

## Tang Sect 526

### Chapter 526.1: Du Busi's Death

All these dead people were soul engineers. Even though they were able to utilize soul tools to enhance their fighting abilities to a level which could rival a Titled Douluo, their body's toughness was incomparable to a Titled Douluo's. Hence, a lot of them perished immediately after Du Busi released his power.

However, they were not the only ones who were affected by Du Busi. Even the Dragon God Douluo—Long Xiaoyao—found himself rapidly descending after Du Busi released his power. He was in disbelief as he tried to steady his body.

“Du Busi, are you crazy? You actually ignited your own fire of life?! This will detonate your soul core!”

Du Busi's eerie laughter vanished as he said coldly, “That's exactly what I want to do. I want to detonate my soul core and take all of you cursed people of the Sun Moon Empire down to hell with me. Listen to me, hypocrite! I am not afraid of death. I just want to see how the Sun Moon Empire can attack my homeland—the Heavenly Soul Empire, after everyone present dies with me! Hahahaha!”

Long Xiaoyao was shocked by Du Busi's words. He had not expected Du Busi to make such a brutal decision.

There was not a single person who was not afraid of death. In fact, the stronger a person was, the likelier he or she feared death. After all, only the strong and powerful could enjoy this world.

When one had attained the Ultimate Douluo rank or was close to it, one could live beyond three hundred years if nothing unfortunate were to happen. Because Du Busi was the sect leader of the Body Sect and was responsible for protecting it, Long Xiaoyao did not expect him to choose to ignite his fire of life at this moment.

One must understand that the intensity of the fire of life was proportional to the strength of the soul master. As the intensity of the fire of life increased, it would become harder to douse it. Such irreversible scenarios would definitely result in the death of the soul master. At the same time, this would enhance the soul master's abilities to an unprecedented level.

At that very instant when Du Busi ignited his fire of life, his cultivation level had been forced to an Ultimate Douluo's level. And as the fire continued to rage, he was about to become stronger.

Because he had already ignited his fire of life, Du Busi no longer had any reservations or worries. Once the fire of life had finished burning, it would start to disrupt his soul core.

That soul core belonged to a Rank 98 Titled Douluo! One could only imagine how powerful the explosion would be!

There were millions of lives beneath them. Once his soul core exploded, every life below them would be ravaged.

From the above, it was clear why Titled Douluo were strategic pillars of strength for every empire. They possessed too much destructive power to be allowed to turn crazy and wreak havoc as they pleased.

As soul tool technology improved in the Sun Moon Empire, some of them had started to disregard the abilities of soul masters. However, Du Busi was about to give them a timely reminder of the invincible power of soul masters by burning his fire of life. At this moment, he was like an unbelievably powerful, unstoppable Class 10 stationary soul cannon shell.

Even though Huo Yuhao was very far from them, he noticed the change the moment Du Busi started burning his fire of life.

When he saw Du Busi grow to about a thousand meters tall, Huo Yuhao became very worried.

"I can't believe he's actually planning to do this. Now it makes perfect sense why he would hand the Secrets of the Body over to me. He didn't want it to vanish with his death!" Huo Yuhao gave a bitter smile.

Tang Wutong frowned "Doesn't he know that his actions will end millions of innocent lives? He's really..."

Huo Yuhao sighed before replying, "The collapse of the empire must have hit him really hard. Even Xu Tianran probably didn't expect his Grand Sacrificial Ceremony to become the stage for Du Busi's self-sacrifice."

Huo Yuhao really wanted to stop Du Busi from sacrificing his life, but he did not possess the ability to do so. No one present could stop a Rank 98 Transcendent Douluo who had ignited his fire of life. Even the Darkness Holy Dragon, an Ultimate Douluo, would not be able to do so.

However, Huo Yuhao's expression suddenly changed as he recalled something.

"Wait a minute. Something's wrong. I have to head over there right away. Wutong, I need you to wait for me here." Following which, Huo Yuhao let go of Wutong's hand as he got ready to move towards Du Busi.

Tang Wutong grabbed hold of him and asked frantically, "What are you doing?! Do you want to die? There are so many powerful individuals from the Sun Moon Empire over there. There's no way we can stop Du Busi."

Huo Yuhao replied anxiously, "No, I'm not going to try and stop him. I understand that his move is too extreme. But Du Busi has missed something important!"

It took a while before Tang Wutong understood what Huo Yuhao meant. "Are you thinking what I am thinking?"

Huo Yuhao nodded fervently. "Yes. I'm referring to the Holy Ghost Church. They are well-versed in many dark arts which pertain to souls and the dead spirits. If Du Busi were to detonate his own soul core, it would cause an unprecedented massacre. This catastrophic outcome would only strengthen the Holy Ghost Church! If they were to acquire millions of souls, I have no idea how strong they will become. That's why I must make my way over there to either purify or lead the souls away if an explosion is to happen." **n0ve/1b/1n**

"But this is too dangerous." Tang Wutong naturally understood Huo Yuhao's considerations, but she did not loosen her grip on him.

Huo Yuhao turned his head and gazed deeply into Tang Wutong's eyes. Suddenly, he hugged her tightly before giving her an intense kiss.

Tang Wutong was taken aback by his kiss. Following which, the strong golden seal shone before tossing Huo Yuhao away from her.

"Wutong, wait for me." Aided by the momentum given by the seal, Huo Yuhao transformed into comet as he flew towards the southern region of Radiant City.

As a man, there are certain things I must do! If I were to allow the Holy Ghost Church to become even stronger, an unbelievably scary future awaits all of us. In fact, it would be even worse than the Sun Moon Empire taking over the world.

And that was why he had to go!

Seeing how Du Busi could no longer be persuaded from his course of action, Long Xiaoyao shook his head as his body expanded against the wind. He transformed into a dragon that was more than five hundred meters long. Following which, he swung his dragon tail towards Du Busi aggressively.

Long Xiaoyao was enraged by Du Busi's intent for heedless killing. He knew he had to stop him, and could not allow him to detonate his soul core.

Meanwhile, at the Sun Moon Sacrificial Altar, Xu Tianran appeared to have regained his calm. He slowly strolled down from the seventh floor to Ju Zi's side.

Following which, he raised his hand and said calmly, "Get ready to activate the high-energy beam."

"Your majesty!" A tall old man with greying hair walked towards Xu Tianran with an unwilling look on his face.

Xu Tianran looked at him seriously before saying, "Dean, I am the leader of our country. If I can't even protect my own people, I will have failed as our leader. Without my people or their support, there is no point in me being King or Emperor. There will be no point in conquering this world at all."

The old man replied in a deep voice, "But once we activate the high-energy beams, everything we have been preparing for will go down the drain. We will probably be unable to recover all the accumulated energies for a couple of decades. We would have no choice but to terminate our research."

Xu Tianran gave him a cold stare as he replied, "Dean, do you think I don't know what is more important? Looking at how things are, we have no choice but to set whatever research we are doing aside for now."

The old man argued, "But there's still the Holy Ghost Church. They belong to our empire, and would probably be very helpful when it comes to reducing costs and damages if they were willing to put in a hundred percent and help us."

Xu Tianran burst into laughter, but his eyes were still ice cold. "You want them to lend us a hand? If they were willing, they would have done so long ago. After all, the Darkness Holy Dragon is an exception! He was never fully controlled by the Holy Ghost Church. And where is the Holy Ghost Church now? They are waiting. Waiting for a chance. They can't wait for Du Busi to detonate his soul core and kill everyone. When that happens, imagine how powerful they will become with their newly-acquired millions of souls."

Do you think I would still be the leader of this country when that happened? Dean, you can rest assured that your research will be set aside once they take over the Sun Moon Empire. They will definitely not allow powerful weapons to exist and threaten them. Now go on and set everything up.”

The old man went silent. As he looked up and stared at the battle between the giant and the huge dragon, he felt a deep sense of resentment within him. Nonetheless, he relented with a long sigh before leaving.

“Your majesty.” Ju Zi purred as she grabbed his hand.

Xu Tianran appeared to be at ease as he held her hand tightly. It seemed as though everything was under control. He was not making any preparations for any form of an emergency evacuation. However, Ju Zi’s hand was in pain as he tightened his grip.

As the battle in the air grew increasingly intense, Du Busi was somehow able to suppress the Darkness Holy Dragon under the enhancement from his burning fire of life. However, the battles around them had paused.

The four Transcendent Douluo who had been creating chaos had long disappeared. It was impossible to catch a Transcendent Douluo who was determined to escape unless one had an intricate plan set up in advance.

The purple flames on Du Busi’s body were getting very intense.

Long Xiaoyao arched his head upwards and released a dragon’s roar. The sound of his roar tore through the sky, as though he was calling for something. However, no matter how he roared, there did not seem to be a returning echo.

As the battle raged on, the flames on Du Busi’s body burned brighter and stronger. The sky seemed to be turning back and forth under the interchanging streaks of black and purple.

The slaughter which was going on at ground level previously and the battle which was going on in the sky had created mass hysteria amongst the public.

Fortunately, a huge army had been drafted especially for the Grand Sacrificial Ceremony. Under the control of the army and their soul tools, the four Transcendent Douluo had been chased away, and the situation had temporarily been transformed for the better. However, in that short period of time, tens of thousands of civilians had already been killed.

In the distance.

“Mother, are we really not going to go there and help Uncle?” Zhong Liwu, who was dressed in a full-length black robe, asked the pale Ye Xishui silently.

Chapter 526.2: Du Busi’s Death

“Of course not. The tens of thousands of souls which we managed to reap earlier are barely enough to replenish what was depleted from the Death God Pagoda previously. Why should we stop Du Busi? Long Xiaoyao is a smart man. He knows when to give up and leave.” Ye Xishui gave the plainest reply possible. It was impossible to see any emotions in her eyes.

"I understand." Zhong Liwu did not dare to add anything else. Even though he was the actual Supreme Leader of the Holy Ghost Church, everyone knew who called the shots.

As she watched the battle which was going on in midair, Ye Xishui remained extremely calm. A faint blood-red color occasionally flickered in her eyes. A large group of powerful cultivators from the Holy Ghost Church stood behind them. They had all gathered here and waited silently for instructions not long after Du Busi had emerged.

Ye Xishui definitely knew what her son was worried about. Her son feared that Long Xiaoyao might be angered by what had just unfolded. She also knew that Long Xiaoyao was calling for her. If she joined in the battle and helped Long Xiaoyao subdue Du Busi, he might just be unable to detonate his soul core.

However, why must I stop him? The deaths of millions of civilians would only be beneficial for the Holy Ghost Church. As a person who was only concerned about her interests, she would definitely not stop Du Busi.

Long Xiaoyao... Long Xiaoyao...!

As the battle grew in intensity, the flames on Du Busi's body seemed to become material. Long Xiaoyao could no longer do anything about his mad attacks. All he could do was to try and stop Du Busi from descending.

"Long Xiaoyao, do you really think you can stop me? Stop shouting for her. Since I have dared to come today, I have already thought of everything. She won't be coming to help you." Du Busi let out a burst of eerie laughter.

Long Xiaoyao was taken aback by his words. He had a strange realization that Du Busi might not be as mad as he seemed.

"Du Busi, why must you do this? Do you really think you can kill Xu Tianran like this? He has so many Class 9 soul engineers defending him. Even if your self-destruction is super strong, it won't be enough to kill him. The shield above the Sun Moon Sacrificial Altar alone is enough to shave off half of the impact from your self-destruction. Slaughtering millions of lives will only do the Holy Ghost Church good. You are just helping them become stronger. It's not too late to stop. I can still help you to douse your burning fire of life and help you leave. How does that sound?"

Long Xiaoyao was very clear with his words, but Du Busi continued to laugh. In fact, he seemed very happy about something.

Suddenly, Du Busi's voice became very soft. His words could only reverberate within Long Xiaoyao's ears. "My old pal, of course, I know what you're talking about. We have both lived for over two hundred years. Why would I not be able to consider that things that you've said? Our thinking is just very different. I can see that you are still a person with a heart. If not, you would never have turned up here. The truth is my action is but a small part of the entire operation. Do you really think I want to die? Of course not. But I have already sustained certain injuries which I cannot recover from back when I fended off the invaders from the Sun Moon Empire previously. I am already too old."

"Just like Mu En who was just living out his life after sustaining a serious injury, I can feel my own abilities deteriorating every day. Let's not talk about becoming an Ultimate Douluo. I'm not even

confident of remaining a Transcendent Douluo in a few years' time. I have at most ten more years to live."

"Ten years is a long enough time for a normal human. But for people like us, it is nothing. That's why I would rather not have these ten years. The most heroic death for a soul master is to die before the eyes of the public. In fact, I have already won. Do you know that?"

Even though Long Xiao was staring at Du Busi and listening to his words, both of them were still entangled in battle. However, there was no hatred or anger in his eyes. What remained was nothing but sorrow and melancholy. Is another person from my times really about to die?

It was almost as if Du Busi had finally found someone to converse with him as he continued. "My appearance today is part of a carefully crafted plan. There's no chance of me dying in vain. In my eyes, since I am about to die, the rules no longer mean anything. Do you really think the millions of lives below us can be so easily taken away? You have spent a fair bit of time in the Sun Moon Empire. Do you really not know what trump cards they're hiding under their sleeves? They will definitely try their best to protect their people. If not, the millions of deaths would shake the foundation of Xu Tianran's rule. But whatever trump cards they deploy will most definitely take a lot out of them. In the future, when they have to face the other nations, they will definitely be a lot weaker."

"This is my first objective. As long as Xu Tianran isn't mentally retarded, he will definitely help me achieve it. My second objective is naturally you. I knew Ye Xishui would definitely not come after starting this commotion. However, I was sure you would. I was purposely shouting around in that manner previously to attract someone else's attention. Do you really think I still don't know you well enough? You must have a reason for staying around her. I don't want to know the exact reason. All I know is that now that you are on the opposing side, you won't feel too good after I die. I don't think you can deny that, right?"

"My third objective pertains to Ye Xishui. She must be lurking around somewhere with her disciples and grand-disciples, waiting to pounce in and reap the fruits of our hard work. The sheer number of souls from the dead people would be too enticing for them to turn down. I have considered how they would not be able to resist this temptation before deciding to do what I am doing now. I have now successfully drawn Ye Xishui and her underlings here. The greed of evil soul masters will be their downfall."

"Once I am done with my three objectives, I can allow my old body to die. I am not the only one here this time around. Once my objectives have been achieved, the remaining ones will naturally be accomplished by the others. I have already attracted enough firepower, right? Hahahahaha!"

After hearing Du Busi's words, Long Xiaoyao became very quiet. Du Busi has really drafted a very well-crafted plan this time round. He has managed to predict how we would all act. Xu Tianran. Ye Xishui. And me. All of us.

It was because he had already known how they would all act based on how events would unfold that he was willing to give up his life to gather everyone here.

But then what is his true objective?

"Long Xiaoyao, I have always been very easy-going and carefree all my life. Failing to defeat Mu En is one of the biggest regrets in my life. However, I have managed to live longer than him. In the future, if you

want to describe me as a despicable person, I will gladly accept it as praise from you. Time is almost up. I want you to help me see how big an explosion I can create with my abilities. Oh yes, I actually have a fourth objective. I want to assassinate Xu Tianran. No matter whether I succeed or not, I want to try. If not, how can I rest in peace, right?"

After finishing his sentence, Du Busi suddenly burst into a fit of mad laughter. Following which, his body suddenly froze in mid-air.

It was as if the entire sky had frozen, and all the energy pulses stopped at this very instant. Even Long Xiaoyao was no exception.

Just as Long Xiaoyao's eyes widened in shock, a dense layer of black started to vanish in the next instant. A mysterious ring of silver-white light started to appear around him.

That ring of white light rubbed and collided against the static space around it vigorously.

Du Busi revealed a sly smile as he took a last look at Long Xiaoyao. Following which, his thousand meter-tall body shrank rapidly towards the center of his stomach.

At that very instant, it was as if a black hole had formed in the middle of the sky. Copious amounts of natural qi of heaven and earth gravitated towards the center of the black hole.

Because of how suddenly Du Busi's body had shrunk, everyone present, including the millions of civilians of the Sun Moon Empire, felt as if they were being sucked by something in the air. The tens of thousands of people that were closer to the Sun Moon Sacrificial Altar were even lifted into the air by the force of attraction. Their feet left the ground as they floated a couple of meters into the air.

Just when some of these people started to regain their composure, chaos broke loose again as screams and shouts could be heard everywhere as they tried to struggle against the force of attraction.

Du Busi had vanished, and what had replaced him was a huge piece of crystal, entirely jade-green, and radiating a jade-green glow onto its pitch black surroundings. It seemed as though it could swallow all the darkness around it. Even the silver glow from Long Xiaoyao's body was being consumed by it.

Long Xiaoyao revealed a bitter smile. You are truly remarkable! He could sense this soul core had been enhanced to the level that belonged to an Ultimate Douluo. The only difference was how an Ultimate Douluo had two soul cores, and Du Busi only had one.

Du Busi had burned all of his power and energy, including his soul. At this very instant, everything turned silent. But it was merely the calm before the impending storm.

Is it coming now? Everyone stopped breathing as they looked up into the sky. They could sense that a catastrophe was about to hit them.

