

## Tang Sect 536

### Chapter 536.1: The Eastern Sun Falls

This was, in fact, the northernmost part of the northern area! Even though it was not as cold as the Extreme North Ice Field, it was way colder than anywhere else. Also, the Ice Sea was just outside of Eastern Sun City. There was plenty of water in the Ice Sea, so there would not be any problem with the water element here.

When Huo Yuhao first came here, he predicted that his power should increase by at least twenty percent here.

When Tang Wutong was shielding the blows for him, Huo Yuhao had already used his Spiritual Detection to scan the battlefield. He now had a complete picture of the battlefield, and had already established contact with He Caitou.

Everything was under control. After confirming that no other accidents would happen, he naturally would not go light on the enemy as he unleashed his true fighting power.

After returning to Huo Yuhao's side, Tang Wutong opened up her butterfly wings and protected his back. This time around, Huo Yuhao was at the front, and Tang Wutong was like a little bird as she hugged his waist from the back.

If Tang Wutong's seal were to act up now, it would truly be a tragedy. However, she had long thought of this. Because she was wearing the Dragon God Armor, her body would not come into direct contact with Huo Yuhao. This meant that the seal would naturally not act up.

Huo Yuhao's eyes turned an ice-blue color as he faced the avenging spirits that were swarming towards him. Even though he was just standing there calmly, those spirits were unable to get near him and Tang Wutong. They were stuck outside of a five-meter radius around the couple.

As Huo Yuhao unleashed the Snowy Dance of Ultimate Ice, the entire area where the soul tools were installed started to experience a plunge in temperature. Because this area had activated their linked defense system, the cold air was trapped inside. Hence, the rate at which the temperature was dropping was faster than usual.

The soul engineers who were trying to put up a struggle experienced a huge drop in their fighting power because of the extreme cold. Even though Ji Juechen and the others would also be affected by the cold, they were much stronger, and thus were not affected as much as the soul engineers.

At this very instant, a loud cry could be heard. Following which, a pure white figure dashed out from the corner of the soul tool formation.

Even though the avenging spirits were spirits, they were also similar to packets of energy, and were affected by the extremely low temperature. Their flying speed and fighting power were also heavily reduced.

After this streak of white light emerged, the neighboring avenging spirits let out a deafening scream as they scrambled away from the white light in fear. As long as they came into contact with the white light,

the avenging spirit would disintegrate. There was no chance for them to withstand the power of the white light. The Myriad Soul Domain no longer had any positive effects on them.

As the pure white figure floated in mid-air, a pair of white wings opened up behind her back. The figure was wielding a white sword in her hands. She was none other than Ye Guyi—the cultivator with the Holy Angel martial soul.

After controlling the situation, the next thing Huo Yuhao wanted to do was maximize profits. He not only wanted to make sure he maximized the number of spoils he could take away from this area, but he also wanted his peers to maximize what they could take away for themselves.

Beyond acquiring soul tools and resources here, the one who could stand to gain the most among the Tang Sect was Ye Guyi—the cultivator who was the natural enemy of evil soul masters.

Because she possessed the Holy Angel martial soul, she was able to improve her cultivation from killing evil soul masters and destroying their abilities. The Myriad Soul Douluo's Myriad Soul Banner contained so many avenging spirits. If Ye Guyi were to cleanse and purify all of them, her cultivation would take a huge leap forward. This was why he did not immediately kill the two Titled Douluo evil soul masters. He merely unleashed his domain and competed against them with it. He only wanted to trap the Myriad Soul Douluo to give Ye Guyi a chance to kill him.

The avenging spirits had no chance against Ye Guyi as they disintegrated like the grass against a fire. All the avenging spirits were purified by her holy light. During the purification process, the pure energy released flowed into Ye Guyi's body and continually improved her cultivation.

This was her first time fighting against evil soul masters since joining the Tang Sect. On top of that, the evil soul master she was facing was a Titled Douluo. With her current ability, she would not have been able to subdue a Titled Douluo even if she was his or her natural enemy. After all, as a Soul Sage, she was a lot weaker than a Soul Douluo. However, with the help of Huo Yuhao, Tang Wutong and Er Bai, the odds were actually in her favor.

As she waved the holy sword in her hand, she was almost invincible. As she flickered across the sky, a large amount of avenging spirits were vanquished, and the leftover spirits scattered in fear.

A deafening howl roared through the air. It was the Myriad Soul Douluo screaming in pain. How could he not be anguished by the death of the spirits he had painstakingly accumulated in his Myriad Soul Banner? Not every dead person would produce an avenging spirit. Avenging spirits could only be formed from the death of a person or a beast with immense hatred. And the odds of that were one in ten.

The Myriad Soul Douluo was only able to cultivate to his current level because of the blood and sweat he had shed to accumulate the avenging spirits in his Myriad Soul Banner. He had been staying at Eastern Sun City to target aquatic soul beasts so as to acquire their avenging spirits. This was because the avenging spirits formed from the bodies of the aquatic soul beasts were a great fit for his martial soul.

Because of how Ye Guyi had rampaged around, the Myriad Soul Douluo had lost over a hundred avenging spirits. The spirits were completely purified, and had no chance of reviving. As the number of avenging spirits in his banner decreased, his powers waned. Even though he had over a thousand avenging spirits, he could not sustain this rate of losses for long!

After shouting in pain, the Myriad Soul Douluo increased the power of his Myriad Soul Banner. He steered his avenging spirits away from Ye Guyi and towards the other people, leaving gusts of wind buffeting against her.

However, Ye Guyi was not fighting alone. While she might not be strong enough to fight the Myriad Soul Douluo alone, she had the help of Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong!

Huo Yuhao leaned slightly backwards, and a powerful light was released from both his body and Tang Wutong's. A large eye—the Eye of the Asura—appeared. A Radiant Dragon God's Butterfly danced around the eye.

Following which, countless tiny black hammers were projected at the speed of light in all directions.

Mantra Amidst the Void, Spiritual Tempest.

Spiritual Tempest was the combination of the Spirit Eyes and the Clear Sky Hammer. It forged and strengthened Huo Yuhao's immensely powerful spiritual power before releasing it as a devastating blow.

Martial soul fusion skill! It was a skill which was powerful enough to go up against a technique from a Transcendent Douluo. Back when they were facing more than ten Titled Douluo, Tang Wutong and Huo Yuhao had managed to burst through their containment with this skill. The two evil soul masters would probably have no chance against it.

The Spiritual Tempest avoided their own people in a delicate fashion, and attempted to expand its range to envelope their enemies.

The Abomination Douluo, Myriad Soul Douluo and the avenging spirits released from the Myriad Soul Banner were all enveloped within the Spiritual Tempest.

This was truly a full power attack released by both Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong.

Instantly, the avenging spirits that were flying clear of Ye Guyi found themselves frozen in mid-air. Their spiritual fire was solidified and frozen under the effects of Spiritual Tempest. Normally, the tempest would have destroyed a large number of the avenging spirits. However, Huo Yuhao was able to use his exceptional control to control the power of the tempest to create an advantage for Ye Guyi.

The Myriad Soul Douluo and Abomination Douluo both let out a groan.

The Myriad Soul Domain was also destroyed at that instant. Even if the two of them were to go up against Tang Wutong one-on-one, they would still find it hard to beat her. Furthermore, they were actually going up against a skill released by both Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong.

Hence, it took only a short while before the outcome of the battle was decided.

The biggest winner was naturally Ye Guyi. As she spread out the wings behind her back, she flickered across the sky like a bolt of lightning. Large numbers of avenging spirits were purified wherever her holy sword landed. As the winds of Spiritual Tempest blew through the area, Ye Guyi cleaned up after them.

The avenging spirits that were hit by Spiritual Tempest and the Snowy Dance of Ultimate Ice could not dodge or defend themselves against Ye Guyi. They could only wait for their vengeance to be purified.

The Myriad Soul Domain might be extremely powerful in the eyes of an average soul master. It could not only release tens of thousands of avenging spirits, but also enhance their power exponentially. However as strong as this skill might be, it would only work in Ye Guyi's favor.

Huo Yuhao could sense with his spiritual detection that Ye Guyi's cultivation was shooting up at an insane rate.

This could only be a result of the strength of the opponent she was facing. She was going up against a Titled Douluo evil soul master. In addition, he was the kind of soul master who accumulated avenging spirits. He was the perfect target for her to improve her cultivation.

Over the past few years, Ye Guyi had never used such a method to improve her cultivation. Her foundation had always been solid and stable. Hence, this was a golden opportunity for her to consume the power of a Titled Douluo. It was impossible for her abilities to not improve.

As her cultivation improved, the holy light she was emanating became stronger.

After being caught in the spiritual tempest, the Myriad Soul Douluo took seven to eight seconds before he regained his composure from his shock. But when he finally became calm again, he realized he had already come out of his martial soul true body. His Myriad Soul Banner's color had become a lot fainter, and only the most powerful avenging spirits were left around him.

As for the Abomination Douluo, he was already pinned down by Er Bai. His back had been crushed, and a thick layer of dense ice had formed on his body.

How could he stand a chance against Er Bai after suffering from the spiritual tempest? This was like fighting a battle against a combination of a Transcendent Douluo who specialized in spiritual control and a Transcendent Douluo who specialized in assault. Even an evil soul master could not withstand such blows.

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However, Er Bai did not continue and kill the Abomination Douluo. Huo Yuhao had obviously ordered Er Bai to pin him down, but not kill him.

The Myriad Soul Douluo knew the battle was over. There was no point in him trying to fight a losing battle. As his figure flickered, he sent the remaining avenging spirits around him on a final onslaught. The mermaid avenging spirit released a series of loud howls as its powerful spiritual attack rippled from its body.

To protect his life, the Myriad Soul Douluo knew he had to sacrifice his avenging spirits to escape. He could always replenish his avenging spirits if they were to die. But if he were to lose his life, it would be the end for him.

His reactions were extremely quick, but why would Huo Yuhao not have thought of restraining him? He would not have left him there alone if he didn't have the ability to control the situation.

Just as the Myriad Soul Douluo was retreating, he suddenly saw a strange eye in front of him. The humongous eye released a purplish-gold flash before his eyes.

Following which, the Myriad Soul Douluo felt as if a hammer which could have split the earth hit his head. After releasing a loud groan, his retreating body lost control and collapsed to the ground with a loud thud.

It was a spiritual shock from the martial soul true body version of the Eye of the Asura! The frighteningly powerful spiritual attack ensured the destruction of the Myriad Soul Douluo's spiritual sea.

Because of the huge loss of his avenging spirits, the Myriad Soul Douluo had already suffered a drop in his cultivation. After sustaining this blow, he immediately lost consciousness.

The pure white holy light instantly transformed into a sharp sword which descended from the sky as though it was about to judge the evil beneath it. The sword stabbed straight into the chest of the Myriad Soul Douluo.

Following which, Ye Guyi's body split from the holy sword. Afterwards, one could see copious amounts of grey energy current surging out from the chest of the Myriad Soul Douluo. While he was screaming in pain, he was unable to budge because he was pinned down by the holy sword.

The four wings behind Ye Guyi's black glistened like white jade as golden streaks of energy raced into her body from the hilt of the holy sword.

Tonight's battle was definitely a night full of rewards for this Soul Sage.

The Myriad Soul Douluo struggled for close to a minute before relenting. Finally, he transformed into black ash under the holy sword before vanishing. After breaking free from their master's control, the remaining avenging spirits in the air were about to disperse and escape before they were stopped by Huo Yuhao's spiritual power.

Ye Guyi immediately turned around to continue her attack. She took close to fifteen minutes before she was able to purify the bulk of the avenging spirits.

Among the avenging spirits, about a third of them were human. The rest of them were from soul beasts. While some of them were from the land, most of them were aquatic soul beasts.

In the end, Huo Yuhao ask Ye Guyi to spare the mermaid avenging spirit.

The spirit was putting up a fierce struggle against Huo Yuhao's spiritual interference domain. Its once beautiful face was now twisted by rage and hatred.

Huo Yuhao let out a long sigh before chanting a purification spell.

Huo Yuhao's purification was a level above Ye Guyi's because he himself had inherited the power from Electrolux.

A white light shone down from the skies and onto the mermaid avenging spirit.

At that very instant, the spirit stopped struggling as streams of black energy current separated from its soul. The hatred and anger which were written all over its face started to slowly disappear. Gradually, all that remained on its face was melancholy.

Huo Yuhao released his spiritual power and attempted to establish contact with the mermaid. However, the mermaid spirit merely looked at him as it gently shook its head. Its eyes were brimming with sadness, but one could tell that it was a kind of sadness which one possessed after coming to terms with one's predicament.

The mermaid nodded gently before opening her mouth to sing a melody.

At this moment, the battle within the city had ended. Bei Bei, Xu Sanshi and Ji Juechen were all coming back from different directions. However, they all heard the mermaid spirit's singing.

Her singing was beautiful, but sorrowful. It sounded as though she was sobbing as she shared her tragic story of being captured by the evil soul master through her song. Her spirit started to release spots of white light during her singing. As her voice became brighter, her body started to become fainter.

Huo Yuhao sighed. After all, she had already become an avenging spirit! Even if he were to help her remove her vengeance, she was still unwilling to communicate with him. Nonetheless, her soul was purified, and she must be feeling a lot better now.

The mermaid's singing lasted for a couple of minutes before diminishing to silence. As the last note was sung, everyone's eyes were brimming with tears.

This mermaid spirit was particularly skilled in spiritual power. She was one of the strongest avenging spirits that the Myriad Soul Douluo had possessed. Now, during her last song, she was able to move everyone present.

The mermaid's faint spiritual image turned around to face Huo Yuhao before bowing before him, as though she wanted to thank him for his help. Following which, a pale blue glow started to fly towards him. Once the glow started to move towards him, the spirit disintegrated into tiny white particles that vanished into thin air.

Huo Yuhao could sense the kindness from the mermaid spirit, and extended his hand to receive the blue light.

To his surprise, the blue light went through his palm before landing on his body. As the blue light enveloped him, Huo Yuhao felt as though he had been rinsed by warm water. He felt particularly refreshed, but nothing else other than that.

Huo Yuhao was confident that he would be able to detect any problems with his powerful spiritual energy if there were any. But from the way things looked, there didn't seem to be any problem with the gift from the mermaid spirit.

The Abomination Douluo who was temporarily "spared" by Er Bai was naturally Huo Yuhao's gift to Ye Guyi. Without hesitating, Ye Guyi moved over to finish him off with her holy sword. n(/σ.-ν).e-/ℓ(/&.-1.-n

The deaths of different evil soul masters gave her different degrees of improvement. Even though she gained a lot from the death of the Abomination Douluo, the power she gained was a lot less than what she had received from the Myriad Soul Douluo.

After putting her holy sword away, Ye Guti realized the holy fire that was burning around her body was almost beyond her control. Even Er Bai refused to be in close proximity to her.

“Thank you.” Ye Guyi thanked Huo Yuhao before walking straight to the spectral gate behind him. She had purified far too many avenging spirits, and her body was bursting with purified energy. She needed to train immediately to digest this energy, or it would be wasted.

The battle on the walls of the city was nearing its end. Under the combined attack of two hundred soul engineers, each at least a Soul Emperor, the resistance above the walls of the city was destroyed in no time. Even though they had tried to retaliate with their linked soul tools, which were controlled by fifty soul masters, their attack was very feeble, considering how they had to defend at the same time. They simply could not breach the linked defense set up by the Tang Sect Soul Engineer Legion.

