

Tang Sect 566

Chapter 566.1: My Target is the Dou Ling Empire

The light changed once again as everything seemed to have returned to normal. Huo Yuhao brought Ju Zi out of the huge black door as they returned to her tent.

Ju Zi turned around and took a last glimpse at the mystical sight behind her. Even now, she was still slightly startled by the experience she had just had. “So this is your deepest secret that you have been hiding from everyone?” she asked gently.

Huo Yuhao did not answer. All he did was stare at her as complex emotions overwhelmed him.

Ju Zi continued, “You’re still too kind. You had a great opportunity to kill me just now—or at the very least imprison me. Actually, I was not completely truthful earlier. If I am not around, the army might just attack Shrek City. However, with the power that all of you possess, you will still have a good chance of surviving our attacks. As long as you are able to withstand the first wave of attacks, you might just stand a chance at defeating us. However, you have just let this chance slip away. Now that I am back here, there’s no way you can catch me again as long as I choose not to allow you to do so.”

Huo Yuhao sighed and said, “I know.”

Ju Zi’s eyes widened in disbelief, and she asked, “Then why did you send me back?”

Huo Yuhao shook his head and said, “I couldn’t make up my mind. You’re right. I am just too kind. However, I hope that you will never challenge my limits again. You should not be overly confident about your abilities either. If I really have to kill you someday, you will never be able to run away from me.”

Ju Zi revealed a smile on her face. It seemed as though she was not worried in the slightest about Huo Yuhao’s threatening words. “If you really have this capability, you should kill that man first. If you kill him, I will adhere to our ten-year promise.”

Huo Yuhao squinted his eyes as multiple thoughts fled across his mind. He knew it was somewhat against his conscience to kill Ju Zi. However, he had no psychological barrier when it came to killing that man. Nonetheless, would he really be that easy to kill? Huo Yuhao knew he had to take down the entire Imperial Soul Engineer Legion in Radiant City in order to kill him.

“I’ll take my leave.” Huo Yuhao waved his hand at Ju Zi before beginning to fade into the air.

Ju Zi was a little frustrated by his response as she suddenly spoke, “I will tell you who my target is.”

“Huh?” Huo Yuhao, who was about to leave the tent, suddenly stopped and reappeared. He turned around and stared at Ju Zi in disbelief.

Ju Zi stood up and walked towards Huo Yuhao. “Yuhao, believe it or not, I only called you and promised to tell you this secret because I wanted to see you once more before you leave.”

Huo Yuhao was startled by her words. As he sensed her affection for him, his mind turned into a complete mess.

“My target is the Dou Ling Empire. You probably could have guessed it as well. You were just unsure if your guess was correct, that’s all.” Ju Zi smiled.

Huo Yuhao stared at her and nodded. Following which, his body flickered as he vanished into thin air.

Ju Zi stood where she was as a faint smile appeared on her face. It was as though Huo Yuhao had never left her. It was only after a good long while that the smile on her face faded away. Following which, she was back to her usual professional self as she returned to her commander’s seat. Afterward, she reactivated the spiritual barrier she had shut down as she started to ponder something.

After leaving the Commander’s Tent, Huo Yuhao soared up into the sky. Every single detection wave and fluctuation from the surrounding surveillance soul tools was instantly tricked by his Imitation.

He only stopped when he reached an altitude of five thousand meters.

He turned around to look at the huge Sun Moon Empire camp beneath him. Huo Yuhao was a little disappointed in himself for not having the determination to deal with Ju Zi once and for all.

Even though she behaved in a gentle manner in front of him, Huo Yuhao could sense how scary she was. From the start till the end, he did not manage to seize the initiative in their interaction. Ju Zi had delicately used every weakness in his heart to her advantage. It was truly frightening to see such a woman as your enemy’s commander.

After all, she was not called the War God Empress for nothing!

Huo Yuhao felt that the scariest part about Ju Zi was how she had only spoken the truth. Her rigorous analysis of her schemes and how her opponents would react had forced him to dismiss any ideas of imprisoning her.

It would definitely be more challenging to fend off an enraged Sun Moon Empire led by the Holy Ghost Church than to handle a calm and collected Ju Zi. Shrek City could not afford to be involved in a head-on clash like that.

In addition, Ju Zi had a good grasp of what was on his mind. She knew where his limits lay, and how Huo Yuhao would definitely let her go after she revealed to him that she would never attack Shrek City. She had also accurately predicted that Huo Yuhao would believe her without any doubt. Perhaps this was because she had shut off the spiritual barrier and put down her defenses before him. She knew Huo Yuhao would never attack her after she did all of that.

The air high up in the sky was extremely refreshing. After his short pause in the air, Huo Yuhao sped back to Shrek Academy.

Just as Elder Xuan had said, the only thing he could do after failing to convince the Elders in Shrek Academy was to stop Ju Zi’s operations.

After returning to Shrek City, Huo Yuhao headed straight for the military drill ground. Following which, he opened the Spectral Gate to release the three soul engineer legions back into their own respective training areas. At the same time, they brought out huge amounts of resources and rations.

These resources were sufficient for Shrek City to set up multiple soul tool deployment areas within the city. With the addition of the three soul engineer legions, Shrek City’s defenses would definitely be

improved tremendously. They would even be able to hold off the Sun Moon Empire's all-out attack for an extended period of time.

After finishing all of these things, the sun had started to rise. Huo Yuhao headed back to the Tang Sect instead of returning to the Academy. He had already given instructions for the leaders within the soul engineer legions to submit their reports on the progress of their tasks at the military drill ground to the Academy.

Huo Yuhao was surprised to learn that Bei Bei and Tang Wutong had already returned to the Tang Sect. He could not care about disrupting their rest as he dashed to his room to look for Tang Wutong.

"Wutong, how did it go?"

Even though dawn was only barely breaking, Tang Wutong was able to leap out of her bed to hug Huo Yuhao right after she was woken up. That was the responsiveness of a Titled Douluo!

After returning, she had heard about Huo Yuhao from the others. Even though the others might not be entirely sure what he had done, Tang Wutong had no trouble guessing what Huo Yuhao did while she was away.

In fact, she was clear that he had sent her away so as to prevent her from influencing his decision. If she was around, she would have definitely not allowed him to cultivate his second soul core with the Yin Yang Complement technique at this critical time.

"Bang!" The power of the seal was absolutely frightening. While Tang Wutong was hugging Huo Yuhao tightly, Huo Yuhao was not spared by the seal. The seal forced him away from Tang Wutong and threw him across the room.

Huo Yuhao was forced into the wall before he slid down and landed on the floor. He was exasperated to discover how powerful his future father-in-law's seal was. The seal was actually able to adjust its power based on his current strength.

Even though he now possessed two soul cores, he still felt a lot of pain after being tossed aside by the seal. At this instant, Huo Yuhao started to question how powerful his future father-in-law exactly was. His seal was so powerful that it could adjust its power based on the other person's ability. It was important to note that Huo Yuhao could even flee successfully from an Ultimate Douluo. However, he stood no chance against the seal at all. He had thought that he would be able to hug Wutong properly now, but it seemed like he was still a long way from being able to do that!

Tang Wutong let out a cold grunt and said, "I hugged you because I was very worried about you. But you deserve to be tossed aside by the seal. How dare you attempt to force a breakthrough when I'm not around? Have you ever considered my feelings? What should I do if you had failed?" As she spoke, her eyes started to turn red as tears welled up in them.

Following which, Tang Wutong sniffed a few times before racing forward to Huo Yuhao. She picked him up before sniffing his body.

Shit!?Huo Yuhao started to panic, but he ensured that his anxiety did not show on his face.

“Explain.” Tang Wutong let out a burst of cold laughter as she crossed her arms in front of her chest. He could see the rage within the violet pupils of her eyes.

Huo Yuhao’s heart skipped a beat as he tried to squeeze out a reply. “Weren’t we talking about serious matters? How did it go with the Dou Ling Empire? Any news from them? Did they listen to what you had to say? Did you manage to find the Heavenly Sun Douluo?”

Tang Wutong pouted and said, “I managed to find the Heavenly Sun Douluo and passed your message to him. But it was apparent that they were not persuaded by my words. In fact, elite troops from the Dou Ling Empire are already on their way to Shrek City. They should be here by tomorrow at the latest. When I reached their empire, they had already dispatched their elite troops. They had sent four soul master legions and two hundred troops in total.”

Huo Yuhao facepalmed and exclaimed, “Shit! Ju Zi’s planning to attack Dou Ling Empire.”

After hearing his words, Tang Wutong showed a serious expression as she asked, “Explain yourself. Why is there a perfumed scent on your body?”

Huo Yuhao sighed as he lowered his head and started sharing how he had planned to abduct Ju Zi, but ended up being persuaded by her. He did not dare to hide anything from Tang Wutong. After all, her big round eyes seemed as though they could see through any of his lies—even if they were white lies. Hence, he decided that it was better for him to be truthful than to be caught lying. After all, that would be detrimental for their relationship. On top of that, Huo Yuhao did not think he had been unfaithful towards her!

Tang Wutong was visibly angrier after hearing his explanation.

“So you hugged just because she asked you to?”

“I only hugged her shoulders lightly!”

“That’s still wrong.”

“I can’t believe how unreasonable women become once they’re jealous!”

“So what if I’m unreasonable? Go and find her if you want. Who knows? She might order her troops to retreat if you promise to marry her. In fact, they might even turn around and overthrow Xu Tianran. You would have effectively saved all of us!” Tang Wutong replied sarcastically.

Huo Yuhao sighed and said, “Alright, I was wrong. I will definitely bring you along the next time I look for her.”

“You must be punished if you have done something wrong.” Tang Wutong glared coldly at him.

“I need to be punished? I have already admitted that I was wrong.” Huo Yuhao looked at her with innocent eyes.

Tang Wutong suddenly pounced on him and gave him a deep and intense kiss.

Huo Yuhao's eyes widened as a warm and beautiful sensation traveled straight into his brain. His mind immediately went completely blank. Even his Yin Ying Complement soul cores seemed to be powerless in this situation.

Following which, it was needless to say that he ended up in the wall again.

Chapter 566.2: My Target is the Dou Ling Empire

Huo Yuhao experienced an inexplicably blissful feeling when he was sliding down from the wall again. Ultimately, his Yin Yang Complement soul cores were still very useful. The pain he felt from being thrown by the seal disappeared much faster than before. The pain was nothing if he could be kissed like this all the time. No matter how strong the seal was, he did not have to fear it, especially when his skin was now unbelievably thick after absorbing the Dragon Pill.

Hehehe! My future father-in-law, let's see how much longer your seal can hold me back.

Huo Yuhao regained his balance and stood up as he flashed a cheeky smile at Tang Wutong.

"What are you trying to do?" Tang Wutong could sense that Huo Yuhao had some naughty ideas in his head.

Huo Yuhao giggled and said, "Nothing much. I was just thinking that I deserved to be punished a few more times, since you wanted to punish me earlier."

Before Tang Wutong could react, Huo Yuhao pounced in her direction. Tang Wutong tried to evade, but Huo Yuhao was able to accurately determine the direction she was heading with his Spiritual Detection. Before she could flee, he had already hugged her and planted his lips on hers.

"Mhhmm..." Tang Wutong was trying to break away from his clutches. However, Huo Yuhao was once again tossed away by the seal in the very next instant. The powerful seal had once again "punished" him.

This time round, Huo Yuhao leaped up before he had even reached the floor, and pounced towards Tang Wutong again. "Let's try again! I need a tougher punishment!"

"No!" Tang Wutong had learned her lesson, as she immediately activated her Instant Teleportation Left Leg Bone and flickered away.

However, just when she was about to reappear at another corner of the room, she saw a person with a sly smile before her.

Both of them shared the same soul skill, and had formerly fused their martial souls. After acquiring his second soul core, Huo Yuhao had a much deeper mastery of spatial power. Hence, he was able to use his Spiritual Detection and sensitivity towards the spatial power around him to accurately determine where Tang Wutong would reappear.

Just when Tang Wutong thought she was about to be forcefully kissed by Huo Yuhao again, Huo Yuhao suddenly stopped in front of her and grabbed her shoulders. He said, "Wutong, let's stop the punishment here. I have received news from Ju Zi that they're planning to attack the Dou Ling Empire. However, as of now, we are unable to convince the Elders in the Academy about her plan. I think we have no choice but to make a trip ourselves. Is eldest senior brother back?"

Tang Wutong said, "He is back. I heard that the Star Luo Empire was a lot more receptive. They left some of their elite troops in their land even though they're still sending some of their people over."

Huo Yuhao said, "We can't care about what they plan to do anymore. I will head over and send my regards to eldest senior brother before we leave. We need to head over to the Dou Ling Empire and see if we can stop the Sun Moon Empire from attacking them. Ju Zi will not be able to bring too many of her troops, because she has to keep some of them here to preserve their fighting power on the main battlefield, and to continue deceiving us. She'll most likely send her soul engineer legions to attack the weakest point in the Dou Ling Empire's lines."

Tang Wutong answered, "Alright. You can go ahead and look for eldest senior brother. I'll pack my stuff, and we'll leave right afterward."

"Okay." Huo Yuhao replied as he turned around and stepped out of the room. However, he suddenly stopped moving as he turned around and looked at Tang Wutong. He asked gently, "Are you tired?"

Tang Wutong shook her head gently and replied, "Nope. As long as I'm with you, it's okay to be a little more tired than usual. However, just promise me that you won't risk your life when I'm not around. Do you know how scared I was when I wasn't with you during that period of time? I was so afraid that I would lose you when I came back only to find out that you weren't here. I heard that even Di Tian came after you while I was away."

Huo Yuhao brushed his hand through Tang Wutong's long violet hair and said, "Don't worry. I'll never risk my life like this again. I only did this because I was confident that I could pull it off. Right now, Di Tian is entangled in his own affairs, and will not be looking for me in the near future. However, I must share a piece of good news with you. I have managed to remove the reverse scale that Di Tian planted on me during my breakthrough. Alright, I'll take my leave. You can pack your stuff in the meantime."

"Okay." Tang Wutong answered as Huo Yuhao left the room and went to look for Bei Bei.

He was looking for Bei Bei not only for updates on the Star Luo Empire, but also because of Tang Ya. Now that Tang Ya was beginning her recovery process, her own Bluesilver Grass martial soul was naturally reawakened. However, she had not been able to completely fuse with the Bluesilver Emperor. After all, she had not yet reached a bottleneck in her cultivation, and could only allow the Bluesilver Emperor to become her Spirit when she finally reached Rank 90. Huo Yuhao was going to check on her current situation. This was especially important since he had taken the Life Guardian Sword away from her.

"Eldest senior brother." Huo Yuhao did not use his Spiritual Detection to check on the situation in Bei Bei's room. After all, this would infringe on Bei Bei and Tang Ya's privacy. His voice was not particularly loud, but it was still able to penetrate through the door.

"Eh? Little junior brother." After hearing Huo Yuhao's voice, Huo Yuhao was able to hear someone putting on their clothes in the room. Following which, he heard a dissatisfied female grunt. It was obvious that someone in the room was displeased with being interrupted.

It did not take too long before Bei Bei stepped out of the room. He did not seem to be tired at all. In fact, he seemed to have a radiant glow around him.

Huo Yuhao asked awkwardly, "Eldest senior brother, how is Teacher Xiao Ya doing?"

"Well, erm, she's doing very well." Bei Bei replied in an equally awkward fashion.

Huo Yuhao was definitely able to tell what they were doing. He suddenly felt that the predicament he shared with Tang Wutong was very tragic. "My dear future father-in-law, when will you appear before us?"