However, at this very instant, the air in the direction of Radiant City suddenly became illuminated. Four gentle white beams of light shot up into the sky without any warning.

These four pillars of light were initially not particularly noticeable. They were only as thick as water pails, but they immediately began to expand at an unbelievable rate.

Very soon, these four beams had a diameter of over a hundred meters as they pierced deep into the sky, their powerful light unimpeded by the grey clouds.

The energy bound within the jade-green soul core seemed to be agitated by the white light, as it started to emit a low humming sound. The space around the soul core started to show signs of cracking.

### **Chapter 526.3: Du Busi's Death**

Even though Xu Tianran was still affected by Du Busi's soul core, he was still able to move around under the protection from the golden shield above the Sun Moon Sacrificial Altar. As he reascended to the seventh floor of the Sacrificial Altar, he pointed at the sky with his right hand as a long golden sword appeared in his hand. Following which, his bright voice echoed into the distance within the Sun Moon Empire.

"I have been doted upon by the heavens, and have since inherited this throne. May the heavens above us protect the citizens of the Sun Moon Empire against whoever might dare to challenge their fury. Today, I shall borrow the power of the heavens and suppress whoever threatens our way of living. He or she shall perish, never to be reborn. May the light of our Sun Moon Empire shine upon our land forever and always."

At the very next instant, Xu Tianran's body started to radiate a golden glow. A cold and solemn look formed on his face as a bolt of purple lightning emerged from his body. Suddenly, his body started to emit a purple-gold flash, which contrasted against the dark skies as he became the center of attention.

With his sword pointed towards the sky, he made a waving motion as though he were commanding something. Following which, the four humongous beams of light in the distance suddenly left their original path as they started to bend and shoot across the Sun Moon Sacrificial Altar.

Even though Du Busi's soul core had locked up the surrounding space, it was useless against the four gigantic beams of light, which spread out and became a gigantic horizontal barrier.

At this very instant, the charging of the soul core seemed to have ended, and it started to plunge toward the Sun Moon Sacrificial Altar.

A piercing white light flashed as the barrier formed just in time to envelope the millions of lives below it, including half of the Radiant City, which was not too far away.

"Chinkkkkkk!"

This bright ringing sound would be a sound which the millions of lives would never forget.

At this very instant, the world's time and space came to a standstill. This time round, even Xu Tianran, who was standing within the barrier, stopped moving.

"Booommmmm!"

A jade-green glow started to expand as huge patches of darkness bloomed behind it. This time around, they did not come in the form of dark clouds. It was almost as if night had descended upon the world. There seemed to be countless stars and constellations in this "sky". But there was definitely more darkness in this "sky", which appeared to be consuming everything in its way.



The huge white barrier started to tremble as its powerful glow started to quiver under the pressure from the jade-green glow.

The overwhelming pressure from the jade-green glow, which seemed like the Heavenly Might, started to increase to its maximum.

Xu Tianran started to show signs of unease and disbelief. As he stood firm to withstand the immense pressure coming from above him, he started to find it difficult to breathe.

Xu Tianran's nine soul rings started to rise as a giant purple dragon—his martial soul—took form behind his back. That was his true strength—nine rings! The Emperor of the Sun Moon Empire might be around thirty years old, but he was already a Titled Douluo. Furthermore, he owned a powerful martial soul—a Purplebrilliant Heaven Destroying Dragon.

As he focused and directed his energies into the sky, his powerful abilities were now fully revealed. However, he faced Heavenly Might. Heavenly Might summoned by Du Busi.

Nevertheless, the jade-green glow was still kept outside by the enhanced white barrier.

However, Xu Tianran, who had been proudly standing above the Sun Moon Sacrificial Altar, started to vomit blood as he collapsed onto the ground.

“Booommm!”

The deafening sound echoed for several moments before it stopped.

Beneath the Sun Moon Sacrificial Altar, the civilians who were suspended in mid-air fell down as chaos broke out within the city. The scary explosion left behind a sky filled with blazing white light. Huge waves of soul power rippled across the sky, travelling more than a hundred miles away and shaving the peaks off the mountains nearest to the city.

“Your Majesty!” Ju Zi was the first to get to the Sun Moon Sacrificial Altar. Just now, at the moment right before the huge explosion hit the barrier, she felt as if her throat had been ensnared in someone's grip. Because she was the nearest to the seventh floor, she could feel the direct impact. Xu Tianran's heavy injury was not a result of Du Busi's mad soul core explosion, but the effects of his thoughts, which had manifested in the form of Heavenly Might.

Yes, the soul core explosion was indiscriminate, but its attack on everything around it was blocked by the mystical power originating from Radiant City. However, after the explosion had begun, Du Busi's purest desire to murder Xu Tianran penetrated through the two defence lines and landed on Xu Tianran.

The self-destruction of an Ultimate Douluo was simply this frightening. If Xu Tianran had not achieved the rank of a Titled Douluo, his soul would have been shattered into a million pieces.

Du Busi had achieved all four of his objectives—just as he had promised before his death. Even though he had pretended to be the bait here, the real target had always been to destroy Xu Tianran.

Ju Zi hugged Xu Tianran as she frantically attempted to inject her soul power into his body. However, she found much to her surprise that she was unable to do so. There was a serious conflict between Du Busi's mad spiritual power and Xu Tianran's own spiritual power within his body. They were like fire and

water—unaccommodating towards one another. Because of this battle which was raging within Xu Tianran's body, his mouth and nose started to bleed as his face became increasingly pale.

Right now, Ju Zi demonstrated her ability as the War God Empress to stay calm in tense situations. She immediately scooped Xu Tianran from the ground and retrieved his sound amplifying soul tool. She announced, "My dear people, our Emperor had used himself as the conduit to draw upon the power of the heavens to destroy our enemy. While the enemy has died, our Emperor has also sustained some injuries. I, as the War God Empress appointed by the Emperor himself, promise that as long as the Emperor and I are around, we can definitely safeguard the prosperity of our Sun Moon Empire. Our Emperor has only sustained some minor injuries. All of you can rest assured that he will be fine. Now, please follow the army's orders and return to Radiant City. Anyone who dares to make trouble shall face the death penalty!"

The chaos outside subsided after the people heard Ju Zi's words.

"God of War! God of War! God of War!" The army suddenly started to cheer in unison. Their united cheering covered the chaotic noise in the city.

As the Empress and Goddess of War of the Sun Moon Empire, Ju Zi's position in the army had long been elevated to that of a military idol. Under Xu Tianran's designs, her reputation had long surpassed that of its most important generals.

After hearing her words, the soldiers in the army released a celebratory cheer that came from the bottom of their hearts. After all, an impending disaster had just been stopped by their Emperor. At this moment, the civilians started to calm down as they started to join in the cheers.

No matter what, even though the Grand Sacrificial Ceremony had been disrupted, millions of civilians had witnessed something awe-inspiring. At least in their eyes, justice had triumphed over evil, and evil had been vanquished.

As the dark clouds in the sky slowly scattered, the land was once again irradiated with warm sunlight. Everything—including Long Xiaoyao—which was previously in the sky had disappeared.

Huo Yuhao had observed the progression of events from afar. He was overwhelmed with sadness after witnessing the death of Du Busi. Even though he did not understand his objectives, and had only interacted with him a few times, Huo Yuhao had seen how he had detonated his own soul core for his country. How could he not feel sad for him? Furthermore, the Secrets of the Body was still with him.

Huo Yuhao lowered his body and bowed solemnly at the sky, which was beginning to clear up.

"Du Busi, regardless of what has happened, you are undeniably a hero for your country and its people. I will definitely bring your heroic stories back to the Heavenly Soul Empire. I will also pass on your Secrets of the Body. You can rest assured that I will do my best to bring the rest away."

Without the catastrophe and countless deaths that Huo Yuhao had expected, he naturally had no need to purify any souls.

He did not know when Tang Wutong appeared by his side.

As he looked at her, Huo Yuhao felt guilty about what he had done earlier. “Wutong, I am sorry. I was rash again.”

Tang Wutong stepped forward and held his hand. “I understand. There’s nothing inherently wrong with what you did. But next time, do not leave me behind. I want to be with you regardless of whether we live or die. As long as we are together, we will have better odds of surviving anything.”

Huo Yuhao held her hands tightly and replied, “Let’s head to the meeting point. If I did not guess wrongly, Du Busi’s sacrifice was meant to pin down the enemies near the Sacrificial Altar. This would probably mean that the Heavenly Sun Douluo’s side should almost be done. Let’s meet up with them and return to the Heavenly Soul Empire.”

Both of them leapt up into the air and disappeared into the sky as they flew towards the pre-planned meeting point.

It was undeniable that Du Busi’s death was a brilliant move. The leaders of Radiant City were all busy trying to maintain order after the explosion, and did not have the time to bother with anything else.

Because the Emperor was heavily injured, the Sun Moon Empire lacked a leader who could organize the country. It was the best time to leave the scene under such chaotic conditions.

Just now, he had managed to catch a glimpse of the Sun Moon Empire’s War God Empress—Ju Zi. She had become a lot more elegant and beautiful. Ju Zi, you will probably be heading back onto the battlefield in the near future. Do you know how much I wish we won’t meet on the battlefield?

The meeting point was at the suburban area of the eastern district. This place was nearest to the Star Luo Empire. Huo Yuhao had originally thought that the plan to misdirect them was a little too simple. But after he saw how Du Busi detonated his soul core, he realized how carefully crafted the plan was.

By the time Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong reached the meeting point, there were already four Titled Douluo waiting there.

All of them were Transcendent Douluo, and did not seem particularly pleased with what had just happened. Two of them happened to hail from the Body Sect, and they had obviously witnessed Du Busi’s self-destruction.

“My condolences.” There was nothing else Huo Yuhao could say as he dragged Tang Wutong to retreat to a corner.

The atmosphere was simply too suffocating. After witnessing one of the most powerful and revered cultivators in the world of soul masters fall, they were all still trying to grapple with what had just happened. It was a huge blow for everyone.

Chapter 527.1: The Crown Prince!

Ten shadows returned soundlessly fifteen minutes later. The Heavenly Sun Douluo was in the lead, and he was holding a bag as he immediately lowered his voice once he touched the ground and said, “Let’s go. Radiant City has increased security across the entire city, so let’s get out of here. You’re back in command, Yuhao.”

Huo Yuhao could tell from the Heavenly Sun Douluo's solemn expression that he knew about the Body Douluo's death.

He nodded, and immediately shared Spiritual Detection with everyone. The others didn't delay as they rose into the air and surged toward the sky.

But Huo Yuhao had just taken everyone into the air when a dumbfounded look appeared on his face. His spiritual power was incredibly sharp, and the first thing had to do to share his Spiritual Detection was to cover everyone around him. There should be sixteen people including the Titled Douluo, Tang Wutong, and himself, because the Body Douluo would be missing from their initial lineup.

But when he brought everyone into the air, he could clearly hear a seventeenth heartbeat. There was another life form in the Heavenly Sun Douluo's grasp.

What is that?

Huo Yuhao subconsciously stretched his Spiritual Detection over, and the first thing he felt was a gentle but weak spiritual undulation. It was a world apart compared to those Titled Douluo, but this gentle spiritual undulation made his heart tremble vigorously as an inexplicable sensation coursed over his entire body.

The first thing that appeared in his Spiritual Detection was a small swaddling cloth, which contained a soundly sleeping infant. That heartbeat and spiritual undulation belonged to the infant!

.....

Inside the Sun Moon Empire's royal palace!

"What? The crown prince has been..." Ju Zi stared at the servant girl who was reporting back to her, shaking all over. The color had drained from her face completely.

"No, no...!" Ju Zi shouted hysterically as she charged crazily into her bedroom. Even a person as calm as she was fell apart when she discovered that her child had disappeared into thin air.

She was very calm when the Body Douluo, Du Busi was detonating his soul core and causing an apocalyptic calamity.

She was still calm when she watched her husband, the Sun Moon Empire's Emperor, Xu Tianran fall from the sacrificial pedestal.

But when she found out that her flesh and blood had suddenly gone missing, how could she keep her cool? She couldn't bother with anchoring the overall situation as she ran back into her bedroom, crazed.

.....

"This child is..." Huo Yuhao stared at the Heavenly Sun Douluo with wide eyes and open jaw. Even though he could already faintly guess this incredibly young infant's identity, he still found it a little hard to believe.

A shameful look appeared on the Heavenly Sun Douluo's face. "We don't have any other choice. How can we send the Sun Moon Empire into disarray without doing this? It's a pity that we couldn't

assassinate Xu Tianran. Otherwise, the Sun Moon Empire would undoubtedly descend into chaos, and the Douluo Continent's three native empires would no longer be burdened."

Huo Yuhao was astounded. Tang Wutong was equally astonished, because they never expected that the three empires' true goal of sending out fifteen Titled Douluo, with the price of the Body Douluo's suicidal sacrifice, was this tiny baby.

Every doubt in Huo Yuhao's mind evaporated in this moment. He finally understood what this operation's true mission was.

They weren't here for a single task, they were here for two: assassinate Xu Tianran and kidnap his crown prince, Xu Yunhan.

The reason why the Body Douluo, Du Busi was so willing to sacrifice himself probably had a lot to do with his body's condition. Otherwise, there was no reason for such a formidable individual to kill himself like that. He placed his own life on the line with the aim of assassinating Xu Tianran, and at the same time, he used his formidable strength to attract all the attention of Radiant City's core powers. He did that to create an opportunity for the Heavenly Sun Douluo and the others.

Just as the Heavenly Sun Douluo had said, if Xu Tianran was assassinated and his son went missing, the Sun Moon Empire, which had just settled down, would descend into chaos.

This situation was what the continent's three native empires wanted most, and this plan was made perfect with the Body Douluo's sacrifice.

But these were fifteen Titled Douluo! Some of the strongest individuals in the world actually made a move against an infant.

Huo Yuhao finally understood why the White Tiger Duke had a shameful look on his face before they left the Ming Dou Mountain Range. They couldn't beat their enemies in a war, so they had to make a move on their children. No matter how cruel war was, such despicable methods filled his heart with contempt and disdain.

This was especially so because the child that they had abducted wasn't just Xu Tianran's son, and he wasn't just the Sun Moon Empire's crown prince. He was also Ju Zi's son!

The image of Ju Zi crumbling from grief almost immediately surfaced in Huo Yuhao's mind. Ju Zi was an orphan, and every single one of her family members had died horribly in a war. This had already caused her personality to twist slightly. Now that she had a child, her own flesh and blood, but her child was suddenly taken away from her. It wasn't hard to imagine the kind of blow that she would take.

The Heavenly Sun Douluo explained no further, and they quickly accelerated into the distance. Huo Yuhao pulled Tang Wutong along, and they were still using Imitation and Spiritual Detection to control the formation. But Huo Yuhao's mind felt very suffocated.

The reason why the Body Douluo chose to sacrifice himself instead of personally kidnapping this child was probably also because of guilt and shame!

But... but how could they have such a plan...

Huo Yuhao shut his eyes painfully.

Tang Wutong passed a message to his mind. "You have to remain calm, Yuhao. Let's leave this dangerous place first before anything else."

"Yes," Huo Yuhao nodded gently. He knew that there was nothing he could do, at least not right now. In front of fourteen Titled Douluo, and also when everyone's hearts were feeling heavy because of Du Busi's death, there was nothing he could say that would change things. Instead, his words would be counterproductive. They had to leave this place first, and he had to fulfill his promise to the Body Douluo and take everyone back.

Just thirty minutes after they departed, Radiant City exploded like a hornet's nest that had been impaled. Every single powerful soul master, every individual from the Holy Ghost Church, and every soldier from the army moved out at once in search of their crown prince.

Xu Tianran had woken up inside Radiant City's royal palace.

He was leaning against the bed, and his face was as pale as could be, but his eyes were full of hatred and resentment.

He was very severely injured, and not only his body was hurt. What was more frightening was that his spirit had been heavily damaged, and his spiritual sea was almost shattered. If the Body Douluo's final strike hadn't been blocked by those two barriers and his personal Class 9 spiritual-type defensive soul tool, he would probably have been completely annihilated by that tremendous pressure.

But his nightmare returned once he woke up. His crown prince, Xu Yunhan, had been kidnapped by unknown individuals.

Xu Tianran had already murdered a bunch of people because of this. Even though his face was as white as paper, he couldn't hide the deep-seated murderousness in his eyes!

"Very good. Good, Body Douluo. Very good, Holy Ghost Church!" Xu Tianran gritted his teeth so hard that he almost shattered them.

If the Body Douluo hadn't sacrificed himself, how could he have attracted everyone's attention? If the Holy Ghost Church hadn't been selfish, how could those powerful kidnappers have succeeded?

Xu Tianran was full of hate, and he wanted to kill everyone around him. He had just consolidated his throne, and this Grand Sacrificial Ceremony was to be the true starting point of his glorious empire. But something like this had to happen.

The Grand Sacrificial Ceremony was forced to end, and so many citizens' lives were lost. This dealt a heavy blow to his reputation and influence, and more importantly, somebody had kidnapped his crown prince.

"Stop crying!" Xu Tianran growled at Ju Zi, who was kneeling beneath him. He began to cough uncontrollably after his exclamation.