The linked defense on the city wall was destroyed by the furious attacks of the Tang Sect Soul Engineer Legion.

However, He Caitou was saddened to see so many soul tools destroyed in the battle! They were all precious soul tools which were very valuable!

The large commotion at the city walls naturally attracted the attention of Eastern Sun City’s City Defense Army as they gravitated towards the walls. However, it was apparent that they would be of not much use. The Tang Sect Soul Engineer Legion spread out in the air as they fired at the main road which led to the city walls. The series of shots completely cut off the road the army was about to take to provide reinforcement to the walls without taking too many lives. Otherwise, it would just be a one-sided massacre if the army were to actually come into direct conflict with the soul engineer legion.

Bei Bei moved towards Huo Yuhao and said, “Who would have known that there would be two evil Titled Douluo? Fortunately, we had the two of you to take them down.” Even though he was mainly expressing his gratitude towards Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong, he was also expressing his amazement at the current strength of the Tang Sect.

Even though he hadn’t managed to witness the full battle earlier, he could tell that Tang Wutong and Huo Yuhao had won the battle fairly easily from their composed expressions.

The two of them were authentic Titled Douluo, and yet they could not put up a fight against Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong. In fact, Huo Yuhao was even able to control the situation, and allow Ye Guyi to improve her cultivation. Compared to the battle at Oak City which had a few unexpected incidents, things went pretty smoothly this time. This exemplified how strong the Tang Sect had become.

After the past few battles, everyone, including Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong, had a brand new understanding of their own abilities. Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong could probably put up a fight against the Heavenly Sun Douluo—who was a Rank 97 Transcendent Douluo!

The advantage of using martial soul fusion skills on their top-class martial souls was becoming increasingly apparent as Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong became stronger. At the same time, the gap between them and their peers was also becoming larger. Without the Qiankun Fortune Pills, the gap between them would probably have been larger.

“Senior brother, clear up the battlefield!” Huo Yuhao ordered He Caitou. This was He Caitou’s favourite part of the battle.

Following which, Huo Yuhao first located the equipment which was connected to the nearby aerial surveillance soul tools before shutting the surveillance soul tools down and bringing them in. Afterwards, he chanted his incantations to open a spectral gate and release the remaining two legions.

Of course, the soul engineers came out of the spectral demiplane without their soul tools. After all, the dismantling work only required human labor.

The battle at Eastern Sun City was different from the one back at the Ming Dou Mountain Range. Here, at the biggest city in the northern region of the Sun Moon Empire, Huo Yuhao and the others did not have to flee right after they attacked as they did at the Ming Dou Mountain Range. Even if news of their attack spread to other troops, it would take a long time for reinforcements to arrive. Thus, they could plunder the city at will.

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He Caitou led the way as he dismantled every single possible soul tool in the area and brought them back into the spectral demiplane. In fact, he even led the soul engineers to the top of the city wall to scavenge rare metal bits from the ruins.

The sky had started to turn bright by the time they had finished dismantling and packing everything up.

The troops who were planning to attack Huo Yuhao and the others were also fairly rational. They knew they were unable to compete against the soul engineer legions, and hence they merely surrounded the area while they waited patiently for the reinforcements they had called for.

The mission was not over after clearing the area of any remaining soul tools. It was now the Tang Sect Soul Engineer Legion’s turn to perform.

Eastern Sun City’s seven storehouses were plundered by the legions as they transported large amounts of resources, especially food, into the spectral demiplane.

While Oak City was already considered a huge granary, it was nothing compared to Eastern Sun City. If the food in Oak City was to be compared to a small mountain, the food in Eastern Sun City could be an entire mountain range. In fact, the granary in Eastern Sun City had several special products from the Ice Sea, such as the skin of aquatic soul beasts, etc. There were plenty of resources and money for the legions to plunder.

It was only in the afternoon on the next day when the plundering operation ended. The thirty thousand soldiers were pinned down near the northern city gate by the Fort Soul Engineer Legion until the entire operation ended. Afterwards, the Fort Soul Engineer Legion left the city and headed north.

This operation affected more than just Eastern Sun City. It affected the entire northern region of the Sun Moon Empire.

The newly acquired resources had exceeded the two storehouses built within the spectral demiplane. They had no choice but to erect another two additional storehouses to contain them.



Right from the beginning of their mission, Huo Yuhao had never told the three legions to bring many rations. Their strategy was to fuel the next fight with their plunder from the previous fight.

The rations which they had plundered from these two cities was already sufficient for them to survive for three to five years without any worries.

The group of cultivators from the Tang Sect gathered on top of a small knoll in the spectral demiplane.

Huo Yuhao sighed and said, "It seems like we have underestimated the Sun Moon Empire!"

"What do you mean?" Jiang Nannan asked curiously.

Huo Yuhao said, "Actually, our initial predictions were correct. The number of troops stationed in the northern part of the Sun Moon Empire was actually very limited. In fact, they were not viewed with much importance. Nonetheless, we still faced relatively strong resistance from them. If we had not planned for an unprepared foe, we might not have won so easily, especially with the number of soul tools they had. Hence, we must be extra careful with our subsequent operations. Also, after our two victories, I am certain the Sun Moon Empire will be responding with some sort of plan. Thus, we must be even more unpredictable with our next move in order to achieve the best effect."

Bei Bei nodded and said, "Yuhao is correct. Our biggest advantage is this spectral demiplane. We are only able to move faster than any other troops because of it. In fact, we can probably appear at any corner of the continent within three days. Even if we can only launch a single shell at the enemy and flee, we can still achieve our objective. We must remember to not get entangled in a battle with our enemies. Yuhao, didn't you want to take a walk in the Ice Sea?"

Huo Yuhao nodded and said, "Yes, I'm about to go and take a look. Hopefully, I will be able to leave with some takeaways. In the meantime, I need everyone to remain in the spectral demiplane. Regardless of the outcome of my trip to the Ice Sea, I will immediately head to the southern parts of the Sun Moon Empire. By shifting our attack from the north to the south, they will be completely lost as to where exactly we plan to strike. This will be a perfect way to cause panic in their backlines." n)-o..1)(e(/l)-b--1(.n

Xu Sanshi frowned and said, "But the problem is that we don't really know how we're doing at the frontlines. If we can find out what's going on there, we might be able to strike at the Sun Moon Empire more effectively."

Bei Bei replied, "We shouldn't be too greedy about these things. It's already incredible for us to achieve what we have done. At least for now, the entire northern part of the Sun Moon Empire is a mess because of the food shortage we've created. The Sun Moon Empire must devote resources and attention to solving this problem. At the same time, they will have to try and uncover our tracks. I am sure this will help our friends at the frontline. Once we expand the range of our operations, I am certain that the Sun Moon Empire will become even more chaotic, and when that happens, they will have no choice but to retreat."

Xu Sanshi asked, "Little junior brother, do you need me to follow you to the Ice Sea? I'm better with water. Judging from the camp the Sun Moon Empire had set up here, the aquatic soul beasts in the Ice Sea might cause you some problems. You need to be careful."

Huo Yuhao replied, "You can rest assured, senior brother! Even in the worst case scenario, Wutong and I should be able to retreat safely. Don't forget, I have an Ultimate Ice martial soul. I do have a big advantage up here in the extreme north. If I need any help, I will summon all of you."

Xu Sanshi did not bug Yuhao any longer. After all, Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong were already a level above them in terms of fighting ability.

Ji Juechen, who had been keeping quiet at the side, suddenly asked, "Yuhao, when can we spar?" He had finally asked the question that had been on his mind for the longest period of time.

Just now during the battle, he did not face any formidable foes, but saw how Huo Yuhao was able to play around with the two evil soul masters. As a sparring maniac, how could he resist the temptation to ask Huo Yuhao to spar with him?

Huo Yuhao looked at him helplessly before replying, "Brother Ji, let's talk about it some other time. For now, can I get everyone to go and get some rest? We will head to the Ice Sea after finishing our preparations."

He did not want to spar with Ji Juechen now. Ji Juechen's sword intent was no joke. Even if he were confident in his abilities, he still had to put in a hundred percent in order to beat Ji Juechen. Huo Yuhao did not want to waste energy on sparring right now. He still had plenty of work to do.

Ji Juechen frowned as he looked towards the other people around him.

Immediately, Bei Bei walked away and sat down before beginning his meditation. Xu Sanshi looked up at the sky as he whistled and strolled away with Jiang Nannan.

He Caitou smiled awkwardly at Ji Juechen before saying, "Don't look at me. I'm a soul engineer, so I won't be a good sparring partner for you. Actually, Ye Guyi should be a good partner. Her cultivation must have improved a lot after the previous battle. Why don't you spar with her once she's done with digesting the newly acquired energy?"

Ye Guyi was currently cultivating in the storehouse, and soul engineers had been stationed there to protect her.

Ji Juechen sighed in despair. Why is it so hard to find someone to spar with?! Everyone was now avoiding him. He improved the most from finding inspiration in his sparring or battles with strong opponents. It was not sufficient for him to train alone. No one desired a strong opponent more than him.

Then, someone whom no one had expected stood up.

"Why don't I give it a try?" The voice was tender, but one could still detect a tinge of competitiveness in it.

Ji Juechen turned around, and was surprised to find out who had accepted his challenge.

The voice belonged to a female! But the person was not Tang Wutong—the strongest female soul master among them. She was also neither Jiang Nannan nor Ye Guyi. The person was also not Nan Qiuqiu, who was getting ready to watch the performance before her eyes. She was none other than Xiao Xiao—the one among Shrek's Seven Monsters who rarely showed her abilities.

Yes, the person who stood up and agreed to spar with Ji Juechen was none other than Xiao Xiao.

The first person who expressed his shock was He Caitou. He frantically asked, “Xiao Xiao, what are you doing? Are you crazy? How could you challenge Juechen? His sword intent is not something he can control properly.”

Xiao Xiao glared angrily at him and said, “Why do you have such little confidence in me? Or are you just a chauvinist by heart?”

“Uhhmm...” He Caitou was lost for words after hearing her words. He was simply too doting towards her. Even though he might be really busy all the time, he was never stingy on the care and affection he had shown for Xiao Xiao. This also resulted in a lack of opportunities for Xiao Xiao to get her hands dirty.

The truth was that even though Xiao Xiao gave off the vibes of a little girl—especially among Shrek’s Seven Monsters—she was actually a little older than Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong. In fact, the three of them had won the freshman competition together when they had just entered Shrek Academy.

Subsequently, she once again showed her abilities in the Continental Elite Youth Soul Master Tournament.

But after that time, Xiao Xiao rarely had the opportunity to spar and showcase her abilities. Even He Caitou did not know exactly how strong she had become.

Ji Juechen stared at Xiao Xiao, but he did not belittle her because of her size. Instead, his eyes showed the respect and wariness he had for any challenger.

Xiao Xiao stood there plainly, but did not seem to reveal any flaws in her stance.

Jue Jichen was an expert at finding flaws in an enemy’s stance. Once the enemy revealed a flaw, he or she would face the wrath of his torrential attacks.

However, Xiao Xiao seemed to have blended in with her surroundings. She was simply not exhibiting any flaws at all.

Xiao Xiao stared at Ji Juechen before announcing, “Brother Ji, can I challenge you?”

Ji Juechen hesitated a while before looking at Huo Yuhao, who was standing by the side.

Huo Yuhao nodded without any hesitation.

While the others might belittle Xiao Xiao, Huo Yuhao would never do so. A year ago, Xiao Xiao had already gained her own spirit with Huo Yuhao’s help. Besides, Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong would never forget her true abilities.

Huo Yuhao was not the only control system soul master among the new generation of Shrek’s Seven Monsters. Xiao Xiao was the other one.

However, she had taken a different path from Huo Yuhao. Huo Yuhao had chosen to focus on controlling and attacking, whereas Xiao Xiao chose to dedicate her training to controlling and defending.

The rationale for these two different focuses was because of Huo Yuhao’s twin martial souls. His Spirit Eyes would focus on controlling, while the Ice Jade Empress Scorpion would focus on attacking.

## Chapter 537.1: Ninephoenix Worshipping Flute

What about Xiao Xiao? In fact, she also possessed twin martial souls! Yes, Xiao Xiao, the girl who usually kept a low profile, was a soul master with twin martial souls. Among Shrek's Seven Monsters, she was the third person, other than Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong, who had twin martial souls. They were the cream of the crop among the new students of Shrek Academy back then.

Even though Xiao Xiao rarely sparred with anyone, that did not mean she was weak. Under the powerful effects of the Qiankun Fortune Pill, her cultivation had improved tremendously. Also, she was the direct disciple of Elder Xuan, who was an actual Ultimate Douluo! If he was willing to hand his teachings over to Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong, why would he not teach his final disciple?

Hence, amongst everyone present, Huo Yuhao was undoubtedly the person who had the most confidence in her.

Seeing how Huo Yuhao had given his consent, Ji Juechen said, "Alright, let's do it then."

He Caitou became anxious as he tried to grab Xiao Xiao's arm. "Xiao Xiao, you shouldn't! This is too dangerous. What am I going to do if something bad happens to you?"

Xiao Xiao replied casually, "Then go and find another person!"

He Caitou was angered by her words. "What do you mean by 'find another person'? I only want you. Besides, you have already done that to me. You must take responsibility."

His words hit everyone like a bolt from the blue. After hearing He Caitou's words, Xu Sanshi immediately pulled Jiang Nannan back as they returned to listen to the juicy gossip.

Bei Bei's eyes also widened in disbelief, while Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong looked at Xiao Xiao with a surprised expression.

Xiao Xiao immediately became the center of attention. She started blushing as she glared at He Caitou in a vicious manner. "Can you not spout rubbish? You're spoiling my spiritual state. You're going to be responsible if I lose later. And stop asking weird questions like who will be responsible for you and who did what with you. If you continue to ask stupid questions like that, I will ignore you."

After seeing Xiao Xiao blush, He Caitou frantically said, "How can you fight against Juechen when you're so flustered now? Come, let's go and cultivate by the side to calm your mind and heart down."

As he spoke, he was about to pull Xiao Xiao away.

However, his pull was ineffective. Xiao Xiao's feet seemed to be rooted to the ground. Of course, He Caitou would not use his real strength to pull her away. However, he could sense the determination in her to spar with Ji Juechen.

As he lowered his head to look at her, he was surprised by the look on her face.

Xiao Xiao's eyes had grown calm, and the flustered look on her face had disappeared. What was left was a look of calmness and determination.

"Xiao Xiao, you..."

“Caitou.” Xiao Xiao’s voice was very gentle. “I know you treat me well and are afraid that I will get hurt. I understand how you feel towards me. But you must know that I will not only become your wife in the future. At the same time, I will still be a member of Shrek’s Seven Monsters! All these years, I have seen how Yuhao has fought countless battles in the north and the south. All of you have also been busy with projects within the Tang Sect. But what about me? Under your protection, I have been like a bird who is unable to spread her wings. I know you care for me and dote on me. But I do not want to be a flower in a greenhouse. And I have the abilities to not be a flower in a greenhouse. I can stay strong without your protection. I am not just your lover and partner. In times of war, I can be your companion who can fight alongside you and help everyone.”

“I have never cut myself any slack on my training in all these years. And I train hard because I want to help everyone on the battlefield. But all of you have subconsciously excluded me from any dangerous or challenging tasks. I want this to stop, and I want to prove to all of you that I, Xiao Xiao, also possess the ability to become a true member of Shrek’s Seven Monsters. So please don’t stop me, Caitou! Let me prove it to you, alright?”