"I paid a visit to the Star Luo Empire, and the White Tiger Duke seemed to share the same sentiments as us after hearing your analysis. However, he believes that Shrek City is equally important. Hence, he still decided to send a part of his elite troops over while maintaining a tight defense at the Star Luo Empire. To be honest, the Star Luo Empire is collectively quite powerful. The Sun Moon Empire might not be able to take them down if they don't mobilize their full power. He also asked me to send you his regards. I also shared with him how we managed to attack the Sun Moon Empire from its within. The White Tiger Duke said he also wanted to see if there's any way he can deal more blows to them. He believes that we can't wait passively like this any longer."

"Alright, eldest senior brother. Now I am clear about the current situation. The Sun Moon Empire plans to attack the Dou Ling Empire. Hence, I am going to pay a visit to the Dou Ling Empire with Wutong. If we happen to bump into any of the Sun Moon Empire's soul engineer legions along the way, we will definitely crush them. I have brought all three soul engineer legions back into Shrek City. I will need your help to arrange them for the city's defense."

Bei Bei looked at Huo Yuhao and asked, "Little junior brother, I heard that you have become a Titled Douluo?"

Huo Yuhao nodded and said, "I was very lucky to have made my breakthrough. Eldest senior brother, you can rest assured that as long as Wutong and I are together, we will be able to retreat safely even if we can't take down our enemies."

Bei Bei nodded and replied, "I have never found the need to be worried about the two of you. I will handle matters in the Academy. However, you might be a little vulnerable if it's just the two of you. Should I get Sanshi and the rest to follow you?"

Huo Yuhao thought for a while before replying, "The Academy should be pretty safe for now. In that case, I'll probably get them to join us."

"Are you going to set off now?" Bei Bei asked.

Huo Yuhao nodded. "Time waits for no man. I believe the Sun Moon Empire's troops must have already set off. The earlier we leave, the likelier it is for us to stop them."

He understood Ju Zi too well. Even though she might have revealed her target to him, she had probably executed her plan already. It was likely that the Sun Moon Empire had made their move, and were entering from another side the moment the Dou Ling Empire's elite troops left. Because the border between the Heavenly Soul Empire and Dou Ling Empire was very long, it would be difficult for the Dou Ling Empire to defend against such an incursion.

Bei Bei asked, "Who do you plan to bring along with you?"

“Third senior brother, fourth senior sister, Brother Ji, Ye Guyi and Nan Qiuqiu,” Huo Yuhao replied decisively, “if we bring too many people, we’ll lose the element of surprise. I think just a few of us should suffice. I will leave second eldest brother to assist Teacher Xuan with soul tools. Since he’s not going, fifth senior sister should also stay behind. It wouldn’t be nice to separate them.”

“Alright. Let’s follow your plan then. Let’s go and get them to get ready.”

Fortunately, most soul masters spent a large part of their nights meditating. Hence, there was no such thing as disturbing their sleep. Huo Yuhao was able to get all of them ready within fifteen minutes.

After getting Tang Wutong to join the rest of them, Huo Yuhao opened the spectral gate instead of getting everyone to fly and leave. He brought everyone into the spectral demiplane so that they could continue cultivating in the campsite within the demiplane while he flew alone. This would allow him to move faster than if everyone were to fly with him. At the same time, the others could continue to rest in the spectral demiplane and keep themselves in their best possible form.

Huo Yuhao bade goodbye to Bei Bei, but did not inform the Academy of the details of his trip. Once again, he leapt up into the sky and flew in the direction of the Dou Ling Empire.

After he ascended into the sky, Huo Yuhao closed his eyes and released his spiritual power into his surroundings. He was relying entirely on his Spiritual Detection to sense the world around him. Flying was no longer an activity which consumed his energy. In fact, he could even rest and cultivate while he was flying.

While he was flying in the sky, he was actually able to develop a deeper understanding of spaces. While he continued to increase his flight speed, he tried to grapple with the transformations in his body, as well as the changes in the surrounding spatial energy during his flight.

Where exactly will the Sun Moon Empire strike??As the only Ultimate Soldier trained by the program, Huo Yuhao was going through the major cities on the mental map of Dou Ling Empire that had formed in his mind.

The city closest to Shrek Academy might not be the best location for the Sun Moon Empire to strike. After all, they could bump into the elite troops from Dou Ling Empire. If he were to try and rationalize what they would do, Huo Yuhao believed that they would try to strike at a place which was the furthest from Shrek City. However, the Dou Ling Empire was enormous. Where should he start looking? He knew he had to acquire some intelligence before he could make a decision.

Chapter 566.3: My Target is the Dou Ling Empire

Even though Huo Yuhao was able to allow his spiritual power to cover an enormous area around him, it was ultimately limited. He would never be able to scan the entire border of a country in a short amount of time.

While he was flying in the air, he also gazed in the direction of the Great Star Dou Forest. He wondered if Di Tian had managed to defeat those evil soul masters. Deep in his heart, he actually wanted the Beast God to emerge victorious.

Even though Di Tian was against him, he only wanted the best for the Great Star Dou Forest, and for himself. Compared to the Beast God, those evil soul masters were a lot more vicious, and were terrible people. Huo Yuhao would be pleased if they were to die at Di Tian's hands.

Huo Yuhao believed that he should seriously consider Ju Zi's proposition if he were able to successfully save the Dou Ling Empire. It was ultimately a good deal for them if killing Xu Tianran could be traded for ten years of peace. The current Sun Moon Empire's army was not something any empire could defend against. There was another reason why Ju Zi chose to set up camp outside of Shrek City. She wanted a place for her troops to reorganize. If she really were to attack, everyone would suffer huge losses. Perhaps she meant it when she said that she was trying her best to reduce casualties in this war.

The thought of Ju Zi gave Huo Yuhao a serious headache. She had become increasingly frightening, and was now a full-fledged cunning commander. She was no longer his dear senior sister.

Shrek Academy was at the intersection between the Heavenly Soul Empire, the Dou Ling Empire, and the Star Luo Empire. Hence, Huo Yuhao was able to enter the Dou Ling Empire in no time. Very soon, he was able to see the elite troops that were being dispatched by the Dou Ling Empire to reinforce Shrek City. When he looked down at them, he saw how the troops spanned the horizon. It seemed as though they were boundless!

Because he knew that he would not be able to stop them from camping at Shrek City, Huo Yuhao could only continue flying in the opposite direction. He flew northwards along the border of the Dou Ling Empire. By flying in this direction, Huo Yuhao would have a good chance of discovering traces of his enemies.

In the Sun Moon Empire's military camp.

A series of orders had been issued from the Commander's Tent as the two soul tool deployment areas that flanked the entire military camp moved out under the night sky. After leaving the main camp, they moved forward gradually by five kilometers before setting up camp and reestablishing the soul tool deployment areas.

After assembling these two soul tool deployment areas, another two units moved forward.

When morning arrived, twelve soul tool deployment areas were already completed outside of the main camp. Following which, the Sun Moon Empire army moved forward another five kilometers.

This meant that they were only forty-five kilometers from Shrek Academy.

They had simply moved forward five kilometers without giving any warning or showing any signs of belligerence. Their actions caused the entire Shrek City to become increasingly nervous.

The city defense army had already been stationed on the city walls as they prepared themselves to face the Sun Moon Empire's troops. The three soul engineer legions that Huo Yuhao had left behind were quickly dispatched to the northern city gate to set up a soul tool deployment area with the soul tools they had looted from the Sun Moon Empire. All sorts of supplies were also being transported to the different units.

The first batch of reinforcements from the Star Luo Empire and the Dou Ling Empire had also arrived. They were listening to the orders issued by Shrek Academy. During such moments, both Empires had chosen to trust the Shrek Academy as they allowed the academy to command their elite troops.

Four thousand years ago, the final battle against the Sun Moon Continent was exactly the same. They were able to collectively suppress the enemy and force the Sun Moon Continent to become part of the Douluo Continent.

Four thousand years later, the same scene seemed to be repeating itself. Both the Dou Ling Empire and the Star Luo Empire were hoping that Shrek Academy could repeat their feat from four thousand years ago and defeat their strongest common enemy. Of course, the Heavenly Soul Empire's remaining troops were also banking on victory to resurrect their empire.

However, the Sun Moon Empire's attack never came. After moving forward five kilometers, they kept to their formation and stayed there. In fact, they did not even send out skirmishers to test the strength of Shrek City's defenses. However, the pressure their troops had created after moving forward was still a lot greater than before.

If the more powerful stationary soul cannon shells were fired from that distance, they could reach Shrek City. Hence, how could Shrek City sit and wait without making the necessary defensive preparations?

Elder Xuan and the other Elders from the Sea God's Pavilion only heard about Huo Yuhao's disappearance the next afternoon. However, Huo Yuhao had, at the very least, left three soul engineer legions behind this time around.

Because Elder Xuan could not bear to see Huo Yuhao's reputation tank, he told the other Elders that he had dispatched Huo Yuhao on a secret mission.

In fact, Elder Xuan really wanted to believe that Huo Yuhao's analysis of the Sun Moon Empire's troops was correct. However, no one would dare to take risks with the fate of Shrek City on the line. At least for now, the Sun Moon Empire did not seem to be retreating anytime soon.

There were only three days left before the ten day deadline Ju Zi had given was up. The atmosphere in Shrek City became tenser than before.

More elite troops from the Dou Ling Empire and the Star Luo Empire started to gather within Shrek City as they prepared for the upcoming battle. The soul tools which had been manufactured by the Tang Sect were all being transported to the top of the city walls.

When both the Dou Ling Empire and the Star Luo Empire saw the Academy's three soul engineer legions, they felt a lot more confident about their odds of defending the city. It was almost as though they were able to see Sun Moon Empire's defeat just by looking at them.

Ju Zi was sitting upright within the Commander's Tent as she sipped on bird's nest porridge. She seemed to be very carefree, as though she had already forgotten about last night's incident.

Of course, she did not believe that Huo Yuhao would be able to do anything to stop her plans after she had revealed them to him. After all, the two soul engineer legions had long since left for the Dou Ling Empire while she was moving her troops closer to Shrek City. Now that the operation was about to

begin, there was no way Yuhao could stop them in time. Most importantly, he would never be able to convince the people in Shrek City after she had moved her army forward by five kilometers.

Three days later, if Shrek Academy was still unable to turn Huo Yuhao over, she would simply give them a few more days. When the elite troops from the Dou Ling Empire received news that their empire had been attacked, she would then launch a feint attack.

Yuhao, Yuhao, do you really think you can achieve anything by yourself when you are fighting against absolute power? However, I must say you are really the kind of guy I like. Your future is extremely bright—especially when you already possess such power when you are just a bit more than twenty years old. If only you could rule the Sun Moon Empire together with me in the future...

After finishing her bird's nest porridge, Ju Zi returned to her tent as she sat down and began her cultivation. A gentler expression soon formed on her face.

Yunhan, how are you doing? Do you know how much Mother misses you?

When evening arrived, Huo Yuhao had almost finished flying through the entire northern part of the Dou Ling Empire. He was only able to complete his scouting so quickly by flying faster than the speed of sound. However, he did not seem to have gained any valuable intelligence from his scouting. He did not manage to find any traces of battle.

The borders of the Dou Ling Empire were fairly secure. There were close to three hundred thousand troops stationed at the border. On top of that, there were all sorts of surveillance soul tools deployed there. Even though their soul tools were still incomparable to the Sun Moon Empire's, they were still a lot better than what they had had a couple of years ago.

The Dou Ling Empire had benefited from having the Heavenly Soul Empire as their natural barrier against the Sun Moon Empire. Even though they were relatively weaker than the other empires, they were spared from the endless attacks the Heavenly Soul Empire and the Star Luo Empire had to face from the Sun Moon Empire for the past few years, and were able to develop substantially.

Huo Yuhao had already flown to the northernmost part of the Dou Ling Empire. If he were to fly any further north, he would be entering the Extreme North Ice Field.

Even if the Sun Moon Empire's soul engineer legions were very confident in their abilities, they would never launch an attack on the Dou Ling Empire from the Extreme North Ice Field!

However, Huo Yuhao had not seen their troops at all throughout his entire flight. This is impossible. Unless Ju Zi tricked me?

When he thought about this possibility, Huo Yuhao suddenly became very worried. If Ju Zi were to have tricked him, it would be a massive problem. There was no way he could find out where her troops had gone. What would happen if she were to launch an attack on Shrek Academy now?

As these thoughts flooded into his head, the first thing that occurred to Huo Yuhao was to immediately return to Shrek City. However, he was soon able to calm himself down.

As he recounted the expressions Ju Zi had while she was talking, as well as her spiritual fluctuations, Huo Yuhao could not believe that she was lying to him. All the signs indicated that she must have been telling

the truth. But if that was the case, why was he unable to find the troops that she had dispatched? Where exactly were those troops?

Huo Yuhao decided to stop flying to think about the situation calmly. He landed before sitting down and crossing his legs.

He was trying to think from Ju Zi's perspective. What would I do if I were in her shoes?

As my army closes in on Shrek City, forcing the Dou Ling Empire and Star Luo Empire to reinforce Shrek Academy, what kind of attack would be deadliest to either the Star Luo Empire or the Dou Ling Empire?

It was impossible for Ju Zi to dispatch too many troops because she had to preserve the strength of her front line. In fact, the news received from the remaining troops of the Heavenly Soul Empire had shown how Ju Zi was still wielding the same amount of power as before. This also meant that she did not dispatch any normal troops at all.

This meant that Huo Yuhao's guess should have been entirely correct. Ju Zi must have only dispatched soul engineer legions. Every legion had a few hundred individuals, and they would be inconspicuous when compared to an army of a few hundred thousand people. Their departure would also not affect the soul tool deployment areas.

If she had only sent a single soul engineer legion, they might not possess enough firepower. Hence, it was likely that she had sent two or three soul engineer legions. However, why were they not attacking the border? The Dou Ling Empire's defense line was still complete, and there were no signs of any previous attacks. The Dou Ling Empire had somehow managed to send their elite troops to Shrek City while keeping their defenses in proper order. This was about the best they could do. Huo Yuhao suddenly felt that he might have been thinking too much.

Chapter 567: To Behead the Sun Moon Empire

The uneasiness in his heart was growing more intense. He had developed an acute sense of destiny after gaining the power of destiny which had been passed on to him by the Three-Eyed Golden Lion. Hence, whenever he started to feel uneasy, it usually meant that something was actually about to happen.

What exactly is going on here?

Huo Yuhao slapped his forehead and asked himself what he would do if he were Ju Zi.

If they only had two soul engineer legions, it would be of little use to penetrate the Dou Ling Empire's defensive lines forcefully. After all, they would not even be able to occupy and defend the cities they might conquer without any troops coming to back them up. No matter how strong a soul engineer legion was, the manpower it had was still limited!

Under such circumstances, they can only sabotage...

Wait, that's it! They can only sabotage!

Suddenly, Huo Yuhao's heart skipped a beat. He thought of a possibility—a possible action which he had done not too long ago.

That's right! Ju Zi's current situation was exactly the same as the time when he brought his three soul engineer legions to perform sabotage operations within the Sun Moon Empire.

The only difference was that Ju Zi's soul engineer legions would not possess the ability to turn invisible. However, when it came to pure fighting power, her soul engineer legions—which were all legions that were on par with the Hand that Protects the Nation—were definitely more powerful than the Academy's three soul engineer legions.

Even though the Dou Ling Empire's borders were fairly well defended, it would not be impossible for the Sun Moon Empire's soul engineer legions to evade detection from their aerial surveillance soul tools. If that was the case...

Huo Yuhao suddenly understood what was going on. At the same time, cold sweat started to trickle down his back.

What Ju Zi had planned to do was very simple. She was merely repeating what he did in the Sun Moon Empire. She would not allow the two soul engineer legions to run around and perform sabotage operations all over Dou Ling Empire to create panic. After all, without the protection of the spectral demiplane, the soul engineer legions would ultimately be destroyed if they were to strike deep into the Dou Ling Empire on their own.

