

## Tang Sect 101

### Chapter 101.1: The Embryo Of A Hundred Thousand Year Soul Beast

“Teacher Wang.” In a rare occurrence, Ling Luochen spoke. She appeared to be irritated. “Isn’t the Starlight Auction House being deceitful, knowing that the soul bone they are auctioning is flawed?” She had been moved by Huo Yuhao’s words earlier too. She was wondering about the prospect of being able to fuse with this soul bone. If this soul bone was flawed, it would be in the best interest of the Starlight Auction House to sell it to them. After all, Huo Yuhao possessed an ultimate ice martial soul, which was very uncommon.

Wang Yan waved towards her and said, “Don’t fret.”

Qing Ya came towards Wang Yan and whispered a few words to him.

Wang Yan laughed slightly and said, “I’ve guessed that it’d be like this already. We’ll wait here. Isn’t there a last auction item? Let us take a look at it and see what can be more valuable than the Ice Jade Scorpion Left Arm Bone.”

Upon seeing Wang Yan’s expression, Ma Xiaotao and Dai Yaoheng were both relieved. They seemed to have understood something too. Bei Bei, He Caitou and Xu Sanshi all grinned too. Xu Sanshi even took the initiative to answer Jiang Nannan’s doubts.

Wang Dong was initially as irritated as Ling Luochen. Only when Huo Yuhao muttered a few words into his ear did he seem to be enlightened. Xiao Xiao was at a loss though. Ling Luochen continued to furrow her brows, but did not say anything.

As this Continental Advanced Soul Master Academy Soul Dueling Tournament continued, Wang Yan was gaining further recognition from his students based on his profound knowledge and hard work.

“Next, we have our final auction item.”

The image on the soul screen turned golden. As the golden light receded, Princess Jiu Jiu appeared on the screen wearing a long, golden skirt.

Her milky-white skin didn’t lose its beauty and elegance when paired with the graceful and luxurious golden palace skirt. The tailoring of the skirt fitted her body to a tee, and even managed to accentuate her curves.

Qing Ya had already said before that wearing the golden auction attire signified that the auction item that was about to be presented next could potentially achieve a bid of over 100 million golden soul coins.

Although no one knew what that auction item was going to be, they were excited upon seeing Princess Jiu Jiu’s change of attire. In this top-ranked auction, she was indeed capable of getting everyone to their feet!

“Distinguished guests, we can tell how valuable this final auction item will be just by looking at Princess Jiu jiu’s dress. Honestly speaking, it’s also my first time seeing this auction item in my entire life. From my viewpoint, the value of this item can no longer be judged using money.”

Princess Jiu jiu showed some minor changes again after changing into this golden skirt. She was different from her previous self, which appeared to be more seductive. Right now, her tone of voice was more serious. Her expression was also more serious. Just by saying a few words, others could sense her sincerity. They even could not help but believe every single word that she said.

“I shall not reveal the name of this auction item yet. I shall give a brief introduction of what its effects are. The Ice Jade Scorpion Left Arm Bone earlier was already very scarce and rare. As for this final auction item, it’s even more unique. Its price is even immeasurable using money.”

“It’s an item that can only expended once. More specifically, it’s medicinal in nature, and there’s only one of it. Distinguished guests, please take a look.” As she spoke, Princess Jiu jiu waved her right hand, and a change occurred on the soul screen. There was one more white tray that appeared on the screen. On that tray, there was another wooden tray. This wooden tray was embedded with at least a hundred jewels of various colors. Above this average-sized wooden tray, a ball of flowing gas surged slightly.

This ball of flowing gas revealed itself to be white. The tender whiteness of it undermined its strength. Furthermore, it only appeared to be a ball of flowing gas from the screen. It was difficult to sense how miraculous it was through one’s vision alone.

However, this ball of flowing gas was very condensed, and did not disperse. Subtly, it seemed to be struggling, and attempting to escape some form of encirclement. The wooden tray beneath the ball of flowing gas even emanated a layer of dim golden light that engulfed the gas as the gas struggled. This stopped the gas from escaping.

“All of you must be very curious. What exactly is this item? When I saw it for the first time, I was also unable to confirm what sort of presence it is exactly. However, we have confirmed its detailed form through countless research attempts. Never underestimate this ball of flowing gas. It’s even a blessing just to see it today. Although it’s a little disrespectful to say this as an auctioneer, I can’t think of another way to describe how valuable and rare it is other than using this method.

“All of you should be aware that in the world of soul beasts, there’s a situation. After a soul beast reaches 100,000 years of cultivation, it will have a choice. If it continues to cultivate, it has to rely on its powerful innate talent to challenge the bottleneck that could potentially dissipate its soul. If the bottleneck is overcome, we would then name it a transcendent soul beast until it reaches 200,000 years of cultivation. Among transcendent soul beasts, we call the most powerful ten of them the Ten Great Savage Beasts. It’s fair to say that they are the elites among the soul beasts.”

“However, not all soul beasts will choose this path after they reach 100,000 years of cultivation. There’s another choice that they can make. They can re-cultivate to become human. To carry this out, they must convert themselves into the most primitive form of humans. They must exist in the form of an embryo first before continuing to cultivate in order to increase their cultivation. As long as they can cultivate all the way till the 7th ring, they will be able to become true humans. For such soul beasts, they are almost certainly able to reach the level of Transcendent Douluo. However, it’s more uncommon for soul beasts to choose this path compared to the previous one. Why?”

“That’s because it’s equivalent to them forsaking all their previous cultivation once they choose to be reborn. Besides retaining their soul skills and relieving themselves of the need to kill a soul beast to replenish themselves, their bodies will be as weak as the bodies of humans. Regardless of whether it’s

the soul beasts themselves or the most powerful human soul masters, they can also sense the difference between these soul beasts and humans. Such soul beasts with 100,000 years of cultivation are the prime targets to be hunted and slain by human soul masters. If we say that 1 out of 10 soul beasts survive by choosing the previous path, it's fair to say that none of them will survive if they choose this path. As a result, there have been fewer and fewer soul beasts who will make such a choice. This is unless if they are able to cultivate till 100,000 years based on luck, or if their lineage is extremely poor."

"After saying so much, I reckon that some of you will be thinking that I am saying stuff that all of you are already aware of, and there's no need for me to remind all of you of this. However, I must clarify that what I'm saying is not gibberish. What I'm saying is closely related to this, the final item of today's auction. This ball of flowing gas is a soul beast with 100,000 years of cultivation that was captured by someone powerful after it reached its bottleneck and decided to re-cultivate into a human. After that, it was trapped in a Class 9 Godsealing Altar.

After hearing Jiu Jiu's words, the entire room went silent, including Wang Yan. Everyone was astounded.

Huo Yuhao was still immersed in his expectations for the Ice Jade Scorpion Left Arm Bone, but he opened his mouth wide in shock when he heard Princess Jiu Jiu's words.

A soul beast was captured and trapped in the process of turning into a human, when it was in its embryonic state. What did this mean? This meant that a 100,000 year soul beast could be easily slain. As a result, a hundred thousand year soul ring and soul bone could be obtained. But at the same time, this signified immense cruelty too!

Undoubtedly, this Class 9 soul engineer must have come from the Sun Moon Empire. That's because only the Sun Moon Empire possessed a soul engineer of such a level.

This was indeed a treasure! A hundred thousand year soul ring and soul bone were indeed the most valuable treasures currently in the world. It was tremendously arduous to obtain them, not to even mention capturing a 100,000 year soul beast. The temptation to get ahold of this embryo was very great. No wonder Princess Jiu Jiu had donned the golden auctioneering clothes.

An item worth 100 million golden soul coins was undoubtedly a staggering figure. But compared to a 100,000 year soul beast, there were those who were willing to fork out this sum of money!

However, this was not the end of the shock for everyone.

Princess Jiu Jiu beamed with a smile and said, "Distinguished guests, am I right that all of you are stunned now? I shouldn't be wrong. However, there are even more astonishing things that I haven't revealed yet. According to the research information provided by the Sun Moon Empire regarding this embryo, this 100,000 year soul beast embryo's memory was also sealed when it was solidified into this state. Besides the fact that it can provide a hundred thousand year soul ring and soul bone, this means that it can be easily absorbed. Of course, the powers of the Class 9 Godsealing Altar have to be tapped into during the process of absorption. Moreover, the probability of it being absorbed directly might not be huge. However, an entire martial soul could be obtained by the person absorbing it if it's successful, and all the powers of the soul beast could be absorbed. If this is true, a martial soul that can be added with 9 soul rings is much superior than a soul ring or a soul bone."

Silence. Not only was the room that Huo Yuhao and the rest were in silent, all the participants of the auction were also completely hushed. However, their breathing became heavier and heavier.

#### Chapter 101.2: The Embryo Of A Hundred Thousand Year Soul Beast

If they had thought that Princess Jiu Jiu was exaggerating when she described that auction item, their mindset changed immediately at this moment. If what Princess Jiu Jiu said was true, then this hundred thousand year soul beast was indeed a priceless treasure!

“Is it really possible?” Huo Yuhao asked the Skydream Iceworm and the Ice Empress.

The Ice Empress said nothing, but she felt as if she was about to blow up any moment. The Skydream Iceworm did not try to provoke her this time, but instead tried to calm the Ice Empress down.

“It is really possible. Unbelievably, you humans managed to catch the embryo of a hundred thousand year soul beast that was about to turn into a human. All I can say that the luck required for something is like this is incredible. Furthermore, the person who caught his embryo probably prepared for it for quite some time. When a soul beast tries to turn into a human, it will be at its weakest. One has to be extremely careful. For the captor to remain undetected means that he had some powerful concealment ability. If the embryo could be forcibly fused, it may become a martial soul. However, it will not cooperate as seamlessly as you and I. If it were to become a martial soul, the embryo of the soul beast would still preserve a bit of its consciousness. Think about it; will it be willing to be fused? While it may not necessarily create problems, it is surely not a good thing.”

Huo Yuhao nodded his head and sighed in his heart. He had no chance of obtaining this item. Including Electrolux, he had three martial souls already. Furthermore, as he looked at the stream of gas that was actually the embryo of a soul beast, he could not make himself want it.

When humans killed mature soul beasts, it was survival of the fittest. When humans won, they would obtain soul rings. When they were killed, humans would become food for the soul beasts. However, no one would pick on the younger humans and soul beasts. It was as if the two sides had come to a tacit agreement that harming a youngling was something shameful.

Princess Jiu Jiu was not yet finished with her introduction. She smiled and continued, “Honored guests, please don’t worry excessively. If one fails at fusing with it, then the soul beast will surely die. At that time, the soul ring and the soul bone will naturally appear. I want to remind all guests that whoever wishes to try fusing with it must possess the power of an Soul Douluo. If not, when the beast dies upon failure and produces its hundred thousand year soul ring and soul bone, you will not be able to absorb it because you won’t be strong enough. Optimally, one must be an Soul Douluo. Then, regardless of whether you succeed or fail, no problem will arise.”

“Of course, if you are not powerful, it’s fine too. The Godsealing Altar is powerful enough to seal time and space. With it, as long as one does not open it with some special spell, the hundred thousand year soul beast will still be inside. Even after a thousand years, or even ten thousand years, it will not be damaged. However, this creates a problem unto itself too. Whoever buys the hundred thousand year soul beast must also buy this Class 9 soul tool, as it is necessary to preserve this embryo.”

“Now, we will give our honored guests 30 minutes to rest and admire this object. After 30 minutes, we will start this auction. Here, we allow our guests to obtain some cash by offering collateral. We will

assess each object offered thus objectively, but we will take a 20% commission fee for each exchange. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, as this object is unprecedented in history. With it, one's power will surely increase immensely. Don't miss this chance."

The Godsealing Altar in the image was blown up many times, and the ball of faint, golden light became clearer. If one looked at it carefully, one would see that the ball of gas in the 封神台 possessed a humanoid shape, akin to a human baby.

Wang Yan arched his eyebrows tightly as he sat on the sofa. This treasure was attractive, no doubt. However, the people from Shrek all had a look of helplessness in their eyes.

Because of the value of this treasure, its price would surely be terrifyingly high too. Even if Shrek Academy wished to purchase it, it would put a huge dent in their finances. Furthermore, with their current setup, they might not even be able to bring it back.

At this time, Ma Xiaotao finally played her role as the team leader. "Pa! Pa! Pa!" She clapped her hands and attracted everyone's gaze to her.

"It's fine guys, there's no need for Shrek Academy to own every single goodie. No doubt this item is good, but it's way too expensive. To me, this item is overvalued. With so much money, why don't we just ask some freaks from Shrek Academy to catch some hundred thousand year soul beasts? Furthermore, the description comes solely from the auctioneer, and we don't know much about any specific details either. Its auction price is surely based on the value of a second martial soul, produced upon successful fusion. What if the fusion fails? Let's just enjoy the show, shall we?"

Dai Yueheng regained his senses too as he nodded his head and said, "Xiaotao is right. This is a treasure that we might encounter, but may not possess. Even if we encounter it, this is not something that we can buy with our current financial ability. What a shame." While that was what he said, a dark expression still crossed his eyes. If the people behind the Starlight Auction were not the Imperial Family, he would surely do something. Hatred brewed in his heart. For a treasure like this, even his father did not know the details. If he did...

Huo Yuhao's eyes were clear. He had no desire for the embryo of this hundred thousand year soul beast. Without desire, his heart was much calmer too. He turned his head to look at Wang Dong. What shocked him was that Wang Dong was eating a fruit from the table. He was acting even more naturally than him.

Huo Yuhao could not help but say in a low voice, "What? Don't you have the slightest desire for it at all?"

Wang Dong shook his head and said, "No."

When Ma Xiaotao heard their exchange, she could not help but chide, "The two of you are already twin-souled soul masters, what desire can you possibly have? However, do you know how many twin-souled soul masters are there in the continent? I can count them with one hand. Even for our school, we had not seen one for over 400 years. Now, three appear all at once."

At this moment, a knock came from the door. Qing Ya stood up and shot a look at Wang Yan, as if seeking his permission.

Wang Yan nodded. Only then did Qing Ya open the door.

The door opened, and the first to enter was Princess Jiu Jiu, who was still clad in her golden, regal robes. The person behind her was none other than the Emperor of the Star Luo Empire.

When she saw who they were, Qing Ya was shocked. She retreated a few steps and knelt on one knee. The two maids next to her knelt on both knees.

The people from Shrek had all seen the emperor in Star Luo Plaza. Now, when they looked at him up-close, all of them were dumbfounded. Only Dai Yueheng leapt up from the sofa and knelt on one knee as he said respectfully, "Your Majesty."

The Star Luo Emperor raised his hands and said, "Rise. This is an auction, and you are guests. I am the host. There's no need for formalities. In fact, I should properly extend my hospitality to you as the host. Yueheng, your father is my big brother. You should call me uncle. Why are you acting so formal?"

Only then did the team from Shrek get over their initial shock. They all got up and paid their respects to him, but instead of kneeling, they simply bowed. After all, they belonged to Shrek Academy, whose dean's position rivalled that of emperors. It would be wrong to show too much deference.

After Wang Yan bowed, he exclaimed in surprise, "Your Majesty, what are you doing?" By coming, the emperor had revealed his status as the force behind the auction. This shocked him.

The emperor smiled and said, "I am here to look at you all. I wanted to take a look at the high-caliber students of Shrek for a very long time. I have seen you compete in every single round. While there were some mishaps in the 正选队员 of Shrek Academy, your resolute display of force and talent have left a deep impression on me."

"Please sit, Your Majesty," Wang Yan said as he gestured with his hands.

The Star Luo Emperor shook his head and said, "No, thank you. All of you have seen how shocking this object is. I still need to be there, to guard against those who may harbour ill intent. Speaking of this object, I really can't bear to auction this item out. However, the empire's expenses are rather high, and all I can do is give up what I love. Today, other than taking a look at you talented people, I also want to thank you for your warning during the auction of the Ice Jade Scorpion's left arm bone. This has helped to preserve everyone's trust in the auction."

Princess Jiu Jiu said, "Just now, under my mediation, we bought the Ice Jade Scorpion's left arm bone back ourselves. However, to prevent anymore trust issues from arising, this item can no longer be sold. To thank Shrek Academy for your timely reminder, we have decided to give the Ice Jade Scorpion's left arm bone away as a gift. If Shrek Academy can become the champions of the inaugural Elite Continental Soul Master Academy Tournament, then we shall give the Ice Jade Scorpion's left arm bone to your school as an additional reward. Of course, we do hope that you can keep this matter a secret."

Even if Princess Jiu Jiu did not say it herself, everyone could guess that the auctioneers were the ones who had bought back the item at a price of 30 million. Using this method, they were able to stop others from realizing that the auction item was unable to live up to its hype.

“This...” Wang Yan and everyone from the Shrek Academy were shocked. While they knew that the price for the Ice Jade Scorpion’s left arm bone was clearly not indicative of its value, it was still an immensely valuable object. While others might not be able to use it, it was priceless to Huo Yuhao! Its value surpassed Wang Dong’s Golden Light Left Arm Bone. 10 million was too cheap a price for it! It was possible that the Star Luo Empire had decided to gift it out only because of the absorptive ability of Ultimate Ice. This debt of gratitude was immense indeed, to the point where Wang Yan did not even dare to accept it.

### Chapter 101.3: The Embryo Of A Hundred Thousand Year Soul Beast

The Star Luo Emperor simpered at Huo Yuhao, who was standing at the side, and said, “My Protector Douluo told me that it is likely that you possess an ice-type martial soul with Ultimate Ice, so this soul bone is suitable for you, just like how a hero deserves an exotic sword. Besides, I don’t think you can find a second person in the entire world with Ultimate Ice. Since that’s the case, I shall gift it to someone instead of letting it collect dust somewhere in a corner. Of course, the champion’s title is a prerequisite – even though this soul bone couldn’t fetch a high price, it needs the respect and dignity it deserves.”

“Thank you, your majesty.” This was Huo Yuhao’s first encounter with the emperor of a nation, so it was impossible for him not to feel a little nervous as he bowed timidly once more.

The Star Luo Emperor continued, “Your name is Huo Yuhao. From what I can see about your place of birth in your registration, you are from my country, after all – we can’t give the good stuff to outsiders, eh? The gates to Star Luo City will always be open to you. Let’s just leave it like this first. I wish to continue with the highlight of this auction, and it’s highly likely that the last item will fetch an exorbitant price. So you guys can witness a miracle before your departure.” With that, the Emperor tilted his head to his audience before he turned and left.

