

Tang Sect 496

Chapter 496.1: The Walking Corpse Tang Ya

Wasn't that right? Yan Shaozhe's martial soul was a Radiant Phoenix, and all his abilities were based on the element of light, while the demiplane was inhabited by undead creatures. Yan Shaozhe and Ye Guyi felt the most uncomfortable. If Ye Guyi hadn't already tried and realized that killing these undead creatures didn't improve her cultivation, she would probably have charged around to slaughter some undead.

Yan Shaozhe directly admitted it, and said, "Yes! I truly don't like the feeling of this place. Yuhao, you have to tell me how you got this demiplane when we go back. I believe not even an Ultimate Douluo can possibly possess a place like this."

"Yes. One of my teachers left this place for me," Huo Yuhao needed to keep this secret very strictly before, but as he became stronger, he didn't need to keep it so excessively anymore. After all, he increasingly required this ability, just as he had told Elder Xuan without hesitation back then about how he had a Necromancer martial soul.

Huo Yuhao retreated from within the black door, and began to chant as the spectral gate closed. Everything within the tent returned to normal.

Huo Yuhao's plan wasn't complicated. He was to go undercover in the Sun Moon Empire's army camp, and his next step was to find some way to locate where Tang Ya was staying. Then, he would attempt to get closer to her, and figure out what was happening there. Afterwards, he would find a suitable opportunity to make a move and rescue her.

Huo Yuhao had already planned how he was to escape. He would have no choice but to draw upon his abilities as a necromancer when that happened. They only had a chance to escape if he could create sufficient chaos.

Huo Yuhao and the others had already conveyed their plans to the Heavenly Soul Empire before they departed. The Heavenly Soul Empire would feint an attack right before Huo Yuhao and the others would make their move, but a feint attack would be all. The attack was meant to attract their enemies' attention so that they could maneuver and complete their mission better.

The Heavenly Soul Empire was very supportive of their plan, and that was especially so after finding out that Elder Song had defeated and killed an evil Titled Douluo. Huo Yuhao had also promised that he would try his best to disrupt and destroy things within the Sun Moon Empire's camp.

Huo Yuhao was the only successful product from the Ultimate Soldier Plan, and he was best at concealing himself, assassinations, and carrying out missions. Creating some trouble inside the Sun Moon Empire's camp wouldn't be difficult at all.

He began to contemplate his plan as he sat down with his legs crossed, and he tried all he could to make sure that his plan was complete. Huo Yuhao's strength would be very inadequate if he was by himself, but he had a very good helper now.

The sky was becoming brighter outside, and the break of dawn meant a new day was about to begin.

Huo Yuhao exited the tent and stared at the blue skies as he gazed far into the east while he quietly absorbed the thread of purple energy that rose there.

It didn't take long before Nangong Wan walked briskly towards him. Their eyes met for a moment, and Nangong Wan smiled as he walked over and said, "Up so early, Masquerade? Come, let's go grab something to eat."

Nangong Wan didn't rest either the previous night. He was even more worried than Huo Yuhao himself that his identity would be revealed, because he would be in deep trouble if Huo Yuhao's identity was discovered. When that happened, life and death wasn't the problem, because he would rather die than be alive. Nangong Wan was too aware of the Holy Ghost Church's methods.

"Alright." Huo Yuhao didn't waste words.

They proceeded towards the canteen under Nangong Wan's guidance. Nangong Wan projected his voice with his mind as they walked, and he introduced the places where they walked by. ~~nove-10~~.In

Nangong Wan was very useful as a spy, because Huo Yuhao couldn't use Spiritual Detection to investigate the camp directly. This was especially so because they were inside the army camp's core section, and there were many powerful evil soul masters wherever they went. They were going towards where the soul engineer legions were camped, and it was imperative for Huo Yuhao to know where they ate, where they showered, where they typically exercised or moved around in the day, and which areas were forbidden or the most dangerous. He could only make sure that his plan was complete with sufficient intelligence.

"The Holy Lady typically has her breakfast very early in the day, and it should be about now. We should go see her." Nangong Wan passed a message to Huo Yuhao.

Huo Yuhao answered with his mind without altering his expression. "Avoid interacting with other people to keep from exposing us."

Nangong Wan replied, "That won't be much of a problem. Us evil soul masters have our own personalities, and I'm better with people, so I'm more acquainted and friendly with many evil soul masters. But you don't interact much with them, so even if you don't say a word, they won't say anything to you even if you run into them."

"Alright."

They arrived in front of an enormous tent as they spoke.

Typical soldiers and even officers got their meals from the army cooks before they went back to have them in their own mess. Only high-level army officials had their own canteen spots, while evil soul masters naturally had better treatment. The soul engineer legions and high-level army officials were also unwilling to eat with evil soul masters, so even though their canteen wasn't big, it was almost exclusively for evil soul masters to eat.

There were some evil soul masters who were here to eat even though it was still early. They bowed respectfully when they saw Huo Yuhao and Nangong Wan. Status differences were very clear within an organization like the Holy Ghost Church, and strength was status. If those who were weaker dared to offend those who were stronger, nobody would speak out for the perpetrator even if he was killed.

There were more than ten tables in the dining tent, and each table could seat about six people.

Huo Yuhao's body quivered once he entered the tent, and his eyes were almost guided by his consciousness as he immediately saw Tang Ya, who was eating at the innermost table.

Tang Ya was wearing a long black dress, with bright blue flowery patterns on the edges. This clearly showed that her status was different from the others, since most individuals in the Holy Ghost Church only had a pure black cloak. Elders like Nangong Wan and the Masquerade Douluo had silver patterns at the edges of their robes, and Nangong Wan had had told Huo Yuhao that people from the Worship Hall's had golden patterns. The Supreme Leader that Huo Yuhao had seen before had golden patterns all over his robe, and it appeared most luxurious and pretty.

Huo Yuhao and Nangong Wan exchanged a look, and Nangong Wan took him all the way inside until they were in front of Tang Ya's table as Nangong Wan said respectfully, "Holy Lady."

Tang Ya looked up at them as she nodded with a plain look in her eyes. She didn't say anything, however.

Huo Yuhao's emotions rippled faintly when he saw her eyes. Tang Ya's eyes were extremely cold, as if there weren't any emotions in them at all, and her pupils were completely gray. Huo Yuhao didn't detect any kind of life from her body.

Huo Yuhao had interrogated the Delicate Silk Immortal about Tang Ya's situation before. You You had told him that Tang Ya was under an evil spell, and she was badly poisoned. Her Delicate Silk Immortal Pill could dispel the toxins in Tang Ya's body. At least, her pill could gradually remove and suppress those toxins. However, she still needed the Bluesilver Emperor to awaken her martial soul's life energy. Otherwise, her life energy would flow away together with those evil toxins, and she would ultimately die.

The dishes in front of Tang Ya were very simple, but they looked very exquisite. There were evil soul masters at the other tables, but not a single one dared to sit at her table, as if this table was exclusively prepared for her.

Nangong Wan and Huo Yuhao walked to another table and sat down as they got their breakfast. Breakfast was very sumptuous, and was prepared with ingredients that were very nutritious and beneficial for evil soul masters. Only evil soul masters had such special treatment.

Huo Yuhao ate as he quietly felt the changes in Tang Ya's aura. Her life energy was undulating very weakly, as if her entire being no longer had any life energy. However, Huo Yuhao could feel an intense sense of alarm from her as she sat there, as if there was an enormous beast hidden within her body.

Huo Yuhao could feel his heart tie up into knots as he ate his breakfast in silence. He could still remember when he first met teacher Xiao Ya, and how lively and cheerful she was. She was with his eldest senior brother back then, and they were like a couple made in heaven! She made the decision and allowed him to join the Tang Sect, and then she used the Tang Sect's only spot to let him enter Shrek Academy. It could be said that Tang Ya and Bei Bei had given him a new life, and Huo Yuhao had always kept this favor deep within his heart. Huo Yuhao's pain and agony as he witnessed Tang Ya's current situation wasn't difficult to imagine. He truly didn't know how Bei Bei would react if he saw her like this.

Huo Yuhao made a silent vow to himself. Teacher Xiao Ya, we will definitely save you from this place no matter what. We have to help you return to normal.

Just as Huo Yuhao's emotions were riling up, a voice suddenly rang out. "Second brother, Old Seven, you guys are early today!"

"Old Seven" naturally referred to the Masquerade Douluo, while "second brother" referred to Nangong Wan.

Huo Yuhao immediately withdrew his emotions as he raised his head. However, his emotions quivered vigorously for a moment when he saw who had come.

The person who was speaking to them was the one who was adept with soul tools in the Holy Ghost Church, the Third Elder that Huo Yuhao harbored a deep hatred for. Back then, those three Elders had forced him to burn his spiritual sea before Wang Qiu'er sacrificed herself to save him.

It could be said that Qiu'er died at the hands of the Third Elder and the Fourth Elder. Huo Yuhao didn't expect to run into this person so quickly.

However, he had long known that he was here because of what Nangong Wan had described to him, so he did have some mental preparation. He quickly returned to normal after his emotions rippled a little.

Nangong Wan said appropriately, "We're not early. It's just that we didn't sleep much last night. Someone from the Heavenly Soul Empire came over and was conducting surveillance high up in the sky. We went up to take a look, and chased them all the way back to the Heavenly Soul Empire's side. I think we're in a bit of trouble, Old Three. We have discovered people from Shrek Academy, and we've heard from the Supreme Leader that the Dean of Shrek Academy's Martial Soul Department, the Radiant Phoenix Douluo, Yan Shaozhe is here."

Chapter 496.2: The Walking Corpse Tang Ya

"Yan Shaozhe?" The Third Elder immediately shifted his attention to Nangong Wan as he said confusedly, "Yan Shaozhe? Was he the Dragon God Douluo, Mu En's disciple back then? He should be a Transcendent Douluo by now."

Nangong Wan nodded and said, "That isn't all. If I remember correctly, he is also the next heir of Shrek Academy's Sea God's Pavilion."

The Third Elder sat down beside Nangong Wan and grunted coldly as he said, "Let him come. After all, our battle with Shrek Academy is a matter of 'when', not 'if'. We have more than ten thousand soldiers in our great army, and we also have the Sun Moon Empire's five great soul engineer legions, while the Supreme Leader is holding down the fort in person. Even if all of Shrek Academy's elites were here, their effectiveness on a battlefield such as this one would be very limited."

Nangong Wan chuckled and said, "That sounds about right. Hurry up and eat."

The Third Elder looked up at Huo Yuhao, who was beside Nangong Wan, and asked, "Old Seven, I heard you've chased your two mistresses away?"

Huo Yuhao's expression darkened as he replied, "Third brother, don't pick on my scabs. The Supreme Leader scolded me yesterday, so how can I not change? If you're interested, those two girls can belong to you. I'm just afraid that you can't take it."

The Third Elder laughed and said, "Nonsense. You know I don't like such things."

Huo Yuhao laughed coldly and said, "How can that be? Why do I remember that you imprisoned a lady back then? It's not that you don't like such things, but that you are very focused in your love, hahaha!"

The Third Elder blushed as he said suspiciously, "How did you know that?"

Huo Yuhao was naturally referring to the Third Elder imprisoning Nan Shuishui, which not even Nangong Wan knew about. Huo Yuhao said plainly, "As long as you've done something, somebody will know. You're already so old, third brother, so why are you still embarrassed? Alright, I've had my fill. I'm going back, and you can continue chatting with second brother. I didn't sleep well last night, so I'm going back to cultivate so that the Supreme Leader can't say that I've been lazy."

Huo Yuhao stood up after his speech and walked out. He didn't want to say anymore, as he was bound to say something wrong if he did. It was better to minimize any interaction with these evil soul masters.

The Third Elder said unhappily to Nangong Wan, "Second brother, why does Old Seven seem so weird today?"

Nangong Wan laughed and replied, "That's probably because he isn't in such a good mood after the Supreme Leader chided him last night. But you know what's up with Old Seven, it's very difficult for him to improve with that martial soul of his."

Huo Yuhao saw that Tang Ya had also stood up to walk out before he left the canteen, and an idea occurred to him as he slowed his steps.

Tang Ya maintained a steady pace as she walked towards her tent after leaving the canteen. The evil soul masters didn't reside very far from the canteen. Huo Yuhao naturally shared a path with her, and he pretended to run into her as he slowed and said respectfully, "Holy Lady."

"Yes," Tang Ya acknowledged as she walked across his path, expressionless. She didn't pay any attention to him at all. n.-O/.V.)e-.l))b./l.-n

Huo Yuhao made a quick judgment in his mind. From Tang Ya's current situation, her mind had to be affected by some kind of restriction or spell, and her martial soul had been infected by evil toxins. However, those evil toxins were catalyzing her growth and improvement, and from the aura that she was giving off, she should be an eight-ringed Soul Douluo.

Evil soul masters cultivate really quickly! Back then, teacher Xiao Ya was still quite some distance away from eldest senior brother's cultivation, but she has surpassed him now.

Huo Yuhao watched Tang Ya disappear into her tent before he returned to his own.

Today's result is good. At least, I've seen Tang Ya, and that proves Nangong Wan's intel is accurate. Now, I have to figure out how to take her away.

Huo Yuhao crossed his legs and began to meditate as he returned to his room, but his brain began to spin rapidly.

How can I take Teacher Xiao Ya away safely? Furthermore, I have to ensure that we don't sustain any injuries or losses.

The Sun Moon Empire's camp was rather peaceful because there were no battles, and only the occasional sounds of training soldiers could be heard from time to time. This area where the evil soul masters resided was separated from the rest, and there were no soldiers patrolling this area, so there wasn't much noise.

A day quickly passed. Huo Yuhao didn't wait for Nangong Wan to arrive at midday as he went ahead to the canteen to eat. He deliberately went ahead early to avoid the powerful evil soul masters before he returned to his tent to continue cultivating.

From the other evil soul masters' perspective, the Seventh Elder began to put in effort after the Supreme Leader had scolded him, so nobody suspected him.

Darkness befell the heavens as the sky became completely dark before Huo Yuhao opened his eyes in his tent.

The tent was very dim, but Huo Yuhao's eyes were bright like the stars in the night sky.

It's time to test the waters. A thread of white light emerged from Huo Yuhao's eyes, and his entire body seemed to quiver as the light around him contorted a little.

A figure appeared soundlessly in front of him. This figure seemed small and cute, and it was about as large as an infant, but it looked identical to Huo Yuhao.

The light became increasingly material, like it was a real tiny person. This was Huo Yuhao's spiritual avatar, that he had conjured with his concrete-material spiritual power.

Huo Yuhao had created a spiritual soul core, so his spiritual avatar was much stronger than before. His spiritual avatar could use some of Huo Yuhao's soul skills, and people couldn't even tell that his avatar was made from energy just by looking with their eyes.

The mini-Huo Yuhao glanced at his original body before he vanished into the air with a flash. Yes, that was Imitation.

Huo Yuhao's spiritual avatar could only use his Spirit Eyes' soul skills. However, using a soul skill would consume part of his spiritual avatar's origin energy, and once his avatar's origin energy was depleted, it would crumble.