Xiao Xiao’s words silenced everyone as they started to ask themselves if that was truly the case. Jiang Nannan empathized with her words most strongly. Other than Tang Wutong, she was the only female among Shrek’s Seven Monsters along with Xiao Xiao. Even though Tang Wutong was able to fight alongside Huo Yuhao and had experienced so much, both Jiang Nannan and Xiao Xiao were always living under the care and protection of everyone else.

Hence, after hearing Xiao Xiao’s words, which resonated strongly in her heart, she let go of Xu Sanshi’s hand and walked towards Xiao Xiao. “Xiao Xiao, I support you.”

Xiao Xiao held Jiang Nannan’s hand and smiled. She was truly beautiful.

He Caitou was a little dazed after staring at her beautiful smile. It took him a while before he shook it off and revealed an understanding smile. He sighed before saying, “I am sorry, Xiao Xiao. I must have neglected your feelings.”

Xiao Xiao let go of Jiang Nannan’s hand before walking towards He Caitou. She actually dove into his embrace in front of everyone. “No, Caitou. I am really fortunate and blissful to have you. To be honest, I actually hesitated back then when I chose you. But afterwards, I understood how right I was to have chosen you. Caitou, I really enjoy receiving the care and concern you have for me. But I am so sad to see how hard you work every day. I really want to help you.”

He Caitou hugged her tightly as he stared at her lovingly.

Ji Juechen, who had been standing by the side, suddenly slapped his forehead and muttered, “Why do I suddenly feel like I’m the antagonist of this show?”

After hearing his words, everyone burst into laughter.

Bei Bei smiled and replied, “Brother Ju, you are truly the biggest antagonist in our Tang Sect. Who asked you to challenge people to fights every day?”

Ji Juechen sighed, "I don't really have a choice. In order to improve, I must find people to spar with. I am terribly sorry if I have inconvenienced you. But I will not change my ways, and will continue to challenge all of you to fights."

"Then bring it on." Xiao Xiao escaped from He Caitou's embrace, and her eyes were already burning with her desire to win.

Ji Juechen nodded and said, "Xiao Xiao, I will not go easy on you because you're a girl."

"Who needs you to go easy on me? We don't even know who will be victorious yet." As she spoke, she moved to a position that placed her moderately far away from Ji Juechen and opposite him.

Now, no one would stop them from sparring. They slowly moved back to give them space.

Tang Wutong whispered into Huo Yuhao's ear. "If Xiao Xiao loses, it will be my turn next, okay?"

Huo Yuhao smiled. "Are you itching to get into a battle after dealing with the two evil soul masters?"

Tang Wutong waved her little fist in front of Huo Yuhao and said, "Nope. I just want you men to know that us ladies are not that easy to bully. We are not weaker than men."

Huo Yuhao smiled. "Why do I have the feeling that I am your real target instead of Brother Ji?"

Tang Wutong raised her head and replied, "If I were to challenge you to a duel, would you accept it?"

Huo Yuhao was shocked. "You're not being serious, right?"

Tang Wutong replied, "Why not? Yuhao, don't you feel like you can't find your own limits after our previous closed-door cultivation? It's bad for us to not be able to accurately determine how strong we are. We will not be able to decide on the most effective way to deal with our enemies. Actually, Brother Ji's cultivation method has many areas that are worth learning from. Regardless of what abilities we possess, we are only able to truly understand those abilities by sparring and exercising them."

Huo Yuhao mulled over her words before saying, "What you say makes sense. But I don't think I can get myself to attack you..."

Tang Wutong burst into laughter and said, "Don't worry. I'll go easy on you."

"Are you so certain that you can beat me?" Huo Yuhao asked with raised eyebrows.

"Of course," Tang Wutong answered proudly, "Don't forget I'm already a Titled Douluo, while you're still a Soul Douluo."

"But I also have a soul core," Huo Yuhao replied, "this makes me pretty similar to a Titled Douluo!"

Tang Wutong said, "If you don't agree with me, you can always challenge me!"

Huo Yuhao said, "So be it. Let's do it after Xiao Xiao and Brother Ji are done."

During their conversation, the way they stared into each other's eyes seemed as though they were about to launch into a brawl. But it only stayed that way for a short while before both of them burst into laughter.

Yes! No matter what, they would never really fight with one another. Nonetheless, both of them were still fairly competitive. In fact, they were both really excited at the prospect of sparring with one another. It was exactly because they understood each other so well that they could not be certain who would emerge victorious.

Ji Juechen and Xiao Xiao faced each other and, without communicating, both of them took a few steps back. Since it was a proper spar, it had to be fair. Both of them retreated until there were about fifty meters between them. Xiao Xiao specialized in mid-range combat, while Ji Juechen was most adept at close quarters. If the distance was too far, it would not be fair to Ji Juechen. If it were too close, it would be unfair to Xiao Xiao. n./0V**eCb**1n

Fifty meters was just nice for both of them. Both Ji Juechen and Xiao Xiao stood upright and stared at each other. Xiao Xiao once again radiated a calm aura, as though she was becoming one with her surroundings.

This time, Ji Juechen was not the only one who felt that Xiao Xiao's abilities were unpredictable. Even her other companions could sense it.

Bei Bei could not help but nod. That's right! Regardless of whether it's Xiao Xiao or Jiang Nannan, all of us have grown a lot. Even they are no longer little girls who everyone needs to protect. They can all take on the world themselves.

Xiao Xiao's soul rings started to rise from her feet. Her first soul ring was yellow, but the subsequent ones were all black. All seven of her rings hung quietly around her as a flute appeared in her hands. The first martial soul which she released was not her main martial soul, the Threelives Soulcrush Cauldron, but her second martial soul—the Ninephoenix Worshipping Flute.

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## **Chapter 537.2: Ninephoenix Worshipping Flute**

Xiao Xiao waved her Ninephoenix Worshipping Flute, and her seven soul rings were drawn by the motion of the flute, and contracted before falling onto it.

Ji Juechen, who was standing opposite her, unsheathed his Judgement Sword. Just as he had said, he would not go easy on his opponents because of their gender.

Ji Juechen revealed a determined look on his face as he wielded his sword with both hands. As he pointed the tip of the sword to the ground, he was able to conceal his aura. At that very instant, everyone could sense that his life energy had disappeared. Even though he was standing right in front of them, it was as if he was not there at all. Even Huo Yuhao, who possessed incredibly powerful spiritual energy, could not detect him.

Even though they were not able to sense his presence, they could sense the energy from his sword. The Judgement Sword might not be reflecting any light, but it gave off the impression of a volcano that was about to erupt at any moment.

Xiao Xiao had never once sparred with Ji Juechen. This time, she finally experienced the immense pressure that one would have to face by standing before this sword fanatic. No wonder no one wanted to spar with him. His sword intent was simply out of this world.

Before making her move, Xiao Xiao already felt as though her entire person was imprisoned within a huge sword. And within the huge sword, there seemed to be hundreds and thousands of smaller swords which threatened to shred her to pieces.

What a powerful sword intent! Is this how it feels to go up against the sword of the sword fanatic?

At that instant, Xiao Xiao emanated a mysterious glow. Her small figure suddenly gave off an impressive aura which resembled that of a humongous mountain.

At that moment, it seemed as though her body could decide the fate of her country. Even Ji Juechen's incredibly powerful sword intent was shattered when it reached a distance of ten meters from her. Xiao Xiao's body was enveloped by a black glow which contained countless runes.

Ji Juechen almost lost his balance after his sword intent was shattered.

His face twitched a little after realizing what had just happened. He was seldom caught off-guard—even when he faced Huo Yuhao. He had toned down his sword intent, and no longer released it overtly.

Yes, Xiao Xiao had actually won their opening battle, in which Ji Juechen had pitted his sword intent against her aura!

Xiao Xiao's aura could only be described as overwhelming!

It could overwhelm people, and even overwhelm the destiny and aura of a country. That was the power of the cauldron. The true cauldron could suppress and overwhelm any aura!

Hence, regardless of how powerful the opponent's aura was, there was only one possible outcome. Their aura would be overwhelmed and suppressed by the cauldron. Hence, Xiao Xiao was near invincible when it came to comparing the strength of one's aura. That was the mystical power of the Threelives Soulcrush Cauldron.

Despite releasing her Ninephoenix Worshipping Flute, Xiao Xiao used the power of her Threelives Soulcrush Cauldron. This showed that she had developed incredible control over two martial souls.

At this very instant, her eyes brightened like shiny stars as she released a frightening amount of spiritual power.

Just when Ji Juechen was trying to find his balance, she started blowing her Ninephoenix Worshipping Flute.

A sad but melodic tune started to emerge from the end of her flute. The air around them started to become very viscous. The first soul ring on Xiao Xiao's flute started to sparkle as its glow pulsed. The viscous air appeared to have been saturated by boundless fluid. Even the people who were spectating from the outside felt weighed down by the "heavy" air around them.

Delay! It was the first technique of the Ninephoenix Worshipping Flute.

Even though it was exactly the same technique, its power was already completely different from what it was the last time she had showed it to the group.



Back then, when Xiao Xiao executed this skill against her opponent, it could only slightly delay her opponent's movements. But now, her soul skill was actually capable of making people struggle to move.

Ji Juechen stood there without moving. His aura might have been suppressed by Xiao Xiao previously, but he chose not to move even when he was up against her Delay. Since he was not moving, the soul skill did not affect him much.

Xiao Xiao's eyes remained focused on Ji Juechen as she changed the flute's melody.

The melancholic tune suddenly became gentle and bright. As the new tune emerged from the flute, one could see ripples of jade-green light emanating from Xiao Xiao's body. These ripples were like circles of thread which expanded towards Ji Juechen as they attempted to entangle him.

Initially, they appeared to just be circles of light, but when they got closer to Ji Juechen, they suddenly solidified to become material. They seemed to be like rings which were trying to bind and trap him.

Nonetheless, Ji Juechen chose to stay where he was. But just when the rings were about to ensnare him, they shattered to bits and pieces and fell to the ground. They were unable to restrict him at all.

The Ninephoenix Worshipping Flute's second soul skill—Binding Ring!

This soul skill could be executed in a simple or complex fashion. It possessed a powerful binding ability, but its powers seemed to have lost their effect when they came into contact with Ji Juechen's sword intent.

Xiao Xiao's face did not reveal any emotional change after witnessing the disintegration of her binding rings. She carried on with her flute playing as more rings started to gravitate towards Ji Juechen. Other than this, she did not seem to be casting any other soul skill. It appeared that she was hoping to drag the battle on in this manner.

After witnessing what Xiao Xiao was doing, Huo Yuhao nodded from the side of the sparring area. Xiao Xiao's strategy was sound. By suppressing Ji Juechen's aura with her advantage right from the start, Ji Juechen was unable to increase the power and range of his aura.

Aura was an extremely important component within Ji Juechen's sword intent. If his aura were to be increased to its maximum, his attack would become incredibly piercing and penetrating. What Xiao Xiao was doing now was dragging out the battle to expend his soul power and determination.

It was important to note that Xiao Xiao's soul power was not weaker than Ji Juechen's. Even though Ji Juechen was almost at Rank 90, his martial soul was just a normal martial soul. He had only become strong because of his unique understanding of sword intent and the Judgement Sword—a powerful Class 8 soul tool—which he wielded.

Compared to Ji Juechen, Xiao Xiao possessed twin martial souls. Her second martial soul had seven rings, and that would only strengthen her first martial soul. Even though her total amount of soul power might be less than Ji Juechen's, it was only slightly less. Besides, the possession of a strong martial soul would allow a soul master to recover more quickly. When it came to this, Xiao Xiao definitely had an advantage. Hence, even though it seemed unwise for her to drag the battle out, it was actually a good move. Ji Juechen had no chance to showcase the explosiveness of his sword intent.

If he were to force his sword intent towards Xiao Xiao, he would expose himself to her attacks. In fact, as of now, Xiao Xiao did not have any flaws or gaps which he could take advantage of. Hence, Ji Juechen seemed to be at a disadvantage currently.

As their battle wore on, everyone held their breath as they waited for the next event to unfold.

Ji Juechen's soul rings were unspectacular—they were just the ordinary soul rings. Nonetheless, he seemed very calm and collected as he stood still where he was. It was as though there was nothing in this world which he needed to be concerned about.

Even though Xiao Xiao looked like a girl who would be flustered easily, she was similarly calm and collected. She might not appear to have frozen still like Ji Juechen, but she was still very stable and relaxed, as though everything was under her control. She continued to apply pressure on Ji Juechen, keeping him from releasing his aura.

Bei Bei, He Caitou and Xu Sanshi revealed expressions of disbelief. They were certain that they might not be able to face Ji Juechen with this amount of composure!

Xiao Xiao, have you really become this strong?

Jiang Nannan clenched her fists as she rooted for Xiao Xiao in her heart. She was especially happy to see her showcase her true abilities.

Very quickly, five minutes passed. Both of them were still in their original positions. If they were to continue in this fashion, it would probably take close to a day before they would finish expending all of their soul power.

Ji Juechen frowned as he looked at the situation before him. This was not the feeling he wanted. He would have preferred his opponent to pressure him directly. Instead, Xiao Xiao was using her binding rings to harass him. He felt as though he was sinking into a marsh instead of fighting a fearsome battle. However, he was unable to detect any flaws or gaps in his opponent's defence. If he were to strike haphazardly, he would expose himself to her.

However, he knew it was definitely disadvantageous for him to drag the battle on like this!

If there's no gap or hole in your defence, I shall find one, or even create one! So what if there's a hole in my defence? Let's see who will strike first!

After making up his mind, Ji Juechen suddenly took a step forward with his left foot before stamping violently on the ground.

The silence stopped instantly as an unbelievably sharp sword intent formed from Ji Juechen's body. The sword intent was greyish black, and its sudden appearance shattered all of the binding rings which had just been released by the Ninephoenix Worshipping Flute. That powerful sword intent flew away from Ji Juechen and zoomed towards Xiao Xiao. In the blink of an eye, it was already right in front of her, and was ready to tear her apart.

However, the moment Ji Juechen made his move, Xiao Xiao had already reacted to it. The flute in her hands suddenly released a piercing howl.

Following which, her body became illusory as she split in two. Even though the sword intent had locked onto her, it went straight through her illusory figure, and did not harm her at all. After that, it was Xiao Xiao's time to retaliate.

Right after the greyish black sword intent passed through her, a jade-green image flew out of the Ninephoenix Worshipping Flute and reached Ji Juechen almost instantly.

### **Chapter 537.3: Ninephoenix Worshipping Flute**

Ji Juechen slashed the Judgement Sword upwards, and a formidable sword aura steamrolled towards the image of the jade-green phoenix.

The sword aura seemed to embody justice as it collided head-on with the green phoenix. However, the unexpected happened. Instead of shattering, the green phoenix magically melted and flowed along the sides of the sword aura as it continued to travel towards Ji Juechen.

That's right. It flowed like a fluid before the green phoenix splashed onto Ji Juechen's body.

At this juncture, everyone had started to gain a better appreciation of the situation.

Even though Xiao Xiao could not match Ji Juechen, she was probably not too far away from him. There was also an additional reason why she dared to challenge him today. It was because he was not familiar with her.

In fact, not many people within Tang Sect knew what soul skills Xiao Xiao possessed.

