

Tang Sect 551

Chapter 551: The Retreat Starts!

However, the white light continued to drill inwards at an incredibly fast and stable rate. Even though it was making a super annoying sound, it was truly a sight to behold.

Streaks of light from the interior of the palace flew towards this white light as they attempted to destroy it.

However, it was during this short period of time when the white light suddenly froze before dipping downwards. Even though it did not penetrate the barrier, it was stuck on the surface of the palace's protective barrier.

Just when the soul engineers who were responsible for defending the interior of the Palace were about to let out a sigh of relief, an even finer streak of white light drilled out from its tip before entering the interior of the Palace.

Even though the walls of the Palace were incredibly thick and firm, the white light was able to drill itself in without making any noise at all.

“Shit!”

Xu Tianran had been standing in front of his sleeping chamber, and had just witnessed the series of events which happened in the sky. He immediately knew something bad was about to happen the moment he saw the white light dip.

An intense purple light exploded from his body as a purple-gold human-shaped soul tool enveloped his body instantly. At the same time, Xu Tianran bent down and brought his limbs close to his body to minimize his surface area. He increased the intensity of the purple-gold light around him as he tried to use the light to protect his body.

He was able to do all of the above in an incredibly short amount of time. No one present would have been able to catch what he was doing with their eyes.

Just when Xu Tianran was finished, the entire Palace started to tremble!

“Booommm!”

A deafening explosion could be heard from the bottom of the Palace. Following which, a white pillar of light shot straight up into the sky from the ground.

This pillar was not very big initially. It was only about as thick as an arm. However, it rapidly expanded as it encroached into the space around it. In addition, it radiated white ripples towards its surroundings.

At this very instant, every single building in the Palace was enveloped in a golden barrier. The barriers were trying to shield the buildings from the white light.

However, the white light was just too powerful for the barriers, as it consumed the buildings with ease.

The palace guards were effectively useless against such overwhelming power. They were instantly vaporized when the white light enveloped them.

However, at this instant, the Sun Moon Empire started to show their trump cards.

Countless images lit up one after another within the Palace. Even though these images were of several different colors, all of them transformed into barriers as they launched themselves towards the white light.

At the same time, the protective soul barriers within the Palace started to concentrate their energy and contract. The sixteen golden pillars launched themselves towards the white light as they formed more barriers to contain it.

The place that the white light had landed in was the central area of the Sun Moon Empire's Imperial Palace.

Right now, Xu Tianran could sense an incredibly frightening amount of soul power ravaging his body.

Countless streaks of light were exploding from his body. All of these streaks were coming from the defensive soul tools which had been designed for him by the Sun Moon Empire's soul engineers. The soul tools were being destroyed by the invincibly sharp soul power as they put in their last bit of effort to defend their user. *nope-lb/in*

Even though Xu Tianran was swept up in the powerful white ripples, he was ultimately able to survive because of his human-shaped soul tool, as well as the powerful defensive soul tools.

However, when he crept out from the white light, there were already several cracks in his human-shaped soul tool. On top of being covered with dirt, his leg prosthetics had also been torn to pieces. Hence, he could only use his arms and body to crawl out.

Outside of Radiant City.

Huo Yuhao was struggling as he tried to pass the gigantic silver barrel to He Caitou.

"Retreat!"

The three hundred heavy artillery pieces sped towards the Spectral Gate. At the same time, a golden light lit up from their sides and formed a golden barrier that enveloped all of the heavy artillery and the Spectral Gate.

Huo Yuhao bit the tip of his tongue lightly as he tried to concentrate on the task at hand. Tang Wutong was continuously injecting her spiritual power into him to stabilize the state of his body.

Li Ya silently appeared as she released Merfolk Control once again. Ripples of light dissipated from her body as they turned the interior of the protective soul barrier cloudy and opaque.

Just when they were about to be done with their preparations, streaks of light could be seen shooting up into the air from the distance as they headed for where Huo Yuhao and his peers were.

This reaction was expected of Radiant City! After all, it was the capital of the Sun Moon Empire, and the biggest city in the entire world.

After being repeatedly attacked, it was finally Radiant City's turn to retaliate.

Even though they did not have the help of aerial surveillance soul tools to locate the precise position of Huo Yuhao and his peers, they could roughly tell where they were from the location where the stationary soul cannon shells shot into the sky. Hence, they decided to suppress Huo Yuhao and his peers with carpet bombing, and prevent them from continuing their attack.

However, all of this was within Huo Yuhao's expectations. Hence, he had deployed the linked defensive barriers he had looted from the Sun Moon Empire's Eastern Sun City and the soul tool front at the Ming Dou Mountain Range.

These soul tools were the pride of the Sun Moon Empire. However, they were now protecting the people of Tang Sect with the support of milk bottles.

While the Heavy Artillery Soul Engineer Legion was retreating into the Spectral Gate, the Fort Soul Engineer Legion and the Tang Sect Soul Engineer Legion were in charge of sweeping the group and covering them from the rear. Huo Yuhao and the rest were scheduled to be the last few to enter.

Even though the carpet bombing method was effective at covering large areas, its attack was too spread out to strike anything effectively.

Although there were a few explosions above the barrier occasionally, they were not able to penetrate the barrier.

Very soon, the three hundred cannons had entered the Spectral Gate.

The eighteen doors had allowed them to retreat at twice the usual rate. It only took them ten minutes to completely retreat. This also meant that the rest of the people would be able to enter at an even faster rate.

After the enormous explosion, almost eighty percent of the Palace had turned into ruins.

Streaks of light rose into the sky above the Palace. Three of them flew straight towards where Huo Yuhao and his peers were. Their movement was so fast that they resembled bolts of lightning.

Huo Yuhao had been monitoring every single movement within the Radiant City with his Spiritual Detection.

After sensing the movement of those three different figures, he was mildly startled. Those three figures were radiating immensely powerful auras.

They were all Class 9 soul engineers from the Sun Moon Empires's Imperial Shrine!

A pillar of light which consisted of two colors—silver and gold—suddenly fell from the sky and slammed into the linked defense barrier. The barrier instantly became bright gold and silver as it released a deafening screeching sound. As the barrier tried to fend off the attack, the soul energy stored in the milk bottles decreased rapidly.

This is...

The Sunmoon Divine Needle.

The Starsky Douluo was here!

Even though Huo Yuhao frowned upon realizing that, he was not afraid of him.

He had long foreseen that this would happen. No matter how sudden their attack was, they were only ten miles away from Radiant City. This distance was nothing for Class 9 soul engineers. Hence, he was expecting them to attack them as they were retreating.

This was why he had planned for himself and the stronger cultivators within the Tang Sect to stay at the back of the group.

Huo Yuhao ordered, "There are three Class 9 soul engineers coming our way. Wutong and I will take the Starsky Douluo. Eldest senior brother, you will take the Class 9 soul engineer on the left. Third senior brother, you will be in charge of the one on the right. Fifth senior sister and Ji Juechen, both of you will assist eldest senior brother. Guyi and Qiuqiu, both of you will help third senior brother. Fourth senior sister, you will help ensure that the rest can retreat smoothly. Second senior brother, I will need you to provide us with covering fire, and to assist us wherever necessary! Let's move out!"

The destructive ability of three Class 9 soul engineers was definitely more than what three Titled Douluo could achieve. If they were to fight one-on-one, a Titled Douluo would not fear a Class 9 soul engineer. However, when the soul engineer was given sufficient time and distance, his or her destructive ability would be incredibly strong. Hence, Huo Yuhao and the others had to seize the initiative and attack them before they destroyed the barrier. If not, countless Tang Sect soul engineers would perish under their attacks.

The most important thing for the legions now was time. Huo Yuhao was definitely able to get the three legions to fight the three Class 9 soul engineers. In fact, the soul engineers would definitely not be able to defeat a single legion of two hundred soul engineers.

However, now was not the time for them to get entangled in a battle. If they were to continue to fight and delay their retreat, they might not be able to leave anymore when more reinforcements arrived.

It was important to understand that they were still within the attacking radius of the nearest soul tool installation. Hence, Huo Yuhao had decisively ordered everyone to retreat instead of bracing themselves for battle.

The three Class 9 soul engineers might be powerful, but so were the higher-ups of Tang Sect. If the Tang Sect's high-ups were the only ones involved in the battle, it would also be a lot easier for all of them to retreat together. After all, they had developed impeccable chemistry after working with one another for all these years.

Ye Yulin stared coldly at the light barrier beneath him from afar. Because of how the light waves were bending around each other, it was impossible for him to see what was within the barrier. However, he could tell from the flickering of the light that there were a lot of people inside it. Nonetheless, he was unable to tell what they were doing.

Ye Yulin did not try to get closer to them, even though he was very confident in his abilities. After seeing how they were able to penetrate the defenses of the Palace, he believed that these attackers were fairly strong. In addition, he believed the last streak of white light must have been a Class 9 stationary soul cannon shell which was built specifically to penetrate protective barriers.

Nonetheless, he also understood how the cannon shell must have expended a lot of energy to drill through the barrier. Hence, the explosion within the interior of the palace did not seem to possess the power that a true Class 9 cannon shell was supposed to have. However, it was still undeniable that the shell had dealt a lot of damage to the palace.

The mission for him and the other two Class 9 soul engineers was to delay these people. As long as they were able to delay them till the other reinforcements from Radiant City arrived, they would be able to launch an all-out attack on this group of people who had caused an incredible amount of damage to Radiant City.

To be honest, Ye Yulin was not overly enraged by the destruction around him. After all, the losses belonged to the empire, and not him. He was more curious about the person who was able to organize such a powerful sneak attack on Radiant City. This group of people was somehow able to take down all of the aerial surveillance soul tools above Radiant City! Also, they were able to suppress the four soul tool installations around Radiant City and prevent them from supporting the city. They had most definitely used more than a thousand shells in the attack earlier. This was not something that any small group could accomplish. It must have been organized by another empire.

On top of that, the Sun Moon Empire was somehow totally unaware of this force. They were completely oblivious the whole time this force transported their ammunition to Radiant City. Even if this group were to attack with stationary soul cannon shells, they would have to launch them somewhere close to the city. How did they manage to pull it off?

After releasing the Sunmoon Divine Needle, Ye Yulin began to recover his soul power through a milk bottle. Even though his soul tool was incredibly powerful, it tended to consume a lot of soul power. At this instant, he saw a few figures flying out of the linked defense barrier, and two of them were heading in his direction.

After letting out a cold grunt, Ye Yulin swung his right hand in the air as multiple streaks of light ascended into the sky. The way these streaks of light left his body made it seem as though they had grown out from him. As they climbed higher into the sky, they rapidly grew bigger before transforming into intensely bright balls of light. They were like stars that were floating above Ye Yulin's head.

There was a reason why he was called the Starsky Douluo. When it came to pure fighting power, Ye Yulin was definitely one of the best in the Sun Moon Empire. After his stars gathered in the sky, he locked his spiritual power on the incoming enemies.

However, he suddenly felt an intense sense of danger within his heart. He immediately looked at the two cultivators who were flying towards him. He realized there was a purple-gold glow in one of their eyes.

His automatic spiritual defense soul tools were instantly activated. A necklace that was hanging in front of his chest suddenly exploded with blinding light as a spiritual barrier instantly formed in front of him.

"Bang!" A loud metallic sound could be heard. Ye Yulin naturally ducked his head as he looked at the state of his Sobering Necklace. Several cracks could already be seen forming on it.

What a powerful spiritual attack!

Even though his Sobering Necklace was able to negate a large part of the attack, the violet spiritual ripples still made Ye Yulin temporarily incapable of locking onto his opponent. Hence, his two opponents were able to get within a hundred meters of him with their incredible speed.

Ye Yulin was a Class 9 soul engineer who was skilled in fighting. Hence, he did not panic as he made a tapping motion with his right hand in a calm and collected fashion. At that instant, multiple streaks of light were released from the balls of light above his head. They collectively formed a huge net as they attempted to block his two opponents' path.

At the same time, Ye Yulin retreated at an incredible speed. He left a sequence of faint figures that resembled him as he moved a distance of five hundred meters in the blink of an eye.

A soul engineer who specialized in long-range attacks must possess the following important skills: defending, reacting, and evading.

The two people who were charging towards Ye Yulin were none other than Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong.

Huo Yuhao had left Li Ya within the protective soul barrier to maintain the Spiritual Interference Domain, so as to maintain the secrecy of the entire force's numbers.

Meanwhile, the few of them had rushed out to engage the Class 9 soul engineers.

Ye Yulin was truly very powerful. The streaks of light that were heavily intertwined in front of him contained an immense amount of destructive power. Even Huo Yuhao didn't dare to just barge through the net. He could only pull Tang Wutong aside as they paused their attack. This allowed Ye Yulin to increase his distance from them.

Tang Wutong extended the wings behind her back as she paused and floated in mid-air. Huo Yuhao also did not go after Ye Yulin. However, his eyes were still sparkling as his Spiritual Detection ability remained fully focused and locked onto the Starsky Douluo's body.

Tang Wutong grabbed onto Huo Yuhao's Icy War God's Armor at his waist as she released countless balls of light from her wings. The balls were going straight for the "stars" in the sky which were released by Ye Yulin.

After stopping and stabilizing his body, Ye Yulin glanced around at his surroundings coldly before locking onto his two opponents. He started to charge his Sunmoon Divine Needle, which was getting ready at a higher altitude.

Of course, he was able to tell that the two soul masters nearing him were both Titled Douluo. However, it was the person who was wearing the dark blue human-shaped soul tool that surprised him more.

The person's human-shaped soul tool might be smaller than the one researched by the Sun Moon Empire. However, its smaller size did not mean that it would be weaker. The aura radiating from the person created an inexplicable sense of fear within him. Despite his wealth of experience, he was unable to tell what material that human-shaped soul tool was made of. The material seemed to provide depth in color, yet it was remarkably clear, as though it was carved entirely out of gemstones. At the same time, he was unable to detect any soul power rippling out from the person. The person's presence seemed to be concealed by the armor. This made their movements extremely unpredictable.

Hence, Ye Yulin was preparing to use his strongest possible attack to attempt to destroy them. Now he was genuinely curious about what lay beneath the barrier. As long as they were still here, they would not be able to run away when his reinforcements arrived shortly.

While he was thinking about it, Ye Yulin transmitted a series of encoded messages through his communication soul tool. He believed that the nearest soul tool installation would provide him with long-range fire support shortly. However, their target would not be the two people before him; it would be the protective soul barrier.

However, at this instant, Ye Yulin was surprised to see an orange-red light emerging from the protective soul barrier beneath him.

The streak of orange-red light was flying at an insanely quick speed, but it was constantly twisting and turning in its flight path.

This is...

Ye Yulin's eyes widened in disbelief. This was a guiding flare!

