

Tang Sect 596

Chapter 596.1: Dual Cultivating

Huo Yuhao was stunned as he looked at Long Xiaoyao.

He's clearly bursting with energy. However, why is he just like teacher just before he passed away? What's going on?

Ye Xishui was also a little stunned as she looked at Long Xiaoyao, "Xiaoyao, are you fine? Are your injuries okay?"

Long Xiaoyao shook his head and replied, "This small wound is nothing. I'm fine, Yuhao. Both of you are also here to deal with the Sun Moon Empire's army, right?"

Huo Yuhao nodded. There was nothing for him to hide.

Long Xiaoyao smiled and turned his head to look at Ye Xishui. "Xishui, I can't help you if you want to harm these two kids. I owe Mu En too much. It's just like how I owe you. That's why I can't harm his disciples."

After hearing Mu En's name, Ye Xishui's entire body shook. Her originally sinister and cold-looking eyes revealed an extremely complex look.

She squinted and turned to Huo Yuhao. "This is the second time. There's no third time. When I see both of you again, I'll definitely kill you. Xiaoyao, let's go." As she spoke, she had already leapt up. After this, she flew into the distance.

Long Xiaoyao didn't immediately chase after Ye Xishui. Instead, he looked at Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong with a gentle look in his eyes.

"Both of you have set a precedent in human history. However, don't be too arrogant. There's still a long way to go. Though both of you do have some abilities, there are many types of destructive forces in this world. You'll need to face them in the future. That's why you should take the time to cultivate more. Yuhao, when you reach Rank 98, come find me at Radiant City. There's something your teacher has left for both of you."

As he spoke, Long Xiaoyao stood up and retrieved a black crystal stone before passing it to Huo Yuhao.

"As long as you are in Radiant City, use your soul power to activate this stone. I'll find where you are and come to you. I'm leaving now. Xishui is only here to vent her anger. Given her identity, she wouldn't keep attacking the Sun Moon Empire's army. After all, the Holy Ghost Church's base is still in the Sun Moon Empire. I don't know what she's going to do next. Both of you must be extra careful. Since she said that she'll deal with both of you the next time, she'll not go back on her words. Furthermore, both the Sun Moon Empire and Holy Ghost Church are determined to get rid of both of you, especially you, Yuhao. Your presence has already made Shrek Academy much brighter than it's supposed to be. That's why you must be prudent and careful no matter when."

"Thank you for your concern, elder." Huo Yuhao respectfully bowed to Long Xiaoyao.

Long Xiaoyao waved his hands. A sorrowful look suddenly appeared in his eyes. He sighed before he drifted up and chased after Ye Xishui. He instantly disappeared.

Tang Wutong stuck out her tongue as she watched him leave. She said, "These Ultimate Douluo are indeed very strong! We're still very lousy compared to them. What Elder Long is hinting is that we've become a little inflated after we've become Transcendent Douluo. At times, it's better if we cultivate. Come on, let's start now."

Huo Yuhao was a little annoyed. "There's such a beautiful view here, but we're going to cultivate. Won't it dampen our mood?"

Tang Wutong chuckled and said, "When we first entered the academy, who was the one who cultivated tirelessly and was unwilling to waste even a second? Don't tell me you are becoming lazy? We have a heavy responsibility on our shoulders. I'll carry half for you in the future, but you'll still need to carry the other half. Come on!"

"Alright!" Huo Yuhao leaped towards Tang Wutong immediately.

Purplish-gold lights suddenly flashed, and a huge dragon head blocked him off. Huo Yuhao screamed tragically and flew more than ten meters away.

"What, what are you doing?" He lay on the ground, extending his limbs and complaining to Tang Wutong.

Tang Wutong revealed a sly look on her face. "My father's seals don't seem to be fully gone. That's why..."

After half a minute, both of them sat cross-legged on the grass. Their palms were clasped together and they entered cultivation.

This was their first cultivation together ever since they became Transcendent Douluo, and after Tang Wutong formed her second soul core.

After their Haodong Power formed once again, they were able to cultivate using their martial soul fusion again. Before, they had used such a method to grow stronger and stronger.

The interaction of their soul power in a fight and during their cultivation was completely different. Huo Yuhao's whirlpool-like soul power poured into Tang Wutong's left hand through his right hand, and Tang Wutong's whirlpool-like soul power poured into Huo Yuhao's right hand from her left hand.

When their soul power poured into each other's bodies, their bodies shook, and bright lights shone from them.

A golden sun and blue moon, as well as another golden sun and purplish moon, appeared at the same time.

The golden suns were slowly getting closer to each other above their heads. After this, they fused together, and immense spiritual energy shot into the sky. A beam of strong golden sunlight tore the night sky apart. It was like a bright golden beam that held the sky together. The blue and purplish moons also shone brightly. Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong's bodies started to become clear and transparent.

It was even clear that four soul cores were rapidly revolving inside their bodies. The whirlpool-like soul power in their bodies kept on circulating.

The blue and purplish moons slowly drifted in between both of them, while the suns were above them.

The two moons fused together just like that. The moonlight turned bluish-purple, and it was very bright.

In the air, origin energy of heaven and earth surged towards their bodies. After surging into their bodies, it was crushed and filtered before it fused with their soul power.

In just a day, Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong's soul power had completely transformed. It felt brand-new to them now. It shone with a strange glow, which was a combination of blue, purple and gold. Those three colors intersected with one another to produce a strange yet dazzling radiance. After this fusion, their soul power was also a few times stronger than it was before.

Every whirlpool had a strong suction force, absorbing the origin energy of heaven and earth into it.

"Should we run?" Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong opened their arms at the same time. After this, they both held onto each other's hands and concealed themselves in the night sky.

They had no choice but to flee! They were so close to the Sun Moon Empire's army. Who would have expected them to create so much noise just by cultivating? What were they waiting for if they didn't flee? At least they had to find a cave before they could cultivate again.

Their Haodong Power was still joined, but what they found weird was that their soul power retained its original state. Their whirlpool-like soul power was still very strong. It was the result of their enhancement, however, the radiance that had appeared during their cultivation earlier had disappeared. The suction of air had also disappeared.

"What's going on?" Tang Wutong asked Huo Yuhao. They were telepathically connected. Huo Yuhao naturally knew what she was asking.

"I don't know either." Huo Yuhao was a little helpless as he answered, "Don't tell me that the soul power we generated during our cultivation is already beyond the restraints of this world?"

Tang Wutong shook her head and said, "I don't think so. It might have been so before. However, it's clear that our abilities are still too weak after I witnessed the Darkness Holy Dragon's power earlier. I believe our fused soul power is barely at the realm of an Ultimate Douluo. I don't believe it has exceeded the restraints of this world."

Huo Yuhao said, "I don't understand what's going on either. The only explanation I can think of is that our fusion is only perfect only if it's completely silent. We can't use that radiant whirlpool-like soul power to fight. It's only an alternative method for us to restore our soul power. Let's try more. Even if we can't use it to fight, it's still not bad to increase our recovery speed!"

Both of them flew very far away and found a dense forest to hide in. Tang Wutong blew open a cave with her dominant aura, and both of them went inside.

They were very excited by this new discovery. They were still quite traumatized after they were subjected to pressure by the two Ultimate Douluo earlier. Their thirst for power appeared once again. This time, it was unprecedentedly strong.

Huo Yuhao used a few branches to cover the opening of the cave, to prevent any light from shining out. In a short while, a small cave took form.

Huo Yuhao held Tang Wutong's hands as they stood in the cave. "Let's our focus our energy and try again. Let's see whether we can enter that state while standing up."

"Alright." Tang Wutong nodded.

Their hands were connected once again. Their soul power circulated in their bodies.

The golden suns, blue moon and purplish moon appeared once again. After this, the radiant whirlpool started to glow once more.

The difference from before was that their fusion was more rapid this time. Furthermore, a dazzling, spinning halo appeared around them after this fusion. Both of them felt that their soul power was being restored very quickly. It then started to slowly increase after reaching the peak of their restoration.

While 'slow' was a subjective term, it had to be noted that it was very difficult for Transcendent Douluo to increase their abilities through cultivation. However, their soul power was slowly climbing. This meant that they could cultivate their abilities in such a state. Their cultivation speed was even faster than most ordinary Transcendent Douluo.

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As they looked at each other, they could see the excitement in each other's eyes. They knew that they had found another way to improve. While this couldn't be directly used on a battlefield, it was still very beneficial to them if they wanted to last in a fight. As long as they had a little time to rest, they could recharge and restore their energy at the fastest speed. They managed to fully tap into the advantages of having Yin-Yang Complement soul cores.

Both of them quickly entered a cultivation state. Their four soul cores fused and intersected. As they resisted one another, brand-new soul power was unleashed once again. Their cultivations were also increasing dramatically.

Originally, forming Yin-Yang Complement soul cores had already given them the potential to experience significant improvements in their cultivations. Tang Wutong had also managed to form Yin-Yang Complement soul cores with Huo Yuhao's help. This was unprecedented.

Furthermore, most of Tang Wutong's spiritual power in her spiritual soul core came from Huo Yuhao. She had absorbed, transformed and turned his spiritual power into her own spiritual power. This made their spiritual power even much more compatible. This was also why they had no problems fusing their martial souls, and once again generated Haodong Power.

Of course, their Haodong Power was far, far stronger now than it was before.

While they were threatened by the Death God Douluo earlier, Huo Yuhao was in fact not afraid of her at all. What he was afraid of was that Long Xiaoyao would do everything he could to help her.

Ever since he had interacted with Long Xiaoyao, he became more and more curious about him. His abilities were undoubted, given that he was also from the same generation as Elder Mu. It wasn't even overboard to say that he was the strongest human in the world right now.

However, why was he willing to be used by Ye Xishui? Since he could make his name along with Elder Mu, it also meant that his character wasn't too flawed either. Or this was what Huo Yuhao felt, at the very least.

Moreover, Elder Mu had also mentioned that he was helping him. However, Huo Yuhao realized that his help for Ye Xishui was always unselfish every time he saw him. It was definitely not a formality.

But why is this so? Is he being controlled by her? Impossible! When Long Xiaoyao and Elder Mu made their name, Ye Xishui wasn't even so strong. So why could she controlled Long Xiaoyao so easily? It's really ridiculous for an Ultimate Douluo to be under this kind of restriction.

However, if this isn't the case, why is he listening to her?? This doubt kept on racing in Huo Yuhao's mind.

This was why he didn't dare to take the risk. Against the Death God Douluo, he and Tang Wutong wouldn't be at too much of a disadvantage even if they couldn't beat her. However, things would be different if Long Xiaoyao got involved. They might not even have an opportunity to escape.

This was why Huo Yuhao was very careful. He didn't even reveal his Morning Dew Dagger, because he wanted to only use it at the most critical of times – when they had to escape.

Fortunately, Long Xiaoyao didn't abet Ye Xishui. Ye Xishui even chose not to attack, and left because she was giving Long Xiaoyao face. This also left Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong relieved.

However, their thirst for strength also grew because of this incident. Their earlier satisfaction and perhaps arrogance had ceased to exist. To fight Ultimate Douluo, it was paramount for one to become one too. Long Xiaoyao's advice was indeed golden.

Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong quickly entered cultivation.

Their soul power was around Rank 95 now. They had just become Transcendent Douluo. However, this wasn't really anything major. It wasn't the crux of the problem. Given their cultivation speed, Huo Yuhao was completely confident of raising his soul power by another rank. In less than two years, they would be at Rank 98. This was the major benefit brought about by their Yin-Yang Complement soul cores.

I wonder what teacher asked Long Xiaoyao to pass to us when we reach Rank 98?

Huo Yuhao was actually very curious. This was because Mu En didn't mention this when he had helped him form his twin soul cores. This was why he was feeling rather anxious in his heart.

If Elder Xuan knew the Dragon Emperor Douluo, he would have immediately told Huo Yuhao that the Dragon Emperor Douluo was lying. The reason was very simple. This was because Elder Mu had really passed away, and his soul had dissipated. If there was anything he had left for Huo Yuhao, he would have told Elder Xuan before he died.

It was a pity that Huo Yuhao didn't know all this. He was still thinking of finding the Dragon Emperor Douluo after he made a breakthrough, so as to find out what was actually going on.

As time passed, Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong's soul power was increasing under their mutual influence. Cultivation didn't affect Huo Yuhao's sense of the outside world. His immense spiritual power naturally

formed a spiritual forcefield. This forcefield spread, and even the path connecting the Sun Moon Empire and that mountain valley was engulfed within it.

Sun Moon Empire army, commander tent.

Two days had passed.

Ever since Ye Xishui had attacked, two days had passed. She didn't appear again. However, her single appearance had already left all the soldiers traumatized.

She was too strong. The two of them had managed to resist the Sun Moon Empire's linked offensive attacks, and even almost destroyed their linked defensive soul tools. What kind of power did they possess? Two Ultimate Douluo were actually so terrifying. It was beyond everyone's imagination.

Not many soldiers had been killed, but the surviving ones were under a great psychological burden. Because of this, many of the advanced-tier soul engineers had not even smiled for two complete days.

They finally realized the truth now. They finally understood how strong the Holy Ghost Church was. In terms of higher-end combat strength, they were still the best in the empire!

News of the attack had been sent to the capital. However, it seemed to have disappeared. No news was transmitted back. It seemed like Xu Tianran had given up on them.

"Is it a lesson for us?" Ju Zi muttered.

Two days were enough for her to think through many things.

If the Death God Douluo was relentless, she wouldn't have used such a method. Even if she cared about face a lot, she could just use her Light of the Death God when our defenses are at their weakest every day, if she wanted to use brute force. The army would continuously suffer damage, and we'd keep on living in fear. It would be almost impossible for us to chase after them too.

However, she didn't so. This means that she's still very concerned about the Holy Ghost Church's position in the empire. She won't do anything anytime soon. It's just that I don't know what they're up to next.

Ju Zi was very unsettled. She was even more willing to face the violent Ye Xishui, rather than not face her at all.

No matter what, I must destroy the Holy Ghost Church. Otherwise, there won't be any peace in the empire in the future.

When she thought of the strengths of the two Ultimate Douluo, Ju Zi couldn't help but shudder. In the future, this empire would belong to her son. How could she tolerate outsiders in the empire? With them around, the rule of the empire would be greatly influenced. Son, don't worry. No matter how difficult it is, I'll help you get rid of these obstacles.

Ju Zi was immediately inspired to fight when she thought of her son. Her earlier cowardice disappeared. To a mother, she wouldn't fear any enemy if it was to protect her own kid.

“Report!” A frantic voice shouted.

Ju Zi calmed down a little before saying, “Report.”

“The empire’s reinforcements were attacked outside the valley. All of them have been killed. When we arrived to help them, there were only corpses. All their resources have been taken too.”

“What?” Ju Zi was aghast. She looked horrified, “What have you discovered?”

The messenger lifted his head. After hesitating for a moment, he replied, “There are traces of spectral creatures. Our aerial surveillance soul tools also discovered something like a Bone Dragon flying into the distance. The aura of spectral creatures has also been left behind. The thousand soul engineers that were sent to help have all been...”

A thousand soul engineers! Even if they were from the reserves, they were still trained by the empire. With the help of these thousand soul engineers, she could replenish everything she had lost at the front lines. How could she not be enraged now that everything was gone?

However, she also felt a little weird just as she was enraged. This was because she knew that Ye Xishui’s attack had ended, and her attack was already enough to strike fear into her troops. Why did she attack again? The Holy Ghost Church was the prime suspect because of the spectral aura. Unless...

Ju Zi thought of something, and immediately recalled the magical dimension.

Yuhao, is it you?

When she thought that Huo Yuhao could be nearby, Ju Zi started to become more energized. Her earlier rage also disappeared.

If Yuhao is responsible for this, that explains it. However, no matter who did this, I’m going to put the blame on the Holy Ghost Church. There’s no lack of opportunities to deal with them. One such opportunity has arrived.

“Send an order to gather all the legion and vice-legion commanders in the commander’s tent for a meeting.”

“Yes!”

Ju Zi squinted. Since there’s such a prime opportunity, don’t blame me for being vicious. If I don’t use this opportunity well, I’m not fit to be the War God Empress. Holy Ghost Church, be prepared to incur Xu Tianran’s wrath.

As she thought, she quickly walked to her desk and started to furiously pen a letter.

