began to eat as the rest watched.

### **Chapter 437.2: Golden Tortoise Molting**

She took a small bite of the baked bun first. The crispy bun made a slight cracking sound as she bit into it. The fragrance from the bun, mixed with the crumbs that fell off as she bit into it and its elevated temperature, instantly tickled her olfactory senses and taste buds.

Tang Wutong opened her small mouth slightly and couldn't help but exclaim, “Oh, it's so fragrant...”

This was indeed the best baked bun she had ever eaten. The baked bun cooled down slightly in her mouth, and she gobbled it up in three bites. It was warm and fragrant, and she felt indescribably pleased.

After this, she took a bite of the grilled fish. The crispy skin of the fish was slightly salty, which complemented its natural freshness. As she bit into the skin, juices from the fish filled her mouth, along with the meat. The fresh taste engulfing her taste buds caused Tang Wutong's eyes to brighten immediately.

Delicious. This is too delicious. How can it possibly be so delicious?

Of course, Tang Wutong didn't know how much effort Huo Yuhao had put into this grilled fish and baked bun. Huo Yuhao had overheard when Jiang Nannan was ordering them earlier. If Wang Dong'er was the first to eat, he would naturally put in much more effort.

In order to make the taste of the fish and baked bun as fine as he could, he engaged his spiritual power in its Totality state to completely understand the internal structure of both the fish and baked bun. During the process of grilling the fish and baking the bun, he was so precise in his control that it felt as if he were creating a soul tool.

Although Tang Wutong stopped praising him, her incessant chewing and swallowing speed still left the rest of the ladies extremely tempted.

Huo Yuhao started to move faster. He quickly grilled the fish and baked the buns before delivering them to the rest of them. Very soon, everyone formed a circle and delightfully enjoyed their meal.

The person who had caused the problems earlier naturally became the last to eat, along with Huo Yuhao.

Ye Guyi sat to one side of the fire that they had made and was enjoying her third grilled fish. The look on her face was very indifferent, but on closer look, one could see the slight sadness in her eyes.

Perhaps it was because of Huo Yuhao's attentiveness and yearning, but Ye Guyi could sense the love when she ate the grilled fish. However, this love wasn't and would never be directed at her.

Nan Qiuqiu was much more direct. Although she wasn't as acute as Ye Guyi, she was still silently whispering to Ye Guyi as she was eating, “I've never seen him so nice when he was cooking for us before. However, this fellow's culinary skills are pretty good. Even if he couldn't become a soul master, he would still fare well as a chef.”



Jing Ziyang was sitting on the other side of Nan Qiuqiu. After hearing her words, she couldn't help but chuckle and said, "You are actually demanding that the future hope of Shrek Academy and the founder of the Spirit Pagoda become a chef for someone else. I can't believe you just thought of that idea."

Huo Yuhao walked over after grilling the remaining few fish. After hearing Jing Ziyang's words, he couldn't help but laugh. "It's great to be a chef! When I cook, I actually feel at peace, which is very rare. When I finish what I want to do in the future, I'll find a peaceful and beautiful place and open my own restaurant there. I want to live a simple, farming life with the person I love there. Behind the restaurant, there'll be a plot of land specially for growing crops. I'll also raise some livestock. Why are all of you looking at me like that?"

Before he even finished speaking, he discovered that the way everyone was looking at him was very weird. A member of the Sea God's Pavilion actually wanted to find a place to open a restaurant.

Just at this moment, Ji Juechen suddenly spoke up. "It sounds rather good."

Huo Yuhao laughed, "Brother Ji, shall we do it together?"

Ji Juechen shook his head. "Nope."

Xu Sanshi looked very anxious, and said to Huo Yuhao, "Little junior, don't say that in front of Elder Xuan. Otherwise, he'll fight all-out against you. He's still hoping that you'll become the future Master of the Sea God's Pavilion."

Huo Yuhao suddenly looked very grim. To him, there were many responsibilities that he couldn't avoid.

His fish soup was almost done. Huo Yuhao added some seasoning before scooping bowls of fish soup for everyone.

He sat down right beside Tang Wutong. Naturally, everyone ceded this seat to him.

As Tang Wutong was the first to eat, she ate quite a lot – four grilled fish and two baked buns. Right now, she had half a baked bun in her hand.

"Oh, I'm so full. I can't even move anymore." Tang Wutong looked very content as she received a bowl of soup from Huo Yuhao.

"I can help you eat that baked bun." Huo Yuhao whispered softly to her.

Tang Wutong suddenly looked very cautious and glared at him as she twisted her head. "Don't even think of taking advantage of me. Even if I'm completely stuffed, I will finish it!"

Huo Yuhao smiled and replied, "Don't waste it. Why don't I tell you about a story about a baked bun before you decide whether I should finish it for you?"

"A story about a baked bun?" Tang Wutong was doubtful as she looked at him.

"Once, there was a five-year-old boy. He was extremely scrawny. He and his mother only had each other, and no one else. His mother relied on her peasant income to bring him up. In order to survive, his mother would wash clothes outside even during winter. Her hands were full of wounds. n(OvelBIn

“The mother loved her son a lot. She always mentioned that he was the only one she had in her life. One day, the sky had already turned dark, but the mother was excited as she rushed back home. Because of the tough life she had, she hardly smiled. However, she was extremely happy that day.

“This was because she was given a baked bun by a chef in the kitchen that she worked in after she finished her shift that day. The bun had just been baked and was piping hot and fragrant. When she thought of how she finally had something fresh for her son to eat, she was especially delighted.

“To keep the baked bun from getting cold, the mother wrapped her body around the baked bun. When she finally retrieved the bun for her son, her chest was already burning red. At that point, the little boy was very young and ignorant. He only knew how to gobble up the piping hot baked bun. It was extremely fragrant and tasty.

Tang Wutong was in a daze as she looked at Huo Yuhao and muttered, “Why are you saying all this? I was still enjoying my food, but you had to make me feel uncomfortable.”

Huo Yuhao revealed a slight smile on his face, “Because that boy was me. Just take it as if I’m obsessed about baked buns.”

Tang Wutong was astonished and immediately turned to face Huo Yuhao. She saw that he was smiling, but there was a sense of bitterness in his smile. The look in his eyes had also turned ethereal.

“Take it.” Tang Wutong passed the baked bun to Huo Yuhao.

Huo Yuhao received the baked bun and smiled at her. He seemed to have regained his focus.

Tang Wutong suddenly said seriously, “Why do I feel like you’ve told me this story before?”

“What?” Huo Yuhao was the shocked one right now. He was a little stunned as he looked at Tang Wutong. There was a look of disbelief on his face.

You’ve heard this story before?

This was his second time telling this story of a baked bun, and he had told it to Wang Qiu’er the first time. Even Wang Dong’er had never heard this story before!

How was it possible? Wang Qiu’er had already sacrificed herself. Furthermore, Tang Wutong’s aura and touch were identical to Wang Dong’er’s.

Huo Yuhao suddenly felt a little confused as he looked at Tang Wutong in a daze.

“Are you going to eat it?” Tang Wutong’s face turned slightly red.

“Okay, I’ll eat it.” Huo Yuhao quickly reoriented himself and took a bite of the baked bun. Although it was no longer hot, it was still crispy. Huo Yuhao felt warm inside even though he was still slightly out of sorts.

Tang Wutong turned around and started to drink her soup. She stopped entertaining him and was equally as confused.

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Everyone had a good rest during dinner. Although the sky was already dark, they were all full of energy when they resumed their journey in the direction of the Ming Dou Mountain Range.

Even though they moved on foot, they only took two hours to get close to the front lines.

Huo Yuhao naturally knew where the White Tiger Duke was stationed. When they were about fifteen kilometers away from the military base, he slowed his pace in order to avoid any misunderstandings.

The eight of them advanced slowly. Huo Yuhao and Xu Sanshi were in front, while Ji Juechen was at the back, guarding the five ladies between them. Huo Yuhao had already unleashed his Spiritual Detection and quickly covered the surrounding space with his spiritual power.

After a while, Huo Yuhao stopped and announced, "They're here!"

Not far away from them, some figures quickly appeared. Even in the dark, they were very easy to see, because their soul rings were shining extremely brightly.

These soul masters were very quick. They quickly arrived in front of the eight intruders and half-encircled them.

There were ten of them. This was the structure of a small team among soul engineer legions. In this small team, there was one officer, who had five shining soul rings. The rest only had three soul rings.

There were different types of small teams in soul engineer legions, too. Apart from the officers, the rest of the members had to have similar cultivation levels. This was done so that they would be more united when carrying out missions.

This small team was led by a Soul King. The overall fighting strength of this small team was about equal to an army of five hundred ordinary soldiers, and that was being only soul masters. If they were equipped with soul tools, their fighting strength would be even greater!

"Who are you guys? There's an important military zone ahead of you. Show me your IDs." The Soul King officer looked to be around forty years old and sounded very mature and steady. He immediately made his demands upon seeing Huo Yuhao and the rest.

Even though they were all very young, this Soul King didn't lower his guard at all. It was in the middle of the night, and they were not far from the front lines. What was a bunch of young people doing here? This wasn't some kind of tourist destination! Who didn't know that things were slightly tense over at the northwestern end of the empire?

Huo Yuhao smiled slightly and replied, "Sir, we're from Shrek Academy. We were ordered by our Academy to reinforce the Northwestern Field Army."

### **Chapter 437.3: Golden Tortoise Molting**

Shrek Academy's reputation was extremely prestigious. After hearing these few words, the middle-aged Soul King and the soul masters under him were all moved. Shrek Academy was a holy ground to soul masters! It was the dream of many young soul masters to be educated at Shrek Academy!

“You’re from Shrek Academy? Do you have any proof?” The Soul King’s expression softened somewhat. He took a few steps forward, but the rest of the soul masters had yet to move, continuing to surround the few of them. They were highly-trained, and wouldn’t be easily swayed by Huo Yuhao’s words.

Huo Yuhao nodded and retrieved the letter that Elder Xuan had given to him. He said, “This is a letter written by the Master of the Sea God’s Pavilion, Elder Xuan, to the White Tiger Duke. Can you bring us to meet the White Tiger Duke? Oh right, I’m also classmates with the son of the White Tiger Duke, Dai Yueheng. He can also verify my identity.”

Huo Yuhao didn’t pass the letter over, even though he was holding onto it. A Soul King who was in charge of patrolling the area naturally wasn’t qualified to read the letter.

He hesitated for a moment before saying, “Alright, follow me then.” After he finished speaking, he turned around quickly.

Huo Yuhao gestured and led his teammates along with him.

The other nine soul masters of the small team separated to open a path for them. It was only after they had all passed that these soul masters turned around and followed them, watching their movements closely.

The Soul King only waited for Huo Yuhao to catch up with him before walking side by side with him. He didn’t have any psychological pressure bringing the eight of them back to the base.

There are thousands of soul masters stationed at the frontline camp, and they’re all very strong. How can these eight possibly affect them? Furthermore, these young chaps have to go through many obstacles before they can meet the White Tiger Duke.

From a distance, they could see the Northwestern Field Army. The view was majestic.

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When they came to the entrance of the camp, soldiers immediately came up to receive them. The leader of the small team verified his identity before the soldier returned to his post.

“Wait a minute. I’ll go and report this matter. Later, there’ll be some people coming to bring all of you in. This letter...”

Huo Yuhao said, “I’m sorry, but I have to personally pass this letter to the White Tiger Duke. Otherwise, you can also ask senior Dai Yueheng to pass it to his father.”

“Alright, please wait then.” The Soul King didn’t continue to pose problems, but instead instructed his own team members to wait before he quickly entered the camp.

Although he didn’t think that Huo Yuhao and the others could do anything, he didn’t dare to delay matters concerning Shrek Academy. He needed to report this matter to the top brass immediately.

Very quickly, more than ten people came out from the camp, though Huo Yuhao only knew the person leading this group of people. This person wasn’t Dai Yueheng, but the princess of the Star Luo Empire, Xu Jiujiu.

Princess Jiujiu is personally here to receive us? This is a little too much. Even though she's not the main decision-maker in the military, she's still a member of the imperial family. Furthermore, she has real power in the Star Luo Empire.

When Princess Jiujiu saw Huo Yuhao, she was also stunned, and more than a little surprised.