After witnessing this Ninephoenix Worshipping Flute's soul skills, Bei Bei, Xu Sanshi and the rest were all surprised. What is this soul skill? It seems like it's going to be very difficult to get away from the green light.

Ji Juechen definitely experienced the difficulty firsthand.

When he first saw the jade-green phoenix fly towards him, he thought that this would be an attack-type soul skill. However, he knew his guess was wrong the moment the sword aura pierced through the jade-green phoenix.

He expected his sharp sword aura to shatter the phoenix upon contact. However, the soul skill did not end with its shattering. In fact, it had been agitated.

The stream of jade-green light, which was very much like a viscous fluid, landed on Ji Juechen's body instantly. It seemed to have been drawn to his sword aura. However, Ji Juechen knew that it was only drawn to him because Xiao Xiao had locked it onto him. Otherwise, it would not have come straight to him.

As the jade-green light melted into his body, he felt his entire body become heavier. It was as though he had just put on a thousand-pound suit of armor, and had lost all of his agility.

In fact, he even realized that his blood flow and soul power had become sluggish. It was as though his entire person had become very sluggish and slow.

What a powerful soul skill! What exactly is it?

This was a question which only Xiao Xiao could answer. Its name was Phoenix Seal—a sealing technique from the Ninephoenix Worshipping Flute.

This soul skill was very powerful because of how indestructible it was. Unless it was obliterated on all fronts, it was practically unstoppable. Once it came into contact with an opponent, he or she would be in serious trouble. The jade-green Phoenix Seal would stick itself to the person like cotton candy. It would require an unreal amount of soul power to dissolve. Xiao Xiao had been trying to expend Ji Juechen's soul power right from the beginning. Now that her seal had landed on him, it would only accelerate the rate at which he was forced to burn his soul power.

After landing the seal on Ji Juechen's body successfully, Xiao Xiao was over the moon, and the tune which she was blowing with her flute became even more melodic.

Warm halos were now being released from the Ninephoenix Worshipping Flute. These halos transformed into jade-green phoenixes as they flew towards Ji Juechen.

What a remarkable control-type soul skill! Everyone thought to themselves as they marvelled at Xiao Xiao's technique. Xiao Xiao's Ninephoenix Worshipping Flute could have been equipped with attacking-type soul skills. But from the looks of the soul skills which she had executed, all of them seemed to be control-type. This also meant that she had dedicated her entire second martial soul to control-type soul skills. It was apparent that she chose to do this for the team.

As an owner of twin martial souls, her Threelives Soulcrush Cauldron was already a defense-type control-type martial soul. If she were to only care about herself, she could have dedicated her second martial soul to attacking-type soul skills. This would have made her a more balanced soul master.

But Xiao Xiao did not choose to do that. Instead, she chose to focus purely on control-type soul skills on her second martial soul. This was a team-oriented decision. Because her boyfriend—He Caitou—was already skilled in attacking-type soul skills, it would make perfect sense for her to focus on control-type skills to complement him, and improve their overall fighting power.

At this instant, Ji Juechen's eyes suddenly brightened. He knew very well what kind of predicament he was in. Since Xiao Xiao did not stop releasing the phoenix seals, this meant that the effects of her seals could be compounded.

While he remained there, Ji Juechen's aura suddenly changed. An indescribably sharp aura suddenly surged out from his body.

At that very instant, even the light from his Judgement Sword was covered by the aura surging out from him. Ji Juechen had transformed into a long sword with an unparalleled aura exploding from his body.

Xiao Xiao's eyes were blurred by the sudden outburst of Ji Juechen's aura. Following which, Ji Juechen made his move. Countless sword auras surged from his body as though they were gushing out from every pore. A faint green energy was also ejected from his body along with the sword auras. The first phoenix seal had been broken.

Ji Juechen lifted the Judgement Sword as though he was conducting the millions of sword auras which had been released from his body. Immediately, they formed a powerful wave which swept towards Xiao Xiao.

The greyish black sword auras were like a hurricane which swept across the ground that separated Xiao Xiao and Ji Juechen. The jade-green phoenixes which stood in the way of the huge hurricane were instantly shattered as they vanished into thin air.

Ji Juechen was able to turn the tables in a single move. Also, he was able to lock on his aura onto Xiao Xiao.

Xiao Xiao's face was visibly paler. She could no longer sense her energy from Ji Juechen's body. Naturally, her methods would no longer be effective on him. Instead, she felt an unparalleled murderous intent from him.

This murderous intent did not have a material form, but Xiao Xiao was certain that it existed. At that very instant, she felt as though every single pore on her body had been shut by the killing intent exhibited by Ji Juechen. The effect of the intent was so strong that her flute playing stopped momentarily.

Following which, Ji Juechen made his move. He flew towards Xiao Xiao at lightning speed like a sharp sword tearing up the sky.

This was Executioner's Blade—Ji Juechen's most commonly used ability. It was a soul skill which he had invented by himself. This soul skill was often able to create miracles during battles, and had an attacking power that was unparalleled by other soul masters on his level.

Xiao Xiao was startled by the sight before her, but she did not step back. This was undoubtedly a wise decision. She stopped playing the Ninephoenix Worshipping Flute, and instead she waved it in the air as though it were a short baton. After waving her flute, her delicate body once again became illusory. It was apparent that she had used the same soul skill which she had used to avoid Ji Juechen's previous attack.

Phoenix Substitution!

In addition, the seventh soul ring on the Ninephoenix Worshipping Flute also started to shine.

As the Executioner's Blade collided with its target, once again, it only managed to slash at Xiao Xiao's illusory figure. The most powerful thing about the Phoenix Substitution was its ability to allow its user to break free from a lock on by his or her opponent. Even Ji Juechen's sword intent could not strike Xiao Xiao.

However, this time round, Ji Juechen was attacking with his own body. Hence, he stopped right next to Xiao Xiao's real body after destroying the illusory figure.

The Judgement Sword's light became more intense as dense black energy instantly surged around it. As Ji Juechen released his fearsome sword aura, the air around it started to crack and shatter.

Ji Juechen knew that no soul skill could be continuously executed without stopping. Hence, he launched his attack precisely at the moment when Xiao Xiao was no longer able to use her Phoenix Substitution to evade his attack.

However, something unexpected happened.

Xiao Xiao's body transformed into a streak of green light before melting into the Ninephoenix Worshipping Flute. Following which, the flute released a bright phoenix screech as it opened its own humongous pair of green wings and transformed into a flying green phoenix.

At the same time, a large green ring descended from the sky and bound Ji Juechen's body. Even though it was shattered almost immediately by Ji Juechen's dominating sword aura, it gave the green phoenix sufficient time to fly away.

The green phoenix was actually the Ninephoenix Worshipping Flute's martial soul true body!

Once again, Xiao Xiao was able to surprise her peers with her soul skills.

The flying green phoenix extended its wings before flapping them intensely as the sixth soul ring on its body started to glow. Following which, a green light descended from the sky.

These green shadows looked like pillars from afar. However, once they landed, everyone realized that they were replicas of the Ninephoenix Worshipping Flute. Every single one of them had been magnified by at least ten times. The carvings of the nine phoenixes on it were particularly delicate.

After landing on the ground, those pillars became frozen, as though they were structures which had been there all along.

Ji Juechen's body was originally poised to chase after Xiao Xiao. However, after the pillars landed, he found that he could not move.

Phoenix Pillars!

This was her sixth soul skill!

The effect of these pillars was incredibly strong. After the skill was executed, there seemed to be an incredible attraction wherever the pillars covered. This force of attraction was not gravity, but sound waves. It was an unbelievably strong sound wave which was similar to the cry of a phoenix. The sound wave exploded from bottom to top within the regions where the pillars lined themselves up. Every single pillar was producing a deafening sound wave which could cause a person to lose his or her concentration. If a weaker cultivator were to find himself within the pillars, he would probably have been shattered by the sound waves.

As the green phoenix in the sky flapped its wings again, the sound waves released by the phoenix pillars grew in intensity. If one were to pay attention to them, one would notice faint ripples in the air.

Attacking with sound waves was the Ninephoenix Worshipping Flute's true trump card. All its previous soul skills used sound waves, but their use was not as apparent as the Phoenix Pillars.

This time around, Ji Juechen was truly bound by the sound waves, as his body trembled under their effect. The sound waves were everywhere, and there was no chance of evading them. It was the first time he was going up against an attack like this, and he could not adapt to it in time. While his body was shaking under the powerful sound waves, he was busy trying to muster the sword auras around him as he tried to free himself from the impact of the sound waves.

**Chapter 538.1: Huo Yuhao VS Tang Wutong**

Xiao Xiao's Ninephoenix Worshipping Flute might only have seven soul rings, but they were all ten-thousand-year soul rings, except for the one yellow hundred-year soul ring, which she had added back during the freshman competition to help Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong'er.

The reason why she used her Ninephoenix Worshipping Flute instead of her Threelives Soulcrush Cauldron was that everyone was familiar with her flute. At the same time, her flute granted her immense controlling power.

Even Huo Yuhao's Spirit Eyes were not a pure control-type martial soul, but Xiao Xiao's Ninephoenix Worshipping Flute was.

Back then, when Elder Xuan was mentoring her, he once told her how the simplest method to become a truly powerful soul master was to become the best at a certain field. Regardless of what field it was, as long as one was able to become the best in that area, he or she would possess immense power!

Apparently, Xiao Xiao had subscribed to that belief, and had persisted with her decision. And reality showed that she had succeeded. By using the powerful controlling ability of her Ninephoenix Worshipping Flute, she was actually able to restrain Ji Juechen.

The green phoenix in the sky tucked its wings in, and Xiao Xiao reappeared in mid-air. Following which, a huge black cauldron appeared.

When this cauldron appeared, the number of soul rings on Xiao Xiao's body increased from seven to eight!

That's right! Xiao Xiao had already attained the rank of a Soul Douluo! Her primary martial soul already had eight soul rings. She was now a powerful eight-ringed Soul Douluo with the Threelives Soulcrush Cauldron.

As the fifth soul ring on Xiao Xiao's body lit up, the Threelives Soulcrush Cauldron expanded furiously against the wind. The matte black cauldron seemed to embody immense authority as the surrounding air became increasingly dense and heavy. The cauldron seemed to have transformed into a humongous mountain as the people from the Tang Sect felt the immense pressure radiating from it.

The cauldron floated over Ji Juechen as it started to release a humming sound. It released countless humongous runes which started to circle around it.

At this instant, Ji Juechen, who was stuck within the formation formed by the phoenix pillars, seemed to have become frozen as he quietly stood where he was. However, his whole body had transformed into a greyish black color.

Even though the sound waves from the phoenix pillars continued to attack him, they were unable to penetrate his defense. At this instant, Xiao Xiao felt an inexplicable sense of danger. Even though she seemed to have the upper-hand over Ji Juechen, she did not feel as though she had an advantage over him. Instead, she felt very uncomfortable, as though something ominous was about to happen.

Xiao Xiao released a low growl as she pointed in the direction of the cauldron with her right hand. At that instant, the Threelives Soulcrush Cauldron released a loud and powerful humming sound as it dropped from the sky toward Ji Juechen.

A powerful black light was also ejected from the mouth of the cauldron. Endless authority descended from the heavens as the black pillar of light struck Ji Juechen ahead of the cauldron.

This was the fifth soul skill of Xiao Xiao's Threelives Soulcrush Cauldron—Threelives Soulcrush. It was a powerful sealing soul skill which acted directly on the body and the soul.

Previously, with the help of the Threelives Soulcrush, Xiao Xiao was actually able to seal a powerful evil soul master and contribute to the team's success.

However, the person she was facing now was Ji Juechen. The sword fanatic, Ji Juechen!

A bright cry escaped Ji Juechen's mouth, following which, a matte black sword light erupted from the ground like black ink.

Both the Threelives Soulcrush and the sword light from Ji Juechen were black.

The two black forces collided with a humongous impact.

Ji Juechen's figure rose up into the sky like a dragon ascending to the heavens. However, the Threelives Soulcrush Cauldron had vanished in that instant.

That's right, it had somehow vanished.

The cauldron which was falling rapidly had disappeared without any warning. However, if one were to pay attention to Xiao Xiao, one would notice the sly smile that had formed on her face.

A humongous cauldron sneakily appeared below Ji Juechen's feet. The same black pillar enveloped and trapped Ji Juechen after he had exploded up into the sky with his maximum effort.

Ji Juechen was caught in that moment when he had just exerted strength on a previous soul skill, and was recovering his energy for the next blow. Hence, his body froze upon contact with the Threelives Soulcrush as he was sealed in mid-air.

A small thing that resembled a lizard rested itself silently on Xiao Xiao's shoulder. This thing seemed to be a little strange, as it looked different from a normal lizard. However, because it was hidden within a ball of dark light, no one could see its true appearance.

Nonetheless, it was its existence that allowed the Threelives Soulcrush technique to suddenly change positions. This allowed Xiao Xiao to trick Ji Juechen into exposing himself to her attacks.

After the Threelives Soulcrush was completed, the matte black cauldron suddenly expanded before releasing a powerful suction force. Ji Juechen was sucked into the cauldron.

The eighth ring on Xiao Xiao's body lit up, and nine humongous golden runes fell from the sky onto the cauldron. Instantly, the black cauldron was dyed a uniform golden color as it dropped to the ground!

The phoenix pillars disappeared, leaving only the cauldron sparkling on the ground. The ten golden runes on the cauldron glowed intensely in an intermittent fashion, as though they were trying to resist powerful blows from within.



Xiao Xiao floated back to the ground as she looked at the commotion before her with surprise. Even though she might have beaten Ji Juechen, she knew that she had not won by ability. She was only able to defeat him because of her tactics.

Ji Juechen was simply too unfamiliar with her abilities. Conversely, Xiao Xiao had watched so many of his spars with the others. Hence, she possessed a superior understanding of his abilities.

Ji Juechen's final attack—his Sword Fanatic Domain—was undoubtedly his greatest skill. Xiao Xiao's prior control was simply her way of waiting for that moment to come. When Ji Juechen launched his most powerful attack, it was also the time when he was most vulnerable to any form of attack. If he were to fail to land a blow in a single attempt, his aura and sword intent would drastically decrease.

Xiao Xiao had been waiting for this opportunity all along. Of course, she understood that Ji Juechen could have directed his final attack at her instead of her Threelives Soulcrush Cauldron. Even though he would most definitely get hurt, she would also not be able to escape unscathed. The truth was that even though Ji Juechen was a sword fanatic, he would still not put his own people in danger.

Xiao Xiao raised her right hand as the Threelives Soulcrush Cauldron transformed into a streak of light before returning to her body. A deafening sword aura flickered as Ji Juechen reappeared within the spectral demiplane.

He looked slightly ragged after reappearing. There were many holes in his clothes, and his face seemed to be slightly pale. However, the spark in his eyes showed that he was actually very excited.

The scariest thing about the sword fanatic was how he was not afraid of losing. In fact, the more he lost, the more excited he would become. That was why everyone had a headache when facing him. The more they tried to put him down, the more he wanted to fight them.

"I have lost. That was very impressive!" Ji Juechen nodded as he looked at Xiao Xiao.

Xiao Xiao shook her head and said, "No. I definitely can't compare to you when it comes to our true abilities. You only lost because you did not understand my skills well enough. Also, you chose to go easy on me instead of putting me in harm's way. When we fight the next time, I will definitely lose to you. I can sense that you haven't even released your full fighting power."