However, what if she only had a single target? In other words, what if she was only thinking of attacking a single city? How would that pan out?

More cold sweat started to trickle down Huo Yuhao's back. That's right. That must be it.

Ju Zi was targeting the capital of the Dou Ling Empire! Huo Yuhao immediately ascended into the sky without any hesitation as he increased his speed to the maximum. He headed straight for the Dou Ling Empire's capital.

There was nothing which was more fear-inducing than to destroy the capital and exterminate the royal family of the Dou Ling Empire.

Huo Yuhao had once attempted to do this in the Sun Moon Empire, but failed. However, this time around, the Dou Ling Empire had already sent their elite troops to Shrek City, and thus the defense within their capital must be very weak. Without their powerful troops and cultivators, how could they fend off the two soul engineer legions that were planning to launch a surprise attack on them?

Ju Zi, Ju Zi! You really are a very scary woman!

Once again, Huo Yuhao developed the thought to kill Ju Zi. Every single plan that she had formulated seemed so simple, yet so deadly at the same time.

Huo Yuhao kept accelerating as his figure transformed into a laser beam. Once in a while, he would disappear into space before reappearing somewhere far ahead. He was so quick that there were repeated sonic booms in the air.

Huo Yuhao understood that the chances of him actually making a difference had become very slim. If Ju Zi had already set all of this up before even setting off to Shrek City, her soul engineer legions—

regardless of how many people there were—would definitely have enough time to head to the capital after infiltrating the Dou Ling Empire.

Of course, they would definitely not be able to move as quickly as he did back in the Sun Moon Empire. But so what? Their current speed would be more than enough. As long as they could disguise themselves on land and take the more obscure paths, they would definitely be able to reach Dou Ling City—the capital of Dou Ling Empire.

Even though soul tool development within the Dou Ling Empire had been very quick for the past few years, their aerial surveillance soul tool technology was still very lacking. It was impossible for them to dispatch a large number of aerial surveillance soul tools like the Sun Moon Empire did.

There were simply too many possible ways that they could attack Dou Ling City. Even Huo Yuhao could think of multiple ways to use the two soul engineer legions to deal a devastating blow to the capital of the Dou Ling Empire.

It was impossible for the soul engineer legions to not bring Class 9 stationary soul cannon shells on such a mission. How was the capital going to defend itself against such attacks?

As Huo Yuhao continued to speed through the air, he closed his eyes. He had always been losing to Ju Zi when it came to such tactics!

If only I could have figured all of this out earlier...

If this is about to unfold at the Dou Ling Empire, will the same happen in the Star Luo Empire? I hope Ju Zi didn't lie to me. She better not do the same thing to the Star Luo Empire.

However, at least the Star Luo Empire still had his father around. Even if something were to happen to the royal family, the White Tiger Duke would still be around to allay everyone's fears. The empire would not be consumed by mass hysteria overnight. Hence, Ju Zi had made the right decision to land a devastating blow against the Dou Ling Empire first. All hell would definitely break loose within Dou Ling Empire. And when that happened, her next target would be...

After streamlining his thought process, everything became a lot clearer.

Ju Zi's real target was ultimately the Star Luo Empire! When chaos broke loose within Dou Ling Empire, their troops would naturally return to their own empire. Nothing was more important than stabilizing their own empire from within.

Under such circumstances, the Star Luo Empire would lose a natural ally, and Ju Zi would then be able to go all-out on the Star Luo Empire.

As long as she was able to take the Star Luo Empire down, the Dou Ling Empire would not even be a problem. She should be able to get them to surrender to the Sun Moon Empire easily.

Besides, the Star Luo Empire was connected to the Sunoon Empire geographically. Huo Yuhao knew that the Star Luo Empire would have no chance of defending themselves if the Sun Moon Empire were to call their Imperial Soul Engineer Legion in for help. The Sun Moon Empire would then be able to sandwich the Star Luo Empire from both sides.

He did not have an answer to the problem which lay before him. This seemed too much like a lost cause. The whole of Ju Zi's strategy had formed in Huo Yuhao's mind. But he was unable to think of a way to counter it. At the same time, Huo Yuhao recognized that his realization might have been too late.

However, he knew he still had to head over to Dou Ling City. If he could reach it on time, he might still be able to rescue some members of the royal family.

Huo Yuhao's flying speed was simply impossible. While he was still at the border of Dou Ling Empire at dawn, he was already deep in the territory of the Dou Ling Empire when the sun finally started to rise. He was getting closer to Dou Ling City.

However, at this instant, Huo Yuhao could sense continuous, intense soul power fluctuations from afar.

It seems like I was right.

Huo Yuhao sped forward without any hesitation as Dou Ling City came into view. However, when he looked down to gaze at the city, Huo Yuhao could not help but lose hope.

He could clearly see the thick, dense smoke which was rising up from Dou Ling City. The volume of smoke definitely could not be released by a few chimneys. Upon closer scrutiny, it seemed as though the entire city was in flames. It was a truly frightening sight.

Intense soul power fluctuations continued to radiate from that direction. As Huo Yuhao continued to get closer to the city, he started to hear the sounds of explosions.

While Huo Yuhao knew the exact location of Dou Ling City, he did not know where its palace was. However, how likely was it that the palace could be spared from the fire that was spreading across the entire city?

Huo Yuhao's answer to that question was negative. He closed his eyes as a painful expression formed on his face. He knew he had arrived too late!

However, when he opened his eyes again, they flashed with an intense murderous intent.

His body flickered as he threw himself across the sky in a parabolic arc towards Dou Ling City. Huo Yuhao was able to see a large number of people flickering within the dense smoke from afar. He saw a few familiar blue figures, as well as some figures that glowed with dark yellow light.

It was the Evil Tyrant Soul Engineer Legion. Ju Zi had really sent out one of Sun Moon Empire's Hand that Protects the Nation. The other soul engineer legion should also belong to the Hand that Protects the Nation. Dark yellow soul tools...? Could they be from the Imperial Dragon Soul Engineer Legion? The best soul engineer legion among the four beast lord-ranked soul engineer legions?

Huo Yuhao gritted his teeth as fury and rage flashed across his eyes. He released his spiritual power entirely as it enveloped the entire city.

Since there was no way he could stop them, he planned to avenge all the dead people in Dou Ling City.

After enveloping the city with his Spiritual Detection, Huo Yuhao detected a sizeable area about fifteen kilometers away from Dou Ling City within an inconspicuous forest that bristled with soul tools.

The size of this soul tool deployment area was at least three times the size of an average Sun Moon Empire soul tool deployment area. From his Spiritual Detection, Huo Yuhao was able to tell that those soul tools were the most advanced models from the Sun Moon Empire.

The fact that the soul tool deployment area was placed in such an obscure position meant that they must have started attacking from that place. At the same time, the forest would provide the best cover and concealment during their escape.

So what if they were to lose it if they were able to complete their attack on Dou Ling City?

I must destroy their path of retreat.

Huo Yuhao could accurately sense the presence of about fifty soul engineers stationed within the soul tool deployment area with his Spiritual Detection. On top of that, their linked defensive barrier was half-open. If something unfortunate were to happen in Dou Ling City, they could at the very least defend themselves.

Huo Yuhao could not help but admire the wealth of experience that the beast lord-ranked soul engineer legions had. They had even prepared sufficient resources to retreat safely.

Unfortunately, you have bumped into me. In that case...

Huo Yuhao landed quietly at a spot that was not too far from the soul tool deployment area. He silently opened his Spectral Gate and released his companions.

Before he even tried to explain anything to them, Huo Yuhao had dashed towards the soul tool deployment area in front of their eyes.

Huo Yuhao's Icy War God's Armor immediately formed on his body as its deep blue glow fused with him.

While he was sprinting towards the soul tool deployment area, the soul engineers within the installation were unable to detect his movement with their surveillance soul tools because of his Imitation.

A thin streak of Mayan blue light which was not overly glaring flickered past them. And at the very next instant, Huo Yuhao crept in from the top of the protective soul barrier.

A deafening alarm began to ring within the soul tool deployment area. However, was there any point in that anymore?

After Huo Yuhao successfully reached the linked defensive barrier, even fifty elite soul engineers would be powerless against his enraged Eyes of the Asura.

Instead of using his Morning Dew Dagger, Huo Yuhao used his Ghostcarving Blade to rip apart the half-activated linked defensive barrier.

The Ghostcarving Blade had an immensely destructive effect on any energy form or object. In fact, it was more destructive than the Life Guardian Sword in this regard.

After slicing the barrier with his Ghostcarving Blade, Huo Yuhao dashed into the soul tool deployment area. His Spiritual Detection had already given him the positions of where the soul engineers were.

As his body flickered, he darted towards one of those positions.

After hearing the alarm, the fifty soul engineers within the area had already reacted to it. All sorts of soul tools were radiating with their own light. The surveillance soul tools were already trying to pinpoint where the intruder was coming from.

Has the barrier been destroyed??The soul engineers who were stationed in the area were all shocked beyond belief. They had believed that the protective soul barrier was so tough that even a Transcendent Douluo wouldn't be able to break it! On top of that, their surveillance soul tools did not even give them warning. How was that possible?

After that, they caught sight of Huo Yuhao's figure as he appeared before them. There was no longer a need for him to use his Imitation to conceal himself.

The interior of the soul tool deployment area was also protected by soul tools, just in case it was breached by their enemies.

After showing himself, ten streaks of Soul Light Rays immediately fired towards him. These Soul Light Rays were designed with extremely vicious intentions. They consisted of Penetrative Rays, Scorching Rays, and Decomposing Rays, a type of ray which was inconspicuous, yet extremely destructive.

However, Huo Yuhao did not even try to avoid these attacks. He simply allowed them to land.

The Soul Light Rays could not penetrate the Icy War God's Armor at all. Huo Yuhao raised his right hand and made a pressing motion with it as a golden light flashed in his eyes.

A series of explosions could be heard as the heads of the eight soul engineers who were standing closest to him exploded instantly. Huo Yuhao's current spiritual power was definitely on par with that of any Ultimate Douluo. Even though these soul engineers were members of the Hand that Protects the Nation, they were only cultivators with four or five rings. They were like paper in front of his Spiritual Blast.

Following which, an intense chill spread within the soul tool deployment area from Huo Yuhao's body. It was able to instantly envelop the entire area.

Those soul engineers within the area who were trying to attack Huo Yuhao could not help but abandon that idea as they mustered their soul power to counter the impending impact of the cold.

Those soul engineers who were weaker were frozen in mere seconds, while the stronger ones found their movement restricted by the extreme cold.

Chapter 568.1: A Surprise Attack within the Cover of Smoke

Huo Yuhao didn't trigger Ice Explosion, because now wasn't a good time to do that. This soul tool front's soul tools were very advanced, and destroying one would be a sizeable loss. Huo Yuhao didn't know how the Dou Ling Empire's royal palace was doing, but he would still attempt to reduce losses as much as possible.

He took a step out and vanished into the soul tool front. He was two hundred meters away when he reappeared, next to an enormous soul tool inside the front.

Someone was just dashing out from this large soul tool right at this moment. He saw Huo Yuhao, and he was momentarily stunned before he raised his hand and fired a soul ray at him.

This person was the soul tool front's strongest individual, a Class 8 soul engineer.

Huo Yuhao grunted coldly. He didn't care about that class 8 soul ray, and a circle of blue light rippled on his Icy War God's Armor before the soul ray's destructiveness was completely dispelled. Huo Yuhao pushed out with his right hand, and dark golden light sliced across the sky like a rainbow as it immediately covered that Class 8 soul engineer's body.

Golden light glowed as an Invincible Barrier appeared. Class 8 soul engineers had many different ways to protect themselves, and this soul engineer was no exception.

Even though he couldn't tell who Huo Yuhao was, his status in the Sun Moon Empire meant he had seen human-shaped soul tools before. The person before him was radiating an intimidating and magnificent aura, and was someone that he absolutely couldn't fight against. He activated his Invincible Barrier, and then activated his soul thruster at his chest before his body bolted backward. He wanted to run.

It was a pity, because his Class 7 Invincible Barrier that he had always been proud of dropped to the ground in the next moment.

The Invincible Barrier's defenses were excellent, but a tremendous force still smashed it heavily to the ground. Five shocking cracks appeared on the barrier's surface, like it could shatter at any moment.

Five chilly waves coursed in from those cracks, and the Class 8 soul engineer hurriedly activated another protective soul barrier. Unfortunately, Huo Yuhao wouldn't give him another chance.

Huo Yuhao tapped his foot on the ground and appeared in front of that Invincible Barrier. He pressed his left hand simply on the barrier's surface before he turned and left.

The golden barrier immediately turned icy blue, and the person holding the Invincible Barrier had become completely motionless. He had become a statue of ice.

Empress' Palm, Snowless Glacier!

Not even an Invincible Barrier could block Snowless Glacier's extreme chills. Huo Yuhao's Ultimate Ice was at an unrivaled standard after obtaining his second soul core, and his Empress' Palm resembled the Snow Empress' glory during her strongest days.

Huo Yuhao's Spiritual Detection covered the entire soul tool front, and he didn't discover any other living people. He swiftly reached the main control platform and withdrew his Ultimate Ice's chill at the same time. Huo Yuhao opened the soul protective barrier and allowed his companions to enter from outside.

"Third senior brother, you guys will remain here and guard this soul tool front. Activate the linked defensive barrier and wait for my return. You're coming with me, Wutong. We'll take a look at Dou Ling City. The Sun Moon Empire has deployed two soul engineer legions to ambush the city, and I'm afraid they're already in a dire situation."

Huo Yuhao grabbed Tang Wutong's hand as he quickly finished his speech and soared into the sky towards Dou Ling City.

Tang Wutong was the first person to feel something different as they held hands. She realized to her surprise that her soul power couldn't fuse with Huo Yuhao's soul power like before to form Haodong power.

Huo Yuhao's soul power seemed to become solid, and didn't allow her soul power to enter.

Huo Yuhao controlled his flight toward Dou Ling City as he explained his soul power's current situation to her.

Tang Wutong frowned. "That means I have to obtain my Yin Yang Complement soul core before I can use Haodong power with you again?"

Huo Yuhao shook his head. "I don't know. I'm the first human to possess a second soul core through the Yin Yang Complement method, after all. We can slowly try in the future to see if you can adjust so that our martial souls can fuse again. I think we can still use our martial soul fusion skills."

"Yes." Now clearly wasn't the time to discuss this question, as they arrived above Ling Dou City as they spoke.

There were fires everywhere inside the city, especially toward the city's central areas. Flames burned into the sky as dense smoke covered everything, and nothing could be seen.

Huo Yuhao's heart sank. Even though he couldn't see, he could still sense with his Spiritual Detection! There was an enormous crater that was more than three hundred meters in diameter, and it was almost fifty meters deep. All the structures around that crater had been reduced to rubble and dust, and judging from the buildings around it, that area was likely to have been Dou Ling City's royal palace!

The Sun Moon Empire is so cruel. The Evil Tyrant and Imperial Dragon Soul Engineer Legions are so cruel. Since they are so cruel, don't blame me for not being nice.

Huo Yuhao's spiritual power erupted. His Spiritual Detection had been covering the city when he was breaking through that soul tool front, and all of the soul engineer legions' members were within his detection range.

These soul engineers still didn't know that their soul tool front at the back had been breached, and they were still wreaking havoc within Dou Ling City.

Dou Ling City's surviving forces were almost completely wiped out. The thing that had bombarded the royal palace was undoubtedly a Class 9 stationary soul cannon shell, and those two soul engineer legions were currently assaulting the city without any restraint. They were particularly searching for soul masters and soul engineers to attack.

However, they weren't careless, even though they were very outrageous. The soul engineers formed groups of ten and moved together, and anybody who had the guts to resist were attacked with their full strength at once and killed. The soul engineer legions were also attacking several large buildings to destroy them and cause chaos.

