

Tang Sect 121

Chapter 121: The Tang Sects Secret Techniques

“Will the fourth contestant from the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy, Meng Hongchen, please step forth.”

Meng Hongchen sauntered onto the competition stage. Her looks couldn't compare to Jiang Nannan's, but she was still a charming and good-looking young girl, and was about Jiang Nannan's age as well. Her flowing locks were a rare wine-red color. It was a deeper hue than Ma Xiaotao's, and resembled mellow wine flecked with pale hues. However, her eyes weren't red, but were blue. This characteristic was different from her brother, Xiao Hongchen.

She was the fourth contestant from the Sun Moon Empire's team to participate in the single-elimination round. The Sun Moon Empire's team only had four individuals left who could still participate, including her and her severely injured elder brother.

The Sun Moon Empire's team had won the group battle, but everything was still going according to Wang Yan's plan and arrangement. Shrek Academy's team could be said to have obtained an overwhelming victory in terms of battle strategy and tactics; all their patience in terms of battle strategy in the competition before this had been worth it at this moment.

Who else did Shrek Academy have to send out in this single-elimination round? Other than Bei Bei, Shrek was able to send out the control-type Soul King, Ling Luochen. After that, there was still the White Tiger Soul Emperor, Dai Yueheng, as well as the Evil Phoenix Soul Emperor, Ma Xiaotao. As for the Sun Moon?

Besides Meng Hongchen, they only had a food-type Class 5 soul engineer, Xiao Xiaofeng, their team leader, Ma Rulong, and the heavily wounded Xiao Hongchen.

Soul engineers should generally have an advantage over soul masters of the same level. However, which of the contestants from Shrek Academy wasn't a monster?

Why had Michael lost? Because he hadn't expect Bei Bei's battle tactics. According to their research, Bei Bei's greatest strength was his martial soul mutation on the battlefield—a cross between the Blue Lightning Tyrant Dragon and the Golden Holy Dragon. He'd been on guard against this the whole time, which was why he hadn't used his strongest offensive move. He'd unwittingly lost the battle due to that single Clustered Soulchasing Ball without even getting to unleash his full potential.

The battlefield could have a myriad of changes in an instant, but every single one of Shrek's team members were pervertedly strong.

Two Soul Ancestors had stepped onto the battlefield and defeated three Soul Kings that were also Class 5 soul engineers! How powerful would their Soul Kings and Soul Emperors be?

Even if one didn't mention Dai Yueheng, the dominance that Ma Xiaotao had displayed in the competition thus far meant that she would be Shrek's cornerstone and pillar of strength in the subsequent battles.

How would the Sun Moon Empire's team stand a chance in the single-elimination rounds? How would they stand a chance in the following 2-2-3 battle?

The finals' situation was quickly unfurling after this abrupt turn, with the scales of victory slanting in Shrek Academy's favor. This was Shrek, the monster academy with over than ten thousand years of history.

Meng Hongchen stepped onto the competition stage under such circumstances, and faced her opponent: The Soul Ancestor with the Blue Lightning Tyrant Dragon, Bei Bei.

"Begin!" The round that the Sun Moon Empire's team couldn't lose began following the Heavenfiend Douluo's bellow.

Bei Bei growled as his feet slid forward, and his entire body rocketed towards his opponent at the fastest speed possible. He'd already completed his original task once he'd achieved victory against Michael. He knew that he couldn't use the same tactic to attain victory a second time. But despite this, and even if he lost, he wanted to whittle down Meng Hongchen's power as much as possible in order to lay down a solid foundation for Ling Luo Chen, who would be the next to come on stage.

Wang Yan's current emotions weren't relaxed at all as he stood below the stage, despite their recent victory. His eyes were fixed upon Meng Hongchen, who'd just stepped on stage, but he couldn't explain the sudden ominous feeling that had surfaced in his heart.

A profuse number of talents and prodigies had come from Shrek Academy. Xu Sanshi and Bei Bei had already sufficiently proven their status as the current outer courtyard's stars, as well as the future inner courtyard's pillars with their background and prowess. But what about their opponents? The Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy wouldn't have become Shrek Academy's nemesis over the past few thousand years if they were that easy to deal with.

Xiao Hongchen's abilities were enough to attract Wang Yan's attention. Xiao Hongchen would've probably caused great trouble and danger for the Shrek Academy team if not for Jiang Nannan's sudden outburst of strength—which had stopped her opponent in his tracks—followed by Dai Yueheng's all-out strike, who wasn't even fifteen years of age.

Then, what about Meng Hongchen?

Xiao Hongchen was the Sun Moon Empire's trump card, and his ability had been to control metal. What was Meng Hongchen's ability? This befuddling question mark had been in Wang Yan's mind this whole time, and still remained unanswered.

Meng Hongchen's expression remained as calm as ever as Bei Bei lunged towards her. She wasn't like her comrades, who'd released their soul tools or engaged in long-range combat right from the start. Her feet shifted from beneath her body and she traipsed forward—right towards Bei Bei. At the same time, conspicuous changes began to occur all over her body.

Her flowing wine-red hair turned snowy white, while her icy blue eyes instantly turned bright red—the kind of color that made it seem like her eyes were dripping with blood.

Whoever witnessed the sudden change in her eyes would definitely be shaken by the sight; some would even feel terror.

Bei Bei had a sensation similar to when he'd faced off against the evil soul master, the Envoy of the Death God, when he saw her, and an inexplicable chill instantly ran up his spine.

It was just at this moment that the sky rang out with the crackling sounds of a lightning strike, and a thin drizzle flitted down from the sky.

Meng Hongchen raised both of her hands into the air and suddenly pushed forwards. Every part of her skin that was visible became a snowy-white color, and appeared sparkling and translucent. However, her eyes still seemed extremely out of place. They were incredibly breathtaking and electrifying.

Her palms seemed to faintly flicker with a pale green luster as well.

Meng Hongchen didn't look like a soul engineer at all. Instead, she appeared much more like a soul master.

However, not a single person from Shrek could tell what her martial soul was; not even the Taotie Douluo Elder Xuan or Wang Yan.

Elder Xuan's eyes narrowed into a squint, and his eyes sparkled with astonishment. Even though he still couldn't tell what Meng Hongchen's martial soul was, he postulated that her martial soul couldn't be as weak as a typical soul master's, and even if she couldn't compare to Xiao Hongchen, they wouldn't be too far apart.

Xiao Hongchen's metal-type martial soul was compatible with his status as a soul engineer. His potential in the future was boundless, and he was already a Soul King even though he was still so young; one could only imagine what kind of power he would possess when he grew up.

It was apparent that Meng Hongchen had chosen a different path from her elder brother.

While everyone was flabbergasted by Meng Hongchen's martial soul, both parties were headed straight at each other with dazzling speed. The distance between them was quickly reduced to less than thirty meters.

The first one to attack was Meng Hongchen. She raised her hands and drew two semicircles outwards, then pushed them in Bei Bei's direction.

Her soul rings began to sparkle brilliantly on her body—two yellow, two purple and one black. This was the standard and most optimal soul ring combination. At the same time, a light projection gradually drifted into view behind her.

It was a toad, spotlessly white like a piece of jade, and with eyes the same blood-red color as hers. However, the martial soul beast transformation that had appeared on Xiao Hongchen's body didn't appear on Meng Hongchen.

"This is..." Wang Yan's eyes instantly widened. He'd perused and scrutinized all sorts of encyclopedias and archives from the academy about martial souls from the moment he'd joined Shrek. He had a strangely familiar feeling about the white jade-like toad before him, and knew that he'd seen this in some ancient record before.

A beam of white energy that was a foot long in diameter surged towards Bei Bei from Meng Hongchen's palms when she pushed them out, and her first soul ring lit up along with it.

The reason why she'd released a beam of energy and not radiance was the fact that this beam didn't seem quick at all. There were tinges of green throughout the whiteness, and the whole thing seemed like a luminous patch of mist.

What was even more sinister was that the tiny raindrops drifting down from the sky naturally infused themselves naturally into the beam of energy, which made it look like a whirlpool.

Bei Bei naturally wouldn't underestimate an unknown martial soul. His personality was a lot calmer and more stable than Xu Sanshi's, thus he abruptly halted in his tracks. His third soul ring, the Thunderous Fury, lit up first, followed immediately by his fourth soul ring. He'd actually used his most powerful offensive move, the Thunderous Dragon Head, at the very beginning of the battle.

Bei Bei knew just by looking at Meng Hongchen's appearance that it would be extremely difficult for him to emerge victorious. Meng Hongchen seemed to exude an air of mystery in whatever she did. Thus he'd assigned himself a simple target: he would grind his opponent down as much as he could.

An uncountable number of streaks of lightning accompanied the Thunderous Fury and crackled all around him. Their radiant light reflected off of the dragon scales on the right half of Bei Bei's body, causing them to gleamed with a bluish-purple brilliance. At the same time, his fearsome draconic aura was completely unleashed amidst the drizzle around him, and a crisp draconic roar could be heard as the colossal Thunderous Dragon Head ferociously boomed out. Under the Thunderous Fury's amplification, the force of this strike wasn't one whit inferior to the strike of a powerful Soul King.

Lightning and thunder were rolling in the skies, causing the Thunderous Dragon Head to appear even more ruthless than before. The enormous dragon head had a diameter of over one meter, and pierced through the miniscule raindrops falling from the sky as it slammed into the dense white whirlpool coming towards him.

Right at this moment, Meng Hongchen made a decision that was completely beyond everyone's expectations. She didn't intend to fight fire with fire, and neither did she push forward—instead, she stood up on her tiptoes, and her body sprung into the sky like a bolt of lightning as she flew backwards with bedazzling speed.

The Thunderous Dragon Head barreled forward and blew the white mist energy that she'd unleashed into smithereens, then proceeded to chase after her with the sounds of thunderous howls and dragon-like roars.

Meng Hongchen displayed astonishing agility as she arrived on the competition stage's edge with two flips before she abruptly leapt to the side.

The Thunderous Dragon Head was able to lock onto its target. However, instead of chasing after her, it proceeded to crash into the protective barrier surrounding the competition stage with a loud boom.

Innumerable streaks of lightning erupted when it struck the protective barrier, causing a sphere of lightning that was over three meters in diameter to appear. Several seconds passed before it gradually dissipated.

Meng Hongchen didn't move an inch as she dropped back onto the ground. She didn't take the initiative to launch another attack, nor did she do anything else; she just watched Bei Bei on the other end of the stage.

Bei Bei just stood there, his gaze a little lackadaisical. There was a trace of disbelief in his eyes, but the twinkling glow in his eyes was dwindling with tremendous speed.

Boom. Bei Bei's body collapsed backwards onto the competition stage just like that. He didn't move an inch after the initial bounce when his body first crashed onto the stage.

The audience looked on with bewilderment, while everybody from team Shrek stood up in unison, their expressions that of intense disbelief.

How could this be? It was clearly Bei Bei's Thunderous Dragon Head that had broken through his opponent's attack. How could he just crumple onto the ground, unconscious, when he hadn't even touched his opponent?

What exactly had happened?

Even the Heavenfiend Douluo looked a little dazed, as not even he knew the reason why Bei Bei had fainted on the spot. There was no reason for him to collapse, no matter which perspective he looked at it from.

However, the truth was that he'd gone down, which meant that the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy was victorious this round.

The Heavenfiend Douluo used a strand of gentle soul energy to carry Bei Bei's unconscious body towards Shrek Academy's team members. Huo Yuhao hurriedly came forward and grab his senior brother, and realized that Bei Bei's face was extremely pale. All it took was that tiny moment before his breathing became extremely weak. It felt as if his vitality had been frozen, but the more frightening fact was that Bei Bei's skin color had become as white as Meng Hongchen's skin, except that he didn't have her crystal-like translucence.

Meng Hongchen gradually stepped into the stage's center, then she glanced at the other team members from Shrek with a pair of chilly eyes. She raised her right hand and pointed at the troupe in the waiting area and coldly said, "Next."

Ling Luochen slowly straightened her back. The third contestant from Shrek Academy's team was her.

Suddenly, Wang Yan and Huo Yuhao exclaimed at practically the same time.

"I know what her martial soul is!"

"I finally remember!"

The first sentence belonged to Huo Yuhao's, while the latter was Wang Yan's. Huo Yuhao's judgment came from the Ice Jade Empress Scorpion, who'd just been abruptly shaken awake inside his mind, while Wang Yan's determination came from his accrued knowledge from reading a myriad of materials.

Huo Yuhao and Wang Yan exchanged a look, then shouted at the same time. "Her martial soul is the Vermillion Ice Toad! It's extremely poisonous."

The Ice Empress was in a deep slumber inside his spiritual sea, but she'd been awakened the moment Huo Yuhao caught Bei Bei and had said the Vermillion Ice Toad's name.

Huo Yuhao quickly probed for information about the Vermillion Ice Toad. The Ice Empress told him that it was an ice-type soul beast that possessed extremely strong poison, and was known in the Extreme North as the 'King Within the Crevice'. The reason for this was because its territory was in the Extreme North's outer regions, along the border to the human world. There were very few of them around, and their whereabouts were unpredictable, as they always moved from place to place. As such, they were rarely-seen and exotic. The Vermillion Ice Toad's forte was poison, and they absorbed the coldest air and energies between heaven and earth to forge their poisons. The two reasons that they hadn't moved deeper into the Extreme North was because the Three Heavenly Kings were holding down the fort, and the Vermillion Ice Toad's body was an ice-type soul beast, while its eyes were fire-type—an extremely peculiar combination. Thus, places of extreme cold weren't suitable for them to inhabit. They intertwined both their fire and ice abilities to produce their special icy poison.

The Vermillion Ice Toad would leave a trail of acute poison wherever it went, which would remain there almost indefinitely. Even soul beasts more powerful than it found it challenging to harm the Ice Toad. There had been records of soul masters with this martial soul on the continent, but they were extremely rare. The reason for this was because the Vermillion Ice Toad's situation was similar to Ma Xiaotao's Evil Phoenix; the icy poison within it would cause a toxic backlash to its owner. One misstep, and the soul master would perish from the icy poison entering his or her heart. This was the main reason why there were very few of such soul masters who could cultivate to an extremely high level.

However, there were two sides to everything. The stronger the toxic backlash, the more formidable its power, and the stronger the poison in battle.

There was no question that the sphere of white mist that she'd released was charged with the Vermillion Ice Toad's intense poison. Bei Bei had been unwittingly poisoned, thus he had no longer been able to control the Thunderous Dragon Head, which naturally meant the latter wouldn't be able to lock onto its target anymore. Meng Hongchen wasn't only powerful and unique—her calculations were accurate and impeccable. She'd defeated Bei Bei practically without breaking a sweat, and it was apparent that she could control the Vermillion Ice Toad's intense poison at a whim, as the Heavenfiend Douluo would've been affected otherwise. Whether she'd suffer from a toxic backlash was hard to say.

Bei Bei hadn't let Michael unleash his full potential, and he ended up with the same fate. The Golden Holy Dragon's radiance would no longer shine in this season's grand competition.

Huo Yuhao and Wang Yan's unified exclamation was so loud that even Meng Hongchen heard it from the competition stage. She glanced towards Shrek Academy's waiting area, then grunted and said, "You guys are from Shrek after all. Looks like you do know some things."

The competition carried on, as the single-elimination rounds couldn't be stopped halfway. Huo Yuhao and Wang Yan's words were clearly meant to remind Ling Luochen as she stepped onto the competition stage.

However, both of their faces were full of worry and anxiety.

The rain was becoming even finer. There was no doubt that Ling Luochen's ice-type control abilities would receive a great boost under such a deluge. However, wouldn't the downpour also create many perfect avenues for poison to spread?

Someone with Bei Bei's cultivation, and with the Blue Lightning Tyrant Dragon's natural resistance, had lost the ability to battle in just a few gasps of breath. One could only imagine how intense the Vermillion Ice Toad's poison was, and Meng Hongchen was already a Class 5 soul engineer.

Ling Luochen walked on stage with a calm look in her eyes and stood before the judge. Shrek still had the advantage in the single-elimination round for now, as she was the third contestant, while Meng Hongchen was the fourth.

The light drizzle continued as both parties gradually retreated to their respective corners. Meng Hongchen's expression at this moment was like an arrogant and aloof peacock.

Ling Luochen moved back to the edge as she breathed out lightly. The raindrops around her body drifted away and couldn't touch her body at all.

"Begin."

Ling Luochen immediately made an extremely magnificent and gorgeous move.

She released her martial soul, her soul rings naturally appearing as well. The moment they came into view, all five of her soul rings started to sparkle alternately.

Ling Luochen had actually used all five soul skills one after another within a span of three breaths. Everybody could see that all five circles of light were flickering alternately, from her first hundred year soul ring, to her last ten thousand year soul ring.

This was no longer about simple tactics or tricks, it was more about her personal understanding of ice.

Soul masters couldn't possibly unleash so many soul skills with such dazzling speed under normal circumstances, yet Ling Luochen had managed to do so. She had complete control over ice, and had thus made use of the connection between her soul skills and exploited their relationships. Not only had she unleashed five soul skills within such a short period of time, but she'd also managed to reduce their consumption by about thirty percent.

Every single disciple from Shrek Academy that could enter the inner courtyard could be described as both talented and prodigious.

Following her five soul rings' alternate sparkling, the first thing that appeared in her palm was naturally her Ice Staff. She raised her Ice Staff into the air as her soul rings continued to flicker, and a crystal-like Ice Armor covered her entire body; even her mouth and nose were completely protected. At the same time, an icy prison descended upon Meng Hongchen and trapped her inside. The sprawling Icemist erupted with Ling Luochen at the center, followed by her Icebrilliant Halo.

The temperature on the competition stage instantly dropped to fifty degrees below zero, the Icemist's extreme coldness permeating and wreaking havoc within the stage's protective barriers at lightning speed.

As Ling Luochen didn't have the Ultimate Ice's power, the lowest temperature that she could reach with her current level of control was only about eighty degrees below zero. In comparison, Huo Yuhao's level of cultivation wasn't that high, but he could reduce the temperature in his immediate vicinity to more than two hundred degrees below zero if he wanted to because he had Ultimate Ice. This was the distinction between their two different kinds of ice, and this was also the reason why Huo Yuhao was recognized.

The lack of Ultimate Ice didn't mean that Ling Luochen wasn't powerful, however. She was strong enough to be chosen as Shrek's official team's main control-type soul master, and her control of the ice element had long reached nearly complete freedom.

She was uncertain whether she would be affected by the acute poison. Therefore, she had to use her most powerful abilities in the face of such danger. She needed to use her strongest defensive abilities while simultaneously controlling both the stage and her opponent.

What made her a little surprised was that Meng Hongchen didn't do anything to stop herself from being entrapped by the icy prison after Ling Luochen's multi-pronged release and her elegant unleashing of five different soul skills. She didn't even seem like she wanted to break out from the inside. In fact, there was a tinge of indifference at the corner of her mouth.

The Icemist and the Icebrilliant Halo's effects reduced the temperature to an extremely low level and spread around with dazzling speed; both had permeated the entire stage in the blink of an eye.

Most of the audience didn't really appreciate soul masters like Ling Luochen, as she would greatly affect the competition's visibility the moment she made a move.

The Icemist swiftly blanketed the entire competition stage, making it so that nothing else could be seen on stage.

Both Shrek Academy's team members and the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy's team members were as nervous as ever inside of their respective waiting areas. Victory was imperative to Shrek Academy in this round, as a loss would mean that their advantage would disappear. Even though they still had two powerful Soul emperors, their opponents' team leader had yet to step out either.

A minute passed, and then two minutes passed... Soon, five minutes had passed in the midst of everyone's agonizing anxiety.

The Icemist covering the entire stage gradually dissipated. When everything that was on stage became visible, everybody could see that Meng Hongchen was still standing inside the icy prison. Her pale white skin seemed to be even more pale at this point, as it was covered in a layer of frost.

Ling Luochen also remained in her original spot on the other side, as her Ice Staff was raised high above her head, while her entire body was covered in her Ice Armor.

Was it over? Who'd won the round?

The Heavenfiend Douluo, Huang Jinxu, stood at the center of the stage, as he was the judge. A layer of starlight had condensed into a protective barrier that enveloped his body within it. It was obvious that he was rather fearful of the battle that had transpired before him.

At that moment, piece after piece of thin ice drifted down from Meng Hongchen's body following a series of crisp crackling sounds, which shattered into dust as they fell to the ground. There was still a look of disdain paired with a faint smile on her face.

"Did you think that ice could block off my poison? It's a pity for you, as my martial soul is an ice-type one as well. Passing venom through ice is my forte, thus your loss is not unjustified."

Blue light flashed through her right hand as she spoke, a blue longsword appearing in her hand. She slashed it in front of her body, and a chilly and sinister blue light flickered as she cut open the ice prison, which Ling Luochen no longer had control over. She then elegantly sauntered out from inside.

"The Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy is victorious. Shrek Academy, send forth your next contestant." The Heavenfiend Douluo waved his arm in the air, and a sphere of light enveloped Ling Luochen and sent her off the competition stage. Ling Luochen was like an ice statue.

Huo Yuhao was the one who caught her yet again. He tapped her and instantly dispelled the ice armor that was enveloping her body.

Ling Luochen had completely lost consciousness like Bei Bei before her; even the color of their faces was identical. Such powerful poison!

Wang Yan was also overcome with a haze of terror.

No matter how intelligent he was, and no matter how well he could arrange battle strategies, he was at his wits' end, and could only look on helplessly in the face of such a situation. Who would have thought that such a formidable poison soul master would emerge from their opponents' camp? Both Bei Bei and Ling Luochen had been defeated in battle without even having a chance to directly clash with their opponent.

Huo Yuhao would be able to get rid of a pure ice poison. However, even though Meng Hongchen's dual-type venom origin was ice-based it also contained traces of fire inside of it as well. The moment the outer layer of ice-type venom was removed, the fire-type poison inside was likely to be unleashed. One misstep could cost Ling Luochen her life; how could Huo Yuhao dare to take this risk?

"Next." Meng Hongchen's voice—akin to the harbinger of death—could be heard once more. Her expression was still condescending and extremely arrogant, but this single word caused an immense pressure to fall onto team Shrek inside of the waiting area.

She'd defeated two people in a row, both of which could be described as effortless victories. Meng Hongchen was the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy's cornerstone at this point, as both parties had now been pulled back onto the same footing in terms of able-bodied contestants.

Dai Yueheng gradually rose to his feet, his brows furrowed. Wang Yan had explained the Vermillion Ice Toad's situation to the best of his ability to the rest of Shrek's team while Ling Luochen was battling with her opponent.

The White Tiger was ferocious enough, but it still belonged to the same category as Bei Bei's Blue Lightning Tyrant Dragon. Bei Bei hadn't been able to resist Meng Hongchen's poison; would he be able to as a Soul Emperor? Dai Yueheng didn't know the answer to this question.

Yet, even if he knew he wouldn't be able to resist it, how could he just chicken out? Both the emperor and his own father, the White Tiger Duke, were watching.

The despondence and exasperation that Dai Yueheng felt in his heart was already at the highest possible level, causing veins to pop out all over his forehead. He'd rather challenge a Soul Sage than fight someone like Meng Hongchen. It wouldn't be much if he won, but it would be an embarrassment if he lost, and he'd be humiliated in front of the vast audience.

The list was fixed and couldn't be changed, however, so he could only gather his courage and prepare to engage in battle.

"Dai Yueheng." A deep voice rang out from beside his ear.

"Eh?" Dai Yueheng turned around. Ma Xiaotao was the one who'd just called his name.

Ma Xiaotao had completely suppressed the evil fire in her body during their period of adjustment and recovery before this, and she'd even regained much of her soul power through a Milk Bottle.

Ma Xiaotao gazed at him, and a serious look flashed across her eyes. She lowered her voice and said, "Her venom is powerful, but she's ultimately still a level below us. Your three powerful transformations that are meant to amplify your powers will grant you a great boost to your resistance. Rain hell upon her in the time that she tries to take you down with poison!"

All of them were intelligent; this single pointer was enough. Dai Yueheng immediately understood the meaning in her words, and his eyes squinted a little as he nodded his head. He gave Ma Xiaotao a thumbs-up, then leapt into the sky and landed on the competition stage.

As the onlooker, he could see more of the game, and immediately understood what he had to do with Ma Xiaotao's timely reminder. He possessed a powerful martial soul and was a Soul Emperor over Rank 60. The amplifications that his martial soul could apply onto his body were extremely formidable. Under such circumstances, a certain duration of time was needed for poison to take effect on his body no matter how acute his opponent's venom was.

Bei Bei's level of cultivation was inferior to his opponent, plus he'd been caught off guard.

As for Ling Luochen? Their round had only concluded ten minutes after her Icemist had permeated throughout the entire competition stage. Meng Hongchen had mentioned afterwards that ice was ineffective in blocking her from spreading poison, but it was clear that she'd needed a certain amount of time to deal with Ling Luochen. Ling Luochen was a control-type soul master, and thus was more adept at controlling the battle rather than using brute force. He, on the other hand, was different.

Meng Hongchen looked back over her shoulder at her own camp's waiting area as Dai Yueheng stepped onto the competition stage. The Sun Moon Empire's teacher-in-charge made a few gestures towards her, and Meng Hongchen rolled her eyes, then she nodded her head slightly to show that she understood. An added tinge of self-confidence instantly appeared in her eyes.

"Step back," the Heavenfiend Douluo habitually said.

Dai Yueheng squinted slightly as he stared at Meng Hongchen with a chilly gaze.

Meng Hongchen felt her body tighten up and a chill ran down her spine. She felt as if she was actually facing off against a ferocious tiger. He was a Soul Emperor from Shrek Academy, and his intimidating aura was cause her stomach to freeze.

She quickly recovered, however, as her two previous victories had built up her confidence.

Dai Yueheng's disposition seemed to change delicately when he reached his corner. He didn't move very fast, but the distance between every step that he took was extremely balanced and even. His aura kept becoming denser and more stable, as if he were a mountain that was gradually taking shape.

On top of the royal city wall.

The Star Luo Emperor grinned and said, "My friend, do you think that Dai Yueheng will be able to defeat the Sun Moon Empire's rare poison soul master?"

The White Tiger Duke frowned faintly and replied, "He can win if he plays it smart. However, he will still probably end up hurting himself even if he does emerge victorious, as poison soul masters are troublesome—especially those from the Sun Moon Empire. Your Majesty, you need to start taking that girl seriously."

"Indeed, the Sun Moon Empire is getting more out of control. The messenger that I sent to Shrek Academy returned yesterday."

"Oh? What did Shrek Academy say?" It was apparent that the White Tiger Duke knew about the Star Luo Empire's efforts to form a rapport with Shrek Academy.

The Star Luo Emperor laughed and replied, "What else? Those cunning foxes! They politely declined my offer. The Martial Soul Department's dean, Yan Shaozhe, sent a message: Shrek will never fall in. They will only nurture, and they will only protect. Shrek's influence will never leave Shrek City."

The White Tiger Duke grunted and said, "They've already become the Continental Guardians, yet they're still not coming out of the city? They're just not going to expand outwards."

The Star Luo Emperor sighed and said, "We still have to admit that it's only because of the Shrek Academy's steadfast belief in their principles that they've remained as the neutral party between the Douluo Continent's three original empires. We might've had the opportunity if not for the Sun Moon Empire's existence, and it would've been our chance to unify the continent. However, Shrek will never allow any form of infighting, and we don't have the strength to contest anything under the current political circumstances."

The White Tiger Duke replied, "The Sun Moon Empire has been relatively quiet recently; I imagine they won't cause much disturbance in the near future."

The Star Luo Emperor waved his hand and said, "The competition has begun. Let's watch."

Dai Yueheng and Meng Hongchen's contest had begun while the ruler and his minister were discussing the great throes of politics.

Dai Yueheng roared like a tiger as soon as the judge gave the green light, and his entire body shot forward like an arrow. His first, third and fifth soul ring immediately began to sparkle sequentially as he flew through the air, and he transformed as fast as he could.

Golden fur and golden claws appeared as he used the White Tiger's Shield, the White Tiger's Vajra Transformation, and the White Tiger's Devilgod Transformation. These three powerful amplification skills could raise his power to the highest possible level in a matter of seconds.

He'd already reached the center of competition's stage by the time his third soul ring had been completely released, and it was obvious how frighteningly quick his movements were. It felt as if his fearsome aura was going to tear everything before him to pieces.

Below the competition stage, Ma Rulong's expression changed again and again. He was also a Soul Emperor, but the rift between him and Dai Yueheng was simply too vast in terms of their martial soul and cultivation. He only had a fifty percent chance of defeating Dai Yueheng at best, even if he unleashed his soul tools with all his might. He had to admit that Shrek was superior in single combat at the same age and the same level of cultivation. He knew that he wouldn't even have a thirty percent chance of victory if he were to go up against Ma Xiaotao in a one-versus-one matchup.

Meng Hongchen finally released her soul tools as she faced off against Dai Yueheng.

An icy blue radiance glowed from thirteen spots on her body—these thirteen spots were her forehead, shoulders, chest, elbows, abdomen, hips, knees, and both of her hands.

Thirteen spheres of chilly blue light formed from, then swiftly transformed into an exquisite blue armor that protected Meng Hongchen's body.

Even though her armor covered her entire body, there didn't appear to be any redundancies in it. The entire set of armor seemed extremely delicate and fine, and was even engraved with magnificent bluish-gold floral patterns. Meng Hongchen was already enchanting, but this body armor made her appear even more valiant and formidable.

She also held a pair of icy-blue longswords in both of her hands. The swords were thin, and were each three feet long. Three pairs of folded wings that were roughly a foot long extended from behind her body. The body armor in and of itself was enough for her to release a dense, chilly aura.

He Caitou's ability to distinguish soul tools was relatively advanced, thus he immediately gave his opinion. This was a Class 6 soul tool; a full-body armor with attached weapons and a flying-type soul tool. Furthermore, a Class 5 soul engineer would be able to use this Class 6 soul tool. He was also positive that Meng Hongchen couldn't possibly have made this; this soul tool had definitely come from the hands of some expert.

Chapter 122: Dai Yueheng's Determination

Generally speaking, soul engineers could only use soul tools of the same class unless there were special processes involved during the crafting of said soul tools, or if the soul tool itself had something unique about it that allowed it to bypass class differences.

How old was Meng Hongchen? The fact that she was already a Soul King was extraordinary; there was no need to ask to know how much importance the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy placed on her. It was almost impossible for her to have reached her current level of cultivation all by herself, and she'd also had to train in soul engineering at the same time.

Huo Yuhao possessed twin martial souls, and the Ice Empress, Skydream Iceworm, and Electrolux all lived in his body simultaneously. Yet, even with all of these factors, even he wasn't confident that he'd be able to reach Rank 50 and be a Class 5 soul engineer by the age of fifteen.

There was no question that both Meng Hongchen and Xiao Hongchen had had a lot of man-made factors involved in their growth. There was no use telling others what exotic treasures or herbs they'd ingested, but the sheer level of their cultivations also implied that their foundations weren't stable.