Huo Yuhao's spiritual avatar left the tent under the cover of Imitation, and soundlessly approached Tang Ya's tent. Huo Yuhao didn't go inside once he arrived outside Tang Ya's tent. Who knew whether Tang Ya had a spiritual barrier around her? Huo Yuhao would reveal his original body if he was discovered, and everything that he had discovered before would go to waste.

Huo Yuhao circled around Tang Ya's tent before he circled another time around a large golden tent not far from there before he snuck further away.

He wouldn't go into a tent to investigate things right now, because he could be easily ambushed or trapped if he did so. He had to be sure about the army camp's situation as a whole before anything else. Furthermore, there was a more important place he had to find.

Huo Yuhao could only use his spiritual avatar to walk briskly around the army camp because he couldn't use Spiritual Detection, though he could walk around very freely and casually because of Imitation.

The Sun Moon Empire's army camp undoubtedly had all kinds of surveillance soul tools, but these surveillance soul tools were directed outwards, not inwards.

Who would be so bored as to investigate their own soldiers' situation? The reason why Huo Yuhao made his spiritual avatar so small was both to conserve spiritual power and also because a small body was harder for the surveillance soul tools to detect.

Huo Yuhao moved very quickly, and he went almost one full round around the army camp before he quietly returned to his own tent. His spiritual avatar returned to his original body, and everything returned to normal.

Huo Yuhao's eyes opened again, and the "Masquerade Douluo"'s expression became extremely solemn.

Huo Yuhao could see a lot more clearly after investigating at such close proximity. The Sun Moon Empire's layout was seamless, and almost entirely impenetrable.

There were many soldiers guarding their five soul tool fronts. There were no surveillance soul tools pointed inwards in the army camp's other places, but there were some around the five soul tool fronts. Everybody who came near had to be interrogated.

Huo Yuhao didn't dare to let his spiritual avatar go close to those soul tool fronts. Furthermore, he could feel that there were linked formations which were continuously activated within those fronts. Even though he wasn't sure that they were doing, he had no doubt that they possessed formidable defensive or offensive capabilities. One misstep and he would be discovered, and become cannon fodder.

Huo Yuhao had originally hoped to find one of the Sun Moon Empire's storage soul tools, or a warehouse that housed stationary soul cannon shells, which he could detonate at the appropriate time. He would create much chaos in the army camp if that happened, and cooperating with the Heavenly Soul Empire when the time came would be most effective.

But it seemed like he had to change his plan, because he couldn't find any warehouses that stored soul tools. There was no question that these warehouses were contained within those soul tool fronts, which meant that he would have to break through the soul tool front's defenses if he wanted to bomb those warehouses. Not even Elder Song could do that even if she was here, not to mention Huo Yuhao.

What should I do? Huo Yuhao's eyes squinted as he contemplated long and hard. This was very important for him, because insufficient chaos wouldn't give them sufficient time.

The night was peaceful, and everything seemed to return to tranquility. The Sun Moon Empire increased their ground-based aerial surveillance, but they didn't discover anything. The Heavenly Soul Empire also seemed particularly calm and quiet.

The Holy Ghost Church's evil soul masters discovered that, over the past two days, their Seventh Elder had become particularly hardworking. He didn't touch any girls, and he remained in his tent to cultivate effortfully. He was almost not seen at all in the day.

Dinner, on the second night.

Huo Yuhao deliberately called Nangong Wan before eating dinner, and they walked towards the evil soul masters' canteen together.

"Third Elder, can you find an empty and remote place for me? It would be better if this place wasn't inside this core area, and best if it was near any of the five soul tool forts. That place must be quiet and uninhabited." Huo Yuhao passed a message to Nangong Wan with his mind.

Chapter 496.3: The Walking Corpse Tang Ya

Nangong Wan was momentarily stunned. He forced a laugh and said, "I'm afraid that's a little difficult. The areas closer to those soul tool fronts are heavily guarded, and well-equipped with all sorts of surveillance soul tools. It's almost impossible to do something around them without being discovered. Are you guys ready to make your move?" A worried expression appeared on his face as he spoke.

Huo Yuhao said plainly, "You don't have to worry, Third Elder. We will give you a way out even when we execute our plan. You have to help me find such a place as fast as possible, and if it really isn't possible, a location slightly further away from those soul tool fronts is also acceptable, but it has to be further away from where we are. Only then can we move according to our plan."

Nangong Wan knew that he no longer had a choice. He was most afraid of Huo Yuhao's identity being revealed, because Huo Yuhao had returned with him as the Masquerade Douluo. Nangong Wan would also be exposed if Huo Yuhao was discovered.

"Alright, I'll try my best."

Nangong Wan scurried away after dinner. He was much more familiar with the situation inside the army camp than Huo Yuhao was.

Nangong Wan came to Huo Yuhao's tent to find him after two hours.

"There's a solution, Tang Wu." Nangong Wan still thought Huo Yuhao was Tang Wu up until now.

Huo Yuhao frowned and replied, "Call me Masquerade."

Nangong Wan froze for a moment. "Alright, Masquerade, I think we have an opportunity, and it's quite a good one at that. The Holy Ghost Church has the authority to supervise and survey the army. The Supreme Leader has just passed the order for us to patrol several soul tool fronts tomorrow afternoon. The two fronts that belong to two of the Hand that Protects the Nation's two soul engineer legions are a little more troublesome because they don't show us much respect. The other three fronts that are responsible for defense that belong to normal soul engineer legions are more polite toward us. Why don't we take a trip down together, so you can find an opportunity?"

Huo Yuhao was elated when he heard the news. "That's fantastic, let's do it then. Tell the Supreme Leader that I will accompany you on patrol tomorrow."

“Alright,” Nangong Wan acknowledged, and he hesitated before he then continued, “If you execute your plan tomorrow, what happens to me?”

Huo Yuhao answered, “Don’t worry, I’ll find an appropriate solution for you. When everything happens, I’ll fake my death, and all you have to do is pretend you have no idea about anything. As for the restrictions on your body, we will help you remove them once we fully execute our plan. You’re a smart man, and you should understand that something bad will happen to you if you foil our plan.”

Nangong Wan hurriedly said, “Of course, of course. Don’t worry, as long as you keep your promise to remove my restrictions, I will help you as much as possible even if you look for me again next time.” Nangong Wan had taken Huo Yuhao, the “Masquerade Douluo”, back together with him, and that meant he had a hold on Nangong Wan. Huo Yuhao wasn’t at all worried that Nangong Wan would expose him in their operation. As for what would happen afterwards, Huo Yuhao didn’t consider that too seriously. Who knew how things would unfold? How could Nangong Wan follow his instructions if there wasn’t something to threaten him with?

But rescuing Tang Ya was of the utmost importance for everyone from Shrek.

Huo Yuhao immediately sealed his tent with a spiritual barrier once he escorted Nangong Wan away before he swiftly summoned his spectral gate and began to discuss his plan with his companions. The most important component of his plan was executable with Nangong Wan’s intel, and the next step was to iron out the rest of the plan perfectly. They would act tomorrow night.

Huo Yuhao returned to his tent after discussing inside his spectral demiplane for two hours. His spiritual barrier was very normal, and it wasn’t triggered at all, but Huo Yuhao didn’t rest. Instead, he conjured another spiritual avatar as he sent it out of his tent, and he followed the path that he had scouted several days ago as he swiftly left the camp and disappeared into the distance.

The Sun Moon Empire’s surveillance soul tools that pointed outward covered every corner, but not every kind of soul tool could do that task.

Huo Yuhao found a few loopholes after investigating for two days. His spiritual avatar wasn’t afraid of thermal detectors, and he also had help from Imitation. Huo Yuhao evaded the oscillation detectors and spiritual detectors before he slipped out of the camp and went straight for Heaven Dou City. His spiritual avatar was carrying the signal soul tool that Princess Wei Na had given him.

Huo Yuhao’s spiritual avatar returned quietly after two hours, and it slipped back into the army camp with the same method as it swiftly returned to his tent and integrated back into his body.

Preparations were mostly complete, and the next step had to be left until tomorrow.

It was late into the night, and Huo Yuhao glanced in the direction of Tang Ya’s tent before he closed his eyes and began to meditate. He had to maintain his peak spiritual condition for tomorrow’s operation.

Huo Yuhao got up very early in the morning, and cultivated his Purple Demon Eyes before he proceeded towards the canteen.

He was walking when he suddenly sensed something, and subconsciously turned to look back, and he saw Tang Ya, who was calmly walking in the same direction.

Huo Yuhao had seen Tang Ya a few times over the past two days, but Tang Ya almost never spoke with anyone. She was like a statue, or rather, she was like the walking dead.

But Huo Yuhao could be sure that Tang Ya hadn't completely lost her consciousness. Otherwise, what use would this Holy Lady be for the Holy Ghost Church to use in the future? The Holy Ghost Church was probably hoping that she and Ma Xiaotao would carry the Holy Ghost Church forward. How would that be possible if they were just puppets?

"Holy Lady," Huo Yuhao stopped and walked over to Tang Ya as he bowed.

"Hey," Tang Ya nodded, but she still responded as coldly as ever.

Just as Huo Yuhao thought she would walk past him to eat, Tang Ya suddenly stopped and turned around to face him. She said coldly, "Seventh Elder, your aura seems to have changed. Are you having any problems with cultivation recently?"

"Eh?" Huo Yuhao's heart skipped a beat. This was the first time that he had heard Tang Ya speak after coming into this place undercover. Tang Ya's voice wasn't very different from back then, but her voice no longer had any emotions, like she was just a machine talking.

"Holy Lady, what kind of changes are you talking about?" Huo Yuhao's mind was very stable. He wasn't caught off-guard by the sudden change in circumstances, and he asked her a question instead with a smile on his face.

Tang Ya seemed taken aback as she frowned and said, "I can't quite put a finger on it. I just find that your aura has become more intimate than before, like there's more familiarity. You're not as despicable as before."

"Uh..." Tang Ya didn't attempt to mask her feelings when she said that she despised the Masquerade Douluo. That surprised Huo Yuhao, because even though Tang Ya was the Holy Lady, she was just a Soul Douluo! She wasn't polite at all to this "Elder".

"Bluesilver." An elderly voice could be heard at this moment. Huo Yuhao felt his entire body tense up when he heard this voice, and he hurriedly took a few steps back as he spoke respectfully to where this voice was coming from. "Greetings, Supreme Leader."

Didn't that old voice belong to the Holy Ghost Church's Supreme Leader, Zhongli Wu?

Tang Ya wasn't as reverent as Huo Yuhao was. Instead, she simply bowed faintly as a gesture in Zhongli Wu's direction.

Zhongli Wu came beside Tang Ya and removed the hood on his head.

This was the first time that Huo Yuhao got a look at the Holy Ghost Church's Supreme Leader at such close proximity.

Zhongli Wu's hair was short and silver, and his hair was very thin and dense, and very sharp and tough, like steel needles. His eyebrows were thick, his eyes were bright, and he was actually extremely handsome. His eyes were dark purple, and faintly exuded a deep and profound aura. Nobody could feel his aura as an evil soul master just by looking at his physical appearance.

He looked very young, and if not for his silver hair, he would have passed a middle-aged man. But Huo Yuhao knew that Zhongli Wu was only one generation younger than his teacher, Mu En, and the Death God Douluo, Ye Xishui. He was probably more than a hundred and eighty years old, yet he still looked very young.

“I didn’t say much,” Tang Ya responded coldly to Zhongli Wu’s doubts, and Huo Yuhao heaved a sigh of relief in his heart.

Zhongli Wu smiled faintly and said, “Are you still hating on Seventh Elder? He didn’t mean to scare you back then. I didn’t expect you hold grudges. I’ve already instructed him not to unleash his Demonic Maggot in front of you, no matter what, so you don’t have to worry. Come, let’s eat.”

Zhongli Wu immediately grabbed Tang Ya’s hand as he spoke, and they walked towards the canteen.

Eh??Huo Yuhao felt a little strange when he witnessed how intimate Zhongli Wu was with Tang Ya.?Can it be that Zhongli Wu is pining after teacher Xiao Ya? But he’s already a hundred and eighty years old.

Huo Yuhao watched Zhongli Wu and Tang Ya walk towards the canteen, and he could only grit his teeth and follow at the back to prevent any suspicion.

Zhongli Wu suddenly stopped walking at this moment.

Huo Yuhao felt his heart skip a beat.?Has he discovered something?

Zhongli Wu turned around to look at Huo Yuhao and said, “Masquerade, you cannot come along. The Blusilver Holy Lady doesn’t have much of an appetite with you around. Go back, and have your meal later.”

Huo Yuhao was overjoyed when he heard those words, and he bowed respectfully toward Zhongli Wu like a great burden had been lifted from his chest before he turned to leave.?Who wants to eat with you guys!?

Huo Yuhao swiftly returned to his tent, and exhaled deeply once he stepped in.?That was so close! Teacher Xiao Ya seems to have discovered something. Fortunately, she seems a little dense and inarticulate, and she didn’t bring it up to Zhongli Wu.

For Huo Yuhao, the safest choice would be to run away as quickly as possible so that he could prevent any unforeseen dangers. But could he really leave? Everything that he had prepared and worked for would be wasted if he did.

I can’t leave, so I’m going to take a chance. I have to bet that Teacher Xiao Ya hasn’t recognized me, and she hasn’t mentioned anything to Zhongli Wu.

Huo Yuhao couldn’t help but feel a little nervous as his thoughts stopped there. Everything that he had worked for would be wasted if he was discovered now, and he would also find himself trapped in dire danger.

Chapter 497: Second Soul Engineer Legion

Huo Yuhao recalled the interactions between Tang Ya and Zhongli Wu previously, and discovered some useful things. For example, the Masquerade Douluo had used his Demonic Maggot to scare Tang Ya and

cast a shadow in her heart. Furthermore, Zhongli Wu pampered her a lot. It didn't seem like they had romantic feelings between them. Rather, it felt like Zhongli Wu was protecting her. What kind of feeling was it? It was very weird.

Waiting was sometimes a torture, especially in the situation that Huo Yuhao was facing.

Waiting for an hour was like waiting for half a century. Finally, Huo Yuhao calmed himself down. Things should be fine since there's been no reaction for half a day. It seems like I'm in luck.

— —

After walking out from the tent, Huo Yuhao observed his surroundings as he proceeded towards the canteen. Indeed, Tang Ya and Zhongli Wu were no longer there. Things were very normal. He went to find Nangong Wan again. Seeing that he was fine, he verified that he had averted the crisis.

The afternoon passed just like that. Huo Yuhao only completely calmed down after lunch. He meditated in his tent for an hour before Nangong Wan came to find him.

"Seven, let's go and take a look!" Nangong Wan's voice rose outside the tent.

Huo Yuhao drifted up and walked out of the tent. Not only was Nangong Wan around, but there were also six other evil soul masters with weaker cultivations. They all had at least six rings. According to what Nangong Wan had told Huo Yuhao, the Holy Ghost Church sent only those who were at least Soul Emperors to the frontline. There were very few evil soul masters, and nurturing them wasn't easy. It was very likely they would die at the front lines. That was why only those who could protect themselves were sent over.