These people have actually developed guiding flares!?He could not believe what he was seeing.

Guiding flares were basically designed to counter areas where powerful soul tools were installed. A guiding flare contained immense soul power ripples which could attract the attention of all surrounding surveillance soul tools. And because most of the soul tools that were designed to intercept enemy attacks were all designed to fire upon detection, the guiding flare was able to get the entire installation to fire at it. This would allow Huo Yuhao and his peers to waste their enemy's ammunition and energy. At the same time, it would be the perfect decoy when they prepared to launch their real attack on the enemy.

And as expected, the guiding flare was heading towards the soul tool deployment area which was closest to Radiant City.

I can't believe these fellows are actually so well-prepared!

Just as Ye Yulin had predicted, right after the guiding flare shot out, a black figure emerged. If Ye Yulin did not notice the commotion down there, he might have missed the black figure.

However, after appearing, the black figure immediately disappeared from Ye Yulin's vision.

This...

Shit!Ye Yulin immediately shouted into his communication soul tool. "Defense. I want everyone to go into full defense mode. Be careful of the guiding flare and any sneak attacks. Do not prioritize providing support fire anymore."

Tonight's sneak attack was simply too sudden for Radiant City to handle. Even till now, all of the soul engineers were still unclear about the potential extent of this attack, and whether there was going to be a follow up to it. Hence, their utmost priority was to protect Radiant City instead of killing their enemies. Having seen how powerful the initial attack was, Ye Yulin knew he had to be extra careful. He did not want to be responsible for any failure to defend against the second wave.

Huo Yuhao's face revealed a sly smile. However, his expression was not visible to anyone, because his entire body was concealed within the Icy War God's Armor. He gently raised his right hand as a deep blue dagger appeared in his hand. There was a layer of white icy dew on the surface of the dagger's blade.

Yes, it was the Sigh of the Frozen Goddess, Morning Dew Dagger!

Tang Wutong held onto Huo Yuhao's waist—or rather his armor—tightly before she spun three hundred and sixty degrees in the air. Following which, she tossed Huo Yuhao outwards in the direction of the Starsky Douluo.

After being thrown out a hundred meters, his entire body suddenly radiated an intense white light as he sped across the sky like a meteor. He resembled a bolt of lightning that was about to strike Ye Yulin.

Icy Meteor! This was the ability Little White had given Huo Yuhao. It was able to instantly increase Huo Yuhao's flying speed to three times his usual speed. At the same time, his Ultimate Ice's explosive ability and defensive ability were doubled.

The most powerful thing about Icy Meteor was its singular collision. It only had one chance to strike its target, just as a meteor only had one attempt to hit any astral body. When Huo Yuhao was using the Icy Meteor, he was able to enhance his offensive power to that of an Ultimate Ice Titled Douluo. And because he was also wearing the Icy War God's Armor, it was pretty much equivalent to an all-out attack from a Transcendent Douluo!

Hence, Ye Yulin felt immensely threatened by Huo Yuhao's Icy Meteor. Even though he had just released the soul skill, Ye Yulin already felt as though the meteor had hit him.

Ye Yulin was immensely startled by Huo Yuhao's power. This is definitely the power of a Transcendent Douluo!

Ye Yulin had always been very confident in his abilities. He believed that as long as he kept a respectable distance between him and his opponent, he was even capable of fending off the attacks of a Transcendent Douluo!

A soul engineer must put an adequate distance between him and his opponent in order to showcase his abilities. However, there were no such requirements for soul masters.

Hence, if the battle were to be fought within a certain range, a soul master would most definitely win.

As the ball of white light rapidly enlarged before his eyes, Ye Yulin did not even hesitate as he activated his Sunmoon Divine Needle, which had just finished charging.

After he had repeatedly improved his Sunmoon Divine Needle, its attacking power had become far greater than before. Even a Transcendent Douluo would suffer tremendously under its attack. At the very least, the attacker would be struck down from the sky.

The gold and silver pillar of light descended from the sky instantly. Even though it was not particularly radiant, it contained an insane amount of destructive energy.

Only a fool would try to block the Sunmoon Divine Needle head-on.

Ye Yulin gazed from afar as he watched the impending collision between this pseudo-Transcendent Douluo and his Sunmoon Divine Needle.

Suddenly, the white light disappeared. However, the person who was within the white light reappeared.

What is he thinking? Is he trying to kill himself? Without the protection of his powerful soul skill, he will die. Ye Yulin was very puzzled by Huo Yuhao's actions.

However, he saw that person waving his hand towards him.

The other two battles had already begun. One of them was led by the Eternal Defense, Xu Sanshi, as he fought alongside the Holy Angel, Ye Guyi, and Nan Qiuqiu.

Even though Xu Sanshi was only an eight-ringed soul master, his defensive ability was unparalleled among all known martial souls after his martial soul had evolved into the Xuanwu Shield.

With the full-power defense of his Xuanwu Shield protecting him, Ye Guyi and Nan Qiuqiu, the three of them charged towards a Class 9 soul engineer.

Even though they might not be soul engineers, they were still well-equipped with soul tools!

The three of them might not possess Class 9 flying soul tools, but they were still supported by soul thrusters. After all, it was not possible to produce that many Class 9 flying soul tools in such a short amount of time.

A powerful soul master's body was definitely a lot stronger than that of a soul engineer. Hence, the thrust force which came from their soul thrusters was very powerful.

Xu Sanshi initiated the attack, since his body was the toughest among the three of them. He was instantly able to break the sound barrier when he revved up the three Class 9 soul thrusters behind his back. With his Xuanwu Shield in front of him, Xu Sanshi was like another meteor on the battlefield as he closed in on the Class 9 soul engineer.

This Class 9 soul engineer was the weakest one among the three soul engineers.

Huo Yuhao did not determine their relative strengths based on their soul power. This was because it was incredibly hard to determine the soul power of a Class 9 soul engineer. They had too many soul tools providing support and boosting their power. Even their attacking means were probably heavily influenced by their soul tools. Hence, soul power would be a bad gauge of their abilities.

Huo Yuhao had based his estimation on their relative spiritual power. This Class 9 soul engineer had the weakest spiritual power among his peers. Spiritual power was the most important factor in the later stages of training for soul engineers.

With the help of the soul thrusters, Xu Sanshi brought the two ladies towards this soul engineer. The soul engineer immediately lost his composure as he started to use different soul tools to repeatedly attack Xu Sanshi and the girls. He was trying to stop them from getting closer to him.

However, there was a reason why Xu Sanshi was called the Eternal Defense. A series of mystical ripples formed on the Xuanwu Shield as it negated a large part of the attacks launched by the soul engineer. They were effectively unstoppable.

However, the Class 9 soul engineer also possessed a fair bit of combat experience. While he continued attacking Xu Sanshi and the rest, he activated his own soul thruster, which was on his chest, as he rapidly retreated in a bid to increase the distance between him and Xu Sanshi.

It was clear that according to Huo Yuhao's arrangement, Bei Bei's group was relatively stronger. Bei Bei, Xiao Xiao, and Ji Juechen were all eight-ringed Soul Douluo. In fact, they were not just any Soul Douluo. Their cumulative power would definitely be stronger than that of a Titled Douluo. Xiao Xiao was adept at controlling and defending, whereas Ji Juechen was extremely competent in attacking. Bei Bei, on the other hand, was very versatile. Hence, even Huo Yuhao would not even be confident of defeating them if they were to team up against him.

On the other hand, Xu Sanshi's team seemed to be relatively weaker. But looks could be deceiving.

After their previous battle with the Myriad Soul Douluo, Ye Guyi had spent a considerable amount of time meditating and digesting her gains. Huo Yuhao could only roughly guess how strong she was now. Her soul power should be close to Rank 80. She was probably only just lacking her eighth soul ring.

The Holy Angel martial soul was one of the top-tier martial souls in the world. With the power of her martial soul, Ye Guyi would be a formidable force. Her Holy Angel would truly awaken once she attained her eighth ring. In the future, when she reached the Titled Douluo rank, her powers would not be weaker than that of a cultivator who possessed an Ultimate Strength martial soul.

Even though Nan Qiuqiu might be a little weaker than the rest, she was still a Soul Sage. On top of that, she possessed the Annihilation martial soul. The power of the Rouge Dragon was starting to show after she had attained the rank of a Soul Sage. In addition, she was also wearing a set of Icy War God's Armor. Even though her armor did not possess the same spiritual control system and was not made of Divine Ice Crystals, which contained ice spirits, Xuan Ziwen had already enhanced this human-shaped soul tool to its maximum potential. Because Nan Qiuqiu received this armor earlier than Huo Yuhao, she was already very familiar with it. Nonetheless, the most important person in this trio was still Xu Sanshi. His individual ability was even more effective than Bei Bei's on the battlefield. The power of his Xuanwu Shield, which could be shown in team fights, was simply overwhelming.

For example, right now when the Class 9 soul engineer released his soul thruster and retreated rapidly, Xu Sanshi's Xuanwu Shield lit up as his Golden Tortoise appeared behind his back silently.

The light on the Xuanwu Shield suddenly became illusory. Following which, the Class 9 soul engineer felt as though his body was being gripped by a hand. It was almost as if he were being tugged tightly by some mysterious force. Before he could react, the world around him seemed to have flipped as he appeared in front of Xu Sanshi. This was the enhanced version of Xuanwu Displacement — Xuanwu Summoning. After the Xuanwu martial soul was truly awakened, Xu Sanshi possessed the powerful ability to instantly pull his opponent towards him. No matter how strong the opponent was, he would be able to pull them in till he or she was right in front of him. As long as the opponent was within a hundred meters of him, he or she would definitely be vulnerable to this soul skill.

Similar to the Xuanwu Displacement, this was an amazing soul skill! It was especially so for a defense-type soul master. He could help his peers escape from their common enemy in an instant. Also, he could pull his opponent towards him in the blink of an eye. On top of that, the Xuanwu Summoning—which was the enhanced version of the Xuanwu Displacement—was a soul skill that even Huo Yuhao's Spiritual

Duplication could not copy. Xu Sanshi was the only one who could use it. The Class 9 soul engineer immediately started to panic as he activated his protective soul barrier and his Invincible Barrier. Layers of light enveloped his body like a cocoon.

While Xu Sanshi was performing the Xuanwu Summoning, the fifth soul ring on his body lit up. The Golden Tortoise behind his back immediately fused with his body. Following which, his entire body—which now resembled a gigantic tortoise—collided heavily against the barrier of the Class 9 soul engineer before him.

Turtle God's Strike!

Xu Sanshi's fifth soul skill!

This soul skill's attacking power was considerably strong. It also happened to be one of the few attacking soul skills Xu Sanshi possessed. In fact, it was closer to being a soul skill that could be used both offensively and defensively than a purely attacking-type soul skill.

The enormous vibration, coupled with the awkwardness of being pulled right in front of his opponent, created a sense of fear within the Class 9 soul engineer's heart. However, he soon realized that his opponent's attacking power was not very strong. After all, Xu Sanshi only had eight rings!

His barrier was still able to protect his body. In addition, he was also knocked away by the blow, which helped him increase the distance between himself and his opponents.

It was a good thing for a soul engineer to come out from a battle unscathed. It would be even better for the soul engineer to have a good amount of distance between himself and his opponent.

However, just before he could indulge in this satisfying thought, the space around him started to contort, and seemed as though it had started to cease to be real.

A light flashed, and the Class 9 soul engineer who had been knocked away suddenly disappeared in mid-air, and was replaced by a dark blue figure who was none other than Huo Yuhao.

"Booomm!" The gold and silver pillar of light slammed heavily into the place where Huo Yuhao was supposed to be. However, Huo Yuhao was no longer there to receive the blow. The person who was trying to withstand the full blow of the Sunmoon Divine Needle had become the Class 9 soul engineer who was knocked away by Xu Sanshi. Everything was according to Huo Yuhao's plan. All three battles were being monitored by Huo Yuhao through his Spiritual Detection.

When Xu Sanshi was rushing towards the Class 9 soul engineer at full speed, Huo Yuhao had already shared his plan with him through Spiritual Sharing.

The chemistry that Shrek's Seven Monsters had was simply incredible. When Xu Sanshi used his Xuanwu Summoning to pull the Class 9 soul engineer towards him, Ye Guyi and Nan Qiuqiu stopped their attacks temporarily as Xu Sanshi knocked the soul engineer away. All of this was done in support of Huo Yuhao's plan!

The Turtle God's Strike knocked the soul engineer to a position that was closer to Huo Yuhao, who used his Spiritual Duplication on the Xuanwu Displacement before changing places with the Class 9 soul

engineer. Hence, the Sunmoon Divine Needle that was supposed to land on Huo Yuhao ended up landing on the Class 9 soul engineer.

Even though everything seemed to be very slow in the above description, events unfolded rapidly the moment both sides came into contact.

When the Starsky Douluo realized that something was wrong, his Sunmoon Divine Needle had already been tossed out in the direction of the Class 9 soul engineer.

The Sunmoon Divine Needle's attacking prowess was ranked among the top five Class 9 soul tools. It was not to be doubted. Huo Yuhao had accurately determined that the Class 9 soul engineer that Xu Sanshi had faced was the weakest among the three Sun Moon Empire soul engineers.

All of his barriers disintegrated instantly under the power of the Sunmoon Divine Needle. However, it was undeniable that this Class 9 soul engineer had incredible survivability. Just when his entire body was about to be enveloped by the Sunmoon Divine Needle's attack, a silver light suddenly flashed from his body as his entire body was transported to an area thirty meters away. He managed to escape alive.

Nonetheless, there were huge patches on his body that were already charred. He also spat out a mouthful of blood.

A bright streak of light flew across the sky as a gigantic purple-gold pillar of light appeared. This pillar illuminated the entire vast black sky, as though dawn had arrived.

Chapter 552.1: Activate the Guiding Cannon!

The Class 9 soul engineer, who thought he had just managed to escape from the jaws of death, was consumed by the intense purple-gold light before he could even let out a scream. The few remaining defensive methods he had did not even stand a chance against this streak of purple-gold light.

How could Huo Yuhao's plan be complete without Tang Wutong's involvement? The Dragon Dance of the Radiant Sun was the final blow!

The combined efforts of everyone helped slay a Class 9 soul engineer.

After realizing he had attacked the wrong person, the Starsky Douluo revealed an expression of grief and regret. His expression worsened when he saw how his companion perished under the Dragon Dance of the Radiant Sun. His eyes revealed a hint of hesitation.

And right now, the soul tool installation he had feared was about to be attacked did not seem to be under any form of threat from the enemies.

Ye Yulin immediately understood that they had been duped. The guiding flare was real, but the dark figure that followed after it was not any powerful offensive soul tool. It was a misjudgement he had made under the pressure of his circumstances. And because of his error, the soul tool front was not able to provide support fire.