Rank 30, Rank 60, Rank 70, and Rank 90 were the four important milestones that soul masters faced. Meng Hongchen and Xiao Hongchen would experience a decline in their cultivation speed if their foundations weren't solid enough. They would have to stabilize and consolidate their foundations over a sufficient period of time if they wanted to achieve real success in the future.

This was the reason why it was so apparent that Meng Hongchen hadn't been the one to forge and produce the Class 6 soul armor that she was currently wearing.

This didn't mean that she couldn't display formidable prowess using this soul tool. Instead, she was using her own aptitude and abilities to show Shrek what the future development of soul masters on the continent was likely to be.

Meng Hongchen's speed increased exponentially as her figure flashed once. She didn't intend to clash directly with Dai Yueheng. Rather, the thin swords she was holding cut through the air as she stepped to the side.

Two streaks of icy blue light appeared in midair like two bolts of lightning and formed something like a cross, then soared towards Dai Yueheng. They didn't appear as if they would dissipate either; it was as if they were part of a soul skill.

Dai Yueheng didn't even attempt to dodge, as he was aware that he didn't have much time. He swung his tiger-like left hand and unleashed his soul power, causing five beams of golden light to collide with the center of the cross. His forward momentum remained unchanged and unaffected as he did so.

The cross was immediately shattered into pieces, but thick white mist immediately permeated the air. There was no question that this attack had been charged with the Vermillion Clear Icetoad's intense venom.

Dai Yueheng held his breath, but he still felt his entire body turning cold. It was as if something was invading his body with unstoppable force.

He concentrated his soul power and relied on his body's powerful resistance to disregard this feeling as he continued his forward lunge towards Meng Hongchen.

Meng Hongchen's first soul ring had been sparkling ever since she'd made her first strike, which represented her Vermillion Clear Icetoad's acute poison. At this moment, her second and third soul rings lit up one after the other.

An icy-blue light ring extended out from beneath her feet and covered the entire competition stage in a matter of seconds. This was her second soul skill—Icevenom Ring.

Every ounce of venom that belonged to her Vermilion Clear Icetoad would be amplified inside the Icevenom Ring. She'd taken advantage of the cover provided by Ling Luochen's Icemist previously to use the Icevenom Ring to amplify her first soul skill and eventually defeat Ling Luochen inside of her own Icemist.

When her third soul ring lit up, something strange began to happen. A mirror-like solid piece of ice that was about five meters in diameter appeared beneath her feet. This ice block projected her reflection, but the scene that appeared was extremely peculiar.

Dai Yueheng arrived in front of her just as she finished unleashing these two soul skills. He shot out the White Tiger's Fierce Light Wave at her as soon as possible.

The White Tiger's Fierce Light Wave was extremely formidable under the amplifying effects of his three transformation skills. A beam of white light as thick as an arm tore through the air, booming and crackling with energy. If this beam of light hit its target directly, its power wasn't inferior in the least to that of a Class 5 energy-gathering soul cannon.

A sinister scene appeared at that moment: Two Meng Hongchens suddenly appeared on the surface of the ice block. The streak of white light flashed by, and the Meng Hongchen that it was targeting simply dissipated like a shadow, while the original Meng Hongchen relocated to another position. Not only had she managed to evade the White Tiger's Fierce Light Wave, but she'd also managed to relocate to a position behind Dai Yueheng.

Her thin swords sparkled and transformed into sword shadows that pervaded the skies before they stabbed right towards Dai Yueheng. Her swords' foot-long radiances became concentrated, causing the air around them to release chirping sounds.

This was Meng Hongchen's third soul skill—Ice Reflection. It allowed her to switch positions with the light images of herself that were reflected on the surface of the block of ice that she'd released. Even though it wasn't as powerful as Instant Teleportation, it was an extremely practical soul skill that worked well in combination with her soul armor.

Who was Dai Yueheng? He was the White Tiger's heir, and a Soul Emperor who'd stepped out from Shrek's inner courtyard. He could be counted as a veteran of countless battles.

He was not in the least bit worried or frightened despite his opponent's unique soul skills. He immediately swept his tiger-like palms out behind him the moment that his left leg landed on the ground. The sharp talons on his tiger-like palms blazed with large patches of golden light when they clashed directly with the thin swords coming toward him.

The thin swords in Meng Hongchen's hands were Class 6 soul tools; their offensive power was just as strong as Dai Yueheng's tiger claws. She relied on her soul tools' power to forcefully bridge the gap between their levels of cultivation.

Dai Yueheng had severely wounded Xiao Hongchen before this, thus it was natural for Meng Hongchen to feel an acute sense of belligerence when she unleashed her full power.

However, he was still a Soul Emperor after all. Dai Yueheng would be able to overcome Meng Hongchen in terms of strength, soul power, and martial ability if he didn't have worry about the effects of her

venom. Even though a Class 6 soul tool was powerful, Meng Hongchen still wasn't a Class 6 soul engineer, thus she was only able to temporarily maintain this balance. When Dai Yueheng took the opportunity to spin around and face her directly, she started to crumble under the pressure.

Meng Hongchen's figure flashed once more as she used her Ice Reflection to relocate herself again. Her thin swords slashed through the air, their shadows permeating through the entire arena as she relentlessly tried to find any weaknesses or loopholes in Dai Yueheng's defense.

She could wait; she understood that Dai Yueheng was relying on his resistance to fight against her Icetoad's Venom. However, she was positive that this resistance was time-based. Dai Yueheng would feel the Icetoad Venom's effects more and more over the continuous passage of time, which would undoubtedly lead to her being the ultimate victor.

This was the truth, and Dai Yueheng could feel a chill that pierced right into his bones incessantly assaulting his body. Even though his body was tough and he could delay this process for a long time, completely stopping it was impossible for him.

Meng Hongchen was no match for him in close-quarters combat, but she was nimble and agile thanks to her Ice Reflection. In order to hold back Dai Yueheng for as long as she could, she tossed out explosive soul tools from time to time, meant to distract rather than damage her opponent.

Their epic battle made the audience dizzy as they looked on, ear-piercing crackling sounds constantly audible. Dai Yueheng wasn't slow, but he wasn't able to gain any sort of advantage over Meng Hongchen, who had a Class 6 soul tool and the help of her Ice Reflection. The situation on the stage remained at a prolonged impasse.

Everybody in Shrek's waiting area began to frown and curse. They could tell what sort of battle tactics Meng Hongchen was employing, but nobody had expected her close-combat prowess to be so formidable—she was actually able to hold back Dai Yueheng, and she didn't look like she would be defeated anytime soon.

Dai Yueheng suddenly slowed down, his entire body shivering as a streak of icy-blue light flashed across his shoulder.

However, he had the three amplifying transformation soul skills protecting him, thus the icy-blue sword radiance merely shaved off some of his golden tiger fur. It didn't damage his body at all.

"Oh no." Wang Yan's expression suddenly changed. "I don't think that Yueheng can withstand the poison anymore."

Dai Yueheng had used all three transformative soul skills from the beginning of the battle, which was the only way that he could raise his resistance, and in turn his offensive powers, to the highest possible level.

However, Meng Hongchen had refused to clash with him directly; she was as slippery as an eel. Dai Yueheng had almost broken through her defense several times, but his attacks had immediately been dispelled by her automatically triggered Impregnable Wall. Meng Hongchen's soul power was greatly diminished whenever this happened, but Dai Yueheng's was being consumed at a far greater rate.

“Believe in him. As a disciple from Shrek’s inner courtyard, if he can’t defeat an opponent one tier of cultivation below him, then he isn’t worthy of stepping out from the inner courtyard.” Ma Xiaotao was the only one able to remain calm, as only disciples from the inner courtyard could truly understand each other.

Still, the situation on stage wasn’t very optimistic. Dai Yueheng had slowed even more after he’d suffered that first strike—it seemed that the Ictoad’s Venom had begun to take effect. The thin swords in his opponent’s hands began to become more ferocious as more and more streaks of sword radiance criss-crossed towards him. His body was quickly cut several times.

Even with the White Tiger’s Shield, the White Tiger’s Vajra Transformation, and the White Tiger’s Devilgod Transformation, he couldn’t completely defend himself against a Class 6 soul tool’s attack. Traces of blood rapidly began to appear on Dai Yueheng’s body. However, what was more important was the fact that Meng Hongchen’s weapons were also tinged with venom as well. The poison would only spread faster now that it had made contact with his blood.

“Urghh!” Dai Yueheng seemed to have become infuriated, or maybe it was because he’d realized the current state of his body. He suddenly roared into the sky, and a dense golden light erupted from his body as his sixth and final soul ring finally began to sparkle brilliantly.

Dai Yueheng’s most powerful soul skill, the White Tiger’s Extermination, had finally been unleashed.

A terrifying aura immediately enveloped an area around five meters in diameter as the intense golden light gathered together form a giant word “Kill” in midair. The shadow of the White Tiger also slowly came into view behind Dai Yueheng at the same time.

Was this his final strike? Meng Hongchen’s mouth curled into a cold smile and a beam of golden light immediately emerged from her body.

She was naturally unable to withstand his White Tiger’s Extermination; the result would be the same even if she used her Impregnable Wall. The gap in their soul power was ultimately too great, and the White Tiger Soul Emperor’s most powerful strike when he was fully amplified was powerful enough to sap her entire pool of soul power, which would cause her to collapse and crumble.

This ray of golden light wasn’t from the Impregnable Wall, but... following the flash of golden light, Meng Hongchen was instantly moved ten meters away, completely evading Dai Yueheng’s most powerful strike.

One couldn’t underestimate the power of shifting ten meters away in the blink of an eye. This was a Class 7 soul tool known as the ring of teleportation; even Xiao Hongchen didn’t possess a soul tool like it.

The ring of teleportation could only be used once per day, but it wasn’t a disposable soul tool, and was often touted as a miracle amongst Class 7 soul tools. Possessing an item such as it was essentially equivalent to having a second life in most situations, even though its instant teleportation distance was limited to a hundred meters.

Meng Hongchen had teleported a mere ten meters, and had been waiting for an opportunity like this.

The White Tiger’s Extermination had missed, thus her fifth soul ring finally started to sparkle with eye-catching luster.

She'd been waiting for him to use his ultimate move. Now that he had, Meng Hongchen's heart was filled with self-confidence, and she was sure that she would emerge victorious. Her elegant figure flew into the air, her entire body starting to vigorously spin in the sky; it was as if she'd transformed into a whirlpool. She then launched herself directly at Dai Yueheng, who'd yet to recover from using his White Tiger's Extermination.

Dai Yueheng was in the weakest possible state right now, as he was both suffering from her acute poison, and had just used all of his strength in his last attack. Meng Hongchen's opportunity of choice could only be described as optimal and impeccable.

The Heavenfiend Douluo quickly arrived at a spot not far from where the battle was occurring at; he was prepared to end the contest at a moment's notice.

Red light glimmered in the center of the whirlpool, which flickered icy-blue. That pale red light gave the spectators a searing sensation; it was as if there were a pillar of blistering fire in the icy whirlpool's center.

This was the most powerful attack that Meng Hongchen could unleash—the Icefire Venomdragon's Corkscrew.

This was a perfect combination of a ten-thousand-year soul skill and a Class 6 soul tool, and its power was enough to rival a formidable Soul Emperor's soul skill. It was apparent that she didn't intend to give Dai Yueheng any chance at all by using such a mighty soul skill.

However, what Meng Hongchen didn't realize was that the mirror-like ice block that enabled her to use Ice Reflection beneath her feet had been shattered in her fight against Dai Yueheng.

The Icefire Venomdragon's Corkscrew had already reached Dai Yueheng, whose eyes seemed to be growing more and more clouded, and whose aura was growing weaker. The Heavenfiend Douluo's hands were already raised into the air.

However, Dai Yueheng suddenly moved at this moment.

His move was simple: He stepped out with his left foot, then took a stance similar to that of using a bow and arrow as he crossed his arms in front of his chest.

“Bang—”

A series of explosions rang out as Dai Yueheng's right arm sparkled. A brilliant golden light covered and protected his entire body in an instant, stopping Meng Hongchen's Icefire Venomdragon's Corkscrew just like that. It didn't achieve anything at all.

A searing white light glowed once more immediately afterwards, and Dai Yueheng's body was like a ferocious tiger as he entrapped Meng Hongchen.

He'd activated the White Tiger's Extermination once more!

Meng Hongchen had been waiting for her opportunity to strike Dai Yueheng down for good, but Dai Yueheng had also been waiting for the same thing all along.

The resistance provided by the White Tiger's three amplifying soul skills were even stronger than Meng Hongchen had imagined. Dai Yueheng had deliberately revealed every single weakness or loophole that she'd discovered.

Meng Hongchen was just too slippery and agile. As she was a soul engineer, Dai Yueheng was acutely aware that she had multiple tools and methods to protect her life. This was the reason that he'd chosen to reveal weakness—to lure his enemy deep within, and to let them think that he was no longer able to continue.

How could Meng Hongchen's experience in battle compare to Dai Yueheng, who was the true veteran?

Dai Yueheng's right arm flickered with light. This was a soul bone skill, and was something that he had yet to use throughout the entire competition. It was called Absolute Defense.

It was dissimilar to Princess Jiu Jiu's absolute defense barrier from before, as his Absolute Defense could only be used for a fraction of the time, and only once a day. That miniscule moment would render him invincible, but it was imperative that his opponent's attack strike his right arm.

Considering Dai Yueheng's current level of cultivation, he would be able to negate any attack or soul skill within that instant as long as his opponent wasn't a Transcendent Douluo.

Meng Hongchen was relatively powerful, and Dai Yueheng had almost no way to deal with her Icetoad Venom. However, just as Ma Xiaotao had said before, a Soul Emperor from Shrek's inner courtyard was sophisticated. Dai Yueheng had relied on his own battle experience to finally force his opponent, who'd just won two rounds in a row, into desperate straits.

Meng Hongchen had consumed a large amount of soul power in her hit-and-run tactics from before. Furthermore, she'd just unleashed her Icefire Venomdragon's Corkscrew, definitely not expecting Dai Yueheng to turn the tables at a time such as this. She, who wasn't even fifteen years old, immediately became hysterical.

Her Impregnable Wall was triggered at the first possible moment. However, Meng Hongchen felt her soul power immediately drain at lightning speed following the golden light's protection. Her Impregnable Wall would only be able to last for two seconds before it crumbled under the White Tiger's Extermination.

Frightening tiger claws slashed her Class 6 soul armor and made ear-piercing grinding sounds.

"We admit defeat!"

The Sun Moon Empire's teacher-in-charge's suddenly shouted, a ray of starlight descending from the skies to protect Meng Hongchen's body.

In this short duration of time, dozens of cracks and marks had appeared all over Meng Hongchen's Class 6 soul armor. Its defensive capabilities were formidable, but Dai Yueheng's all-out strike was incredibly terrifying as well. If not for the Sun Moon Empire's teacher-in-charge and his quick reaction, Dai Yueheng would've shattered the soul armor to pieces after another second, and Meng Hongchen would've been ravaged and torn to pieces by the White Tiger's immense power.

This was absolute strength! Dai Yueheng, as a Soul Emperor with White Tiger as his martial soul, had proved to everyone with his extraordinary prowess that Shrek was still as powerful as ever, even if their martial souls were restrained.

Meng Hongchen was still held in the vice-like grip of terror even after the White Tiger's Extermination's radiance had dissipated. She could still feel how close to death she'd just been in that tiny amount of time. Her Impregnable Wall had been completely destroyed, while her soul armor's formations had been heavily damaged. This valuable Class 6 soul tool had been laid to ruin just like that, the only things left intact being her twin swords.

"Ah—" Meng Hongchen suddenly vomited a mouthful of blood, and her body quivered as if she was about to fall over. She would've collapsed if she didn't use her thin swords to support herself.

Dai Yueheng gazed at her coldly, the ferocity in his eyes sending a cold shiver down Meng Hongchen's spine. She knew very well that, without her Icetoad's Venom and her soul tools, she wouldn't even be worthy of battling this individual.

What surprised everyone was that Dai Yueheng only shot a single look towards Meng Hongchen before quickly leaping off the stage and returning to Shrek's waiting area.

He stepped before Ma Xiaotao. His body's transformations from his martial soul and soul skills were receding with dazzling speed, revealing his original form once more.

"I didn't let Shrek down, team leader." Dai Yueheng's eyes sparkled as he gazed into Ma Xiaotao's eyes. This was the first time that he'd taken the initiative to address Ma Xiaotao as his team leader.

Ma Xiaotao stood up and nodded heavily in his direction.

Dai Yueheng raised his hand and removed a massive ring from the index finger of his left hand. The ring was light silver, and had a fearsome tiger head engraved upon it.

"This is for you. I'm sure that you'll be able to use it. Shrek cannot lose, team leader. Please." He stuffed the ring into Ma Xiaotao's hands as he spoke. Immediately afterwards, his eyes closed and his burly body collapsed backwards.

Ma Xiaotao grabbed onto his arm to prevent him from falling. Her red lips were pressed tightly together, and her perky chest undulated vigorously for a while.

"An admirable resolve. You're not a good-for-nothing after all."

Dai Yueheng had been victorious—he'd beaten Meng Hongchen. However, he'd also been knocked unconscious by her intense venom, and had lost all ability to continue battling.

However, his ferocity galvanized every single member of Shrek, and rekindled the raging flames in every one of their hearts.

Yes, Shrek had to win.

Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong clenched their fists tightly. The two of them, along with Ma Xiaotao, were the only people still conscious in Shrek's seven-member participating team for the single-elimination battle.

They looked at the others, who were either unconscious or severely injured, and their hearts were immediately filled with both despair and an unrivaled fighting spirit. Right now, they would place their lives on the line for Shrek's honor and glory without a single instant of hesitation. This was the only thought on their minds.

"It's my turn." Ma Xiaotao put Dai Yueheng's ring on her right hand's thumb as she spoke, and was about to go up onto the competition stage.

At this moment, the Heavenfiend Douluo loudly announced, "As the judge, I have confirmed that the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy have given up the rest of this round and have admitted defeat. Shrek Academy is victorious in this single-elimination round. Both parties will have one minute to rest. The 2-2-3 fight will then begin immediately afterwards. As both parties no longer have enough people to complete the third round, and as both parties have a single win each from the previous two rounds, the third round shall be completed with each team's respective reserve team members that did not participate in the single-elimination round."

The Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy had admitted defeat?

Ma Xiaotao, Huo Yuhao, and Wang Dong were all astonished.

There were three people in their opponents' camp who were still able to participate. Ma Rulong, their team leader, was the most powerful one, and was still able to fight. How could they just admit defeat?

Wang Yan grew solemn and muttered, "Impressive."

Ma Xiaotao frowned and said, "What's wrong, Teacher Wang?"

Wang Yan's expression was as dark as ever. He lowered his voice and said, "Although they've given up on the single-elimination rounds, this is them retreating in order to advance. They're aware that none of them will be able to defeat you one-on-one, and that, as soul engineers, they're stronger when they're together. Thus, the 2-2-3 battle will be more advantageous for them. Furthermore, of the original seven participating contestants, only three of you are still able to fight. Even though they also only have three contestants left, Meng Hongchen hasn't lost her ability to fight – she's simply overly exhausted. She'll be able to recover, given enough time."

"The first people they'll send out will be Ma Rulong and Xiao Xiaofeng for the first round of 2-2-3 battle, so that Xiao Hongchen and Meng Hongchen have enough time to rest. However, we only have the three of you left. Even if Ma Xiaotao wins a round with one of you, they'll almost certainly win the next one. Even if we get a win, it'll be equivalent to a loss for us."

All three of them immediately understood the situation when they heard Wang Yan's words. What he'd said was true. Who else was left in Shrek's reserve lineup?

Only He Caitou and Xiao Xiao were left. Xiao Xiao's injuries had yet to completely heal, while He Caitou was only a Class 4 soul engineer.

The last round would be a three-versus-three. It wouldn't be a problem for their opponents to choose three Class 4 soul engineers from their reserve team then—Shrek didn't stand a chance for it.

This meant that in the subsequent battle, their opponents would practically win the entire tournament so long as they won a single two-on-two battle.

Meng Hongchen and Xiao Hongchen were both wounded, and weren't at their peak condition. However, Meng Hongchen's venom combined with the fact that they were both Soul Kings as well as Class 5 soul engineers still made them extremely formidable.

Furthermore, they still had Ma Rulong and Xiao Xiaofeng. Ma Rulong was a powerful Class 6 soul engineer, while Xiao Xiaofeng was a Class 5. It would be extremely challenging for Shrek to win even a single round. This was the disparity between the two team's depths—Shrek had only had three official team members to begin with. The rift in their strengths couldn't even be compared.

Wang Yan looked upwards and heaved a sigh, an expression of defeat on his face. Both he and his team had already given up so much, yet this was how they were going to be defeated in the end? He couldn't reconcile with this fate... he just couldn't! Everybody could only participate once in the 2-2-3 battle—they didn't stand a chance.

"Yuhao, Wang Dong." Ma Xiaotao suddenly spun around and placed her hands on both of their shoulders.

"Leave the first round to me. The two of you will have to face Xiao Hongchen and Meng Hongchen in the next round. We can't retreat; we have to fight to the end. Look at the rest of your comrades who have already fallen—it's up to us to defend Shrek's honor and glory. Shrek must win."

Ma Xiaotao's eyes flashed red. Her valiant fighting spirit hadn't wavered at all, even after Wang Yan's analysis.

"Tell me—can you guys do it?" Ma Xiaotao's voice instantly became somewhat overbearing as her words resonated.

Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong exchanged a look. The flame of passion in their hearts had been completely rekindled at this point.

"Shrek must win!" They shouted in unison. Even though their voices were slightly hoarse, the resolute determination and unwavering spirit they displayed was filled with bravery, as if they were currently facing death with equanimity.

Wang Yan felt a little dazed when he saw this. He felt as if his soul was about to jump out of its shell at this moment. These kids were just too cute. Nothing could describe the feeling he currently felt.

Tears poured from his eyes uncontrollably as Wang Yan took a giant step forward and encompassed all three of them in a hug. "Children—it's all on you."

Elder Xuan remained seated in the back, but he put his chicken wing down, as well as the wine gourd in his other hand. A radiant luster flickered in his eyes that were filled with vicissitude.

These children were destined to become the source of Shrek's pride, no matter whether or not they emerged victorious in the end. They would leave a heavy mark on Shrek's history, and Shrek would be extremely proud of them.

"Both teams, approach the stage," The Heavenfiend Douluo's voice could be heard once again.

Both the audience inside of the Star Luo Plaza and the ruler and his ministers atop the royal city wall were completely silent at this point. They had all predicted that the finals would be exciting, but could this contest still be described as “exciting”?

Both Shrek Academy and the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy’s teams could only be described as bitter and desperate at this point.

Yes, this was a bitter and desperate competition, but it was also a final that rattled everyone’s hearts!

Both parties had won one round each after the group battle and the single-elimination rounds. This was the ultimate round that would decide every; the 2-2-3 battle was the most uncertain contest format.

Shrek had three able participants, while the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy had four. Everybody could tell that this competition was now the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy’s to lose. Unless Shrek could emerge victorious in the first two battles of this round, they would lose the Continental Advanced Soul Master Academy Soul Dueling Tournament’s champion title for the first time in several thousand years. However, they didn’t even have enough people to participate; how would they be able to outmatch their opponents?

Just as Wang Yan had predicted, Ma Rulong and Xiao Xiaofeng stood up from the Sun Moon team’s waiting area and strode onto the competition stage in order to give Meng Hongchen and Xiao Hongchen enough time to recover. Their soul powers had been almost fully restored from the time they had to rest; it could be said they were nearly at their peak condition. Ma Xiaotao was the only one to step onto the competition stage from Shrek Academy’s side.

“You...” The Heavenfiend Douluo glanced at Ma Xiaotao, doubt in his eyes.

Ma Xiaotao said plainly. “I’ll represent Shrek for the first round. I’m sure that’s allowed. We’ll give up the other entry spot for this battle.”

The rules stated that only a maximum of two people were allowed to participate in the two-versus-two battle, but there wasn’t a rule that stated that only one person couldn’t represent a team. The Heavenfiend Douluo hesitated, then nodded his head and said, “Okay.”

Ma Rulong’s eyes narrowed into slits as he muttered, “You’re too condescending and disrespectful, Ma Xiaotao.”

Ma Xiaotao grunted indifferently as she looked up and shot a cold look at the two people before her. “So what if I’m looking down on you two? I am enough to take down the two of you. Come. If you want take revenge for your fallen comrades, you’ll have to take me down. However, that’s if you have the ability to do so, because I’ll destroy you if you don’t.”

Even the Heavenfiend Douluo felt his heart skip a beat when he heard these words; this girl was truly ferocious and dauntless!

How could Ma Rulong and Xiao Xiaofeng not feel intense hatred when they heard her words? Two of their friends had just perished under Ma Xiaotao’s hands, even if it hadn’t been intentional. This feeling was intensified now that they were standing before the target of their vengeance, and was even further aggravated when Ma Xiaotao took the initiative to provoke them.

Ma Rulong had no confidence at all if he was to battle Ma Xiaotao by himself. However, it was a different story with Xiao Xiaofeng by his side, who was a Class 5 soul engineer. He would have a much easier time dealing with Ma Xiaotao with Xiao Xiaofeng impeding and obstructing her.

Xiao Xiaofeng was infuriated at Ma Xiaotao's words, and nearly pounced forward before Ma Rulong held him back.

"Do you guys really think you still stand a chance? You may not even be able to beat us, and so what if you do? Do you really think that those two little fellas over there can defeat Xiao Hongchen and his sister? Stop your wishful thinking; they have no way of countering Meng Hongchen's venom."

Ma Xiaotao chuckled and said, "Is spouting nonsense all you know how to do? If you're trying to beat down my fighting spirit, then you're dreaming. That venom is bullshit. Why don't you ask that immature little girl if she dares to face me in battle? I'll burn her alive. Stop this nonsense and let's get this over with." She then turned and walked to the edge of the competition stage.

Ma Rulong took a deep breath, as he knew that Ma Xiaotao wouldn't be easy to handle. Her temper was fiery and explosive, but her thoughts and reasoning were meticulous and thorough, to the point where he wasn't even sure what Ma Xiaotao's true strength was. He had yet to see where Ma Xiaotao's baseline lay, even up to today.

Ma Rulong led Xiao Xiaofeng back to their corner, gradually distancing themselves from their opponent.

This round could be said to be the ultimate showdown between the Shrek Academy and the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy's respective team leaders, and was also a clash of the highest level in the competition. Shrek Academy would have a shot at victory if she won, but if Ma Xiaotao lost, it would automatically decide the competition's result.

Ma Xiaotao quickly backed off to the edge of the stage, her eyes flickering with chilly light. Nobody knew what was on her mind as her expression grew solemn.

Ma Rulong whispered something into Xiao Xiaofeng's ear as the two of them took their time arriving at their own corner.

A light drizzle continued to flutter down. The current weather was extremely humid, which was naturally disadvantageous for Ma Xiaotao, but the negative impact she'd received definitely wasn't that great.

The sprawling competition stage seemed to be riddled with gaping wounds from all of the battles that had taken place before; every surface was either damaged or smashed inwards like a crater.

The Heavenfiend Douluo glanced at both parties. The finals were about to end at long last. Even he felt a little exhausted from fully concentrating for such a long time, despite his cultivation.

"Let the competition begin!"

The ultimate showdown had finally started. Ma Xiaotao dashed forwards, while her phoenix wings swiftly emerged from her body into the air and flapped backwards. Her body barreled towards Ma Rulong and Xiao Xiaofeng like a meteor. As she did so, she opened her mouth, a Phoenix Fireline surging out from it and asserting long-distance pressure.

Ma Rulong and Xiao Xiaofeng weren't slow either. Ma Rulong was well-aware that the methods he'd employed against Jiang Peng would be useless against Ma Xiaotao. A thick, bluish-purple cannon barrel instantly appeared on his shoulder, which almost immediately fired a bluish-purple ball of light.

He and Xiao Xiaofeng shared a decent chemistry, as a unidirectional soul shield was unleashed that protected them both from the Phoenix Fireline attack when he did so. At the same time, he rooted himself to the ground and quickly released his Soul Tool Fortress. Metal clanging sounds could be heard as a series of cannons appeared on his body with lightning speed; there was no doubt that he intended to use his most formidable firepower to coordinate with Ma Rulong. Relying on his food-type soul master's salient characteristics, his ability to continue battling was the best amongst the other Sun Moon team members.

The bluish-purple lightning strike that Ma Rulong had fired from the cannon in his hands wasn't directed at Ma Xiaotao. Instead, it struck the center of the competition stage.

A bluish-purple light wall was immediately erected at the exact spot it struck, barricading Ma Xiaotao's advance. According to Ma Rulong's judgment, Ma Xiaotao was fearsome and ferocious, thus she would definitely attempt to forcefully charge forward. And when she so, she would fall into his trap.

Chapter 123: Dark Phoenix Transformation!

This Class 6 soul tool that Ma Rulong had just used was strong in the sense that, once Ma Xiaotao touched it, she would be stuck to it like a housefly in a spider's web. Immediately afterwards, the lightning energy contained within would envelop her entire body. When that happened, Ma Xiaotao would have to deal with the might of their attack. Although it couldn't truly harm her, it would be able to buy sufficient time for her to be subjected to their immense firepower while she was trapped.

However, they didn't expect Ma Xiaotao to stop the moment the lightning screen appeared. She stopped extremely quickly, and her sixth soul ring lit up.

"Damn it, the Phoenix Meteor Shower." Ma Rulong cursed to himself, his expression changing drastically.

Was Ma Xiaotao's sixth soul skill so easily resisted? That lightning trap had become her defensive barrier instead.

The golden barrel that had given Team Shrek a lot of trouble appeared once again at this moment. Ma Rulong squinted his eyes as he aimed the golden barrel towards Ma Xiaotao.

Whenever Ma Xiaotao unleashed the Phoenix Meteor Shower, any movement she made would greatly affect its power. Ma Rulong had Xiao Xiaofeng to defend him, thus he wouldn't suffer too much if he were struck by the Phoenix Meteor Shower a few times. On the contrary, Ma Xiaotao would be the one in deep trouble if she was struck by his attack. Ma Rulong's reaction was both quick and appropriate.

However, the Phoenix Meteor Shower didn't strike when he expected it to. When the golden barrel appeared in Ma Rulong's hand, Ma Xiaotao suddenly stepped backwards and punched out with her right fist. A ball of fire was sent towards the lightning barrier in front of her.

The lightning immediately engulfed the ball of fire, then blew apart. Ma Xiaotao's figure turned illusory when this happened.

On closer inspection, her flaming wings were flapping rapidly behind her back. It was due to this flapping motion that she managed to rapidly change her position in the air. She even left a series of shadows behind her that shimmered as she continued to advance forward. Ma Rulong realized, to his horror, that he couldn't lock onto her exact position.

