

Tang Sect 141

Chapter 141.1: Darkgolden Terrorclaw Right Palm Bone

Xiao Xiao's pain lessened as the power from the soul bone was being siphoned to Huo Yuhao. Her swollen right arm started going back to normal again as well. While she was in such miserable pain that she couldn't speak, she was able to hear the conversation between Elder Xuan and Huo Yuhao. Xiao Xiao wasn't simply grateful when she saw the resolute look on Huo Yuhao's face.

The Darkgolden Terrorclaw's power wasn't under the fire element, instead it was of the metal element. It was a tyrannical power that demonstrated the sharpness of the metal element to the point.

Huo Yuhao could even hear the sonorous sound when the Darkgolden Terrorclaw's strength clashed with the Ice Empress' Pincer's power..

Eventually, all of the Darkgolden Terrorclaw's strength had been siphoned to Huo Yuhao's right palm. At which point Xiao Xiao groaned slightly before collapsing in Elder Xuan's arms, unconscious.

Wang Dong was unable to stop Huo Yuhao before, but he knew what to do now and reacted with haste—receiving Xiao Xiao from Elder Xuan so that he could help Huo Yuhao without complication.

Elder Xuan stood over Huo Yuhao, watching him anxiously. He was well aware of what was going on, thus he couldn't act recklessly here. As long as Huo Yuhao could suppress that soul bone's power in his palm, then he must allow him to absorb it. Elder Xuan wasn't nervous because of how precious the soul bone was—it was because he wanted to preserve Huo Yuhao's right arm!

The drained Darkgolden Terrorclaw's energy had all entered Huo Yuhao's right palm. Huo Yuhao could sense that the Mysterious Jade Hands and his Ice Empress' Pincer were being a little overwhelmed by the invading energies.

With his soul skill active he couldn't absorb the soul bone. However, if he withdrew the Ice Empress' Pincer he would have to bear with the intense pain relying on sheer willpower and his body's tough physique.

When he thought about it. Huo Yuhao wanted to laugh. He wondered if soul bones were his arch-nemesis. Whether it was the Ice Jade Empress' Torso Bone, the Ice Jade Scorpion Left Arm Bone, or the Darkgolden Terrorclaw's Right Palm Bone he was absorbing right now, they all gave him immense difficulties when trying to fuse with them. While the current situation isn't nearly as potentially fatal or painful as Ice Jade Empress' Torso bone had been, it would still be painful.

Huo Yuhao's choice was to face this ordeal bravely. However, one cannot simply always face their obstacles head-on, even if they're willing to. If one didn't collapse amidst the repression, they would be burnt amidst the suppression.

He took in a slow, deep breath, and the Mysterious Jade Hand's made one more full body circulation of soul power. Huo Yuhao slowly closed his eyes, and in the next instant—the bright radiance disappeared. Leaving behind an intense dark gold glow.

Wang Dong lifted a hand to cover his mouth in, stopping himself from shouting in surprise. Elder Xuan's body twitched. Aside from the unconcealed shock in his eyes there was a faint hint of awe.

Resilient and courageous! Only Huo Yuhao could make such a critical decision!

The excruciating pain led Huo Yuhao to believe that the Darkgolden Terrorclaw had torn his palm bone asunder! The maniacal will of the Darkgolden Terrorclaw started rising up, prepared to rush into the rest of his arm.

If that happened he would end up just like Xiao Xiao had, as the Darkgolden Terrorclaw's strength would run rampant in his body.

Huo Yuhao made the correct decision; disregarding the pain in his right palm with his resilient will, as if his right palm didn't belong to him. His immense spiritual power attacked the maniacal will. Simultaneously, his forehead lit up with a blinding turquoise light.

Huo Yuhao's eyes shot wide open, an intense aura of light exuding from them. His third eye also started to crack open, and a streak of azure-green light flashed from his eyes as a bolt of electricity came out of the Life Gold before piercing his right wrist.

The azure-green light spread, and the aura within helped to seal the Darkgolden Terrorclaw's power within the confines of his right hand.

This is...

Elder Xuan was shocked. He could distinguish that the azure-green light was a carving knife, but what was this third eye doing on Huo Yuhao?!

At this moment, there was only one possibility that he thought of—the second awakening of one's Body Soul!

The azure-green light didn't just appear on his right hand. Huo Yuhao's Life Gold slowly displayed its strength, releasing an aura of light all over his body. This aura's appearance left both Wang Dong and Elder Xuan relieved.

This was Huo Yuhao's second trump card. Although offering to save Xiao Xiao was a little reckless, he was still very confident in his own body. The Ice Empress' Pincer actively prevented the Darkgolden Terrorclaw's power from running rampant. Then he used the Life Guardian's blade and life power to suppress the power further. While this move also increased his body's overall resistance. With all these actions being put into play, Huo Yuhao could only resign himself to defeat if he still couldn't absorb this Darkgolden Terrorclaw Right Palm Bone.

The Life Gold's power was proven once again. That bountiful life force seemed to sense the mayhem in his hand and advanced towards it.

Long ago, The Calamity Necromancer Electrolux, spoke to Huo Yuhao of the Life Gold's greatness. As of right now, Huo Yuhao could clearly sense that greatness.

The Darkgolden Terrorclaw and Life Gold's energies seemed to cause a continuing cycle of destruction and construction within Huo Yuhao's palm, while the destruction was going at a furious rate, it was no match for the restorative powers from the Life Gold. Meaning the condition of Huo Yuhao's right palm had stabilized.

Although stable, it still brought about untold amounts of pain. This was Huo Yuhao's first time feeling such pain.

The Darkgolden Terrorclaw's destructive energies brought him great pain, while the Life Gold's restorative properties caused him to feel a great numbness. The contrasting feelings made Huo Yuhao undergo a whole new kind of torture! Even though he had once experienced the immense pain from the Ice Jade Empress' Torso bone, Huo Yuhao still found himself sweating buckets! Bead after bead of sweat rolled down his forehead, his shirt becoming drenched very quickly, and his body starting to give off a faint mist.

Wang Dong had never seen Huo Yuhao in such unbearable pain before. Which left him shocked and speechless at the current scene.

His cultivation and physique weren't that different from that of Huo Yuhao and Xiao Xiao's. Wang Dong had seen how Xiao Xiao ended up after attempting to fuse with the soul bone. After a short and fleeting resistance—Xiao Xiao gave up. Showing just how unbearable this pain, really was.

Huo Yuhao was possibly bearing even more pain than Xiao Xiao had! As Huo Yuhao's fusion partner, Wang Dong could get a feel for his current condition. The slight sensations he could feel through their spiritual connection caused Wang Dong to shiver internally as Huo Yuhao bore the astonishing pain.

With this, Wang Dong finally realized how strong Huo Yuhao was mentally. Even as his body gave off the occasional twitch, Huo Yuhao sat very stably. His facial expressions remained entirely the same, his brows never even furrowed once. While the beads of perspiration rolled down his face, intermittent subtle crackling sounds came from his right palm. Wang Dong couldn't bear to watch anymore!

He wasn't alone in his shock either. Elder Xuan had cultivated for hundreds of years, and had seen the bearings of many soul masters. While he could tell that Huo Yuhao was using that magical carving knife to suppress the Darkgolden Terrorclaw's power, he was positive that Huo Yuhao had to endure greater pains himself. Relying solely on his resilient willpower and mind to bear with the pain. Could this be done by a 12-year-old-kid? Just how many trials had he faced to come out with such a terrifying will?

Huo Yuhao didn't know what Wang Dong and Elder Xuan were thinking, but he could feel that he was getting more accustomed to the pain. After all, it was focused in his right palm. When he had fused with the Ice Jade Empress Scorpion Torso bone before, the intense pain had spread over his entire body!

He could now start to sense what has been happening in his right palm. He discovered that his whole right hand was undergoing a special transformation. The bones that had felt crushed and destroyed, weren't crushed at all—countless fine cracks had appeared all over their surface. The Darkgolden Terrorclaw Right Palm Bone was fusing into his right hand through these small cracks. His bones were being destroyed under the pressure from the maniacal will, and restored by the overflowing life power. While the destruction wasn't as intense, the pain was. Huo Yuhao's right palm bone began to change as the Darkgolden Terrorclaw's power merged with it.

Huo Yuhao's bones had a layer of greenish-gold after they were nourished by the Life Gold. It demonstrated the presence of immense life power. But his right palm bone had turned a dark gold hue, similar to that of boundless space!

His bones slightly increased in size, but this wasn't readily apparent. His finger bones grew like a knife, narrowing at the top and widening at the bottom. Even the flesh surrounding his bones transformed. The extreme powers caused his bones to shrink, letting them fit into their new forms. Huo Yuhao also started noticing weird patterns emerging from the bones of his palm.

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Cloud-like patterns appeared on the outer bones in his right hand, while triangular patterns showed up on the inner palm bones. These patterns overlapped meticulously and seemed to contain great strength. An immense power followed the great pains in Huo Yuhao's palm and gradually fused with his mind.

Time passed slowly, and an entire night had gone by unknowingly, with the bright sunlight coming out. Huo Yuhao was sweating less and less, mist no longer rising from his skin.

"Whoosh—" The Life Guardian's blade jumped out of Huo Yuhao's palm and disappear in a flash of azure-green light into Huo Yuhao's forehead. Instantly healing the wounds from its entry and exit.

After which Huo Yuhao let out a deep roar and lifted his right arm. A "pfft" sound was heard, and bloody lights shot out from his fingers.

Wang Dong started towards Huo Yuhao in concern, thinking that his palm couldn't bear it and exploded. But he was immediately stopped by a powerful force, and Elder Xuan looking at him with a stern expression whilst shaking his head.

Presently, five streaks of dark golden light—about fourteen inches in length—had shot out from each of Huo Yuhao's fingers. They were wider at the fingertips and narrower at the end. When they appeared, a slight whirring sound was heard, and the dark golden lights undulated like rippling water. Huo Yuhao's right hand had completely turned dark gold, the five blades of light seeming to be an extension of his fingers. Leaving no scars as it came out from his fingers.

The dark golden light started surging from his right palm. Extending up his arm and to the rest of his body. Seemingly baptizing Huo Yuhao in a layer of dark golden light. His Spirit Eyes also shot open with a golden flash of color before returning to normal.

Huo Yuhao's body twitched while he let out a deep breath. Elder Xuan supported him quickly to keep him from falling, but he also subconsciously used his right palm to stabilize himself. His Darkgolden Terrorclaw silently pierced into the ground.

Huo Yuhao seemed to figure something out. He pulled his Darkgolden Terrorclaw out from the earth and stared at his dark gold palm. His mind wandered, and his claws disappeared. Everything returned to normal, including the color of his palm.

Huo Yuhao heaved a sigh of relief.

"Yuhao, how are you?"

A concerned Wang Dong and an awoken Xiao Xiao sprung to his side. Xiao Xiao was very grateful to him on top of being concerned.

Huo Yuhao forced a smile and said to Xiao Xiao, "I stole your soul bone."

Xiao Xiao sobbed as she said, "Class Monitor, how can you put it like this? If not for you, my arm would've already been..."

Huo Yuhao laughed and replied, "Don't worry, I won't have you pledge your body to me."

Elder Xuan was also relieved, "It's completely fused, thank goodness it all worked out alright. I suspect that, without the life energy contained within that magical carving knife, Huo Yuhao couldn't have pulled this off even if he had six soul rings. Perhaps only a seven ringed soul sage or higher could've enhanced their body enough with their Martial Soul True Body to absorb this soul bone. I must say, Huo Yuhao, you're the first youngster I've come to admire."

Huo Yuhao laughed bitterly, "Elder Xuan, shall we rest for the day?" Upon finishing his statement, he collapsed into Wang Dong arms long before Elder Xuan could reply.

The three had benefited greatly from the last 24 hours. However, it was also mentally trying and left them exhausted. Elder Xuan had likewise been on edge the entire time he was following them. Primarily due to things spiraling out of his control.

However, the end result was fantastic for the trio. Xiao Xiao got her third soul ring, while Huo Yuhao got his third soul bone. It was even an exceedingly rare Darkgolden Terrorclaw Right Palm Bone, an external soul bone even.

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The Sun Moon Empire's capital, Radiant City. The Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy, Illustrious Virtue Hall.

"Are you sure?" Asked a person wearing a long, black robe, standing quietly in front of the Hallmaster of the Virtuous Hall, Jing Hongchen. It was apparent that he was a tall and burly man from his rough voice and build. However, his long, black robe and huge hat disguised his true appearance.

"I'm certain. I just came back from Shrek Academy. I'm sure you're interested in the Dark Phoenix."

"What do you want from telling me all this? Besides, it's not easy to enter Shrek Academy." The man in the black robe said in a deep voice.

Jing Hongchen smiled, his chubby face compressing as he said, "I know what you're worried about. Shrek Academy is far more dangerous than we gave them credit for. With that Elder Mu holding down the fort, any tomfoolery on their campus grounds is just assured death. But what if we lured the powerhouses out from Shrek Academy?"

The man wearing a black robe's interest was piqued. "Tell me more."

Jing Hongchen squinted, and a streak of sharp light flashed across his eyes. He spoke for almost 15 minutes. The man in the black robe nodded his head repeatedly, as if he fully agreed with his words.

"If this is the case, our chances are good. As the Dark Phoenix descends, the Sacred Lady will assume her position yet again. We must be ready to receive the Sacred Lady, but when all this is over, we'll reward you handsomely." The man in the black robe sounded excited, hysterical even.

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Heaven Dou Empire's capital, Heaven Dou City.

A petite and lonesome figure walked the streets. It was Tang Ya, it had been almost a month since she returned to Heaven Dou City. Her face no longer bore a smile, instead showing an unhealthy pallor, even more delicate in appearance than before.

Heaven Dou City was where she was born and raised. Five years ago, a sect that didn't even have worldly renown had taken everything from her. The Tang Sect had collapsed after years of decay, and was wiped out. Her parents as well...

Tang Ya started to tear up when she thought of it.

"Mom, dad, I will help the Tang Sect regain its glory no matter the price I have to pay." Tang Yan clenched her fists tightly.

She didn't wait till Huo Yuhao, Wang Dong and Xiao Xiao ended their secluded cultivations, and she left Shrek Academy even with Bei Bei's objections.

She returned to Heaven Dou City after leaving the academy and bought a small house with the savings she shared with Bei Bei.

Tang Ya's original plan was to find her footing in Heaven Dou City before re-establishing the Tang Sect and recruiting disciples. She wanted to lay down the foundation before Bei Bei and the rest came to Heaven Dou City. They would join her in reclaiming the Tang Sect's former glory after they graduated.

However, she now realized why Bei Bei had tried to dissuade her from being impatient in returning to Heaven Dou City. Everything was not as simple as she had imagined.

She hadn't returned with insufficient money, not after calculating the costs of re-establishing the Tang Sect. Tang Ya was faced with an important problem: The sect wouldn't have any income, not for a long time at least. But she couldn't go back to Bei Bei for the money! The money that Bei Bei had already provided her with came from his family, and her pride wouldn't allow her to ask for more.

Then there was the issue with connections. She was 10 years old when she left, and now 15 years old upon her return. How many contacts could a 15-year-old-girl have without any family have in such a large city?

Tang Ya did attempt to seek out the old acquaintances of the Tang Sect, her parents' friends. But they treated her like the plague and wanted nothing to do with her. Furthermore, when the sect that destroyed the Tang Sect discovered her, she was even further oppressed and discriminated against. Even when buying the bare necessities on the streets, she would find merchants that only raised their prices for her.

Over the last month, Tang Ya experienced true desolation, true isolation. The burning, primal fury that she had suppressed in her heart started to leak out. Rebuilding the Tang Sect was too much; her thin shoulders could barely carry on...

A huge door drifted into view from afar. Tang Ya's body jerked slightly, and two streams of tears started to trickle down her pale face.

This gate was twenty feet high and fifty feet wide. The ten-foot-high wall extended twenty meters to either side of the gate, while the eye-catching crimson-red paint on the walls seemed slightly solemn. Grey tiles neatly and finely formed the roof of the gate, and two huge words could be seen, emblazoned above the gate. These two words were “Ironblood Sect”.

There were horizontally-inscribed boards that were placed vertically upright to the left and right of the gate. The left board wrote “A Heart As Loyal As the Blood of Iron”, while the right board was inscribed with the words “Lofty Existence For All Eternity”.

There was a time when this place didn’t look like that, when there was a board with only two words inscribed above this gate that read, “Tang Sect”.

Indeed, this was the former residence of the Tang Sect. Even though it wasn’t the same place the sect occupied long, long ago, when it was still the famous top sect of the world, but it was still the sect’s home for almost 3000 years! It was now home to the Ironblood Sect. This was a complete humiliation for the Tang Sect.

“This is my home—this is my home!”

Tang Ya lifted her right hand and wiped her tears away. Red light flashed in her eyes, and her aura started to become fiercer.

The Ironblood Sect didn’t do anything to her directly within the city, because Heaven Dou City was home to the Heaven Dou Empire’s royal family. Moreover, Tang Ya was from Shrek Academy. It would not end in their favor to attack her! But Tang Ya couldn’t bear with this humiliation any longer. Her primal impulses were screaming out to her in front of her old residence. She was here. She had arrived—and she would have vengeance.

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Standing before the Ironblood Sect’s gate, Tang Ya took a deep breath. Then she extended both of her arms and shouted softly. Suddenly, countless thick bluish-black vines rushed out and separated into three attacks, simultaneously destroying all three boards. Four soul rings also rose up from under Tang Ya’s legs.

Bei Bei would be shocked to learn of her cultivation progress. Tang Ya had only crossed Rank 30 a year ago, but was already a four-ringed Soul Ancestor! Not even Bei Bei himself or Xu Sanshi had made such staggering progress!

Tang Ya’s martial soul was Bluesilver Grass—no, it wasn’t normal Bluesilver Grass anymore. When the bluish-black vines danced, they seemed more like massive pythons. Tang Ya’s eyes emitted a dim purplish-red light.

There were two Ironblood Sect disciples standing guard at either side of the gate. But they couldn’t react in time, before Tang Ya had destroyed the boards.

“What are you doing? Are you courting death?” One disciple shouted furiously. However, he was struck speechless immediately after he noticed the two yellow and two purple soul rings behind Tang Ya.

Having four soul rings wasn't very eye-catching in Shrek Academy. But for common schools and sects, having four rings was a huge deal. Furthermore, her soul rings were an optimal set. Much like how Huo Yuhao and the others thought that Dai Huabin and the rest of class 2 wasn't strong after returning from the Continental Advanced Soul Master Academy Soul Dueling Tournament. Tang Ya could no longer be seen as a weakling in the eyes of the disciples of a small sect.

Tang Ya was after revenge. Two thick vines of Bluesilver Grass wrapped around the necks of these sect disciples, although she didn't use any soul skills, her Bluesilver Grass suddenly turned purplish.

The two Ironblood Sect disciples screamed pathetically, they looked like they were being strangled to death by pythons. Their bodies were then crushed, and wave after wave of bloody aura came out of their body, before being absorbed by the Bluesilver Grass. After which, layers of bloody light flowed towards Tang Ya, making skin seem even paler.

"Eh?" An elder was sitting in a restaurant across the street on the second level. This elder had eyes on the whole situation from where he sat. However, this elder looked surprised and squinted his eyes as if he was in the midst of deep thought.

"Tie Li, come out!" Tang Ya shouted. She proceeded to dash through the archway and into the former inner courtyard of the Tang Sect. Her Bluesilver Grass flung the 2 corpses towards the crimson-red walls.

Their screams alerted the Ironblood Sect, hence a large number of sect disciples rushed out. Leading them was a tall figure, with small eyes and short hair. He was even bald on top of his head. He focused his gaze on the small figure of Tang Ya rushing into the courtyard, "Damn wench, you dare kill our Ironblood Sect disciples? You're courting death. Kill her."

This tall middle-aged man was the young master of the Ironblood Sect, Tie Tang. He had followed his father, the aforementioned Tie Li, bribed some city guards, and attacked the Tang Sect in the dead of the night. Alas the Tang Sect was too weakened by this point, and only Tang Ya escaped the carnage.

While small, the Ironblood Sect still had over 200 disciples. The sect master, Tie Li, was a soul emperor, and there were 2 soul king elders. Tie Tang was a four-ringed Soul Ancestor himself.

"All of you can die." Tang Ya bellowed— her body whirling off the ground like a screw, jumping into the air. Myriad hidden weapons being flung in all directions as she attacked the Ironblood Sect disciples coming her way.

The front-line Ironblood Sect disciples were wiped out instantly. They weren't even able to get into Advanced Soul Master Academies, let alone stand up to Tang Ya's hidden weapons.

Tie Tang saw Tang Ya's four flashing soul rings. While he also had four rings, two were yellow, and the other two were white and purple. He could only even obtain these rings with the help of his father and the elders.

Tie Tang wasn't shocked at Tang Ya's attack on the Ironblood Sect. While Tang Ya herself might not be an issue to the Ironblood Sect, Shrek Academy was. The Ironblood Sect was terrified of offending Shrek Academy, and actively attacking Tang Ya would do just that. Or so they believed, as they didn't know Tang Ya had already left Shrek Academy. Hence they had been scheming for a long time to provoke Tang

Ya into an attack on them, so they could justifiably kill her. However, it did come to Tie Tang's surprise that Tang Ya's cultivation had come so far in just a few years.

After the wave of secret weapons was over, the Bluesilver Grass was unleashed. The numerous purple vines of Bluesilver Grass struck out like awls. Reaping several Ironblood Sect disciples in the process. While the Bluesilver Grass turned dark purple, their blood was absorbed by it.

An unhealthy shade of red was present on Tang Ya's face. The purplish-red glow in her eyes becoming deeper. She stomped her petite foot on the ground, and more than 10 vines of the Bluesilver Grass came out and threw out the corpses. Meanwhile, she dashed towards Tie Tang.

Tie Tang's martial soul was inherited from the Tie family's lineage. It was called the Iron-Armed Bear, a very ordinary bear-type martial soul. If the Darkgolden Terrorclaw Bear was at the top of the food chain, then the Iron-Armed Bear was at the bottom of it.

Tang Ya's ferocity deterred the Ironblood Sect disciples from taking another step forward. They had fled in all directions, leaving an exposed Tie Tang.

Tie Tang couldn't back down now. He had already let off a signal for the elders and his father in the back courtyard. Tang Ya was far more powerful than they'd expected, and killed numerous sect disciples instantly. However, Tie Tang believed that if he could stall Tang Ya, she would be killed by the elders of the sect. The Ironblood Sect wouldn't even be held accountable for dismembering her corpse after all the sect disciples she'd slaughtered at this point.

"I'll kill you! I'll kill you!" Tang Ya shouted, her mental state completely out of control. Many vines of Bluesilver Grass shot out towards Tie Tang.

Tie Tang stood his ground, and his third soul ring lit up. He threw his fists forward, shooting out a cluster of white light. The white radiance created a large light shield, with a 2 meter diameter, that swatted away the oncoming Bluesilver Grass, then struck out towards Tang Ya.

Tang Ya groaned and pulled back the vines of Bluesilver Grass before flinging them out at the shield again. Each vine littered with sharp spikes. At the same time, she dodged to the side with the use of the Ghost Shadow Perplexing Track.

Due to their limited talents, Tang Ya's parents had a lacking mastery of the Tang Sect Secret Techniques. Tang Ya on the other hand, managed to slowly learn and master the techniques with Bei Bei's help. Leaving the current sight of a Ghost Shadow Perplexing Track that her parents couldn't have replicated.

While that light shield had locked onto Tang Ya's body, its radiance dimmed as she dodged repeatedly. Tie Tang was also on the receiving end of some attacks himself.

A loud bellow came from the back courtyard. "Who's causing trouble in the Ironblood Sect?" An elder who looked similar to Tie Tang and two other elders quickly bolted over from the back courtyard.

A cold radiance brewed in Tang Ya's eyes. She lifted her right hand and waved it in the air. Her third soul ring lit up, and a ball of purplish-black light shot towards the 3 of them.

The ball of purplish-black light opened up in the air and formed a huge web with a diameter of over 5 meters. This was Tang Ya's third soul skill, Saros Pythonweb. This soul skill came from the thousand year Mandala Snake that Huo Yuhao and Bei Bei helped her kill a year ago.

Tang Ya's Bluesilver Grass was much more powerful and ferocious than Tie Tang had expected. Even though his father and the elders had arrived, he didn't feel safe. Primarily due to the fact that Bluesilver Grass was closing in on him from all directions!

Tie Tang unleashed his fourth soul skill without any hesitation. A layer of white light was suddenly unleashed from his body, and his arms became extremely thick. His body spun off the ground, and his arms struck down the vines surrounding him.

However, Tie Tang discovered he was at a severe disadvantage, because when his arms made contact, the sharp spikes covered the vines pierced his skin. His martial soul couldn't resist them at all. Even worse, he could feel energy flowing out of his body from where the spikes had pierced him, which the Bluesilver Grass was able to absorb!

What kind of power was this?

Tie Tang was using the wrong method to protect himself now. Even though further resistance would just lead to the Bluesilver Grass sucking out more energy, he persisted in his defence.

He was on the verge of collapse after 7 or 8 blocked attacks. When another vine came at him, his arm could no longer force it off. The sharp spikes piercing into his arms stuck. The vine of Bluesilver Grass wrapped around his body, ignoring his pathetic screams. More and more vines surrounded him, engulfing him as he screamed in horror.

Purplish halos of light were supplied to Tang Ya through the Bluesilver Grass, and her aura started to become stronger by the second.

Absorbing a four-ringed Soul Ancestor's power quite different; Tang Ya could feel her soul power increasing substantially.

Where was Tie Li when Tang Tie was devoured by the Bluesilver Grass?

Tie Li stood to the side, completely helpless as he watched his son's death.

Chapter 142.1: Dark Bluesilver Grass

Tie Li and the two elders tried to deflect Tang Ya's Saros Pythonweb, but the web proved resistant to their attempts. Any soul power they blasted towards it just seeped through the gaps in the web, all as it barreled towards them.

Because of the sharp spikes on the web, they were unable to physically deter the web, leaving them to retreat. Likewise, dodging to the sides was proving difficult with how fast the web was coming at them.

But when they finally managed to avoid the web and arrive on the scene, they witnessed Tie Tang, being engulfed by Bluesilver Grass.

“You—you killed my son!” Tie Li roared furiously, his eyes almost entirely red. He was indeed a six-ringed Soul Emperor, and his body began expanding alarmingly fast. His body became over 2.5 meters in size, and greatly increased in physical attributes—all from unleashing his martial soul.

Though still a Soul Emperor, he wasn’t nearly up to scratch when compared to Ma Xiaotao or Dai Yueheng. This was easily seen in the colors of his soul rings; one white, two yellow, and three purple. Zero black soul rings, this meant that Tie Li’s was to forever remain a Soul Emperor—he’d reached his limit and had no hope to become a seven-ringed Soul Sage.

The other two elders were also shocked. They also knew who Tang Ya was. They unleashed their own martial souls when they saw Tang Ya’s four soul rings and the Bluesilver Grass.

“Sect master, please be cautious. Her martial soul doesn’t seem to be ordinary. She seems to be sucking young master’s strength away. Don’t tell me, don’t tell me she’s an evil soul master?” The elder to the left of Tie Li exclaimed. His face turned pale-white when he said the words ‘evil soul master’.

What did an evil soul master mean to an ordinary soul master? Death. All evil soul masters had a special ability to increase their speed of cultivation beyond that of an ordinary soul master. But their mental states would degrade along with the evilness. It was very difficult for them to improve any further after they obtained seven rings.

Was Tang Ya really an evil soul master? The answer was yes.

When Tang Ya was first conceived, her parents already knew of a hidden gift in her body—the gift of devouring life.

This gift contained an immense evil aura. However, it was concealed, and wouldn’t appear unless it was initiated actively.

Tang Ya felt that she was lagging further and further behind Bei Bei when she was at Shrek Academy, and restoring the Tang Sect was even more hopeless for her. Eventually, she chose to initiate this gift of hers when Bei Bei went to compete in the Continental Advanced Soul Master Academy Soul Dueling Tournament.