At first, the Soul King didn't think a bunch of young soul masters could do anything. However, Princess Jiujiu begged to differ. She had personally witnessed the miracles that Huo Yuhao had performed before! In addition, Huo Yuhao's reputation had grown significantly following the appearance of the Spirit Pagoda. There weren't many people who knew him personally, but many people knew his name. For those soul masters who were more resourceful and aware in the Douluo Continent, they most certainly knew of his existence!

Xu Jiujiu was also followed by soul masters. Two of them were elders, and one of the elders was the Big Dipper Douluo. The other elder who was with the Big Dipper Douluo was obviously a Titled Douluo as well.

Xu Jiujiu had been in a bad mood these past few days. Ever since her mistake led to the death of many high-tier soul masters, she passed all authority over the soul masters to the White Tiger Duke. Whether it was her or the current Star Luo Empire's Emperor, they trusted the White Tiger Duke greatly. They knew that Dai Hao wouldn't do anything against the empire, even if he was given great authority.

However, who didn't want to earn merits? Xu Jiujiu had a deep desire for power, which was why she had always expressed her wish to control a soul engineer legion.

However, reality proved that she was inexperienced on a battlefield. The huge losses had made her doubt herself, and she had no choice but to pass all her power over to the White Tiger Duke.

She had been very reclusive over the past few days. She hardly gave any suggestions, even though she participated in every meeting.

Her presence today was a coincidence. The officer of the small team that Huo Yuhao and the others had bumped into was under Xu Jiujiu's command. She was immediately notified of the arrival of people from Shrek Academy, given that it was extremely important information.

She was startled when she heard the words "Shrek Academy", and immediately delighted. Even though she heard that there were only a few young people, she wasn't affected.

Over the past few years, the Star Luo Empire had been doing its best to build up a good relationship with Shrek, with the goal of receiving the support of Shrek Academy at critical times. Given that youngsters from Shrek Academy had arrived, didn't it mean that the more experienced and stronger ones were also coming?

Furthermore, the younger soul masters from Shrek Academy were different from young soul masters in the outside world. There were many talents in Shrek Academy. For example, Zhang Lexuan was only slightly past thirty years of age, but she was already on the edge of becoming a Titled Douluo!

Moreover, Xu Jiujiu controlled the intelligence department of the Star Luo Empire, and was clearly aware of the resources pumped into soul tools by Shrek Academy in recent years. With the arrival of

reinforcements from Shrek Academy, they would receive massive help, even though it wasn't enough to completely alter the situation.

As a result, she didn't dare to delay, even given her status, and went out to welcome them personally. She had seen all the younger generation's talents from Shrek Academy. In addition, she even brought two Titled Douluo out with her. Even if there were any changes, they would be well-equipped to handle them.

When these two Titled Douluo and the other soul masters from the Star Luo Empire, who all had at least seven rings, saw Xu Jiujiu quickening her pace, they were all stunned. While those people are from Shrek Academy, aren't they all just youngsters? Why is Her Highness...

"Huo Yuhao, it's actually you!" Xu Jiujiu's words astonished all the soul masters from the Star Luo Empire.

Huo Yuhao! Hearing this name shocked them.

He didn't just lead Shrek Academy and the Tang Sect to successive victories in the Elite Youth Soul Master Tournament; his establishment of the Spirit Pagoda also made him an extremely notable figure in the world of soul masters!

While he had emerged as the champion in the Elite Youth Soul Master Tournament twice, that was only a big thing among the younger generation of soul masters. The existence of Spirits affected the entire world of soul masters! It might even influence the bigger picture in the future world of soul masters!

The various soul masters quickened their footsteps to keep up with Xu Jiujiu. They wanted to get a glimpse of the person who had established the Spirit Pagoda!

"Your Highness." Huo Yuhao quickly took a few steps forward and greeted Xu Jiujiu. He smiled at her and nodded slightly to acknowledge her.

Even though he was from the Star Luo Empire, he was a member of the Sea God's Pavilion. Even in the face of a princess, he wouldn't greet her in an extravagant manner. That was just how powerful Shrek Academy was.

"I didn't expect you to be here." After seeing Huo Yuhao, Xu Jiujiu had never felt that he was so amiable before. His eyes were gleaming brightly at this moment.

Nan Qiuqiu couldn't help but mutter as she stood behind the rest, "Is this guy some kind of gem? Why is he able to draw attention everywhere he goes?"

Ye Guyi laughed gently and replied, "He's not the one attracting all the attention. It's his abilities."

Huo Yuhao said to Xu Jiujiu, "Your Highness, we are here under instructions from the Sea God's Pavilion. We hope that we can help the empire resist its enemies. This is the letter that Elder Xuan wrote to the White Tiger Duke."

There was nothing to hide from Xu Jiujiu. Furthermore, she had personally come to welcome them. She was extremely sincere.

Xu Jiujiu received the letter, but didn't open it. She smiled and said, "Alright, I'll pass this to him later. Please, come in. All of you are distinguished guests of the Star Luo Empire!" As she spoke, she gestured to them.

Huo Yuhao didn't stand on ceremony. They had rushed over, and everyone was very tired now. It was better for them to rest early.

Xu Jiujiu and Huo Yuhao walked forward together without distinction. Obviously, she regarded Huo Yuhao as an equal in status to her. The soul masters of the Star Luo Empire naturally followed the rest of those from the Tang Sect and Tang Wutong into the camp.

The Big Dipper Douluo and the other Titled Douluo looked at each other, seeing each other's astonishment when their gazes met.

They were both Titled Douluo, and naturally could tell that every person from Shrek Academy was extraordinary.

They are all at least Soul Emperors! Furthermore, a few of them are even Soul Sages! It seems that they are not even twenty years old. This is incredible! What method does Shrek Academy use to nurture such geniuses?

They were most shocked by Huo Yuhao. He seemed even younger, but there was no way they could see through him.

Given that they were Titled Douluo, it was completely unbelievable that they couldn't see through a young soul master who wasn't even twenty years old!

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Xu Jiujiu brought Huo Yuhao and the others directly into her own tent. Even though she wasn't a commander, she still held an important position in the military.

Some people immediately brought some fruits and snacks over. After bringing Huo Yuhao and the rest into the tent, Xu Jiujiu immediately commanded someone to fetch the White Tiger Duke.

Just this simple action of hers showed how highly she regarded Huo Yuhao.

Everyone from Shrek was also shocked by how well Xu Jiujiu treated Huo Yuhao. She was a princess from the strongest empire in the Douluo Continent!

### **Chapter 438.1: Meeting the White Tiger Duke**

"Yuhao. Can I call you that?" Xu Jiujiu asked Huo Yuhao with a smile from where she was sitting in the main seat.

Huo Yuhao nodded and replied, "Of course you can, Your Highness. How's the situation at the front right now?"

Xu Jiujiu sighed softly and said, "The situation is not good. The Sun Moon Empire's defensive strength is unknown to us. They were too sudden with their attack, and paved the way using Class 9 stationary soul cannon shells. They managed to blow up the Ming Dou Mountain Range and create a path. Then, we

thought that they were going all-out to attack the Star Luo Empire and quickly pulled all our resources here to resist their onslaught. We even called for reinforcements.

“But who knew that they had no intention of attacking after some time? It was only then that we realized that things had gone south. When we tried to probe by attacking, the Sun Moon Empire only mounted a defense at the Ming Dou Mountain Range. Their real target has now been verified. They are going for the Heavenly Soul Empire!

“We tried to make a breakthrough from this side and help the Heavenly Soul Empire with the burden by targeting the interior of the Sun Moon Empire. However, their defense is simply too strong. We suffered huge losses, and weren’t able to make any advances.”

When she finished speaking, Xu Jiujiu couldn’t help but close her eyes in pain. The image of the Light of the Death God flashing was still etched in her mind. She and many of the soul masters from the Star Luo Empire were still traumatized by the terrifying strike they had witnessed.

Huo Yuhao asked, “What about the Heavenly Soul Empire? How are they now?”

Xu Jiujiu shook her head and said, “I can only confirm that the Sun Moon Empire is attacking them now. We have already sent reinforcements from the Dou Ling Empire over. Furthermore, we’ve also deployed two soul engineer legions to alleviate the pressure they’re facing. We are better able to cope with the burden if both empires are at the front lines resisting the enemy.”

Huo Yuhao was shocked, and asked, “Hasn’t there been any accurate information?”

It had been a few days since he had left the army and returned to Shrek Academy. However, the Star Luo Empire had yet to receive accurate information from the Heavenly Soul Empire? Not only did this have to do with their backward communication soul tools, it also had something to do with the intense war that was going on at the Heavenly Soul Empire. It was easy to imagine the Heavenly Soul Empire being under a ferocious onslaught by the Sun Moon Empire.

Xu Jiujiu furrowed her brow and said, “We’ve already sent out ten people, but we’ve yet to get any information. We even sent a Titled Douluo, and I believe we’ll find out some news soon.”

“The White Tiger Duke is here!” a guard outside shouted.

Everyone subconsciously stood up. The curtains to the tent were opened, and the White Tiger Duke walked in. There were two others with him... Dai Yueheng and Dai Luoli!

The White Tiger’s white armor had the same black tiger patterns as his martial soul. It wasn’t clear what material his armor was made of. Huo Yuhao judged it should be made of some special alloy, as soul power seemed to circulate through it. Was it a suit of close-combat armor? In terms of rank, it should be a Class 7 soul tool...

Although this armor made the White Tiger Duke appeared very suave, Huo Yuhao felt pity for him. As a Marshal of the Star Luo Empire, he could only don a Class 7 soul tool. It showed how far behind the Star Luo Empire was in terms of soul tools.



Huo Yuhao was sizing up the White Tiger Duke right now, and the White Tiger Duke was naturally sizing him up too. This guy must be leading the team from Shrek Academy, given that he's sitting beside Princess Jiujiu.

When Princess Jiujiu sent someone to call the White Tiger Duke, he was only informed that representatives from Shrek Academy had arrived. However, he wasn't informed who they were. Right now, he was disappointed when he saw that they were all youngsters, even though he didn't express it openly. If they were the strong ones from Shrek Academy, the situation might still be able to be reversed. However, what can these youngsters do?

"Yuhao, so it's you!" Dai Yueheng said delightfully. However, he immediately shut his mouth after he finished speaking. He was in a camp, and even in front of his father.

The White Tiger Duke turned his head to look at Dai Yueheng. However, he didn't reprimand him. Instead, he returned his attention to Huo Yuhao.

Even though Huo Yuhao tried his best to calm himself down, he couldn't completely maintain his composure!

This person was his father, and the person he had once hated. However, after a few interactions, he didn't exact his revenge. Instead, he even saved him twice!

He had once met the White Tiger Duke during the Elite Continental Advanced Soul Master Academy Tournament. It was just that he was still too weak then, and wasn't noticed by the White Tiger Duke yet. It was his first time meeting Dai Hao directly and face-to-face.

What no one noticed was that Dai Luoli's mouth was slightly open right now, and his eyes were filled with disbelief. He was flabbergasted as he looked at Huo Yuhao.

Dai Luoli immediately recognized Huo Yuhao. How could he not? In addition, he was much more astonished compared to Dai Yueheng. He was much more astonished...

Elder brother, what games are you playing? Shrek Academy... so you're actually from Shrek Academy?

After Huo Yuhao left without bidding goodbye that day, Dai Luoli returned to the camp and was anxious when Huo Yuhao didn't return. After that, he was reassigned to be by the White Tiger Duke's side.

In the past, Dai Hao wouldn't have done that, because he thought that Dai Luoli was better off living a simpler life free of risks if he wasn't fit enough to inherit the title of the White Tiger Duke.

However, the appearance of Dai Luoli's mysterious master caused the mutation and awakening of his martial soul. His cultivation increased by leaps and bounds as a result.

Although he was already a bit old, Dai Luoli still had potential. The White Tiger Duke had to be unselfish and nurture his own outstanding son! He arranged for Dai Luoli to be brought to his side and let him learn from Dai Yueheng temporarily. As he cultivated, he could learn military skills. He was also given permission to attend some military meetings, which was regarded as training.

At this point, Huo Yuhao's attention was all on the White Tiger Duke, and he didn't focus on his younger brother. He took the initiative to greet the White Tiger Duke along with Xu Jiujiu.