Dou Ling City's city defense army wasn't small, but there were very few who were considered formidable. The Dou Ling Empire's elite soul masters had all travelled toward Shrek City, while most of their powerful individuals had been inside the royal palace, which had been blown up, and the city had

sustained heavy losses. How could they gather to fight against two soul engineer legions at a time like this?

It seemed like the Imperial Dragon and Evileye Tyrant Soul Engineer Legions had been holding back for quite some time. They had had to search for the blind spots in the Dou Ling Empire's surveillance, and infiltrate the empire's territory. They didn't dare to cross any large cities, so they had to proceed through the wilderness and suburbs. They used their surveillance soul tools to scout ahead bit by bit, and it was a long and hard journey to reach Dou Ling City. Today was the day that they had decided to launch an offensive.

If Huo Yuhao had been later by another two hours, these two soul engineer legions would probably have already disappeared after their feat.

Huo Yuhao stretched out his spiritual power as he pulled Tang Wutong and disappeared into the smoke. He was using Imitation, and he wasn't afraid of being discovered at all.

A team of soul engineers swiftly crossed in front of them, and Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong followed them on a whim.

These soul engineers belonged to the Evileye Tyrant Soul Engineer Legion. This legion was the fastest among the four beast-ranked legions, and Huo Yuhao hated them the most, because they had been the ones who had surrounded and attacked him and Wang Qiu'er. Wang Qiu'er probably wouldn't have had to sacrifice herself if not for this legion.

Huo Yuhao was eager because of his hatred and resentment. He didn't wait for long before he waved his right hand, and a giant Darkgolden Terrorclaw a hundred meters long cut across the sky.

These soul engineers didn't react at all before the large claw slashed through them. They all had at least four soul rings, and were all equipped with automatic defensive soul tools. However, their cultivations were too low. How could these four-ringed and five-ringed soul engineers do anything against a Titled Douluo without linked soul tools?

The smoke became Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong's best cover. Ten soul engineers perished from a single successful strike, and Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong started searching for the next group of soul engineers along the periphery.

These two beast-ranked legions' soul engineers were still formidable. If they could gather and unleash their linked offensive soul tools, Huo Yuhao would still have to tuck tail and run, even with his current cultivation.

But they were too arrogant. They had already taken down Dou Ling City, and they had already worked together to take out almost all of their strongest individuals. Seven Titled Douluo had perished under their linked offensive soul tools, and only then did they disperse to sweep the battlefield.

These soul engineers had storage-type soul tools, and this was the Dou Ling Empire's capital city. How could they not pillage?

Greed was a sin, and it was because of greed that they didn't know that they had become the hunted.

Huo Yuhao's Spiritual Detection was all too effective at a time like this. He didn't touch the soul engineers who had more than seven soul rings, but he specifically went for relatively weaker soul engineers.

Huo Yuhao wanted to kill them with one hit, so he didn't give his opponents any chance to notify their companions.

Tang Wutong didn't do anything from the beginning to the end, whether Huo Yuhao used his Darkgolden Terrorclaws or Spiritual Blast.

Huo Yuhao killed more than two hundred soul engineers in a short while.

The beast-ranked soul engineer legions were very strict in picking soul engineers. These soul engineers had to be strong enough, they had to be young, and they had to have potential. They had to go through tough training before they were cherry picked and enlisted.

Every beast-ranked soul engineer legion officially consisted of three hundred people. Huo Yuhao had now dealt with more than half of a soul engineer legion, in addition to those fifty back at the soul tool front.

The Imperial Dragon and Evil Tyrant Soul Engineer Legions had lost about half of their initial number.

But it was in this moment that both soul engineer legions' leaders finally realized that something wasn't right, because they couldn't contact many of their subordinates.

Chapter 568.2: A Surprise Attack within the Cover of Smoke

They were still pillaging excitedly before this, but the legion itself wasn't huge, and there were only so many people. They were also in enemy territory, so they were still comparatively careful. They would communicate with every small team leader after a period of time to confirm everyone's locations.

But when they were establishing communication once more, they realized to their surprise that many small teams weren't responding, like they had gone missing just like that.

The two soul engineer legions' leaders were running scared. They immediately gave the order to gather in the sky and take a roll call.

Dou Ling City was in ruins. The city defense army were still blindly defending themselves against the soul engineer legions' attacks, and the city was full of agonizing cries and chaos. Citizens were holed up in their houses, and nobody knew when a stationary soul cannon shell would land in their homes. Their walls didn't give them any security at all.

The attacks suddenly stopped at this moment. Shadows began flying high into the sky one after another, and they were evidently gathering.

"I think they've realized," Tang Wutong whispered in Huo Yuhao's ear.

Huo Yuhao scoffed and said, "A soul engineer legion together is an extremely formidable entity, but if they are separated, they will die. The Sun Moon Empire's soul engineer legions have won too many victories, that's the reason they're so arrogant, and this hubris is an important reason why they're losing their lives. Let's go. We'll obliterate them so that we can avenge the Dou Ling Empire's dead."

Huo Yuhao grasped Tang Wutong's hand and drifted upward as he spoke before they bolted into the air like a flash of lightning.

Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong became almost entirely like air with Imitation covering them, and they arrived at the soul engineers' assembly point quicker than the soul engineers themselves.

Huo Yuhao could see six soul engineers hovering in midair with one look.

According to the Sun Moon Empire's beast-ranked soul engineer legions' organizational structure, every soul engineer legion had three legion commanders, one head commander and two vice-commanders.

These few should be their commanders. There were two head commanders, who were both Class 9 soul engineers, and there were four vice-commanders, who were Class 8 soul engineers. Huo Yuhao had already dealt with another Class 8 soul engineer back at the soul tool front. These two soul engineer legions had sent their best forces to participate in this operation.

Huo Yuhao held Tang Wutong's hand and waited quietly.

There were more soul engineers flying up from below at this moment, and they were all gathering at their assembly point.

Huo Yuhao didn't move, and he just waited quietly with Tang Wutong not far from those commanders.

The six commanders' expressions were becoming increasingly darker. There was no way they couldn't, because there were far too few flying up from below. Furthermore, they were mostly missing entire small teams.

These small teams didn't even communicate at all.

The Evileye Tyrant Soul Engineer Legion's commander was called Xia Xuanchen, and he was replacing the Manic Bull Douluo, Wang Yiheng. He was initially vice-commander before the Tang Sect dealt with Wang Yiheng, and was then promoted to head commander. His strength was still comparatively lower than the Imperial Dragon Soul Engineer Legion's commander.

"Old Xu, something doesn't seem right! We might be in trouble. Why are we missing so many people?"

The person he referred to as "Old Xu" was the Imperial Dragon Soul Engineer Legion's head commander, Xu Tianyuan. He belonged to the royal family, and the Imperial Dragon Soul Engineer Legion was under many of the royal family members' control. They weren't entirely obedient to the Emperor's authority, and this legion could be considered one of the strongest forces that the royal family controlled.

Xu Tianyuan was also part of the royal family, and he should be considered Xu Tianran's older cousin in terms of seniority. But the truth was, he was much older than Xu Tianran was, and his status was one of the highest among the Sun Moon Empire's royal family. Otherwise, he wouldn't be able to command the Imperial Dragon Soul Engineer Legion.

The Imperial Dragon Soul Engineer Legion's strength was second only to the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Legion. Their names were very similar, but they represented very different strengths.

The royal family was especially formidable when they came together for certain designations, such as when the many princes were vying for the throne.

However, the Imperial Dragon Soul Engineer Legion had always been rather neutral. They didn't lean toward any prince, and their neutrality was the reason for their continued existence. They only served the royal family, and furthered their needs.

"Yes, something's wrong. Why are we missing so many people? Can it be because those little bastards are pillaging until they've forgotten about discipline?" Xu Tianyuan himself found that a little hard to believe when he spoke of that possibility.

Xia Xuanchen forced a laugh and said, "That's not quite possible, is it? Even if they're off pillaging, it's not possible that we can't communicate with them. The small team leaders can't be so shortsighted."

Xu Tianyuan nodded as he lowered his voice and said, "If nobody else assembles, we will activate our linked defensive barrier and retreat. We've achieved our goal, anyway."

Xia Xuanchen hesitated, then said, "But we're missing so many brothers."

Xu Tianyuan gritted his teeth and replied, "What can we do if our enemy has powerful individuals hidden within the city? This is the Dou Ling Empire's capital city, and I believe news of this ambush has already been sent out. Reinforcements will arrive very soon. Since we have accomplished our mission and we can't afford to deal with anything else, we'll retreat before considering other things. Safety comes first."

"Alright." Even though they were both commanders of beast-ranked soul engineer legions, the Imperial Dragon Soul Engineer Legion's commander, Xu Tianyuan, was the leader of this operation. Xia Xuanchen felt bad about his subordinates, but he had to be decisive at a time like this.

More and more soul engineers began gathering around them.

Xu Tianyuan suddenly developed a strange sensation at this moment, and Xia Xuanchen felt the same way.

They were both Class 9 soul engineers, and they had to be one of the better ones among their fellows for them to become commanders of beast-ranked soul engineer legions.

"Careful," Xia Xuanchen growled before he swung his right hand, and a brilliant silver warhammer suddenly appeared in his grip before it blasted out into some empty space.

"Eh?" A faint exclamation could be heard as countless small golden hammers erupted from nothingness and expanded in all directions.

Xia Xuanchen's hammer was very effective. The silver light diluted some of the golden light when the golden light erupted, but that was it.

Xia Xuanchen and Xu Tianyuan grunted before they flew backwards, and blood ran down their mouths and noses.

The strength of the two beast-ranked soul engineer legions' commanders were displayed at a time like this. In that moment when the golden light that had appeared out of nowhere erupted, both Xia Xuanchen and Xu Tianyuan patted their chests at almost the same time.

A formidable strength exploded forth from their human-shaped soul tools, and tremendous propulsion forces blasted out in circles.

These propulsion forces didn't just propel them out like an arrow, but also propelled their vice-commanders and the other soul engineers who had just assembled around them toward the periphery. They were like snowflakes and flowers dancing through the sky for a moment.

Mantra Amidst the Void, Spiritual Tempest!

Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong's figures appeared from the air. That previous attack was Spiritual Tempest, one of their formidable martial soul fusion skills.

However, not even Huo Yuhao had expected the Sun Moon Empire's powerful individuals to react so quickly. They chose the best method to deal with Spiritual Tempest.

The two commanders had erupted with powerful propulsion forces that even Tang Wutong and he were affected by to a certain extent. The other three hundred soul engineers also instantly dispersed, and most of them avoided Spiritual Tempest's area of effect.

But most didn't mean all of them, and the heads of some thirty-odd soul engineers closest to Spiritual Tempest's epicenter exploded in the air. Blood spurted from the tops of their heads as their corpses plummeted toward the ground.

The four vice-commanders were stunned from that formidable spiritual shock, but Xu Tianyuan and Xia Xuanchen weren't. Their human-shaped soul tools were Class 9 soul tools, which were equipped with strong defensive capabilities. Furthermore, individuals at their level were undoubtedly equipped with soul tools that could protect them against spiritual attacks.

Therefore, even though they took the brunt of the attack and also felt dizzy, they sacrificed two of their precious defensive soul tools meant for spiritual attacks before they forcibly protected themselves against Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong's Spiritual Tempest.

Huo Yuhao trained his eyes on Xia Xuanchen, especially that silver hammer in his hands.

That silver hammer wasn't a soul tool. Instead, it was a martial soul. A Class 9 soul engineer had actually used his martial soul at such a crucial moment, and this meant that Xia Xuanchen wasn't just a soul engineer. He was a true Titled Douluo at the same time.

There are truly many powerful individuals hidden within the Sun Moon Empire!

But Huo Yuhao didn't stop. He was faced with hundreds of soul engineers, and any pause meant that his enemies would team up against him. He took this opportunity when both soul engineer legions were in disarray, and he and Tang Wutong pounced at Xia Xuanchen with a flash.

The stronger their opponent, the quicker they had to destroy them. Furthermore, these two commanders were very effective at commanding their soul engineer legions. Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong had to kill them first before they could come closer to destroying these two soul engineer legions.

Xia Xuanchen could tell that he was Huo Yuhao's target when he caught the look in his eyes. Silver light emerged from his body as he released a Class 9 protective barrier.

Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong arrived in a flash. A bright and crisp dragon roar rang out from Tang Wutong's body as she punched at Xia Xuanchen's barrier, while Huo Yuhao pushed out with his left hand.

Their attacks seemed simple and unassuming, but Xia Xuanchen's senses saved him once more in that moment. He could feel the terrifying power contained in that fist and palm. They seemed so simple, but they made him feel like his life was in danger.

Chapter 568.3: A Surprise Attack within the Cover of Smoke

Xia Xuanchen didn't hesitate. Light radiated from his body as a crystal suddenly appeared in his hands. This crystal was oval, and about the size of an infant's head. There were many intricate and sophisticated carvings on its surface, and it emanated majesty from the moment it appeared.

Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong's palm and fist landed on his soul protective barrier at almost the same time. Frightening spiritual power and soul power combined as an ear-piercing sound rang from the Class 9 protective barrier. Cracks appeared in the crystal, and terrifying chills and the domineering aura of Tang Wutong's Radiant Dragon Butterfly flooded into them.

Right at this moment, that oval crystal erupted with a layer of brilliant golden light. A formidable propulsion force forcibly pushed Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong backward, and that wasn't all. The crystal stone covered Xia Xuanchen's body with a layer of golden light that was shaped like an eggshell.

Xu Tianyuan's eyes were overcome with greed when he saw the crystal stone in Xia Xuanchen's hands. Of course he knew what that was. That was a priceless treasure for all soul engineers, even for Class 9 soul engineers?

What is that?

Huo Yuhao was taken aback. His Ultimate Ice was very penetrative, and after he gained his second soul core through the Yin Yang Complement method, normal protective barriers couldn't block his Snowless Glacier.

But in that moment, Xia Xuanchen's defensive capabilities repelled his Ultimate Ice, and also produced such forceful propulsions. That wasn't something that typical soul tools could achieve. What exactly was in his hands?

"Linked ring, lock on!" Xia Xuanchen roared hysterically.

It seemed like he had defended himself against Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong's attack casually, but only he knew what was happening to him. If not for that strange eggshell in his hands, Huo Yuhao's Ultimate Ice would have probably frozen him solid. Even though he probably wouldn't die, his opponents' onslaught wouldn't just stop with that. He would undoubtedly meet his demise if his opponents were allowed to chain their attacks.

Even though it hadn't been long since he took over as the Evileye Tyrant Soul Engineer Legion's commander, his reputation and influence within his legion were still relatively high. The Evileye Tyrant Legion's remaining soul engineers quickly activated their linked soul tools as he roared his command.

This linked ring was specifically meant to deal with enemies who had broken through to their most important areas. Not even Huo Yuhao could deny that the Sun Moon Empire was still far ahead in terms of training and commanding their soul engineer legions.

Circles of blue light glowed one after another, and swiftly formed a circle as intense soul power undulations appeared.

“Linked ring, defensive barrier.” Xu Tianyuan’s reaction speed wasn’t slow either. He gave his order as soon as was possible.

The Imperial Dragon Soul Engineer Legion’s quality was the highest among the four beast-ranked legions, and they moved equally swiftly. Xu Tianyuan’s goal was simple: he wanted to surround Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong. With their linked defense and offense, how could they not kill their opponents with over three hundred soul engineers working together, no matter how formidable their opponents were.

Huo Yuhao heaved a sigh inside. These beast-ranked soul engineer legions are indeed difficult to deal with! If not for those soul engineers that we killed in the chaos before this, we might not have had a chance.