Just when Ye Yulin wanted to contact them again, a huge pressure started to act on him.

A dark blue entity was heading towards him after forming an elegant parabolic flight path in the night sky. The speed at which the person was moving could only be achieved with the help of a Class 9 flying soul tool.

Ye Yulin could no longer afford to ponder how his enemies were able to secure the help of such a powerful Class 9 soul engineer. He immediately turned and escaped without any hesitation.

After releasing the Sunmoon Divine Needle twice in a row, he had expended a considerable amount of his soul power. On top of that, he had already witnessed the death of his companion with his own eyes. There were a total of five soul masters circling around him. Even though he was very egotistical, he was not foolish enough to think that he would be able to go up against five powerful opponents at the same time.

Hence, he chose to flee without hesitating. After all, he also possessed a Class 9 flying soul tool!

At this instant, streaks of light exploded in the distant sky. Following which, there seemed to be a mysterious wave which rippled through the air.

Bastard! Ye Yulin was enraged to see those streaks of light. Of course he knew what those things were. Those soul cannon shells were not destructive. They were called interference shells. After exploding, they were able to release powerful interference waves which could temporarily disable all communication and surveillance soul tools.

Huo Yuhao's objective was apparent, because there were no surveillance soul tools near them. He was trying to cut off all communication between Ye Yulin and the other troops of the Sun Moon Empire. In fact, he had just been about to signal the soul tool front.

Ye Yulin seemed to become increasingly frustrated with how events were unfolding. In fact, there was also a growing sense of fear in his heart. His enemy was somehow able to predict every single action he was about to make. Huo Yuhao always seemed to be one move ahead of him. Hence, he was not ready to become complacent. There was no point in trying to delay these enemies anymore. It was of the utmost importance for him to escape and save his own life.

On the other side, the Class 9 soul engineer who was facing Bei Bei and the rest was also in a dangerous predicament. He made a few feints before releasing a series of powerful attacks to force them back. Following which, he also released his Class 9 flying soul tool and tried to flee. Of course, the path he chose to take fell within the effective radius of the interference shell.

Huo Yuhao and the others pretended to chase after them for a short while before quickly returning to the protective soul barrier.

After their short battle with the soul engineers, most of the heavy artillery had already retreated into the spectral demiplane.

In this short amount of time, one of the soul engineers had fallen, while the other two had fled. It was truly an exciting battle for the higher-ups of Tang Sect. Meanwhile, Huo Yuhao immediately focused his spiritual power to maintain the spectral gate, which had started to fade.

Previously, the gate had been kept opened by Li Ya. Fortunately, Huo Yuhao returned just when she was about to run out of energy.

After successfully exiting the area that the interference waves affected, the soul engineers immediately contacted the soul tool front. The soul tools began to charge their long-range weapons with energy as they aimed at the linked defensive barrier where Huo Yuhao and the rest were.

Right now, all of them were racing against time. There were more figures emerging from the Sun Moon Empire's Palace as they raced towards Huo Yuhao's position.

Just as Huo Yuhao had expected, they were lucky that the Sun Moon Empire's Imperial Soul Engineer Legion was not around. If not, they would definitely not be able to flee.

Meanwhile, a blinding white pillar of light surged into the sky from Radiant City! Its powerful glare instantly illuminated half of the entire city. The people who were closer to the white light felt as though day and night had been reversed.

Just as his surroundings were illuminated by the white light, the faces of Huo Yuhao and his peers who had yet to retreat also became white.

Huo Yuhao was instantly alerted by this powerful beam. Even though they were almost done with retreating, the Fort Soul Engineer Legion and the Tang Sect Soul Engineer Legion were still not done yet. They needed a little more time.

Even though they didn't know exactly how powerful the white light was because of how far away it was, Huo Yuhao knew that the white light was definitely released by whichever soul legion was defending Radiant City. They must have revved up their linked offensive soul tools in order to generate so much power. Even if it was done without the support of the high-energy compression array soul tools, its power was still not to be underestimated.

The entire sky—along with its clouds—had turned white. Even though the white pillar at Radiant City had disappeared, the white color in the sky was becoming increasingly intense with every moment that passed.

Huo Yuhao focused his gaze on the sky. There was a gigantic white ball of light, which was at least a hundred meters wide, high up in the sky. It was following an incredible parabolic path as it headed for him and the others.

"Shit!" Huo Yuhao's Spiritual Detection had been feeding his peers with his observations. Hence, his companions were all able to see what he had seen. Xu Sanshi immediately lowered his body without any hesitation as he prepared to launch himself into the air.

As the strongest defense-type soul master among Shrek's Seven Monsters, Xu Sanshi knew he had to be the one to block the ball. This was especially true because he possessed both the Xuanwu Shield and the Golden Tortoise spirit.

Jiang Nannan became incredibly tense as she prepared to soar into the air with him. She knew it was impossible to hold him back in such moments. Hence, she decided to join him instead!

"Hold up." Huo Yuhao flickered to their backs as he placed his hands on their arms to stop them from flying up.

“Yuhao!” Xu Sanshi growled angrily at Huo Yuhao. In his eyes, this was not the time to hesitate. If they delayed their response, the entire team could be wiped out.

“There seems to be a problem with its aim!” Huo Yuhao shouted.

At this instant, the gigantic white ball was already descending from the sky. There was a trail of white smoke behind it as it raced towards the group. Even though it was not moving very quickly, it exerted a frightening amount of pressure on everyone—including those who were under the linked defensive barrier.

It only took a few seconds before the ball fully descended from the sky and landed heavily at a place roughly two hundred meters away from their linked defensive barrier.

The ground initially trembled lightly before the vibration’s amplitude increased tremendously. Their vision started to blur as the ground beneath them appeared to melt under the constant shockwaves rippling through the ground. *noVe/lb*.In

The white shockwaves collided with the linked defensive barrier in an extremely violent fashion.

“Beep! Beep! Beep!” A deafening alarm started to ring. The linked defensive barrier was showing signs of crumbling under the immense pressure from the shockwaves.

At this instant, the Fort Soul Engineer Legion was almost done with their retreat. Only the Tang Sect Soul Engineer Legion and Shrek’s Seven Monsters were still waiting in the barrier.

“Tang Sect Soul Engineer Legion, listen to my orders! Get ready to launch our linked offensive soul tools! As for the rest of you, retreat! Eldest senior brother, leave with the rest of them.” Huo Yuhao’s voice echoed in everyone’s ears.

Bei Bei growled, “No way. I’m the one in charge of the Tang Sect Soul Engineer Legion. You’re the one who needs to leave first.”

Huo Yuhao immediately turned around to look at Bei Bei before speaking with a serious tone. “Eldest senior brother, I will stay behind with Dong’er to lead the Tang Sect Soul Engineer Legion. Please trust me. I would never put my loved one’s lives in danger. There will only be hope for us to bring the entire Tang Sect Soul Engineer Legion to safety if I stay behind. Trust me! The Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineer Legion is not in Radiant City right now.”

Having shared an intimate relationship all these years, Bei Bei was definitely able to understand what Huo Yuhao was hinting at. He looked at Huo Yuhao before saying, “We will wait for you then. Everyone, I need you to retreat with me.” Following which, he waved his hand at his junior brothers and sisters as they charged through the spectral gate.

At this instant, another streak of powerful white light was launched from Radiant City into the air. Once again, the blinding white light illuminated the city as the frightening power reappeared within the linked defensive barrier.

Everyone knew that the linked defensive barrier would definitely be unable to withstand another blow. It was no longer supported by any soul engineers, and its materials were not comparable to that of their enemies.

The only reason why the previous attack missed was that they did not have any aerial surveillance soul tools to help them lock onto their target. It was merely launched with some primitive calculations done by a few Class 9 soul engineers. Since it only deviated from the target by two hundred meters, this time around, they were not going to miss.

“Tang Sect Soul Engineer Legion, follow me up into the sky.” Huo Yuhao ordered as he pulled Wang Dong’er’s hand and led their ascent.

Chapter 552.2: Activate the Guiding Cannon!

The Tang Sect Soul Engineer Legion was the most powerful soul engineer legion among the three legions. It not only had the best equipment but also the strongest soul masters. They consisted only of soul masters with at least six rings. In fact, they were all direct disciples of the masters within Shrek Academy. They not only revered Huo Yuhao greatly, but also idolized him. Previously, Huo Yuhao had already led them to countless victories. Hence, none of them hesitated when he gave them the order to fly. All of them started to ascend into the sky as they followed the directions given by Huo Yuhao’s Spiritual Detection.

After ascending into the sky, Huo Yuhao did not immediately evade the enemy’s attack. He merely gazed at the gigantic ball of light, which was formed from the white pillar of light that surged up into the sky.

Beneath the Tang Sect Soul Engineer Legion, the last few members of the Fort Soul Engineer Legion and the higher-ups of Tang Sect had entered the spectral gate.

“Prepare to fire the guided cannon!”

Every single soul engineer within the Tang Sect Soul Engineer Legion lined themselves up as they placed a small yellow cannon on their shoulders.

“Take my position as the center. Fire at full power.”

Huo Yuhao placed a similarly small cannon on his shoulder. However, his cannon was golden.

The golden beam of light that was blasted out of the cannon ascended only thirty meters before stopping in mid-air. A golden ball was formed rapidly at the tip of the golden beam of light.

At this instant, the white ball which was fired from Radiant City had reached its maximum height, and was starting to fall towards them.

Two hundred streaks of yellow light were subsequently fired in the next two seconds. They were not aimed at the white light of light. Instead, all of them landed on the ball that Huo Yuhao had fired.

Huo Yuhao’s eyes lit up, and the strength of his spiritual power was raised to its maximum. At the very next instant, the cannon on his shoulder vibrated and released a powerful golden pillar of light that had a diameter of more than ten meters.

The white light and the golden light seemed to instantly fuse in mid-air. While the golden beam seemed to pale in comparison to the gigantic ball of white light, it was somehow able to stop the ball in its tracks. Following which, a golden layer of light formed on the ball of white light.

Upon seeing that, the Tang Sect Soul Engineer Legion cheered triumphantly.

Huo Yuhao made a tossing action with his hand, and the ball of white light flew out far away as it headed back towards Radiant City.

Yes, this was the power of the guided cannon—one of the linked offensive soul tools that the Tang Sect Soul Engineer Legion possessed. These powerful cannons were usually used to handle top-tier stationary soul cannon shells fired by their enemies. However, this time around, Huo Yuhao used it to counter the enemy's linked offensive soul tool.

Guided cannon shells did not possess any offensive power on their own. Instead, it used the most gentle and flexible of ways to counter the soul power in the enemy's attacks.

It was only after the frightening ball of white light was sent towards Radiant City that Huo Yuhao was finally able to look at the damage beneath him.

From high above, he was able to see the insane amount of destructive energy in the previous ball of white light that Radiant City had launched towards them. There was a huge crater which was over two hundred meters deep and a thousand meters wide. Everything was gone except for a small patch of ground that Tang Sect's linked defensive barrier had protected.

"Let's go!" Huo Yuhao waved his hand and brought the two hundred soul engineers along with him. At the same time, the eighteen spectral gates closed.

Everything had gone according to his plan. After ascending high into the sky with the rest of the Tang Sect Soul Engineer Legion, Huo Yuhao and everyone else was finally out of the attacking range of Radiant City's soul tool deployment area.

If he had chosen to retreat through the spectral gate earlier, he would most definitely not have been able to escape before the second ball of white light landed on them.

Meanwhile, the biggest problem at Radiant City was that they didn't have a strong soul engineer legion that could pursue Huo Yuhao and his team. Even though the Tang Sect Soul Engineer Legion was weaker than the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineer Legion, it was far superior to any normal soul engineer legion. In addition, most of their aerial surveillance soul tools had already been destroyed. Without any reconnaissance ability, they would not be able to go after Huo Yuhao and his team effectively. Hence, Huo Yuhao could convince Bei Bei to let him stay behind after mentioning how the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineer Legion was not present. This was because the Tang Sect Soul Engineer Legion could only retreat safely if Huo Yuhao were to stay behind with them.

As the frightening ball of white light headed back towards the Radiant City, Huo Yuhao believed that its power could definitely rival that of a Class 9 stationary soul cannon shell. The soul tool deployment area within Radiant City was also definitely one of the strongest deployment areas he had ever seen.

If this toy were to land within the city...

At this instant, another white pillar of light surged up into the sky in an inclined fashion. It shot towards the ball of white light that was heading for Radiant City. The ball was instantly hit by the white pillar.

"Boom!" A loud explosion could be heard from all the way up in the sky. Once again, the entire sky turned a bright white. This time around, Radiant City was illuminated by the explosion.

“What a shame!” Huo Yuhao sighed as he shook his head. They were still not able to deal a greater blow to Radiant City.

However, after this blow, they now had enough time to retreat. Without any aerial surveillance soul tools to lock onto them, the Tang Sect Soul Engineer Legion was able to retreat rapidly without any threat from the soul tool deployment areas within Radiant City.

However, it was still possible for them to be chased by high-level soul engineers. However, other than guiding the white ball away, the guided cannon shell would probably have deterred the stronger soul engineers from doing so!

Even if the enemy was a high-level Class 9 soul engineer, or even the Deathgod Douluo herself, he or she would have to consider if his or her own abilities were sufficient to deal with a powerful soul engineer legion which was able to use linked offensive soul tools.

Huo Yuhao held onto Tang Wutong as they increased their altitude. He had ordered their two hundred soul engineers to fly into the distance, while both of them would sweep behind them.

Huo Yuhao released his Spiritual Detection in all directions. He was keeping an eye on the situation in Radiant City. He wanted to make sure that no one was coming after them.

The truth was that the frightening high altitude collision earlier had released powerful shockwaves. Even though the position of the explosion was not within the interior of Radiant City, the shockwaves had pretty much made it impossible for anyone to fly out of the city. Even if someone wanted to go after them, he or she would be deterred for safety reasons. In addition, all the aerial surveillance soul tools that had just ascended into the sky were also destroyed by the big explosion. There was essentially nothing left of them. It would be near impossible for them to monitor Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong’s movements.

It was only now that Huo Yuhao finally heaved a sigh of relief. Following which, he held Tang Wutong’s hand as they chased after the Tang Sect Soul Engineer Legion ahead of them. *no ve*(IB-1n

After flying close to fifty kilometers and making many deliberate turns to shake off any possible surveillance tools or troops that might be following them, Huo Yuhao led all of them into a small forest. Even though he was struggling with his spiritual fatigue, he repeated the incantations to open the spectral gate. However, because he was spiritually incapable of opening nine doors, he was only able to open three doors for them to enter with Li Ya’s help.