Ju Zi's expression was possibly even paler than Xu Tianran's. Her voice was trembling as she said, "Your Majesty, your majesty! You have to save Yunhan, you have to save him! He's only a year and three months old!"

"Get up." Xu Tianran lowered his voice as he spoke.

Ju Zi supported herself on the table beside her and struggled to stand up.

Xu Tianran pointed at the bed in front of him, and Ju Zi went over to sit down. She looked like she had lost her spirit in this moment.

“Ju Zi, I understand what you’re feeling. But right now, you have to understand what those people want by kidnapping Yunhan.”

Of course Ju Zi understood. But the more she understood, the more dejected she felt. Her eyes were filled with a pleading expression as she said, “Your Majesty, Yunhan is our child! He’s your crown prince! No matter what, you have to save him. I’m begging you. I’m begging you!”

A brutal look flashed across Xu Tianran’s eyes. “Save him? How am I to save him? His kidnappers are definitely the Body Douluo’s accomplices, and their goal is simple. They wish to stop me from restarting the war, stop me from trampling all over the continent’s three empires. Do they really think that they can stop me like that? If I can have one son, then I can have another. Since they have taken away the crown prince, then I will sacrifice their lives to pay for his. Ju Zi, you have to gather yourself immediately. I can let you command the armies, and launch an invasion against them immediately. Use their blood to pay for our son!”

“No—” Ju Zi screamed hysterically, and her expression immediately became as white as paper. She had never expected Xu Tianran to say something like that after but a moment of thought. His words were undoubtedly a death sentence for her son!

All that talk about how he could have a second one because he had a first. The crown prince wasn’t his flesh and blood in the first place; he was just another tool. Of course, Xu Tianran wouldn’t feel his heart ache. But Yunhan was her son! How could she not care about his safety?

Xu Tianran’s eyes grew fierce and sinister as he lifted his hand and grabbed Ju Zi by the neck. His insidious face brimmed with murderousness as he growled, “You dare to go against me?”

Chapter 527.2: The Crown Prince!

Ju Zi’s pretty face grew red and swollen as she found it hard to breathe, but her eyes were staring unblinkingly at Xu Tianran. She wasn’t willing to give any quarter, and her entire body was quivering from anger.

If she had felt any gratitude towards Xu Tianran before, then everything in her heart had vaporized in this moment.

Had Xu Tianran not trained her into a tool when he brought her back all those years ago? She had saved his life afterwards, and in her heart, everything that she owed him had been returned.

The reason why she was willing to do all kinds of things for him was because she wanted to get her revenge. But how could she not have any feelings at all when they had been together for so long?

But Ju Zi truly understood how naive she was in this moment. How could any sentiment in the world fetter a man like that? All the yearning and feelings in her heart were but illusions, and she found herself so laughable that she had placed so much hope on a person like that.

Xu Tianran felt his heart skip a beat as he stared into her eyes. An intense pain jolted his brain as he subconsciously released his grip, and Ju Zi fell down beside him.

Xu Tianran supported his forehead with his hand as he shut his eyes in agony.

“Forget it. Just settle this however you want. We’ll try all we can to search for the crown prince, and we’ll talk afterwards if that doesn’t work out. You may go.”

Ju Zi got onto her knees, trembling. She lowered her head, and her voice sounded hoarse and began to shake as she said to Xu Tianran, “Thank you, Your Majesty.” With that, she crawled out of Xu Tianran’s bedroom on her knees.

What Xu Tianran couldn’t see was that Ju Zi’s eyes were filled with resentment and ferocity, but she completely hid her murderousness and didn’t show any of that at all.

.....

Long Xiaoyao stood in a pitch-black room without a single ray of light at all with his hands behind his back. His eyes were filled with desolation.

“You’re hurt?” A mildly hoarse and shrill voice could be heard, and a layer of dark red colors glowed inside the room. The Death God Douluo, Ye Xishui silently appeared not far behind him.

“I haven’t tasted the feeling of being hurt in a long time. I didn’t expect Old Poison to be so brutal and intense, that he would choose such a path. That he would rather die for his country in front of millions instead of living for a few years more. Another from our generation has fallen.”

Ye Xishui said plainly, “Why aren’t you asking me why I refused to help you? Don’t you wish to interrogate me about that?”

Long Xiaoyao shook his head. “Why should I interrogate you? Why should I ask when I know the answer? The truth is, I’ve always known who I am to you. But I’m afraid there might not be much left for me to give you.”

Ye Xishui’s voice suddenly turned cold. “I will not stop you if you want to leave. You can leave whenever you want to.”

Long Xiaoyao turned around and stared at Ye Xishui’s pale face. His voice immediately turned gentle, and he said, “Xishui, I would have left a long time ago if I wanted to. Why would I wait to do that now? Since I made a promise back then that I would use the remainder of my life to pay you back for the sins that I have committed, then I will stay true to my word. The reason why I said there might not be much left to give is because every person’s life will eventually come to an end! Du Busi’s life has a limit, and so does mine.”

Ye Xishui’s body quivered as she arrived in front of Long Xiaoyao in a flash. Her fingers had blood-red fingernails, and she pressed her hand against Long Xiaoyao’s chest.

Long Xiaoyao didn’t move, nor did he attempt to stop her at all. He just let her plant her palm firmly on his chest.

Ye Xishui’s expression slowly changed after a few moments. “You’re so severely injured?!”



Long Xiaoyao laughed, and his laughter was extremely warm. "I'm very happy to feel just a thread of your care and concern. Don't worry, I won't die for a while, and I still have to protect you for some time. No matter how you treat me, Xishui, you'll always be the only woman that I've ever loved in my heart."

Ye Xishui's breathing suddenly became rushed, and her eyes turned ice-cold and evil as she stared insidiously at Long Xiaoyao. She spun around after a few moments and disappeared in a ray of red light.

A dash of bitterness appeared on Long Xiaoyao's face. There wasn't any sadness, only a trace of deep regret. He closed his eyes and said, "I have wanted to leave this world for a long time, but in the end, I still can't bear to lose you!"

.....

Crisp crying sounds echoed throughout the skies, and the Heavenly Sun Douluo who was soaring through the air suddenly paused. His expression also became a little awkward.

"Mama, mama, mama!" A childish voice rang out from the swaddling cloth, and this Rank 97 Titled Douluo's first reaction was to stop.

The winds were strong, and he had been using his soul power to protect the bag of cloth in his bosom. He could feel some intense struggling coming from, and that came with vigorous bawling. This Transcendent Douluo no longer knew what to do.

The Heavenly Sun Douluo stopped, and everyone else stopped one after another as they stared at the bag at his chest.

The Heavenly Sun Douluo relaxed his grip a little, and a tiny head poked out from within his arms.

It was a beautiful little boy. His skin was as white as snow, and so tender that a drop of water could appear from a gentle squeeze. He had dark black hair, and his large eyes were also black. Even though he was crying so hard that mucus and tears were flowing all over his face, everybody who could see him couldn't help but give him praise – what a beautiful little child!

The clothes he was wearing were made from excellent fabric, and it made his tender skin even more eye-catching. His crying sounds were extremely bright and loud.

"Uh..." The Heavenly Sun Douluo had only been thinking about completing his task. Furthermore, the Sun Moon Empire's crown prince had been very quiet, because he was in a deep sleep when he had taken him away. But the group of Titled Douluo became a little helpless once he woke up.

The youngest Titled Douluo participating in this operation was at least eighty years old, excluding Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong. Even if they had family when they were younger, they wouldn't personally raise a child with their status and identities!

"Uh, you're a girl, can you coax him?" The Heavenly Sun Douluo arrived in front of Tang Wutong as he spoke and passed the child to her.

Tang Wutong was a little dumbfounded. She was a girl, but she was still young and unmarried! Even though she spent all her time with Huo Yuhao, they had never done anything. She subconsciously took the little boy, and couldn't help but feel anxious and panicky because she didn't know how to hold him.

Perhaps a female's glory began to show its power, because the little boy immediately stopped crying once he was in her arms. He blinked his enormous eyes as he stared at Tang Wutong, and stuck his index finger in his mouth. He seemed very curious.

The Heavenly Sun Douluo immediately heaved a sigh of relief when he saw that the boy was no longer crying.

"Auntie, milk!" The little fellow suddenly spoke, and Tang Wutong's face flushed red. Furthermore, the little fellow didn't give her any chance at all as he stretched out his pudgy little hands to grab her shirt.

"Ah—" There were still so many people around her, and Tang Wutong immediately screamed out loud.

Huo Yuhao was also startled, and he almost didn't hesitate as he took the child from Tang Wutong's embrace.

Tang Wutong had that mysterious seal on her body. If this little child accidentally touched a place that he wasn't supposed to touch and triggered the seal, the retaliation produced wasn't something that a child who was barely more than a year old could take.

"Wa—" The little boy didn't get what he wanted, and immediately began to bawl once more.

Huo Yuhao hadn't raised a child before either! He didn't know what to do, and reacted in a flurry as he hurriedly and gently patted the child's back in an attempt to placate him.

Strangely, Huo Yuhao patted the child's back just a few times before the kid stopped crying once more, and stared at Huo Yuhao with those large black eyes of his.

He was just so cute. Anybody would want to pinch and squeeze those cute and chubby cheeks of his. Anybody would even feel like giving him a kiss.

Furthermore, for some reason, an inexplicable feeling flashed across Huo Yuhao's heart when he stared into the baby's eyes.

This is Ju Zi's child!

"Wa—" Huo Yuhao didn't get to think for long before the boy began to cry once more.

The Heavenly Sun Douluo frowned and said, "What should we do? He's too noisy. Why don't we knock him out?"

Tang Wutong immediately frowned. "He's just a baby. How can you even say that? What if you hurt him? Is he hungry?"

Huo Yuhao thought about how the boy wanted to suckle her breast. He immediately said, "He should be hungry. But a small infant like this should want to drink milk, yes?"

Everyone's eyes went to Tang Wutong once that was said.

Tang Wutong was greatly embarrassed. "Why are all of you staring at me? I... I don't have any..."

One of the Titled Douluo who was relatively more experienced said, "This baby should be around a year and three months old. He should be able to eat normal food. Even though he can drink milk, that's not a

necessity. We are quite some distance from Radiant City by now, so why don't we get him something to eat and let him calm down before anything else?"

"Yes, it seems like we have no choice." The Heavenly Sun Douluo felt a little humiliated when Tang Wutong chided him. But he thought about what he had said, and how had he wanted to make a move against a tiny baby who was barely more than a year old, and he felt extremely awkward and guilty, so he immediately agreed.

Everyone descended from the sky and found a relatively obscure hill.

Nobody had any experience feeding a baby. Finally, Huo Yuhao was the one who took that responsibility.

No matter what, this boy was Ju Zi's son. He was very clear that there was nothing he could do or say to these Titled Douluo for now, so he would have to wait for everyone to leave the Sun Moon Empire before anything else. He had to protect this baby, no matter what, because the child was innocent no matter what his identity was. Furthermore, he was Ju Zi's flesh and blood!

There wasn't any delicious or sumptuous food out in the wilderness. Huo Yuhao boiled some water he softened some dry rations by simmering them in water before he gave them to the little boy.

### **Chapter 527.3: The Crown Prince!**

This little fellow wasn't picky with his food. He was eating very happily, and naturally stopped crying because he had something to eat. But his large black eyes were staring at Huo Yuhao from the beginning to the end.

Reality proved that this one-year-old child wasn't just able to eat food for grown men; he could even walk. Even though he didn't walk very stably, the little child who should be Xu Yunhan began to walk by himself when Huo Yuhao let him go. Furthermore, he wasn't uncomfortable with strangers, and he stopped crying once he was full. He was all smiles, and the way he smiled made all the Titled Douluo react with kind and amiable expressions. What a cute little baby!

The little child returned in front of Huo Yuhao after circling around, and seemed to stare at him very seriously before he exclaimed babyishly, "Daddy!"

Huo Yuhao almost jumped to his feet in surprise.

This child wasn't the only person to call him "daddy". The Snow Lady had called him that before. But Huo Yuhao realized to his surprise that he was only awkward and embarrassed when the Snow Lady called him that, but when this little fellow called him that, he felt shaken.

There seemed to be some kind of formless fate in the nether that tied them together when the little boy uttered that word.

Huo Yuhao possessed the Eye of Destiny, and he was extremely sensitive to it. He seemed to feel like his destiny was connected to this little fellow when the child called to him. **n0ve)l(b(In**

He made his decision in that moment.

Huo Yuhao took the baby back into his arms as he said teasingly, "What's your name?"

“Yunhan.” The baby replied very cleanly. Huo Yuhao realized from interacting with the baby that Xu Yunhan was already very good with words, even if he could only say a few. The baby had to be very familiar with those words, otherwise he wouldn’t be able to speak them.

Huo Yuhao subconsciously kissed the baby on his tender little cheeks. Xu Yunhan’s chubby cheeks were soft and bouncy, and his smooth and tender skin was just like his mother’s.

“Hehehe!” The little child seemed to feel ticklish as he withdrew his neck and laughed.

Huo Yuhao laughed as well. This kid was just too cute.

Tang Wutong came over and began to tease little Yunhan with Huo Yuhao. She giggled and said, “Seems like you’re quite good with kids. Did you teach yourself?”

Huo Yuhao chuckled. “You might as well say that I’m naturally talented. I will be an excellent father when we have kids in the future.”

Tang Wutong blushed, but she didn’t avoid his gentle gaze. Her eyes were brimming with happiness.

A smiling face suddenly cut in between them in this moment, and two large eyes stared at Tang Wutong seriously. “Daddy, mine.”

Tang Wutong couldn’t help but laugh. “Your daddy isn’t here, he’s...” She suddenly paused when she said those words, and dejection appeared in her eyes as she glanced at Huo Yuhao.

Huo Yuhao’s smile disappeared at the same time, and he gently caressed Xu Yunhan’s head.

Some more time passed as the little fellow fell asleep because he was full and tired from playing, and everyone took off once more. The Titled Douluo didn’t say anything, but anybody would realize upon closer inspection that the atmosphere between everyone was conspicuously more tense.

They were flying far too quickly, and the Sun Moon Empire’s territory was so wide. Those who were pursuing them couldn’t catch up because there was no way they could lock onto their positions.

Huo Yuhao relied on his formidable Spiritual Detection as he successfully took everyone across the border’s defenses once more. They returned to the Ming Dou Mountain Range and directly descended towards the mountain range’s main peak.

The Titled Douluo’s expressions were a lot more relaxed when they returned. They were finally back, and even though their mission wasn’t perfect, they had accomplished at least half of it.

They had heavily injured the Sun Moon Empire’s Emperor, Xu Tianran, and managed to capture the Sun Moon Empire’s crown prince, Xu Yunhan. But at the same time, the Body Douluo remained in the Sun Moon Empire forever, and would never return.

The White Tiger Duke welcomed them personally. He stared at everyone’s solemn expressions, and his eyes dimmed when he didn’t see Du Busi.

The White Tiger Duke turned to Huo Yuhao when they arrived inside the commander’s tent. “Tell me what happened, Yuhao.”

Huo Yuhao nodded. He was still carrying Xu Yunhan in his arms, and the little fellow was sleeping very soundly. He immediately recounted everything that he had seen on this mission in detail, except he didn't tell the White Tiger Duke about the Body Douluo handing him the Secrets of the Body.

The White Tiger Duke shut his eyes painfully after listening to his report. After a few moments, he said, "The Body Douluo realized his wish. He had already told me that before everyone departed. He couldn't recover from his old injuries, and he wanted to give his full strength to assassinate Xu Tianran on this mission. Back then, I already felt like something was wrong. And it seems like he had planned this a long time ago..."

Everyone lowered their heads gloomily, especially those formidable individuals from the Body Sect. The Body Douluo's death undoubtedly meant the Body Sect's fall from glory. In addition to the large masses of their elites who had perished in the war, the Body Sect probably wouldn't regain their strength even after a few hundred years.

The White Tiger Duke finally trained his eyes on Xu Yunhan, who was still in Huo Yuhao's arms. A complicated look appeared in his eyes. Capturing the crown prince wasn't his idea. He had been heroic and valiant his entire life, but now he was using a child to threaten the Sun Moon Empire. He wasn't willing at all, from the bottom of his heart.

But the Sun Moon Empire was far too powerful, and if they didn't have a plan to counter them, the White Tiger Duke wasn't confident at all of defending his empire's territory when the Sun Moon Empire's enormous empire descended upon them like a thunderstorm.

Huo Yuhao turned to the White Tiger Duke with a calm look on his face. "What shall we do with the child, Duke? What are you planning to do with him?" The word he used was "you", not "us".

Hesitation appeared in the White Tiger Duke's eyes as he said subconsciously, "What suggestions do you have, Yuhao?"

Huo Yuhao said without hesitation, "War is an affair for men. It has nothing to do with children. No matter who he is, he's still a child. We are honorable men, so how can we use an infant to threaten our enemies? That's not honorable at all. Furthermore, with the Sun Moon Empire's Emperor's personality, kidnapping the crown prince will lose its meaning, since he isn't dead. He can have one crown prince, so why can't he bear another?"