After a while, all the legion and vice-legion commanders had gathered at the commander’s tent. There were even Class 9 soul engineers from the Worship Hall.

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Seeing that Ju Zi was writing something, they all stood there quietly. No one uttered a sound.

Ju Zi had taken punishment as the marshal of the entire army. The Death God Douluo even arrived to attack her. These things made all her commanders very respectful of her. How could they possibly not follow such a leader? Even though she was a little young and a lady, she was still a perfect leader, considering her successful track record and responsible attitude.

After waiting for around ten minutes, Ju Zi finally finished writing her letter. When she lifted her head again, her eyes were already red. It seemed like she was holding tears in.

“Marshal, what’s going on? What has happened?” A Class 9 soul engineer asked, astonished.

The other soul engineers and commanders were also perplexed. It was also their first time seeing Ju Zi like this. They couldn’t understand what was going on. When did she become so fragile? What happened such that she was acting like that?

Ju Zi didn’t say anything. She bit her index finger and stamped the letter with her own blood.

All the commanders were astonished when they saw this. A blood letter? What is she doing?

Ju Zi slowly stood up and walked forward. Her body was shaking. Her tears were already flowing uncontrollably.

“Commanders, Worshipped, I’ve let everyone down.” Her tears flowed. Ju Zi shut her eyes in pain.

The Class 9 soul engineer who had spoken earlier anxiously asked, “Marshal, what’s going on? No matter what, we’ll stand on your side. Quick, tell us.”

Ju Zi took in a deep breath and torturously answered, “I’ve received news that the soul engineer legion that the empire sent to reinforce us has been wiped out. They were killed not far from the mountain valley, along the path they had to take to reach us from the empire. A thousand soul engineers were killed, their souls were taken away, and our resources have been looted.” She added the line ‘their souls were taken away’.

“What?” Exclamations echoed throughout the entire tent. Suddenly, all the soul engineers and commanders opened their eyes wide. The astonishment in their eyes was slowly turning to rage.

Ju Zi shut her eyes in pain. “From our aerial surveillance soul tools, we discovered Bone Dragons fleeing the scene. At the same time, the aura of spectral creatures was also left behind.”

Bone Dragon? These two words were sufficient.

Not long ago, Zhong Liwu was riding a Bone Dragon as he fought Huo Yuhao outside Shrek City. Eventually, it had died at Huo Yuhao’s hands.

Bone Dragons had appeared once again. Everyone knew what it meant.

“Bastards!” One legion commander roared and clenched his fists so hard that they almost broke. His soul engineer legion had lost many men, and he had been awaiting reinforcements.

Suddenly, he became overly agitated.

Ju Zi bitterly said, “I’ve already written everything regarding this incident down. I’ll immediately send it to His Majesty and implore him to take action. If this continues, our morale will certainly be affected.

While our soldiers at the frontline are killing enemies for the empire, we are being stabbed in the back. How can we continue to fight and contribute to the empire if that's the case? Everyone, I'm afraid my position as your leader is about to end. I've already asked His Majesty to allow me to resign. In the future, I hope all of you can continue to assist His Majesty and share his burdens."

As she spoke, Ju Zi lifted her hands and removed her helmet. She turned around and walked to the front of the tent before putting it down on her desk.

"Marshal, you must not give up on us!" A vice-legion commander cried sorrowfully before he knelt down on one knee.

"Yes! Marshal, we need your leadership. Only you can lead us to rule this continent." When the first person knelt down, a second person started to do the same. Along with their hate for their common enemy, all the commanders knelt down immediately. Even the Worshipped bowed down to Ju Zi.

Seeing everyone like that, Ju Zi wiped away the tears in her eyes. Her expression started to turn sinister and cold.

"I thank all of you for your support. Please rise."

After hearing that Ju Zi's voice had returned to normal, all of them stood up once again. They focused all their attention on her.

There was a strong killing intent coming from Ju Zi's eyes. "How dare the Holy Ghost Church kill my soldiers? We cannot exist in the same world as them. Commanders, if we want to contribute to the empire, we need to rid ourselves of any dissidents, and kill these despicable and vicious Holy Ghost Church members. It's only through this that we can save our empire. Who is willing to write a blood letter to His Majesty along with me?"

"I am!"

"I'm willing..."

The commanders were all united. After they were subjected to Ye Xishui's attack, their rage and displeasure at the Holy Ghost Church were replaced by fear.

However, when they heard that a thousand soul engineers had been killed by the Holy Ghost Church, their suppressed rage immediately erupted once again.

Many of them left their blood on their letters. At the same time, they also left their own signatures. This completed a blood letter.

Ju Zi said, "Pass my order – the army will proceed in the direction of the empire. We'll coordinate with His Majesty to get rid of the Holy Ghost Church. It's only by destroying the Holy Ghost Church that we can continue to expand the empire."

"Yes! We'll listen to your orders."

When these commanders left their blood on their letters, their fates were tied to the War God Empress.

The Sun Moon Empire's army started to disassemble their soul formations, while the beast lord-ranked soul engineer legions took turns to watch out for any dangers. The entire army then proceeded in the direction of the Sun Moon Empire.

Ju Zi's letter was immediately sent out. At the same time, the news was passed on. However, it wasn't to Xu Tianran. It was to the Worship Hall in Radiant City. The Worship Hall was the true backer of the army.

As he watched the army proceeding in the direction of the Sun Moon Empire, Huo Yuhao immediately realized that Ju Zi was exploiting this situation.

It was almost time for him to find her. A grin appeared on his face. This was an opportunity he could not forgo.

Huo Yuhao concealed himself in the void along with Tang Wutong. He immediately unleashed his Spiritual Detection to check the path in front of them, as they rapidly got closer and closer to the Sun Moon Empire's army.

In the sky, all types of aerial surveillance soul tools were moving along with the army. At least two soul engineer legions were flying in the air. These two soul engineer legions were responsible for surveillance and protecting the army.

Only the members of the beast lord-ranked soul engineer legions had the ability to fly. This was why they were naturally responsible for guarding and patrolling.

These soul engineers were helpless against Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong. From afar, Huo Yuhao had already found Ju Zi using his Spiritual Detection.

While Ju Zi was out on the battlefield, she was still the Empress. This was why she took a different sedan from the other commanders. She had her own sedan. Sixteen horses were responsible for pulling it, and the Fire Phoenix Soul Engineer Legion was responsible for guarding it.

Huo Yuhao led Tang Wutong as they softly landed on her sedan. Tang Wutong let go of his hand said, "Go in. I won't go. She might disrupt your plan if she's hostile towards me."

Huo Yuhao chortled and said, "You are indeed an understanding lady!"

Tang Wutong was a little unimpressed by him, and replied, "If I were really understanding, I should let you marry her too, right?"

"No, no. It's difficult to handle too many beauties. You are enough for me. I'm going now." His Imitation covered a sufficiently large region. This was why Huo Yuhao wasn't afraid of Tang Wutong being exposed.

With a flip, he silently made his way into the sedan.

The sedan was very large. In fact, it was an extremely comfortable carriage.

There was almost ten square meters inside. There was a desk, a chair and even a bed.

Right now, Ju Zi was the only one inside. She was thinking silently.

Gentle spiritual undulations spread, sealing the entire sedan. No sound from inside could be heard outside.

“Oh?” After realizing that something was amiss, Ju Zi subconsciously lifted her head. She looked at the space in front of her, which was empty.

“Are you here?” she asked softly.

“How did you know it was me?” Huo Yuhao asked, a little stunned.

He wasn’t surprised that two Ultimate Douluo had found him. However, it was illogical that Ju Zi was able to discover him. With her abilities, she shouldn’t be able to discover him when he used his Imitation!

Ju Zi smiled and said, “Instincts. I knew you would come. That’s why I asked all my servants to leave. I was waiting for you, and you indeed came.”

Huo Yuhao silently surfaced and sat on a bench in front of Ju Zi.

“How are you? I’ve not seen you for some time.” Huo Yuhao asked a few meaningless questions. Although he had isolated all sound within the sedan, he shared everything that was happening with Tang Wutong. One reason was for safety. Secondly, he was afraid that Tang Wutong would be jealous. Of course, the latter reason was more important.

Ju Zi snorted, “How am I? How can I be well? I’m not fine at all. Should I hate you, or thank you?”

Huo Yuhao smiled and replied, “Of course you should thank me. Whether it’s you or Xu Tianran, both of you want to get rid of the Holy Ghost Church, am I right? It’s just that neither of you have found an excuse to. This time, I’m delivering an excuse to you. Shouldn’t you thank me?”

Chapter 597.1: Working Together

Ju Zi snapped, “You destroyed my beast lord-ranked soul engineer legions and killed the legion commander of my Imperial Dragon Soul Engineer Legion. This time, you even killed my remaining soul engineers. I should be thanking you? You are an enemy of the empire.”

Huo Yuhao sighed. “I don’t want to kill either. However, if I don’t, I don’t know how many people from the Star Luo and Dou Ling Empires would be killed by those soul engineers. It’s no longer significant to talk about this now. I’m here to ask you, does what you said to me earlier still count?”

Ju Zi was stunned. “What are you talking about?”

Huo Yuhao’s mouth twisted a little. “Killing Xu Tianran.”

Ju Zi was finally enlightened, and she smiled. She replied, “So what if it counts? So what if it doesn’t count? Are you going to kill me if I don’t stay true to my word? I’m just afraid you won’t bear to. Only you can sneak into my sedan. Even an Ultimate Douluo can’t do so.”

Huo Yuhao was a little helpless as he shook his head. Tang Wutong was above the sedan. Everything she said could be heard by Tang Wutong.

Huo Yuhao sighed and replied, "Although I shouldn't be encouraging you to kill your husband, Xu Tianran is an anti-hero. His existence will only pose a huge threat to the Star Luo and Dou Ling Empires. Even if you go back on your word, I'll still target him. Furthermore, I won't show mercy just because of you."

Ju Zi smiled and asked, "Why would I go back on my word? I should be pleased. We are only husband and wife in name. We don't act like a couple. My kid isn't his either."

Huo Yuhao was dazed for a moment, and subconsciously whispered, "Be careful with your words."

Ju Zi's smile turned even sweeter. "What's wrong? I don't believe that you didn't soundproof this sedan. No one can hear me. What are you so scared of?"

Huo Yuhao smacked his forehead and looked at Ju Zi strangely. Earlier, she had told him about her complicated relationship with Xu Tianran. However, it was his first time hearing that her son wasn't Xu Tianran's biological son. He was the Crown Prince!

Huo Yuhao turned grim, "Did he find someone for you, then..."

Ju Zi answered, "Yes, he found someone for me. After that, he made me kill that person. It's a pity that he didn't expect me to find someone else instead of the person he assigned to me. That's why he needs to die. If he doesn't, everything will be exposed when my son's martial soul awakens when he turns six. Then, we'll both be doomed. For my son, I must kill him. You should also understand why I asked you to kill him. To a mother, she'll turn crazy if anyone threatens her kid. She'll fight for her kid. That's why you must not doubt my words. I must kill Xu Tianran. We share the same opinion when it comes to this, don't we?"

Huo Yuhao was astonished as he looked at Ju Zi. It was like his first time meeting her. Whose kid is Xu Yunhan? Who did Ju Zi bear her child with? Suddenly, he was confused.

When she saw how shocked he was, Ju Zi said, "You don't have to suspect anything. It's my greatest secret. I feel much better having revealed it. Alright, tell me, how are you planning to kill Xu Tianran?"

Huo Yuhao took in a deep breath and calmed himself. No matter whose kid it was, it theoretically had nothing to do with him. He shouldn't probe either. It might be better for him to know less.

"It'll depend on you. I need you to tell me Xu Tianran's work and rest timings, as well as deployments across the entire Sun Moon Imperial Palace. If I'm not wrong, given the current situation the Sun Moon Empire is in, Xu Tianran's defense in the palace must be erected against Ultimate Douluo. Given that, we might find it difficult to flee even if we succeed in killing him. That's why I need more details. It's only then that I can truly kill him."

Huo Yuhao had personally witnessed the Body Douluo's death when he went to Radiant City the last time. Xu Tianran wasn't even hurt, even though Du Busi unleashed an all-out attack. This showed how protected he was.

Huo Yuhao didn't think that he was stronger than Du Busi. This was why he needed more intelligence from Ju Zi.

Ju Zi nodded and said seriously, "You're right. Xu Tianran is indeed defensively strong. There's even stuff that I don't know. I'll tell you everything I know. To get close to him, I suggest that you follow me. You'll only have a chance to get close to him if you get close to me."

Huo Yuhao furrowed his brow. "Follow you? You are followed by your female soul engineers from the Fire Phoenix Soul Engineer Legion. How can I follow you?"

Ju Zi smiled. "Can this stop you? Can't you conceal yourself? Given your current abilities, who can discover you?"

Huo Yuhao said, "Nothing is absolute. Just when you were attacked a few days ago, Ye Xishui and Long Xiaoyao discovered me and Wutong. However, they didn't lay their hands on us. They just left. Through their instincts, Ultimate Douluo can discover us. In addition, there should be very powerful soul engineers in the palace. They might be able to discover us. That's why your safety is greatly compromised if I follow you. You must think this over carefully."

Ju Zi furrowed her brow. "That is indeed a problem. However, just don't get too close to me. You should be able to conceal your aura. Although there are female soul engineers with me, can't you just put on some makeup? Oh, you mentioned that Wutong is with you. Is she fine?"

"Of course. She's very fine," Huo Yuhao answered.

A cold look flashed across Ju Zi's face. "That's a pity."

"Do you really wish me dead?" Tang Wutong couldn't take it anymore. Ju Zi was consistently teasing Huo Yuhao.

A projection appeared, and Tang Wutong appeared with it. She sat beside Huo Yuhao and held his arm. It was as if she was flaunting that he belonged to her.

Ju Zi's expression changed, and she coldly retorted, "Whether or not you're dead doesn't concern me. We are only working partners now."

Tang Wutong smiled and said, "Oh, wise words. We are only working partners now. Then, please show some self-respect. Whatever it is, you are a married woman. Even if you can't share a proper relationship with your husband, you should learn some dignity. That's the baseline a woman should never cross."

"You!" Ju Zi rarely got angry. However, she was about to act up after she was triggered by Tang Wutong.

"Alright, stop squabbling." Huo Yuhao interjected. "Ju Zi, describe the situation in the palace. As for concealing myself within your Fire Phoenix Soul Engineer Legion, we'll discuss that again."

"Alright." Ju Zi nodded. She didn't want to continue further either. She was afraid that she would be able to take it, and would reveal an even more important secret. If that happened, there would be no turning back.

Seeing how Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong were acting, she knew she didn't stand a chance at all. So what if she revealed the secret? She would only create more dangers for her son in the future. Although Huo Yuhao was soft-hearted, he was a decisive person when it came to the bigger picture. If anyone knew, the ramifications were unthinkable.

When she thought until here, Ju Zi suppressed her deepest secret even further. She started to tell both of them about the situation in the imperial palace.

“...this is basically what’s going on in the palace. That’s why Xu Tianran can theoretically not be killed. Your chances are slim. However, no matter what, we must try. I’ll find someone to coordinate with you when it comes to this.”

Huo Yuhao asked, “Are you commanding your army to return to the empire? Is the war not going to continue?”

Ju Zi replied, “I’ve already framed the Holy Ghost Church for what you did. I won’t directly bring the army back to the empire. If I did, Xu Tianran would surely suspect me. When we reach the border, I’ll relieve myself of any military authority and lead some of my soul engineers towards the capital. There, I’ll plead guilty in front of Xu Tianran. That will be your chance.”

Huo Yuhao nodded and said, “Indeed, it’s not encouraged to bring your entire army back. It’ll be too obvious. Xu Tianran will also become more alert. What other plans do you have?”

Ju Zi replied, “I understand Xu Tianran very well. This time, I’ve framed the Holy Ghost Church. One thousand soul engineers were killed. They are the main pillars of the empire. Xu Tianran won’t be able to hold it anymore after learning that they are dead. He might even consolidate whatever strength he has when I return before attacking the Holy Ghost Church and removing them completely. When that happens, there’s bound to be a violent confrontation. That’s also going to be when Radiant City is at its most chaotic. That will be another chance to strike.”

Tang Wutong twisted her lips. “That’s a really vicious ploy.”

Ju Zi snorted, “Come up with a better plan if you can!”