Following which, the Tang Sect Soul Engineer Legion, along with Tang Wutong and Huo Yuhao, streamed into the spectral demiplane. Even though they did not lose a single person in this huge battle, all of them were in dire need of a rest.

The bright colors above the Radiant City lasted for a good ten minutes before the sky started to darken again. However, the entire city had been consumed by mass hysteria.

Even though there were not many civilian casualties, everyone, regardless of their status, was awakened by the huge commotion above their homes. Even though they were no longer asleep, none of them dared to leave their homes. Most of them were just looking at the events which were unfolding from their windows.

Hence, they were able to see the numerous mystical sights which were happening in the sky above them. In addition, they heard plenty of frightening explosions. Most importantly, they witnessed a huge explosion in the direction of the palace.

The closer a person stayed to the palace, the higher the status a person usually had. Even though the Palace did not allow any high-level structures near its compound, the explosion was still visible from a distance. The sight of the scary Class 9 stationary soul cannon shell ripping through the palace's layers of defenses before striking the core area of the palace startled everyone who managed to catch a glimpse of it.

The palace was not just any other place within Radiant City. It was the core of the entire Sun Moon Empire! Even though Xu Tianran had just ascended the throne not too long ago, he was able to bring enormous progress to the entire Empire as he conquered a large part of the Heavenly Soul Empire. In fact, his reputation was sky high after it was recently declared that the Heavenly Soul Empire had fallen into the hands of the Sun Moon Empire. He was already canonized as this generation's holy leader.

However, his reputation would definitely take a huge hit due to what had just happened. In fact, no one knew whether their leader was even still alive. How could anyone sleep without knowing what was going on in the palace? It was bound to be a sleepless night for everyone within Radiant City.

Countless alarms, explosive sounds and human voices could be heard everywhere within Radiant City. They were further worsened by the messy lights coming from different soul tools as fragments and shards fell from the sky. The world's number one city had turned into a mess. The adverse impact that Huo Yuhao and his team had left on Radiant City far exceeded the actual destruction they had dealt.

In the palace within Radiant City.

Xu Tianran's face was as pale as death. Other than the rage and anger in his eyes, he pretty much resembled a dead man.

This was probably his biggest setback since ascending the throne. Xu Tianran had never expected that he – an Emperor of an empire with the strongest soul tools – would be directly attacked by soul tools from his very own palace.

The stationary soul cannon shell had left a particularly deep impression on him. Its powerful penetrative ability was unparalleled by any of the Class 9 soul tools within the Sun Moon Empire. Even though its overall power was not invincibly strong, he would have guessed that that cannon shell was specially designed to counter the Sun Moon Empire's linked defensive barrier.

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Xu Tianran was certain that there was not a single linked defensive barrier in the Palace which could have blocked that blow. In other words, if Huo Yuhao and his group had possessed a sufficient quantity of those shells, they would have been able to destroy the entire Sun Moon Empire. That was a scary prospect for him to think about.

If that kind of stationary soul cannon shell was not invented by the Sun Moon Empire, it must have come from one of the three original Empires. However, since when did they have the ability to manufacture such powerful soul tools?

Ye Xishui, who was dressed in a long black robe, stood beside Xu Tianran. Because she was also staying within the Palace, she was able to react immediately after the explosion. However, because she did not stay at the core area of the Palace, she did not sustain any direct injuries from the explosion.

She chose to stay behind to protect Xu Tianran instead of going after the enemy because there was nothing more important than the Emperor's life.

As Xu Tianran began to gain greater control over the Empire, Ye Xishui realized that she was starting to lose control over him. His power was increasing steadily, and the Sun Moon Empire seemed to be a lot tougher than she had thought.

However, under such circumstances, Ye Xishui could only allow the Holy Ghost Church to develop in this manner. At the end of the day, Xu Tianran was almost like her disciple, and was—at least for now—one of the most ardent supporters of the Holy Ghost Church within the royal family. It was crucial to protect his life right now, when the Sun Moon Empire was going to war with the other Empires. If he were to somehow die during this time, there would be no guarantee that his successor would support the Holy Ghost Church in the same way.

Ye Xishui had originally thought that she would be able to control everything. However, she had started to doubt herself. After witnessing the latest soul tools that the Sun Moon Empire was developing, she started to fear the powers they exhibited. She was also not confident of going up against the entire Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineer Legion.

It was important to note that the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineer Legion only took orders from the Emperor himself.

Hence, after weighing the pros and cons from several perspectives, Ye Xishui decided to fully support Xu Tianran. At the same time, she would try to figure out how to exert greater influence on the Sun Moon Empire. Thus, she did not go after Huo Yuhao and his group.

Xu Tianran coughed loudly as he spat out a mouthful of blood. The servants by his side immediately handed him a clean towel to.

Xu Tianran revealed a frustrated look on his face as he threw the towel aside angrily. Instead of using the towel, he wiped his mouth furiously with the back of his hand.

Actually, Xu Tianran was extremely gifted in cultivation. However, his gifts were adversely affected after a very tragic incident. When he was younger, he lost his legs while trying to wrest the throne from his brothers. At that time, he lost a lot of blood and vitality. Because of this, he was only able to attain the rank of Titled Douluo after using all sorts of top-tier medicinal herbs. However, his actual abilities were still a little short of a Titled Douluo.

Previously, when Du Busi sacrificed his life to strike a deadly blow against him, Xu Tianran had sustained an extremely serious injury. Even though he had been undergoing therapies and all sorts of conditioning training, he was unable to fully recover from those injuries. Now, he was attacked by a Class 9 stationary soul cannon shell. It was truly a series of unfortunate events for him. As his injuries piled up, the origins of his martial soul and spiritual power could only recover through protracted rest and conditioning. Even though he had tried to undergo therapies with the help of healing-type soul masters, the effects were

not particularly promising. In addition, the loss of his two legs had burdened his body tremendously, and would delay any form of recovery.

The Imperial Physician was afraid to tell him the truth. However, Ye Xishui had told him that even with the support of the best herbs in the entire world, he could at best live for another fifty years. Because he was currently about forty to fifty years old, he could at most live to a hundred. This was simply too short for an Emperor who had attained the rank of Titled Douluo.

How could Xu Tianran be in a good mood under such circumstances?

More figures started to appear by Xu Tianran's side. All of them were silent as they stood by him. It could be said that Radiant City had just suffered its biggest setback ever. In fact, it was even worse than the huge explosion in the underground ammunition depot. Even though that explosion had affected half of the city and resulted in civilian casualties and damages, it was ultimately an internal mistake. It was not because of Radiant City's inherent lack of defensive strength.

This time round, the Palace had been directly attacked! Their enemies were somehow able to penetrate their defenses and hurt the Emperor directly. This was a huge blow to the soul engineers of the Sun Moon Empire.

While Xu Tianran's body had to be fully supported by a chair, he did not show any signs of fatigue. He knew well enough that he must not allow his body to collapse at this important juncture. If not, the optimistic image he had just constructed would crumble.

"Is the Prime Minister here?" Xu Tianran asked with a hoarse voice.

"Your Majesty, I have just arrived." The Prime Minister appeared from behind as he bowed before Xu Tianran. It was apparent that he was panicking as he addressed him.

Xu Tianran stared at him coldly before saying, "Is this the enemy you were referring to? The enemy who can change directions at top speed on the ocean?"

The Prime Minister revealed a bitter expression as he replied, "I understand. It's my fault."

"You may stand by the side for now," Xu Tianran ordered coldly. The Prime Minister was no longer entitled to a seat.

All the ministers rushed over at the first instant. It was not only an important moment to declare one's loyalty to Xu Tianran, but also to understand the Emperor's situation. If Xu Tianran were truly dead after this attack, they would begin to hatch their own individual plans.

The members of the royal family were the earliest to arrive. Even though the Princes who had fought him for the throne had all died, it was not possible for Xu Tianran to put all their descendants and family members to death. That was something which the seniors in the royal family would never allow. If he were to really do that, he would anger some of the people who were eyeing his throne, and spur them to act rashly.

Hence, it was important to note that there was more than one person present who was hoping for Xu Tianran to die.

"Is the Prince okay?" Xu Tianran asked.

A member of the Hall of Consecration quickly stepped forward before saying, "The Prince's palace was protected by the Eternal Star Domain. Your Majesty, rest assured that all is well."

"Okay." Xu Tianran nodded. How could he not know that the Prince was protected by a soul tool? The Eternal Star Domain was known as the strongest defensive soul tool in the entire Sun Moon Empire. It was supposed to be used to protect his quarters. However, since Ju Zi had left to campaign, Xu Tianran had placed the Eternal Star Domain with the Prince to reassure her that the Prince would be safe even when she was not around.

Even though the Class 9 stationary soul cannon shell earlier was incredibly powerful, its power was insufficient to breach the defense of the Eternal Star Domain. Hence, the Prince was naturally safe and sound.

It was apparent that Xu Tianran had purposely asked that question in front of certain individuals just so that those people could hear the answer and dismiss certain thoughts that were forming in their heads.

After hearing how the Prince was fine, there were some faces that were visibly disappointed. As long as the Prince was still alive, even if Xu Tianran were to die, they would not have a chance of becoming the Emperor.

Xu Tianran seemed to reveal a mocking smile before he asked an old man beside him. "Elder Kong, when is the Imperial Soul Engineer Legion returning?"

This man who was addressed as Elder Kong was a tall and burly man. He had short and spiky grey hair, and was wearing a yellow long robe. Such robes were supposed to be worn only by members of the royal family, though it was apparent from his surname that he did not belong to the royal family.

All this while, he had been standing on the other side of Xu Tianran. His face revealed a calm and collected expression, as though he had nothing to do with what had just happened. However, if one were to pay closer attention to him, one would notice the shapeless energy he was radiating, which formed a barrier over himself and Xu Tianran. It was almost as if he was his guardian.

Elder Kong was, in fact, standing closer to Xu Tianran than Ye Xishui, and the aura he radiated did not pale significantly in comparison to hers.

After hearing his words, Xu Tianran nodded gently before ordering, "Tell them it is my order that they track down our enemies at all costs. Is Elder Ye back?"

"Your Majesty, I am here." Two people were walking very quickly towards the Emperor from afar. It was illegal to fly above the Palace. This rule still applied to anyone from the Hall of Consecration.

Ye Yulin was in no better state than Xu Tianran. While Xu Tianran was heavily injured, Ye Yulin was very frustrated.

During that humongous explosion earlier, he had been caught by the shockwave while he was in the air. Even though he tried to rapidly descend to avoid it, he still lost two precious defensive soul tools in his bid to keep himself alive.

The energy storm in the air made it impossible for him to track the enemy's movements. He was only able to roughly make out the shape of several soul tools within the linked defensive barrier before he

landed on the ground. Other than the soul tools, he could not tell how many people were inside the cloudy barrier.

“Elder Ye, who were those people? Have you found out who they are?” Xu Tianran was surprisingly calm when he asked this question.

Anger would only harm his already injured body even more. It was only appropriate for a great character to stay calm in critical moments like this.

Ye Yulin spoke with a deep voice. “Our enemies are very strong, and they are probably from the other three Empires. If I’m not wrong, they have more than one soul engineer legion.”

After Ye Yulin finished his sentence, the room went silent.

They had more than one soul engineer legion? What does this mean?

It was still understandable if this attack was carried out by one or two individuals with the help of powerful soul tools. After all, there were bound to be people who could sneak past the Sun Moon Empire’s aerial surveillance soul tools. However, something must be wrong if an entire legion could sneak past the surveillance soul tools. On top of that, more than one legion managed to sneak in!

Ye Yulin continued, “Your Majesty, I have already dispatched my people to investigate this matter. I would recommend that we stop our attacks temporarily. Our enemies might have retreated, but they have left some clues behind.”

Xu Tianran stares at Ye Yulin before saying, “I need you to tell me the details. I want to know more about these enemies.”

Chapter 553: An Attack from Shrek?

Ye Yulin squinted and said, “Without a doubt, these enemies come from the three empires of the original Douluo Continent. I rushed there and saw a protective soul barrier. That means that those people constructed a soul formation outside Radiant City as a defensive measure. This soul formation was also constructed at such an opportune time. It seems to coincide with the period of time that our aerial surveillance soul tools were chain-bombed. It’s terrifying if they had planned and calculated everything. This would also mean that they are the ones responsible for bombing our soul tools.”

Xu Tianran took in a deep breath and suppressed his anger. “Can someone tell me how our aerial surveillance soul tools were bombed? If our enemies were responsible for it, how did they do so without anyone’s knowledge?”

Another Worshipped said, “According to my observation and judgment, our aerial surveillance soul tools are likely to have self-destructed. If it was the work of our enemies, we would have discovered it immediately. At the same time, we would have used our soul formations to stop them. Whatever it is, they wouldn’t have been able to destroy all our surveillance soul tools.”

“Self-destructed?” Xu Tianran glared. Following this, he felt an excruciating pain in his chest, and had no choice but to suppress his anger once again.

That Worshipped laughed bitterly. “From the current situation, that seems to be the case. If it wasn’t, there is another possibility, that explosive charges were installed on our aerial surveillance soul tools.

That's the only way they could all be bombed at the same time under some kind of control. This also means that it's likely our enemies possess some kind of ability that helped them to escape the detection of our soul tools, and at the same time, sneak their way to install explosive charges on them."

Once he said this, everyone went silent.

His analysis was shocking. If the invading enemies were able to mysteriously sneak their way past the aerial surveillance soul tools, did that also mean that they could also sneak into the palace? Wouldn't they be able to do anything they wanted if that was the case?

This time, the Class 9 stationary soul shell only exploded after breaking through their defense. What if their enemies had placed a Class 9 stationary soul shell in the palace? It was unimaginable.

Ye Yulin nodded and said, "Old Shen is right. I find it very weird too. The light was distorted in their soul formation. Given my ocular and spiritual power, I was still unable to tell what was going on. Then, three of us advanced at the same time, and seven to eight enemies came forward to deal with us. They were very strong. I believe they had to be at least Soul Douluo. However, most of them weren't soul engineers, but soul masters. Their martial souls were very strong too, especially that of the leader. He seemed to be wearing a human-shaped soul tool, which exuded an extremely strong chilly energy. They coordinated with one another very well. Also..."

Ye Yulin recounted his fight with Huo Yuhao and the rest. After his recounting, most of the senior officials in the Sun Moon Empire found it ridiculous. Such opponents couldn't be dealt with easily!

"From the situation then, I believe that they must have possessed some kind of concealment-type soul tool. That's why they were able to get close to Radiant City without being detected. Some of the stronger ones can even isolate the detection abilities of most of our surveillance soul tools. At the same time, they also possessed soul tools that are offensively strong. I believe there were at least two thousand stationary soul cannon shells raining down on our soul formations. Only the three empires of the original Douluo Continent are capable of coming up with something like this. Perhaps this was their trump card."