Xu Jiujiu smiled and said, "Uncle Dai, let me introduce you. This is the number one talent from the younger generation of Shrek Academy, the one who established the Spirit Pagoda, and the youngest member of the Sea God's Pavilion, Huo Yuhao! I believe you've heard of his name before."

Her introduction was very detailed, and Dai Hao was immediately shocked. He had naturally heard Huo Yuhao's name many times before. When the Spirit Pagoda was first established and Spirits first appeared, he had once asked Dai Yueheng whether he knew Huo Yuhao.

Dai Yueheng recounted his experiences with Huo Yuhao. To Dai Yueheng, Huo Yuhao was a legend. He had become a member of the Sea God's Pavilion before he was even twenty. What did the Sea God's Pavilion represent? It was the highest level of Shrek Academy!

At this moment, he no longer underestimated Huo Yuhao because of his age. In the continent, who would dare to underestimate a member of the Sea God's Pavilion? Moreover, he was also the founder of the Spirit Pagoda! It's rumored that he discovered Spirits. This young man can no longer be described with the world 'genius'. He's more like a freak.

Shrek Academy didn't send anyone strong, but his arrival definitely signifies how importantly Shrek Academy regards this war. Dai Yueheng had once told the White Tiger Duke that Huo Yuhao was possibly the future heir to the Master of the Sea God's Pavilion. In an empire, his current position was like a Crown Prince!

Huo Yuhao was no longer the rookie he was before. He concealed his emotions very well, and wore a smile as he said, "Greetings to you, Duke. Her Highness was too kind with her words. I didn't establish the Spirit Pagoda. It was jointly founded by the Academy and the three empires, as well as the savage beasts of the Great Star Dou Forest."

Xu Jiujiu smiled and said, "Don't stand on ceremony anymore. Without the Spirits that you researched, how could we have established the Spirit Pagoda? I heard that the Spirit Pagoda is like a holy ground to soul masters now. Its future potential is unlimited. It's a pity; if this war hadn't appeared, I would have followed all of you to the headquarters of the Spirit Pagoda."

Xu Jiujiu's words deepened the White Tiger Duke's impression of Huo Yuhao.

He nodded at Huo Yuhao and said, "You are indeed a hero! I've heard Dai Yueheng mention you before. Welcome to the Northwestern Field Army." As he spoke, he extended his right hand towards Huo Yuhao.

Huo Yuhao raised his hand to shake it. The White Tiger Duke's palm was broad, warm, and filled with strength. When their hands came into contact with one another, Huo Yuhao was almost distracted.

When he started to recall everything, he always asked his mother where his father was. He yearned for his father's care, and wished that his father was there to protect him and his mother! However, he had never received the love of his father before. This was his first time coming into such close contact with the White Tiger Duke in a place other than a battlefield.

He suddenly turned aggressive, and almost blurted out to the White Tiger Duke, "Where were you when I was young?"

However, he was Huo Yuhao! His immense spiritual power restrained his urges. He just appeared a bit emotional from the look in his eyes.

### **Chapter 438.2: Meeting the White Tiger Duke**

The White Tiger Duke felt a little weird, too. Huo Yuhao's hand was very cold. This wasn't supposed to happen to a strong soul master. Soul masters should be able to regulate their own temperature very well. Furthermore, Huo Yuhao's eyes seemed to be filled with some kind of special emotion. He felt as if he had met Huo Yuhao before.

For a moment, he appeared to sense some kind of ill-intent from that emotion. However, he subconsciously felt that Huo Yuhao could be fully trusted. As for where this feeling came from, he could only attribute it to his sixth sense.

After this momentary handshake, they both immediately regained their composes.

The White Tiger Duke gestured to Huo Yuhao. "You are our guest. Please, take a seat."

Xu Jiujiu took the initiative to offer her seat to Dai Hao. This was a show of respect to the White Tiger Duke, and also a show of apology for her earlier misjudgment. Naturally, a guard promptly added another seat beside the White Tiger Duke's.

Huo Yuhao was to the White Tiger Duke's left, while Xu Jiujiu was to his right. Dai Yueheng and Dai Luoli didn't have any seats. The White Tiger Duke's house rules were very strict. In the military, he was even stricter towards his own sons.

Dai Luoli was standing closer to Huo Yuhao, and never stopped looking at him.

Huo Yuhao had already calmed down, and it was only now that he remembered to greet his own younger brother. Their spiritual powers connected, and he asked Dai Luoli to calm down.

After this period of training, Dai Luoli's cultivation and mentality had developed significantly, but it was only now that he suppressed his own curiosity and calmed himself.

Dai Hao turned his head at Huo Yuhao and said, "It's been tough on all of you. What advice does Shrek Academy have?"

Xu Jiujiu rushed to pass the letter over to Dai Hao.

Huo Yuhao said, "This is the letter that Elder Xuan wrote to you. We are only here to be under your command and fight against the enemies of the empire. According to Elder Xuan, our main responsibilities are to be scouts."

Dai Hao nodded. He opened the letter and read it carefully.

Elder Xuan didn't write too much down. First, he expressed Shrek Academy's support for the Star Luo Empire. After this, he explained that Huo Yuhao and the others came from the Tang Sect, and they were all talents that came from Shrek Academy. He hoped that they could help the Star Luo Empire resist the Sun Moon Empire at the frontlines. Among all of them, he specifically mentioned how good Huo Yuhao was in terms of surveillance skills. He also honestly told the White Tiger Duke that Huo Yuhao was the only one who managed to complete the Ultimate Soldier Plan in Shrek Academy.

Dai Yueheng would have already told Dai Hao about this. There was nothing he had to hide.

After seeing this letter, Dai Hao couldn't help but turn his attention towards Huo Yuhao again. Even if Xu Jiujiu's praise sounded rather unbelievable, it was hardly unlikely that Elder Xuan would exaggerate his words. From his words, Elder Xuan's recommendation of Huo Yuhao was even better than Xu Jiujiu's. The White Tiger Duke had no choice but to take note of him now.

"All of you came on time. Let's not delay any further. Talking about reconnaissance..." The White Tiger Duke laughed bitterly as he shook his head.

"The reason why we've been led on a wild goose chase by the Sun Moon Empire is because our reconnaissance efforts have been completely sealed. We are completely unaware of the situation at the Ming Dou Mountain Range. The aerial surveillance soul tools of the Sun Moon Empire have completely blocked off all our surveillance. They have even broken the connection that we have with our friendly troops at the front."

After hearing the White Tiger Duke's words, Huo Yuhao was also shocked. He could imagine that they couldn't receive any useful information, but he didn't expect them to lose contact with their own friendly forces. This was a little unbelievable. It seemed like he had underestimated the Sun Moon Empire's strength in terms of aerial surveillance soul tools!

The White Tiger Duke said, "There are a few active tactical units from the Sun Moon Empire along the borders, formed by high-tier soul engineers. Although I don't know how they managed to do so, I'm certain that all the information gathered from their aerial surveillance soul tools is transmitted to them immediately. They rely on these aerial surveillance soul tools to locate our scouts before killing them. We've become blind because of this.

"The situation now is very awkward. We aren't able to carry out a direct assault. The Sun Moon Empire has installed an extremely strong soul tool at the Ming Dou Mountain Range. It's too destructive. I'm afraid that we'll be unable to attack them at all. In terms of surveillance, we're also very far behind. It seems like we are monitoring them, but we actually have no idea what they're doing. We are at a very disadvantageous situation in this war.

"From our judgment, the Sun Moon Empire is likely to be aiming at the Heavenly Soul Empire. It's been a few days, but we've yet to receive any accurate news from the Heavenly Soul Empire. I just know that our guess is right. Now that we've no information, we are completely at a disadvantage in this war."

After listening to the White Tiger Duke's words, all the soul masters from the Star Luo Empire and Princess Jiujiu looked very grim. Earlier, when Xu Jiujiu was recounting everything to Huo Yuhao, she still withheld some information. However, the White Tiger Duke did not withhold anything.

After he finished speaking, the White Tiger Duke was silent for a moment before he said, "This is the current situation. Regretting our decision to neglect soul tools is meaningless now. We can only do our best to deal with this war as it is. Elder Xuan recommends your surveillance skills highly. What I would like to know is how good you are in this area."

He was very straightforward, just like a military leader should be.

After pondering for a moment, he said, "We are unable to guarantee how good we are. We still need to understand the situation on the Sun Moon Empire's side. I need to monitor things first before I can decide on anything. Although the Sun Moon Empire controls the sky, their control is not absolute. Their high-altitude surveillance soul tools can only cover up to five thousand meters."

The Big Dipper Douluo creased his brow and said, "My friend, five thousand meters is already the highest humans can reach. Even for Ultimate Douluo, they wouldn't be confident of flying at a height of five thousand meters for an extended period of time. It's even more impossible for us."

The Big Dipper Douluo wasn't very pleased with the way Huo Yuhao described things. He felt that Huo Yuhao was being very boastful with his words.

Huo Yuhao nodded very seriously and said, "You're right. Generally speaking, Titled Douluo can only fly up to five thousand meters. In addition, they can only stay at this height for a short time, as it will place too much of a burden on their bodies. However, five thousand meters is also the limit for the Sun Moon Empire's soul tools. At that height, there are only one or two soul tools that they can use. However, these soul tools can't see everything. If a Titled Douluo can send me to a height of five thousand meters, I'll be able to glide my way near the Ming Dou Mountain Range."

The Big Dipper Douluo was moved, and asked, "Do you mean that you can avoid the surveillance soul tools five thousand meters in the air?"

Huo Yuhao was impressed. No wonder he's the leader of the number one soul master legion in the Star Luo Empire. He managed to catch the gist of what I'm saying immediately.

He nodded and replied, "Yes, I'm confident. More accurately speaking, I'm confident above two thousand meters. Higher than three thousand meters, I'm even more confident. Between two and five thousand meters is where I'm trying to glide. Although I'm unable to fly five thousand meters in the air, I'm still able to protect myself."

The temperature of the air fell quickly the further one went from the ground. In addition, the temperature dropped extremely quickly after a height of one thousand meters. At a height of five thousand meters, the temperature of the air would reach negative one hundred and fifty degrees Celsius!

Even Titled Douluo wouldn't be able to survive at such a temperature. If Titled Douluo couldn't control themselves during their descent, they were in danger of falling to their deaths!

However, Huo Yuhao wasn't affected by such low temperatures. The thin air was the most lethal. At that height, humans couldn't breathe, and thus he couldn't stay there for too long.

The Big Dipper Douluo revealed a thoughtful look. The White Tiger Duke looked at Huo Yuhao and asked, "Wouldn't that be dangerous? At that height..." Even the White Tiger Duke had never flown to that height before. It was simply too dangerous. If he faced any wind current and was blown to a higher altitude, he would face the extremely low temperatures, and might fall to his death if his soul power was overly drained.

Huo Yuhao smiled and said, "The low temperature isn't a problem for me. My martial soul is ice-type, so I'm stronger in terms of resisting the cold. I also have a way of dealing with the thin air. As long as it's not for too long, I'll be fine."

The White Tiger Duke pressed, "However, even if you successfully sneak into the backend of the enemy's territories, how will you be able to return?" He didn't mention the internal part of the enemy's territories, because there were bound to be many surveillance soul tools at the Ming Dou Mountain Range. No matter how great Huo Yuhao's concealment abilities were, he was bound to be discovered if he descended directly into the Ming Dou Mountain Range. That would be seeking his own death. It was why he could only fly directly across.

Huo Yuhao said, "I believe in my own survival abilities. Returning should be easier." He couldn't hide from thermal detectors if he only used Imitation. However, things were different if he used his Spiritual Interference Domain. Furthermore, he could also control his body temperature using Ultimate Ice. Only some soul tools that relied on sound waves might be able to grasp his location, but that wouldn't be specific, either.

### **Chapter 438.3: Meeting the White Tiger Duke**

It also meant that Huo Yuhao had to deal with the attacks his enemies would unleash on him after he was discovered if he snuck around within the Ming Dou Mountain Range and tried to return. However, these attacks couldn't be aimed properly, they were only domain-type attacks. Under such circumstances, it would depend on how well he could dodge, and how fast he could escape.

There was some element of danger. However, to the rest, he was the only one who could survive under such circumstances.

"Wait a minute, you forgot an important problem," a crisp voice spoke up. When Huo Yuhao turned his head and realized that the person speaking was Tang Wutong.