She left the academy secretly after classes were over and found a dense forest. She then unleashed her Bluesilver Grass and devoured the plants in the forest, absorbing their life power for her own cultivation. Her gift of devouring life was extremely strong, and her cultivation improved leaps and bounds with the help of this gift. However, her martial soul also underwent transformations because of this, and turned into the current Dark Bluesilver .

Tang Ya had a strong will. She knew that her own cultivation would increase even faster if the Bluesilver Grass devoured a soul master’s life and soul power. But she never did so. How could she kill innocent people just to restore the Tang Sect? It was only today that she could no longer suppress her will to kill when she saw her enemies upon returning to the Tang Sect. The evil aura controlled her mind, and she began killing senselessly within the Ironblood Sect. After she used the Dark Bluesilver Grass to kill and devour the life of the first Ironblood Sect disciple, she had turned irrevocably into an evil soul master.

Tie Li was also fearful at the prospect of facing an evil soul master. An evil soul master's cultivation couldn't be measured in the ordinary sense. Although Tang Ya only had four rings, it was clear that her true abilities had surpassed those of a soul ancestor from how easily she killed Tie Tang.

However, Tie Li couldn't be bothered about his fear after witnessing his son's tragic death. He didn't even get to see his son's corpse.

He dashed towards Tang Ya and roared furiously.

Tang Ya's Dark Bluesilver Grass' greatest strength was that it became stronger the more it fought. She could nourish her own body by draining her enemies' life and soul power. The Bluesilver Grass would carry out its own filtering in the process of absorption. This was the special characteristic of her evil martial soul.

Not all evil soul masters were strong. But Tang Ya's Dark Bluesilver Grass was undoubtedly very outstanding and had great potential.

Blood was on the verge of appearing in Tang Ya's eyes as she faced her arch-enemy. Her internal hatred erupted like a volcano. Several thick vines of Bluesilver Grass were covered by a layer of dim blood light as they flew up. They whipped towards Tie Li maniacally as if they were long canes.

Tie Li had the same Iron-Armed Bear martial soul as his son, but his was much stronger. His thick arms started to flail and became extremely tough through the enhancement of his third soul ring. The sharp spikes on the Bluesilver Grass couldn't pierce his skin, and he shook off the vines of Bluesilver Grass. He was also getting closer and closer to Tang Ya.

The other two soul kings didn't idle around either. One of them was an agility-type soul master, while the other was a control-type soul master. Their martial souls were the Swift Wolf and Long Whip respectively. Those were two ordinary martial souls.

The soul king with the Long Whip exhibited his fourth soul skill and drew a circular arc in the air that attacked Tang Ya, whereas the soul king with the Swift Wolf snuck up behind Tang Ya and unleash his wolf claws as he carefully leapt towards her.

Tang Ya was under attack on three fronts by two soul kings and a soul emperor. Even Bei Bei and Xu Sanshi might be unable to deal with this situation if they were here. Tang Ya's dominance as an evil soul master was fully unleashed at this point.

"All of you will die!" She shouted as she looked into the sky and her fourth soul ring lit up.

It was pertinent to note that her fourth soul ring was only added after the dark characteristic of her Bluesilver Grass was awakened. It also contained her strongest soul skill, obtained from a plant that had a five thousand year cultivation.

A layer of weird purplish-red spread from Tang Ya. With her body as the center, a huge purplish-red ball of light with a 2 meter diameter was formed. There were weird stripes on this ball of light. All the vines of Bluesilver Grass that were attacking Tie Lie were also retracted at this point.

The long whip that descended was deflected away, and the ball of light blew apart when the Iron-Armed Bear and Swift Wolf got close to Tang Ya.

Countless vines of Bluesilver Grass appeared underneath Tang Ya's legs like sharp spikes before they spread out rapidly. It felt as if they were spreading like ripples. The entire courtyard seemed to be covered by Bluesilver Grass and a frightening aura. At the same time, it had turned bluish-purple too.

This was too sudden. Tie Li and the other two elders had never seen such a powerful ranged attack before. The Bluesilver Grass was merely a common species of grass! Who knew that it could unleash such a powerful soul skill?

The two soul kings were instantly pierced by the Bluesilver Grass. An intense pain and numbness spread across their entire body. The elder with the Swift Wolf martial soul was in a better condition. When he realized things were going wrong, he leapt up quickly. The Bluesilver Grass reached a height of 2 meters, but only pierced his feet, whereas the elder with the Long Whip was pierced throughout his entire body. He stimulated all his soul power before he managed to destroy the Bluesilver Grass that pierced his entire body. But he was already covered in blood, and his life had been sucked away by the Bluesilver Grass.

But did the elder with the Swift Wolf really avert this crisis? He didn't. Even though he was only pierced at his feet, the numbness caused him to fall straight down, and his body became stiff.

The Bluesilver Grass continued to attack him, but his cultivation wasn't fully unleashed, as he was already numb. He was engulfed just like the other elder.

The two of them weren't weak. They were mainly terrified by the appearance of an evil soul master. In addition, Tang Ya's fourth soul skill was also very tyrannical. If it were just ordinary Bluesilver Grass, they would only lose their ability to fight temporarily. But the Dark Bluesilver Grass carried a frightening devouring ability. The two soul kings' strength was immediately turned into its tonic.

Tang Ya turned pale as she unleashed this blow, but she was immediately nourished by the two soul kings' strength. However, she was in great peril now.

A layer of greyish light covered the Iron-Armed Bear. His fifth soul ring flashed extremely brightly, while the vines of Bluesilver Grass that tried to pierce his body were deflected away easily. He had already burst in front of Tang Ya ferociously and he struck his thick arms towards Tang Ya's head.

Although Tang Ya's fourth skill was very powerful, she had lost her flexibility, and was temporarily unable to move.

"Go and die!" Tang Ya screamed, and several clanging noises sounded. Several secret weapons shot out from different parts of her body. Flashing golden Dragon Beard Needles also appeared in her hands. She knew she was in trouble, but she wanted to drag Tie Li down to perish along with her. All the secret weapons that she unleashed were injected with the power that she had devoured earlier.

Tie Li was a soul emperor. His sixth soul ring lit up at this point, and his arms grew in size again. They were now 3 times their original size. When he smashed them down, he managed to block off all the secret weapons.

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The frightening force blew Tang Ya's hair behind her. She was about to perish under Tie Li's fists.

As a mere soul ancestor, Tang Ya should be proud of herself for killing almost the entire sect and even two soul kings. But she still had to pay the price for her recklessness. That price was her life.

“Dad, mom, I’m coming to find the both of you.” Tang Ya’s shut her purplish eyelids and two teardrops appeared at the corners of her eyes.

She wasn’t fearful, but reluctant in the face of death. Bei Bei’s smiling face filled her mind at this point.

Bei Bei...

However, when Tang Ya was supposed to be struck, she didn’t feel any pain. She groaned, and all the pressure was suddenly taken off her.

One was usually insensitive at the most desperate of times. Tang Ya only reacted after a few seconds, and opened her eyes.

Her fourth soul skill had already disappeared. The entire Ironblood Sect only had one corpse now. All the Ironblood Sect disciples that were killed by her previously had already been mummified by the Bluesilver Grass.

Tang Ya’s soul power had increased another level through this battle. She had reached Rank 44.

Tie Li was currently being held in the air by an elder in a black robe. The elder looked at Tang Ya calmly. He lifted his hand and threw Tie Li in front of her.

“He’s yours now. You can deal with him in whatever way you want.” The elder’s voice was very calm. There was even a sense of benevolence amidst that calmness. The Iron-Armed Bear’s sixth soul skill was helpless against this elder, who didn’t even unleash his martial soul.

Tang Ya was both emotionally and mentally unstable now. She didn’t even bother to think who that elder was. She was only focused on Tie Li, who was still alive, but could only limp on the ground.

Her arch-enemy was in front of her, and she could have her revenge now. Her body started to tremble in excitement.

She lifted her hand and her delicate fingers pointed at Tie Li, “Tie Li, did you expect yourself to be in such a predicament after killing my parents and destroying the Tang Sect? I shall use you as a sacrifice to my parents’ souls today.”

As she spoke, Tang Ya’s hands moved repeatedly, and several streaks of golden light penetrated Tie Li’s body. Tie Li’s facial expression suddenly distorted, and he was no longer able to move his body. It’s as if his entire body had cramped up all at once.

Tang Ya was stunned. She lifted her head to look at the elder, “You sealed his voice.”

The elder smiled, “Do you want to listen to him?”

Tang Ya nodded forcefully and gritted her teeth. “Yes!”

“Okay.” The elder lifted his hand and pressed against Tie Li. Tie Li’s screams could suddenly be heard. His loud and pathetic voice even shocked the elder that had sealed his voice a little. Perhaps half of Heaven Dou City could hear his screams.

Tie Li's body started to change. A contusion the size of a fist started to protrude from his body. He had turned into a freak in just a few seconds.

Tang Ya used the Dragon Beard Needle once again. The Dragon Beard Needle wasn't the most dominant secret weapon in the Tang Sect, but it brought the greatest pain to an enemy.

The thin, golden needle could normally shrink into a small grain, but when needed, it would turn into a long needle and pierce through the enemy's flesh. After it pierced through the flesh, it could shrink once again. The contusion was formed in this manner.

Xu Sanshi couldn't take it when he was pierced by 1 needle previously. Tie Li was pierced by more than 10 needles now, and experienced unbearable pain. It was as if his muscles and nerves had been glued together. Tie Li could only use his soul emperor cultivation to scream now. No wonder it was so loud.

The elder furrowed his brows and said, "Young lady, you need to be faster. Otherwise, the Heaven Dou Empire's royal family will send someone here."

Tang Ya nodded and unleashed many varieties of Tang Sect secret weapons. She didn't use them to attack Tie Li's sensitive areas. She started with his limbs before extending them to his body.

"Dad, mom, I've taken revenge for the both of you!" Tang Ya bellowed into the sky. A crossbow bolt shot into Tie Li's head and ended his screams.

At this point, waves of powerful aura could be sensed. The elder creased his brows and dashed in front of Tang Ya, "We have to go."

"No, I won't go. This is where the Tang Sect is. Why must I go? I only killed the perpetrators who destroyed the Tang Sect. This is my home!"

The elder raised his brows. He lifted his palm to hack at Tang Ya. Before Tang Ya's Bluesilver Grass could even react, her entire body turned numb, and she went limp. The elder lifted her, and a black fog engulfed his entire body. He disappeared into the air instantly.

.....

Huo Yuhao regained his energy after one day of rest. With the Life Gold's nourishment, his body's regenerative abilities were much greater than that of most soul masters of the same level. Although Xiao Xiao had endured less pain than him, she was still a little fatigued.

"Xiao Xiao, how's your recovery?" Huo Yuhao asked Xiao Xiao, who had just awakened from her cultivation.

Xiao Xiao replied, "I'm almost fully recovered. The Darkgolden Terrorclaw Bear is very nourishing. Besides some soreness in my right arm, my soul power and strength have been fully restored."

The sun had already risen in the east at this point. Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong had just finished cultivating the Purple Demon Eyes, while Elder Xuan had disappeared to parts unknown.

Wang Dong asked, "So we'll be entering the forest again today?"

Xiao Xiao jumped up and looked at the Star Dou Forest. She said, "I'm fine with it. I'm already a soul elder now. Haha. Monitor, I'm a level above you."

They were resting 50 miles from Star Dou Forest. No soul beasts would come here under normal conditions. Elder Xuan disappeared after bringing them here.

Huo Yuhao said, "Xiao Xiao, let us see your newly-obtained thousand year soul skill. It'll also strengthen our cooperation in Star Dou Forest."

Although they had only been hunting soul beasts in Star Dou Forest for one day, the experience had been quite dangerous. The most perilous part wasn't when they met the thousand year Darkgolden Terrorclaw Bear, but when they encountered the ten thousand year Deviltiger Cat. They would have perished under the Deviltiger Cat's sudden attack if not for Elder Xuan's protection and their enhanced powers.

After the close shave that day, their excitement and playful mindsets had ceased to exist. They were only left with vigilance.

"Alright, I shall let you see," Xiao Xiao said forthrightly.

As a black light flashed, the Threelives Soulcrush Cauldron had already appeared in front of her. Three soul rings—two yellow and one purple—also rose from beneath her feet.

It was a different feeling to obtain another soul ring. The elegant purple thousand year soul ring was indeed more beautiful than the yellow hundred year soul rings.

Xiao Xiao shouted, and the Threelives Soulcrush Cauldron rose into the air. "Watch carefully."

As she spoke, the purple thousand year soul ring had already lit up.

"Nom!" A weird sound came from the Threelives Soulcrush Cauldron. It was as if the cauldron was jerking tremendously. The size of the cauldron started to increase greatly following that.

The cauldron, which initially had a diameter of around 1 meter, increased in size to about 3 meters in diameter. The cauldron also turned dark gold like the thousand year Darkgolden Terrorclaw Bear's fur. The cauldron was much stronger than before as the dark golden light flashed.

"Monitor, be careful." Xiao Xiao shouted before the huge Threelives Soulcrush Cauldron started to burst towards Huo Yuhao.

Huo Yuhao had already sensed a gust of ominous wind blowing towards him when the cauldron was tens of meters away from him. The cauldron had to be over a thousand kilograms in weight. But Huo Yuhao didn't retreat. Instead, he lifted his hands and unleashed the Ice Empress' Pincer. He slammed it into the Threelives Soulcrush Cauldron.

"Clang!" The Threelives Soulcrush Cauldron fell, while Huo Yuhao was sent flying by the collision. Even the chill released by the Ice Empress Pincer was dissipated by the dark golden light. The Threelives Soulcrush Cauldron sank slightly into the ground. It had the aura of a national treasure at this moment.

"It's really tough." Huo Yuhao complimented. He was forced back by the Threelives Soulcrush Cauldron even though he had unleashed the Ice Empress Pincer. This showed how powerful the cauldron was.

The Threelives Soulcrush Cauldron carried a sense of nobility. The dark gold radiance seemed to have come alive, and revolved around the cauldron.

Xiao Xiao was delighted as she said, "My third soul ring has brought me a thousand year soul skill 'the Cauldron's Might' that has changed my Threelives Soulcrush Cauldron completely. It's as if the Darkgolden Terrorclaw Bear has possessed it. Its defensive strength has increased by at least 3 times. In addition, unleashing the Cauldron's Might before using the two other soul skills makes me much stronger. My Threelives Soulcrush Cauldron has experienced a holistic increase in strength with this soul skill. It's not so easy to crush it anymore. Watch this Cauldron Quake."

Xiao Xiao shouted once again as she spoke. As a thunder-like boom rang out, a dark golden halo extended to a radius of 3 about meters with the cauldron as the center. The earth under the halo collapsed and caused the cauldron to sink a meter into the ground. The powerful shockwave even caused a little distortion in the air.

Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong could still feel the tremors even though they were not standing within the radius of the halo. Xiao Xiao's Threelives Soulcrush Cauldron had become much more powerful with her third soul skill, the Cauldron's Might.

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"Excellent. Segregation, control and defense. Your Threelives Soulcrush Cauldron is indeed a powerful tool soul." Wang Dong complimented. An increase in Xiao Xiao's abilities was equivalent to an increase in their team's strength!

They had the lowest cultivations among everyone in Shrek's Seven Monsters. It was impossible for them not to have the desire to catch up with their seniors. However, the three of them possessed twin martial souls and the greatest potential.

Xiao Xiao laughed and looked at Huo Yuhao, "Monitor, show us how powerful the fellow that almost destroyed my arm is."

Xiao Xiao was still a little petrified as she mentioned the Darkgolden Terrorclaw Right Palm Bone. If Huo Yuhao hadn't absorbed its strength away, her right arm would have been gone by now.

Huo Yuhao nodded and lifted his right arm. As a dark golden radiance flashed, 5 sharp claws that resembled blades extended from his palm.

"It was rather difficult to fuse with this Darkgolden Terrorclaw Right Palm Bone. However, it's indeed different from an ordinary soul bone. There are 2 forms to it. The first is the ordinary form just like what we're seeing now. The other form is during a soul skill attack. Take a look."

As he spoke, Huo Yuhao chose a rock that was as big as a millstone and threw it up. He then slashed his right hand towards the rock. The rock was cut into several pieces without even making a sound.

The pieces of the rock landed on the ground. Both Xiao Xiao and Wang Dong rushed to take a look at them. The rock had been divided into many pieces, and the cuts were very sleek.

Xiao Xiao stared wide-eyed, "This, this is like cutting tofu! It's really sharp."

Huo Yuhao chortled, “You shouldn’t feel indebted to me now that you’ve seen this. I’ve obtained an extremely good soul bone for myself too! The Darkgolden Terrorclaw Bear is able to become one of the most dangerous soul beasts because of its Darkgolden Terrorclaw.”

Xiao Xiao shook her head and said seriously, “It’s different. Monitor, I know it.”

Huo Yuhao smiled slightly and said, “Alright, let’s not talk about this anymore. I shall show you its soul skill form.”

His gaze straightened as he spoke, and the terrorclaws on his right palm waved in the distant air. An intense dark gold radiance shot out, and the powerful terrorclaws changed into 3 meter-long dark golden claw projections before they clawed into the ground.

No dirt or gravel was displaced from the ground, but five 3 meter-long scratch marks appeared. Even the air seemed to have been clawed. After Huo Yuhao finished clawing, there was still an echo left in the air.

Huo Yuhao teased Xiao Xiao, “Do you want to test out my Darkgolden Terrorclaws with your Cauldron’s Might?”

“It’s fine. Thanks.” Xiao Xiao shook her head hurriedly, and quickly put her Threelives Soulcrush Cauldron away.

Wang Dong asked, “Yuhao, what’s the rate of depletion of your soul power when using this Darkgolden Terrorclaw?”

Huo Yuhao answered, “It’s still fine, as it only comes from a two thousand year Darkgolden Terrorclaw Bear. There’s not much depletion in its original form. It’s just like a part of me – nothing different from my hand. The depletion is greater when I’m using the soul skill. It depletes around 30% of my soul power every time I use it. Elder Xuan was right. I can feel this right palm bone absorbing my strength slowly after it has fused with me. It seems like it really can evolve.”

Wang Dong said, “Let’s go. Let’s enter the Star Dou Forest again and hope our luck continues. We’ll find a suitable soul beast for your third soul ring.”

“Sure.” Huo Yuhao nodded. Becoming a soul elder was necessary for every powerful soul master, and it was also the first major barrier in the development of every soul master. For those whose soul power and martial soul were weaker, they were destined to be unable to overcome this barrier in their entire life. After crossing this barrier, a soul master was no longer in the beginner stage anymore. He would have reached the intermediate stage.

While the three of them were not ordinary soul elders, they still had to make this breakthrough in their soul power.

The three proceeded in the direction of Star Dou Forest after they packed up.

They covered the tens of miles quickly. Huo Yuhao continued to lead them while Wang Dong and Xiao Xiao followed behind him. The three of them seemed familiar with Star Dou Forest as they entered it again. Huo Yuhao initiated his Spiritual Detection Sharing and they proceeded much faster than the first time they had entered the forest. They covered around 10 miles in less than an hour, and started to search for a suitable soul beast for Huo Yuhao.

Although Huo Yuhao knew that it wouldn't be easy to find a spiritual-type soul beast that suited him, he didn't think it would be that difficult either. Over the next 10 days, they circled almost half of Star Dou Forest. But they didn't manage to find a suitable soul beast.

They did encounter spiritual-type soul beasts, but these soul beasts were either too weak or not old enough. He couldn't possibly fuse with ten year or hundred year soul rings.

Their strategy also changed during this period of time. Their original strategy was not to rile any soul beasts, but they wouldn't cave in when they met soul beasts that attacked them actively. In this way, they prevented a lot of trouble. However, this didn't manage to attract higher-level soul beasts.

But they did benefit slightly from their 10 days in the forest. They had to remain on alert in the Star Dou Forest as they might be in danger at any time. Under such conditions, they started to assimilate their experience in the tournament and understanding during their closed-door cultivation, and coordinated better and better with one another. Thousand years soul beasts no longer posed any threat to them. Of course, this was only if they met one of such soul beasts. They could only escape if they met a bunch of soul beasts.

In these 10 days of training, their mindset, attainments and the development of their potential were all very important to them. Elder Xuan didn't appear in these 10 days, as if he wasn't following them at all. He allowed them to move freely.

Huo Yuhao finally understood why he hadn't been made a core disciple of Shrek Academy. It was too difficult for his Spirit Eyes to obtain a suitable soul ring. His good fortune seemed to have ended after he hunted the Darkgolden Terrorclaw Bear.

Night had fallen again. The three of them retreated from Star Dou Forest and rested at a small hill 30 miles away. They slept in two small tents.

"Yuhao, we can't continue on like this! We've circled almost half of Star Dou Forest, but we've only seen a few spiritual-type soul beasts. Even then, none of them were suitable for you." Wang Dong furrowed his brows as he looked at Huo Yuhao flipping grilled meat.

Huo Yuhao flipped the grilled meat skillfully and said, "It's indeed difficult to find a soul beast that's suitable for me. It's already rare to find a spiritual-type soul beast. It's even more difficult to find one that's suitable for me."

Xiao Xiao said, "Monitor, why don't we go deeper in? If we go further in by another 10 miles, I believe the quality of soul beasts that we'll encounter will be higher."

Huo Yuhao was silent. Although they knew that Elder Xuan was protecting them secretly, they were all very proud as the new generation of Shrek's Seven Monsters. None of them wanted Elder Xuan to intervene unless there was a special situation. They could naturally sense their improvement in all aspects after these 10 days of training. This was especially evident for Xiao Xiao, who was able to use her Cauldron's Might more freely. She should be able to determine the outcome of a battle with one sweep of her Cauldron's Might.

Wang Dong nodded and said, "I agree. Yuhao, you don't have to think so much. We should be able to deal with a ten thousand year soul beast with our combined strength if we meet one, or at least we'll

have no problem preserving our lives. Even if we venture a further 10 miles in, we'll still be very far from the center of the forest. We'll just see fewer hundred year soul beasts. It won't be too dangerous with your Spiritual Detection Sharing's ability to warn us and if we're careful enough. In addition, greater pressure will also be beneficial for us. Elder Xuan hasn't appeared, not even to eat your grilled meat, because he wants to give us more training. I feel that our soul power and live experiences have improved significantly during this period of time."

Huo Yuhao nodded and said, "Alright, we'll go deeper in then. However, I have to put this across first. If we meet a ten thousand year soul beast, we have to leave the area immediately after the battle." As the team leader, he had to take responsibility for everyone's safety. They could venture deeper in with their current abilities. Huo Yuhao didn't persist any further, since Elder Xuan was secretly protecting them too.

The three of them rested early after they had their dinner. The tents only covered the night sky. Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong cultivated in one tent, while Xiao Xiao took another tent by herself.

Although Huo Yuhao had reached a bottleneck in his mastery of the Mysterious Jade Hands, he understood the importance of accumulation. The temporary bottleneck wouldn't affect his cultivation, and it would increase accordingly when he obtained his soul ring. This was said to be confirmed by one of Shrek Academy's founders, a teacher known by the title of Grandmaster. This Grandmaster's research on the 10 core competitive powers in the world of soul masters also played a huge role in erecting Shrek Academy's foundation as the continent's top academy.

As they were cultivating in the middle of night, Huo Yuhao's eyelids started to twitch. He opened his eyes quickly. When he opened his eyes, a golden light shone in the small tent.

The Haodong Power also dispersed quickly and turned back into their soul powers. Wang Dong opened his eyes too.

"What's wrong, Yuhao?" Wang Dong was a little puzzled as he looked at him.

Huo Yuhao said in a deep voice, "We have company. I'll go and take a look. Wake Xiao Xiao up. This bunch of people should be going to Star Dou Forest."

"Okay."

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The two of them exited the tent at the same time. Huo Yuhao's eyes were sparkling golden, and his Spirit Eyes' two soul rings rose up from beneath his feet, projecting his Spiritual Detection towards a certain direction. He could detect more than six hundred meters in a single direction, and his detections were highly accurate.

Xiao Xiao and Wang Dong darted out from the tent. The campfire was lit in between both tents, and it shielded them from the coldness of the night. The flames shone on their faces and flickered with a pale red luster.

Huo Yuhao reported his findings softly, "Eight people – six males and two females. I can't figure out one male's cultivation level, and I think he has at least seven rings. There's a Soul Emperor and four Soul

Kings amongst the other five. The two females have about three soul rings each, about the same as us. They're walking towards us right now."

Wang Dong asked, "Shall we hide?"

Huo Yuhao shook his head and replied, "No need. They're definitely not coming here for us, and they'll be here very soon. The tents and the campfire tracks cannot be erased so quickly, and we'll raise suspicion instead. We just have to be natural and wait for them to come. I think they're probably here to hunt soul beats, just like we are."

Voices could already be heard while they were discussing.

"Eh, there's a fire here."

A silhouette appeared before Huo Yuhao and the others before the voice arrived. It was a tall and skinny man, and he was so scrawny that he resembled a bamboo stick. However, he moved with astonishing speed and his gaze landed on Huo Yuhao and the others beside the campfire the moment he appeared. Huo Yuhao and the others stared at him as if they had been startled.

There was no doubt that this tall and skinny man was an agility-type soul master. He took the lead and scouted the path ahead, and he relaxed the moment he realized that Huo Yuhao and the others were children, barely over ten years old. He raised one hand, and a beam of yellow light sparkled in the center of his palm. This light beam surged about five meters into the sky before it transformed into a yellow circle of light that permeated outwards.

Huo Yuhao and the others sprang to their feet. They could tell from the other party's movements that he was highly disciplined, and it was apparent that this wasn't a normal team.

"Who are you?" Huo Yuhao asked warily but didn't step forward.

The skinny man smiled faintly and replied, "We're just passing by. We saw your campfire, so we came to take a look. What about you? Who are you guys?"

There was a smile on his face, but his smile was tinged with arrogance.

Huo Yuhao answered, "We are here in the Great Star Dou Forest to hunt soul beasts to collect soul rings."

"Oh? You're here by yourself to hunt soul beats?" The scrawny man stared at the three of them suspiciously.

Xiao Xiao grunted coldly and retorted, "What? Is that not allowed?"

The scrawny man chuckled and shook his head with amusement. There was a look of condescension and indifference on his face. Even though the night was dark and dusky, how could Huo Yuhao's Spirit Eyes not be able to see?

Figure after figure appeared beside the skinny man at this moment. The lineup was just like Huo Yuhao's had detected – there were six males and two females, including the skinny man.

A middle-aged man that was about forty years old lowered his voice and said, “What’s the situation, Bei Tang?”

The skinny man replied respectfully, “Big brother – there are three young fellas that they claim that they’re in the Great Star Dou Forest to obtain soul rings. They don’t have any seniors following them. I’ve checked the surroundings, and only the three of them are here. Two males and one female, and they don’t even look like they’re fifteen years old.”

“Oh?” The middle-aged man turned towards Huo Yuhao and the others while Huo Yuhao and the others were also scrutinizing the people before them.

It was apparent that this middle-aged man was the leader, and he was also the seven-ringed Soul Sage that Huo Yuhao had identified earlier. His soul power was so exuberant that Huo Yuhao couldn’t judge his cultivation accurately.

Besides this middle-aged man, the other males were all normal-looking people with average builds, and the kind of look that wouldn’t be easily recognized in a crowd. Of course, their cultivations weren’t normal at all – their standards were enough to support a mid-level sect.

The two girls in the party attracted Huo Yuhao’s attention. They were both wearing warrior robes, and one of them had flowing green hair draped behind her. This girl was enchantingly beautiful, almost at Jiang Nannan’s level. She looked extremely tender, and her pretty eyes moved like flowing water; one could feel her faint gentleness even from afar. She looked like she was around fifteen or sixteen years old – this was the age when girls were full of adolescence. Her yellow warrior robe was extremely riveting even in the deepest darkness of night. It was slightly bigger than her frame and enveloped her figure nicely, but it wasn’t all that visible.

The other girl beside her looked around the same age. However, she was a little taller, and her expression was ice-cold. Her long black hair was combed neatly and tied into a ponytail, while her white warrior robe was a little more fitting and her long legs were especially alluring. She was so tall that she was almost as tall as Huo Yuhao, who was over one meter and seventy centimeters tall. This girl wasn’t as good-looking as the other one, but her aura felt more elegant and dignified. These two girls stood next to each other, and the two of them were equally brilliant and attractive in their own ways.