Tang Wutong smiled and replied, “I don’t have to think of another plan. Women don’t always have to be so intelligent. If they were, what would be left for their lover to experience? I’m stupid, but it’s enough that Yuhao is clever.”

Chapter 597.2: Working Together

“Vicious!” Even Huo Yuhao couldn’t help but be impressed. Women were much more powerful when they bickered with one another.

Indeed, Ju Zi’s aura became a little unbalanced after hearing Tang Wutong’s words. She glared at her fiercely.

“Alright, we’ll proceed with the detailed plan once we reach Radiant City. Since you’re going to place me within your Fire Phoenix Soul Engineer Legion, do it quickly. We’ll be nearby. I’ll use my Spiritual Detection to communicate with you. One day later, I’ll come find you.”

“Okay.” Ju Zi nodded obediently. She also changed her expression very quickly.

Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong silently disappeared. Ju Zi remained seated in the sedan, and everything returned to normal very soon.

She shut her eyes and quietly thought.

When it came to this matter, they had to succeed. Ju Zi knew what she lacked. She lacked someone powerful beside her.

Undoubtedly, Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong's arrival had changed this. From how Huo Yuhao had defeated Zhong Liwu, it showed that he possessed the ability to kill Xu Tianran. This was even more plausible since he was very skilled at concealment. When it came to this, even an Ultimate Douluo couldn't compare to him.

This was why she had to succeed this time, no matter what. If they missed out on this opportunity, it would be almost impossible.

When she thought until here, Ju Zi started to think of a detailed plan. She had a series of plans she wanted to complete. Many details still had to be perfected.

After exiting the sedan, Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong silently rose into the sky before they carefully maintained their distance from the Sun Moon Empire army.

"Hmph! She's bad!" Tang Wutong commented furiously.

Seeing how furious she was, Huo Yuhao couldn't help but comfort her, "Don't be angry. She's actually having it very hard. She's a woman, but she's under so much pressure."

"Do you feel that much pity for her?" Tang Wutong smiled as she looked at Huo Yuhao.

Huo Yuhao instantly shut his mouth. It was not a good idea to piss Tang Wutong off at such a time.

Tang Wutong's smile slowly turned into a heavy look. After this, she leaped into Huo Yuhao's embrace and tightly hugged him around his waist. "I'm sorry, I don't know why I'm acting like a child. However, I can't help it. The others are fine. Are there really a lack of girls who like you? Don't think I don't know. Ye Guyi and Nan Qiuqiu actually fancy you. However, for some reason, I don't think they pose any threat. Only Ju Zi is different. I feel that her relationship with you is a little unclear. If not for the fact that I fully trust you, I might think that her child has something to do with you."

Huo Yuhao laughed, "Don't spout nonsense. How can that be possible? I'm still a, still a..."

"What?" Tang Wutong looked very innocent.

Huo Yuhao snapped, "Let's not talk about it. Whatever it is, I'm the same as you."

"How can it be the same? You're a man, but I'm a woman. How can we possibly be the same?" Tang Wutong was already fully grinning by now.

"Do you really want to know?" Huo Yuhao lowered his head and looked at her seriously.

Tang Wutong was intelligent. Before Huo Yuhao could make a move, she immediately jumped out of his embrace and turned around before fleeing. "No, I don't want to know!"

"Too late!" Huo Yuhao screamed before he pursued her.

They chased after each other in the sky just like that. The earlier unhappiness also gradually disappeared.

Sun Moon Empire. Radiant City. Imperial Palace.

“Bang!” Xu Tianran slammed the letter in his hand on the table. His servants immediately kneeled down. They were all shaking. They were afraid that he would vent his anger on them.

Over the past few days, many servants had incurred his wrath, and paid the price of death as a result.

“Bastards! Is the Holy Ghost Church intent on revolting?” Xu Tianran’s aura had turned unstable.

Not long ago, he had pondered Ju Zi’s Sin of Memorandum for some time before he responded.

The Holy Ghost Church shared a tense relationship with the army. That was something that had been true for some time. However, Xu Tianran was a little doubtful that the Holy Ghost Church would attack and loot from the army. At least, it wasn’t an agenda that was in the best interests of the Holy Ghost Church. n./0V**eLb1n**

However, the truth was displayed in front of him. Two beast lord-ranked soul engineer legions had suffered heavy losses. From the evidence, everything pointed to the evil soul masters from the Holy Ghost Church. This led to an intense reaction from the army.

Zhong Liwu had disappeared to some unknown place after his fight with Huo Yuhao. He didn’t have an opportunity to explain. After that, the army started a mutiny. Many lower to mid-tier evil soul masters from the Holy Ghost Church were killed. Only the Titled Douluo managed to escape.

This intensified the conflict, and Ye Xishui personally came to look for Xu Tianran.

Xu Tianran expressed his intention to investigate this matter thoroughly. However, how was he supposed to do that? Although he was the Emperor, he wasn’t the only one calling the shots in the empire.

Among those who died, there was someone very important. It was the legion commander of the Imperial Dragon Soul Engineer Legion, who represented the interests of the members of the imperial family.

His death was also accompanied by the loss of many high-tier stationary soul cannon shells that the Imperial Dragon Soul Engineer Legion had accumulated for years. Almost all of them were gone. How much did that cost?

The imperial family was the pillar of the empire, and the leaders of the nobles. Their interests were too important. Even though Xu Tianran wielded great power, he couldn’t ignore them!

The losses suffered by the Imperial Dragon Soul Engineer Legion almost drove the members of the imperial family crazy. Xu Tianran was also under a lot of pressure. The War God Empress was also highly protected by these members of the imperial family. From different avenues, they managed to find out what was happening at the front line. They were very satisfied with Ju Zi’s protection of her soul engineers. It was important to know that the Imperial Dragon Soul Engineer Legion was responsible for killing the most evil soul masters from the Holy Ghost Church when the mutiny occurred!

The pressure from both sides was focused on Xu Tianran. His decision was obvious. The Holy Ghost Church was becoming less and less of an asset. He couldn’t shake the empire’s foundations because of them. This was not to even mention that Ju Zi was his most trusted aide, who also contributed greatly to

the empire. The Heavenly Soul Empire was now part of the Sun Moon Empire. Without any backend disturbance, the Dou Ling and Star Luo Empires would suffer the same fate very soon. Xu Tianran wasn't worried about this at all.

With the resources of the Heavenly Soul Empire, the Sun Moon Empire developed even more smoothly. Ju Zi also had a deep hatred for the Star Luo Empire. She was intent on attacking them. She had arranged them to be the last not because her hate for them had dissipated, but because she wanted to deal with them when the Sun Moon Empire was at its strongest.

As a result, Xu Tianran wrote a memorandum to admonish her heavily. When she returned to the empire, she would be punished. However, this didn't have any real meaning. When it came to this matter, it was obvious that Xu Tianran no longer gave the Holy Ghost Church any face.

However, this couldn't be helped either. If he cared too much about the Holy Ghost Church, what would happen to his own soul engineers? What would happen to the imperial family? What about the nobles?

The evil soul masters from the Holy Ghost Church were ostracized. This was a good opportunity to slowly make them less powerful.

When Ye Xishui left, Xu Tianran did consider that the Holy Ghost Church would take revenge. However, the Holy Ghost Church had also developed very quickly over these years because of the Sun Moon Empire's support. Some of their soul masters with flawed martial souls or with martial souls that were likely to mutate were taken under the wing of the Holy Ghost Church and trained using the methods of evil soul masters. The Holy Ghost Church's headquarters was also in the Sun Moon Empire. No matter how displeased the Holy Ghost Church was, they couldn't possibly ignore their own foundation.

However, it seemed like Xu Tianran had underestimated how evil these soul masters were. A thousand soul engineers, killed just like that! All their resources had also been looted. Apart from those from the Holy Ghost Church, who could have done this?? Bone Dragon? Despicable Bone Dragon. Zhong Liwu, you didn't return to carry out your duties, but you killed my army. Very good, very good!

A sinister smile surfaced on Xu Tianran's face. No matter how cruel he was, he still had to empathize with his soldiers' feelings.

His soldiers had killed many enemies at the front line. While not many of them died at their enemies' hands, many of them were killed by those on the same side. If he looked at this from another perspective, he couldn't possibly tolerate this incident if he were a general.

The blood print on every blood letter was very clear. He also had an impression of the names of those who had written the letters.? How pressed must they be to write such letters? Ju Zi's letter is at the bottom of the pile. It's evident that she is under a lot of pressure.

If I don't deal with this matter well, I'll most definitely shake the foundation of the empire. I can only cut my losses now.

When he thought until here, his face turned even colder. His killing intent also appeared.

"Reporting. There's news from the War God Empress at the frontline."

"Report."

This time, there were no letters. It was news transmitted using transmission soul tools. A special messenger noted down the contents and directly reported to Xu Tianran.

When he saw this letter, Xu Tianran immediately turned grim. Ju Zi had reported to him that the morale of her soldiers was very low. They also hated the Holy Ghost Church to the core. They couldn't take it anymore, and wanted an explanation. To prevent any further mutiny, she had no choice but to accede to their request. She led the entire army to the border and was planning to station them near the Ming Dou Mountain Range. On the one hand, she was trying to strike fear in the heart of the Star Luo Empire. On the other hand, she wanted to quickly bring the generals back into Radiant City to receive further instructions.

Chapter 597.3: Working Together

Although the message wasn't very clear, Xu Tianran could clearly sense the rage in it. Evidently, things were getting unstable at the front line. This was something that he really didn't want to see.

"Projection."

"Yes." A black figure silently appeared behind Xu Tianran. Even though the lighting was very bright, he still appeared illusory. His appearance wasn't clear.

"Gather more information on the Holy Ghost Church. This is a secret mission. Do not be discovered. Ask the legion commander of the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineer Legion to find me."

"Yes, Your Majesty." The black figure silently retreated before disappearing into a dark corner.

A light flashed in Xu Tianran's hand. The paper that had recorded the message was instantly crushed before it disappeared. He had already made a decision by now. His rage dissipated a little.

Holy Ghost Church, what a Holy Ghost Church. Since you've already become a disobedient dog, don't blame me for being vicious.

The only reason why Xu Tianran hesitated a little was because of the two Ultimate Douluo. However, he had done detailed background research on Long Xiaoyao and Ye Xishui. Their ages were already a problem, not to even mention anything else.

Those from the same generation as them were all already dead. They were considered the oldest among humans. They were both more than two hundred years old. They might die at any time. Ultimate Douluo weren't immortals, unless they could reach their way into a higher realm.

Whether the godly realm existed was a big question. However, from their current condition, it seemed unlikely that they were going to the godly realm. Ju Zi, if things are fine on your side, you just need to wait a few more years until those two are dead. It won't be a problem to attack the Holy Ghost Church then.

Shrek City.

"Eh, Sanshi, why are you back?" Bei Bei was astonished when he saw Xu Sanshi.

"Shouldn't you be at Dou Ling City? Our Tang Sect Soul Engineer Legion has already been sent over. Why are you back? Why are all of you back?"

Bei Bei was astonished as he looked at all his teammates.

Xu Sanshi chuckled and said, "Who's willing to remain at that place? I'm about to go crazy. Bei Bei, listen to me and you'll understand."

He recounted how Huo Yuhao and the rest had managed to enter Dou Ling City, and explained how he had managed to stabilize it. He also mentioned how he was a prince, as well as the various obstacles they had faced there.

After hearing his recount, Bei Bei's expression immediately turned gloomy. The internal problems in Dou Ling City had prevented Xu Sanshi from strutting his stuff. They were still experiencing internal chaos at such a time.

Bei Bei only looked slightly more relieved when Xu Sanshi mentioned that Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong had saved them at the most critical of times.

"You are really useless too. All of you can't even deal with five Titled Douluo. Sanshi, it's not a bad idea for you to return either. Go and cultivate. Don't come out until you've become a Titled Douluo." Bei Bei snapped.

Xu Sanshi snorted and replied, "Do you think it's very easy to become a Titled Douluo? Eh, surely not. Don't tell me you're..."

Bei Bei chuckled, and was a little pleased as he said, "I'm feeling great. For some reason, my cultivation speed has increased significantly ever since Xiao Ya was treated. It has improved by leaps and bounds. Xiao Ya has also made a breakthrough. She just went to the Spirit Pagoda a few days ago and fused with the Bluesilver Emperor. Now, we have two more Titled Douluo in the Tang Sect. That's why all of you must work harder. Alright, if little junior and Wutong appeared at the same time, does that mean Wutong is completely well?"

Xu Sanshi was depressed as he looked at Bei Bei. Their cultivations had been similar all this while. Now that Bei Bei had become a Titled Douluo, he was really dealt a huge blow.

"Yes, Wutong is not only well, but she has even made a breakthrough with little junior. From little junior's words, it seems like they are both Transcendent Douluo. You are only a Titled Douluo. What's there to flaunt? Nannan, let's go and make breakthroughs too. This time, I won't come out until I become a Titled Douluo.

"Wait a minute." Bei Bei pulled Xu Sanshi to one side and asked him about everything that had happened in Dou Ling City in detail once again. After he verified that the Tang Sect Soul Engineer Legion had arrived and Xue Lingxun was there to help, he let Xu Sanshi go. However, he didn't allow him to cultivate as of yet. He pulled him to Shrek Academy first.

It was important to let the academy know what was happening in the Dou Ling Empire.

Things in Shrek City were much more relaxed after the Sun Moon Empire left. The elites from the Star Luo and Dou Ling Empires also retreated. Shrek City had already regained its peace. Of course, this was all on the surface. No one knew when the Sun Moon Empire's army would appear once again. They also didn't know who their next target was. Given the situation in the continent, none of them could really relax their guard.

.....

“Haha!” Soft laughter sounded. Ju Zi covered her small mouth and couldn’t help but laugh again.

There were two people in front of her. They were completely covered by fiery-red human-shaped soul tools. Only their helmets were off, revealing their facial appearance.

One was the captivating and awe-inspiring Tang Wutong. Her long pinkish-blue hair and fiery-red human-shaped soul tool were in contrast. This made her seem even more ravishing.

The other person was more interesting. Huo Yuhao was the other person in the human-shaped soul tool. He hadn’t put on makeup yet. However, the human-shaped soul tools of the Fire Phoenix Soul Engineer Legion were designed according to the figure of a female!

Although this human-shaped soul tool that Ju Zi had obtained for Huo Yuhao had once belonged to a female soul engineer with a rather big build, there was still a big difference between a female and male figure.

For example, the chest armor was poking out slightly, and was fiery-red. When Huo Yuhao wore it, it did seem slightly weird.

Even Tang Wutong couldn’t help but laugh softly.

“What’s so funny? I can just not wear it, can I? I can just use my Imitation to produce one.” Huo Yuhao snapped and was about to strip off the human-shaped soul tool.

“Don’t! Didn’t you mention that extremely strong individuals will be able to realize if you change your figure or conceal yourself? Furthermore, I don’t know what new soul tools there are in Radiant City. So, it’s better for you to wear it. We won’t laugh at you anymore. Once you put on the helmet, who would know you are inside?”

“However, it’s really too much!” Huo Yuhao said, furious.

“Haha!” Tang Wutong couldn’t hold it in anymore. She burst out laughing. How ridiculous was it for a guy to wear a female human-shaped soul tool? Even if he wore the helmet, they still knew that he was the one inside!

Huo Yuhao glared at Tang Wutong as if he was telling her that he would deal with her when they returned.

Ju Zi rushed a few steps forward, as she was afraid that he would go back on his word. She personally helped him wear his helmet, covering his appearance. It was much better after she covered his face.

Tang Wutong smiled as she said, “What an awe-inspiring female warrior. You look pretty good just like this.” As she spoke, she also wore her helmet.

This human-shaped soul tool had no effect on Tang Wutong. All the human-shaped soul tools of the Fire Phoenix Soul Engineer Legion were enhanced by fire, and were equipped with all types of fire-type soul tools. Although Tang Wutong didn’t possess fire-type soul power, her light-type soul power could still demonstrate some fire-type characteristics. This was why she could use this soul tool too. Although it didn’t enhance her a lot, it didn’t weaken her.

Huo Yuhao was more tragic. Not only did this human-shaped soul tool not fit him, but it also contradicted his Ultimate Ice soul power, even though he could control it using his spiritual power. He would not feel comfortable in it at all. He only felt better by changing to his Spirit Eyes. However, there was nothing in it to help his agility.