"On the battlefield, they can't challenge the War God Empress. That's why they came up with such a strategy. They exploited our hollowness at the back and attacked us. However, I don't understand how they were able to move so quickly. They were just in the south, but soon came close to Radiant City. Even if they were all soul engineers, it's not possible that all of them have been equipped with Class 8 flying-type soul tools."

Xu Tianran furrowed his brow and also went into deep thought. This was really an incomprehensible situation. Every one of them was confused. This was because they hadn't found out what their enemies were really like.

The more unknown an enemy, the more terrifying he was. This was something that everyone understood.

"Your Majesty!" At this moment, Ye Xishui suddenly spoke.

“What?” Xu Tianran turned toward Ye Xishui, and suddenly became respectful. Ye Xishui was an Ultimate Douluo. In terms of cultivation, she was already the best in the Sun Moon Empire. Moreover, she even controlled the Death God.

“Tell me what you think.” Xu Tianran didn’t directly call her Ye Xishui. He had a more personal connection with her, but everyone knew that she held true authority in the Holy Ghost Church. That was why he naturally didn’t dare to directly call her by her name in front of all the gathered officials.

Ye Xishui said, “They don’t have to come from the three empires to possess such strength. Don’t forget, there’s another place that’s capable of all this.”

Xu Tianran suddenly thought of something, and his expression instantly changed. “Are you talking about Shrek Academy?”

Ye Xishui nodded. “That’s right, I’m talking about them. Think about it, Your Majesty. The Heavenly Soul Empire was wiped out on the battlefield. While Shrek Academy stepped in, they only managed to save some of the remaining members of the regime. They didn’t manage to achieve anything substantial. That’s not very characteristic of Shrek Academy. What happened wasn’t a true representation of their strength. Perhaps they did really conserve their strength. However, why can’t it be that Shrek Academy wasn’t at full strength?”

“According to our intelligence, Shrek City has been expanding over the past few years. It has something to do with the soul beasts in the Great Star Dou Forest. Remember that kid called Huo Yuhao? After constructing the Spirit Pagoda, he ended the hostility between the Great Star Dou Forest and Shrek Academy. A few years ago, he demonstrated his concealment abilities when the Star Luo Empire regained control of the Ming Dou Mountain Range. Then, he was only discovered because he triggered my spiritual barrier. He even borrowed the Beast God Di Tian’s strength to resist me. He also appeared on the battlefield once, and caused us to lose many aerial surveillance soul tools. It seems like he’s the one responsible for all this. If he’s the one who came up with the new soul tools that Shrek Academy has developed, I wouldn’t be surprised at all.”

After hearing Ye Xishui’s words, Xu Tianran also recalled Huo Yuhao. However, he continued furrowing his brow. “Is that even possible? How old is he? He wasn’t even twenty when he represented the Tang Sect in the Continental Advanced Soul Master Academy Soul Dueling Tournament. Although years have passed, he’s still barely twenty.”

Xu Tianran’s impression of Huo Yuhao was still very deep. This wasn’t just because he was very strong. It was also because he appeared in a wheelchair back then. That left a deep impression on him.

Ye Xishui snorted. “Nothing is impossible. He’s the closed-door disciple of the Dragon God Douluo Mu En. He also possesses twin martial souls. Earlier, Ye Yulin mentioned that his opponent wore a human-shaped soul tool, and exuded intense chilly energy from his body. I think it’s likely that it’s this kid. He possesses an Ultimate Ice martial soul.”

Xu Tianran was in disbelief as he said, “However, Old Ye said that his opponent’s ability was definitely at the standard of a Titled Douluo. Without the use of powerful soul tools, he wasn’t confident of defeating his opponent.”

Ye Xishui sighed and said, "Your Majesty, you must not be deceived by appearances. Furthermore, there are extremely talented people in this world. From the current situation, the three empires, or rather, the two empires, aren't the only ones who can truly threaten us. It's Shrek Academy. Your Majesty, you just need to give the order to the War God Empress to assault Shrek City and destroy them. Then, the mastermind will also cave in naturally. When that happens, no matter what methods they use to fight, they must return to Shrek City. On an open battlefield, they won't be able to achieve much."

"You must not do that." The Chief Minister stood up and said, "I think that now is not yet the time to challenge Shrek Academy directly. Your Majesty, please think through it first."

"Chief Minister, please tell me what you think." Xu Tianran nodded at him, signaling him to speak his thoughts. Although there were problems with the Chief Minister's strategy this time, it was mainly because their enemies were too extraordinary. They couldn't be judged using common logic. After calming down, Xu Tianran was in a much better mood. He still valued the opinion of his wise Chief Minister very much. He was also aware of Ye Xishui's hatred of Shrek Academy. That was why it was inevitable that she would mix some of her personal opinions into her professional judgment.

The Chief Minister said, "Earlier, the Supreme Worshipped also mentioned that Shrek Academy has a long history. They were already the number one academy on the continent ten thousand years ago. We don't know how strong they are. The most recent war involving Shrek City was the beast wave from the Great Star Dou Forest. As the habitat of the strongest soul beasts on this continent, including five out of the Ten Great Savage Beasts, the Great Star Dou Forest is very strong and terrifying. Even so, Shrek City remained firm, though it was subjected to a relentless beast wave. Shrek City even used some kind of special power to keep Di Tian from appearing on the battlefield."

"The Supreme Worshipped also mentioned earlier that Huo Yuhao can borrow Di Tian's strength. What does this mean? If we turn our attention to Shrek City, we might catalyze an alliance between Shrek City and the Great Star Dou Forest. When that happens, it might lead to a complete disaster for our army."

"I believe that Shrek Academy is still the most neutral force on the continent. Even though it's likely to be more inclined towards the three empires due to its geographical location, and once fought us because of the three empires, things are different this time. The Heavenly Soul Empire has already been wiped out. If we defeat both the Dou Ling and Star Luo Empires, Shrek City will have no choice but to compromise even if it doesn't want to. The prerequisite is that we don't touch them. At least speaking from the current situation, we cannot treat Shrek City as our main target. Otherwise, the Star Luo and Dou Ling Empires can use Shrek City as a core to resist our army. Along with the soul beasts in the Great Star Dou Forest, I can't imagine the consequences."

"Rubbish!" Ye Xishui shouted coldly, "You don't know anything. The Great Star Dou Forest and Shrek Academy teaming up together? That's nonsense. Although Huo Yuhao's Spirit Pagoda has made relations more cordial between the forest and the academy, you must not forget the inherent dilemma that exists between humans and soul beasts. Will soul beasts come forward in large numbers to aid humans? That's just ridiculous. They can't wait for humans to kill one another. Then, no humans will try to obtain soul rings anymore. Your analysis is just plain stupid."

"I'm only thinking for the empire," The Chief Minister replied coldly, "please watch your words. Shrek Academy is a holy ground to the three empires of the original Douluo Continent. In addition, it's the

same for many hidden sects. They share a close relationship, and this has been the case for thousands of years. Once we target Shrek Academy, it's like inviting all the sects in the three empires to come together to fight us. Is that going to be beneficial for the empire?"

After listening to the Chief Minister's words, Xu Tianran couldn't help but nod. Shrek Academy was too significant. Thousands of years ago, they had teamed up with the three empires of the original Douluo Continent to defeat the Sun Moon Empire. The Sun Moon Empire and the Sun Moon Continent were then fused into the Douluo Continent.

This time, the Sun Moon Empire was the aggressor. Suddenly, they had occupied the Heavenly Soul Empire in such a short period of time. The three empires had misjudged the Sun Moon Empire's advantage in terms of soul tools. This was an important reason for their failure.

Shrek Academy was not yet involved in the war. And in fact, the Sun Moon Empire's advantage in terms of soul tool technology was even greater this time. From the current situation at least, Shrek Academy still had yet to fully join in the war.

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Ye Xishui said, "Shrek Academy will join the war sooner or later. What's the difference if it's now or if it's later? Furthermore, this matter clearly has something to do with Shrek Academy. Attacking Shrek Academy is the most direct and effective option. Don't tell me that you're going to ignore the fundamentals? Do you have a better plan?"

The Chief Minister said, "We've already occupied the entire Heavenly Soul Empire. At this time, consolidation is key. We can ask the War God Empress to temporarily send some stronger individuals back. We can continue the war once we take care of things internally. At the same time, we can also consolidate our reign over the Heavenly Soul Empire, and use their wealth to further our research and manufacturing of soul tools. Stability should be our utmost priority. Your Majesty, it's very important to stabilize our back! Without the War God Empress to protect you, I'm a little worried about your safety."

Xu Tianran's expression changed slightly. "I don't need a woman to protect me. I have the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineer Legion. However, we need to find these enemies in our territories quickly. Does anyone have a good plan?"

He swept his gaze across all the senior officials. Most of them were silent.

Ye Xishui said coldly, "Your Majesty, my opinion is completely professional. Huo Yuhao relied on his spiritual power to conceal himself. If he has really cultivated to a Titled Douluo in a short few years, he's likely to be a major threat to our empire as a Titled Douluo with an Ultimate martial soul. We need to get rid of him as quickly as possible. We've not even invented concealment-type soul tools yet, thus it's impossible for Shrek Academy to have done so. In my opinion, that soul engineer legion that snuck into our territories is likely to have relied on Huo Yuhao's concealment abilities. If we attack Shrek Academy, at least we'll force him and his soul engineer legion to retreat. That's the best way."

"If Your Majesty wants to rule the entire continent, you'll need to deal with Shrek Academy soon. The conflict between us and Shrek can never be resolved. A victor must be decided. Don't tell me you want to wait until they become more powerful? As long as the War God Empress quickly destroys Shrek City, the world of soul masters would most certainly become divided. I believe that she can do this, given her

military intelligence. As long as Your Majesty agrees, I'm willing to lead the Holy Ghost Church to coordinate with the War God Empress."

The Chief Minister hurriedly said, "Your Majesty, you must not do that. Your Majesty, there'll be no going back once you do that. If you don't succeed, all our previous victories will have been for nothing! Please think it through. We are in an advantageous situation right now. It's best to pursue stability."

Ye Xishui finally became angry. An icy-cold chilly intent shot out from her eyes. The surrounding temperature fell dramatically, and she unleashed a terrifying oppressive force.

Once the Death God was infuriated, even the weather could change. Everyone could sense her terrifying aura, which threatened to tear their bodies apart.

At this moment, Elder Kong, who had been standing beside Xu Tianran all this while, took a step forward. Green lights flashed on his body, and a gentle force spread out. It reached towards Ye Xishui, clashing with her aura.

Ye Xishui snorted coldly, and Elder Kong also shook slightly. Although he was slightly disadvantaged, he didn't suffer too greatly.

Elder Kong looked at Ye Xishui. He was now directly facing the Death God Douluo.

Both of them were pitting their auras against each other, and they didn't give in at all.

When Ye Xishui erupted in anger, the Chief Minister immediately turned pale. However, everything returned to normal once Elder Kong made a move. Elder Kong was not completely overwhelmed when he faced the Death God Douluo by himself. If this spread, it would astonish the world of soul masters and soul engineers.

Ye Xishui groaned, "Kong Deming, do you really have to pit yourself against me?"

Elder Kong replied, "This is the Imperial Palace. Supreme Worshipped, please watch your behavior in front of His Majesty."

Ye Xishui twisted her head to look at Xu Tianran, "Your Majesty, is this what you want?"

Xu Tianran coughed. "Supreme Worshipped, please calm down. I know you are only thinking for the empire. However, we need to really ponder this matter. It has too many implications. Where's the Military Chief?"

The Military Chief rushed out from a corner. "Your Majesty, I'm here."

"Tell me your suggestions," Xu Tianran demanded.

Ye Xishui stood to one side and silently looked at Xu Tianran. She retracted her aura, but continued to look cold. She felt that he was straying out of her control. n)-Ovel&1n

Ye Xishui very well knew who Kong Deming was. He was the Master of the Worship Hall of the Sun Moon Empire. He was one-quarter royal blood, and was only loyal to the imperial family. He was also the top soul engineer in the Sun Moon Empire.

Yes, the strongest soul engineer in the Sun Moon Empire wasn't the Death God Douluo Ye Xishui, but this person who only appeared to be inferior to her. Ye Xishui even had to admit that she was inferior to him.

Kong Deming was already more than one hundred and fifty years old. He was the chief of all the Class 9 soul engineers in the Sun Moon Empire, and a Rank 94 Titled Douluo. However, very few people knew that he had twin martial souls. Not only was he the strongest soul engineer in the empire, but he was also a very strong soul master.

If not for the fact that he placed most of his energy on researching soul tools, he might not actually be inferior to Ye Xishui, Long Xiaoyao and any other Ultimate Douluo in terms of his cultivation.

He was also the closest to becoming a Class 10 soul engineer.

Ye Xishui's knowledge of soul tools wasn't very good. After all, she was a soul master. Her Death God was mainly constructed by Kong Deming. That's why even Ye Xishui had to give in to Kong Deming a little too. She was well-aware of how strong he was.

If she had to appraise Kong Deming, she could only use the word 'unpredictable'. This was because no one had seen Kong Deming make a move for at least fifty years. No one knew how powerful he actually was. Whether it was Long Xiaoyao or Ye Xishui, they had no confidence in beating him. This showed how strong he was.

Initially, Kong Deming rarely came out from the Worship Hall. He devoted all his energy to his soul tool research. It was only recently that he finally appeared in public after he successfully researched human-shaped soul tools.

What left Ye Xishui surprised was that Kong Deming actually fully supported Xu Tianran. He was completely on his side. Ye Xishui had no choice but to refrain from offending him, and her perception of Xu Tianran also changed. She knew that she couldn't threaten his life.

When the explosion occurred, Kong Deming was researching soul tools in his own laboratory. If he were by Xu Tianran's side, Xu Tianran wouldn't have been hurt.

When Kong Deming stepped out, all the other soul engineers immediately unleashed their auras, which combined with his. This was power! He was the true number one soul engineer of the Sun Moon Empire. Even Jing Hongchen had to be respectful to him. The same applied to Ye Yulin.

Seeing that Ye Xishui had retracted her aura, Kong Deming also returned to Xu Tianran's side, and his own aura returned to normal too.

As the Military Chief spoke, he also glanced at both of them occasionally, especially Kong Deming. Seeing that Elder Kong didn't give any gestures, he continued speaking.

"Your Majesty, I think that both the Supreme Worshipped and Chief Minister are both right. However, both their ideas are flawed in their own way. Given the current situation, being overly aggressive or overly conservative is not ideal."