Tang Wutong creased her brow slightly and looked at Huo Yuhao seriously. She said, "You can indeed rise to an altitude of five thousand meters with the help of a Titled Douluo. However, have you ever considered the height of the Ming Dou Mountain Range? Although I don't know the detailed statistics, I can estimate that the highest peaks of the Ming Dou Mountain Range are at least two thousand meters. If soul tools are installed above these mountain peaks, you won't be able to successfully hide from them unless you're able to maintain an altitude of five thousand meters."

The White Tiger Duke, Princess Jiujiu and the rest of the Star Luo Empire's soul masters concurred with her words. Given how the Sun Moon Empire placed so much attention on blocking information from the Star Luo Empire, they couldn't possibly fail to place any soul tools on the mountain peaks. In addition, the area covered by these surveillance soul tools was bound to be greater than most normal surveillance soul tools. *nOVe.Lb)In*

Huo Yuhao only smiled and replied, "Of course I've considered this problem. First, most aerial surveillance soul tools can only reach an altitude of one thousand meters. Furthermore, most of them will be aimed towards the ground. Even if there are ground-based ones pointed towards the sky, they wouldn't be able to cover an altitude greater than one thousand meters because of the wind currents and all types of volatile elements.

“The aerial surveillance soul tools installed on these mountain peaks are bound to be affected by these conditions, too. It is the same reason such ordinary soul tools can’t be successfully installed two thousand meters in the air. The surveillance soul tools that they have installed at these mountain peaks must be ground-based ones facing the sky.

“The Sun Moon Empire has high-altitude surveillance soul tools. Such soul tools can carry out surveillance at an altitude of three thousand meters. However, they can only face the ground. At the same time, such surveillance soul tools are still incomplete, and are not precise. There’s no way they can detect my concealed self. The only threat to me is the ground-based surveillance soul tools facing the sky.

“So, let’s look at the situation of these surveillance soul tools. Right now, we know that the Sun Moon Empire’s ground-based surveillance soul tools are the most effective. They are able to scan up to an altitude of one thousand five hundred meters, and detect what’s in the air.

“Thermal, airflow and oscillation detectors can only reach up to five hundred meters. After five hundred meters, their effectiveness will drop significantly. They won’t be able to reach beyond one thousand meters.

“These numbers have been meticulously calculated. This means that I won’t be discovered if I’m at least three thousand meters above the Ming Dou Mountain Range. This is even under the condition that I’m directly above the highest mountain peak of the Ming Dou Mountain Range, when in fact, I’ll intentionally find a lower mountain peak to perform my surveillance.”

After Huo Yuhao mentioned this series of numbers, all the soul masters from the Star Luo Empire couldn’t help but feel embarrassed. Their combined knowledge of the Sun Moon Empire’s surveillance soul tools couldn’t compare to Huo Yuhao’s.

Huo Yuhao continued, “This is why I’ll be fine as long as I don’t glide below an altitude of three thousand meters after I’m sent five thousand meters into the air. Following that, I can start performing my surveillance.”

He squinted as he spoke until here, and a layer of dim golden light shone from his eyes. Following this, he unleashed a spiritual web that engulfed the entire tent.

All the soul masters from the Star Luo Empire were shocked. However, they soon realized that this was Huo Yuhao’s spiritual power. They wanted to resist it subconsciously, but they let it go after they saw the White Tiger Duke’s signal.

Huo Yuhao’s spiritual power soon linked up with everyone in the tent. After this, his spiritual intent was revealed and quickly spread across the entire tent. All his surveillance results were shared with everyone present through his Spiritual Sharing.

Instantly, a detailed stereoscopic image of everything within a five-kilometer radius from Huo Yuhao filled the minds of everyone.

The White Tiger Duke was stunned. Princess Jiujiu and the Big Dipper Douluo were also shocked. All the soul masters from the Star Luo Empire were instantly rooted to the ground in amazement.

So was Tang Wutong!

His spiritual power was immense! He was just sitting there, but he could actually use such a method to share everything in his head. He was much more magical than the Sun Moon Empire's surveillance soul tools!

Everyone was in awe.

Huo Yuhao said, "In terms of unidirectional detection, I'm confident of reaching a distance of five kilometers. This is why I'll be able to see what's happening in the Ming Dou Mountain Range from an altitude of three thousand meters, and I'm sure I'll be accurate. However, I won't be able to obtain much information if I'm just surveilling it once. This is because I need to ensure that I'm always in my best condition, in terms of soul and spiritual power. I always restrict myself to only fifteen minutes of surveillance every time. I'm able to keep myself three thousand meters in the air for roughly fifteen minutes."

"After my surveillance, I can also try my best to return without catching the attention of the enemy's soul tools. If I am successful, I'll go back a few more times, and I'll be able to recall everything."

The look in the White Tiger Duke's eyes returned to normal. He suddenly felt that Huo Yuhao's Spiritual Detection Sharing was very familiar. Does this person have something to do with the person who saved me before?

Dai Hao didn't think that Huo Yuhao was that person. That was because that person was one of the strongest people on the continent right now. The second time that person saved him, the strength that he had demonstrated was simply too great.

The Big Dipper Douluo was a little agitated as he stood up. He punched his right fist against his left palm, "Great! Young man, I'm sorry for doubting you earlier. Your arrival has brought hope for us! If you can study the enemy's formations, we'll be in a much better situation, we'll at least be able to find out their flaws. I understand that you want to glide from an altitude of five thousand meters because you want to conserve your soul power, am I right?"

Huo Yuhao nodded. Even given his current cultivation, he couldn't last more than an hour at an altitude of three thousand meters. In this one hour, he would use only a quarter of the time to carry out surveillance. He also still had to ensure that he was in a state to fight the enemy at any time.

He didn't reveal something. If he was detected by a powerful soul master, soul engineer, or a soul tool specifically designed to detect soul power or faced any abnormalities, he was bound to come across danger.

He didn't reveal this because he didn't want his partners to be too worried.

"It's too dangerous by yourself. Let me follow you," Ye Guyi immediately said.

Huo Yuhao was a little stunned as he looked at her. In his heart, he had hoped that Tang Wutong would be the one who said this.

Ye Guyi's eyes met his, and she turned a bit red. "With someone helping you, at least you'll be more successful in escaping."



Huo Yuhao shook his head and said, “No, this isn’t a fight. With an additional person, I’ll need to take care of my partner when I conceal myself. It’s better for me to escape alone. I’ll go myself. It’s much more effective!”

Ye Guyi looked a little disappointed, but she didn’t persist. She only nodded before sitting back down again.

Princess Jiujiu was a little agitated. “Yuhao, if you succeed, you’ll contribute the most to the entire Star Luo Empire! Tell me whatever you want. As long as I can do it, I’ll do my best to satisfy you.”

Everyone from the Tang Sect revealed a slight smile on their faces. They didn’t think that Huo Yuhao would make any demands, given that he was the founder of the Spirit Pagoda and a member of the Sea God’s Pavilion.

However, something surprising happened.

Huo Yuhao nodded gently and said, “If possible, I hope that I’ll be able to earn merits just like a Star Luo Empire soldier after this reconnaissance mission, and attain a military ranking, as well as become knighted.”

“What?” Everyone from the Tang Sect was shocked when he said this. Only Tang Wutong was not as surprised. After all, she didn’t know Huo Yuhao that well.

How is this possible?? Including Xu Jiujiu, many of them who were present thought this way. He was a member of the Sea God’s Pavilion, his status was unrivaled. He possessed great influence in the world of soul masters. If he obtained a knighthood and earned merits as a soldier, wouldn’t he be bound to the Star Luo Empire? The Star Luo Empire would be taking advantage of him then! Why would Huo Yuhao do something like this?

Xu Jiujiu looked very surprised, but she was also very intelligent. She immediately nodded without any hesitation and said, “No problem! Given your abilities and cultivation, I can promise you the position of a Viscount right now on behalf of my elder brother. Your position will also be inherited by your future descendants.”

A Viscount was the second least prestigious position in the nobility, but it was still considered very prestigious, especially since his descendants could inherit his position. Their lives would be worry-free!

Furthermore, this was because Xu Jiujiu was a princess. If the Star Luo Empire’s Emperor was here, he might promise him even more! By deepening their ties with Huo Yuhao, the empire was building its relationship with the Spirit Pagoda. At the same time, the empire was also building its relationship with Shrek Academy! This was highly advantageous for the empire!

Xu Sanshi’s expression was very serious, and he said, “Yuhao, you must consider this very carefully. You aren’t just representing yourself right now...”

### **Chapter 439.1: Wutong, Fuse?**

Huo Yuhao nodded gently, a little excited. This was what he had hoped for for many years!

After taking in a deep breath, Huo Yuhao looked at Princess Jiujiu seriously and said, “Your Highness, I still want to add a few prerequisites. Everything I mentioned earlier only applies to me. Furthermore, I

don't need you to promise me a knighthood right now. I'm willing to follow the rules of the Star Luo Empire and earn my position and status through my own merits. I won't be an exception.

"However, I'm only representing myself. At this moment, I'm only Huo Yuhao. I've nothing to do with the Spirit Pagoda, Shrek Academy or the Tang Sect. At the same time, even if I become a knight in the Star Luo Empire, I won't be controlled by the empire. Similarly, I won't be under the command of the empire. If you think this is acceptable, I'll accept this contribution and offer. Otherwise, I'd rather not take it."

Everyone was confused by Huo Yuhao's words. What does he mean? He wants to earn merits and his knighthood, but he's not willing to perform any services. Or rather, he would only perform services according to his own wishes. However, what's the significance of these things to him anyway, then?

Xu Jiujiu creased her brow slightly and asked, "Yuhao, can I ask what is this for? Although I'm a princess in the Star Luo Empire and I really hope that you would join the Empire, I'm also clear on your standing in the world of soul masters. There's no need for you to do this. If you want glory, money or wealth, it's very easy. Why did you choose the Star Luo Empire?"

Huo Yuhao calmly replied, "I have my own reasons. First, I'm from the Star Luo Empire."

When he said this, the look on all the soul masters' faces became much gentler.

This Huo Yuhao is also part of the Star Luo Empire. I guess he just wants to contribute to his country. In addition, everyone felt closer to him upon learning that he was from the Star Luo Empire.

Xu Jiujiu already knew that Huo Yuhao was from the Star Luo Empire. When she met Huo Yuhao during the first Elite Continental Advanced Soul Master Academy Tournament, she had checked on his background, where he had filled in his country of origin as the Star Luo Empire.

Of course, it was different back then when he was saying it right now. This time it meant that he recognized the Star Luo Empire.

Huo Yuhao continued, "When I was young, I had a dream of becoming a general. This is my wish. I hope that I'll be able to become a general and a marshal through my own hard work. Right now, I'm willing to use my own abilities to slowly realize this wish. I hope that I'll be able to lead my own army like the White Tiger Duke, and make my name prominent."

This reason seemed convincing enough, at least to ordinary people. However, when he said this, everyone from the Tang Sect felt that it was very weird. Wasn't Huo Yuhao already very prominent? In addition, could the position of a general or marshal really be compared to a truly powerful soul master?

No matter how capable the White Tiger Duke was in terms of leading his own army, his reputation couldn't compare to the Master of the Sea God's Pavilion, much less an Ultimate Douluo!

Those in the Tang Sect who were very familiar with Huo Yuhao knew that he was bound to become an Ultimate Douluo in the future. However, he requested the right to earn military merits and be knighted by the Star Luo Empire. Suddenly, everyone was confused.

There was an intent look on his face as he glanced at the White Tiger Duke. Yes, he could only use this method to fulfill his dream now!

Among those present, the only person who could really understand Huo Yuhao's intentions was probably his younger brother, Dai Luoli.

When Huo Yuhao said all this, the look in Dai Luoli's eyes became complex. "Elder brother, what do you want? Do you really want to compete with dad? What kind of ending are you hoping for?"

His acceptance and recognition of Huo Yuhao had already surpassed his feelings toward Dai Yueheng and Dai Huabin in just one short month of interaction.

Even though Huo Yuhao had used hellish methods to nurture him, he could sense Huo Yuhao's concern and sincerity in his relentless instruction. His life had completely changed after one month, and so he completely trusted Huo Yuhao.

On one side, there was his biological father. On the other side was his elder brother, who he trusted a lot. Suddenly, he was very confused. On whose side should he stand? Dai Luoli also wasn't clear what Huo Yuhao wanted in the end, or to what extent he would go to.