The Dou Ling Empire’s royal palace was in an irreversible situation. However, Huo Yuhao had to find some way to obliterate these two beast-ranked soul engineer legions when they were detached from the main army, no matter what. But it was evident that he couldn’t do so now. Even Ultimate Douluo had to avoid two soul engineer legions who had completed their linkup.

A large black door appeared. Huo Yuhao no longer needed any incantations to open a single spectral gate, and he could almost do so immediately.

Huo Yuhao held Tang Wutong’s hand as they disappeared into the spectral gate with a flash.

They could be chased by linked attacks if they ran away, while running out of the linked defense may not be completely safe. Any kind of concealment soul skills would be futile if those linked attacks were executed over an area.

But what Huo Yuhao did, when he escaped into another plane, not even the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Legion could do anything to them, not to mention these two soul engineer legions.

Xia Xuanchen flew next to Xu Tianyuan with a tinge of fear in his heart as he wiped cold sweat from his forehead.

“That was close. They’re extremely powerful, and what’s more frightening is that they have concealment abilities,” Xia Xuanchen said to Xu Tianyuan.

Xu Tianyuan glanced at the oval crystal in his Xia Xuanchen’s hand. He frowned and said, “I’m more worried about that escape ability that they just displayed. Their auras vanished into thin air. Can that be spatial power? But only Ultimate Douluo can master spatial power. Since when has the Dou Ling Empire possessed such formidable individuals?”

Xia Xuanchen forced a laugh. “Let’s hurry and retreat. No matter where these two are from, it appears that our brothers we’ve lost contact with have met their demise. We should hurry back to the soul tool

front, then we can pack up and leave. Ensure that everyone maintains the linked defense so that we can avoid being ambushed again. We have to leave as quickly as possible.”

“Yes,” Xu Tianyuan nodded understandingly.

They were deep behind enemy lines all by themselves, after all. If they were on the battlefield at the front lines, even if their enemies were even more powerful, they wouldn't be afraid because of their soul engineer legions' combined strength. However, there were two incredibly strong individuals hiding near them, and they felt like they had thorns in their backs. They could be ambushed at any moment, so retreating back into the Sun Moon Empire's territory was the best solution. They had sustained severe losses on this mission, but they had accomplished their mission. They had still managed to do something very laudable.

The two Class 9 soul engineers discussed logistics for a moment before they led their legions back toward their soul tool front. Even though they were already prepared to lose their soul tool front from the beginning, the Dou Ling Empire's resistance was much weaker than they had imagined, judging from their current situation. A single Class 9 stationary soul cannon shell had immediately dealt with the entire royal palace, and if not for those two powerful people who had appeared afterwards, their two legions would be almost perfectly victorious.

The two soul engineer legions changed formations once more. This time, they tried to keep some space between them, because the two commanders had seen how powerful ?Huo Yuhao's group attacks were from his Spiritual Tempest. Therefore, they maintained their ring-shaped formation, but they formed two rings, with one larger than the other.

The Evileye Tyrant Legion was outside, while the Imperial Dragon Legion was inside. The Evileye Tyrant Legion was responsible for maintaining their linked defenses, while the Imperial Dragon Legion would rest inside. They could switch to maintain their defenses like that, and if they ran into anything, a single soul engineer legion was sufficient for defense. The other legion would augment their defenses, and it could also turn defense into offense.

If they didn't run into any more enemies, they could proceed at a steady pace by switching around. They were naturally not afraid of running into the Dou Ling Empire's forces. Unless the Dou Ling Empire concentrated all their soul masters to surround and attack them, they probably didn't have a chance at all. The empire's elite forces had all gone to Shrek City, so these two soul engineer legions' combined strength was almost invincible.

The two legion commanders were almost perfect in their command of their respective soul engineer legions, but their faces were so dark that it was frightening when they returned to their soul tool front.

The soul tool front's defenses were still open, but they couldn't communicate with anybody inside. Afterwards, they witnessed the soul tool front's linked offensive soul tools charging up. They were aimed directly at them.

But what could they do? Their opponents had actually taken over their soul tool front beforehand, which completely exceeded their expectations. They were deep behind enemy lines, and they didn't even have any time to think. They turned to run, and flew toward the Sun Moon Empire as quickly as possible.

Unfortunately, they didn't know that there was barely anybody inside the soul tool front. They were using the soul tool front's soul power reserves to activate its linked defensive and offensive soul tools, which came from Milk Bottles. They couldn't have kept that up for long.

If these two soul engineer legions kept their distance and maintained a continuous onslaught, perhaps they would sustain some losses, but taking back their soul tool front would be relatively easy.

But just as when Huo Yuhao was faced with Ju Zi, when he clearly knew that her target wasn't Shrek City, Shrek City still couldn't reduce their vigilance and alertness. This was the same reason why these two soul engineer legions couldn't stay for any longer despite knowing that the soul engineers inside that soul tool front weren't strong. Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong's ambush had left a deep shadow in their hearts.

The two legions hadn't flown away for long when Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong appeared outside the soul tool front.

They rendezvoused with their companions before Huo Yuhao immediately found Xu Sanshi.

"Sanshi, Dou Ling City's situation isn't great. The city has suffered a destructive onslaught, and the royal palace is completely destroyed. I don't know if anybody from the royal family is still alive. Let's do it this way. You guys will stay here and proceed toward Dou Ling City. Reveal our identities as Shrek Academy's members, help them restore order, and search for any members of the royal family who are still alive. Wutong and I will pursue those two soul engineer legions. I don't believe they can fly all the way back to the Sun Moon Empire. They will have to rest along the way, and that will be our chance. We will take this opportunity when they are separated to try and keep these two legions in the Dou Ling Empire forever. We will avenge the Dou Ling Empire's royal family."

Xu Sanshi nodded and said, "Alright, then go. Leave Dou Ling City to us. You're right, but..."

Xu Sanshi heaved a sigh inside, and everything he could say was too late. The Sun Moon Empire was too cunning. They didn't just target the Dou Ling Empire; they directly executed an assassination mission against the Dou Ling Empire's royal palace. Their formidable soul engineer legions could fully unleash their frightening offensive capabilities in a skirmish like this. If the Star Luo Empire ran into a similar situation, they probably wouldn't do any better than the Dou Ling Empire had. Ultimately, they lost on surveillance and intelligence.

Chapter 569.1: Xu Sanshi's Experiences

noVe-lb)1n

If they were in the Sun Moon Empire, unless they were like Huo Yuhao and possessed abilities that could conceal entire groups and utilize spatial power, they couldn't possibly succeed in any ambushes with that almost airtight surveillance coverage.

They no longer had to leave anyone behind in their soul tool front. They could wait until the Dou Ling Empire's situation stabilized before sending someone back to claim it.

Huo Yuhao grabbed Tang Wutong's hand as they soared into the sky and flew in the direction that those two soul engineer legions had left in.

Huo Yuhao's Spiritual Detection couldn't cover an entire country, but pursuing two soul engineer legions wasn't much.

Inside Dou Ling City.

Smoke and dust permeated the air as most of the royal palace lay in ruins from its center after that frightening onslaught. Only the outer walls were still standing in tatters.

There were agonizing cries everywhere in the city, and the entire city was in chaos.

The city defense army wasn't small, but they could only blankly attempt to maintain order. The royal palace had been destroyed, and that practically eradicated the Dou Ling Empire's citizens' mainstay.

Xu Sanshi took Jiang Nannan, Ye Guyi, Nan Qiuqiu, and Ji Juechen as they arrived beneath Dou Ling City's walls. They watched the smoke and dust as their expressions became increasingly black.

Xu Sanshi didn't just have the Heavenly Soul Empire in his blood, as half of his blood came from the Dou Ling Empire, but his mother was also the Dou Ling Empire's previous princess, the previous emperor's youngest sister, who was the current emperor's aunt. Of course, the prerequisite was that the Dou Ling Empire's emperor was still alive.

Xu Sanshi had followed his mother to the Dou Ling Empire when he was young, and he had seen his cousin, the Emperor, once, though they rarely contacted each other afterwards.

The Dou Ling Empire's royal family had vehemently disapproved when his mother had married his father. His mother was the previous emperor's favourite daughter. But the proud princess finally chose her own prince charming, and she eloped with Xu Sanshi's father. When she came back, she came back with Xu Sanshi.

Therefore, the Dou Ling Empire's royal family ostracized Xu Sanshi's family. This matter was considered his deepest secret; not even Jiang Nannan knew about it.

Xu Sanshi's heart filled with many emotions as he watched Dou Ling City mired in dust and smoke. This was his mother's old home, no matter what! Some blood of the Dou Ling Empire's royal family still ran through his blood after all.

"Open the gates." Xu Sanshi gazed at the battlement. The gates were closed at this moment, and soldiers patrolled the battlement in solemnity and dejection.

"Who goes there?" The bows and soul tools on the battlement immediately aimed downward. Everyone within the city was still shaky, fearful, and as tense as could be. Under such circumstances, any suspicious figure who appeared could be attacked.

"We hail from Shrek Academy. We are here to assist you." Xu Sanshi spoke as he lowered his voice.

"Shrek Academy? How can you prove that?" The general on the city walls could barely keep his cool.

Xu Sanshi raised his hand and flashed his identity token as a student from Shrek Academy's inner courtyard.

Telescopic soul tools were necessary for every empire, and those on the city walls quickly saw his identity token before they made him toss it onto the city wall.

Xu Sanshi was worried and impatient, but there was nothing he could do at a time like this, and tossed out his token forcefully.

The token reached the top of the city walls, where it was quickly verified before the city gates were finally opened.

A general that was a little older than thirty came out. Even though Xu Sanshi and the others seemed young, he didn't dare to disrespect them at all, as anybody who came from Shrek Academy couldn't be judged by their age. The inner courtyard students who were barely more than twenty already possessed extremely formidable prowess.

"What's the situation like inside the city?" Xu Sanshi asked the general.

"I'm not too sure. The enemies' attack came without warning. They appeared suddenly, and directly attacked the royal palace before attacking all our important positions. We have sustained heavy losses! The royal palace..."

The general's face was overcome with grief as he stopped there. Even though he didn't know exactly how the royal palace was doing, he could see the dire situation by gazing in the palace's direction from the battlements. The general had been standing guard on the battlements when the royal palace had been bombarded by that Class 9 stationary soul cannon shell, and he felt like the end of the world had come in that moment. The entire palace became an enormous orange-red sphere of light, and the terrifying onslaught came afterward.

The soul engineers who were fighting back inside the city were massacred by their frightening enemies before they started going after the city defense army. Even though the army wasn't small, they suffered severe losses because they weren't organized and weren't able to retaliate. Several large buildings were completely laid to ruin.

Xu Sanshi's expression was extremely dark, but he was able to keep his cool.

"Even though we can't be sure if the royal family has any survivors, I hope you can cooperate with me right now to restore order within Dou Ling City. Our companions have repelled the enemy, and both soul engineer legions have retreated. Nobody will attack you for now. Therefore, you don't have to guard the city gates anymore. Take your men and follow me into the city. We'll maintain order immediately."

"Ah? I can't do that." The general immediately declined, while his eyes also grew suspicious as he stared at Xu Sanshi. Xu Sanshi wanted him to abandon his city gates, but how could he do that?

Xu Sanshi didn't explain. Instead, he pulled off a necklace from his neck.

The chain itself was silver, and very thin, but the pendant hanging beneath was very peculiar. It was a faint golden token, with six jewels embedded on its surface. Every jewel had a different shape and size, but the jewels together formed the words "Dou Ling", and were also emanating faint soul power undulations.

The general was astonished when he saw this pendant. He turned his eyes back to Xu Sanshi before he went down on one knee.

“Greetings, prince.”

Prince??Jiang Nannan, Nan Qiuqiu, Ye Guyi and Ji Juechen were all surprised when they heard that word. Since when had Xu Sanshi become the Dou Ling Empire’s prince?

Of course, they didn’t know that the previous emperor had given this pendant to his mother when she was his favourite daughter.

This necklace was a symbol of the royal family, and also a symbol of status within the royal family. This necklace could only be given when princes obtained their titles, and there were only a few of these pendants inside the Dou Ling Empire.

Back then, this pendant had been given to Xu Sanshi’s mother because she was doted upon. This meant that Xu Sanshi’s grandfather had bestowed upon his mother a status that wasn’t inferior to a prince.

Afterwards, when Xu Sanshi’s mother had eloped with his father, the pendant became a souvenir. The furious emperor even wanted to take it back, but Xu Sanshi’s mother had hidden it very well. She didn’t want to hand it over, no matter what, and claimed that she wanted to keep it as a souvenir. In the end, it became part of Xu Sanhshi’s property after he grew up.

Not even Xu Sanshi himself had imagined that he would use this pendant one day. How he had dreaded this day! But at a time like this, the blood of the Dou Ling Empire’s royal family flowed in his body. He had to take responsibility!

Xu Sanshi retrieved the necklace and put it back over his neck. He lowered his voice and said, “At ease. Our affairs are urgent. Follow me into the city immediately, and withdraw the city defense army so that we can maintain internal order. We cannot allow Dou Ling City to descend into chaos again, no matter what. We can’t allow any more people to die.”

“Yes.” The general swiftly got to his feet, and his originally vacant and sorrowful eyes brimmed with confidence. Even though he didn’t know who this prince was, and he had never even seen him before, at least someone from the Dou Ling Empire’s royal family was still around. This meant that there was yet hope! As long as Dou Ling City didn’t fall into irreversible chaos, there was still a chance to turn things around.

The general immediately gave out orders, and withdrew a thousand five hundred soldiers from the two thousand responsible for guarding the city walls. He led them personally as they followed Xu Sanshi and the others into the city. Dou Ling City really needed to be stabilized at a time like this.

Xu Sanshi revealed his identity and entered Dou Ling City to restore order on this side.

On the other side, Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong had caught up with those two soul engineer legions.

They could see their strict and neat formations in the distance. Huo Yuhao heaved a faint sigh inside as he turned towards Tang Wutong and said, “The Sun Moon Empire is far better at training, nurturing, and commanding their soul engineers than we are. Look at their formation, and their linked soul tools. They

are much more advanced than we are. They live up to their names as beast-ranked soul engineer legions after all.”

Tang Wutong said, “Then what do we do? I think it’s unlikely that we can keep them here in their current state. Linked soul tools are truly too irritating.”

If the soul engineer legions didn’t have linked soul tools, Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong could ambush and obliterate all of these soul engineers by relying on his mysterious Imitation and Spiritual Interference Domain.

But with the legions’ linked defensive barriers, that chance had been reduced to almost zero. The Sun Moon Empire’s legions weren’t afraid of being ambushed as long as they could maintain their linked defensive barrier, and with their strength and preparations against an ambush, that didn’t seem like a very difficult task. They just had to maintain their defenses at a certain level.

Huo Yuhao contemplated for a moment as his eyes closed into slits. He lowered his voice and said, “Do they really think they can escape my pursuit like that? I wish to see if they can maintain their defenses longer, or if our pursuit is more vicious.”

Huo Yuhao’s storage ring glowed as he spoke, and a single soul cannon appeared in his hands.

This soul cannon wasn’t large, and its opening was only about thirty centimeters in diameter. It was completely black, and radiated gentle soul power undulations.

Huo Yuhao infused his soul power into the cannon, and the cannon immediately hummed softly. He placed it on his shoulder, and didn’t even have to aim as he pressed the button to fire.

Chapter 569.2: Xu Sanshi’s Experiences

A blinding red light erupted from the cannon and blasted toward the two soul engineer legions in the distance.

This was a normal bursting cannon, and its effects were very simple. It could produce an intense explosive force and high temperatures to cause destructiveness.

Huo Yuhao had crafted this bursting cannon by himself. It was a Class 7 soul tool, but its offensive power was only about that of a Class 5 soul tool. *n--OVeℓBIn*

There was a big difference between a Class 7 soul tool and a Class 5 soul tool. Since its offensive capability was only that of a Class 5 soul tool, then why was the soul tool itself Class 7? The reason was simple: because Huo Yuhao had tried to maximize other aspects. In this case, it was the cannon’s range.