“Oh?” Xu Tianran was a little stunned as he looked at the Military Chief. He had called him out to act as a balance between both the Chief Minister and Supreme Worshipped. Who knew that he actually had a constructive suggestion? This gave Xu Tianran a delightful surprise.

The Military Chief said, “The Chief Minister’s proposition is indeed apt, but we are doing very well now. If we call the War God Empress back right now, I’m afraid we’ll miss out on a good opportunity. But this is also not the time to attack Shrek Academy. That’s why both their suggestions are problematic.”

The Chief Minister snorted coldly and jibed, “Stop beating around the bush. If you have a plan, just say it.”

The Military Chief looked at the Chief Minister. Everyone knew that neither of them liked each other. The Military Chief was also usually the one that was constantly repressed. In terms of abilities or experience, he was inferior to the Chief Minister. His only advantage was his age.

The Military Chief confidently said, “Why not do it this way? We shall inform the War God Empress about the situation in the empire and let her decide what to do. Our enemies are very active right now, and their strategy is a little unclear. In terms of military matters, Her Majesty is the next best, apart from Your Majesty. Why don’t we let her judge the situation and give you suggestions? She’s at the front line, and thus she’s naturally more aware of the situation there. If she thinks it’s a good time to attack Shrek Academy, I think you can make a decision.”

The Military Chief was clever in the sense that he could correctly judge the relationship between Xu Tianran and Ju Zi.

As the Emperor, Xu Tianran would only pass the authority of the entire military to someone if he trusted that person. Moreover, the Crown Prince came from the Empress. No one would suspect her loyalty to the empire and Xu Tianran. Currently, no one challenged the Crown Prince for the throne. Given this, how could Xu Tianran not possibly trust his wife?

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The Chief Minister didn’t have any good ideas, so he pushed all the responsibility to Ju Zi. His analysis was also very logical. That’s why his idea wasn’t a reflection of his abilities, but how he was very politically intelligent.

Indeed, the Chief Minister’s expression changed when he heard his words. However, he couldn’t rebut him at all.

On the other side, the Death God Douluo Ye Xishui also furrowed her brow. After this, she slowly nodded.

They only agreed with the Military Chief’s words because Ju Zi was both loyal to the empire and also very strong.

Ju Zi was the one who had led the empire to victory over the Heavenly Soul Empire. Ye Xishui had joined in that operation too. After attacking the Ming Dou Mountain Range, she suddenly turned back and assaulted the Heavenly Soul Empire. At the same time, all information was sealed. This series of missions was part of the fighting strategy that had played a very crucial role in the war.

After this, the Sun Moon Empire was relentless, and occupied most parts of the Heavenly Soul Empire. Some people even commented that the Sun Moon Empire would have dominated the entire continent by now if not for the fact that the War God Empress was pregnant with the Crown Prince.

After Xu Tianran listened to the Military Chief, he appeared much more cheerful. Yes! It's necessary to get Ju Zi's opinion right now. After all, she's the one in control of the front lines. She'll know how to deal with the current situation.

Xu Tianran turned to Kong Deming and asked, "Elder Kong, what suggestions do you have?"

Kong Deming said, "Our enemies were also a little lucky to have successfully pulled off their attacks. At the same time, they must have known that the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineer Legion is not in Radiant City from some unknown channel. If you want me to judge the situation, I believe that our enemies might not just possess concealment abilities, but also spatial abilities."

"Spatial abilities?" After hearing these two words, Xu Tianran was astonished. So was Ye Xishui.

If someone else said this, they would laugh it off. However, Kong Deming was different. He was currently the person with the most expertise in soul tool research.

As for spatial abilities, only Ye Xishui among everybody present could be associated with it. Only an Ultimate Douluo could really develop any kind of spatial abilities. Even Kong Deming couldn't. There was also an unbridgeable gap between current soul tool technology and spatial abilities.

After Ye Yulin listened to Kong Deming's words, he seemed to be very pensive.

Xu Tianran said, "Elder Kong, please be more specific."

Kong Deming nodded and said, "Little Ye just recounted the entire story, but he missed out one point. He thought that the enemies are two soul engineer legions. However, he only saw one legion retreating. What about the other legion then? The other soul engineer legion should be the one firing all the shells. From the fired shells, I believe they came from Zhuge Divine Crossbow Cannons, which are manufactured by the Tang Sect. We've also obtained Zhuge Divine Crossbow Cannons from the Heavenly Soul Empire. I've taken a simple look at them."

"The internal structure of the Zhuge Divine Crossbow Cannons manufactured by the Tang Sect is very exquisite, but these cannons have self-destruction components. I couldn't really examine them well. There are some elements of non-core formations that were used in these cannons. I believe this is the reason for the Tang Sect's meteoric rise. Such Zhuge Divine Crossbow Cannons can continuously fire shells, and the number of shells that can be fired is great. However, they aren't small. Given this, they'll need a large number of such cannons if tens of thousands of shells are to be fired. This is very important. They were only able to suppress us because they had so many shells. They should have more than a hundred Zhuge Divine Crossbow Cannons. If they want to retreat, they can't possibly do it with just a single individual's concealment soul skill. Even an Ultimate Douluo can't do that. This is why I believe they must possess some kind of spatial ability, which allows for the rapid shifting of all these soul tools."

Xu Tianran was horrified. "Don't tell me there's a spatial soul tool? How is that possible? Even you..."

Kong Deming gestured and said, "I've indeed not researched any soul tools related to spatial abilities, but I can't be sure that there's no talent in this world who's capable of doing it. However, from the current situation and the foundation of soul tool technology that's currently present, I believe it's difficult for spatial soul tools to have been invented. After all, spatial storage is already the limit. The transport of people, and at such a large scale, is yet to exist. We have to investigate this matter carefully. If it's really a spatial soul tool, we must risk everything to obtain it. That'll be very significant to the development of our soul tools."

Xu Tianran nodded and said, "What do you suggest then?"

Kong Deming said, "Let's report the situation to the War God Empress first. If the Supreme Worshipped is right, Huo Yuhao is likely to be the one responsible for the spatial soul tool, or for concealing two soul engineer legions. We must bring him here and make him confess everything. I'm also very interested in this young man, who has invented Spirits and established the Spirit Pagoda. There's one thing the Death God Douluo was right about. This young man is bound to be our nemesis in the future. If we can't win him over, we must get rid of him quickly."

At this moment, a loud boom suddenly sounded from afar.

Kong Deming subconsciously blocked Xu Tianran, and bright green light immediately covered both of them. The other soul engineers present also quickly reacted. They instantly unleashed their strongest defensive-type soul tools.

The earlier attack left them extremely alarmed. This sudden boom scared them.

Ye Yulin's expression changed. "The sound came from the soul formation that previously belonged to our enemies. Don't tell me they're back?"

Kong Deming furrowed his brow. "No. The sound doesn't seem right."

In just a matter of seconds, news was transmitted over. The soul formation, where many soul tools were left over, experienced a chain explosion. All the remaining soul tools were completely blown apart. In addition, it was also learned that those soul tools all came from the Sun Moon Empire.

Xu Tianran almost spat out blood again. He immediately dismissed the meeting. He wanted to write a letter to the War God Empress personally. At the same time, martial law was imposed. There were strict checks to sieve out any possible enemies.

While Radiant City was on high alert, the atmosphere in the spectral demiplane was very joyous.

Three hundred Zhuge Divine Crossbow Cannons were all successfully brought back. Even though they fired more than half their remaining stock of soul cannon shells and caused very little damage to the Sun Moon Empire, they still managed to achieve their strategic goal. The depletion of material resources was nothing compared to the success of their strategic plan.

After meditating for an entire day, Huo Yuhao finally recovered to his peak state.

Without even guessing, he knew that the surrounding atmosphere in Radiant City was very tense. He didn't rush to go out either. After Bei Bei heard that he was awake, he immediately called for a meeting.

Right now, there was no aura of death in the spectral demiplane. The three soul engineer legions were all celebrating. It was no wonder they were like that. Although they had fired many soul cannon shells this time, they were fighting Radiant City! It was the core of their enemies' backyard.

They had managed to escape completely unharmed in such a fight. It was unimaginable.

Whether it was the Heavy Artillery Soul Engineer Legion or the Tang Sect Soul Engineer Legion, they all gained invaluable experience during this fight. Even though it wasn't a direct clash, the atmosphere had been very tense. Huo Yuhao's commandeering had left a deep impression on the soul engineers in these two soul engineer legions. It was also very beneficial to their future development.

Huo Yuhao revealed a delightful smile on his face. He clasped his palms in front of his chest. As he looked at his teammates sitting around him, he greeted them before taking a seat beside Bei Bei.

Tang Wutong also came with him, and sat beside him.

Bei Bei was all smiles right now. "Alarm bells should be ringing for the Sun Moon Empire this time. Our experiment has also succeeded. It's just that we don't know how Xu Tianran is. We don't know if he's been killed."

Huo Yuhao shook his head and answered, "I'm afraid not. There are many defensive installations in the imperial palace, along with many soul engineers. It might still be possible if it were before they researched human-shaped soul tools. However, the possibility is very low right now. It seems like Xu Tianran has many defensive-type soul tools on him, which protect him very well. However, I don't believe that we've not had any influence over him. We bombed the palace this time. I wonder what their reaction will be."

Xu Sanshi laughed, "The best situation is if they pull their people back from the front lines. In that case, we'll have achieved our goal. Furthermore, we can continue to cause trouble in the Sun Moon Empire in the future, restraining and weakening them. In the near future, we might even bring the Sun Moon Empire down."

Bei Bei snapped, "If it were that easy, would our empire be in so much torment? After the attack on Radiant City, they'll definitely target us. The Sun Moon Empire is technologically advanced. They might research soul tools to target us specifically. Yuhao, that's why you shouldn't enter Radiant City anymore." *nOVe)L&-1n*

Huo Yuhao was stunned. Bei Bei had rejected the suggestion that he was about to propose. He laughed bitterly. "Eldest senior, how did you know what I planned to do? I only want to see how we've fared. At the same time, I want to know more about the situation at the front lines. After all, information should flow most smoothly in Radiant City."

Bei Bei shook his head determinedly and said, "Our operation was already very dangerous. I can't let you continue to take risks. What've we achieved is already very good. Under such a circumstance, we must try to stabilize our situation first. If we want to obtain intelligence, I'd rather we waste more time trying to gather it at the front lines. After all, given your speed, you can fly there and back in a day. We can't touch Radiant City anymore. There are too many strong people there. If things go awry, you might be trapped. Then, all we've done will go to waste."

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Seeing that he was so determined, Huo Yuhao didn't persist. If he was the brains and life and soul of the team, Bei Bei was the backbone. He had the utmost respect for his eldest senior.

Bei Bei said, "We need to stay as far from Radiant City as possible. Yuhao, when the sky is dark, go out and quickly return. Let's return to the academy and take a look. We want to bring news back, and also take a look at the situation at the front line before we proceed with our next operation."

"Alright." Huo Yuhao had no objections to Bei Bei's suggestion. It was better to stabilize things too. However, he didn't mention that he one other thing to do before he returned.

Among everyone, He Caitou was the only one who was a little unhappy. He said, "Yuhao, let's attack more soul formations in the Sun Moon Empire when we return. We've been greatly drained this time too!"

Xu Sanshi laughed, "Caitou, since when have you become a slave to money?"

He Caitou snapped, "It's money! Do you know how many soul cannon shells we've used this time? We even left a defensive soul formation. I feel heart-ache! It's not easy to manufacture. We don't have the manufacturing ability of the Sun Moon Empire."

Bei Bei commented, "Caitou is right. When we return, let's not attack Radiant City. We'll mainly attack places where there are soul formations, and try our best to cause destruction. From there, we can improve our abilities."

He Caitou was thinking about gold soul coins, and he muttered to himself, "If only we could rob the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineer Legion. If our Tang Sect Soul Engineer Legion can change into human-shaped soul tools too, who's going to be afraid of them? Hehe."

"Cheh!" Everyone scowled at him.

Were they even capable of challenging the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineer Legion now?

Only Huo Yuhao looked a little pensive.

Plundering the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineer Legion was definitely not possible. However, they could learn new things if they could obtain a human-shaped soul tool from the Sun Moon Soul Engineer Legion and pass it to Teacher Xuan. This would greatly benefit Shrek Academy in their development of human-shaped soul tools in the future.

After all, only Huo Yuhao and Nan Qiuqiu were equipped with human-shaped soul tools, even though Teacher Xuan had managed to create a few. They were used for close-combat, and couldn't be replicated.

If they couldn't be replicated, they couldn't be mass produced. This wasn't a good thing. Huo Yuhao was a Class 9 soul engineer himself. He was also curious how the Sun Moon Empire managed to mass produce human-shaped soul tools. It was important to know that the strength of the Sun Moon Empire's soul engineer legions would rise by another tier now that they had managed to mass produce human-shaped soul tools. They would be even more difficult to deal with.

Everyone continued to rest. When night fell, Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong silently left the spectral demiplane and re-appeared in the small forest where they had opened the spectral door. n.-OvElbln

The wind was gentle, and the night was extremely quiet. The fragrance of plants lingered in the air, and the buzzing of bugs and chirping of birds could be heard.

Huo Yuhao held Tang Wutong's hand as they walked out from the spectral demiplane. They took in a deep breath. The night breeze was refreshing, and they immediately felt invigorated.

No matter how safe the spectral demiplane was, it wasn't as comfortable as the Douluo Continent. This was where they truly belonged!

Huo Yuhao didn't rush to leave, but leaned against a tree.

Tang Wutong was a little curious as she looked at him. She asked, "What are you doing?"

Huo Yuhao placed his index finger on his lips and gestured to her, "Shh!" After this, he called her over with his hand.

Tang Wutong walked in front of him, and became even more puzzled.

Huo Yuhao pulled her to his side and let her lean on his shoulder. He gently caressed her pinkish-blue hair. He also shared his spiritual world with her using his Spiritual Detection Sharing.

Spiritual Detection Sharing? Tang Wutong had the feeling that Huo Yuhao was acting weirdly. However, her eyes unwittingly opened wide in the next instant.

This...

His spiritual senses extended without any boundaries. This wasn't very strange. However, joyous and gentle undulations were nourishing her spiritual world within his spiritual senses.

There seemed to be countless little living spirits that were telling her how beautiful the world was. They were telling her about themselves. Her spiritual power fused into that ocean of joy, while her spiritual senses also spread outward.

It was a beautiful feeling. Tang Wutong's spiritual power wasn't as strong as Huo Yuhao's. This was why she felt it more deeply as she was immersed in this world. Her own spiritual power was also enhanced amidst this feeling.