"Go." Huo Yuhao calmly said, and followed Nangong Wan.

Nangong Wan said, "Three and Four have been sent to supervise the Fourth Soul Engineer Legion. Let's go take a look at the Second Soul Engineer Legion."

"Alright," Huo Yuhao replied.

Having Nangong Wan as a mole was very effective. The intelligence that he brought to Shrek Academy gave the Academy a new understanding of the Sun Moon Empire's setup.

The Sun Moon Empire had originally only had ten soul engineer legions. However, all the other soul engineer legions from other empires were brought under their control after the war started, allowing them to form another five soul engineer legions. In this way, the Sun Moon Empire now had a total of fifteen soul engineer legions.

Among them, the five soul engineer legions in the Hand that Protects the Nation were the strongest. The other ten soul engineer legions were ordered.

Right now, there were five soul engineer legions at the front line. Apart from the Imperial Dragon Soul Engineer Legion and Terrorclaw Soul Engineer Legion, there were also the Second, Third and Fourth Soul Engineer Legions.

As for the other ten soul engineer legions, the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineer Legion was stationed in the capital. Unless they were commanded by Xu Tianran personally, they wouldn't leave easily. The

Phoenix Soul Engineer Legion was also in the capital right now. The Evil Tyrant Soul Engineer Legion had teamed up with two other soul engineer legions to deal with the soul master teams from the Star Luo Empire that were scattered all over the Sun Moon Empire's territories. The remaining soul engineer legions were also arranged in their own ways.

The Sun Moon Empire relied on these five soul engineer legions and their elite soul tools at the front lines to suppress the coalition army of the three empires of the original Douluo Continent. In fact, the Heavenly Soul Empire had been battered so heavily that they were quite afraid by now. In the fights before, they had suffered heavy casualties. To keep Heavenly Spirit City intact was already the best that they could achieve at this stage. The initiative lay in the hands of the Sun Moon Empire now.

The Sun Moon Empire had their own plans. In the report that Ju Zi gave to Xu Tianran, they indicated that they wanted to consolidate the new territories they had obtained from the Heavenly Soul Empire first.

Given the strength of the Sun Moon Empire, they could definitely take the entire Heavenly Soul Empire down. However, that would also mean that the Sun Moon Empire would need to protect more land. When that happened, the Sun Moon Empire would also have to take on the Dou Ling and Star Luo Empires directly.

Once the Heavenly Soul Empire was destroyed, the remaining two empires would have no choice except to fight all-out. Along with the threat of Shrek City, the Sun Moon Empire would also have no other option but to fight. To the overall plans of the Sun Moon Empire, this wasn't a good thing. At least, it wasn't good if they weren't prepared. Without the confidence of attaining complete victory, Ju Zi suggested that the Sun Moon Empire shouldn't rush to destroy the Heavenly Soul Empire.

Xu Tianran adopted her suggestion. As he consolidated the territories that they had, he quickly adjusted their resources to produce more soul tool accessories. Through soul tool technology, he slowly influenced the people in the parts of the Heavenly Soul Empire that had fallen to the Sun Moon Empire. This would gradually get them to accept reality.

War couldn't achieve their aims immediately. Ju Zi's plan would take as long as ten years. In her complete plan, domination of the continent would take at least that long. Although Xu Tianran thought that this was a little too long, her detailed plan still managed to convince him. Even the senior commanders of the Sun Moon Empire approved of her plan after reviewing it. The plan raised Ju Zi's reputation in the Sun Moon Empire.

After this plan was drafted, she had headed into the north to gather rare metals. However, she had bumped into Huo Yuhao, who had ruined her plan.

Ju Zi's status in the military was very important to Xu Tianran. As a result, he even took the initiative to cover up her setback. An unbeaten female god of war was very helpful for morale. It was something that mustn't be affected easily.

Currently, the five soul engineer legions at the frontline had been there for some time. Among them, the Imperial Dragon and Terrorclaw Soul Engineer Legions were very strong. They didn't even give face to the Holy Ghost Church. The Holy Ghost Church had faced quite a few problems trying to supervise these two soul engineer legions. They only took orders directly from the Sun Moon Empire's imperial family.

Although Zhongli Wu had wanted to force a check on them, the Holy Ghost Church still had many objectives to be achieved in the Sun Moon Empire. It wasn't advisable for him to offend Xu Tianran. After all, Xu Tianran was the Emperor. The Sun Moon Empire was also very influential and powerful now. Although the Holy Ghost Church was also very powerful, and even had two Ultimate Douluo, how could a sect compete with an entire empire in terms of overall abilities?

As a result, Zhongli Wu could only bear it and perform circumstantial supervision on them.

While the beast lord-ranked soul engineer legions were unwilling, the other three ordinary soul engineer legions were helpless. Just like how Zhongli Wu didn't want to offend Xu Tianran, Xu Tianran also didn't want to offend the Holy Ghost Church. There was something that he shared with the Holy Ghost Church: they wanted to borrow each other's strength to deal with Shrek Academy.

While Shrek Academy hadn't seemed to do anything in the war so far, both Xu Tianran and Zhongli Wu were very wary of them!

"We're here." Nangong Wan alerted Huo Yuhao. There was a soul formation not far in front of them.

There were already senior commanders from the Second Soul Engineer Legion waiting outside the soul formation after they received their orders. The person standing in front was a middle-aged man around fifty years old. He was tall and burly, and his aura was overwhelming. He was obviously a Soul Douluo.

"Greetings, Your Majesty." That middle-aged man came up to receive them. Your Majesty was how they referred to Titled Douluo. In the world of Titled Douluo, they didn't call one another that. However, it was how lower-ranked soul masters showed their respect when they saw Titled Douluo.

"Show us the way." Nangong Wan was much more arrogant when he saw these ordinary soul masters. Huo Yuhao didn't say anything.

This middle-aged man was the legion commander of the Second Soul Engineer Legion, Guo Nu. He was a Soul Douluo, and a Class 8 soul engineer.

Ordinary soul engineer legions were led by Class 8 soul engineers. After all, there were very few Class 9 soul engineers, even in the Sun Moon Empire.

Guo Nu stood to one side and gave way to the both of them. He personally showed them the way.

This was Huo Yuhao's first time entering a soul formation of the Sun Moon Empire without fighting them.

After entering, he immediately sensed a strong killing aura sweeping across him. Lethal soul tools were neatly arranged, almost all long-range soul cannons. Looking in from the outside, it really looked like a forest of steel.

Huo Yuhao made an estimate as he looked over. There were more than a hundred long-range soul cannons!

As for why they were of different classes, it was because their effective ranges and strengths were different. Not only could they overlap one another, but they could also conserve soul power for short-range attacks.

These soul cannons were just covering the perimeter. There were larger soul tools in the middle. There was even a Class 9 soul tool, and soul tools that Huo Yuhao didn't know the names to.

Soon enough, Huo Yuhao saw the elongated warehouses in the soul formation. Overall, they looked narrow and long, and they were placed to the sides of the soul formation, so that they could replenish it at anytime.

There were five hundred soul engineers in this ordinary soul engineer legion. Not only were they fully equipped with soul tools, they even had linked soul tools. Once they attacked, they were very destructive. The soul tools they had were definitely much stronger than the ones Shrek City had before.

Di Tian's wariness of humans was not unfounded. As soul tools developed, the balance between soul beasts and humans was disrupted. Although soul beasts had the Beast God, humans were overall getting much stronger than soul beasts.

Given such a soul formation, even a hundred thousand-man army might not be able to breach it! Linked soul tools could greatly harm them before the soul tools exhausted their power. This was also why a soul engineer legion was so terrifying.

They simply toured the soul formation in a round of supervision. To the other soul engineers, this was a routine inspection, and it wasn't their first time. However, Huo Yuhao was delighted. Although he couldn't imprint the production method of every soul tool there into memory, he could still remember the arrangement of this soul formation, the uses of the soul tools, and how they coordinated with one another. This was undoubtedly great knowledge for the future three soul engineer legions of Shrek Academy.

"Are both of you coming to our side to rest and take a cup of tea?" Guo Nu asked respectfully.

He didn't dare to treat evil soul masters poorly. He wasn't even a Titled Douluo. His soul engineer legion was also not as great as the soul engineer legions in the Hand that Protects the Nation. He couldn't afford to offend these powerful evil soul masters.

"Alright, we shall do so. I wonder if Commander Guo has any good stuff?" Nangong Wan asked.

"I've prepared them for both of you," Guo Na replied softly.

Guo Nu's tent was to the left of the soul formation. Every commander of a soul engineer legion had his own tent.

The so-called 'getting a cup of tea' was in fact a feast. Guo Nu had long prepared things. He invited Huo Yuhao, Nangong Wan, and the six evil soul masters into his tent for the feast. He first gave them a toast before asking his subordinates to bring some other stuff in.

Guo Nu smiled as he said, "Your Majesty, please put in some good words for me in front of the Imperial Tutor." After this, he gestured, and a few of his subordinates opened a few cases.

The aura of metal mixed with a killing aura was released. Nangong Wan's eyes brightened, and he subconsciously said, "This is great stuff! Although they aren't very strong, they are still decent enough."

There were four cases. One of them contained three Class 7 stationary soul cannon shells. The other three cases contained Class 5 stationary soul cannon shells. There were ten of them in each case.

Although they were only Class 5 and 7 soul cannon shells, there were a large number of them. If they were sold, they could be exchanged for an astronomical number of gold soul coins.

Soul engineer legions lacked everything except for soul tools. Furthermore, Guo Nu was clearly aware that evil soul masters loved stationary soul cannon shells. They were powerful, and had a great effective range. At any time, they were strategic resources. Even if they were sold somewhere else and to any empire, they were well-loved.

"Seven, keep them for now. We can divide them later. Commander Guo is too kind. It seems like the Second Soul Engineer Legion will only get stronger under your leadership."

Although Nangong Wan was greedy, his own life was more important. He gave all of them to Huo Yuhao as a gift. At the very least, he hoped Huo Yuhao would be more willing to remove his restrictions in the future.

Huo Yuhao naturally didn't stand on ceremony. This was good stuff. He had used almost all of the stationary soul cannon shells he had obtained from Radiant City during the beast wave. What he lacked right now was advanced stationary soul cannon shells.

Chapter 498.1: Annihilation Storm

Seeing that Huo Yuhao had stashed the stationary soul cannon shells, Guo Na felt that he had no choice, even though he felt pained by his decision. If he didn't build up his relationship with these evil soul masters, he didn't know what kind of problems he would face in the future.

After putting all the stationary soul cannon shells away, Huo Yuhao returned to their table and lifted a wine cup with his right hand. "Thanks, Commander Guo, for your precious gift. Come, let me give you a toast."

Guo Nu quickly stood up and drank with Huo Yuhao.

As Huo Yuhao drank, he gently touched Nangong Wan with his toes. When he sat down, Nangong Wan immediately raised his wine cup and gave Guo Nu a toast as well.

Taking this opportunity, Huo Yuhao rubbed his right hand across his forehead. It seemed like he was fixing his hair, but an almost invisible ball of distorted light went under the table just as his hand went down. If one could observe it more closely, one might discover that there seemed to be something inside the sphere... no

After eating a full meal, Guo Nu personally sent Huo Yuhao, Nangong Wan, and the rest out of the soul formation. After the evil soul masters had left, his expression also turned colder. As long as one was a real soul master, or even a soul engineer, who would fancy interacting with evil soul masters, who killed without blinking an eye?

He sighed silently. I hope nothing goes wrong with relying on evil soul masters to achieve domination. He shook his head a little helplessly before he turned around.

However, he didn't know that a ball of white light had slipped out from under the table in his tent. It quickly hid in a dark corner to the side.

As Nangong Wan and Huo Yuhao walked back, Nangong Wan glanced curiously at Huo Yuhao. He asked, "Have you done it?"

Huo Yuhao smiled and replied, "Yes."

Nangong Wan was even more stunned. He didn't see Huo Yuhao doing anything at all! Huo Yuhao had only signaled him to give Guo Nu a toast once. Don't tell me that he did it then?

When Huo Yuhao saw his puzzled look, he said, "If you could tell, don't you think Guo Nu could tell too? Don't worry. When things are done, I'll fulfill my promise to you."

Nangong Wan nodded. He had no choice now but to believe Huo Yuhao. He trusted Shrek's credibility.

After returning to his tent, Huo Yuhao sat down cross-legged and circulated his soul power. He forced the alcohol that he had consumed earlier out of his body. The first step of the plan had been completed. The next step was to be carried out later tonight.

He entered meditation, continuing to cultivate. Even in enemy territory, he kept on improving his abilities. Without sufficient ability, he couldn't do anything. With something as good as the Manifold Mysterious Ice Essence in his body, along with the help of his spiritual soul core, he felt that his daily cultivation rewarded him greatly. This feeling spurred him on to work even harder.

Night fell. As usual, Huo Yuhao went to the canteen to eat his dinner. After that, he silently returned to his tent. The other evil soul masters were also acting as they usually did.

After these last few days of observation, Huo Yuhao had familiarized himself with the surroundings of his camp. He used his spiritual power to observe the route that Tang Ya had to take. After verifying that she had returned to her tent, he entered meditation and waited.

He had realized that her routine was very similar to his. Apart from her daily meals, she would cultivate in her own tent. From the outside, one could subtly hear her breathing. Evil soul masters were very relaxed here. Even Zhongli Wu didn't summon them together for anything.

Huo Yuhao had seen the elders and worshippers here. There were two Transcendent Douluo from the Holy Ghost Church's Worship Hall here as well. They weren't all evil soul masters. The Scorpion Tiger Douluo Zhang Peng was here, also from the Worship Hall. He was staying not far from Tang Ya. When Tang Ya went to the canteen to eat, Huo Yuhao saw that Zhang Peng sat beside her on a few occasions. He was the only other person who could sit beside her, apart from Zhongli Wu.

Zhang Peng was by her side the first time Huo Yuhao saw Tang Ya as an evil soul master. In his opinion, Zhang Peng was probably assigned to protect her. While Tang Ya's cultivation couldn't compare to Ma Xiaotao's, the Holy Ghost Church did this to supervise her training and protect her.

The Scorpion Tiger Douluo wasn't someone who could be dealt with easily. He was bound to become a barrier to their efforts in the near future.

Although Huo Yuhao already had a plan, he didn't know what would happen during the process of carrying it out. He could only take it one step at a time. He hoped that everything would progress in the right direction.

The sky turned darker and darker, and the base also quieted down. After a day of training, the ordinary soldiers also returned to their own bunks to rest. Only the night guards continued their patrols. Of course, the defenses of the soul formations were still very strict, even at night.

The tent of the Commander of the Second Soul Engineer Legion...

After having dinner, Guo Nu carried out a few administrative duties after he returned. His tent was where he discussed things with his subordinates. He didn't sleep there.

After finishing his administrative matters, Guo Nu left the commander's tent and went to take a look at his soul formation. Before he slept every night, he would carry out a routine check to keep any problems from cropping up. After that, he would return to his own tent to rest.