Huo Yuhao’s bursting cannon could achieve a range of ten kilometers, which was ten thousand meters. That could already rival certain stationary soul cannon shells. Even Xuan Ziwen had praised him when he crafted this Class 7 soul tool.

Xuan Ziwen was very strict and demanding, and he typically didn’t praise his students unless they had made some extraordinary achievements. Huo Yuhao was undoubtedly the person who had received the most compliments from Xuan Ziwen, but even then, those instances were few and far between.

A soul cannon that wasn't a stationary soul tool that could fire at such an extraordinary range was something very rarely seen in the history of soul engineers. Even Xuan Ziwen himself probably couldn't do it better than Huo Yuhao if he had done it himself.

There was a reason why Huo Yuhao had crafted this soul cannon, and his goal was simple. He wanted to be able to bait his enemies when necessary.

Stationary soul cannon shells were too expensive, and they were also single-use items. Even though Huo Yuhao had expended many rare metals when crafting this soul cannon, and those rare metals were also considered the extremely precious kinds, he could use this soul cannon again and again!

Huo Yuhao had fired his cannon, and the cannon shell accelerated through the air. The cannon shell was streamlined, and it was like a date seed as it went straight for the Sun Moon Empire's two soul engineer legions in the distance.

This shell's velocity as it left the barrel wasn't considered quick, but what was frightening was its acceleration afterward. The shell immediately sped up after flying for a hundred meters, and the shell itself split as part of the original shell propelled it forward, so that the other half could continue blasting forward at an incredible speed.

Everything was accomplished in an energy state! It wasn't hard to see how extraordinary this was.

"Boom!" An explosion accompanied an orange-red spark as the shell detonated on the soul engineer legions' defensive barrier.

When Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong had ambushed the two legions before this in the beginning, those soul engineers who had survived didn't really know what had happened. After Huo Yuhao's sudden attack that almost killed Xia Xuanchen, and in addition to their sharp decline in numbers, they would be fools if they didn't know what was happening under such circumstances.

Therefore, these soul engineers were extremely tense even as they maintained their linked defensive barrier while flying forward.

When the single soul cannon shell exploded on their defensive barrier, almost every soul engineer's first reaction was to raise their linked defense barrier to its highest possible level.

The Evil Tyrant Legion wasn't the only one; even the Imperial Dragon Legion behaved in the same fashion. Two soul engineer legions' linked defensive barriers instantly took shape, and they even began charging their linked offensive soul tools so that they could be prepared to attack at any moment. Their reactions were stunningly quick, all extremely correct and precise.

Xu Tianyuan and Xia Xuanchen, as those legions' commanders, couldn't find any problems with their responses at all.

But a problem did appear. This problem was both simple and direct: where was the enemy?

A single soul cannon was fired, but they couldn't find any traces of their enemy at all. Furthermore, that attack was just a simple soul cannon strike that didn't do anything to them at all.

The Sun Moon Empire had almost rendered bursting cannons obsolete, because that soul tool didn't have any special characteristics at all. Only certain cities would use bursting cannons for defense, and

broadly speaking, beast-ranked soul engineer legions rarely used them. They preferred more destructive weapons such as piercing cannons, which were more effective against protective soul barriers, or decomposition cannons and whatnot.

They paused in midair for almost five minutes, and their linked soul tools were maintained at their highest possible levels from the beginning to the end. But their enemy never appeared.

Huo Yuhao held Tang Wutong's hand, and held his bursting cannon with the other. A cold grin appeared on his face as Tang Wutong glanced at him confusedly. "What are you doing?"

Huo Yuhao answered, "I'm just telling them that I'm here, so that they'll be more careful and more vigilant."

Tang Wutong was extremely intelligent, and she immediately understood what Huo Yuhao was trying to say after a moment's contemplation. "You're making them maintain their peak condition at all times! You're so evil."

Huo Yuhao said, "I'm evil? They're not nice people, either. Haih, I wonder how Dou Ling City's doing. I do hope that third senior brother and the others can help stabilize the situation there. At least, I hope they can maintain internal order."

Tang Wutong lamented, "Their scheme is so cruel and cunning. If the Dou Ling Empire's elites at the front lines find out about their royal palace, they might just charge out from Shrek City for a showdown with the Sun Moon Empire. If they do that, they will have fallen into Ju Zi's trap. Ju Zi is so good at this."

Huo Yuhao nodded silently. He was also more worried about what Tang Wutong was worried about. Ju Zi's plan just made you helpless in trying to foil it.

"No matter what, we have to obliterate these two soul engineer legions before anything else. We can't fight the Sun Moon Empire on an open battlefield anymore, so the only thing we can do is weaken their forces continuously. They can produce many soul tools, but training elite and outstanding soul engineers takes time. As long as we can weaken their soul engineer forces continuously, the day will come when the Sun Moon Empire is no longer so formidable."

The two legions realized that they had been tricked as Huo Yuhao spoke, and they continued on their way. It wasn't that they didn't want to search for them, but Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong were too powerful. They didn't dare to disperse at all! They could only ensure their safety by maintaining their linked defensive barriers, but that meant that they had to continuously expend soul power.

They had already fought back at Ling Dou City. No matter how many elites the Dou Ling Empire had mobilized, Dou Ling City was the empire's capital city after all, and it still had to be defended to quite an extent. The two beast-ranked legions had already expended quite some strength dealing with the city defense army.

They had suffered Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong's ambush afterwards, and retreated immediately. They hadn't had any proper rest from the beginning until now. At the very least, they had to continue flying.

A soul engineer's soul power was very limited. Even in the world of soul masters, not many could regenerate their soul power in battle like Huo Yuhao could, to the point that flying wasn't a problem for him at all.

Even Titled Douluo would still have to expend some energy when maintaining high flight speeds, not to mention the fact that most soul engineers in the two legions only had around four soul rings.

They relied on their flying-type soul tools, Milk Bottles, and other equipment to continue flying for prolonged periods. But this period was ultimately limited, no matter how long it might be, not to mention the fact that they had to maintain their linked defensive barriers as well.

Therefore, the two legion commanders' expressions darkened when they realized that their enemy hadn't appeared. They understood what their enemy was doing.

There was a very simple yet effective tactic on the battlefield, and that was harassment.

Harassment meant you couldn't leave as quickly as you could. Harassment meant you had to maintain vigilance, and that you didn't have a chance to rest at all.

That wasn't a problem for top-tier soul engineers, but their subordinates couldn't do that. Their soul power would be completely expended given enough time, and when the time came when they couldn't maintain their linked defensive formation, then perhaps the end of their world would arrive.

"What should we do, brother Xia?" Xu Tianyuan whispered at Xia Xuanchen. He didn't want his men to hear him, because not everyone understood the tough situation they were in.

Xia Xuanchen's expression was black. "I'm afraid we're in a lot of trouble, brother Xu. Our enemies are both powerful and meticulous. Since they've chosen to harass us like this, then they will definitely keep doing it. The only thing we can do is conserve soul power as much as possible, and put as much distance as possible between us and Dou Ling City. Afterwards, we have to find a place to rest."

Xu Tianyuan asked, "Are you saying that we have to find a relatively remote area, and one legion will stand guard while the other legion rests, so that we can allow our men to recover their soul power?"

Xia Xuanchen nodded and said, "That's our only option. These two are extremely formidable, and they are able to jump through space. We may not be able to stop them even if we set a trap, and we will have to pay a hefty price for that attempt. Right now, we can only be conservative, and keep this up as long as we can. As long as we can allow our brothers to recover continuously so that they can maintain their fighting strength, I believe the two of them will retreat, given enough time."

Xu Tianyuan punched his palm as he spoke with a livid expression. "We're too stifled. If I ever catch those two fellows, I'll rip their bodies into a million pieces."

Xia Xuanchen forced a laugh and said, "Remain calm, brother Xu. Our brothers are watching. This is the only thing we can do. At least, those two don't dare to attack us in the open. It's too bad we're so close to Dou Ling City."

"Let's just do it your way. We'll ask everyone to accelerate and put some distance between us and Dou Ling City before touching down to rest." Xu Tianyuan was a decisive man, and the two men only discussed it for a few moments before they immediately ordered their soul engineers to accelerate and fly into the distance.

Chapter 569.3: Xu Sanshi's Experiences

Another bursting cannon shell flew at them right at this moment, and exploded against their protective barrier.

The two soul engineer legions' tensed-up and sensitive state couldn't be resolved in a few moments. They were just accelerating when they subconsciously unleashed their linked defenses to boost its strength, and their movement subsequently paused.

"Over there! The shell came from over there. Why isn't the commander ordering us to attack?" Even though the soul engineers couldn't see Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong, they could still tell where the cannon shell came from.

They were members of beast-ranked soul engineer legions, and they were typically very arrogant and full of themselves. These soul engineers were starting to grow furious after Huo Yuhao provoked them a second time.

"Keep your cool, everyone. The Imperial Dragon Legion will not use their linked defensive barrier. The Evil Tyrant Legion will continue maintaining their barrier. Ignore all attacks and continue flying forward."

Xia Xuanchen calmly gave the order. He was very clear that his enemy, who was in the shadows, hoped to see them fall into disarray. His enemy hoped to see them attack.

The soul engineers' soul power would be consumed even more quickly if they used their linked offensive soul tools. His enemy would have accomplished his goal if that happened, while their linked attacks would definitely be useless. Xia Xuanchen had directly clashed with those two before, and he was very clear about how powerful they were. They were Transcendent Douluo at least, and they couldn't be normal Transcendent Douluo. If he didn't have that mysterious crystal stone, he would have been severely injured even if he wasn't killed right away. Furthermore, they also possessed sinister concealment abilities and mastery over spatial power, which forced him to be careful and meticulous. They were in a lot of trouble if one of them was even an Ultimate Douluo, and that person could possibly obliterate them all if he unleashed his full strength!

Therefore, maintaining their defenses was a must, but conserving their soul power was also a must. Since their opponent didn't dare to mount a frontal assault, that meant that his enemies weren't confident of breaking through by forcing an attack. Right now, they were competing to see who was more patient.

Yes, they were competing in patience. Huo Yuhao was also very patient. Back when he was training as part of the Ultimate Soldier Plan, competing with patience was one of his training's very important aspects.

He was also waiting to see who was more patient. He was as patient as anyone could possibly be.

Huo Yuhao fired once, and then changed angles before he fired again.

Ten kilometers was definitely safe. Huo Yuhao's enemy was a huge target, and his enemy couldn't lock onto his position. This made them perfect target practice, and his enemy would have range problems if they wanted to hit him. His enemy couldn't possibly touch him without using stationary soul cannon shells, and such shells were very evident when they were fired. Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong would have sufficient time to dodge even if his enemies used a Class 9 stationary soul cannon shell. Therefore,

their safety wasn't a problem. What Huo Yuhao had to do under such circumstances was continue harassing his enemy so that he could irritate those two soul engineer legions as much as possible.

Huo Yuhao executed his plan as he fired a cannon shell every one or two minutes.

The two soul engineer legions couldn't really adapt in the beginning. Soul engineers continued strengthening their linked defenses as Huo Yuhao continued to attack them, but everyone knew the story of the boy who cried wolf. These soul engineers started to adapt after a while. Their enemy was just firing with a bursting cannon, and every single one of these soul engineers possessed soul tools with stronger attacking capabilities than that bursting cannon.

Aren't you just harassing us? All we have to do is ignore you. We can rest after flying for a little while longer.

Huo Yuhao continued to harass them even after an hour. However, the Imperial Dragon Legion and Evileye Tyrant Legion's soul engineers no longer strengthened their linked defensive barrier. The Imperial Dragon Legion's soul engineers didn't even release their own linked defensive barrier anymore, and both parties seemed to be at an impasse. Huo Yuhao's harassment also seemed to lose its effectiveness.

Huo Yuhao fired another bursting cannon shell before he suddenly withdrew the cannon with a flash of silver light. Another new soul cannon suddenly appeared on his shoulder in the next moment. This soul cannon was different from the bursting cannon. First, it was longer.

This soul cannon was more than three meters long, and even Huo Yuhao's long frame seemed uncoordinated when he was carrying it on his shoulder. Second, this cannon's style was different. This soul cannon looked like a long spear. The spear's tip was at the front, while the back of it looked something like an umbrella, like the tip of a gun, and then there was the spear's shaft. Only the section on Huo Yuhao's shoulder seemed relatively thicker.

When Huo Yuhao infused his soul power into it, the entire soul cannon radiated peculiar dark green colors.

Circle after circle of dark green hues coursed forward before all the light concentrated at the cannon's tip. The green light was deep and profound, and one could see upon closer inspection that there was actually a tiny black hole that had appeared at this soul tool's tip.

This black hole wasn't the kind that swallowed everything. Instead, it was a phenomenon that would happen when the air shattered.

Normally, offensive strength and speed could tear the air apart when they reached a certain level, and this phenomenon would appear. But the space that had been torn apart would swiftly close back together, while the broken space that was happening right now was continuous. The gash didn't seem like it was about to close at all.

Tang Wutong was purely a soul master, and she didn't understand anything about soul engineers at all. But even so, she could feel how terrifying this soul tool was.

Huo Yuhao didn't fire casually this time. Instead, he activated Spiritual Detection as he lifted that soul cannon to his shoulder and aimed.

He was sharing his Spiritual Detection with Tang Wutong, and she could naturally see who he was aiming at: one of the Imperial Dragon Legion's soul engineers, who was in the inner circle and resting.

"Tch—" An ear-piercing blast could be heard as a dark green ray burst forth. Huo Yuhao released Tang Wutong's hand in the moment right before he fired, and his body dashed forward like a lightning bolt. Huo Yuhao crossed several thousand meters in a few seconds as he flew forward at full speed, and he neared his enemy's defensive soul barrier.

Huo Yuhao was less than three kilometers away from the protective barrier when the dark green ray was fired. Everything had been calculated through Spiritual Detection.

The dark green light flashed once before it disappeared, and it was like an extended arrow as it struck the linked defensive barrier.

The barrier quivered as a trace of green suddenly appeared on its surface. The barrier didn't seem any different on the whole, but a small hole appeared at the spot where the barrier had been struck.

The Imperial Dragon Legion and Evil Tyrant Legion's soul engineers witnessed a harrowing sight in the next moment. Even if they could live through this ordeal, they would never forget what they saw. n--
OverIn

The dark green ray fell accurately on a soul engineer from the Imperial Dragon Soul Engineering Legion.

This soul engineer's automatic protective barrier was immediately activated, but was obliterated in the next moment. And then his entire body was annihilated.

The soul engineer's body quivered faintly as the dark green ray struck him, and he couldn't even cry out before his body was vaporized into countless green specks that dissipated into the air.

Those green dots drifted through the air and seemed to contain a strange force. They couldn't fly out because of the legions' defensive barrier.

Startled cries could be heard as almost every soul engineer activated their protective soul barriers at the same time.

That green beam was just too frightening. Even though they were soul engineers, they had never seen something so sinister before. How could anyone know that that green light was threatening their lives?

Huo Yuhao turned and left after his successful strike and escaped into the distance.

Xia Xuanchen and Xu Tianyuan looked on with wide eyes and slack jaws, and their hearts were beating out of their chests. Normal soul engineers couldn't recognize what that was, but how could they not know?

That soul tool could pierce through their linked defensive barrier and instantly annihilate one of the Imperial Dragon Legion's soul engineers. Wasn't that a formidable Class 9 single-target offensive soul tool, a super decomposition cannon?

Back then, Huo Yuhao had convinced Xuan Ziwen with a Class 8 decomposition cannon. The one he was using wasn't a Class 9 cannon. It was a Class 9 decomposition cannon.