If it were someone else, Huo Yuhao might not have been able to do this. After all, he couldn't share the minor changes in his spiritual world with anyone else. However, Tang Wutong was different. Their martial souls were compatible, and they even had Haodong Power. They were very closely connected. This was why he and Tang Wutong were like a single entity when he completely let go of his body. It was as if they had unleashed the Raiment of Light and summoned the Goddess of Light. In this situation, Tang Wutong could clearly sense everything that he sensed.

As time passed, Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong seemed to fuse with their surroundings. They became a part of the plants around them. If one didn't use their eyes to see, it would be impossible to detect their auras at all.

When Tang Wutong reopened her eyes, the sky was already hazily bright. The chirping and buzzing of birds and bugs became much softer. The forest was moist as dew formed. It was dawn.

Huo Yuhao opened his eyes along with her. The two of them looked at each other and revealed grins on their faces. They were so telepathic that they didn't need to communicate with words anymore.

In just a few hours, Tang Wutong seemed to have completely changed. She improved significantly after her spiritual world completely fused with the world of plants.

Cultivating under such a circumstance was equivalent to receiving the help of countless plants. At the same time, their spiritual power was helping the plants too. These plants that cultivated along with them were definitely more likely to become plant-type soul beasts in the future, and develop their own sentience and intelligence.

Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong took out their dry rations and ate a simple meal. After this, they continued on their journey. Through his observation of the outside world using his spiritual power that was connected to the plants, Huo Yuhao had determined that the surrounding environment was safe.

After flying for a while, Tang Wutong revealed a strange look. "Aren't we returning? This place doesn't seem right." The direction they should be taking to return was supposed to be east, but Huo Yuhao was clearly dragging her to the west.

Huo Yuhao smiled and said, "I want to give eldest senior a surprise. That's why I didn't mention this earlier. You'll know later."

Tang Wutong pursed her lips, but didn't probe further. She shut her eyes and let Huo Yuhao guide her as they flew, and she continued to understand the feeling that those plants gave her last night.

Such an enhancement was extremely important to her. She was already a Titled Douluo. If she wanted to further improve her cultivation, it was very critical for her to raise her spiritual cultivation. This would definitely speed up the increase of her abilities.

They proceeded west, and went around Radiant City. Although aerial surveillance soul tools occasionally appeared where they passed, Huo Yuhao would always be able to find them beforehand. His spiritual power was very strong. He was in fact the strongest surveillance soul tool in the world right now. There was no need for him to worry about being found out.

They made a round from the west before making one big round and flying towards the south. Undoubtedly, they were getting further and further from Shrek Academy as they flew in this direction.

After flying for a good two hours, Tang Wutong couldn't help but ask, "Yuhao, what are we going to do?"

Huo Yuhao laughed mysteriously and replied, "Do you still remember what happened last night? I want to bring you to the place where I first had that feeling. You'll naturally understand when we get there. We're almost there. Don't be anxious."

Another hour passed. Huo Yuhao finally proceeded towards ground level as he held Tang Wutong's hand. Right now, the sky had already turned bright, and the sun was shining very strongly. The temperature in the south was much higher than in the north. Right now, the ground temperature was

no longer low. Heat was quickly invading their bodies. However, Huo Yuhao exuded a cool and refreshing aura, dissipating all the heat.

Huo Yuhao guided Tang Wutong to the ground, and explained the situation. He roughly confirmed their location before he laid down with Tang Wutong.

His spiritual senses extended once again, spreading outward. Under the enhancement of the plants, it spread extremely far.

Not long afterward, Huo Yuhao stood up. Right now, Tang Wutong had a good idea of what was going on. Huo Yuhao must have had discovered something. Whatever he discovered was undoubtedly very important too. Otherwise, he wouldn't rush here at such a time.

He rose up, and didn't use any flying-type soul tools. Huo Yuhao pulled Tang Wutong and quickly proceeded in one direction. Very quickly, a mountain valley appeared within their sights.

"It should be here!" Looking down from the edge of the mountain valley, the cliff seemed rather smooth. Thick Bluesilver Grass grew everywhere. The refreshing fragrance of grass swept over with the wind. There were many varieties of colorful flowers in this grass. They were beautiful. This ocean of grass and fresh flowers spread all the way into the mountain valley. It felt as if it were embellished with gems.

Chapter 555.1: Qiu'er's Heart

"This place is beautiful." Tang Wutong couldn't help but enthuse.

Huo Yuhao chortled, "Yes! It's beautiful. Come, let's go down and have a look." He held onto Tang Wutong as he flew up. This time, they didn't land on the ground again. They relied on their soul power to maintain their altitude. They were only thirty centimeters from the ground, but refused to step on it. How could they bear to step on this Bluesilver Grass?

The more they ventured into the mountain valley, the more refreshing the air became. There was even a slight flowery fragrance. Occasionally, bees and butterflies flew over to feed on nectar and pollinate flowers. It was like a paradise.

Very soon, they came to the bottom of the valley. There weren't any tall trees here, but Bluesilver Grass continued to carpet the entire valley. No soil was exposed at all.

Huo Yuhao's eyes were full of bliss as he held Tang Wutong's hand. From the environment here, it seemed like there was a huge possibility that they could find it.

Lights flashed in his eyes again. Huo Yuhao's spiritual power extended downward, like water flowing down. This time, he didn't fuse his spiritual power with the plants, but relied solely on his own spiritual power to survey his surroundings.

Once his spiritual power spread, the entire mountain valley was under his surveillance.

At this moment, the Bluesilver Grasses, which was originally very calm, started to shake. Following this, patches of grass seemed to sense something. They all spiked up, as if they were pricks. The harmony was replaced by a sinister and hostile aura.

“They’re panicking.” Tang Wutong said, stunned.

As her spiritual senses were enhanced the previous night, she was currently extremely sensitive to the aura of plants. She believed that Huo Yuhao could also sense what she sensed.

However, Huo Yuhao was unmoved. He was silently sensing the hostility coming from the Bluesilver Grass around him.

It was pure hostility. The reason was simple too. This was because Huo Yuhao was snooping around. Pure Bluesilver Grass didn’t possess such an ability. The reason why they were able to react in this manner was because there was something like Huo Yuhao that was spiritually connected to them. This something was even closer to them than Huo Yuhao when he connected with plants.

Huo Yuhao laughed. This time, he had truly verified it.

The strong hostility that came from the Bluesilver Grass affected his Spiritual Detection. However, Huo Yuhao didn’t seem to have any reaction to it. He maintained his composure and continued to pour out his spiritual power.

Behind him, a dim golden projection started to appear. It had the appearance of the Emperor Beast. At the same time, his Eye of Destiny also opened. The Light of Destiny gently shone. Huo Yuhao’s spiritual power also grew significantly stronger.

The hostility of the Bluesilver Grass was immediately crushed under Huo Yuhao’s immense spiritual power. It was also at this moment that Huo Yuhao lifted his head. A streak of gentle white light shot out from his Eye of Destiny. It shot through the air before turning into countless spots of white light. These spots of white light fell from the sky, resembling a light rain. This light rain covered the entire mountain valley.

Tang Wutong also basked in this rain. It was very new and comfortable for her. It was a strength that came from fortune. Even though it couldn’t change anything directly, it influenced the future.

Destiny’s Adjudication!

The valley rapidly quieted down. The Bluesilver Grass also turned from hard to soft. Everything seemed to turn back to normal. For these plants that could only perform the most basic of functions, their senses were simple and direct, but very acute.

The fortune that Huo Yuhao brought upon them and the aura of the Emperor Beast left them very excited. The hostility that had formed earlier vanished completely.

Huo Yuhao smiled. “Senior, why don’t you come out to meet me? I don’t harbor any ill intentions.”

“Emperor Beast. You actually have the aura of the Emperor Beast. How?” A low-pitched voice sounded from afar

“It’s because she was my lover.” Even though Tang Wutong was around, Huo Yuhao still dared to say this.

Wang Qiu’er had sacrificed everything for him. So what if she was a soul beast? She would always own a part of his heart.

Tang Wutong acted like she didn't hear that. Her expression didn't change, and she even appeared comforted. Such a man was deserving of her love!

That voice was silent for a moment. "However, your lover has become your ability."

Huo Yuhao also went silent. After this, he slowly landed. The Bluesilver Grass on the ground automatically swayed, and let him sit cross-legged on the ground. Tang Wutong sat down beside him.

Huo Yuhao let go of her hand, and there was a change in his expression. A sorrowful look surfaced.

He wasn't willing to recall those memories. However, he had no choice if he wanted to help Teacher Xiao Ya.

He shut his eyes, and Wang Qiu'er appeared in his mind.

That handkerchief that was blown by the wind and the ravishing beauty of the Goddess of Light started surfacing in his memories.

"I'm Wang Qiu'er!" A cold voice echoed in his mind.

It was a low-pitched roar, which was exactly her style when she unleashed her power.

Her Golden Spear formed countless projections in her hand. Her immense strength helped her defeat opponent after opponent.

Her cold yet silent gaze was a representation of the warmth in her heart. Beneath her cold exterior, she was actually very passionate and emotional.

He was avoiding her, but she was persistent and reluctant. Everything that happened in the past – every scene, every matter, and every item – surfaced in Huo Yuhao's mind.

It was only at the end, when she burned herself without any hesitation for him and turned into an intense sacrificial flame, that he realized that he had been wrong. Actually, she was already part of his heart, no matter how much he didn't want to admit it.

He was heartbroken, completely heartbroken.

After her sacrifice, he had not attempted to recall what had happened then. This was because he was afraid. He was really afraid. He was afraid of such pain. Right now, he found it very stifling and difficult to breathe when he was struck by this excruciating pain.

Tears had long since covered his face. His entire body was shaking tremendously, and dim golden lights rippled in the air. His sorrow affected the Bluesilver Grass and flowers around him.

They drooped down as if they had withered. They mourned along with him.

A dim golden projection slowly became real behind him. The projection walked in front of him and raised a paw, wanting to touch him. However, she didn't do so in the end. She only lowered her head, and her eyes were filled with sorrow and reluctance.

At this moment, a thin white palm stretched over, grabbing its front paw. The Three-Eyed Golden Lion lifted its head in astonishment, and all she saw was a sincere-looking face. There was a very sad and melancholic look on this face.

The Three-Eyed Golden Lion nodded at her. The look in its eyes also became much gentler.

As golden light flashed, the Three-Eyed Golden Lion's projection fused into Tang Wutong's body. Tang Wutong shook a little before she opened her eyes.

"Yuhao!"

A gentle call jolted Huo Yuhao to his senses. He was now covered in tears as he slowly opened his eyes.

This voice was too familiar. The coldness and tone of this voice wrenched at his heart.

"Qiu'er, I'm sorry." Huo Yuhao sobbed.

A hand reached over. It was slender and long. As it pulled at him, Huo Yuhao was lifted from the ground.

He was stunned. He saw a pair of cold eyes. It was a familiar coldness, and a familiar face. There was also a sense of warmth contained within that coldness.

"Qiu'er, Qiu'er!" Huo Yuhao was completely stunned. His excruciating pain immediately turned into a wave of emotions. He opened his arms and hugged her tightly.

Qiu'er, she was Qiu'er.

She leaned into his embrace, and the coldness in her eyes gradually dissipated. What replaced it was satisfaction. It was satisfaction that came from her heart.

No sealed strength forced them apart. They hugged tightly just like that. The pain that Huo Yuhao felt in his heart gradually vanished amidst this gentleness. He also radiated more vigor now.

"Qiu'er, is this really you?" Huo Yuhao asked softly.

"Yes, it's me. In fact, I've always wanted to be with you. Don't be sad. To me, this might actually be the best result."

"But..." Huo Yuhao wanted to say something, but he was caught speechless once again.

"There are no buts. When I made this choice, I thought that it was the best for us. I fused into your body and became a part of you. No force can separate us anymore. This is what I wanted! Furthermore, the power of my soul and origin fused into the sleeping Dong'er, under the control of the power of destiny. This is why she has both mine and Dong'er's abilities, now that she has recovered her memories. She's a fusion of Dong'er and myself. My soul is in your body, and my abilities are with her. That's why I've never really left you!"

Chapter 555.2: Qiu'er's Heart

"Yuhao, do you know how happy I am? This is my first time feeling your love for me. This is already enough for me. Stay happy with Dong'er. Whether she's Dong'er or Tang Wutong, she's your greatest love. I'm only a part of what you truly love. When I first transformed myself into her, I'd already lost. I

can't beat her, ever. I love you, but she loves you more. You have a little crush for me, but your entire heart belongs to her. This is already the best result. Don't be as sad. This is the future. I'll be even sadder if you're like this. When you miss me, you can hug Wutong. If you're together with her, it'll be like you and I are together. You, me and her are no longer separable."

Huo Yuhao was in a daze as he listened to Wang Qiu'er. He finally understood why Dong'er's martial soul experienced such a mutation after she became Tang Wutong, and how she was able to use the Golden Spear. It turned out that Wang Qiu'er's strength was indeed in her body!

"Qiu'er, you've sacrificed too much for me." n/-O(/V/)e--l./b-.I-.n

Wang Qiu'er smiled and said, "Before I sacrificed myself for you, weren't you willing to sacrifice your own life for me? Even though you were in despair then, I was still very satisfied. Yuhao, I love you. You must take care of yourself. Remember, I'm always by your side. I'm always here.

As she spoke, she lifted her hand and gently caressed Huo Yuhao's Eye of Destiny, as well as his entire forehead.

Yes! That was where the Three-Eyed Golden Lion's Skull of Destiny was.

Dim gold separated from Tang Wutong's body and re-fused into Huo Yuhao. Huo Yuhao only sensed an indescribable gentleness sweeping over him, relieving the pain and sorrow in his heart.

Tang Wutong was still in his arms. She didn't get up. Huo Yuhao's tears also stopped flowing. Yes! Qiu'er has always been inside my body.

Forever!

Huo Yuhao's tears finally dried up, and he lowered his head to look at the person in his arms. He gently touched her long, wavy, pinkish-blue hair. Huo Yuhao finally called, "Wutong."

Tang Wutong lifted her head and gave him a smile.

"I'm sorry!" Huo Yuhao said softly.

Tang Wutong glared at him. "I need to punish you."

"What?" Huo Yuhao was stunned.

Warm, smooth red lips touched his own. That gentle touch and fragrance mixed with the love of Wang Dong'er and Wang Qiu'er immediately reminded Huo Yuhao of everything.

In the next instant, golden light shone brightly, and Huo Yuhao flew up. He drew a beautiful arc in the air.

His flying-type soul tool opened up behind him. He poured out his soul power and managed to stabilize himself in the air.

It seemed that Wang Dong'er still minded his relationship with Wang Qiu'er. However, he felt overwhelmingly ecstatic when he was kissed. At that instant, he could sense two different sets of love.

He controlled his body in the air, and his eyes had already become clear by now. Tang Wutong gazed deeply at him. He chuckled and flew back beside Tang Wutong, holding her hands.