Ji Juechen shook his head and said, "It's still a loss at the end of the day. I can sense that you did not go all-out on me either. It would be very difficult to say who would win if we were to fight to the death. But that would only result in serious injuries for both of us."

Ji Juechen's words were usually very objective. Hence, his praise had elevated Xiao Xiao to a new status. It meant a lot about Xiao Xiao's ability when she was able to hold her own against the sword fanatic.

He Caitou gaped as he stared at Xiao Xiao. "Xiao Xiao, I can't believe how strong you've become. If we were to battle within a fixed physical range, I might not even be able to beat you."

Xiao Xiao waved her little fist at He Caitou and said, "So you better watch out! If you dare bully me in the future, I'll make sure I put you down."

He Caitou gave her an awkward smile and said, "You are the one who's bullying me every day now! When have I ever bullied you? Look, you even bit me yesterday." Following which, he revealed a mark on his shoulder.

Xiao Xiao's face became red as she turned and fled. The people who were listening to their conversation burst into laughter.

"Alright, now that they're done, it's our turn!" Tang Wutong's voice attracted everyone's attention. They were confused about what she meant.

Ji Juechen's eyes lit up as he leapt forward. "Yes, let's do it!"

Huo Yuhao laughed angrily before saying, "Hey! Hey! Hey! I'm not letting you fight my wife. Besides, I don't think you can withstand her blows for even a minute with the current state you're in. My wife is no pushover."

As he clarified, he stepped onto the sparring ground with Tang Wutong.

Bei Bei looked at him and asked, "Little junior brother, what are you trying to do?"

Huo Yuhao sighed and replied, "Wutong was very inspired by what she saw, and mentioned to me how females should not be discriminated against. Hence, she challenged me to a duel."

"Cough! Cough!" Even though a mocking look formed on Bei Bei's face, he did not dare to say anything. From the look in his eyes, he seemed to be saying, "Good luck, buddy!"

Xu Sanshi did not seem to fear anything as he egged Huo Yuhao on, "Little junior brother, go for it! You must fight for all the men in the world."

Jiang Nannan rolled her eyes and said, "It seems like you're quite a chauvinist, eh? Come, fight with me!"

Xu Sanshi shook his head fervently before saying, "No way. Forget about it. Use your sleeping technique only after we return to our room. I promise I will definitely not resist."

Jiang Nannan launched herself into the air as she kicked Xu Sanshi. However, she was already blushing.

Tang Wutong moved to the side of the sparring ground on her own. Huo Yuhao was also in no mood to care about what the others were talking about. Because he had been cultivating with Tang Wutong every day, he had a rough understanding of her ability. However, he had never faced her when she was in full fighting mode.

## **Chapter 538.2: Huo Yuhao VS Tang Wutong**

Before, when he duelled with Wang Qiu'er, it was already very difficult for him to defeat her. Currently, Tang Wutong's current ability seemed to be a combination of Wang Qiu'er's and Wang Dong'er's abilities. She was also already a Titled Douluo. When it came to individual abilities, she was probably the strongest in the whole Tang Sect. Even though Huo Yuhao was boosted by his multiple spirits, he could not be complacent when going up against her.

After seeing how he had been excluded from this upcoming affair, Ji Juechen retreated to the side unwillingly. However, he was still very excited to watch a battle between two powerful cultivators. Watching their battle was still very useful for his cultivation.

After Ji Juechen retreated, Huo Yuhao took up his place as he allowed his energy to calm down. As he watched Tang Wutong, who was walking further and further away, he started to focus on his target.

Bei Bei, Xu Sanshi, He Caitou, and the others stopped fooling around. Xiao Xiao had quietly returned as she took up a place beside He Caitou.

To be honest, everyone knew well enough that the two strongest cultivators in Tang Sect were none other than Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong. However, they were not certain exactly how strong these two were.

When Huo Yuhao teamed up with Tang Wutong to pin down the two evil soul masters, they had fully demonstrated the power of their martial soul fusion skills. However, that was still fundamentally different from facing off against one another.

One-on-one battles were the true demonstration of an individual's abilities. It would show everyone how strong they had become, and that was something that everyone from Tang Sect wanted to know.

Nan Qiuqiu, who was standing to one side moved over to talk to Tang Wutong. She waved her fist and cheered, "Wutong, go for it! Beat him! Beat him until he loses all his teeth."

Huo Yuhao was at a loss for words. "Qiuqiu, do you really hate me that much?"

Nan Qiuqiu replied, "This is no longer an issue of hatred. It's about the battle between the sexes. Ladies, am I right?"

Her words received support from her fellow ladies.

Xu Sanshi then cheered loudly, "Yuhao, you can do it. Brother Ji has already lost the first round. You must not lose again! If you lose, I am afraid every male in Tang Sect will have to walk around with our heads lowered."

Huo Yuhao sighed. "That's easy for you to say. I don't think it will be an easy fight against Wutong!"

At this moment, Tang Wutong had already walked to a distance which would separate her from Huo Yuhao by about a hundred meters. When she turned around to face Huo Yuhao, her beautiful eyes showed the excitement in her heart. No one knew whether she was excited to fight, or excited by the prospect of destroying Huo Yuhao.

Huo Yuhao focused his gaze on Tang Wutong. Bei Bei walked forward a few steps before declaring, "I will be the referee for this duel. Are both of you ready?"

Compared to the previous duel between Ji Juechen and Xiao Xiao, this duel was obviously a lot more formal.

As of now, the higher-ups of Tang Sect were not the only spectators. After hearing the commotion above the knoll, many of the soul engineers from the three legions had left their resting areas and surrounded the knoll to watch the upcoming duel.

After hearing that they were about to witness a duel between Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong, all of them were visibly more excited than the duelists themselves.

Most of the soul engineers in the Tang Sect Soul Engineer Legion, the Fort Soul Engineer Legion, and the Heavy Artillery Soul Engineer Legion were young people. Even the older ones were only middle-aged. They were all people who were full of bloodlust, and were raring to watch people fight. They were extremely interested to watch a battle between two top-class soul masters.

Besides, quite a number of people within the legions had witnessed Huo Yuhao demonstrate his abilities during the Sea God's Fated Blind Date. It was also then that he got together with Tang Wutong.

Even people who were not fortunate enough to see them at the Blind Date would have definitely heard about them. Now, they were about to watch them duel in front of their eyes. It was an opportunity not to be missed! As people quickly passed the message about the duel that was about to start, a large number of soul engineers had surrounded the sparring ground. Even though they were keeping a safe distance from the actual ground itself, their excitement was still infectious.

Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong were not anxious about the duel at all. Both of them merely stood there as they waited patiently for the duel to officially begin. Even though the fight was about to start, both of them were perfectly fine with having the legions spectate their battle, because it was a good way to improve their morale.

Everyone wanted to be assured of the strength of their commanders. A strong commander would not only lead them to victory, but would also be capable of keeping them safe.

Hence, Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong chose to wait a little longer until everyone had found a safe viewing point before they nodded at Bei Bei.

Bei Bei naturally understood their intentions as he smiled. "Both of you really have great chemistry! Are you ready?"

Once again, they nodded. Bei Bei raised his right hand before looking at both of them. Then, he lowered his hand rapidly as he announced, "Start!"

As he announced the start of the duel, Tang Wutong made the first move. Her beautiful dragon wings opened up from her back as her soul rings ascended from her feet. The sight of this made the throngs of soul engineers cheer in delight.

They were not only cheering because she had nine soul rings. She possessed a combination of soul rings which far exceeded the best-known combination! The sight of Tang Wutong's red hundred-thousand-year soul ring made the crowd wild.

Is this the true strength of the wife of our Chief Commander? That's unbelievable! Will Chief Commander be able to beat her?

After witnessing the powerful soul rings Tang Wutong possessed, everyone turned their attention to Huo Yuhao. Once again, they were stunned by what they saw.

Huo Yuhao's eyes released a gentle golden glow as a humongous golden eye formed behind his back. Seven soul rings gently ascended from his feet. Even though there were only seven rings, their colors were overwhelmingly attention-grabbing.

The first soul ring was milky-white, with a circle of golden carvings. The second soul ring was already black. The third, fourth and fifth soul rings were also black in color. And to everyone's surprise, the sixth and seventh soul rings were red.

After the appearance of his seventh soul ring, the air around Huo Yuhao started to bend and twist, as though he were no longer real.

Tang Wutong slowly raised her right hand as her body emanated an intense golden glow, which spread outwards in the shape of a butterfly.

As she tapped the tip of her foot on the ground gently, she sprang forwards towards Huo Yuhao in flight. As her wings flapped intensely behind her back, she had already flown a hundred meters and was right in front of Huo Yuhao before anyone could even see how she did it.

That's way too fast! Everyone cheered in unison after witnessing her incredible speed.

Tang Wutong leaned slightly to the side as her right wing went straight for Huo Yuhao. A deafening howl could be heard as the dragon wing extended to form a gigantic blade.

Huo Yuhao's body had become illusory the moment Tang Wutong dashed over. He had activated his Spiritual Interference Domain. While the wing cut through his figure, it was not able to hit his real body. Huo Yuhao had silently moved towards behind Tang Wutong right before everyone's eyes.

He threw out a simple punch at her back.

Even though the punch seemed extraordinarily simple, Tang Wutong froze after receiving the blow, as though she had become immobile. Huo Yuhao's punch seemed to contain a black hole that was holding her in place.

Tang Wutong closed and folded the wings behind her back before releasing them again violently as she hoped to use the sharp edges of her wings to counter Huo Yuhao's fist.

However, at this instant, Huo Yuhao's eyes flashed as he released a spiritual blast radiating from the center of his body into the area about ten meters from him.

The golden trident rune on Tang Wutong's forehead flickered and absorbed most of the force from the spiritual blast. This only delayed Wutong slightly, as her wings continued in their course and collided with Huo Yuhao's fist.

"Ping!" A loud metallic sound rang out.

Huo Yuhao retreated rapidly upon their collision. The others also noticed how the air around him had started to show signs of cracking and shattering. These cracks were caused by the sharpness of Tang Wutong's dragon wings.

However, things were also not easy for Tang Wutong. The golden light from Huo Yuhao's fist had followed the contours of her wings and flowed into her body. To her surprise, this golden glow caused her to lose her focus for a split second.

After being forced backwards, Huo Yuhao's third soul ring lit up. A vertical beam of white light shone on Tang Wutong. Mass Enfeeblement! Of course, it had been focused on a single target under Huo Yuhao's superior control. Its power was naturally magnified as it became a lot more concentrated.

Following which, his fourth soul ring lit up. A mysterious whirlpool formed above Tang Wutong's head. If one were to pay attention to the whirlpool, one would notice the little vertical eye which was flickering within it. Spiritual Confusion!

After releasing two powerful control-type soul skills simultaneously, Huo Yuhao's soul rings suddenly changed. The original seven rings became eight different soul rings. Even their colors had become different. As he raised his right hand, a gigantic deep blue sword appeared. Following which, the sword went for Tang Wutong's head as it followed the two powerful soul skills.

Snow Empress' Three Ultimate Techniques: Unparalleled Chill, Empress' Sword!

This series of transformations was extremely rapid. Everyone found it hard to follow Huo Yuhao's movements, as his attacks were just too quick for their eyes. His transition from controlling to attacking was seamless. He did not seem like he was going easy on Tang Wutong at all.

Tang Wutong only lost her focus momentarily. When the Mass Enfeeblement landed on her body, she had already regained her focus. Her eyes revealed a flash as her body flipped on its own in mid-air. Afterwards, she raised her hands as her fourth soul ring lit up. Dragon God's Possession!

### **Chapter 538.3: Huo Yuhao VS Tang Wutong**

As the armor of dragon scales fitted itself onto Tang Wutong, her aura suddenly changed. Her powerful dragon aura blew away the Mass Enfeeblement. Even the dangerous Spiritual Confusion was blocked by the golden trident on her forehead.

The shiny Golden Dragon Spear appeared and blocked the Unparalleled Chill's blade.

"Clinggg!" Once again, another bright sound echoed through the air. The Unparalleled Chill shattered in mid-air, while Tang Wutong also fell to the ground from the impact, her entire body covered with a layer of frost.

Huo Yuhao had been working on his Ultimate Ice, especially after he had absorbed the Manifold Mysterious Ice Essence previously. After the Unparalleled Chill shattered, it released the extremely low temperature trapped within it. The soul engineers who were watching the duel felt the sudden drop in temperature, and quickly mustered their soul power to warm their bodies.

Huo Yuhao let out a long growl as he accelerated instead of retreating. He flew towards Tang Wutong as he pulled his right hand to his waist. The image of the Ice Jade Empress Scorpion appeared behind his back as a Star Anise Mysterious Ice Grass formed on his shoulder. These increased the aura of his Ultimate Ice by orders of magnitude.

Meanwhile, Tang Wutong fearlessly tapped the ground with her feet. Following which, a gigantic golden dragon appeared with a loud dragon roar. Afterwards, the dragon shrank rapidly, and wrapped itself around the Golden Dragon Spear. Tang Wutong pointed the tip of the spear at Huo Yuhao as both of them prepared for the other's next move.

Within the blink of an eye, both of them were inches apart. But suddenly, both of their figures vanished simultaneously. At that very instant, the surrounding soul masters felt the effects of a powerful suction force. The suction force seemed to penetrate their minds as most of the soul masters were forced to take a step forward to steady their bodies. They were struggling against the power of the suction force.

But then, in the next instant, both Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong reappeared in the other's former positions.

Both of them revealed a shocked expression on their faces. Following which, both their expressions revealed a look of amazement. "I can't believe we have so much chemistry. We're even using the same technique."

It seemed like both of them had executed Instant Teleportation at the same time. They had both wanted to teleport to the other person's back before launching an attack. But it seemed like both of them had foiled the other's plan unintentionally. Even their tactics were exactly the same.

Huo Yuhao was lost for words after he realized this, whereas Tang Wutong burst into laughter.

But even then, their emotions would not get into the way of their fight.

After teleporting to where Huo Yuhao was, Tang Wutong spun around as her Golden Dragon Spear lashed back like a whip towards him.

Huo Yuhao moved as he barely dodged the jab from Tang Wutong's spear. The current situation was starting to show the advantage that weapon wielders had over soul masters who did not wield weapons. Because Huo Yuhao did not have a weapon, he could only react passively to Tang Wutong's attacks.

After barely dodging the attack from her spear, Huo Yuhao placed his right palm above the tip of the Golden Dragon Spear as he pressed it downwards.

Suddenly, Tang Wutong injected her strength into the spear in an explosive manner. This sudden imbalance in energy caused Huo Yuhao to be tossed aside as though he had just been electrocuted. In addition, his hand was bursting with light and energy. It was apparent that he had expended copious amounts of soul power to barely block off the lifesteal ability of Tang Wutong's Golden Dragon Spear.

Meanwhile, after suffering from a blow from the Snowless Glacier, the glow on the Golden Dragon Spear became slightly fainter. However, the golden dragon light, which had wrapped itself around the spear, suddenly intensified as it forced the cold aura out of the spear.

Once again, Tang Wutong's body released an unbelievable amount of golden light as her soul power intensified once more. As she flapped the wings behind her back, she chased after Huo Yuhao like a comet. It took her no time at all to appear behind his back.

In their previous collision, Huo Yuhao was undoubtedly the loser. He was at a disadvantage because he did not have a weapon.