What ability was she using? It was obvious that she wasn't using a soul skill, as her body wasn't shining with any soul rings. This was obviously a secret technique suitable for soul masters.

Even though both parties had yet to truly clash with one another, they'd already displayed what they were capable of.

It was also at this point that superiority in numbers began to show its worth: Xiao Xiaofeng's soul tool fort was finally completed.

Waves and waves of light were rapidly unleashed. Light balls, light rays, and even metal balls that rose into the air and drew parabolas were unleashed.

The immense firepower of his soul tool fort was instantly unleashed.

Ma Rulong had been waiting for this opportunity. He clasped both of his hands in front of him, and a ball of intense, golden light shone as one of his soul rings started to flash repeatedly. His aura ballooned, while the golden barrel disappeared and was replaced with a huge, golden-red sword.

Was it a close-combat soul tool? Had Ma Rulong given up his long-range offensive capabilities for a close-combat soul tool?

This was the first time the sword had appeared in the tournament. Ma Rulong had also concealed his trump card, and was only using it now.

The offensive might of a soul engineer when they unleashed everything they had was extremely formidable. Ma Xiaotao tried her best to dodge, but Xiao Xiaofeng depleted his soul power in order to increase the offensiveness of his various soul tools, which left her frantic.

Team Sun Moon was much stronger in terms of applying soul tool forts compared to other ordinary soul engineering academies.

Xiao Xiaofeng's attack was holistic. There were automatic explosions, intense rays... even trapping-type soul tools involved.

The entire competition stage seemed to light up with dazzling lights. It was impossible for Ma Xiaotao to dodge all of his attacks, thus she could only face them head-on.

Ma Xiaotao was more powerful than Dai Yueheng, but her body wasn't as tough as his.

She used her wings as her shield, and exerted all of her soul power to resist the wave after wave of Xiao Xiaofeng's relentless attack.

Even though Ma Xiaotao wasn't a soul engineer, she was rather familiar with the strategies that they used. Xiao Xiaofeng's soul power was bound to be depleted extremely quickly if he kept this up, as he was only a Class 5 soul engineer, yet he was trying to suppress a soul emperor. His attacks couldn't last long at this rate. Xiao Xiaofeng would become less and less useful to Ma Rulong as his intensity dipped, .

Ma Xiaotao was the calmest at the most critical moments. She carefully observed Ma Rulong's actions while she was resisting Xiao Xiaofeng's attacks. Xiao Xiaofeng was, without a doubt, aiding Ma Rulong. Ma Rulong's attacks were much more threatening towards Ma Xiaotao because of this.

Ma Rulong suddenly grabbed the golden sword's hilt with both of his hands and slowly lifted it, intense golden light shining from the sword's body as he did so. Nine core formations could be seen extending from the sword tip down to the hilt. Streaks and streaks of light shot into the air as the intense golden light shone. Ma Rulong lifted the sword far above his head, his pupils slowly starting to turn golden.

"Awaken, Judgement Sword!" Ma Rulong shouted, injecting his soul power into the huge sword at a frightening speed. A white halo could be seen rising from his feet because he was injecting his soul power into the sword so intensely. As the halo moved round his entire body, it eventually reached his hands, then entered the sword.

The sword also started to experience changes: The golden light on the hilt retracted, while the sword gradually turned two different colors. One side of the sword turned white, while the other side turned black. The two contrasting colors exuded an odd sense amidst the golden light that flashed.

"Ordained as darkness, guilty of heresy." Ma Rulong grabbed the huge sword with both his hands, then pointed the black side of the blade in Ma Xiaotao's direction.

A streak of black radiance flashed through the air, then suddenly disappeared.

Ma Xiaotao's entire body raged with flames. However, when the black radiance reached her, all of her defenses failed. The black radiance simply flashed as it entered her body.

Ma Xiaotao immediately felt her body turning abnormal. Her crimson-red phoenix flames instantly turned black and dark and chilly sense filled her entire body. The evil energy that had been suppressed immediately rampaged through her body and combined with the black phoenix flames. She was about to lose control.

What soul tool is this? Ma Xiaotao was appalled. It was her first time experiencing something as strange as this. This soul tool attack couldn't be defended against?

It was also at this point that Ma Rulong flipped the huge sword over. The white side then emitted an intense white color and shone with an extremely bright white radiance. The surging aura of light instantly filled the entire venue.

Ma Xiaotao groaned in pain as the black phoenix flames on her body turned into a haze; she felt as if she was going to be decomposed by the light. The phoenix flames in her body started to flood out of her.

Ma Rulong appeared very pleased. The scheme that he'd plotted had finally succeeded.

He'd once mentioned in his competition against Jiang Peng that a soul engineer was the most familiar with his own self. That was why all of his soul tools were self-developed. He hadn't said it for Jiang Peng, however. He'd said it for Shrek Academy.

In reality, the Judgement Sword couldn't have been created by him, as it was a Class 8 close-combat soul tool. In fact, it was one of the best Class 8 soul tools.

The Judgement Sword combined both light and darkness. It could infuse the power of darkness into the enemy's soul and cause the enemy to turn dark uncontrollably. At the same time, it could use the immense power of light to then judge the enemy. If the enemy was weaker, his soul power would be instantly degraded. It could even be completely destroyed under the aura of light.

Ma Rulong was still only a Class 6 soul engineer however. He'd had to pay a huge price in order to use this Class 8 soul tool. What Ma Xiaotao couldn't see was that a blood-red core formation was currently shining behind Ma Rulong's back, intense blood-red flames burning from it.

That was the power of a Class 7 soul tool, which was known as the Sacrificial Seal. Ma Rulong had sacrificed his own life energy and potential to instantly increase his physical and soul power. This was needed to support the Judgement Sword. Of course, he still couldn't last long. But he only needed to defeat Ma Xiaotao.

Ma Rulong knew that even if he and Xiao Xiaofeng lost to Ma Xiaotao, Xiao Hongchen and Meng Hongchen would still be able to emerge victorious. But he was just like Dai Yueheng: He wanted to be the one to decide victory. Furthermore, he was their team leader.

That was why he'd paid the price necessary to unleash the Judgement Sword from the Illustrious Virtue Hall.

This Judgement Sword was useless against only an opponent with a light-type or darkness-type martial soul. However, Ma Xiaotao didn't have either of these. Her martial soul was a fire-type.

Ma Rulong felt that the price he'd paid was worth it when he heard Ma Xiaotao groaning in pain. An indescribable satisfaction filled his entire body; he was about to take revenge for his team members that had perished at her hands.

His determination to win reached its peak. Ma Rulong suddenly stepped forward and lifted his Judgement Sword, then swung it towards Ma Xiaotao yet again.

Ma Xiaotao was also experiencing weird changes as well as several emotional changes.

Her phoenix flames turned entirely black as her Evil Phoenix Fire surged out from her body, guided by the dark power. The Evil Phoenix Fire that had been suppressed by the Ultimate Ice had instantly been unleashed and turned into dark flames, which were raging and surging throughout her body.

Chapter 123.2: Dark Phoenix Transformation!

Ma Xiaotao couldn't control her flames anymore, even if she wanted to.

The intense aura of light suppressed her from the outside, causing the dark flames on her body to be extinguished, whereas the Evil Phoenix Fire continued to ravage her body now that it had been combined with the power of darkness.

Ma Xiaotao's body was on the brink of collapse.

The evil aura had become a part of darkness. The Judgement Sword's effect on her was even greater compared than it would be to an ordinary soul master; her eyes that had originally flashed with flames had instantly turned pitch-black.

Was this the end...? Was she going to lose? Was Shrek Academy going to lose? Shrek's glory was at stake here!

Ma Xiaotao became filled with fury. She was extremely indignant.

Jiang Nannan, Xu Sanshi, Bei Bei, and Ling Luochen had all been defeated. Even Dai Yueheng had lost his combat abilities due to fighting against their opponent's poison-type soul master. They'd given their all in order to contribute to the eventual victory of Shrek; they'd even put their lives on the line for Shrek's glory. But as their team leader, was Ma Xiaotao going to collapse just like this?

"Judgement. What bullshit judgement? I'm not convinced. I don't believe that there's anything that can judge me in this world!"

Ma Xiaotao's desire to survive, coupled with her strong resentment, was revealed.

As the inheriting disciple of Shrek Academy's dean, Ma Xiaotao was one of the best in terms of abilities, talent, and competitiveness among all the inner courtyard disciples. Nobody her age could rival her; she was Shrek Academy's future hope.

With her talent, she could've gone even further and become the first in Shrek Academy's history to become a soul sage before she was 21. However, she'd regretfully been delayed because she had to repress the evil fire within her. Thus, this was never fulfilled.

All of this repression disappeared at this moment. Her martial soul began to show signs of changing due to the purification at this instant under the effect of her resilience.

The phoenix was the king of all birds. Even only the strongest and most powerful dragon could be mentioned in the same breath as a phoenix.

Among phoenixes, Fire Phoenixes had the purest bloodline. However, they weren't the only ones with an extremely pure bloodline.

Ma Xiaotao had a part of the fire phoenix's bloodline in her body. However, this bloodline wasn't pure; she'd never be a true Fire Phoenix because of the evil aura that also existed in her body.

But the bloodline in her body suddenly changed. It became that of a dark phoenix—filled with desolation and violence. This phoenix's sole purpose was to destroy and wreak havoc.

This was the evil side of the Fire Phoenix—the Dark Phoenix. It had appeared in the world for the first time as a martial soul.

A clear and crisp phoenix whistle resonated from Ma Xiaotao's mouth. At the same time, a huge, golden light blade had just taken form on the Judgement Sword. It then slashed towards her.

The black flames were quickly extinguished as they met the golden light blade. The competition was also bound to end when the sword slashed down; the Heavenfiend Douluo would definitely stop the sword from striking Ma Xiaotao.

But the black flames on Ma Xiaotao's body that had quickly turned to haze began to gather and compress inside of her. Following that, a huge projection appeared behind her back.

A entirely black phoenix that was much smaller than the original Evil Phoenix appeared. However, a frightening aura was exuded from its pitch-black body, and its deep, purple eyes were filled with an aura of desolation and insanity.

“This isn’t good. Xiaotao has changed.” Elder Xuan suddenly stood up. His eyes revealed a look of anxiety. Even with his experience, he couldn’t determine whether this change that Ma Xiaotao was experiencing was good or bad.

The pitch-black flames reformed into a pair of wings behind Ma Xiaotao’s back. Her figure suddenly flashed through the air as she dodged the Judgement Sword.

How was this possible? Ma Rulong eyes widened. He’d already expended his life power! If he didn’t finish Ma Xiaotao off quickly, he’d have to stop using the Judgement Sword. Otherwise, the backlash wouldn’t just cost him a year’s worth of his cultivation.

Ma Xiaotao lifted her head as she moved laterally, her once-bright red hair now black.

“Ah—!” Ma Xiaotao screamed. When she opened her eyes, a purplish light flashed, and a frightening aura emerged alongside her black flames.

A streak of crystallic yellow light instantly emerged and turned into a huge blade of light alongside her maniacal, tiger’s roar. It struck the side of the Judgement Sword heavily, and a loud boom resonated.

Ma Rulong’s Judgement Sword was stopped in place, while Ma Xiaotao held another huge blade in her hand.

This was what had been concealed within the ring that Dai Yueheng gave to her: It was the Tyrannical Tiger Soulblade, the Class 8 offensive close-combat soul tool that they’d obtained from the top-ranked auction. This soulblade was four and a half feet long, and it was at least one inch thick. It was curved like a cavalry saber, while its hilt was made of bone, and its pommel was extremely wide. Overall, it was shaped like a tiger’s head.

This soulblade wasn’t comparable to the Judgement Sword in terms of quality, and to unleash its full might, one needed to be a soul sage at the very least.

However, Ma Xiaotao had understood Dai Yueheng’s intention when she’d received the ring. She also believed that she’d be able to at least land a few strikes with this soulblade if she utilized her phoenix flames.

But she hadn’t expected to use this soulblade under such circumstances. Now that she turned into the Dark Phoenix, she could sense that everything was different. A boundless aura of brutality and violence raged from her heart, while a frightening aura was instantly unleashed. The Tyrannical Tiger Soulblade’s seven-ring restriction couldn’t even stop her from using it.

As she held the soulblade, black flames instantly entered it. Ma Xiaotao screamed once again, and the black phoenix behind her slowly drifted in front of her, then fused with the soulblade. As she held onto the soulblade’s hilt with both hands, her delicate figure made a half-turn in the air. She then swung the soulblade again.

Ma Rulong couldn't resist her anymore this time. His cultivation was not only beneath hers, but he'd also used the Judgement Sword against his abilities. The soulblade strike that was previously unleashed against him nearly crippled his ability to wield the Judgement Sword further. When Ma Xiaotao struck again, the Judgement Sword flew out of his hand. The huge soulblade landed on his body with a tiger's roar, and a black light flashed.

The Invincible Barrier lit up in time. However, something extremely shocking appeared: The Invincible Barrier was torn apart within the first second, even though it was supposed to last for three seconds. Ma Rulong's body flew backwards and heavily struck the defensive barrier around the competition stage.

Ma Xiaotao then swung the Tyrannical Tiger Soulblade towards Xiao Xiaofeng.

Xiao Xiaofeng continued to persistently attack Ma Xiaotao after she transformed. However, he was absolutely horrified when he discovered that almost all of his Class 5 soul tools had lost their effect. The attacks unleashed by his soul tool fort were ablated by Ma Xiaotao's black flames, with no traces left behind.

Ma Rulong and Xiao Xiaofeng's plan was that Xiao Xiaofeng would try to restrain Ma Xiaotao, while Ma Rulong would unleash the Judgement Sword.

The Judgement Sword was an elite Class 8 soul tool, close in might to a Class 9 soul tool. It was also a close-combat soul tool. Even a soul sage or soul douluo would be elementally suppressed by the Judgement Sword. They'd once experimented before; a Rank 69 Soul Emperor couldn't resist even a single strike from the Judgment Sword. This soul tool was thus their most powerful weapon in this tournament. Even though they hadn't used it in the team round, they'd prepared it in the event that they needed to turn the tables.

But who could've known that this powerful soul tool would cause Ma Xiaotao to transform, and enable her to become even more powerful. She'd become nearly invincible.

Ma Xiaotao's soul rings weren't even visible amidst the black flames anymore. An enormous black blade light descended from the sky towards Xiao Xiaofeng, but he couldn't even dodge it, much less resist it.

The black flames swallowed every trace of light. Even the competition stage seemed to have been divided in two.

A streak of starlight suddenly appeared in front of Xiao Xiaofeng; the Heavenfiend Douluo seemed to have teleported over.

A star-shaped shield with five corners then appeared in front of him and blocked the blade light.

"Boom—" Black flames scattered and instantly covered the entire region. When the black flames landed on the ground, the ground also started to combust and turned into a sea of fire. The regions that were on fire then began to melt and even began to collapse.

Ma Xiaotao's flashing, purple gaze was fixated on Xiao Xiaofeng. As she held the blade with both her hands, spots of purplish radiance seemed to spread from her eyes. A frightening aura was released from her body, and she slashed out with her soulblade again amidst a terrifying roar.

“Stop, the match has ended.” Huang Jinxu’s frantic voice sounded. Ma Xiaotao’s Tyrannical Tiger Soulblade stopped mid-strike and didn’t slash down.

The black flames around Ma Xiaotao weakened a little, and she slowly lowered the huge soulblade. A purplish radiance flashed through her eyes, but she remained steadfast.

Huang Jinxu seemed a little pathetic even though he was a Titled Douluo.

He quickly led Xiao Xiaofeng—covered in a globe of starlight—to Ma Rulong. The shield from earlier had already disappeared, and many holes had appeared in his long robe. Even a small segment of his hair seemed to have been charred away.

[Chapter 124: A Wide Gap, the Last Battle!](#)

When Xiao Hongchen and Meng Hongchen walked up to the competition stage, their minds were still pre-occupied by Ma Rulong and Xiao Xiaofeng’s lost looks.

In the previous round, Ma Xiaotao had still managed to defeat them even though she was outnumbered and had to face the frightening attacks of the Class 8 Judgement Sword. Ma Xiaotao didn’t just achieve victory. She even dented their confidence.

This was especially so for Ma Rulong. Although he was not heavily hurt, he was tormented internally.

As their team leader, he still lost even though he had used such a powerful soul tool, combusted his own life power and had a numerical advantage over Ma Xiaotao.

The over-depletion of his soul power meant that his powers would not just stagnate for a year. What was even more frightening was that Ma Xiaotao’s black flames had left a trauma in his heart that couldn’t be obliterated. Both he and Xiao Xiaofeng had been trounced in their fight.

However, Shrek wasn’t in good shape either. They no longer had any alternatives. However, they could become the eventual champions of the tournament if they managed to achieve victory in this upcoming 2 v 2 battle.

“Younger sister, I must admit that my past opinion about Shrek Academy was wrong. Shrek is really powerful.” Xiao Hongchen did not look arrogant anymore. He was still a little pale from the injury he had received. But there was a sense of resilience amidst that paleness that had never been there before.

Meng Hongchen sighed. “If all their official team members were here, we’d not even stand a chance.”

Xiao Hongchen looked into the sky. The rain was getting heavier, and there was even a layer of mist in the air. Their clothing was also wet, but didn’t become drenched, as their soul power evaporated some of the rain.

“I must stabilize myself after this tournament. Grandpa was right. It’s not a good thing to increase our cultivation so quickly. It’s not just because our bodies can’t handle the burden. It’s more because of our psychological mindset. If I don’t stabilize myself, I’m afraid that I’ll continue to be unable to reach my peak.”

Meng Hongchen nodded her head hardily and said, “Alright, I shall accompany you.”

Meng Hongchen's eyes suddenly lit up, "But we have to win this battle first. Our partners can't just die for nothing. We must snatch our glory back from Shrek's hands. We must win this battle."

Meng Hongchen's eyes lit up too. At this point, she saw Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong ascending the stage holding hands. Wang Dong's pinkish-blue eyes were filled with his fighting spirit. As Meng Hongchen looked at him, her heartstrings were tugged.

"Yes, we must win."

The four of them took their positions on the competition stage. Their competitive streaks rose as they looked at one another. Besides Meng Hongchen's gaze that carried a slight bizarre when she looked at Wang Dong, the rest were all resolute.

The four of them also had another feeling at this point. It was as if something had guided all of them to gather on this stage and meet one another in this important tournament.

Was this fate? If this was really fate, then perhaps they were destined to be rivals. 5 years later, they would still compete for their respective academies in the Continental Advanced Soul Master Academy Soul Dueling Tournament. They were bound to be the main forces in their respective teams then. What could change after 5 years? They didn't know. Right now, they only knew that they had to be the champions.

More than a month had already passed. After all the hard-fought battles and effort they had made, they had finally reached this stage. This was especially so for everyone on Shrek's team. It wasn't easy for them to be standing here in the final.

The burning competitive streak in Huo Yuhao's eyes dipped a little. In his eyes, a dim golden light subtly appeared. Although he wore an obvious look of innocence, there was also a shocking calmness about him too.

Wang Dong and Huo Yuhao were different. A light seemed to shine from Wang Dong's body. That pure feeling of light seemed to cause his body to burn up. No matter how gloomy it was or how the raindrops kept on falling, everything around seemed to turn clear as he stood there.

Xiao Hongchen was a five-ringed soul king. His martial soul was a Three-Legged Golden Toad, and he was a Class 5 soul engineer.

Meng Hongchen was a five-ringed soul king too. Her martial soul was a Vermilion Clear Icetoad, and she was also a Class 5 soul engineer.

Huo Yuhao had two soul rings. His martial souls were the Spirit Eyes and Ice Jade Empress. He was a Class 2 soul engineer.

Wang Dong had three soul rings. His martial souls were the Radiant Butterfly Goddess and the Clear Sky Hammer.

The difference in cultivation between both sides was very obvious. But no one thought that the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy would definitely emerge victorious.

Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong had created a lot of miracles in this tournament. Moreover, Xiao Hongchen and Meng Hongchen were both hurt now, and their soul power had been depleted greatly too. Their

soul power could be replenished by soul tools like the Milk Bottle, but what about their vigor? What about their injuries?

Their powers waxed and waned, making the gap in their powers less obvious than the gap in their ranks.

“Both sides, please step back.” The Heavenfiend Douluo shouted. This was likely to be the last match that he would referee. Huang Jinxu swore to himself secretly that he wouldn’t serve as a referee if there was a next time.

No one was more shocked than him right now. As the referee, he could truly sense the power of these youths. He saw many things on them that he shouldn’t have seen on youths. Top-ranked martial souls, twin martial souls and even Class 8 soul tools. The transformation of Ma Xiaotao’s martial soul earlier left him the most appalled. His Heavenfiend Lonestar was even unable to entirely resist Ma Xiaotao’s black flames. What was it exactly? Were these youths really not even 20 yet?

Especially these two representing Shrek Academy now. They were probably not even 15 years old yet, much less 20 years old.

However, the expression in their eyes told Huang Jinxu that they were confident they would win.

The Heavenfiend Douluo was even in a slight trance now. That’s because he recalled when he was only 15. He was trying his best to cultivate then, and his family hadn’t been killed by his Heavenfiend Lonestar’s curse yet. But he didn’t even know much about the world of soul masters then!

He couldn’t imagine how far these youths could go 20 and even 30 years from now.

Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong held each other’s hands as they stepped back. They knew that this was probably the toughest and the most intense battle that they were going to fight ever since they had entered Shrek Academy.

It was no longer just a tournament. It was war. It was a war where their lives were at stake.

But the more it was like that, the more excited they felt. Their potential seemed to be completely stimulated now.

Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong were the kind of talented youths that resembled sponges that had fully absorbed water. The greater the pressure, the greater the potential they showed. Before the competition even began, their energies had reached their peaks already.

As they held each other’s hands, their minds were connected.

Huo Yuhao’s figure flashed, and he moved behind Wang Dong after they retreated to the edge of the competition stage. He placed his hands on Wang Dong’s waist, while Wang Dong was calm as he looked opposite him.

This was already starkly different from what they had displayed in this tournament before.

In the previous rounds, Huo Yuhao took the lead when they unleashed their martial soul fusion skill. Everyone believed that Wang Dong was only his aide. Besides unleashing their martial soul fusion skill together, Wang Dong didn’t really stand out. The only surprise that he gave was probably when he unleashed his Clear Sky Hammer. But that was the only time.

There were very few who remembered Wang Dong. But no one would forget Huo Yuhao's six hundred thousand year soul rings at the start of the tournament! Although everyone found out that it was fake, the shock that they felt was still deeply imprinted in their minds.

Huo Yuhao was actually standing behind Wang Dong right now. It was obvious that Wang Dong was going to lead this time. No one expected this, even their opponents.

After seeing Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong's movements, Xiao Hongchen and Meng Hongchen's expressions changed slightly. They discovered that they knew very little about Wang Dong.

To everyone, Wang Dong and Huo Yuhao came as a single entity. They fought together from the start. But what were his abilities? What was his martial soul? Many were already starting to think about this question.

Xiao Hongchen and Meng Hongchen retreated to the edge of the competition stage too. Meng Hongchen stood in front, while Xiao Hongchen took up the rear. But neither of them made any contact with each other.

Xiao Hongchen was not physically well yet. His physical body was completely ravaged by Dai Yueheng, and he didn't even dare to use the Milk Bottle to restore his soul power. That was because his passageways couldn't handle it.

His dislocated bones were already set, and his injuries were already healing too. But he still felt tremendous pain throughout his body at times. He was not even up to thirty percent of his peak condition. That was why he could only aid his younger sister. Meng Hongchen was the one leading now.

Meng Hongchen's Class 6 soul tool armor saved her at the last moment when she fought Dai Yueheng. But she was still hurt to some degree. Even so, she still managed to maintain more than 70% of her abilities. More importantly, she was confident in her Vermilion Ice Toad's lethal poison.

Dai Yueheng could delay the spread of the poison with his soul emperor cultivation, but what about these two? What cultivation did they have? The tournament would likely end if they were even slightly touched by the Vermilion Ice Toad's poison.

The only thing that Meng Hongchen couldn't figure out was why the two of them had such tenacious looks in their eyes. Did they still think that they had a chance in this tournament? They were Shrek's last standing members, and they had no choice but to compete. Meng Hongchen revealed a cold look on her face. Though she was attracted to Wang Dong, this was a competition that involved the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy's glory. This tournament might even concern the Sun Moon Empire's glory. She couldn't lose. The pride in her heart had never been inferior to her brother's.

The Heavenfiend Douluo took in a deep breath. After that, he lifted his right hand up before it jolted downwards, "Match, start!"

As he shouted, everyone opened their eyes wide. Their pupils even shrank. Everyone's attention was drawn to the competition stage.

On the city wall, the Star Luo Emperor and the White Tiger Duke didn't really converse either. Their palms were pressed on the crenelations, and they were watching the match anxiously.

The White Tiger squinted his eyes, and they glowed with light. When he saw Huo Yuhao, he had a weird feeling. He couldn't tell what it was exactly, but Huo Yuhao naturally drew his attention. Could this young fellow create a miracle?

Both parties unleashed their martial souls as the competition began. Meng Hongchen lifted her arms, and two streaks of icy-blue light instantly appeared.

Her armor was damaged. But her Class 6 swords were still intact. Her defense might have been weakened without the Impregnable Wall and armor, but her offensive ability wasn't much affected.

Xiao Hongchen took in a deep breath behind Meng Hongchen and repressed the pain in his body. He also unleashed his Three-Legged Golden Toad. Golden, metal foam spilled out, and barrels started to appear on his body.

Although these metal barrels only formed a third of the barrels that he had formed in the previous round under his Golden Coagulation and Metal Manipulation, a stable core formation still appeared. Not only that, but his aura also ballooned, and the opening of every barrel shone with strong light. They also seemed ready to be fired.

Xiao Hongchen and Meng Hongchen had mastered long-range range soul tools and close-combat soul tools respectively. They divided up their roles well, and they excelled in their respective roles. Although Xiao Hongchen was critically injured, one was likely to suffer if he dared to underestimate Xiao Hongchen.

When these metal barrels were formed, Xiao Hongchen also formed a thick, pitch-black barrel on his shoulder. When he lifted this barrel, his entire face turned pale. His body also trembled a little. This showed how heavy this soul tool cannon was.

Wang Dong and Huo Yuhao had already burst towards them as they unleashed their soul tools.

The dazzling Radiant Butterfly Goddess appeared behind Wang Dong, whereas Huo Yuhao's body was blocked, and he couldn't be seen.

Wang Dong had unleashed his martial soul in the previous rounds, but no one had noticed a three-ringed soul master like him. But now he was the center of attention.

His blue wings flapped open, and golden light patterns surfaced. An intense aura of light spread, along with his charming looks, and Meng Hongchen was suddenly left in a daze.

Meng Hongchen had a sudden feeling that only such a dazzling martial soul was worthy of him!

Wang Dong's figure started to rise as his wings flapped open. As they started to flap, he leapt in Meng Hongchen and Xiao Hongchen's direction.

Huo Yuhao was tightly stuck to Wang Dong's back, and his hands were around his waist. The two of them seemed like the same person now.

But Meng Hongchen and Xiao Hongchen couldn't see Huo Yuhao's arms around Wang Dong's waist, as Huo Yuhao's Imitation started to take effect.

Wang Dong's speed was naturally inferior to Ma Xiaotao's, but he was not slow. As he flapped his wings, he emitted a dazzling and blinding golden-blue radiance which enabled him to quicken his speed through the air. Huo Yuhao had also unleashed his soul tool thruster behind him. Although it was only a Class 2 thruster, it still allowed Wang Dong's speed to increase by at least 30%.

Xiao Hongchen's attack began. Streaks of light shot out, and they started to engulf Wang Dong's body.

Since he was a soul engineer, using a long-range soul tool to lock onto his target was very basic. Even though he was critically injured, he was confident that he could strike his opponent.

Soul tool rays and soul tool cannon shells engulfed Wang Dong as if they were windstorms. There were even soul tools among them that could lock onto their opponents.

However, the two of them fell into a slight trance just as they were about to attack.

Xiao Hongchen's attack had already been unleashed, but its lock-on effect didn't work.

What was going on? Xiao Hongchen was shocked. But he had unleashed several of his long-range soul tools at the same time. His all-round attack had already been launched.

Xiao Hongchen believed that it would be very difficult for Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong to resist his wave of attacks with their abilities. He used Class 5 soul tools that even soul kings had to be careful of. Moreover, his attack was so condensed. Even if they used the Golden Road, what kind of effect could it produce? That martial fusion soul skill of theirs was a control-type skill, meaning that it was unlikely to strike both Xiao Hongchen and Meng Hongchen. Even if they were struck, nothing would happen. There was no way that Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong could get close to them.

Xiao Hongchen and Meng Hongchen had the same thoughts. But their eyes soon opened wide. That was because they discovered that they were wrong.

Against the attacks of Class 5 soul tools, one could dodge instead of resisting them!

Wang Dong's wings retracted before he made a breathtaking escape.

His pair of wings seemed to have a life of their own. They flapped open before retracting, flapping and drifting. Every transformation adjusted his flying posture slightly.

The streaks of soul tool rays and soul tool cannon shells slid past him because they couldn't lock onto him.

Wang Dong was like a Radiant Butterfly Goddess that was facing a huge web. No matter how all-engulfing that web was, he could find a loophole to escape.

His glittery dodges even left streaks of dazzling shadows in mid-air. Bright, golden-blue flowing light caused the spectators to erupt in cheers.

Everyone sympathized with the underdogs. The spectators' emotions reached their height as they witnessed Wang Dong's impeccable dodges. They were even praying for Shrek Academy. It didn't matter whether they had wagered on the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy.

As the saying goes, “The insider knows the ropes, while the outsider just comes along for the ride.” The spectators were extremely excited as they watched the competition, but the true soul masters were also wide-eyed right now!

Including the Star Luo Emperor and White Tiger Duke, those who were observing carefully or soul masters with great visual powers could tell that Huo Yuhao’s soul tool thruster had developed slight changes as Wang Dong was dodging Xiao Hongchen’s attack. This meant that his soul tool thruster had launched, but not with great intensity. But it was these gentle propulsions that enabled Wang Dong to dodge successfully time and time again. The cooperation between the two of them couldn’t just be described using great chemistry; they were almost like the same person!

However, they would vomit out blood if they knew what Huo Yuhao was thinking.

Without a doubt, Xiao Hongchen had lost his ability to lock onto Wang Dong because of his Spiritual Interference.

As his spiritual power became stronger, his Spiritual Interference started to reveal its strength. What enabled Wang Dong’s agile dodging of Xiao Hongchen’s attacks was naturally the Spiritual Detection Sharing. With both the Spiritual Interference and Spiritual Detection Sharing, it was not difficult for the two of them to cooperate with each other.

Huo Yuhao was whining in his heart right now. He was whining about Wang Dong’s thin waist. Both his hands were already touching when he hugged Wang Dong’s waist. He didn’t feel as if he was hugging Wang Dong tightly enough.