Princess Jiujiu took a deep look at Huo Yuhao, then nodded gently before saying, "Alright, I agree to your demands. You can follow the Star Luo Empire's rules to earn your position. However, we won't restrain you. As long as you're willing, you can do whatever you want. I only have one demand, or rather, one request. When there's a national crisis, I hope you'll offer your help. Be a hero and protect your country."

Huo Yuhao nodded slightly when he saw the passionate look in Xu Jiujiu's eyes and answered, "I won't claim to be a hero, but I'll stand up for my country if there's a crisis. I'll do it. I'll prove it with my actions."

The White Tiger Duke was watching closely Huo Yuhao and said, "That's a deal, then. When you complete this reconnaissance mission, the princess and I will celebrate for you. I'll personally pen down your contributions, and I hope that we'll watch the rise of a heroic general in the future. The Star Luo Empire needs a talent like you."

He was really happy. If Huo Yuhao was just being patronizing, he wouldn't be able to convince the White Tiger Duke. However, Huo Yuhao's immense spiritual power had already fully convinced the White Tiger Duke. He felt that there really was hope when he saw Huo Yuhao.

As he spoke, the White Tiger Duke lifted the cup in front of him, "We can't drink in the face of a national crisis, so I'll use tea to replace alcohol. Let me toast you. I hope that you'll be successful."

Huo Yuhao also lifted his cup and toasted the White Tiger Duke. He calmly said, "Thanks."

The White Tiger Duke smiled slightly after taking a sip of his tea. "Kid, I wonder where you hail from since you're from the Star Luo Empire?"

Huo Yuhao paused for a moment before saying, "I come from a village near the Star Luo City. It isn't very notable."

The White Tiger Duke smiled and said, "It's really rare for a small village to nurture a talent like you!"

Huo Yuhao clenched his fist, and immediately repressed his urges. He calmly replied, "Duke, Your Highness, we've rushed throughout our entire journey. Let's end the day here, shall we? Let me ready myself before I start my mission within these two days. What do you think?"

"Alright, great." The White Tiger Duke was a firm believer of 'actions are louder than words'. Seeing that Huo Yuhao wasn't wishy-washy, he was even more impressed by him. He patted his shoulder tightly, and instructed Dai Yueheng to find Huo Yuhao and the others a place to rest.

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As they were from Shrek Academy, the tents that were arranged for them were very good. Every one of them was given a tent that was normally given to the commanding officer of a soul engineer legion.

Every tent was close to fifty square meters in size, and furnished with a table and a bed. There were even a few simple decorations. This was the best treatment they could possibly get in war time.

Everyone from the Tang Sect didn't rush to rest immediately. Instead, they congregated in Huo Yuhao's tent.

"Little junior, what were you doing today?" Xu Sanshi couldn't help but ask when he entered Huo Yuhao's tent.

Huo Yuhao was being very abnormal when he asked for merits and a position in the Star Luo Empire.

Huo Yuhao forced a smile and replied, "Third senior, this really is my hope for the future. I don't have any other intentions. Please understand. Furthermore, I won't affect the Academy or the Tang Sect due to my relationship with the Star Luo Empire."

Seeing the complex look in Huo Yuhao's eyes, Xu Sanshi stopped his interrogation. He clasped Huo Yuhao's shoulder before saying, "Yuhao, we won't force you if you're not willing to say anything. We trust you. However, you can find someone to talk to if you're feeling sad. You'll feel better now. No matter who you choose, we'll keep things a secret."

"Okay, thanks, Third Senior. I'm fine."

Apart from Tang Wutong, who wasn't very familiar with Huo Yuhao, the rest naturally trusted him. Although everyone was surprised by his actions today, they didn't doubt him. The others didn't even ask him anything at all.

Everyone returned to their own tents to rest. Huo Yuhao sat behind his table and looked a little dazed.

Have I finally taken this step? Can I finally earn my own merits through my hard work?

According to Xu Jiujiu's promise, he would be able to earn merits faster than he had planned. After this mission was over, he should be able to earn his knighthood, even if it was just an ordinary one.

Dai Hao, you know I'm doing this just to surpass you. I want to become a hero of the Star Luo Empire, a hero that's more outstanding than you. When that day comes, I'll return to the Duke's Mansion with my chest held high. I'll get back what my mother deserves.

As he considered that, he clenched his fists, and the thoughts in his head cleared. His immense spiritual power surged in his spiritual sea, and his soul power also circulated throughout his entire body. Suddenly, the mysterious aura that he had once sensed in the Spirit Pagoda seemed to have subtly appeared again.

Huo Yuhao was shocked, and quickly jolted himself out of that state.

A smile slowly formed at the edges of his lips. "Di Tian, even you can't continuously monitor me through your reverse scale. If I'm not wrong, I can obtain the aura of that world a second and third time, since I was able to do it the first time. But it won't be now. I won't let you sense anything anymore..."

### **Chapter 439.2: Wutong, Fuse?**

After sitting for a short while, Huo Yuhao stood up and walked out of his tent

It was already the middle of the night. Although he was fatigued from rushing the whole day, he wasn't overly drained, given that he held an immense power of life inside. But he looked a little dazed as he walked towards a tent beside his. Tang Wutong was in that tent.

Dai Yueheng didn't know that she was Tang Wutong instead of Wang Dong'er. In his heart, he thought that Wang Dong'er and Huo Yuhao were a couple. When he arranged the tents, he naturally arranged for the both of them to be together.

Dong'er, are you asleep? Huo Yuhao silently thought to himself.

After he was distracted by the White Tiger Duke earlier, and after Xu Sanshi talked to him, he really wanted someone to confide in right now. Naturally, the person that he looked to was the person he loved the most.

He slowly walked towards Tang Wutong's tent. When he reached her tent, he stopped for a moment and hesitated. After this, he gently slapped the curtains of the tent.

The curtains were made of cloth, and thus not much sound was made. However, it was enough for soul masters, who had good hearing.

Tang Wutong's voice sounded. "Who is it?"

"Wutong, are you asleep?" Huo Yuhao asked softly.

Tang Wutong was silent for a moment, then said, "It's already so late. What are you doing here?"

Huo Yuhao replied, "I have something to discuss with you regarding our reconnaissance mission tomorrow night. If it's not convenient, I'll talk to you tomorrow."

Tang Wutong answered without any hesitation, "Then let's leave it for tomorrow. I don't want to know your secret, and I'm not interested in being your confidante."

Huo Yuhao was slightly stunned, and found it a little amusing. It turned out that she believed Huo Yuhao had listened to Xu Sanshi's words and was treating her as his confidante.

He was a little helpless as he shook his head and said, "Rest, then. Goodnight."

After he finished speaking, he walked towards his own tent. There was a lost look on his face. How good would it be if she were still Dong'er. At least I could still get some comfort while being in her soft and warm embrace. My Dong'er, when will you return?

As he thought until here, Huo Yuhao was a little confused. Why can I sense Qiu'er, apart from just Dong'er, in Tang Wutong's body?

Just as he walked towards his own tent, he heard something. Huo Yuhao subconsciously turned around and saw Tang Wutong, who had already switched into a long white dress, standing in front of her tent.

The moon was very beautiful tonight. The bright moonlight made her appear very quiet and calm as it fell on her, whereas her pinkish-blue hair and eyes were the most beautiful ornaments in this bright night.

Tang Wutong looked at Huo Yuhao calmly and said, "On account of your baked bun, I'll let you speak. However, I'm only letting you speak until one incense stick finishes burning."

Even though Huo Yuhao knew that she had misunderstood him and thought that he wanted to confide in her, he still immediately walked over in front of her. He would never give up on any opportunity to get closer to Tang Wutong.

"Hey, don't get so close." Seeing that Huo Yuhao was almost a meter in front of her, Tang Wutong quickly raised her hand and warned him from getting any closer.

Huo Yuhao stopped and watched the wary look in Tang Wutong's eyes. He was a little dazed, and subconsciously said, "Dong'er, you're beautiful."

Tang Wutong was stunned for a moment. After this, she furrowed her brow, glared and shouted furiously, "Who is your Dong'er? Hmph!" After she finished speaking, she turned around and wanted to enter her own tent.

Huo Yuhao only reacted at this moment. He rushed to stretch his hand out and grabbed her wrist. He anxiously said, "I'm sorry, I got the wrong person. It's perhaps because I miss her too much."

Tang Wutong twisted her head and coldly said, "Let go."

At this instant, the expression in her eyes caused Huo Yuhao to be stunned once again. The cold look and tone in her voice were just like Wang Qiu'er when he saw her for the first time!

Huo Yuhao was confused once again. Dong'er, Qiu'er, Dong'er, Qiu'er. These two names kept on alternating in his mind. Everything was too difficult to understand right now. Her condition is obviously like Dong'er, but her actions and words remind me of both Dong'er and Qiu'er.

Dong'er's beauty, kindness, vibrancy and cuteness, but also Qiu'er's aloofness. When they combine, it seems like Tang Wutong is a completely different person.

Huo Yuhao subconsciously let go of her hand and was a little tormented as he lowered his head. He said, "I'm sorry, I recognized the wrong person. You look too alike to my lover. That's why..."

"It's okay, you don't have to explain anymore. I've heard such words many times before. There's still two-thirds of the incense stick left. If you've something to say, please hurry up. But I don't want to listen to what happened between you and your ex-girlfriends."

"Ex-girlfriends? My only lover is Dong'er..."

Tang Wutong was a little rushed as she interrupted him, "I already told you that I don't want to listen to any of that."

"Alright." Huo Yuhao couldn't adapt to her coldness and assertiveness. However, he soon got over it.

"I'm not actually here to confide in you. I can settle my own problems. I don't need to burden anyone with my personal problems."

Tang Wutong was a little doubtful as she asked, "Then what are you finding me for?"

Huo Yuhao was serious as he replied, "Wutong, when I saw you for the first time, there's another reason why I mistook you for someone else. It was because I could sense that your soul power was very close to mine. It seems like it can fuse with mine."

"It can fuse with yours?" Tang Wutong retracted the cold look on her face and appeared a little pensive. "Are you saying that our martial souls can fuse? How is that possible? The tier of your martial soul is so low. It can't be possible that we can fuse."

Huo Yuhao was a little speechless as he said, "I have twin martial souls! One of them is even of Ultimate Ice! How is it possible that it's too low?"

Tang Wutong lifted her head and flicked her hair before saying, "It's just low." Her pampered behavior made her seem more domineering, but in a good way.

Huo Yuhao was a little helpless as he replied, "Alright, it's low. However, I really feel that our martial souls can fuse. Can we give it a try? If possible, we might be able to increase our fighting strength greatly in future missions. We are both Soul Sages. When two Soul Sages unleash a fusion skill, along with your strong martial soul, the effect will undoubtedly be very great."

Tang Wutong creased her eyebrows slightly and asked, "How do you want to try it, then?"

Huo Yuhao answered, "Simple. I just need to place my palm on yours. After that, we'll just need to try connecting our soul power. If our martial souls can fuse, our soul power will fuse first."

Tang Wutong was a little doubtful as she looked at him and asked, "You're not doing this just to get close to me, right?"

Huo Yuhao laughed bitterly. "Am I that stupid? There are plenty of reasons I could have used if that were the case. Why would I use the thing that's the most improbable? I really think that our martial souls can fuse. Let's try? If you're still doubtful, we can do it outside your tent. We don't have to enter your tent."

Tang Wutong hesitated for a moment when she saw the patrol guards that had just walked past before saying, "We can try, but we shall void the bet that I just made with you today. If you agree to this, I'll let you enter my tent and give it a go."

Huo Yuhao didn't even hesitate, and nodded. "Okay, it's a deal."

Huo Yuhao didn't claim anything after Xu Sanshi beat Ji Juechen earlier, but Tang Wutong remembered their bet. She didn't want to owe him anything, and thus she proposed this idea.

When Huo Yuhao first suggested the bet, he was doing it for this! Using martial soul fusion to find out whether Tang Wutong was Wang Dong'er was the most direct and reliable method. Perhaps he could even use martial soul fusion to tell if she was Wang Qiu'er.

Of course, Huo Yuhao didn't believe that she was Wang Qiu'er. After all, Wang Qiu'er had already sacrificed herself, and her body had disappeared. His skull bone was even given to him by Wang Qiu'er.