Tang Wutong was not about to let him catch his breath. A golden dragon head appeared in front of her chest and dragon let out a low roar. A streak of golden light emerged from the dragon's mouth as it shot straight towards Huo Yuhao. Dragon God's Roar!

Tang Wutong's fifth soul skill was the skill which made the evil soul master suffer a lot previously. It was going to be very difficult for Huo Yuhao to evade this attack when it was fired at such a short distance from him.

Tang Wutong's tactics could be said to be very unpredictable. Just when everyone thought that she was about to begin a close-combat battle with Huo Yuhao after chasing after him, she suddenly released a ranged skill. And this ranged attack was released precisely before Huo Yuhao could predict her next move.

Because Huo Yuhao could use his spiritual detection to predict Tang Wutong's moves, he was supposed to be able to know what she was about to do next. However, Tang Wutong now possessed superior soul power, and her attacks were unprecedentedly unpredictable. She was undoubtedly trying to reduce the advantage of Huo Yuhao's spiritual detection by trying to be as unpredictable as possible.

After being knocked away by the previous blow, he landed in a position where he could look straight at Tang Wutong. As he saw the golden streak of light from the Dragon God's Roar coming towards him, his face revealed a faint smile—much to everyone's surprise.

Following which, Huo Yuhao's eyes brightened as his hands made a hugging motion in front of his chest.

Then, a strange scene unfolded before their eyes. The airflow around his body suddenly became very violent and rapid. It was suddenly infused with an agitated Ultimate Ice aura as it formed a whirlpool around his body. He extended his left hand outwards while retracting his right hand as an icy blue whirlpool formed.

"Booommm!" A violet humming sound reverberated across the sparring ground. Once again, Huo Yuhao was thrown backwards before he slowed himself with his feet. However, Tang Wutong was no longer able to chase after him. Her body paused in mid-air as her eyes revealed her shock at what had just happened. A layer of ice had formed on her Dragon God's Armor.

Tang Wutong shook her body as though the Dragon God itself was shaking its armor. The layer of ice shattered, but her speed was visibly slower than before. Huo Yuhao also took this opportunity to catch his breath. As he looked at Tang Wutong, he slowly raised his right hand as a tornado suddenly formed around his body.

This was not any normal tornado. If one were to be precise, it was an Ice Snow Tornado.

The tornado's diameter was only about five meters. But it was as tall as the heavens as it stood towering above everyone, with its top beyond anyone's field of view. Huo Yuhao seemed to have disappeared within the tornado.



Tang Wutong's eyes narrowed as she paused momentarily. She did not immediately attack as she let out a cold battle-cry. She raised the Golden Dragon Spear which she was wielding with her right hand as she pointed it at the tornado. At the same time, her small frame exploded with an invincible aura.

Even Huo Yuhao had never seen this aura that Tang Wutong had just released. She released the pair of wings behind her back. At this instant, she seemed to have become a circle. With her body as the center of a greater circle, a blinding purple-gold glow illuminated her surroundings.

The diameter of this purple-gold glow was a good ten meters. After its appearance, almost the entire spectral demiplane's aura seemed to have become agitated and more violent. If one were to pay attention to Tang Wutong's soul rings, one would notice that her eighth soul ring had just lit up.

Tang Wutong's body disappeared as though she had transformed into a beautiful butterfly flying within the humongous purple-gold glow. At this instant, it seemed like the spectral demiplane had a sun for the first time, a beautiful purple-gold sun.

Xu Sanshi's jaw dropped as he witnessed the sight before him. "That's way too insane. What the hell are they trying to do? They have been executing impossibly difficult moves one after another. Ji Juechen, are you still planning to challenge Wutong? I think they might still have some cards up their sleeves."

Ji Juechen had a worried look on his face. In his mind, he knew that he might have stood a chance against the previous moves that Tang Wutong had executed.

But after he saw the purple-gold sun before his eyes, he knew that there was an impossible gap between them. In order to bridge this gap, he first had to attain the rank of a Titled Douluo. But was it really that easy to move from eight to nine rings? Ji Juechen's martial soul was not considered a strong one. It was more than just a game of probability as to whether he could get his soul core.

Yes, the soul skill that Tang Wutong had just executed was her eighth soul skill—Dragon Dance of the Radiant Sun. It was an immensely powerful offensive soul skill.

As the purple-gold sun slowly rose into the sky, the Radiant Dragon God's Butterfly danced within its glow. As the sun climbed higher into the sky, the pressure it released became even greater. All the soul masters who were watching the battle started to retreat from the area. No one wanted to be injured by this powerful soul skill.

Countless spectral creatures which were prowling around the other end of the spectral demiplane howled in fear as though they were being attacked by the sun's glow. All of them started to flee as far as possible.

Meanwhile, the Ice Snow Tornado that Huo Yuhao had created stood proud and tall. As the soul masters started to retreat further from the sparring ground, its size started to grow as it became more powerful.

"Yuhao, watch my Dragon Dance of the Radiant Sun!" Tang Wutong warned Yuhao. In the next instant, the brightness of the sun grew to its maximum. Following which, a gigantic purple-gold pillar of light tore the sky apart as it raced towards Huo Yuhao's Ice Snow Tornado.

However, before the sun's blow even reached the tornado, the Ice Snow Tornado suddenly disintegrated. That was something no one had expected.

Huo Yuhao had vanished. He was replaced by two figures who were holding each other's hands.

One was white as snow.

The other was pale as ice.

The Ice and Snow Empress were holding each other's hands as they carried a smile on their pretty faces. A similarly gigantic beam of light was released from their bodies as it accelerated towards Tang Wutong's Dragon Dance of the Radiant Sun.

This pillar was formed from the combination of the pure white color of snow and the pale jade color of ice. The two tones of light blended perfectly with one another as they released an invincible aura.

Yes! This was the most powerful soul skill that Huo Yuhao had acquired after fusing with the Snow Empress. It was a skill that came with his Ice Jade Empress Scorpion martial soul's fifth soul ring. Ice and Snow Empress' Arrogance!

"Boom!"

A radiant sight unfolded before everyone's eyes. After colliding with one another, both the purple-gold glow and the ice jade glow exploded into sparks which flew everywhere as the burning brightness of the sun fought the intense cold.

This collision caused the entire world to be shaken as the spectral demiplane trembled, and radiant sparks lingered in the air for an extended period of time.

The soul masters had long become dazed from watching the battle before their eyes. Even though these blows were not targeted at them, they could still feel the frightening power within those attacks.

Is this the strength of a top-class cultivator? What would happen if we were the ones receiving these blows?

It took a good ten seconds before the collision of the two soul skills to start showing signs of subsiding. In the end, the fight between Tang Wutong and Huo Yuhao came to a deadlock. Neither of them could overwhelm the other.

### **Chapter 539: Sigh of the Frozen Goddess, Morning Dew Dagger!**

Finally, the dazzling light dissipated. Tang Wutong and Huo Yuhao also reappeared in mid-air. At least, it wasn't possible to find anything wrong with them just by looking at them.

Well-matched?

Tang Wutong fluttered her wings, and a sonic boom suddenly rang out. She turned into a beam of flowing light and charged towards Huo Yuhao.

Both of them had just unleashed a powerful skill, which drained quite a lot of their soul power. They couldn't keep up such an expenditure. Given this, close-combat was undoubtedly the best choice.

Tang Wutong's figure flashed, and she moved five meters in front of Huo Yuhao. Her Golden Dragon Spear turned into thousands of streaks of golden light that surrounded Huo Yuhao. A sonorous dragon roar sounded at the same time.

Her spear gave her an advantage! Tang Wutong had a wealth of fighting experience. Through their earlier clash, she could tell that she had an advantage in the aspect of weapons.

Dragon Dance of the Radiant Sun versus the Pride of the Ice and Snow Empresses. Tang Wutong had originally believed that she could suppress Huo Yuhao. After all, he wasn't a Titled Douluo yet. Both of them even had twin martial souls. In terms of soul power, she should possess a distinct advantage over him. However, she was stunned to realize that not only did she not gain an advantage over him as they fought, but she even felt as if her entire body had been invaded by chilly energy. She knew that that was because Huo Yuhao's Ultimate Ice was superior to her martial soul.

She couldn't really accept this fact. She couldn't believe that her Radiant Dragon Butterfly was inferior to Huo Yuhao's Ice Jade Empress Scorpion!

Everyone was competitive, including Tang Wutong. Furthermore, she had her own secrets. She already had nine rings. How could she possibly not gain the upper hand using her eighth soul skill against Huo Yuhao's fifth soul skill?

In fact, she had neglected one matter, which was very important. It was Huo Yuhao's five Spirits.

Yes, he only had eight rings. However, he had five powerful Spirits! When he first obtained the Manifold Mysterious Ice Essence, he wasn't the only one who managed to absorb it. His five Spirits absorbed it at the same time. His spiritual sense was strengthened, and his five Spirits all had some level of strength. Even if they couldn't fully rely on Huo Yuhao, they still had their own fighting strength.

As a result, they could reflect some of their abilities onto Huo Yuhao when necessary. The earlier attack was an example of that. Clearly, the difference between Tang Wutong and Huo Yuhao was in terms of Spirits.

Huo Yuhao smiled when he saw the competitive look in Tang Wutong's eyes.

My dear, did you really think that I had no chance against your Golden Dragon Spear?

A trace of deep-blue light appeared from Huo Yuhao's hand without any warning. At that instant, everything seemed to freeze up in the spectral demiplane.

"Ding!"

A crisp ringing sounded. A tragic dragon scream also echoed at the same time. Tang Wutong shook tremendously. Her bright gold spear started to turn icy-blue right from the tip. At the same time, this icy-blue was spreading to her body. The streaks of light that she had formed also instantly vanished, turning into nothingness.

Tang Wutong exclaimed in shock before she collapsed to the ground.

Huo Yuhao also shook slightly in the air. There was an intense look of astonishment in his eyes.

At this moment, he was holding a dagger. It was a very weird dagger. It was completely black, and around thirty-six centimeters long. The hilt was around twelve centimeters long and five centimeters wide. The back of the dagger was very thick, but the blade was thin. There was a blue, diamond-shaped gem at the bottom of the hilt. This gem shone with a dim and mysterious glow.

The most special part about it was that there was a thin layer of white fog surrounding the blade of this dagger. This layer of fog was formed by countless dense droplets of water. They weren't formed from the consolidation of Huo Yuhao's Ultimate Ice soul power, and didn't experience any changes because of his soul power either.

"Dang!" The spear fell to the ground. Tang Wutong also collapsed at the same time. She had no choice but to let go of her spear. If she didn't do that, the terrifying chill would have corroded her body through her spear.

She couldn't possibly resist that terrifying chill with her soul power. It was completely unimaginable.

What was this?

This was Tang Wutong's first time seeing the dagger in Huo Yuhao's hand. Her spear had actually been completely defeated by that dagger.

Huo Yuhao drifted and landed on the ground. Right now, there was a passionate look in his eyes. He thought to himself—no wonder it's a weapon from a god! At the start, the Ghostcarving Blade had shocked him greatly. Without it, he wouldn't have possibly become a Class 9 soul engineer in such a short period of time.

Nian Rongbing, the God of Emotions, didn't give him one, but two daggers. The other one was in his hand right now.

Huo Yuhao had never used this dagger before. It was his first time taking it out, and he had used it to curb the Golden Dragon Spear.

When he first held this dagger, he sensed that his life seemed to be connected to it. Even his five Spirits felt it. When he waved the dagger, it was as if all the Ultimate Ice energy in heaven and earth had gathered around it. Huo Yuhao was completely certain that the temperature of this dagger was below negative two hundred and fifty degree Celsius. Just by simply waving it, half the amount of soul power he had used on his Pride of the Ice and Snow Empresses was drained. This was a testament to how much strength was needed to wield it. Even so, Huo Yuhao felt a little dizzy. Evidently, he wasn't completely able to tap into the strength of this dagger with his current abilities.

"Wutong, are you ok?" Huo Yuhao looked at Tang Wutong as he was in awe.

Tang Wutong bit her lower lip and glared at the dagger in Huo Yuhao's hand. "I've not lost yet."

As she spoke, she suddenly pressed her own forehead with her right hand. Instantly, blinding light was released from her forehead.

This was...

Tang Wutong's terrifying might was instantly unleashed. At this instant, Huo Yuhao felt as if his entire body had turned rigid. He felt a little helpless at this point, as if he couldn't resist at all.

It wasn't just him. Everyone present had the same feeling.

It was also at this instant that a weird feeling surfaced. A refreshing feeling flowed into his body from the dagger. Huo Yuhao suddenly felt as if the pressure on him had been alleviated considerably.

Tang Wutong pointed her left hand at her spear, which was still on the ground. She also slowly moved her right hand.

It was clear that there was an extra ball of intense golden light in her right hand. That ball of golden light appeared like a fluid. It fell from her hand and landed accurately on the spear.

The spear, which was covered in a layer of ice, had started to drift up. When Tang Wutong flung the ball of light at it, it started to shine with golden light. The originally tough layer of ice was scraped away with a deafening sound. Following this, the layer of ice broke, and a beam of golden light shot into the sky.

A terrifying might spread at this moment. This time, Huo Yuhao could clearly sense his demiplane shaking tremendously. It was shaking because of Tang Wutong's golden light.

Terrifying pressure spread in the air. The Golden Dragon Spear had transformed!

It was no longer a spear. The tip divided into three, and it instantly turned into a golden trident. In addition, Huo Yuhao also discovered that the golden trident rune on Tang Wutong's forehead had disappeared as a result.

Tang Wutong groaned, but was a little provocative as she stared at Huo Yuhao. She said, "Let's see whether your dagger can resist me this time."

The golden trident fell from the air, and Tang Wutong caught it with her hand. However, her body shook a little as she caught it. Evidently, using this golden trident took a huge toll on her too.

What was going on?

Before Huo Yuhao could think any further, Tang Wutong had already made her move. Her golden trident moved slightly in the air, and halos immediately shot toward Huo Yuhao.

When Tang Wutong moved her golden trident, her dragon scale armor also turned golden.

Her aura was simply too powerful and restraining. Even those from the Tang Sect were unable to take it, and had to step back. The surrounding soul masters naturally retreated even further.

Huo Yuhao was very sharp. He slashed with his dagger, and something strange happened. His dagger actually formed many dense projections. They appeared to be very chaotic and messy. However, on a closer look, they actually contained the principles of heaven and earth.

The halos that were released from the golden trident were crushed as they clashed with the dense projections. However, Huo Yuhao's dagger could no longer freeze Tang Wutong's weapon.

Tang Wutong was becoming more and more astonished. She clearly knew how strong her move was. She didn't expect Huo Yuhao to have been able to resist her attack.

In fact, Huo Yuhao was under more pressure than she thought. Right now, he had already unleashed the Rain Dragon's Dance that Nian Rongbing had imparted to him.

Huo Yuhao's dagger had an extremely domineering name, Sigh of the Frozen Goddess, Morning Dew Dagger!

This dagger had its own history. Before Nian Rongbing became the God of Emotions, this dagger was the first weapon he had obtained just as he was becoming famous in his plane. This Morning Dew Dagger was a dagger made by a master smith whose martial soul was a Chill Dagger. After that, Nian Rongbing provided a rock of the Frozen Goddess to this master, who attached it to the dagger and named it the Morning Dew Dagger.