But Wang Dong’s butt was extremely perky and pressed against Huo Yuhao’s belly. It was a little weird and uncomfortable.

Even Huo Yuhao was unsure why such a thought would flash across his mind amidst such a tense competition.

A series of dodges enabled Wang Dong to slip through the web of soul tool rays and soul tool cannon shells. If Xiao Hongchen were in his peak state, his attacks would be at least 3 times more condensed practically flawless. No matter how powerful Huo Yuhao’s Spiritual Detection was, he wouldn’t have been able to help Wang Dong escape then. But they succeeded now.

At this point, the gap between both parties had already been reduced to 30 meters.

Meng Hongchen’s toes were pointed toward the ground, and her tender figure flashed as she moved. She swung her pair of thin swords, and two streaks of light were launched towards Wang Dong’s path.

Chapter 124.3: A Wide Gap, the Last Battle!

Her mentality became apparent as she unleashed this strike. That’s because she coincidentally shouted, “Be careful!”

Wang Dong gazed at her deeply, and the light in his eyes became gentler. This caused Meng Hongchen to be stuck in a slight daze. She thought to herself subconsciously, “What’s he thinking about?”

Wang Dong turned to his left at this instant and managed to slide in between the two streaks of light.

But Meng Hongchen's attack wasn't so easily avoided. The light blades struck each other behind Wang Dong and unleashed a layer of icy fog.

The Vermilion Ice Toad's lethal poison had finally appeared in this critical last match of the tournament.

Below the stage, Elder Xuan, Wang Yan, He Caitou and Xiao Xiao were all extremely anxious. The key lay in whether Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong could resist this lethal poison!

The icy fog covered a huge area. Wang Dong and Huo Yuhao were immediately engulfed, but Wang Dong didn't seem to realize the lethal poison that was coming from his back. His wings revealed a golden light pattern before his second soul ring flashed brightly.

A huge number of golden balls of light suddenly appeared. They started to bombard Xiao Hongchen, who had also just unleashed his second wave of attacks.

The Radiant Butterfly Goddess' second soul skill, the Light of the Butterfly Goddess.

An intense aura of light filled the entire venue. This was everyone's first time seeing the might of Wang Dong's soul skill.

With Huo Yuhao's Imitation covering them, the soul rings that both Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong unleashed were white. No one could see exactly what class their soul skills were in. But the power of their soul skills wouldn't change because of this!

Wang Dong quickly told Xiao Hongchen with his abilities that underestimating him was a big mistake.

An explosive boom reverberated within a 20 meter radius. Logically speaking, Wang Dong's Light of the Butterfly Goddess shouldn't have been able to resist the soul tool rays even if they could resist the soul tool cannons. But Xiao Hongchen's attack was perfectly intercepted. The explosion only occurred between the two of them. A few of the balls formed by Wang Dong's Light of the Butterfly Goddess landed even in front of Xiao Hongchen and forced him to resist using his Impregnable Wall.

Only a soul ancestor's strongest soul skill would have such an effect. Xiao Hongchen cursed in his heart. His cultivation was indeed not up to standard yet, such that the power of his soul tools couldn't be fully unleashed. He was suppressed by Wang Dong's second soul skill, and felt extremely depressed by that.

Wang Dong had three rings. With the aid of Huo Yuhao's twin martial soul that was close to a three-ringed cultivation, the combination of their soul powers reached above Rank 40.

Huo Yuhao's soul power might only be at Rank 28, but the sum of his soul power was not any less than Wang Dong. That was because his second martial soul might have a soul ring! Although most of the power of the hundred thousand year soul ring was sealed, his total soul power still managed to increase some.

The Haodong Power didn't function based on the laws of addition. Wang Dong's Light of the Butterfly Goddess was also a thousand year soul skill. Under such a circumstance, their combined strike was already comparable to a top-ranked soul ancestor. They were as powerful as Bei Bei and Xu Sanshi with their unchanged martial souls, and that was without consideration for their martial fusion soul skills

Meng Hongchen was slightly shocked as she saw Wang Dong showing his might. She quickly adjusted her mentality and burst forward rapidly. Her thin swords turned into a sky full of light projections that

slashed down towards Wang Dong. It was a pity that her armor was damaged, otherwise she would have flown into the air to fight Wang Dong.

Meng Hongchen had a question in her mind right now. Why hadn't the Vermilion Ice Toad's poison taken effect yet?

The Vermilion Ice Toad's poison did engulf Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong. But it was a pity that her poison was useless against them.

Why was this? Only Huo Yuhao understood why. This could only be traced back to the time when Huo Yuhao caught hold of Bei Bei after he was defeated by the Ice Toad's poison.

"Oh? How could this be? Such a soul beast still exists?"

"Ice Empress, what's going on? What's wrong with my eldest senior?"

"He's contracted a very hateful Ice Toad poison. The martial soul that hurt him is a Vermilion Ice Toad, a soul beast that roams the borders of the Extreme North. Its powers are quite extraordinary. Although it's not really accomplished in the aspect of ice, it has managed to grasp the true meaning of the combination of ice and fire. That's why the Ice Toad's poison is extremely lethal, and very difficult to be neutralized."

"Oh? Then what do we do? Ice Empress, can you neutralize this poison?"

"I can't. That's because your partner cannot bear the Ultimate Ice's encroachment. He can only dispel the poison through the extreme chill in his own body. There's no other way. If that method is used, only an ice-type body can handle the burden. Otherwise, one's internal organs will be frozen."

"Will I be poisoned?"

"Are you joking? As one of the Three Heavenly Kings of the Extreme North, I am the king of all ice-type soul beasts. Although the Vermilion Ice Toad is a rather strong soul beast, there's a reason why it doesn't dare to enter the Extreme North region. That's because the Ice Jade Scorpions are its jinx."

"While we gave up lethal poison to achieve the Ultimate Ice, we can't be hurt by any ice-type poison. You don't have to be afraid of her poison when you face her. No ice-type or fire-type poison can work against the Ultimate Ice."

If Huo Yuhao had to appraise which soul skill of his was the most powerful, it had to be one of the four soul skills that the Ice Empress conferred onto him. In terms of both offense and defense, the Ice Empress lived up to its name as one of the Three Heavenly Kings of the Extreme North.

But if he had to choose the most practical soul skill, which one would he choose?

If someone really understood his capabilities, he might think it was the Spiritual Detection. But Huo Yuhao would certainly choose the Spirit Eyes' second soul skill, Imitation.

Imitation was a thousand year soul skill bestowed onto him by the clan members that the Skydream Iceworm helped him to find. Among all of Huo Yuhao's soul skills, Imitation was the least offensively inclined. But it was the most important soul skill to him, even far more important than his Spiritual Detection.

Although Imitation was a thousand year soul skill, it depleted Huo Yuhao's soul power the least when it was unleashed due to its special characteristic. Huo Yuhao could sustain it for a very long time, and he wouldn't even be discovered by his opponent, unless his opponent's spiritual power was beyond his, and they could use a special spiritual detection power to see through him.

The only pity was that Imitation could only be used within a 3 meter radius with Huo Yuhao as the center. Otherwise, this soul skill would have been unbelievably powerful.

Huo Yuhao was using Imitation at this exact moment. Not only did his Imitation prevent his opponent from seeing him, but it also prevented his opponent from seeing what he was doing.

Even the spectators couldn't see. When Imitation was used, Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong were actually masked by a layer of transparent armor that seemed to be made up of diamond-like particles. Their entire bodies were covered.

It was the Ice Empress' Barrier, Huo Yuhao's strongest defense-type soul skill. It was one of the two soul skills bestowed onto him by the four hundred thousand year Ice Jade Empress Scorpion's soul ring.

The Ultimate Ice's defensive strength reached its peak under the Ice Empress' Barrier. How could the Vermilion Ice Toad's poison overcome it?

A dim radiance flashed. Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong seemed to be the same entity now. In fact, Huo Yuhao depleted more of his soul power than Wang Dong, who was attacking more actively.

Spiritual Detection, Spiritual Detection Sharing, Spiritual Interference and the Ice Empress' Barrier. These soul skills were unleashed with all of Huo Yuhao's might.

Huo Yuhao had managed to achieve significant progress in his cultivation and spiritual power after the constant improvements and enhancements of the Life Gold. His body was also able to bear more than what someone of his age should be able to. At least in terms of his physical strength, he was not weaker than Xiao Hongchen and Meng Hongchen.

A dim radiance flashed, and Huo Yuhao revealed a cold, divine radiance on his face. It was time to snatch the final victory!

The countless sword projections that Meng Hongchen created as she waved her swords engulfed Wang Dong. The enhancements of her Class 6 swords were all in terms of offense. They were extremely destructive, and had even hurt Dai Yueheng earlier. The Vermilion Ice Toad poison that it contained was also the most lethal.

Although Meng Hongchen had lost the help of her soul tool to aid her in flying, her cultivation was still far beyond Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong. When her swords were unleashed, they soared up immediately.

The height of the defensive barriers on the competition stage had a limit. Meng Hongchen could reach this height with the extreme leaping abilities of the Vermilion Ice Toad.

That's why no matter how impeccable Wang Dong's flying techniques were, he couldn't escape from her attacks.

But Wang Dong didn't dodge.

When Meng Hongchen jumped up, his Radiant Butterfly Goddess' wings flapped towards the front and propelled Wang Dong backwards. At the same time, a ball of golden light shone on his chest. From the edge of the Radiant Butterfly Goddess' wings, all the golden light started to gather towards Wang Dong's chest as countless golden spots appeared.

A small sun seemed to have appeared in front of Wang Dong's chest. The radiance of this sun was extremely blinding.

Meng Hongchen's attack stopped, and Wang Dong pushed the ball of light from his chest at this critical moment. It struck the center of Meng Hongchen's sword projections.

Chapter 125.1: Yearning for the Mortal World

An ear-piercing boom enveloped the entire stage, and the seemingly-ordinary golden ball of light instantly exploded the instant it collided with Meng Hongchen's sword shadow.

This was the Butterfly Goddess Slash, Wang Dong's third soul skill.

This was a soul skill that Wang Dong used very, very rarely. However, its strength was absolutely not as ordinary as that of a normal thousand year soul skill.

Wang Dong's second soul ring was already a thousand year one, and his third one had actually surpassed three thousand years of age. In other words, his third soul skill was practically equivalent to Meng Hongchen's fourth one. Although his attack couldn't take on a Soul King, the explosive power generated by the Butterfly Goddess Slash that was strengthened by the Haodong Power was extremely great.

It clearly wasn't possible for him to use this soul skill to defeat Meng Hongchen, but it was enough for him to merely stall for time.

The waves of light blades instantaneously detonated, making the hundreds of golden light blades resemble the bloom of a rose bud. Then, it once again exploded into countless flower petals. The instant the tightly packed blades of light detonated, they carried the aura of the sun and flew around in all directions.

Meng Hongchen was flustered as she faced Wang Dong's attack. After all, she had lost her powerful defensive armor, which meant that she would be injured if the blades of light struck her. If she were in her peak condition and fully equipped with her soul tools, she would've even dared to charge through an attack like this without feeling any pressure.

However, this was clearly impossible now. This was the final battle, and victory in this match would determine whether or not they would be able to bring the champion's trophy back. How could she dare to be careless at all? Furthermore, she subconsciously felt that Wang Dong was very strong. Perhaps these were her inner feelings wreaking havoc on her, or just the feelings of a young girl.

Because of that, Meng Hongchen instantly danced about with her swords the instant she collided with the Butterfly Goddess Slash, creating an airtight barrier that blocked all of Wang Dong's attacks. Whenever her thin swords collided with a blade of light, they would release a large amount of the Vermillion Clear Ictoad's poison. As long as her poison took effect, this battle would be over.

At this exact moment, an indescribable sense of terror suddenly rose in Meng Hongchen's heart. Her mind started to uncontrollably tremble violently.

This suppression came from her mind itself, or rather, the source of her power--her martial soul.

An enormous illusory figure noiselessly emerged behind Wang Dong. Its crystalline and translucent body emitted a chilly aura, and its jade-green tail gave off the light of a serene forest. The most terrifying thing about it was the suppression it caused to the very depths of Meng Hongchen's soul, causing her movements to slow greatly due to her astonishment.

This was the Ice Jade Empress Scorpion, Huo Yuhao's second martial soul. At this moment, the aura of a four hundred thousand year soul ring had completely emerged due to his Imitation.

Although the Vermillion Clear Icetoad didn't reside in the Extreme North, nor was it a pure ice-type martial soul, a large part of its comprehensive power came from the element of Ice.

It was just as the Ice Jade Empress Scorpion had said--she was the master of Ice, and all ice-type soul beasts would have to revere her as their king. How could the Vermillion Clear Icetoad's aura be comparable to that of the Ice Empress? Moreover, this was the aura of a four hundred thousand year Ice Jade Empress Scorpion.

Meng Hongchen and Xiao Hongchen had watched over Huo Yuhao's previous matches, but their line of sight had been blocked by the protective barrier surrounding the tournament stage. As such, they were only able to see Huo Yuhao's hundred thousand year soul ring and the imposing aura that it gave off; they hadn't sensed its true aura.

The facts had shown that what Huo Yuhao had done was merely an illusion. After that battle, Huo Yuhao hadn't used an ability like that in any of his other battles. Although the other teams wouldn't go so far as to completely ignore his soul skill, a large majority of them reckoned that he had been seen through, which meant that there was no longer any practical meaning to it anymore.

However, as Meng Hongchen faced the aura that belonged to the Ice Jade Empress Scorpion, she immediately realised how much of a joke her judgement had been.

The terrifying aura of the Ice Jade Empress Scorpion was just so realistic, and even if they were trapped in an illusory domain, this was one that was infinitely close to reality! Her martial soul was fully suppressed in front of this terrifying aura, to the extent where she wasn't even able to release a half of her true cultivation. This was even compounded with the sensation of terror that came from the very depths of her heart, causing a tremendous impact to her will to fight.

It was no wonder that so many people had suffered disastrous defeats when facing the hundred thousand year soul ring that Huo Yuhao had released; the deterrence it gave off was just that powerful.

Meng Hongchen wasn't the only person affected by the Ice Jade Empress Scorpion's aura. Even Xiao Hongchen was similarly affected by it.

The Vermillion Clear Icetoad and the Three-Legged Golden Toad were both toad-type martial souls. Out of the five poisons, the poison that came from a toad and the poison that came from a scorpion were equally matched. There wasn't too much of a difference between both parties, and thus victory and defeat would be decided by the levels of the two creatures.

There was no doubt that the Three-Legged Golden Toad was of a higher level than the Vermillion Clear Ictoad, and the two were also top-ranked martial souls. However, they were akin to subjects who were facing their king whilst facing the unrivaled martial soul, the Ice Jade Empress Scorpion. Regardless of how strong they were, they were still petty and weak in front of a true king.

They were completely unable to imagine how a mere illusory domain could cause such a great effect. However, was what Huo Yuhao was releasing now still a mere illusory domain?

As the saying went, the truth would become a lie when a lie became a truth. If a person added a few true things within an illusion, it would be hard to tell that the illusion was fake. The illusory figure behind Huo Yuhao was created using his Imitation, but the aura it possessed came from the Ice Jade Empress Scorpion's soul ring! This was a true four hundred thousand year soul ring! Could an illusory domain fake an aura like this? This was the aura of pure Ultimate Ice, and also the aura of one of the Ten Great Savage Beasts.

There was no need to even mention the two of them; even the Heavenfiend Douluo Huang Jinxu, who was nervously presiding over the match as referee, felt his heart palpitate after sensing the aura of the Ice Jade Empress Scorpion.

Everything happened within an extremely short amount of time. Although Meng Hongchen was able to neutralise the Butterfly Goddess Slash while her body and soul were shaken, the force behind her following attacks was greatly weakened. On the other hand, Xiao Hongchen had just gotten back to his senses from the Light of the Butterfly Goddess, and was slowed down for a brief moment while trying to assist his sister.

At this exact moment, the combination of an icy-white aura and the supreme majesty of an emperor blossomed from Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong.

Meng Hongchen was simply too close to the two of them, and thus she had no chance of dodging the omnidirectional release of this light. As her martial soul had clearly been affected, she couldn't even take the opportunity to attack Wang Dong.

A strange, cold aura instantly spread through her body, and Meng Hongchen's body stiffened instantly in midair. Since she awakened her martial soul, she couldn't even remember the last time she felt cold. At this moment, however, the extreme cold that seemed to dig into her bones made her body tremble violently. A layer of light-blue frost even seemed to cover the surface of her skin.

Huo Yuhao's combat strength instantly reached its peak. Although the extremely cold air only spread for a relatively short distance, the illusory figure of the Ice Jade Empress Scorpion that appeared behind his back emitted a dazzling light. This was especially so for its jade-green tail, which seemed to have halos flowing around it.

Due to Huo Yuhao's Imitation concealing his body, nobody was able to see that his sternum, ribs, and spine were releasing an intense jade-green light.

Right, this was the powerful soul skill granted to him by the Ice Jade Empress Scorpion's torso bone, Domain of Perpetual Ice.

This was a true display of the power of Ultimate Ice, and also its tyrannical might. Even the Vermillion Clear Icetoad that was also an ice-type martial soul wasn't able to endure it. Although Huo Yuhao couldn't truly use the might of this domain-type soul skill, he was still able to unleash a portion of the Ice Empress' power in a limited range.

Meng Hongchen reached the top point of her jump as her body was instantly frozen in the Domain of Perpetual Ice, causing her to immediately plummet to the ground.

How could Wang Dong just give up on a good opportunity like this? Folding his wings, he instantly chased after Meng Hongchen and activated his Guillotine Wing.

However, Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong didn't notice that a dark-red chain had somehow been connected to Meng Hongchen's waist. The instant Wang Dong's attack was about to land, Meng Hongchen was instantly pulled away, bringing her out of Wang Dong's attack range. Right after that, a large energy storm flew straight towards him, blocking his pursuit.

The dark-red chain had appeared in Xiao Hongchen's hand first, and his current expression was that of solemnity.

Right. As they walked onto the tournament stage, neither he or Meng Hongchen had thought that this battle had any meaning. However, he now felt that he had been wrong. As he faced these two youths, he realized that he couldn't use their level of soul power to judge them.

Wang Dong and Huo Yuhao were extremely well-coordinated, but Xiao Hongchen and Meng Hongchen were siblings! The two had grown up together, and had worked, fought, and cultivated together. The level of synergy they possessed wasn't any inferior to Huo Yuhao's duo.

At this moment, a dark-red light lit up by Meng Hongchen's chest. Right after that, an icy mist shot out from her body with a flash of red light. Then, it quickly returned and entered her body once again, allowing her to unexpectedly recover from the Domain of Perpetual Ice. Although her body was still trembling, and she didn't seem to be able to hold her swords properly, she had regained the ability to move.

Huo Yuhao had used the Domain of Perpetual Ice many times in the past, and he had even used it against Soul Kings before. However, this was the first time he met someone who was able to bypass it so quickly.

Other than the difference in their cultivations, the profundity contained within the Vermillion Clear Icetoad's fusion of ice and fire had played an important role in this.

Huo Yuhao was quickly thinking to himself, It's no wonder the Vermillion Clear Icetoad didn't get decisively sealed in front of my Ultimate Ice. Aih, if I were also a Soul King, how would she be able to break through my Domain of Perpetual Ice so easily?

At this moment, both parties seemed to return to their original positions. Under Xiao Hongchen's all-out attacks, Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong weren't able to complete their pursuit.

Chapter 125.2: Yearning for the Mortal World

The might of the Ice Jade Empress Scorpion then vanished like a flash in the dark.

Unfurling his wings, Wang Dong once again revealed his powerful evasion skills in midair. Guided by the Spiritual Detection, over 90% of the soul tool attacks targeting him would miss completely. However, Wang Dong's figure was gradually approaching the Hongchen siblings.

At this moment, Meng Hongchen had finally caught her breath. She had just used her fourth soul skill, Ice Feeding. By using fire as a catalyst, she was able to stimulate her Icetoad poison and turn it into pure energy that could feed her body, causing her attack power to reach a completely new level.

However, she wouldn't be able to use the Icetoad for a short period of time after using Ice Feeding. On the surface, it seemed as though Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong had spent more energy than their opponents. However, the string of collisions had greatly affected Meng Hongchen as well.

She could no longer use her Icetoad poison, and her Ice Feeding hadn't even increased her attack power, but merely allowed her to regain the ability to move. Why wouldn't she have spent a large amount of energy? Furthermore, the freezing caused by the Ultimate Ice had caused her injuries from Dai Yueheng's attack to resurge faintly.

Huo Yuhao sighed inwardly. If their previous attack that relied on their opponents looking down on them had succeeded, winning this match would've been much easier. However, it now seemed that it wouldn't be possible to win this match without a fight.

However, the Hongchen siblings now felt a tremendous amount of pressure coming from Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong. The most terrifying opponent that one could face was one that was completely unreadable. However, these two youths who were even younger than them had damaged the conviction they had in winning.

"Sister, come. Let's finish them off. We can't hesitate any longer." Xiao Hongchen let out a deep shout.

Meng Hongchen hesitated, "But, your body..."

"What do these injuries amount to?" Xiao Hongchen said arrogantly, "Let's show them our strongest attack. Quick. We can't lose this match. We can't give them a chance. Once we beat them, we'll be the pride of our academy, and the heroes of our empire."

With that, all of the soul tools on Xiao Hongchen's body suddenly switched off and fell to the ground. The soul tools themselves turned back into metallic dust, and he didn't even bother to care about the formation arrays that had fallen to the ground. Instead, he spread his hands out towards his sister.

The rapiers in Meng Hongchen's hands vanished as she turned around and threw herself into Xiao Hongchen's embrace. Immediately, a pillar mixed with golden and ice-blue light surged into the air and instantly covered their bodies.

"Not good." Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong were simply too familiar with their movements. That was clearly the starting sign of a martial soul fusion! They had already evaluated the Hongchen siblings highly, but they'd never thought that the two soul engineers would actually be able to use a fusion skill. Furthermore, they were using it at this extremely critical moment.

When two Soul Kings used a fusion skill together, how powerful would their attack be? They were clearly trying to take Huo Yuhao's duo out in one shot.

“Let’s take them on!” Wang Dong let out a shout. Because he was overly excited, there seemed to be a few traces of delicateness contained in his voice.

Huo Yuhao took a deep breath. He could no longer hesitate at this moment. Otherwise, their last chance of winning would disappear.

Immediately dispelling the Ice Empress’ Armor, Huo Yuhao hugged Wang Dong. At the same time, the aura of the Ice Jade Empress Scorpion returned to his body, leaving only his Spirit Eyes.

Wang Dong’s wings quietly vanished, causing the dazzling bluish-golden light in the sky to disappear. Wang Dong hugged Huo Yuhao from the back, then descended to the tournament stage. At this moment however, a pitch-black hammer appeared in his hand. This was his second martial soul, the Clear Sky Hammer.

They were about to fall to the ground, but at this moment, Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong’s bodies released a dazzling light.

This was an indescribable light of nothingness that caused everything contained within it to vanish from sight. The only thing left was an illusory figure. This illusory figure looked somewhat strange, and its entire body was transparent. Its face couldn’t be clearly seen, but its hands formed the shape of a heart.

The figure looked like an adult male, and if anyone had seen the initial display of Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong’s Heavenly Emperor’s Hammer, they would’ve discovered that this void-like figure was identical to that of the aforementioned skill.

However, the Heavenly Emperor’s Hammer was formed by the fusion between the Ice Jade Empress Scorpion and the Clear Sky Hammer. On the other hand, Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong weren’t using the Golden Road that was formed by the Radiant Butterfly Goddess and the Spirit Eyes, nor the Heavenly Emperor’s Hammer. Instead, they were using the mysterious fusion between the Spirit Eyes and the Clear Sky Hammer.

Everything passed by quickly as both parties unexpectedly released their respective fusion skills together. This was the first time that this had happened in this year’s Continental Advanced Academy Soul Duelling Tournament.

The audience felt as though their hearts were about to jump out from their throats. A scene like this would be rarely seen even in a hundred years!

How many soul masters in this world could possess a fusion skill? The fact that two pairs of them had appeared at this moment was simply too shocking.

Even Elder Xuan from Shrek Academy was already clenching his fists tightly. Were it not for the fact that he was distracted by suppressing the black flames of the Dark Phoenix, he would’ve had an even more excited expression.

The excitement from this event was so great, to the point where even Wang Yan couldn’t even bear to look at it. He covered his face with both hands, only revealing his eyes. He was the only person who knew how many fusion skills Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong possessed, but even he had never seen the true might of those fusion skills. Nobody knew just how Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong were able to create a miracle like this.

If Xiao Hongchen and Meng Hongchen were in perfectly good conditions today, he would never have allowed Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong to take the stage. However, Xiao Hongchen was heavily injured, and Meng Hongchen was somewhat injured. Only thus did a chance of Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong winning come into existence.

However, Wang Yan would never have thought that the Hongchen siblings would be able to bring a fusion skill out. This was a practically unimaginable even in the world of soul engineers. It could even be said that Xiao Hongchen and Meng Hongchen were the first pair of soul masters from the Sun Moon Empire who were able to do so.

Over on the city wall, Emperor Xu Jiawei had an astonished expression on his face. Who would've thought that the finals of this tournament would actually turn into a duel between two fusion skills?

On the other hand, the most depressed and pained person in the entire arena was the referee, the Heavenfiend Douluo. At this moment, he naturally couldn't stop both parties from using their fusion skills. However, just what level would the might of both fusion skills reach? He wasn't clear about that! In the event he wasn't able to rescue the losing party in time, resulting in a casualty, the burden placed on him would be far too great. He was very clear that the four people who were standing on the battlefield were very different from the previous people who had died.

The pillar of light that Xiao Hongchen and Meng Hongchen floated into began to transform. The pillar of light solidified in mid-air, turning into the enormous shape of a toad. Mysteriously, a change in color suddenly occurred to the toad while it solidified.

At this moment, the gold of the Three-Legged Golden Toad and the ice-blue of the Vermillion Clear Ictoad completely vanished, leaving a red light that emitted a metallic glint. The scarlet-gold that covered it made the enormous toad that was over five meters tall incomparably dazzling. Its eyes were a shade of black that was as deep as an abyss.

As it widened its mouth, a violently spinning scarlet-gold whirlpool could be faintly seen. It seemed as though the toad could spit out the whirlpool at any time.

Xiao Hongchen's voice rang out across the entire field. Even at a time like this, he didn't forget to play the part of a hero who was trying to save the battle.

"Take this blow, youngsters. We'll let you witness what a truly powerful fusion skill is, our Hongchen's Yearning."

Right. Hongchen's Yearning was the name they had chosen for their fusion skill by taking the family name of the two siblings. If one looked carefully at it, one would discover that the reddish-golden toad was three-legged. However, its eyes were flashing with the same light as that of the Vermillion Clear Ictoad the instant it was about to spit out the reddish-gold whirlpool.

At this exact moment, a change also began to occur to the illusory figure that Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong had formed. His eyes lit up.

Since his entire body was in a void-like and transparent state, the flash in his eyes was especially obvious. This was a pair of eyes that couldn't be described using words. Its dazzling gold seemed to absorb and coagulate all of the starlight in the skies. The instant that mysterious golden luster appeared,

the light on the entire tournament stage actually darkened. The drizzling rain in the sky instantly paused, and every single drop of rain remained in its descending state, unable to fall any further.

A strange vertical eye slowly opened on the void-like figure's forehead, and a light filled with the aura of life instantly illuminated the entire arena. Faintly, a glorious golden hammer appeared out of nowhere, then shattered into countless smaller hammers above the void-like figure. Then, these smaller hammers transformed into golden light, causing a golden halo to appear on the void-like figure's forehead.

Everything that was occurring seemed to slow down, but spider web-like cracks appeared within the air on the tournament stage wherever the golden light passed. It seemed as though space was going to cave in.

Even the Heavenfiend Douluo was left dumbstruck at this moment. This was because he clearly felt that his movements had uncontrollably slowed down. Not only that, but he felt his chest depress. Right after that, it seemed as though an enormous hammer had suddenly pounded his spiritual sea, instantly sending his mind into a field of white. The deepest part of his spiritual sea suddenly shook violently, making it seem as though all of his memories were able to burst apart,

This was the reaction of a Titled Douluo, and even he couldn't resist at all. This was because at that moment, the Heavenfiend Douluo Huang Jinxi simply didn't know how to block that mysterious golden light. Naturally, this was because he couldn't make a move to disturb the match as a referee.

Chapter 125.3: Yearning for the Mortal World

The golden halo spread out, signalling the start of Hongchen's Yearning. A whirlpool-shaped ray of reddish-golden light transformed into a flood that rained straight towards the void-like figure.

The reddish-golden light was filled with the clanging of metal and the toughness of ice. More terrifyingly, the air started to distort from its heat the moment it appeared. Various contradictory elements gathered together, forming a madness that was seemingly twisted and hysterical. Illuminated by the reddish-golden light of Hongchen's Yearning, the entire tournament stage seemingly transformed into a sea of magma.

However, it wasn't able to obstruct that golden ring of light from spreading outwards regardless of how strong it was. When the extremely soft ray of golden light passed through the violent, reddish-gold wave without any obstruction, it instantly reached the enormous figure of the reddish-gold toad, making it tremble violently. Right after that, the reddish-gold light suddenly collapsed, revealing Xiao Hongchen and Meng Hongchen's falling figures.

Before Hongchen's Yearning was even able to release a third of its power, it ended unexpectedly.

The siblings had blank looks on their faces, as though they had lost their sense of self, to the extent where they couldn't even control their descent from the sky. As they fell, snake-like wisps of blood started to surge out from Xiao Hongchen's seven apertures.

The terrifying Hongchen's Yearning had only lasted for a brief instant. Although it still filled the entire tournament stage, nothing happened afterwards.

However, it still couldn't be blocked so easily. The terrifying might caused by melting gold into steel landed, immediately causing the entire tournament stage to boil as though a volcano had erupted. The

madness of metal and the poison from the Vermillion Clear Icetoad, along with the fusion of ice and fire, caused the wide tournament stage to turn into a hell on earth.

The void-like figure was about to be swallowed up. At this moment, the Heavenfiend Douluo Huang Xujin hadn't woken up from the golden light's effect. This meant that he simply wouldn't be able to rescue them as a referee.

Elder Xuan already had one foot outstretched, but Wang Yan tugged on his sleeve just before he made a move.

"Wait."

Elder Xuan flew into a rage, "What should I be waiting for? For them to die?"

However, he suddenly quietened down after uttering these words. To his astonishment, he saw that the void-like figure didn't just resign itself to its fate in front of the surging Hongchen's Yearning. Instead, it floated backwards at a lightning-quick rate, revealing Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong's bodies again.

Under the eyes of the enormous audience, another mysterious change occurred to their bodies.