As he stepped out from his tent, a ball of white light slowly crept out from the corner. It had done very well to conceal its aura earlier. Guo Nu didn't discover anything, even though he was a Soul Douluo.

After it appeared, it silently took form and gradually expanded. It slowly adopted a human form, ending up looking like Huo Yuhao.

That afternoon, Huo Yuhao had left this ball of spiritual power in the tent just as Nangong Wan was raising a toast to Guo Nu. To ensure that it could last long enough, Huo Yuhao didn't attach a soul skill to it. He only used Imitation.

After adopting a human form, this spiritual body looked a little illusory. As time passed, it had still lost a lot of spiritual power. However, it still had enough to complete Huo Yuhao's plan.

A small ring appeared on the spiritual entity's hand as it flipped its wrist, and light flashed. It was the Starlight Sapphire Ring. When Huo Yuhao had left behind this ball of light, it was this ring that was left inside of it.

The ring shone with light, and Huo Yuhao revealed a smile on his face. He retrieved a long box from the ring and placed it on the table inside the tent.

He looked a little unwilling when he saw this box. If he had any other choice, he wouldn't have chosen to take it out.

His spiritual power spread and formed a spiritual barrier inside the tent, isolating the auras both inside and outside the tent.

Nangong Wan had informed him of the habits of the legion commanders of the soul engineer legions. Huo Yuhao knew that Guo Nu wouldn't return after leaving. He would go straight to sleep after his

routine check. This tent was the safest place to be right now. No surveillance soul tools would be covering this area, either.

After setting up this spiritual barrier, Huo Yuhao's spiritual entity looked much more illusory. He had turned almost completely transparent.

He carefully opened the box.

As the box opened, Huo Yuhao's spiritual entity was the first to bear the brunt of it. An tremendous shock shook him. If his spiritual power wasn't strong enough, his spiritual entity would have been dissipated.

Huo Yuhao was also horrified. Fortunately, his spiritual power was in the concrete-material realm. Otherwise, he would have been in big trouble.

There was a long cannon shell lying inside the box. What was released earlier was the aura of armored cavalry. When it swept by, Huo Yuhao's spiritual entity had almost dissipated.

If Nangong Wan saw this, he would immediately recognize it. That was because he had once used this cannon shell to spur soul engineers to obtain good results in the Radiant City Elite Soul Engineering Tournament, back when he was still the Duskwater Alliance Master.

Huo Yuhao had absconded with this cannon shell and other items during the major explosion in Radiant City. He had kept this Class 9 stationary soul cannon shell all this while, and given the rest of the items to the Tang Sect.

Sensing the aura coming from this Class 9 cannon shell, Huo Yuhao was in awe. This is a true strategic weapon! Xuan Ziwen had once told him that even a Class 9 soul engineer would need three to six months and a lot of rare metals to complete the production of such a soul tool. Every time such a soul tool was created, it also drained the energy of a Class 9 soul engineer greatly. As a result, such a strategic weapon was very rare, even in the Sun Moon Empire.

Initially, the Sun Moon Empire had breached the Ming Dou Mountain Range using three such Class 9 stationary soul cannon shells, blowing a canyon open in the mountains. Huo Yuhao still remembered the event clearly. This was his first time trying something as terrifying as this!

Chapter 498.2: Annihilation Storm

It was a little too much for Huo Yuhao to use a Class 9 soul tool, given his current cultivation. However, a stationary soul cannon shell was different. The thing about this shell was that it wasn't difficult to operate, it just had to be detonated. It was basically just an extremely terrifying bomb. The energy it needed was contained within it, and didn't need any soul master to pour in his soul energy. Of course, it was a different thing when using a specialized soul cannon to fire a long-range attack with it.

n(OV**E**l**b**1n

If possible, Huo Yuhao was far more willing to fire it using a soul cannon. It was an ultra long-range weapon that could reach more than fifteen kilometers away, far more powerful than an ordinary shell. Huo Yuhao wasn't aware of what its furthest range was, only a Class 9 soul engineer would know the exact distance.

However, he had no choice right now. This shell was the best option he had!

His spiritual entity lifted the massive shell with both hands. Huo Yuhao twisted around to take a look before walking behind the main seat in the tent, mounting it.

It wasn't difficult to fire this Class 9 stationary soul cannon. Its core formation just had to be triggered. As a Class 7 soul engineer who had manufactured a Class 8 soul tool, it wasn't difficult for Huo Yuhao to trigger the core formation of this soul cannon.

After placing the soul cannon shell, Huo Yuhao put the box away. The box was still valuable, as it could isolate the aura of a Class 9 soul cannon shell.

After settling everything, his spiritual entity didn't leave. If he wanted to trigger it at the best moment, he had to do it personally, rather than setting a time for it to detonate on its own. Because of this, Huo Yuhao had no choice but to lose some of the spiritual power that he had left in his spiritual entity. He could only try to escape when the time came. If he couldn't, he could only accept his fate.

After completing all this, he had already opened his eyes in his own tent, and started muttering some incantations. A spiritual barrier formed inside his own tent.

Not long afterward, a pitch-black door slowly opened, and figures started to silently walk out from it. The tent, which was originally quite spacious, became a little cramped quickly.

The Ice Bear King was the last to walk out. He was so huge that he took up the most space in the tent.

"Yuhao, are you ready?" Elder Song asked Huo Yuhao.

Huo Yuhao nodded and said, "I've already installed a Class 9 stationary soul cannon shell called Annihilation Storm. It's a Class 9 soul tool that is specifically targeted to destroy metal. It's very destructive. Furthermore, it causes destruction from the inside out. That soul engineer legion will definitely be annihilated. I just don't know how many people will die because of it."

Yan Shaozhe said, "Yuhao, you're too soft. This is war, and people die. What we need to do is to end it quickly to prevent more people from dying because of it. Destroying strategic machines will save more people. Do you understand?"

Huo Yuhao nodded slightly. After enduring many fights, he had already accepted some aspects of war.

Elder Song said, "It's about time. Get ready to take action."

Huo Yuhao looked at the timer that he had prepared beforehand and nodded at Elder Song, "We'll help the Heavenly Soul Empire destroy a soul engineer legion this time. This will greatly alleviate the pressure on them. It can also be considered repayment to them for re-deploying their army."

As he spoke, Huo Yuhao unleashed his Spiritual Detection and connected his mind to his teammates.

His Spiritual Detection slowly spread out. He had already surveyed his surroundings, and covered every inch that didn't have a spiritual barrier. He provided a detailed layout of the area to his teammates, especially the tent that Tang Ya stayed in.

“I hope everyone can listen to my commands later. After we save Teacher Xiao Ya, we still need to return here and re-enter my spectral demiplane. We’re only safe when that happens. We’ll then think of a way to escape.”

Elder Song said, “Yes. From now on, we’ll listen to your commands.”

Huo Yuhao was a little astonished when he looked at Elder Song. He only saw the encouragement in her eyes.

He took a deep breath and calmed himself down. Huo Yuhao focused and switched his thoughts to his spiritual entity.

—

The evil soul masters were stationed at the core of the entire base. This base contained more than a hundred thousand men, spreading more than fifty kilometers in every direction. The second soul formation was located near the edge of the base closest to the Heavenly Soul Empire.

Huo Yuhao squinted, and a mysterious look flashed across his eyes. His spiritual entity also started to take action. His hands were pressed tightly against the shell and a streak of spiritual power poured in. This triggered the core formation of the Annihilation Storm.

A terrifying pressure was released from the Annihilation Storm. Huo Yuhao only felt that his spiritual entity was about to be torn apart, while the Annihilation Storm shone brightly, and emanated a bright metallic glow.

Huo Yuhao didn’t dare to stall further. His spiritual entity was blown apart. He used the strength of the explosion to force a streak of his spiritual power to drill its way out of the tent. It quickly rose as fast as it could into the sky. He could only use this short period of time to preserve his spiritual power. Although it was only a streak, he would still be critically hurt if it was destroyed.

—

Guo Nu walked into his soul formation. His routine check was about to end. Although he was very familiar with his own legion, he would still feel a sense of pride every time he patrolled his soul formation.

It wasn’t just him. Almost all the soul engineers in the Sun Moon Empire that served in the military felt that they were an invincible presence on the continent. In their eyes, the three empires of the original Douluo Continent lagged far behind them. Very soon, they would be conquered by the Sun Moon Empire. Only the Sun Moon Empire was fit to rule the entire continent, and help the continent develop further.

This is what you call a forest of steel! Guo Nu nodded in satisfaction as he took a last look at his soul formation. Surveillance to the outside were lessened today after orders came down from the top. In this way, the soul engineers had less of a workload. Otherwise, the soul engineers had to be divided into three shifts every day to operate the surveillance soul tools. At least half the soul engineers needed to pour their soul power into the soul tools every day to maintain them. Although this was the most effective, it weakened the fighting strength of the soul engineer legions.

It wasn't easy for Guo Nu to climb to his current position. He took good care of his subordinates. In his heart, they were his most precious resource. Comparatively, soul tools weren't as important. If soul tools were drained, they could be replenished. However, soul engineers couldn't be easily replaced.

Just as Guo Nu was about to return to his tent, he suddenly felt that something wasn't right. The surrounding atmosphere seemed to have changed.

As a Class 8 Soul Douluo, his senses were still quite acute, even though he wasn't a traditional soul master. When he realized something was amiss, he subconsciously turned in the direction that he felt something from. What he saw was a strange light flashing from his commander's tent.

Eh? What's going on?? Guo Nu was alarmed.

There seemed to be an intense beam of light coming from the tent, gradually strengthening. An invisible killing aura was also rising from the tent at an incredible speed. However, it seemed to have been suppressed, so the beam of light wasn't completely unleashed from the tent.

This is not right. Something's going wrong.

Guo Nu shouted, "Everyone, be careful! Unleash our linked defense! Quickly!"

Although he didn't know what was going on, he was always very prudent. However, it was already late at night. Apart from the soul engineers on duty, the other soul engineers were already sleeping. Under such circumstances, not many heard his shouts.

Guo Nu quickly unleashed his Class 8 protective soul barrier and rushed in the direction of his command tent. At the same time, he sounded the alarm.

Suddenly, the entire soul formation rang with deafening alarms. Even the troops stationed at the perimeter could hear them clearly.

The Sun Moon Empire's soul engineer legions were elites that were well trained and very experienced. The Second Soul Engineer Legion was one of the original ten soul engineer legions, and they were all veterans.

Once the alarm sounded, the soul engineers on duty immediately reacted. Beams from soul rays shone. The first to be activated was the linked defensive formation. A filmy layer of white light immediately shone. Promptly, a second linked defensive formation was unleashed within the soul formation.

However, it was also at this moment that the light in the commander's tent was fully unleashed.

Guo Nu had already rushed in front of the tent at this moment. He pulled the curtains apart. As he pulled them apart, he immediately unleashed an Invincible Barrier.

Although he didn't know what was inside the commander's tent, he could still sense an extraordinary presence inside from the intense light, and a growing killing aura. This was why he was especially wary.

When the curtains were pulled open, a strong aura swept towards him. Guo Nu's Class 8 barrier immediately shook. Cracks appeared in the surface of his protective barrier, while the terrifyingly sharp killing aura immediately burst out of the tent. The tent and everything inside it was torn to pieces.

Volume 35, Chapter 498.3: Annihilation Storm

This, this is...

Guo Nu suddenly opened his eyes wide. He finally saw what was releasing the light. It was a stationary shell! As a Class 8 soul engineer, Guo Nu was also very adept at creating all types of soul tools. He could immediately recognize what that shell was.

His voice cracked as he exclaimed, "A Class 9, a Class 9 stationary shell!"

As he exclaimed, he immediately turned and ran away. At this moment, he hated his parents for only giving him a single pair of legs. He ran as fast as he could.

However, at this instant, Guo Nu suddenly felt that everything around him had turned illusory, and became unreal. The entire spatial dimension seemed to have been torn to pieces instantly. This included his Class 8 protective soul barrier and his Invincible Barrier.

Guo Nu was dazed. He only felt that his body and spirit had flown into the air, and were flying higher and higher. Everything around him was unreal. Below him, an unprecedentedly bright light made his distorted reality even more surreal... and then, he didn't know what happened anymore...

Class 9 stationary shells were known as the most destructive Class 9 soul tools. This was because it was very difficult to construct a Class 9 stationary shell that wasn't weaker than a Class 9 soul tool. In the process of making it, one didn't have to worry about whether the shell could handle its explosive nature. As a result, Class 9 stationary shells were the symbols of extremity.

More simply put, the power of a Class 9 stationary shell was equivalent to an all-out attack from an Ultimate Douluo. It could even cover a larger region!

Guo Nu wasn't weak. He was a Class 8 soul engineer. However, he had no chance against a Class 9 shell from such a short distance away, no chance at all.

Annihilation Storm!

Even Huo Yuhao didn't know the true strength of this stationary shell. He had absconded with the shell before Nangong Wan could warn him.

Right now, this shell that the Holy Ghost Church had used a lot of effort to obtain in the past fully unleashed its strength.

The first step was only a terrifying explosion followed by an extreme surge in temperature and heavy pressure. During the explosion, thin bearings were released from the shell. Each of these bearings was only the size of a fingernail. They scattered very quickly during the explosion. They penetrated almost anything, but they would stick to metal the moment they touched it.

They were called Metal Bombs, and were Class 3 soul tools. However, they were also stationary soul tools, and could only be used once.

Metal Bombs were also known for destroying soul tools. They were made from special and rare metals called Golden Fusion Crystals. These rare metals could fuse with most other metals. Soul engineers used a special point about this rare metal to carve high-explosive core formations on the crystals.

Once these crystals touched other metals and fused, the high-explosive core formations in them would come into effect. Because the crystals were already inside metal, the explosion would occur inside the metal. As a result, the metal would be turned into smithereens during the explosion and scattered, thereby causing even more damage.

These secondary explosions were the reason why this Class 9 shell was called Annihilation Storm.

When creating this Annihilation Storm, one thousand and eighty Metal Bombs had to be created, before being placed inside the Annihilation Storm. After that, Golden Fusion Crystals had to be used, while creating a protective layer to prevent the Metal Bombs from touching any other metals. The protective layer was a vacuum that contained spatial power. This could only be done using some very complex core formations. A strong defensive core formation was then placed on the surface, while all types of explosive core formations were installed inside, along with some complex core formations to support them. The result was this Annihilation Storm.

Once it blew apart, the explosive strength that it unleashed was like an ordinary Class 9 high-explosive stationary shell. After that, the Metal Bombs inside would be scattered in a region spanning a kilometer across. These Metal Bombs would generate a second explosion when they touched any other metals.

As a result, this Annihilation Storm was much stronger when there were a lot of metals around. However, its true explosive strength was still weaker than the stationary shells that the Sun Moon Empire had used to bomb the Ming Dou Mountain Range.

Although Huo Yuhao didn't know the true strength of this Annihilation Storm, he knew that it had something to do with metals. This time, his target was the soul formation. Moreover, there was no better choice for him, so he unleashed the Annihilation Storm here.

Even Huo Yuhao didn't expect he'd make such a correct choice.