“My three little friends – please come here for a moment.” The middle-aged man waved at Huo Yuhao and the others.

Huo Yuhao whispered to Wang Dong and Xiao Xiao, “Wait here. I’ll go take a look.”

“Alright.” Wang Dong nodded immediately. Xiao Xiao wanted to follow, but she held back when even Wang Dong decided to stay behind.

Huo Yuhao stepped forward quickly and came before the row of people before them. He was neither obsequious nor supercilious as he said, “What do you need?”

The middle-aged man scrutinized Huo Yuhao for a moment and said, “Little man, you guys are inside the Great Star Dou Forest to hunt soul beasts?”

Huo Yuhao nodded and replied, “Yes.”

The middle-aged man's eyes were piercing, and carried traces of obscurity. It felt as if he was locked onto Huo Yuhao, and could launch an attack at any moment. However, Huo Yuhao was calm and unperturbed as he stood before him and wasn't on guard at all.

The middle-aged man smiled and said, "My name is Mo Feiyun, and these are my comrades. We are heading into the Great Star Dou Forest as well. We traveled throughout the night, and it seems like we're almost there, but everyone is a little exhausted. We can see that you have a campfire started here – I wonder if you can share it with us and let us rest?"

Huo Yuhao agreed heartily, "Alright." He understood that speaking too much could mess things up. This group of people actually appeared travel-worn, and it was clear that they had been traveling for a long time. This middle-aged man who claimed to be Mo Feiyun was a little wary of him, but Huo Yuhao couldn't feel much hostility. His spiritual power was superior to most others, and Huo Yuhao's judgment of emotions was usually extremely accurate. His Spiritual Detection had been activated this whole time, but it was being handled with immense subtlety and ingenuity, and even powerful Soul Sages wouldn't realize even if the Soul Sage used their soul power to survey their surroundings. The people before them didn't reveal any intentions of making a move against them.

The two young girls looked Huo Yuhao up and down. The yellow-cloaked girl smiled at him, while the girl clad in white glanced at him coldly – there was a clear distinction in their personalities.

Huo Yuhao guided the entire group to the campfire, and two people quickly set up tents, which were much larger compared to their own. The tent closest to the campfire was a relatively smaller black tent, which was apparently made from cowhide. These two people swiftly set up two relatively larger tents with their agile hands and feet afterwards.

Mo Feiyun and a few others sat down beside the campfire. It was obvious that their eyes paused on Wang Dong and Xiao Xiao for a longer period of time compared to Huo Yuhao. This was especially so for Wang Dong; he attracted everyone's attention after they arrived at the campfire.

His short hair was powdery blue, his eyes were the same color, and he exuded a dense light aura. Wang Dong was extremely handsome, and he appeared full of youthful energy. In terms of looks, the yellow-robed and white-robed girls lost their radiance beside him.

The yellow-robed girl was evidently a little taken aback, and her pretty face flushed a little when she glanced at Wang Dong. The white-robed girl's cold face appeared slightly surprised as well, and her eyes paused on Wang Dong for a long moment before she turned away.

Huo Yuhao and the others sat on the other side of the campfire. The three of them said nothing at all, and just silently warmed themselves next to the fire. Returning to their cultivation wasn't a good idea with these people around, especially when all of them were incredibly powerful.

Mo Feiyun seemed the most affable. He smiled and said, "My three little friends – how may I address you?"

Huo Yuhao smiled and replied, "My name is Yuhao, and this is Xiao Dong and Xiao Xiao." He didn't reveal both his and Wang Dong's full name, but Xiao Xiao's name couldn't really be masked with a nickname, so he just said it.

Mo Feiyun said, “You guys are still young, but your soul power is quite strong. However, venturing into the Great Star Dou Forest isn’t really a good idea. Have you been inside before?”

Huo Yuhao answered, “We’ve roamed around in the outer regions. Thank you for reminding us – we won’t venture too deep inside the Great Star Dou Forest. We will leave once we find suitable soul beasts for ourselves.”

Mo Feiyun continued to ask, “Where are you guys from? Are you guys from a sect or an academy?”

Huo Yuhao replied, “We are from the Star Luo Empire, and we are members of the Star Luo National Academy.” He wouldn’t have been able to name another academy before his participation in the Continental Advanced Soul Master Academy Soul Dueling Tournament. However, he knew a lot more names now. He himself was from the Star Luo Empire, so his accent was natural, and thus using the Star Luo National Academy to hide their true identities was the most appropriate. He had also become familiar with the Star Luo National Academy’s standards during his battle against their official team, which was led by Princess Jiu Jiu. Furthermore, part of the Great Star Dou Forest was located inside the Star Luo Empire anyway.

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Mo Feiyun and the others reacted in shock when they heard “Star Luo National Academy”. Star Luo National Academy was relatively reputable in the continent, and they were one of the elites within the Star Luo Empire. They ended up in the final four during the recent Continental Advanced Soul Master Academy Soul Dueling Academy.

“So you guys are the gifted kids from the Star Luo National Academy – no wonder you guys dare to venture into the Great Star Dou Forest to hunt soul beasts by yourselves.” Mo Feiyun’s tone sounded a little more careful, and the air of arrogance around the others receded slightly. It was apparent that the Star Luo National Academy’s name was extremely handy.

Huo Yuhao asked, “How about you guys, Uncle Mo? Are you guys hunting soul beasts inside the Great Star Dou Forest as well?”

Mo Feiyun nodded and answered, “Some of us have reached a bottleneck, and we are just trying our luck inside the Great Star Dou Forest.”

The other tents had been properly set up while they spoke. Mo Feiyun ate something light and chatted idly with Huo Yuhao and the others before he went into his tent to rest.

Mo Feiyun introduced the people beside him while they were talking. The skinny man was called Bei Tang, the yellow-robed girl was named Wei Na, and the white-robed girl was called Mu Xue. However, Mo Feiyun didn’t reveal much about their backgrounds. He made an agreement with Huo Yuhao that they would travel together into the Great Star Dou Forest, and he was willing to take care of them for a while in exchange for their campfire.

Huo Yuhao could tell that Mo Feiyun developed such ideas only after he found out that they were from the Star Luo National Academy, and they lowered their guard quite a bit as well.

Mo Feiyun and the other males entered the two large tents respectively, while Wei Na and Mu Xue walked inside the cowhide tent near the campfire. Judging by their allocations and positions, these two girls' statuses weren't simple.

Huo Yuhao and the others returned to their own tents, but Mo Feiyun quietly left his own tent and came before Wei Na and Mu Xue's tent. He whispered, "May I enter, my lady?"

"Come in." Mu Xue was the one who spoke.

Mo Feiyun bent down and entered the girls' tent. However, he sat down cross-legged at the tent's entrance and didn't proceed any deeper.

"Can you tell where these three fellas are from, Master Mo?" Mu Xue asked plainly. Wei Na was sitting by her side, and there was a faint smile on her face from the beginning to the end, but she said nothing. However, judging from the position of her mattress compared to Mu Xue, her status was comparable to Mu Xue's.

Mo Feiyun's body began to sparkle with a layer of white light that enveloped the entire tent, blocking out his voice.

"These three kids are young, but their appearance and qualities are not ordinary, yet they are not that similar. It's obvious that they don't come from the same sect. They should be between Soul Grandmaster and Soul Elder judging by their auras. It's highly believable that they're from the Star Luo National Academy at their age. However, I think we should take them with us for safety purposes so that we can avoid any accidents or unforeseen circumstances. If everything is alright with them, lending them a hand isn't much trouble."

Mu Xue tilted her head downwards slightly and said, "Then you decide, Master Mo."

"Master Mo, which one of them do you think deserves the most attention?" Wei Na suddenly opened her mouth. Her voice was incredibly enchanting, and sounded like music to the ear.

Mo Feiyun answered, "Your Highness, I think the youth called Yuhao deserves the most attention. I have noticed from the expressions they give each other that the Xiao Xiao girl trusts and admires Yuhao, while the good-looking Xiao Dong has good chemistry with him. The two of them didn't exchange glances much, and they seemed to understand each other with a single twinkle in their eyes. This Yuhao can lead this trio, so he's definitely not simple. Furthermore, my judgment of his abilities is also murky. He hasn't seemed to reach Soul Elder yet, judging by his soul power fluctuations, so the other two are better. However, he's overflowing with life energy, at a level higher than even grown-ups."

Mu Xue tilted her head again and said, "Go back and rest, Master Mo. We just have to pay more attention to them tomorrow."

"Yes, my lady, your Highness. I will take my leave now." Mo Feiyun retreated outside the tent, and the layer of white mist was immediately withdrawn and dissipated.

"Xiao Dong is really good-looking, sister!" Wei Na giggled once Mo Feiyun left the tent.

Mu Xue's pretty face revealed a faint smile. "What? Have you fallen for him?"

Wei Na pressed her rosy lips together. "No way. I'm just helping you out."

Mu Xue shook her head and replied, "I don't like boys that are younger than me. Master Mo is right – Yuhao is extremely sophisticated. I don't know why, but I keep feeling a wave of goosebumps whenever I'm near him, and my martial soul also fluctuates conspicuously. It feels as if there's something about his aura that can restrain and counter my martial soul."

Wei Na asked, "Does he have a fire-type martial soul?"

Mu Xue shook her head once more and said, "Doesn't seem like it. We will know once we enter the Great Star Dou Forest. The three of them must have some tricks up their sleeve since they dare to come in by themselves. We should rest early – we have to collect our soul rings inside the Great Star Dou Forest tomorrow, so hopefully our luck will be good. If we don't find anything suitable here, we'll have to travel to the northern side. The northern side is a lot more dangerous and perilous."

"Alright, let's go to bed. Can I hug you to sleep, sister Xue?"

"Cut it out..."

Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong were discussing in their own tent as well, except Huo Yuhao's spiritual power blocked off their voices.

"Yuhao – will there be any problems if we travel with them into the forest?" Wang Dong was a little anxious.

Huo Yuhao chuckled and said, "What are you worried about? I can tell that these people are from some sect, and the two girls are likely the ones that are here to collect soul rings, while the others are their servants. We can save a lot of effort by following them inside the Great Star Dou Forest, and we can probably venture deeper as well. Even if they are hostile towards us, they will have to face Elder Xuan first."

Wang Dong was confused. "Are you interested in one of the girls?"

Huo Yuhao had a face of exasperation. "We're still children. Can you not speak like a grown-up? Plus, will a girl be interested in me with you around?"

"It's good that you know," Wang Dong said with an air of arrogance,

Huo Yuhao was immediately rendered speechless.

Nothing else happened that night. Huo Yuhao and the others got up early to pack up their tents the next day, and Huo Yuhao cultivated the Purple Demon Eyes while facing the rising sun. Mo Feiyun came out of his tent when the three of them were starting on their breakfast.

"You guys are up early!" Mo Feiyun greeted Huo Yuhao first.

Huo Yuhao smiled and said, "Dawn is just breaking, Uncle Mo. You guys aren't considered late."

Mo Feiyun asked, "Who is collecting soul rings amongst the three of you?"

Huo Yuhao had no intention to hide anything and replied, "It's me. My soul power has reached Rank 30, and I need an appropriate soul ring to break through and become a Soul Elder. My two friends are here to accompany me."

Mo Feiyun was full of awe and amazement. “Becoming a Soul Elder at such a young age – impressive!”

Huo Yuhao smiled in response, but said nothing more.

Mo Feiyun and the others moved swiftly, and it wasn't long before they packed everything up and finished breakfast. Wei Na and Mu Xue were still dressed like they were yesterday, and the ten of them got on their way.

The others in their group rarely said anything, besides Mo Feiyun. The two girls occasionally chattered between themselves, and didn't pay much attention to Huo Yuhao and his friends.

Mo Feiyun took point throughout the entire process. The other five men formed an arc, while the two young girls, Huo Yuhao and his friends walked in the middle.

Huo Yuhao had a good feeling about Mo Feiyun and his group. They hadn't inquired about Huo Yuhao and the others' martial souls or soul skills, or other similarly sensitive topics. Even though asking them to tag along contained elements of wariness and vigilance, they hadn't made Huo Yuhao and friends to walk in front to scout the path. It was apparent that they didn't harbor evil intentions.

The company arrived at the Great Star Dou Forest's borders when the sky was already completely bright. Mo Feiyun stopped and turned around. “We will enter the forest soon. Just a gentle reminder – everyone has to remain alert and vigilant, as anything can happen inside the Great Star Dou Forest. There could even be ten thousand year soul beasts in the forest's outer regions, and soul beasts have all sorts of abilities, to the point where we might not be able to rescue you in time. So, everyone has to be especially careful. I will continue taking point later. Yuhao, the three of you will follow behind me and prepare to reinforce me. This includes Wei Na and Mu Xue. The rest of you will sweep out and protect the flanks.”

“Yes.” The other five men answered in unison.

Huo Yuhao paid the most attention to a short and stocky man, besides Bei Tang who they had met earlier. He stood in the center at the back, and he was the most powerful individual besides Mo Feiyun, as he was a Soul Emperor. His name was Chou Xiangdong.

Huo Yuhao and his friends had no objections to this arrangement. The Soul Sage was clearing the path for them, and this meant there wasn't much pressure on them anymore.

Mo Feiyun made a few more arrangements before he immediately turned and walked into the Great Star Dou Forest. One could tell from his movements that he had absolute faith in his comrades.

Huo Yuhao and the others didn't delay either. Huo Yuhao walked in front, while Wang Dong and Xiao Xiao took one side each, and the three of them followed closely behind Mo Feiyun and entered the great forest.

“Eh, that is...” Wang Dong exclaimed in shock. This was because he suddenly realized that Mo Feiyun's body began to emanate a dense mist, and this mist enveloped his entire body within while it permeated quickly to the point where they couldn't see him anymore.

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“Master Mo’s martial soul is Cloud. He’s using his own powers to scout and protect everyone.” Wei Na’s charming voice rang out.

Wang Dong glanced at her, and she flashed a smile back at him. Her tender smile was extremely charming, but it was clear that her beautiful smile didn’t find the right target. Wang Dong nodded at her before he turned back without a trace of expression on his face.

Mu Xue glimpsed at Wei Na, and amusement flowed from her eyes, while a look of annoyance flashed across Wei Na’s soft eyes.

The mist was pervasive, but didn’t impede Huo Yuhao’s Spiritual Detection. Huo Yuhao could feel from Mo Feiyun’s martial soul that he had exactly seven soul rings – two yellow, three purple and two black. Even though it wasn’t the optimal combination of soul rings, it was considered relatively formidable.

Cloud? This was a martial soul that was seldom seen, and should be considered a tool soul. Huo Yuhao just wasn’t sure whether he was an assault-type or control-type soul master.

The cloudy mists in front of them gradually expanded and permeated their surroundings like threads. The cloudy mist didn’t look like it contained any power at all, but expanded incredibly far into the distance while it drifted through the air, and quickly reached out beyond the effective range of Huo Yuhao’s Spiritual Detection.

Huo Yuhao faintly understood that this soul skill was similar in functionality to his Spiritual Detection. Mo Feiyun would have certain judgments about anything that the cloudy mist touched, according to the situation. Even though it wasn’t as accurate as his Spiritual Detection, Mo Feiyun’s cultivation allowed him to scout and cover an area that was far larger than his own area of effect. It was no wonder that he didn’t pay much attention to his comrades’ formation after entering the Great Star Dou Forest by himself, and neither did he really give any instructions. Huo Yuhao was surprised when he realized that Mo Feiyun’s soul ring didn’t light up when he released the cloudy mist into the sky. This meant that the cloudy mist was his martial soul’s innate skill, and not a soul skill. Having its own innate abilities implied that his martial soul was of extremely high quality.

“Let’s go.” The cloudy mist gradually dissipated, and Mo Feiyun’s voice could be heard from in front of them. The mist surrounding his body was still there, and his figure was still obscure and blurry.

They entered the Great Star Dou Forest once again. Huo Yuhao and his friends quickly felt an unprecedented unwinding feeling, as if they didn’t have to do anything much at all, and all they had to do was follow the trail.

Mo Feiyun constantly changed their course as they traveled, and he was a lot faster than the three of them exploring the forest by themselves. They didn’t run into any soul beast ambushes, and not even thirty minutes had passed before they were more than ten kilometers into the Great Star Dou Forest – Mo Feiyun didn’t even look like he intended to slow down.

The Great Star Dou Forest’s shape wasn’t regular. The widest areas was more than two hundred kilometers across, and its surface area was more than a hundred thousand square kilometers. It lived up to its reputation as the Great Star Dou Forest, and it was larger than some countries’ provinces. Furthermore, even Titled Douluo wouldn’t dare to walk right through its center.

The world of soul masters' perennial adventures enabled them to divide the Great Star Dou Forest into separate regions according to the strength of the soul beasts that appeared in the vicinity. The outermost twenty kilometers were called the Peripheral Region, and only ten year, hundred year, and thousand year soul beasts roamed this area. Ten thousand year soul beasts were occasionally seen, but they were rare. The next region was called the Hybrid Region, and it occupied forty percent of the largest radius, which was one hundred kilometers. The greatest number of soul beast species were found here, and they had the highest cultivation levels. This was the resting place of hundred year, thousand year and ten thousand year soul beasts. Hundred year soul beasts had to move around in herds if they wanted to stay in this area.

The innermost forty kilometers, which was about eighty kilometers in diameter, was known as the Great Star Dou Forest's Core Region. This Region was vast, and the number of soul beasts that lived here was far fewer than inside the Hybrid Region because only incredibly powerful soul beasts inhabited this area. Hundred year soul beasts were almost never seen in this region, and even thousand year soul beasts were few and far between. Ten thousand year soul beasts were the zone's main inhabitants, followed by the occasional frightening hundred thousand year soul beast. According to the soul masters' research, soul beasts that could have their own territory inside this area had to be at least thirty thousand years old.

The ten kilometer-wide region in the very center of this eighty-kilometer zone was known as the Slaughtering Grounds, and it was also called the Forbidden Grounds. Undetailed maps of the Great Star Dou Forest always colored this region with blood-red colors. Legend had it that petrifyingly fearsome beasts resided there, and their existences were even more terrifying than the soul beasts in the core regions of the Extreme North – it was a region that even Transcendent Douluo had to be extremely careful in.

Huo Yuhao could tell from Mo Feiyun's traveling speed that his target wasn't the twenty outermost kilometers of the Great Star Dou Forest's Peripheral Region. He was a Soul Sage, and could very well enter the outer regions of the Core Region if he wasn't taking so many people with him. It wasn't too difficult for him to ensure everyone's safety inside the Hybrid Region, and the species, quality and number of soul beasts that lived inside the Hybrid Region was far superior to the Peripheral Region.

Huo Yuhao and his friends didn't even dare to enter the Peripheral Region, let alone the Hybrid Region. No matter how talented they were, they were still Soul Elders, after all. They could possibly hold their own in one battle, but there were innumerable soul beasts within the Great Star Dou Forest! They wouldn't have a chance to retreat if someone was severely injured. This was one of the most important reasons why Huo Yuhao refused to venture too deep inside. Without Mo Feiyun and his group, he would probably continue on with Wang Dong and Xiao Xiao for about five to ten kilometers, but he would never take the risk of entering the Hybrid Region.

The company pressed on and made another five kilometers before Mo Feiyun started to slow down, and he stayed a little closer to Huo Yuhao and the others behind him.

"The outer regions of the Great Star Dou Forest's Hybrid Region are right in front of us, so everyone should be more careful. We have to avoid angering certain sensitive soul beasts, and I will reduce the area covered by my clouds. This will reduce their intimidation as well, so everyone should be ready for battle."

Huo Yuhao was once again astonished by the discipline from Mo Feiyun's company. Their formation quickly became more compact after Mo Feiyun's reminder, but there was at least three meters between each of them so that they wouldn't hinder each other.

Wei Na and Mu Xue had been observing Huo Yuhao and his friends along the way, especially when they were hurrying along in the forest and when they were met with threats from soul beasts. Huo Yuhao maintained a steady pace behind Mo Feiyun, and he didn't display a single trace of exhaustion. His body was nimble and agile, and his movements were crisp and decisive. Huo Yuhao was the vanguard, while Xiao Xiao and Wang Dong were positioned slightly behind him, and the three of them lined up like a horn. They could tell from Wang Dong and Xiao Xiao's occasional glances at Huo Yuhao's movements that Huo Yuhao was actually their leader.

Mo Feiyun's reminder swiftly became reality. The company proceeded forward, and not much time passed before Mo Feiyun suddenly retreated as quickly as he could. A series of chirping sounds could be heard, and a chain of shadows appeared in front of them. These shadows moved at breakneck speed and surged through the trees. They seemed extremely organized as they dangled through the treetops, and surrounded the ten of them in no time at all.

"Be careful, everyone. They're Scarletfire Monkeys. They're extremely aggressive." Mo Feiyun remarked to everyone as he shifted backwards and stood in front of Huo Yuhao and the others.

Scarletfire Monkeys? Huo Yuhao observed the soul beasts in the trees around them while a memory surfaced in his mind – it was a fire-type soul beast that liked to live in groups was extremely irritable and short-tempered, hostile, and held grudges. They were agility-type soul beasts that were adept with long-range attacks, and they were incredibly challenging to handle.

The Scarletfire Monkeys all looked similar, except there were differences in their sizes. The biggest one was about two meters tall, taller than most grown-up humans, while the smallest one was not more than two feet in height. Their fiery-red fur was conspicuous inside the forest, and the two lengthy fangs protruding from their lips showed their carnivorous nature. There were about thirty to forty monkeys in this group, and every single one started to chirp incessantly once they surrounded everyone, as if they wanted to intimidate the company.

The burliest and most majestic Scarletfire Monkey on a tree crown in the distance hammered its chest, and specks of flame flickered from its fiery-red fur. It leapt into the air like a lightning bolt, and launched an enormous fireball that was at least one meter in diameter at the same time.

Soul beasts were unlike humans, and the only difference they could tell was between things they could eat and things they couldn't. This Scarletfire Monkey wasn't a ten thousand year soul beast yet, as its fur wasn't completely golden-red, but it had at least five thousand years of cultivation. Their strength as a herd allowed them to inhabit the Hybrid Region's outer regions.

The other Scarletfire Monkeys leapt from their trees as their monkey king launched its attack. Accompanied by their immense speed, sphere after sphere of fire descended from the sky like a meteor shower as they fired on the entire company.

Mo Feiyun grunted coldly, and thick mist energy expanded outwards. Uncountable missiles condensed from air shot out in all directions in the next moment, and immediately dispelled most of the fireballs

raining down from the sky. The sphere of mist in front of him subsequently materialized into the shape of a hand, and he grabbed the Scarletfire Monkey king's enormous fireball.

The enormous fireball burned violently and swiftly ate away at the mist energy. However, the giant hand formed by the mist energy swiftly closed up, and the fireball was shattered into pieces. Sparks flew in all directions as they dissipated in the air.

Nobody knew if Mo Feiyun did it on purpose, but when he was dispelling most of the Scarletfire Monkeys' attacks, a single fireball broke through his defenses – and this fireball was going straight for Huo Yuhao and his friends.

A vibrant pair of blue wings extended in midair. The blue hues were as pure as the sky, and their color immediately became the center of attention. Golden light patterns glimmered, and this slim figure flickered faintly while blades of light shimmered from the wings. The descending fireball was slashed in two, and flew away into the distance.

Chapter 144: The Most Suitable Soul Beast for Huo Yuhao!

Wang Dong was already extremely handsome. He set off the Radiant Butterfly Goddess' wings, and even the cold and arrogant Mu Xue was dazed momentarily, while Wei Na's charming eyes sparkled.

Soul Masters' martial souls had many different kinds of attributes, but those that could be described as "beautiful" were few and far between, especially so for beast souls. Wang Dong's Radiant Butterfly Goddess had a seamless combination of blue and gold, and how could its grandeur and elegance not be riveting? Mo Feiyun and company didn't even recognize his martial soul.

The Scarletfire Monkey's assault wasn't about to stop because of Wang Dong's dazzling charm, and a second fireball followed closely behind the first one. The Scarletfire Monkey king also seemed to realize that Mo Feiyun wasn't an easy opponent, and it quickly disappeared into the forest. Fireballs of all sizes were fired continuously in between the Scarletfire Monkeys' shifting shadows.

Mo Feiyun and his company's overall strength was immediately unleashed. Nobody panicked, and everybody released their martial souls to defend themselves.

Four of them attracted more of Huo Yuhao's attention. The agility-type Soul King, Bei Tang, had a bamboo pole for his martial soul. The bamboo pole was thirty feet long, and its entire body was shiny purple. Its length was mutable, and it waltzed through the air, whipping at fireball after fireball. These fireballs detonated when they were struck, or they were sent flying away in another direction.

Then there was Chou Xiangdong, who was anchoring the formation in the center at the back. His martial soul was unique as well – it was a pillar that was thick like a water bucket, and was about twelve feet long. The pillar had a smooth surface, emanated pale golden hues, and had a strong metallic quality. He didn't seem to do anything much, but the pillar would always appear where it was needed, and the fireballs cracking against it couldn't knock it down at all.

What fascinated Huo Yuhao the most was Mu Xue. Even though her cultivation couldn't compare to the Soul Kings, Soul Emperors and the Soul Sages around her, Huo Yuhao felt extremely close and intimate with her martial soul. Even her soul skills were incredibly powerful.

Mu Xue's flowing black hair turned white as she released her martial soul, and the chilly sensation in her eyes multiplied. She raised her arms into the air, and her two yellow and one purple soul ring rose into the sky. Innumerable snowflakes were hurled out as her first soul ring sparkled, and they permeated the sky, causing the temperature to plummet.

Yes, her martial soul was Snow. The fireballs that flew through her flurry of snowflakes were weakened by varying degrees, and the dense cold air dispelled the scorching heat that the Scarletfire Monkeys brought about. What was more amazing was that these snowflakes seemed to have eyes as they drifted towards the Scarletfire Monkeys within the forest. Any Scarletfire Monkey that the snowflakes touched became conspicuously slower.

Mu Xue's martial soul wasn't just Snow – it was snow with elements of control. Even though she had only released her first soul skill, she managed to considerably reduce the pressure on everyone.

Mo Feiyun wasn't hasty about attacking the Scarletfire Monkeys surging in between the trees. He stood guard in front of everyone while he monitored his comrades' battle situations. Soul beasts' instincts were sharp, so the number of Scarletfire Monkeys in front of everyone was the fewest because of Mo Feiyun's position. This meant that Huo Yuhao, Wang Dong and Xiao Xiao felt the least pressure, and only Wang Dong had to slash away a fireball using his Guillotine Wings – both Huo Yuhao and Xiao Xiao hadn't even revealed their martial souls yet. Wang Dong's yellow and two purple soul rings surprised Mo Feiyun. His second soul ring was a thousand year soul ring; this wasn't something that even elite academies could have easily nurtured.

They passively defended themselves against the Scarletfire Monkeys' onslaught, and everyone figured out this pack's overall strength. Mo Feiyun's cloudy mist constantly transformed in the sky, and the Scarletfire Monkeys directly facing everyone couldn't break through at all. Instead, they were repeatedly attacked by the air missiles that the cloudy mist constantly formed, and it didn't take long for over a dozen Scarletfire Monkeys to die at Mo Feiyun's hands.

Huo Yuhao looked on indifferently. With his understanding of high-level soul masters, he could immediately tell that this Soul Sage hadn't given his all, and he had his own reservations.

Wei Na appeared extremely idle beside Mu Xue. She didn't release her martial soul, and she was just watching the glittering pair of wings behind Wang Dong.

A piercing howl rang out at this moment, and a fiery-red silhouette suddenly pounced from the flank. At the same time, a large blanket of fireballs was launched from all directions and suppressed everyone.

The Scarletfire Monkey king hidden in the forest couldn't hold back any longer, and a series of three fireballs over a meter in diameter bombarded an agility-type Soul King on the flank and continuously pushed him back – a crack finally appeared in the formation. The Scarletfire Monkey was unbelievably fast, and it darted past that Soul King as it extended its sharp claws and lunged straight for Wei Na.