Tang Wutong said, "Alright, follow me in then. Remember, don't even think of trying anything funny. Otherwise, you'll regret it." As she spoke, she walked into her tent.

Huo Yuhao quickly followed her. Right now, he was very tense. This was because this was very important to him. If Tang Wutong's martial soul couldn't fuse with his, it was likely that she wasn't Wang Dong'er! That was not something that Huo Yuhao hoped for either!

After walking into the tent, Tang Wutong pointed to the ground and stated, "Let's do it on the ground." As she spoke, she retrieved a mat from her storage-type soul tool and placed it on the ground. She sat on it and pointed to the ground in front of her.

Huo Yuhao nodded and sat down in front of her.

Tang Wutong lifted her hands and said coldly, "Let's start."

Huo Yuhao was evidently a little tense. However, if he didn't try, he wouldn't be relieved at all. It was important for him to find out who Tang Wutong was.

He took a deep breath, and circulated his soul power. Under the command of his spiritual power, it started surging in his body.

Huo Yuhao lifted his hands and gently pressed them against Tang Wutong's palms.

As their eyes met, it was obvious that the look in Tang Wutong's eyes was very cold, whereas Huo Yuhao looked very passionate.

Dong'er, she must be Dong'er!

As he thought, Huo Yuhao slowly summoned his Mysterious Heaven Technique and poured it into Tang Wutong's body.

Tang Wutong didn't resist, and allowed Huo Yuhao's soul power to enter her body. After that, she summoned her own soul power. Huo Yuhao's soul power was blocked by a passageway in her forearms.

### **Chapter 439.3: Wutong, Fuse?**

Of course she couldn't let Huo Yuhao's soul power circulate freely inside her, the equivalent of handing her life over to him. She only allowed him to test whether they could fuse in the passageways of her forearm.



Huo Yuhao could clearly sense that Tang Wutong's soul power flowed in a structured manner, and there was even an aura of elegance about it. When their soul powers first came into contact with each other, Tang Wutong's soul power displayed strong discrimination towards Huo Yuhao's soul power. It was like it wanted to force his soul power out of her body.

Huo Yuhao was stunned to find out that Tang Wutong was right! While his soul power wasn't any less powerful than hers, there was some kind of gap between them. This was a result of the difference between the blood lineages of their martial souls.

How is this possible? I have twin martial souls, and I even possess Ultimate Ice. Moreover, I've fused with four Spirits, which has significantly modified my martial soul. How is it possible that the tier of my martial soul is so much weaker than hers?

Initially, his soul power would immediately fuse with Wang Dong'er's soul power when they first came into contact with one another, turning into Haodong Power that would circulate through their bodies. This greatly increased their cultivation speed. To a large extent, the reason why Huo Yuhao's cultivation speed was able to rise so quickly was because of the Haodong Power.

However, the situation seemed to have completely changed now. The circulation of soul power in Tang Wutong's body was presented as an elegant, purplish-gold color. During the process of circulation, her body exuded a dim, purplish-gold glow. Huo Yuhao could even sense that the soul power circulating in her body was subtly rocking with the sound of a dragon roaring.

Amid this rocking movement, Huo Yuhao's soul power was crushed before it could return to his body. Even though it would reform very quickly, it wasn't able to move an inch forward in Tang Wutong's body, much less complete any fusion. It was like they were supposed to be distinctly separated.

As Tang Wutong's wrist trembled slightly, the soul power in her body started to circulate at a greater intensity. Huo Yuhao moved back three feet, as if he had been pushed.

Tang Wutong's body slightly shone with a purplish-gold glow, and an image of a golden trident flashed on her forehead before disappearing. She twisted her lips and said, "I've already told you that your martial soul can't fuse with me. Your instincts were wrong. If you really had some sort of sensation, I would experience the same sensation too. You can leave now."

Huo Yuhao sat where he was in a daze. The expression on his face remained the same, and his entire body seemed to have turned into a statue – he was completely motionless.

Tang Wutong furrowed her brow. "Hey! Why aren't you leaving yet?"

Huo Yuhao slowly lowered his arms, and Tang Wutong could tell that his face had turned completely pale. It was as if he had lost his life energy.

As he slowly stood up, Huo Yuhao walked towards the exit of the tent with a pale look on his face. When he drew open the curtains and walked out, he staggered and almost fell down. After this, his steps were very shaky as he walked away from the tent. He didn't even utter a word to Tang Wutong.

Tang Wutong was stunned as she watched him leave. She was stunned to find out that she felt a little heartbroken for some unknown reason.

Am I feeling heartbroken for him? How is this possible?

Do I have to feel this way? Our martial souls are just incompatible, aren't they? Why does he look like he just lost his wife?

What she didn't know was that Huo Yuhao didn't sense anything similar between her and Wang Dong'er's soul power as their martial souls failed to fuse. To him, it was indeed as if he had lost his wife.

Tang Wutong isn't Dong'er, Tang Wutong isn't Dong'er, Tang Wutong isn't Dong'er...

This thought repeated itself in Huo Yuhao's head. He seemed as if he had lost his soul. He was completely in a trance right now.

He didn't even know how he made his way back to his tent. After he returned, he laid down on his own bed and didn't move at all. It was as if he already lost his soul.

As he lay on his bed, Huo Yuhao didn't know when he started to fall asleep. However, he felt as if his life energy had been completely drained as he fell asleep.

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After Huo Yuhao left, Tang Wutong also stood up and put her mat away. She muttered to herself, "This fellow is ridiculous. The possibility of fusion between two soul masters is naturally close to zero. What's there to be so depressed about? However, he really looks to have been in poor shape earlier."

After sitting down on her bed, Tang Wutong started to meditate and began her cultivation for the night.

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Second day, morning...

Tang Wutong stretched her back and body before she jumped out of bed.

After a night of meditation, her fatigue had completely disappeared. As she stretched her body, she couldn't help, but let out a groan.

After she reached the exit of her tent, she drew the curtains aside and allowed fresh air to flow into her tent.

That fellow didn't sleep the entire night?? Tang Wutong subconsciously turned her attention towards the tent beside hers just as she walked out of her tent. She couldn't help but think of Huo Yuhao's pale face when he left the previous night.

Just at this moment, the curtains of the tent beside hers were also drawn open. Tang Wutong quickly turned her gaze away.

Huo Yuhao also exited his own tent. As he stood in front of his tent, he also stretched out.

Tang Wutong glanced at him out of the corner of her eye. When she saw him, he seemed to have returned to normal. The expression on his face was very calm.

Huo Yuhao turned his gaze towards Tang Wutong and nodded at her before saying, "Good morning."

“Good morning.” Tang Wutong acknowledged automatically.

Huo Yuhao smiled courteously before walking towards the canteen that Dai Yueheng had pointed out to them the day before.

They were allocated the canteen that served high-ranking military officers. Soul masters were different from ordinary people. Their food requirements were much more demanding. In order to ensure that their soul masters possessed sufficient fighting strength, the Star Luo Empire naturally provided them with the best food possible.

Tang Wutong felt as if Huo Yuhao had changed when she saw him walking past her.

However, he’s still wearing a smile like he normally does! But why do I feel as if he’s different?

Alienation? Yes, it’s alienation. He’s no longer as friendly as before. The look in his eyes isn’t as gentle as before.

As she recalled the first time she met him, she could still remember that he would look at her whenever she was around. However, this wasn’t the case earlier. Even though he had looked at her earlier, he had quickly retracted his gaze. After greeting her, he quietly left. The look in his eyes was very calm, but this calm look left Tang Wutong feeling a little uncomfortable.

I’ve not done anything wrong. This fellow... hmph!

Huo Yuhao finished washing up and quietly went to the canteen. Their breakfast was very scrumptious. He sat in one corner alone and ate. However, he started feeling emotional

Only one sentence had repeated itself in his mind the entire night,?She isn’t Dong’er.

Dong’er, where’s my Dong’er?

Tang Wutong and Dong’er’s soul powers were very different. His heart felt very cold. He felt as if he had lost everything he had. As the saying goes, ‘The greater the hope, the greater the disappointment.’?If Tang Wutong isn’t Dong’er, where is Dong’er?

Initially, Tang Wutong’s appearance had made him feel very optimistic and confident in this mission. However, after last night’s incident, sorrow and yearning filled his heart once again. In addition, it became even more intense.

Tang Wutong was also in the canteen. She entered not long after Huo Yuhao did, and intentionally sat far away from him to eat her own breakfast. However, she couldn’t help but glance at him. She wanted to see if he was acting, and whether he would look at her.

However, she was disappointed. What she saw was a Huo Yuhao who ate his breakfast silently, and had a hollow look in his eyes.

After eating his breakfast, Huo Yuhao left and returned to his tent.

Tang Wutong pushed her cutlery away in front of her and creased her brow.?What’s wrong with him? Does he have to be so affected just because our martial souls can’t fuse? If that were the case, why would Shrek Academy look upon him so highly? Is he mentally ill?

No, I have to ask him what's going on.

Just as she couldn't figure things out, Jiang Nannan and Xu Sanshi came in.

"Hey, Wutong. We just saw Huo Yuhao leave. Why didn't you leave with him?" Xu Sanshi said naturally.

Tang Wutong snorted and replied, "Why would I do so?"

Xu Sanshi chortled, "Are you throwing a tantrum again?"

Tang Wutong suddenly thought of something, and asked Xu Sanshi, "Xu Sanshi, let me ask you a question."

Xu Sanshi, curious, asked, "Me? What do you want to know?"

Jiang Nannan also stopped because she was curious. She turned her attention towards Tang Wutong.

Tang Wutong said, "If a person thinks that his martial soul can fuse with another soul master's, but fails after trying, will he be greatly affected?"

Xu Sanshi answered without any hesitation. "Of course not! That's very normal! Martial soul fusion isn't that easy."

Jiang Nannan also nodded.

Tang Wutong was indignant as she replied, "Yes! That's what I thought. However, somebody doesn't think this way. He acted as if he had just lost his wife."

Xu Sanshi and Jiang Nannan looked at each other and felt that something was amiss.

Jiang Nannan probed, "Wutong, surely you aren't talking about Huo Yuhao, right?"

Tang Wutong snorted, "Who else? Last night, he came to find me and said that he thinks that our martial souls might possibly fuse. He insisted on trying. I claimed that it wasn't possible, but he didn't believe me. In the end, we failed even after trying. He seemed to have lost his soul as he left. This morning, he ignored me, and seems to be a new person. Tell me, is there even anyone like him? All of you still praise him to the high heavens! A soul master who can't even control himself, how good can he be?"

#### **Chapter 440.1: Huo Yuhao's Feelings**

"Wait, wait." Xu Sanshi hurriedly interrupted Tang Wutong, and his expression turned serious too.

"Wutong, do you mean that Yuhao failed after he tried to perform a martial soul fusion with you?"

Tang Wutong nodded and replied, "Yes!"

Xu Sanshi's expression immediately changed. He charged out of the canteen.

Jiang Nannan's expression also changed. The way she looked at Tang Wutong also changed slightly.

Tang Wutong was confused as she asked, "Sister Nannan, what's going on? Didn't the two of you just agree that martial soul fusion isn't very common?"

Jiang Nannan was stunned as she looked at her, as if she was about to see through her. Tang Wutong felt very uncomfortable as she was watched, and furrowed her brow. "What's wrong with all of you? You're all acting so weirdly."

Jiang Nannan sighed and said, "We were wrong. Maybe we were all wrong. We didn't expect it to be like this."

Tang Wutong's expression turned a little gloomy, "Can you be clearer with your words? Do you have to be so unclear?"

Jiang Nannan shook her head and said, "Wutong, I'm sorry for all this. I apologize to you on behalf of Yuhao. His change has nothing to do with you, nor is he angry with you. Haih..."

Tang Wutong was puzzled as she asked, "Then what's going on? When he was eating his breakfast earlier on, he seemed to have gone mad. The look in his eyes was hollow."

An unbearable look flashed across Jiang Nannan's eyes as she answered, "Yuhao is too pitiful. Alright, let me tell you a story.

"When Yuhao first came to Shrek Academy, he was only an ordinary young man. He only managed to enter the academy by using the Tang Sect's quota. If he went through an ordinary examination, he wouldn't have been able to pass.