A bluish-gold pair of wings was once again unfurled, revealing the Radiant Butterfly Goddess. However, Huo Yuhao's shirt suddenly burst open, revealing the enormous tattoo of the Ice Jade Empress Scorpion. It seemed as though there was some kind of power that was trying to burst out from his swelling muscles, and the jade-green tail of the Ice Jade Empress Scorpion stretched all the way to his waist. Naturally, his buttocks couldn't be seen.

At this moment, the tattoo of the Ice Jade Empress Scorpion seemed to come alive. This was especially true for its crystal-yellow eyes, which emitted a wild aura that made it seem as though it was the only sovereign in the entire world.

In a situation like this, Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong once again hugged each other. They looked at each other for an instant, and everything else seemed to disappear, leaving only the other's determination in their eyes.

Huo Yuhao had two martial souls, which were the Spirit Eyes and the Ice Jade Empress Scorpion.

Wang Dong also had two martial souls, which were the Radiant Butterfly Goddess and the Clear Sky Hammer.

When the Spirit Eyes fused with the Radiant Butterfly Goddess, they could use their first fusion skill--A Golden Road Amidst Withering Resplendence.

When the Spirit Eyes fused with the Clear Sky Hammer, they could use what they had just used earlier--the golden ring of light that could cover over a hundred metres.

This was their third fusion skill, and it was called Mantra Amidst the Void, Spiritual Tempest.

The Spiritual Tempest was equivalent to taking the Clear Sky Hammer's most powerful attack and fusing it with Huo Yuhao's Spiritual Shock. Moreover, it was a large-scale attack, and possessed an attack power that was many times greater than that of the two aforementioned skills.

On the other hand, this fusion skill drained much less soul power than the other two. However, its demand on their spiritual power was extremely terrifying. Were it not for the fact that Huo Yuhao's spiritual sea had been strengthened immensely by the Life Gold, he would've immediately fainted after using it.

The Life Gold had opened Huo Yuhao's third eye, allowing Electrolux to sleep within it. However, Huo Yuhao didn't know that the place Electrolux had used the Life Gold to carve out for himself could be considered a second spiritual sea.

Other than their initial testing, this was the second time they had used the Spiritual Tempest. However, its power this time around had increased explosively due to Huo Yuhao's second spiritual sea. Combined with the Life Deprivation given to him by the Life Guardian, they were able to instantly interrupt Hongchen's Yearning.

These were the two fusion skills that could be used by combining Huo Yuhao's Spirit Eyes with either of Wang Dong's martial souls.

But what if it were the Ice Jade Empress Scorpion instead?

The fusion between the Ice Jade Empress Scorpion and the Clear Sky Hammer was the most powerful attack at Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong's disposal. Previously, even the Absolute Defense Barrier had been shattered by that attack, which was known as the Blaze Amidst the Frost, Heavenly Emperor's Hammer.

On the other hand, what Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong were using at this very moment was the last fusion skill at their disposal, the fusion between the two insect-type martial souls, that of the Ice Jade Empress Scorpion and the Radiant Butterfly Goddess.

In terms of pure offensive capabilities, this fusion skill wasn't as powerful as the Heavenly Emperor's Hammer. However, this was the only fusion skill that was controlled by Wang Dong. In terms of flexibility, this skill was comparable to that of the Heavenly Emperor's Hammer, which staked everything for a single, all-out attack.

A supernova that seemed as though a myriad rays of light had exploded spread out from Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong's bodies. This light was so intense that nobody dared to even look at it directly.

Even the surging Hongchen's Yearning was forced to slow down due to that intense light.

Right after that, the bluish-gold pair of wings started to spread outwards at an astonishing rate. Within the blink of an eye, they had already doubled in size.

Originally, the Radiant Butterfly Goddess only had a pair of front and rear wings. At this moment however, it now had a pair of jade-colored middle wings which were as transparent as a gem, and extremely alluring. An intense aura of life blossomed outwards, with a true essence of light and water. This dense aura of life complemented the aura of light extremely well.

As the dazzling pair of butterfly wings unfurled, the three colors of blue, gold, and green seemed to be embellished with countless rays of light. There seemed to be countless drops of water gently rolling around the butterfly wings, reflecting every single ray of light within their surroundings that could be reflected. Tens of thousands of rays of light shone forth, but layers of frost started to emanate from its feet, causing that slender figure to look ever so noble.

The frost quietly diffused, causing the surroundings to turn into a world of ice and snow. As the chilly aura started to spread out, an astonishing change occurred to Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong's fused body. A slender figure had noiselessly appeared amidst the three-colored halo of light.

This figure was a girl, a girl who had already matured. This girl was over 1.8 meters tall, and her slender figure looked extremely moving and thrilling.

She had a head full of bluish-pink hair which fell all the way to her feet. Her eyes were a brilliant gold, and even the word 'perfection' wasn't sufficient to describe her moving, slender body. Her perfect looks eclipsed every single other girl within the arena, and every ray of light and curve on her body fitted extremely well. Nobody could even describe the first thing they felt when seeing her, but every single man and woman in the arena was completely drawn to her.

In the next instant, she made a move. After taking a slight step forward with her left leg, the slender woman was now in midair. The three differently-colored wings on her back had carried her slender figure upwards into the air in a graceful and light manner.

A dense layer of frost started to spread from her feet, turning into small wisps that rose and spiralled around her.

At this moment, a small crack was carved open from the murky clouds in the sky. A ray of sunlight descended from the sky, passing through the tournament stage's defensive barrier before landing on her.

The golden ray of sunshine contrasted with her perfect looks that could overturn a city, making it seem as though a goddess was undergoing her rebirth on the tournament stage.

The flood brought about by Hongchen's Yearning had arrived, but just before it struck the slender figure, it suddenly split into two, then spiralled around her body.

She started dancing gracefully in midair, and every single step of hers was just that soft and perfect. Her moving complexion was filled with the light of life and hope, and the six butterfly wings on her back were the best decorations on her body. Bathed within the warm sunlight, she danced a Raiment of Light.

The beauty who had looks that could overturn a city didn't even seem to sense any danger coming towards her as she continued to dance alone within the faint frost. Her three differently-colored wings continued to stretch outwards and fold inwards, making her noble figure look even more dazzling and brilliant.

A faintly discernible set of golden characters quietly appeared on her forehead, but nobody was able to see them, as her dancing movements began to grow quicker and quicker.

That set of golden characters started to flicker with light, releasing a gentle light. Then, the strong undulations of spiritual power caused her to fall into a mysterious state.

While spiralling around the beauty's body, Hongchen's Yearning quietly collapsed. It was as though it had only appeared to supplement the appearance of the beauty who could overturn cities.

Even if the White Tiger Duke had an unwavering heart filled with determination, his eyes started to turn somewhat dull. He didn't dare to believe his own eyes and even questioned himself inwardly, Can such a beautiful woman even exist in this world?

The three-colored wings vanished, and that dazzling figure flew towards Xiao Hongchen and Meng Hongchen.

Chapter 126.1: Rainment of Light

It was at this moment that the audience finally took notice of them. There was no need to even mention how much of a miserable state the two siblings were in. Disregarding Xiao Hongchen, even Meng Honchen's mouth and nose were covered in bloodstains. They seemed to have come to their senses at this moment, but they couldn't do anything other than reveal the shock in their eyes.

Xiao Hongchen suddenly let out a muffled groan, and he directly fell to the floor. However, his eyes were actually filled with infatuation the moment before he collapsed.

However, Meng Hongchen's eyes were only filled with shock. She couldn't believe that the city-overthrowing beauty that made even her look inferior was created by a fusion skill.

The peerless beauty descended from the sky and swiftly landed in front of the duo, a chilly intent radiating from her golden eyes as she did so.

At this moment, Meng Hongchen was finally able to clearly see the characters on the peerless beauty's forehead. This character was clearly a trident, and it was very small, seemingly only an inch wide. Moreover, it quietly faded as the peerless beauty landed. However, it left behind a noble sense of awe on her forehead, though it had only existed for a brief moment.

"Goodbye." The young lady's red lips rose gently. With a gentle sweep of her wings, a three-colored halo of light immediately covered Xiao Hongchen and Meng Hongchen's bodies. However, it didn't seem to hurt them; it only sent their bodies off the tournament stage.

Meng Hongchen didn't try to resist it. Due to Xiao Hongchen's heavy injuries, Hongchen's Yearning had been unleashed using her own soul power only. Furthermore, after it was forcefully interrupted by Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong's Spiritual Storm, they were struck with a heavy backlash. At this moment, they truly didn't possess any fighting strength at all.

The tri-colored butterfly wings vanished, and the peerless beauty moved towards the very center of the tournament stage with a flash. A layer of frost formed wherever she passed.

Wang Yan observed everything from below the tournament stage with a flabbergasted look in his eyes. He murmured, "We, we won? Elder Xuan, we won! We're the champions, we're truly the champions!" His voice was trembling. When he uttered his last sentence, he was already shouting in a hysterical manner.

Elder Xuan was no calmer than Wang Yan. Every single wrinkle on his aged face seemed to be filled with vitality as he said, "They, just how did they do it? Was what they just used a fusion skill?"

"Right, right!" Wang Yan said excitedly, "I was the only person who they told about that last fusion skill. If I'm not mistaken, Huo Yuhao said that that fusion skill was produced when his Ice Jade Scorpion fused

with Wang Dong's Radiant Butterfly Goddess. It is called the Solitary Dance Amidst Frost, Raiment of Light. I didn't think that a fusion skill would be this, this beautiful! This is also the only fusion skill they possess which is controlled by Wang Dong."

"We've won." The peerless beauty landed right in front of the Heavenfiend Douluo.

However, this great referee still had a dazed look in his eyes as he looked at this young lady, whose age seemed to be in the double digits. His voice was clearly somewhat hoarse as he said, "Yes, you... you've won."

After speaking, Huang Heyun seemed to slip slightly. He was only able to regain his footing after stabilising himself.

Spiritual Storm wasn't just a pure spiritual-type attack, but an attack that could directly go through an opponent's spiritual sea to unceasingly attack their spirit by using various memories. It didn't do something as simple as destroying a target's spirit, but affected their consciousness.

Although Huang Heyun was a Titled Douluo, he had endured far, far too many things in his life. He had watched his close relatives and friends die one by one, and he had buried that pain deep in his heart. As he didn't make any preparations to block Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong's Spiritual Storm, Huang Heyun was affected much more than Xiao Hongchen and Meng Hongchen.

The tri-colored light vanished, and the peerless beauty once again turned into a bright, colorful halo. The halo of light quietly dissipated, revealing the two figures who were hugging each other.

They were extremely pale, and they were both supporting and nestling up against each other as they quietly stood there.

The tattoo of the Ice Jade Empress Scorpion on Huo Yuhao's back slowly faded away. However, Wang Dong had already fallen into a deep sleep against his chest. Only the golden trident on his forehead flickered quietly for a bit.

However, Huo Yuhao wasn't able to see all this. Although he was barely able to stand up while supporting Wang Dong, overexhausting his body had caused him to gradually lose all six of his senses. He only felt a patch of darkness surround him, but he didn't feel any regret; at this moment, he only felt excitement and happiness. His last memory was that of him tightly hugging Wang Dong while standing on the tournament stage of the finals of the Continental Advanced Academy Soul Duelling Tournament with his back straight.

At this exact moment, he felt as though his spiritual sea had been upgraded to a higher level amidst this happiness. Right after that, he didn't know what happened.

At this moment, an uproarious cheer completely covered the entire tournament stage. Every single member of the audience had reddened faces due to their excitement.

All of the waiting and hardships they had to endure were all worth it, in their opinion. The finals of this tournament could no longer be simply described using the word 'marvelous'. On the contrary, it was a classic that would be eternally engraved within their hearts!

This was especially so for the curtain call, with Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong releasing their fourth fusion skill. The city-overthrowing peerless beauty formed by their Solitary Dance Amidst the Frost, Raiment of Light had been deeply engraved in all of their hearts.

She was too beautiful, simply too beautiful. That was a type of beauty that simply didn't belong to the world of mortals.

Perhaps that was simply the descent of the Goddess of Light.

Every single person had a different definition of what a goddess was in their minds, but at this moment, that had all been replaced by the young lady who had been dancing alone amidst the frost. The figure of that peerless beauty had even been elevated to the level of worship in many of their hearts.

That figure possessed a combination of beauty and strength, and was the most dazzling figure within the fight. Everything that had just occurred was simply too astonishing.

The Heavenfiend Douluo Huang Jinxu forcefully took a deep breath, then forcefully shoved the scenes which were unceasingly flickering through his mind to the depths of his spiritual sea. He said loudly, "The 2-2-3 match has ended, and the winner is Shrek Academy. This year's Continental Advanced Academy Soul Duelling Tournament has come to an end. The final winner is the representative team from Shrek Academy!"

The sounds of cheering were brought to a peak following his announcement. The entirety of the Star Luo Plaza was now boiling, and even many of the aristocrats and ministers who stood on the city walls couldn't help but yell out.

Chapter 126.2: Raiment of Light

The Star Luo Emperor, Xu Jiawei, had a somewhat flushed expression as well, as he was also extremely excited. The image of that empire-overthrowing beauty had been embedded in the depths of his heart as well!

The White Tiger Duke was much calmer than him. He began to mutter to himself as he looked at the pair of youths who were embracing each other, "A willpower as tough as steel. They'll definitely become very useful in the future."

The entire plaza had already turned into a sea of boiling emotions. Due to the heavy injuries suffered by both participating teams, the awards ceremony had to be delayed.

The Taotie Douluo, Elder Xuan, had already appeared by the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy, blocking their path forward.

"None of you are allowed to leave. Dispel the poison inflicted on my disciples first." Elder Xuan had a very cold and solemn gaze in his eyes, and he still held Ma Xiaotao, who was flickering with the flames of the Dark Phoenix, in his embrace.

The teacher in charge of the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy was still somewhat confused about the entire matter. Since everything had happened so quickly, he didn't know just how they had lost the final match that they were originally guaranteed to win. The instant he saw that peerless beauty take the stage, Xiao Hongchen and Meng Hongchen were sent down from the stage.

Why had Wang Dong and Huo Yuhao not hurt Meng Hongchen? This was because they wanted her to dispel the poison in their teammates' bodies.

"Did you not hear what I just said?" As he speaking, Elder Xuan made a grabbing motion towards Meng Hongchen.

"Wait a moment." The teacher in charge hurriedly blocked the path to Meng Hongchen. If possible, he truly wanted to resist Elder Xuan; he truly didn't wish to allow the absolutely astonishing members of Shrek Academy to continue living.

The higher the hopes one had toward a certain thing, the larger the disappointment would be if one failed to achieve it. The pain he currently felt was similar to that of falling down from a tall mountain. He had to stay strong as the teacher in charge of his team, but he couldn't.

He didn't dare, he truly didn't dare to obstruct Elder Xuan at this moment. Xiao Hongchen was now unconscious, while Meng Hongchen had suffered heavy injuries. If he couldn't bring them back, he wouldn't face a consequence as simple as losing his own life. Even his family would be implicated in this matter.

"Elder Xuan, this is only a competition. I'll dispel the poison in your student's bodies." The teacher in charge forcefully suppressed the grief he felt in his heart and enunciated each word carefully.

Elder Xuan nodded and said coldly, "That'd be for the best. Also, give me that sword that Ma Rulong used earlier."

The teacher's expression immediately changed, "That won't be possible. That's a Class 8 soul tool that our Sun Moon Empire's Illustrious Virtue Hall forged. Its value is inestimable."

"Let me ask you this. Are you going to give it, or not?" Elder Xuan's voice was as cold and tough as ever, and he didn't release any pressure either. However, his mere question caused the teacher to start sweating to the point where his shirt was drenched.

Elder Xuan didn't look at him, but the unconscious Xiao Hongchen.

The teacher's voice trembled somewhat as he said, "Elder Xuan, you are but a Transcendent Douluo. Don't tell me that you are going to bully the weak and make things difficult for us of the younger generation?"

Elder Xuan said indifferently, "This old man disdains to do something like that, but you too have seen what has happened to the child in my hands. Xiaotao was affected by that soul tool of yours, causing a variation to her martial soul. It's hard to say whether she'll even be able to continue living. I won't bully the weak; I'll find that old fellow from the Illustrious Virtue Hall to explain things to him. These two kids should be his grandkids. I'll bring them back to Shrek Academy, and you can call that old bastard of yours to find me in Shrek Academy." With that, he made a grabbing motion towards the unconscious Xiao Hongchen.

"Don't, I'll... I'll give you what you want." The teacher in charge of the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy nearly shattered the steel teeth in his mouth. How could he dare to let Elder Xuan take Xiao Hongchen and Meng Hongchen away?! If they were brought back to Shrek Academy, would

they even be able to come back in one piece? When compared to the Judgement Sword, the Hongchen siblings were clearly much more important to the Sun Moon empire.

The Judgement Sword quickly fell into Elder Xuan's hands. Supervised by Elder Xuan, Meng Hongchen had no choice but to recover her soul power using a Milk Bottle and save the people who had fallen unconscious due to the Vermillion Clear Icetoad's venom whilst she was in an extremely exhausted state. Fortunately, due to the fact that Michael had been struck by Bei Bei's Clustered Soulchasing Balls, she didn't make any vicious moves for fear of letting her teammate die of poisoning. Otherwise, the poison of her Vermillion Clear Icetoad could've been fatal.

In the end, Elder Xuan left the other party with a bit of face. At the very least, he let the awakened Bei Bei dispel Michael's poison, and helped dispel the poison from the Oxhair Needle.

Only then did both parties settle the various issues that had resulted from the match. Naturally, this was only on the surface. As for any repercussions which would occur as a result of this, they didn't bother caring about them for the time being.

The fervent atmosphere in the Star Luo Plaza lasted for several hours. Due to the several thousand soldiers maintaining order within the city, the common folk gradually dispersed.

For the sake of ending the crowded condition of the Star Luo Plaza, the Star Luo Emperor made a decree stating that the awards ceremony would not be open for public viewing.

With this decree sent out, the common folk of Star Luo City began to leave. After all, a large majority of them didn't stay in the city itself. Moreover, the cramped conditions in the city had caused commodity prices to rise to a terrifying level. Without anything nice to see, would there be any meaning left in staying there?

Due to the astonishing performances of Shrek Academy and the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy in the finals, the defenses of the Grand Imperial Star Hotel had been strengthened threefold. This was done to keep the masses from charging right into it as a result of their surging emotions.

However, Huo Yuhao didn't know about any of this.

By the time he woke up from his coma, it was already the afternoon of the day after.

"How uncomfortable." Coughing, Huo Yuhao gradually woke up from his deep sleep, his eyes still somewhat dazed. He only felt his entire body go soft, as though all of his energy had been sucked away. Not only that, but all of his muscles were in an extremely sore state. Even after sleeping for so long, he didn't seem to have any signs of recovering his soul power.

"This feeling of having everything sucked out from my body is really uncomfortable!" Huo Yuhao wasn't feeling anxious at all. As his consciousness gradually recovered, he discovered that although he had severely over-exhausted his body, he felt extraordinarily clear-headed after waking up. The memories of everything that had just occurred were clearly returning to him after he woke up, and he quickly remembered him and Wang Dong defeating their opponents in the finals.

"We should've won. We're the final champions. We've protected Shrek Academy's glory!" His excitement caused his eyes to gradually light up. The current Huo Yuhao had just noticed that something had changed in his spiritual sea.

As he gazed deep into himself, he was immediately overjoyed. His spiritual sea had increased in size by 25% at the very least. Not only that, but his spiritual power had become more condensed, and even the golden lights in his spiritual sea had brightened somewhat.

At this exact moment, a figure suddenly appeared in Huo Yuhao's mind. It had a head of pinkish-blue long hair, a set of golden eyes, and peerless looks, as well as a faintly discernible golden trident.

She, was she really the descent of the Radiant Goddess?

Chapter 127.1: The End of the Tournament and the Awards!

The dancing figure kept on drifting into his mind. Huo Yuhao had a dazed look in his eyes.

The figure's long pinkish-blue hair was the same color as Wang Dong's. He couldn't help but recall the time when they unleashed the Heavenly Emperor's Hammer together. The fusion of their martial souls then projected his adult figure that unleashed an extremely powerful blow. Huo Yuhao still clearly recalled the strength of that blow. It was an amazing feeling.

But why did the Rainment of Light turn into a ravishing beauty? Did the Radiant Butterfly Goddess descend? That didn't seem too possible either.

As Wang Dong was the one who controlled that martial fusion soul skill, Huo Yuhao's impression of it wasn't very deep. Wang Dong had even lost consciousness after the attack.

Right, how was Wang Dong now? Both of them had over-drafted their powers, and Huo Yuhao immediately thought of Wang Dong as he recalled everything that had happened before. He suddenly became anxious.

Although his body was depleted, he was only fatigued. With the Life Gold nourishing him and his own extraordinary life power, his body recovered quickly after he rested for a day.

But Huo Yuhao still found it difficult to move. He couldn't go and find Wang Dong even if he wanted to. He could only calm himself down and use the Mysterious Heaven Technique to restore his soul power.

The Mysterious Heaven Technique was very effective in healing and recovery. When it was initially activated, Huo Yuhao could only sense according to how he cultivated normally because he had no excess soul power.

However, a tinge of soul power seemed to be squeezed out from his limbs after three days. They started to be activated.

Everything was different when he had soul power. Huo Yuhao sat up, albeit with difficulty. He focused his mind and attention on activating his soul power.

The Mysterious Heaven Technique didn't just restore his power. It also nourished his body. The sore feeling he felt was also alleviated as his soul power was activated. But Huo Yuhao didn't see the Eye of Life opening on his forehead. The dim green that contained a life aura nourished his entire body quietly.

When he awoke from his cultivation, it was already dark outside. It was already evening.

After he stretched, Huo Yuhao made a surprising discovery. His soul power had increased once again and was now quite close to Rank 29. This had something to do with his effort in cultivation, but more importantly, his potential was stimulated by that life and death situation.

But he couldn't be bothered about his delight now. There were too many things on his mind. He jumped out of bed and changed his clothes. He didn't even wash up before he rushed out of his room.

Huo Yuhao subconsciously wanted to go to Wang Dong's room. But he soon realized that there were more important things. That's why he went to knock on Wang Yan's door directly.

Huo Yuhao realized that Teacher Wang had black circles all over his eyes when the door opened. He looked very lethargic, as if he had yet to wake up.

"Teacher Wang, you..."

"Yuhao? You're fine already? How's your body?" Wang Yan was jolted awake seeing that it was him.

Huo Yuhao hurriedly asked, "Teacher Wang, how's my elder sister? The black flames..."

Wang Yan creased his brows and said in a deep voice, "Troublesome. We became the eventual champions after the tournament ended yesterday. After we returned, Elder Xuan started to help Xiaotao suppress the black flames. Although the overall strength of the black flames can't compare to Elder Xuan, they're very resilient. They managed to free themselves even though Elder Xuan suppressed them a few times. Xiaotao's awareness still remains unclear. The trouble is indeed quite great now! We must return to the academy once we collect our prize. We need to treat her using the academy's resources. Come in first."

As he spoke, Wang Yan allowed Huo Yuhao into the room.

Wang Yan's room was a little messy. The curtains were still drawn, and it was obvious that he had been resting before Huo Yuhao came. He was too exhausted. As the teacher in charge of this tournament, he was under greater pressure than anyone else. He felt as if his body was going to collapse after he became more relaxed following the excitement of being crowned champions. After settling a few matters when he returned, he collapsed onto his bed. He tried to crawl out of bed a few times, as he was worried about his students' condition. That was why he looked so exhausted now. Without some adjustment, he wouldn't be able to restore himself to his peak state. But this experience was still very precious to Wang Yan. He became a much more outstanding teacher in terms of experience, mentality and some other subtle aspects.

Wang Yan allowed Huo Yuhao to take a seat and poured a glass of water for him. "Your body is already fine?" he asked.

Huo Yuhao didn't stand on ceremony, and downed the glass of water. He replied, "I'm already fine. I was just exhausted. Teacher Wang, will elder sister's martial soul turn into an evil martial soul?"

He was the most familiar with Ma Xiaotao's Evil Phoenix among everyone. While the evil aura of the original phoenix flames was very obvious, it was suppressed by the phoenix flames. But Huo Yuhao could no longer feel the nobility of the phoenix flames when Ma Xiaotao's martial soul transformed. It was only left with desperation and violence. This shouldn't resemble a normal soul master's martial soul.

Wang Yan wore a bitter look. "If the black flames can't be completely suppressed, she may become an evil soul master. She'll even become an extremely powerful one. Elder Xuan mentioned that Xiaotao's soul power reached Rank 70 after the phoenix flames turned black. After she obtains seven rings, there's likely to be another increase. Elder Xuan is also unclear about how much it can potentially increase. But we'll definitely hope that Xiaotao won't become an evil soul master. Her awareness will be consumed by the evil darkness. When that happens, she won't be the original Ma Xiaotao anymore. She'll be an evil Dark Phoenix."

Huo Yuhao was shocked as he said, "What should we do then? Elder sister..."

Wang Yan sighed and shook his head. He replied, "At least, we have no solution now. We can only see after we return to the academy. Elder Xuan has already brought Xiaotao back to the academy. He will come back to fetch us after that."

Huo Yuhao heaved a sigh of relief after he heard that Ma Xiaotao had returned to the academy. He had great belief in the academy. He only asked out of curiosity, "Teacher Wang, why do we need Elder Xuan to fetch us? Can't we go back ourselves? Our injuries aren't too bad."

Wang Yan looked at him with a deep gaze and said, "Yuhao, you can't leave the academy for some time after we return this time. You can't even leave during the holidays. After becoming champions of this tournament, all of you have gone into the spotlight and have become others' targets. What if someone wants to harm all of you? The academy is only being cautious. Did you forget the Body Sect?"

Huo Yuhao opened his eyes wide. "Are you saying that someone will..."

Wang Yan nodded and replied, "We can't exclude that possibility. Those fellows won't act recklessly with Elder Xuan around. Don't ever underestimate the evilness of this world. All of you are already so outstanding at such a young age. What about 10, 20 years later? Our rivals won't want to see all of you reach the stage where you become threats to them."

Huo Yuhao furrowed his brows. Although he wasn't old, he was much more mature than others of the same age. He understood Wang Yan immediately.

"Teacher Wang, how's Wang Dong?"

Wang Yan said, "His condition is quite stable. Like you, his body was over-drafted. Both of you gave your all in the final. Honestly, your martial soul fusion skills shocked everyone. This is the first time in the continent's history where 2 twin martial souls managed to unleash 4 martial soul fusion skills. You must both be more aware of your safety precisely because of this. Alright, go take a look at him. Just get whatever you want to eat from the hotel. You're a star now." A comforted smile appeared on his face after he finished speaking. The way he looked at Huo Yuhao was like how he was looking at his own kid.

Huo Yuhao always had Wang Dong's room key, just like how Wang Dong would walk in and out of his room freely.

Huo Yuhao walked into the room after opening the door.

Wang Dong was still asleep. His entire body was covered by a warm blanket, and only his pale face was revealed.

His short pinkish-blue hair was very messy as his head lay down on the pillow. His charming face appeared much gentler.

Huo Yuhao sat by the bedside and couldn't help but pinch his face. He lowered his head and went closer to him before muttering, "He looks exactly the same!"

Yes! Whether it was the hair color or the facial outline, Wang Dong and the lady's figure were the same. But he was much more innocent, and lacked the lady's charm.

Huo Yuhao was extremely close to Wang Dong because he was analyzing Wang Dong's face. At this point, he felt soft hair brushing across his face. A pair of blue eyes appeared in front of him. The long and curly eyelashes trembled a little because they had been slightly touched.

"Ah, you're awake?" Huo Yuhao was shocked and straightened his back. For some reason, his heartbeat rapidly increased as he was watched by the huge eyes.

Wang Dong snapped, "You dare to pinch my face. You wait..."

Huo Yuhao chortled, "You were already awake? Why didn't you say anything when I came in then?"

Chapter 127.2: The End of the Tournament and the Awards!

Wang Dong snorted and replied, "Why must I make any sound? I wanted to see what you were up to. Indeed, I discovered your intention!"

Huo Yuhao chortled and said, "Whatever. Wang Dong, aren't you extremely weak now, and can't use any of your energy?"

Although Wang Dong was awake, his voice was very weak. His condition was just like Huo Yuhao when he just woke up.

Wang Dong rolled his eyes and said, "Do you think everyone is as fit as you?"

Huo Yuhao laughed teasingly, "It's good that you're weak too. What can you do if I pinch your face?" As he said, he used both his hands to pinch Wang Dong's face. He even twisted his cheeks a few times.

Wang Dong's charming face was twisted till a weird shape was formed. Even his lips couldn't help but pout.

"You, you rascal..." Wang Dong spoke unclearly.

Huo Yuhao relaxed his grip on Wang Dong's face before patting his neck. He said, "You should behave yourself more since you're already so weak. Haha, I'm enjoying this feeling."

Wang Dong was furious till his face turned red. He glared at Huo Yuhao, but a slight laughing intent flashed across the depths of his eyes subconsciously.

The Continental Advanced Soul Master Academy Soul Dueling Tournament had finally concluded, and they had managed to defend Shrek's glory. They were even the ones who had decided victory in the final.

They were much more relaxed now that the intense tournament was over. That's why Huo Yuhao had behaved in this way now.

Huo Yuhao saw Wang Dong smiling too, but he was trying to conceal his smile.

"Wang Dong, aren't we the best?"

Wang Dong was stunned as he looked into his eyes. The fury on his face disappeared, and he nodded slightly. "Yes, we are. We're the champions."

Huo Yuhao smiled brightly, but tears started to appear in his eyes. He bent his waist suddenly and crawled up to Wang Dong's body before hugging him tightly.

"Thanks, Wang Dong."

Wang Dong was in a daze. He could sense Huo Yuhao's sudden emotional outburst, but he didn't know what to do or say at this moment. But he stretched out his arms slowly. Though he was weak, he still managed to hug Huo Yuhao's back.

Huo Yuhao muttered, "From the day I left the Duke's Mansion, I swore to avenge my mother when I returned. I must be stronger than all of them, and make them pay the price for the torment my mother bore for more than 10 years. I even wanted to end the Duke's bloodline."

"I didn't realize how childish this mentality was then."

"I met eldest senior and Teacher Xiao Ya in Star Dou Forest. I only realized how small and weak I was after I entered Shrek Academy. I worked so hard to fulfil the stubborn desire I had. However, I realized how impractical it was the more things I learned. I'm just a weak orphan compared to the Duke's Mansion. I can't threaten them in the slightest."

"There was even a period of time when I was filled with desolation. I didn't think I stood a chance in my life anymore. It was you and everyone that made me feel warm. I'm really fortunate to have met Teacher Xiao Ya and eldest senior. I'm even more fortunate to have met you. It's all of you that enabled me to join Shrek's big family. It's all of you that made me feel the warmth and friendship I never felt when I was younger."