Mo Feiyun reacted the moment this Scarletfire Monkey made its move. He raised his right hand, and a cloud sphere transformed into a fist before it banged against the Scarletfire Monkey king.

A golden-red shadow sprung forward right at this moment and crashed against the cloud sphere. The cloudy mist crumbled and dissipated, and the golden-red shadow arrived before Mo Feiyun.

He was taken by surprise, and even a powerful Soul Sage such as Mo Feiyun was momentarily bewildered. He never expected that there was such a mighty presence hidden amongst this pack of Scarletfire Monkeys. The white clouds around his body dimmed and transformed into a shield before him.

“Boom—” The clouds dissolved once more, and Mo Feiyun was immediately thrown into the sky.

The Scarletfire Monkey king’s sharp claws appeared before Wei Na at the same time.

Everything happened too quickly. Nobody expected that there was such a formidable being within the pack, and neither did they anticipate that this monkey would employ such insidious battle tactics. That powerful Scarletfire Monkey had escaped even Huo Yuhao’s Spiritual Detection.

Mu Xue was the closest to Wei Na. However, Mu Xue was on the other side, and she only had three soul rings. She was no match for the five thousand year Scarletfire Monkey king, especially so when everything happened in the blink of an eye.

The other Soul Kings and Soul Emperors had too much faith in Mo Feiyun’s abilities, and they were too late with their reinforcements. Wei Na was about to be struck, and she didn’t seem like she had any intention of defending herself.

A dull golden radiance suddenly sparkled before Wei Na, and a giant cauldron that was over a meter wide appeared between her and the Scarletfire Monkey king. The enormous cauldron expanded in an instant, and the dense golden radiance erupted against the Scarletfire Monkey king’s body while it pushed Wei Na away at the same time.

One couldn’t underestimate such a simple hindrance. A single second of resistance was enough to change the entire situation in life and death circumstances.

The Scarletfire Monkey king’s stinging claws scratched against the Threelives Soulcrush Cauldron, and the shrill sounds of clanging metal could be heard. However, the monkey couldn’t do anything to it. The monkey’s offensive abilities couldn’t compare to the cauldron formed by the soul ring taken from a Darkgolden Terrorclaw Bear.

Mu Xue seemed a lot more composed than Wei Na. She dragged Wei Na away from the Threelives Soulcrush Cauldron as her third soul ring immediately lit up, and a white circle of light appeared beneath the Scarletfire Monkey king’s feet. Snow danced through the air with the monkey’s body at the center of everything, and eventually congregated into a tornado that was over three meters tall. The Scarletfire Monkey was temporarily trapped within the waltzing snowflakes.

What a formidable control-type soul skill! Huo Yuhao was mildly astonished. He could feel with his Spiritual Detection that Mu Xue’s soul skill had been cast instantly. If her target on solid ground, it would have no chance of evading it. This kind of ability was known as Forced Control amongst control-type soul skills, and taking it head-on was the only way of dealing with it.

Flames erupted from the Scarletfire Monkey’s body. Its cultivation was far higher than Mu Xue’s, and her Snowdragon Tornado couldn’t hold it for too long. However, these few moments were enough to determine the Scarletfire Monkey king’s fate.

The agility-type Soul King that was previously pushed away bounced back in an instant. A pair of small blades slashed and dashed as his fifth soul ring sparkled, and dozens of bloody wounds immediately appeared on the Scarletfire Monkey king's body.

A purple shadow surged into the sky nearby, and the purple bamboo pole appeared like a drawn bow before it cracked down, leaving afterimages in its wake.

“Crunch—” The Scarletfire Monkey king collapsed onto the ground, and everyone could hear the sounds of ligaments tearing and bones breaking.

The purple shadow withdrew and returned to Bei Tang. The purple bamboo pole was almost sixty feet long previously, and two the Soul Kings worked together with the help of Mu Xue's forced control to finally eliminate this Scarletfire Monkey king.

Mo Feiyun and company were infuriated at this point. They continuously unleashed their various formidable soul skills, and the Scarletfire Monkeys were no longer leisurely surging through the trees – many Scarletfire Monkeys were killed in an instant.

Huo Yuhao's attention shifted to the other side once the Scarletfire Monkey king was killed. The entity that tied down Mo Feiyun was also a Scarletfire Monkey – no, it should be called a Blazefire Monkey.

Its golden fur felt like it was burning with flames even if it didn't unleash any soul power. It was only about three feet tall, but its aura was far superior to the other Scarletfire Monkeys.

Scarletfire Monkeys had a chance to shed their fur and be reborn after they reached ten thousand years of cultivation, and their fur would become golden-red – they were known as Blazefire Monkeys. That implied that this Blazefire Monkey that was holding Mo Feiyun back was the Scarletfire Monkey's true leader. This was also the reason why they didn't retreat before such a formidable human presence. It was a pity that soul beasts were soul beasts after all, and even if they could employ certain battle strategies, they could never compare to human intelligence. There was one price for underestimating one's enemies – death!

This Blazefire Monkey was getting worried as it watched its kinsmen being slain all over the place, but its commitment to vengeance and settling its debts meant that there was no way it was going to withdraw. Mo Feiyun also appeared infuriated by the disaster that had almost occurred, and he immediately unleashed his true power.

The clouds changed from white to yellow, before they were tainted purple. Mo Feiyun launched a myriad of attacks, and every strike was ten times stronger than the previous one.

Even though the ten thousand year Blazefire Monkey was incredibly strong, Mo Feiyun suppressed it until it didn't have a chance at all. The purple clouds swiftly expanded and arrested the ten thousand year Blazefire Monkey within.

Huo Yuhao didn't extend his Spiritual Detection into the purple cloud mist. He had a subconscious feeling that the purple cloud mist would affect his own spiritual power. Even though it probably wouldn't have any toxic backlash, he didn't want to reveal his own abilities.

The purple cloud mist suddenly became black. However, Huo Yuhao and his friends could acutely feel an immense pressure that resembled dark clouds looming over an entire city that could whittle it into dust.

An agonizing cry could be heard from within the dark mass of clouds, and a golden-red flame flickered once before it was completely extinguished.

The clouds dissipated, and Mo Feiyun walked out with a gloomy look on his face. He was holding the Blazefire Monkey's corpse in his right hand. The Blazefire Monkey was soft like a ragdoll, as if its skeleton had been completely crushed into pieces.

Mo Feiyun arrived before Wei Na in a flash. Wei Na's face was pale from the trauma and he said, "Your... Wei Na, are you okay?"

Wei Na patted herself on her supple chest. Her breathing was a little faster than normal and she replied, "I'm fine. Fortunately, the giant cauldron took a hit for me."

Mo Feiyun turned towards Huo Yuhao and the others. His gaze landed upon Xiao Xiao, and he said sincerely, "Thank you for your timely aid, Xiao Xiao. If not, Wei Na would have been wounded by the Scarletfire Monkey even if she wasn't kidnapped. That was my fault - I was too careless. I didn't think this pack of Scarletfire Monkeys could have been so scheming and dangerous."

Xiao Xiao giggled and said, "We're all in the same boat. You don't have to be so polite, Uncle Mo."

Wei Na's emotions calmed down a little, and she hurried before Xiao Xiao and grasped her hands. "Thank you, Xiao Xiao. Thank you for helping me just now."

Everybody quickly circled around. They looked at Huo Yuhao and his friends with warmer expressions than before, and even Mu Xue's eyes didn't appear so ice-cold.

Wang Dong's withdrew his Radiant Butterfly Goddess' wings, but he turned towards the Blazefire Monkey's body. Its golden-red fur glimmered with pale hues, and appeared unnaturally brilliant.

"Can you sell this Blazefire Monkey to me, Uncle Mo? The Blazefire Monkey's hide and fur are extremely rare and valuable. After it reaches over ten thousand years of cultivation, the relationship between fire and light will be much clearer. My element is light, and it will be extremely beneficial for me if I can use its hide as a fur coat. Do name a price."

Mo Feiyun smiled and replied, "What price? Didn't Xiao Xiao just mention that we are in this together? You guys saved Wei Na, so this Blazefire Monkey should be yours. I hope we can have even better chemistry in the future. Here, it's yours." He tossed the Blazefire Monkey's corpse before Wang Dong as he spoke.

"Thank you, Uncle Mo." Wang Dong grabbed the Blazefire Monkey without excessive formalities and put it away inside his storage-type soul tool.

The Blazefire Monkey wasn't that big, so it wasn't enough to forge a fur coat or any kind of clothing. However, the Blazefire Monkey's element was extremely similar to his Golden Light Left Arm Bone, and was complementary in its effects. It could be forged into an armguard.

They returned to the trail, while Huo Yuhao and his friends changed positions. Their initial doubts and suspicions were a lot lower after Xiao Xiao's timely reinforcement. Furthermore, both Xiao Xiao and Wang Dong had displayed extraordinary abilities as Soul Elders, so Mo Feiyun ended up arranging for

them to travel with Wei Na and Mu Xue. Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong stood in front, while the three girls walked behind them.

“What is your martial soul called, Xiao Xiao? It looks like an enormous cauldron, and it looks incredibly tough. The Scarletfire Monkey couldn’t shake the cauldron one bit when it struck it,” Wei Na asked inquisitively. She felt intimate with the person that had saved her life.

Xiao Xiao answered, “My martial soul is called the Threelives Soulcrush Cauldron. It’s mainly defensive, so it’s natural for it to be tough.”

“What about them?” Wei Na lowered her voice and pointed at Wang Dong in front.

Xiao Xiao said, “His martial soul... I think you should just ask him yourself.”

Wei Na pouted and said, “I don’t want to do that. He’s still young, but he looks like he doesn’t like talking to strangers – what a waste of good looks.”

Xiao Xiao giggled and said, “Are you interested in him, Wei Na?”

Wei Na’s pretty face flushed red, and she glared at Xiao Xiao. “Nonsense.”

The company entered the Great Star Dou Forest’s Hybrid Region, and everyone’s speed was obviously slower than before. Mo Feiyun was a mighty Soul Sage, but even he had to be extra careful. Ten thousand year soul beasts could have vastly different standards – he could handle a Blazefire Monkey below thirty thousand years, but he would find it challenging to deal with anything stronger than that. If they were faced with a top-tier soul beast like the Darkgolden Terrorclaw Bear, it would be calamitous for the entire company even if it only had ten thousand years of cultivation.

They also fought battles much more frequently. Fortunately, most of their encounters were with thousand year soul beasts, as they were barely over the Hybrid Region’s borders. The relatively more intelligent soul beasts could feel the danger brought by this company of humans, and they wouldn’t come near for no reason. Even so, the entire company took more than an hour to travel ten kilometers while maintaining their heightened vigilance. The day gradually proceeded into midday.

Mo Feiyun found a vantage point with a relatively wide field of view, and ordered the company to take a break.

Everybody carried their own snacks and ate their respective shares while they rested. Nobody dared to light a fire inside the Great Star Dou Forest, and everyone started to meditate to restore their energy after eating.

Mo Feiyun gathered everyone around after a little more than thirty minutes and said, “There will be occasional ten thousand year soul beasts appearing around this location. We cannot venture any deeper, so we will proceed laterally to find suitable soul beasts. We will retreat from the Hybrid Region before evening, rest in its outer zones and continue our search tomorrow.”

Huo Yuhao and his friends realized that Mo Feiyun and those with him had faith in their abilities and were about to spend the night inside the forest. This would undoubtedly increase their chances of finding appropriate soul beasts, but it would also raise the danger level exponentially.

Mo Feiyun changed their direction after everybody was done resting. They didn't venture forward any longer, and started moving laterally as he had just said. They traveled a lot slower than before, and he released his Cloud martial soul from time to time to search for suitable soul beasts.

Huo Yuhao naturally wasn't idle either. Mo Feiyun was scouting for everyone, so there wasn't much pressure on him. He decided to concentrate his Spiritual Detection towards a single direction so that he could detect things at a much greater distance. He swept from left to right, and attempted to find a soul beast suitable for himself while avoiding Mo Feiyun's clouds as much as possible.

Huo Yuhao discovered after repeated observation that Mo Feiyun's martial soul was vastly different from normal soul masters' martial souls. His soul rings amplified the clouds' strength, from white to yellow, then to purple, and finally to black. Every amplification was different, and the clouds' ferocity was also different after materializing – it was almost an exponential increase in power. The Cloud could be said to be all-in-one: crowd control, detection, and assault. No wonder his comrades had so much faith in him. Huo Yuhao was positive that Mo Feiyun had eliminated more than seventy percent of potential threats and dangers.

“Roar—!” A fearsome roar that resembled a tidal wave boomed in the distance. Mo Feiyun immediately stopped in his tracks and his expression changed drastically, before he turned around and placed his index finger to his lips.

A shrill and piercing cry was heard after the ear-splitting roar. It wasn't as intimidating as the roar, but it was as piercing as it was, and wasn't masked by the fearsome roar at all.

Mo Feiyun retreated before his comrades carefully and whispered, “There appear to be two soul beasts locked in battle. Judging from the sounds, both entities are at least ten thousand years old, and could be even more than thirty thousand years old. We will go around – hurry.” He turned around as he spoke and shifted towards the outer zone. He moved much more carefully than before, and the clouds he spread around him were reduced to a radius of about fifty meters.

Huo Yuhao's perception was incredibly sharp. Even though his hearing wasn't as good as his vision, he could faintly tell that the roar came from at least three kilometers away from where they were.

“Yuhao, get over there. A soul beast suitable for you has appeared.” Suddenly, the hibernating Skydream Iceworm spoke in Huo Yuhao's spiritual sea.

Huo Yuhao felt a wave of excitement and said with look of surprise, “That's a ten thousand year soul beast, brother Skydream. Do you actually think I can assimilate a ten thousand year soul ring?”

The Skydream Iceworm grunted coldly and replied, “Of course you can't. But, miracles can happen sometimes with me around. Do you really think sleeping is all I know how to do after fusing with you?”

Huo Yuhao actually wanted to ask, “Is that not true?”

The Skydream Iceworm continued proudly, “I have been investigating the different functionalities of spiritual power even in my sleep, and I think I have gained some knowledge recently. You can't assimilate a ten thousand year soul ring. In fact, you're quite far off from being able to do so. However, your body has become extremely tough and resilient after being remade by Electrolux's Life Gold. Even ten thousand year soul rings can't immediately damage your body when you first attempt to absorb

them. I can use spiritual power to lock part of the ten thousand year soul ring's power so that it will be suppressed into a thousand year soul ring for you to absorb its power. When you are powerful enough, you can gradually assimilate the rest of its power. With your current cultivation speed, the refining from several soul bones, and in addition to the Life Gold's amplification, you will definitely be able to absorb ten thousand year soul rings when you have four. Of course – the seal has its limits, so I can only help you seal a soul ring with roughly ten thousand years of soul power. Your own limits of absorption should be limited to around five to six thousand years, so that means your target of choice will be appropriate as long as it doesn't have over fifteen thousand years of cultivation. One of the two soul beasts locked in battle is suitable for you. You have to hurry up, this opportunity won't appear again."

Huo Yuhao forced out a laugh and said, "Brother Skydream, do you really think I can defeat a ten thousand year soul beast? Let alone two of them? Even if Elder Xuan is here, don't you think it's a bit suspicious? Also wouldn't the fact that I can absorb a ten thousand year soul ring completely unscathed raise suspicion?"

"Uh... that does sound like a problem." The Skydream Iceworm was becoming a little skeptical.

"What are you doing, Yuhao? Hurry up, let's go." Mo Feiyun suddenly realized that Huo Yuhao had stopped walking, so he quickly roused him. His voice far more solemn than usual—this was the Great Star Dou Forest's Hybrid Region, a single moment of absent-mindedness could prove fatal.

Huo Yuhao gritted his teeth and said, "You guys go ahead, Uncle Mo. I just felt a soul beast that's suitable for me nearby, I'll go take a look. Xiao Dong, Xiao Xiao, you two should stick with Uncle Mo—I'll be right back." Before anyone had a chance to speak, he darted out with the Ghost Shadow Perplexing Track and disappeared.

Mo Feiyun was momentarily stunned. What just happened? Huo Yuhao's explosive speeds also took him by surprise, as only Wang Dong and Xiao Xiao had fought in previous battles, he had no idea of Huo Yuhao's capabilities. Nobody even knew what Huo Yuhao's martial soul was. Huo Yuhao's body seemed to vanish into thin air the moment he moved.

Both Wang Dong and Xiao Xiao were taken aback. Huo Yuhao had actually abandoned them—this was something they had never expected to happen.

Huo Yuhao did disappear, and his vanishing act was accomplished with Imitation. He imitated a large tree the moment he jumped forward, and how could anyone see him within all that dense vegetation?

"Yuhao!" Wang Dong exclaimed desperately, but Huo Yuhao was nowhere to be seen. Furthermore, he had no means to track him down, even if he wanted to. Huo Yuhao had never behaved so irrationally before, so what was happening? Why did he detach himself from the group, just like that?

The moment he vanished into the jungle, Huo Yuhao raced forward. Channeling his Imitation as best he could, appearing only as a faint contorted blur, constantly transforming with the surroundings.

"Has Elder Xuan discovered I've left the team yet?" Huo Yuhao asked the Skydream Iceworm while bolting forward.

The Skydream Iceworm answered, "I think he knows, he's also chasing you right now. Stop running—it's pointless even if you do. So you might as well be straightforward with Elder Xuan. Besides, you can't handle a ten thousand year soul beasts anyways."

Huo Yuhao forced a laugh and said, "Then how should I explain things to Elder Xuan?"

Skydream said matter-of-factly, "Just bullshit him. Isn't that what you're good at?"

Huo Yuhao was exasperated. "How am I supposed to do that?! Elder Xuan isn't easily deceived! He's studied martial souls his entire life." Huo Yuhao stopped in place anyways and dispelled his Imitation.

Elder Xuan's voice could be heard in the next moment. "What are you trying to do, you little bastard? You don't feel good if you don't scare me a little, eh?"

Elder Xuan appeared beside him in a flash.

Huo Yuhao said, "Did you hear those two howls? I have a hunch that one of them would make me a suitable soul ring—a rare spirit-type soul beast."

Elder Xuan replied with annoyance, "Nonsense. Those two are ten thousand year spirit beasts, I can tell by their auras. But you're just a Soul Elder, not a Soul King—can you even assimilate a ten thousand year soul ring?"

Thoughts spun at lightning speed inside Huo Yuhao's head as he replied, "You know that I'm a Tang Sect disciple, Elder Xuan. My path is that of the Tang Sect. Which has a secret technique that can suppress a soul ring's power. Have you heard of it?"

All he could do was fabricate a story. What else could he do? He wanted to properly obtain this golden opportunity, after searching for a suitable soul ring for many days he had finally come across a match. Huo Yuhao had no doubts in the Skydream Iceworm's keen perception.

Elder Xuan was slightly taken aback, and said, "The Tang Sect has such a secret technique? I've never actually heard of such a thing."

Huo Yuhao continued, "The Tang Sect's secret technique is only suitable for soul masters with sufficient spiritual power, but can only be used for the fifth and lower soul rings. At present, I am the only one in the Tang Sect capable of using the ring-sealing secret technique. It can temporarily seal a soul ring's power, so I can absorb a portion of it now, and the rest as I grow stronger. Furthermore, I have three soul bones now, and my body is extremely resilient—plus the ring-sealing technique. I am confident in my odds as long as the soul beast has a cultivation lower than twenty thousand years. A soul master's willpower is most imperative when it comes to assimilating a soul ring, and in this, I am most confident. Elder Xuan, I have finally discovered a suitable soul beast, I want to give it a shot!"

Elder Xuan deliberated for a while and said, "The Tang Sect's forefather, Tang San, had soul rings that were almost breaking every natural limit all those years ago. Did he use the ring-sealing technique? It's the first I've ever heard of this. It's a shame the Tang Sect no longer passes on these kind of esoteric techniques."

Huo Yuhao was overcome with exhilaration when he heard Elder Xuan's words. He never expected that his 'fabricated story' had precedence, so he nodded his head continuously..

Elder Xuan frowned and said, “But why did you choose to leave Wang Dong and Xiao Xiao behind? I can’t be in two places at the same time, so how am I supposed to protect them?”

“Uh...” Huo Yuhao scratched his head and said, “I didn’t think into it that much. I felt the spiritual fluctuations and Uncle Mo was impatient, so I bolted out as fast as I could. I didn’t think that Wang Dong and Xiao Xiao were in much danger within that group. Why don’t you go fetch them, while I wait here?”

There were some obvious flaws in Huo Yuhao’s explanation. But Elder Xuan was generous to overlook them on account of Huo Yuhao’s age. It was only natural that a not-even-thirteen-years-old child would be a bit impulsive.

Elder Xuan said, “I guess that’s the only way. I won’t let anything slip. I’ll go fetch those two fellas, you can wait here. Use your Imitation to hide yourself—even I was almost fooled just now. Luckily, you can’t hide your spiritual fluctuations with Imitation yet.”

With that, Elder Xuan disappeared into the sky with a flash.

Huo Yuhao could feel cold sweat breaking out on his back. Concocting stories really wasn’t something he should be doing! Even though his lies were completely harmless, he still found the task more difficult than an epic battle.

A ear-splitting roar suddenly pierced the silence. There was a terrifying and unstoppable shockwave that followed this fearsome roar.

Huo Yuhao witnessed as large patches of trees collapsed in its wake, much like a wheat harvest. At the same time, an extremely imposing and majestic figure leapt forward. The ground trembled and shook when it landed, and Huo Yuhao even felt a large amount of dizziness—falling to the ground after losing his balance.

The gigantic figure was coming toward him. Huo Yuhao could finally make out its appearance—it was a giant, black and white fur growing from its body. There were two heads on its shoulders, each with only one eye, and its colossal figure was more than ten meters tall. Its eyes glowing with an intimidating luster.

Black and white lights were being continuously released, causing the many shockwaves. The purpose of the shockwaves was to clear a path ahead for it, so it could run unobstructed. But even with its imposing mannerisms, it seemed to be running from something... Could this be the exceedingly rare Cyclops variant, the Twin Cyclops?

Huo Yuhao knew something about this Twin Cyclops from Elder Xuan, but he had yet to learn of it in his outer courtyard studies.

Cyclops were a very special species of soul beast. Their physical appearance was no different than normal humans, excluding its one eye. They even used tree branches and vines to craft clothing and cover their lower bodies. The only catch was that Cyclops were far larger than humans.

They were born two meters tall, and they would grow to about five meters when they reached a hundred years of cultivation. Which was when they are considered a grown Cyclops, and from there its growth would slow down. They would grow to about eight meters at one thousand years, and about fifteen meters upon ten thousand. But they were far too conspicuous due to their massive size, and

would make easy prey for powerful soul beasts. Hence why ten thousand year Cyclops were almost non-existent. Their brains were nutritious to some soul beasts with top-tier bloodlines.

This Cyclops before him was only about ten meters tall, but Huo Yuhao was absolutely sure it had more than ten thousand years of cultivation.

The ten thousand year point marked an enormous milestone for soul beasts' cultivations. Their power would rise exponentially upon crossing the threshold and occasionally soul beasts would even evolve after breaking through ten thousand years. This was evident in Scarletfire Monkeys, which evolve into Blazefire Monkeys. However, this was assured for their species.

The Cyclopes' evolution wasn't assured, only a possibility. Moreover, there were different types of mutations, with the most powerful—the Twin Cyclops—right before Huo Yuhao's eyes.

A Cyclops' original element was chaos—an uncommon type, which could fundamentally change at any time. Upon becoming a Twin Cyclops it would change, while sometimes its body size would also decrease as it birthed another head. This Twin Cyclops had both light and darkness elements—making it an incredibly rare existence. It was so powerful it could be ranked among top-tier soul beasts.

But what was this mighty Twin Cyclops running from?

Volume 16, Chapter 145.1: Emperor Beast Three-Eyed Golden Lion

Huo Yuhao was proud of his knowledge of soul beasts in identifying the Twin Cyclops. He even began wondering what could cause a Twin Cyclops to flee in terror. But his wonder swiftly turned into terror as he realized the Twin Cyclops was only a hundred meters away, and Elder Xuan still had not returned with Wang Dong and Xiao Xiao.

What kind of luck is this...?

Huo Yuhao was about to cry; as right now, he couldn't make an escape even if he wanted to. A single step from the Twin Cyclops brought it forwards 50 meters, meaning it would reach Huo Yuhao in just 2 steps. Not only that, but the shockwaves being generated were far more frightening. Even if he didn't die from them, he would definitely lose a layer of skin! Nothing in his arsenal of soul tools or Tang Sect techniques would help him avoid the Twin Cyclops.

In the end, Huo Yuhao was saved by his quick reaction to the danger, brought about by his rich experiences. The blood-red soul ring with four golden streaks rose, and the Ice Empress' fierce aura was exuded—azure-green radiance shooting into the sky.

Huo Yuhao fully unleashed the aura of the Ice Jade Empress Scorpion using Imitation. The four hundred thousand year soul beast's frightening aura made even his own aura become dormant.

Simultaneously covering his entire body in the Diamond Ice Armor, from the Ice Empress' Armor soul skill. He was prepared for battle, in hopes that if he could stall for a short while, Elder Xuan would arrive to save him. .

Huo Yuhao's Imitation could easily replicate the aura of the Ice Empress, since the Ice Empress was his second martial soul, and its origin was contained in his body. This aura would prove extremely effective against hundred or thousand year soul beasts, making them flee in terror.

However, his Imitation was not entirely flawless. Because his cultivation was so far off from the likes of the Ice Empress, he could not truly claim to possess its dominant aura—only a cheap imitation aura.

If the Ice Empress' original body was here in the flesh, its aura would be enough to make any Twin Cyclops below ten thousand years submit without a second thought.

But, Huo Yuhao's luck didn't run dry just yet. While this Twin Cyclops would at most be shocked by the aura in normal circumstances, but this wasn't the normal condition for the Twin Cyclops. It was in an extreme state of fear, preventing it from making an accurate assessment of the situation. Feeling an aura more ferocious than the one pursuing it—the Twin Cyclops subconsciously shifted directions. In one step, it was only fifty meters away from Huo Yuhao, however after changing directions it went diagonally away from Huo Yuhao on the second step.

While the powerful shockwaves did send Huo Yuhao flying, he was rather delighted at taking no injuries with the help of the Ice Empress' Armor. He rolled into the forest and struck a tree. Immediately changing his aura to imitate that of the plants around him, after which he didn't even dare to breathe.

It was now that the figure chasing after the Twin Cyclops made its entrance. It appeared as a beam of flowing golden light, and seem like a small sun dashing through the forest. Huo Yuhao only detected a flash of light with Spiritual Detection, before an animal appeared where was a moment ago, sniffing the air strongly.

This was a soul beast that Huo Yuhao had never seen or heard of before. It was 3 meters in length, and around 8 feet in width. It was coated in a layer of bright golden fur.

The Blazefire Monkey's fur that Huo Yuhao had seen earlier was already very beautiful, but was still inferior to this soul beast. This soul beast had golden fur, and its body seemed semi-transparent, it gave off a very special feel. Its body was shaped like a lion, but its claws were that of a dragon. There were even golden flames coming off its dragon claws. Its mouth was longer than that of usual lion-type soul beasts, and there seemed to be golden scales beneath the fur. On top of that, it had a third eye apart from the normal two eyes, which appeared much like Huo Yuhao's Eye of Life—vertical.

Both its normal eyes flashed gold, while the vertical eye emitted a red light. The red seemed slightly freakish.

It stopped for awhile, then it started facing in the direction the Twin Cyclops ran in. Its figure flashed, and it became a golden beam of light, in hot pursuit.

"Skydream, is this that soul beast 'suitable for Huo Yuhao'? Just tell us when you want all of us to die next time." The Ice Empress' cold voice bore a colder fury on the brink of eruption within Huo Yuhao's Spiritual Sea.

"Err... I only that it was suitable to Yuhao's spiritual undulations from its aura and feel. But I didn't misjudge this fellow's cultivation! It has a cultivation of around fifteen thousand years. Theoretically speaking—ahem, theoretically speaking..." The Skydream Iceworm's attempt to defend himself seemed a little weak.