Under the terrifying explosion, the entire soul formation became like a high-temperature, high-pressure ocean. Almost the entire soul formation suffered from the shockwaves as tremendous booms resonated through the air.

It was a Class 9 stationary shell. It was so terrifying that anyone would shudder just looking at it.

The right thing that Guo Nu did before he died was to command his men to unleash their linked defensive formation. The soul formation of the Second Soul Engineer Legion was engulfed by that linked defensive formation immediately.

When this defensive formation was used too suddenly, it first needed Milk Bottles to provide soul power. If it lasted too long, soul masters needed to pour their own soul power in.

As a result, the explosion of the Annihilation Storm was like an explosion within the linked defensive formation. The protective strength of this linked defensive formation was quite impressive. Even though it instantly came under enormous pressure and was slowly breaking down, it still managed to resist the Annihilation Storm at its peak strength.

However, there was still a flaw in this. Because the explosive strength of the Annihilation Storm couldn't spread out, it naturally took effect on everything within the formation.

Almost all the soul engineers were killed instantly. These soul engineers averaged three rings. How could they possibly resist the strength of the Annihilation Storm? The Metal Bombs that flew out landed inside the formation as they were blocked by the formation itself.

However, there were soul tools everywhere inside the soul formation! What were soul tools made from? Metal!

Metal Bombs were very complementary to metals. This meant that they became even more explosive as a result of this. Only a few rare metals couldn't be destroyed by these Metal Bombs.

However, the soul tools used by the Second Soul Engineer Legion weren't the best in the Sun Moon Empire. How could they possibly be made from the rarest metals? *n/0velb1n*

Suddenly, the Metal Bombs that were deflected found their carriers.

In the next moment, a second round of explosions occurred.

The linked defensive formation collapsed. Broken pieces of metal were flung everywhere.

Linked defensive formations were supposed to be stronger, but they were mainly used to block external attacks. Since when were they used to contain attacks? It wasn't easy for this linked defensive formation to contain the first explosion. However, as all the soul tools were destroyed, the linked defensive formation also collapsed. It had no chance against the second round of explosions.

The nearby tents were immediately torn to pieces. The broken pieces of metal were flung more than a thousand meters away. Within this region, almost no soldier survived. The explosion and flying metal shrapnel opened a huge gap in the Sun Moon Empire's base in just a couple seconds.

The explosions were so tremendous that the entire base was alerted!

At the core region where the evil soul masters were stationed, all the evil soul masters rushed out of their tents, and only saw surging lights in the distance.

Suddenly, deafening alarms rang out across the entire base. Linked defensive formations in the various soul formations were unleashed. These linked defensive formations appeared extremely bright at night.

Zhongli Wu also walked out from his tent. Seeing the bright lights in the distance, he was also astonished.

"What's going on? Where is that place?" Zhongli Wu shouted.

Evil soul masters were very united. Many evil soul masters immediately gathered towards Zhongli Wu. Huo Yuhao estimated that there were around forty soul masters here. Apart from the Titled Douluo, the rest were all at least Soul Emperors.

Tang Ya naturally walked out from her tent. She looked as indifferent as ever, not much different from before. The Scorpion Tiger Douluo Zhang Peng was beside her. He looked on in shock, very grim.

Zhongli Wu was very calm, and said, "An enemy attack! Everyone, be prepared to defend! Don't separate from the group without my orders."

Screams rang out in the distance. The sky above Heavenly Spirit City brightened, and countless soul masters, emanating light from their bodies, shone brightly on the horizon.

This was...

Chapter 499.1: An All-out Decisive Battle?

Zhongli Wu was astonished. Just from what he could see, there were more than three thousand soul masters flying in the air, which meant every single one of the Heavenly Soul Empire's main forces who could use flying-type soul tools. Were the Heavenly Soul Empire making a last-ditch attempt?

The Third Elder walked swiftly in front of Zhongli Wu and whispered, "Supreme Leader, the explosion should be from where the second soul engineer legion is stationed. Judging from how forceful the explosion was and the soul power undulations in the air, it's very likely to have been from a stationary soul cannon shell."

Zhongli Wu was both shocked and furious. "What? A stationary soul cannon shell? Isn't the Sun Moon Empire the only one who possesses things as terrifyingly destructive as that? How did the Heavenly Soul Empire come to have one of those? Even if they did, how did they fire it into our camp? What has happened to our surveillance soul tools?"

Of course, none of the evil soul masters next to him could answer his questions.

Huo Yuhao was standing among the other evil soul masters like Nangong Wan was, but his attention was fully concentrated on Tang Ya. He was waiting for an opportunity, and this opportunity was slowly forming after the enormous explosion, which, along with the Heavenly Soul Empire's attack, looked like an all-out assault had begun!

The Sun Moon Empire's reaction was quick. Even though the explosion caught everyone off-guard, the entire camp began to move even as the hurricane of metal was wreaking havoc. Orders were given one after another, and Lin Hai, who was the marshal, had already entered the command tent, and was directing his army.

The other four soul tool fronts weren't affected by any aftershocks or ripples. They activated their linked defensive formations, and they also began to charge their linked offensive soul tools to prepare for battle.

Back when the Sun Moon Empire was constructing their base in this place, they had been prepared for a long, drawn-out battle. They had camped several dozen kilometers from Heavenly Spirit City.

There were only several special stationary soul cannon shells that could reach that far. Therefore, not even their linked offensive formations could cross that distance. They had to wait for the Heavenly Soul Empire's powerful individuals to come within range before they could retaliate.

A messenger swiftly ran over and announced, "Imperial Tutor, Commander Lin Hai invites you to discuss matters in the commander's tent."

Zhongli Wu nodded and said, "Please follow me, Consecrates. Everyone else will remain here. Do not leave unless absolutely necessary."

"Yes!" The group of evil soul masters bowed in acknowledgement.

Zhongli Wu brought six Consecrates, including the Scorpion Tiger Douluo, and proceeded quickly towards the command tent. The other evil soul masters all remained behind, including Tang Ya.

Huo Yuhao heaved a sigh of relief when he saw Zhongli Wu didn't take Tang Ya away. He could see his opportunity coming.

There were more than thirty evil soul masters remaining. There were four Titled Douluo within this group, 'including' Huo Yuhao, who was impersonating the Masquerade Douluo; Nangong Wan, the Third Elder, and the Fourth Elder.

That meant their real enemies were only the Third and Fourth Elders. Tang Ya was probably the strongest one out of the other evil soul masters. Even though there were several Soul Douluo, they were few in number.

Deafening war cries could be heard in the skies over Heavenly Spirit City, like there weren't just many soul masters moving out in the sky. It looked like their army was also pushing forward over the ground.

The Sun Moon Empire couldn't understand why the Heavenly Soul Empire had chosen to launch an assault at night, because nighttime wasn't beneficial for their foot soldiers! Furthermore, the Sun Moon Empire had several soul tool fronts in place, and with how strong they were, even Titled Douluo would be going towards certain death if they charged them. The Heavenly Soul Empire would have to pay with far too many lives without Heavenly Spirit City's protection to reach them.

However, the Sun Moon Empire didn't dare to underestimate their enemies, even if that was the case. The large explosion in the second soul engineer legion camp was enough to shock everyone. If the Heavenly Soul Empire could do that, what else could they do?

Huo Yuhao gestured at Nangong Wan with his eyes, and Nangong Wan nodded at him softly.

Nobody knew what the enormous explosion was, but Nangong Wan could faintly guess. The only thing he didn't understand was exactly how Huo Yuhao had managed to place the stationary soul cannon shell into the second soul engineer legion's camp.

A thread of spiritual power drifted over to Huo Yuhao and integrated into this body. Spiritual power was formless, and he wasn't afraid of anyone discovering it at all. He withdrew that thread, and could feel his spirit rejuvenate. The linked defensive dome had helped him, because his spiritual avatar had just barely risen into the sky enough before Annihilation Storm exploded. Guo Nu had ordered the linked defensive dome's activation, which blocked the explosion's first blast, and gave Huo Yuhao's spiritual avatar the chance to escape and return.

"Second brother, let me go back and get something. I'll be back in no time," Huo Yuhao said to Nangong Wan.

Nangong Wan nodded and said, "Go, come back as soon as possible."

"Yes," Huo Yuhao acknowledged before he proceeded towards his own tent.

The four Elders took charge of this group. Even though Zhongli Wu had just instructed them to remain here, he didn't say that they absolutely couldn't leave. The Masquerade Douluo was an Elder, so nobody stopped him.

The relationship between Elders was different from that between the Consecrates. There were evil soul masters among the Consecrates, and powerful foreign soul masters. Even though they had a very high status, their relationships with one another weren't intimate at all. The Elders were different, as they had almost grown up together in the Holy Ghost Church, and had been together for several decades now, some even more than a century. They had a good relationship with each other. The Masquerade Douluo didn't quite fit into the group, but he was still friendly enough with the other Elders. Therefore, the Third Elder and the Fourth Elder didn't speak out against him.

Huo Yuhao quickly moved towards his tent, and returned in the blink of an eye. Nangong Wan glanced at him and nodded gently, but nobody was paying attention to them.

The Sun Moon Empire's soldiers were fully mobilized. The army gathered swiftly, and military orders were passed out one after another from the command tent. The Sun Moon Empire's soul engineers were gathering at the soul tool fronts, and even appeared in the sky. Even though they were far fewer in number compared to the Heavenly Soul Empire, everyone knew that soul engineers had a great advantage on a battlefield against soul masters. They were an entire body with their linked soul tools.

The explosion caused by Annihilation Storm was starting to recede and settle down. The terrifying explosion had engulfed almost a quarter of the Sun Moon Empire's main camp. Even though only the areas near the explosion's epicenter had sustained heavy losses, the explosion brought chaos and panic to the entire army.

The command tent had to direct and prepare their army to defend against their enemies, and they also had to console their soldiers and take care of the wounded at the same time. The entire Sun Moon Empire's camp appeared to fall into disarray.

The Third Elder frowned and wondered aloud, "That's weird... why would a stationary soul cannon shell explode in our own camp?"

"Could it have been an accident?" the Fourth Elder asked. **no ve-1b-1n**

The Third Elder shook his head and glanced at him disdainfully. "You're so ignorant. The second soul engineer legion doesn't even have a stationary soul cannon shell with their status, so how could it be accidentally triggered? Even the beast-ranked soul engineer legions have one at most, and they're under strict protection. We don't even have a single one in our army camp because the two beast-ranked soul engineer legions used their stock in the war before this."

"Then what's going on?" the Fourth Elder asked, confused. "Can it be that spies have snuck into our camp despite our strict defenses? At least, I'm confident that nobody has that ability."

Nangong Wan cut in appropriately and said, "Back when Old Seven and I went around the Heavenly Soul Empire, we discovered that Shrek Academy's people had appeared. Can this be them? It seems we have sustained incredibly large losses this time, and a soul engineer legion has disappeared just like that! We aren't even talking about how many normal soldiers we've lost yet."

The Third Elder frowned even more tightly and said, "Yes! It's no wonder the Supreme Leader isn't letting us go outside. Otherwise, I would want to see what kind of stationary soul cannon shell that was."

Nangong Wan said, "The Supreme Leader is doing this for our own good; he's concerned about everyone's safety. You don't have to talk so much."

"Alright." The Third Elder scanned the other evil soul masters. Everyone lowered their heads at the same time when they met his gaze, except for Tang Ya.

Huo Yuhao said, "Second brother, why don't I take a look at the command tent? I want to find out exactly what is going on."

Nangong Wan answered, "Go. But I reckon the Supreme Leader isn't in a good mood, so you'd best be careful."

"Yes." Huo Yuhao acknowledged as he walked towards the command tent. Evil soul masters like them, especially those who were Titled Douluo, had a transcendent status within the army camp. Even though they were on high alert and heightened vigilance, nobody dared to stop them.

The Third Elder watched Huo Yuhao leave, and he couldn't help but comment, "Masquerade has been a lot more normal over the past few days. I think being with him is a lot more comfortable than before. I heard that he hasn't been ruining girls after the Supreme Leader chided him that day?"

Nangong Wan chuckled and said, "Maybe he's afraid that the Supreme Leader will punish him."

The Third Elder grunted and said, "He knows how to be afraid? This isn't the first or second time that the Supreme Leader has chided him for that bad habit of his. Seems like he has promised him something this time. Do you know what that is, second brother?"

Nangong Wan shook his head and said, "That, I don't know. You'd have to ask him or the Supreme Leader if you want to know. Him being more normal is a good thing."

The Fourth Elder chortled and said, "Yes, that fellow is the most abnormal between us brothers. He's always living in his own world, so being more normal is a good thing. We can do anything if us brothers are united."

Just as he was talking in amusement, the Third Elder suddenly frowned and commented, "Why do I feel like it's a little cold? Is the weather changing too?"

Chapter 499.2: An All-out Decisive Battle?

Nangong Wan stared at him doubtfully and said, "Are you getting old? How are you feeling cold? Why don't I feel cold?"

Boom!

There was no warning at all as Nangong Wan's body suddenly froze, and he was blasted forward like a cannonball. He crashed into four or five relatively weaker evil soul masters as he flew and sent them flying away, every single one of them crying out in pain as blood spewed from their mouths. Their bodies were all twisted from the collision, and they didn't seem like they could live through that.

"Second brother!" Both the Third Elder and the Fourth Elder were astonished.

The change happened too abruptly. A blurry green shadow appeared almost instantly beside the Third Elder, and an incredibly sharp aura descended upon him.

The Third Elder was startled, caught off-guard. He believed himself strong, but his enemy's soul power undulations suppressed him so much that he found it hard to breathe. He clapped his hands subconsciously as he activated his Class 9 protective soul barrier and his Invincible Barrier at the same time.

Intense explosions could be heard as his Class 9 protective soul barrier was torn apart. Golden light flickered continuously on his Invincible Barrier, and it seemed like it was cracking apart.

An Invincible Barrier's greatest problem was that it could only be crafted at Class 7. It was more suitable for relatively weaker soul masters, and it was most effective at that standard. However, it was a lot less effective for and against Titled Douluo.

The green shadow gradually materialized: it was Elder Song!

Elder Song broke through the Third Elder's external defenses with a single strike. Her attacks were lightning quick as countless green shadows engulfed him.

Blinding golden flames lit up the sky on the other side. Deep booming phoenix calls were heard as the Fourth Elder was enveloped in a sphere of radiant flames. His Netherworld Sword flew up and down, but he could barely hold on as he was beaten back continuously.

Silhouettes appeared at the same time all around them, and they swiftly launched an assault against the evil soul masters, who were so startled that they froze instinctively.

These people had appeared all too suddenly. Six or seven evil soul masters were heavily injured from their attacks as soon as they appeared, and in addition to Nangong Wan, who was sent flying away, a third of the evil soul masters' strength was shaved off. ~~no~~ ~~v~~ ~~e~~ ~~-~~ ~~1~~ ~~B~~ ~~-~~ ~~1~~ ~~n~~

Shrek Academy was the one responsible for this sudden ambush.