Huo Yuhao’s first impression of him was that his aura of majesty and prestige wasn’t overflowing, yet he was extremely unruffled at the same time. There seemed to be a feeling of absolute control hidden within his indifferent smiles, and he appeared to be able to convince other people for no other reason than it was he who had spoken.

“He’s really giving it to us for free?” Xiao Xiao was a little taken aback.

Wang Yan shook his head and replied, “Nah. Put more accurately, it’s a gift to Huo Yuhao of Shrek Academy. The Emperor is truly well-informed.”

As he spoke, he surveyed the rest of his students, and everybody could see the sudden change in his eyes. Everyone instantly sealed their mouths and ceased to discuss the matter. In the end, Qing Ya and the other two servant girls were still in the room.

Once he was out of the seventh guest room, the Star Luo Emperor smiled as he muttered under his breath, “I do hope this kid won’t let me down. The beacon of trust and friendship has been sent out – I wonder what response Shrek will give. Jiu Jiu – after the conclusion of the competition, strengthen our relationship with Shrek Academy. Waive the taxes for merchants and business delegations from Shrek Academy doing business in our country by fifty percent.”

“Yes, brother. Something’s happening,” Princess Jiu Jiu whispered.

The Star Luo Emperor nodded his head faintly, but asked nothing, and instead strolled back into the first auction room that he was initially in as Princess Jiu Jiu followed behind him. One could see upon closer inspection that there was a white-colored ear plug in her right ear, and she made gestures that suggested she was listening closely to something.

Once the door was closed, only the two of them were left in the first guest room.

“You can speak now,” the Star Luo Emperor signaled to Princess Jiu Jiu.

Princess Jiu Jiu answered, “The target has taken the bait and has begun selling soul tools to us for the appropriate amount of cash. When we proposed to reduce the processing fee for products manufactured by the Illustrious Virtue Hall by ten percent across the board, they had a brief discussion and took out a portion of the soul tools from the Illustrious Virtue Hall to sell us. What a success!”

The Star Luo Emperor smiled and said, “This is within our estimations. The Illustrious Virtue Hallmaster’s great-grandchild is the most prodigious individual in the history of the Sun Moon Empire. If they can finish the fusion of the embryo, it will be like the cherry on the cake. How can they let go of such an opportunity? In terms of financial power, the Illustrious Virtue Hall can be considered to be number one on the continent. Every single soul tool obtained from the Illustrious Virtue Hall shall be immediately sent to the research lab.”

“Yes,” there was a tinge of craftiness in Princess Jiu Jiu’s eyes as she said, “Let’s hope they search for that Class 9 soul master when they go back. Hehe.”

The Star Luo Emperor said, “This plan can be said to be seamless. Start the clock after the conclusion of the auction – three months later, announce a quest to steal treasures from the Illustrious Virtue Hall to the Adventurer’s Association, and that the reward upon completion will be one hundred million golden soul coins. No matter how talented the great-grandchild of the Illustrious Virtue Hallmaster is, it’s highly unlikely that he will finish the fusion within ten years. This estimate is also made under the assumption that they will utilize their most exotic herbs and whatnot. Ten years is enough to change many things and create a lot more variables.”

Princess Jiu Jiu giggled and teased, “I realize that you’re becoming more and more scheming, brother.”

The Star Luo Emperor’s eyes grew a little dull. “Why would we have to employ such methods if we had enough power? According to our intelligence, the Illustrious Virtue Hall’s research on soul tools has had multiple continuous breakthroughs. If we don’t restrain them right now, it won’t take ten years for the Sun Moon Empire to take some drastic action – and we are far from prepared.”

Princess Jiu Jiu attempted to console her brother. “This isn’t your fault, brother. You are already trying your best. The only difference is that, in terms of researching and developing soul tools, we don’t have the rich geographical and natural advantage that the Sun Moon Empire possesses. Furthermore, they have been on this journey even before they clashed with the Douluo Continent.”

The Star Luo Emperor waved his hands and said, “Nothing you can say can alter reality, and we can only work with what’s real. I will pay a personal visit to Shrek Academy in the near future. If the Sun Moon Empire decides to take some drastic action, they are the only allies that we can count on. What are the responses from the other powerful sects?”



Princess Jiu Jiu replied, "Everyone has responded, and two of them are clearer with their intentions and they have already sold us a great many things. A conservative estimate of our direct revenue from this auction should be in excess of fifty million golden soul coins. This sum of money is enough to purchase plenty of things from the Sun Moon Empire via our agents."

A trace of chilly light flickered in the Star Luo Emperor's eyes. "Try to instigate sparks between them, as much as possible."

"Yes."

Thirty minutes was enough time – enough for many people to settle a lot of things.

The audience from Shrek Academy followed the intense contest in the last round of the auction as outsiders who were out of the picture, who simply sat back and relaxed.

The opening price of the hundred thousand year soul beast embryo was an outrageous one hundred million golden soul coins. Princess Jiu Jiu claimed that this opening price was unprecedented in the Starlight Auction and set a historical record.

The subsequent events could only be described as cruel and fierce. Three parties entered the fray from the very beginning. The price rose steadily, and swiftly reached one hundred and thirty million golden soul coins. The moment this number was reached, the speed of the bidding became a lot more gradual.

After all, anything after a hundred million golden soul coins was a sum that most parties wouldn't be able to fork out.

At this very moment, the number changed suddenly. "One hundred and fifty million golden soul coins!" Someone had added twenty million golden soul coins in one go.

A youth stood before the soul screen in the second guest room with his fists tightly clenched together. "I want to see who will compete with me now."

There were about a dozen people sitting on the sofa behind him, and everybody's expression was a little different. Some looked envious, some had indifferent faces, and some were even jealous, while others were clearly displeased.

If the people from Shrek Academy were here, they would have recognized their identities instantly. Were these people not the students from the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy, here to participate in the competition? The youth standing at the forefront was their reserve team leader, Xiao Hongchen.

Elder Wu's brows were tightly knitted together. "Don't you think you raised the price a bit too high? Twenty million golden soul coins in one bid..."

Xiao Hongchen shook his head and snickered, "This is meant to frighten my competitors so that they'll be afraid to continue bidding. If we grind them down slowly, the price may end up being even higher."

Ma Rulong lowered his voice and said, "Is it really worth it to spend so much money on just one thing?"

Xiao Hongchen's emotions and rationality were already influenced by the hundred thousand year soul beast embryo, and he was almost in a hysterical state of mind. He didn't spare a second thought and

said, "Of course it's worth it. I'm not spending the academy's money either. With this treasure, I will be able to have twin martial souls or a hundred thousand year soul ring and bone, or the 魂晋. This is an opportunity that comes once in a blue moon – how can I let it slip?"

Ma Rulong's face instantly turned even darker, but Elder Ma glared at him, and he said nothing more.

Inside the third guest room.

"Little bastard. Tell me who's the one raising the price – I'll end him." There were only two people inside this room, and they both looked like they were at least forty years old. The person who spoke was tall and lanky, and the most striking feature about him was that his right arm was unnaturally thick and burly – at least twice as large as his left arm. His entire being seemed to emanate with an aura that resembled that of a prehistoric beast.

The other man was a lot smaller and skinnier, but his head was especially large, which made him look like a big-headed doll. There were barely a few strands of hair on his head and they were all yellow in color, but his eyes sparkled as he blinked, as if they were flickering lights.

"I think we have to find out who this is. If we can't take this item back to our little lord right away, we at least have to find out where we have to snatch it from."

As he spoke, the big-headed man closed his eyes into slits, and the air within the entire guest room immediately started to twist vigorously. The sensation was similar to that of a person in a daze as he witnessed heat ripples above raging flames, and the entire room suddenly became extremely surreal.

Every room was hosted by an auctioneer and two servant girls. The first people to feel the intensity were the three girls working for the auction. As their bodies quivered, their eyes grew empty, and they just stood there, rooted to the ground, and didn't move a single inch.

The big-headed man sank back into the sofa and gestured towards the black-ranked auctioneer. "You, get over here."

The black-ranked auctioneer stepped up hurriedly and stopped before him as if she were in a stupor.

"Go out and find out the identity of the person who just raised the price to a hundred and fifty million golden soul coins."

"Yes." The black-ranked auctioneer actually bowed respectfully before she turned and left the room.

If the Soulsucking Bell Soul Master, Shangguan Can, who had faced off against Shrek Academy during the Continental Advanced Academy Soul Dueling Tournament, were to see this scene, his jaw would be hanging slack – that big-headed man had hypnotized and controlled the willpower of several people at a whim, without even unleashing his martial soul. Even though they were just several normal people, this was a miraculous and incredible occurrence.

The thick-armed man whispered, "You're so powerful, second senior brother. Why don't we just control the people working for the auction instead, and simply steal away the item?" As he spoke, murderous emotions flickered in his eyes, and his burly right arm cracked several times in a row. These sounds weren't produced by his bones – instead, they were the crackling sounds created by a change in the air flow surrounding his arm.

## Chapter 102.1: Team Dou Ling

The big-headed man shook his head. "No, we can't. This Starlight Auction House is under the control of the Star Luo Empire. Furthermore, there will definitely be people acting as security for such a top-ranked auction. I can feel at least four different powerful auras here. There are four Titled Douluo here, do you want to die? Unless our sect elders are here, we won't be able to achieve anything good. Relax, this hundred thousand year soul beast embryo is not so easily absorbed. So what if they manage to win the bid for it? As long as we can identify the right target, we can always get it back."

Similar situations to this played out across the several guest rooms. It was just the methods they used to seek out information that were different. With the secret cooperation of the Starlight Auction House, how could the identities of the members of the Sun Moon Empire Soul Engineering Academy remain a secret?

The figure of 150 million golden soul coins did not continue to soar any further. This astronomical figure was frightening to everyone, no matter how powerful they were.

"As expected, they've all been scared by me." In the second guest room, Xiao Hongchen snorted and turned his head towards Elder Ma. Then, he said, "Elder Ma, this treasure is a knotty problem for us. Our safety cannot be guaranteed during the handover and takeover process at this auction. Once the exchange is done, bring it back to our academy immediately and pass it to our ancestor. Once it enters the Illustrious Virtue Hall, let's see who'll dare to harbor any ill intentions."

Elder Ma nodded and said, "This should be the case. We must still try our best to remain low-profile. It's rare to see an auction item that's worth hundreds of millions in the history of the continent. I will return through the secret passageway that the Illustrious Virtue Hall has in Star Luo City."

The first guest room.

The Star Luo Emperor listened to all the news that was being conveyed to him, and the smile on his face became brighter and brighter.

"150 million. Illustrious Virtue Hallmaster, I hope you like this gift I'm giving you." After he finished speaking, he stood up slowly, and the soul screen in front of him tore in half. Then, the figure of this Star Luo Emperor disappeared within that secret passageway.

The secret passageway of every guest room opened to allow the guests that had participated in the bidding to leave secretly. Shrek Academy was no exception.

Wang Yan did not keep these things to himself this time. The Tyrannical Tiger Soulblade was paid for by Dao Yaoheng, but he kept this rare, Class 8 close-combat soul tool in his pocket. As for that entire set of Class 6 stationary soul cannon shells, he directly passed them to He Caitou. Regarding soul tools, no one in Shrek Academy was as knowledgeable as him. It was best for him to hold onto the items.

He Caitou put the 12 shells away carefully. He was so excited that his tanned face swelled with red. Even though the shells were only Class 6, they could not be underestimated. They could not be measured based on ordinary soul tools. As they could only be used once, the power of these Class 6 shells were more frightening than Class 8 long-range soul tools. Right now, the most powerful shells that Shrek

Academy knew of were only Class 8. A Class 8 shell could crush a small-sized city, and it was only produced in limited quantities by the Sun Moon Empire as a weapon in battles.

Wang Yan specially instructed him not to use them during the tournament. At this time, everyone had only just returned to the Grand Imperial Star Hotel quietly. Tomorrow, they were going to face a tough opponent!

After returning to their rooms, Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong started their cultivation as usual. As the Haodong Power was summoned and was supplemented by the Golden Light Left Arm Bone, the two of them entered a state of meditation.

Huo Yuhao did not know that the Skydream Iceworm and Ice Empress were communicating through their minds in his spiritual sea.

“Humans are becoming more and more evil. They are already eyeing our 极北荒原. Our clan members...” The Ice Empress said furiously.

The Skydream Iceworm sighed. “What’s the point of getting angry? Can you change anything by being like this? Furthermore, from a certain standpoint, we can no longer treat ourselves as soul beasts after we fused with Yuhao. We are now a part of Yuhao, and perhaps a part of the humans too. This world is about the survival of the fittest. Humans have killed countless soul beasts. However, what happened when there were humans tens of thousands of years ago, when the continent was just created? They were just food for us soul beasts.”

The Ice Empress seemed to calm down slightly. “Humans are frightening creatures. There are many powerful soul beasts that have lived for tens of thousands of years, such as the both of us. However, we have only remained as soul beasts for as long as the continent has existed. What we have improved are only our powers too. But look at the humans. They created cities and invented all sorts of cultivation techniques. They even have soul tools that are increasingly threatening to our existence. I am truly worried that soul beasts will disappear from the face of this world in times to come.”

The Skydream Iceworm said, “It’s possible. Our greatest flaw is that we are not united. The stronger a soul beast, the more it’ll act in this way. Take you for an example. Would your Ice Jade Scorpion clan be willing to team up with the Titan Snow Devils under the Titan Snow Devil King? The humans possess a significant advantage over any of our species. At the same time, humans are adept in inventions and thinking. We are unable to match up to them in these aspects. They are the dominant ones on the continent now, and they will continue to be so in the future.”

The Ice Empress was a little stunned as she said, “I couldn’t tell! You are really able to tell everything clearly.”

The Skydream Iceworm said proudly, “If not, do you think I’ve been sleeping for these few million years that I’ve lived?”

“Weren’t you?” The Ice Empress replied as she acted stunned.

“Of course not.” The Skydream Iceworm was a little cross as he retorted.

The Ice Empress seemed to feel much better, and sighed slightly before saying, “After losing my power that could control everything around me, I’m actually thinking more than I did in the past. Although the

humans are powerful, us soul beasts were the rulers of this world much earlier. Perhaps we're not very united now. However, us soul beasts will retaliate against the humans when their existence affects our survival."

"Whatever goes," The Skydream Iceworm answered lazily, "Anyway, I'm only just a soul ring now. As long as Yuhao is fine, I don't care about anything else. Don't force Yuhao either. He is already working very hard. There's one phrase by the humans that's well-said – everything has to be done just right. Come, let's sleep together for a while."

"Who's sleeping with you?" The Ice Empress said tempestuously.

The Skydream Iceworm snorted and said, "We don't have bodies now, and are sealed in Yuhao's spiritual sea. If we're not sleeping together, then what're we doing? Whether you're going to admit it or not, can't I just visualize it for myself? Wahahaha."

"You rascal."

"Beside my favorite little scorpion! Sleep..."

The Skydream Iceworm went silent, and the Ice Empress eventually laughed after being cross for half the day, "Rascal, I wouldn't have let you take advantage of me if I wasn't destined to fail in my attempt to break through the bottleneck. It's weird. Why did I feel a sense of familiarity when I saw that soul beast embryo today? Don't tell me that it's a hundred thousand year soul beast that comes from the extreme north? But if it's only just a new hundred thousand year soul beast that is preparing to be reborn as a human, why did I feel such a sense of familiarity?"

Early the next morning, the sun rose over a clear day in Star Luo Plaza.

After breakfast, the bustling crowd in Star Luo Plaza could be clearly seen from afar if one stood at the corridor in front of the window.

The round of 16 was divided into 4 matches every day for 4 days. As the previous title holders of this tournament, the Shrek Academy would be the first to compete. Their opponent was the Dou Ling Imperial Soul Academy that had 5 soul kings, and which was the top academy in the Dou Ling Empire.

Wang Dong placed his hands on Huo Yuhao's shoulder and asked, "What're you thinking of? Are you nervous, or excited?"

Huo Yuhao laughed cheekily and said, "Neither. I was just thinking about whether we'll set a record as the youngest to become champions if we do become champions."

Wang Dong chuckled, "What a kid. Wait till you become the champion."

Huo Yuhao snapped at him, "You dare to lecture me even though you are younger than me? Are you that unconfident? Don't forget that we have already..."

"Don't say it." Wang Dong covered his mouth and pushed his words back down his throat.

Huo Yuhao also understood. He scratched his head and wrenched his hands away, "I was just a little excited."

Wang Dong snorted and said, "Do you think that I can't see that look of complacency in your eyes? Don't forget that no matter how powerful our soul skills are, our current cultivations are not sufficient yet. Little kid, know your place. We are not the main forces."

Huo Yuhao guffawed and said, "Little Wang Dong, you are indeed my mentor. Thanks for the reminder. Honestly speaking, the Ice Jade Scorpion Left Arm Bone did not make me lose my calm. It's just that I can't repress my excitement from the success of our experiment. It seems like we are destined to be together."

Wang Dong turned red and retorted, "Nonsense. Who's destined to be together with you?"

Huo Yuhao replied cheekily, "Why are you blushing? You must be thinking of something wayward. It's fine if you're young and never learned what's right. But your mind is full of dirty thoughts."

"Huo Yuhao, are you looking to be whacked?" Wang Dong grabbed his shoulder. Huo Yuhao turned his body and dodged. As the two of them horsed around, Wang Yan coincidentally walked out of his room. Huo Yuhao dodged until he hit Wang Yan in the back, and Wang Dong did not manage to grab him in time.

Wang Yan laughed, "What are the both of you doing?" Today, the Shrek Academy was about to send its strongest lineup from its team for the tournament. Hence, Wang Yan was much more relaxed. With 2 soul emperors holding the fort and his own arrangements and strategy, surely victory was theirs?

#### Chapter 102.2: Team Dou Ling

Huo Yuhao laughed and said, "Nothing. Someone is just experiencing seizures."

"You are the one having seizures." Wang Dong replied in fury. He chased after Huo Yuhao, but Huo Yuhao did not run away this time. After he was caught, he immediately straightened his look and said, "Stop playing, we're about to compete soon. Remaining calm will help us keep ourselves in the best condition."

"You... coming up with this trick again." Wang Dong tugged his ears, and Huo Yuhao screamed in pain. Fortunately, everyone else came out from their rooms at this moment, and gathered together to leave the hotel. Huo Yuhao managed to avert a crisis just like that.

However, there were more coincidences today. When they reached the staircase, the members of the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy came out of their room at the same time. Both teams descended the staircase together.