The Ice Empress answered furiously, "What theoretically? Do you think that the Star Dou Forest won't flip if you kill it? The significance of the Emperor Beasts are incalculable! Even hundred thousand year

soul beasts must give before it. Yuhao couldn't possibly absorb its soul ring, and even if he did, do you think he'd escape from the Star Dou Forest alive?"

Huo Yuhao was lost as he heard till here, "Brother Skydream, Ice Empress, what do the both of you mean? What is this soul beast exactly? It's such a problem?" A mere fifteen thousand year soul beast caused the four hundred year soul beast to be petrified. Huo Yuhao couldn't wrap his head around it.

The Ice Empress said in a deep voice, "It's called the Three-Eyed Golden Lion. Don't look down on its fifteen thousand year cultivation; it can fight with ordinary hundred thousand year soul beasts. It holds two extreme elements: Ultimate Fire and Ultimate Light. I can't believe you've bumped into it."

Huo Yuhao was stunned as he heard the Ice Empress mention the words 'extreme elements'. This Three-Eyed Golden Lion was no longer just a top-ranked soul beast in his mind. How terrifying was its lineage that it could fight hundred thousand year soul beasts from the fifteen thousand years it was at?

The Ice Empress continued, "Its greatest strengths lay in its innate abilities. The Three-Eyed Golden Lion is an ancient beast. During a time when soul beasts ruled the continent—long ago—such soul beasts would appear occasionally, and they would be crowned Emperors. Which is why they're known as Emperor Beasts. There can't be two of such beasts alive at the same time. Which means that Three-Eyed Golden Lion you saw just now is the only Emperor Beast on the continent. Even the strongest soul beasts must bow down to it and cannot harm it. Soul beasts it chooses as prey can only flee, they can't resist."

Huo Yuhao was curious as he asked, "Why? Even Transcendent Soul Beasts like the two of you can't win against it? Don't you have the Ultimate Ice too? Your cultivation is superior to it, thus you shouldn't be afraid when you bump into it!"

The Ice Empress' emotions were a little unstable, "I'm not afraid of it, but I must still pay it due respect should it appear in the Extreme North. What exactly is an Emperor Beast? They beget prosperity. A habitat with an Emperor Beast boasts twice the normal soul beast's cultivation speed. Furthermore, after hundred thousand year beasts reach a bottleneck, their chances of breaking through it will double in the presence of an Emperor Beast. I would not have become your soul ring had this happened to me."

Huo Yuhao was in a daze as he asked, "Does this mean that soul beasts with five hundred years' cultivation can reach a thousand years' cultivation with it around?"

The Ice Empress snorted. "That's right. Think about it: how would the soul beasts in the forest react if you dared to touch it? I think there are many savage soul beasts guarding the Three-Eyed Golden Lion. Isn't Skydream just courting death for all of us by targeting it?"

A pathetic scream rang out from afar, and Huo Yuhao's expression soured. He said softly, "Oh damn..."

A reverberating boom resonated from afar. The entire Star Dou Forest seemed to shake as roars and howls sounded repeatedly. The intense undulations of soul power turned into a terrifying might that caused Huo Yuhao to be glued to the ground.

Huo Yuhao could only think of one possibility as he heard that pathetic scream—Elder Xuan had met the Three-Eyed Golden Lion.

His thought process was simple and logical. Elder Xuan knew without a doubt that Huo Yuhao had unleashed the Ice Jade Empress Scorpion's aura from earlier, and would rush over. However, upon discovering the sudden disappearance of his aura immediately after that and realizing the Three-Eyed Golden Lion was where he had stood earlier, it stood to reason that Elder Xuan would become very anxious.

This was indeed what had happened. Elder Xuan knew things had gone downhill when Huo Yuhao suddenly unleashed the Ice Empress' aura. Huo Yuhao shouldn't have met an unresistable opponent, so why did he use a hundred thousand year soul beast's aura to scare off his opponents with his cultivation level? But then his aura disappeared! What could that mean? It meant that Huo Yuhao could have been killed by a powerful soul beast!

Elder Xuan had grown sensitive when all the academy's official team members were almost killed. But he was even more anxious considering Huo Yuhao's importance to Shrek. When he tried to sense his surroundings, he discovered the Three-Eyed Golden Lion first.

Elder Xuan had previously instructed Huo Yuhao to use Imitation to conceal himself, which let Elder Xuan find him through his soul power undulations. But Huo Yuhao had ceased any circulation of soul power now, and hadn't been discovered by Elder Xuan, which had led to the current misunderstanding.

Before the Three-Eyed Golden Lion could chase down the Twin Cyclops, it managed to provoke the ire of Elder Xuan. Hence all the screams and tremors Huo Yuhao now sensed.

Volume 16, Chapter 145.2: Emperor Beast Three-Eyed Golden Lion

Elder Xuan was a Rank 98 Transcendent Douluo, and was only a slight bit away from an Ultimate Douluo. As Shrek Academy's second-in-charge, he was extremely frightening when he unleashed his powers.

The Twin Cyclops was instantly crushed into the ground. Even though it tried to retreat, it was still struck by the shockwave and was critically injured. It was not even a true hundred thousand year soul beast. Even if it was, how could a hundred thousand year soul beast resist Elder Xuan?

A screeching howl rang out in the next instant. A dark red figure blocked Elder Xuan from unleashing his next attack on the Three-Eyed Golden Lion.

Elder Xuan descended amidst a reverberating boom. Wang Dong and Xiao Xiao were also beside him, which meant that he still had to worry about their safety. The figure that blocked Elder Xuan was knocked a hundred meters back by the Godly Taotie Bull's strength, but it still remained in front of the Three-Eyed Golden Lion. Three furious howls were released at the same time.

It was a soul beast that was more than 5 meters in length, and was extremely burly. It seemed like a lion, but it had three identical heads that were over a meter in diameter. Its terrifying teeth released a scarlet-gold glow. Its three heads roared furiously at the same time and all the soul beasts within a ten square mile radius didn't dare to move.

The huge noises that came from where they were also affected Mo Feiyun and the others in the distance. Huo Yuhao's sudden disappearance left them extremely displeased. However, a streak of yellow light suddenly flashed by. They didn't even see it clearly before Wang Dong and Xiao Xiao disappeared. At this point, Huo Yuhao's Ice Empress' aura, and the series of furious roars and explosions

caused this bunch of soul masters to turn pale. They wondered whether they were in the Core Region rather than the Hybrid Region. Mo Feiyun led everyone as they escaped. They couldn't be bothered to seek soul beasts anymore.

"Scarlet King?" Elder Xuan's expression turned serious as he looked at the soul beast that roared furiously. He stopped his attack too.

"You're that fellow from Shrek Academy." The three-headed soul beast that had a lion's form spoke in the human tongue, but its voice was filled with rage.

Elder Xuan growled, "Scarlet King, I won't make it difficult for you on account of our academy's agreement with the Star Dou Savage Beasts. Give way and hand that golden-furred lion over to me." His fury had already reached its limit. How could he explain things to Elder Mu if Huo Yuhao was dead?

Wang Dong and Xiao Xiao also turned pale as they stood behind Elder Xuan. This was especially so for Wang Dong, who felt that everything had turned black in front of him. Something seemed to have been crushed in his heart. The intense pain manifested as tears which trickled down his face.

"In just an instant, Yuhao... Yuhao is already..."

The Scarlet King was infuriated. "Rascal, do you know who this is? If you dare to touch it, you'll become the common enemy of all the soul beasts in Star Dou Forest."

Elder Xuan stared at the Scarlet King coldly. "I don't care who it is. I only know that it has killed and even eaten one of Shrek Academy's most important disciples. You should know that you're not my match even though you're ranked 8th among the Ten Great Savage Beasts. I won't mind if you want to die with it. I can't account to the academy anyway. Why not just kill to my heart's content?"

As he spoke, Elder Xuan had already taken a step forward. His frightening aura resembled a mountain that was crashing towards the Scarlet King.

"Wait a minute." The Scarlet King was a little worried. Although it had cultivated for more than three hundred thousand years, and was ranked 8th among the Ten Great Savage Beasts, he was indeed not Elder Xuan's match. It was too late for him to signal for help at this point. The top-ranked soul beasts needed time to rush out from the Region of Savage Beasts, but time was not something that Elder Xuan would be willing to offer them.

"Wait for?" Elder Xuan asked coldly.

The Scarlet King said, "Human, don't attack. I'm protecting the Star Dou Forest's Emperor Beast, which is also the only one in the continent now. If it dies, the entire Star Dou Forest will go crazy."

Elder Xuan was shocked. He had heard of Emperor Beasts before, but he thought that it was only a legend.

"I don't care if all of you go mad. I'm going mad myself now." Elder Xuan didn't back off. Huo Yuhao's 'death' had already caused him to lose his mind.

"Hear me out first." The Scarlet King said anxiously, "The Emperor Beast is called the Three-Eyed Golden Lion. It won't attack humans unless it's attacked first. It only feeds on the brain matter of light-type soul beasts. Let me ask if it really killed your student."

Even in such a crisis, and especially one that concerned the Three-Eyed Golden Lion's life, the Scarlet King still had to remain respectful towards Elder Xuan although it was a savage beast.

Elder Xuan calmed down after hearing his words. Was Huo Yuhao really dead?

At this point, a powerful and frightening aura was released not far from where they were. That brutal will came from the aura of another savage beast.

Elder Xuan and the Scarlet King were both stunned as they sensed this aura. The Scarlet King was perplexed. That aura came from a Transcendent Soul Beast just like it, but why did the ice-cold aura seem so familiar? It seemed to have appeared once just now, but the aura disappeared before he could look for it.

Elder Xuan was delighted after he was in a daze for a moment. Huo Yuhao was imitating the aura of a hundred thousand year soul beast! He wasn't dead!

Huo Yuhao was obviously alive. He was slow to react because he couldn't just interfere when two powerful figures were at odds with one another. He only imitated the Ice Empress' aura under the Ice Empress' advice as he stood where he was being repressed to send the message that he was still alive.

Elder Xuan knew what was going on, but the Scarlet King didn't! However, it believed that it was a good thing for him and the Three-Eyed Golden Lion that a savage beast had rushed over. A soul beast with a cultivation over a hundred thousand years possessed an intelligence that was superior to ordinary humans. It wouldn't start conflicts easily too. Moreover, the Scarlet King knew that this savage beast that came would help it in protecting the Emperor Beast. It wasn't afraid of Elder Xuan anymore with another savage beast around. It was confident of protecting the Three-Eyed Golden Lion even if it couldn't beat Elder Xuan.

A deep and low roar came from the Scarlet King's three heads. An intense dark red radiance also spewed out from its body, and its three heads seemed to balloon in size. A deathly sense enveloped Elder Xuan, as the Scarlet King's roar called for all soul beasts to rush over to protect the Emperor Beast. Since he possessed enough strength to resist the enemy, why would a three-headed Scarlet King who was also one of the Ten Great Savage Beasts and the king of the Canidae-type soul beasts compromise with a human?

Elder Xuan was relieved when he learned that Huo Yuhao was still alive. He immediately developed a plan in his mind and roared furiously too. He revealed his Godly Taotie Bull, and the two of them clashed.

A situation that left the Scarlet King extremely depressed occurred. The aura of the savage beast that had appeared earlier disappeared, and there was no more movement.

It wanted to give in to Elder Xuan now, but Elder Xuan wouldn't entertain the notion.

The Scarlet King could only try to protect itself as he faced Elder Xuan. It was slowly losing ground as it protected itself.

However, Elder Xuan and the Scarlet King didn't go all-out apart from Elder Xuan's first, formidable blow. If they did so, it would be a catastrophe for the entire Star Dou Forest. This was something that neither of them wanted to see.

An intense yellow radiance appeared like a sticky fluid, and a cage formed by the powers of the earth rose up, trapping the Scarlet King.

The Scarlet King's three heads roared, and its dark red fur surged with streaks of black patterns. It was like a volcano that had erupted, trying to break free from its restraints.

At this point, the Godly Taotie Bull's figure flashed and came in front of the Three-Eyed Golden Lion. A bright yellow radiance shot out from its horns and engulfed the Three-Eyed Golden Lion.

The Scarlet King depleted his origin power to break free from the cage, but it didn't dare to attack any further.

The Three-Eyed Golden Lion appeared very weary as it was trapped in the yellow light. The Scarlet King knew that Elder Xuan could take the Three-Eyed Golden Lion's life with his dominant, earth-type power if he wanted to.

The Scarlet King appeared very fearful, and he raged, "I dare you! If you kill the Emperor Beast, we'll destroy the humans."

Elder Xuan turned back to his human form and said, "Who says I'm going to kill it?"

The Scarlet King became much more composed after Elder Xuan said that he wouldn't kill the Three-Eyed Golden Lion. He was also highly intelligent, and he asked, "Then what're you going to do?"

Elder Xuan said, "Nothing. Find me a spiritual-type soul beast that has a cultivation of around fifteen thousand years and is of top quality to exchange for it."

The Scarlet King was stunned. What condition was that? A fifteen thousand year spiritual-type soul beast was nothing compared to the Emperor Beast! He even suspected that he had heard wrongly. If Elder Xuan had demanded a hundred thousand year soul beast, he wouldn't be so surprised.

Elder Xuan said coldly, "Why? Don't you understand what I'm saying? I'm giving you 4 hours. After the deadline, I will make this Three-Eyed Golden Lion my disciple's soul ring if you can't find me a replacement."

"You must not do that," The Scarlet King said anxiously, "The Three-Eyed Golden Lion is the current Emperor Beast. Its strength can't be absorbed by humans, and it won't be useful to you. Okay, I will accede to your request. But how can you ensure the safety of the Emperor Beast? How can I believe you?"

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Elder Xuan mounted the Three-Eyed Golden Lion, and his yellow radiance became even brighter. "Scarlet King, you should know that you have no choice, and you've no right to bargain with me. I'll wait for you in the northern direction outside of the forest. Remember, you only have 4 hours. I can only tell you that the Great Star Dou Forest is very close to Shrek City. I'm unwilling for a full-blown conflict to happen unless it's unnecessary. But this doesn't mean that I'm fearful of war."

The expressions on the Scarlet King's three heads changed repeatedly. Its teeth moved a little as it stared at the indifferent Elder Xuan, "Alright, I'll believe you this time." After it finished speaking, it

didn't delay any further. Its figure flashed and it changed into a streak of dark red light before disappearing instantly.

Elder Xuan rode the Three-Eyed Golden Lion, while Wang Dong and Xiao Xiao's anxiety had disappeared by now. They wanted to search for Huo Yuhao in the direction he had unleashed his aura, but were stopped by Elder Xuan. Elder Xuan shook his head slightly at them. His eyes moved slightly, and he nodded his head after a brief moment.

Huo Yuhao had already snuck over before Wang Dong and Xiao Xiao went to find him.

The Scarlet King and Elder Xuan's confrontation was over, thus he didn't need to restrict his movement anymore. He snuck over since there was no longer any tension over here. In addition, the Skydream Iceworm also told him that the powerful savage beast had left.

"Elder Xuan." Huo Yuhao was delighted as he saw Elder Xuan on the Three-Eyed Golden Lion. He even initiated his soul tool thruster to rush over.

"Don't talk to me," Elder Xuan snapped, "You almost scared me to death. What happened just now? Why did you disappear after unleashing your hundred thousand year soul beast aura?"

Huo Yuhao laughed bitterly as he recounted how he had to unleash the aura against the Twin Cyclops to preserve his own life, as well as his encounter with the Three-Eyed Golden Lion.

Elder Xuan's expression turned weird after hearing his words. He took a look at the Three-Eyed Golden Lion that he sat on and patted its head. He said, "It's been tough for you."

The Three-Eyed Golden Lion seemed to recover a little and looked at Elder Xuan coldly. It started to speak in the human tongue, and it even sounded like a lady with a moving voice, "Despicable humans. If you dare to harm me, I'll make sure you regret it, and that misfortune will befall you."

Elder Xuan chuckled and slapped his palm on the Three-Eyed Golden Lion's head. This caused the lion to be pressed onto the ground. Elder Xuan even exerted more force to make it kiss the soil.

"Threatening me? Don't think that I don't know about Emperor Beasts like you even though it's my first time seeing one. You carry a special blood lineage from ancient times, and you can use this blood lineage's aura to influence the undulations of spiritual air in the heavens and earth. It's nonsense when they say that you beget prosperity. And you still dare to threaten me with misfortune? Do you believe that I can torture you till the brink of death? The soul beasts treat you as a treasure. If I kill you, they may really attack the humans out of rage. But don't think that you're noble. No matter how well those hundred thousand year soul beasts treat you, you're only a treasure to them. You're not their emperor. Your title as an Emperor Beast only sounds nice. Regardless of whether you're human or a soul beast, it's best if you know your place."

"You, you're spouting nonsense." The Three-Eyed Golden Lion sounded more agitated.

Elder Xuan laughed coldly. "Spouting nonsense? I'm already being very kind here. How do you think they'll treat you if you're useless to them, or if they believe that your meat gives them immortality? Yuhao, come over."

"Yes." Huo Yuhao rushed over.

Elder Xuan said, "Press your forehead against this Three-Eyed Golden Lion's third eye. Don't worry, I will stop it from resisting."

"No! Don't you dare do it!" The Three-Eyed Golden Lion was furious and roared furiously. It tried to struggle, which caused golden-red blood to ooze from its mouth due to an internal injury it had sustained earlier.

Huo Yuhao was stunned, and said, "Elder Xuan, this..."

Elder Xuan chortled and said, "There's a record in an ancient collection that Shrek Academy obtained from ancient times which propagates the Emperor Beasts' dominance. They beget prosperity and possess unlimited potential. This also means that Emperor Beasts can protect soul beasts and enhance their speed of cultivation. Different Emperor Beasts are different elementally. Just like this Three-Eyed Golden Lion here. It has many elements. When I attacked it just now, I could sense the light and fire elements in its body. However, they aren't its main element, although they are close to the level of an ultimate element. Its main element is its spiritual power. If not for its spiritual power, I would have already killed it. Elemental transfusion refers to its ability to enhance your element using its own element. This is very beneficial for your future cultivation. But it's a little vague when we refer to its ability to beget prosperity and its possession of unlimited potential. We aren't sure what benefits it can bring, and it can only be comprehended through one's own self. Hurry up. Stop moving."

His last sentence was directed at the Three-Eyed Golden Lion. The Three-Eyed Golden Lion wanted to speak, but it couldn't as Elder Xuan pressed its head into the ground.

Huo Yuhao naturally believed Elder Xuan's words. He slowly pressed his forehead against the Three-Eyed Golden Lion's vertical eye as he looked into its fiery-looking eyes.

The Three-Eyed Golden Lion's powers were completely repressed by Elder Xuan. Elder Xuan didn't know that the Three-Eyed Golden Lion would kill itself without any hesitation if it still possessed a shred of strength. Elder Xuan also didn't know what elemental transfusion entailed for Emperor Beasts. Even the Skydream Iceworm and Ice Jade Empress Scorpion didn't know. It was the Emperor Beasts' biggest secret.

No soul beasts dared to unravel this secret in the world of soul beasts. The title of the Three-Eyed Golden Lion as an Emperor Beast wasn't as lowly as Elder Xuan described it to be. No soul beasts dared to get close to it. The Three-Eyed Golden Lion was very violent. Whoever dared to get close to it would be ferociously and maniacally attacked by it.

Both Huo Yuhao's body and the Three-Eyed Golden Lion's body trembled violently when Huo Yuhao's forehead pressed against the Three-Eyed Golden Lion's vertical eye.

Huo Yuhao's Eye of Life opened as it was initiated by the magical powers contained within the Three-Eyed Golden Lion's vertical eye. However, Elder Xuan, Wang Dong and Xiao Xiao couldn't see this, because his forehead was pressed against the Three-Eyed Golden Lion's vertical eye.

Huo Yuhao felt that his mind had gone empty after trembling for a while. Even his Spiritual Sea seemed to disappear. The Skydream Iceworm, Ice Empress and Electrolux decided to shrink their powers at this moment and hide in one corner.

Rings of weird, distorted light engulfed Huo Yuhao and the Three-Eyed Golden Lion's body. Their bodies seemed to become transparent as a subtle radiance flashed. Every time the radiance changed, Huo Yuhao and the Three-Eyed Golden Lion's bodies would tremble slightly.

The immense life aura contained within his Eye of Life rapidly flowed out and entered the Three-Eyed Golden Lion's body.

The injury that the Three-Eyed Golden Lion sustained earlier healed at an alarming speed. The entire Great Star Dou Forest started to shake tremendously, with Huo Yuhao and the Three-Eyed Golden Lion at the center of this tremor. An intense life aura surged towards them and into their bodies.

The distorted radiance became stronger and stronger, engulfing the both of them within. A special force prevented even Elder Xuan from breaching this radiance.

Elder Xuan was a little discomforted as he witnessed this amazing change. He muttered to himself, "Did we escalate the situation? This Three-Eyed Golden Lion was still struggling earlier. Don't tell me this transfusion will take its life away? That'll be disastrous. Will the Star Dou's soul beasts go all-out against Shrek? That will cause many deaths! Why is there such a huge reaction?"

Wang Dong furrowed his brows, and golden light flashed in his eyes. He felt something weird as he looked at the distorted radiance. It was as if something that belonged to him had been taken away. But the feeling was very mild, and he couldn't sense it clearly.

Huo Yuhao's consciousness was gradually restored, while his Spiritual Sea became active again. He was stunned to realize that there was something more in his Spiritual Sea. The size of his Spiritual Sea had even seemed to double. A subtle aura appeared to be within his Spiritual Sea too. His Eye of Life had also transformed.

The Eye of Life usually emitted green light. To him, it was only a place that Electrolux temporarily stayed in. It also helped him preserve a shred of spiritual power. The Life Guardian Blade was also there, and it could be used by him at any time.

But it was different now. Huo Yuhao could clearly feel that he really owned a third eye now. His Eye of Life had turned bright gold under his control. The Life Guardian Blade had also been extracted, and landed on the ground. The Life's Gold life aura was still on the Life Guardian Blade. Electrolux's awareness had also return into his own Spiritual Sea.

This also meant that the Eye of Life had become his third eye, and was now fully under his control. He could also clearly feel that there was another magical force within his third eye. He couldn't tell what this force was, but he could sense that it was a force that was beyond what he was capable of. Even the Ice Empress and Skydream Iceworm didn't dare to resist this force.

Chapter 146: The Eye Of Destiny

"Buzz –"

A layer of golden light suddenly exploded from where Huo Yuhao had encountered the Three-Eyed Golden Lion. Huo Yuhao's was thrown backwards from the force, but Elder Xuan grabbed him in midair and stabilized him.

The Three-Eyed Golden Lion shook its body hazily and stumbled backwards. Its three golden eyes suddenly became black for a tiny moment before they recovered their golden hues. However, Elder Xuan, Wang Dong, and Xiao Xiao witnessed the entire process.

The Three-Eyed Golden Lion seemed a little weak, and it stopped struggling. It was just watching Huo Yuhao with lackadaisical eyes as Elder Xuan placed him on the ground. Huo Yuhao's expression also looked dazed.

Huo Yuhao seemed to feel something. He gazed at the Three-Eyed Golden Lion, and human and beast stared into each other's eyes. They both felt a faint tremble in their minds, and their third eye numbed momentarily as they felt a peculiar sensation.

Huo Yuhao felt as if his spirit was surging through the ages, and his consciousness appeared within a dense forest.

Everything around him suddenly became golden, and the brilliant hues painted the vegetation all around him the same color. These plants were growing with bedazzling speed, and a multi-colored egg with a golden luster at its base appeared on the ground.

Crisp cracking sounds could be heard as a single gash appeared on the golden egg's surface. The crack extended swiftly, and a tiny claw reached out from within the shell with a crackling sound before a tiny head emerged.

Its golden fur was a little moist, and it looked like a little puppy. It effortfully broke out from the eggshell before it turned around and gobbled it down with a few bites.

A series of crackling sounds rang out as this tiny dog-like beast started flickering with golden radiance.

A luminous golden beam suddenly descended from the sky, as if it were a pillar of light that connected the heavens to the earth, and enveloped the small "dog" that had just consumed the egg shell.

The mucus on the tiny beast's body gradually disappeared, and its body instantly transformed from a foot long to a meter long. Its golden fur became transparent like water crystals, and the dazzling golden radiance transformed into glowing circles of light that rippled outwards.

The tiny beast roared into the sky, and its forehead suddenly cracked open as a single eye that seemed like it could see through everything in the world appeared.

When this image appeared in Huo Yuhao's consciousness, everything started to speed up, and uncountable images surged in his mind. He felt as if were experiencing ten thousand years in that instant as voluminous pure remnants of memory flashed by. Everything was set inside that dense jungle, but he couldn't really see very clearly in that instant.

Elder Xuan heaved a sigh of relief when he saw that the Three-Eyed Golden Lion was fine. He released a single yellow circle of light and swept up Huo Yuhao and the two others, before he released another yellow sphere of light to trap the Three-Eyed Golden Lion. Lights flickered as the Rank 98 Transcendent Douluo carried both the humans and the beast and soared through the sky, towards the Great Star Dou Forest's outer regions in the north. Perhaps only a mighty individual like Elder Xuan dared to fly across the Great Star Dou Forest, where soul beasts were amassed. Elder Xuan could cover dozens of kilometers in an instant.

Everybody was in the Great Star Dou Forest's outer regions when they landed back on the ground. He chose the northern border as this location was closest to Shrek City. It would be convenient for Elder Xuan to retreat with everyone if there was a disturbance with the fearsome beasts inside the Great Star Dou Forest.

"Are you alright, Yuhao?" Wang Dong whispered in Huo Yuhao's ear. Elder Xuan was also watching him with a concerned look on his face. Even the ancient archives didn't detail the effects of transfusing an emperor beast's element to refine one's body.

Huo Yuhao tossed his head from side to side. The intense rush of memory shocked his spirit, and he was still a little dazed. "I'm fine. My spiritual power is much stronger now, and I think I took part of its memory."

"Oh? What kind of memories?" Wang Dong asked in bewilderment.

Huo Yuhao forced a laugh and said, "It's a soul beast that has been alive for more than ten thousand years. Even though its life inside the Great Star Dou Forest is relatively simple, its memories are immense, and how can I differentiate anything with clarity in one moment?"

Elder Xuan tilted his head and said, "It's fine as long as your spiritual power has been boosted. It seems like the archives are accurate, so it's all good as long as there are no side effects. I think this is yours, here you go." Elder Xuan lobbed the Life Guardian Blade at Huo Yuhao.

Huo Yuhao suddenly remembered that his ranked carving knife had been squeezed out of his Eye of Life – no, his third eye could not be described as an Eye of Life anymore.

He grabbed the Life Guardian Blade. Huo Yuhao immediately sensed that he was still mentally connected to this ranked carving knife, and the vast life energy contained within it was also greater than before.

"I want to meditate for a while, Elder Xuan." Huo Yuhao remarked before he sat down and crossed his legs. The Mysterious Heaven Technique was channeled naturally, and his spirit quickly concentrated within his own spiritual sea.

The Three-Eyed Golden Lion's eyes had more vitality at this point. It didn't try to struggle as it watched Huo Yuhao with a blank look, and there were complicated and indescribable emotions in its eyes. It felt as if that momentary touching of heads had taken all of its intimidating ferocity.

Elder Xuan glanced at the lion and said, "It seems like the elemental transfusion didn't hurt you much. You have also benefited from Huo Yuhao, and your wounds are healed. Don't worry – I'm a man of my word. I'll let you go when they arrive."

The Three-Eyed Golden Lion shot a cold look at Elder Xuan, but said nothing. It turned towards Huo Yuhao with another deep gaze before it closed all three of its eyes and laid prostrate on the ground, as if it were sleeping.

Huo Yuhao's mind was filled with remnants of memories, but what about the beast? The beast's mind was filled with Huo Yuhao's complete memories!

Huo Yuhao's life and experiences covered a period of less than thirteen years, but he had experienced many trials and tribulations. His childhood life was rough, his life after leaving the White Tiger Duke's mansion was exciting, and all the wonders and awes of the human world deeply stimulated this emperor beast.

"Are you alright, Elder Yi?" Huo Yuhao asked Electrolux first when he entered his meditative state. Even though Electrolux didn't interact with him much, his influence was comparable to both Skydream and the Ice Empress – especially when he saved Huo Yuhao's life from the Envoy of the Death God.