According to Huo Yuhao's plan, this battle had to be fought and ended as quickly as possible. Huo Yuhao was escorting his companions out when he returned to his tent before this.

The Holy Ghost Church's Supreme Leader led six Consecrates to the command tent, so these evil soul masters' overall strength was a lot weaker. How could Huo Yuhao let go of such an opportunity?

The Heavenly Soul Empire's assault was just a feint. They had no intention of clashing head-on with the Sun Moon Empire's soul tool forts, and their attack happened at the time they had agreed on.

To ensure that everything would be perfect, Huo Yuhao told Princess Wei Na that there were two key points to tonight's operation. First, they had to agree on a time, and secondly, the Heavenly Soul Empire had to wait until the Sun Moon Empire was in chaos and disarray from the explosion.

The Heavenly Soul Empire was only to launch their feint attack when both things happened. If the explosion didn't occur, then the feint was to be canceled.

The plan was more successful than they had expected. The Heavenly Soul Empire were overjoyed when they saw such a powerful explosion going off in the Sun Moon Empire's camp, and several senior officers

even believed that the Heavenly Soul Empire should take this chance to launch an all-out offensive. However, this idea was rejected by the other higher-ups, with Wei Na at the helm.

The Heavenly Soul Empire wouldn't launch an offensive like that unless they had absolute confidence, because they couldn't afford to sustain the losses. The army outside Heavenly Spirit City was the last of what the Heavenly Soul Empire could muster, and if they lost this strength, then the Heavenly Soul Empire wouldn't be able to recover.

Huo Yuhao had used Imitation to bring everyone out of his tent, and with cover from Imitation and his formidable spiritual power, not even powerful Titled Douluo like the Third Elder and the Fourth Elder realized what was happening. Of course, for that to happen, Nangong Wan had to do what he needed to do.

He had secretly released his soul power when they were conversing and created a barrier behind them, and trying as much as possible to block off their sense of their surroundings, allowing Shrek Academy to ambush them like that when they made their move.

What was Huo Yuhao doing? He had an important task. Many of the Sun Moon Empire's senior officials and some of the Holy Ghost Church's most powerful individuals were gathered at the command tent, which their battle was happening not far from. Their plan would have to be abandoned prematurely if the Supreme Leader came to rescue his companions, if he realized that something was wrong. Furthermore, their lives would be in danger!

Therefore, Huo Yuhao went to the command tent to place a spiritual barrier outside it, and cut off any soul power undulations and sound from the outside world.

Even Elder Song and Yan Shaozhe would have trouble doing this, because they had to accomplish that task with soul power, and soul power undulations were too easily discovered.

Huo Yuhao could rely on his formidable spiritual power, and with Imitation, his Spiritual Interference Domain, and his immensely powerful control over his spiritual power, finishing this task was a lot easier.

Huo Yuhao had seemed to leave quietly and casually, but he had already used his full strength. He had left a hidden spiritual avatar at the battlefield, and used Imitation through his spiritual avatar to conceal everyone from Shrek. On the other side, he had tried his best to form the strongest spiritual barrier that he could conjure so that he could completely separate the commander's tent from the outside world, just so Zhongli Wu wouldn't discover what was happening here.

Huo Yuhao was clear that he couldn't do this for long, because if he wanted to cut off sound and soul power undulations, he would have to cut off everything, and it would be relatively quiet inside the command tent. Zhongli Wu probably wouldn't realize what was happening for a short period of time, but that was hard to say if a longer time passed.

The Third Elder and the Fourth Elder were suppressed in an instant when Shrek launched an all-out attack. After all, they were facing two Transcendent Douluo, and that was especially true when Elder Song was a Rank 97 Transcendent Douluo. It wasn't hard to imagine her fighting strength with her incredible speed.

But evil soul masters did have quite an advantage compared to other soul masters of the same rank. The Third Elder and the Fourth Elder weren't completely run over even though they were at an absolute disadvantage.

A barrier that resembled a web of lightning appeared around the Third Elder and blocked Elder Song's relentless assault; it was a soul tool he had used to protect himself.

The Third Elder's title was Dark Lightning, the Dark Lightning Douluo, and he was a soul engineer at the same time. He had fused his martial soul with a soul tool that he had created himself, and possessed a set of unique fighting abilities. He amplified the power of his soul skills with soul tools, and all his attacks possessed the force of Dark Lightning. This Dark Lightning possessed the formidable element of lightning along with a thread of evil, an evil that could only be absorbed from a pile of dead people. The Third Elder's powers became stronger when there were more dead people around.

The Annihilation Storm had just killed many soul engineers and soldiers in the explosion, and all that dark and evil aura wasn't far from this place. The Third Elder could channel some of that, and he used his full strength as he unleashed his Dark Lightning and released all sorts of protective soul tools. Only then could he barely protect his life under Elder Song's swift and ferocious onslaught.

But the Third Elder was feeling terribly bitter. It didn't take long before Elder Song had damaged one of his three strongest soul tools, while the other two tools also had problems to varied extents under Elder Song's formidable attacks. These losses by themselves gave him a heartache.

The Fourth Elder's situation was even worse than the Third Elder. The Fourth Elder's title was Netherworld, the Netherworld Douluo, and his martial soul was the Netherworld Sword.

Back then, he had teamed up with the Third Elder and forced Huo Yuhao to burn his spiritual sea to escape. But he was now facing the Dean of Shrek Academy's Martial Soul Department, the Dragon Emperor Douluo Mu En's eldest disciple, and the next heir to the Sea God's Pavilion.

Yan Shaozhe was one rank beneath Elder Song in terms of cultivation, but his potential was a lot greater. Back then, Mu En had hopes that he could become an Ultimate Douluo, since only Ultimate Douluo were worthy of becoming Master of the Sea God's Pavilion.

Yan Shaozhe's martial soul, the Radiant Phoenix, gave him the title of Radiant Phoenix Douluo. His Radiant Phoenix was a fusion between light and fire, just like Bei Bei's Radiant Holy Dragon was a fusion between light and lightning. Even though he didn't have a pure Ultimate martial soul, the combination of the elements of light and fire was a fantastic counter to the Netherworld Douluo's abilities. There was an enormous gap between their cultivations at the same time. The Netherworld Douluo was already bleeding all over his face, and he had sustained relatively severe injuries as he fought for his life. He didn't hesitate to burn his soul power, and he channeled his soul core to the highest possible level before he could even defend himself against Yan Shaozhe's attacks. However, even if he could stay alive in the end, he would be so heavily injured that his cultivation would probably regress.

Shrek Academy had gained an absolute advantage in these two battles, while the other battles weren't considered too difficult. The reason for that was because Shrek had, besides two Transcendent Douluo, a Savage Beast!

The Ice Bear King, Little Bai, was the last to make his move, because he needed time to charge up his attack. When he walked out from Huo Yuhao's Imitation, a formidable blizzard howled out and wreaked havoc. Under his deliberate control, the blizzard was maintained only around the evil soul masters, and barreled towards them.

Back then, he had brought his Blizzard down from the sky and held back the entire Fire Phoenix Soul Engineer Legion. He was now unleashing it from the ground, and its force was much more terrifying.

However, Huo Yuhao was afraid that the blizzard would be too strong, and the Holy Ghost Church's Supreme Leader would be startled. Therefore, he had asked Little Bai to reduce his blizzard's strength. Otherwise, the blizzard would have been even more frightening.

Little Bai almost suppressed the rest of the evil soul masters all by himself. The gap in their cultivations and the frightening power of Ultimate Ice meant that those evil soul masters, who were only Soul Douluo at best, could only fight to protect their lives.

Chapter 499.3: An All-out Decisive Battle?

Shrek Academy's team had appeared way too suddenly. The evil soul masters didn't expect, even in their wildest dreams, that so many enemies would appear in the core areas of the Sun Moon Empire's camp, and that their enemies would be so powerful. They were caught off-guard from the get-go.

Tang Ya was possibly the calmest out of all the evil soul masters. She reacted immediately after Nangong Wan was sent hurtling away. Dark blue light flickered on her body and eight soul rings swiftly appeared around her. She actually had seven black rings and one red ring; nobody knew how the Holy Ghost Church had helped her soul rings evolve like that.

Dark blue Dark Bluesilver vines immediately burst through the air one after another as they whipped towards Elder Song in an attempt to help the Third Elder deal with her.

But how powerful was Elder Song? Her Greenshadow Godly Eagle was wind-type, and Tang Ya's Dark Bluesilver Vines were sliced into pieces by formless wind blades before they came too close to her. Tang Ya couldn't possibly hurt her even if Elder Song wasn't targeting her.

Just as Tang Ya was about to unleash her most powerful soul skill, she suddenly saw a person appear in front of her. This person's entire body flickered with streaks of lightning, a man who was full of passion and emotion.

She was just about to unleash an attack at full strength, but for some reason, she froze when she saw this man, and didn't unleash her next soul skill.

"Xiao... Ya..." Bei Bei's voice trembled, sounding like a whimper. He couldn't control his emotions at all when he saw Tang Ya.

Tang Ya was still as beautiful as ever, but she didn't have her liveliness and her energy from before, and seemed like a statue, like the walking dead.

Huo Yuhao had already seen what Tang Ya was like, but he didn't dare tell Bei Bei, because he was afraid that Bei Bei would be sad. Bei Bei could now feel his heart knotting up painfully as he saw what Tang Ya was like.

“Xiao Ya, Xiao Ya, I’m Bei Bei! Do... do you remember me?” Tears flowed down Bei Bei’s cheeks uncontrollably, and even though he was releasing his martial soul, he didn’t have any will to fight at all. His entire body was just quivering before her.

Tears didn’t come easy from a real man. Ever since Xiao Ya had gone missing, Bei Bei had been going through agonizing torture in his heart. He believed that it was his fault for not taking care of Xiao Ya that she had ended up in the Holy Ghost Church’s hands.

The last time they met was on the competition stage. When Tang Ya used her Bluesilver Tyrant Spear and impaled him, he had really wanted to just let go and liberate himself. He was absolutely willing, even if he had to die in Tang Ya’s embrace.

This was the second time that they had met after that time, now among endless soldiers, and in the darkness of the night. Bei Bei stared at Tang Ya, who was like a zombie, and he couldn’t control his emotions at all.

Tang Ya stared at Bei Bei, who had tears covering his entire face. She seemed a little frozen as well, but her hand was still slowly rising in Bei Bei’s direction. Her eyes suddenly became cold in the next moment, and countless dark blue shadows lunged right at Bei Bei.

Bei Bei just stood there, motionless. He still didn’t believe that Tang Ya would harm him, even at a time like this.

“What are you doing, Bei Bei?” Xu Sanshi shouted in shock, and a golden light appeared in front of him in the next moment. An enormous shield protected Bei Bei behind it, blocking all the blue shadows going right for him.

Bei Bei’s body trembled as he snapped around at Xu Sanshi, who was rushing to his side. “Don’t interfere, Sanshi! I don’t believe Xiao Ya will harm me.”

Xu Sanshi retorted angrily, “Are you insane? Can you not see that she has been brainwashed, and her mind is being controlled? We have to leave as quickly as possible! Little junior brother cannot keep that up for too long! What kind of romantic game are you playing at now? If you want to move Xiao Ya and let her recover, you have to wait for when everyone has returned safely. Why are you so muddled? Are you trying to kill everyone?”

Xu Sanshi didn’t stop as he hollered furiously at Bei Bei. His Xuanwu Shield became a shield wall as he blocked all the area attacks from Tang Ya’s Dark Bluesilver Grass.

Even though Tang Ya was already an eight-ringed Soul Douluo, Xu Sanshi’s strength had increased exponentially ever since he had fused with his Spirit. His Golden Tortoise was hovering beside him, and it released circles of golden light one after another that greatly boosted his Xuanwu Shield.

Bei Bei was momentarily stunned after Xu Sanshi berated him. However, some clarity finally returned to his eyes as he said, “I’m sorry, I was wrong.” He swiftly came out from behind Xu Sanshi’s shield as he spoke, and he pounced right at Tang Ya amidst flickering golden lightning, unleashing his Radiant Holy Dragon.

Bei Bei used Thunderous Dragon Claw, his first soul skill, and slashed at Tang Ya as he used Vigorous Thunderbolt, his second soul skill, at the same time. Thousands of streaks of lightning permeated the skies as they sliced away the Dark Bluesilver Grass in the air.

An elegant white stallion flickering with golden light appeared before Bei Bei, and dragon scales immediately covered Bei Bei's body. It was Bei Bei's Spirit, his Heavenly Dragon Horse.

Back then, Bei Bei's Blue Lightning Tyrant Dragon had officially evolved into a Radiant Holy Dragon after he fused with the Heavenly Dragon Horse. Bei Bei's aura now swelled as his Spirit appeared. Even though he wasn't using his martial soul true body, his fighting strength was near that standard with the Heavenly Dragon Horse's support.

Tang Ya's eyes were ice-cold from the beginning to the end. She raised her hands and made a grab with her left hand in the air as her Bluesilver Tyrant Spear gradually took form. She pushed out with her right hand towards Bei Bei, and an enormous bluish-black web opened up. It blocked his Thunderous Dragon Claw before it reached for him.

The web was becoming larger and larger as it flew, and it could hold its own against Bei Bei's radiant lightning.

Bei Bei stomped his right foot heavily on the ground as the lightning on his body flourished. That was his third soul skill, Thunderous Fury!

Golden circles of light were released beneath his feet in the next moment. He used Dragon Emperor's Realm Quake, and his aura rose incredibly quickly to an extremely fearsome level.

This was the reason why Bei Bei didn't use his martial soul true body. His fighting strength would be even stronger if he was in his martial soul true body, but his Dragon Emperor's Realm Quake could only be used at its full strength with Dragon Emperor Demonic Rupture. His martial soul true body didn't have such delicate control, and at the bottom of it all, he was still afraid that he would hurt Tang Ya.

A pair of enormous dragon claws rose as they slashed at the enormous web. The large web dropped down and closed up as it trapped him inside.

Bei Bei fixed his gaze as he shouted, and tore to his sides savagely. He realized as he was tearing that the web was both extremely viscous and tough at the same time, and he couldn't tear open this web even with his strength.

Furthermore, there were many bluish-black spikes on this web, which released extremely pure energies of darkness that attempted to worm their way into his body. Bei Bei would have been injured as he slashed against those spikes if not for his Radiant Holy Dragon's scales protecting him.

But Bei Bei was a powerful Soul Sage, after all. With his Heavenly Dragon Horse supporting him, he used Dragon Emperor Demonic Rupture as blinding golden light shot into the air. Intense energies of light gave way to pure power as the large web was torn in two. As he tossed those two pieces away, they were thrown towards two evil soul masters in the distance.

However, Bei Bei could clearly feel his scalp going numb in this moment. Tang Ya's Bluesilver Tyrant Spear had taken form, and the tip of the spear was pointed right at him. She was in a stance like she was going to throw it.

In this moment, Tang Ya was the only person that Bei Bei could see. He could still vividly remember, back on the competition stage, Tang Ya had used her Bluesilver Tyrant Spear to impale him. He didn't dodge last time, and he had used his passionate and warm blood to meet Tang Ya's attack. He wanted Tang Ya to feel the love that he had for her in his blood. Back then, Bei Bei felt that Tang Ya seemed to recover part of her memory from his repeated calls.