This dagger followed Nian Rongbing everywhere, and was one of his most important weapons. After he became a god, this dagger remained by his side. It grew stronger as Nian Rongbing's divine sense became more and more acute. It was a true godly weapon.

Right now, Huo Yuhao couldn't fully unleash the strength of this Morning Dew Dagger. He didn't have divine sense yet, and had yet to inherit the godly seat of the God of Emotions. This was why his soul power was rapidly drained as he unleashed his Rain Dragon's Dance.

Of course, he wasn't drained without reason. As he used this dagger to unleash the Rain Dragon's Dance, his understanding of the dagger became deeper. At the same time, it was also his first time sensing the secrets of this dagger.

The rock of the Frozen Goddess on this dagger released a strong chilly energy. This energy further cultivated and compressed his soul power. After that, he poured his soul power into the dagger, mustering its true strength. The aura of divine sense was even released from the rock, further boosting his soul power. This was why he could partly unleash the strength of this godly weapon. It was also because of this that he was drained so quickly.

Tang Wutong was equally drained as well. Her golden trident was abnormally heavy. Even though she was only using a projection of the trident, she still had to support a third of its actual weight. Furthermore, she was also using a godly skill.

The two of them became slower and slower. Tang Wutong's face was completely red, while Huo Yuhao turned paler and paler. Their soul power was being drained very rapidly.

Whoever's soul power was drained first would immediately lose this fight.

Suddenly, Huo Yuhao staggered a little, and his dagger also paused for a brief moment. The halos that were formed by Tang Wutong's trident hit him.

Huo Yuhao's body stiffened. He was restrained by the halos, and couldn't move a single inch.

The tip of the golden trident was pointed at Huo Yuhao's chest, but Tang Wutong pursed her red lips. n-  
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Golden light flashed, and the trident turned back into the Golden Dragon Spear. The golden halos on Huo Yuhao's body also disappeared.

It was only now that everyone watching the fight heaved a sigh of relief. The backs of their shirts were completely drenched.

This fight was simply too exciting. From the first clash to the subsequent flaunting of big moves to the final exchanges, it didn't seem very lively, but the sense of doom in the air was unprecedented.

Ji Juechen was already very grim. This was because he knew that he didn't stand a chance against either Huo Yuhao or Tang Wutong, given his current abilities.

He was a sword fanatic, and thus he was especially sensitive towards weapons. Huo Yuhao's Morning Dew Dagger and Tang Wutong's golden trident completely erased his desire to challenge either of them. This was because he knew that his Judgment Sword would immediately be crushed by those two weapons. The same would happen to his sword aura. This was the difference in their qualities. Even if he became a Titled Douluo, things would still not change. He would only possibly stand a chance if he was a Transcendent Douluo.

How could the rest not feel the same way? They had learned that Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong were already as strong as Titled Douluo. In addition, they weren't just as strong as ordinary Titled Douluo. They might even be able to challenge a Transcendent Douluo. No wonder their fusion skills were so strong.

### **Volume 38: The Merfolk's Blessing, Chapter 540.1: The Ice Sea**

The practice battle was over. Tang Wutong withdrew her Golden Dragon Spear as she spun around and left.

Huo Yuhao hurriedly chased behind her. "What's wrong, Wutong?"

Tang Wutong said nothing as she strode towards the tent she was resting in.

"They're at loggerheads now! For what? Does anyone know?" Xu Sanshi whispered.

Everyone shook their heads blankly, and only Bei Bei thought for a moment as he said, "Yuhao was deliberately giving Wutong a chance, and I think she found that out. That's the reason why she's upset."

"Really? Why did I not see that?" Jiang Nannan was a little unconvinced.

Bei Bei smiled faintly and said, "We all know Yuhao's abilities. He was giving her a chance from the beginning. Otherwise, he wouldn't have used Spiritual Blast when he was dodging away. He should have used Spiritual Shock. Furthermore, Yuhao didn't use his Eye of the Asura from the beginning to the end. He didn't use his martial soul true body."

Jiang Nannan asked, "Didn't Wutong not use her martial soul true body either?"

Bei Bei shook his head. "No, she did. When Wutong was using her abilities related to that purplish-gold sun, she was using them with her martial soul true body. Yuhao had also used Pride of the Ice and Snow Empresses, but he didn't use his martial soul true body. As for their fight with their weapons in the end, I didn't understand that. But since Wutong is angry, there must clearly be a reason. Yuhao lost the fight a little too abruptly, and it didn't seem like he had depleted all his soul power."

Everyone understood things a little better as they listened to him.

Xu Sanshi chuckled and said, "I didn't think she'd be so competitive."

Bei Bei continued, "She's a Titled Douluo after all! She mustn't feel very good because a Titled Douluo didn't defeat a Soul Douluo, even if she was fighting against Yuhao. She should have given her full strength in that fight. I didn't expect them to have trump cards like that."

Huo Yuhao had already chased Tang Wutong back into her tent in this moment.

“What’s wrong, Wutong? Talk to me. Don’t be angry,” Huo Yuhao moved next to Tang Wutong with a sheepish smile on his face.

Tang Wutong was still pouting.

Something in Huo Yuhao’s eyes shifted as he suddenly used Instant Teleportation and reappeared right opposite Tang Wutong, facing her, and pressed his lips against hers.

Tang Wutong’s eyes immediately widened as her pouting red lips were kissed. The mild anger in her heart was like a vent as it dissipated immediately.

But in the next moment, a certain someone yelled agonizingly as a powerful beam of golden light blasted him away and sent him hurtling out of the tent, which now had a huge hole in it.

The others from the Tang Sect all quivered as they looked on from a distance. Bei Bei, Xu Sanshi, and He Caitou exchanged glances as the same thought surfaced in their heads. “It’s not such a good thing after all that your wife is so strong!”

“Yuhao,” Tang Wutong dashed out from her tent as she came beside Huo Yuhao, who was lying motionless on the ground. That blast was very fierce and forceful, and even she could feel that Huo Yuhao didn’t take that hit easily.

Huo Yuhao groaned as he struggled up from the ground. His body suddenly swayed just as he got to his feet, and he fell into Tang Wutong’s arms.

Tang Wutong was afraid that her seal would blast him away once more, and she hurriedly supported him with her hands. “Are you okay?”

“No. My entire body is hurting, I can’t take it anymore,” Huo Yuhao closed his eyes as he spoke with a pained look on his face.

Tang Wutong hurriedly helped him back into her tent. There were thousands of people watching outside, what did they think was happening?

Tang Wutong helped him onto the bed once they were back in the tent. She couldn’t help but say, “You had it coming. Who asked you to kiss me?”

Huo Yuhao chortled. “You’re too cute when you pout. I couldn’t resist, so I had to kiss your lips. Haih, when is my father-in-law going to remove this seal?”

Tang Wutong grunted and said, “I won’t agree even if Dad wants to remove my seal with your behaviour today.”

“Why? What’s wrong with my behaviour?” Huo Yuhao seemed aggrieved.

Tang Wutong answered, “Of course your behaviour was bad. You weren’t using your full strength from the beginning to the end!”



Huo Yuhao was full of denial. “No! I just had a different fighting style. Did you not see me flipping all my trump cards in the end? But look at what’s happening! We are the ones who are flipping each other’s trump cards. Fortunately, there are no outsiders. Otherwise, we’d be in real trouble.”

Tang Wutong grunted again. “If others don’t understand you, how can I not? Your control over your spiritual power means you are entirely capable of switching more intricately between your martial souls, and you shouldn’t be so disoriented and messy. Furthermore, how dare you say that you completely depleted your soul power in the end?”

Huo Yuhao said, “There was only a little bit left, so I couldn’t just faint, could I? You were so full of energy, and since I would lose in the end anyway, it didn’t make sense for me to drag it out any longer.”

Tang Wutong pouted. “Nonsense. I had almost expended all my soul power, and it’s uncertain who would win in the end if we both expended all our soul power. Furthermore, your Spirits can fight independently. Why didn’t you use them? And you didn’t use your martial soul true body either. I don’t need you to give me a chance.”

Huo Yuhao grabbed her around the waist and said, “When did you become so competitive? But weren’t you holding back too? You didn’t use your Clear Sky Hammer from the beginning to the end. Don’t tell me that you only have one soul ring for that martial soul, because you have the ability to fuse two martial souls together.”

The corner of Tang Wutong’s mouth curved into a faint smile, but she said, “I forgot.”

Huo Yuhao stared at her tender and pretty face that was still fuming as he went up to her ear and whispered, “I really want to bite you.”

Tang Wutong blushed. “You’re so annoying. Hurry up and cultivate to recover. Aren’t we still going to the Ice Sea?”

“A bite won’t delay us for too long. Come here!” Huo Yuhao came even closer with an indecent expression on his face.

Tang Wutong dodged away. She was alert as she stared at him and said, “Are you not afraid that my seal will blast you away again? You’re not in a very good state right now.”

Huo Yuhao felt a little defeated when he heard those words. The previous hit had been quite heavy, and he could still feel throbbing pains around his body even now.

“Father-in-law, when will you appear? Please have mercy on me.” Huo Yuhao fell back onto the bed as he exclaimed up into the sky.

Tang Wutong pursed her lips into a smile and said, “You should pray harder. My Daddy is almost never around.”

Three battles had been fought, and Shrek Academy’s three soul engineer legions became more cohesive, while their fighting strength also improved. They crushed their opponents in every victory, and that was very beneficial for their confidence.

They had pillaged large amounts of resources, and that covered the three legions’ daily expenses and consumption. Morale was high and growing.

But now, the fourth battle wouldn't happen for a long time. All the soul masters could only remain in the spectral demiplane to cultivate and wait.

Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong left his spectral demiplane quietly after resting for an evening.

They appeared at the Ice Sea's shores. Bone-chilling winds billowed as they came out, and Tang Wutong shivered from the cold.

Huo Yuhao hurriedly took her into his arms as they flew high into the sky.

They had stayed inside his spectral demiplane for a night, and it was already midday on the second day. They gazed in Eastern Sun City's direction from the sky, but couldn't see much. At least, there weren't any traces of reinforcements. *no ve-ℓb/In*

Huo Yuhao had pocketed all the aerial surveillance soul tools mercilessly after they finished pillaging the city, and stored them inside his spectral demiplane. The entire city immediately became both blind and deaf. They didn't have satellites to pass information on, and they couldn't send word inland within a short period of time for them to send reinforcements. Eastern Sun City was the largest city in the north, and they had to seek aid from large cities inland so that they could find military forces strong enough to support them.

Their enemy was gone, so the most important matter for them was to send out information while redirecting food to the city.

Eastern Sun City's first target was Oak City, which was the previous target of Huo Yuhao's team, when they sent out their messengers. Oak City was one of the most important food warehouses in the north, but it was a pity that their reply was a negative one. All the food left in Eastern Sun City was only enough to sustain their citizens for a week, and disaster would strike if that was dragged out any longer. Eastern Sun City's rulers were so busy that they were already up to their ears with work.

Even though Huo Yuhao didn't know what the exact situation was, he could still make a rough guess. He smiled at Tang Wutong and said, "I estimate that Eastern Sun City will need a week to transmit any information to Radiant City. I wonder how Xu Tianran will react when he finds out what has happened."

Tang Wutong said, "Hopefully, he will turn his armies around in time. We will have achieved our goal if that happens."

Huo Yuhao shook his head. "It won't be that simple. The Sun Moon Empire has mobilized their armies to start an invasion, and they won't change their strategies so easily just because their back ranks have become a little unstable. Therefore, matters at the frontlines won't change unless the danger in their back ranks reaches a certain threshold. Therefore, our mission has barely begun. When the time comes that Xu Tianran feels that the chaos in his back ranks is threatening his rule, then we have a chance of successfully drawing his armies at the front lines back."

Tang Wutong said, "Come, let's go to the Ice Sea."

Huo Yuhao held her little hand, and Haodong power flowed through their bodies as they flew towards the Ice Sea.

They were in the Extreme North, but the ocean's surface hadn't completely frozen over. The ocean was vast and there was no end in sight, while there was warm water flowing beneath the cold waves. This resulted in enormous icebergs and glaciers appearing above the ocean's surface, but the ocean wasn't completely frozen over.

Even then, the temperature in this place was so low that normal people couldn't survive. Blocks of ice floated along the ocean's icy surface as chilly winds cut to the bone. The winds carried some of the ocean's pungent smells and chills as they whooshed by continuously.

Huo Yuhao wasn't afraid of the cold at all. Furthermore, his soul power recovered even more quickly in such an environment, like he was a fish in water.

### **Chapter 540.2: The Ice Sea**

Tang Wutong needed to use her soul power to defend herself against the cold. But she was a Titled Douluo after all, and she wasn't called the Dragon Butterfly Douluo for nothing. This little bit of cold couldn't threaten her.

"If we were to fight on the Ice Sea, Wutong, you would be no match for me." Huo Yuhao laughed as he spoke.

Tang Wutong sounded a little unconvinced. "How do you know if we haven't tried it? If you're unconvinced, we can fight again."

"No. I don't want to fight with you. If I beat you, my heart hurts. If I lose, my body hurts. This means it doesn't make sense for me to fight at all. How can I fight you?" Huo Yuhao laughed as he spoke.

Tang Wutong hammered him gently, but she was all smiles.

The two of them flew inward. They weren't flying very quickly, and they seemed very relaxed, but Huo Yuhao was continuously sweeping the Ice Sea for disturbances with his spiritual power. He would even extend his spiritual power into the seawater to investigate. **no17e/lb(In**

There were many aquatic beings swimming around beneath the icy surface, and there were quite a few aquatic soul beasts. However, they didn't dare to attack Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong once they sensed their formidable auras.

The temperature continued to drop as they flew further towards the north, while the number of floating ice blocks continually increased. Enormous icebergs could be seen wherever they went, and there were some especially huge ones that looked like tiny islands.

There were some aquatic soul beasts on the icy surface. They glared at Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong, but they didn't dare to come close. Soul beasts were very sensitive, and Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong didn't deliberately mask their auras. Normal soul beasts who had relatively low cultivations didn't dare to think about attacking them.

They flew for fifteen minutes, and were now very far from land. Huo Yuhao summoned the Snow Empress from his spiritual sea.

Huo Yuhao asked, "Snow Empress, how are we going to find the Mermaids?"

The Snow Empress appeared beside Huo Yuhao with a flash of white light. She took a deep breath as she came out, and her face was overcome with satisfaction. She was an Icesky Snow Lady, so icy environments like this were her favourite.

The Snow Empress explained, "Across history, Mermaids have lived deep in the Ice Sea. You have to continue outward. Don't worry, you won't be in much danger. Typical aquatic soul beasts can't fight against the strength and speed that the two of you possess. But when you meet formidable opponents that you can't defeat, fly up into the sky. Aquatic soul beasts will become increasingly weaker the further they are from the ocean; all aquatic soul beasts are limited by this fact no matter their cultivation. You should call me again after flying for another two hours at your current speed, and I will find a way to summon those Mermaids for you."

"Alright!" Huo Yuhao nodded in agreement. The Snow Empress' eyes were full of longing as she glanced at the Ice Sea around her before she returned to Huo Yuhao's body.

It wasn't because she didn't want to fly above the Ice Sea along with Huo Yuhao. If she was outside while they were flying at high speeds, she would add to Huo Yuhao's burden and energy consumption.