Decomposition cannons were terribly frightening no matter what Class they were. Anybody who was struck had almost no chance to survive.

A decomposition cannon's most salient characteristic was its ability to decompose all energy. Any protective barrier was like paper to such a cannon, and if the target wished to stop a decomposition cannon's attack, the target's defensive capabilities had to be three times stronger than the decomposition cannon's attacking force.

Not even a Class 9 soul engineer unleashing his protective soul barrier with his full strength could block a Class 9 decomposition cannon's attack. A linked defensive barrier had to be raised to an extremely high level to stand a chance against a Class 9 decomposition cannon.

These two soul engineers could block this attack if they were at their peak condition. But they were too far from their peak condition right now.

They had lost more than two hundred people, while only half their number was maintaining their linked defensive barrier. They didn't have a chance at stopping that decomposition cannon!

A single life was taken just like that. But that wasn't the most frightening fact, because the most frightening fact was that the two legions' soul engineers began to feel intense fear riling their hearts.

"Don't panic, everyone. Continue maintaining the linked defensive barrier. That was a Class 9 decomposition cannon, and it cannot be fired continuously. Even Class 9 soul engineers can only fire it once a day," Xia Xuanchen didn't hesitate as he hollered at his soul engineers.

Even though decomposition cannons couldn't be used continuously, Xia Xuanchen was spouting nonsense when he claimed that the cannon could only be fired once per day. But he had no choice but to make that claim, because his legion would fall apart otherwise.

Xu Tianyuan glanced at Xia Xuanchen. He didn't stop him, but his expression was turning darker and darker.

Their enemies weren't just Transcendent Douluo. There was a Class 9 soul engineer, and that was something they hadn't expected even in their wildest dreams.

The bursting cannon that was being fired at long range before this could be considered a normal soul tool that any soul master could use. But they had never heard of the Douluo Continent's empires possessing a Class 9 decomposition cannon!

Chapter 570.1: Change of Plans

The price of a Class 9 decomposition cannon was exorbitant. Even they were not equipped with these cannons.

On top of that, this enemy they were facing could not be detected by any of the surveillance soul tools they had brought with them.

When the Class 9 decomposition cannon was fired, the two Class 9 soul engineers had immediately activated the strongest surveillance abilities they possessed. After all, a Class 9 decomposition cannon could only be fired within three thousand meters. However, they were still unable to pinpoint where

that person was. This meant that they could only react passively to that person's attacks. How were they supposed to not develop a fear of Huo Yuhao?

Xu Tianyuan started to become panicky. He knew it would take them close to eight hours before they reached the territory of the Sun Moon Empire—which was also the former land of the Heavenly Soul Empire. At the same time, they had to do their best to avoid any encounters with troops from the Dou Ling Empire.

If this unknown enemy were to follow them throughout the entire eight hours, it would be a massive disaster for both soul engineer legions. In fact, the current situation of the two soul engineer legions simply would not allow them to maintain their defenses and fly at the same time for eight hours. They had to descend to rest and reorganize their forces.

What should we do?

Xu Tianran gritted his teeth as he communicated with Xia Xuanchen. "We need to let everyone rest. Right now, our teams' morale isn't doing very well. If he launches another decomposition cannon and successfully kills another person, we'll be in trouble."

Xi Xuanchen looked at him and asked, "Brother Xu, what do you think we should do then?"

Xu Tianran replied, "We need to descend right away. My Imperial Dragon Soul Engineer Legion will take turns with your legion to maintain our defenses. At the same time, we need to make sure our groups huddle together. This will make the linked defensive barrier thicker, and will help to reduce the effectiveness of the decomposition cannon. Even though we might not be able to stick too close to one another in the air due to the possibility of collisions, we can do so on the ground. Let's continue discussing this after we let our people recover their energy. We need to think of a way to handle this."

"I guess we have no choice but to follow what you say." Xia Xuanchen was also out of ideas.

Both of them immediately gave the order to the remaining members of the Evileye Tyrant Soul Engineer Legion and Imperial Dragon Soul Engineer Legion to descend.

They chose to rest up and reorganize their forces within a forest. They used their soul tools to clear some of the trees to create an empty plot of land to set up camp. The Imperial Dragon Soul Engineer Legion would take the outer ring, while the Evileye Tyrant Soul Engineer Legion would take the inner one. Both legions would take turns to maintain their defenses.

At the same time, because of their relatively more compact formation, the strength of their linked defensive barrier was also enhanced.

Xia Xuanchen, Xu Tianyuan and some of the other vice-commanders gathered. They could see the looks of dread on each other's faces.

They were all members of the Hand that Protects The Nation. Even within the Sun Moon Empire, they were all extremely highly regarded. Even Xu Tianran would speak to them courteously when he bumped into them. This was especially true for Xu Tianyuan, considering how he was part of the royal family.

However, they were in serious trouble this time around. Their enemy who was hiding in the dark was simply too difficult to handle. The biggest problem was finding their enemy. What was the use of their

firepower if they couldn't even locate a target? They could only passively wait for the enemy to attack them.

"No, we can't wait like this. If we continue to wait for him to attack, we will eventually be destroyed by him. In fact, once we lose a substantial number of soul engineers, the others might just start a mutiny." Xia Xuanchen hammered his fist into the ground, sending a cloud of dust into the air.

Xu Tianyuan nodded and said, "We must find a way to lure these two people out before we kill them. We still have a long way to go before we reach our destination. Even if we were to enter what was formerly the Heavenly Soul Empire's territory, we would still have to fly towards Shrek City and link up with the rest of the army. It would simply take too much time. If this continues, most of us will probably perish along the way."

The vice-commanders nodded as they waited for orders from their superiors.

"Brother Xia, you're the quick-witted one among us. Propose something we can work on. Even if it's a little risky, it's still better than not having anything to work with." Xu Tianyuan said.

Xia Xuanchen nodded and said, "I think our central strategy revolves around our need to lure him out before launching an all-out attack against him. From what I have observed, both of them are extremely powerful. They're probably—at the very least—Transcendent Douluo. One of them could either be a Class 9 soul engineer, or a soul master who possesses a Class 9 decomposition cannon. To locate them, we must first destroy their means of turning themselves invisible."

"Previously, we have already tried to use a variety of surveillance soul tools, but to no avail. The range of the spiritual surveillance soul tools is too small. They can't be used to locate them. Thus, we have no choice but to go back to basics. First, we will have to bait them into attacking us. Following which, we will employ the carpet bombing method to identify their exact position. Based on our previous observations, they need a bit of time before they can disappear. As long as we are prepared to concentrate our attacking power on them, there's no way they can escape without being heavily injured. Once they are heavily injured, they'll probably stop chasing after us. And we would then have achieved our objective."

Xu Tianyuan's eyes lit up as he nodded in agreement. "Sounds good! Let's follow what you have just proposed. We'll first allow everyone to rest up. Afterward, we will need our guys to get ready to do some carpet bombing, while I will bring our four vice-commanders to launch a mini linked offensive attack. I believe our firepower should be sufficient if we focus all of it on one of them. Brother Xia, I need you to command the rest of our people, including my Imperial Dragon Soul Engineer Legion. As long as they dare to come near us, I am certain they will not be able to retreat without being injured."

As he looked at the vicious look on Xia Xuanchen's face, Xu Tianyuan nodded earnestly. "Since Brother Xu is agreeable, let's do this then. We will work together and get rid of this troublesome duo. This will also allow us to return earlier to report on our work. Now that Dou Ling City has been destroyed, the Dou Ling Empire must be a mess. Who knows? The Commander might have a change of plans, and require us to provide support."

"Yes." Xu Tianyuan might have agreed verbally, but his eyes seemed to show the doubt he had in his mind. Similar to his dislike for Xu Tianran, he was also not a big fan of Ju Zi. However, he had to admit

that the War God Empress was incredibly capable. Many of the people in the royal family, as well as the Elders of the Sun Moon Empire, could neither find a reason to reject her appointment as the Marshal nor afford to disobey her orders. As of now, her popularity in the Sun Moon Empire as the War God Empress was sky-high. In fact, her reputation might have even exceeded Xu Tianran's to a certain extent. This was especially true after the Heavenly Soul Empire fell victim to her tactics.

As Xia Xuanchen left to prepare the rest of the legions for the trap, Xu Tianyuan and the four vice-commanders sat down and began their rest. The Imperial Dragon Soul Engineer Legion did not dare to treat their work lightly as they concentrated on maintaining the linked defensive barrier to protect everyone.

Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong were observing everything from above as they floated in the sky.

"That single blow of yours must have frightened them. Look how they have decided to land and protect themselves in that tight formation of theirs. Will their linked defensive barrier become stronger because of that formation?" Tang Wutong asked Huo Yuhao.

Huo Yuhao nodded and said, "Yes. From the looks of their current formation, the decomposition cannon should still be able to penetrate their barrier. However, it probably won't have enough energy left to kill a person. It seems like these two soul engineer legions will be a lot more difficult to kill than I thought. However, I can already guess what they're about to do next."

"Oh really?" Tang Wutong asked curiously.

Huo Yuhao explained, "Even though the decomposition cannon might not be able to deal with them, it should be enough to deter them from returning to the sky. When they are flying, soul engineers must keep a safe distance from one another, because their flying soul tools eject soul power. This distance might be negligible if there are only one or two people flying together. But if they have a few hundred people flying together, they have to spread their linked defensive barrier outwards. This causes the barrier to thin out, resulting in it losing the ability to block my decomposition cannon. And once the number of dead people increases, the legions will crumble from within. After all, none of them would know who the next target would be. Hence, if I were their commander, and I wanted to ensure that all of them retreat safely instead of being blown to bits by me, my next step would involve luring us out before taking us down."

Tang Wutong smiled and replied, "Then that would be simple. As long as we don't react to their bait and never appear in front of them, we will be safe. I don't see how else they can handle us. As long as we wait till they set off again before we make our next move, there's no way they can trouble us."

However, Huo Yuhao shook his head as his eyes flashed with a steely look. "Since they want to bait us out with an intentional mistake, let's take the bait. In fact, we will grab it with all of our strength, and crush whatever hopes they still have. Let's go and make our preparations."

As he spoke, he grabbed Tang Wutong's hand before turning around and flying into the distance.

In the meantime, the Evileye Tyrant Soul Engineer Legion was taking a break by meditating, while the Imperial Dragon Soul Engineer Legion maintained their defensive infrastructure. They were already a considerable distance from Dou Ling City. It was unlikely that there would be any soldiers chasing after them, considering how chaotic Dou Ling City should be right now.

Very soon, two hours had passed, and the soul engineers from the Evileye Tyrant Soul Engineer Legion had basically recovered their soul power. However, they had no time to refill their milk bottles.

Now it was time to rotate, as it became the Imperial Dragon Soul Engineer Legion's turn to rest, while the Evileye Tyrant Soul Engineer Legion maintained the linked defensive barrier.

Xia Xuanchen was able to command both legions in a seamless manner, while Xu Tianyuan and the four vice-commanders continued their meditation, as though everything that was happening around them did not concern them.

Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong had flown up again to see what the current situation was like. After seeing how disciplined they were, Huo Yuhao could not help but frown. His enemies were harder to deal with than he had thought. They were surprisingly composed, even when they were threatened by two powerful soul masters.

"The Evileye Tyrant Soul Engineer Legion's soul engineers have basically recovered their soul power. Now it's the Imperial Dragon Soul Engineer Legion's turn. Regardless of whether they plan to bait us or leave, they must first get back into their best state. It's apparent that they want to see who is more patient!" Huo Yuhao explained to Tang Wutong.

Tang Wutong grabbed his arm and smiled. "Why should we hurry when they're not even hurrying? Let's get back down."

A thought suddenly appeared in Huo Yuhao's mind. "Wutong, since they have given us ample time, I have an idea. Destroying these two soul engineer legions might not achieve the best effect."

"Huh?" Tang Wutong's eyes widened.

Chapter 570.2: Change of Plans

Huo Yuhao whispered next to Tang Wutong's ear as he explained his idea to her. Immediately, Tang Wutong revealed a strange expression on her face. "That's so bad of you! Hmph! Do you dare to say that you aren't doing this for Ju Zi?"

Huo Yuhao immediately tried to clarify, "Of course not. If I remember correctly, the Imperial Dragon Soul Engineer Legion is the most powerful legion that the Sun Moon Empire's royal family controls directly. The royal family must value this soul engineer legion with great importance. Ju Zi is not the only one who knows how to set up an overt scheme, is she? There is no longer any chance of us winning the war in a direct manner. After the palace in Dou Ling City was destroyed, we don't even know if any members of their royal family are still alive. Hence, we can only turn the tables around bit by bit. I want you to take ten thousand steps back and consider this. If the Sun Moon Empire were to conquer the entire continent in the future, wouldn't it be better for it to be under Ju Zi's control rather than Xu Tianran or the Holy Ghost Church?"

Tang Wutong burst into laughter and said, "Look at how nervous you've become. I was only testing you. Do you really think I don't trust you?"

Huo Yuhao also smiled and said, "Of course I know you will believe me. But I still think there's a need to explain. It is a form of respect for you. Come, let's descend."

As he spoke, Huo Yuhao pulled Tang Wutong's hand and disappeared into the woods. Of course, the place they descended to was quite far from where the two soul engineer legions were.

In the meantime, the Imperial Dragon Soul Engineer Legion were still patiently recovering their soul power. It had been a long time since they were attacked by Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong. Even though the Evil Tyrant Soul Engineer Legion would not become complacent because of this, they were still grateful for the peace that they had been enjoying for the past few hours.

It now seemed like Xu Tianyuan was right to say that the enemy only had one chance to strike them with the Class 9 decomposition cannon.

Xia Xuanchen had been monitoring their surroundings for any movement. In fact, he did not even dare to sit down and cultivate. The next thing he was about to do was set up the trap. This trap had to trick the enemy into believing that both of them had a chance of defeating the legions.

He was ultimately different from the soul engineers under him. He could never relax when he knew that his enemies were still out there lurking around. He believed that they would not give up so easily after following them into the forest. It was common for strong soul masters to have patience that could outlast most people. How could they have attained their powers without the ability to withstand loneliness and be patient?

A significant amount of time went by very quickly. Very soon, the Imperial Dragon Soul Engineer Legion would all have fully recovered the soul power they had expended. Following which, it would be time for them to complete their trap. This also happened to be the most dangerous moment. It was understood by everyone that some of them had to be sacrificed in order to bait their enemies. However, Xia Xuanchen could not help but feel a sense of fear about his mysterious, powerful enemies, who seemed to be wielding Class 9 decomposition cannons.

"Commander, one of our surveillance soul tools has indicated that someone is heading in our direction." A soul engineer from the Evil Tyrant Soul Engineer Legion suddenly reported. His words startled Xia Xuanchen.

"Someone's coming? How many of them?" Xia Xuanchen immediately became very alert as he questioned his subordinate rapidly. Could they have lost their patience?

"There are a lot of them. They seem to be coming towards us by land. On top of that, they are currently surrounding us." The soul engineer who was providing the update was visibly nervous, because the size of the enemy force was simply enormous. The only possible people who they could encounter in the Dou Ling Empire must be their enemies. And these enemies seemed to have managed to pinpoint their location, and were now surrounding them.

A solemn look formed on Xia Xuanchen's face. Their reinforcements have arrived? If that's the case, the odds against us have become a lot worse. However, he was not really afraid of their reinforcements. After all, the Dou Ling Empire was the weakest empire on the Douluo Continent. In fact, they did not even have a proper soul engineer legion. No matter how many people—including soul masters—they had sent to surround them, Xia Xuanchen would not be afraid of them. After all, they were going up against two beast lord-ranked soul engineer legions that were part of the Hand that Protects the Nation.

Even though these legions had lost more than a third of their people, the bulk of their force—especially the most powerful soul engineers—were still present.