They were almost in the exact same situation in this moment. Many emotions surfaced in Bei Bei's mind as he faced her Bluesilver Tyrant Spear once more.

Tang Ya clutched her Bluesilver Tyrant Spear as she stared at the man who had just torn apart her Spiderweb Binding. She seemed to be momentarily stunned, and her ice-cold eyes flowed with a tinge of hesitation.

Xu Sanshi arrived beside Bei Bei with a single stride. He wasn't afraid of her Bluesilver Tyrant Spear, and his Xuanwu Shield was at the ready.

"Sanshi!" Bei Bei suddenly growled.

"What?" Xu Sanshi turned around at him.

Bei Bei stared at him deeply and said, "Leave this to me. Trust me!"

Xu Sanshi quivered as he said solemnly, "Bei Bei!"

Bei Bei lowered his voice. "Trust me!"

Xu Sanshi took a deep breath. He held onto his golden Xuanwu Shield as he took a step back. However, he didn't leave the battle.

The Ice Bear King, Little Bai, was controlling the entire battlefield; Shrek Academy's warriors had the absolute upper hand even though they were few in number.

The most intimidating ones from the Tang Sect were Ji Juechen and Ye Guyi. Ji Juechen's Judgment Sword unleashed formidable sword intent, and every swing of his sword was a nightmare for those evil soul masters.

Ye Guyi's situation was even better. Her martial soul was a Holy Angel, while her type wasn't light. Instead, her martial soul was a holy-type martial soul. Her aura would be strengthened every time she killed an evil soul master, and here, she immediately surpassed the strength of a normal Soul Sage.

Ye Guyi's martial soul was one of the strongest ones within the entire Tang Sect. In terms of just martial souls, her martial soul probably surpassed either of Huo Yuhao's.

The element of holiness contained within a Holy Angel was extremely rare, and was born to fight against evil. A Holy Angel would be strengthened every time it killed something evil.

Ye Guyi had just slaughtered an evil Soul Emperor, dissipating his martial soul into dust and nothingness. What she gained from this kill was equivalent to cultivating for three months by herself.

It wasn't easy to find something evil from day to day, but the Holy Ghost Church was a most suitable opponent for Ye Guyi to strengthen herself with. Furthermore, almost every single evil soul master's abilities would be countered before her Holy Angel.

The element of light could counter evil, but it wasn't as strong. Evil soul masters had been investigating how to deal with the element of light for many years, and they had a set of their own methods. However, there wasn't much they could do against the element of holiness. Holiness was a natural counter to them, and holiness always trumped evil, so it was a one-sided affair. The reason why the element of holiness was so powerful was that it had almost no natural enemies, while it could counter all evil and darkness.

Chapter 500.1: Phoenix Covering Retreat

An avenging spirit flew in front of Ye Guyi. If she were an ordinary Soul Emperor, she would have to be very cautious when facing an evil soul master. If she wasn't cautious enough, her spiritual sea might be affected. However, against Ye Guyi, she only shone with golden light before the avenging spirit screamed tragically and vanished. The power of purification even caused the avenging spirit to be sucked into Ye Guyi's body to replenish her and increase her cultivation.

As a result, Ye Guyi's fighting strength was fully unleashed as she fought under the Ice Bear King's protection. She was the nightmare of every evil soul master.

Huo Yuhao had risked everything to save her before because she could naturally curb evil soul masters. As Ye Guyi's abilities increased, her deterrence against evil soul masters grew stronger, too.

Ye Guyi was already close to becoming a Soul Sage. After this fight, she was confident that she could make a breakthrough to become a Soul Sage. When that happened, her Holy Angel would have four wings, and her overall abilities would greatly increase. She wouldn't be afraid even against an evil Soul Douluo!

Nan Qiuqiu followed beside Ye Guyi, coordinating with her. Ye Guyi's Holy Angel was the most effective against evil soul masters, while Nan Qiuqiu was using her Ruby Dragon's Annihilation abilities to protect her, enabling Ye Guyi's offensive power to be unleashed to the limit.

It wasn't just Nan Qiuqiu. Xiao Xiao was also protecting Ye Guyi. Her Threelives Soulcrush Cauldron was used as a control-type martial soul to isolate Ye Guyi from their enemies. This prevented too many enemies from appearing directly in front of her, allowing Ye Guyi to better unleash her abilities.

Apart from the three of them, everyone else also demonstrated their powers. Jiang Nannan's abilities had greatly increased ever since she had fused with the Ruby Soft Tendon Python's Spirit. Right now, a python over three meters long ran riot on the battlefield. The strangest part of it was that it possessed the abilities that Jiang Nannan had. Just this alone was enough to make it as strong as Xu Sanshi's Golden Tortoise.

Jiang Nannan had already transformed into her Martial Soul True Body at this moment, but it wasn't her Softbone Rabbit. Rather, she had fused her True Body into her Ruby Soft Tendon Python, increasing her Spirit's abilities greatly. She relied on the size of her python to disrupt proceedings on the battlefield, and the evil soul masters were unable to gather.

“Xiao Ya!” Bei Bei shouted at Tang Ya, who had already raised her Bluesilver Tyrant Spear.

Tang Ya’s body shook. She was already hesitating a little. When she heard Bei Bei’s call, her actions slowed even further.

Bei Bei removed his Dragon Emperor’s Realm Quake and slowly walked towards Tang Ya. With every step he took, his body dimmed slightly. After three steps, his dragon scales had completely disappeared, and his martial soul had even been retracted. He revealed his true appearance.

“Xiao Ya, I’m Bei Bei. Do you remember me?” Bei Bei walked towards Tang Ya.

Xu Sanshi held his Golden Xuanwu Shield tightly, and suddenly swept his hand across his body. His shield flew out and struck a few evil Soul Emperors that were charging over.

He was worried about Bei Bei. However, he couldn’t stop him at this moment. From that earlier moment, he had already seen the determined look in Bei Bei’s eyes. Even though he was very close to Bei Bei, it was his first time seeing such a look in his eyes.

He knew that Bei Bei had already made up his mind. No matter what, he had to try. As a brother, he couldn’t stop him. If he were in such a situation with Jiang Nannan, he would also do the same thing.

Bei Bei, come on! Xu Sanshi shouted silently, and focused his gaze on Tang Ya. Once something went wrong, he would dash in to save Bei Bei immediately.

Tang Ya was a little dazed as she stood there. There was still a large bunch of dark Bluesilver Grass dancing around her feet. However, they didn’t attack. The sharp Bluesilver Tyrant Spear flashed with a dark-blue light. Its dominant aura made it felt like it could pierce through the sky. However, she didn’t thrust it toward Bei Bei.

Bei Bei was still walking toward her. His gaze became even gentler, and there wasn’t even a streak of soul power undulations coming from him.

“Xiao Ya, I won’t do anything to you. How can I possibly hurt you? You are my Xiao Ya, and you’ll always be. If you want to attack, then kill me. I’m willing even if my blood stains your body.”

“Don’t come over!” Tang Ya suddenly shouted. This was also her first time speaking on this battlefield. Her voice was no longer as cold and indifferent as it was before. Rather, she sounded a little afraid and panicky.

After hearing her speak, Xu Sanshi heaved a sigh of relief. Tang Ya’s emotions were roused after seeing Bei Bei. This meant that he was still in her memory.

Bei Bei didn’t listen to Tang Ya, and continued to walk forward. He wasn’t very far from Tang Ya to begin with, and now, he was almost in front of her.

“Don’t come over!” Tang Ya’s voice turned a little sharper. Her icy-cold eyes were filled with indecision.

“Xiao Ya, Xiao Ya... I’m Bei Bei.” Bei Bei continued to walk forward. He was calling Tang Ya’s name as if he were calling his own wife.

Finally, he was in front of her. She didn’t move her spear. It was even shaking in her grip.

Bei Bei was now right in front of the spear, but he didn't stop. He walked directly into the spear, and the tip of the spear pierced his shoulder. There was a trace of red on the tip of the spear, which spread along the dark patterns on it.

As Tang Ya's cultivation increased, the spear was able to absorb blood. As it absorbed blood, it also fused the dark poison elements inside it into the enemy's blood.

Bei Bei turned pale, but his gaze was still as gentle as ever. "Xiao Ya, I'm Bei Bei."

Seeing that the tip of her spear had pierced Bei Bei's shoulder, Tang Ya was stunned, and just looked at him in a daze. It was like she was looking at some unbelievable thing.

Bei Bei moved another inch forward. Immediately, the spear pierced deeper into him. From the start until the end, Bei Bei didn't reveal a painful look on his face. There was only a gentle look throughout.

"Xiao Ya, I'm Bei Bei," Bei Bei continued to call softly.

"Ah!" Tang Ya started to shout frantically, and furiously let go of the spear in her hand. Without her soul power, her spear immediately dissipated, and turned into streaks of dark-blue light that disappeared into the air. The Bluesilver Grass around Tang Ya also instantly disappeared. Her face was very pale, and her body started to shake tremendously. Her hands were on her head.

"My head hurts. It hurts so, so much."

Bei Bei resisted the pain in his shoulder and rushed forward, hugging Tang Ya.

Even though Tang Ya's body was icy-cold right now, and was filled with an intense aura of darkness, when Bei Bei hugged her, tears flowed from her eyes uncontrollably.

How many years had it been? Ever since Tang Ya went missing, it had been many years. He was finally able to hold her in his arms again.

Xiao Ya, you don't know how blissful I feel right now. No matter what price I have to pay, I'll treat you.

Seeing that Bei Bei had succeeded, Xu Sanshi was delighted. He charged towards Bei Bei and whispered, "Alright, let's go quickly, so that we can ask little junior to leave."

Bei Bei twisted to look at him and nodded quickly. After that, he carried Tang Ya away and fled towards the Masquerade Douluo's tent. The door to the spectral demiplane was already open...

The command tent of the Sun Moon Empire...

As the Imperial Tutor and leader of the Holy Ghost Church, Zhongli Wu sat in the main seat. Even Lin Hai was only sitting by his side.

A large number of orders had already been passed down. The entire base was busy with this fight. n).o.-v()e/-ℓ-(b)-1(/n

Zhongli Wu was very grim. Apart from Lin Hai, there were also many other commanders from the Sun Moon Empire inside the tent. As Zhongli Wu and the six Consecrated from the Holy Ghost Church's Worship Hall were inside the tent, they were all afraid.

"Why is no one reporting after so long? What's with your soldiers?" Zhongli Wu asked Lin Hai.

Lin Hai furrowed his brow and said, "This shouldn't be happening. It's been some time. The messengers should be constantly reporting information."

After a series of orders were passed down earlier, the command tent had quieted down. They had been waiting for some time already, but no further messengers had arrived. How was the fight continuing on without any commands?

"Oh?" Zhongli Wu's expression suddenly changed. He stood up immediately. "Things aren't right. Why is it so quiet? Even if the command tent can isolate noise quite well, there should be some movement outside. Let's go out and take a look." As he spoke, he headed out.

Of course no messengers came. This was because the "Masquerade Douluo" was outside. After setting up the spiritual barrier, Huo Yuhao had already stopped three waves of messengers. With the spiritual barrier isolating all noises from outside, those three waves of messengers were tricked into a dark corner beside the command tent through Huo Yuhao's Spiritual Interference Domain. They were also unconscious.

The curtains of the tent were pulled open, and Zhongli Wu was the first to walk out. Seeing that Zhongli Wu had come out, Huo Yuhao was alarmed. Things hadn't finished on the other side; not everyone had retreated yet.

Huo Yuhao knew that they were fighting for time right now. Every second would make his teammates safer. Bei Bei had just picked up Xiao Ya, and was about to retreat towards his tent!

Chapter 500.2: Phoenix Covering Retreat

Huo Yuhao's Spiritual Detection engulfed the entire battlefield. He knew everything that was happening. Time! Time!

Huo Yuhao suddenly thought of something, and quickly rushed forward two steps. He screamed in panic, "Sect leader, things aren't going well. We've been ambushed by people from Shrek Academy!" Although he was screaming, he was blocking Zhongli Wu's path.

"What?" After walking out of the tent, Zhongli Wu immediately sensed something amiss. What's with that weird soul power undulation in the air? Why did I not sense anything earlier?

However, he couldn't be bothered with that at this moment. He hurriedly shouted, "All Consecrated, follow me to deal with the enemy!"

However, a strong blizzard suddenly raged in at that moment!

Under Huo Yuhao's command, the Ice Bear King had been suppressing his abilities all this while, and didn't unleash his Blizzard at its full strength.

But now, the area covered by the Blizzard instantly expanded. Visibility was greatly reduced, preventing the Sect Leader and the Consecrated of the Holy Ghost Church from seeing clearly. All sensing through soul power was reduced to its weakest because of this extremely powerful domain-type soul skill.

Zhongli Wu shouted furiously and smacked his right hand forward. A ball of strong purple light was released from his palm. This purple light spread through the air, turning into dark purple balls. Wherever these balls passed, the snowflakes in the air would melt and disappear. He couldn't be bothered with the Blizzard at all, and charged directly towards the battlefield.

He was very confident in his abilities as a Titled Douluo.

On the other side, everyone from Shrek Academy also quickly fled as they saw Bei Bei carrying Xiao Ya away.

Elder Song smacked her palm toward the Third Elder, critically hurting him, spitting out blood in the process. However, she couldn't be bothered to deal him a final, lethal blow before she turned into a streak of jade-green light that immediately flashed away, shooting straight towards Zhongli Wu. If no one stopped the oncoming Holy Ghost Church members, they wouldn't be able to flee.

Yan Shaozhe's sixth soul ring rose. The reason why he and Elder Song couldn't kill the Third and Fourth Elders quickly was because they were suppressing their power. They couldn't risk generating strong soul power undulations that Zhongli Wu might discover.

Huo Yuhao was able to isolate noise and soul power undulations, but the truth would still be exposed if the tremors in the ground were too strong. But at this moment, there was nothing for them to hide anymore. Yan Shaozhe unleashed his full powers.

A bright golden phoenix fluttered its wings and collided with the Fourth Elder. At the same time, it flew straight towards the oncoming evil soul masters, and forced the evil soul masters pestering the people from the Tang Sect back. They naturally took this opportunity to charge straight back to Huo Yuhao's tent. Yan Shaozhe followed Elder Song closely. After he fused into the back of the golden phoenix, he unleashed his Martial Soul True Body. His ninth soul ring also shone.

"Ji!..." A sonorous and deafening phoenix scream rose. Yan Shaozhe's Phoenix True Body grew incredibly in size, his wings extending more than a hundred meters across. Strong phoenix flames rose before they shot towards the ground.

Every one of these flames was shaped like a phoenix. The strong aura of light even caused Little Bai's Blizzard to dissipate temporarily.

The originally dark sky brightened up at this moment. A bright golden fire was burning, and the Radiant Phoenix in the sky was shining with an elegant radiance.