"We came hand-in-hand to the Continental Advanced Soul Master Academy Soul Dueling Tournament, and even obtained the championship. From that moment onwards, I realized that not everything is possible because of hard work. Wang Dong, thanks for giving me courage and helping to become stronger. You'll always be my best brother."

After listening to Huo Yuhao's words, Wang Dong's gaze turned extremely gentle. Even his arms developed more strength to hug Huo Yuhao tighter.

The two of them maintained this position for a few minutes, while one side of Wang Dong's pillow was drenched by Huo Yuhao's flowing tears.

"Hey... you're crushing me." After a long while, Wang Dong finally managed to squeeze these words out of his mouth.

Huo Yuhao bounced up unwittingly, but only saw Wang Dong smiling at him. Seeing his charming face, Huo Yuhao couldn't help but pinch his face again.

"Wang Dong, how great it would be if you were a girl just like the appearance of the Rainment of Light revealed that day." Huo Yuhao said.

Wang Dong's face turned red, and he answered, "Even if I'm a girl, what has that got to do with you?"

A few teardrops still continued to cling to Huo Yuhao's face, but he didn't even realize, and chuckled, "Of course it concerns me. Then I'll cling onto you shamelessly. Elder Xu said that a good girl is afraid of clingy guys, and that he'll manage to win over Jiang Nannan one day. Oh yes, do you have a sister at home? You can introduce her to me. It's better to benefit someone you know than outsiders."

"Pui!" Wang Dong's face turned red, but he didn't turn to look at Huo Yuhao.

Huo Yuhao thought that he was angry, and said hurriedly, "I'm just kidding. Don't take it for real!"

Wang Dong twisted his head suddenly, "What do you mean by that? You can't take back your words. Let me tell you, I really have an elder sister."

"What?" Huo Yuhao's eyes opened wide as he looked at him, "Is that for real?"

"Of course it's real," Wang Dong said seriously, "I have an older twin sister. She was born 2 hours earlier than me. If you really want to know her, I can introduce you to her. She's in another academy now. That's because my family is worried about her being too far due to her gender and her beautiful looks. But my elder sister's martial soul is just like mine. Our Shrek Academy allows outstanding individuals to join the inner courtyard test. Maybe my elder sister will join too when we take the test a few years later. I can introduce you to her then?"

Huo Yuhao was stunned as he looked at Wang Dong, "Older twin sister? Does that mean she looks just like you?"

Wang Dong rolled his eyes and said, "Obviously. How can we be twins if we don't look alike? I believe she'll look just like the appearance of the Rainment of Light that we displayed that day. Why? Are you moved? If you listen to me, I can consider introducing her to you."

Huo Yuhao chuckled before shaking his head. He said, "Forget it. If your sister is so pretty, why would she fall for me? I was just kidding. That Rainment of Light was indeed ravishing."

Wang Dong snapped, "Don't underestimate yourself. Do you still think that you're lousy? Twin martial souls, ultimate martial soul. A member of the Continental Advanced Soul Master Academy Soul Dueling Tournament champions. You're even a main driving force of the team. Who are you lousier than among those of the same age? Of course, even I am a little off from you too."

Huo Yuhao was stunned for a moment. Yes! Who was he inferior to? After he questioned himself, he discovered it was difficult to answer his own question.

Wang Dong was cross as he said, "Stop spacing out. Help me recover. Are you still human? You only know how to bully me, but not help me recover my strength."

“Oh, oh, okay.” Huo Yuhao rushed to grab both his hands. He slowly injected his Mysterious Heaven Technique soul power into Wang Dong’s body.

Wang Dong was equally exhausted, but his passageways were resilient. They didn’t show any signs of damage.

The nourishing effect of the Mysterious Heaven Technique’s soul power was extremely great. Along with Huo Yuhao’s life aura in his soul power, Wang Dong restored his soul power very quickly. The Haodong Power even managed to start circulating again.

The two of them worked together and used less than 2 hours. When the sky outside turned dark, Wang Dong’s soul power had almost been fully restored. He was no longer in a weakened state.

Huo Yuhao let go of Wang Dong’s hands as he let out a long breath, “Alright, you should be much comfortable now. Let’s stop cultivating today and have a good rest. Let’s go and have some food.”

Wang Dong sat up suddenly, and he quickly used his hands to pinch Huo Yuhao’s cheeks. He revealed a cheeky look on his face after he twisted Huo Yuhao’s cheeks.

Huo Yuhao didn’t resist, and let Wang Dong pinch him. “Your petty mentality is too great.”

Wang Dong opened his eyes wide and increased his strength, “My petty mentality is too great? Who’s the one who started it? I shall pinch you.”

Huo Yuhao screamed in pain, “I didn’t use so much force. If you don’t stop, I’m going to retaliate!”

As he spoke, both his hands had already reached below Wang Dong’s armpits.

“No...” Wang Dong laughed loudly.

The two of them were continued to have fun in their room.

Shrek Academy. Sea God’s Island. Sea God’s Pavilion. In a quiet chamber.

Ma Xiaotao lay on a smooth, white bed. The black flames that kept on coming out from her body had disappeared, but she still looked extremely pale. Her face even flashed with a layer of black gas at times.

A golden light barrier covered this bed. It seemed as if Ma Xiaotao had been sealed.

There were two people standing at her bedside. On the left was the Shrek Academy’s Martial Soul Department’s dean, Yan Shaozhe. Beside him was an elder in his declining years.

The elder seemed unable to straighten his back. Although he stood there, his body seemed to be bent at a 90-degree angle. He held a crutch with both his hands, with which supported his body.

Yan Shaozhe wore a serious look as he looked at Ma Xiaotao and said in a deep voice, “Teacher, I think this is just a temporary measure even though we used the Manifold Mysterious Ice Bed and your power of light to seal Ma Xiaotao’s Dark Phoenix flames. Those Dark Phoenix flames are extremely domineering. Once they break free from the restraints, things will get messy. Xiaotao’s senses will also...”

Chapter 127.3: The End of the Tournament and the Awards!

This elder was Shrek Academy's Master of the Sea God's Pavilion and the most powerful person in Shrek Academy—Elder Mu.

No wonder he always laid down in a recliner chair. He had an unmentionable disease that prevented his back from straightening. Who would have expected that he possessed the powers of a Transcendent Douluo? He even had a respectable status.

Elder Mu said, "You're right. It's also my first time seeing this Dark Phoenix flame. I also took a look at the sword that Little Xuan (Elder Xuan) passed to me. What a Judgement Sword. It can actually turn any soul power to the powers of light and darkness at will. My estimates of soul tools are already very great, but who could have expected that the Sun Moon Empire's development in this aspect was even beyond my imagination?"

"Xiaotao's martial soul experienced a transformation because that Judgement Sword's power of darkness could enter her body and stimulate the evil aura that was suppressed. They complemented each other and took control of her body. Xiaotao resisted with her resilience and fought for control of her own body. Although the will of the evil force is extremely strong, she still has a fire-type body. A huge collision occurred between both parties in her body."

"Xiaotao is a very resilient person. She doesn't bend. I can imagine how she was willing to perish alongside the other party when that came along. Although she was obviously inferior, she managed to force the power of darkness and evil to compromise. They stopped clashing with her and infused into the phoenix flames directly, hoping to assimilate her. Xiaotao also used the transformation time to unleash an obstinate blow and achieved victory."

"You're right about one point. The greater the suppression, the greater the backlash. After the evil will and power of darkness were infused into the phoenix flames, they initiated a mad transformation. I'm also unclear on the details, but not everything's bad."

Upon hearing Elder Mu's words, Yan Shaozhe was shocked. "Teacher, isn't this bad enough? If we didn't control Xiaotao, she would've become an evil soul master!"

Elder Mu tilted his head and glanced at him. He furrowed his brows before saying, "You're almost a hundred too. Why're you still so surprised by things? You're good in other aspects, but your character is flawed. Otherwise, I wouldn't have asked Lin'er to restrict your authority."

Yan Shaozhe was petrified and answered respectfully, "Yes, Teacher. I was wrong."

"It's good that you know you're wrong," Elder Mu said indifferently, "you must be calm in dealing with matters. There are always two sides to a coin. Yes, Xiaotao's phoenix flames did get contaminated and can't suppress the evilness within like in the past. But the power of darkness can stimulate the most primitive power of her phoenix flames. Otherwise, how could these black flames be so powerful?"

Yan Shaozhe was also very powerful, and had the cultivation of a Transcendent Douluo. He also spent his life immersed in the study of martial souls. After hearing Elder Mu's words, he understood, "Teacher, are you saying that Xiaotao's Evil Phoenix has evolved following this transformation?"

Elder Mu nodded and replied, "That's right. It didn't just evolve. It evolved completely too. Besides the fact that she can't control it, I dare to claim that her flames are the strongest existence of fire currently. In other words, they've formed the Ultimate Fire."

"Phoenix flames form Ultimate Fire naturally, but the evil aura in Xiaotao's body prevented the flames from being pure. Her lineage has always experienced this problem. The transformation in her martial soul has initiated the power of her phoenix's primitive bloodline. Although it has turned into a Dark Phoenix, its powers are still very great. If Xiaotao were awake, she could fight an ordinary Titled Douluo with her seven-ringed cultivation right now."

Yan Shaozhe's eyes flashed with radiance. "Ultimate Fire. It's indeed the Ultimate Fire. However, it's a pity that Xiaotao can't control her Ultimate Fire in her current condition!"

Elder Mu sighed, "That's why I say that there are two sides to a coin. We can only seal her here for now. Otherwise, she may become the strongest evil soul master in the continent's history if she loses control. Once her cultivation reaches a Titled Douluo's level, it'll be difficult to suppress her anymore. The development of evil soul masters has always been very frightening."

Yan Shaozhe said with a look of worry, "But we can't just leave her like that. I can feel the Dark Phoenix's flames growing in her body. There'll be a day when we can't suppress it anymore. Once that day comes, will we really have to..."

Elder Mu shook his head and said, "Don't be too anxious. It's not entirely hopeless yet. We can't be hasty right now."

Yan Shaozhe was stunned for a while. "Teacher, you have a solution?"

Elder Mu whispered something.

Yan Shaozhe nodded repeatedly after hearing his words and became more relieved, "We can only do it this way since this is the case. When the time comes, I'll be the bad guy. We have no choice anyway."

Elder Mu said, "The other kids are almost back. I can't believe they were able to defend Shrek's glory even though they were so much weaker. Their achievements are beyond conceivable. After this experience, they will have a lot of room to improve. The academy will also not be stingy with them for what they've contributed."

Yan Shaozhe was moved, "Teacher, don't worry. We shall reward them according to what we discussed. When Wang Yan returns and relates the entire tournament process, I will record everything into the academy's history books, and they will be accorded with unprecedented rewards."

Star Luo City also regained its peace after the tournament ended.

The prize ceremony wasn't made public, and it wasn't grand either. But the prizes were top-quality.

The runners-up, the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy, left Star Luo City on the second day after the tournament ended under the charge of their teacher and returned to the Sun Moon Empire.

Shrek Academy waited one more day for Elder Xuan. Besides receiving gold soul coins, they were also given 4 soul bones as their prize. They were offered the Ice Jade Scorpion Left Arm Bone apart from the 3 soul bones normally given to the champions.

The Star Luo Emperor Xu Jiawei wanted to invite Elder Xuan to choose from the imperial treasury, but he was declined by Elder Xuan. As the strongest individual from Shrek Academy that revealed himself to the external world, he didn't want to have too much to do with the Star Luo Empire. Wang Yan represented the academy to make the choice eventually. He understood his students sufficiently well, and his discernment of soul bones wasn't inferior to Elder Xuan either.

The Star Luo Emperor felt the pinch with his final choice, but he was helpless too.

The value of the 3 soul bones couldn't just be measured using money anymore. The pressure brought about by the tournament prizes was also one of the reasons why the tournament was organized by a different empire every time. All semifinalists were awarded prizes, but only the champion was given 3 soul bones, and the runners-up were given 1 soul bone.

The soul bones had no lives on their own; they could only exert their effects when they were absorbed. That was why empires and sects often gave their soul bones directly to their outstanding successors. The greatest difference between a soul bone and soul ring was that a soul bone remained after a soul master perished, but a soul ring disappeared.

Soul masters had been around for several ten thousands of years. Although soul bones could be accumulated, there were far less of them than soul masters. More importantly, the world of soul masters had gradually developed a method to synthesize soul bones through research. This was because of the increasing demand for soul bones. If not for the rapid development of soul tools and the conflict between the Sun Moon & Douluo Continents, the most advanced research in the Douluo Continent would probably be in the synthesis of soul bones.

The so-called synthesis of soul bones referred to combining a few pieces of related soul bones using a special method. This would form a brand-new soul bone. The synthesized soul bone was likely to be more powerful, but they would also be damaged in half of all instances.

There were very few people who dared to synthesize soul bones because of how valuable soul bones were.

When Huo Yuhao fused with the Ice Empress' skeleton, he had used a Secret Law soul bone. It was considered a type of soul bone synthesis. But because the Ice Empress' skeleton was too powerful and the synthesis was even controlled directly by the Ice Empress, there was no way that it could have failed.

Elder Xuan only took a day to make the round trip between Star Luo City and Shrek Academy. He didn't allow Wang Yan to allocate the 4 pieces of soul bones, but paid for Shrek's expenditures in the Starlight Auctionplace first. After that, he instructed everyone to pack up and return to Shrek Academy. He could only relax once they were back in the academy.

Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong had fully recovered. Bei Bei, Ling Luochen and Dai Yueheng were also fine after they dispelled their poison. Jiang Nannan's injury, however, wasn't light, and she was still in the process of recovery. Xu Sanshi was the most heavily injured one. He only woke up after 2 days in a coma. But he was still so weak that it was difficult for him to speak, and would need some time to recuperate.

Elder Xuan returned from Shrek Academy and brought sufficient flying-type soul tools. He led everyone personally just like the previous time. He unleashed his soul power to protect both Xu Sanshi and Jiang Nannan. The rest used the flying-type soul tools to fly just like they had when they left the academy.

On the second morning after they collected their prize, everyone from Shrek changed into ordinary attire. Without alerting the Star Luo Empire's officials, they snuck out of Star Luo City and flew towards Shrek Academy. It was time to return home! The anxiety that they had felt when they first came had turned into pride and glory.

[Chapter 128: The Light of the Seagods Pavillion](#)

The Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy's Illustrious Virtue Hall.

This was a spacious great hall, and every decoration was styled with metal, and were mainly pale-gold in color. The ornaments weren't extravagant, but they were full of tactile qualities. A horizontal inscribed board hung from the top of the great hall's entrance, and the enormous pale-gold characters had an intimidating feeling about them – Illustrious Virtue Hall.

"Stand up." There was a person sitting in a chair in the center of the great hall's inner regions. He looked not more than forty years of age, and he wasn't tall, yet he was robust. A simpler way of explaining his appearance would be that he was short and plump.

Long hair wasn't suitable for a person with a short and plump build, but he had a flowing lock of long reddish-brown hair that draped behind his head, and this made his short and thick neck even more obscure.

There was a person prostrate on the ground, and he stood up at this moment as if he had just received great amnesty.

"Please punish me, Hallmaster. I failed to lead the team to success." This person's appearance became apparent once he stood up; it was the teacher that had led the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy's students into the finals. However, his face was overcome with a haze of terror, and it appeared as if he was as frightened as he could possibly be.

The short and plump middle-aged man was actually the Illustrious Virtue Hall's famous Hallmaster, and that meant he was also Xiao Hongchen and Meng Hongchen's grandfather. One wouldn't be able to tell his age purely from his appearance.

"You didn't do anything wrong. There were many coincidences and unforeseen circumstances that you couldn't control. Furthermore, you and your students' takeaways have been relatively fruitful even though a few people perished. As for the Judgment Sword, I will personally visit Shrek Academy, as we can't let it end up in their hands. The grand competition's results actually turned out to be disappointing, but I cannot be bothered with defeating Shrek Academy when they are having some internal issues."

The Hallmaster's magnanimity and mercy took the teacher in charge by surprise, as the Hallmaster's temper wasn't so mellow if memory served. He raised his head and stole a glimpse, and he realized that there was a faint smile on the Hallmaster's pudgy face, as if he wasn't furious at all.

"Thank you, Hallmaster." Only then did the teacher in charge dare to heave a sigh of relief.

The Hallmaster's mood seemed to be on cloud nine. "Do you know which of your harvests I'm most satisfied with?"

The teacher-in-charge tested the waters and said, "Is it because of the hundred thousand year soul beast embryo?"

The Hallmaster shook his head and answered, "No. That may be part of the harvest, but we have also given up large amounts of wealth, so that can only be said to be a fair exchange. Of course, the embryo in our hands is different from the embryo ending up in other people's hands, but it has also brought much trouble to us. There have already been three batches of people who have attempted to steal it from the Illustrious Virtue Hall, and this exemplifies the crime of treasuring a cherished item. Furthermore, there's still the Godsealing Avatar. The Godsealing Avatar isn't worth much amongst the other Class 9 soul tools, but it can only be forged by Class 9 soul engineers. I do want to know which Class 9 soul engineer from the Sun Moon Empire sold this supreme treasure to the Star Luo Empire instead of handing it over to the Illustrious Virtue Hall."

A hostile glare flickered in the Hallmaster's eyes as he spoke that last sentence, and this terrified the teacher in charge so much that he got down on his knees once more.

"Continue guessing," the Hallmaster went on with a plain voice.

"The... The..." Beads of sweat were breaking out on the teacher in charge's head, "Can it be the information we have obtained regarding Shrek Academy's students?"

The Hallmaster answered, "That can be considered a part of it. Three twin martial souls – Shrek Academy is truly extraordinary, and they also have an Ultimate martial soul. Shrek Academy has already agreed to an exchange between our respective students, but the news from yesterday stated that the exchange will have to be pushed back due to some internal reasons in the academy. They will decide the exact postponement after their investigation. It seems like they're afraid of us making a move on their students! Still, I have to admit that Shrek Academy is the best in the entire Continent at attracting talents and soul masters. It's a pity. However, this still isn't the greatest takeaway from your expedition."

The teacher in charge was a little lost as he gazed at the Hallmaster with perplexed eyes.

The Hallmaster gradually stood up. He wasn't even one-and-a-half meters tall, but his girth was definitely over a meter-and-a-half. He placed his hands behind his back, and there was a flowing black robe embroidered with golden patterns covering his bulbous tummy.

He sauntered before the teacher in charge as he suddenly raised his leg and sent him tumbling with a kick. "The only reason why I'm not going to kill you is because you have let Meng Hongchen and Xiao Hongchen realize the danger and urgency from this competition, and they now know it's time to focus and buck up. They took the initiative and requested to go into closed-door cultivation when they came back, and that is the greatest takeaway from your expedition. Get lost, and don't let me see you in the near future – if not, I will remember all the children who have passed away, and I will send you to the grave to accompany them."

"Yes... Yes..." The teacher in charge was elated instead of feeling angry, as he knew he was going to live. He didn't even bother getting up, and just crawled out of the room.

The Hallmaster's brows creased as he watched him crawl away. "The Taotie Douluo was personally at Star Luo City to hold down the fort. Fine! We shall meet again during the next Continental Advanced Soul Master Academy Soul Dueling Tournament five years later, and we shall see if the Taotie can hold back this toad. Hmph!"

He turned around and walked towards the back of the hall. He strolled through the main hall and stopped before a metal statue by a certain spot in the wall. A sphere of light flashed before his chest, and a peculiar golden rune was printed onto the wall before him as if it had just flown out from inside his chest.

The entire wall seemed to come alive in the next instant as it split open into two sides, while gears and machinery crackled within. There were several faint ripples of frightening energy that flickered when the wall first opened up, but the Hallmaster was undeterred and unmoving from beginning to end.

He stepped into the crack, and the wall closed behind him.

The Hallmaster arrived in a silent room without any windows at all after ten minutes.

Everything inside this room was also made of metal. The ceiling, the floor and the walls were all filled with metal sculptures.

A soul engineer would be able to tell that these metal sculptures had a similar functionality as formation arrays, but they were extremely sophisticated, and emanated a magnificent and elegant feeling.

There was a squarish metal pillar erected in the center of the room. The metal pillar was about one and a half meters tall, and there was an object placed on top.

It was a wooden base, and there were several hundred jewels of a myriad of colors inlaid on its surface. A sphere of air undulated faintly above this wooden base.

This sphere of air was white. The tender white hues resembled streams of air, and there appeared to be several shapes glimmering faintly within, yet it was hard to perceive its profundity or arcane might simply by looking at it.

This sphere of air was condensed, and seemed to surge left and right, as it were trying to break out of some barrier. The wooden base beneath it constantly released a barrier of pale-golden light that enveloped the air sphere within throughout the entire struggle, rendering it unable to break free.

Yes, this wooden base was the Starlight Auction's final item up that was up for bidding – the Godsealing Altar, and the item sealed inside was the one-hundred-thousand year soul beast embryo.

The Hallmaster squinted his eyes as he stood before the Godsealing Altar. He actually directly spoke to the one-hundred-thousand year soul beast embryo that was sealed inside the Godsealing Avatar.

"I can feel your immense power. I have affirmed by speculation through various experiments that you're not a typical hundred thousand year soul beast. Anybody that tries to absorb you and assimilate you into a soul ring or a soul bone after obtaining you will definitely die a painful death. I can sense that even a powerful Titled Douluo will find it extremely difficult to absorb your strength, and it might even lead to a toxic backlash. Am I right?"

The white air sphere grew quiet, as if it were listening intently to the Hallmaster's voice. A small human figure shimmered within the pale white mist, much like a human infant.

"Therefore, I believe my guess is correct," the Hallmaster chuckled and said, "I am extremely clear about the Starlight Auction's background – they belong to the Star Luo Empire's royal family. Their intentions in putting you up for auction were meant to cause some trouble for me, and for me to wonder: who forged this Godsealing Altar? They wanted to use the fact that a person's treasure will arouse the envy of others to instigate powerful beings from across the Continent to attack the Illustrious Virtue Hall – so what? Let them come. This is a test for the Illustrious Virtue Hall's defense mechanisms, and the Illustrious Virtue Hall's disciples cannot live a life this smooth, can they?"

"It's a pity, because Star Luo City has made a grave mistake, and that is the fact that they hadn't discovered your true power. That means I will have the last laugh. You're not some typical one-hundred-thousand year soul beast, but a soul beast with at least one hundred ninety nine thousand nine hundred and ninety-nine years of cultivation, except you haven't been able to break the bottleneck, am I right? This shouldn't be the first time you're attempting the soul beast's bottleneck, except you weren't successful in the end. I'm curious about something – according to what we humans know about you guys, soul beasts only have one chance to cultivate into human form after the one hundred-thousand year mark. However, how is it that you haven't broken through the capstone, yet you are still able to do this? I am very curious about this."

"Don't worry, though. We will make the best use of you here. I will study you meticulously, and I will extract every single ounce of energy from you, so that your almost two hundred thousand years of cultivation will not be wasted. This is wonderful – maybe I can even lend you a hand, and help your overall strength break through that bottleneck, so that you will become a transcendent soul beast before I strip your power from you. It may be difficult for normal soul masters to absorb your power, but it's not that much of a challenge for me. It's a pity, because I already have nine soul rings, and I can only extract your power to bestow upon my prodigious grandson. Everybody will be in the same family in the end."

The Hallmaster's eyes were tender, as if he were speaking to his own child, and there was even a tinge of benevolence within his voice.

"Sssss..." The white mist abruptly crashed violently against the Godsealing Altar's golden light barrier, as if a wail had suddenly appeared in the Hallmaster's consciousness.

The Hallmaster continued to grin as he said, "You should count yourself lucky, as there are hardly any treasures that are worthy of my emphasis and my cherishment. Do you know what a person's greatest agony is when he or she has reached the pinnacle? It's the lack of happiness. I can feel this blissful sensation from you, and I believe this blissfulness will be with me for quite a long time."

At Shrek Academy's main gate.

It was almost midday, and it was still lesson time. Shrek Academy's main gate felt extremely tranquil today as the myriad of vendors and merchants that would gather here on typical days were all absent. There were five people standing before the enormous gateway.

The person standing in front was Shrek Academy's Martial Soul Department's Dean, Yan Shaozhe, and the Soul Tool Department's Dean, Xiao Lin'er.

The three people behind them were: the Martial Soul Department's vice-Dean, Cai Mei'er, the Soul Tool Department's vice-Dean, Qian Duoduo and the Soul Tool Department's core teacher, Fan Yu, who was also Huo Yuhao's mentor.

The four Deans were all present along with Fan Yu, who was almost set to become the Soul Tool Department's next vice-Dean. This group was substantial and monumental, but they were not accompanied by other teachers.

Their heads were slightly tilted as they glanced towards the far end of the horizon, and everyone was standing silently in wait.

Several figures that looked like tiny black dots gradually drifted into view one after another in the skies in the distance, and descended from the sky as the five of them looked on.

"They have returned." A faint smile broke out on Yan Shaozhe's face.

Xiao Lin'er took a step forward and muttered, "They're finally back." Her eyes flowed with obvious excitement and exhilaration, and it was a wonder she wasn't trying to oppose Yan Shaozhe at every available opportunity like normal.

Yes, the five of them were here to welcome the return of Shrek Academy's heroes.

Several figures flitted onto the ground. The first person that came into view was the slovenly-dressed Elder Xuan, and he waved his large hand, and the others descending behind him caught the two stretchers in the sky.

Xu Sanshi was still unconscious on the stretcher, but Jiang Nannan was wide awake. She was so thrilled when she saw the words "Shrek Academy" across the enormous gate that tears of excitement flooded from her eyes.

Even though they hadn't even been gone for two months, they had experienced and gone through far too much over these two months.

Bei Bei and Dai Yueheng caught Xu Sanshi's stretcher, while Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong were responsible for Jiang Nannan's stretcher. Everybody's eyes sparkled with excitement, and the younger ones all began to tear up.

They had been through so much suffering, but they managed to defend Shrek's honor and glory. They were finally home, and they were finally standing before the main gate that they were so familiar with.

"Welcome home, children." Yan Shaozhe and the others strode forward and welcomed them with open arms. All five of them paid their respects to Elder Xuan as they spoke before they arrived before Shrek Academy's marvelous students.

Yan Shaozhe and Cai Mei'er managed to suppress their emotions, but Fan Yu couldn't control himself, and lunged forward as he pulled Huo Yuhao and He Caitou over. He scrutinized his two dear disciples, and only heaved a sigh of relief after he was sure that they were in one piece.

He Caitou swallowed and said, “I didn’t embarrass you master. I didn’t embarrass Shrek.”

Fan Yu glanced at him, and then at Huo Yuhao beside him, whose face was flowing with tears, and he grabbed the both of them into a bear hug as he said, “Silly child. I am not afraid of you guys disappointing me – all I wish for is that everyone returns home safely!”

This period of time was way too torturous and agonizing for Fan Yu. He wasn’t even supposed to be here, as he was not yet the Soul Tool Department’s vice-Dean.

Fan Yu hadn’t enjoyed a single day of peace ever since the main team members had returned with heinous injuries, and his heart began to beat out of his chest when Elder Mu decided to let Shrek Academy continue on in the Continental Advanced Soul Master Academy Soul Dueling Tournament with an incomplete team. He was extremely aware that the Continental Advanced Soul Master Academy Soul Dueling Tournament wasn’t an entirely safe competition, and participants died almost time.

He only had two direct disciples! Fan Yu and Zhou Yi didn’t have their own children, and he had long treated He Caitou and Huo Yuhao as his own children. There were several times when he wanted to venture into Star Luo City, but was stopped by Qian Duoduo.

How could Fan Yu not be elated, now that his prized disciples had returned home? This hardened man couldn’t help it, and tears cascaded down his cheeks in an instant.

The four Deans shook hands with the group before they personally led them all back into the academy. A small boat was already waiting on the the Sea God’s Lake’s shore.

Everybody exchanged looks with one another as they turned towards the Deans with astonished looks on their faces.

Yan Shaozhe smiled and said, “You have sacrificed so much for the academy. You continued on in the Continental Advanced Soul Master Academy Soul Dueling Tournament with an incomplete team, and eventually brought home the championship. This record will forever be etched into Shrek Academy’s history, and the conference held within the Sea God’s Pavilion has decided that everyone shall be rewarded – on the Sea God’s Island, inside the Sea God’s Pavilion.”

Neither Huo Yuhao nor Wang Dong knew what the Sea God’s Pavilion was about, but Dai Yueheng and Ling Luochen were aware, and they instantly reacted with intense shock.

The Sea God’s Pavilion was Shrek Academy’s cardinal location for official businesses and meetings, and it was also Shrek Academy’s actual treasury. Shrek Academy’s top secrets were all kept there, and nobody was allowed to enter besides the Sea God’s Pavilion’s Elders and the four Deans under normal circumstances. The opportunity to enter the Sea God’s Pavilion was an incredible honor. Both Dai Yueheng and Ling Luochen had never heard of any student who had been allowed to go inside, and this was the case even for their seniors that participated in the previous Continental Advanced Soul Master Academy Soul Dueling Tournament and eventually took home the crown.

Everybody got onto the boat, and Yan Shaozhe personally checked Xu Sanshi’s health. He immediately passed on an order for both Xu Sanshi and Jiang Nannan to remain on Sea God’s Island for treatment and recovery.

Huo Yuhao knew that the Sea God's Pavilion existed, but he didn't really know anything much about it. He was anxious and excited when he was told that he was about to set foot on the island. Sea God's Island had something that was touted as the most impressive cradle for soul masters across the entire Continent – Shrek Academy's inner courtyard!

The fact that Huo Yuhao, Wang Dong and Xiao Xiao were able to visit the island at such a young age was enough to excite them.

The Sea God's Lake's surface area was immense, and it was far larger than the rest of Shrek Academy added together. The boat pierced through the layers of mist, and the shape of an island gradually drifted into view after about fifteen minutes.

The Sea God's Island only appeared to be roughly two square kilometers, and its surface wasn't flat and smooth at all. Instead, it seemed like a small mountain, with all kinds of buildings constructed upon it. The structures that were usually obscured behind the layers of dense mist finally appeared right before their eyes, and the excitement in their eyes grew ever more radiant.

Even though everything was unfamiliar and novel, these things were still the stuff of legends to them.

Yan Shaozhe didn't let someone take Xu Sanshi away to rest yet. Instead, he took them all and stepped along a narrow stone path towards the Sea God's Island's inner regions.

Sea God's Island was extremely quiet, almost as if it were uninhabited. Everything just seemed too tranquil and serene, and the entire place felt like Shangri-la. The various pavilions and structures that were hidden within a myriad of tall and endless vegetation appeared graceful and elegant. This was Huo Yuhao's first time here, but he fell in love with it at first sight.

The vegetation here had more than a few thousand years of history, and some trees were even a hundred meters tall. The air along the trail was fresh, and all that vegetation blocked everyone's vision. There was a mysterious and enigmatic feeling as they sauntered along the footpath, as if they were just inside the mountain.