“Okay, let’s do it like this. Both of you will follow me at all times, as if you are my bodyguards. You can trust all my bodyguards. No one will suspect you if you don’t say anything.” Ju Zi said seriously to Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong. Of course, she still couldn’t hide the amusement in her eyes.

Huo Yuhao decided not to speak anymore.

Ju Zi walked in front of Huo Yuhao and smiled. “Do you think I’m acting against my own interests? We are clearly enemies, but we’re teaming up.”

The army moved very quickly. When equipped with all types of soul tools, they were proceeding faster than other armies from the three empires of the original Douluo Continent. Some of the carriages were propelled using Milk Bottles, and they could even carry quite a lot of soldiers.

After a few days of observation, Huo Yuhao gained a deeper understanding of the Sun Moon Empire’s advantage in terms of soul tool technology. Just like he had expected, more and more of the Sun Moon Empire’s soul tool technology was being used on ordinary people now. Even though Milk Bottles were expensive and could only be operated through the soul power of soul masters, it was no longer a dream for ordinary people to become soul masters in the future, given that there was such a beginning already.

This was the Sun Moon Empire’s real advantage. No wonder Ju Zi dared to promise not to attack the Star Luo and Dou Ling Empires in the next ten years after he killed Xu Tianran. She was confident! The two empires wouldn’t catch up in terms of soul tool technology within ten years. They couldn’t even gather enough resources.

Whether it was the mining and purification of rare metals or soul tool production, the Sun Moon Empire had too much of an advantage. Although Shrek Academy was doing its best to catch up, it was impossible for an academy to challenge the likes of an entire empire!

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The army was now getting a lot closer to the Sun Moon Empire’s border. However, their morale was extremely low. None of the commanders were in a good mood, and such things were extremely infectious. Hence, even the soldiers below them were feeling it.

Even though the army had secured multiple victories on this campaign, they were feeling very displeased after problems had emerged internally within the army. This was a common sentiment shared by the soul engineers and the commanders. One could only imagine how furious they must have felt to encounter these things when a golden opportunity for them to leave their names in the history books had shown itself. They couldn’t wait to skin the entire Holy Ghost Church alive.

Ju Zi was naturally a lot more composed than the rest. She was sitting in her carriage, but she would occasionally lift the curtains to glimpse at what was outside. Her eyes would naturally drift to where Huo

Yuhao—who was wearing a female outfit—was. Even though her face would not give off any hint of emotion, Huo Yuhao would still be able to tell from her eyes that she was laughing deep down inside.

This was the first time that Huo Yuhao was being punished in this manner. In fact, Ju Zi was not only the one laughing at Huo Yuhao! Tang Wutong would also burst into laughter periodically—even though she had already been warned many times by the soul engineer who was in charge of military discipline.

Hence, while Huo Yuhao was very frustrated by the punishment he had received, Ju Zi was actually very happy about it.

Even though Huo Yuhao had recently caused her a lot of trouble and had enraged her multiple times, the displeasure in her heart was gradually being melted by his mere presence beside her. In fact, she wished that this road they were traveling on would never end. At the very least, this would mean that he would be able to stay by her side. She felt good just seeing him every day. Ju Zi wondered why she didn't feel the same way when they were back in the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy.

The speed at which the army was moving definitely could not be compared to that of a soul engineer legion. Even then, the Sun Moon Empire's troops were able to fast march at a quicker pace than the other empires' troops. Within five days, the border between the Sun Moon Empire and what was originally the Heavenly Soul Empire was now within sight.

Ju Zi chose to reorganize her troops at an area close to the border of the Heavenly Soul Empire. After getting her troops to set up camp at that area, she gave out an order to the surrounding cities to resupply the army with rations and other supplies. The army was to rest up at that area while they waited for her next orders. In the meantime, she brought the Fire Phoenix Soul Engineer Legion, as well as the remaining soul engineers from the Evileye Tyrant Soul Engineer Legion and the Imperial Dragon Soul Engineer Legion, with her back to Radiant City. The Class 9 soul engineers from the Imperial Consecration Hall also followed her back to the capital of the Sun Moon Empire.

Now that she had planned to confront the Holy Ghost Church, Ju Zi would definitely bring along all the manpower she had. Even though two of the three beast lord-ranked soul engineer legions were no longer what they used to be, she still effectively had two soul engineer legions when all their manpower was combined. At the same time, she had quite a few Class 9 soul engineers with her. They would definitely be able to protect themselves even if they were to bump into an Ultimate Douluo like Ye Xishui.

Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong were flying not too far away from Ju Zi. After all, they were supposed to be her personal guards. Right now, Huo Yuhao was definitely feeling uncomfortable in the human-shaped soul tool, which did not fit very well with his body. Even though he knew it was mainly psychological rather than physical discomfort, he still could not help but feel frustrated with his outfit. He was constantly trying to release his Ultimate Ice aura to counter the fire-type elemental fluctuations which were coming from the human-shaped soul tool.

"Xiao Yu, can you come over here?" Ju Zi, who was flying in the air, suddenly turned around and waved at Huo Yuhao. Xiao Yu was the name she had given him. Every soul engineer from the Fire Phoenix Soul Engineer Legion knew that their Marshal liked Xiao Yu a lot.

The selection criteria for the soul engineers within the soul engineer legions were very strict. This was especially true for the Marshal's personal guards. Because Ju Zi was the one who was supposed to handpick her personal guards, no one knew Xiao Yu's background. In fact, they did not even know what she looked like, as she was always wearing her human-shaped soul tool.

Huo Yuhao flew towards Ju Zi unwillingly before transmitting a message. "What's the matter with you?"

Ju Zi lifted her visor as she moved closer to Huo Yuhao before flashing him a mesmerizing smile. "I'm hungry. I need you to prepare a meal for me. I heard your family has passed down a recipe for delicious grilled fish."

"No, I won't!" Huo Yuhao replied coldly.

This was not the first time that Ju Zi had tried to make his life difficult. Ever since he had become her personal guard, she had made all sorts of difficult requests. *no-re-llb/In*

Of course, Huo Yuhao knew that she was only doing these to get closer to him. However, this was precisely why he was very wary of her. In fact, Huo Yuhao was very against giving in to her demands.

Suddenly, Huo Yuhao heard Tang Wutong's voice in his ears. "Go ahead and grill the fish for her."

Huo Yuhao was startled, and turned around to look at Tang Wutong.

Tang Wutong was still flying in a very relaxed manner. It did not seem like she was angry at all. When did she become so magnanimous? Is she still the Tang Wutong I know? Huo Yuhao was a bit doubtful about her words.

"It's really fine. I really don't mind. However, you must tell her that I want a share of the grilled fish. I really miss the grilled fish you used to make." Tang Wutong revealed her true intentions.

It seems like this girl is also craving some food. Compared to his attitude towards Ju Zi, Huo Yuhao was very willing to prepare grilled fish for Tang Wutong. As long as that was what she wanted, Huo Yuhao would definitely do his best to satisfy her wants.

Ju Zi frowned and replied, "If you can't even fulfill such a small request, how do you expect me to cooperate with you?" This was not the first time she had used this to threaten him. However, it was undeniable that it was fairly effective.

Of course, Huo Yuhao had also given clear rejections if the request was too much. Hence, Ju Zi did not have high hopes that he would agree to her every single request.

However, much to her surprise, Huo Yuhao actually nodded after hesitating for a short while. "Alright. But Wutong and I must get a share of the fish too." He purposely added himself into the picture just so that Ju Zi would not reject his condition outright.

"Sure." Ju Zi replied without any hesitation. Huo Yuhao could tell that she was over the moon from the look in her eyes.

Is this really necessary just to eat a few grilled fish? Is she still the invincible War God Empress I know?

An hour later, Ju Zi ordered the group to settle down by a huge river. Catching fish was a piece of cake for soul engineers.

Very soon, several fresh fish were presented in front of Ju Zi. The generals and soul engineers had all settled down at a place which was fairly far from where she was. After all, it was best if both genders could stay in different rest areas. Hence, Ju Zi would not have to share the food Huo Yuhao was about to prepare.

Because Huo Yuhao was wearing the human-shaped soul tool, he could only use the exposed part of his hands to prepare the fish. He was able to clean the fish and remove their scales in a short amount of time.

Huo Yuhao was already very familiar with the grilling process. He was able to set up a rack in no time. Very soon, the two ladies could smell the scent of grilled fish.

Ju Zi naturally took the first fish. After taking her first bite, she could not help but look up to compliment Huo Yuhao. Her eyes widened in disbelief as he nodded furiously to express her satisfaction with Huo Yuhao's grilled fish.

The second fish was offered to Tang Wutong. She simply sat by the side and enjoyed the fish Huo Yuhao had grilled for her.

It was common knowledge that women tend to have a greater appetite than men when it came to good food. Both ladies devoured Huo Yuhao's grilled fish like nobody's business.

Perhaps it was because of her greater fighting power, but Tang Wutong seemed to have a greater appetite than Ju Zi. While Tang Wutong was still grabbing the next grilled fish, Ju Zi was already full.

During this time, Huo Yuhao had also eaten a few grilled fish. However, he really did not have to eat much at his current cultivation. Even if he were to go without eating anything for a few days, he would still be perfectly fine.

Ju Zi leaned on a huge tree behind her as she glanced at Tang Wutong, who was sitting not too far away from her. "Are you not jealous that he is making grilled fish for me to eat?"

Tang Wutong shook her head as she continued to eat her grilled fish happily.

Huo Yuhao walked towards her before wiping the oil at the corner of her mouth with a clean handkerchief. Tang Wutong looked up and flashed a blissful smile at him.

Even though Ju Zi was not able to see Huo Yuhao's expression because of the visor on his face, she could still imagine the loving look in his eyes. She couldn't help but remark jealously, "I can't believe you're not jealous at all. I think you don't know how to cherish your man. If Huo Yuhao were my man instead, I would definitely not allow him to prepare food for another woman!"

Tang Wutong shook her head and smiled at Ju Zi. "This is really nothing. Besides, the stuff he gives me is always different from what he gives others."

"Different? How is it different?" As one would have expected of Ju Zi, she had been paying close attention to the way Huo Yuhao had been grilling the fish. She made sure that he had followed the exact same procedure for both their fish. Hence, she did not believe what Tang Wutong had just said.

Tang Wutong extended the grilled fish in her hands to Ju Zi and said, "Since you like him so much, why don't you try the fish he gave me?"

As she spoke, she retraced her arm and peeled off a chunk of fish for Ju Zi. Tang Wutong had decided not to be so magnanimous.

Ju Zi took the piece of fish from Tang Wutong suspiciously. Her rationality told her that she should not be eating the leftovers of a commoner as the powerful War God Empress. However, the curiosity and affection within her ultimately won her over as she stuffed the piece into her mouth.

It took Ju Zi only a few bites for her to be stunned by the flavor. She sat still as she stared blankly at the space before her.

The flavor in her mouth was simply out of this world! The fish meat was tender and juicy. It seemed to possess some sort of special energy. Even though its flavor was more or less similar to that of the meat she ate earlier, this special energy was what made the meat so special. It was almost as if the entire grilled fish had been enhanced.

In the meantime, Tang Wutong continued to eat her grilled fish. She still had the same blissful look on her face as she savored every bite.

Ju Zi was stunned for a good long while before she finally swallowed the fish in her mouth. At that instant, she felt an immense satisfaction overwhelm her entire body. She felt as though she was being brought into a warm and loving embrace.

"W-What did you add to her grilled fish?" Ju Zi turned her head and asked Huo Yuhao.

Huo Yuhao spoke plainly, "You've been watching me while I was grilling the fish. You should know well enough that I did not vary my procedure because of Tang Wutong or you."

"However, why is the flavor different? In fact, it tastes so much better. I don't care. I want that kind of fish too." Ju Zi spoke viciously.

Chapter 598.2: The Grieving Ju Zi

Huo Yuhao shook his head and said, "I am sorry, but I don't think I can do it."

"Why can't you do it? I don't care. I want it too!" Ju Zi was practically shouting at Huo Yuhao. In fact, she was so loud that some of the soul engineers from the Fire Phoenix Soul Engineer Legion who were guarding the area turned around to make sure that their Marshal was okay.

Ju Zi waved her hand and told them that she was fine. She tried to slow her breathing as she looked at both Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong.

"Why? Why are you not able to do it for me?" By now, her voice had softened.

Huo Yuhao let out a gentle sigh before shaking his head. He did not go on to explain why as he looked away.

Tang Wutong stood up and finished the grilled fish in her hand before explaining to Ju Zi, "The emotions were different. You need to stop making things difficult for him. He didn't do it on purpose. He simply

had different emotions when he was grilling the fish for us. Hence, the flavor will still be different, even though they were grilled in the same way. That's why I was never overly concerned that he was grilling fish for you. Unless I'm willing to share my grilled fish for you, you will never be able to taste the flavor of love." *nOve-lB*.In

Tang Wutong walked towards Huo Yuhao before she leaned into his body. "The grilled fish was very delicious. I love you."

Huo Yuhao was startled by her short, simple sentences. It was the first time that Tang Wutong had expressed her love towards Huo Yuhao in front of someone else. This was a pleasant surprise for him. Even though he knew that Tang Wutong was trying to piss Ju Zi off, he was certain that she meant every single word she had said to him.

"I love you too," Huo Yuhao said. His heart had already melted after hearing what she had just said.

Tears started to stream down Ju Zi's face in an uncontrollable fashion as she watched them hug before her. She finally understood why Tang Wutong was willing to allow him to grill fish for her. She was neither trying to be kind, nor was she hungry. She had simply wanted to show her that she didn't stand a chance at wresting Huo Yuhao from her!

She finally understood it was not that Tang Wutong was not jealous of her. In fact, Tang Wutong had always been jealous of her. She was trying to put her down in the strongest possible way. Even though Ju Zi knew that she needed to be strong in moments like this, she still couldn't help but cry.

So what if I manage to conquer the entire continent? I have still lost to her. As long as he leaves his heart with her, I will never stand a chance.

Her tears blurred her vision. Ju Zi turned around and wiped away the tears on her face. She covered her face with her visor before walking to the side silently. She started to walk away from them as she remained silent.

"Did I go overboard?" Tang Wutong snuggled against Huo Yuhao and asked.

Huo Yuhao shook his head and said, "It's good that you're trying to get her to give up on me. There's already no chance that we can get together. Besides, I don't want her to hold any more feelings for me. What you've done is correct. But I have to admit that Ju Zi is quite pitiful. You can tell that there is still kindness in her heart. She did not kill needlessly while she was conquering those cities. If not, I would have killed her despite our past relationship."

"Past relationship?" Tang Wutong looked up immediately. She was alerted by Huo Yuhao's usage of such words.

Huo Yuhao lifted his visor before he planted a kiss on her red lips.

It just so happened that Ju Zi had turned around at this very instant after reaching the riverbank. After seeing them kiss, she could not help but fly into a rage. She dashed towards Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong in a furious and mad manner.

Huo Yuhao was naturally able to sense her movement. After all, his powerful cultivation meant that he was able to sense most of the movement in his surroundings. He let go of Tang Wutong before turning

around to look at Ju Zi. Following which, he released a gentle stream of soul power which formed a barrier that blocked Ju Zi from getting near them.

Ju Zi glared at Huo Yuhao with blood-red eyes and shouted, “Huo Yuhao, do you know how much I...”

At that instant, the golden trident on Tang Wutong’s forehead suddenly appeared before it emitted a golden ray of light that landed on Ju Zi’s body.

Ju Zi trembled vigorously as she stumbled backward. It was almost as if she had discovered something extremely frightening. Her eyes widened in fear as she ended her sentence there and then.

“Wutong, what did you just do?” Huo Yuhao was startled as he turned around to look at her. Based on his understanding of her, Huo Yuhao knew that she would never harm Ju Zi even if she was jealous of her.

“Huh? I also have no idea what just happened.” Tang Wutong was equally worried as she quickly stepped forward to support Ju Zi. “Ju Zi, are you alright? I really don’t know what just happened.”

Huo Yuhao believed that Tang Wutong would never lie to him. Besides, her tone and emotional fluctuations did not seem to suggest that she was lying. But then, what was that golden light?