Huo Yuhao's words were very precise. If the Body Douluo, Du Busi had assassinated Xu Tianran successfully, then the Douluo Continent's three native empires wouldn't have to do anything if they captured the crown prince. The Sun Moon Empire would naturally descend into chaos because everyone would be fighting for control of the throne.

The Sun Moon Empire wouldn't have a leader, while the ruler had no heir. Who wouldn't want to rule over such a powerful empire?

But Xu Tianran was still alive, so the Sun Moon Empire couldn't truly be that chaotic. Kidnapping the crown prince under such circumstances perhaps wouldn't have its desired effect, unless Xu Tianran placed a lot of importance on that son of his, and was willing to pay a tremendous price for him. Otherwise, if he really did abandon the crown prince, then everything that everyone did would become meaningless."

“What you’re saying is that capturing the crown prince is useless?” The Heavenly Sun Douluo’s voice was suddenly a little higher than before. They went through so much to kidnap the crown prince, and even though Huo Yuhao’s words sounded virtuous, he had still touched a nerve. That was especially so for the other Titled Douluo who were with the Heavenly Sun Douluo in capturing the crown prince. Everyone showed displeased expressions.

Huo Yuhao shook his head and said, “I didn’t mean to offend. But if I had known that our mission’s target was a child, nothing would have convinced me to participate.”

The Heavenly Sun Douluo stared at him coldly and said, “Child? This child’s father is the one who commanded the Sun Moon Empire’s army to sweep over the Heavenly Soul Empire, and if that didn’t happen, why would the Body Douluo sacrifice himself? His sacrifice created the opportunity for us to kidnap the crown prince. You’re so young, but your tongue is sharp, and yet you think you stand on the moral high ground. Do you think that’s enough to save your country? So what if we do despicable things for our country?”

Huo Yuhao answered plainly, “The reason why the Body Douluo chose to attack the sacrificial platform instead of personally kidnapping this child was probably because he felt it was beneath his dignity. Otherwise, on the day of the ceremony, all of the Sun Moon Empire’s high-level officials would be watching the sacrificial platform. Even without a diversion, what do you think the Body Douluo’s chances would have been if he had snuck into the royal palace to kidnap this child, with his strength? Aren’t you guys aware?”

Everyone’s faces changed once more as they heard his words. The Titled Douluo’s expressions became even blacker than before.

The Heavenly Sun Douluo turned to the White Tiger Duke and said, “Duke, Huo Yuhao did contribute a lot to this operation, and he was a great help to us. Now that the mission has been completed, he can return to Shrek Academy. We should be the ones discussing what comes next. He’s a junior, and he doesn’t have to continue participating.”

The White Tiger Duke nodded and turned to Huo Yuhao. “Yuhao, the Heavenly Sun Douluo is right. You have already helped us a lot on this mission. You should go back and rest, and return to the academy as quickly as possible. We’ll deal with the rest.”

How could he not agree with what Huo Yuhao said deep in his heart? But their enemy was near, and he could only choose to protect Huo Yuhao as much as possible with so many Titled Douluo in front of them.

The White Tiger Duke walked in front of Huo Yuhao and took Xu Yunhan from him as he spoke.

Huo Yuhao’s expression was a little blank. He fixed his eyes on the White Tiger Duke, and when the Duke took the baby, Huo Yuhao suddenly asked, “Duke, sir, if your son was the one who was kidnapped and your enemies wanted you to pay a price, would you do it?”

The White Tiger Duke was momentarily stunned. He suddenly felt that Huo Yuhao’s gaze was a little blinding, but he still answered without hesitation, “If my enemy’s price was personal, then I would give my own life to save my child. But if my enemy’s price was for me to betray my country, then I would avenge my son!”

Huo Yuhao suddenly laughed out loud and said, "Good, good, you will avenge your son. You live up to your name as a loyal and righteous Duke! Haha, hahahaha!" Huo Yuhao pulled Tang Wutong along as he laughed before he turned and left.

Chapter 528.1: Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong's Strength!

As he walked off, a Titled Douluo from the Dou Ling Empire couldn't help but comment, "This kid is too arrogant. Although he's capable, it's still..."

"Shut up." The Heavenly Sun Douluo turned grim. "He's not just capable. When we were his age, we were nothing yet. His future is unlimited. In addition, are we really comfortable with using a kid to threaten our enemy?"

The White Tiger Duke sighed and said, "Heavenly Sun, what suggestions do you have? What should we do next?"

The Heavenly Sun Douluo pondered for a moment before replying, "We should send a letter to the Sun Moon Empire under the name of our three empires and ask them to return the territories that they have taken from the Heavenly Soul Empire. At the same time, there should also be a contract that prohibits any war from being started within the next hundred years. We'll then return the Crown Prince to him."

After hearing his words, the White Tiger Duke was stunned, and smiled bitterly. "Elder Heavenly Sun, those conditions are a little too..."

The Heavenly Sun Douluo said, "There's always a price to pay. If we don't set higher demands, how will we have the room to negotiate?"

The White Tiger Duke was a little conflicted right now. As he looked at the little fellow in his arms, he was at a loss as to what to do. He was someone with children, and not just one child. Even though he had killed many people in his life before, he still couldn't help but sigh in his heart when he saw a child in his arms in addition to what Huo Yuhao had said earlier.

Huo Yuhao appeared much calmer after he returned to his room. He didn't utter a word and only sat on his bed.

Tang Wutong accompanied him and sat beside him. She grabbed his hand and placed it between her hands. After this, she lowered her head and said, "Yuhao, go and do what you want to do. No matter what your decision is, I'll always be on your side. Even if..."

As she spoke until here, she lifted her head to look at him. Huo Yuhao was also gazing at her by now. As their gazes met, the look in Tang Wutong's eyes became sharper. "Even if you make the entire world your enemy."

Huo Yuhao's entire body shook, and he pulled her into his embrace. His voice was trembling, "Alright, even if I make the entire world my enemy!" In his mind, both little Yunhan and the White Tiger Duke's face kept on appearing.

Ju Zi, don't worry. I'll definitely return your son to you. The war should never involve harming a little kid.

In the future, we'll be enemies and I'll do my best to resist the Sun Moon Empire on the battlefield. However, I won't let your kid come to any harm now. He's only a kid. In my heart, he isn't just some Crown Prince.

The sky slowly turned dark. It was extremely dark on the mountains at night.

Two figures silently appeared at the peak of the mountain, peering into the distance amidst the thick night fog.

Tang Wutong was beside Huo Yuhao, helping to neaten his shirt.

Huo Yuhao's expression was very calm, but he clearly knew that this path that he had chosen would most likely change his future. However, he was very certain about his decision.

Tang Wutong gently leaned on him and revealed a satisfied look on her face.

"Yuhao, do you know what I'm thinking of?" Tang Wutong asked softly.

"What?" Huo Yuhao asked.

There was a strong nostalgic look in Tang Wutong's eyes. "Initially, you were still so small and weak when we first came to Shrek Academy. However, you defeated me using your persistence. Then, you left a deep impression in my mind. After that, we joined the freshman test and fought together, turning the impossible possible – we emerged as the eventual champions. Now, we are going to fight together again. In fact, it seems like it's been a long time, hasn't it?"

Yes! They hadn't fought together in their peak condition in a long time. Ever since Huo Yuhao had been critically injured from retrieving the Yearning Heartbroken Grass, and had to sit in a wheelchair,.

Huo Yuhao sighed a little and said, "I hope we won't need to fight."

As they finished speaking, they had already disappeared into the night.

Ever since Huo Yuhao, the Heavenly Sun Douluo and the rest returned, there was another tent beside the White Tiger Duke's tent. Two nannies were specially deployed to take care of Xu Yunhan.

Xu Yunhan had been crying uncontrollably ever since he woke up and discovered that Huo Yuhao wasn't around. After a while, he couldn't stand the hunger, and fell asleep after eating something.

His adaptability was actually very great. He was barely a year old, and didn't recognize anyone.

The curtains moved slightly, and two figures arrived outside the tent.

It was pitch-black inside the tent right now. Little Yunhan was sleeping very soundly in his cot. The two nannies were sleeping at his side, ready to attend to the little fellow if there was a need to.

Huo Yuhao revealed a gentle smile on his face, but he didn't make a sound. He walked towards the cot.

At this moment, a long sigh could be heard outside the tent.

"Yuhao, why do you have to do this?" A low-pitched but firm voice echoed.



Huo Yuhao acted like he didn't hear the voice and continued to walk towards the cot. He took Little Yunhan into his embrace. After this, he wrapped him up with a piece of cloth that he had prepared beforehand. With Tang Wutong's help, he wrapped him up tightly.

How could he not have expected the White Tiger Duke to guess that he was going to come? However, he still came despite knowing that. This was because he clearly knew that he couldn't be fooled if little Yunhan wasn't here, given his Spiritual Detection. He would also be able to find little Yunhan's detailed location with his Spiritual Detection. This was why the White Tiger Duke didn't move little Yunhan away. Huo Yuhao also went along with it, which brought him here.

He gently caressed the little baby's soft black hair. The gentle look on his face didn't change, "Little fellow, don't worry. I'll protect you until you return to your mother's side."

After he finished speaking, he held Tang Wutong's hand, and the two of them walked out of the tent.

Outside the tent, more than ten figures were scattered in a semi-circle. The White Tiger Duke and Heavenly Sun Douluo were in the center.

The Heavenly Sun Douluo furrowed his brow, while the White Tiger Duke appeared as conflicted as before.

Without a doubt, the Heavenly Sun Douluo was a little disdainful of Huo Yuhao in the beginning, but now, he was very impressed with Huo Yuhao, just like how the White Tiger Duke.

They both knew that Huo Yuhao was going to be the main pillar of Shrek Academy and a man of power in Shrek City in the future.

If they could, they didn't want to offend someone like him and get into his bad books. However, Huo Yuhao was crossing the line by trying to take Xu Yunhan away. ~~no~~ve)l(b(In

The Heavenly Soul Douluo said, "Yuhao, we can take it as if nothing has happened if you leave the Crown Prince now. You can return to Shrek City."

Huo Yuhao shook his head and answered, "Since I'm here, there's not backing out. We can't use a child as a bargaining chip in this war. We can't hurt him because of that. This is why I must take him away today. No matter what, I'm leaving with him!"

The Heavenly Sun Douluo's look turned sharper. "How dare you? Do you really think you can escape with so many people here?"

Huo Yuhao's eyes were filled with resilience and a strong fighting intent, "If I don't give it a try, how will I know? Even if I fail, at least I tried. If you want the kid back, you'll need to stop me first."

The Heavenly Sun Douluo's clothes moved even though there was no wind. "Alright, what an arrogant little man. I really want to see what abilities you possess apart from your detection and concealment abilities. How dare you talk so big?"

As he spoke, the Heavenly Sun Douluo took a step forward. His entire body instantly started to shine. The strong light that came from his body made him seem like a rising sun. He reached forward with his right hand and grabbed towards Huo Yuhao.

A golden hand appeared in the air and approached Huo Yuhao. The surrounding air distorted tremendously, and the temperature rose quickly. However, the weird thing was that the temperature only rose around Huo Yuhao. Nothing changed elsewhere. With his control of his soul power, this Rank 97 Transcendent Douluo was indeed very powerful.

Huo Yuhao took a step forward with his left foot. He placed his left palm in front of his chest and slowly pushed it forward. He wasn't quick, but the expressions of all the Titled Douluo changed when they saw him doing this.

This was because all of them could sense that an ice mountain seemed to shift as Huo Yuhao pushed his palm forward. The immense aura that was released didn't seem to be weaker than that of the Heavenly Sun Douluo.

Behind Huo Yuhao, a beam of jade-green light also started to shine. It was a ravishing beauty that was exuding a jade-green glow from her body. She was icy-cold as she stared at the Heavenly Sun Douluo.

The heat in the air was completely suppressed after she appeared. Even the light from the Heavenly Sun Douluo's hand became much dimmer because of her.

"Chi——"

Huo Yuhao didn't move a single inch, but the hand that the Heavenly Sun Douluo formed was crushed in the air.

A slightly red look appeared on Huo Yuhao's face, but it soon disappeared.

The Heavenly Sun Douluo was the most astonished by what he saw. He had thought that he already regarded Huo Yuhao very highly. However, it was only after seeing that that he realized he had underestimated Huo Yuhao. Even though he hadn't unleashed his full power yet, Huo Yuhao was still able to directly resist his attack. What did this mean? It meant that Huo Yuhao was strong enough to resist him.

It was important to note that every single rank from a Transcendent Douluo on represented vastly different levels of abilities. To be able to resist the Heavenly Sun Douluo's attack, Huo Yuhao had to at least possess the fighting strength of a Rank 95 Transcendent Douluo. None of the Titled Douluo around were able to do that!

Chapter 528.2: Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong's Strength!

The White Tiger Duke's eyes immediately shrank. He didn't expect Huo Yuhao's abilities to have grown to such a standard in just a short two years.

This was astonishing. It was already very difficult to accept the fact that he was a Titled Douluo who was barely twenty, much less a Transcendent Douluo who was barely twenty.

Of course, Huo Yuhao wasn't a Transcendent Douluo. He was still a Rank 89 Soul Douluo, yet to make his breakthrough. However, it must not be forgotten that he had a soul core. In terms of direct fighting strength, he was not weaker than a Titled Douluo.

He even had Tang Wutong with him. When he combined his power with Tang Wutong, the fighting strength that they could generate was indeed at the tier of a Transcendent Douluo.

Out of the three graduation tests that Shrek Academy set for Huo Yuhao, one of them involved Huo Yuhao being able to defeat Dean Yan Shaozhe.

Yan Shaozhe was a Class 97 Transcendent Douluo now. Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong weren't confident of beating him, but they were confident of escaping from him.

The Heavenly Sun Douluo was also Rank 97, but his abilities were still some way off from Yan Shaozhe. As a result, it was easy for Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong to resist the Heavenly Sun Douluo's attack.

Everything sounded very slow, but it actually happened in a flash. After his attack was dissipated, the Heavenly Soul Douluo's body instantly shone, and a blinding ball of sunlight also started to glow above his head.

Countless streaks of blinding golden light turned into rays of light that shot toward Huo Yuhao.

Lofty Lightrays! It was the Heavenly Soul Douluo's signature soul skill.

Huo Yuhao remained unmoved. He slowly raised his right palm, which he had pushed forward earlier, and was now covered in diamond ice crystals.

The Heavenly Sun Douluo's martial soul was fire-type. Although it was of a very high quality, it was still some way off from Ultimate Fire.

Huo Yuhao's Ultimate Ice martial soul was the jinx of fire-type martial souls. When his opponent's martial soul wasn't as strong as his, his martial soul would have an even greater effect.

He mimicked a lifting action, and the jade-green projection behind him disappeared. What replaced it was a fatso. *novE.CB/In*

This fatso was smiling from ear to ear, and his body exuded a strong icy-blue glow. He chuckled at the Heavenly Sun Douluo. Following this, a huge ball of icy-blue light shot violently into the air with Huo Yuhao at the center.

This was the eighth soul skill of Huo Yuhao's Ice Jade Empress Scorpion, Icy Meteor.

Huo Yuhao clearly knew that it wasn't easy for him to break free from an encirclement by more than ten Titled Douluo. Among these Titled Douluo, five of them were Transcendent Douluo. Although the combination of Tang Wutong and his abilities were extraordinary, it wasn't possible for both of them to resist so many Titled Douluo at once.

If they couldn't directly resist them, they could only find a means of escaping. Once they managed to put some distance between themselves and these Titled Douluo, Huo Yuhao could use his concealment abilities to flee. When that happened, there wouldn't be any problems even if there were many more Titled Douluo around.

This was why he immediately used his strongest soul skills.

When he first unleashed his Icy Meteor, it only appeared as a huge icy ball that was a meter in diameter. Nothing seemed to be very special about it. However, it kept growing larger as it rose. Furthermore, an icy aura was becoming stronger and more violent inside this icy ball.

When the Heavenly Sun Douluo's lights struck this Icy Meteor, they were immediately dissipated. There wasn't any effect at all.

The Heavenly Sun Douluo's expression changed slightly. If he wanted to unleash a powerful soul skill, he would need time to accumulate his power. Huo Yuhao was able to use his Icy Meteor immediately because he was already prepared, and also because he had the help of his Spirits.

The Star Anise Mysterious Ice Grass had already appeared on his shoulder.

This was why the Heavenly Sun Douluo didn't have time to unleash a powerful soul skill. He could only use his own immense strength to resist the Icy Meteor.

"Bang——" The Heavenly Sun Douluo's palms struck the Icy Meteor. In his opinion, Huo Yuhao's abilities were already at the standard of a Transcendent Douluo. At most, he would be flung away from trying to resist the attack.

However, something unexpected happened. When his palms struck the Icy Meteor, the Icy Meteor stopped for a moment. However, it didn't blow apart. It didn't unleash any extraordinary power either.

The Heavenly Sun Douluo only felt as if there was a layer of glue on his palm, which glued it to the icy ball. Before he could even struggle, a weird yet terrifying power was violently unleashed from the Icy Meteor. It wasn't an attack, but a thrusting force.