"I'm fine. Such mighty power of destiny! However, I have already transcended beyond destiny, and it isn't so easy to destroy my destiny. The Life Gold has nurtured me over time, and my shattered divine sense has stabilized. I have regained a few memories as well, and this is happening while I hibernate inside your spiritual sea. Your cultivation is still low, but I will impart my abilities to you when your fundamentals are solid enough."

Huo Yuhao heaved a sigh of relief when he heard that Electrolux was alright. He asked doubtfully, "What is this power of destiny about, Elder Yi? Why would the Three-Eyed Golden Lion transfer the power of destiny to me?"

Electrolux contemplated momentarily and said, "I don't belong to your world, and I don't understand much about the soul beasts in your world. I can only make judgments based on my logic and reasoning. Emperor beasts are unique entities which are born from destiny, and their level is somewhat like mine in some sense – they have one leg through the divine gate. The difference is that I reached that level before I was born, but this emperor beast has to start from the beginning and approach that level step by step. You can say that it only has the potential to reach that level. This potential gives it the ability and power to control certain destinies."

"Therefore, it will receive the blessing of heaven and earth. Its body is like a supreme treasure that can absorb the origin energies of heaven and earth. The surrounding origin energies of heaven and earth will change with it around, and sometimes even destinies will change as well. For example, your destiny was bumpy before you entered Shrek Academy, and even a little tragic. When you entered Shrek Academy, your life started to turn around, and you began to have immense good fortune. This emperor beast should have incomparable fortune from beginning to end, and its growth since the day it was born has been smooth sailing. In addition to its powerful element, it should ultimately be able to become a demigod – unless it meets its unfortunate end in the process."

"These emperor beasts are blessed by destiny, and they will run into very few threats. These threats will only occur for two reasons – when the beast meets an opponent with a level of fortune that negates its own, or because that is its destiny. It is able to control destiny to a certain extent, and therefore there will undoubtedly be a bottleneck that will eventually appear in its life. Perhaps you are its bottleneck, and this is all part of its destiny. I am sure that your fortune is not enough to negate its own."

Huo Yuhao was lost and confused. Destiny? A bottleneck? He didn't really understand.

Electrolux could naturally feel his bafflement, and smiled as he said, "Simply put, it's a bit like the romantic sentiment between males and females. Everybody will have a relationship that belongs to himself or herself some time in their lives. There may only be one, or there may be many. The person that will be emotionally entwined with you is destined to be the bottleneck in your life."

Huo Yuhao said, “Elder Yi, this is too complicated. Actually, all I want to know is what happened to my third eye after it touched the Three-Eyed Golden Lion’s third eye? I can feel that I’m able to control it now, as if I have an actual third eye. Furthermore, my third eye seems to embody a special power, and I cannot feel this power’s element. I have never even seen it before.”

Electrolux smiled and said, “Had you asked the little worm or the small scorpion, they probably wouldn’t know the answer to this. But if you’re asking me—you’ve come to the right person. The power of destiny chased me out from the Eye of Life, and it would seem it’s the power of destiny that has taken over your eye. It has amplified and refined your spirit sea, saving you at least five years of cultivating spiritual power. You will continue to feel its positive effects as time goes by. Initially it was my own powers supporting your second mental sea; you would’ve only been able to channel the power within it upon reaching a certain level of spiritual power. However, after this round of refinement, you now can use your second mental sea. From now on, your third eye shall be called the ‘Eye of Destiny’—it gives you power over destiny.

Huo Yuhao reacted in shock. “Power over destiny? What’s that supposed to mean?”

Electrolux answered, “The Eye of Destiny bestows you with the ability to change someone’s destiny for the better within a fixed amount of time. It might sound a little abstract, but it’s actually quite simple; anybody that your Eye of Destiny gazes upon will have their fortunes changed if you will it—for better, or for worse. But, using the Eye of Destiny will consume a large amount of soul power. It will awaken in three days; you’ll have a better understanding of it then.”

Huo Yuhao understood a little more after listening to Electrolux’s explanation. “Thank you, Elder Yi. Thankfully you’re here to explain things. Otherwise, I wouldn’t have a clue of what was happening. The power of destiny sounds pretty impressive!”

Electrolux lowered his voice and said, “Don’t speak too soon, Yuhao. While it’s true that you’ve received a unique and unmatched ability, this power of destiny has also linked your destiny with that of the Three-Eyed Golden Lion’s. You obtained a portion of its memories, while it received all of yours—which includes the information about us. Your fate is now irrevocably entwined with the beast, whether it be as friend or foe. Either way, you should work hard and focus on your cultivation; it’s vital to you now.”

His destiny would be entwined with the Three-Eyed Golden Lion’s? Huo Yuhao wasn’t too worried about this. He could acutely feel that the Three-Eyed Golden Lion no longer felt hostile towards him after their strange interaction. In fact, he could feel some kind of faint connection with it now. As for his fate going forwards—who knows?

The Great Star Dou Forest changed mysteriously at that moment: It seemed to quiver, while every tree in sight began to sway in one direction, then began oscillating back and forth. An invisible force gradually emerged from the Great Star Dou Forest, as if some kind of earth-shattering change was taking place. Afterwards, the Great Star Dou Forest became silent and motionless, like every living being had gone into hibernation.

Elder Xuan arrived beside the Three-Eyed Golden Lion in a flash, then released a dense yellow radiance to cover everyone present, the Three-Eyed Golden Lion included. His expression grew dark and solemn—the arriving presence had a higher cultivation than his own, which made his skin crawl.

A wine-red glow shone brilliantly, and the Three-Headed Scarlet Devil-Mastiff appeared before everybody once more.

Huo Yuhao swiftly awakened from his meditation and positioned himself behind Elder Xuan, raising his guard as he did so.

The Scarlet King was no longer infuriated like he'd been before. His eyes seemed extremely calm, and it carried itself with utmost confidence. Its leftmost head held a dark-purple soul beast between its teeth.

The Scarlet King muttered coldly, "Release the emperor beast and take this soul beast with you." It tossed the soul beast in its mouth to the ground as it spoke. Turning to Huo Yuhao, it said, "Your disciple wasn't murdered by the emperor beast it seems."

Elder Xuan answered plainly, "He wasn't indeed, however it was close. It was his agility and quick thinking that allowed him to evade its attacks—he would've perished otherwise. I'll let this go—but only once. However, the one that doesn't want to show himself—why don't you try and come out? Come, show me what you've got."

"Human, if you want to die I'll grant this wish of yours." A deep voice boomed from within the Great Star Dou Forest. It sounded as hoarse as sandpaper, but felt like rolling thunder when it travelled through the air. It held an unrivaled prestige that seemed to dull the colors of the sky.

Elder Xuan's expression didn't change at all. "If you have the power to put me in the ground right here, you can go ahead and try it."

"Are you trying to anger me, human?" The deep voice in the sky was now tinged with fury.

Elder Xuan smiled and replied, "So what if I anger you? This was all just a coincidence. My previous decision to leave the emperor beast here—instead of taking it back with me to Shrek—was already quite a generous one. Are you trying to frighten me? You've made a mistake. Since this is the case, I'll be taking this emperor beast back to Shrek City for strict monitoring. Let's see if the soul beasts of the Great Star Dou Forest dare to launch another large-scale invasion." He grabbed the Three-Eyed Golden Lion's nape as he spoke.

The Three-Eyed Golden Lion eyes burst open, all three of which were full of indignation.

"That's enough," the deep voice hesitated momentarily, then continued, "release the emperor beast, then you can go. I shall swear upon my reputation as Di Tian that we'll let this go just like that."

Elder Xuan's expression relaxed a little and a look of astonishment flashed across his face. "So it's Di Tian. Alright, I believe you." He released his grip once he'd finished speaking and decisively pushed the Three-Eyed Golden Lion towards the Scarlet King with a beam of yellow light.

The Scarlet King positioned himself beside the Three-Eyed Golden Lion, then took the chance to inspect its body. He then realized that the Three-Eyed Golden Lion's injuries had all been completely healed, and his gaze became noticeably more tender when he glanced at Elder Xuan again.

Elder Xuan reached his right hand forward and grasped the dark purple soul beast in his hands. Yellow radiance flickered as he swept up Huo Yuhao and the others, then he raced back towards Shrek Academy.

Xiao Xiao couldn't help but anxiously ask, "That fellow hidden within the forest really won't attack us, teacher?"

Elder Xuan answered plainly, "You guys would do well to remember that soul beasts are generally more trustworthy and honorable than humans."

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Just as Elder Xuan had said, nothing else happened within the Great Star Dou Forest once they vanished from the Scarlet King's sight. The fearsome and intimidating aura around the Scarlet King vanished into thin air as well.

"You! You're too mischievous. I've long since told you that human soul masters are our greatest threat. If he hadn't been from Shrek Academy, your life would have easily been forfeit considering his abilities. We probably wouldn't have even had the time to rescue you. Don't leave the Core Regions like that again."

The deep voice sounded a lot more tender and amicable, a little doting even.

The Three-Eyed Golden Lion raised its head, a strange sparkle in its eyes as it said, "That human said that you guys are just using me. If I wasn't an emperor beast, or I didn't bring you enough good fortune, you guys wouldn't be so nice to me, eh?"

The owner of deep voice contemplated momentarily before muttering, "You have to realize, little fellow, that there's nothing absolutely pure in this world. I can tell you with confidence that he's right. But it can't simply be described as 'using' within the world of soul beasts. I can confidently say that once we've been together for ten thousand years, you'll still be my friend, and even my child—even if you were to lose your powers of fortune right now. Whoever dares to hurt you with me around will have to suffer my wrath."

The Three-Eyed Golden Lion lowered its head as if it had been aggrieved. "I'm sorry, Di Tian. I shouldn't have doubted you. I was wrong—let's go home."

Di Tian's voice became even more gentle. "Alright, let's go home."

The Three-Eyed Golden Lion raised its leg as it prepared to take off. However, it suddenly turned back to face the direction that Elder Xuan had gone and glanced at the company of humans quickly disappearing into the distance. The memories that it had received from the young human became even clearer in its mind, but it would still take it quite a long time to digest these memories.

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A gold and wine-red streak flickered simultaneously, the Great Star Dou Forest returning to its original tranquility afterwards. Meanwhile, Elder Xuan continued to surge through the sky as he swiftly carried Huo Yuhao, Wang Dong, and Xiao Xiao back to Shrek Academy along with the soul beast.

Elder Xuan only put them down once they'd reached the Sea God's Pavilion.

"Absorb its soul ring, Yuhao." Elder Xuan tossed the dark purple soul beast onto the ground and reminded Huo Yuhao to absorb its soul ring.

Huo Yuhao didn't idle about any longer. His right arm transformed under the Ice Empress' Pincer and he lashed out at the unconscious dark purple soul beast, who didn't seem to have any of the trademark ferocity a ten thousand year soul beast normally would at the moment.

It looked like a wolf, but it was a little smaller than normal wolves. Aside from its brilliant dark purple fur, its appearance was rather wretched. It had a slightly collapsed nose bridge and tiny narrowed eyes, as well as incredibly short legs that didn't seem capable of carrying its own weight.

Huo Yuhao struck at the unconscious soul beast and turned it to ice. Then dull golden blades appeared at the fingertips of his right hand, which he then stabbed into the frozen beast's skull. It didn't feel any pain as it passed into the netherworld, as its body had already been completely frozen, nor did it lose a single drop of blood.

A dark black soul ring gradually rose into the air from its head.

Huo Yuhao didn't mess around; he quickly sat cross-legged in front of the soul ring, then activated his soul power and quickly began to fuse with it.

Huo Yuhao's spiritual sea immediately began to shudder. Dense spiritual energy flooded through his Spirit Eyes and surged towards his spiritual sea, while the Mysterious Heaven Technique's soul power began to twist and churn.

The vast spiritual fluctuations—as well as the shock from the frightening spirit and soul power—sent waves of pain through Huo Yuhao's body. The power that was surging through him was unlike the tender unconscious soul beast—instead, it was filled with a crazed mania.

Far from being terrified at this, Huo Yuhao felt ecstatic. He might not have recognized this soul beast, but Elder Xuan surely had, which in turn meant that its cultivation definitely wasn't greater than fifteen thousand years. Brother Skydream had told him that he wouldn't have any problems absorbing such a soul ring, aside from having to seal a small portion of its cultivation. Furthermore, his spiritual power had been boosted by the encounter with the Three-Eyed Golden Lion to the point where he could now manipulate his second mental sea. Naturally, he wasn't afraid of being unable to assimilate with the soul ring. Rather, the stronger the mania he felt the better, because this would signify the might behind the new soul skill.

While the Mysterious Heaven Technique's soul power surged violently, Huo Yuhao remained as calm as ever. He controlled his spiritual sea so that it accepted the vast spiritual power pouring in, while simultaneously he slowly assimilated it and activated the Mysterious Heaven Technique to circulate it throughout his circulation paths. Even though his skeleton, passageways, and flesh were currently swelling and in agonizing pain, his facial expression didn't change much.

Elder Xuan cautiously observed from beside him. A minute passed, but Huo Yuhao's expression had remained just as calm as before. His body appeared a little swollen, and purplish-black light flickered incessantly all over it, but Elder Xuan inwardly gasped in admiration. This level of discipline and endurance wasn't something that a child should possess—even most of the inner core disciples couldn't possibly do what he was doing now. No wonder he hadn't been afraid of absorbing a ten thousand year soul ring. His body had been enhanced by several soul bones, and with the help of the spiritual seal that he'd talked about, it looked like there wouldn't be any problems at all with this absorption.

“Wang Dong, Xiao Xiao, the two of you stay here to watch over him. I have something to discuss with Elder Mu.”

“Yes.”

Elder Xuan then strode into the Sea God’s Pavilion. What surprised him a little was that Elder Mu couldn’t have not detected their return, yet he didn’t hear a single sound. He swiftly approached Elder Mu’s room and gently knocked on the door.

“I’ve brought the three little fellas back, Elder Mu.”

“Come in.” Elder Mu’s voice was as placid as before, but it sounded a little downcast.

Elder Xuan pushed the door and walked in, but was immediately taken aback by what he saw. “Elder Mu—what’s happened to you?”

Elder Mu was lying quietly in his reclining chair. However, his face seemed a little gloomy and bleak—there was no vitality in his eyes. He now appeared extremely old, and half of his white hair had actually become a plain gray color.

Elder Xuan himself was a Transcendent Douluo, and naturally understood what these transformations meant for Elder Mu. His life energy was quickly leaking out, which would further reduce Elder Mu’s lifespan!

“Sit down, Xuan Zi.” Elder Mu was still as calm as ever. There wasn’t a single trace of emotion within his frail eyes.

Elder Xuan hurriedly sat down beside Elder Mu. He was incredibly alarmed when he saw Elder Mu and said, “This shouldn’t be happening! Your situation was still stable when we left. How did you consume so much life energy within such a short period of time?”

Elder Mu heaved a sigh and said, “Don’t worry, my time’s not up yet. But...” Elder Mu was the Master of the Sea God’s Pavilion, and even though he possessed the frightening power of an Ultimate Douluo, a mournful expression filled his eyes.

“That child, Xiaotao... she’s gone.” Elder Mu spoke arduously.

“What?!” Elder Mu was astonished. “How can that be? Wasn’t she under your seal? Furthermore, even if she had the ability to break your seal, you’re anchoring down the Sea God’s Pavilion—and the other elders are around too! How could she have vanished just like that?”

Elder Mu laughed bitterly and said, “That’s exactly the point—and it’s why I feel like I’ve let her down! We were too careless. Nothing was wrong with my seal at one point, and the only person to be let in to see it was the Hallmaster of the Illustrious Virtue Hall. Even though I’m not sure how, I’m sure that he definitely did something to my seal, or to Xiaotao, that gave her the ability to run away. The academy was invaded five days after your departure. The enemies were too powerful, thus the elders of the Sea God’s Pavilion had to fight them in order to keep them from damaging Shrek City. Xiaotao took this opportunity to escape—right under our noses.”

“The Body Sect?” Elder Xuan was flabbergasted. The way he saw it, only a select few groups in the Continent could force Elder Mu to show his hand in battle, and the Body Sect had stirred up trouble not long ago.

Elder Mu waved his hand and said, “It wasn’t the Body Sect. Du Busi may be headstrong, obstinate, and conceited... but he’s still an honorable man, like his elder brother. At least, he won’t do anything to the academy before my death. However, the fact that it wasn’t the Body Sect worries me even more—they were all evil soul masters, all eleven of them. Four were even Titled Douluo.”

Elder Xuan drew a cold breath as he listened. “Eleven evil soul masters—how is that possible? This, this...” Elder Xuan actually lost his composure.

Evil soul masters were far more powerful than normal soul masters. However, it was extremely difficult for them to become Titled Douluo—in fact, it was almost impossible. Yet, according to what Elder Mu had just said, there had been eleven of them! And four of them were even Titled Douluo! This was far beyond Elder Xuan’s knowledge.

Such a large party of powerful evil soul masters showing up at the same time had never happened before throughout the course of the Continent’s history.

“What I was most apprehensive about has come to pass: Not many evil soul masters have appeared in the past hundred years, and most that did had low cultivations. I always felt that something was wrong, but I never thought that the evil soul masters had come so far as to make their own organization.”

Elder Xuan’s eyebrows were tightly furrowed. “Evil soul masters are almost completely uncontrollable due to their element. How could they follow somebody’s commands and form an organization?”

Elder Mu heaved a sigh and said, “Discussing this now has no meaning. I did my best and managed to kill six of them, but ended up consuming a lot of life energy. However, only one Titled Douluo died. The most powerful of them was a Transcendent Douluo. I was tied down by them, thus I couldn’t kill the other evil soul masters. Fortunately, we didn’t suffer many losses. However, I’m deeply concerned with Xiaotao’s situation. The fire of ultimate darkness—if the evil soul master organization...”

Elder Xuan was stern as he said, “It must be the Illustrious Virtue Hall causing trouble. At the very least, they’re definitely connected to it. Elder Mu, do you want me to take some people to the Illustrious Virtue Hall to find her?”

Elder Mu waved his hand and answered, “That would be useless. The Illustrious Virtue Hall would never actually cooperate with those evil soul masters, and they wouldn’t leave any evidence behind either. They most likely just used the evil soul masters’ strength to attack us. My life energy will run out in a year and a half, after which I will infuse myself within the Golden Tree and seal my soul imprint within. Whoever wants to cause trouble for Shrek Academy at that point—hmph!”

Elder Mu’s infuriated grunt wasn’t loud, but even a Transcendent Douluo like Elder Xuan felt his heart skip a beat.

“We have to nurture the younger generation as fast as we can. The evil soul master organization shouldn’t be mature yet, but when they dare to officially appear on the Continent, humanity will be in

distress, and calamity will be upon us. Xuan Zi, you guys have a heavy load and a long road ahead of you. I feel sorry for Xiaotao, though..."

Elder Mu closed his eyes painfully, his face full of exhaustion and weariness.

Originally, Elder Xuan had been in a great mood. Both Huo Yuhao and Xiao Xiao had gained big rewards from this expedition. Especially Huo Yuhao, who'd absorbed the Darkgolden Terrorclaw Bear's Right Palm Bone. Moreover, it was an extremely rare, external soul bone, which could evolve. However, Elder Xuan's heart grew heavy, and he became nearly as despondent as Elder Mu.

Elder Mu contemplated for more than ten seconds, then said slowly, "Why did you bring back a soul beast for Huo Yuhao to absorb? How did their adventure go?"

Elder Xuan took a deep breath and cheered himself up, then explained their adventure in great detail.

Elder Mu's focus was different from Elder Xuan, who placed more emphasis on the Darkgolden Terrorclaw Bear's Right Palm Bone. When Elder Mu finished listening to Elder Xuan's recounting of the events of the last dozen days, he appeared a lot more invigorated than before as he said, "An emperor beast... it's actually an emperor beast. Yuhao said that he absorbed its memories? It seems like the archives' records have some deeper meaning, and I guess that we finally have a piece of good news. We have to speed up this child's nurturing. Bring him to see me after he has finished absorbing his soul ring. A ten thousand year Purplespirit Wolf—those guys inside of the Great Star Dou Forest are extremely generous when it concerns the emperor beast. The Heavenly Emperor's word is worth more than all the money in the world. Thankfully, you all returned safely."

However, no one expected Huo Yuhao to take as long as he did to absorb his soul ring. It took far beyond their projections.

The dark purple light gradually entered his body. But afterwards he just sat there, without moving an inch. A pale golden light flickered incessantly all over his body, while a vertical golden eye seemed to shimmer on his forehead. This strange scene made Elder Xuan invite Elder Mu to observe.

Elder Mu probed Huo Yuhao's soul power fluctuations, then told everyone not to disturb him and to let him cultivate in peace.

Why was Huo Yuhao taking so long to absorb his third soul ring? Because it wasn't as simple as just absorbing a soul ring.

The dark purple soul beast's soul ring was extremely powerful, but it was a spirit-type in the end. It boosted Huo Yuhao's spiritual sea, and raised the limit on his optimal soul ring age for his Spirit Eyes yet again. The Skydream Iceworm was very conservative with his estimates to ensure Huo Yuhao's safety however, thus he only allowed Huo Yuhao to absorb around six thousand years' worth of the soul ring's power before sealing the rest.

Chapter 147: Fusion! New Perspective

Under the Skydream Iceworm's control, Huo Yuhao would fuse this soul ring into his left arm. Once his cultivation had reached the appropriate level, the Skydream Iceworm would then unleash the soul ring's boosted power, and it would become a hundred thousand-year soul ring. This process could certainly be known as the first soul ring fusion of its kind.

After fusing with his third soul ring, Huo Yuhao's accumulated cultivation also came into effect now that he'd overcame his bottleneck.

The Ice Jade Scorpion and Darkgolden Terrorclaw Bear's soul bones—both of which were extremely powerful—had brought about great benefits to Huo Yuhao's cultivation. Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong hadn't let up on their cultivation either, and the Life Gold had also nourished Huo Yuhao's body. So when the Mysterious Heaven Technique broke through, his soul power erupted in an overwhelming surge of power.

Huo Yuhao could feel his soul power still soaring even when he reached Rank 31. It was only once he'd reached Rank 32 that he felt the rate of increase stabilize, but it didn't stop increasing until he'd reached the peak of Rank 32.

Huo Yuhao had an Ultimate martial soul, which was very different from ordinary soul masters. At Rank 30, the density of his soul power was noticeably greater than most soul masters. Elder Mu had warned him some time ago that the increase in his soul power would slow down significantly once he reached Rank 30. If an ordinary soul master had obtained two soul bones in the same manner as he had, it wouldn't have been surprising for them to increase four or five ranks once they gained their third ring.

Even so, Huo Yuhao was still happily surprised by his gains. It was definitely a good start considering the difficult cultivation he'd have in the future.

It took him roughly eight hours to complete everything, which was still much faster than it normally took a soul master to fuse with a soul ring.

As soon as he completed his fusion and was about to relax, his Eye of Destiny suddenly started to act up. He immediately tensed up again, as the Eye began to emit an absorptive force.

What was this? Was the Eye of Destiny absorbing his spiritual power like Electrolux had mentioned earlier?

That was exactly what was happening; it had occurred even faster than Huo Yuhao expected.

The broken memories that he'd gained from the Three-Eyed Golden Lion were quickly gathered and drawn away, alongside his spiritual power. He could sense that a hole had been poked in his Spiritual Sea, and his spiritual power was flowing out of rapidly. The process was in-turn strengthening the connection between him and the Eye of Destiny.

The Eye of Destiny was sucking away his spiritual power with such immense strength that he couldn't even try to resist it. It even took away a shred of his spiritual origin!

Fortunately, this process didn't cause him any pain. The memories from the Three-Eyed Golden Lion flashed through his mind once more, appearing much clearer this time.

Everything started to change weirdly. He could feel an indescribable shift in his Spiritual Sea, as if part of it had been drawn away with his spiritual power. His awareness seemed like it was jumping from one side to the other when the sliver of his spiritual origin entered the Eye of Destiny.

Everything seemed to happen in an instant, but it felt like it took an eternity. When he finally awoke from his cultivation, the sun happened to be rising slowly in the east.

Huo Yuhao subconsciously turned his gaze to the east. When he did so, the purple that flashed through the sky seemed to be brighter than it had been before.

A new warmth filled his eyes, and he was shocked to discover that his eyes had been nourished by the purple light that had washed across them. This was something that he'd never experienced before.

He shut his eyes and focused his mind, feeling a little dizzy. After re-focusing himself, he opened his eyes to stare just above the rising sun... and everything he saw seemed to be different from before.

Countless spots of light, most of which were golden, floated through the air. The whole world seemed to have exploded with color. The sun wasn't blinding at all, but he couldn't tell whether it was red or gold in color.

This, this is...

Everything new in front of Huo Yuhao disappeared as his mind wavered. His third eye shut itself, even though it had just opened.

Everything returned to normal once he'd re-opened his eyes. However, he was still shocked by what he'd felt earlier.

The Eye of Destiny had given him a special perspective. He could also clearly feel that everything was still normal when he injected his spiritual power into his Spirit Eyes. If he were to use a soul skill, the might of his increased spiritual power would be displayed.

His spiritual power seemed to have changed after he injected it into the Eye of Destiny. There appeared to be some form of connection between his Spiritual Sea and the Eye of Destiny's second spiritual sea, as his spiritual power was instantly depleted at a frightening speed

Huo Yuhao immediately tried to use his Spiritual Detection. He discovered, to his shock, that it took four times as much soul power to unleash the soul skill through his Eye of Destiny. Doing so also used up a third of his spiritual power, despite the fact that Spiritual Detection wasn't very taxing on either his soul or spirit power!

However, the benefit he gained was as great as the cost, and equally shocking: When unleashed through the Eye of Destiny, his Spiritual Detection covered three times the area that it normally did. It was able to reach up to 600 meters!

While it seemed like tripling the area of effect wouldn't make up for quadrupling the cost, that wasn't the case. This meant that his Spirit Eyes could display a tremendous explosive strength when he unleashed a soul skill with his Eye of Destiny. His Spirit Eyes possessed the equivalent of a four-ringed cultivation level, even though he only had three rings, which raised his abilities by an entire grade. The only drawback was that they couldn't be used too frequently, since the cost was too great. Using his Spiritual Shock once would take forty percent of his soul power, while using it twice would knock him unconscious.

The Spirit Eyes and Ice Jade Empress Scorpion still had a gap in strength, due to the Ultimate Ice. While the Spirit Eyes was a Body Soul, it hadn't undergone its second awakening yet. On the other hand, the Ultimate Ice couldn't even be dealt with by Body Sect soul masters who'd gone through their second

awakening! The Ice Empress was entirely superior to the Spirit Eyes, even though it had only one soul ring. The role of the Spirit Eyes was more supplementary, and favored auxiliary and control abilities.

However, everything had changed now that he had the Eye of Destiny. The Eye of Destiny greatly increased the adaptability and explosive power of his Spirit Eyes. Huo Yuhao still hadn't discovered everything that Eye of Destiny was capable of. But after obtaining his third soul ring, the Eye of Destiny, and the Darkgolden Terrorclaw, Huo Yuhao could definitely rival a four-ringed Soul Ancestor—without Wang Dong's help. And not just any Soul Ancestor, but a Soul Ancestor from Shrek Academy!

"Yuhao, come here," Elder Mu's gentle voice rang in his ears, jolting him out of his surprise.

He quickly entered the Sea God's Pavilion, and came to Elder Mu's bedroom.

"Teacher, what's this?"

Huo Yuhao was stunned when he saw Elder Mu, but Elder Mu didn't explain anything to him. He raised his hand to stop Huo Yuhao from speaking any further. "Tell me how you're feeling. I believe you didn't just absorb your soul ring, given that you've been meditating for so long. Do you realize that this is already the third morning since you returned to the Sea God's Pavilion?"

"What?" Huo Yuhao was appalled. It didn't feel like much time had passed at all!

"Tell me about the changes that this 'Eye of Destiny' has brought you. I'm curious." There weren't many things about a soul master's abilities that could make Elder Mu curious anymore.