At this instant, their positions seemed to have been reversed. Ju Zi was now the composed one, while the other two were panicking over her. She shook her head and told Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong, “I’m fine. I’m sorry for being so emotional. I just need to rest for a while.” Following which, she walked over to a big tree and sat down. Everything seemed to have become normal again.

Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong turned around to look at one another. Neither of them had any idea what had just happened. However, now that they no longer were in the mood to get intimate with one another, they simply sat down and rested up.

At this moment, Ju Zi, who seemed to have returned to her usual calm state, was actually very confused. She was still trying to understand what had just happened to her. When that beam of golden light landed on her, she felt as if her entire body had been pinned down by a mountain. She also heard an immensely authoritative and frightening voice talk to her inside her head.

The person with the mysterious voice said something that doused all the feelings of injustice and frustration within her heart. His words woke her up and left her with nothing but fear.

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“If you don’t want me to destroy you and your child, you would better keep what you want to say to yourself.”

.....

Without the entire army burdening them, the soul engineer legions were able to move at top speed. Because the beast lord-ranked soul engineer legions were all capable of flight, they were able to fly for a good two hours with the help of milk bottles before they needed to land and rest.

Hence, they were able to see Radiant City in just slightly more than a day’s time.

While Ju Zi was flying with her human-shaped soul tool, she gazed at Radiant City, which lay before her. She knew that there was no room for failure. She must succeed in what she had planned to do. If she were to fail, there would be no turning back. Of course, she had prepared for the worst. Even if she were to fail, she would not lose everything. However, she knew well enough that her loved one would definitely die if she were to fail.

Even though she had already given up on him, and had understood that she had no hope of getting together with him, she was unable to give up her feelings for him! Hence, she was constantly being tormented by her feelings. However, Ju Zi knew that she had to focus on the task at hand.

She took in a deep breath and allowed the cold air to calm her nerves and emotions. She had to succeed. She could not fail, for her son, for herself, and for him.

To be honest, conquering the entire continent had never been her priority. The most important thing for her was to control her own destiny. After commanding the army for so long, she definitely knew how the Sun Moon Empire's technological advantage would not disappear in just ten years. Hence, she was not anxious at all.

However, she was very worried about her son. As her son continued to grow, it would soon be his turn to undergo the martial soul awakening ceremony. She had absolutely no idea what martial soul her son would inherit. Hence, she was really very scared for her son.

She knew she could not afford to wait any longer. This was the best chance she had to take charge of her own destiny.

At this moment, Huo Yuhao was also overwhelmed a wave of emotions. He could no longer remember how many times he had been to Radiant City. In fact, he had always left Radiant City with different impressions and feelings.

He was initially very impressed with how the city was set up. Now, he felt as if he could control and destroy the city if he really wanted to. This was a transformation that came about as he became stronger.

At the end of the day, one could only rely on one's abilities. One could only truly become confident after becoming powerful. In addition, he now had someone he loved whom he could trust with his life. After their encounter with the two Ultimate Douluo, Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong had been training very hard, and were definitely improving faster than an average Transcendent Douluo could. In fact, Huo Yuhao believed that they would be able to reach Rank 98 earlier than he had previously projected.

Radiant City, Xu Tianran, and the Holy Ghost Church, we are finally here. This time around, we must influence affairs from within the Sun Moon Empire. This is the only way we can fight for more time for the Star Luo Empire and Dou Ling Empire.

Huo Yuhao was confident that both he and Tang Wutong would be able to become Ultimate Douluo by the time the war would start again in ten years' time. Both of them would become the first Ultimate Douluo in history to possess three soul cores. Even though soul tools would still be immensely powerful, he believed that they would be able to influence some of the events within the continent with their superior abilities.

At the end of the day, Huo Yuhao did not believe that the three empires' soul tool technology would be able to catch up with the Sun Moon Empire's in these ten years. However, he felt that he would have a chance at deciding the outcome of the war once he had become sufficiently powerful.

A faint light flickered across Huo Yuhao's face as he flashed a smile. Xu Tianran, let's have a proper fight this time.

The three soul engineer legions started to descend when they were about twenty-five kilometers away from Radiant City. After landing, they did not head towards Radiant City immediately. Instead, they stayed where they were and reorganized themselves.

After all, it was common knowledge that flying above Radiant City was strictly forbidden. Unless they were given special permission by the Emperor, they would not be able to fly above the city. In fact, all of these returning troops had to be checked before they could enter Radiant City. Only military officers would be exempted from these checks. This was a rule everyone had to abide by.

Chapter 598.3: The Grieving Ju Zi

News of their return instantly spread to the rest of the capital. Very soon, a soul engineer legion flew out from the center of Radiant City. It was apparent that they had been given special permission to fly.

Even though this was not Huo Yuhao's first time seeing the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineer Legion, he was still very impressed by them.

Every single one of their soul engineers was wearing a thick human-shaped soul tool which could barely conceal their powerful auras. Compared to them, the beast lord-ranked soul engineer legions looked very juvenile.

The Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineer Legion consisted of only Soul Douluo. Their hundred-man team were all eight-ringed Soul Douluo—or rather Class 8 soul engineers.

It was immensely frightening that the Sun Moon Empire was able to gather so many powerful soul engineers and put them in a regimented environment. They were essentially Xu Tianran's trump card to anyone who tried to threaten the Sun Moon Empire. On top of that, Radiant City was continually improving and enhancing its defenses. Hence, Radiant City was also called the number one city on the entire continent.

Huo Yuhao waited quietly behind Ju Zi.

As the hundred soul engineers from the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineer Legion descended from the sky, a soul engineer in a human-shaped soul tool stepped forward to bow and greet Ju Zi.

“War God Empress, His Majesty has an order for you. He wants you to lead all commanders and generals who are vice-commanders and above into the city. His Majesty will welcome all of you personally at the Palace. The rest of the three soul engineer legions shall remain here and await further orders.”

The soul legion commanders who were standing behind Ju Zi couldn't help but reveal a look of displeasure after hearing what that soul engineer had said. After all, they had just returned victorious after destroying the Heavenly Soul Empire. Instead of being welcomed in a ceremonious way, they had

only sent a soul engineer from the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineer Legion to receive them. This was something they found hard to accept.

Upon sensing the dissatisfaction behind her, Ju Zi raised her hand to demand silence from them. Following which, she went down on one knee before acknowledging the order.

Afterward, Ju Zi removed the helmet of her human-shaped soul tool before passing it to Huo Yuhao, who was standing by her side. Following which, she led the vice-commanders and commanders into Radiant City.

That representative from the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineer Legion immediately clarified, "War God Empress, His Majesty has granted special permission for you to fly in with the commanders under you."

However, Ju Zi shook her head and said, "It's okay. How can we fly in just like that after returning from a war? That would be very disrespectful to His Majesty. We will walk in. I am sorry that I will have to trouble all of you to walk in with me to see His Majesty."

After finishing her sentence, she did not even turn her head as she continued walking in the direction of the Palace.

As they were only her personal guards, Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong naturally could not follow her. After all, Xu Tianran had already said that he only wanted the commanders and vice-commanders to enter the city. This meant that he did not want to see any soldier or guard enter the city. Hence, both of them could only wait here.

Of course, Ju Zi knew that Xu Tianran was not trying to ill-treat her. His decision was founded solely on safety considerations. The three soul engineer legions should naturally not be allowed to enter Radiant City right after returning from a battle. But because of this, Ju Zi could be vulnerable if a soul master from the Holy Ghost Church were to attack her now. Hence, Xu Tianran had sent the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineer Legion to protect her.

Of course, Ju Zi would not share her guess with the people around her. It was better that her commanders and vice-commanders were displeased with Xu Tianran. It would only be advantageous to her plan she.

After watching Ju Zi leave, Tang Wutong transmitted a message to Huo Yuhao. "What should we do now?"

Huo Yuhao revealed a faint smile and said, "Let's just wait here. I'm sure Ju Zi will settle everything for us. When we returned to Radiant City, I could sense that she has become normal again. When she is in her usual state, she is definitely way better than us when it comes to military and political affairs. We should just let her handle the problem."

Tang Wutong rolled her eyes and said, "It seems like you have a lot of trust in her."

Huo Yuhao simply replied, "There are no permanent enemies. This time, she needs our help. Even if she were to disregard the friendship we had in the past, she would not do anything disadvantageous to us before our mission is accomplished. Besides, I have spread out my Spiritual Detection as much as possible. If she harbors any ill intentions against us, we can definitely react in time."

“Okay.” Tang Wutong did not say any more words of jealousy.

One of the military officers who had been ordered to stay behind gave them instructions to rest up.

The soul engineer legions started to set up camp where they were. Normally, they would have to set up soul tool deployment areas and install their soul tools to prepare for battle. However, now that they had returned to the outskirts of Radiant City, there was no longer a need for those procedures. In fact, they might even be suspected of treason if they were to do that.

Inside the Sun Moon Empire’s Palace.

Xu Tianran was leading the minister and generals under him as he waited by the Palace Gates silently.

Ju Zi should have entered the city by now. However, she was still out of his sight. As he stared into the distant sky, Xu Tianran could not help but wonder why she had still not arrived.

At this instant, a representative from the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineer Legion flew back and landed not too far from Xu Tianran. He quickly dashed over before kneeling before him.

“Your Majesty, the War God Empress has led the Imperial Dragon, Evileye Tyrant, and Fire Phoenix Soul Engineer Legions back to Radiant City. The War God Empress has decided against flying into the city out of respect for you. Hence, she will still need a fair bit of time before she arrives at the Palace.”

After hearing his words, Xu Tianran smiled to himself. Ju Zi, you have not disappointed me! It seems like you have not allowed your achievements to go to your head; I am very pleased to see that.

“Where did the War God Empress and the commanders enter Radiant City?”

The representative quickly answered Xu Tianran’s question.

Xu Tianran nodded as he turned around to face his ministers and generals. “Our War God Empress has been undefeated, and has once again conquered more land for our empire. She has achieved a lot, and deserves to be rewarded. It is also rare that she understands our etiquette, and chooses not to fly into our city. I want all of you to follow me and welcome her. We need to acknowledge the achievements of our army.”

“Long live His Majesty! Long live His Majesty!” The ministers and generals cheered loudly in unison. At this instant, it was possible to tell that all of them had all sorts of expressions written on their faces. However, none of them dared to question what Xu Tianran had just said.

The conflict between the army and the Holy Ghost Church was not something which could be hidden. After all, news of how Ye Xishui had tried to ambush the army had already spread back to Radiant City.

Now that things had come to this stage, none of the ministers would support the Holy Ghost Church. After all, those evil soul masters were never well-liked among them.

It was needless to say what the generals felt about the Holy Ghost Church. After all, the War God Empress was one of them. Even though she was the Empress, she had helped secure countless victories for the army and the empire over the past few years. Now that the Heavenly Soul Empire’s land had been added to the Sun Moon Empire, the status of the army and the generals would most likely

overtake that of the ministers. Hence, the support the generals and commanders had for Ju Zi would only increase as the days went by.

In fact, they were very impressed by how the War God Empress had volunteered to shoulder the responsibility for the soul engineers under her who had killed the evil soul masters from the Holy Ghost Church. In addition, she had even requested to be relieved from her appointment as the Marshal after that incident. How would she not be able to move these naive generals? Even the rich and powerful people within the Sun Moon Empire were now very supportive of Ju Zi.

They would definitely not have any objections now that Xu Tianran wanted to welcome the War God Empress personally.

Even though Xu Tianran mentioned that he was going to receive Ju Zi personally, they were not actually walking quickly towards her and her group of commanders. After all, it was going to be a few kilometers. However, it was not long before Ju Zi, who was dressed in her fiery red human-shaped soul tool, appeared in Xu Tianran's sight.

Xu Tianran's eyesight was very good. He could see very clearly that she was not wearing her helmet. Her fatigue was clearly written over her face, even though her eyes showed the determination she had within her. n//Ove1BIn

It pained him to know that his Empress had suffered so much for him. This is my Empress! If only I could... She really deserves my love! She has been fighting so hard for my ambitions and for the empire. Yet I am still so wary of her.

Ju Zi, Ju Zi! Tell me, how is my heart not supposed to ache for you?

As this thought drifted across his mind, Xu Tianran quickened his steps as he moved forward to receive her.

Similarly, Ju Zi also increased her speed as she strode quickly towards Xu Tianran without using any of her soul tools.

When they were about ten meters from each other, Ju Zi knelt down before him.

"Your Majesty." Her voice was trembling as tears streamed down from her face.

By now, Xu Tianran was a lot more used to his prosthetic leg. He quickly strode forward and hugged Ju Zi, who was kneeling before him.

Ju Zi hugged him tightly as she started to bawl loudly.

The ministers and generals knew they should not move closer or interrupt this moment. They could tell how important Ju Zi was to Xu Tianran from the way he was hugging her.

The commanders and vice-commanders who had followed Ju Zi also knelt down. As they watched her cry, tears welled up in their eyes.

This was especially true for Xia Xuanchen, the legion commander of the Evileye Tyrant Soul Engineer Legion. He was already very distraught after seeing so many of his subordinates die at the hands of the

Holy Ghost Church. After returning to the army and seeing how the War God Empress had suffered so much for everyone, one could only imagine the intensity of the emotions pent up within him.

The vice-commanders of the Imperial Dragon Soul Engineer Legion were also bawling uncontrollably. After all, almost the entire legion had been destroyed. On top of that, they had no idea where their soul tool supplies had gone. No one hated the Holy Ghost Church more than them. Previously, they were also the ones who had killed the greatest number of evil soul masters from the Holy Ghost Church.

Xu Tianran spoke gently, "Come on, don't cry, my dear Empress. Don't cry. All is well now that you have returned. I will make everything right for you."

After crying for a while longer, Ju Zi slowly broke free from Xu Tianran's embrace before taking two steps back. Following which, she kowtowed once more to Xu Tianran.

"I, the Marshal and Commander of the Three Armies, Ju Zi, shall now hand my appointment back to Your Majesty." As she spoke, she handed her Commander's Seal back to Xu Tianran.

Xu Tianran did not take the seal from her. Instead, he said, "Rise, my Empress. Rise, my loyal subjects and commanders. All of you have done a lot for our empire. I have decided to reward all of you for expanding the land of the Sun Moon Empire. Follow me back to the Palace."

All of the ministers and commanders then followed Xu Tianran as he held Ju Zi's hand and strolled back to the Palace.

Chapter 599.1: Xu Tianran's Decision

"Your Majesty, it's my fault for not managing the army well. I am willing to accept any punishment." Ju Zi whispered to Xu Tianran.

However, Xu Tianran shook his head and turned to look at her. Compared to when she had just left, she had become a lot more frail. Her radiant skin had become a little duller. It was clear that she had suffered from a lot of stress during the war. Even Xu Tianran would not deny that Shrek Academy was extremely hard to deal with.

Afterward, Ju Zi had also had to manage the conflict between her commanders and the Holy Ghost Church. One could only imagine the stress she had been under. It was telling how she had opted to return the Commander's Seal right after she had led the troops back to the capital.

"My dear Empress, why are you returning the seal?" Xu Tianran asked Ju Zi.

Ju Zi lowered her head and answered, "There's no way I can return the trust Your Majesty has placed in me. Even though I am very willing to fight for Your Majesty, I am but a woman. At the end of the day, a woman will experience moments of fragility at times. Even though I am confident of taking down our enemies in war no matter how strong they are, I am powerless when it comes to some of the pressure coming from within our empire. I really want to be responsible for the hundreds of thousands of troops under me. But I am starting to doubt my ability to protect them. This responsibility is simply too heavy for me. It's not that I want to push it away, but I really recognize the limits of my abilities. Hence, I urge Your Majesty to look for someone else who is more capable. I only wish to be by Your Majesty's side, and spend time with Your Majesty and Little Yunhan."

Tears immediately welled up in Ju Zi's eyes the moment she mentioned her son. Xu Tianran could even feel that her hands were trembling.

That's true! Even though she is exceptionally capable, she is but a woman—a lady who simply wants to stay by her husband and child's side. It's so unfortunate that the kid is not my own son. If not...

It pained Xu Tianran to see Ju Zi like this. He consoled her and replied, "It's okay. You have already done very well. It is definitely time for us to settle some of the things you have mentioned. You can rest assured that I will definitely fight for the justice you deserve. You are definitely the person I can trust the most, and also the person who is closest to me. It's time for you to rest up properly now that you have returned. The army also needs to rest and be resupplied. We need to consolidate our control over the Heavenly Soul Empire. After all, I am still decently young; we are not in a hurry to conquer the entire continent. I will make sure that you will not have any other worries the next time you set off on campaign. As of now, no one is more deserving to be the Commander of the Three Armies. I want you to remain as the Marshal."