“Get everyone other than the five commanders to get ready for battle.” Xia Xuanchen ordered.

He was no longer concerned about the trap for now. He knew he had to focus on fending off the enemies that were surrounding them before he could think about the trap. In fact, he believed their attack could help act as a trap or bait for his two other enemies. He might just be able to kill two birds with one stone.

While he was issuing orders, Xia Xuanchen quickly moved over to the surveillance soul tools. It was apparent that running their aerial surveillance soul tools in a foreign land would not be as effective as running them in their own territory. Hence, they had only brought land surveillance soul tools with them. Even though they had a smaller range, they were a lot more accurate.

Xia Xuanchen could see a lot of red dots scattered on the screen of the surveillance soul tool. If every red dot represented a single enemy, he was actually unable to determine how many people they were up against.

These enemies were apparently very calm and composed as they moved towards them slowly. Even though they were not moving very fast, they had already completely surrounded them, and were advancing at a very steady speed.

As of now, the soul engineers still did not know what their enemies looked like. The dense forest prevented them from seeing their enemies. However, it was enough for them to know that their enemies were approaching them.

Every single soul engineer within the legions was ready for battle. This included the soul engineers from the Imperial Dragon Soul Engineer Legion, who had recovered a large portion of their energy, but were ultimately still not fully recharged.

After taking some time to analyze their situation, Xia Xuanchen ordered, “Evileye Tyrant Soul Engineer Legion, fire your Soul Light Rays and clear the trees that are blocking our way.”

Fighting in forests had always been relatively disadvantageous for soul engineers. This was because soul engineers specialized in ranged attacks. It was a lot harder for them to take aim when there were trees surrounding them.

After hearing Xia Xuanchen’s orders, streaks of blue rays started to sweep around them as they cleared every tree within a thousand meters of them. This created a large amount of space outside the linked defensive barrier. There would be no hiding for any enemy who chose to appear before them. They would be subjected to the powerful soul tool attacks from both legions.

After a short and intense wait, the soul engineers could finally see their enemies.

However, they could not help but shudder after seeing what their enemies looked like.

No matter how strong their enemies were, the members of the two beast lord-ranked soul engineer legions had never experienced fear before the battle had even begun. However, these enemies before them were able to strike fear in their hearts. Because they were not humans.

What are those things?

Huge skeletal structures wielding irregular bone knives were trodding towards them. Some of them were just armed with a single bone.

A few of them were green zombies, which were hopping forward. Some of those zombies had humongous stomachs as foul-smelling liquid dripped from their bodies.

On top of that, some of their enemies were extremely strange-looking. They saw headless knights, humongous frankensteins, and all sorts of scary-looking creatures they had never seen before in their entire life. All of these creatures were radiating a powerful aura of death.

No normal human being would feel good after sensing such a powerful, dense aura of death.

These soul engineers were no exception. Xia Xuanchen was also not exempt from this rule. He had never expected the calm and patient enemy he had imagined in his mind to be a spectral army.

This was simply beyond his imagination. He had never expected to be facing an enemy like this.

Xia Xuanchen ran towards Xu Tianyuan without any hesitation as he woke the commander of the Imperial Dragon Soul Engineer Legion up.

When Xu Tianyuan and the other four vice-commanders were woken up from their meditation, their jaws dropped upon seeing the spectral creatures trodding towards them.

Xu Tianyuan immediately flew into a rage as he clenched his fist and exclaimed, "Those bastards! I knew it! I was wondering how our enemies could have gotten their hands on Class 9 decomposition cannons! After all, those cannons are guarded with secrecy, even within our empire. Now everything's starting to make sense. I can still remember how resistant I was back then when His Majesty wanted to form an alliance with the Holy Ghost Church. I remember telling him how we should never associate ourselves with those evil soul masters. I am now certain that those evil soul masters are targeting us after learning about our independent mission. They have taken advantage of a golden opportunity to eradicate us while we are still in the Dou Ling Empire." nO/e)Lb-In

Xu Tianyuan was not the only one who had these thoughts. Even Xia Xuanchen and the other vice-commanders shared the same sentiments.

One of the vice-commanders from the Imperial Dragon Soul Engineer Legion spoke aggressively, "I don't think there are any powerful cultivators from the Dou Ling Empire who can threaten us. If there is someone like that, he or she would have been dispatched to the main battlefield. If they had someone who could conceal themselves and control spatial power to a certain extent, they would have sent him to perform reconnaissance work, and stop us from destroying the Heavenly Soul Empire. It seems like the truth has finally come to light. Those evil soul masters from the despicable Holy Ghost Church! Our army has never been on good terms with them. I can see how they are trying to take this opportunity to weaken the army and the War God Empress' strength. By doing this, they would have triumphed over us. Who would know the nature of our death now that we are far away from any ally? They've probably sent more than two evil soul masters, judging from the number of spectral creatures."

After hearing the vice-commander's words, Xia Xuanchen's face revealed the deep hatred he had developed for the Holy Ghost Church. Now that the evil soul masters had revealed themselves, this

meant that they were confident of killing all of them here. They were certain that this secret would be buried with their bodies. It was truly a matter of life and death for both parties.

Xu Tianyuan spoke coldly, "It won't be so easy for them to kill us. Brother Xia, right now, we can only fight with our lives in order to survive. Those evil soul masters must be hiding somewhere. We need to put all of our trump cards on the table. We need to let them know that our beast lord-ranked soul engineer legions are not to be meddled with."

Xia Xuanchen nodded and said, "Brother Xu, you can rest assured that during important junctures like this, my Evileye Tyrant Soul Engineer Legion will not scrimp on resources. We will definitely do our best to fight for our common survival. Today, I shall lead our brothers to victory along with you, Brother Xu. Once we get back to the camp, we will give those bastards from the Holy Ghost Church hell!"

Chapter 570.3: Change of Plans

"Yes, we'll give them hell when we get back!" A few of the vice-commanders exclaimed furiously in unison.

Soon, they started to take out all sorts of soul tools and started to take aim. Suddenly, an unknown signal was issued from outside of their linked defensive barrier. Following which, the spectral creatures which were slowly trodding towards them suddenly charged towards the barrier like floodwater during the monsoon season.

Soul Light Rays and soul cannons fired repeatedly at the spectral creatures under the command of a few of the more powerful soul engineers. At that instant, countless spectral creatures were blown to pieces. Their bones, organs and all sorts of strange innards were scattered all over the ground.

Huo Yuhao was floating in the sky as he watched the entire battle from a distance with Tang Wutong.

Both of them were slightly startled by the firepower the two beast lord-ranked soul engineer legions were exhibiting.

Even though they had always regarded these two soul engineer legions highly, they still could not help but gasp after witnessing the power they wielded.

By now, it should be apparent that these spectral creatures came from Huo Yuhao's spectral demiplane. The number of spectral creatures his spectral demiplane contained was seemingly limitless. Even Huo Yuhao did not know where they were coming from. He was only aware that there was a maximum number of spectral creatures which could exist within his spectral demiplane at any point in time. After this limit was reached, the total count would not increase. However, if any of the spectral creatures were to die or disappear, the demiplane would regenerate new spectral creatures to make up for the deficit.

Now, Er Bai, Little Bai's original body, had truly become the king among all the spectral creatures within the spectral demiplane. He ruled over almost every single spectral creature within the demiplane. Most of the spectral creatures, with the exception of the powerful ones like the Bone Dragon, abided by his orders. Hence, when Huo Yuhao activated his Spectral Calamity, the spell was a lot more powerful with Er Bai leading the spectral creatures.

However, the beast lord-ranked soul engineer legions' destructive power was simply too overwhelming. The Abomination was one of the most powerful spectral creatures within the entire spectral demiplane. It was nearly invincible on land. Even though it was humongous and possessed incredible defensive power, it was still extremely agile and fast.

However, its powerful body, which it had always been proud of, could not withstand the devastating blows from the beast lord-ranked soul engineer legions. There was no way they could get close to the linked defensive barrier. In addition, because of their huge size, they were easy targets for the soul engineers. Hence, countless Abominations collapsed to the ground after shrieking their last howl.

More and more spectral creatures were turning into carcasses outside the protective soul barrier. However, the wave of spectral creatures that were swarming towards the protective soul barrier appeared to be endless.

Even though Huo Yuhao was not trying to kill these soul engineers, he was not prepared to let them go so easily. If they were allowed to return to the Sun Moon Empire without a challenge, he would not be able to achieve his objective.

Xu Tianyuan and Xia Xuanchen were oblivious towards his movements in the sky. Huo Yuhao had just put away a soul tool that probably symbolized death in their eyes. It had belonged to the Starsky Douluo. It was the Sunmoon Divine Needle!

With Huo Yuhao's current ability, he was definitely able to harness the full potential of the Sunmoon Divine Needle. He had originally planned to use it to destroy the trap they had planned to bait him with. Following which, he would destroy all of the soul engineers with Tang Wutong with any method and skill that they possessed. After all, they had more than just Spiritual Tempest as their martial soul fusion skill!

However, he decided against that. He felt that the Sunmoon Divine Needle was not very suitable for the circumstances before them. Even though it was incredibly powerful, it was also easy to recognize. Once he used the Sunmoon Divine Needle, he would have blown his cover. It would be extremely disadvantageous for Huo Yuhao to allow the enemy to know who he was. Hence, he decided not to use it. After all, he was the only other known user other than Ye Yulin.

Every single soul engineer in the protective soul barrier was in a hyper-excited state as they rapidly fired the soul tools in their hands. As they saw how the spectral creatures collapsed and died before their eyes, they felt as though an unknown primal need within their bodies had been satiated.

Xu Tianyuan and Xia Xuanchen slowly heaved a sigh of relief. Even though these spectral creatures looked extremely fearsome, they were still unable to stand up to the firepower of the beast lord-ranked soul engineer legions.

Since that was the case, they no longer found a need to worry about them. No matter how strong the evil soul masters were, they would eventually tire themselves out from sustaining their continuous summoning of so many spectral creatures. And when that moment eventually arrived, it would be the legions' turn to retaliate and kill them.

After all, every beast lord-ranked soul engineer legion had their own trump card. As the legion commanders, Xu Tianyuan and Xia Xuanchen wielded the best soul tools in the legions. For example, the

Class 9 stationary soul cannon shell and the high energy compression milk bottles were soul tools which were only carried around by the legion commanders.

High energy compression milk bottles were built from a new technology that the Sun Moon Empire had recently developed. Every single milk bottle was worth as much as a Class 9 soul tool. It could contain as much soul power as a Class 7 soul engineer possessed.

On first sight, it seemed as though the cost-benefit analysis of this milk bottle did not make much sense. However, it was important to note that a Class 7 soul engineer was equivalent to a Soul Sage. A Soul Sage was at an entirely different level from a Soul Emperor. The amount of soul power a Soul Sage could store was hence definitely an impressive amount.

To put it simply, if a Class 5 soul engineer were to wield a high energy compression milk bottle, he would be able to fight continuously for several hours with his Class 5 soul tool without worrying about running out of soul power.

As for the power of a Class 9 stationary soul cannon shell, there was no need to explain how destructive and effective it was in wartime.

The Evileye Tyrant Soul Engineer Legion mainly stocked up on high energy compression milk bottles, while the Imperial Dragon Soul Engineer Legion was the legion with the greatest number of Class 9 stationary soul cannon shells among the Hand that Protects the Nation. This was something that even Xu Tianran did not know.

The Imperial Dragon Soul Engineer Legion had always been led by a member of the royal family. Even though these members were extremely loyal to the royal family, that did not mean that they must be loyal to the Emperor at that point in time. Hence, they would usually hide and stock up whatever Class 9 stationary soul cannon shells they were given.

Among all the Class 9 soul engineers, only a selected group of soul engineers knew how to make Class 9 stationary soul cannon shells. The royal family of the Sun Moon Empire not only controlled the wealth of the empire, but also all sorts of rare metals! Hence, by exchanging rare metals for Class 9 stationary soul cannon shells with the Class 9 soul engineers, the Imperial Dragon Soul Engineer Legion was able to stock up on these weapons, and become more powerful.

This was something that only the legion commanders of the Imperial Dragon Soul Engineer Legion knew. Hence, if the Imperial Soul Engineer Legion were to go all-out, even the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineer Legion might not be able to defeat them. The Imperial Dragon Soul Engineer Legion was effectively bribing their way to victory!

This was also why the Imperial Dragon Soul Engineer Legion was extremely highly regarded by members of the royal family. In fact, most of them felt that as long as they could control the Imperial Dragon Soul Engineer Legion, they could, to some extent, control the entire destiny of the Sun Moon Empire.

Xu Tianyuan was the current commander of the Imperial Dragon Soul Engineer Legion. As a person who was obsessed with power, he would most definitely bring a huge pile of those weapons that could decide the destiny of an empire.

However, the Class 9 stationary soul cannon shells they had used to bomb Dou Ling City were the ones which were drafted for use by the army. They did not belong to him. However, he was now prepared to use all of his trump cards to ensure his legion's survival.

Even though the deaths of the soul engineers from his Imperial Dragon Soul Engineer Legion caused him a lot of pain, he knew how the Imperial Dragon Soul Engineer Legion would not truly become weaker as long as he held onto these trump cards.

"Boom! Boom! Boom..." Countless spectral creatures continued to crumble under the ferocious attacks of the soul engineer legions. Smoke was starting to envelop the group as horrifying howls from the dying spectral creatures threatened to deafen the soul engineers.

After a short moment, the world around them suddenly became quiet. Every single spectral creature which was within sight of the Imperial Dragon Soul Engineer Legion and the Evileye Tyrant Soul Engineer Legion had been shredded to pieces.

Is it finally over?

The soul engineers within the linked defensive barrier were all panting. Fatigue caught up with them as the adrenaline in their bodies started to wear off.

Xia Xuanchen looked at the screen of a surveillance soul tool before ordering, "Do not drop your guard. It is not over yet. Our enemies are still here. They seem to be clustering together right now."

Yes. Even though there were no longer any spectral creatures near them, the screen showed what there were still large numbers of spectral creatures surrounding them deeper in the woods. These spectral creatures could attack them at any moment.

This short pause was a good chance for the tense soul engineer legions to catch their breath. It was easy for them to tire themselves out if they were to maintain their fast-paced attacks for extended periods of time.

It seems like there are really evil soul masters controlling these spectral creatures from behind the scenes. They have probably stopped their attacks after watching how we were able to slaughter their spectral creatures with ease. Instead of intentionally stopping to control the rhythm of the battle, they probably stopped out of fear.

It is said that evil soul masters have to give up a lot to breed and nurture their own avenging spirits or spectral creatures. Every single death means that they're a little weaker than before. Hmph! Let's see how much longer you evil soul masters can maintain your attack. Our soul engineer legions have never backed down from head-on battles like this!

Both Xia Xuanchen and Xu Tianyuan shared the same sentiments. Unfortunately, they did not know that the person who was controlling the spectral army was not in the least bit concerned about the deaths of his spectral creatures.

Huo Yuhao's current spiritual power was already leaps and bounds ahead of his original spiritual power. Back when his spectral creatures were dying under the legions' fire, he had already noticed some of the finer details that most people would have missed out on.

After every spectral creature died, its carcass would release an inconspicuous energy fluctuation. This streak of energy would return to the spectral demiplane through the spectral gate.

Initially, Huo Yuhao thought he was seeing things. However, upon closer scrutiny, he realized that he was not hallucinating. The streak of energy was actually the spectral creature's spirit fire.

This also meant that only the body of the spectral creature had died. The spectral creature's spirit fire would just return into the spectral demiplane.

It was important to note that the spirit fires, which belonged to the spectral creatures within the spectral demiplane, were created by the Calamity Necromancer Electrolux himself. There was actually light-type energy within every single spirit. Hence, even Ye Guyi—who was extremely adept at purification—could not purify the spirits within the spectral demiplane.