Huo Yuhao was honest, and described the changes to Elder Mu. However, he still concealed the matter of the Eye of Life. After all, that involved Electrolux, and his third eye finally had a legitimate backstory behind it.

Elder Mu thought for a moment after Huo Yuhao finished. He said, "It's very similar to the change that occurs when a Body Soul awakens for the second time, but your increase in strength was even greater. You have to analyze the brilliance behind the word 'destiny' in the 'Eye of Destiny.' Receiving power from the Emperor Beast is no simple thing. From today onwards, you shall learn from Fan Yu for three days, then return and cultivate with me for three days. Wang Yan will then give you theoretical lessons on soul masters for one day. You'll need to work for seven days a week without any rest days. You don't need to return to the outer courtyard either. You'll just need to take the advancement exam every year."

Huo Yuhao was a little shocked when he heard this, but knew that Elder Mu was doing his best to nurture him. "No problem."

Elder Mu said, "You can go now. Go and find Fan Yu first, I've already informed him that he can begin the Soul Tool Department's Ultimate Soldier Plan. You shall be learning alongside He Caitou."

"Teacher, what about Wang Dong?" Huo Yuhao asked.

Elder Mu replied, "He doesn't have much interest in soul tools. Don't worry, he'll remain in the Sea God's Pavilion to cultivate with me. I'll also supervise your joint cultivation. You shall return to the Sea God's Pavilion every night to cultivate with him."

"Yes, teacher."

Elder Mu opened his eyes slowly and looked at Huo Yuhao with a gentle yet stern look. “Yuhao, you must enter a rapid state of development from now on. Possessing an Ultimate martial soul doesn’t just signify your bright future, it also means that you carry a heavy responsibility on your shoulders. In two years, you’ll proceed to the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy for a three-year exchange. I hope that you’ll have your own special set of skills once it’s time for the next Continental Advanced Soul Master Academy Soul Dueling Tournament. We’re a little tight on time, but time isn’t on my side. The ties between the empires on the continent are fragile. The Sun Moon Empire has shown signs of making a move, the Body Sect has reappeared, and...”

He paused for a while, then gazed at Huo Yuhao seriously. “Your ability to obtain the Emperor Beast’s power of destiny shows that destiny has chosen you. Your future isn’t just about protecting Shrek Academy and revitalizing the Tang Sect. It’s also about ensuring the continent’s peace and stability. If you can remember my words and are willing to do your best, it’ll be an honor to be your teacher.”

For some unknown reason, Huo Yuhao felt his heart become heavy when he heard Elder Mu’s words, though it wasn’t because of Elder Mu’s words or tone. He couldn’t help but ask, “Teacher, how’s your body?”

Elder Mu smiled and shook his head. He replied, “I’m fine. At my age, I’ve already learned to accept unpleasant truths. Don’t worry, I won’t give up on my ailing body so long as it means that I can protect Shrek Academy for just one more day.”

Huo Yuhao wanted to add on to his words, but was stopped by Elder Mu. “Go on, every second is important to you now. I’ve already informed Fan Yu. Now that you’ve absorbed your soul ring, you’ll learn from him for the three days, and begin your weekly cultivation cycle.”

Huo Yuhao gazed steadily at Elder Mu, then bowed to him. After that, he turned and left the room.

A sense of sorrow surged through his mind after he carefully closed the door to Elder Mu. Huo Yuhao was much more sensitive to things now that he had the Eye of Destiny. He could clearly sense that Elder Mu’s life was on the decline. It was likely that he wouldn’t live past a year. In addition, this was a natural decline that couldn’t be stopped.

Huo Yuhao stood silently outside Elder Mu’s door for another ten seconds, before slowly turning and leaving the Sea God’s Pavilion. When Elder Mu had stared at him seriously earlier, he’d had an unforgettable look of expectation in his eyes. He knew that the only way to make Elder Mu happy was to try his best to increase his own abilities.

Elder Mu revealed a faint smile inside of his room. He muttered, “Boy, this pressure might be coming to you too early, but I have no choice, because I don’t have much time left!” He hadn’t told Huo Yuhao about Ma Xiaotao because he wanted Huo Yuhao to cultivate without any distractions.

Huo Yuhao couldn’t fly, thus he could only take the ferry to leave Sea God’s Island. It wouldn’t be as troublesome once he reached the four-ringed cultivation, which would allow him to use flying-type soul tools to travel around.

He returned to the outer courtyard after passing over the surface of the vast lake. Huo Yuhao’s sorrow had disappeared, and an unprecedented motivation had replaced it.

After discarding all his nonsensical thoughts, Huo Yuhao rushed to the Soul Tool Testing Area, reaching it soon after he passed Shrek Plaza. He saw Fan Yu standing at the door to the Soul Tool Testing Area just as he arrived.

“Teacher!” Huo Yuhao hurried forwards.

Fan Yu sternly nodded his head and said, “Follow me.”

Chapter 148: Extreme Test

Mo Feiyun looked extremely dismal as he rushed pathetically out of the Great Star Dou Forest. There had been eight of them initially, including Wei Na and Mu Xue. However, there were only five of them left now. Three soul kings had been left behind in the forest forever. They hadn’t even managed to hunt down the soul beasts that they’d wanted.

All of this had something to do with Huo Yuhao, Wang Dong, and Xiao Xiao after they left—or perhaps after they went missing.

After the three of them went missing, a frightening aura was released when Elder Xuan clashed with Three-Headed Scarlet Devilmastiff. Mo Feiyun had been terrified when he felt the aura, and immediately frantically escaped with everyone. Because they didn’t know where the aura had come from, they ran in the wrong direction in their panic, and met with opponents that they couldn’t deal with.

In the end, they made a lucky escape after they left the three soul kings behind. However, they didn’t make any progress after searching for several days, and had no choice but to leave the Great Star Dou Forest.

“Missy, Your Highness, it seems like we’ll have to make a trip to the Extreme North.” Mo Feiyun sighed.

Mu Xue comforted him, “Master Mo, it’s fine. We can search slowly. It’s also better for me and Wei Na to search for martial souls in the Extreme North. However, it’s a pity for those three other masters. The sect will compensate their families greatly when we return, don’t worry.”

Mo Feiyun nodded his head and said, “Hai, it’s all my fault. I let them down! If I hadn’t chose the wrong direction and brought everyone to the Hybrid Region, all of this wouldn’t have happened.”

Mu Xue snorted. “They’re also to be blamed. We haven’t seen them since they disappeared. Don’t let me see them again.”

Wei Na commented, “Sister Mu Xue, we can’t blame them either. They didn’t do anything to us either. They only left us suddenly.”

Mu Xue answered, “Even though I don’t think that they’re capable of making a hundred thousand year soul beast unleash its aura, they did coincidentally disappear when it happened. Who was the one that brought Xiao Xiao and Wang Dong away? If I’m not wrong, the three of them were here to seek soul rings. But they must’ve been followed by a powerful elder. Star Luo National Academy is the top academy in the Star Luo Empire, and has Titled Douluo-level teachers. Maybe that elder was a Titled Douluo who attracted strong opposition.”

Wei Na laughed bitterly. "There's no point guessing now that things have gotten to this stage. Let's just head to the Extreme North. To be honest, I'd really rather not go there! It's too cold, and danger usually lies in the unknown."

Mu Xue said, "Let's return to Heaven Dou City to reorganize ourselves and replenish our strength. We won't need to be afraid of the Extreme North if we make proper preparations. However, Wei Na, you've indeed impressed me! You didn't complain once on this journey even though you're the Heavenly Soul Empire's princess. I didn't expect this!"

Wei Na laughed and replied, "Let's go, Sister Mu Xue. We have to seize the day if we want to reorganize. It's been almost a month since we reached our Rank 30 bottlenecks. I don't want it to go on like this."

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"Teacher Fan Yu, how did you know I was coming back?" Huo Yuhao asked curiously as he followed Fan Yu into the Soul Tool Testing Area.

Fan Yu replied, "Elder Mu informed me."

Huo Yuhao was shocked, "Teacher informed you?"

Fan Yu chuckled and said, "Elder Mu is highly skilled; what's so strange about him using long-distance communication? Yuhao, you have an important mission from today onwards. It'll be much tougher than before, but you must persevere. The Sea God's Pavilion has decided that the Soul Tool Department will use all of its resources to initiate the Ultimate Soldier Plan and nurture you and He Caitou. The pressure on the both of you will greatly increase from now on. Even though I'm your teacher, I won't let you off so easily. You'll face immense challenges when the training begins unless the both of you somehow back out of the Ultimate Soldier Plan."

The two of them finally reached Testing Area Number 12.

The Testing Area was empty, save for He Caitou, who was in the midst of creating a soul tool.

"Senior He." Huo Yuhao greeted him and rushed over.

He Caitou put the metal in his hands down and chortled, "Little junior, you're finally back. How are things? Are they settled?"

Huo Yuhao nodded and replied, "I'm a soul elder now."

Fan Yu said, "Alright, let's get to work. Both of you, come over here."

Huo Yuhao and He Caitou rushed to Fan Yu and stood in front of him.

Fan Yu said in a deep voice, "The Ultimate Soldier Plan will start from today. Even though it's likely to be very tough with your current cultivations, there's no way that you can back out now. You need to give your all to complete this training. Dean Xian, Dean Qian, and myself will be guiding both of you. I shall explain the significance of the Ultimate Soldier Plan in today's first lesson."

"The Ultimate Soldier Plan aims to nurture a powerful entity capable of changing the tide of an entire war. The definition of war here refers to resistance by a foreign army."

“All four empires on the continent have armies that consist of soul masters. The generals of these armies must, at the minimum, be a soul sage. If a coordinated and well-trained army possesses sufficient soul tools, even Titled Douluo can’t easily deal with them. Since the two of you have been chosen as part of the Ultimate Soldier Plan, you must not only learn how to create soul tools, but you must also know how to use them. In addition, you need to learn infiltration, camouflage, investigation, destruction, and concealment techniques, on top of military knowledge. The academy’s original intention was to try out this plan over a ten year period. However, Elder Mu has instructed us to make it feasible within two years.”

“Yuhao, Caitou, there’s a slight difference in the way that both of you will be nurtured. Yuhao will focus more on investigation, destruction, infiltration, and concealment techniques, as well as the usage of soul tools. Caitou, you’ll focus on soul tool development, explosives, camouflage techniques, survival skills, military administration, strategy, observation skills, quick reactions, escape techniques, ambush techniques, and many other miscellaneous aspects.”

He Caitou had much more to learn than Huo Yuhao. This was because Huo Yuhao had to focus on cultivating both his martial soul and soul tools.

Fan Yu continued, “Simply put, Yuhao’s aim is to increase his own destructive capability and learn all of the methods available to destroy his enemies. On the other hand, Caitou is a food-type soul master. He needs to obtain greater knowledge to take on a more supplementary level. You’ll be Yuhao’s advisor and strategist. In our plan, the Ultimate Soldier refers to the two of you as a single entity. It’s not just one of you; it’s the both of you. Understood?”

Huo Yuhao quickly turned to look at He Caitou. He Caitou appeared calm, but his eyes revealed a look of excitement. He Caitou smiled when he saw Huo Yuhao looking over and said, “What’s wrong? This was my choice. My role is more important than yours in the Ultimate Soldier Plan, hehe.”

Even though Huo Yuhao wasn’t old, he was much more mature than others his age due to the experiences he’d been through. How could he not understand from Fan Yu’s words that he was the main protagonist in the plan, and that He Caitou was just his aide? Furthermore, He Caitou had to learn that much more than him. He would definitely have less energy to devote to his own cultivation!

Fan Yu patted Huo Yuhao’s shoulder and said, “Yuhao, don’t think too much. Even though Caitou is your aide in this plan, his future cultivation won’t be low. The academy will definitely think of a way to help him become a Titled Douluo. The academy has put a lot of effort into this Ultimate Soldier Plan; we’ll do our best to make it perfect. You should only concern yourself with how to enhance yourself through the tough learning and training.”

“Yes.” Huo Yuhao didn’t say anything further, but he’d never forget this favour from his senior.

Fan Yu said, “As it’s the first day of this plan, I shall give both of you a test. Go and prepare first, I’ll make the necessary arrangements while you do so. Proceed to the Beast Dueling Area in an hour’s time. You can use whatever skills you have during the test, including soul tools. Everything but stationary soul tools will be allowed.”

After Fan Yu left, He Caitou busied himself and grabbed many different types of soul tools.

“Senior, do you know the contents of this test? We should be fighting soul beasts in the Beast Dueling Area, right?” Huo Yuhao asked.

He Caitou replied, “I don’t know. However, teacher said that the Soul Tool Department’s resources will all be expended on us. I don’t think it’s as simple as a fight with soul beasts; we have to be prepared. If I’m not wrong, the test today is to find out what our limits are before they arrange our future training. The Ultimate Soldier Plan is more focused on live experience. We’ll have at least one practical experience every week from now on. The remainder of our training involves learning and practice.”

“Okay.” Huo Yuhao clenched his fists, and his eyes were filled with confidence. His abilities had improved greatly ever since they’d won the Continental Advanced Soul Master Academy Soul Dueling Tournament. His teacher didn’t even know what he’d obtained in the Great Star Dou Forest. He was determined to surprise his teacher in this test.

Huo Yuhao didn’t prepare too much, since there wasn’t much for him to prepare. He hadn’t made any soul tools in months, so he still had the same few soul tools on him. The strongest one was likely the soul paralysis ray, which was why he only sat cross-legged and tried to regulate his soul power to bring himself to his best condition. He Caitou was soon finished with his own preparations.

After an hour, Huo Yuhao and He Caitou proceeded towards the Beast Dueling Area. It was already lesson time, thus the outer courtyard was very quiet. The two of them looked at each other, then entered the Beast Dueling Area.

A few important figures and the person in charge of the Beast Dueling Area, Gong Changlong, were waiting for them in the center of the Beast Dueling Area.

As Shrek Academy’s largest exclusive region, the Beast Dueling Area was also the largest building in the academy. It covered an area that was greater than the all of the Martial Soul Department classroom blocks, dormitories and Shrek Plaza combined. Huo Yuhao and He Caitou jogged over there.

“Greetings to Dean Xian, Dean Qian and Teacher Gong. Teacher.” The two of them greeted everyone, including Fan Yu.

Gong Changlong had a deep impression of Huo Yuhao. When Huo Yuhao imitated the aura of a hundred thousand year soul beast, he had caused widespread fear among the soul beasts in the Beast Dueling Area, and they literally shit and pissed themselves. It took a lot of time to clear all that up.

Gong Changlong furrowed his brows and he asked, “Dean Xian, Old Qian, are the two of you both certain that you want to do this? How old are these two kids? What if something happens?”

Xian Lin’er said in a deep voice, “Elder Gong, how can we test their limits if we don’t do this? Their potential and abilities can only be fully unleashed in a life and death situation.”

Huo Yuhao and He Caitou were stunned as they heard Dean Xian. Wasn’t this just a test? Why did it involve a life and death situation?

Gong Changlong said, “I hope that the Soul Tool Department doesn’t cause any trouble. I don’t agree with this. I need to be responsible for these students’ safety.”

Xian Lin'er took out a token of made of some unknown material. The token was lush blue, and contained a spinning blue halo.

"Elder Gong, the Sea God's Pavilion has already given approval for the Soul Tool Department to begin the Ultimate Soldier Plan. All resources in the academy must be duly allocated according to their wishes. Please begin with what we agreed on just now."

Xian Lin'er was one of the two most authoritative deans in Shrek Academy. His words carried great weight.

Elder Gong's expression changed greatly when he saw the lush blue token. He didn't speak any further, and he turned around before leaving. The Sea God's Writ was Shrek Academy's highest-ranked token. It could only be given out during the conference held within Sea God's Pavilion. It could only be used temporarily, and had to be returned to the Pavilion afterward.

One who held the Sea God's Writ could move all Shrek Academy's resources, which included recalling graduated students and re-allocating Shrek City's human, material and financial resources. Apart from Elder Mu, everyone had to listen once the Sea God's Writ was revealed. Even Elder Xuan was no exception. If something special happened, only Elder Mu could retrieve the token before the user completed his mission.

Huo Yuhao and He Caitou didn't know the significance of the Sea God's Writ. They were a little nervous now. What exactly was the test about?

Xian Lin'er nodded at Fan Yu, "Fan Yu, tell them about the test."

Fan Yu said, "Caitou, Yuhao, we'll test the limits of your abilities later. The two of you must not hold anything back in this test. During this test, I will keep adding soul beasts to deplete all your powers. The test is only over when you lose all ability to fight any further. The soul beasts will not be merciful on you. We'll be ready to step in anytime, but we can't guarantee that no accidents will happen."

"That's why you must try your best to protect yourselves during the entire test. The longer you persist, the more soul beasts you'll encounter. This will also enhance your scores in the test. You can kill soul beasts during this test; do not have any misgivings. Besides a restriction on Yuhao's Imitation, which will be that he is not allowed to imitate a hundred thousand year soul beast's aura, and Caitou's use of stationary soul tools, both of you can use whatever abilities you have. The first requirement of an Ultimate Soldier is to be able to protect yourself under all sorts of conditions. You must keep this in mind. Go on to the center. The soul beasts will appear from anywhere, and there'll be no start signal. Let me see how good you are."

"Yes." Huo Yuhao acknowledged resolutely just as He Caitou was feeling anxious. Huo Yuhao was filled with fighting will when he thought of Elder Mu's expectations, Teacher Fan Yu's hopes for both of them and Senior He Caitou's sacrifice. He wanted to work hard, fight and give his all to improve himself.

He Caitou also gathered his emotions and walked towards the center of the Beast Dueling Area with Huo Yuhao.

As he walked, He Caitou said softly, "Little junior, what's our plan?"

Huo Yuhao pondered for a while before saying, "Senior, I'll be the one who mainly fights while you cover me. You'll attack based on the directions given by my Spiritual Detection. Control your own attacks and try to retreat after each strike. I believe that we won't be facing just one soul beast in this test. We need to conserve our energy and soul power."

He Caitou answered readily, "Alright, I'll follow your instructions." As the test was about to start, they started to become excited. They had managed to survive the Continental Advanced Soul Master Academy Soul Dueling Tournament. How difficult could this test be?

"Here they come." Huo Yuhao shouted and turned around. He shifted his feet two steps and blocked He Caitou.

A wolf-like soul beast that was covered in black fur had leapt towards them quietly. It even seemed a little illusory as it leaped.

It was a Spectre Wolf, a lightning-quick soul beast with extreme dodging abilities. This Spectre Wolf's forehead had a lock of golden hair, which signified that its cultivation was beyond a thousand years.

3 white soul rings rose from Huo Yuhao's feet. His eyes lit up, and a dim golden light flashed. His Spiritual Detection Sharing was initiated, covering 100 meters around him. A very clear blueprint appeared in He Caitou's head. Huo Yuhao immediately reduced the area that his Spiritual Detection covered to save his soul power.

He had no Wang Dong, Haodong Power or Golden Light to aid his recovery. He had to depend on himself and He Caitou.

The Spectre Wolf had already burst in front of them in this short period of time. He Caitou's body rang with clanging noises, and 12 small soul tool cannons appeared on him. He immediately chose his soul tools based on his experience and Huo Yuhao's advice to retreat after attacking.

The thousand year Spectre Wolf didn't leap at them directly. As it realized that it was less than 10 meters away from Huo Yuhao, its body shook a little, and two other Spectre Wolves appeared on its left and right. There were now 3 of them that were coming from different directions. 2 of them went for Huo Yuhao, while the remaining Spectre Wolf went for He Caitou.

This was the Spectre Doppelganger, an innate soul skill of the Spectre Wolf. Only one of the doppelgangers was real. The other two didn't have any true offensive abilities. Not only was this innate skill useful, but it was also quite effective. If not for the fact that soul masters couldn't unleash their soul skills with this skill, the Spectre Wolf would have already been extinct. Even so, thousand year Spectre Wolves were soul beasts that many beast soul masters liked to choose.

Huo Yuhao also moved as the Spectre Wolf turned into 3 different figures. He used the Ghost Shadow Perplexing Track to turn illusory as well.

His abilities had benefited from an all-round increase as his cultivation went above three rings. His speed became extremely rapid. Along with the changes to his body by the Life Guardian, he was like a hunted panther escaping quickly as he burst out.

His figure flashed, and he reached the Spectre Wolf on the left. His right hand slapped the head of the Spectre Wolf directly.

He struck at a very opportune time. It was in exactly the same moment that the Spectre Wolf jumped out. The Spectre Wolf couldn't change direction anymore, and only lifted both its front legs to claw at Huo Yuhao. At the same time, it tried to bite Huo Yuhao's right hand.

However, it was doing this based on its calculation of Huo Yuhao's arm length and the speed of his strike. At this instant, 5 long dark golden blades suddenly appeared at the tips of Huo Yuhao's fingers.

They increased in length until they were a foot long, meaning that Huo Yuhao's reach had also increased by a foot. His strike landed on the Spectre Wolf's head, and the sharp, dark golden blades stabbed into its forehead. Huo Yuhao exploited its momentum to lift its body until it was almost perpendicular to the ground. The Spectre Wolf's claws didn't manage to strike him. Huo Yuhao used his right arm's strength to propel his body into the air and suppress the Spectre Wolf.

The Spectre Wolf screamed pathetically and was immediately killed by the dark golden blades that had pierced its head.

He Caitou didn't move from his position, and the other two Spectre Wolves leapt towards him and Huo Yuhao. But they were instantaneously turned into balls of grey fog before they disappeared.

The Spectre Doppelganger was a joke in front of the Spiritual Detection. How could Huo Yuhao be tricked?

Huo Yuhao used his left hand to hit the Spectre Wolf's head and flip himself over. The Spectre Wolf's body was struck to the ground and remained motionless. Not even a single drop of blood flowed out from the wolf. There was only a purple soul ring.

"Fan Yu, you've developed a new close-combat soul tool?" Qian Duoduo was stunned. He had already ascended to the stage with Xian Lin'er and Fan Yu to watch the battle in the Beast Dueling Area.

Fan Yu was also puzzled. "No! I don't even know what that dark golden blade is. Did he develop it himself?"

Qian Duoduo said, "That's impossible. Wolves are like dogs. Their heads are very tough, although their bodies are very weak. The skull of the Spectre Wolf is the toughest part of its body. Although this thousand year Spectre Wolf isn't defensively sound, its skull is still quite strong. But it was pierced so easily by Yuhao. I'm afraid even a Class 5 or 6 close-combat soul tool wouldn't be able to do that. How would it be possible for him to even create one, much less use it?"

"That's a soul bone," Xian Lin'er said.

"Soul bone? This kid has a right arm soul bone?" Fan Yu was shocked. "I recall that he only received a left arm bone after he returned from the tournament!"

The battle in the arena didn't stop as they conversed. After Huo Yuhao regained his footing, he slid, and his entire body fell to the ground. The dark golden blades on his right hand didn't retract, but were stabbed into the ground instead.

He caused a tremor that covered tens of square meters. Dirt sprayed everywhere as a huge body was forced out of the ground

It was a huge python covered in dark green scales, about six meters long. At this time, its whole body was spasming wildly. Huo Yuhao had grabbed on its head as he “slipped” earlier.

Pythons had more vitality than wolves, so it hadn’t died immediately. It shook violently and flung Huo Yuhao to one side, twisting and turning, while the wounds on its head gushed blood. No matter how strong its vitality was, it couldn’t withstand five killing wounds on its head!

This was a thousand-year Blackscale Python, a thousand-year soul beast. But it was actually killed so quickly by Huo Yuhao, undoubtedly the work of his Spiritual Detection.

He Caitou didn’t even unleash a strike. When Huo Yuhao fell to the ground, his legs shifted rapidly, and he retreated 10 meters, preventing any attack by the thousand-year Blackscale Python.

Two thousand-year soul beasts had been killed in a matter of seconds.

Gong Changlong, who was initially worried that they would be hurt, was now extremely appalled. Did Huo Yuhao really only have three soul rings? Furthermore, his soul rings were all white. What was going on?

Huo Yuhao and He Caitou were given the opportunity to catch their breath after slaying two soul beasts in succession. Of course, they weren’t really in need of such a break at the moment.

He Caitou was as shocked as the teachers right now.

Compared to the teachers, he was much more familiar with Huo Yuhao’s abilities. A three-ringed Soul Elder was on the same level as a thousand-year soul beast. However, this didn’t mean that all soul elders had the ability to kill a thousand-year soul beast.

When Huo Yuhao first met Bei Bei, he had helped him kill a thousand-year soul beast. Bei Bei even mentioned that he didn’t have absolute confidence in resisting the thousand-year soul beast they had run into back then. Of course, Bei Bei had been referring to a soul beast with seven or eight thousand-years of cultivation.

The two soul beasts that had appeared just now only possessed a thousand-years of cultivation, but they were true thousand-year soul beasts! Even if Huo Yuhao was fortunate enough to have Spiritual Detection to help him sense their movements, he couldn’t have killed them without the Darkgolden Terrorclaws. Almost all soul beasts had tough skull, but the two soul beasts he had fought just now had no chance against the golden claws!

He Caitou hadn’t seen Huo Yuhao’s Darkgolden Terrorclaws before. He only knew that Huo Yuhao didn’t show any obvious undulations of soul power when he killed the two soul beasts. He had only maintained his Spiritual Detection, and used pure strength to kill both soul beasts. The two soul beasts were killed before they could unleash their own abilities. This was especially so for the python, which had wanted to mount a surprise attack. However, it was killed before it could do so.

However, He Caitou didn’t have time to ask Huo Yuhao what his Darkgolden Terrorclaws were. The test had only just started. Even though Huo Yuhao had already displayed his full strength, it didn’t change the nature of the test.

Four more soul beasts burst towards the two of them from four different directions. These four soul beasts were all different, but they were obviously at least in the thousand-year bracket in terms of cultivation.

They were a lion, a tiger, a panther and a bear. They were thousand-year soul beasts, but there were differences in their powers. Just like how a thousand-year Darkgolden Terrorclaw Bear was unafraid of a ten thousand-year Deviltiger Cat, these four species of soul beasts might not have especially outstanding blood lineages, but their powers were greater than those of most soul beasts.

Furthermore, these four soul beasts belonged to the same element – the rare Metal element. This meant that that they were skilled in physical combat, and their defensive strength was extremely high.

The four soul beasts let out different roars as they started to force their way closer to Huo Yuhao and He Caitou.

The thousand-year Golden Panther was the quickest. This yellow-eyed Golden Panther had a row of fine metal spikes on its neck. Each spike was around three inches in length, and covered its neck all the way to its spine. Although it moved very swiftly, it didn't dash over at the first opportunity. The four soul beasts seemed to be coordinating with one another!

This was Shrek Academy's Beast Dueling Area. Some of the soul beasts had been trained. The higher the soul beasts' cultivations, the higher their intelligence. Training them wasn't completely impossible with sufficient temptation. Of course, the secret method to training them was confidential in the academy.

A dim radiance flashed, and Huo Yuhao's face revealed a cold smile. Coordination? How could he let them do as they wished?

"Charge!" Huo Yuhao shouted, and charged towards the east with He Caitou. There was a thousand-year golden bear on this side. It was huge and burly, its body close to three meters tall and exuding a golden glow. Although it couldn't compare to the Darkgolden Terrorclaw Bear's dark golden glow, its standing fur and rough skin made it the most defensively resolute among the 4 soul beasts. It was also the strongest.

The Golden Bear roared as it saw Huo Yuhao and He Caitou rushing over. It charged at the two of them, while the other three soul beasts also sped up, quickly surrounding the two humans. The Golden Panther was the fastest, chasing them like a bolt of yellow lightning. As the golden bear faced them from the front, it would attack them from behind!

Huo Yuhao suddenly lifted his head and squinted. Two streaks of purplish-gold light shot out from his Spirit Eyes. The golden bear's body trembled violently, and its front legs lost their footing before it crashed onto the ground. Its immense weight even caused its two front claw bones to crack slightly.

Huo Yuhao's cultivation had increased to three rings, and he even possessed the Eye of Destiny. While his increased spiritual power was sucked away by the Eye of Destiny and left him almost the same as before, the quality of his spiritual power had greatly increased. He used Spiritual Shock to completely crush the golden bear's spiritual power.