It didn't take long for them to reach a position near the mountain summit, and a single pavilion immediately appeared before everyone's eyes.

This was a three-storey building, and the entire structure was gray and made of wood. It appeared simple and unadorned, yet there were tinges of vicissitudes upon it. One would realize upon closer inspection that there was a layer of grease-like light on the structure's wooden body.

The three-storey building was about ten meters tall, and it didn't feel grand or magnificent at all. However, a black horizontal inscribed board hung from the top of the first level's entrance, and three radiant golden words announced the building's identity – Sea God's Pavilion.

Everybody developed a solemn and respectful feeling as they saw these three words. Judging by the distance, the Sea God's Pavilion was not only close to the mountain summit, but was also near the island's center.

Yan Shaozhe stopped before the Sea God's Pavilion's entrance and turned towards the Shrek team members with a faint smile on his face. "I didn't let Xu Sanshi and Jiang Nannan rest because I wanted them to have the experience of stepping into the Sea God's Pavilion."

He turned back towards the Sea God's Pavilion after explaining himself, and he bowed respectfully and said, "They're back, teacher."

Everybody was taken aback when they heard "teacher". Both Dai Yueheng's and Ling Luo Chen's faces were stricken with shock, even though they were disciples from the inner courtyard.

Yan Shaozhe was the Martial Soul Department's Dean, and his status was already extremely high in the minds of the inner courtyard's disciples. Even Elder Xuan wasn't as important to them as Yan Shaozhe due to the differences in their responsibilities. Never once did they expect that Yan Shaozhe's teacher was still alive.

"Come in, everyone." An old voice rang out, and a scene that astonished everyone appeared before their eyes.

The three-storey Sea God's Pavilion that was just as unassuming as it could be suddenly brightened without warning right before them. Radiant beams of golden light glowed, and the entire pavilion became golden, as if it were a building made entirely from pure gold.

The thick but tender golden light drifted down and enveloped everyone within. The warm and dense light aura nourished everyone's bodies, and all the exhaustion that they had brought back from their long road home was swept away in an instant. Xu Sanshi was still in a deep sleep, but his body quivered and gradually came to.

Wang Dong's experience was the deepest. His body emanated transparent golden hues that interacted with this sudden burst of golden light, and his left arm was even completely golden in color as it sparkled radiantly. That pure golden luster was extremely bright and vivid, and it felt as if colors were flowing out from it.

The Shrek team members and even Wang Yan subconsciously shut their eyes as they were bathed within the golden light. The four Deans, Fan Yu and Elder Xuan quietly stepped into the Sea God's Pavilion. They weren't affected by the Sea God's Pavilion's sudden outburst of light.

The expression in Bei Bei's eyes was a little peculiar as he released the soul power in his body. The bluish-purple lightning radiance disappeared, and faint dragon roars could be heard from within the flickering golden lights.

Everybody who closed their eyes had different sensations. Huo Yuhao's reaction wasn't as great as Wang Dong's, but the astonishment he experienced was extremely intense as well.

The vitality of heaven and earth in the air became a lot denser, and the three powerful beings that were slumbering within his body awakened at the same time. These three powerful beings didn't unleash their respective auras, and neither did they attempt to interact with Huo Yuhao. Only Electrolux subtly passed Huo Yuhao a thought, telling him that the person who possessed this light aura was exceptionally formidable, and was almost at his level of cultivation when he was still alive. The Ice Empress, Skydream and he had to hide themselves completely, as they ran the risk of being discovered by the owner of this light energy even though they were inside Huo Yuhao's body.

Could he be more powerful than Elder Xuan? Huo Yuhao felt the muscles in his heart tighten. His original perception was that Elder Xuan and the several Deans were supremely powerful beings. It appeared, however, that the academy's strength didn't stop there – this was Yan Shaozhe's mentor!

However, these thoughts in his mind dissipated after a while, and he entered a meditative state while standing inside the dense and thick light aura. He channeled the Mysterious Heaven Technique, and he could clearly feel his cultivation rising linearly with every circulation.

His body's endurance had become a lot more powerful after the Life Gold's regulation and harmonization, and his life energy had also become much more bountiful. Even his Eye of Life started to itch as he soaked himself within the dense light aura – it was subconsciously absorbing the life energy in the air.

The Mysterious Heaven Technique's soul power circulated smoothly, and the dense vitality in the air seemed to flow directly into his soul. Huo Yuhao's soul power was originally at around Rank 28, but he was already close to breaking through to Rank 29 after these few moments.

It felt as if only a minute had passed, yet it also felt like a century. The warm and radiant aura gradually vanished, and everybody woke up from their strange sensations and experiences one after another.

The first to recover was Dai Yueheng, as his cultivation was the highest, and there was an exhilarated look on his face. His soul power improved at a sluggish pace at his current rank, and even raising it by one level was extremely challenging. However, he had felt improvements in his soul power after these few moments, and what was more substantial was that he felt like his soul power had been completely rinsed, and was now purer. This was relatively more important than increasing his cultivation directly.

The reason why Huo Yuhao didn't have this sensation was because his soul power had already undergone several similar experiences – the Life Gold's cleansing and nourishment was only the most prominent episode. Therefore, the light energy's effect on his body was just a pure boost to his soul power.

Ling Luo Chen, Bei Bei and the others gradually came to after Dai Yueheng. Xu Sanshi's face looked a lot better after he woke up, as if he had just replenished all the vitality that he had lost. He gazed at the three-storey building before him with perplexed eyes as the golden hues gently receded, and he muttered under his breath, "Where am I?"

Jiang Nannan had recovered a little from her injuries since the beginning, and that recovery process had been sped up with this golden light. She got off her stretcher voluntarily and whispered a few sentences in Xu Sanshi's ear to explain the situation.

Xu Sanshi looked at her with a dazed look. "Are you alright, Nannan?"

Jiang Nannan shook her head softly, and the expression on her face was a little complicated.

"Let's go. Let's just go inside before anything else," Bei Bei said as he carried Xu Sanshi's stretcher.

Huo Yuhao had already awoken at this point. He realized, to his pleasant surprise, that his soul power had broken through Rank 29 just like that, and it didn't feel like a long time had passed when he glanced up at the sky.

What kind of power was this?! The light aura contained dense volumes of life energy – could this be achieved by soul masters?

Wang Dong was the last to wake up. Huo Yuhao could tell from the look on his face that it was needless to say that he had also benefited greatly from this experience. The golden luster on his left arm was still sparkling, and wasn't receding quickly.

They stepped into the Sea God's Pavilion in single file after everybody woke up. They had just been baptized by light, and this tiny three-storey building suddenly became incredibly majestic in their eyes. They walked inside with feelings as if they were undergoing a pilgrimage.

They stepped into the Sea God's Pavilion's first level. Everything was just so plain and austere, and every single piece of furniture or decoration seemed to be made from this strange wood, just like the Sea God's Pavilion itself.

There was a long table in the center of the great hall. The four Deans and Elder Xuan were sitting by the table, while Fan Yu stood behind Xian Lin'er and Qian Duoduo – it was clear that they didn't have the status to sit down at this table. There were several other elders sitting on either side of the table. Huo Yuhao didn't recognize most of them, and only the inner courtyard's Dai Yueheng and Ling Luochen could recognize some of them.

Huo Yuhao and the others stood before the table and couldn't help but feel a little nervous. Yet, they were also a little excited. This was the Sea God's Pavilion, and the elderly people sitting before them were the most powerful existences in the academy. This overwhelming feeling and astonishment was amplified when they realized that the four Deans were sitting beside the last seat.

Yan Shaozhe smiled and said, "Welcome back, children. Whether or not you've heard this before, I will explain it to everyone again. The Sea God's Pavilion is the supreme place for official business and meetings, and conferences held within the Sea God's Pavilion will determine the academy's future direction and path. Everyone here, besides the four Deans, are Elders from the academy, and they have each contributed greatly to the academy."

"You represented the academy and emerged as champions in the Continental Advanced Soul Master Academy Soul Dueling Tournament with an incomplete team. We have heard of the entire process. Giving everyone the opportunity to come here is the academy's way of showing our gratitude and rewarding you guys. We hope that you will continue to work hard and not be overcome with pride by what you have achieved."

Everybody immediately bowed respectfully toward the Elders sitting around the table. They were slightly surprised that Yan Shaozhe didn't introduce the Elders to them.

This wasn't because Yan Shaozhe had forgotten – this was the Sea God's Pavilion's rule, and giving Huo Yuhao and the others the permission to come in was already an exception. Everything inside the Sea God's Pavilion could be said to contain Shrek Academy's core secrets, and anybody that wasn't part of the Sea God's Pavilion wasn't allowed to know.

"I will announce the rewards," Yan Shaozhe said with a deep voice, "Dai Yueheng, Ling Luochen."

"Here." Dai Yueheng and Ling Luochen bowed respectfully.

Yan Shaozhe continued, “Both of you are inner courtyard disciples along with Ma Xiaotao, and you guys weren’t able to protect your comrades while executing your surveillance task. Your teammates were severely wounded as a result, and this affected our participation in the Continental Advanced Soul Master Academy Soul Dueling Tournament. That’s a grave mistake.”

“Eh?” Dai Yueheng and Ling Luochen hadn’t seen this coming at all, and both of them turned pale with fright.

Yan Shaozhe’s face turned black as he continued, “What? You wish to dispute that? Ma Xiaotao and Dai Yueheng were the team’s main assault-type soul masters. What are assault-type soul masters supposed to do? They have to push forward in the face of danger and protect their teammates. Did you guys done that? Ling Luochen, you are the team’s main control-type soul master, but have you been pulling your weight in controlling battles? If not for Huo Yuhao’s Spiritual Detection that gave you a timely reminder, you wouldn’t even have been able to come back in one piece, no? I can tell from the situation during that time that your comrades were hurt because of your complacency, and because you underestimated the enemy. You are Shrek Academy’s inner courtyard disciples, and was that the battle prowess that you should have displayed? Even the outer courtyard students know the principle that you have to give your best even if you’re stronger – but what about you guys?”

Dai Yueheng and Ling Luochen lowered their heads from Yan Shaozhe’s chiding. They didn’t dare to retort against his intimidating speech, and it didn’t help that the Dean was speaking the truth.

Yan Shaozhe’s voice became a little more amiable. “You guys followed the team to participate in the Continental Advanced Soul Master Academy Soul Dueling Tournament afterwards. You managed to exercise enough fighting strength due to the sufficient time given by the reserve team’s exemplary performance for you to recover and tend your wounds, and ultimately helped the team to win the championship. The academy is well-aware of this achievement. However, you are inner courtyard disciples, and you are also part of the official main team, so you guys will receive comparatively smaller rewards. Your achievements will cancel out your mistakes, and we will not include that in your records and our case files. We hope that you will learn your lesson from this, and bear in mind that life is precious – nobody can have another one.”

“Thank you, Dean.” Dai Yueheng and Ling Luochen heaved a sigh of relief. It would become a serious blemish to their lives if their mistakes were recorded in Shrek Academy’s case files.

The difference between the inner courtyard’s disciples and those from the outer courtyard was that the inner courtyard’s disciples were bestowed with all kinds of resources, and they received the best mentors and teachings. The academy would naturally expect more from them in comparison to the outer courtyard’s students. This was the main reason why Yan Shaozhe declared that they would receive fewer rewards than the reserve team, even though everybody was part of the team that won the championship.

[Chapter 129: Shreks Seven Monsters](#)

Yan Shaozhe nodded his head and said, “It’s been tough on the both of you this time. Go back and rest. Remember to keep everything you’ve seen in the Sea God’s Pavilion a secret. Yueheng, you’ve completed sufficient policing work. You can start preparing for the inner courtyard test.”

“Yes.” Dai Yueheng and Ling Luochen left the Sea God’s Pavilion after they respectfully bade their farewells.

The two of them only relaxed after they had left. Although the elders present didn’t say anything, they still felt the immense pressure at the long table. They were clearly aware that all the elders were Titled Douluo! And most of them were even...

Although they didn’t really receive any important rewards, they weren’t really punished either. At least the tournament was over. As for Dai Yueheng, it also meant that he was going to graduate from Shrek Academy’s inner courtyard since Yan Shaozhe told him to prepare for the test. He could return to his empire after that. After cultivating tirelessly for more than 10 years, he could finally embark on a new journey. He was extremely anxious now.

Only Wang Yan, Bei Bei, He Caitou, Xu Sanshi, Jiang Nannan, Xiao Xiao, Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong were left in the Sea God’s Pavilion right now.

Their excitement had died down after Yan Shaozhe reprimanded both Dai Yueheng and Ling Luochen. They were even a little discomforted now.

Yan Shaozhe turned to them and smiled. He said, “What’s wrong? Do all of you think that the academy is being too strict on them? I have to say that these are the academy’s requirements of all our inner courtyard students. The academy has used various forms of resources to nurture the inner courtyard disciples, thus it’s natural that our requirements are high too. You’re also going to be part of the inner courtyard in the near future. All of you will understand then. Alright, it’s time for your rewards. Teacher Wang.”

“Dean Yuan.” Wang Yan stepped forward and bowed respectfully.

Yan Shaozhe said sincerely, “Although we didn’t have all our team members around... four official team members couldn’t compete, and three of the others were even injured, and yet you still managed to lead the team to victory in the tournament. All of us can see how capable you are. You shall be promoted to Shrek Academy’s top-ranked teacher of the inner courtyard.”

Wang Yan said hurriedly, “Dean, I don’t want any reward. It’s not really my effort that won us the tournament. It’s all because of these kids’ hard work. They gave their all and came back from the dead more than once. If the academy really wants to reward someone, they should reward all of them handsomely.”

Dai Yueheng and Ling Luochen’s treatment left Wang Yan frightened that the academy would neglect these kids’ hard work!

Yan Shaozhe smiled slightly and answered, “They’ll be rewarded too. So will you. What I just mentioned wasn’t even considering your reward yet. It’s only just a normal promotion. The real reward for you is that the Sea God’s Hidden Beach will be open to you for a year. You are allowed to read anything you want within this year, but you can only read and research within the Hidden Beach.”

“What?” After hearing his reward, Wang Yan didn’t conceal his emotions in front of all the elders. He was so excited that he jumped up, and his face turned red from agitation.

What was in the Sea God's Hidden Beach? There were countless solitary copies of books, out-of-print collections and resources. At least in Wang Yan's eyes, it was the greatest wealth that Shrek Academy possessed! Even the Sea God's Pavilion elders had to go through complicated administrative processes to enter the Hidden Beach to read. One year of access to the Hidden Beach was extremely valuable to Wang Yan.

Yan Shaozhe smiled upon seeing Wang Yan's excited behavior. He said, "Teacher Wang, this is the reward that you deserve. We can see your contributions to the academy, as well as your persistence and hard work in your research. I hope that you can learn more from the Sea God's Hidden Beach over the next year."

"Thank you Dean, thank you elders." Wang Yan was so excited that he almost bowed all the way to the ground. He would've never have imagined that he would be given access to the Sea God's Hidden Beach!

All the elders smiled and nodded their heads at him. In Shrek Academy, only the best were valued. This was applicable even in the aspect of theoretical research, which was considered crucial in the academy. There was one seven-ringed elder in the Sea God's Pavilion who specialized in theoretical research. But he didn't have such a long lifespan compared to the Titled Douluo. That was why such individuals tend to be lower in numbers in the Sea God's Pavilion.

Yan Shaozhe turned to Huo Yuhao and the rest and he said, "It's all of your turns."

"Kids, I can only express my astonishment and awe regarding your performances. Shrek Academy has emerged champions in the Continental Advanced Soul Master Academy Soul Dueling Tournament several thousand times. But I am certain that this is one of the most meaningful triumphs that we have achieved, and it deserves to be recorded in our history. Shrek will remember the contributions that all of you have made. All of you are the academy's true heroes."

Everyone was moved when they heard Yan Shaozhe's words. They didn't expect such an appraisal from the academy. It was glorious to be recorded in Shrek's history! Everyone suddenly started to feel passionate.

Yan Shaozhe said, "The academy's senior management are aware of what all of you have done. All of you have shouldered Shrek's shining glory. In a tournament that was supposed to merely be training for all of you, you fought unyieldingly, and attained the championship through your efforts. Your brilliance has left all of us astounded. After a conference here in the Sea God's Pavilion, we've decided to award two different rewards to all of you. The academy was given three soul bones and one extra one as the champions. The extra one is suitable for Huo Yuhao. The academy has also decided to offer three more soul bones, so that each one of the rest of you can receive one soul bone each. All of you will be allowed to choose based on your abilities and special characteristics too."

Another three soul bones? Everyone was delighted. If each of them was given a soul bone each, there wouldn't be much of a choice anyway. The reward offered by the academy was comparable to the Star Luo Empire's!

But they would be even more shocked by what was to come.

Yan Shaozhe said in a deep voice, "The soul bones are used to encourage all of you for your efforts in the tournament. But the academy is also going to credit all of you for protecting the academy's glory. From this moment onwards, the academy shall name the seven of you Shrek's Seven Monsters."

He stopped for a moment before saying seriously, "For life."

"Ah..."

Huo Yuhao and the others couldn't help but exclaim in shock after they heard those last two words. They stared at Yan Shaozhe with their eyes and mouths wide open. They felt as if their spirits had left their bodies at this moment.

Shrek's Seven Monsters. While these words sounded simple, they held a deep meaning to Shrek Academy, and even the entire Douluo Continent! Ever since the glory held by the first generation of Shrek's Seven Monsters, this name continued to represent greatness up till now. There were only two instances so far in Shrek's history that anyone possessed this name for life. They were only conferred to inner courtyard disciples that had contributed greatly to the academy. The soul bones were already a huge surprise to all of them, but this lifetime Shrek's Seven Monsters title conferred onto them was much more meaningful!

The glory that belonged to Shrek would be imprinted onto their bodies and spirits from this moment onwards. They were going to shine for life under this glory that had been shared with them.

This reward brought such a shock to all of them that it couldn't be described in words. Huo Yuhao and the rest were all speechless. They finally understood why Yan Shaozhe was so determined to let Xu Sanshi and Jiang Nannan follow them to the Sea God's Pavilion. He didn't just want to censure them, but to give them the opportunity to claim their rewards personally! This was an extremely important moment in all their lives. They would regret it for life if they missed this moment!

Yan Shaozhe said in a deep voice, "The Sea God's Pavilion discussed the matter for an entire day before we came up with this reward. It was only decided after a round of voting by the elders and a final decision by the Master. But I must clarify one thing first. To ensure the smooth progression of your studies in the academy, this will not be publicized. It will even only be recorded in our history. Before all of you graduate, only all of you will be privy to this. Please don't make it public."

They could understand this restriction they had to face. If news of this spread, they would be put into the limelight. This would then affect their normal cultivation and studies.

As their team leader, Bei Bei could not help but ask, "Dean Yan, does lifetime refer to the time we spend in the academy or..."

Yan Shaozhe smiled and replied, "What? Is it so difficult to understand? It's called lifetime because it'll be with all of you for your entire lives. Furthermore, this title will not be given to anyone else as long as one of you is still alive. That's why all of you need to work hard at your cultivation and try to live longer. This glory will then stay with all of you for a longer period of time."

Bei Bei was delighted, and used his eyes to gesture to the rest. He bowed respectfully towards the four deans and the elders present.

The others understood him and followed his lead, as they bowed respectfully too.

Yan Shaozhe stepped to one side and said respectfully to someone at the head of the table, "Teacher, do you have any other instructions?"

Everyone just now realized that there was someone half-lying on the other side of the table. They couldn't see what he looked like because of their perspective.

"Kids, your performances were beyond what I expected."

"That's why these rewards are what all of you have earned. But it's important to realize that this doesn't mean you will be forever successful. All of you must live up to the name of Shrek's Seven Monsters. I hope that all of you can work hard to preserve Shrek's glory just like you did before. Bei Bei, Xu Sanshi, Jiang Nannan and He Caitou, the four of you are already beyond soul ancestors. I grant special permission to the four of you to go take the inner courtyard test after this academic year ends. After passing the test, the four of you shall continue to learn in the inner courtyard. The difficulty level of your tests will remain the same."

Bei Bei and the other 3 looked at one another. Right now, they were all nervous. The test choked many external courtyard disciples, and there were very few who could really be admitted to the inner courtyard. It was impossible for them not to feel anxious, as they were about to undergo the test earlier than was required.

The frail, elderly voice continued, "Huo Yuhao, Wang Dong and Xiao Xiao, the three of you shall remain on the Sea God's Island temporarily and cultivate alongside me. The three of you will only return to the external courtyard when I think that it's time. Bei Bei and Xu Sanshi shall be guided by Little Xuan, while Jiang Nannan shall be guided by Cai Mei'er. More effort has to be placed on Lin Er, Duo Duo, Fan Yu and He Caitou too. If they don't pass the test, you will be punished as teachers."

Although this elderly voice sounded very gentle and benevolent, his words left everyone convinced, and no one doubted his words. All the Sea God's Pavilion elders and four deans stood up together and bowed towards Elder Mu respectfully.

"Meeting dispersed." Elder Mu's voice became more peaceful.

All the elders seemed to instantly disappear. The new Shrek's Seven Monsters didn't even notice their movements clearly.

Elder Xuan, the four deans and Fan Yu remained.

"All of you can go too. It's fine if only Huo Yuhao and the other 2 remain here." Elder Mu waved his hand.

"Yes." Yan Shaozhe replied respectfully and left with everyone quietly. Bei Bei and He Caitou lifted both Xu Sanshi and Jiang Nannan as they left too. They all glanced at Huo Yuhao as they left. They gave him an encouraging look.

The Sea God's Pavilion quieted down. Huo Yuhao, Wang Dong and Xiao Xiao were nervous. The Master of the Sea God's Pavilion who was half-lying on the main seat was even Dean Yan Shaozhe's teacher! He was the greatest authoritative figure in Shrek Academy.

"Kids, come over." Elder Mu gestured towards the three of them.

Huo Yuhao, Wang Dong and Xiao Xiao walked around the long table quickly and came beside Elder Mu. They all lowered their heads slightly and looked a little nervous.

“Why? Did the three of you managed to defeat your opponents like this in the tournament? What’s there to be nervous about in front of me when all of you are fearless in front of your opponents? Lift your heads. We’re old friends.” Elder Mu’s gentle voice sounded very inspirational.

Huo Yuhao and the others lowered their heads subconsciously. All they saw was an elder who was in his declining years, but had a face that wore a slight smile and was filled with tenderness.

“It’s you?” The three of them exclaimed at the same time. They even stared at him directly.

They wouldn’t have gotten it right even if they had 10,000 guesses. The elder who always laid down leisurely in front of the freshmen dorm was actually the Master of the Sea God’s Pavilion in Shrek Academy! The three of them were so shocked that they became speechless.

Elder Mu smiled and said, “It’s weird, isn’t it? All of you are right, I am that old man! Although I control the Sea God’s Pavilion, I’m unwilling to stay here. It’s too boring. How can it be as bustling as your freshman dorm? I can feel the youthful aura, which makes me feel younger too. Sensing all of your vitality and vigor can also prolong my lifespan by a few years.”

“You, you...” Huo Yuhao discovered that he was stuttering. Whether it was him, Wang Dong or Xiao Xiao, they couldn’t draw the connection between this frail elder and his identity as Shrek’s master.

Elder Mu lifted one hand and said, “Help me up.”

Huo Yuhao rushed forward and lifted Elder Mu’s hand. Elder Mu’s actions were very slow, just like an old man who had one foot in his grave. He stood up from his lying position slowly. But his back continued to be bent at a 90 degrees angle, which was a sorrowful sight.

Elder Mu’s arms were very delicate. While they felt very warm, they were extremely bony and rigid.

Elder Mu chortled and said, “I’m not trying to be ostentatious by lying over here. When I was younger, I was injured, and I never recovered from that injury. That’s why I can only bend my back like that. They felt bad for me, so they prepared a reclining chair for me.” As he spoke, he lifted his hand and pointed in a direction. Huo Yuhao carefully supported him as they advanced. Wang Dong and Xiao Xiao followed behind. Even now, their eyes were still filled with surprise.

Elder Mu laughed slightly as he walked, “Huo Yuhao, I noticed you the first time you entered the freshman dorm. That’s because you are one of the rare few kids who greeted me actively. You’re very courteous. Every time you entered the freshman dorm, you greeted me. That’s very good.”

“That’s what younger ones like me should do.” Huo Yuhao replied in a low voice. Wang Dong and Xiao Xiao lowered their heads in guilt. They were normally all so focused on learning and cultivating in the external courtyard. How could they be bothered to notice an elder in front of the freshman dorm?

Huo Yuhao supported Elder Mu all the way to the front of a wall. Elder Mu lifted his hand and pointed out. A streak of golden light suddenly lit up, and everything around them seemed to turn illusory. An intense golden halo surrounded Huo Yuhao and the other two instantly. They only felt that it was

extremely bright in front of them. They quickly shut their eyes. There was nothing beneath their feet. When they stepped forward in the next moment, the surrounding golden light had already disappeared.

The Sea God's Pavilion had disappeared. To their horror, they discovered that they were in a vast hall. This hall seemed to be 100 meters long, and was squarish in shape. Its surface area was similar to the competition stage of the Continental Advanced Soul Master Academy Soul Dueling Tournament.

There were several tunnels at the sides of the hall that led to unknown places. There were no windows and everything was enclosed, but the air was very fresh. There were several statues erected inside the hall. They were similar to the ones in Shrek Academy after one entered the academy. Shrek's founder, the Golden Triangle, and the first-generation Shrek's Seven Monsters. But there were more statues here, and these statues seemed to be made of wood.

Elder Mu smiled, "Aren't you all curious as to why the Sea God's Pavilion doesn't seem grand? But did any of you realized that the Sea God's Pavilion wasn't constructed, but carved out?"

"Carved out?" Huo Yuhao and the other 2 were stunned. They didn't understand the meaning behind those 2 words.

Elder Mu said, "The Sea God's Pavilion was originally a huge tree, a golden tree that was rarely seen in the world. It was a tree that contained an aura of light and life. The earlier generations used this golden tree as the foundation, and carved out the Sea God's Pavilion without affecting the life of the golden tree. That's why the Sea God's Pavilion doesn't seem to have been put together, while the various decorations and statues in the Sea God's Pavilion were made by the wood that was dug out during the carving process. This golden tree can be said to be the root of Shrek Academy. The three of you will understand its significance in the future."

"Wang Dong, go to the first tunnel on the right. At the 10-meter mark, there should be a door. Push the door open and enter the room behind it. Sit on the prayer mat and cultivate there."

Wang Dong was stunned and hesitated for a moment. Huo Yuhao nodded his head at him hurriedly, and he then followed Elder Mu's instructions. He naturally knew that Elder Mu's instructions were for his own good, but he was unwilling to be separated from Huo Yuhao.

"Xiao Xiao, take the third tunnel to the left and enter the second door. Cultivate there too. Whenever the two of you recover from your fixed state, you can return to the external courtyard."

"Yes." Xiao Xiao answered hurriedly. Her huge eyes blinked, and she walked to the other side.

Only Huo Yuhao was left with Elder Mu after the two of them left.

Elder Mu smiled and said, "You can go too. Walk to the end of the first tunnel to the right. There will be a door to a room. Enter the room and start to meditate. You'll have your answer when you come out."

"Yes. Thank you, elder."

Elder Mu smiled and said, "My surname is Mu. You can call me Elder Mu."

"Alright, Elder Mu." Huo Yuhao answered. But he didn't leave. "Elder Mu, do you need me to take you somewhere to rest first?"

Elder Mu was a little stunned as he twisted his head to look at him. He could only see Huo Yuhao's sincerity and naturalness from his eyes. There was no deliberate intention at all.

After patting Huo Yuhao's hand, he smiled and said, "I can still walk. Go. This closed-door cultivation will be important to all of you. Relax and go over everything that has happened. I believe that you will gain something from this."

"Yes." Huo Yuhao only let go of his hand now and walked towards the first tunnel to the right. When he reached the opening of the tunnel, he stopped in his tracks subconsciously and turned back to look at Elder Mu. Elder Mu was also looking at him. Huo Yuhao didn't know that Elder Mu was sure this concerned look of his proved that his words previously didn't contain any other intentions.

Wang Dong was the first to reach his destination - the first door at the end of the first tunnel to the right.

The door was wooden, and appeared to be made from the golden tree wood that Elder Mu had mentioned. As he lifted his hand to push at the door slightly, the door opened easily. It was as if it had just unlatched.

Wang Dong felt a strong aura of light engulfing him as he opened the door, which almost caused him to suffocate. In the next moment, a wave of suction force appeared and dragged his body into the room.

Wang Dong's gaze turned lifeless as he walked into the room. The room was around 10 square meters large. Countless rhizomes hung from the ceiling and covered the entire four walls, as well as the floor. He wouldn't be so shocked if they were just stems. He was shocked because these rhizomes were entirely yellowish-golden. The strong aura of life came from these rhizomes.

In the center of this room, there was a circular mat that subtly shone with a golden radiance. The strong aura of light spread out from above it.

The concentration of the light element was so great that it almost assumed liquid form.

Wang Dong only felt that his heart had been cleansed. He even had the same feeling he had experienced when he had first bathed in the golden light before he came to the Sea God's Pavilion. He understood that the golden light he was being bathed in belonged to the power of the golden tree! But he didn't know who guided it.

This wasn't just a stroke of luck, but fortune. Wang Dong was also very intelligent. He walked forward rapidly and sat cross-legged on the mat.

A strong wave of light aura suddenly soared up from underneath him. His entire body instantly turned a smooth gold. His soul power circulated, and he didn't even need to do anything before he entered meditation. He wasn't absorbing the light element now, but the light element was surging into his body.

His head became unprecedentedly clear. The light element flowed naturally, and his soul power circulated at high speed. His spirit was flushed with vigor, and all types of thoughts now seemed very clear in his mind. Different types of sentiments also arose. In just a matter of breaths, he entered the deep meditative state that he once admired Huo Yuhao for.

It was different from an ordinary meditative state. His mind was working at great speed now, and he began to master the various abilities and experiences that he had as he understood them.

“Wang Dong.” A gentle voice rang in Wang Dong’s heart just as he was experiencing the brilliance of this deep meditative state. The sudden appearance of this voice caused his senses to be jolted.

“Elder Mu?” Wang Dong thought to himself.

“Continue to meditate without messing up your thoughts. Listen to me, you just need more time to comprehend things. Your twin martial souls are the Radiant Butterfly Goddess and the Clear Sky Hammer. They’re two outstanding martial souls. The former is more of an element-type, while the latter is more of a strength-type. Both martial souls are suitable to be your main martial soul. It seems like you chose the former. You should have learned in the external courtyard that different martial souls will lead to different results when mastered in different environments. It’s more beneficial to a soul master if he cultivates in an environment most suited to his martial soul.”