“The world of humans is indeed very complex. I didn’t expect you to obtain the love of the Emperor Beast!” The low-pitched voice from before let out a sigh.

“Do you believe me now?” Huo Yuhao asked. The greatest pain and sorrow in his heart had been invoked, but he had managed to see Wang Qiu’er. He finally understood everything. This wasn’t just pain to him; it was an escape too. It made his spiritual awareness much clearer as well.

“Okay, so what are you here for?” The voice asked.

Huo Yuhao pondered for a moment before saying, “I have a very important friend. She was affected by evil soul masters. She suffered critical injuries. Her martial soul is a Bluesilver Grass. If we want her to recover, she’ll need your power. That’s why I hope we can get a leaf from you. Of course, I won’t take it for nothing. You can list your conditions. As long as I can fulfil them, I’ll do my best. I only want to make an exchange.”

That low-pitched voice went silent for a moment. “You are very strong. I can sense a lot of danger from your body. You also have the help of the Emperor Beast. You can defeat me easily and take me back. Why do you not do that?”

“I swore I’d never attack a soul beast unless I’m trying to defend myself, Huo Yuhao replied sincerely, “That’s why I only want to make an exchange with you.”

The voice was astonished. “As a human soul master, you actually swore not to kill soul beasts?”

Huo Yuhao nodded and said, “Yes! After I established Spirits, I could avoid killing soul beasts to obtain their powers.” He described what Spirits were, and even released the Star Anise Mysterious Ice Grass.

The Star Anise Mysterious Ice Grass was also a plant-type soul beast. It had the most acute senses when it came to other plant-type soul beasts.

Indeed, the voice became much gentler after he saw the Star Anise Mysterious Ice Grass and heard Huo Yuhao’s story.

“Thanks for thinking for soul beasts. Just based on this, I think I can help you. However, I...”

As he spoke until here, he went silent for a bit.

Huo Yuhao’s heart tightened. He had finally found this Bluesilver Emperor. If he was unwilling, Huo Yuhao couldn’t force him at all because of his vow. What should I do if that’s the case? Teacher Xiao Ya is still waiting for him to save her!

“If you have any difficulties, you can tell me. If possible, I’ll do my best to help you.” Although Huo Yuhao knew that he was being very rushed, he was aware that there was no room for mistakes.

That low-pitched voice sighed and said, “I’ve already lived in this world for a hundred and ninety thousand years. However, I’m still only a Bluesilver Grass. Even though I’m already an Emperor, I still can’t overcome the heavenly punishment that’s about to come due to my innate abilities. That’s why I’m about to die. Perhaps, your plan can bring me new life.”

Huo Yuhao was delighted when heard this. However, he still asked, “However, you can choose to be reborn. Can’t soul beasts choose to be reborn when they reach a bottleneck?”

“You are mistaken. That’s only at the hundred thousand year mark. After that, you can’t take that path anymore if you don’t choose to be reborn after a certain period of time. I’m already close to the two hundred thousand year stage. That’s why I can’t do it anymore. Perhaps some powerful soul beasts can think of another way. However, I can’t do that, because of my own lineage.”

Huo Yuhao was only enlightened now. A Bluesilver Grass would still face problems with its lineage even if it became a Bluesilver Emperor. Under such a circumstance, it would be unable to be like the Snow Empress – able to be reborn even if its cultivation was very high. It sounded logical too. Given the Snow Empress’ talent as the Icesky Snow Lady and seven hundred thousand year cultivation, she could only choose to be reborn as an embryo, which eventually led to a catastrophe. She eventually became Huo Yuhao’s Spirit. Compared to the Snow Empress, the Bluesilver Emperor’s cultivation was far inferior.

Huo Yuhao said, “As long as you are willing, it’s not a problem. I can bring you back to fuse with my friend. Don’t worry, my friend is incredibly talented. She’s only two years older than me, but she already has eight rings. If you can give her a ninth soul ring in the near future, I believe she’ll become one of the strongest humans.”

“Alright, I shall trouble you then.” The Bluesilver Emperor said satisfactorily.

At this moment, the Bluesilver Grass in the valley started to shake. They weren’t fearful and hostile this time. Rather, they were excited and agitated.

Huo Yuhao seemed to sense the presence of giant pythons slithering over from all directions.

Blue vines started to rise up, and they eventually gathered together. Every vine appeared smooth and transparent. They were clear like blue crystals. However, there seemed to be veins inside these vines, and these veins seemed to be moving.

The vines quickly wrapped around one another, and formed the appearance of a human. This human nodded at Huo Yuhao before moving towards him. It revolved around him and gradually adopted the entire form of a human.

However, this human form wasn’t the manifestation of a savage beast, but the product of vines twisting around one another. It was as if it had been woven. The originally thick vines also shrank too. They were only as thick as human thumbs now. It appeared very strange.

“We’ll follow you.” The Bluesilver Emperor said.

Huo Yuhao nodded at him and said, “Thanks for your trust.”

The Bluesilver Emperor pursed his lips and seemed to be smiling. “In fact, I believe in the Emperor Beast’s taste. She can’t be wrong.”

Tang Wutong was a little curious as she looked at the Bluesilver Emperor. Right now, she fully understood why Huo Yuhao was here. It was just that there was an extra special look in her eyes when she looked at the Bluesilver Emperor.

Huo Yuhao nodded at the Bluesilver Emperor and said, "Please follow us then." He held Tang Wutong's hand and gradually flew out. At the same time, he extended his Spiritual Antenna towards the Bluesilver Emperor.

At the start, the Bluesilver Emperor hesitated for a moment. However, he was soon very astonished, as he realized that Huo Yuhao's Spiritual Antenna contained spiritual undulations that belonged to plants. Even though he was only simulating it, it felt very close and kind. Subconsciously, the Bluesilver Emperor also released his spiritual power to connect with Huo Yuhao.

As their spiritual senses connected, Huo Yuhao unleashed his Spiritual Detection, and transmitted everything that he sensed to the Bluesilver Emperor.

Chapter 555.3: Qiu'er's Heart

The Bluesilver Emperor shook. He was astonished as he stared at Huo Yuhao with eyes, made from vines. "I didn't expect your spiritual power to be so strong."

Strong spiritual undulations were released from the Bluesilver Emperor and reflected onto Huo Yuhao. Huo Yuhao sensed every single change that happened to the entire mountain valley. The Bluesilver Emperor used himself as an intermediary to connect with every Bluesilver Grass in the mountain valley.

One human and one soul beast looked at each other, and smiled. They felt each other's sincerity. At the same time, they picked up speed and rose into the sky.

The Bluesilver Emperor sighed. "If your martial soul was compatible with mine, I might have chosen you. You are very strong. Although my innate abilities can't compare to many powerful soul beasts, Bluesilver Grass have very acute senses. From your body, I can sense that you have a bright future."

Huo Yuhao chortled and replied, "When you see my friend, you won't be disappointed. Her martial soul is a Bluesilver Emperor. You should know that there are very few humans that can cultivate Bluesilver Grass. There was one person who managed to successfully do so in the past, and this person was very powerful. That person is also my elder."

The Bluesilver Emperor nodded and said, "I know who you're talking about."

"Oh?" Huo Yuhao was a little astonished as he looked at the Bluesilver Emperor. "You know about him?"

The Bluesilver Emperor nodded and replied, "Although our species is small and weak, our life energy is actually the most prosperous among all plants. We also have the highest population among all the plant species in this world. Our roots are connected by our spiritual senses. This is why we can sense if anything big happens to one of us."

"It is almost as rare to find Bluesilver Grass that can cultivate as it is to find a human soul master with a Bluesilver Grass martial soul. It requires great fortune. We can only cultivate if we are aided by the power of heaven and earth. I was baptized thrice by heavenly lightning. The power of the lightning spirit exists in my body, which has completely transformed me. I'm also aware of the person you're talking about. She had the purest lineage, and was of royal blood. That individual you are talking about is her kid, who broke free from the restraints of this world and became a god. Speaking of her, I think it's only right that I address her as 'Your Majesty'."

Huo Yuhao didn't expect that the Bluesilver Emperor had such a connection with Tang San's mother. This was a good thing. This helped to close the gap between them.

"It seems like all of you have a deep history with my elder. My friend is the current sect leader of the Tang Sect, which was established by Tang San. Speaking of her, she's a direct descendant of Tang San. It seems like the Tang Sect has a great affinity with your species!"

"Oh? That's actually the case? That's great then." The Bluesilver Emperor was feeling in better spirits now. After witnessing the immense spiritual power that Huo Yuhao unleashed, he was now very confident in this mission. Plant-type soul beasts were much more simple-minded compared to animal-type soul beasts. However, they were much more sensitive. From Huo Yuhao, he could sense kindness and justice. In addition, the Emperor Beast also played an important role in his decision. This was why he made his decision without thinking too much about it. Now that he heard this, he felt that his decision was the perfectly right choice.

Right now, they were already high up in the air. Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong picked up speed at the same time.

Flying was naturally not the Bluesilver Emperor's strength. However, this wasn't a major problem. Huo Yuhao held Tang Wutong with one hand and the Bluesilver Emperor with his other hand. To give the Bluesilver Emperor even more confidence, Huo Yuhao increased his speed, and flew along the south of the Sun Moon Empire towards the Star Luo Empire. He was lightning quick, and rapidly reached supersonic speed.

After the series of blows that had been dealt to them, the Sun Moon Empire withdrew all its defenses to Radiant City. It was even possible to claim that they had temporarily given up on their defenses in the outer cities. No more aerial surveillance soul tools were in place to carry out surveillance. It was a far smoother journey than Huo Yuhao had expected. Since they were far from Radiant City, they didn't run into any trouble. Very soon, they entered the Star Luo Empire's borders, and proceeded straight to Shrek City.

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A flag was flying high in the Heavenly Soul Empire. There was an army within the borders of the empire, but it was extremely large. On an extremely large flag, an image of a golden sun and silver moon was shining brightly.

The soldiers were lined up in one single file, which extended for hundreds of kilometers in the Heavenly Soul Empire, or rather, the Sun Moon Empire. This was because the Heavenly Soul Empire had ceased to exist. n.(OVEL)In

This army consisted of more than seven hundred thousand soldiers. Most of the Sun Moon Empire's elite soldiers were here.

From afar, the army looked like a giant dragon. The formation that it adopted was very complex, but it completely and perfectly covered the perimeter of a massive military base.

Even by scanning from above, it was impossible to tell how many soul formations there were in this base. The only certainty was that it was completely closed off to people.

This was the border. However, it wasn't just the border of the Heavenly Soul Empire. At the same time, it was the border of the Dou Ling and Star Luo Empires. At a corner of this border less than a hundred kilometers from where the army was stationed was Shrek City.

There was a gold-red commander's tent that was more than ten meters high in this base. More than a thousand people could fit into this tent without it being overcrowded. But at this moment, there were very few people in the tent.

Ju Zi was in the main seat. She was dressed in fiery-red armor. The phoenix image on her armor seemed real and alive. It wasn't just ordinary armor. It was custom-made for her, and Kong Deming was the one who personally came up with this human-shaped soul tool. It wasn't used for attacking, but it was extremely effective for defensive purposes. Kong Deming told Ju Zi that even an Ultimate Douluo would need more than three strikes to overcome the defenses of this human-shaped soul tool.

Ju Zi had six subordinates with her. The youngest one was already a middle-aged man. There were three elders among the six too. Every one of them exuded a strong aura. However, they didn't move a single inch. Occasionally, they would glance at Ju Zi. They were all in admiration of her.

Ju Zi was holding onto a letter. Between the six of them, there was even a guy who was kneeling on one knee. The letter had been brought here by this man, an envoy from Radiant City.

The letter wasn't very long. She finished reading it very quickly. After she finished, she put it down, and her brow furrowed. After this, she stood up.

After she stood up, the six subordinates unwittingly took a step back, and opened up some space in the middle for her.

A person, especially someone who commanded a huge army, who held an important position for a long time would gradually develop some kind of might and dominance. This was the same for Ju Zi.

After she became the War God Empress, her temperament completely changed. She became more reserved, but also more majestic.

She slowly walked down. She kept thinking and pondering as she walked.

There wasn't a single sound in the tent. Everyone was fixated on her, and they waited silently.

After a brief moment, Ju Zi stopped and asked the envoy, "What were His Majesty's instructions?"

The envoy said, "War God Empress, His Majesty said that everything will be decided by you."

Ju Zi squinted and nodded. She said, "Alright, you can leave. I'll need to think of how to reply to His Majesty."

"Yes." The envoy respectfully took his leave. Whoever waited between six Class 9 soul engineers would undoubtedly be subjected to immense pressure! He couldn't wait to leave.

Ju Zi returned to her seat and said, "His Majesty has sent news that the empire was attacked by an unknown enemy. More than ten cities were plundered. Even Radiant City was attacked. The enemies used some kind of special method to sneak to a place near Radiant City before firing thousands of low-grade cannon shells. They even used a Class 9 soul cannon shell. The Imperial Palace was breached, and

heavy damage was incurred. As the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineer Legion was sent to search for these enemies and was not in the capital, these enemies weren't caught in time. Their whereabouts are currently unknown. Preliminary investigations reveal that there were at least two soul engineer legions. Elder Kong said that these enemies might possibly be able to conceal themselves, and possess spatial abilities."

After hearing Ju Zi's words, the six Class 9 soul engineers' expressions changed.

What was the greatest fear of an army? It was that things weren't stable at the back! Under normal conditions, things at the back could be stabilized by sending some reinforcements back. They were now in control of the Heavenly Soul Empire. Although they weren't afraid of a lack of reinforcements, internal instability within the empire would affect proceedings at the front line.

One elder who was standing at the left said, "Marshal, we must not let news of this spread. We must seal all information."

Ju Zi nodded and said, "Whatever I say will stay between the seven of us. What do you think?"

The elder who had just spoken commented, "It's unbelievable. It's impossible!"

Ju Zi revealed a weird look on her face. "I have the same thought too. There are many aerial surveillance soul tools around the empire. Perhaps the three empires of the original Douluo Continent can come up with two soul engineer legions. However, they shouldn't be too strong. Concealment and spatial abilities? This is a joke. Even our empire hasn't come up with something like that. How did they manage to do so?"

An elder on the right said, "Marshal, perhaps it's the doing of some powerful soul masters?"

Ju Zi answered, "In Elder Kong's analysis, he mentioned that powerful soul masters can conceal themselves using soul skills. However, if they are bringing along two soul engineer legions with three hundred heavy cannons, that is completely impossible. Currently, they are unsure of how the enemies managed to do so. However, the problem is that the enemies are unpredictable. It's difficult to track them. This time, are we the ones suffering because of a lack of surveillance and intelligence?"