Tang Wutong was immediately drawn to this story. Although she felt that Huo Yuhao was a lecher who had tried to hug her, she was very aware of Huo Yuhao's abilities. He was a Soul Sage who wasn't even twenty years old. He even had twin martial souls! If he couldn't even make it into Shrek Academy, then Shrek Academy's standards were simply too high!

Jiang Nannan continued saying, "After entering the Academy, he stayed in a dorm like many of the other students. He had a roommate called Wang Dong. Very soon, they became good friends. They worked hard, learned, and cultivated together. Although Yuhao appeared to be very ordinary at the start, he put in more work than anyone else. Very soon, he showed his potential in the Academy. On the other hand, Wang Dong was innately talented. With the two of them working together, they managed to become the champions of the freshmen assessment.

"After this, they competed in the Continental Advanced Soul Master Academy Soul Dueling Tournament. They performed brilliantly, and eventually won the tournament, contributing greatly to the Academy.

"As time passed, everyone's abilities grew significantly. As an exchange student, Huo Yuhao went to the Sun Moon Empire to learn. His friendship with Wang Dong grew tighter and tighter. After that, they met once again during a blind date in the Academy. There, he found out that the roommate that he had stayed with for so many years was actually a lady. She wasn't Wang Dong, but Wang Dong'er."

"This change in her gender also caused their relationship to change. Very soon, they became a couple that everyone was envious of. However, Dong'er seemed to have some kind of congenital disease. To save her, Yuhao went to the Setting Sun Forest, a place that is extremely dangerous. He suffered critical injuries, but brought back a valuable treasure. When he returned to the academy, he was on the verge of death. The Academy did its best to save him, and managed to preserve his life. However, he was paralyzed, and couldn't walk anymore.

“After that, we participated in the same tournament for the second time. As the Sun Moon Empire targeted all the competitors of the tournament, we were forced to escape to a place called the Yin-Yang Love Querying Valley. Dong’er was hurt there, and went into a coma...”

Jiang Nannan related the story of Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong’er to Tang Wutong. Tang Wutong was slightly lost at the start, but she couldn’t help but be moved when she heard the story.

“...Yuhao couldn’t find Dong’er just like that. He didn’t know where she went until he met you.”

Jiang Nannan took a deep look at Tang Wutong.

Tang Wutong furrowed her brow. “You mean that Wang Dong’er and I look similar?”

Jiang Nannan silently nodded.

Tang Wutong snorted and said, “There are thousands of people in the Douluo Continent. What’s so strange even if we look alike? All of you recognized the wrong person.”

Jiang Nannan sighed and said, “We initially thought that you were Dong’er, just that you’d lost your memory. Now it seems like we got the wrong person. Yuhao acted the way he did earlier because he confirmed this point.”

“Oh? How did he do so? Just because his martial soul can’t fuse with me? It’s a joke.”

Jiang Nannan said, “A person’s martial soul can change. However, it’s very difficult to change the type of one’s soul power. Yuhao and Dong’er’s martial souls were completely compatible with each other. They both possessed twin martial souls. With the fusion of their twin martial souls, they managed to unleash an unprecedented four fusion skills. Before they managed to grow strong, they were able to beat stronger opponents with their fusion skills. They even called the fusion of their soul powers Haodong Power.

“When Huo Yuhao asked you to fuse your martial soul with him yesterday, his main intention should have been to confirm whether or not you were Dong’er. If your soul power could fuse, then it would have been almost certain that you were Dong’er.

“But now, it seems like... we were all wrong. To Yuhao, he’s lost hope. It’s understandable how tormented he feels right now. I’m sorry, Wutong. We might have caused you problems. But please understand him. He’s not even nineteen yet, but he’s gone through too much. He’s carried too much pain. It hasn’t been easy for him to reach where he is today and persist all this way. Even if you aren’t Dong’er, can you treat him better? At least seeing you can help to alleviate his yearning for Dong’er.”

Tang Wutong was silent, but nodded gently.

“So there’s actually so many deep layers of reasoning. You should have told me earlier. Even though I’m not that Wang Dong’er, it seems like he isn’t a bad guy. Sister Nannan, thanks for telling me all this. You can go and eat now.”

“Okay.” Jiang Nannan acknowledged her words. There was a lost look in her eyes. She stood up, and went to get her own breakfast.

Tang Wutong also stood up after sitting down for a while. She waved at Jiang Nannan before returning to her own tent.

“Huo Yuhao, Wang Dong’er.” Tang Wutong was a little dazed as she stood in her tent.

“Wang Dong’er also has twin martial souls?” She lifted her left hand as she lowered her head. Streaks of dark gold light surged, and a strong aura was slowly released.

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In the neighboring tent...

“Third senior, I’m really fine. Don’t worry.” Huo Yuhao smiled as he spoke to Xu Sanshi.

Xu Sanshi had rushed over and comforted him. The more Huo Yuhao claimed that he was fine, the more worried Xu Sanshi was. After knowing him for so many years, he understood Huo Yuhao very well. How could he possibly be fine? After finding out that Tang Wutong wasn’t Wang Dong’er, Huo Yuhao must be devastated.

“Yuhao, don’t be too hard on yourself. If you aren’t fine, we can go. We can follow you to find Dong’er. We’ll be able to find her.”

Huo Yuhao shook his head and replied, “No. We can talk when things are done and the war is over. The continent is so expansive, we won’t achieve anything if we search aimlessly. Third senior, go and have your breakfast. After everyone finishes eating, we’ll discuss tonight’s plan. We’ll still need to coordinate with the military so that they’ll be able to reinforce us.”

“Alright.” Xu Sanshi knew that there was nothing he could say, seeing that Huo Yuhao appeared so nonchalant. He patted Yuhao’s shoulder before walking out of his tent.

As he watched Xu Sanshi leave, Huo Yuhao’s smile slowly turned bitter, and he muttered to himself, “It seems like I’ve really grown up. I’m in such great pain, but I’m able to tolerate it. If this were the past, I’d probably collapse.” After he finished mocking himself, he sat down cross-legged and starting to meditate.

He hadn’t rested the previous night.. He needed time to recover his energy right now.

He had already thought it through. Although Tang Wutong wasn’t Wang Dong’er, at least he knew that Wang Dong’er was fine. After the war was over, he would put everything down and look for traces of her across the continent.

Two hours later, the sun had fully risen.

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Front line commander’s tent of the Star Luo Empire’s Northwestern Field Army...

There was a table in the middle of the tent. The White Tiger Duke and Princess Jiuju stood around the table. Apart from the two of them, there were only Huo Yuhao and the rest from Shrek Academy. There wasn’t even a guard in the huge tent.

This was all according to the White Tiger Duke's instructions. The reconnaissance mission that Huo Yuhao was about to embark on was too important to the Star Luo Empire, and they had to keep it as confidential as possible, preventing any information from being leaked. Thus, only the ten of them were there.

"Little brother Huo, tell me about your plan," the White Tiger Duke asked Huo Yuhao.

Huo Yuhao paused for a moment before saying, "Duke, you can call me by my name. In terms of age, you are my elder. It's not really appropriate for you to call me 'little brother'."

Even though there was a misunderstanding between him and the White Tiger Duke, he couldn't ignore the fact that the White Tiger Duke was his father!

Dai Hao laughed and said, "Alright, I'll call you Yuhao, like Her Highness."

Huo Yuhao felt very good when his father called him Yuhao!

#### **Chapter 440.2: Huo Yuhao's Feelings**

After taking a deep breath to calm himself, Huo Yuhao looked at the table and said, "This is my plan. Just like I mentioned yesterday, we'll carry out our surveillance mission at a high altitude. In terms of position, I choose this." As he spoke, Huo Yuhao lifted his right hand, and a streak of golden light shot from his fingertip, pointing towards a spot on the table.

After seeing the position that Huo Yuhao had singled out, the White Tiger Duke and Princess Jiujiu were astonished. Both of them lifted their heads and looked sharply at Huo Yuhao.

Huo Yuhao was pointing to the highest mountain peak of the Ming Dou Mountain Range. More importantly, it was at that spot where the Light of the Death God was first unleashed.

Princess Jiujiu hesitated. "Yuhao, the higher the mountain peak, the more dangerous it'll be for you. There are bound to be surveillance soul tools there. Why don't we change the position?"

Huo Yuhao shook his head and replied, "The safest place is the most dangerous place. Naturally, they'll know that it's the safest spot. This is why they might not put all their attention on it. I hope that the empire will coordinate with me and ambush them from this and that side."

As he said, he pointed to two spots at opposite ends of the Ming Dou Mountain Range.

"Wait a minute, Yuhao," the White Tiger Duke suddenly said. He lifted his head and looked at Huo Yuhao with a deep look in his eyes. He said, "Honestly, this spot that you just pointed out is actually where we would like to surveil the most. However, I can't let you go there."

His contradictory words left Huo Yuhao feeling warm and comforted. Compared to Princess Jiujiu, it seemed he was more compassionate!

"Why?" Xu Sanshi asked doubtfully.

The White Tiger Duke took a look at Princess Jiujiu, who was red with embarrassment right now.



Dai Hao lifted his right hand and pointed at the highest peak. "It was at this place that two thousand soul masters who were at least Soul Sages were all killed, causing us to suffer heavy losses. I can't let Yuhao take this risk."

"What?" After hearing his words, everyone from Shrek immediately understood. They had heard about the Light of the Death God before. They didn't expect the Death God, which was close to a Class 10 soul tool, to be located there.

Dai Hao sighed and said, "I'm sure all of you could guess. That's right, that's where the Death God of the Sun Moon Empire is located. That Light of the Death God was a tragic experience for us. I'm sure you can understand how limited our information on the Death God is. Furthermore, it's located at the highest mountain peak. That is why I can't let you go, Yuhao."

Xu Sanshi sighed and said, "You indeed can't go close to that soul tool! Yuhao, this spot that you've chosen is the most dangerous."

"I know," Huo Yuhao replied calmly.

"You know?" At this moment, everyone focused their attention on him.

Huo Yuhao nodded and said, "I know. I'm also a soul engineer. If I owned a powerful soul tool like the Death God, I'd definitely place it on the highest peak. If I don't remember wrongly, the effective range of the Death God is five thousand meters. To cross the Ming Dou Mountain Range, one naturally has to climb mountains. The Death God can cover the sky and ground at the same time. It's at a spot that fully taps into its destructive power. That is why I expected the Death God to be on this mountain peak when I chose it.

"However, the most dangerous place is also the safest place. No matter how intelligent the soul engineers from the Sun Moon Empire are, they wouldn't expect our target to be the Death God. This soul tool is our greatest threat. If we can find out more information about it, it might make it easier for us to fight the Sun Moon Empire."

Dai Hao furrowed his brow and said, "No, it's too dangerous. If something happens to you, how can I account to Shrek Academy? Your courage is commendable, but I can't let you make such an irresponsible choice."

Huo Yuhao softened when he saw the determined look in Dai Hao's eyes. With regards to the position of the Death God, Dai Hao didn't conceal anything. If he considered the benefit to the empire, he could most certainly allow Huo Yuhao to carry out the surveillance. If he succeeded, the Star Luo Empire would benefit greatly.

However, he didn't do so. Instead, he revealed everything. No wonder his subordinates were so loyal to him. The White Tiger Duke was very influential in the military. It would be great if he wasn't Huo Yuhao's father. If that were the case, Huo Yuhao might actually sacrifice everything to help him.

Seeing Huo Yuhao's dazed look, Dai Hao continued saying, "Choose another spot. We'll continue to coordinate with you. Even if you want to survey the position where the Death God is, we must try it from other spots first. We have to ensure that you'll be safe before we plan anything else."

Huo Yuhao was silent for a moment before saying, “White Tiger Duke, I’m really confident. It’s best if we try it for our first time because it’s the most sudden. There are bound to be many soul tools around the Death God. However, they are limited in their range. Among them, the few soul tools that can detect me are only effective at short range. Also, you’re already aware how good my detection abilities are. If it’s unidirectional, I can inspect things from up to seven kilometers away. This means that I don’t even have to enter the effective range of the Light of the Death God to survey it. As for how much I can find out, it’ll depend on my luck.”

The White Tiger Duke was awed when he heard Huo Yuhao mentioning a range of seven kilometers.