Today, Elder Ma wasn't the one leading the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy. He smiled and nodded towards Wang Yan. Wang Yan returned the formality. But the students of both academies were not so cordial towards one another.

Xiao Hongchen spotted Huo Yuhao almost immediately, and his face flashed with the smile of a victor. He smiled, "Twin martial souls. You are brilliant!"

Although Wang Dong and Huo Yuhao were disturbing each other earlier, Wang Dong stood up for Huo Yuhao without any hesitation at this point and said sarcastically, "Uncle, who are you?"

“Un... uncle?” Xiao Hongchen opened his eyes wide as he looked at Wang Dong. He pointed to his nose and said, “Are you calling me?”

Wang Dong seemed innocent and unaffected as he said, “Of course I am! Uncle.”

Xiao Hongchen was not even 15 years old. Although he often seemed very arrogant, he was not that old. The short moustache above his lips was a symbol of his youth. But now, Wang Dong made it seem like it was a symbol of a middle-aged man.

“Am, am I so old?” Xiao Hongchen was speechless as he stared wide-eyed at Wang Dong.

Wang Dong was very serious as he nodded his head and said, “You’re not that old. You must be the teacher of the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy, uncle.”

“Stop calling me uncle.” Xiao Hongchen felt as if he was going to go berserk. Normally, he was one who liked to flaunt himself, such that no one apart from his sister Meng Hongchen was willing to help him. Instead, they wanted to laugh.

Meng Hongchen was annoyed as she said, “Little fellow, take a careful look. My brother is only 14 years old; he has not even reached 15 years. He is no uncle.”

Wang Dong turned to Meng Hongchen, and the look in his eyes suddenly changed. It was a weird look that carried 30% admiration, 60% attachment and 10% yearning. “Elder sister, you are a ravishing beauty!”

Meng Hongchen was stunned as he said that. It was important to note that when Wang Dong had first entered the academy, he caught the eyes of almost the entire batch of young girls, including those from his class. He had charming, big pinkish-blue eyes, and pinkish-blue short hair that covered his forehead. His skin was tender and white, while his delicate face had a pink complexion. To every girl, he was like a lady-killer.

Although Meng Hongchen was older than Wang Dong and Huo Yuhao, it was only by a year. Looking at this young man who was around the same height as her and so attractive too, Meng Hongchen’s face blushed as she was complimented. She muttered, “You are very handsome too.”

Wang Dong smiled and said, “So this uncle is your elder brother! Is he your biological brother? Why do the both of you look so dissimilar? Although the both of you come from the same parents, the gap in looks is too stark.”

“Rascal, do you want to get beaten up?” Xiao Hongchen could not tolerate it any further. Not only did Wang Dong call him old, he even implied that he was ugly. He could not bear it any further!

“Elder brother, why are you so fierce?” Meng Hongchen looked at the frantic Wang Dong and could not help but pull her brother away.

“Meng, are you for real?” Xiao Hongchen was stunned as he looked at his own sister. Right now, Wang Dong had already shot him a provocative look before leaving the hotel with Huo Yuhao quickly. As he walked, he waved goodbye to Meng Hongchen.

“Wang Dong, you’re good!” Huo Yuhao was shocked as he said, “I didn’t expect that you were capable of picking up girls too.”

Wang Dong snorted and said, "You don't know about this, but many young ladies have fallen in love with me. There are many ways to pick up girls, but it's a pity that..."

"What's there to pity?" Huo Yuhao asked casually.

Wang Dong glared at him and said, "Nothing. Huo Yuhao, do you know what the highest level of picking up girls is?"

Huo Yuhao shook his head ignorantly.

Wang Dong replied seriously, "It's to make them chase you on their own! Haha."

Bei Bei, who was walking in front, had been noticing all the movements behind him. He could not help but laugh, and shook his head as he said, "These little fellows are really active!"

Xu Sanshi was beside him, and he said softly, "I think Wang Dong is very great! Seems like I should learn from him."

Bei Bei looked at him disdainfully and answered, "What nonsense do you want to learn? His methods of picking up girls are build on his looks. Do you have his looks? If you were half as handsome as I am, you wouldn't be in this state."

"You are the nonsensical one." Xu Sanshi retorted. "I can't pick up girls because... aiyo, who kicked my butt?" When he turned around and saw Jiang Nannan's infuriated look, he became honest, and slapped himself. He tried to appease her, "I won't say. Rest assured that I won't tell anyone."

Jiang Nannan ignored him, and quickened her steps to overtake him.

The situation was rather weird now. The members of Shrek Academy were walking in front, whereas those of the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy followed behind them. Many of the champions and runners-up of recent tournaments streamed into Star Luo Plaza.

Perhaps the Star Luo Empire had allowed more spectators in, as the Star Luo Plaza seemed to have a larger crowd than usual. People were packed in extremely tightly. As heads bobbed up and down, that was all the majority of people were able to see.

The resting area for the tournament felt very empty now. Most of the teams had been eliminated, and the 16 teams that remained were the representatives of the top academies on the continent. Today, 4 matches would be held. Tomorrow, another 4 matches would be held. After that, there would be 2 more days of individual competition against the same opponents. When all 4 days of competition had ended, the round of 16 would conclude, and the 8 finalists would be decided. After each stage of the tournament, there would be 1 rest day. Following that, the tournament would continue.

Both Shrek Academy and the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy would feature in today's 4 rounds, but the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy's match was in the afternoon, and they did not have to come in the morning. However, they still came to watch how Shrek Academy would perform against the 5 soul kings of the Dou Ling Imperial Soul Academy.

After settling down in the resting area, Wang Dong did not forget to smile at both Xiao Hongchen and his sister. Xiao Hongchen felt that he was obviously being provocative. But to Meng Hongchen, Wang Dong's bright and beautiful smile made her heart beat faster.



Huo Yuhao tugged at Wang Dong's arm and said, "Stop playing. Be careful of going overboard."

Wang Dong groaned and said, "What? Are you jealous? Are you interested in that girl?"

Huo Yuhao answered him softly, "Stop harboring dirty thoughts, will you?"

Wang Dong laughed coldly and said, "I wonder who's the one with all the dirty thoughts. Alright, I won't bother you anymore. I'll get ready to fight." The elimination rounds would be held across 2 days, and today was the team competition. The victor of the team competition could be said to be one foot into the quarterfinals of the tournament. The individual elimination rounds would be held the next day.

Wang Yan was serious as he stood in front of everyone. "Act according to our strategy. The Dou Ling Imperial Soul Academy must have their reasons for intentionally losing first place in the qualifier round, or they must have some special preparations. This round is critical to both parties. Hence, we must not give them any shred of opportunity."

As he saw Ma Xiaotao's look of disapproval, Wang Yan said in a low voice, "Don't forget what the consequences were when we were careless in front of the Envoy of the Death God. All these years, Shrek Academy has been the champion of the Continental Advanced Soul Master Academy Soul Dueling Tournament. However, we have also become everyone's target for that same reason. I think it's fair to say that every participating academy will have done their research on us. Following the development of soul tools, there are more and more strategies now. Do not underestimate our opponents. Whoever is not interested in carrying out my strategy can forget about competing in the next round."

Upon remembering the Envoy of the Death God that had heavily hurt the official team members, everyone felt a chill in their hearts. Ma Xiaotao looked up to Wang Yan. Although she was a little unconvinced, she was less scornful than before.

As the competition drew closer to its end, the atmosphere also became more and more intense.

This was an elimination round. Furthermore, it was the round of 16 elimination stage. If defeated, it would mean elimination from the tournament. For every round won, one's ranking would increase. Undoubtedly, all the academies that participated in this tournament would give their all under such a circumstance.

The more they watched the tournament, the more the spectators appreciated it. The most intense battle was about to start. How could they not be eager to watch? There appeared to be more spectators than usual in Star Luo Plaza today. They managed to squeeze their way in through different forms of connections and through different channels, as they wanted to see this exciting duel! Especially since Shrek Academy was competing in the morning, and their opponent had taken second place in the round-robin stage of the tournament. This attracted more attention than usual.

"The round of 16 to qualify for the quarterfinals will now begin. The first match will be between Shrek Academy and the Dou Ling Imperial Soul Academy. Competing members, please enter the waiting area to prepare for the match."

Chapter 102.3: Team Dou Ling

On the stage, the referee's voice caused everyone to cheer louder and louder. The atmosphere reached a high in an instant. The peacekeeping army that was in charge of maintaining order raised their alertness to guard against any unprecedented situations.

As if nothing had happened, the Star Luo Emperor came to the top of the city wall very early on. Whenever Shrek Academy competed, he would come to watch.

Under Wang Yan's guidance, Ma Xiaotao, Dai Yueheng, Ling Luochen, Bei Bei, Xu Sanshi, Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong entered the waiting area.

When the competing members of the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy saw that Ma Xiaotao and Dai Yueheng were present, they immediately raised their guard.

In the previous tournament, Dai Yueheng had appeared as the leader of the preparatory team, and Ma Xiaotao had not participated. Hence, Dai Yueheng naturally drew more attention to himself.

Wang Yan looked at his own team members. After pursing his lips, he said in a low voice, "It hasn't been not easy for us to reach this stage. It was only possible because of all your hard work and effort. All of you must remember not to allow any mistakes to render all our hard work for nothing. Shrek will win."

"Shrek will win!" The 7 of them shouted at the same time. Once they spoke these few words, all of them became focused, and their competitive streaks rose.

Competition was the best way for one to grow. From the start of the tournament till now, Wang Yan could clearly see the growth that the 7 students on the preparatory team had experienced. Their state of mind, emotions, thirst for competition and live experience had all improved at alarming rates. They were like depthless sponges that kept on absorbing elements that would aid in their growth.

Wang Yan also knew about the arrival of Elder Xuan, the Taotie Douluo. After Elder Xuan arrived, he found Wang Yan and relayed the decision of the conference held within the Sea God's Pavilion to him. Wang Yan had not understood at first. But as time passed, he became convinced of the decision. Maybe this would dim the glory of the Shrek Academy. However, would all the glory be lost if this batch of talented kids was able to mature?

Not to even mention anything else, the simultaneous appearances of 3 twin martial souls in Shrek Academy was already worth a wager.

"Participants of both parties, please enter the stage." The referee's voice disrupted Wang Yan's thoughts. Ma Xiaotao was the first to stand up, and she advanced with huge steps. Dai Yueheng, Ling Luochen, Bei Bei, Huo Yuhao, Wang Dong and Xu Sanshi followed behind him.

The 7 of them streamed onto the stage.

On the other side, the participants of the Dou Ling Imperial Soul Academy also walked towards the stage.

They were similar to Shrek Academy in one aspect. Among their 7 members, 2 were female. While it was a team competition, everyone from Shrek Academy understood that today's match would be different from any of the other matches they had fought before.

A dim radiance flashed, and Huo Yuhao smiled gently. He turned to look at Wang Dong, and noticed that Wang Dong was also looking at him. As their gazes met, they saw the resolve in each other's eyes.

Ma Xiaotao and Dai Yueheng stood at the very front. As for their opponents, the person who stood at the front was a youth who seemed to be around the same age as Dai Yueheng.

This youth had a huge bone structure, but he was very thin. His cheeks even appeared to be shriveled. However, his eyes were filled with energy. As he advanced a few steps and walked towards the referee, he said to the others from the Shrek Academy, "It's my honor to spar with Shrek Academy. Please advise us."

The person who stepped forward was not Ma Xiaotao, but Dai Yueheng. Dai Yueheng took a large step forward and smiled gently, saying, "If I'm not wrong, you are called Gu Zhujian. Am I right?"

Gu Zhujian was slightly stunned, and replied, "How do you know my name? I think I saw you in the last tournament."

"I am Dai Yueheng." Dai Yueheng introduced himself. He did not believe that the other party did not recognize him. As the team leader of the preparatory team of Shrek Academy the last time round, he had been a focal point for many of them.

Gu Zhujian squeezed out a slight laugh from his shriveled cheeks and said, "I hope to learn new things through this competition with Shrek Academy."

"Your wish will be granted," Dai Yueheng replied.

Gu Zhujian's eyes flashed with a cold radiance. He only laughed without replying to Dai Yueheng. The other participants of Dou Ling's team were also very confident. It seemed as if they were pretty sure of defeating Shrek Academy.

"Both parties, please step back and prepare for the start of the match." The referee today looked to be around 60 years old. But he seemed to be much more composed compared to the previous referee. His cultivation also appeared to be greater. With him at the center, both parties seemed to have been separated by a barrier.

Huo Yuhao's mind quickly thought over the descriptions of the 7 participants on the opposing team that Wang Yan had related to them.

The team leader of Dou Ling's team was Gu Zhujian. His martial soul was the Purplebrilliant Bamboo, and he was a Rank 57 assault system soul king. As an assault system battle soul master, his fighting strength was extremely tough. The Purplebrilliant Bamboo was also very unique.

Their vice team leader was a youth who stood beside Gu Zhujian and seemed to be two sizes bigger than He Caitou. His name was Qian Yuan. His martial soul was a rare assault-type martial soul, the Terrorclaw Bear. The Terrorclaw Bear was extremely powerful, and it was equally good at offense and defense. It could be considered a top-ranked martial soul. His soul power was also Rank 53.

The core of Dou Ling's team was a thin youth that was standing at the back. His name was Xiao Feng. His martial soul belonged in the rare spiritual-type category just like Huo Yuhao. However, his was not a body soul, but was something called the Maze Pearl. His spiritual-type martial soul was different from

Huo Yuhao's. It did not effect his opponents directly but was targeted towards the environment. It was extremely powerful, and Xiao Feng was one of the 5 soul kings. His soul power was only inferior to Gu Zhujian's and he was a rank above Qian Yuan at Rank 54.

The three of them were the absolute core of this team. Besides them, there were two more soul kings. They were Chi Hengyu, a Rank 52 defense-type soul king, and Han Ling'er, a Rank 51 agility-type soul king. Han Ling'er was one of the 2 female members.

The remaining 2 soul ancestors were Tang Niuniu, who was an auxiliary system soul master, and Qing Feng who was a control system soul master. The two of them each had their own special traits. The powers of their entire team were very strong, and were far superior to the Justsky Academy that had made a lot of trouble for Huo Yuhao and the rest.

As both parties stepped back, their formations had already started to change.

On Shrek Academy's side of, Ma Xiaotao and Dai Yueheng were naturally the ones in front. Behind them were Bei Bei and Xu Sanshi, who stood slightly diagonally outwards. The 4 of them formed an arc. In the center at the back, Ling Luochen was there. Behind Ling Luochen were both Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong.

During the process of stepping back, Huo Yuhao's spiritual detection sharing was already unleashed, and shrouded all of his team members. The entire stage was instantly enveloped by his spiritual detection.

Even for the strongest Ma Xiaotao and Dai Yueheng, they felt a wave of comfort and relief as they sensed the all-round detection from the spiritual detection sharing. Indeed, with such a powerful spiritual skill, they would be able to control the rhythm of the match.

On the other side, Dou Ling's team also unleashed their formation as they stepped back. However, a scene that left Shrek Academy shocked appeared. Gu Zhujian did not appear in front of the team even though he was the team leader and an assault-type soul master. Rather, he stood in the center.

The ones who stood in front were Qian Yuan, the Terrorclaw Bear, and Chi Hengyu, the Giant Vajra Shield.

Han Ling'er, the agility-type soul king, concealed herself a short distance behind the both of them. The two control system battle soul masters stood at either two side of her, protecting Gu Zhujian in the center, as well as Tang Niuniu, the auxiliary-type soul master.

This formation was very weird. The assault system battle soul master actually stood at the position that the control system soul master should be standing in. What were they trying to achieve?

In the face of such a situation, the reaction of Shrek Academy was to do nothing. They only watched their opponents carefully.

Seeing that both parties were already in position, the referee gestured to the team leaders of both parties and shouted, "Match start!" Before he even finished speaking, the referee quickly left the center of the stage. No one knew if he was fearful of the freezing effect that Ling Luochen had exhibited in Shrek's last match.

The soul masters of both parties unleashed their martial souls at the first instant. Ling Luochen did not carry out an ultimate move like she did in the last round. She only summoned her own ice staff. Huo

Yuhao and Wang Dong worked well with each other to support her. The adhesive effect of his ultimate ice was on display now.

Thick phoenix flames rose instantly on Ma Xiaotao's body. She could not hold it any longer. Even though Wang Yan had instructed her to conceal her true abilities, how could she listen to him? Two yellow, two purple and two black soul rings – a total of six soul rings – were unleashed. Along with the burning phoenix flames, her might was shown.

However, since Huo Yuhao had shown to everyone that not everything that they saw was the truth, no-one did not believe that a soul emperor had appeared even though they were stunned.

Dai Yueheng also exuded the aura of a soul emperor. As he roared, the White Tiger possessed his body, and his entire body swelled up. His aura was not lacking either. The 2 soul emperors of Shrek Academy's official team had finally appeared on the competition stage of the Continental Advanced Soul Master Academy Soul Dueling Tournament for the first time.

#### Chapter 103.1: Complete Suppression

The Dou Ling team's defense-type soul master, Chi Hengyu, released his gigantic Vajra Shield. From the looks of it, this Vajra Shield seemed to be more eye-catching than Xu Sanshi's Shield of the Xuanwu Turtle.

The upper part of the Vajra Shield was rectangular in shape, while the bottom part was triangular. The shield was over 2 meters tall, and around 1.5 meters wide. For such a giant shield, even Chi Hengyu had to bend his burly body to lift it off the ground.

After the Vajra Shield was released, Chi Hengyu's first action was to hardily stab the shield into the ground. Following that, his 5th soul ring lit up, and an intense white light flashed within the purple glow emanated by his 5th soul ring. The shield expanded from its already enormous size, doubling in number from 1 to 2, 2 to 4 and then 4 to 8. Almost instantaneously, it turned into a huge shield wall that blocked everything in front of it. Every face of this expanded shield was covered by a blinding white light. The tough feeling it gave off was superior to Xu Sanshi's shield.

This was Chi Hengyu's 5th soul skill, the Vajra Shield. It was a defense-type soul skill that was extremely strong and resilient.

At the same time, it wasn't only him that made a move. The control-type soul ancestor called Qing Feng and the auxiliary-type soul ancestor called Tang Niuniu both attacked too.

Tang Niuniu was extremely small in size. As her body swayed, her ears grew and twitched in a very cute manner, and her body became a little fatter. As her round lips clasped together, her 3rd soul ring lit up. A streak of straight green light shone on Qing Feng's body. Her martial soul was a pure auxiliary-type martial soul, a raccoon.