What was a meteor? It was an extremely rapid cluster of rock. This Icy Meteor wasn't an exception. Under Huo Yuhao's precise control, its explosive strength wasn't unleashed. However, its speed was demonstrated almost instantly.

As a result, all the Titled Douluo saw how terrifyingly quick the Ice Meteor was. It had really turned into a real meteor that flew into the distance.

It didn't fly away on its own. The Heavenly Sun Douluo was still with it! This Ice Meteor was clearly taking the Heavenly Sun Douluo away with it. It was so quick that it appeared like a bolt of lightning.

This meant that Huo Yuhao had forcefully dragged a Rank 97 Titled Douluo away in just a few clashes, though whether he could harm the Heavenly Soul Douluo was another thing. At least he was able to isolate the Heavenly Sun Douluo from the fight.

Huo Yuhao's right hand didn't move down at all. The fatso behind his back changed to a ravishing yet mighty-looking lady, who seemed to dominate the entire world.

She was dressed in a long, white dress. She opened her arms behind Huo Yuhao's back. Suddenly, an intense, deep-blue light turned into a huge beam of light that rose into the sky.

Even the Heavenly Sun Douluo was greatly disadvantaged in the previous clash of hands. The rest of the Titled Douluo were slightly hesitant now. No one entertained the thought of striking first. This was because they were still unsure of how strong Huo Yuhao was.

The beam of light shot into the sky. As it moved, countless snowflakes danced in the air, and the entire region was covered in an icy fog.

It was the Snowy Dance of Ultimate Ice.

It was just like how the Heavenly Sun Douluo focused all the heat on Huo Yuhao earlier. When Huo Yuhao unleashed his Snowy Dance of Ultimate Ice, only the Titled Douluo were engulfed by this domain. Even the tents behind them were isolated.

However, even so, all the Titled Douluo felt as if they had lost track of Huo Yuhao instantly.

As Huo Yuhao's cultivation increased, his Snowy Dance of Ultimate Ice naturally became much stronger. It became easy for him to isolate all use of Spiritual Detection. After all, that was his signature ability!

Strong spiritual undulations were also released from his body. His eyes had turned completely golden. On his forehead, his vertical eye lit up. It was his Eye of Destiny.

Two rays of the Light of Destiny descended from the sky and struck both him and Tang Wutong. Luck was on their side now!

Huo Yuhao held onto Tang Wutong's little hand, and she naturally went into his embrace. Suddenly, a huge golden vertical eye suddenly appeared.

Right now, all the Titled Douluo were jolted to their senses. They used their powers to attempt to break out of the domain.

However, this was a powerful domain-type skill that was a combination of the Empress' Chill and Huo Yuhao's Domain of Perpetual Ice! Given how strong his combination with Tang Wutong was as well as the Snow Empress' control of this skill, every Titled Douluo had to resist the blizzard and frenzied winds within the domain. They had to protect themselves before they could try breaking out.

It was also at this moment that Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong's next soul skill was unleashed.

The Golden Road Amidst Withering Resplendence!

Huo Yuhao's abilities were as great as a Titled Douluo.

Tang Wutong was already a Titled Douluo.

The fusion skills unleashed by both of them were extremely powerful!

A Golden Road which was thirty meters wide and infinitely long appeared.

Five Titled Douluo were caught within this Golden Road. They only felt as if they had instantly fallen into a furnace. Their sensing of soul skills instantly vanished. Their own martial souls also disintegrated immediately. Even their clothes immediately melted. Suddenly, they were all petrified, and couldn't move at all.

Among these five Titled Douluo, one of them was even a Transcendent Douluo. However, he was still stuck in the same situation.

A purplish light projection suddenly rushed out at this moment. It was a huge, purplish dragon with butterfly wings. As it fluttered its wings, it was like a streak of flowing purple light. It was flying along the Golden Road.

As it flew, countless small golden hammers scattered in the air. All the Titled Douluo that charged over were immediately stunned. They could only watch as the purplish light projection shot past. They couldn't chase after it at all.

Mantra Amidst the Void, Spiritual Tempest!

The projection vanished amidst the golden light. The raging blizzard also slowly disappeared. What remained was only a bunch of Titled Douluo who were in shock as they looked at each other.

There were more than ten Titled Douluo! Were they so weak that they couldn't keep two people here?

Of course not. They didn't think of linking up at all! In their eyes, Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong were only juniors, no matter how talented they were. At most, they were only close to being Titled Douluo. The Heavenly Sun Douluo should have been enough to deal with both of them.

Chapter 528.3: Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong's Strength!

Moreover, they didn't think of harming Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong. Both of them came from Shrek Academy. If they harmed them, how could they account to the academy? Because of this, they underestimated their opponents, and didn't give it their all.

The Heavenly Sun Douluo returned, but he looked a little pathetic. The Icy Meteor had sent him extremely far away. At that instant, he couldn't resist, even though he wanted to. He could only muster his soul power to protect himself. When he finally accumulated enough strength to unleash a powerful soul skill, the Icy Meteor blew apart. The explosion didn't hurt him, but pushed him even further away. Undoubtedly, this was the result of Huo Yuhao's immense spiritual control.

The rest of the Titled Douluo didn't pursue Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong, as they had lost track of their auras. Furthermore, they were all in disbelief right now.

Who would have thought that two youngsters who were barely twenty would managed to break free from an encirclement of more than ten Titled Douluo? They even managed to escape before any real fight had begun.

The White Tiger Duke was also wide-eyed in shock. When he saw the frustrated Heavenly Sun Douluo, he was a little speechless too.

"Heavenly Sun, should we pursue him?" A Titled Douluo from the Dou Ling Empire asked.

When the Heavenly Sun Douluo saw the Golden Road, there was an uncertain expression on his face. After a brief moment, he said in a weird voice, "When we went to the Sun Moon Empire, we only had one target – assassinate Xu Tianran. Eventually, the Body Douluo sacrificed his life to bring everyone back safely. This matter will end here."

After hearing the Heavenly Sun Douluo's words, the White Tiger Duke heaved a sigh of relief. Without a doubt, the Heavenly Sun Douluo had compromised. His words meant that he wouldn't pursue this matter any further. He would take it as if nothing had happened.

This was undoubtedly the wisest choice. At least, they wouldn't offend Tang Wutong and Huo Yuhao any further.

This wasn't because of how much the Heavenly Sun Douluo admired Huo Yuhao. More importantly, it was because of the terrifying powers that he had revealed.

He was already so strong, even though he was barely twenty. If he was able to escape from the hands of more than ten Titled Douluo now, what would he be like in ten years' time? There was no longer any way of seeing through him. Even the Rank 97 Heavenly Sun Douluo felt fearful because of him. Yes, fearful was the right word to use.

Right now, they were sure that he was bound to become the person who would truly control Shrek City in the near future. He was definitely going to become an Ultimate Douluo! At least his abilities were unheard of, even for the Body Douluo when he was at Huo Yuhao's current age.

Huo Yuhao had twin martial souls, of which one was an Ultimate martial soul and the other was a spiritual-type martial soul. His soul skills were immensely strong, and he even had Spirits, something that he had come up with on his own. Undoubtedly, he was a generational figure of the Douluo Continent. No one could see through him anymore.

The White Tiger Duke walked in front of the Heavenly Sun Douluo. He sighed and said, "It seems like we were really wrong. For someone like Huo Yuhao, we can say that he is a product of destiny. If he disagrees with something, it should be wrong."

The Heavenly Sun Douluo's facial muscles twisted, and he said, "That rascal. He was really merciless! I was almost hurt just now. If I knew he was so strong, I would have gathered all the strength we could and attacked Xu Tianran. We might have succeeded."

The Broken Star Douluo laughed bitterly. "If someone had told you that he was that strong, and could even resist you, would you believe it?"

"You wish. I'm going now. Those from the Dou Ling Empire, come with me." The Heavenly Sun Douluo didn't want to remain any longer. He took advantage of the night and quickly left with the Titled Douluo from the Dou Ling Empire.

A few days later, the news that the three empires from the original Douluo Continent had sent many soul masters to the Sun Moon Empire to assassinate Xu Tianran, along with news of the Body Douluo's death and Xu Tianran's critical injuries, quickly spread throughout the entire Douluo Continent.

The Sun Moon Empire's army also started to act weirdly after that incident. According to the intelligence gathered, many soldiers seemed to have been deployed within the Sun Moon Empire. It felt like something serious was about to break out.

Both Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong were in the Sun Moon Empire right now.

After leaving the Ming Dou Mountain Range, they took Xu Tianran on one round before they returned to the Sun Moon Empire.

There weren't any Titled Douluo with them this time. The two of them were thus more agile, and managed to sneak their way back within the Sun Moon Empire's borders.

Little Yunhan was sleeping very sweetly. It was only at dawn on the second day that he woke up in Huo Yuhao's arms.

When he opened his eyes, he was about to cry. However, when he saw that he was in Huo Yuhao's embrace, he smiled as he screamed, "Daddy, daddy!"

Huo Yuhao caressed his head and softly said, "Call me uncle. I'm not your father. I'll make you something nice to eat later. After you finish, I'll send you home, alright? Go home and find your mom."

"Mommy, mommy!" Little Yunhan screamed twice, but then his eyes turned red, and he started to cry.

Tang Wutong snapped, "It's all your fault. You triggered him by mentioning his father."

In the end, the temptation of food was much greater to a one-year-old kid compared to the temptation of meeting his mother.

When Huo Yuhao made his signature fish soup and fed it to little Yunhan, he stopped crying. He was delighted as he feasted on the fish. Even though he was barely a year old, he was already very big. He ate a lot of fish and even drank the fish soup. He was extremely joyous.

However, Tang Wutong and Huo Yuhao's inexperience with kids was still exposed. Yunhan had peed all over Huo Yuhao's body, and only left him with a warm but wet feeling.

They didn't have any children's clothing! They could only strip little Yunhan's pants before using Huo Yuhao's shirt to wrap him up.

As he flew into the sky again and proceeded in the direction of Radiant City, Huo Yuhao sighed, "Bringing up a child isn't easy!"

Tang Wutong laughed and replied, "I wonder who it was that said that he would take care of our kid in the future?"

Huo Yuhao chortled and said, "It's not easy, but I didn't say I'm not going to do it. If you are willing to give birth, I'll take care of every child that you bear."

Tang Wutong turned red. "Wishful thinking. You have to earn my father's approval first."

Huo Yuhao laughed, "For someone as outstanding as me, I don't think I can fail even if he's extremely picky. When we return this time, let's invite him over."

Tang Wutong gently acknowledged his words.

The two of them were in a rush. When they came close to Radiant City, they were both stunned.

In just two days, the eastern suburb of Radiant City had been completely filled with soldiers. At least a few hundred thousand soldiers were gathered there. From afar, Huo Yuhao felt as if Radiant City was like a monster that was brewing with anger as he sensed it with his immense power of destiny. This monster was ready to bare its fangs at any time.

Huo Yuhao turned serious immediately. It was indeed like he had expected. The Sun Moon Empire had no intention of compromising because of Xu Yunhan's disappearance. On the contrary, the Sun Moon Empire seemed to have been enraged. Many soldiers were gathered here right now. Without a doubt, they were here to re-ignite the war!



A large-scale war couldn't be re-ignited at will. Although the Sun Moon Empire had been accumulating their strength for some time, they would still need to deploy a large number of reserves if they wanted to deploy their troops suddenly. They couldn't do it immediately, but it wouldn't take them long.

Tang Wutong turned grim too. "It seems like the Sun Moon Empire is going to attack more ferociously than before. I'm afraid it's going to be more difficult to deal with them."

Huo Yuhao nodded and said, "Even if we didn't snatch the Crown Prince, I believe Xu Tianran would have attacked a few days after the ceremony. But now, they have even more reason to do so."

Tang Wutong looked at Xu Yunhan. "What should we do then?"

Huo Yuhao replied, "No matter what, we need to bring this fellow back first. I've said before that war has nothing to do with a kid. This is a confrontation between adults. I'll protect my empire and do my best to resist its enemies. However, I won't do anything lowly. We'll enter the city and return the kid."

Sneaking into Radiant City this time was far more difficult than the previous time.

After the assassination incident, the city was under very strict supervision. Many more aerial surveillance soul tools were installed, completely covering Radiant City.

It felt as if a big war was about to break out.

However, this didn't stop Huo Yuhao. No matter how strong the aerial surveillance soul tools were, there were still flaws that he could exploit.

He managed to find a flaw within an hour, and led Tang Wutong as they snuck into Radiant City before proceeding toward the imperial palace.

They couldn't remain in Radiant City for a long time. They would leave quickly after returning little Yunhan.

Sun Moon Empire's Imperial Palace.

Ju Zi quietly sat in her own inner palace. Right now, she was dressed like a warrior, clad in armor which was specially designed for her. It was a Class 9 soul tool. Among Class 9 soul tools, it was also one of the better ones.

### **Chapter 529.1: Dad, Hug Me!**

Even with Ju Zi's current strength, which wasn't more than a Soul Sage, she could temporarily possess a Titled Douluo's defensive capability and mobility for a short period of time using this set of armor.

But Ju Zi was just sitting there holding a few sets of tiny clothes in her hands.

She touched her cheek to the fabric and gently rubbed the clothes against her cheeks as transparent teardrops splattered down. Her eyes were full of despondence and helplessness.

Even though she was an empress, she could clearly feel in this moment that there was nobody in the world who could help her.

Yunhan, Yunhan, are you alright? Have those people hurt you?

My son, my son, where are you!?

No matter how tough a woman could be, she would still become incredibly weak and fragile when her child was involved.

Xu Tianran was unwilling to compromise for her, and there was no arguing the matter. Even though Ju Zi had an extremely exalted status within the Sun Moon Empire's army, she still couldn't go against Xu Tianran, who was the true ruler.

She wouldn't get her son back if Xu Tianran wasn't willing to compromise, and she knew that Xu Tianran would make the same decision even if he had been the father of her child, though he might hesitate for a little longer.

Xu Tianran, Xu Tianran! What an evil king. If my son dies, then one day, I will destroy you!

Ju Zi bit down on her lower lip as her body quivered incessantly. Her tears had already moistened the tiny clothes in her hands.

The war was about to start, and she was waiting for the army to gather. She hated Xu Tianran, and she hated those who had kidnapped her child even more. She wanted to go crazy, and she wanted to tell those who had kidnapped her son through war that she would annihilate everything.

Yes, a woman who had lost her child was absolutely one of the most frightening living beings on earth. There was no exception. *n)OveℓIn*

"Where are you, Yunhan? Do you know how much I miss you? Yunhan, my son, I will save you even if there's but the slightest chance. I will save you even if I can no longer be Empress, and I can no longer have my revenge. You are my life!"

Tears flowed from her cheeks like a waterfall, and Ju Zi could no longer control herself.

"Are you really going to give up on your revenge?" A gentle voice travelled into Ju Zi's ears.

Ju Zi trembled as she jumped up from her bed.

This was her bedroom, the Empress' bedroom! There were many powerful individuals standing guard outside. Nobody could enter her bedroom without being discovered unless it was Xu Tianran himself.

But this voice is just so crisp and bright, and it's familiar!

Ju Zi's originally blurry and teary eyes immediately became sharp, and she placed her child's clothes to one side. She pressed something to her chest, and a rose helmet immediately rose from both sides of her shoulders and completely covered her within.

"Don't be nervous, it's me. Ask your guards outside to leave and open the door, I want to see you." That gentle voice rang out once more, and it was even more familiar this time.

Ju Zi's eyes suddenly narrowed. She could tell who was here, and an incredulous look appeared in her teary eyes. She was like a statue as she remained fixated to the spot.

She only reacted after several full seconds had gone by. She covered her mouth so she could force herself not to scream out loud, and patted her chest with her other hand continuously so she could calm herself down.

She had no idea why he would appear inside the Sun Moon Empire's royal palace at a time like this. But his appearance was like a lifeline to her, in all her helplessness, grief, and agonizing. She felt like someone who had been drowning who had just grabbed onto a floating piece of wood.

She forced down her emotions after a few moments as she walked to the gate and opened it before she lowered her voice and said, "Leave, all of you. I want to be alone for a while. If I even hear anyone's breathing, I will hang you."

Her four servant girls, who were already quiet and shivering with fear, hurriedly took their leave. They were very aware that the Empress' mood hadn't been good for the past few days, and nobody dared to infuriate the Goddess of War at a time like this.

Ju Zi pushed the gate open and stood at its entrance. She still wore a grievous expression on her face with traces of tears down her cheeks. She didn't know how long she had to keep the door open for him to come in, but she couldn't possibly ask all her secret guardians to leave. That would be too obvious.

"Alright, you can close the door." That familiar voice rang out once more.

Ju Zi shut the door and walked back into her bedroom.

Two silhouettes that flowed like water appeared out of thin air.

It's him, it really is him.

The tears that she had just held back flowed out uncontrollably once more when she saw who had come to see her. But she didn't leap over in the end, because there was a figure next to him who she was familiar with, and full of jealousy.

"It's really you, Yuhao. Why have you come?"

"Mama?" A small arm that was like a tiny white lotus reached out from within Huo Yuhao's arms following her greeting.