After returning to the Palace, Xu Tianran immediately announced the rewards that the army and the commanders would get. Even though he did not seem to give many rewards to Ju Zi, it was clear that he still placed a lot of trust in his War God Empress. He was definitely going to end his relationship with the Holy Ghost Church. That would be the biggest reward she could get.

After the Three Armies received their rewards, Ju Zi immediately took off her human-shaped soul tool. She dashed to the back of the Palace to look for her son!

Following which, she stayed away from the main hall of the Palace for the next three days. In fact, she did not even contact any of the commanders she had brought back. She simply spent all her time with her son as she tried to be the best mother possible for Little Yunhan.

Xu Tianran was naturally very pleased to see this. She definitely fit his idea of a good wife. She was capable, loyal and deserving of trust. Most importantly, she did not seem to possess any unwelcome ambitions.

Even though he was still unable to get over the fact that he could not have his own child, he believed that this was probably the next best thing. In his eyes, Ju Zi would not be able to betray him, even if it were for her son. This meant that he could hand over his troops to her without any worries.

In the Holy Ghost Church's headquarters.

"Mother, even though Xu Tianran has rewarded the army, he did not even mention how they tried to kill us. It seems like he has already decided to give up on us." Zhong Liwu's face was extremely pale as he spoke to Ye Xishui.

Ye Xishui was sitting in a seat as she listened to her son with an expressionless face. She said, "Have you finished transporting our resources?"

"Most of them have already been shifted to the Heavenly Soul Empire's land. Even though the Sun Moon Empire has taken over their land, it should take a while before they fully understand the situation over there. By then, we should be able to anchor down over there."

Ye Xishui replied, "This time, we have really suffered a lot from this war. Without resting for a hundred years, it will be impossible for us to regain the strength that we have lost. I still can't believe that Xu Tianran would actually cut us off after using us. I will not let this matter rest just like this. Once our resources have been completely moved away, I will make sure they pay for this!"

"Yes!" Zhong Liwu's eyes were full of hatred.

After fighting with Huo Yuhao, he had hurt his martial soul and sustained several injuries which were extremely damaging to his body. Following which, he was bugged by the matters at the front line. Even now, the Titled Douluo under him were still unable to explain why the army had suddenly attacked them. In fact, he believed that the Evileye Tyrant Soul Engineer Legion's talk about how they and the Imperial Dragon Soul Engineer Legion had been attacked by evil soul masters was a complete joke. However, they were somehow able to produce a fairly persuasive argument.

It was then that Ye Xishui had sensed that things were turning bad. The reason why she had chosen to attack the Sun Moon Empire's army was because she had wanted to see how Xu Tianran would react to it. It was important for her to determine his attitude towards the Holy Ghost Church.

She knew that Xu Tianran had not pursued the matter with Ju Zi. Hence, she wanted to increase the pressure on him and see how he would react.

However, she did not expect him to not do anything about it. In fact, he simply allowed the Sun Moon Empire's army to return without saying anything.

After seeing that things were turning for the worse, Ye Xishui immediately ordered her people within the Holy Ghost Church to transport the supplies and resources they had gained from the Sun Moon Empire to their secret lair within the land of the Heavenly Soul Empire.

Ye Xishui definitely knew what kind of person Xu Tianran was. He would definitely destroy whoever tried to stop him at all costs.

The Holy Ghost Church would definitely not be exempted from this rule. Now, only she and Long Xiaoyao could deter him from destroying the Holy Ghost Church. Once both of them were gone, Xu Tianran would definitely snuff them out.

Hence, Ye Xishui had already made up her mind to move the Holy Ghost Church's headquarters elsewhere. This would give them precious time to recuperate while they waited for an opportunity to strike back.

She was not too concerned about whether Xu Tianran planned to take down the Holy Ghost Church. After all, she had eyes and ears planted everywhere within the Sun Moon Empire. The Holy Ghost Church's dominance in the Sun Moon Empire over the past few years had allowed her to build up an extensive network. She would definitely get hold of any news before he launched an attack on the Holy Ghost Church. After all, she also knew how to use communication soul tools.

"Mother, how do you plan to get back at the Sun Moon Empire? I must say that Ju Zi is a really formidable woman. We should definitely kill her when the first opportunity arises. After we take her down, we will have nothing to fear from Xu Tianran. Even though I don't like that woman, I must say

that she's really the best Marshal in our generation. She is definitely more capable than the White Tiger Duke of the Star Luo Empire." Zhong Liwu said.

Ye Xishui nodded and said, "I had already planned to kill her back in the valley. However, she was well-prepared back then. This time, Xu Tianran had also sent a hundred soul engineers from the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineer Legion to protect her. Because they were all around her, it would be hard for me to kill her with a single blow. The Sun Moon Empire has really developed too quickly over the past few years. Soul masters are becoming more and more worthless. No wonder they could destroy the Heavenly Soul Empire with ease. Liwu, I need you to gather all the people we have. I need you to take all the supplies and disciples who are seven-ringed and below with you. Even though I don't think Xu Tianran dares to turn on us yet, we need to prepare for the worst. I will now go and look for him. I need to know what he plans to do with the Holy Ghost Church, and how he plans to answer my questions."

As she spoke, Ye Xishui stood up and left the room.

Zhong Liwu was startled by his mother's words. "Mother, are you sure you won't be in danger?"

"There's no place in this world that is truly life-threatening for me," Ye Xishui replied arrogantly, "you must remember that your mother is already an Ultimate Douluo. Besides, Long Xiaoyao is also around. The Sun Moon Empire would definitely have to think twice before meddling with two Ultimate Douluo."

"Yes. I will now go and prepare the things you have told me to do. However, please be careful. Don't let your anger hurt your body." Zhong Liwu was showing care and concern for his mother.

"Alright, you may leave now."

After Zhong Liwu had left, Ye Xishui was the only person left in this dark room. She seemed to cut a lonely figure as she lowered her head and gazed into the distance.

"Is it really worth it? You should know that your goal is impossible to attain. Even if I were to support you fully, it would still be impossible." A low, resigned voice echoed within the room.

"Have you even once tried your best to help me?" Ye Xishui asked coldly.

A towering figure stepped out of the darkness. He was none other than the Dragon Emperor Douluo, Long Xiaoyao.

Long Xiaoyao walked towards Ye Xishui and said, "Xishui, stop while you still can. It is impossible for the Holy Ghost Church, a group of evil soul masters, to survive in the long run. No matter where you set up your headquarters, there will still be people who will go after you and try to destroy you. You should know how ambitious Xu Tianran is. Once he has accomplished some of his objectives, he will definitely cut off all ties with the Holy Ghost Church. And it all boils down to the problem of evil soul masters. From the look of things, the Sun Moon Empire will definitely be able to conquer the entire continent in the near future. When that happens, that will be the end for the Holy Ghost Church. They will definitely emulate what happened back then and try to cleanse the continent of all evil soul masters."

"Shut up!" Ye Xishui suddenly exploded with rage.

Long Xiaoyao kept quiet as Ye Xishui's rapid breathing echoed within the room.

"Is it really worth it?" Long Xiaoyao sighed and muttered.

Chapter 599.2: Xu Tianran's Decision

Ye Xishui suddenly turned around and stared coldly at Long Xiaoyao. "Mu En asked me the same question back then. Do you want to answer on my behalf?"

Long Xiaoyao's body started to shudder vigorously. One could see the sadness in his eyes.

After seeing how Long Xiaoyao had reacted to her words, Yi Xishui sighed and said, "Forget about it, Xiaoyao. I am in the wrong. I should not have mentioned that. At the end of the day, you have spent more than a hundred years with me even if you were wrong back then. This is something Mu En and Zhongli Wu's father would never be able to do. I know you are the one who loves me the most. You must have struggled a lot and blamed yourself all these years. Do you know I have long wanted to tell you that I have forgiven you? But I am afraid that once I say that, you will leave me. And when that happens, I will no longer have someone I can trust with my heart."

The pain in Long Xiaoyao's eyes had disappeared. Tears started to well up in his eyes instead.

Ye Xishui gently leaned on his body and allowed herself to enter his embrace. "Now, I have really forgiven you. You don't have to feel bad about that incident anymore. You no longer owe me anything after all that you have done for all these years. Now, you can rest assured and leave. Do what you have always wanted to do. Don't let me burden you."

Long Xiaoyao gave her a bitter smile and asked, "You have sensed that something bad is about to happen, right?"

Ye Xishui's body froze.

Long Xiaoyao sighed and said, "To be honest, it's been a while since you last threatened me with that. However, I have already gotten used to being by your side. Do you know what I'm trying to say? Even though I won't help you with your wrongdoings, I have always protected you and stood by your side. Hence, I am partially at fault for those things you have done. We are already on the same boat. Over the course of these hundred years, I have struggled a lot whenever I saw you kill and nurture your evil soul masters. However, I was willing to bear with the pain and conflict in my heart to stay by your side. This is because my love for you outweighs everything else. I am willing to continue to stay by your side even if I can't stop you from doing what's wrong. However, if karma does strike back at you one day, I am willing to take it on with you."

Tears started to stream from Ye Xishui's eyes. She used her fists to hit Long Xiaoyao's chest repeatedly.

"Why are you so dumb? Why are you so dumb?!"

Long Xiaoyao smiled and hugged her even tighter than before. "Because I love you! It's that simple. You were right. I can be proud to say that there's no one in this world who loves you more than I do."

Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong had waited quietly for three days, but there was still no news from Ju Zi. However, they learned about how the army was rewarded for their achievements on the battlefield.

The three soul engineer legions had been given permission to enter the city. They were naturally sent back to where they had been housed previously.

Even though the Sun Moon Empire had conquered the Heavenly Soul Empire, they had suffered huge losses. This was especially true considering how many powerful soul engineers they had lost.

Two of the four beast lord-ranked soul engineer legions had been wrecked by their enemies. The thousand soul engineers they had dispatched to reinforce the others were also completely wiped out. On top of that, they had lost about five Class 9 soul engineers. Coupled with the resources and supplies they had expended, as well as the Holy Ghost Church problem, the Sun Moon Empire was fairly shaken by the war.

Of course, this might also be a good chance for the Sun Moon Empire to start afresh for certain things. As long as they maintained their lead in terms of soul tool technology, it was only a matter of time before they made up for the soul engineers and soul tools they had lost.

The Illustrious Virtue Hall had finished reconstruction, but it was no longer in the hands of Jing Hongchen. A large amount of money had been invested in all sorts of research.

A lot of soul tool technology had been exported to the Heavenly Soul Empire, but the bulk of them were soul tools which were mainly for civilian use. Not a single military-grade soul tool was sent to their newly-conquered land. By using those soul tools which were used by civilians, the Sun Moon Empire had amassed a huge amount of wealth and resources from the Heavenly Soul Empire. These resources were all useful for the Sun Moon Empire's military development.

As the Sun Moon Empire continued to improve its human-shaped soul tools, Huo Yuhao had once asked Ju Zi how their Class 5 and 6 soul engineers were able to use human-shaped soul tools. Even though Ju Zi did not reveal the answer to his question, Huo Yuhao was able to see a tinge of sadness in her eyes.

Huo Yuhao thought about it, and realized that there was only a single possibility.

One would need sufficiently strong spiritual power to control a human-shaped soul tool—at least that was the case for the current soul tool technology in use.

How was one supposed to improve his or her spiritual power? One would usually find one's spiritual power enhanced after one had attained a higher cultivation. Individuals who were blessed with spiritual-type martial souls could develop their spiritual power separately. Other than these two normal ways, one could also stimulate one's brain artificially to enhance one's spiritual power.

If the Sun Moon Empire had achieved some results in this field, they might have used this method to artificially enhance their soul engineers' spiritual power to make them able to control the human-shaped soul tools.

However, this also meant that these soul engineers would lose their potential. They would not be able to improve their cultivation in the future.

Xuan Ziwen had once told Huo Yuhao about how the Sun Moon Empire had researched ways to heighten a human's spiritual power through methods of stimulation. However, they had never actually practiced them because of the powerful side-effects. Xuan Ziwen had admitted that he had no idea to what extent was the Sun Moon Empire able to suppress those side-effects. If the side-effects were truly that harsh, the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineer Legion might not be that invincible after all.

The army was rewarded for their acts of bravery, and was given good food and alcohol for the next two days. Subsequently, other than key personnel who were asked to stay behind, the rest of them were given a break.

At the end of the day, soul engineers were extremely highly regarded, even within the army. There were not many restrictions imposed on them. It was the same even after they returned to Radiant City. In fact, they were given a ten-day break after they returned.

As for how the three soul engineer legions planned to replenish their manpower, Huo Yuhao was not clear about that. However, it did not seem to be a big problem judging from the emotional fluctuations shown by the commanders above.

Huo Yuhao had been enveloping the entire military camp with his Spiritual Detection. One of the most valuable bits of intelligence which he had gotten was how the Sun Moon Empire had planned to take a longer time to reorganize their troops.

The military order had already reached the army, which was still waiting at the southern border of the Heavenly Soul Empire. While they were locked in a standstill with the Star Luo Empire, they were being resupplied. The supplies naturally came from the Heavenly Soul Empire.

It seemed like the Sun Moon Empire was really planning on resting up and reorganizing their troops. It did not look like they would go to war anytime soon. Even if Huo Yuhao and Ju Zi's plan were to fail, the Sun Moon Empire probably wouldn't launch any major military operations within a year. This was definitely good news.

However, this news was still fairly meaningless. After all, it was impossible to verify. Hence, the other empires, especially the Star Luo Empire, must still be on guard and get ready for war.

Huo Yuhao had no idea how much the Star Luo Empire had developed in the past few years. He believed that they should have improved a fair bit without the stress and pressure of actually fighting a war.

Huo Yuhao couldn't help but think of that man when he was thinking about the Star Luo Empire. He believed that he should really go back and settle that matter once he had taken down Xu Tianran and gotten a confirmation from Ju Zi that she would not invade either empire in the next ten years. He felt that it was also time for him to pay his respects to his mother.

It pained Huo Yuhao to think about his mother. Even though his intense hatred was already gone, the bitterness and pain were still very present in his heart.

Huo Yuhao would often think to himself how great it would be if his mother was still alive. He believed that he would definitely be able to give her a good life with his current abilities.

Unfortunately, this was only something he could imagine. He knew that it was impossible to resurrect anyone. No matter how strong he had become, he would never be able to bring his mother back to life.

Hence, he must settle that matter. He needed to look for him and get closure. Huo Yuhao knew it was necessary to make things right for his mother. On top of that, he also had scores to settle with that Duchess!

Huo Yuhao was instantly infuriated by the thought of her. Even if he could choose not to exact revenge on the others, he would never let her go just like this. If not for the Duchess, his mother would never have died.

Dai Huabin was still young and rash back then, so Huo Yuhao could forgive him. However, the Duchess could not be forgiven. After all, his mother would definitely still be alive if not for her.

“Yuhao? What’s on your mind?” Tang Wutong squeezed Huo Yuhao’s hand.

Now that the soul engineers were taking a break, Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong naturally left the camp. Huo Yuhao had also changed out from the annoying human-shaped soul tool he had had to wear for the past few days. After changing into normal clothes and disguising themselves with some simple makeup, they started to stroll leisurely through the streets of Radiant City. **noVE/IB/1n**

Tang Wutong was really enjoying the way they were walking these streets without any worries. However, she was ultimately still able to sense the change in Huo Yuhao’s mood.

Huo Yuhao shook his head gently and said, “It’s nothing. I was just thinking about my mother.”

Tang Wutong squeezed his hand and said, “Don’t worry too much about it. Once we’re done with this, let’s go and pay respects to your mother, alright?”

Huo Yuhao smiled and said, “That’s great. But you should stop calling her my mother. She’s now also your mother. I feel so sad that she’s unable to see her beautiful daughter-in-law.” After finishing his sentence, Huo Yuhao almost choked up with his emotions.

Tang Wutong blushed and asked, “Then when do you plan to marry me?”

Huo Yuhao replied, “If this thing proceeds smoothly, I will marry you after we have paid respects to my mother. Is that alright?”