Qing Feng's 4th soul ring lit up. A layer of dirt-yellow radiance shone from beneath his legs. Soon after that, the entire competition stage started to shake tremendously. Following a loud, rumbling noise, a huge dirt wall swept in the direction of the 7 participants from Shrek Academy like a wave. That wasn't all; thorns appeared on Chi Hengyu's Vajra Shield, pointing outwards. Along with the help of the dirt wall, Chi Hengyu's defense was like a metal wall.

Huo Yuhao and the others had experienced a similar situation in the tournament before. Back then, they had been pitted against the Thousand Spirits Advanced Soul Academy. Their opponents had used 4 Spirit Rhinoceros Shields as their defense. Shen Ce had been supported by Fei Yuyan as they mounted an attack. However, they had been unsuccessful against Huo Yuhao's spiritual detection.

But right now, the Dou Ling team looked starkly different from the Thousand Spirits Advanced Soul Academy. Furthermore, they had not used such a strategy in the tournament yet, according to Wang Yan.

Of course, the defensive power of the Dou Ling team right now was far superior to the Thousand Spirit Advanced Soul Academy back then. The strong defensive line that they had left even the referee in awe, and he nodded slightly.

However, his nodding suddenly stopped. That was because the situation had suddenly changed.

The Dou Ling team had displayed such a formation right from the start. Their intentions were very obvious. They must possess some form of powerful, special offensive abilities that they needed to time to prepare. After that, they would tap into this offensive power to complete what they wanted to do. As for what this offensive ability was, no one knew as of now. But it was clear that this strategy had been prepared for Shrek Academy.

However, as the top academy on the continent, would Shrek Academy not do anything? Of course not. While their opponents had their strategy, they had their own strategy too.

On Shrek Academy's side, someone had released their soul skill while their opponents had been busy mounting their defense. It was neither Ma Xiaotao nor Dai Yueheng, the 2 soul emperors with the highest cultivation, nor was it Ling Luo Chen. Instead, it was Xu Sanshi. Just as the opponent was erecting their turtle shell formation, Ma Xiaotao shouted "action" over at her teammates from Shrek Academy.

Their original formation experienced rapid changes. Out of the 7 of them, 6 of them burst out and formed a circular formation, while Xu Sanshi stepped into the center of this new formation, and his 4th soul ring lit up with blinding radiance.

This change in Shrek Academy's formation was one beat slower than that of the Dou Ling team. When Xu Sanshi unleashed his soul skill, their opponents were more or less done mounting their defense. This was also the point when the referee nodded his head.

But at this point, the situation experienced an earth-shattering change.

What was Xu Sanshi's 4th soul skill? Mysterious Underworld Displacement. While it seemed ordinary, it could be considered a divine skill for a defense-type soul master in a team battle. Furthermore, this was coupled with Huo Yuhao's spiritual detection sharing.

With Huo Yuhao around, there was no fear that a target couldn't be found. Just sensing them was enough. There's no need for Xu Sanshi to even use his eyes.

Hence, the confused and shocked team leader of the Dou Ling team, Gu Zhujian, instantly switched positions with Xu Sanshi. He appeared in the middle of Shrek Academy's formation, surrounded by the other 6.

“Damn it...” Gu Zhujian cursed, wide-eyed. Although he realized what had happened, his mood was still extremely unpleasant.

He seemed a little weird at this point. In both his hands, he held a metal circle that seemed like a millstone.

There were many holes on the surface of this metal millstone, and it was even carved with many magnificent, flowery patterns. There was concentrated lightning shining from it, and he was even down on one knee, as if he were presenting this slab of metal.

Bei Bei smiled and asked, “What is he giving us? Thanks!” As he said this, he slapped his Thunderous Dragon Claw down.

Dai Yueheng’s 2nd soul skill, the White Tiger’s Fierce Light Wave, and Ma Xiaotao’s 1st soul skill, the Phoenix Fireline, were also unleashed at the same time. 3 assault-type soul masters all teamed up against one member of the opposing team. Among the 3 of them, there were even 2 soul emperors, whereas their opponent looked to be entirely unprepared.

This was Wang Yan’s strategy. In reality, this strategy had been targeted towards Justsky Academy. However, they were fortunate not to have gotten involved in a team battle. Otherwise, Shrek Academy would have used this method to defeat Ye Wuqing, their team leader. While Ye Wuqing was very powerful, the ramifications of what would happen if he had to face the encirclement of an entire team under such a sudden change were clear!

In addition, the 3 assault-type soul masters were even supported by a control-type soul king. The staff in Ling Luochen’s hand pointed out, and Gu Zhujian’s legs were frozen on the spot.

If one phrase had to be used to describe Gu Zhujian’s feelings now, it was grief and fury. In his mind, he thought that he was the most sorrowful leader in this entire tournament.

However, Gu Zhujian was not easy to deal with as the team leader of a team that had finished in the last 4 in the previous tournament. Facing the encirclement of Shrek Academy, a ball of golden light flashed in front of his chest. A coat of golden light covered his entire body.

The soul skill that Ling Luochen had used to freeze his legs started to take effect. However, the soul skills of the rest were being blocked outside of the golden light.

Huo Yuhao roared immediately, “Invincible Barrier, a soul tool that can only be used once.

He’s a soul king. Thus, this shield can only survive for 3 seconds.”

Soul tools that could only be used once usually had rather exceptional powers, and this Invincible Barrier was no exception. With these 3 seconds, Gu Zhujian could keep the huge slab of mysterious metal and unleash his martial soul. His 5th ten thousand year soul ring flashed with a light that tried to get him out of Shrek Academy’s blockade.

On the other side, Xu Sanshi had already switched positions. Gu Zhujian had originally been standing at the center, at the back of the formation. However, all of his team members had been facing him. There were different slabs of metal of different shapes in all of their hands. Initially, they had been aimed at Gu Zhujian. But now, they were aimed at Xu Sanshi.

Xu Sanshi was not as unprepared as Gu Zhujian. The moment after the Mysterious Underworld Displacement was used, he released another soul skill. It was his 1st soul skill, the Mysterious Underworld Quake.

The Shield of the Xuanwu Turtle was smashed hard into the ground. A black glow instantly emanated from his shield and covered tens of square meters. It was like a canopy that stretched out. During this process, a loud, rumbling noise also followed. At this point, everyone from the Dou Ling team gathered within this area and were all affected. This was too sudden of an attack for them. As they were not prepared, they were jerked out of their senses.

Xu Sanshi grinned, and the black glow shone again. The Mysterious Underworld Displacement was summoned again. In the next instant, Ma Xiaotao, who unleashed burning flames from her body, replaced him. She appeared at the center of the Dou Ling team.

This series of changes was very dazzling. But the spectators who could see everything clearly also felt the same. Completely suppressed.

Right now, the Dou Ling team was at an absolute disadvantage. And what had caused this was not their powers, but the limitations of their strategy.

Without a doubt, this strategy from Shrek Academy could only achieve such an effect the first time it was used. Although no one knew what the Dou Ling team had been trying to form earlier, it was bound to be very powerful. Their initial plan had been to use their defenses to keep Shrek Academy out. On top of their powerful defensive soul skills, they would add the powers of 5 soul kings. As long as they could hold on until the mysterious metal item they had produced did its job, they should have been able to win this match.

#### Chapter 103.2: Complete Suppression

But who knew that their team leader—who was holding the formation's core—would be switched out? The person who had switched with him had unleashed a crowd-control skill, and was a soul emperor. The mysterious slab of metal couldn't assemble to receive it, and there was only a head-on clash.

Ma Xiaotao was the only one who was aware of how dejected she felt. This was also her first time participating in the Continental Advanced Soul Master Soul Dueling Tournament. However, she had been hurt even before the tournament had started. 3 official team participants had been critically injured, and 1 other person had even been killed. As the team leader, she recognized the responsibility that she had to take. No matter how tough her personality was, she had been filled with torment after all of that was over.

She was resilient enough, however, and concealed this torment she felt in the depths of her heart. She had tried her best to heal this wound of hers, and hoped to turn her sorrow and fury into strength. She wanted to do her best for Shrek Academy in this tournament.

However, her injuries were far more serious than what she had imagined. She could only watch as the younger preparatory team members did their best in several rounds of the tournament. They even paid a heavy price as they sustained grave injuries.



Ma Xiaotao did not say anything, but the drive that she repressed in her heart left her feeling much more tormented than the time she was burnt by demonic fire.

It was finally her turn to compete today. Wang Yan wanted her to conserve her powers, but how could she suppress herself any further?

Thus, she was the one who was switched over by the Mysterious Underworld Displacement rather than Dai Yueheng. This was an opportunity that she had obtained by threatening Xu Sanshi.

“Grr—” A bright phoenix howl reverberated, and burning phoenix flames surged instantly. Huge, flaming wings flapped open following the flashing of her 3rd soul ring. A ring of intense, bright-red fire spread out from her. Her figure also jumped up as she flapped her flaming wings.

It was a pity that Team Dou Ling’s defense was projected towards the front, but their opponent appeared in their core. They received Ma Xiaotao’s attack before they had a chance to steady themselves, as they were still affected by the Mysterious Underworld Quake.

The Dou Ling team reacted quickly though. The remaining 6 divided into 2 groups of 3. Chi Hengyu, Qian Yuan and Han Ling’er were in front, while the other 3 were in the back. A yellowish-golden barrier of light lit up before the 3 in front. It was the Invincible Barrier, another soul tool that could only be expended once.

This Invincible Barrier was a soul tool that was developed from a very rare soul skill. It required a special golden crystal only produced by the Sun Moon Empire as an intermediary. The Invincible Barrier could unleash the powers of the golden crystal when initiated by the core formation, and produce a defensive barrier of immense strength.

Of course, invincibility was relative. The lowest class of the Invincible Barrier was a Class 5 soul tool. This also meant that at least a soul king was needed to use it. A Class 5 Invincible Barrier could resist any soul master below an eight-ringed Soul Douluo for 3 seconds. A Class 6 Invincible Barrier could even defend against a Titled Douluo for more than 3 seconds. Class 7 Invincible Barriers were extremely rare.

A soul tool like the Invincible Barrier could be a life-saving treasure at certain times. Hence, it was a soul master’s favorite soul tool, along with the Milk Bottle. However, its demand was far greater than its supply.

But the Invincible Barrier had a flaw that was very obvious. Firstly, it was very costly. A Class 5 Invincible Barrier started out at 100,000 gold soul coins, but its true sale price was far above this figure. While it was not that difficult to produce it, there were very few golden crystals produced. The higher the class of the Invincible Barrier, the higher the quality of golden crystals it required.

More importantly, the Invincible Barrier could only be expended once, no matter its class. The golden crystal within each Invincible Barrier would blow apart upon use, and the Invincible Barrier itself would also be damaged. It was not something that could be used by any ordinary soul master. Soul engineers who owned golden crystals were all wealthy too.

If the Sun Moon Empire did not restrict the export of soul tools, the empire would have been even wealthier.

The current situation was very obvious. All of Team Dou Ling's soul kings were equipped with the Invincible Barrier. This was a frightening investment they had made! Not all academies were as wealthy as Shrek Academy and the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy.

The Invincible Barrier granted the Dou Ling team some time by blocking the flames from Ma Xiaotao's phoenix wings.

As the main control-type soul master, Xiao Feng lifted his head towards Ma Xiaotao, then flew up and forsook the huge slab of metal in his hand. His hands formed a heart-like shape, and a white pearl that released a dim purplish fog appeared above his palms.

His thousand year 4th soul ring flashed, and that pearl emanated a layer of thick purplish light. Team Dou Ling's remaining 6 members and the surrounding region were all engulfed within this purplish light. Within the boundary of this purplish light, everything became illusory and less clear. There were even varying undulations of soul power that appeared at every corner.

This was the Maze Pearl, Xiao Feng's martial soul. He was a rare spiritual control-type soul master just like Huo Yuhao. But his was not a body soul. Rather, he used the Maze Pearl to release different forms of hypnotic illusions to protect and aid his team members. At the same time, he also used them to trick his opponents.

If Ma Xiaotao were to look down, she would only see a purplish patch of blurriness, wherein the Dou Ling team's 6 members were shifting positions quickly and unleashing different types of soul skills targeted towards her.

However, Ma Xiaotao revealed a smile on her face right now. She thought to herself, "It feels good to completely suppress them."

Ma Xiaotao dived down without hesitation as she was watched by the Dou Ling team's 6 remaining members. Her 2nd, 3rd and 4th soul rings flashed with a bright radiance at the same time. Her body was blazing with flames right now, and she looked like a true fire phoenix. Half of the competition stage was lit with a red glow because of the phoenix flames on her body.

Chi Hengyu had already retracted his Vajra Shield, and there was no doubt that he had to resist the attack using his shield. As a defense-type soul king, he blocked the attack without any misgivings. The Vajra Shield was lifted horizontally, and was rapidly shifted to the position where Ma Xiaotao was striking using the Maze Pearl's purplish fog.

Qian Yuan also inched closer to Chi Hengyu rapidly. As long as Chi Hengyu blocked Ma Xiaotao's attack, he would retaliate with all his might.

Qian Yuan's height had reached above 3 meters after he released his martial soul. His immense build was shocking, and there were 5 enormous, sharp claws that reached over half a meter long at the ends of his thick arms. He had to bend slightly to be engulfed by the Maze Pearl's illusions.

Han Ling'er was concealed somewhere further away. She was an agility-type soul king. Her style was to await her opportunity to strike precisely.

Tang Niuniu's auxiliary-type soul skill landed on Chi Hengyu. Her aim was very simple – increase Chi Hengyu's defensive strength. As long as he could withstand Ma Xiaotao's attack, it would be their turn to retaliate against her.

Qing Feng was the only one who did not join in to attack Ma Xiaotao. He continued to face the others from Shrek Academy. His Earthen Wave had almost reached his opponents, and he was about to get Gu Zhujian back.

“Boom—”

A loud, booming sound resonated from both sides at the same time. The Vajra Shield's defensive strength could not be doubted. As a soul king, he was able to resist a soul emperor's attack, much more with the aid of his comrades. But the problem was that Ma Xiaotao's attack had to strike above his shield before he could resist it.

Ma Xiaotao dove down extremely quickly, as if she were staking everything on this attack of hers.

She was landing at the correct time too. It was at the exact instant when 3 of the Dou Ling team's Invincible Barriers disappeared. Ma Xiaotao had already arrived just when their Invincible Barriers were starting to crack.

This was impossible!

Almost the same thought rose in the minds of everyone from the Dou Ling team.

It was almost impossible to accurately pinpoint this flaw using her naked eyes. What's more was that Xiao Feng had used his 4th soul skill, the Purple Illusory Domain.

However, this was a fact. It wasn't projected by someone using his will. Amidst that booming sound, an intense, bright-red fog covered the Dou Ling team once again. However, it no longer produced the same might as Xu Sanshi's Mysterious Underworld Quake.

Chi Hengyu and Qian Yuan were struck the heaviest, as they were the closest. The two of them only felt a wave of heat sweeping across their bodies. The soul power in their bodies seemed to be on fire, and their developing soul skills were degraded in an instant. At the same time, their bodies turned stiff.

The rest were roughly affected in the same manner, although the degree of their injuries was lower.

Phoenix Skywhistle, a very powerful crowd-control soul skill that could be used to attack and defend. It was Ma Xiaotao's 4th soul skill. Enhanced by the Phoenix Baptism and Soaring Phoenix, its might was definitely not inferior to any ten thousand year soul skill.

Tang Niuniu's auxiliary-type soul skill and Xiao Feng's Maze Pearl were all instantly burned away by the Phoenix Skywhistle as it struck.

There was no longer any suspense for the rest of the battle after the involvement of Ma Xiaotao's Phoenix Skywhistle. Ma Xiaotao snorted, and her pitch-black, 6th soul ring flashed with a bright radiance. At the same time, the defensive barrier surrounding the competition stage that was formed by 108 soul masters started to jerk tremendously. Large patches of red solidified within the defense barrier, and the temperature above the competition stage soared.

Ma Xiaotao's strongest offensive soul skill, the Phoenix Meteor Shower, was already incubating. After they were affected by the Phoenix Skywhistle, the Dou Ling team was no longer capable of avoiding or resisting any further attacks.

Was she really a soul emperor? This was what every spectator thought. She was also the first soul emperor to appear in this tournament.

Many of the spectators raved in their hearts. This was the power that Shrek Academy was supposed to have!

At this moment, the battle on the other side had already concluded.

Chapter 103.3: Complete Suppression

Qing Feng's Earthen Wave still managed to achieve a certain effect. However, it was a pity that he had met Xu Sanshi, who possessed the strongest defense among soul ancestors.

Shield of the Xuanwu Turtle, Shield Wall. The Earthen Wave was blocked out by Xu Sanshi's Mysterious Underworld Displacement, and did not fulfil the desired effect of coming to Gu Zhujian's aid.

Meanwhile, Gu Zhujian had managed to hang on for 3 seconds with the help of his Invincible Barrier, and he also unleashed his 5th soul skill.

The Purplebrilliant Bamboo was around 3 meters in length, and shone with a purple glow. There were subtle streaks and patterns of golden light on it. Gu Zhujian utilized the protection of the Invincible Barrier, and stabbed his Purplebrilliant Bamboo into the ground before him. He released this 5th soul skill the instant his Invincible Barrier went down.

His purpose was very simple: He was looking for an opportunity to escape.

It was a pity that he was up against 5 people from Shrek Academy!

A form-fitting Ice Prison engulfed Gu Zhujian precisely at the moment his Invincible Barrier disappeared. Furthermore, this Ice Prison was entirely flawless.

Hence, Gu Zhujian's 5th soul skill that he had prepared for so long collided intensely with the Ice Prison.

The Ice Prison was Ling Luochen's 3rd soul skill. Furthermore, it was only a thousand year soul skill. With her cultivation as a soul king that was similar to Gu Zhujian's, she should logically be unable to resist Gu Zhujian's attack.

However, Ling Luochen was not the only person fighting! Under the combined injection of Haodong Power by Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong, they increased her ice element to the level of ultimate ice, and even added a streak of Wang Dong's light aura. Hence, the Ice Prison became nearly indestructible.

Everyone could only see the Ice Prison turn purple. After tiny cracks started to appear, the purple color turned dim.

The Ice Prison was cracked open as Ling Luochen retracted her own soul skill. Following that, before Gu Zhujian had a chance to catch his breath, he was faced with an attack from Dai Yueheng, who had used

all three of his 3 strengthening skills, the White Tiger's Shield, White Tiger's Vajra Transformation and White Tiger's Devilgod Transformation.