Ju Zi's voice froze. She stared at Huo Yuhao in disbelief, and then into his arms, and she became like a gust of wind as she dashed over and took the child from Huo Yuhao's hands and into her own tight embrace. Ju Zi began to bawl uncontrollably.

The corner of Huo Yuhao's mouth curved into a faint smile as he watched mother and son, reunited. His smile was filled with satisfaction, and no matter what he had given and the decisions he had made for this, he believed that everything was worth it.

Huo Yuhao had lost his mother when he was just a child, and he knew how painful it was for a child to lose his or her mother. He watched as little Yunhan and Ju Zi were reunited with each other. He watched as this mother held her son so tightly in her arms. Huo Yuhao's heart was content, and he could almost see himself in his mother's embrace when he was a little child.

Tears continued flowing down Ju Zi's cheeks as she hugged little Yunhan. The past two days were almost like two centuries for her, and not in her wildest dreams did she expect him to send her child back to her. But in this moment, her precious son who she loved so much was the only person in her heart, and in her eyes.

Huo Yuhao wasn't worried at all, and he was just standing there quietly with Tang Wutong next to him.

Tang Wutong went up to his ear and whispered, "I'll go outside. You should speak to her." She released Huo Yuhao's hand as she spoke and stepped out by herself.

She had grown up and matured since she had regained her memory, and she knew when to let go of her man. It was like flying a kite; no matter how far the kite flew, what was there to be afraid of as long as the string was still in her hands?

Ju Zi cried with little Yunhan in her arms for a long time. The little fellow was very well-behaved, and continuously wiped his mother's tears as he stared at his mother with large, confused eyes.

Something that he said finally stopped Ju Zi's tears.

"Daddy, did you bully mommy?"

Ju Zi was stunned, and her tears stopped just like that.

Huo Yuhao said a little awkwardly, "I don't know why he keeps calling me that. Perhaps fate has brought me together with this little fellow."

Ju Zi muttered blankly, "Fate, fate. It truly is fate!"

Huo Yuhao coughed and said, "I've sent your child back to you. I think you can guess what happened, and I have to leave as soon as possible. But you have to fabricate a story about how the child has returned so that you won't bring trouble upon yourself."

He turned and walked out as he spoke.

Even though he knew he shouldn't be doing that, watching Ju Zi crying agonizingly with her child in her arms reminded him of the child's father, the Sun Moon Empire's Emperor, Xu Tianran.

He didn't know Wang Dong was Wang Dong'er when he first met Ju Zi. She could be said to be the first girl to have entered his heart, but Ju Zi couldn't let go of the resentment and hatred in her heart, so they lost their chance to get together. Ju Zi chose Xu Tianran, but just as Huo Yuhao had left a deep imprint in her heart, Ju Zi had also left her mark on him.

"Wait," Ju Zi stopped Huo Yuhao.

Huo Yuhao paused in his tracks.

Ju Zi stared at him, and her lips trembled as she asked, "Why?"

Huo Yuhao heaved a sigh and said, "This child shouldn't be harmed by the war. I lost my mother, and I know how painful it is. In the beginning, I didn't know that this mission's target was actually your son. I would have stopped them from the start if I did. I have returned your child, so you must take care of him in the future."

Ju Zi bit down on her rosy lips as she stared at him with a complicated look in her eyes. “What are you asking for in return?”

Huo Yuhao smiled as he shook his head and said, “If I make any requests of you, then what difference is there between those who kidnapped your son and me?”

Ju Zi’s eyes became a little dazed. “But did you not see the thousands and thousands of soldiers gathered outside Radiant City?”

Huo Yuhao’s eyes suddenly became sharp. “Perhaps we can only be enemies in this lifetime. But even if we are to be enemies, I can only meet you face to face on the battlefield. I will not use your child to threaten you.”

Ju Zi lowered her head. “You’ll be in quite some trouble for bringing the child back, right?”

Huo Yuhao shook his head and answered, “I will deal with it. You don’t have to worry.”

Ju Zi took a deep breath and raised her head bravely as she stared into his eyes. “If I had agreed to leave with you back then instead of staying behind to chase after Xu Tianran, you would have chosen me and not her, right?”

“Her” was naturally referring to Tang Wutong, who was outside.

Huo Yuhao turned his head and looked out. He had no intention of hiding anything from Tang Wutong, so he didn’t want to cut his voice off from the outside.

“I don’t know. I didn’t know she was a girl back then. Perhaps...” Huo Yuhao had just said those words when Ju Zi dashed over with little Yunhan in her arms and fell into his arms. She hugged her child with one hand and wrapped the other tightly around him, and her tears began to flow uncontrollably once more.

Huo Yuhao was momentarily stunned, but he didn’t have the heart to push her away in the end.

Chapter 529.2: Dad, Hug Me!

Ju Zi mumbled, “I regret it. Yes, I regret it. Only in that moment when I lost my child did I realize that revenge isn’t the first priority in my heart. When a person truly falls in love with another, that person can forget about his or her revenge. If I could make that choice again, I would have made a different one. I’m sorry, Yuhao, it’s my fault.”

Huo Yuhao was stunned. His heart ached agonizingly as he listened to Ju Zi’s words, but they both knew that there was nothing in the world that could reverse their regrets.

Huo Yuhao patted Ju Zi’s back gently before he struggled out from her embrace. He heaved a faint sigh, but said nothing more as he turned to walk out. He had already decided, but he was also looking back because of Ju Zi’s words. Her words made him feel a little uncomfortable, but...

“Daddy, hug!” That babyish call stopped him once more. n)(σ--v.-e/-I{/b.-1(/n

Huo Yuhao turned around, and glanced warmly at little Yunhan in Ju Zi’s arms. “Be good, Yunhan. You have to listen to your mother.”

Little Yunhan opened his arms. "Daddy, hug..."

Ju Zi's voice was trembling. "You should hug him one more time."

Huo Yuhao hesitated, but finally walked back in front of Ju Zi and took little Yunhan into his arms. For some reason, this little baby's cries seemed to touch something in his heart.

Huo Yuhao hugged little Yunhan, and the baby naturally planted his tender cheeks on Huo Yuhao's shoulder. That appearance was exceptionally cute.

Huo Yuhao patted his back softly, and his eyes became increasingly warm and gentle.

Ju Zi began to cry even more uncontrollably when she saw that. She truly hoped that time would just freeze in this moment, that this moment would never change!

But the child was finally returned to her arms, and she didn't even know how Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong left.

Little Yunhan fell asleep in her arms. He was sleeping very soundly; this little fellow had always been very adaptable.

Ju Zi's lips trembled as she repeated the same sentence to herself. "He... is actually... your..."

Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong snuck out of the Sun Moon Empire's royal place. If Xu Tianran found out that somebody could enter and exit his royal palace at a whim like this place was uninhabited, who knew what he would think?

Of course, that was also because Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong came in just for a spin, and they weren't executing any actual plans. Certain especially sensitive and powerful soul masters could discover them as soon as they could sense hostility and murderousness. Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong maintained their cool from the beginning to the end, and that was one of the most important reasons why they could enter and leave so peacefully.

"I didn't expect you to like that child so much." Tang Wutong whispered softly.

Huo Yuhao turned around as he gently caressed her long hair.

"You're jealous?"

Tang Wutong shook her head and said, "No, I'm not. Since she's missed her chance, then that chance will not come back again, not unless time begins to flow backwards. Otherwise, you can only be mine."

Huo Yuhao laughed. Even though Tang Wutong said she wasn't jealous, was she really not?

Tang Wutong's next statement expressed her mentality.

"I will definitely bear a son for us in the future," Tang Wutong said resolutely.

Huo Yuhao chuckled. "That needs to happen. But I will love our child all the same whether we have a son or a daughter, and I will love them like I love you."

Tang Wutong pouted obstinately. "You have to love me the most!"

Huo Yuhao guffawed. "Why are you competing with our child?"

They left Radiant City and flew into the air once more. They went back and forth between Radiant City and the Ming Dou Mountain Range within two days. Only they could bear such a burden with their Class 9 flying-type soul tools.

Tang Wutong's face gradually became solemn as they raced through the sky. "Yuhao, how do we account for this matter when we return? I think they might complain to the academy. If they accuse you of collaborating with the enemy..."

Huo Yuhao shook his head. "They won't, they're not so foolish. I was using Spiritual Detection over the main peak when we left, and I stopped only when we left its range. They had no intention to chase us, and this means we won't run into much trouble."

"These Titled Douluo all have their own statuses and identities. Do you think they were very willing to capture little Yunhan? The truth is, no one there felt comfortable in their hearts, including the White Tiger Duke. What we have done simply helped them make that decision. Besides, what good will accusing me of treason to the academy be for them? We have already displayed sufficient strength. Furthermore, the academy has always protected their incumbents, and the Titled Douluo know that too. The war is about to start up again, while the Douluo Continent's three native empires are hoping that we'll help them fight against the Sun Moon Empire. If I were them, pretending this matter never happened is the best outcome."

Tang Wutong stared at Huo Yuhao with slightly dazed eyes. "You have already thought about all this long ago?"

Huo Yuhao shook his head. "No, but I can still make a rough judgment. Face and dignity is very important for Titled Douluo. Furthermore, the strength that we have displayed is sufficient for them to pay attention to us. They will need reconnaissance skills like mine in the war to come. I think the Dou Ling Empire and the Heavenly Soul Empire's Titled Douluo have already left, so let's go back to the Ming Dou Mountain Range for a bit, and we can prove our hypothesis. We can also pass on the news that the Sun Moon Empire has gathered its armies, and consider that making up for our transgressions."

Tang Wutong heaved a sigh. "Won't they think that the Sun Moon Empire is gathering their armies because we have returned the crown prince?"

Huo Yuhao chuckled and said, "Do girls become stupid when they get jealous? Silly girl, why do you ask such silly questions? First, the White Tiger Duke cannot make an erroneous judgment like that with his intelligence. How can the Douluo Continent's three native empires not know that Xu Tianran was making sacrifices so that he could restart the invasion? Their attempt to assassinate Xu Tianran was meant to stop this invasion from happening!"

Tang Wutong hit him gently and said, "You're the one who has become stupid."

It was dusk when they returned to the Ming Dou Mountain Range.

They had travelled several thousand kilometers back and forth over two days, and they also had to avoid the aerial surveillance soul tools in their way. They were even engaged in battle. Both Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong were extremely spent, despite their cultivation ranks.

They landed outside the White Tiger Duke's tent. Huo Yuhao used Spiritual Detection and quickly found the Duke, who was still dealing with military matters.

To be safe, Huo Yuhao didn't go to see the White Tiger Duke directly. He used his concrete-immaterial spiritual power to conjure a projection to enter the White Tiger Duke's tent.

The White Tiger Duke was still dealing with military matters that were coming in from everywhere. He had assumed control over the entire Western and Northwestern Field Armies, and could be called the number-one man in the Star Luo Empire's military. He had status, reputation, and was widely respected, while he controlled more than half of the Star Luo Empire's armies. He was probably the most powerful man beneath the emperor.

The White Tiger Duke seemed to feel something as he suddenly raised his head. He saw a shadow appear not too far from him, though it didn't make any sound at all.

The White Tiger Duke was startled, but he was Commander of the Three Armies, and his heart and mind were very calm. He identified the visitor after his initial astonishment, and heaved a sigh of relief.

"Yuhao?"

"Lord Duke." Huo Yuhao bowed slightly.

The White Tiger Duke's expression immediately turned black. "You dare to come back. Are you aware that what you have done means a dozen Titled Douluo have achieved nothing in their mission?"

Huo Yuhao said plainly, "I am simply doing what I think is right. Duke, did you not think that there was something wrong with the plan? I will tell you the same thing. Kidnapping the crown prince doesn't achieve anything unless Xu Tianran is also dead. I have also proven this point when I was back in Radiant City before this. The Sun Moon Empire has already begun mustering their armies, and they will probably invade very soon."

The White Tiger Duke was momentarily stunned. "You returned him?"

Huo Yuhao nodded.

The White Tiger Duke sighed and said, "So be it. At least I'll feel a little better. The Heavenly Sun Douluo has said that this will be the end of this matter, and we shall pretend that this mission never happened. Therefore, you don't have to worry about anything."

Huo Yuhao smiled faintly and answered, "I wasn't worried about much in the first place. But I still have to thank you, and the Heavenly Sun Douluo."

The White Tiger Duke said, "You can say that to him yourself when you see him again."

Huo Yuhao continued, "The Sun Moon Empire's armies have already been assembled. I'm afraid they will launch an all-out invasion in half a month to a month. I don't know if their target is the Heavenly Soul Empire, or if they're going for the Star Luo Empire. Therefore, you have to be more careful."

The White Tiger Duke frowned and said, "The Heavenly Soul Empire is on the brink of annihilation, but the truth is, the Star Luo Empire is also faced with a great impending calamity! The Sun Moon Empire's invasion means the Heavenly Soul Empire is in danger, but we aren't that much better."



Huo Yuhao fell silent. He knew what the White Tiger Duke was talking about.

The Heavenly Soul Empire's situation was the worst for the moment, as two-thirds of their territory had been conquered. The Star Luo Empire seemed prepared, and their armies seemed ready. They had a hundred thousand soldiers along the border, and they even had a natural stronghold like the Ming Dou Mountain Range to fortify.

But was all that really the truth?

The Sun Moon Empire had conquered much of the Heavenly Soul Empire's territory, and part of that territory was where the Heavenly Soul Empire had bordered the Star Luo Empire. Even though it was a hilly area, the ground was a lot flatter there compared to the Ming Dou Mountain Range.

If the Sun Moon Empire wanted to attack the Star Luo Empire, they would naturally launch an invasion from that side. The Sun Moon Empire could attack both the Heavenly Soul Empire and the Star Luo Empire, and both parties would find it incredibly difficult to defend themselves even if they gave everything they had, no matter which side the Sun Moon Empire chose to attack first.

Chapter 529.3: Dad, Hug Me!

That was the reason why the White Tiger Duke had a headache. He couldn't possibly relinquish their defensive perimeter along the Ming Dou Mountain Range. Otherwise, if the Sun Moon Empire conquered the Ming Dou Mountain Range once more, the Star Luo Empire would be pushed into an even more backward position.

But they couldn't not defend their northern front. Such a long battlefield was extremely unfavorable for the Star Luo Empire. The Dou Ling Empire behind them had it a lot better in comparison. They had the Heavenly Soul Empire in front of them for defense, after all. Furthermore, once the Sun Moon Empire had completely overrun the Heavenly Soul Empire, they would undoubtedly have to face Shrek City. Shrek City's strength was an important form of invisible protection for the Dou Ling Empire. That was also one of the most important reasons why the Heavenly Sun Douluo decided to relent, because he didn't want to offend Shrek Academy.

Huo Yuhao began to contemplate. "Duke, can we come in?"

The White Tiger Duke was shocked by his question.

The tent's curtains were lifted in the next moment. The soldiers outside didn't realize at all as two figures materialized right in front of him. There was only one Huo Yuhao in the tent, but now there were two.

The White Tiger Duke glanced at the one on the right, and then the one on the left.

He heaved a sigh of admiration. "That is so amazing! Yuhao, did you know what we were all full of admiration for the strength you displayed when you broke out? Seems like you're all grown up now."

Huo Yuhao said plainly, "Duke, now is not the time to compliment me. You should think about what you should do. I can report back to the academy once you make a decision so that we can do our best to cooperate with your plans."

The White Tiger Duke forced a laugh and said, "I wouldn't be so anxious and worried if there was a good solution. You are very aware of the Sun Moon Empire's fighting strength at the front, and ambushing them with sudden attacks is also very difficult. They are too flexible and mobile, and they can move around very quickly with their soul tools, especially those formidable soul engineer legions of theirs. I want to hear your advice."

Huo Yuhao said, "The Sun Moon Empire is ultimately facing the continent's three empires all by themselves. Their military deployment covers a much larger territory after conquering the Heavenly Soul Empire. Our battlefield is long, but in truth, the Sun Moon Empire faces the same situation. The only difference is that their military strength is concentrated along the nation's borders as much as possible, and they are having a comparatively easier time because they have powerful soul tools. This also means that their inner regions are extremely empty."

The White Tiger Duke said, "Everyone knows that, but it's no use even if we know that they have this weakness. The Sun Moon Empire have deployed many surveillance soul tools along their borders. We cannot possibly go undiscovered if we mobilize our armies for an attack. They still have many soul tool forts along their borders, and any front can impede us for a period of time sufficient for them to send reinforcements."

Huo Yuhao continued, "If we wish to defeat the Sun Moon Empire and achieve victory in this war, then we have to hold back their main forces effectively while gradually weakening them. This is the only way to put them up to their ears in work, and the only way we can execute a war of attrition against them. Just like when you sent large masses of soul masters into the Sun Moon Empire's territory to conduct guerilla warfare back then."

The White Tiger Duke shook his head. "That move is not effective anymore. The Sun Moon Empire have increased their production of aerial surveillance soul tools over the past two years, and they have too many eyes in the sky. Our men will be going to their deaths if they attempt to infiltrate again, and we have already tried it. It wasn't effective, and we lost many men. Unless we have extraordinarily talented individuals like you who also possess formidable concealment abilities, nobody can possibly infiltrate the Sun Moon Empire's territory."