Tang Wutong was displeased with his answer. “Is this how you propose to a girl?”

Huo Yuhao laughed, “I guess not. I will propose to you officially again once we get back.”

Tang Wutong burst into laughter and said, “There’s no need for that. Do you think I’d really care about such things after we’ve been through so much together? Alright, I will promise you. I will definitely try my best to contact my parents once we are done with things over here. I’ll...”

“What will you do?” Huo Yuhao teased her.

“Hmph! I won’t tell you.” Tang Wutong turned around.

Chapter 599.3: Xu Tianran’s Decision

“Haha!” Huo Yuhao burst into laughter. It seemed almost as if he had already forgotten about all those things that had made him sad. He was always very happy when Tang Wutong was around.

As they walked on, they soon came within the vicinity of the palace. Huo Yuhao was pretty familiar with the palace, after all, he had entered more than once.

Today, he was simply walking around aimlessly with Tang Wutong. However, Huo Yuhao realized that three days had passed, and Ju Zi still had not contacted them. He felt that he should try to establish contact with her to determine what their next move ought to be.

Huo Yuhao was confident that he would be able to sneak into the palace with Tang Wutong with ease.

However, just when he came close to the outer wall of the palace, he suddenly sensed impending danger. This sensation was very sudden, but extremely intense.

Tang Wutong, who had gotten ready to enter the palace with him, realized that he had stopped.

“Let’s go.” Huo Yuhao held Tang Wutong’s hand as he continued down the street. He remembered clearly that there was a barbeque store which had pretty good food. The smell of the burned charcoal was extremely dense, and their meat was very tender and juicy.

There should not be that many people in the middle of the afternoon. I should bring Wutong along to eat some barbeque meat.

Huo Yuhao’s memory was very good, and he managed to successfully locate the restaurant. Both of them ordered some barbequed lamb and beef, as well as some of their barbequed innards. On top of that, they requested two cups of wheat wine.

It did not take very long before they were served. It was truly a remarkable dining experience to munch on barbequed meat and sip wheat wine. **noVE/IB/1n**

“Why did you not enter the palace just now?” Tang Wutong transmitted her words to Huo Yuhao while munching on the meat normally.

Huo Yuhao also replied by transmitting his thoughts to her. “I don’t know why, but I sensed something threatening just when I was about to enter. It was almost as though something bad was about to happen. Perhaps there’s someone within the palace who is able to threaten our lives. It seems like the Sun Moon Empire’s surveillance soul tools might have improved once again. This is really bad!”

Tang Wutong was also startled. She knew how powerful Huo Yuhao’s spiritual power had become after both of them had become Transcendent Douluo. Even though his Spirit Eye was still lacking its ninth soul ring, his ability to sense danger was definitely on par with that of an Ultimate Douluo with the boost he had received from the Three-Eyed Golden Lion.

Huo Yuhao had failed to detect the two Ultimate Douluo previously only because they were never in real danger. Hence, one could guess from Huo Yuhao’s reaction that the palace was incredibly dangerous.

I can’t believe how strong the Sun Moon Empire has become!

Because the barbequed meat was really fantastic, Tang Wutong revealed a very satisfied expression. Afterward, they sat where they were and asked for two more cups of wheat wine before sipping their wine slowly.

In the meantime, Huo Yuhao’s spiritual power was creeping along the walls of the palace as he tried to envelop the entire compound with his spiritual power. However, he did not try to project his power into the palace. Instead, he simply wrapped it around the compound like a spiritual barrier and surveilled the compound from a vantage point.

This method of surveillance would definitely not give away his existence even if the palace had set up multiple surveillance soul tools within its compound.

On the surface, it seemed as though the palace was still its tranquil self. The guards who were on patrol were still moving around in an orderly fashion. The aerial surveillance soul tools were still exactly the same as they were before.

Could I have been wrong??Huo Yuhao was puzzled by what he was seeing.?No, I can't be wrong. Even if I am wrong, I need to be very careful.

After so many years of training, Huo Yuhao was able to compose himself very quickly. Taking risks would only lead to disastrous outcomes. Even the most powerful soul masters were no exception to this rule.

After he composed himself, he made sure his Spiritual Detection did not enter the palace as he observed the interior of the palace from the outside.

He was not anxious at all. In fact, there were many ways he could survey the palace without entering it physically. He only needed to see if there was a point in employing those methods.

Very soon, they were done with their second cup of wheat wine.

"Let's head back." Huo Yuhao suddenly stood up. Just when he was going to foot the bill, the expression on his face suddenly changed. Very quickly, he returned to where he was sitting and exclaimed, "Can we have two more cups of wheat wine?"

Tang Wutong was not startled by the sudden change of plans. She understood that Huo Yuhao must have discovered something to have decided to change their plans. She waited patiently for her third cup of wheat wine to be served.

Huo Yuhao shared his Spiritual Detection with her so that she would be able to see what he was seeing.

They were shocked to see a familiar figure striding towards the main gate of the palace from their vantage point. The figure was dressed in a big red robe. Her overpowering aura was radiating from her body in a haughty fashion.

She was none other than the Death God Douluo, Ye Xishui. Huo Yuhao believed that she must be intending to make some sort of statement to have decided to come to the palace at this time. After seeing her appear, Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong naturally could not leave. Both of them hated Ye Xishui to the core. This fact would not change even though she had chosen not to attack them because of Long Xiaoyao.

What is Ye Xishui doing at the palace in the middle of the day??It was important to note that evil soul masters often found their powers more limited in the afternoon. The reason was that their powers were often tied to spirits, and spirits were often weakened when daylight was strongest. Hence, it was very strange for the Death God Douluo to choose to come at this time.?Did she not consider the possibility of a fight?

As Ye Xishui strode into the palace, the guards by the door bowed to her in respect. No one dared to stop her as she continued to walk towards the inner part of the palace.

However, Huo Yuhao was definitely able to sense the transformation within the palace from his vantage point after she entered the gates.

Four lights suddenly appeared at the four corners of the palace. These lights were not very intense, and looked just like any normal light. They were not particularly large—roughly ten meters in diameter or so. However, Huo Yuhao could feel the same threatening sensation once those lights lit up. In fact, the sensation was way more intense than before.

Huo Yuhao became incredibly worried. At the very next instant, Huo Yuhao instantly understood what those lights were. It was important to note that he was a Class 9 soul engineer with a detection ability that even Ultimate Douluo would not be able to rival.

Those are...

Those are high-energy compression array soul tools!

Weren't those soul tools set up at the four corners of Radiant City? When did they install them within the palace too?? They were a lot smaller than the high-energy compression array soul tools that were installed around Radiant City. On top of that, they were not radiating any soul power. Hence, Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong were not able to tell exactly how powerful they were. However, they believed that these soul tools could not possibly be weak.

Previously, those high-energy compression array soul tools had left an extremely deep impression on Huo Yuhao. They had managed to protect over a hundred thousand civilians under the command of Xu Tianran. At the same time, they had protected his life. A Rank 98 Transcendent Douluo was unable to destroy it even after he ignited his own life energy.

On top of that, Xu Tianran had only borrowed power from one of the four soul tools. This meant that they should probably be able to protect all of Radiant City if all four of them were activated at the same time. That would be an incredible amount of power!

Of course, Huo Yuhao also knew that it would take a long time for them to store up so much power. Nonetheless, this was sufficiently impressive.

Now, it seemed like even the palace was equipped with these soul tools. They were definitely more than sufficient to protect the entire palace regardless of whether they were used to attack or defend. In addition, if they were really high-energy compression array soul tools, this meant that the Sun Moon Empire had already developed methods to produce smaller high-energy compression array soul tools. It would not be long before they equipped their soul engineer legions with these frightening weapons! That would truly be a nightmare.

Huo Yuhao did not know how they were recharging these high-energy compression array soul tools. It would not be very practical for them to recharge them manually. Who knew how many soul masters they would need to be fully recharged?

After seeing all of this, Huo Yuhao definitely could not leave. He needed to observe and learn more. After all, these high-energy compression array soul tools concerned his next plans. It was likeliest for him to kill Xu Tianran within the palace. After assassinating him, he would have to flee from the palace safely.

If Xu Tianran were able to control all of these high-energy compression array soul tools, he would definitely be able to protect himself from any Ultimate Douluo who planned to assassinate him.

Hence, Huo Yuhao knew he had to pay attention to the details.

After taking a few steps into the palace, Ye Xishui suddenly stopped before she looked up into the sky.

This shocked Huo Yuhao! What a powerful detection ability! Even though I was simply surveilling from the sky, she was able to tell that I was there. An Ultimate Douluo is really a lot more powerful than any Transcendent Douluo. However, I don't think she knows where we are.

Just when Huo Yuhao was reassuring himself, a black figure entered the barbecue restaurant.

"Give me a beef tenderloin. Make it very tender. I want it medium-well. Also, give me a cup of wheat wine."

Huo Yuhao immediately slapped his forehead. Tang Wutong also let out a helpless sigh. The reason was that the person who had just entered the restaurant was none other than Long Xiaoyao.

Both of them looked at one another as they saw the startled expression on each others' faces.

Long Xiaoyao had naturally seen them. This powerful soul master walked towards their table, pulled out a chair and sat in front of both of them.

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Long Xiaoyao smiled as he said, "I didn't expect us to meet again so soon."

Huo Yuhao sighed and said, "Elder, your cultivation is unpredictable! I didn't expect you to find us even though we've been so careful." Although it was easy to put on makeup, Huo Yuhao naturally understood that they could no longer hide their identities after Long Xiaoyao discovered them.

Long Xiaoyao laughed and said, "What if I told you this was a coincidence. Would you believe me?"

Huo Yuhao's lips twisted a little. I don't think I need to answer such a dumb question. He raised his cup of malt wine to express his sincerity before gulping the wine down. The bitter yet fragrant taste of the malt wine immediately overwhelmed his chest area. It was very comfortable, but the bitterness didn't disappear for a long time.

This time, Ye Xishui was one of their targets.

At this moment, the waiter had already delivered the food that Long Xiaoyao wanted.

"Grandpa Long, you haven't been here for a long time! Quickly, come and taste this delicious piece of beef tenderloin that our chef has chosen." The waiter passionately put the food in front of him.

"Alright, help me thank him." Long Xiaoyao chortled and started to cut up the beef tenderloin with a small knife.

The waiter retreated, and Tang Wutong couldn't help but ask, "You're already so old, yet you're still eating meat. Aren't you afraid of being a laughing stock?"

Long Xiaoyao laughed, "Eating is a joy in life. It's something we have to do everyday from the day we are born until the day we die. I love meat. If I can't even eat meat, what's the point of living?" As he spoke, he started to gulp down wine and meat together.

Huo Yuhao was a little pensive as he looked at Long Xiaoyao and said, "Right now, I actually believe that our meeting is a coincidence."

Long Xiaoyao chuckled and said, "That's why I said that we are fated, are we not? Share whatever you are seeing with me. I know you have that ability."

Huo Yuhao couldn't help it, and shared what he was seeing with Long Xiaoyao.

Long Xiaoyao was definitely more familiar with the imperial palace than he was. He immediately discovered something wrong with the four corners of the palace.

Long Xiaoyao was perplexed as he asked, "Oh? What's that? Four corners are brightly lit?"

Huo Yuhao said, "If I'm not wrong, they should be high-energy compression array soul tools. Elder Ye is also a Class 9 soul engineer. You should have heard of such a soul tool before."

Long Xiaoyao's expression immediately changed. "What did you say? They're high-energy compression array soul tools? No, impossible. The Sun Moon Empire only has such soul tools outside the city. Why are they in the palace?"

Huo Yuhao said, "I was supposed to check out the palace today. However, I had an ominous feeling before I entered. That's why I'm here. After that, I went to observe. Elder Ye seems to have just gone in."

Long Xiaoyao's expression immediately turned grim. He took a big gulp of malt wine and squinted. "The Sun Moon Empire's power has really exceeded our expectations. Continue observing." He didn't immediately leave after discovering the high-energy compression array soul tools. He continued eating his beef and drinking his wine.

Since he wasn't anxious, there was less of a need for Huo Yuhao to be anxious. However, he maintained his Spiritual Detection out of respect for Long Xiaoyao. He didn't check things out further. In his heart, he couldn't wait for Xu Tianran and Ye Xishui to fight. That would fit his interests.

A huge piece of beef tenderloin was quickly consumed by Long Xiaoyao. He even had another cup of wine.

Long Xiaoyao seemed to enjoy it a lot. He was all smiles as he looked at Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong.

"Although Mu En is gone, he should be laughing even in the afterlife since he's got a disciple like you! It'd be great if I had a disciple like you."

If it were someone else, he would immediately give up everything to become Long Xiaoyao's disciple. However, Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong were already both the disciples of the Dragon God Douluo Mu En. Naturally, they wouldn't do that.

"You're exaggerating." Huo Yuhao hurriedly said.

Long Xiaoyao shook his head and said, "I'm not. I'm being serious. When Mu En and I were your age, we were too inferior compared to both of you. There are even a few fellows from the Tang Sect who aren't faring worse than us at their age."

Huo Yuhao didn't know how to react. He only smiled. In fact, he couldn't determine whether Long Xiaoyao was a friend or foe even up until now.

Teacher said that he's secretly protecting me. However, he's also a supreme elder of the Holy Ghost Church! He's always been by Ye Xishui's side, helping her commit evil. Without him, the Holy Ghost Church wouldn't have been able to develop so quickly over the past few years. Its success is closely tied to the Dragon God Douluo, Long Xiaoyao.

Long Xiaoyao sighed. "Little Huo, do you look down on me and think that I'm a disgrace to have earned my reputation along with your teacher?"

Huo Yuhao was astonished. He honestly replied, "There was once a period of time when I did think that way. However, I learned more after that. I guess you must have some things that you can't say."

Long Xiaoyao smiled, and seemed to be very happy. "Very good. At least you're not lying to me. That's a virtue, even though white lies are important sometimes. You seem to be disapproving with your words. Do you think that I should not be committing evil even if there are things that I can't say?"

Huo Yuhao took a mouthful of the malt wine and tried to hide his awkwardness. "Elder, you're really very sharp. Nothing escapes your eyes. I apologize for my actions."

Long Xiaoyao shook his head and replied, "There's nothing to be apologetic about. Almost everyone thinks the same way as you. Even my friends and family think the same too. It's just I really have no choice."

He retracted his smile. What replaced it was a look of unhappiness and pain that couldn't be wiped away.

"Let me tell you. There are many things which aren't that simple. I've not told this matter to anyone before. If I don't say it now, I might not get a chance again. Do you want to listen to it?"

Can we say no?? Moreover, Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong were both curious about his life.

They nodded at the same time.

Long Xiaoyao sighed and revealed a lost look in his eyes. "We'll have to go way back to the start. Then, Mu En, Ye Xishui and I met one another when we traveling outside. Mu En and I met the earliest. We only knew each other through fighting. He had the Radiant Holy Dragon, while I had the Darkness Holy Dragon. We were each the other's nemesis. That's why we were foes the moment we met. Our cultivations were similar, and our ages were also around the same. How could we not be competitive? Within a year, we fought seven times. Each time, the victor was different. Eventually, I lost one more time than him. Among the seven fights, I won three and he won four. He won against me, most notably during the finals of the Continental Advanced Soul Master Academy Soul Dueling Tournament. He won against the team that I led. It was also then that I first met Ye Xishui. She was the only female soul master that could challenge us in terms of cultivation."

When he said that, a smile appeared on Long Xiaoyao's face. Whatever happened in the past was undoubtedly the best things that had happened in his life.

"After fighting for close to a year, we became closer because of one matter. We met a village that was harmed by evil soul masters. The evil soul masters were on a killing spree. They were using human souls and corpses to cultivate. We passed that village from different places. When we saw the tragic state it was in, we couldn't help but intervene. When we finally killed all the evil soul masters, we realized that we were helping one another. Suddenly, we laughed, and became good friends from then on."

"Mu En is a composed person. I'm more rebellious. To be honest, I was really slightly more handsome than your teacher then. Haha!" Long Xiaoyao laughed. He was even laughing very heartily.

Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong couldn't refute this point. Although Long Xiaoyao was already very old, he was still very big and tall. It was also clear how he looked when he was younger. Huo Yuhao even felt that the Darkness Holy Dragon was more handsome than him when he was younger.