Therefore, the remaining process could only be described by the word 'devastation'. A devastation caused by a soul emperor attacking a soul king.

The fight was ending much faster than everyone had expected. Ma Xiaotao's Phoenix Meteor Shower did not fall in the end, as the referee stopped her soul skill. Shrek Academy's complete suppression of the Dou Ling team helped them attain victory in this team competition.

Gu Zhujian was the most pathetic. As they still had an individual competition the day after tomorrow, the referee had stopped Ma Xiaotao. But the sly Dai Yueheng did not go easy on Gu Zhujian; his attack had crushed his limbs. Of course, he could recover, but not within such a short period of time.

When the referee rushed over to pull Gu Zhujian out, he seemed to imply the ruthlessness of Shrek Academy's members with his look.

Dai Yueheng claimed innocence, as if he wasn't the one who laid that heavy blow on Gu Zhujian. Gu Zhujian was already very fortunate that Dai Yueheng did not break his '5th limb'!

Ma Xiaotao had been restraining herself greatly, and so did he. This was also due to the fact that he had greatly suppressed the violent instincts within him.

The members of the Dou Ling team appeared very furious as they looked at those from Shrek Academy.

Ma Xiaotao snapped at them, "What are all of you looking at? Would you have held back if you were in our position?"

Out of humanitarianism, Dai Yueheng had knocked Gu Zhujian out first before breaking his limbs. Thus, the leadership of the Dou Ling team passed to Xiao Feng, who was their vice team leader.

Xiao Feng lifted his hands to stop his team members, who wanted to dash forward, and said to Ma Xiaotao in a low voice, "How did you see through our illusory world? Don't tell me that was luck."

Ma Xiaotao pursed her lips. "Can't I be gifted? If you want to take revenge, we'll meet at the individual competition." As she spoke, she gestured and led the members of Shrek Academy down from the competition stage with the flair of a female mob boss.

How did she see past their illusory world? Was there even a need to ask? With the spiritual detection sharing that could completely suppress their opponents, did she still need to see?

While they might have seemed to win this round of the competition easily, they had actually exerted perfect control of time every time they had struck, and that was all because of Huo Yuhao.

Rather than saying Ling Luochen was the main control-type soul master, it was better to claim that Huo Yuhao was the main control-type soul master instead. It's just that no one else knew. Ma Xiaotao and Dai Yueheng's limelight masked the rest.

"This is Shrek. This is Shrek at its best. However, the Dou Ling team wasn't bad either. It's a pity that they met the wrong opponent." The Star Luo Emperor commented.

Sun Moon Empire Imperial Soul Engineering Academy.

It was rare that Xiao Hongchen did not show his arrogant side. One had to wonder whether he had been provoked by Wang Dong. He stood beside Ma Rulong and said softly, "Team leader, what did you see? The Dou Ling team was not simple! They were only unfortunate."

Ma Rulong nodded his head slightly. "No wonder they forsook first place. It's because they had such a plan. If I'm not wrong, they must have planned to group together and release the large version of the Gigantic Lightning Cannon. The question is, how did they get the blueprint to build a Gigantic Lightning Cannon?"

Xiao Hongchen creased her brows and said in a low voice, "If I'm not wrong, their Gigant Lightning Cannon must be a replica of our Illustrious Virtue Hall's model. It's just that they can't replicate the craftsmanship of our Gigant Lightning Cannon, thus they enlarged it. This makes it easier to produce the cannon, which requires 7 of them to operate too."

Ma Rulong nodded and said, "This must be the case. It seems like that the Dou Ling Empire has made significant improvements in the production of soul tools. But they must not have expected to meet Shrek Academy so early on, and their strategy was curbed. If it were some other team, their defense would not have collapsed so quickly. 5 of them had the protection of Invincible Barriers. Along with their combined defense and illusory world, it can only be attributed to luck that they lost, and not because of a lack of abilities."

Xiao Hongchen was a little irritated as he said, "Shrek Academy is a little too lucky. They can only use such a strategy once, and they used it on their most suitable opponent. Otherwise, they would be unable to resist the powerful offensive strength of a Class 7 soul tool even with two soul emperors."

Ma Rulong smiled and said, "This is not a bad thing either. At least we can see the full prowess of Shrek Academy, right?"

Xiao Hongchen nodded his head and replied, "Yes."

Ma Rulong twisted his head to look at him and said seriously, "Xiao, you are indeed more talented than me. In our empire, probably no one can match up to you. However, you are too short-tempered because of your talent. If you don't change, you will not have it well in the future."

Xiao Hongchen was stunned for a moment, "Team leader, I..."

Ma Rulong lifted his hand to stop him from speaking any further. "I hope that you become powerful for the empire, Illustrious Virtue Hall and our academy. I don't want you to disappoint those who have high hopes and have sacrificed unselfishly for you. You're almost 15 too. It's time to grow up."

Xiao Hongchen looked a little unhappy, but he didn't argue against Ma Rulong. He slowly walked back to his position and sat down. He seemed to be thinking of something.

It's not only the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy that had keen eyes. Wang Yan and the rest who were watching the competition were also shocked.

When Gu Zhujian was switched over, and was holding the mysterious slab of metal, he had already known what their opponents' strategy was. It was no longer just a scheme. It was very easy for everyone

to see what they were doing. Even if he knew what they were going to do, he couldn't do anything about it either.

All 5 soul kings had been equipped with Invincible Barriers, and they had also had sufficiently strong defense-type soul skills. All this had been prepared beforehand, and not targeted towards Shrek Academy. It could even be said to have been prepared for the finale of this tournament. Such a brand-new strategy had been sparked from the powerful soul tools they had at their disposal.

On the way back to the Grand Star Imperial Hotel, Dai Yueheng said, "I shall go first in the individual round the day after tomorrow."

Ma Xiaotao stared at him before saying, "What right do you have to go first?"

Dai Yueheng smiled and replied, "Because I hurt their team leader today. If they see me again, their emotions will be unstable. It's best if I go first."

Ma Xiaotao snorted and said, "Against an absolute power, what's the use of such little schemes and tricks?"

Wang Yan opened his mouth suddenly and said, "Xiaotao, let's talk back at the hotel."

Ma Xiaotao brow creased, but didn't make a sound.

Very soon, everyone returned to the hotel. Wang Yan instructed the rest to cultivate and rest back in their rooms, while he brought Ma Xiaotao into the meeting room.

After closing the door, Wang Yan did not rush to say anything. He poured a glass of water for Ma Xiaotao first.

Looking at the glass of water in front of her, Ma Xiaotao lifted her head to look at Wang Yan and said, "Teacher Wang, I know what you're going to say. Is it that I didn't follow your strategy today in the competition? The result would have been the same no matter whether it was Yueheng or I that changed over."

Wang Yan sat opposite Ma Xiaotao and looked at her calmly.

"Xiaotao, you are the team leader of Team Shrek in this tournament, right?"

"Of course." Ma Xiaotao said subconsciously.

Wang Yan said, "Then let me ask you, what's your greatest responsibility as the team leader? Are you supposed to vent your emotions, or are you supposed to be working towards being the championship by leading your team with all your might?"

Ma Xiaotao was in a daze. She was a clever person. Although she was normally a short-tempered person, she was an intelligent person. She could tell what Wang Yan was implying.

Wang Yan gazed at her deeply, and said in a low voice, "Among the 10 people who came, the most suited to be the team leader is Bei Bei, not you. Even Dai Yueheng is stronger than you. I think Huo Yuhao is even more suitable as the team leader compared to you."

"You!" Ma Xiaotao stared furiously at Wang Yan.

Wang Yan's eyes were filled with relentlessness, "Are you feeling indignant? Then, tell me, what have you been doing in this tournament? You were injured and couldn't participate, but no one is blaming you. However, what have you done in this competition since you've recovered?"

#### Chapter 104.1: Reaching the Semifinals

"What did I do wrong? Everything I did was for our team to win. With my abilities, I was clearly more suitable to fight against the opposing team than Dai Yueheng. And we won in the end, didn't we? Easily at that." Ma Xiaotao spat out unceremoniously.

"Easily?" Wang Yan smirked, "Sure, we won that very easily. But, let me ask you this, don't you think you revealed your abilities too early? Are our future opponents stronger or weaker than the Dou Ling team? Just who do you think our strongest opponent is?"

Wang Yan suddenly raised his voice and slammed the table in front of him as he stood up, pointing outside. "Our strongest opponent is the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy! Whenever we're out there competing, they watch and take note of all the abilities that our team displays, of all the team members that enter the arena, and of all the soul skills that we use. They scrutinize everything we do and memorize every little detail. But just what did you go and decide do? You just magnanimously revealed all your powers to the opponent's team! Are you worried that your opponents won't take note of how strong you are?"

"Don't bother even denying it. That's the truth. You, Dai Yueheng, and Ling Luochen, the three of you are our team's only powerhouses. And since you, Ma Xiaotao, didn't participate in the last tournament, our opponents are least familiar with you. Can't you imagine what would have happened if you had just hidden your full capability until the end of the competition? It would have been a nice big surprise, a surprise that would have led us to becoming the final champions! Yet, what did you do? You couldn't wait to reveal your strongest abilities, almost as if you were scared to not let your opponents know about them! Ma Xiaotao, don't forget that our regular team isn't complete anymore, and that our opponents are stronger than ever before. Given our current lineup, what makes you so certain that we will win this tournament?"

Ma Xiaotao was rendered speechless as Wang Yan reprimanded her, and she was unable to rebut him. She had always been, by nature, a very headstrong individual, and ever since she was young, no one had ever scolded her like Wang Yan was doing. As such, her face turned bright red.

Wang Yan continued harshly, "Take today's competition, for example. If not for the fact that Sanshi's Mysterious Underworld Displacement had a unique effect, would we have been able to break through our opponent's defenses? Even if we could, just how long do you think it would have taken? Despite knowing who we were, the opponent still chose to use that battle formation. Has it ever occurred to you why they did so? The only explanation is that they were confident that they could defeat us with their formation! I am completely certain that the mystery metal that they were assembling was a type of offensive soul tool, and that neither you nor Dai Yueheng would have been able to receive it. You think that's impossible, don't you? You guys are Soul Emperors; strong Soul Emperors with ten-thousand-year soul rings. Well then, were you able to predict what happened when you met the Envoy of the Death God? Never underestimate your opponent. You're proud of your abilities- that's definitely not a bad



thing, but this pride needs to be built on top of a foundation of assured victory. Furthermore, you're not fighting alone. You are a team leader, a team leader representing Shrek Academy."

"Look at these kids, what did they do? When they faced Justsky Academy in battle, they each paid a huge price, all for Shrek's glory. Of the seven of them, five were knocked unconscious. Xiao Xiao sustained major injuries, and hasn't even fully recovered yet. But why did they have to face such a situation in the first place? Because of the carelessness of regular members like you, during your surveillance mission. For Shrek, they gave their all. If, in the end, Shrek Academy loses this competition because your carelessness, how will you ever face them? Sure, in terms of ability, the three of you are certainly stronger than the seven of them. Yet, in my opinion, at least up till now, their contributions to this competition far surpasses yours."

Having said so much in one go, Wang Yan was tired and slumped down on his seat, his face still red with agitation.

Ma Xiaotao had wanted to interrupt in the middle, but as Wang Yan showed no signs of stopping, she became lost for words. Only now did she manage to slightly defeatedly murmur, "But your tactics might not necessarily be right, either."

Wang Yan raised his head and glared at her, saying "My tactics are wrong? Are your tactics right then? Do you know how the changes on your part affected the entire team? At least using my strategy, you all would have went into battle as a whole. But your change of strategy caused the team to become separated like loose sand. If not for Yuhao's Spiritual Detection Sharing that connected everyone, do you think we could have won so easily today?"

"I know you look down on me because my abilities are inferior to yours and Dai Yueheng's. That's fine, I don't need your approval. But there's one thing I need you to remember, and that's the fact that I am the teacher in charge of Shrek Academy's team in this year's competition. If you can't handle the responsibilities of a team leader, then don't enter the arena in the next competition. I'll assume full responsibility." n)(Ove1bIn

Wang Yan usually gave the impression of being a genial and quiet person, and had never had let out such an outburst before. He also always spoke with reason. Thus, even though Ma Xiaotao was an inner courtyard disciple, she couldn't help but feel flustered. If Wang Yan really chose to bar her from entering the arena, it would become a lifelong disgrace for her.

Ma Xiaotao lowered her head and no longer spoke. Wang Yan stood up and said "Think carefully about how to be a proper team leader." He then pushed the door open and left.

Outside, Wang Yan let out a long sigh, and shook his head, feeling helpless. In terms of hierarchy, his position in the Academy was lower than that of Ma Xiaotao's. Thus, it had taken a great deal of courage to say what he had just said to her, but Wang Yan had no regrets. He was not afraid of offending anyone to win the ultimate championship and guard this honor for Shrek Academy. Since he couldn't enter the arena to fight for Shrek, Wang Yan was determined to make sure that all off-field problems were solved outside the arena. If Ma Xiaotao refused to realize her mistakes, he would rather have her she stay out of the competition. Even if that meant losing the power of a Soul Emperor, Wang Yan couldn't let her affect the others. A full suppression of battle tactics like today wouldn't happen all the time. The next three rounds would each be more difficult than the last.

Thus far, eight schools have been eliminated out of the initial sixteen, and the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy had successfully defeated all their opponents. In fact, even in the group round, their team leader, the Soul Emperor-level Ma Rulong, had yet to enter the arena. They had won with just six of the regular members and a reserve.

Up till now, three members of the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy team had yet to enter the arena – team leader Ma Rulong, reserve team leader Xiao Hongchen and his younger sister, Meng Hongchen.

Due to the Shrek Academy team's internal problems, the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy had become the crowd's favourite to win the final championship. Now, many were secretly placing bids on who the champion would be. Although Shrek Academy had two great Soul Emperors that had yet to enter the arena, their odds of winning still lagged behind that of the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy by a few points.

After a day of rest, the individual round started as planned on the third day.

Dai Yueheng had caused a perfect amount of damage in the team battle, causing the Dou Ling Imperial Soul Academy team leader, Gu Zhujian, to be unable to enter the arena. Although his broken limbs had been set and healed, he still needed to recuperate for quite a while before he could fight again.

Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong would not take part in the individual rounds, as their martial soul fusion skill were useless if they were alone, and their individual fighting capabilities were still rather weak. Thus, only Dai Yueheng, Ma Xiaotao, Ling Luochen, Bei Bei, Jiang Nannan, Xu Sanshi and He Caitou would be competing in the individual round.

Hence, Huo Yuhao, Wang Dong and Xiao Xiao had become onlookers.

Under Wang Yan's arrangements, Dai Yueheng was the first to enter the arena, while Ma Xiaotao would be the last.

After getting reprimanded by Wang Yan, Ma Xiaotao ultimately gave in and apologised to Wang Yan, admitting her mistakes. She also expressed that she would fully cooperate with Wang Yan and follow his arrangements for the rest of the competition, and would not engage in individualistic behaviour anymore. Wang Yan took what he got and arranged for Ma Xiaotao to be the anchor of the team.

When Dai Yueheng walked up to the competition stage representing Shrek Academy, the Dou Ling team's eyes reddened.

Their team leader's limbs had all been broken, and his strongest skills had not even been displayed. They held their breath, knowing that the chances of them winning today's competition were slim as well, but they couldn't just give up now. They had to fight to the death.

Due to Shrek Academy's victory in the team battle, they just needed to defeat three opponents today to make it to the final eight.

As the losing team in the team-battles, the Dou Ling team needed to defeat the entire Shrek Academy team of seven people with just three members in order to enter the top eight. Faced with two strong assault-type soul emperors on the Shrek Academy team, it was simply unrealistic for the Dou Ling team to win.

Dai Yueheng's first opponent was Dou Ling's assault-type Soul King Qian Yuan.

Previously, Qian Yuan had hardly used his Terrorclaw Bear powers before he was restrained by Ma Xiaotao's Phoenix Skywhistle. Afterwards, the judge had ended the competition, causing him to burn with fury.

Qian Yuan didn't feel that he was inferior to Dai Yueheng, and his team all saw how Shrek Academy's reserve team overcame the odds in the previous rounds of the tournament. Maybe the Dou Ling team, too, would achieve a miraculous victory today. Thus, when Qian Yuan stood on the stage, his entire being was emitting a thirst for battle, and only one thought filled his mind- to seek revenge for Gu Zhuqian.

In comparison to his opponent's aggressive manner, Dai Yueheng seemed much calmer, wearing a peaceful expression as he stood on the competition stage, bowing to the judges before glancing at his opponent.

Chapter 104.2: Reaching the Semifinals

Dai Yueheng had a rather large frame, but compared to Qian Yuan, he still appeared to be dwarfed by a taller giant. In terms of size, Qian Yuan was significantly bigger than Dai Yueheng.

Following the judge's instructions, the two of them retreated to their respective halves of the arena. The moment the battle started, the two Assault System Battle Soul Masters released their martial souls.

Qian Yuan roared into the air, and his sturdy frame started to expand rapidly. His terrifying muscles ripped his clothes, revealing a metallic grey body of muscles. Two muscular and thick arms expanded from both sides of his body, and from those hands sharp claws, two inches long, grew out. His upper body bent over slightly and his sharp claws reached the ground. Scraping gently across the ground, he was able to leave clear lines on it.

Dai Yueheng also released his White Tiger martial soul. While it did not look as muscular and strong as his opponent's, it was extremely strong too. Light flashed in his devilish pupils. Two yellow, two purple and two black soul rings pulsed rhythmically around his body. He was no way weaker than his opponent.

Qian Yuan roared and attacked first. In terms of type, both Dai Yueheng and he were the same type of soul master. His soul skill specialized in increasing his own powers, and he was most apt at close combat. However, Ma Xiaotao, who was an Assault System Battle Soul Master too, was stronger in terms of ranged attacks. In close combat, Ma Xiaotao could not compare to them.

The almost three meters tall Terrorclaw Bear roared lowly. As his first soul ring flashed, a layer of gold light cloaked his skin. His shoulders expanded outward from his body. Suddenly, he lunged vigorously propelling himself towards Dai Yueheng.

While Dai Yueheng had tiger claws, he was still smaller compared to his opponent in every single aspect.

When the road was narrow, the braver of the two would win. Dai Yueheng did not retreat. A layer of intense white light burst forth from his body, and every single strand of hair on his body stood up. His speed increased exponentially as he turned into a ray of white light and flew straight towards his opponent.