Huo Yuhao's eyes sparkled when he heard the White Tiger Duke's words. He suddenly clapped his hands and said excitedly, "I have an idea, I have an idea!"

The White Tiger Duke was momentarily stunned.

Huo Yuhao took a few quick steps forward and came beside the Duke. He could naturally feel the White Tiger Duke's aura when he came near, and he couldn't help but think about the scene when he carried him high into the sky.

But his emotions rippled for but a moment before he immediately returned to normal. He whispered something beside the White Tiger Duke's ears.

The White Tiger Duke's pupils contracted as he listened, and he snapped his head around. "Really? Can we really do that?"

Huo Yuhao nodded forcefully and said, "Theoretically, we can. The Sun Moon Empire will mobilize all their forces when they restart the war. If we don't take drastic measures, we have no chance of

defeating their formidable soul engineer legions on the battlefield. We can only threaten them at their very core to have a chance of emerging victorious.”

The White Tiger Duke was extremely intelligent, and he immediately understood what he had to do when he heard Huo Yuhao’s words. “Alright. Don’t worry, Yuhao, you can leave the front lines to me. We will use our lives to prolong the battle even if we can’t win so that we can keep them on the battlefield. I will immediately communicate with the Heavenly Soul Empire and the Dou Ling Empire. The three empires will use our combined strength to hold back the Sun Moon Empire’s main forces so that we can buy time for you and the academy. But you have to be quick, because I don’t know how long we can hold out.”

“Alright, agreed. We’re very tired, and we wish to rest here for the night over here. We will hurry back tomorrow morning.”

The White Tiger Duke got to his feet. He became a little excited after listening to Huo Yuhao’s plan.

He clapped Huo Yuhao’s shoulder heavily and said, “Excellent, Yuhao. If we can execute your plan successfully, I believe the Body Douluo’s spirit in heaven will definitely bless you with good fortune.”

Huo Yuhao seemed a little disoriented when the White Tiger Duke patted him on the shoulder with his large hand. He didn’t recover completely even after he returned to the tent that he and Tang Wutong were staying in.

“What’s wrong, Yuhao?” Tang Wutong asked concernedly.

Huo Yuhao shook his head.

Tang Wutong asked, “Is it because of the White Tiger Duke?”

Huo Yuhao nodded as he forced a laugh and said, “For some reason, I feel less and less hostility towards him.”

Tang Wutong smiled faintly and said, “That’s a good thing! Just like Ju Zi said, revenge cannot block out love and kinship. You don’t have to think too much. You should pay attention to what’s at hand, and you can think about this again after dealing with the Sun Moon Empire. It’s not too late to contemplate your relationship with him after beating the Sun Moon Empire back. Furthermore, your mother would be very happy that you’re cooperating with the Duke like this if she had been alive.”

Huo Yuhao’s expression became a little dejected when she talked about his mother. Will mother really be happy? I only had one goal when I entered Shrek Academy back then, and that was to take revenge for my mother! But now, I am getting farther and farther away from claiming my revenge.

Soft knocking sounds suddenly came from outside.

Huo Yuhao swept the area with his spiritual power, and knew who was here.

“Come in, Luoli.”

Dai Luoli pushed the door open and stepped in. His eyes glowed when he saw Tang Wutong. Even though this wasn’t his first time seeing her, this was still the first time that the brothers were interacting alone with Tang Wutong around.

Dai Luoli took a few steps forward and said softly, "Are you alright, brother? I've heard that you conflicted with some Titled Douluo?" *nOvE(LB)*In

Tang Wutong was astonished when she heard the way that he addressed Huo Yuhao. She glanced at Dai Luoli, and then at Huo Yuhao.

Huo Yuhao hurriedly explained to her, "Luoli is the only one who knows my true identity. Luoli, this is your sister-in-law, Tang Wutong."

"Greetings, sister-in-law!" Dai Luoli hurriedly greeted Tang Wutong respectfully.

Even though he hadn't heard much about Huo Yuhao over the past two years, and they hadn't met, none of that affected his admiration for his older brother.

Dai Luoli had heard much from Dai Yueheng and his father about his older brother's legendary stories.

Huo Yuhao represented Shrek Academy's elite youths, and he had invented Spirits. He was the Spirit Pagoda's honorary master, he had an Ultimate martial soul, and he led Shrek Academy's team to achieve glorious results twice in the Continental Advanced Soul Master Academy Dueling Tournament. He was a legendary figure among the younger generation of soul masters, and possibly even across the entire world of soul masters.

Furthermore, Huo Yuhao had helped the Star Luo Empire's Western Field Army turn the tide of battle on several occasions. Dai Luoli had witnessed those episodes personally. In his mind, his elder brother was his idol.

Dai Luoli had been standing guard when Huo Yuhao returned. Huo Yuhao didn't hide his presence when he came out from the White Tiger Duke's tent, and Dai Luoli immediately came to find him after changing guards. He was afraid that his elder brother would be gone once more if he didn't go find him, and he didn't know when they would meet again. Two years had passed since the last time they separated!

Tang Wutong smiled and nodded in Dai Luoli's direction. She was happy for Huo Yuhao, happy that he had at least recognized a relative.

"Why are you here, Luoli?" Huo Yuhao asked.

Dai Luoli said, "Nothing much, except we haven't seen each other for so long and I have missed you. Oh, brother, can you get me a Spirit some time?"

Huo Yuhao grinned and said, "You're still a Soul King. It's a little too early for a Spirit. I will definitely find a suitable Spirit for you when you reach Rank 70."

It was easy for Huo Yuhao to identify Dai Luoli's cultivation rank with his strength. Dai Luoli had been growing very quickly over the past two years, and he should be around Rank 55 right now. His cultivation speed was considerably impressive for his age, and it was evident that his potential and talent had been completely activated whether or not his martial soul had truly awakened and mutated.

Huo Yuhao would have recommended him to Shrek Academy to study if matters at the front lines hadn't been so pressing. Furthermore, the atmosphere at the front was very suitable for him to cultivate.

Dai Luoli's martial soul became a Blood Tiger after mutating, and it was most suitable for fighting on the battlefield. Dai Luoli would improve quickest through continuous battle and training.

Dai Luoli was extremely excited when he heard Huo Yuhao's words. "Don't worry brother, I will definitely work hard to cultivate."

Huo Yuhao inquired about his current cultivation situation, and gave him some pointers.

Dai Luoli could tell that it was getting late, and only then did he take his leave. "I'll be going then, brother."

Chapter 530.1: Frog Hopping Technique

"Run along. I will be returning to Shrek Academy with your sister-in-law tomorrow morning. I hope you will have become a Soul Emperor by the time I return."

"Brother, I will definitely do my best." Dai Luoli was about to turn and leave. However, he suddenly stopped and turned around. He had an awkward expression on his face as he asked, "Brother, are you really not going to acknowledge him as your father? In these two years, he has aged a lot. If only you were by his side..."

"Enough!" Huo Yuhao growled in displeasure.

Dai Luoli was stunned.

Huo Yuhao calmed down before continuing, "Run along. I will naturally settle my business with him in the future."

After Dai Luoli left, Huo Yuhao rubbed his face with his hands. Tang Wutong stood behind him and massaged his shoulders.

"Wutong, I really don't know how to sort out my relationship with him. To be honest, my hatred for him has been decreasing. But am I really not going to avenge my mother?" Huo Yuhao could only share his true thoughts with Tang Wutong.

Tang Wutong replied, "Regardless of whether you plan revenge or not, you should sort things out with him sooner or later. However, now is definitely not the right time. To be honest, don't you think that his days are numbered? If the Sun Moon Empire were to launch another attack on the Ming Dou Mountain Range, the Star Luo Empire might not be able to fend them off. Hence, the most pressing matter at hand is to win the battle which is about to unfold."

After hearing her words, Huo Yuhao nodded in agreement. "Yes, you're right. There is no family without one's country."

After meditating for an entire night, both Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong felt refreshed. Following which, they bade goodbye to the White Tiger Duke before returning to Shrek City.

.....

At the Sun Moon Empire's Palace.

“What? The Prince has returned?” Xu Tianran was shocked as he looked at Ju Zi, who was hugging the Prince and tearing up before him.

Even though he did not have much feelings for the Prince, who was not his own child, he understood the importance of the existence of this prince for the stability of the Empire. Having a prince meant there was a successor to the throne. Hence, he was bent on using all possible methods to allow Ju Zi to recover the Prince.

Xu Tianran regained his calm and asked, “What happened?”

Ju Zi was shedding tears of joy as she replied, “I have no idea what happened. After checking on the soldiers this morning, I returned to find the Prince lying in the bed. He was just having fun by himself. I have no idea who sent him back.”

The answer contained no useful information at all.

Xu Tianran frowned and said, “Previously, those Titled Douluo abducted the Prince to blackmail me. Why would they return the Prince so easily?”

Could they have done it out of their conscience? Xu Tianran would never have believed such an idea. He did not believe in the existence of a conscience. In his eyes, interests and benefits governed our universe.

Despite being interrogated about the details, Ju Zi remained very careful with her answers, and did not reveal any unnecessary details. She was a smart woman, and had fabricated a story along with all the minute details beforehand. She had merely delayed the news by a night.

After checking with Ju Zi, Xu Tianran summoned the guards and interrogated them. There was no doubt that their lives had been turned upside down after they had failed to stop the intruders the other time. Other than random pieces of useless information, they were unable to provide anything useful.

After punishing them for their failure the other time, Xu Tianran did not pursue the matter further. He ordered the Imperial Physician to make sure the Prince was alright and stopped all investigations.

After all, he was still very trusting of Ju Zi. In fact, she could be said to be the person who he trusted the most. There was no one else he placed the same amount of trust in. Xu Tianran was even planning to rely on her to conquer the world for him.

She had cried her heart out that day when the Prince disappeared. Xu Tianran had always felt bad for letting that incident happen. Now that the Prince had returned, he felt that asking too many questions would not be appropriate.

“It seems like those people must have started to panic after seeing our army assemble, and have decided to return the Prince to us. Do they really think this will stop me from my ambitions of conquering the world? They must be daydreaming. My Empress, our plan will remain the same. After we are done with our preparations, you will still be the Commander of the Three Armies.”

Ju Zi nodded as she hugged her son tightly. She whispered, “Your Majesty, I have a small request to make.”

“Go on.” Xu Tianran spoke.

Ju Zi hesitated a while before continuing. “The Prince’s disappearance had taken a lot out of me. I can’t stop blaming myself for not protecting him properly. This time, because I will be leaving for an extended period of time for the campaign, I wish to bring the Prince along with me to prevent a repeat of this incident.”

After hearing her words, Xu Tianran flew into a rage. “What?! You want to bring the future leader of our Empire onto the battlefield?! Ju Zi, has your ego gone to your head? How dare you raise such a request to me!”

Ju Zi collapsed to her knees before Xu Tianran. She did not say anything as tears started to stream down her cheeks.

Xu Tianran’s heart started to soften as he stood up and walked towards her. “I cannot allow you to do this. How can I let the successor to my throne leave the palace? You may rest assured that I will step up the palace security after you leave. I will make sure I get someone to protect the Prince and ensure that he does not come to any harm. I guarantee you that all of the above will be done. You know very well that even though the Prince is not my own child, I have no chance of having my own child. In the future, every plot of land and drop of water I own will belong to him. Hence, you must put in your best into this campaign. The Three Armies will be placed under your command. When you return victorious, I will bring the Prince and welcome you back personally. We will organize the biggest celebration for you when you return.”

“Yes, Your Majesty.” There was nothing else Ju Zi could say.

At this instant, little Yunhan, who was sound asleep in Ju Zi’s embrace, woke up and exclaimed, “Father!”

Xu Tianran, who was looking very serious, found his body trembling after hearing what little Yunhan had just said.

Regardless of who he was, he was ultimately still human. Being infertile was one of the biggest blows for him in his life. Little Yunhan’s words had hit the softest part of his heart, making him feel guilty for making those remarks earlier.

Hence, he helped Ju Zi up from the ground before patting on her shoulder. He said, “Spend more time with him during these few days we have.”

“Father!” Little Yunhan cried out again.

Xu Tianran burst into laughter as he pinched little Yunhan’s cheek. “Yes, my little Prince. You must pray for the safety of your mother and wish for her to return victorious.”

When Ju Zi carried Xu Yunhan out of the Imperial Study, her clothes were already drenched with sweat.

Even though Xu Tianran enjoyed being addressed as little Yunhan’s father, it was a nightmare for Ju Zi! This was because she knew little Yunhan was not calling for Xu Tianran. Ever since that little fellow learned how to speak, he had never called Xu Tianran father.

Even though this was the first time little Yunhan was calling out openly, Ju Zi knew that he was actually calling out for Huo Yuhao!

Toddlers would never lie. Ju Zi was really afraid that little Yunhan would give it away. Fortunately, little Yunhan did not say anything other than the word father.

After bringing her son back to her room, Ju Zi let out a sigh of relief. However, she still had a very nervous expression on her face.

After shutting the door, she laid her son on her bed as she gradually regained her calm. As she gently stroked little Yunhan's hair, she muttered, "My dear baby, it's really in your nature to be like this! Don't worry! No matter how tough it might be, I will never let you suffer again."

.....

"It seems like war is inevitable!" Elder Xuan sighed.

Huo Yuhao reported all the events that had occurred on his journey, including the time when he returned little Yunhan to Ju Zi.

Elder Xuan did not ask too many questions, nor did he try to reprimand Huo Yuhao. All he did was let out a long sigh.

"This time round, even though we have managed to recharge and sharpen our capabilities, the Sun Moon Empire has also had the same two years to recuperate and recover what they have lost and expended. I can only imagine how devastating the war will be. Besides, as of now, we don't even know where they will strike. This is the largest problem at hand. Yuhao, share your thoughts on this with me."

Huo Yuhao replied, "The current situation has already become fairly clear. The Sun Moon Empire continues to possess an absolute advantage over us. Their soul tool technology should still remain above our expectations. If I were to hazard a guess, Ju Zi should still be the Commander. From what I understand about her since she was also a student of Teacher Xuan, her military talents far exceed her talents as a soul engineer. She is well-versed in different military strategies, and will be a difficult opponent. She was the one who drafted the plan to use their widely publicised attack on the Star Luo Empire as a decoy for their main attack on the Heavenly Soul Empire. Now, she possesses even greater strength, and it will be extremely difficult for us if we were to face her directly."

"Since we can't match their abilities and power, we have no choice but to employ an unorthodox strategy. Based on my calculations, the Sun Moon Empire will definitely place an army on the other side of the Ming Dou Mountain Range to monitor the troops of the Star Luo Empire and prevent them from invading. The bulk of their troops will enter the regions of the Heavenly Soul Empire they have already captured. This would allow them to link up with the troops that have fortified the border and intimidate the rest of the Heavenly Soul Empire. At the same time, they can continue to threaten and deter the troops from the Star Luo Empire. Even though the area where the Star Luo Empire connects with the original land of the Heavenly Soul Empire is fairly treacherous, it is a lot less dangerous than the Ming Dou Mountain Range. Hence, no matter what, the Sun Moon Empire will never give up their advantage."

Elder Xuan nodded and asked, "So what is this unorthodox strategy you were talking about?"

Chapter 530.2: Frog Hopping Technique

Huo Yuhao explained, "The Sun Moon Empire must have drafted plenty of new soldiers after invading two-thirds of the Heavenly Soul Empire's land. However, the fighting power of these new soldiers is



ultimately limited. They will only send their strongest troops to the front line. Hence, this means that the defence of the Sun Moon Empire will be relatively weak. If we can dispatch an elite squad to strike the Sun Moon Empire from their backs, or even perform sabotage operations in Radiant City, the battle at the front lines would become a lot less intense. In fact, there's even a chance that the battle could dissolve."

"After all, the original three nations of the Douluo Continent have plenty of resources. If we were to fight a protracted war, there is no reason for us to fear the Sun Moon Empire. And if the Sun Moon Empire were to continue to attack, they would only sink deeper into the regions within the original three nations. Their line of battle would only extend, rendering it impossible for them to return to protect their homeland."

Elder Xuan frowned. "Your strategy sounds pretty good. However, it is near impossible for us to dispatch an elite squad to the interior of the Sun Moon Empire. The Sun Moon Empire has enough resources dedicated to surveillance of both the land and sea routes which lead to their land. They would naturally be able to react the moment they detect our troops. I can't think of how we—the Heavenly Soul Empire, the Star Luo Empire, and the Dou Ling Empire—can transport our troops to the interior of the Sun Moon Empire.

Huo Yuhao gave a sly smile as he replied, "It would naturally be impossible for the original three Empires. All of their troops have been accounted for by the Sun Moon Empire. Besides, their fighting power is far from sufficient. This elite squad must not only possess immense destructive capabilities and must be extremely flexible and agile, but they must also be able to land their blow with a single attempt, and successfully flee on command. If not, the effect of this strategy would be very limited."

Elder Xuan replied, "It seems like you already have someone in mind, right?"

Huo Yuhao nodded. At this juncture, there was no longer any need for him to withhold the information. "Yes. I am referring to the three soul engineer legions which our Academy has painstakingly trained."