“All of you are in the Sea God’s Pavilion Underground World. There are 108 rooms here, and they cover almost all the environments suited for all types of martial souls. Every inner courtyard disciple has a chance to undergo deep meditation here. Although the few of you aren’t inner courtyard disciples yet, I’ve granted permission for the few of you to undergo deep meditation here beforehand on account of your contributions to the academy, sufficient experience in the tournament and your gifts of twin martial souls. Your efforts will reap greater rewards here, and this experience will be very valuable to your future cultivation. But it’s not just about your cultivation here. More importantly, you have to find your path here.”

Wang Dong was jolted once again as he heard Elder Mu’s words. He seemed to understand some things.

Elder Mu said, “Every soul master has a path he needs to take. Assault, agility, control, auxiliary – these are only the shallowest things. Achieving more requires one to find his path accurately and precisely. No one can tell you how to walk this path. You can only discover it for yourself. For individuals with twin martial souls like yourself, it’s even more important to discover your own path. Never hesitate, or doubt the path you chose. Try your best to finish walking that path. You’ll succeed no matter what the path is if you can do this.”

Elder Mu’s guidance stopped here, and his voice also disappeared completely. In the other 2 rooms, Xiao Xiao and Huo Yuhao also heard the same things.

Xiao Xiao was in a special room. There were no rhizomes in this room. There was only a huge bell. Firstly, Xiao Xiao felt a heaviness that almost suffocated her. When she made an effort to sit down on the mat, she only heard a loud boom. Everything around her disappeared, and the only thought in her head was that she was trapped in a bell.

Huo Yuhao was in the most special room. When he entered, it was pitch-black. The entire room was silent.

He subconsciously wanted to unleash his martial soul when he entered the room. With his Spirit Eyes and Purple Demon Eyes, he could see everything clearly even if there wasn’t any light.

But he suddenly felt a great distortion in the space where he was standing at this moment. It was as if the entire area around him had twisted tremendously, and his mind seemed to enter a trance.

He staggered forward two steps, and countless yellow spots lit up around him. It was as if many pairs of eyes were staring at him. A quiet chamber that was also 10 square meters in size also lit up.

What was this?

When Huo Yuhao looked at what was on the walls around him, he was shocked. He wanted to escape immediately. But he soon found out to his horror that he couldn't locate the door. Even though he unleashed his Spirit Eyes and used his Spiritual Detection to search for the door, he still couldn't find it.

The same type of bone was hung on the four walls and the ceiling. This bone didn't belong to a human, but was instead a triangular skull that was. There was a huge gap for the eyes, and the bottom of the skull was sharp. The yellow lights were shining from the eye sockets, which appeared to be balls of flames.

"Ah." Huo Yuhao groaned. His body shook, and he almost fell to the ground. He only felt like a huge cage formed by immense spiritual power was trapping him within, and it was even caving in towards him.

He did not just feel tormented. He was even fearful. His Spiritual Sea also started to writhe tremendously, as if it was about to be torn apart by the frightening spiritual power outside.

But the Skydream Iceworm, Ice Empress and Electrolux didn't react at this point. He was the only one bearing all this.

If this was Huo Yuhao before the tournament, he wouldn't have been able to do anything except panic. His Spiritual Sea would even be on the brink of collapse. But torment and pain allowed one to grow. Furthermore, he was even nourished by the Life Gold before.

After panicking momentarily, he calmed himself down. He resisted the strong spiritual power and sat down on the mat in the room. He gathered his mind and focused so that he could calm down. He also controlled his own spiritual power and skin to act as defensive barriers. He laid layers and layers of spiritual barriers around and on himself to resist the violation of the external spiritual power.

His Spiritual Sea had become extremely resilient after he had trained it for so long. He quickly calmed down and stabilized his condition. The external spiritual power also became less intense at the same time.

Elder Mu's voice resonated at this moment.

"Huo Yuhao, tell me: what is spiritual power?"

Huo Yuhao was different from both Wang Dong and Xiao Xiao in that he was already used to spiritual interaction. He immediately used his Spiritual Sea to reveal his answer.

"Spiritual power is will."

Elder Mu said, "That's right, spiritual power is will. And the key to training one's spiritual power is through resistance and pressure. Your spiritual power is much stronger than I had imagined. There's no other way to describe it other than the fact that you have an unusual gift. Since you have twin martial

souls and the Ultimate Ice as one of them, can you tell me why you didn't choose the Ultimate Ice to be your main martial soul, but instead chose your Spirit Eyes?"

Huo Yuhao replied, "That's because the Ice Jade Scorpion is too powerful. Its powers can only be fully unleashed when the soul rings on it are stronger. That's why I hope to use the Spirit Eyes to accumulate sufficient strength, and ensure that the soul rings on the Ice Jade Scorpion are at least ten thousand years and above."

Elder Mu laughed suddenly. "Little fellow, what's the level of your Ice Jade Scorpion's first soul ring?"

"This..." Huo Yuhao turned anxious. He realized that he couldn't lie to Elder Mu.

"Hundred thousand year soul ring, am I right?" Elder Mu's words were like a Class 9 soul tool cannon shell as they struck Huo Yuhao.

Elder Mu said, "In fact, you've concealed it very well. You managed to conceal your second martial soul's first soul ring with your Spirit Eyes' second soul ring's Imitation. Others can't tell, but it's different for me. Do you know why?"

Huo Yuhao didn't say anything. He was only very tense at this moment. The Skydream Iceworm and Ice Empress were the two most important secrets on him! He was filled with fear at this moment.

Elder Mu followed with, "That's because the domain-type soul skill that you displayed before exposed the capability of your Ice Jade Scorpion's first soul ring. I have a domain-type soul skill too. They are usually hundred thousand year soul skills, unless there are special circumstances involved."

[Chapter 130: Finding Ones Path](#)

It was actually the Domain of Perpetual Ice that exposed his soul ring. Huo Yuhao looked at him quietly. He was calmer now. Since Elder Mu was too powerful, he couldn't resist no matter how he dealt with him. After realizing this point, he didn't try to correct anything, and allowed Elder Mu to deal with him. His calmness also made him much more composed. He could subtly feel that Elder Mu didn't harbor any ill intentions towards him though he had exposed him.

Elder Mu exclaimed, "I have cultivated for my entire life, and roamed the continent for more than 200 years. I have seen countless soul masters and even more martial souls. But it's my first time seeing a situation like yours."

"I sensed the special characteristic of your second martial soul. I even went to the Extreme North for it and caught an Ice Jade Scorpion. It's indeed different. Although your martial soul is similar to an Ice Jade Scorpion, there were no Ice Jade Scorpions that possessed the azure-green, five-joint tail like your martial soul. After a period of observation, I discovered that stronger Ice Jade Scorpions had greener tails. That's why I'm certain that if your second martial soul belongs to an Ice Jade Scorpion, it must be the king of the Ice Jade Scorpions. It may even be the Ice Jade Empress Scorpion, the second among the Three Heavenly Kings of the Extreme North and the top among the Ten Great Savage Beasts."

A deep fear rose from Huo Yuhao's heart. Elder Mu actually went to the Extreme North to verify his martial soul, and even conducted research on the Ice Jade Scorpions in the Extreme North. He had made an accurate analysis. Elder Mu was indeed too brilliant. Huo Yuhao felt as if he was entirely exposed in front of Elder Mu.

Elder Mu continued saying, "When I returned, I analyzed this condition that appeared on your body. The only answer that I have is that you possess a hundred thousand year soul ring and a hundred thousand year soul bone. To better observe your condition, I watched the tournament in Star Luo City, especially the few important rounds. Your abilities were revealed when you faced strong opponents, especially when you unleashed your domain-type ability. I can clearly feel that your bones have surpassed normal conditions. This has also further verified my judgement. But your Imitation skill was good, and you concealed it well. Even I couldn't get the complete picture."

"It's been at least 50 years since something has aroused my curiosity. But you've aroused it now. I wondered then how was it possible for a teenager like you to fuse with an Ice Jade Empress Scorpion's soul ring and soul bone? And this Ice Jade Empress Scorpion must have had a cultivation of at least two hundred thousand years. You even made it your martial soul. I am certain that less than five people in Shrek Academy can bear the fusion of that kind of optimal soul ring, and those people already have nine rings to themselves. Nine rings is the limit of an ordinary soul master, and we don't have twin martial souls. The fact is that even if we could find and kill an Ice Jade Empress Scorpion, we couldn't put its soul ring to use."

"I discovered later on that the power of the Ice Jade Empress Scorpion should exist in your body. But it's just that this power has been sealed. How did this seal come about? You've indeed piqued my curiosity! I thought for a good 6 months before coming up with a forced guess. Before you went to the Extreme North and planned to obtain the second soul ring for your Spirit Eyes, you met the Ice Jade Empress Scorpion, who couldn't break through its bottleneck. The Ice Jade Empress Scorpion couldn't bear for its formidable strength to disappear before it passed on, thus it sealed its powers and gave them to you. That's how you got your second martial soul. You were also given its soul ring and soul bone. It seems like this is the only logical explanation."

"But here comes the question: why did you go to the Extreme North to hunt for soul beasts and soul rings even though you possess a spiritual-type martial soul? Even though the Ice Jade Empress Scorpion sealed your powers, it's not something that someone as small as you should be able to bear! And how did the Ice Jade Empress Scorpion become your martial soul directly? I can't find the answers to these."

Huo Yuhao pursed his lips and did not speak. Elder Mu's guess wasn't entirely correct, but it was close to the answer.

Elder Mu smiled and said, "There are too many peculiarities on your body. If I didn't observe your body and verify that you were human, I might really suspect that you were a soul beast reborn. Everyone has their own destiny. I can't fully tell your condition, but I can see steadiness and sincerity on you. Your performances in the tournament left me extremely comforted too. If you're willing to, I hope to play the role as your listener before I leave this world. But I won't force you."

"Aren't you going to ask me?" The unexpected turn of events left Huo Yuhao feeling incredulous.

"I won't. I believe that my guess is not far from the truth. Since you have such a destiny, I am delighted for you as your senior. Before I verified that you were human, I really hoped that you really had such a destiny. Don't forget that you're now part of Shrek's Seven Monsters. Shrek's imprint has been carved onto your body. How? An elder's train of thought is different from a young person's, am I right? Haha."

Huo Yuhao took in a deep breath after remaining in a daze for a moment. He said seriously, "Thanks for your belief. I won't let you down."

Elder Mu said, "You saw those hanging skulls. These are skulls from soul beasts called Terrifying Demon Dragons. The Terrifying Demon Dragons are earth and evil dragons, but are not very powerful. But they are a rare spiritual-type dragon species. After a Terrifying Demon Dragon passes on due to natural causes, its skull will retain some of its spiritual power that won't diminish over time. It's not difficult to kill a Terrifying Demon Dragon, but it's difficult to obtain the skull of a Terrifying Demon Dragon after it dies of natural causes. There are 1001 Terrifying Demon Dragon skulls in this room, and it took the academy 800 years to gather them. I will stimulate their spiritual auras later on, and you'll feel an immense pressure amidst their auras. For your spiritual power to grow, you'll have to bear the immense pressure. It'll be very beneficial to your Spirit Eyes. I hope that you can comprehend more in the process of cultivation. There's only one chance like this."

After he finished speaking, Elder Mu's aura disappeared. But the pressure of the spiritual power earlier that had weakened grew stronger. Ripples appeared in Huo Yuhao's Spiritual Sea, and an intense undulation of spiritual power caused him to resist it with all his might.

Underground Hall.

Elder Mu was still in the center of the hall. But he had laid back onto his reclining chair. Yan Shaozhe and Xian Lin'er stood beside him.

Yan Shaozhe asked in a low voice, "Teacher, are you really not going to clarify things?"

Elder Mu shook his head and said, "There's no need to. He's a human, and his bloodline is obviously not from the Sun Moon Empire. With these two premises, the rest is unimportant. He's still young, and can still be molded. We can't chill his heart because of our doubts."

Yan Shaozhe creased his brows slightly and said, "If he's a spy sent by the other side..."

Xian Lin'er suddenly snorted coldly, "If it were you, would you send someone with an Ultimate martial soul to be a spy? Furthermore, I analyzed Huo Yuhao's progress and experience after he entered the academy. His powers only soared after he graduated from first grade. He must have met with that weird encounter during the holidays. If it were you, would you tell anyone if you had such an encounter?"

Yan Shaozhe wasn't infuriated because of Xian Lin'er's tone. He only replied as if something was on his mind, "Lin'er, I understand what you're saying. But don't you find it a coincidence that the Spirit Eyes' second soul ring came to possess Imitation at the same time he gained the Ice Jade Empress Scorpion as his martial soul? It's so coincidental that it seems everything was planned."

Xian Lin'er said coldly, "I only know that I would recall my spy if he obtained an Ultimate martial soul from some miraculous opportunity and nurture him with all my strength. At the same time, I would not send an 11-year-old kid into my enemy's camp. How unpredictable are kids? Yan Shaozhe, you're always so narrow-minded and lack magnanimity."

"You..." Yan Shaozhe turned red and white from Xian Lin'er's censure. But he didn't dare to flare up in front of Elder Mu.

Elder Mu smiled and interrupted, "Alright, the both of you have squabbled for many decades already. I've already made my decision on Yuhao. This kid deserves to be nurtured by the academy. Even Tang San, the true core of the first-generation Shrek's Seven Monsters, had his own secrets."

Yan Shaozhe nodded his head and said, "Teacher, regarding their future arrangements..."

Elder Mu said, "They will be in closed-door cultivation here for some time. Once they're finished, allow them to return to the outer courtyard. After all, they're still young, and it's not good for their development if we put too much pressure on them. The two of you need to monitor the other four and give them the best aid and guidance. You must ensure that they enter the inner courtyard, but don't make the test easier for them. After entering the inner courtyard, they can come here once. That's why I let them return first. The Body Sect came to find trouble during the tournament. I estimate that peace will not reign in the short-term. The two of you must be wary."

"Yes."

.....

Tang Ya packed her things and looked at the weather outside. Her normally smiling face revealed a sense of loneliness. She seemed to be bothered by many thoughts, and she lowered her head as she walked out of the classroom.

She had been living an entirely boring life in this period of time. Classroom, dormitory, dormitory, classroom. She never stayed outside or left the academy.

After leaving the classroom block, she returned to the dormitory quickly. She seemed to be thinking of something as she walked.

"Pretty lady, give me some face and have a meal with me." At this point, a figure blocked her way. As she was walking very quickly, she almost walked into that person.

"Scram." Tang Ya was enraged, and lifted her head. Everyone knew about her relationship with Bei Bei. Did someone from the outer courtyard just try to take liberties with her?

However, her eyes never shifted once she lifted her head. That handsome face that appeared gentle and refined wore a slight smile on it as it filled Tang Ya's gaze.

"You still remembered to return!" Tang Ya's voice trembled a little.

Bei Bei laughed slightly. "How could I not return when my wife's here? What if she runs away with someone else?"

"Who's your wife?" Tang Ya reprimanded him, "You're so rude. I'm the head of the Tang Sect, your teacher!"

Bei Bei extended his arms and the smile on his face didn't change, "Come teacher, give me a hug."

Tang Ya pursed her lips lightly and glared at him. After that, she rushed into his arms and hugged his waist tightly. She started to bawl.

Bei Bei hugged her slender finger and was a little stunned, "What's wrong? Did someone really bully you?" In his heart, Tang Ya had always been like a cheerful angel. Although she had the heavy burden of rebuilding the Tang Sect, she was still a very cheerful person. Although Bei Bei had been away from her for a long time, she should have at most censured him with a few words. She wouldn't wail uncontrollably like this!

Tang Ya didn't reply, and only hugged him as she cried. She cried until Bei Bei's shirt was drenched with her tears. She then lifted her swollen, red eyes and said, "I'm fine."

Bei Bei lifted his hand uncourteously above her head and knocked it, "Why would you cry so hard if nothing was wrong? Let's return to the dormitory first."

Tang Ya's dormmate was Jiang Nannan. Jiang Nannan was not around, as she had followed Xu Sanshi to the pharmacy and wouldn't return anytime soon.

It wasn't Bei Bei's first time sneaking into the ladies' dorm. Although the academy had rules, they couldn't possibly catch every trespasser. Tang Ya opened her door and entered before opening the window for Bei Bei to climb in. He wasn't spotted. But even if he was, who in the outer courtyard would dare to expose him?

Tang Ya and Jiang Nannan's room didn't have too many decorations. It was simple and pleasant. Jiang Nannan's mattress even had patches.

Tang Ya dragged Bei Bei onto the bed to sit down. She leaned into his arms and hugged him tightly. "There was no news even though all of you were gone for so long. How was the tournament?"

Bei Bei gazed at her deeply and didn't pursue the doubt in his heart. He recounted his experiences to her.

He had always been someone who could control his temperament and was patient. That's why he recounted everything in detail, and only finished when it had already turned dark outside.

"What? The academy rewarded all of you by making all of you Shrek's Seven Monsters?" Tang Ya was stunned and she sat up. She opened her eyes wide and looked at him as if she didn't recognize him.

Bei Bei nodded and said, "I'm very surprised too, but I'm also delighted. Why? Are you not delighted? You need to know that 5 of us out of the 7 hails from Tang Sect."

Tang Ya furrowed her brows and shook her head slightly. "I'm elated for all of you. But can all of you still do anything for Tang Sect now that all of you have become Shrek's Seven Monsters? Too many of the academy's imprints have been carved onto your bodies."

Bei Bei laughed uncontrollably, "Why not? The academy won't restrict our freedom. Furthermore, the relationship between the academy and Tang Sect has always been quite good!"

"How is it good?" Tang Ya was furious as she shook her head. Her eyes even flashed with a tinge of hostility. "Where was the academy when the Tang Sect was going downhill? I was chased out of my own home. Where were they when the Tang Sect ended? Did they ever help us as the continent's top academy?"

Bei Bei was a little stunned as he looked at Tang Ya's expression, "Xiao Ya, are you fine? Your emotions are..." It was his first time seeing Tang Ya revealing such an expression.

Tang Ya threw her head down forcefully, as if she was trying to wrench something to the ground. She lowered her head and said, "Sorry, I'm fine." Bei Bei couldn't see that a shred of dim purple had flashed across Tang Ya's bright, wide eyes. It wasn't the glow of the Purple Demon Eyes, but a dim purple that carried an aura of death.

Bei Bei hugged her once again and said, "Xiao Ya, don't waste your time! The Tang Sect declined because due to its own actions. Besides the lack of advantage of secret weapons, the Tang Sect's past leaders also had all sorts of problems. These led to the fall of the Tang Sect, which was once prosperous. But you should be seeing a glimmer of hope now! There's Yuhao, He Caitou, Wang Dong, Xiao Xiao and me by your side. We can help you rebuild the Tang Sect, help it become prosperous again when our powers grow. We're still young, and we've time to work hard for the Tang Sect's rise."

Tang Ya laughed bitterly and said, "But have you ever thought of what I'm capable of doing for Tang Sect as its leader? All of you are already Shrek's Seven Monsters, but I'm getting further and further from all of you. I'm also aware that I won't make it into the inner courtyard. I'm not that capable, and the inner courtyard won't let me in just because I'm the Tang Sect's leader."

"No, don't think like that," Bei Bei said hurriedly, "why can't you make it if you're willing to work hard? We'll try our best to get you into the inner courtyard."

Tang Ya shook her head and said, "Bei Bei, don't be like this. I don't want to become your burden. Do you understand? You should be cultivating tirelessly now and get into the inner courtyard next year. Do you know why I was crying just now? That's because I've decided to leave Shrek."

"What?" Bei Bei was shocked upon hearing her words. His smile also disappeared instantly. "Xiao Ya, what's wrong?" He could clearly feel the change in Tang Ya after more than a month without seeing her. He even felt a sense of unfamiliarity from her, as her personality had changed greatly. He hadn't even seen her smile ever since he had returned.

Tang Ya lifted her head to look at Bei Bei, and her eyes were filled with sorrow. "I don't want to leave, but staying here no longer holds any meaning for me. I'll only tie you down. Since I can't get into the inner courtyard, I need to try my best to carve out a path for the Tang Sect's future. I cried because I can't bear to leave you. Bei Bei, do you know that I'll really miss you?"

"Stop speaking." Bei Bei interrupted her rather violently and hugged her tightly in his arms. "You can't go, do you hear me?"

Tang Ya replied faintly, "You know my character. I won't ever change my mind." Tears streamed down her cheeks, but she never cried out. But the sorrow in her eyes wasn't simply because of her impending departure.

"Xiao Ya, listen to me," Bei Bei said gently, "we're still young! Why do you have to be so impatient?"

Tang Ya buried her face in his arms, "Stop persuading me. You don't know how hard it was for me to make this decision. I must leave. I've already tended my leave from the academy. I hesitated on whether I should wait for you to return. I was afraid that I wouldn't be able to make my decision when you

return. But I was more afraid that my sudden departure would be too much for you to bear and affect your studies. That's why I decided to bear the pain of my departure and tell you about it clearly."

Bei Bei's body shook. "Xiao Ya, have you really made up your mind?" He understood her, and knew the stubbornness that was deeply rooted in her bones.

Tang Ya nodded slightly.

Bei Bei took in a deep breath and tried to calm himself down forcefully. "Where are you going then? At least tell me the place so that I can find you during the holidays."

Tang Ya replied softly, "I will return to the Heavenly Soul Empire where the Tang Sect originated. I will rebuild the Tang Sect in the Heavenly Soul Empire's capital. Our Tang Sect's family is also there. Heaven Dou City was named to remember the Heaven Dou Empire that once existed. The Tang Sect will always be tied to this city. While the Tang Sect may not be around temporarily, they're still connected. I will go back and contact them. I'll at least find a place for the Tang Sect."

Bei Bei creased his brows. "Must you go to Heaven Dou City? The Tang Sect's former address was there. I'm afraid they will do something bad to you."

Tang Ya answered, "I won't let them discover me. This is unless I can push them into a corner and regain the Tang Sect's territory one day."

Bei Bei saw the hostility in Tang Ya's eyes once again, and was filled with discomfort, "What if I don't let you go?"

Tang Ya's gaze turned tender again. She gently caressed his face, "Bei Bei, you're the one who understands me the best in this world. I can't do anything for the Tang Sect in terms of my abilities. If you don't let me contribute to the rebuilding of Tang Sect, I won't be happy. I will wait for you in the Heaven Dou City as I set up the Tang Sect's foundation. We'll seize the Tang Sect's estate and rebuild the sect one day when you, Huo Yuhao and the rest achieve something. This is something I have to do."

Huo Yuhao was like a small boat amidst a spiritual windstorm as the immense spiritual power exerted pressure on him. He maintained himself as the windstorm raged. While the windstorm was very frightening, he never submitted.

Huo Yuhao was also unsure of how much time had passed. His Spiritual Sea seemed to be hammered into shape as it was assaulted repeatedly.

His Spiritual Sea had shrunk by a third from the start till now. But he realized that his spiritual power had become more condensed at the same time.

Based on the total spiritual power in the quiet chamber, it would be impossible for Huo Yuhao to bear if they were all in an offensive state. They could tear his Spiritual Sea apart instantly. But the spiritual power was scattered in this enclosed space. Some of them exerted pressure, but didn't attack him. That's why Huo Yuhao could still hold on.

The external assault became weaker as Huo Yuhao condensed his spiritual power. He also calmed down.

He was comprehending the changes in his body and the new capabilities he possessed. Every soul skill and all the strength in his body was growing as he comprehended his body and everything within it.

Huo Yuhao realized why Electrolux had told him to enter closed-door cultivation as soon as possible then. His thoughts were much more agile under such an entirely quiet condition where he wouldn't be disrupted. Furthermore, the strength that he possessed fused greater with his body and made him feel as if he was growing.

The Mysterious Heaven Technique was still circulating, but its enhancement had reached a bottleneck. This bottleneck stemmed from his soul power, which had reached Rank 30.

This also meant that Huo Yuhao could advance from a soul grandmaster to a soul elder if he could obtain a soul ring. He would then reach Rank 30.

But the increase in his soul power couldn't keep up with the pleasure he felt in comprehending his own strength. It was a profound change.

His tireless mastery and the live experiences he had gathered so far caused him to experience changes in his body after the immense pressure he bore in the tournament. There was also the fusion of the Life Gold.

He had never had the opportunity to comprehend all this quietly in the past. But the opportunity had arrived now.

Huo Yuhao could recall that Elder Mu once told him to find his own path. It was only through finding his own path that his future road to mastery would become smoother, and he would not be lost.

But what was his path?

Soul master? Soul engineer?

Assault-type, Ultimate Ice soul master? Control-type, Spirit Eyes soul master?

Everything he learned seemed a little heterogeneous now, and didn't seem to come together. The path he was supposed to find was supposed to teach him how to fuse all his strengths together.

The external pressure sparked the enhancement of his spiritual power, and he also became more and more composed. He wasn't anxious at all. He tried to painstakingly sense all the capabilities in his internal world and slowly find the path that belonged to him.

"What's your path?" Elder Mu laid quietly on the recliner chair and looked at the young lady in front of him with a gentle gaze.

Xiao Xiao had grown thinner. She wasn't fat in the first place, but was even thinner now. She even seemed a little bony. But her eyes had become brighter.

"My path is auxiliary." Xiao Xiao answered without hesitation.

"Oh?" Elder Mu was a little stunned, "Why did you choose auxiliary?"

Xiao Xiao answered confidently, "I have two martial souls. They are the Threelives Soulcrush Cauldron and the Nine Phoenix Worshipping Flute. The Nine Phoenix Worshipping Flute is a sound-type martial soul, and can turn into either a control-type or auxiliary-type martial soul. My first soul skill is the auxiliary-type, and I don't wish to waste it. That's why the Nine Phoenix Worshipping Flute can only be

an auxiliary-type, whereas my Threelives Soulcrush Cauldron can be a control-type or defense-type. It can even be used offensively. It belongs in the category of Ten Thousand Gold Oil. So from what I see, the abilities that it has can be used for auxiliary purposes. I'm confident in becoming a top-ranked auxiliary-type battle soul master if it's paired with my Nine Phoenix Worshipping Flute."

Elder Mu laughed, "This is a new term to me. I've only heard of auxiliary-type tool soul masters."

"I'm a battle soul master," Xiao Xiao said confidently, "my aid will be active. This is my path."

Elder Mu looked at her, "Are there any other reasons why you've made this choice?"

Xiao Xiao nodded slightly, "Because Shrek's Seven Monsters need someone in that role."

Elder Mu smiled. Although the smile on his frail and elderly face didn't look nice, it was filled with benevolence and comfort. "Very well, you've found your path. I'm happy for you."

Xiao Xiao laughed too, "But, how long will I be here? Elder Mu, I'm hungry. I feel

Elder Mu smiled more radiantly, "Silly kid, your deep meditation lasted 34 days and 12 hours. Get something to eat first. After that, you can fuse the soul bone you got as a reward."

He opened his eyes slowly. His huge, purplish-blue eyes were clear and bright. His body was smooth and translucent, like a golden ruby. A gentle, golden light shone from his body.

"I never expected my path to be like this. But I'm confident that I'm right."

Wang Dong got up, and the golden radiance around his body suddenly soared up like flames. He was filled with a divine aura under the support of the flames.

He understood many things through his deep meditation. He even completed his second fusion, or rather a true fusion, with his Golden Light Left Arm Bone. He only understood what the strength of the Golden Light was now.

What was more important was the increase in his soul power. Where was this place? It was the stem of the golden tree. It contained the purest power of light. Those with light-type martial souls would experience the most obvious and greatest increase in soul power here.

Rank 36. This was Wang Dong's current soul power. It was a rank even he wouldn't have expected. More importantly, the increase wasn't followed by any side effects. In this period of time, his body quality also soared, and his understanding of the true meaning of light was far greater than what it was before.

Wang Dong stood up as he let out a long breath. His body was extremely light. Even when he breathed, he seemed to swallow and spit out light elements. His complexion had also become smooth and clean. The dim pink on his skin was filled with the taste of healthy sunlight.

Wang Dong's golden radiance slowly retracted as he pushed the door open, and his soul power circulated smoothly. His mind also seemed to be isolated from his cultivation state as he walked out the door.

"Yuhao, how are you? I've improved. What'll happen when we form the Haodong Power again?"

He seemed to sense something at this point. He turned his head suddenly and looked towards the end of the tunnel. He saw someone walking out from the innermost door.

It wasn't well-lit here. But Wang Dong saw a pair of shining, bright eyes.

"Yuhao." Wang Dong exclaimed in surprise before bursting towards him.

Yes, it might or might not be a coincidence, but Huo Yuhao walked out at the same time that Wang Dong finished his cultivation.

"Wang Dong." Just like how Wang Dong was shocked when he saw him, Huo Yuhao was equally shocked when he saw Wang Dong bursting towards him.

Wang Dong had grown taller, and was now almost his height. His figure was slenderer and straighter. His purplish-blue hair flowed freely behind him, and his facial lines appeared gentler. His handsome face seemed to be better described with the word 'beautiful', and it felt as if he had become more similar to the lady that danced in the Rainment of Light. Huo Yuhao might have thought that Wang Dong was a girl if he didn't interact with him much.

Huo Yuhao opened his arms, and the two of them hugged. Their soul power surged into each other's body at this instant, and the Haodong Power also circulated at this point.

There was a clear, white halo that surrounded Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong in the center. This led to the formation of a whirlpool. The intense undulation of their soul power burst forth as they surged, which made the both of them feel as if they were filled with strength.

He became stronger.

This was the same thought that went through Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong's minds. But they didn't simply become stronger. Their strength had soared.

Compared to the increase in soul power, it was more important that they could feel a sense of all-roundedness on each other that wasn't there before. It's as if their entire strength had been perfectly fused. Their soul master rankings seemed unable to restrain their true abilities anymore.

Wang Dong relaxed his arm and asked Huo Yuhao, "Have you found your own path?"

Huo Yuhao smiled and asked him back, "What about you?"

Wang Dong proudly said, "Of course I did. I'm so talented, of course I managed to find it."

Huo Yuhao laughed, "Then I would have found it naturally too. Since you're a talent and I'm better than you, I must be the talent among all the talents?"

Wang Dong snorted and said, "How are you better than me?"

Huo Yuhao chortled and compared their arm muscles. He said, "At least I'm more robust than you. Your body is so soft. While it's nice to hug, it lacks manliness."

Wang Dong turned red. "I can't be bothered with you. Tell me, what's your path?"

Huo Yuhao, "I found..."

As he spoke till this point, a gentle voice resonated in both their ears. "Come out and speak."

"Elder Mu?" The two of them were stunned as they looked at each other. They didn't expect Elder Mu to be waiting for them.

They walked out of the tunnel quickly, and saw the elder lying on the reclining chair in the middle of the hall.

"Elder Mu." The two of them bowed respectfully.

Elder Mu looked at Huo Yuhao before looking at Wang Dong. He revealed a comforted laugh. "It seems like the two of you have also found your paths."

Wang Dong was surprised as he asked, "Also? Has Xiao Xiao found hers too?"

Elder Mu nodded and said, "She came out earlier than the both of you. Tell me, what are your paths?"