The two sides appeared to have clashed in the center of the arena.

Qian Yuan's two thick shoulders moved in mid-air. He stretched out with his claws, seemingly covering the area before him, giving Dai Yueheng no chance of escape.

However, in reality, Dai Yueheng had no intention of escaping. The tips of his feet touched the ground, and his speed slowed by a fraction of a second. His tiger claws slashed out, crashing against his opponent's sharp claws.

"Clank, clank!" Two screeching sounds exploded. Sparks flew from the arena. Shockingly, Dai Yueheng, who was a soul emperor, was at a disadvantage.

Dai Yueheng's body trembled for the briefest of instants. The attack from Qian Yuan's sharp claws actually knocked him back. He was at a disadvantage in terms of strength.

Seizing the initiative, Qian Yuan did not relent. He roared once more, and instantly chased straight after Dai Yueheng. This time, his third and fifth soul rings lit up. His body, which had originally shone with a grey metallic light, turned bronze-green, and then silvery-white. His entire body continued to expand. When he reached Dai Yueheng, he was already more than 3.5 meters tall. The muscles on his body mutated crazily. One could no longer tell that he was originally human.

While Dai Yueheng appeared to be retreating, his body was changing too. His hair turned gold, like that of his opponent's initially. His first, third and fifth soul rings started to shine. In quick succession, he used his White Tiger's Shield, White Tiger's Vajra Transformation and White Tiger's Devilgod Transformation.

Just as Qian Yuan rushed before him, and just as his sharp, silver claws were about to come slashing down, an icy light flashed in Dai Yueheng's eyes, and his entire body mysteriously disappeared.

That's right. In that instant, his entire body disappeared completely from before Qian Yuan, causing Qian Yuan's attack to strike nothing but thin air.

Did Dai Yueheng use a soul skill that allowed him to teleport? Of course not. As the 白虎魂师, he did not possess that ability. His body naturally did not disappear, but instead changed direction suddenly. Right before Qian Yuan caught up to him, he jerked his head downward forcefully and spat a mouthful of white light onto the ground. This allowed him to send his body flying into the air with his own powers.

All of this happened too quickly. Qian Yuan had already attacked, and could no longer pull it back. The moment his attack landed on thin air, he sensed that something was wrong. However, at that moment, Dai Yueheng was already above his head.

Dai Yueheng did not use his tiger claws to strike Qian Yuan directly. Instead, as he came crashing down, he slammed his knees into Qian Yuan's shoulder.

"Thud!" A low grunt came from Qian Yuan's mouth. His legs wobbled, and under this humongous pressure, he almost fell.

A pair of giant claws lashed upward as he tried to dismember Dai Yueheng. This time, Dai Yueheng did not try to dodge.

His tiger claws lashed out to his left and right side, trapping his opponent's sharp claws. His palms were as sturdy as a monolith. No matter how much strength Qian Yuan used, he was still immobilized.

"Your strength is remarkable indeed. If you were at the same level as me, I wouldn't be able to match your strength. Unfortunately, I'm a soul emperor, and you are just a soul king. Furthermore, while your martial soul is strong, it is not agile enough. Even if you became a soul emperor, you would still die in a deathmatch between you and me. If I wanted to kill you, you would already be dead."

Dai Yueheng's cold voice sounded next to Qian Yuan's ear. In the next moment, he slammed his knees together on both sides of Qian Yuan's head. Immediately, the muscles on Qian Yuan's humongous frame contracted involuntarily as he fell to the ground.

Dai Yueheng somersaulted into the air as he leapt off Qian Yuan's body.

This battle was extremely short. While it appeared to be a straightforward fight, the danger in it could be felt by both teams. Regardless of whether it was Dai Yueheng's tiger claws or Qian Yuan's terrifyingly sharp claws, a direct strike by either would have been fatal. This had been a fight of pure power, and Qian Yuan had lost. He had lost in terms of his cultivation, and also in terms of experience. Dai Yueheng used the cleanest and most efficient method to obtain victory. His victory was set the moment he was 'knocked back' by Qian Yuan. As a soul emperor, and as someone with the White Tiger martial soul that specialized in physical strength, how could he lose to someone weaker than him? Tricking his opponent into entering a trap, and then finishing him off with a single blow, this was the power of Shrek's Inner Courtyard!

Before the judge came over, Dai Yueheng had already lifted the unconscious Qian Yuan. He made an 'it's fine' gesture to the judge, and then brought Qian Yuan over to the waiting area for contestants, which was at the side of the arena.

"Gu Zhujian, the competition is akin to a battlefield. I may have used too much strength, but it was to obtain victory. I believe that if it were you, you would have done the same. There's nothing else to say. Catch," Dai Yueheng said as he sent Qian Yuan out. Naturally, the members of the Dou Ling team caught him.

A bitter smile crossed Gu Zhujian's face as he said, "Thank you for showing mercy, Senior Dai." All of them were clear that the moment the Dai Yueheng suddenly appeared above Qian Yuan's head in the blink of an eye, Qian Yuan had no chance of victory. If Dai Yueheng had used his tiger claws to strike his head, Qian Yuan would have died for sure. However, Dai Yueheng did not do that.

This was the Continental Advanced Soul Master Academy Soul Dueling Tournament, where deaths and injuries were commonplace. However, Dai Yueheng did not even severely injure his opponent. He had shown much mercy this time, which helped reduce the hatred the Dou Ling team towards him.

The second representative from the Dou Ling team was Han Ling'er, an Agility System Soul Master who was also soul king.

This round would be a battle of speed versus strength.

Han Ling'er's attacks were extremely sharp, and her speed was unparalleled. Her martial soul was known as the 闪电貂, and among all Agility System Soul Masters, she was one of the fastest. Other than her inability to fly, very few soul masters could match her short, speedy bursts on land.

Faced with such an opponent, Dai Yueheng adopted a passive approach. Faced with his opponent's attacks, all he did was remain stationary instead of retaliating. After a full minute, Han Ling'er's soul power could not keep up. As her speed decreased, she was forced into a corner by Dai Yueheng, and had no choice but to admit defeat.

Through two consecutive rounds of competition, he was able to beat two soul kings. The crowd started to feel the power of a soul emperor. Dai Yueheng's performance in these two rounds could be summarized with three words: he held back. This was evidently not his full strength.

There was not much excitement about the results of the third battle when Chi Hengyu, the soul master with the Vajra Shield as his martial soul, stepped up. While his defensive abilities were impressive, Dai Yueheng taught him a lesson in terms of raw strength. Compared to the second battle, the two sides switched roles. This time, Dai Yueheng attacked while Chi Hengyu defended.

However, the results were reversed too. Earlier, Dai Yueheng had used his immense strength to expend all of Han Ling'er's soul power. This time, his attacks were like a flood as they slammed into Chi Hengyu's Vajra Shield head-on. Finally, he was able to send him off the arena.

Battle after battle, 白虎战魂帝 Dai Yueheng showed off his immense power. By challenging and defeating three opponents, he was able to end the individual elimination round. At the same time, he ensured that Shrek Academy was ranked among the top eight. The 斗灵皇家高级魂师学院 could pack up and go home.

After getting scolded by Wang Yan that day, Ma Xiaotao was much more well-behaved. Off the arena, she wanted very much to act, but she kept her silence.

After this battle, the fame of Shrek Academy grew even more. Dai Yueheng and Ma Xiaotao, both soul emperors, had left a deep impression on everyone.

The crowd was like this. They would only like the strong ones. Huo Yuhao, whose performance was exceptional, was gradually forgotten. So what if you had twin martial souls? If your cultivation was not enough, no one would care.

Huo Yuhao delighted in this. Over the next few days, as long as he had time, he would train with Wang Dong. Their soul power increased exponentially with the help of the Haodong Power and the Golden Light Left Arm Bone.

### Chapter 104.3: Reaching the Semifinals

In the quarterfinals, Shrek Academy was fortunate enough to obtain an excellent pairing. They were selected to go against the weakest of the top eight teams, who was not unfamiliar to them. The team was from Justsky Academy, who had once created much trouble for Huo Yuhao and the rest.

The final results were to be expected. Even without Ma Xiaotao, Dai Yueheng, and Ling Luo Chen, Shrek had been able to obtain victory. Now, with two soul emperors and a soul king, there was no question about the results of this round. Justsky Academy was completely trashed, as Shrek trampled over them and entered the top four.

At this point, the Continental Advanced Soul Master Academy Soul Dueling Tournament was nearing its end, which was also its high point.

In the room, Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong were cultivating through meditation. They were becoming increasingly skilled at using their Haodong Power, and the effects of the Golden Light Left Arm Bone were further amplified by their Haodong Power.

The soothing yet vast Haodong Power would first pass through Huo Yuhao's body, and then through the Mysterious Heaven Technique, it would enter Wang Dong's body. The entry point into Wang Dong's body was his left arm. *nDve.lb*)In

The Golden Light Left Arm Bone, upon being triggered by the Haodong Power, would immediately give off a powerful absorptive energy. This allowed the element of light to enter Wang Dong's body and the Haodong Power. Then, as it passed from Wang Dong's body, it would follow his cultivation method and exit after cycling through his body into Huo Yuhao's body.

The entire process was like the Yangtze River, slow but never once stopping. With each cycle of cultivation their soul power completed, their cultivation would increase.

As Wang Dong had surpassed Rank 30, his overall soul power was much stronger than Huo Yuhao's. Hence, his soul power increased more compared to Huo Yuhao's. Both of them could feel that if they continued cultivating like this, their soul power would catch up to Dai Yueheng's in just one or two years.

As the Haodong Power circulated, Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong's bodies would emit a pale, golden glow. Ever since the two of them had experienced the various combinations of their martial souls, their ability to cooperate as a team was further perfected. Now, as the Haodong Power circulated, it was as if the two of them had become one.

"Knock, knock, knock." Suddenly, a knock could be heard on the door, which jolted Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong from their cultivation.

Wang Dong frowned unhappily and said, "Who is it? Why have they disturbed our cultivation?"

Huo Yuhao inhaled and together with Wang Dong, he retracted his soul power. "I'll take a look," he said. Then, he leapt off the bed and opened the door.

It was Wang Yan. The moment Wang Yan opened the door and saw Huo Yuhao, he was startled too. This was because he could clearly see that Huo Yuhao's eyes shone with a clear golden light. Despite him being a soul king, he felt as if he Huo Yuhao could see through him.

"Sorry for disturbing your cultivation," Wang Yan apologized.

When Huo Yuhao saw that it was him, he rushed to the side and said, "Teacher Wang, please come in."

Wang Yan replied, "There's no need for that. Come with me, Yuhao." With that, he turned and left.

Wang Dong naturally heard the exchange between the two of them. He jumped off the bed and said curiously, "I wonder why Teacher Wang's looking for you. Go with him!"

"Aren't you coming?" Huo Yuhao asked.

Wang Dong said, "Teacher Wang saw me just now, but he only called you. Evidently, he does not want me around. Go by yourself, I'll rest."

The two of them exchanged a gaze, and an amused look crossed their eyes. After cultivating together for so long, the camaraderie between the two of them had become increasingly obvious. Sometimes, they knew what the other was thinking with only a single glance.

However, both Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong could feel that there was a forbidden zone in their counterpart's heart. No matter how close they became, they could never touch on these taboos.

Huo Yuhao waved to Wang Dong and left the room. Wang Yan was waiting for him in the corridor. When he saw him, he led him to his room.

After he closed the door, Wang Yan summoned Huo Yuhao to the study table in the room and then said in a low voice, "Look."

On Wang Yan's study table, there was a carving knife etched with ancient patterns. Next to the carving knife, there was a ring that had already been sliced in half.

Huo Yuhao had seen this ring before. Normally, Wang Yan wore it on his finger. This was his storage-type soul tool. However, right now, it was completely destroyed. Huo Yuhao, with his eyes of a soul engineer, could see that its formation arrays had been destroyed. As for the carving knife that was giving off an icy aura, wasn't it the Soul-Devouring Carving Knife that was Rank 99 on the Carving Knife Leaderboard?

"Teacher Wang, this..." Huo Yuhao said in shock.

Wang Yan said, "My storage-type soul tool was a Rank 4 soul tool. However, I didn't expect that it couldn't take the power of the Soul-Devouring Carving Knife. Earlier, I could feel a violent aura from the Soul-Devouring Carving Knife coming at my storage-type soul tool, but I didn't give it much thought. However, this morning, I found it split in half, completely destroyed. The carving knife continued to give off a brutal, terrifying aura. I felt a dark, gloomy aura enter my body when I touched it. I was only able to expel it after circulating my soul power for half a day."

When he said that, Huo Yuhao suddenly understood why Wang Yan had such a terrible expression. A Class 4 soul tool was not cheap! No wonder he felt a pain in his heart when he saw that it had been destroyed. However, this Soul-Devouring Carving Knife was powerful indeed, till the point where even a storage-type soul tool couldn't take it.

"Yuhao, last time you said that you had a way of subduing it. Try it. If you succeed, it's yours. However, you must be careful. I will protect you, but you have to stop if you feel that something is amiss."

A Class 4 soul tool was the best item that Wang Yan had on him. The Soul-Devouring Carving Knife was indeed evil, and the impact of carrying it oneself directly was too great. Helpless, he could only look for Huo Yuhao, who had previously sworn that he could take care of it.



“Alright, I’ll try,” Huo Yuhao said gleefully. Despite Electrolux’s personality, he had already asked him more than once to retrieve this Soul-Devouring Carving Knife. This was a testament to its importance. Originally, he had thought that he would have to wait until he returned to the Academy. However, he did not expect Wang Yan to give him a chance now.

“Electrolux, Electrolux,” Huo Yuhao tried to wake Electrolux, who was in his Spiritual Sea. However, right now, all three inhabitants of his Spiritual Sea were asleep. None of them responded to his call.

Huo Yuhao felt a sense of helplessness. If he did not try now, he did not know when would he next have the opportunity to do so. A smile crossed his face. If Electrolux would not wake up, then he would force him to get up.

As he thought about that, Huo Yuhao had already released his spiritual detection toward the Soul-Devouring Carving Knife. However, this time, he did not act rashly. Instead, he was cautious, but not fearful. He wasn’t afraid of the backlash from the Soul-Devouring Carving Knife. While his own powers were nothing remarkable, as he was just a two-ringed soul master, his spiritual power was respectable. While his own spiritual power was nothing much, he had a million year soul beast with the spirit attribute, a powerful person from another world, and one of the Ten Great Savage Beasts in his Spiritual Sea.

If the three of them couldn’t help him overcome the spiritual backlash, very few people in the world would be able to help secure his Spiritual Sea.

The spiritual power of any soul master was greater than that of an ordinary mortal. However, only seven-ringed soul masters and above could control their own spiritual power, or use their spiritual power directly. The exception were soul masters like Huo Yuhao, who naturally had the spirit attribute.

His spiritual detection carefully landed on the Soul-Devouring Carving Knife. The moment it touched it, Huo Yuhao felt his body tremble violently. Everything before him turned black, and the Soul-Devouring Carving Knife appeared to have turned into an endless black hole. A crazy energy devoured his spiritual power, and an extremely dark and cold aura, brimming with terror, penetrated his Spiritual Sea through his spiritual detection.

The moment the terrifying aura entered, Huo Yuhao could feel his spiritual power being dissected. It was as if someone had cut it in half. It was a terribly uncomfortable feeling, as if his head were being forcefully sliced open.

If Huo Yuhao were acting alone, then this powerful aura would have injured him severely as it entered his Spiritual Sea. In fact, his Spiritual Sea might even have been damaged. However, he was not fighting alone.

The first to react was the Skydream Iceworm, who was the closest to Huo Yuhao.

Skydream woke up from his sleep, and while he did not know what had happened, he immediately rushed to defend his turf.

Huo Yuhao’s Spiritual Sea was like his home, and he had a wife and kids in his home. The invasion from the Soul-Devouring Carving Knife was like someone kicking down his front door to steal his wife. How could he not be enraged?

Wang Yan stood by the side. His heart almost missed a beat when he saw Huo Yuhao's body trembling violently, and he almost acted to interfere. However, he quickly noticed that Huo Yuhao's two eyes shone with a dazzling gold light. Quickly, his two soul rings appeared on his body. The second one currently gave off the purple glow of a thousand year soul ring, while the first one was a glossy white with an intense golden halo at its center.

The terrifying aura that had sought to barge into Huo Yuhao's brain hit a stone wall. Immediately, it rebounded, and the knife itself made a pathetic whimper. It was vibrating slightly, and giving off a green gas.

Wang Yan stopped himself as he stared in shock at the gold on Huo Yuhao's first soul ring. He had never seen anything like this before, but he could feel the vast, unbridled spiritual power that Huo Yuhao gave off, which exceeded that of a soul king.

#### Chapter 105: Purifying the Ominous Soul Devouring Knife

Huo Yuhao's pupils had become filled with golden light and translucent; it was as if they were 2 golden crystals.

"What's wrong? Who dares attempt to snatch my territory?" The Skydream Iceworm asked furiously.

After being provoked by the Ominous Soul-Devouring Knife, the Ice Empress' mind also cleared up. A streak of azure light flashed across Huo Yuhao's golden pupils, and an aura that was 100 times more ferocious than that of the Ominous Soul-Devouring Knife's was unleashed. It viciously slammed into the Ominous Soul-Devouring Knife.

This time, the knife cried out in sorrow and the green gaseous light it was emanating was dispersed.

The Skydream Iceworm and Ice Jade Empress Scorpion were both partially fused with Huo Yuhao's body, thus their own true powers were sealed as well. However, their spiritual origins were both in Huo Yuhao's spiritual sea. Even though Huo Yuhao couldn't unleash their power, they could still definitely protect Huo Yuhao's spiritual sea!

What kind of temper did the Ice Empress have? If the Ice Empress and Skydream Iceworm could be described as a married couple, then the Skydream Iceworm was the henpecked one, while she was the tigress in the family...

The Skydream Iceworm had gone into defense mode the moment he felt that he was being attacked, but she had immediately counterattacked.

Huo Yuhao mind immediately cleared up. The combined spiritual powers of the Skydream Iceworm and the Ice Empress gave him the feeling that they could devour a person forcefully. It was only at this point that Electrolux finally woke up.

"Oh? It's Life Gold. Little worm and scorpion, both of you quiet down please."

Even though Electrolux, the self-proclaimed 'Calamity Necromancer' who followed the Divine Law of Necromancy, only had a shred of divine sense left, the Skydream Iceworm and Ice Empress were still afraid of him. They were also clearly aware that Electrolux didn't harbor any ill intentions towards Huo Yuhao; his spiritual sea was a common interest that all three of them shared.