This was Yan Shaozhe's ninth soul skill, Phoenix Descent. It was his strongest soul skill.

At this instant, he seemed to have completely transformed into a true God Beast Phoenix.

The strong light element suppressed Zhongli Wu and the six Consecrated, stalling them slightly, just long enough for the flames to engulf them.

Zhongli Wu and the others had charged out anxiously when they realized the pressing situation on the battlefield, whereas Yan Shaozhe was warned by Huo Yuhao. He was already prepared, and didn't hesitate to unleash his strongest soul skill.

Elder Song also shone with green light. She had turned into her Greenshadow Godly Eagle before Yan Shaozhe had transformed. When the Phoenix Descent was unleashed, the Godly Eagle instantly flashed in the air. At that instant, even Huo Yuhao only saw a green light flashing by, followed by the appearance of a jade-green light.

Right now, the Greenshadow Godly Eagle was no longer like a martial soul anymore. It was more like an artistic piece that had been carved from jade. The speed of the eagle reached its extreme as she reached Zhongli Wu.

Zhongli Wu didn't have time to unleash his Martial Soul True Body. As he had no choice, he could only defend with all his might. Under such a circumstance, Elder Song's abilities were unleashed to their greatest. Along with the fact that the evil soul masters had to resist the flames from the Phoenix True Body, all seven of them were flung away as they were struck by Elder Song.

It was Elder Song's ninth soul skill, Emerald Refinement!

Zhongli Wu's cultivation was close to Elder Song's, but he was an evil soul master. If they were in a duel, Elder Song could only use her speed to fight him. She might not be his match.

However, given the current situation, Zhongli Wu was still flung away, even though he wasn't hurt.

Huo Yuhao let out a tragic scream within the flames before he disappeared.

After all, the flames came from a Transcendent Douluo. Its terrifying power could kill an ordinary Titled Douluo.

Everyone from the Tang Sect took this opportunity to rush into Huo Yuhao's tent. They concealed themselves within the Blizzard and made their way into Huo Yuhao's spectral demiplane.

A white halo was suddenly released from the flames: Mass Enfeeblement! The surrounding space distorted from his Spiritual Interference Domain.

Zhongli Wu wanted to fly back, but he suddenly felt a wave of strong spiritual power striking him. He groaned in the air and his body shone with purple light. However, his body only shook, and he stopped.

"Yuhao, leave!" Yan Shaozhe ordered.

Huo Yuhao knew that he was helpless in a fight of this tier. He had hit Zongli Wu with his strongest Spiritual Shock, but only felt a spiritual backlash. He didn't dare to stop, and quickly fled. At the same time, he said to Nangong Wan, who was playing dead, "The restrictions in your spiritual sea will disappear after three days. You don't have to do anything."

Nangong Wan was playing dead after he was knocked away. To make it even more real, he even intentionally hurt himself, breaking a few of his bones. After hearing Huo Yuhao's words, he couldn't do anything but believe. If he tried to probe further, he might expose himself.

Huo Yuhao called the Ice Bear King and quickly retreated into his tent. A beam of jade-green light shone behind them. They only felt that they became lighter before they rushed into the tent.

“Quickly, go!” Elder Song’s voice came to them.

Huo Yuhao said, “No, Elder Song. Leave with Little Bai first. I’ll wait for Dean Yan. I need to shut this door myself. If I leave, it could be exposed.”

Elder Song said, “Don’t worry. You don’t have to care about him. Shaozhe has a way of escaping. Let’s leave first, quick!”

“What?” Huo Yuhao was doubtful, but he couldn’t suspect Elder Song’s words. He didn’t dare to stall any further, and quickly entered the door with Little Bai.

Elder Song followed them. After entering the demiplane, Elder Song immediately said to Huo Yuhao. “Shut the door.”

“Dean Yan...” Huo Yuhao was shocked as he looked at Elder Song. Are we not waiting for Dean Yan?

Elder Song smiled and replied, “Don’t worry, Shaozhe really has a way of escaping. Do you really think it’s so easy being the Dean of the Martial Soul Department? He shares the same teacher as you. If he’s not capable enough, how could he become the heir to the Master of the Sea God’s Pavilion?”

Huo Yuhao quickly shut the door. As the door shut, the entire demiplane was dissociated from the Douluo Continent. At this moment, the evil soul masters couldn’t find them no matter how strong they were.

Of course, if Huo Yuhao and the others wanted to return, they would still need to return to the base. However, it would only be him then. It would be much easier for him to flee in those circumstances. He didn’t need to rush things now. It was better for things to settle down first.

In the plan that Huo Yuhao had set, Yan Shaozhe had volunteered to cover any retreat. Huo Yuhao naturally knew how strong he was. Such an arrangement was naturally appropriate. n).o.-v()e/-ℓ-(b)-1(/n

However, things didn’t proceed as smoothly as planned. After the explosion, the Holy Ghost Church’s sect leader didn’t send anyone to check on things. This was a surprise to Huo Yuhao. He had underestimated how selfish evil soul masters were.

The command tent was too close to the battlefield. The sect leader had still managed to discover an issue. It would be too dangerous for him to cover any retreat. Even if he wanted to, he didn’t possess the ability to do so! He was even afraid that Nangong Wan would expose his disguise as the Masquerade Douluo. However, it would be fine if everyone could retreat safely. However, who knew that Yan Shaozhe wouldn’t choose to leave? The plan was almost perfect. The only flaw was that Yan Shaozhe didn’t leave with them.

Right now, Huo Yuhao figured that Dean Yan must have some kind of trump card as he saw the smile on Elder Song’s face.

The Blizzard disappeared, but the phoenix flames were still raging. The entire sky was illuminated by golden light.

The Sun Moon Empire's flying soul engineers were quickly assembling in this direction. This was where the command tent was, at the core of the entire base. If things went wrong here, there would be great trouble.

Yan Shaozhe's Phoenix Descent greatly suppressed Zhongli Wu and the six Consecrated, and they weren't able to break free from his flames.

Chapter 500.3: Phoenix Covering Retreat

Not only did these phoenix flames contain a pure aura of life, but they were also burning like flames of Ultimate Fire. To be caught within these phoenix flames was like being dragged into a quagmire.

Although the evil soul masters were very strong, and there were even a few Transcendent Douluo among them, they could only passively defend as they were suppressed by the flames.

Yan Shaozhe controlled the flames immaculately, and didn't care how fast he was being drained. Whichever evil soul master tried to charge over was immediately struck by the flames he was controlling.

"Yan Shaozhe, you're courting death!" Zhongli Wu snorted coldly. He wasn't anxious anymore. His body flashed with purple light, and he allowed the flames to attack him. He stood there without moving.

Yan Shaozhe's overwhelming attack was aimed at a large area. Even if he were a Transcendent Douluo, he would be greatly drained, yet he ignored all costs. Under such circumstances, he wouldn't be able to last long. Once he couldn't hold on anymore, he would be doomed.

There were so many evil soul masters. Was it even possible they could not deal with a Transcendent Douluo in a weakened state?

The Masquerade Douluo had disappeared within the flames. Zhongli Wu personally witnessed it. He felt extremely sorry! Every Titled Douluo was an important asset to the Holy Ghost Church, even though the Masquerade Douluo's cultivation was likely to remain stagnant.

Furthermore, he didn't know how many losses his side had incurred. How were the Second, Third, and Fourth Elders?

Don't tell me they're dead too? Impossible! From that earlier aura, there seemed to only be three Transcendent Douluo from Shrek Academy. How could they kill four of our Titled Douluo, although there's only three of them? They even did it so quickly!

Zhongli Wu had already calmed down as he basked in the flames. However, he couldn't understand why Shrek Academy would suddenly attack.

Such a short ambush can't possibly cause any damage. How did they get in? They just attacked us, and now they're leaving? They even got the Radiant Phoenix Douluo Yan Shaozhe to cover their retreat. This is unbelievable. If they're trading the Masquerade Douluo for the Radiant Phoenix Douluo, it's definitely not worth it! The Radiant Phoenix Douluo is the heir to the Master of the Sea God's Pavilion. If not for the fact that Elder Mu died too early, Elder Xuan wouldn't have become the Master at all. Yan Shaozhe would have been the next Master of the Sea God's Pavilion!

After pondering for a moment, Zhongli Wu finally had a clue. No matter what was happening, he had to do his best to kill Yan Shaozhe. As long as Yan Shaozhe died, the losses they had suffered this time would be worth it.

The flames grew weaker and weaker. Just like Zhongli Wu had judged, even a Transcendent Douluo couldn't last long maintaining such a strong attack.

"Yan Shaozhe!" A cold and sinister voice rang across the sky. Even the flames retracted slightly as they were suppressed.

Before the flames were completely extinguished, Zhongli Wu snorted, and his back started to shine with purple light. He turned into an elderly, purplish figure, which pointed in Yan Shaozhe's direction. Zhongli Wu's eighth soul ring flashed with light.

A streak of purplish light as thin as a needle instantly swept across the sky. Wherever that streak of purplish light passed, even the flames were instantly pierced.

Yan Shaozhe groaned in the air.

Zhongli Wu flashed away, and he finally broke free from the flames, which were also extinguished at this moment.

Yan Shaozhe regained his human form and landed on the ground, staggering a little. There was a ball of purplish flame burning on his chest.

He struggled to support himself. The six?Consecrated?had already quickly surrounded him. Two were in the sky and four were on the ground, trapping him. Zhongli Wu was in front of him. This was a trap even a Transcendent Douluo like him couldn't break free from.

"Yan Shaozhe, where do you think you're escaping to?" Zhongli Wu cursed coldly.

Yan Shaozhe smiled. "Why should I run? Since I chose to stay, I have no intention of leaving! You've been thinking too much."

"Oh?" Zhongli Wu was stunned. He hadn't expected Yan Shaozhe to be so composed, even though he was encircled and had been struck by his eighth soul skill, the Godly Death Needle.

The Godly Death Needle looked as thin as a strand of hair, but it was so strong that it could pierce through a mountain. It was specifically used to overcome all types of protective soul skills. Among all the current soul skills that Zhongli Wu knew about, none of them could resist his Godly Death Needle. To avoid being hurt, one could only try to avoid it. However, the Godly Death Needle could lock onto its targets, and wasn't that easy to avoid!

The purplish flame on Yan Shaozhe's chest came from the Godly Death Needle. He was using the strength of his phoenix flames to resist the Godly Death Needle. Zhongli Wu wasn't bothered by the fact at all. If his Godly Death Needle were so easy to deal with, it wouldn't be fit to be his eighth soul skill.

When this needle entered any biological entity, it would spark a kind of flame called the Withering Flame. No matter what the elemental type of a soul power was, it would be destroyed under the Withering Flame. It was like a soul master burning his soul power and spiritual sea. This Withering Flame expedited the combustion of one's soul power and spiritual sea, and the soul master couldn't possibly

extinguish the flame. During the process of combustion, no overwhelming fighting strength was unleashed. Instead, the soul master would slowly experience a decline.

Zhongli Wu glanced around at the others from the Holy Ghost Church and said coldly, "Do you really think you're going to get lucky?" He looked extremely grim.

Not many of the people from the Holy Ghost Church could stand up. The Third and Fourth Elders appeared to be critically hurt, and struggled to crawl to their feet. Nangong Wan even acted like he couldn't get up. Worse, the Bluesilver Holy Lady was nowhere to be seen!

Zhongli Wu was now intent on exacting revenge. This last thing infuriated him like nothing else!

It was important to know that the Bluesilver Holy Lady and the Phoenix Holy Lady were the successors that he had nurtured. The Phoenix Holy Lady was still receiving treatment at the Holy Ghost Church's headquarters because of the evil fire in her body. On the other hand, things were going very smoothly with the Bluesilver Holy Lady. According to the current situation, her mind would be completely purified, and she would completely lose her sense of self. n/-O/(v(-e--l-/b.)1-/n

They were known as successors not because they would rule the Holy Ghost Church in the future, but because they would become some of the strongest individuals in the church.

Zhongli Wu was very aware that his mother and Long Xiaoyao were already very old. It was difficult to tell how much longer they could live. How could an evil soul master sect like the Holy Ghost Church remain powerful without any Ultimate Douluo? If the two of them died, everyone was bound to gang up on them!

The Holy Ghost Church had a secret method that could stimulate a Soul Master's abilities, allowing their followers to grow rapidly. However, there was a negative side to this secret method. It completely corroded a person's mind, and they would believe that they were just killing machines.

With such a secret method, an extremely talented soul master could be gradually improved, and could possibly become an Ultimate Douluo. However, the soul master had to be introspective, his body had to be pure enough, and his martial soul had to be appropriate.

Tang Ya and Ma Xiaotao were candidates that he had found suitable. Comparatively speaking, Ma Xiaotao was much more talented. After her phoenix flames fused with the evil fire, it would evolve into Ultimate Fire. Once she became an Ultimate Douluo, she would be an Ultimate Fire Douluo. She would be even stronger than Ye Xishui and Long Xiaoyao.

However, Ma Xiaotao wasn't very compatible with the secret method, exactly because she was too talented, and her flames were too domineering. It was very difficult to corrode her mind. Although there was some effect, her mind wasn't greatly affected, even after all this time.

Although Tang Ya wasn't as talented as Ma Xiaotao, she was much more compatible with the secret method. After she consumed the medicine, her mind had been completely devoured by the evil poison. Her cultivation had increased greatly. In terms of rank, she was almost at Ma Xiaotao's standard.

Once Tang Ya became a Titled Douluo, the secret method would be completed. When that happened, only some special articles would be needed to help keep her under control. In the future, she was bound to become the Holy Ghost Church's biggest trump card. When Ye Xishui and Long Xiaoyao were no

longer around, Tang Ya would be present to ensure that the Holy Ghost Church could last another hundred years without falling.

Because of how important she was, Zhongli Wu had kept the Scorpion Tiger Douluo with her to protect her. However, Tang Ya had disappeared! It was important to know that the Holy Ghost Church had used a lot of resources on Tang Ya! After all, Zhongli Wu wasn't just nurturing an extremely powerful Ultimate Douluo. He also had to ensure that she would enjoy great longevity after she became an Ultimate Douluo. It was the only way he could maximize the benefits to the sect.

Tang Ya's disappearance was even more heartbreaking than the Masquerade Douluo's death. He was so furious now that he wanted to completely annihilate Shrek Academy right now!

"Yan Shaozhe, where did you take the Bluesilver Holy Lady?" Zhongli Wu asked coldly.

Yan Shaozhe smiled and said, "What Bluesilver Holy Lady? I don't know who you're talking about."

Zhongli Wu snorted furiously, "You're already here; why are you still acting? Do you really think I won't dare to kill you? No, that would be too easy on you. I'll make you my puppet, a puppet that's a Transcendent Douluo... our soul will never reincarnate!"

After hearing his threats, Yan Shaozhe was still smiling, and appeared very composed. "Zhongli Wu, you think too much. Quickly, go and save those who are hurt. I won't play with you anymore. Bye!"

As he spoke, Yan Shaozhe suddenly burned with golden flames. Even the purple flames on his chest were devoured by these golden flames. Then, he slowly disappeared into the fires!