It had taken close to a year to assemble the equipment for these three soul engineer legions by tapping into the wealth and support of Shrek City and the three Empires since Xuan Ziwen gave his suggestion. They had been undergoing intensive training as they learned how to better utilize their equipment and gear.

However, Xuan Ziwen, Huo Yuhao and the higher-ups in the Shrek Academy knew well enough that the capabilities of the three soul engineer legions were still not on par with the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineer Legions. The three soul engineer legions' abilities were all too singular. Out of the three legions, only one of them possessed airborne capabilities. Even though the other two had their own individual special abilities, their collective fighting power was still a long way from the Sun Moon Empire's legions. Their flaws were all too apparent.

Nonetheless, they were the products of the blood and sweat that Shrek Academy had shed for the past two years. When Huo Yuhao suggested the deployment of these three soul engineer legions, Elder Xuan was taken aback. It was simply a very costly and risky investment!

It was hard enough to figure out how to send them over to the Sun Moon Empire. Even if they were successfully sent over there, how were they going to survive the battles that would no doubt take place?

These three soul engineer legions were formed from thousands of soul masters! They were essentially the foundation of the entire academy. If they were to all perish on this mission, Shrek Academy would suffer an unprecedented loss.

Huo Yuhao naturally knew what Elder Xuan was worrying about. When he was on his way back, he had already rehearsed his plan and fine tuned the details in his head.

“Elder Xuan, have you forgotten that I have the spectral demiplane? I know we won’t be able to bring the thousands of soul masters in the legion into the Sun Moon Empire. However, if it’s just me alone, those surveillance soul tools would have no effect on me. They would essentially be blind. And this has already been ascertained from my repeated trips to the Sun Moon Empire.”

After hearing Huo Yuhao’s words, Elder Xuan was stunned. However, soon enough, a smile broke out on his face. His excitement translated into a powerful spiritual wave which rippled out from his body and sent Huo Yuhao staggering a few steps backwards.

That’s right! Even though his spectral demiplane contains spectral creatures and has limited space, if Huo Yuhao were able to carve out a space to contain the troops, it would actually be possible to transport them to the back of the Sun Moon Empire.

Elder Xuan found his heart beating faster.

Huo Yuhao said, “It’s better if we go with fewer people for such operations. Even bringing three legions would reduce our flexibility and agility, though my spectral demiplane would more than compensate for it. We will be the most unpredictable unit ever. It would seem as though they had all been equipped with Class 9 flying-type soul tools. Even though it would take time to transport them, the amount of time required would still be very short compared to conventional transportation means. As long as the three Empires are able to delay the Sun Moon Empire’s army, I am confident that we can wreak havoc in the interior of the Sun Moon Empire. In fact, there’s a good chance that we can threaten Radiant City. If that happens, we would have achieved something spectacular.”

After hearing what Huo Yuhao had said, Elder Xuan took a deep breath before speaking with conviction. “Let’s get everyone in the Sea God’s Pavilion together for a conference to discuss this. We must only succeed, and not fail. Yuhao, you must shoulder the responsibility for this operation.”

Because the plan was suggested by Huo Yuhao, he accepted command without any complaints.

An hour later, everyone, including Bei Bei and Zhang Lexuan, gathered together and started the conference.

Huo Yuhao explained what he had shared with Elder Xuan to the rest who were not present earlier.

After hearing his daring tactics, all the Elders within the Sea God’s Pavilion could not believe their ears. In fact, some of the Elders did not even know that Huo Yuhao possessed the spectral demiplane.

“Yuhao, how will you ensure that the spectral creatures in your spectral demiplane will not attack our people? Will your restrictive measure be guaranteed to work even when you’re not around? You must understand that you will have to fly on the outside when you are transporting the spectral demiplane to the Sun Moon Empire. If anything happens inside the demiplane when you are outside, it might just turn out to be the biggest joke ever.”

Huo Yuhao replied, "Can I invite all the Elders to enter my spectral demiplane? I believe it will be easier to show you what it actually is instead of trying to explain with words."

The Elders had all understood how the spectral demiplane would be the key to turning the tables. If they were not able to see it with their own eyes, how would they be comfortable with his plan?

After Huo Yuhao chanted some incantations, the pitch black doors opened, and Huo Yuhao led the Elders into his spectral demiplane.

The sky within the spectral demiplane was dark and grey. After entering, they felt a suffocating atmosphere. This pressure was exceptionally obvious to the living.

A dark breeze blew across the land as a couple of skeleton soldiers strolled around aimlessly in the distance. After detecting the presence of living creatures, they looked up and started to move towards the group of people from the Shrek Academy.

A golden light flickered in Huo Yuhao's eyes, and immediately, those skeleton soldiers looked down again and fled.

Those who had entered the demiplane before were not surprised by what lay before their eyes. However, those who were entering for the first time were particularly surprised by the absence of life in this grey plot of land.

This was a parallel space which was completely outside of the Douluo Continent! In their eyes, everything which existed within this space was unheard of.

After the golden light faded from Huo Yuhao's eyes, he gave a cold stare as an ice-blue light formed behind him. Following which, a tall, burly fellow appeared behind him.

"Grandpa." After seeing Huo Yuhao, he greeted him enthusiastically. He was none other than Little Bai—the Ice Bear King.

Only a few people in the Shrek Academy knew Huo Yuhao's true strength. When the rest saw him release the Ice Bear King, many of them silently gasped in surprise.

They were all powerful individuals within Shrek Academy, and were definitely more than capable of understanding what that meant for Huo Yuhao's abilities.

Because the Elders had all attained the rank of Titled Douluo, they could no longer possess spirits. However, this did not interfere with their interest and research into spirits. Conversely, their interest in spirits was a lot stronger than younger people.

It was apparent that the fatty that Huo Yuhao had just released was one of his spirits. Huo Yuhao was the only soul master known to have multiple spirits. n-(OVelbIn

The fact that the spirit was able to take on a human form and solidify meant that the fatty was a beast with at least ten thousand years of cultivation before becoming Huo Yuhao's spirit.

However, most of the people seemed to have ignored how it addressed Huo Yuhao as his grandfather.

Huo Yuhao nodded at Little Bai as he instructed, "Get yourself to come out."

“Alright!” Little Bai agreed as he turned around and released a deafening howl across the expansive plains.

Even though this howl was not particularly bright, it was very special. As the sound wave travelled outwards, there were signs of ripples moving across the air. Strangely enough, the ripples did not seem to affect those who were present.

It must have cultivated for more than ten thousand years!

That was everyone’s first reaction.

It did not take long before a deep humming sound could be heard from afar. As the ground started to tremble, the group of people could see how the spectral creatures started to move away, as though they were fleeing from their natural predator.

Before long, a gigantic figure appeared in their vision. Yes, it was humongous! Truly humongous!

This big fellow was over a hundred meters tall. Its muscular body was even thicker and broader than some of the smaller mountains. It was covered in a layer of grey fur. When it was running, there was a faint bluish-grey air current that rippled about its body.

The most peculiar thing about it was its eyes. There was a powerful blue flame burning in its eye sockets. During its run, some of the flames escaped from the corner of its eyes.

Even though the Elders of Shrek Academy were all extremely powerful, they still could not help but feel the pressure in the air when they saw this big fellow.

“What a big bear!” Zhang Lexuan gasped in shock.

Chapter 530.3: Frog Hopping Technique

Yes, that was a hundred meter-tall bear. Its appearance had sent all the spectral creatures, including the fearsome skeleton dragon which was flying high up in the sky, scurrying away. It was almost as if it were the king of the world of the undead.

And that was, in fact, the truth!

The gigantic bear only stopped after it reached the spot where the group was gathered. Now that it was nearer to them, the Elders could feel how strong its soul power was. In fact, it was radiating more than just soul power; it was also emanating a dense spectral aura.

Little Bai waved its hand as the gigantic bear lowered its body. Little Bai leapt onto the bear’s shoulder before the gigantic bear stood up again. Following which, it leaned its body forward as though it was bowing to Huo Yuhao.

Huo Yuhao nodded to acknowledge the bow from the bear. Following which, he turned to the Elders and smiled. “This gigantic bear was Little Bai’s original physical form. Previously, Little Bai and I did our spirit fusion in the spectral demiplane. It was during that time when Little Bai’s body started to change for unknown reasons. It somehow managed to remain alive. As a result, I was not able to acquire his soul bone. But in return, this made it even stronger than before. Now, it is the strongest fighter in my

spectral demiplane. It is the true king of this place and hence, I am certain that our soul masters will not come to any harm under its protection.

Huo Yuhao had given Little Bai's body the name Er Bai. Of course, it was named this way simply out of convenience.

Previously when Er Bai was struck by the lightning, it managed to absorb the spectral aura in the spectral demiplane and form its own spiritual fire. Of course, its spiritual fire was formed from the remnants left by Little Bai when he transferred his spirit to Huo Yuhao.

The main reason why Huo Yuhao did not take the soul bone from Little Bai's body was because the soul bone had become a source of energy for Er Bai.

After these two years, Er Bai had already gained a stronghold in the spectral plane. Just as Huo Yuhao had described, he had already become the king of the spectral demiplane.

Because Er Bai and Little Bai were connected by heart, even if Huo Yuhao was not in the spectral demiplane, he could monitor Er Bai's situation through Little Bai. Hence, it would not be a problem for him to take care of and protect the army which would be placed in the spectral demiplane in the future.

Elder Song nodded and said, "Yuhao, your demiplane is truly amazing. After seeing how things work in your demiplane, I am willing to support your suggestion."

"Thank you, Elder Song." Huo Yuhao hastily thanked Elder Song.

Subsequently, the rest of the Elders all nodded in agreement as they gave their consent to Huo Yuhao's plan. To be honest, other than Huo Yuhao's unorthodox method, none of them had any idea that could bring hope to the current situation.

Even though the Shrek Academy was very strong, it would still be very difficult for them to resist the armies of the Sun Moon Empire if they were to launch an attack against them. Furthermore, it would be impossible for the Sun Moon Empire to let go of Shrek Academy, especially after what they had done previously to replace the Sun Moon Continent's name with Douluo Continent. The hatred the Sun Moon Empire had for Shrek Academy had become one which concerned the pride of the Sun Moon Empire. Hence, Shrek Academy could only stand on the opposing side of the Sun Moon Empire. There was simply no other option.

During these few years, Shrek Academy had made tremendous advancements in terms of their development of soul tools. Hence, many of the higher-ups in Shrek Academy recognized the power and importance of soul tools.

Shrek Academy might have improved their powers tremendously by researching and harnessing the power of soul tools during these few years, but one could only imagine how much stronger the Sun Moon Empire would be, considering how much longer they had dabbled in soul tools. Because the development of soul tool was exponential, their powers could only exceed Shrek Academy's original calculations.

Hence, the academy definitely did not possess the confidence that it would win its battle with the Sun Moon Empire. An unorthodox strategy was required to be victorious. Hence, Huo Yuhao's plan was the most convincing strategy in the eyes of the Elders.

In fact, that was probably the only way they could turn the tables. While the Sun Moon Empire definitely had their weaknesses, it would not be easy to expose them on the actual battlefield.

After leaving the spectral demiplane, the Sea God's Pavilion Conference resumed. The atmosphere in the conference was visibly more optimistic. It was undeniable that the existence of the spectral demiplane had become Shrek Academy's trump card to go up against the Sun Moon Empire.

Amongst the powerful Elders, some of them were particularly skilled in the art of war. Those Elders started to offer suggestions to further improve Huo Yuhao's plan.

It took them an entire day before the conference ended. Shrek Academy made the final decision to mobilize the three Soul Engineer Legions and adhere to Huo Yuhao's plan. The academy would not be sending any higher-ups to participate in this operation. Instead, they would be heading to the frontlines of the Heavenly Soul Empire to deceive the troops from the Sun Moon Empire.

This operation would mainly be organized by the Tang Sect. The powerful cultivators from the Tang Sect would leave their nest and take action against the Sun Moon Empire.

After their discussions, it was time for the preparatory work. They had also decided on the mobilization time—the time when the Sun Moon Empire planned to move out.

The three Soul Engineer Legions from Shrek Academy and the Tang Sect consisted of the Tang Sect Soul Engineer Legion, the Heavy Artillery Soul Engineer Legion, and the Fort Soul Engineer Legion.

Amongst the three legions, the Tang Sect Soul Engineer Legion had the fewest number of people. However, it was formed from their elite soul masters.

The commander of the Tang Sect Soul Engineer Legion was originally Xian Lin'er. Furthermore, there were about ten Titled Douluo in the entire Tang Sect Soul Engineer Legion. However, Shrek Academy had decided after the Conference to not participate in this operation directly. Hence, the ten Titled Douluo would not remain within the legion.

This meant that the Tang Sect Soul Engineer Legion would now be led by new commanders. The new commander would be Bei Bei, while the vice-commander would be Xu Sanshi. Jiang Nannan and the other powerful cultivators of the Tang Sect were also moved into this legion.

Their total number would be two hundred soul masters. Every single one of them was at least a Soul Emperor. It was difficult even for the Sun Moon Empire to organize a legion with members at this level.

The commander of the Heavy Artillery Soul Engineer Legion was Huo Yuhao, while its vice-commander was Tang Wutong. They were commanding a legion of a thousand soul masters—or rather soul engineers. They were equipped with three hundred top-class huge Zhuge Divine Crossbow Cannons. They were all Class 6 soul tools, and required their soul engineers to be at least Class 4 to utilize them. These cannons were all equipped with large amounts of stationary soul cannon shells.

The last legion was formed from 1500 soul masters with relatively weaker cultivations. Their minimum cultivation level was a three-ringed Soul Elder. Their commander was Caitou, while their vice-commander was Xiao Xiao. They were equipped with three hundred of Xuan Ziwén's personally redesigned All-Terrain Self-Driving Forts.

These three soul engineer legions were all built painstakingly by the Shrek Academy over two years.

Actually, these legions had already started to take shape a year ago. Since then, they had been training hard and receiving improved equipment. Right now, they had started to become a formidable force, and would be the main fighting force for Huo Yuhao's plan.

When it came to surprise attacks, the quality of the soldiers was more important than quantity.

In the military drill ground near the perimeter of Shrek City.

The military drill ground seemed to have been transformed into a metallic forest as it emanated a scary aura.

There were close to three thousand soul masters, three hundred Zhuge Divine Crossbow Cannons, and three hundred All-Terrain Self-Driving Forts.

Every single soul master in the three legions was overwhelmed with excitement. They were finally going to enter the battlefield after having trained for two long years.

They had trained hard every single day as they tried their best to master their soul tools. In fact, many of them had once participated in the battle against the Great Star Dou Forest during the beast wave to protect Shrek City.

They were the true elite forces of Shrek City. The truth was that these three legions had pretty much expended half of Shrek City's financial resources.

Now, they were finally going to leave Shrek City to fight their formidable foe. Everyone wished they could become famous in this battle. Everyone wished to leave their beautiful name in the history books.

There was no doubt that the war against the Sun Moon Empire was going to be a big opportunity for many people.

All the higher-ups of the Tang Sect, including Bei Bei, He Caitou, Xu Sanshi, Jiang Nannan, Xiao Xiao, Huo Yuhao, Tang Wutong, Ye Guyi, Nan Qiuqiu, Ji Juechen, and Jing Ziyan, were all dressed in their military gear as they observed their soldiers from the observation deck.

Xuan Ziwen had gotten Na Na and Gao Dalou to stay at the Tang Sect with him to ensure the continuation of daily operations. Other than them, pretty much all of the higher-ups in Tang Sect had been mobilized.

The three commanders of the legions had all agreed that Huo Yuhao would lead them.

Bei Bei nodded towards Huo Yuhao and said, "You should say a few words."

As the Chief Commander, Huo Yuhao knew it was not the time to back down from such things.

After taking a few steps forward, Huo Yuhao looked at the thousands of soul masters who were standing beneath him. "I am Huo Yuhao. I believe everyone already knows what kind of operation we are about to commence against the Sun Moon Empire. I only have one request for all of you. I need all of you to listen to the orders being issued. Regardless of what you see and discover after this, you must adhere to

the orders which have been given to you. If we are able to emerge victorious and succeed, our names will all be engraved in the glorious history of the Douluo Continent.”

“I believe all of you already know that I was the one who started the Spirit Pagoda from scratch. I can assure all of you that after we have completed this operation, all of you will get spirit transmission priority.”

“This battle goes beyond defending the pride of our Academy. At the same time, it is about defending our country and our homeland. I believe many of you here come from the Heavenly Soul Empire. You should all be familiar with its current situation. We can’t watch our country be ravaged in this war without doing anything. We must put in effort to defend our country.”

Huo Yuhao was not using a sound amplifying soul tool, but his voice echoed in everyone’s minds. His powerful spiritual energy was able to envelop the entire military drill ground.

“Our strategy will be different from everything you have known. I call it the Teleportation Tactic. Now, I will use my ability to allow all of you to rest in another world. All you have to do is rest up and get ready for the upcoming fight.”

As he finished his speech, eight soul rings started to form around his body.

Because of the appearance of the Spirit Pagoda, Huo Yuhao had long attained legendary status. But few people had actually witnessed him releasing his martial soul.