Wang Yan noticed that the ferocious gaze in Huo Yuhao's pupils changed once again: His azure-golden eyes rapidly turned grey, while his aura seemed to greatly transform.

The first time that Wang Yan had seen Huo Yuhao's eyes turn grey was back when his soul power had only been Rank 17 and he'd been fighting Wu Feng. Even with all of his special powers, Huo Yuhao had only managed to win once his eyes turned grey.

However, he'd been quite far away back then, and hadn't been able to sense things clearly. However, right now, Wang Yan was very close to Huo Yuhao. The only thing he felt was that Huo Yuhao's grey eyes were filled with a boundless mysteriousness. But within this mysteriousness, he could sense an unprecedented divinity. It was even more divine than the Angel he'd once seen before.

Huo Yuhao's youthful face even exuded a tinge of holiness when the layer of grey appeared in his eyes.

Suddenly, Huo Yuhao turned to look at Wang Yan. Wang Yan had never felt that he needed to be cautious against him before, but the moment he saw the boundless grey in the depths of Huo Yuhao's eyes, his mind became blurry. No matter what he did, he couldn't bring himself to resist it.

If anyone else were present, they would see that Wang Yan's eyes had become filled with emptiness the moment Huo Yuhao looked at him; he was akin to a walking zombie.

Once this was done, Huo Yuhao then turned back to the Ominous Soul-Devouring Knife, and focused his attention on it. The dim greyish radiance from his eyes seemed to become an entity with form as it shot out and landed on the knife.

After a moment, Huo Yuhao's consciousness retreated to his spiritual sea, and Electrolux took back control of his body. From his own perspective, Huo Yuhao was helpless. Who'd asked him to be so weak? Regardless of if it was the Skydream Iceworm, the Ice Empress, or Electrolux, Huo Yuhao was quite a lot weaker than all of them by a significant amount. How else could his body be controlled by them at any time? However, this thought only flashed across his mind. After all, Electrolux was doing everything for him.

The Ominous Soul-Devouring Knife shook violently and released a mournful groan the instant that the greyish spiritual power Electrolux released struck it. If someone wasn't resolute enough, his emotions would be greatly affected by this groan.

Electrolux's thoughts then echoed through Huo Yuhao's spiritual sea, "Injecting evil thoughts and curses into the Life Gold is only something that an evil creator could think of. He simply sensed the immense strength that this Life Gold has, but he didn't know how to let it unleash its truly miraculous effects. Life Gold, cleanse yourself! I'll let you return to your original state, and shall remove all the stains on you. Your purest life aura can be unleashed once again."

Huo Yuhao's pupils experienced a change once again. His previously grey pupils suddenly turned white—a white that was as flawless and pure as jade. It was as white as snow. The greyish spiritual power also turned into a white, Purifying Light instantaneously.

This time, the Ominous Soul-Devouring Knife had stopped shaking. As it resisted, an intense green light was suddenly released from its blade. The green light formed a ferocious-looking face and roared madly. It seemed to want to devour the white light that Electrolux was emitting.

However, even though the Purifying Light seemed extremely thin, it was akin to boiling oil being poured onto a pile of snow when it struck the Ominous Soul-Devouring Knife: The green light from the fierce-looking face was blurred by half in an instant. The originally ferocious look that the face had also turned blurry. However, the green light revolving around it was still very strong, but gust after gust of black gas was evaporating and dissipating beneath the effect of the Purifying Light. The green light that the Ominous Soul-Devouring Knife was emitting began to become both purer and gentler as this continued.

The entire cleansing process was very short and quick. The moment that the last streak of black gas dissipated, the green light that the knife's blade was emitting became as clean as spring water. There were no longer any impurities on it, thus the originally black blade also turned into a greenish crystal-like entity.

Electrolux sighed heavily. "I didn't realize I'd become so weak. I feel so tired and weak despite just using a bit of the Purifying Light. Alright, you'll have to tell your teacher that you need to keep the knife on you. I'll need some time to fuse the two of you together."

Once he'd finished speaking he made Huo Yuhao look at Wang Yan. After that, the whiteness in Huo Yuhao's eyes disappeared. Huo Yuhao regained control of his own body, while Wang Yan's empty eyes regained their focus.

"What?" Wang Yan immediately noticed the obvious change in the Ominous Soul-Devouring Knife once he'd regained focus. The originally-deadly sense of ferocity that it had possessed had ceased to exist. Currently, the crystal-like knife gave him a burning feeling of life.

Wang Yan was very confused; he didn't even remember Huo Yuhao turning to look at him. He was quite shocked by what had happened. "This... this is? Yuhao, how did you do this?"

Huo Yuhao only choice was to make up a lie. "Teacher Wang, I felt spiritual fluctuations coming from this knife the moment that I saw it. They weren't very strong, and were only based on the strength contained within the knife's blade. From the perspective of us soul engineers, this is known as a sealing of one's soul. In other words, a shred of evil will from an evil soul master had been sealed inside of this carving knife, which is why it was so ferocious. I simply used my spiritual power to open the seal, which wasn't very powerful, and remove the shred of evil will from the knife. This has allowed the knife to return to its normal state. It shouldn't pose a threat anymore. As for whether it's ready to use, we can only bring it back to try."

Wang Yan was very knowledgeable in regards to the research into soul masters, but he wasn't very clear about soul engineers. He could only nod when he heard Huo Yuhao's words. He then tried to pick up the knife.

Indeed, the knife had lost all traces of its ferocious aura. Instead, the knife felt very smooth in his hand. In fact, it didn't seem to have an aura at all. It seemed like had been carved from some sort of crystal. If not for the unchanged, simple patterns on the knife, he would've thought that Huo Yuhao had switched it out.

He lifted the knife and handed it to Huo Yuhao, then said, "Keep it then. We'll let Fan Yu take a look at it when we return to the academy. I'm not very knowledgeable when it comes to soul tools."

“Thanks, Teacher Wang.” Huo Yuhao felt elated when he received the knife. He had the same feeling as Wang Yan when he held the knife: It seemed like the knife was made of ordinary crystal—that was it.

After obtaining the knife as he wished, Huo Yuhao was extremely delighted. However, he also knew that he owed the academy a lot. The academy had nurtured him, thus he would need to repay their contributions in the future.

After returning to his room, he relayed everything to Wang Dong. Of course, he only told him the same version of what had happened as what he’d told Wang Yan; he couldn’t let anyone know about the secret in his spiritual sea.

Wang Dong was also awed when he saw the knife. “Is it really that good? It’s a pity that there’s not a suitable environment around. If there was, you could try to create a soul tool with it.”

Huo Yuhao replied, “There’s no rush. Come, let’s continue cultivating together.” He’d already leapt out of bed by the time he’d finished speaking.

Wang Dong was annoyed and replied, “You aren’t human! Don’t you ever feel bored or fatigued? Why not go out and play? I’m gonna die of boredom!”

Huo Yuhao chuckled and said, “If you’re not talented, you have to be one step ahead of others. My cultivation is the weakest of everyone present; if I don’t work harder than everyone, how will I live up to the academy’s expectations?”

Wang Dong snorted and said, “Fine, cultivate by yourself first. I’m heading back to my room and shower first. You have to achieve balance in your cultivation; you can’t always be so tense.”

Huo Yuhao was delighted when Wang Dong left. He was still waiting for Electrolux to tell him how miraculous the Ominous Soul-Devouring Knife was.

After Wang Dong left, Huo Yuhao immediately pulled the green, crystal-like knife out.

Electrolux’s slightly weak voice rang out, “Press it against your forehead. Yuhao, remember not to panic no matter what happens. Remain calm and leave everything to me. Do you understand?”

“Alright.” Huo Yuhao acknowledged, then pressed the knife to his forehead.

When the knife came into contact with his skin, he felt a surge of warm energy. Immediately afterwards, a strange aura streaked from his spiritual sea into the knife.

In an instant, the knife shone with green light, and a stream of vigorous life aura surged into Huo Yuhao’s body through the center of his forehead.

In that instant, Huo Yuhao’s body turned the same color as the knife. Even his spiritual sea was no exception. As the intense green light spread, the spiritual origins of the Skydream Iceworm and the Ice Jade Empress Scorpion were temporarily suppressed.

An unprecedented comfort flowed throughout his body, causing Huo Yuhao to feel as if every minute area of his body was moaning in happiness. His body greedily sucked at the vigorous life energy being released by the knife.

He seemed to be able to see everything inside his body: Everything turned green and were filled with the same life aura. His passageways became more flexible, his organs became tougher, his bones were strengthened... His entire body seemed to its quality raised.

The most obvious change he sensed was in his passageways. Even though they hadn't dilated, Huo Yuhao was sure that his passageways could definitely withstand a greater flood of soul power due to their increased resilience.

As the green light cleansed his entire body, all of the impurities within his body were rapidly expelled through his pores. n(/OveLB1n

Huo Yuhao had once consumed pills and medicine that had solidified his foundations. In the process, they had cleansed his body from the inside out after as he digested it. However, it was different this time. The strong powerful aura contained within the Ominous Soul-Devouring Knife was like the water of life; it cleansed every single corner of his body.

This didn't increase his cultivation, but Huo Yuhao was able to sense that his body had become as transparent as the Ominous Soul-Devouring Knife. All of the cultivation that he'd accumulated over the past few years was also cleansed under the nourishment of this wave of vigorous life aura. He felt that his body had finally become whole; even things that he hadn't understood in the past became clear to him as his mind cleared up.

Was this the miraculous effect of the Life Gold? Huo Yuhao was astonished. He'd been exposed to many things as he cultivated and learned: Even though his abilities hadn't been increased, he was well-aware of what this change meant to him.

The benefits he'd received from body being cleansed were immediately apparent. His state of weakness had turned into strength, and his cultivation speed had been greatly increased. Only a tough body could accommodate an abundance of soul power, which in turn would allow him to better absorb it and increase his cultivation faster.

The Life Gold before his eyes only nourished his body for an extremely short period of time, but he could clearly feel that the sum of every herbal medicine and tonic he had eaten before were not as effective as that moment he had just experienced. The feeling of sudden and smooth circulation was unprecedented. He was positive that, after this transformation, his cultivation speed would be greatly improved, and his body's endurance would be boosted as well. His capacity for higher-ranked soul rings would be raised by at least a thousand years, and this meant the power of his soul skills would be raised at the same time.

Just when Huo Yuhao was at the climax of his exhilaration, the vast aura of life paused as the sensation of comfort and pleasure receded in just a matter of seconds.

Huo Yuhao was still relishing in his comfort before his entire body started to feel empty. However, his unnaturally sensitive perception immediately told him that something was wrong – he realized, to his shock, that the Soul-Devouring Carving Knife had departed from between his eyebrows. What was more frightening was the fact that the sharp end of the blade was pointed right at his forehead, above his eyebrows.

Before he could even react, the Soul-Devouring Carving Knife stabbed down ferociously, and the entire blade sunk deep into his skull. Huo Yuhao wanted to scream and struggle under the agonizing pain, but he quickly realized that, to his intense dismay, there was nothing he could do.

Tremendous volumes of life energy instantly flooded in once the blade entered his skull. His current experience was similar to that of someone who had just eaten a strike of his Spiritual Shock – it felt like he had just been hammered on the head, and his mind was a complete blank.

It was too late for the Skydream Iceworm and the Ice Jade Empress Scorpion to save him once they felt everything. The extensive energies of life surged into Huo Yuhao's spiritual sea from his forehead and gave them an inexplicably comfortable sensation as their spiritual origins were rinsed.

Huo Yuhao's spiritual sea had turned into a green-colored ocean at this point. Dense and thick mists of life energy gradually started to condense, while his spiritual sea began to expand outwards with bedazzling speed.

Two shadows materialized in his spiritual sea – the Skydream Iceworm and the Ice Empress.

They glanced at each other, and immediately detected the shock in each other's eyes. They had been alive for hundreds of thousands of years, and even though Huo Yuhao's head had just been pierced by the Soul-Devouring Carving Knife, they could feel that Electrolux didn't harbor evil intentions. Furthermore, that vast pool of life energy that had just poured into Huo Yuhao's spiritual sea, and the process of expansion that was triggered, was greatly beneficial to them.

The life energy nourished the spiritual sea, and this was equivalent to nourishing their spiritual origins. Therefore, they resolved to calm themselves as they focused on protecting Huo Yuhao's spiritual origin while paying attention to the changes around them.

A frail old man clad in white appeared inside Huo Yuhao's spiritual sea between shimmering grey lights.

He glanced at the Skydream Iceworm and the Ice Jade Empress Scorpion and smiled as he said, "Big bug, small scorpion – I will not fight with you for territory any longer. You can release a little bit of your sealing power to boost Yuhao's spiritual sea and raise his spiritual power. His body can be considered pristine and impeccable after this transformation. However, don't infuse your powers into him too quickly – it's better to wait for his mastery of soul power to break rank 30 before you two continue fusing with him."

Skydream watched him with astonished eyes as he asked, "You're Electrolux?"

The old man nodded and replied, "My thread of divine sense had no foundation. It was empty and weak, which meant that it could have dissipated at any moment. However, things are a lot different with this miraculous Life Gold – it can provide me with a vector, and I will be able to sustain myself inside, and this is bound to stabilize my divine sense a little more. However, much of my memory has been lost – too much – and I can only rediscover these memories if my divine sense gets stronger, and so I need Yuhao's help. You guys can relax – we all share the same goal, and that's to make him stronger. When the power of his divine sense reaches the level I possessed back in the day, everything I've lost will return. Furthermore, I am starting to find this world a lot more interesting ever since fusing myself with his body. I need to be on my way, and you guys can communicate with me through our spiritual origins."

Electrolux's right hand swiped across the air as he spoke, and a green door made of light appeared before him. He waved back at the Skydream Iceworm and the Ice Empress before his shadow vanished into the door.

The Ice Empress couldn't help but give praise as she watched Electrolux's departure. "Such powerful control of his divine sense. This is humankind's innate talent! I have cultivated for four hundred thousand years, but I don't think I can condense my spiritual origin enough for it to evolve into divine sense."

The Skydream Iceworm wriggled his body and said, "Don't worry. We are integrated with Yuhao in order to draw upon his innate talents now. If he can succeed in the future, then we will surely succeed as well."

They were still engaged in casual conversation when something insidious started happening to Huo Yuhao's body.

The green Soul-Devouring Carving Knife inside his forehead was trembling faintly. However, the gash that was opened by the blade didn't gush with blood – instead, the Soul-Devouring Carving Knife started to soften, and eventually melted into a green liquid that flowed into Huo Yuhao's head through the opening.

Huo Yuhao's entire being was tainted with a thick layer of green as the large volumes of life energy started to wash his body continuously, with his forehead as the central point.

The wound slashed open by the blade didn't close up following the fusion of the carving knife. Instead, it began to open even wider under the effects of a circle of green-gold light, much like the mouth of an infant – it also seemed like a single eye.

His wound quivered, while his muscles and his bones were all being continuously distorted during the process. Huo Yuhao's body trembled from the effects of the transformation, and that was an excruciating pain that ordinary people wouldn't be able to tolerate.

Huo Yuhao's mind had been awake this whole time. He could even hear the conversation between the two powerful soul beasts and Electrolux inside his spiritual sea. However, there was nothing he could do to interrupt the process, or truly understand what was happening to him at this moment.

The green-gold light gradually stabilized. A single tiny grey pearl materialized at the gash on his forehead and began to fuse intricately with the broken flesh, tendons and bones around the hole.

The harrowing pain pierced Huo Yuhao's nerves like countless numbers of needles. The pain he was feeling now was perhaps ten times greater than what he had experienced during his fusion with the bones of the Ice Jade Empress Scorpion.

Huo Yuhao's soul and spiritual origin were screaming incessantly as he felt as if his spiritual origin was being torn apart. One could also say that his spiritual origin was being ripped to shreds before it was pieced back together. That kind of pain was truly indescribable. No matter how vast the pools of life energy were, Huo Yuhao couldn't feel a single ounce of comfort at this particular moment. The pain he was feeling seemed to drag him into the deepest and darkest abyss, and he was just sinking ever deeper.



Terrifying ripples of soul power erupted at this moment. Huo Yuhao's Mysterious Heaven Technique soul power instinctively tried to protect his body, but that soul power had no way of entering this particular region of his spiritual sea.

An unknown duration of time passed, and just when he was becoming numb to the agonizing pain, and his spiritual origin already felt like it had been torn to pieces, he suddenly felt a trace of light.

It was a dull, gentle and tender golden color.

His shattered spiritual origin was seamlessly covered and enveloped by this all-encompassing golden light. That feeling was strange, as if he was thrown into a warm lake, and his fractured spiritual origin was progressively softened and agglutinating within.

The lake was golden, and glued his spiritual origin back together while it injected a mysterious kind of energy inside.

The numbness slowly became warmth. Huo Yuhao's mind was also recuperating along with the convalescence of his spiritual origin.

He reached out with his senses at once. The first thing he saw was that he was sitting by his bed, cross-legged, and his waist was erect while his entire body was extremely silent. There was suddenly an extra eye on his forehead.

This eye didn't radiate with green light, and the socket was a little smaller than his original eyes. There appeared to be faint and pale flickers of green light around the socket.

The pupil itself was grey. However, there was a subtle flicker of golden light deep within the patches of grey. His strange third eye moved a little, and Huo Yuhao instantly realized that he was staring at himself – he saw the vicissitudes, the abstruseness, and a life and purity that was difficult to describe.

Huo Yuhao's spiritual power returned to his body with a whistle. This time, the things he was looking at started to change – he could see his bones, his muscles, and his veins and capillaries.

The circulation of blood was like a flowing river as it trickled along, and the dense essence of blood was permeated with vigorous life energies. His skeleton, his muscles, his veins and his organs were all covered by strange layers of green, and this layer was currently fusing with his body while its color gradually receded.

Huo Yuhao couldn't wait as he directed his spiritual energy back into his brain and back into his spiritual sea, as he wanted to see what was different about it.

The changes in his spiritual sea fell into his eyes very swiftly.

Describing it as world-changing was as suitable as it could get.

His spiritual sea was drastically different from before. If one could say that his original spiritual sea was a patch of nothingness, his current spiritual sea was now transformed into a patch of real space.

This space was white, with no end in sight. The first thing he saw the moment he entered it was a large green lake. This lake was filled with vitality and vigor, and its surface was calm and gentle like a mirror. Dense auras of life energy nourished his spiritual sea.