Huo Yuhao was much more confident after his battle with Tang Wutong yesterday. If he teamed up with her, not even typical Transcendent Douluos could defeat them. Even if certain opponents were more powerful, couldn't they run away if they couldn't beat them? Furthermore, they were on the Ice Sea, where his abilities were greatly amplified. Without talking about anything else, those tough ice blocks were all conductors for his Ice Explosion. He didn't have to fear anything even if he was faced with large numbers of aquatic soul beasts.

He held Tang Wutong's hand as they maintained their high speed at about a thousand meters above the ocean's surface while they proceeded further out. Huo Yuhao was confident, but he wasn't careless. He was using Spiritual Detection from the beginning to the end so that he could feel everything that was changing around him.

Very few soul beasts appeared in the sky above the Ice Sea. At least, they hadn't discovered any soul beasts throughout their journey. It was clear that this place was like a forbidden zone for flying soul beasts.

An hour passed in the blink of an eye. They could no longer sense any kind of land, but more and more icebergs began to appear on the ocean's surface. The entire ocean appeared white as they gazed into the horizon, and it grew increasingly harder to see the water. The temperature in this place was getting closer and closer to the temperature at the Extreme North's core regions.

Huo Yuhao was holding Tang Wutong's hand, and he continuously used his Ice Empress Jade Scorpion to absorb the chill from her body into his own to dispel it. He could help Tang Wutong conserve some soul power to defend herself against the cold this way.

"There's nobody else besides us. This tranquility with only ice, snow, and the vast ocean does feel good!" Tang Wutong smiled as she spoke to Huo Yuhao.

Huo Yuhao laughed and said, "This place is too quiet. It might feel curious and novel for a day or two, but you'll probably get too lonely if you have to stay in this place for too long."

Tang Wutong winked and said, "Do I have that low a tolerance for loneliness?"

Huo Yuhao continued, "I'm just talking about normal human conditions. I won't let you be lonely if you're with me."

"I feel like eating your grilled fish!" Tang Wutong laughed as she spoke.

Huo Yuhao was shocked as he hurriedly placed his index finger to his lips. "My love, we are above a large ocean's surface. Even though the aquatic soul beasts beneath the Ice Sea are not all fish-type soul beasts, most of them are related. If we grill fish in a place like this, we're picking a fight with all the soul beasts here."

Tang Wutong giggled and said, "I'm just joking. Look at how scared you are."

Huo Yuhao's expression suddenly changed as his smile disappeared. His eyes grew focused as he stared in a certain direction, and he tugged on Tang Wutong as they began to slow down.

There was a pair of icy-cold eyes staring right at them from an enormous iceberg in the distance.

Those were enormous living beings, and there were several hundred of them lying prostrate on an iceberg. Huo Yuhao pulled on Tang Wutong because he could feel their intense hostility.

"What's that?" Tang Wutong stared into the distance curiously.

Her vision couldn't compare to Huo Yuhao's, but she could still feel things in the distance with the help of Huo Yuhao's Spiritual Detection.

There were many black soul beasts, and they were all of different sizes. The largest ones were more than a dozen meters long, and emanated faint blue hues. The smallest ones were only a little longer than a meter, and every single one had two sharp tusks protruding from their mouths.

"Sea Devilwalruses! There are so many." Huo Yuhao frowned a little.

Sea Devilwalruses were a species of aquatic soul beasts that were very characteristic. Soul masters didn't understand much about aquatic soul beasts, but there had been an introduction to aquatic soul beasts back when they were studying in Shrek Academy.

The Sea Devilwalrus was a species of soul beast that was considered relatively docile, and their most salient characteristic was their extraordinarily formidable defensive capabilities. A grown Sea Devilwalrus would be more than seven meters long, and a Sea Devilwalrus was considered an adult when it had more than a hundred years of cultivation. Its seven-meter-long frame was very muscular, and its skin was more than ten centimeters thick. Their skin was extremely tough, and very resistant to all kinds of physical attacks. Sea Devilwalruses residing in the Ice Sea were probably also very resistant to ice-type and fire-type attacks.

Of course, all soul beasts had their strengths and weaknesses. In comparison to their formidable defenses, they came up short on offense and speed.

Sea Devilwalruses only became a lot faster in the water; they were very slow when they were above water. They only possessed several abilities to control water or ice to attack, and those attacks weren't considered powerful.

Sea Devilwalruses lived in herds, and ten over walruses formed a herd. Several hundred walruses appearing at the same time was, at least, not mentioned in Shrek Academy's teachings.

Huo Yuhao made an accurate judgment with just one look. "These Sea Devilwalruses have very average cultivation ranks. The strongest ones are ten thousand year soul beasts, and there are three of them. There rest have varying cultivations, and there are even some with ten years. Seems like this place is their natural habitat."

Huo Yuhao explained this to Tang Wutong as he pulled her onto a new route. Sea Devilwalruses at this cultivation didn't threaten them at all. Furthermore, they were flying a thousand meters in the sky. With Huo Yuhao's understanding of Sea Devilwalruses, even those with ten thousand year cultivations couldn't attack at a range of more than a thousand meters.

They would just fly over them. From his perspective, this was just a small interlude in their journey across the Ice Sea.

Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong were flying very quickly across the sky, and they were just about to fly over the iceberg that those walruses were group up on.

Right at this moment, several leading Sea Devilwalruses took out some strange objects. They looked like large light gold conch shells. Twelve walruses took out shells like that, and started blowing them forcefully as deep trumpeting sounds could be heard.

Both Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong's expressions changed when they heard those sounds, because they could vividly feel that the air around them had tensed up. The airflow around them seemed to completely vanish in the next moment as they felt their bodies plummet rapidly.

Any living being who wished to fly in the sky had to rely on airflow. They had to use their soul power to push against the air currents so that they could fly.

When all the airflow and even physical substances had disappeared from the sky, they would be in something like an incredibly clean vacuum. They couldn't leverage anything, so they would plummet from the pull of gravity. Even the Class 9 flying-type soul tools behind their backs became useless in such circumstances. Outstretched wings that couldn't rely on any airflow were useless.

Falling from a thousand meters in the sky wasn't funny at all. Even though Huo Yuhao didn't know what those walruses had done, he could always keep his cool when faced with danger.

Huo Yuhao tugged on Tang Wutong's hand as she immediately went behind him and wrapped her hands around his waist, while her dragon wings stretched as wide as they could.

Even if there wasn't any airflow in the sky, they would still produce some resistance in the process of dropping down. They could reduce their falling speed as long as they could draw on some air resistance.

### **Chapter 540.3: The Ice Sea**

Golden light erupted from Huo Yuhao's eyes. Tang Wutong could vividly feel through Huo Yuhao's shared Spiritual Detection that his spiritual power had locked onto a piece of floating ice on the ocean's surface directly beneath them.

Huo Yuhao clenched his left fist in the next moment as that piece of floating ice exploded into a million pieces with a loud boom, and tremendous explosive forces carried air waves and seawater into the sky.

Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong were already around three hundred meters from the ocean's surface with their incredibly high speed.

That air resistance pushed upwards as Tang Wutong's wings caught the wind and slowed them down. That air resistance dispelled their speedy plummet before they fell towards the ocean's surface once more.

Falling from three hundred meters was not a big deal for formidable individuals as powerful as they were.

Tang Wutong frowned as her eyes widened into a glare at the herd of Sea Devilwalruses. An intense aura appeared around her as she raised her right hand, and her Golden Dragon Spear appeared in her grasp.

It was no wonder that she was angry. They were just flying forward, minding their own business, and had no intention to provoke those walruses at all. Yet, these Sea Devilwalruses had suddenly attacked them, and that attack could have been fatal. If they didn't have a suitable response, falling from such an altitude would undoubtedly be fatal, because there were so many icebergs beneath them!

The twelve Sea Devilwalruses who were blowing the golden conch shells were slightly taken aback as they watched the two of them descend peacefully. The leader howled into the sky, and several hundred walruses split into two teams to outflank Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong.

Cold light flickered in Tang Wutong's eyes as murderousness permeated the air.

Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong no longer attacked and killed soul beasts ever since they had fused with their spirits. However, they couldn't just sit back and wait to die if soul beasts provoked and attacked them instead!

"Wait, Wutong." Huo Yuhao held Tang Wutong's hand.

Tang Wutong glanced at him, and her murderous aura immediately dissipated. Even though she was a little arrogant and stubborn at times, and even though she was competitive when she fought against Huo Yuhao, he was always the one making decisions when they were outside. She had to give her man sufficient respect.

Huo Yuhao stared at the largest Sea Devilwalrus who was in the lead, and he passed a message with his spiritual power. "Why are you ambushing us? We harbor no ill intentions."

"All humans deserve to die!" That Sea Devilwalrus only had ten thousand years of cultivation, and it was clear that it didn't have the ability to speak. However, it didn't have any problem conversing through its consciousness.

Huo Yuhao shared its response with Tang Wutong through Spiritual Detection.

Huo Yuhao frowned and replied, "Not all humans deserve to die. We have no ill intentions in our journey into the Ice Sea. We only wish to look for the Mermaids. You have attacked us so rashly. Aren't you afraid of bringing disaster to your tribe?"

The largest walrus howled furiously. It waved the golden conch in its front limb strongly as that deep humming sound could be heard once more.

“All of you have to die! You dare to come here to find the Mermaids. All of you must die for coming into the Ice Sea!” The walrus’ speech was a little incoherent, but Huo Yuhao could clearly sense the intense hostility coming from it.

Huo Yuhao wasn’t here to be enemies with the aquatic soul beasts. On the contrary, he was hoping that he could establish a relationship with the aquatic soul beasts like the one he had with the Great Star Dou Forest. If that was possible, then humans would have many more choices for Spirits. More soul masters would then choose Spirits, and they wouldn’t have to kill soul beasts for soul rings.

Therefore, he suppressed the anger in his heart as he lowered his voice and said, “Don’t make this mistake. I don’t wish to kill or harm your tribesmen.”

The Sea Devilwalruses had formed a circle around them in this moment, and they were moving toward Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong swiftly. Several walruses flickered with blue light as they blasted ice bullets at Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong.

These ice bullets were icy-blue, and there were very evident and intense soul power undulations as they zipped across the sky.

Those were Ice Explosion Shells! That was one of the Sea Devilwalrus’ signature soul skills, and also considered their innate talent.

Huo Yuhao shook his head gently when he realized that persuading them was futile. He increased his Spiritual Detection’s range as he encompassed all the walruses within it.

Something that astonished all the walruses happened immediately afterwards.

The Ice Explosion Shells that were flying toward Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong froze at the same time, and every single one detonated in the sky as they exploded into countless ice particles in all directions.

The tiny particles of ice whooshed through the air, and they actually condensed into snowflakes as they started to dance as a blizzard erupted from within.

This blizzard came all too suddenly and too vigorously. The twelve Sea Devilwalruses hadn’t even reacted as the blizzard swept their tribesmen into the air.

Several hundred walruses danced and spun around in the sky, and they all screamed and hollered in shock and panic.

The twelve leading walruses were stunned. They could almost see their tribesmen being mutilated and eviscerated in the blizzard.

Their enemy was so powerful. This was something they hadn’t expected at all.

Tang Wutong turned her head and glanced at Huo Yuhao. She could see that his eighth soul ring was glowing. Huo Yuhao was using the Ice Bear’s Blizzard. He wasn’t using his Snowy Dance of Ultimate Ice. He chose to use Blizzard instead because Blizzard was more explosive. However, its temperature wasn’t as low as his Snowy Dance of Ultimate Ice.



The walruses which had surrounded and attacked them were all instantly swept away. Furthermore, the blizzard was starting to move towards the twelve leading walruses.

Those twelve walruses were completely taken aback. This was a frightening attack that was entirely like a cosmological phenomenon, and they couldn't even begin to think of resisting it.

The walruses began to howl furiously after their momentary shock, and they blasted bullets of ice at Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong again and again. However, these bullets detonated by themselves not long after they were fired, and they couldn't come close to Huo Yuhao or Tang Wutong at all.

The blizzard had arrived, and every single one of those twelve walruses lost all hope.

But in the next moment, they realized to their surprise that the blizzard didn't attack them at all when it arrived. The walruses hadn't even reacted when the blizzard began to settle down, and Sea Devilwalruses drifted down from the sky on snowflakes one after another as they landed stably next to them. Every single walrus was still in fear and panic, but they weren't hurt at all as they landed.

There wasn't a single missing walrus when they reappeared next to their leaders as the blizzard completely disappeared, like they hadn't charged out to surround and attack Huo Yuhao or Tang Wutong at all.

The walrus leaders' expressions changed completely. They all had at least ten thousand years of cultivation, and they already possessed a certain level of intelligence. They could naturally tell how difficult what Huo Yuhao had just done was. Controlling a soul skill to such an extent was something that they couldn't even begin to imagine.

Even though using a blizzard to sweep all the walruses into the air was also difficult, it could be done with sufficient strength. The blizzard could even kill every single one of those walruses.

However, controlling the entire herd to fall from the sky and land back on the ground without being hurt at all wasn't easy. Huo Yuhao had to be precise, down to every single walrus! A capacity for control like that far exceeded their imagination.

This human is so powerful.

The leading walruses put down the golden conch shells in their hands at the same time, and no longer harbored any thoughts to resist Huo Yuhao. Their opponent could have annihilated their entire tribe if he wanted to.

Huo Yuhao pulled Tang Wutong along. They didn't go any closer to the herd, and instead, Huo Yuhao passed a message with his consciousness to the largest walrus. "Now do you understand that we harbor no ill intentions? If we were hostile, we could completely annihilate your herd."

The walrus leader roared. "The Mermaids have issued a prohibition. All humans who enter the Ice Sea are enemies, and they have to be annihilated. Even if you let us go, there will be other aquatic soul beasts who will deal with you." This was the reply from the leader of the walruses, but he had already put down the golden conch in his hands.

Huo Yuhao stared at the golden conch curiously and asked, "What is that? Why did it make us fall from the sky?"

“Sacred Conch, seals the sky!” The Sea Devilwalrus didn’t hide anything at all.

Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong exchanged a glance, and they could see the seriousness in each other’s eyes.

One of the greatest reasons why they were confident of venturing into the Ice Sea was because they could fly. Most aquatic soul beasts couldn’t fly, and even if they could, these soul beasts couldn’t compete with Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong in terms of flight speed. That meant they could retreat whenever they wanted to. Sea Devilwalruses were evidently not considered extremely formidable among aquatic soul beasts, but they were equipped with those Sacred Conch Shells, which could lock down the sky. This meant that aquatic soul beasts had to have grasped and developed many similar methods and measures.

They couldn’t fight in the sky, but they could force humans or soul beasts flying through the air to drop down. It was no wonder there weren’t any flying-type soul beasts in the air above this vast ocean space. Perhaps they had all gone extinct in the fight against the aquatic soul beasts.

“Farewell.” Huo Yuhao knew that there wasn’t much reason to discuss anything with these walruses. However, their previous conflict wasn’t entirely meaningless. First, they had discovered that the aquatic soul beasts had some measures to lock down the sky. Secondly, they found out about the Mermaids’ resentment towards humans.

They flew into the sky once more, but were now flying at a conspicuously lower altitude. After all, they would be at a great disadvantage if they fell after those measures that locked down the sky were used. They would be at a greater disadvantage the higher they flew.

They maintained an altitude of five hundred meters above the ocean’s surface. They wouldn’t be hurt in any way if they fell from that height. Of course, the closer they were to the ocean’s surface, the more trouble they could run into.