Long Xiaoyao followed with, "We started to travel around the continent and faced many experiences. We also teamed up together quite frequently. Then, we were astonished to find out that our martial souls were complementary even though their types were completely different. We even managed to unleash a fusion skill once. Darkness and light can actually come together. Don't you think it's very magical?"

Fusion skill? Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong stared at each other. This was really new information for them. Neither Elder Mu nor Elder Xuan had told them about this matter. Could darkness and light actually fuse?

From Long Xiaoyao's description, he did have some differences with Elder Xuan then. It turned out that Elder Mu and Long Xiaoyao knew each other from the tournament.

"Mu En and I analysed the situation. We believe that we were able to use fusion skills because of the connection between our martial souls. Even though darkness and light were opposites, there was something we shared. It's that our martial souls are both dragons. We only completed our fusion because of this similarity in our lineages. However, our martial souls were only fifty percent compatible. An extremely destructive force could be generated when darkness and light clashed as we fused our martial souls. However, it couldn't increase our cultivations. Compared to your fusion, we were a long way off."

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"Our relationship got better and better, and we became very good friends. That was until one day, when we bumped into Ye Xishui again."

"Ye Xishui was really beautiful when she was younger. Lass, she wasn't worse compared to you." As he said that, there seemed to be a captivated look in Long Xiaoyao's eyes, even though he was already very old.

"She was both bubbly and cute then. Very soon, the three of us became very good friends who toured the continent together. Xishui had a very good personality. We were both young men too. Very soon, it became apparent that we liked her. Both of us discussed this matter privately. Since we both liked her,

we'd rely on our capabilities to win her heart. I was more confident than your teacher. After all, I was much better in the looks department. My powers weren't inferior to him either. I had the confidence of winning Xishui's heart. I even told him that the other party must accept her choice no matter what, and that we'll remain good friends no matter the outcome. Mu En agreed."

"To prevent jealousy from ruining our relationship, Mu En and I decided to both find Xishui one day and confess. We hoped that she would make a choice. It was better for us to confess than hide our feelings. Xishui seemed to have been scared by us. She hesitated for half a day before she made her choice."

A bitter look appeared.

Long Xiaoyao was helpless as he gently shook his head. "I didn't expect that I would be the one to be rejected. Xishui chose Mu En. Even up until now, I can still remember how delighted Mu En was. It was something he couldn't hide. He leaped over and hugged her. He even spun three rounds with her in his embrace."

"Even though we agreed to be good friends, I was still devastated then. I left without turning back. When Mu En came to chase after me, I ran with all my strength. He didn't chase after me because he had to take care of Xishui."

Huo Yuhao couldn't help but ask, "Elder Long, wait a minute. Why did I learn that Xishui didn't choose either of you? Instead, she wanted both of you to fight a year later. The winner would get her! But neither of you went..."

Long Xiaoyao snorted, "You must have heard that from Little Xuan. He only heard it second-hand. While it's true that we did fight later, Xishui was already with him then. It's just that they kept it a secret."

After sighing, Long Xiaoyao said, "I'm actually a very proud person. I've known this for a long time. That was the heaviest blow that I'd suffered in my entire life. I walked the streets feeling very lost. Unknowingly, I walked out of the city and entered the wilderness. I was alone, and I didn't even know how long I walked. My heart was completely broken. The pain of being jilted was excruciating. I hated Mu En then. I even hated Xishui. I didn't understand why she would choose him. I was confident that I was more handsome. I could tell from Xishui's eyes that she liked me."

"Perhaps you will laugh at me, but I was really confident. However, she still chose Mu En in the end! Don't tell me that it was because he came from Shrek Academy? I was indignant. I was really indignant. However, I couldn't return. I had already promised Mu En that we'd remain good friends no matter who she chose. I couldn't go back and fight for her again. That's why I left. When I left, I left for an entire year. I dominated the continent for that one year. I attacked the strong and helped the weak. I was much more heavy-handed and vicious than I used to be. In fact, I was looking for information about the two of them. Both of them dominated as a couple in the continent, and became leading figures in the younger generation of soul masters."

"Time didn't make me feel better. Eventually, I still decided to go and find them. I wanted to personally witness how blissful they were. I knew that it wasn't going to be easy for me to escape my feelings. I'm a stubborn person. That's why I eventually wanted to see. No matter what happened, I had to see."

"Destiny decided that we should meet again. They were very blissful together. When Mu En saw me, he was a little awkward. After comforting me, we even drank until we were both drunk. However, I was

strangely calm then. I no longer blamed Mu En when I saw him. Your teacher is a good person. He's really a good person. I fully believe that he didn't play any tricks when we pursued Xishui. Liking someone can't change. If you like someone, you like that person. If you don't like someone, you don't like that person. Then, I suddenly felt that I was able to finally let go. That left me very happy. It was good to be able to let go. At least no one else had to be hurt anymore, and I myself didn't have to be hurt anymore."

"Xishui was also very calm when she met me. She wasn't as close as she was a year ago. She had become very gentle by then. It seemed as if she was ready to become Mu En's wife. I wished both of them well."

"I felt it to be unfair, which was why I proposed to fight Mu En. I hoped to use a fight to alleviate the pain in my heart. I fought Mu En in front of a bunch of people from Shrek Academy. I lost, and lost very tragically. Mu En had grown a lot in one year. Perhaps it was because of love. His overall abilities were a tier above mine. Of course, it might also be because I was dispirited for an entire year."

"We went to drink. I indulged in a lot of alcohol and got completely wasted. Mu En was also drunk. When I woke up in the middle of the night, my head was splitting. In the room, only Mu En and I were around. Xishui had disappeared."

"There was a note on the table. It was beside Mu En, and it was written by Xishui. She told him to wash up before returning to the room after he woke up. I knew that Xishui was a clean freak. She hadn't changed."

"I took the note and walked out. I walked to her room. The door was open, and she seemed to be asleep. When I walked in, I smelled a fragrance. I wasn't too bothered then, and only silently walked to the bedside. I only wanted to take a look at her before leaving. Then, I thought that it would be my last time seeing her. In the future, I wouldn't see either of them anymore, in case it broke my heart."

"When I walked to the bedside, Xishui's voice sounded. She said, 'Why are you up so late? I've waited for you for a long time. You can't escape me today. Why do we have to wait until marriage before we are together? We can be together tonight. Do you smell the fragrance? Hehe, it's a poison that I made. It's called Fragrance of Spring Wind and Rain'"

"After hearing her voice, I didn't dare to move. I was afraid of being found out. What was I supposed to do now that I had broken into her room? After hearing her words, I was astonished. Although I didn't know what the Fragrance of Spring Wind and Rain was, I could guess! A warm flow went straight into my brain. My rationality told me that I should flee and find a place to neutralize the poison. However, I couldn't bear to leave. My heart was racing then. I did something that I regret for life. Xishui pulled me in. The room was very dark then. Her breathing was very quick. So was mine. When I touched her skin, the emotions that I had been suppressing for a year were unleashed. I leapt onto her like a beast."

After hearing until here, Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong couldn't help but open their eyes wide. This is... really a blessing in disguise! Not to even mention that Elder Xuan wouldn't know about this, I'm sure Elder Mu doesn't know either, right?

Suddenly, they didn't know what to say. Huo Yuhao was even secretly relieved that nothing like this had ever happened to them.

Long Xiaoyao gulped down another cup of wine and shouted at the top of his voice, "Another cup!"

Even though many years had passed, it was evident he was still very bothered about this matter. The pain in his eyes couldn't be hidden.

Huo Yuhao softly asked, "Elder, it's been such a long time. What happened after that?"

Long Xiaoyao sighed, "When I woke up, Xishui was already up. She was seated beside me. There was a dagger in her hand, which she was slowly moving towards her chest. I was shocked. I quickly grabbed the blade of the dagger, even though it cut me. My heart was very pained. I knew that I had committed a grave error. It was also at that moment that Mu En called for Xishui."

As he shut his eyes, Long Xiaoyao's body was shaking slightly. More than a hundred years had passed, but when he thought of what had happened back then, he still couldn't control himself. This showed how awkward the situation was for him.

Huo Yuhao's lips twisted. How can Long Xiaoyao be the only one who was tortured by this incident? Teacher and Ye Xishui were both victims too. Who could be blamed for this incident?

Long Xiaoyao was wrong. He should have run away. However, he was deeply in love with Ye Xishui. Was his love wrong?

What about Ye Xishui? Teacher was an honest man. She only poisoned him to get closer to him. She might even have been trying to make him less jealous. While her actions were a little extreme, were they wrong?

As for teacher, he's the most pitiful. He doesn't even know what happened. His lover and his best friend actually...

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Huo Yuhao couldn't ask any further. He put himself in their shoes. If he was any of them, he wouldn't have been able to accept fate.

The malt wine arrived again. Long Xiaoyao gulped down more and more wine. An unhealthy flush surfaced on his face.

The waiter hurriedly said, "Elder Long, drink slower. It's not good for your body if you drink too quickly."

Long Xiaoyao shook his head softly. "Take the cup. I'm not drinking anymore. I'll just sit for a while longer."

"Alright, no problem. You and your friends can sit as long as you want." The waiter took the cup away.

Long Xiaoyao opened his eyes once again. He looked at Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong bitterly. It seemed like his story had ended.

"I owe Xishui. This debt cannot be repaid. That was her first time. I owe Mu En too. I can't repay my debt to him either. Now, you should know why I'm committing all this evil. I knew that Xishui was killing with her Holy Ghost Church, but I still chose to protect her. I thought that I could forget, but I can't. Even after seeing her for many decades, I can still remember everything clearly. That's why I can't stop her no

matter what she does. I don't have that right. When I committed that grave error, my life didn't belong to me anymore."

"Compared to Mu En, Xishui was more hurt. I was the one who ruined her life. I love her, and I'm willing to sacrifice everything for her. My life belongs to her too. I can only die before her. If she dies before me, I'll follow her. That's why no one can persuade me to leave her. My life has long been tied to hers."

Long Xiaoyao's breathing became a little heavy. However, there was a relieved look on his face. It was his first time telling his story after so many years.

Although he didn't finish his story, anyone could guess that what followed was a tragedy.

Huo Yuhao was also having mixed feelings. He didn't know if he should pity the Darkness Holy Dragon or feel sad for his teacher. Perhaps, this tragedy was an arrangement of fate.

Long Xiaoyao stood up and said, "I should leave. Treasure the person in front of you, young man. Remember, find me when your cultivation reaches Rank 98. I'll go and fetch Xishui now." After he finished speaking, he took big steps out.

Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong remained where they were without moving. The situation seemed to have become more complex. After listening to Long Xiaoyao and Ye Xishui's story, they still couldn't change their stance, even though they pitied her for what had happened. After all, Ye Xishui was the true mastermind of the Holy Ghost Church. Under her leadership, the Holy Ghost Church had killed many people. Even Long Xiaoyao was suspected of helping her. That was a fact that couldn't be wiped away.

They weren't going to be less hostile, but they were more understanding. Huo Yuhao held Tang Wutong's hand and laughed bitterly, "All this while, I felt that we've suffered a lot. However, it's nothing compared to what teacher, Elder Long and Ye Xishui have gone through. We're quite lucky. At least we are together. I'm really satisfied now. I really want to leave with you and find a quiet place where we can live together. Occasionally, we can see our teammates. How great would that be?"

Tang Wutong stood up and walked to Huo Yuhao's side. She sat in his lap and hugged his neck. She completely placed her face in his embrace.

Huo Yuhao felt something wet. Tang Wutong's body was shaking slightly.

She had been suppressing her emotions when Long Xiaoyao was telling his story earlier, but right now, she completely let them go.

"Teacher is really too pitiful. I can imagine why he fought so hard against the Body Sect. Given his abilities, he wouldn't be hurt so easily. If not to protect Shrek, he might have chosen to free himself already. The pain he's been through must be even deeper than what Elder Long has been through." Tang Wutong said softly.

Huo Yuhao silently nodded.

Mu En had never told them about what happened between him, Ye Xishui and Long Xiaoyao before. He had kept this secret to himself until the day he died.

In Huo Yuhao's mind, Elder Mu's figure resurfaced. He recalled his elderly face, and Huo Yuhao's eyes started to turn red.

Sun Moon Empire, Imperial Palace.

Ye Xishui was seated, and held a cup of tea in her hand. She was silently tasting the tea.

The Sun Moon Empire's Imperial Palace was very particular when it came to serving tea. Only the best tea leaves that were half-fermented were chosen. They were specially prepared. Every year, there was very little production of such tea leaves. Only members of the imperial family were given the privilege to enjoy such tea.

Ye Xishui was very calm right now.

Xu Tianran was sitting in the main seat. Beside him was Ju Zi.

"Elder Ye, this matter might really be a misunderstanding. I still hope that you can be magnanimous. I'm willing to make amends to the church. If there's anything you need, please tell me." Xu Tianran appeared very courteous, and spoke with a smile on his face.

Ju Zi was also decked in bright yellow beside him. She didn't say a word. She didn't even react at all.

Ye Xishui put the cup of tea down. She turned to Ju Zi and said, "Your Majesty, what if I want someone? What if I only want one person?"

Xu Tianran's expression stiffened. Even though he knew who Ye Xishui wanted, he still asked, "Who do you want?"

Ye Xishui laughed coldly, "I want Her Majesty to follow me to the Holy Ghost Church. Is that possible?"

Ju Zi sat there calmly and seemed to be completely ready to comply with any instructions Xu Tianran had for her. There was no expression on her face.

Xu Tianran's expression changed slightly, and he replied, "Elder Ye, I'm afraid that cannot happen. My inner palace is too empty. I only have the Empress. We are very close to each other. This incident is a little weird. Why don't we talk after investigating carefully?"

Ye Xishui waved him off and said, "There's no need to. If you want to condemn someone, you can always find an excuse. I don't expect you to investigate anything. Furthermore, from your actions, I know what your choice is. There is nothing else to say. I can understand what Your Majesty is thinking. I was only joking earlier. Since you've decided to give us up, I only have one wish, which is for you to let the Holy Ghost Church off. I'm willing to leave the empire with the church. We just want peace."

Xu Tianran was stunned as he looked at Ye Xishui. Was she still the Death God Douluo he knew? This wasn't something he knew she was capable of saying. What's going on? Why is she acting like this?

Ye Xishui lifted her teacup and took a sip once again. She sighed, "I'm tired. I have no other wish in my life anymore. I just hope to live out the rest of my life in peace. Your Majesty, you have to admit that the church has contributed to the empire, even though we've brought you a lot of trouble. I hope this will make you show some mercy on us. I'll be satisfied then."

Xu Tianran laughed and asked, "Elder Ye, what are you talking about? Whether your church wants to stay or leave is up to you. No matter what, the church will always be a partner to the empire. It's just that... about your church being a national church..."

Ye Xishui laughed slightly. "It's just a title. We don't need it. You can take it back. I came here today just to tell you that we won't seek any vengeance. We just hope to obtain peace. That's all I wanted to say. Your Majesty, please take care. I'm going to leave."

Ye Xishui stood up and slowly walked out. She seemed to be a little slow, and she also appeared very old.

Xu Tianran stood up and gestured. However, he didn't move a single inch. He only watched as the Death God Douluo slowly walked out of the palace hall.

Ju Zi was doubtful as she looked at Xu Tianran. She softly asked, "Your Majesty, do you think she's for real?"

Xu Tianran shrugged her off and revealed a cold smile on his face, "Will she be so tame? The more she tries to look weak, the bigger the problem is. She's just trying to numb us. Not only do we have to carry on with our plan, but we need to be quicker with it too."

A light flashed in Ju Zi's eyes. "So now..."

Xu Tianran nodded, and swiped his right hand down with force.

Ju Zi suddenly stood up and turned around before walking away.

Ye Xishui revealed a relieved look on her face as she walked out of the palace hall. She had finally said what she had to say. It was really time for her to leave. No matter whether Xu Tianran believed her, what she had said was the truth. It was from the bottom of her heart.

I'm really tired after all these years. I'm really tired. Teacher, no matter what, I've lived up to what you wanted. In the future, I only want to live them for myself and him!

As Ye Xishui continued walking, she was no longer as sluggish as before. What replaced it was agility. It was an agility that appeared after she had put everything down.

There was a smile on her face. Her pale-white face developed a slight red glow. She could finally put everything down now.