Such a vast space! Huo Yuhao perceived the boundlessness of his spiritual sea in shock. His spiritual sea was at least three times larger than before, and it was hard to say how much more stable it had become.

He refocused his eyes, and noticed a single pearl drifting on the surface of the azure lake – it could also be said to be the Sun of the spiritual sea.

This pearl was also jade-green in color. It was totally transparent, crystal-like and radiated a gentle light, much like that of the Soul-Devouring Carving Knife. It changed when Huo Yuhao cast his gaze upon it, transforming into an eye that gradually opened and looked back at Yuhao with a tender gaze.

Lights flickered as Huo Yuhao discovered, to his intense shock, that he suddenly had a body. His spiritual power created a figure that was identical to himself in the blink of an eye, and he was just standing there by the lake.

It wasn't just him. The plump and robust white bug, the Skydream Iceworm, and the enchantingly beautiful Ice Jade Empress Scorpion appeared beside him as well.

"This... What's all this? What just happened?" Huo Yuhao was clueless about everything before his eyes. However, there was a feeling tingling at the bottom of his heart that told him he was in control of everything here. This kind of change that he had never experienced before gave him a strange and incomprehensible sensation.

The giant eye in midair stared at him, and Electrolux's decrepit voice rang out, "This are the effects of the Life Gold. Don't worry, for I will explain everything to you slowly."

"Let's talk about what Life Gold is. Life is as the name suggests. All beings have life, and can called living beings. It's the same whether it was me in the olden days or you guys. Every living being is separated by intelligence, and the original force of all living beings is life energy, or vitality."

"Life Gold is the material representation of life energy. Put more simply, it's the product of condensing copious amounts of life energy, and a treasure of the world that only can come about after many years of gestation and incubation. I was not originally from your world, but from another parallel dimension – however, Life Gold shares the same existence no matter which world you're in. The vast amounts of life energy contained within Life Gold are extremely beneficial to any living being. Every living being represents a life, but every piece of Life Gold represents an entire world."

Huo Yuhao became more perplexed as he listened on, and a look of confusion came over his eyes. He still didn't really understand the existence of this Life Gold.

At this moment, the Skydream Iceworm asked, "Old man, you still haven't mentioned how Life Gold came about. And what does it mean by gestating copious amounts of life energy over many years? Don't make it so abstract and get to the point."

Electrolux replied plainly, "It's easy to be direct. Even though your origins are nothing impressive, it's a rare sight for someone like you to live for so long, and you've been alive for a million years. Put simply, the sum of your million years of age is about the size of a teardrop of Life Gold."

"You can't be serious!" The Skydream Iceworm and the Ice Empress exclaimed at the same time. Even though the Ice Empress didn't think too highly of the Skydream Iceworm, she knew that she was

ultimately inferior to him in terms of life energy, as the Skydream Iceworm had been alive for over a million years.

Electrolux continued, "This is already holding him in high regard. You guys have to know that Life Gold exists initially in a gaseous form, and following the passage of time, gradually transforms into a liquid – much like the one Huo Yuhao has obtained, except it had already become a solid. You guys will understand as I explain. Big bug, do you remember the forest in which we fused together with Huo Yuhao?"

The Skydream Iceworm muttered through his teeth, "Of course. The Great Star Dou Forest. I was tortured by those bastards in that cursed place!"

Electrolux said, "That forest is host to a plentitude of lives. When my divine sense descended, I could feel the intense vigor and vitality of the giant forest. If we used that to measure Life Gold, forming a lump of solid Life Gold about the size of a carving knife would require about twenty thousand years – and that is already under the assumption that nothing is damaged or interrupted. Furthermore, you guys need to understand that the formation of Life Gold requires a great many objective conditions. For example, for the forest to produce a piece of Life Gold, there has to be a place inside that is dense and concentrated with life energy."

Huo Yuhao nodded and said, "I think I roughly understand. You're trying to say that this carving knife was made entirely from Life Gold."

Electrolux replied, "Yes, that is correct. Life energy is beneficial to any force of existence; evil beings can also enjoy the benefits of vast amounts of life energy. My divine sense is too dilapidated – therefore, I had no choice but to take the majority of its power when we obtained this piece of Life Gold. I used its power as the foundation to open a third eye for you, which is the same one you saw with your consciousness. My consciousness is contained within this third eye. Under the nourishment of this Life Gold, I don't think my divine sense will ever run the risk of dissipating anymore."

"With the nourishment from this enormous pool of life energy, my divine sense will be healed continuously, and I will also be able to manipulate some of its power. You're too weak at the moment – when you're stronger, I will give you a choice, and you can decide whether you want to inherit my powers."

"I can still remember three different powers from the remnants of my broken memory. Two of them were passed down to the people from my original plane, but my last inheritance – also my highest one – is still being withheld. When you reach the fifth ring, you should have the ability to attempt this inheritance. Of course, you have to be willing."

The Skydream Iceworm snorted and said, "So you are taking the lion's share of the benefits of this whatever Life Gold?"

Electrolux couldn't help but laugh and answered, "Are you blind, you bug? I have even transformed his spiritual sea into such a beautiful place. I dare say that there will never be such a beautiful spiritual sea inside this plane ever again. I have just said that every single piece of Life Gold is an entire world, and I used the power of this Life Gold to seal its original life energy into this spiritual sea. After today, the growth of Yuhao's spiritual power will be at least three times faster than before, and his spiritual sea will

be as good as eternal. Even his physical body has been influenced by this Life Gold – whatever his injury is, as long as his mind is still functional, it will regenerate on its own. It won't be so easy for him to die anymore."

"You have to remember a few things, Yuhao. Firstly, that carving knife hasn't disappeared. Your third eye, and also the Eye Of Life that I just spoke of, is its current metaphysical existence. When you're in need, you just have to focus your consciousness into the Eye of Life, and you will be bestowed with the power of the carving knife. However, this carving knife will possess certain qualities of the Life Gold and a portion of my own qualities as well. You'll have to try it out to know exactly what those are."

"Secondly, my existence from now on can be counted as one of your martial souls – a very special martial soul. However, this martial soul cannot be fused with soul rings. You have to be clear that my strength comes from you, only my control is probably superior to yours. The most I can give you is intelligence and wisdom – therefore, you can't have too high hopes of me."

"Thirdly, I hope you will shut yourself in for a while after you've finished with the things you have at hand. You should attempt to experience and understand the profundities this Life Gold has brought to you, and truly integrate with the life energy inside of you. You have to allow it to become a part of you like your finger or your arm, and this will be extremely beneficial for your future development."

"Lastly, following the transformations made by the Life Gold, both the strength and flexibility of your body has been greatly improved – do make use of that. Oh, and you have to try your best to control it however you can. Your spiritual sea can now contain a greater volume of spiritual power. However, no matter how powerful your spiritual powers are, it's all wasted if you don't know how to control them. This is also one of the reasons why I wish for you to shut yourself in to cultivate and meditate in silence."

"Alright, that's all I have to say. I have to integrate with the Eye of Life as soon as possible. You will also regain command of your consciousness very soon. After this episode, your consciousness, your body and your spiritual sea will be flawlessly integrated. It will be very difficult for us to take over your bodies after this – all we can do is help you in your growth."

The eye closed, and Electrolux's aura swiftly vanished. In the next moment, Huo Yuhao felt his world spinning like a top around him, and he fell into a daze. When he opened his eyes in the next moment, he was back on his bed.

His first action was to reach up to touch his forehead subconsciously. What caught him off guard was that his forehead was smooth – where was the third eye?

Perhaps all this was due to the unbearable intensity of pain that he had just experienced, but his mind ended up in a trance – could everything that had just happened be nothing but a hallucination?

He tossed his head from side to side as he attempted to reorient himself before he focused and looked inwards once again.

It wasn't a hallucination after all. At this point, his spiritual power enabled him to see every corner of his body when he looked inwards, to the point where he could see the circulation of the pure white color of the Mysterious Heaven Technique's soul power. Every detail within his body fell into his perception – the life energy that belonged to the piece of Life Gold was currently being fully absorbed by his body.

Huo Yuhao stood up and stretched a little. He immediately discovered, to his amazement, that every single joint in his body felt incredibly flexible. He turned his head, and found that his neck could almost rotate a full hundred and eighty degrees. He lifted his right leg backwards; it didn't take much effort at all to touch his head.

What stunned him the most was the circumstance of the Mysterious Heaven Technique's circulation. He no longer needed to engage in meditation – its circulation had practically become a part of his breathing process, and followed the huff and puff of his every breath. The Mysterious Heaven Technique was actually following the paths of cultivation and circulating automatically. His own blood essence was flowing vigorously, and was integrated impeccably with his soul power, as if they were being boosted with every second that passed.

Huo Yuhao watched the rays of sunlight coming in through the window. He immediately felt as if his mood was overcome with an incredible sensation of optimism and cheerfulness, as if his entire being was immersed and integrated with nature.

The Life Gold was so powerful! His body seemed to have risen to another level under its effects.

He concentrated on his spiritual sea. Everything that he saw before was still there – the serene Lake of Life, the dense essence of life energy, and the Pearl of Life hovering in the sky could all be seen with great clarity.

Both the Skydream Iceworm and the Ice Empress remained at the lake, as if they had felt the probing from Huo Yuhao's spiritual power. They turned their gazes into the sky, and Huo Yuhao immediately sensed that they were watching him.

At this moment, these two powerful soul beasts started to radiate with pale brilliance. Especially the Skyream Iceworm, who was emanating tender golden light that flooded his spiritual sea. It looked like he was fusing his vast pools of soul power with himself to boost his expanded spiritual sea.

The Ice Empress was emitting layers of light that were a mix of icy-white and green. These layers of light were first infused into the Ice Jade Empress Scorpion's skeleton before they were spread all around Huo Yuhao's body.

Neither the Skydream Iceworm's nor the Ice Jade Empress Scorpion's power could increase Huo Yuhao's soul power, as they had already become Huo Yuhao's martial souls, but the Mysterious Heaven Technique's soul power had also taken two different forms of existence. There was no question that the changes they were currently undergoing were meant to boost Huo Yuhao's spiritual sea, his physical strength and the power of every one of his soul rings.

Huo Yuhao could still use his spiritual detection to perceive his surroundings before his absorption of the Life Gold. However, there was no way he could be clairvoyant, and his personal senses were only slightly superior to those of normal people. The Life Gold had triggered an almost sublime transformation in his body, but his powers didn't appear vastly improved, as the effects worked to develop his potential while giving him a boost to his senses.

Huo Yuhao rushed into the bathroom to cleanse his body and changed into a set of clean clothes the moment he witnessed the changes that were happening to the Skydream Iceworm and the Ice Jade Empress Scorpion. He checked himself in the mirror and made sure that there wasn't a third eye on his

forehead, as if that eye had only existed in his sensations – but the feeling of its existence was just too real.

He refused to mull over it too much, and returned to his bed. He started to channel the Mysterious Heaven Technique and activated his soul power to begin his cultivation, as he had a faint feeling that cultivating at this time would be most beneficial to himself.

All Wang Dong saw when he slunk back into the room was Huo Yuhao, who was deep in meditation.

Wang Dong was a little surprised as he watched him. Even though Huo Yuhao didn't seem any different on the surface, Wang Dong had a feeling that there was something different about his friend, and it felt like his temperament was different. Huo Yuhao's physical appearance was originally slightly above average, but he suddenly seemed to have a new and unique kind of charm.

Self-confidence, steadiness and a few measures of depth – yet, he was still filled with liveliness and brimmed with vitality.

“This guy is just too hardworking. He can still be so involved even when he's cultivating alone – he can even enter deep meditation.”

Soul masters generally experienced two different states during their cultivation – meditation and deep meditation. Standard meditation could typically be interrupted, and the soul master would wake up naturally when there was external stimulus, or if the soul master detected any change in his physical surroundings, so any adverse effects would be highly limited. Therefore, this form of meditation was also referred to as light cultivation.

This was the state that they would typically enter when Wang Dong and Huo Yuhao teamed up to concentrate the Haodong power. After all, they had to pass the Haodong power around, and thus they couldn't let their soul power course around freely.

On the other hand, deep meditation was a serendipitous occurrence that only came about when one had an epiphany in the process of normal meditation. The meditator's consciousness would sink deep into his or her cultivation, and their entire being would be fixated – one would no longer be able to experience any changes in the outside world and, would only wake when it was time.

The soul master's soul power would be circulating automatically during deep meditation, and at a speed that was much faster than during normal meditation. At the same time, the soul master would experience a higher level of absorption and perception during deep meditation. Many things that were typically perplexing or difficult to fathom would become a lot more transparent and understandable during deep meditation.

Any soul master would wish that he or she could enter deep meditation during cultivation, especially when they were breaking through a bottleneck. If the soul master was lucky enough to encounter deep meditation, he or she would experience a success rate of higher than eighty percent.

Because of the very reason that deep meditation encompassed a profound level of comprehension and cultivation, soul masters in deep meditation were most afraid of being interrupted. They ran the risk of going insane if they were interrupted, and it could even be reflected in real and severe bodily harm.

It was easy to differentiate between normal and deep meditation. There was no change in physical state or appearance during normal cultivation, as soul power was only circulating inside the soul master's body. There would only be a slight external aura or release when there was a special or esoteric technique in play, or if the soul master was breaking through a bottleneck – for instance, when Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong were cultivating with Haodong power, Huo Yuhao's body would radiating with golden light under the effects of the Golden Light Left Arm Bone.

Due to the need for personal protection, the soul master's soul power would be automatically released to protect himself or herself during deep cultivation, and mask his or her aura at the same time.

Huo Yuhao was currently in this exact state. There were layers of white light shimmering outside his body, as if his entire body were a jewel that sparkled with plain rays of light.

It was natural for other people to develop some sense of envy or jealousy when they witnessed others in deep meditation. However, Wang Dong was different, and he only felt glad for Huo Yuhao. He made a few mischievous expressions before he took a chair, discreetly departed the room and took his place outside to protect his friend and prevent Huo Yuhao from being affected by anybody from Shrek who came around looking for him.

Huo Yuhao felt a wave of warmth course through his body the moment he woke up from his deep meditation. The green colors in his body had vanished completely, and his soul power was vastly improved. He had just reached Rank 28, but he was now clear of a third of his journey into Rank 29. Besides cultivating with Haodong power in his daily activities, this episode of deep meditation proved to be of great help.

His speed of cultivation during deep cultivation was higher than when he channeled Haodong power with Wang Dong. However, this was only a state that came around solely by chance.

Huo Yuhao leapt down from the bed, and he felt light as a feather. There was an inexplicable feeling of comfort, as if his entire body was a lot lighter than before – this was a feeling that couldn't even be fully described with the word "beautiful".

Everything seemed to be different, and his self-confidence returned – was he finally getting closer to greatness?

Huo Yuhao clenched his fists tightly together as he glanced outward. It looked like it was still midday, but he felt as if he had been renewed, and the flames relit inside him.

"Why hasn't Wang Dong returned? He's taking too long to bathe," Huo Yuhao didn't feel that he had taken a long time to cultivate, and distinctly remembered that they had been cultivating together in the morning before he took back the Soul-Devouring Carving Knife. Afterwards, Wang Dong went ahead to take a shower while he continued to cultivate – he should be back by now!

He walked out as these thoughts turned in his head. The moment he pulled the door toward him, he felt a pushing force coming from the other side. *n//Ovelbln*

Huo Yuhao was caught off-guard, and subconsciously reacted as he leapt backwards and quickly released his martial soul – but what came next left his mouth agape.

"Bam-"

“Ouch.”

Wang Dong fell backwards along with his chair, and Huo Yuhao immediately hurried forward to help him up. “What are you doing? Why are you waiting outside? Why didn’t you come in?”

Wang Dong had been sitting outside this whole time, and his body had been leaning against the door. He was already starting to doze off, and when the door opened, Wang Dong fell backwards onto the ground with his chair.

Wang Dong was furious. “You’re terribly ungrateful! I was protecting you, and all you do when you wake up is let me fall back onto the ground. Are you going to take care of me if I cripple myself because of this?”

Huo Yuhao chuckled and said, “Have I not been taking care of you in the dorm? When have you cleaned up the dorm? Or swept the floor? Or mopped the floor? When have you even done anything at all? Even your wardrobe is cleaned by me. You’re like a big boss figure every day.”

“I…” Wang Dong wanted to retort, but he couldn’t find a suitable argument to make. He scowled and said, “Stop with your loud rhetoric and your fallacious arguments. I’ll let you off the hook this time. You seemed to be having a good time with all that deep meditation, while my ass was about to break into several pieces.”

Huo Yuhao reached out and pressed against Wang Dong’s butt cheeks. “It’s all good. Let me massage you.”

Wang Dong was still young, but his little butt cheeks were firm and springy. Huo Yuhao squeezed a few times, and immediately realized that the feeling in his hands was pretty good.

Huo Yuhao was quick. Before he even finished his sentence, his hands were already in action, and Wang Dong’s entire body froze. He even felt a little immobilized.

Huo Yuhao squeezed a few more times, but faintly realized that something was amiss. He glanced at Wang Dong out of the corners of his eyes – Wang Dong was glaring at him, and his face was black while his eyes were spitting flames.

“Does it feel good?” A chilly voice floated out from between the gaps in his teeth.

“Oh, it’s not so bad.” Huo Yuhao’s answer was almost subconscious.

“Go to hell.” Wang Dong tossed his head and raised his left leg for a high kick that was aimed straight at Huo Yuhao’s forehead.

Huo Yuhao tilted his head backwards hurriedly and dodged his kick. However, Wang Dong’s body was extremely nimble, and his right foot, which was supporting his body, rotated like a fulcrum, and his left foot returned once again – and swept across Huo Yuhao’s body at once.

Huo Yuhao didn’t even need to see with his eyes as he swung his body backwards and avoided Wang Dong’s kick once more while his entire body became like a plank.

Wang Dong’s sweeping left leg paused in the air and slammed downwards at Huo Yuhao’s abdomen. Huo Yuhao spun around in midair as he dragged his right leg upwards and pressed his kneecap against



the calf of Wang Dong's left leg to stop its movement. At the same time, his right leg sprung up and back down again and wrapped around Wang Dong's right leg like a whip. He pushed against the ground with both hands and pulled backwards – instantly, both of them fell down together with their legs still intertwined.

It was clear that Wang Dong had never expected Huo Yuhao to be so adaptable. He watched Huo Yuhao with an astonished look and said, "When did you become so agile and flexible?"

"I've always been flexible," Huo Yuhao answered proudly, "and a gentleman uses his mouth, not his fists."