As a Titled Douluo, he was definitely aware of how important it was to have strong spiritual power. It was increasingly difficult to advance further once one became a Titled Douluo. There were two very important barriers to overcome along the way. First, the body of the Titled Douluo had to be able to withstand ever more soul power. Second, the Titled Douluo had to have sufficient spiritual power to control and summon his enhanced soul power.

Both were necessary. A Titled Douluo could only reach the next tier if both factors went hand-in-hand. The difference between every tier after becoming a Titled Douluo was extremely great.

Huo Yuhao said that he could survey up to seven thousand meters in one direction. It was Dai Hao’s first time hearing of such immense spiritual power. Among all the Titled Douluo that he knew, he didn’t know anyone who was that strong. Having such strong spiritual power was perfect for surveillance purposes. Even with the Sun Moon Empire’s surveillance soul tools, they shouldn’t be able to detect him from such a distance. Huo Yuhao was just like a Class 9 soul tool!

Xu Jiujiu was very excited, and looked at Dai Hao. “Marshal!”

Her intention was immediately understood. To the Star Luo Empire, inspecting the Death God was too important.

Dai Hao took in a deep breath and looked at Huo Yuhao seriously before asking, “If you really want to survey the Death God, how do you want us to support you?”

Huo Yuhao replied, “I need you to feign an attack to draw the Sun Moon Empire’s attention and create an opportunity for me. At the same time, I need a Titled Douluo who is adept at flying to send me high into the sky, the higher the better. Five thousand meters is the minimum. If greater heights are possible, I hope you can send me even higher up. That would be even safer.”

The White Tiger Duke nodded slightly and said, “Yuhao, let me ask you one more time. Are you confident? Even if you don’t succeed, it’s fine. I need to ensure your safety.”

Dai Hao was very impressed by Huo Yuhao’s words. Right now, the Northwestern Field Army was lacking in surveillance. Huo Yuhao’s arrival would greatly help them in this aspect. If he wasn’t boasting, the Star Luo Empire would be greatly helped in this war.

Huo Yuhao nodded and said, “There are no absolutes in this world, and everyone only has one life. I’ll naturally do my best to guarantee my own safety. I’m eighty percent confident that I’ll come through unscathed. But I’m only twenty to thirty percent confident of clearly surveilling the Death God. After all,

it's the number one soul tool in the Sun Moon Empire. I'm sure there are many restrictions about it. Even if my spiritual power can engulf it, I'm not sure that I'll be able to find out anything about it."

The White Tiger Duke nodded slightly. "Alright, Yuhao, I'll count on you, then. As long as you can return safely, I'll count it as a major merit. If you can find out what's going on with the Death God, I'll definitely guarantee that you'll become a viscount and commander of your own legion."

Xu Jiujiu was stunned when she heard his words. She understood the White Tiger Duke very well. It was extremely difficult to gain a promotion under him. However, if one managed to do so, it was bound to be very good. There weren't any shortcuts, however. One had to earn his promotion through his own merits.

Dai Hao's offer to make Huo Yuhao a legion commander was unprecedented, and it even completely overshadowed his offer to make him a viscount. After all, given Huo Yuhao's cultivation and background as a student from Shrek Academy, being a viscount was nothing to him if he was willing to join the Star Luo Empire.

"Alright!" Huo Yuhao agreed.

The White Tiger Duke pointed at the table and started to explain the Northwestern Field Army's judgment of the Ming Dou Mountain Range. At the same time, he discussed his plan with Huo Yuhao.

According to the White Tiger Duke, this reconnaissance mission was extremely important, and they couldn't rush things. They had to find a dark night, and the wind had to be strong. If the moon was too bright and visibility was clear, Huo Yuhao's safety would be compromised.

### **Chapter 440.3: Huo Yuhao's Feelings**

However, he was surprised that Huo Yuhao's opinion was in complete contrast to his. Huo Yuhao wanted to find a day where the visibility was high to carry out his surveillance. His reason was very simple; he was able to conceal himself in the air with his Imitation, and couldn't be detected by the naked eye. When the weather was good, his enemies would be able to see everything in the sky when they lifted their heads. It was easier for them to be careless.

They planned the mission for an entire morning. It was lunchtime before they agreed that they were done.

—

As he walked out of the tent, Huo Yuhao lifted his head to look at the sky. The sky was completely clear, and there weren't any clouds. The clear sky was like a huge sapphire. The blinding sunlight filled the world with the aura of light.

The weather was very good.

A slight smile appeared at the edge of Huo Yuhao's lips. He turned around and walked towards his tent. After he returned, he regrouped his thoughts there for a moment before leaving for lunch.

—

Tang Wutong walked out from her tent behind Huo Yuhao. She managed to get a look at his side profile as he peered into the sky.

When sunlight fell on his slightly pale face, the slight smile on his face left Tang Wutong a little weirded out. Why is there this sense of desperation that I can feel from his smile? Don't tell me that he's suicidal?

—

After returning his own tent, Huo Yuhao washed his face to refresh himself. Tang Wutong didn't see it wrong. His mental state was a little weird.

Ever since he had discovered that Tang Wutong's soul power couldn't fuse with his, he had felt very mournful. The Douluo Continent is so huge. If Dong'er has already forgotten me, how will I be able to find her? Tang Wutong's not Dong'er. So where is she? Don't tell me that Dong'er's already...

Due to these confusing and complicated thoughts, he felt a little empty. He had been through too many things over the past year.

Ever since he had gone to the Setting Sun Forest to find the Yearning Heartbroken Grass for Wang Dong'er, he had never completely spent time with her. After that, Wang Qiu'er sacrificed herself, and Wang Dong'er fell into a coma. He entered a mental state of near-desolation after that.

If not for the fact that he was extremely mentally resilient, he would have broken down already.

He had numbed himself by keeping himself busy. From the beast wave to the establishment of the Spirit Pagoda to his recognition of Dai Luoli, he tried to stop himself from thinking about Wang Dong'er and Wang Qiu'er. He had gotten through each day because of that.

However, Tang Wutong's appearance changed everything. Her appearance had rekindled his hope. However, this hope was extinguished one last time, and he was greatly devastated once again. The impact on him was hard to imagine.

His exterior calm was actually a reflection of his deep inner depression.

It was the scariest when one lost all hope. It was highly likely that Huo Yuhao's current mental state was the reason why he was adamant on surveying the Death God.

During the meeting today, there was one point that he had never mentioned. The Death God was the strongest soul tool that the Sun Moon Empire had. At the same time, it was controlled by the strongest soul engineer in the Sun Moon Empire, the Death God Douluo! No one knew how great the Death God Douluo's abilities were. Few people knew what he looked like. Under such a situation, Huo Yuhao was at great risk trying to carry out this reconnaissance mission. However, he didn't really care anymore. He even thought that it might be a form of relief if he died on this mission.

Dai Luoli knew his true identity. If he died, Dai Luoli would surely tell the White Tiger Duke his true identity. When that happened, would Dai Hao be heartbroken? If he was, it would be sort of a revenge for Dai Hao. He had sent his own son to the battlefield of no return. It was actually frustrating to think about that.

As for Wang Dong'er, even if she was still alive, she had already forgotten him. Perhaps his death would be good for her. Her family didn't tell her anything about him, even though she had regained consciousness. This must mean that they were unhappy with him. Perhaps his death would signal a new beginning for her.

When someone was resigned to fate, many of their thoughts would deviate from the norm. Huo Yuhao was exactly like that right now. Regarding the mission, he was already prepared for the worst.

Lunch was very peaceful. No one could tell the difference. Huo Yuhao was even chatting and laughing with his fellow comrades.

After lunch, Xu Sanshi asked Huo Yuhao, "Yuhao, are you going to go tonight?"

Huo Yuhao nodded and said, "It's better to go early. At least the matter will be settled sooner."

Xu Sanshi furrowed his brow and said, "What do you mean by settled? That sounds bad. Yuhao, you must be careful. We'll coordinate with you from the sky and ground today. Don't engage in any fights, no matter what you find. Come back immediately after scanning the area once."

"Alright." Huo Yuhao acknowledged his words readily.

Tang Wutong kept on glancing at him from the side. For some reason, she felt very tense no matter what Huo Yuhao said. She had never experienced such a feeling before. This feeling became even more acute when she looked at his expression when he smiled.

Surely there isn't something wrong with him, right? Why am I so concerned about his safety? Just because we're in the same boat?

Tang Wutong didn't understand why he was in such a state either. However, she had a premonition that tonight's mission wouldn't proceed that smoothly. Perhaps he might really meet with danger!

"Let me liaise with him in the sky tonight," Tang Wutong suddenly said.

"Oh?" Huo Yuhao was a little stunned as he lifted his head to look at Tang Wutong. All he saw was the slightly troubled look on her face.

Tang Wutong was the most adept at flying among those from the Academy here. Not only was her martial soul adept at flying, but she was even a Soul Sage. Ye Guyi was the next best. Ye Guyi's holy martial soul could unleash angelic wings and fly freely in the air. However, the light from her martial soul was too strong, and would be too obvious in the night sky. Thus, she could only use flying-type soul tools.

Xu Sanshi nodded and said, "That's a great idea. Let's all take action tonight then."

Huo Yuhao thought for a moment before saying, "Alright, let me make a plan then. We cannot be reckless."

Tang Wutong and Ye Guyi were responsible for liaising with Huo Yuhao from the air, while Xu Sanshi and the rest would work with him from the ground. After all, Xu Sanshi's Mysterious Underworld Displacement made it much easier for him to liaise with Huo Yuhao. After the enhancements he

received from the Golden Tortoise, his Mysterious Underworld Displacement could work at a much greater distance.

Huo Yuhao immediately returned to his own tent to meditate after he finished planning, restoring himself to his peak condition. The others did the same.

—

During his meditation, time passed very quickly. When he awoke, the sky had already turned dark.

The Mysterious Heaven Technique circulated in his body, and his soul power surged strongly. His qi was also circulating strongly in his body.

Under his control, his soul power kept on transforming. At times, it would fuse completely with his spiritual power. At other times, it would turn into pure Ultimate Ice, and his body temperature fell frighteningly. The two martial souls that he possessed were interchanging continuously.

After an afternoon of meditation, Huo Yuhao's mental state was much better.

A trace of purple flashed across his eyes, and he revealed a lost look.

It seems like I haven't lived for myself in this life. I cultivate to seek revenge. I seek improvement so that Brother Skydream and the rest can survive. But what about myself? I don't seem to have anything now. My mom has passed away, there's no news of Dong'er, and Qiu'er sacrificed herself.

A bitter smile appeared on his face.

He shut his eyes and let this bitterness fade away. Suddenly, he stood up and walked out of his tent. The moment he walked out, he calmed himself, and became abnormally composed. He had entered another state entirely.

—

The White Tiger Duke had already gathered his men in the commander's tent. The officers of all ten soul engineer legions, apart from the two who had gone to reinforce the Heavenly Soul Empire, were all in the tent.

A series of orders were passed down. Even if they were attacking, they had to do it properly. The White Tiger Duke's instructions were not to attack blindly. Rather, he commanded them to attack in tandem. They were divided into two different groups, and no ordinary soldiers were involved. This operation would be carried out entirely by the soul engineer legions.

The White Tiger Duke's instructions were for the soul engineer legions were divided into two different routes, to dampen the threat of the Death God. They would attack the opposite ends of the Ming Dou Mountain Range.

The White Tiger Duke's instructions had already been completely conveyed when Huo Yuhao came into the tent.

After entering the tent, the White Tiger Duke and Huo Yuhao looked at each other. The White Tiger Duke nodded. Huo Yuhao appeared very composed, and wasn't flinching at all.

Is he really only twenty years old? It's really rare for someone to remain so calm, even with such great responsibility on his shoulders!

The White Tiger Duke nodded at Huo Yuhao to acknowledge him, just as he was in awe.

Huo Yuhao also nodded to signal that he was ready.

"We'll follow the plan and move out!" the White Tiger Duke shouted, and the mission started.

All the officers of the soul engineer legions immediately moved out and deployed their troops.

Dai Luoli walked over in front of Huo Yuhao and lifted his right hand before pressing it down on Huo Yuhao's shoulder. He said, "How are you? Yuhao, are you ready?"

Huo Yuhao nodded slightly. "I'm ready."

Dai Hao took in a deep breath and said, "We're about to begin over here. We'll be setting off in fifteen minutes."

"We?" Huo Yuhao was a little doubtful as he looked at Dai Hao.