Why did Huo Yuhao choose this direction? The reason was simple – the bear had the lowest intelligence among all four soul beasts, even though it was the strongest. This meant that its spiritual power was the

weakest among the four soul beasts. It wasn't directly killed by the Spiritual Shock, but its soul had suffered irreparable damage.

Huo Yuhao and He Caitou's backs lit up. Their soul tool thrusters were initiated, propelling them forward. They quickly closed the gap to the golden bear.

The Golden Panther was now only twenty meters away from the. The other two soul beasts were fifty meters away, as they were not as quick.

Huo Yuhao had enough time to do many things with the distance between them and the other soul beasts.

He suddenly leapt forward and unleashed the Darkgolden Terrorclaws once again. He didn't stab the claws into the bear's head. Since he was trying to conserve his soul power, he didn't want to waste it on the golden bear's skull. This golden bear's defensive strength was much greater than the wolf and python earlier.

The dark golden claws stabbed into the bear's neck and tore its spinal cortex. Its huge body slumped down, its life leaving its huge body quickly..

He Caitou's figure flashed, and he came in behind the golden bear, using its body as a shield. Huo Yuhao stepped onto the golden bear and used his momentum to leap up before turning around in midair.

He lifted his right hand high above his head, as his entire body bent into a bow. He was like an axe that was about to unleash immense destruction. The Golden Panther was already close to him at this point.

A streak of frightening dark gold light shot out from Huo Yuhao's right hand. The Darkgolden Terrorclaw Bear's true appearance was finally revealed for the first time.

The huge dark golden projection swept across the space between the panther and Hu Yuhao, its frightening aura causing the other two soul beasts to stop in their tracks.

The Golden Panther, however, was already in the air, and was about to unleash an all-out attack on Huo Yuhao. Its body flashed with a golden light as it tried to resist Huo Yuhao's attack. However, its body was still instantly cut to pieces, falling to the ground in a splatter of blood and gore.

"Damn it, Darkgolden Terrorclaws!" Qian Duoduo finally recognized what Huo Yuhao's right palm bone was. Who didn't know of the famous Darkgolden Terrorclaw Bear? Even Qian Duoduo envied Huo Yuhao now. Not only was it difficult to kill a Darkgolden Terrorclaw Bear, it was even more tedious to find a Darkgolden Terrorclaw Bear that fit one's own cultivation! Furthermore, Darkgolden Terrorclaw Bears didn't just possess one innate skill. Finding a soul bone and a soul skill from a Darkgolden Terrorclaw Bear was even more laborious!

Chapter 149: Judgement of the Light of Destiny

Xian Lin'er, Qian Duoduo and Fan Yu became restless after seeing the golden panther being killed by the dark golden radiance.

In their original plan, they hadn't put too much hope in the first 2 soul beasts in this test. They were mainly there to deplete Huo Yuhao and He Caitou's soul power. The 4 soul beasts that came after that were the main ones to deal with Huo Yuhao and He Caitou. The lion, tiger, panther and bear were

representatives of powerful soul beasts. Their cultivations and metal element were a testament to their strength.

The reason why the metal element was chosen over the more explosive fire element was because Huo Yuhao had the Ultimate Ice. This was a meticulous consideration, but they didn't expect Huo Yuhao to display the Darkgolden Terrorclaw Bear's ability. 2 out of the 4 metal-type soul beasts were killed just like that.

He Caitou also began to show his powers in this battle. His 12 soul tool cannons were aimed at the golden lion on the left. 12 streaks of light sealed off all escape routes for the golden lion under the guidance of Huo Yuhao's Spiritual Detection. The golden lion could only defend, and couldn't advance any further.

He Caitou had four rings. He shouldn't be too fearful of these 4 soul beasts if he unleashed his soul tool fort, given his abilities. However, it was impossible for him to take down these 4 soul beasts himself.

Huo Yuhao also made his move as He Caitou acted. His first action was to bend his back, and he grabbed ahold of the golden panther's thigh that had been cut off. After that, he threw it at the golden tiger, which was around 20 meters away from him, using his left hand!

The golden tiger roared furiously and lifted its front claws. It was about to deflect the panther's thigh away. At this point, Huo Yuhao unleashed another of his divine skills.

"Boom—" An explosive force was unleashed, and ice shavings scattered into the air. Although it was only just a panther's thigh, it was still filled with the golden panther's soul power since it had only just perished. The Ultimate Ice initiated the Ice Explosion Technique, and the golden tiger's claws seemed to strike a soul tool bomb as it hit the panther's thigh. In addition, the tiger was completely unprepared!

Its claws were blown apart amidst the reverberating boom. Its body was sent flying into the air, and the upper half of its body was covered in fresh blood.

Huo Yuhao had another identity. He was a Tang Sect disciple. At the same time, he chose the Tang Sect as his path after his retreat in the Sea God's Pavilion. He showed everyone how to use the Tang Sect's secret weapons. This time, his secret weapon was the golden panther that had been cut to pieces.

The golden tiger that was blasted didn't even have a chance to crawl up before more of the golden panther's remains were turned into bombs by the Ice Explosion Technique and flew towards it. Amidst a series of explosions, the powerful golden tiger was killed as Shrek Academy's elders looked on in shock. It couldn't even get close to Huo Yuhao, much less make him unleash a soul skill.

The weakness of such metal-type soul beasts was always in terms of long-range attacks. This was also natural given that they were physically tough. Otherwise, they would have become the most outstanding soul beasts around if they were strong in all aspects.

Huo Yuhao knew the might of his Ice Explosion Technique after his experience in the Great Star Dou Forest. He almost killed a Darkgolden Terrorclaw Bear using a ten thousand year Deviltiger Cat's corpse. While a thousand years soul beast's body was inferior, the difference wasn't too great.

He turned around calmly after killing the thousand year golden tiger. His left hand pressed on the bear that was already dead. The Ice Empress' Pincer's diamond flashed with radiance. The golden bear was quickly turned into a Transcendent Ice Bomb that could go off at any time.

He Caitou's attacks stopped. A Class 4 Milk Bottle appeared in his palm, and he used it to suck in soul power. In fact, he hadn't depleted much of his soul power. He could kill the golden lion if he wanted to, but Huo Yuhao didn't let him do so. He was following Huo Yuhao's Spiritual Detection to fight.

The golden lion felt relieved, but couldn't locate the golden tiger. It was in a daze. Huo Yuhao tried to provoke him by hooking his finger toward him.

The lion was the king of beasts! It had a bad temper, and its yellow mane, which was flashing with a metallic glow, started to spike up. It roared and burst towards Huo Yuhao. Its legs let out clanging metal noises as they struck the ground as it opened its mouth to reveal its huge, razor-sharp teeth. Even a Titled Douluo might be unable to handle its bite!

Huo Yuhao was slightly breathless after killing the tiger. He revealed a soul tool against this golden lion that came towards him. It was the soul paralysis ray. The golden lion couldn't escape the rays shot out by him under the influence of his Spiritual Detection. As a streak of light flashed, the attack of the soul paralysis ray was counteracted by a metal-like halo released by the golden lion. However, the paralysis effect still took place. The lion's body shook a little, but it didn't collapse like the bear as it tried to hold on. However, its speed immediately dropped.

Huo Yuhao's eyes squinted, and a cold radiance flashed across them. He burst towards the golden lion. Looking very ferocious.

As he got closer to the lion, the paralysis effect began to wear off. The lion opened its mouth and attempted to bite Huo Yuhao as he burst towards it. Its fur also spiked up and turned into golden spikes. They became offensive weapons.

It unleashed its full abilities as the strongest among the 4 soul beasts. Its eyes flashed with a metal glow, and at least 10% of its mane shot out as sharp spikes. Huo Yuhao was quickly engulfed by a huge number of metal spikes.

The lion was the only one among the 4 soul beasts that still had some long-range offensive abilities. However, these metal spikes were most effective at a 5 meter range.

Huo Yuhao decided to face these metal spikes head-on. He didn't use a soul tool to protect himself, but the Ice Empress' Armor, one of the two soul skills the Ice Jade Empress Scorpion had given him.

As his cultivation increased, the power of his soul rings also increased in tandem. The Ice Empress' Armor was defensively stronger than before.

"Ding ding ding ding ding..." A series of knocking sounds rang from Huo Yuhao's body. The metal spikes were deflected away by the Ice Empress' Armor and couldn't penetrate his body. Huo Yuhao also used this opportunity to get closer to the lion.

The golden lion bit down on nothing as the Ghost Shadow Perplexing Track was used. Huo Yuhao dodged its bite and came beside it.

The golden lion also recognized Huo Yuhao's frightening Darkgolden Terrorclaws. Its mane started to change form, and its entire head now looked like a hedgehog. The lion tried to spike its head towards Huo Yuhao.

Huo Yuhao naturally tried to prevent that from happening. He moved his body back a little before increasing the speed of the Ghost Shadow Perplexing Track. He continued to strike his right hand towards the golden lion's head. He was not bothered about the damage that could be inflicted onto him by the metal spikes, since he had the Ice Empress' Armor, the Ice Empress' Pincer, the Mysterious Jade Hands and the Darkgolden Terrorclaws with him now.

The lion lifted its body amidst this crisis and struck its huge claws towards Huo Yuhao. At the same time, a series of clanging noises resonated from its body as two metal blades came out from its shoulders. One of the blades hit Huo Yuhao's right hand.

The greatest point about Spiritual Detection was its ability to anticipate situations. Huo Yuhao was clearly prepared for this moment. His Darkgolden Terrorclaw clashed with the metal blade that shot out of the lion's shoulder, and he wasn't at a disadvantage in terms of strength. He only rocked his upper body back a little, and the golden lion's body also stopped moving.

This was the strength of the Ice Empress' Pincer and the Mysterious Jade Hands. The metal blade from the lion's shoulder couldn't suppress Huo Yuhao in terms of strength.

Huo Yuhao had already dodged the lion as his figure flashed. His Darkgolden Terrorclaws slashed at the metal blade, his left hand unwittingly grabbed hold of the lion's left forelimb due to the great impact of his slashing motion.

A wave of cold instantly entered the lion's body. The lion couldn't help but shiver while its left forelimb was frozen such that it no longer had any sensation there.

Huo Yuhao exploited the momentum of his slash to flip his body around before sliding his body below the lion's belly. His left hand flashed with an azure radiance before a 'boom' was heard.

The lion screamed in pain before its huge body was overturned.

What was the significance of the Ice Explosion Technique? It could blow apart all ice within an area that Huo Yuhao could work his spiritual sense on. It didn't matter if it was a frozen corpse. The Ice Explosion Technique could turn all matter into its energy after coming into contact with them and make them a source of explosive power.

Huo Yuhao had previously used his Ice Explosion soul skill to detonate soul beast corpses, in turn converting soul power into pure explosive force.

But right now, Huo Yuhao took advantage of the lion's focus on his Darkgolden Terrorclaws to activate his Ice Explosion soul skill on its left forelimb.

The most solid fortresses were often felled from the inside; when the soul power in the lion's left claw turned into explosive energy, this was exactly what happened. The Ice Explosion soul skill showed its might once more, blowing the lion's left claw to bits. The frightening blast also riddled half of the lion's body with injuries.

How could Huo Yuhao miss such an advantageous attack?

He used the Ghost Shadow Perplexing Track to accurately appear at the place where the lion was weakest. A powerful suction force was released towards the lion from Huo Yuhao. While it didn't drag the lion to him, it did increase his speed towards the lion. With no defenses to bar its way, his right claw stabbed into the lion, causing its pathetic, miserable cries to instantly stop as it died.

At present, all four metal-type soul beasts had been killed. What remained were only four purple soul rings, which floated silently in the air.

Huo Yuhao pressed his left hand to the Golden Lion's body, making another bomb out of it with the Ice Explosion soul skill. He then ran towards the center of the arena alongside He Caitou.

If he included the Spectre Wolf that he'd killed earlier, Huo Yuhao now had three ice bombs at his disposal.

Gong Changlong regretted speaking up for the two of them earlier; they'd killed six of his thousand year soul beasts! It had been very difficult to catch them—especially the four metal-type soul beasts that had come at the end. They'd taken him an entire year to train, yet it had all been for naught the moment that Huo Yuhao slaughtered them.

Huo Yuhao wasn't anything like a normal control-type soul master. Even comparing him to agility-type soul masters wasn't quite appropriate. To be honest, he was more of a mesh between assault-type and agility-type soul masters.

From start to finish, Huo Yuhao had killed all six soul beasts during the test. He Caitou had only needed to help once, which had been to prevent the tiger and lion from meeting up.

Huo Yuhao's very impressive display had already gone far beyond the elders' expectations.

Huo Yuhao didn't get complacent. He'd given it his all, and had used every advantage available to him. He might have depleted a lot of his soul power when he'd used his Darkgolden Terrorclaws to kill the Golden Panther, but that was to ensure that he didn't give the panther any chances.

If these four metal-type soul beasts teamed up, it would've been a large problem for Huo Yuhao and He Caitou. Huo Yuhao had been most concerned about the Golden Panther, since it was the most cunning soul beast of the four.

It hadn't rush Huo Yuhao immediately, even though it held an absolute advantage in terms of speed. Instead, it had waited for an opportunity to group up with the other beasts. It was basically the general of the four soul beasts. After obtaining the Darlgolden Terrorclaws, Huo Yuhao's offensive might soared. But he was still left with glaring weaknesses: He was weak against long-range attacks and lightning-quick opponents.

As panther-type soul beasts were incredibly fast, the Golden Panther could've dragged He Caitou over if it had used hit-and-run tactics, and thus forced Huo Yuhao to fight an uphill battle against the lion and tiger together. While Huo Yuhao was confident that he could take on these two soul beasts at the same time, it would've been far more consuming, both mentally and physically.

That was why he chose the simpler approach—killing the Golden Panther with his Darkgolden Terrorclaws quickly, albeit at the expense of his soul power. He'd then used the panther's corpse to attack the tiger. While this 'simple' method indeed dealt with them, it didn't seem cost effective for his soul power. However, Huo Yuhao might have expended even more soul power if he'd been sucked into a drawn out fight with the soul beasts.

The Ice Jade Scorpion Left Arm Bone and Darkgolden Terrorclaw Right Palm Bone had shown their worth in this battle. Huo Yuhao's fighting capabilities were completely new to the deans and Fan Yu—he'd been more offensive than a four-ringed assault type Soul Ancestor as a three-ringed control-type Soul Elder. The elders felt nothing but shock and awe after witnessing him killing the six soul beasts.

Of course, there was an exception to that awed feeling: Gong Changlong currently felt extremely gloomy right now, as he was the person in charge of the Beast Dueling Arena. His heart ached when he thought of the fact that six thousand year soul beasts had been wasted just like that! The amount of human and material resources needed to catch and train another six just like them would be astronomically high.

"Send in eight thousand year souls beasts adept at long-range attacks, and four three-thousand year soul beasts adept at close combat. I don't believe that these kids will be able to handle them all." Increasing the pace of the test made Gong Changlong's heart ache, but it meant that it would end faster. However, this wasn't too shocking. After all, Huo Yuhao had displayed abilities far beyond their initial expectations.

Huo Yuhao looked a little weird now. He had 2 cigars in his mouth: One thick, and one thin. They were, respectively, the 'Spirit Stimulating Thick Cigar,' and the 'Soul Power Amplifying Thin Cigar.' He grasped a Milk Bottle in his hand, as did He Caitou. The two of them leaned on each other as they stood there.

They were suddenly jolted, and Huo Yuhao exclaimed, "So many..."

He Caitou was also stunned. "They're trying to kill us..."

Twelve soul beasts sauntered in from different directions. There was four huge beasts in front, and eight others trailing behind. They inched closer and closer to them in the center of the arena. The huge pressure emitting from them made Huo Yuhao and He Caitou pretty terrified.

Huo Yuhao had seemed very relaxed as he dealt with the four soul beasts earlier, but that was already giving it his all. But now, their number had tripled, and from the looks of it, several of them were long-ranged attackers. Twelve thousand year soul beasts! If Wang Dong and Xiao Xiao were here, then Huo Yuhao reckoned they might have a fighting chance. But could they really win in this situation now?

"Junior, what do we do?" He Caitou looked at the dozen thousand year soul beasts that surrounded them and felt numb. This was definitely beyond what they could handle.

Fan Yu's brows furrowed, "Why didn't Elder Gong follow the plan? This is too much. They must have been expended quite a lot of their energy already."

Xian Lin'er said, "Don't fret. The pressure will do them good. Also we can tell their limits from this and plan out their future training. We're ready to save the both of them if anything happens."

Huo Yuhao shut his eyes slightly and sensed with his active spiritual power. He didn't ask for help from the Skydream Iceworm, the Ice Empress or Electrolux, even in such a perilous situation. His confidence was slowly growing as his age and powers increased, and he knew how to turn pressure into motivation.

"Senior—soul tool fort strategy. I will try and control the soul beasts, and you'll follow up under the guidance of my Spiritual Detection to attack them. We'll try our best and see what happens."

"Okay." He Caitou didn't speak too much either. His confidence in Huo Yuhao had grown immensely following the previous battle. Many metal pipes started to appear on his body as they made clanging noises. He Caitou turned around with all the weapons on his body, maintaining a solid grip on the floor underfoot. Showcasing his ability to mount a multi-directional assault.

Huo Yuhao noticed that it was the same soul tool fort strategy, but a portion of He Caitou's soul tool fort had already been modified. It seemed like he had made considerable progress after the Advanced Continental Soul Master Soul Dueling Tournament.

The dozen soul beasts were still stalking closer. The four in front were of the same species—the Single-Horned Devilrhino. A very powerful soul beast, entirely plated in armor. It was rumored to have a strong ram and sturdy defense, while its horn could unleash the Sealing Light. After locking onto an opponent, it would ram them till they perished.

In the arena, four Single-Horned Devilrhinos with more than three thousand years of cultivation were flashing with a subtle, light-blue radiance. Their eyes had turned blood-red, and they advanced forward faster now—ready to attack at any moment.

The eight long-ranged attacker soul beasts behind them also began flashing with different colors, ready to attack at a moment's notice. If it wasn't for the small size of the Beast Dueling Arena and them not having enough space, Huo Yuhao and He Caitou would already be facing a barrage of attacks.

He Caitou fully prepared his soul tool fort, and Huo Yuhao remained still. He spat out the two cigars, put his Milk Bottle away, and stood there with his arms placed beside his waist. His Spirit Eyes slowly began to close.

A weird feeling started to spread from Huo Yuhao. The Beast Dueling Area's work crew, the deans and Fan Yu could all sense it coming from Huo Yuhao, but couldn't identify what it was.

Huo Yuhao seemed to become intangible in an instant. However, amidst that illusion, even he felt awed. The feeling was indescribable, like he had changed into an invisible force that covered the entire arena. He felt like he wasn't even himself anymore.

At this time, a weird golden light lit up on Huo Yuhao's forehead, looking like the first ray of light at dawn. Everyone squinted their eyes unwittingly, even though it wasn't blinding them. For just an instant, everyone seemed to pause.

It was a golden eye, filled with the bright light of destiny. The strange eye displayed the majesty of heaven and earth. Even the air was buzzing as the light from the eye shone forth.

Huo Yuhao's lips moved a little. Only He Caitou managed to hear what he said.

He had called out, "Destiny, judgement!"

A layer of strange light spread out, with Huo Yuhao's body at the center. The light didn't seem very intense, but it couldn't really be described, because every soul beast and soul master saw the color of this light differently.

The air distorted slightly as the light passed by. It felt like a huge door of destiny had been opened behind everyone.

Fortunately, it didn't cover a wide area. It only engulfed the area which the twelve soul beasts were in.

If this feeling only left Xian Lin'er and Qian Duoduo in a trance, the next moment revealed the true effects of the transformation in front of their eyes.

The first transformation happened to He Caitou, who was the closest to Huo Yuhao. He was coated with a layer of dim gold. That layer of dim gold instantly peeled off from his body and formed a weird golden light projection behind him. This projection looked identical to him, and was only lacking his soul tools, otherwise a perfect duplicate

A ring of golden light flashed from his double's shoulder, giving off a feeling of calm and peace.

The transformation didn't just happen to He Caitou. The twelve soul beasts that were engulfed by the radiance also underwent transformations. However, their transformations were different from He Caitou's.

Every soul beast started to shake uncontrollably. Following that, a pale white layer appeared on their heads before peeling off instantly. However, the form that they took after they peeled off didn't appear as balanced as He Caitou's projection. These projections took the form of the beasts bare skull, floating above their heads. Even more frightening, the eye sockets of the skulls were glowing a bloody red..

"What, what is this? Third eye? Don't tell me...?"

Xian Lin'er, Qian Duoduo, and Fan Yu said in unison, "Second awakening of the Body Soul?" They couldn't think of any other possibility except this. Their eyes opened wide as they watched the changes the soul beasts were continuing to experience.

Huo Yuhao's Eye of Destiny silently shut itself. His body shook a little, and he seemed a little dizzy.

His mental fatigue was now intense. His second sea was extremely uncomfortable, sucked dry by what he had just done. However, he had finally displayed the power of the Eye of Destiny. He also wanted to see what kind of judgement the Light of Destiny could unleash through the Eye.

Huo Yuhao's Spirit Eyes opened at the same time he shut his Eye of Destiny. The dim gold remained, but he was much more fatigued.

The soul beasts were delayed in their advance, and they could all feel a chill rising from the depths of their hearts. They didn't know what was happening, but they were clearly aware of the changes. But where were these transformations coming from? They had no idea.

Huo Yuhao naturally wouldn't explain it to them. The soul beasts could also feel the changes, but they were stunned that their bodies hadn't seemed to change. Everything still looked the same as ever to them.

Some of the soul beasts were furious from the fear that he had inflicted them. The four Single-Horned Devilrhinos roared together and started to charge towards Huo Yuhao and He Caitou. The Sealing Lights on their horns also shot out towards Huo Yuhao.

Huo Yuhao's third soul ring suddenly lit up at this point. After he managed to obtain the Spirit Eyes' third soul ring, it was his first time using it! What was his third soul skill?

Huo Yuhao's eyes turned white at this point, and a ring of white light spread out from his body. Undoubtedly, it was a domain-type skill. The twelve soul beasts were all engulfed in its radiance.

A weird scene occurred as the white light engulfed the soul beasts. Every one of them turned white, and their mighty auras from before started to become weaker and weaker.

The four Single-Horned Devilrhinos that were charging forwards slowed down, and their bodies even started to shake. The soul beasts that were adept in long-range attacks also delayed their attacks at this moment.

"Senior He, use your soul tools as defensive barriers and attack the soul beasts in the back. Leave the Single-Horned Devilrhinos to me."

After he finished speaking, Huo Yuhao wrenched his head down forcefully. It was as if he were trying to shake off his fatigue. His body then shot out like an arrow.

The entire battle erupted at this point. Even though the soul beasts that were adept at long-range attacks had been influenced by Huo Yuhao's white light, they still managed to unleash their long-range attacks at the first opportunity.

Huo Yuhao could still dodge, but He Caitou was struggling. This was also why Huo Yuhao asked him to use the soul tools to form a defensive barrier for himself.

Eight long-range soul skills were unleashed. Some of them covered an area, while some of them were fixed on a specific target. Their goal was to strike both Huo Yuhao and He Caitou.

However, something weird happened at this moment. He Caitou mounted his attack as he engaged his defense. He chose the closest soul beast to him. However, he was anxious at this moment. The concentrated attacks of the eight soul beasts couldn't be resisted by his Class Four soul tool barrier! Furthermore, the Spiritual Detection had disappeared. He could only completely trust Huo Yuhao now.

Fan Yu was already holding a dark gold metal barrel in his hands on the stage. He locked onto He Caitou, and was about to fire. Although a Class Four soul tool barrier couldn't resist the soul beasts' attacks, it could still last for some time. That was why Fan Yu didn't rush to his aid. He was waiting for He Caitou to be completely defenseless. After all, this test was to challenge their limits. However, he was clueless as to why Huo Yuhao and He Caitou didn't search for a breakout point even though they were in a critical situation. They didn't even diversify their attacks, which might prove to be their fatal flaw. Could they still hold on against the twelve soul beasts?

However, Fan Yu opened his eyes wide at this moment. The light that was about to shoot out of the dark golden barrel also dimmed instantly.

He couldn't believe what he was seeing.

How was this possible? How was this possible? What did he just see?

Qian Duoduo and Xian Lin'er also opened their eyes wide. They were both incredulous.

If they could accept Huo Yuhao's impressive performance previously, whatever was going on now was beyond what they could comprehend.

Three of the eight soul beasts using long-range attacks were using domain-type attacks. Domain-type soul skills were all-engulfing, Ma Xiaotao's Phoenix Meteor Shower being a good example. Of course, domain-type attacks weren't completely flawless, but their flaws were almost negligible, usually that the user couldn't fully control them, while most targeted long-range attacks locked onto an enemy before a soul skill was unleashed towards them. This was the modus operandi of most soul masters and soul beasts.

However, an unbelievable scene occurred within the Soul Beast Dueling Area. There were eight long-range attacking soul beasts! What happened to their attacks? Their attacks struck nothing. Not even one of their attacks managed to hit He Caitou or Huo Yuhao!

Even He Caitou couldn't believe it. He didn't even have to use his soul tool barrier! Meanwhile, the strike from his soul tool fort managed to easily tear apart one of the soul beast's bodies.

How did Huo Yuhao manage to avoid all the soul beasts' attacks?

The battle continued to progress as everyone was shocked. Even weirder changes continued to happen.

Huo Yuhao's leaping body had already reached a Single-Horned Devilrhino as the other soul beasts attacked. He leapt up high, and unleashed his Darkgolden Terrorclaws. He targeted them at the Single-Horned Devilrhino's head.

The Single-Horned Devilrhino was too defensively sound. Furthermore, Huo Yuhao could tell that the Single-Horned Devilrhinos weren't thousand-year soul beasts. Under such circumstances, He Caitou's soul tool fort might be able to take down one Single-Horned Devilrhino. However, the burden on him would be very great. What about the rest of the soul beasts?

That's why Huo Yuhao decided to make a move himself.

Chapter 150: The Ten Thousand Year Soul Skill - Enfeeblement

After being enveloped by the radiance from Huo Yuhao's third soul ring, the Single-Horned Devilrhino's speed was noticeably lessened, and its body began to tremble.

The Single-Horned Devilrhino jerked its body as Huo Yuhao lunged at it, attempting to impale Huo Yuhao with the drill-like horn on its head..

Huo Yuhao was prepared to dodge this attack, knowing full well that he couldn't down this Devilrhino in a single strike. The Devilrhino's head is its most vital area, and its most armored, not even the Darkgolden Terrorclaws have a good chance of penetrating it in one shot.

But a peculiar coincidence happened once more. . .

The Single-Horned Devilrhino's body shook as it was running, so its front hoof stepped into a small hole formed during the previous battle, but the small hole was slanted.

The Devilrhino was more than four meters long. Its body was thick and burly, and it weighed more than three thousand kilos. Its front hoof suddenly twisted, and caused its entire body to slant along with it. The horn it stabbed at Huo Yuhao completely missed, and its head was critically exposed to him.

"Squelch—" Huo Yuhao wouldn't be in the Shrek's Seven Monster's if he couldn't capitalize on the mistakes of an enemy. The Darkgolden Terrorclaw's five talons bunched together like a woodpecker's sharp beak, and pierced through the Devilrhino's eye when its head turned towards him.

The Single-Horned Devilrhino was taken by great surprise when its body slanted to one side, and it even forgot to close its eyes to protect them with its thick eyelids.

How soft and weak were one's eyes? Furthermore, it was the Darkgolden Terrorclaw that stabbed into the eye. Huo Yuhao's dark golden sharp blades jabbed into the Single-Horned Devilrhino's head instantly, and its colossal body crashed to the ground with an agonizing howl.

The dark golden talons turned an icy-white, and Huo Yuhao's right arm was covered in a diamond-like layer of crystals. The harrowing screams of a dying Devilrhino ceased, and its head was blanketed in a layer of frost.

Its body was excessively huge, and even Huo Yuhao's Ultimate Ice couldn't freeze its entire body within a short period of time.

The strike was too fluid for that. His body sprung into the sky once more as the soul thruster on his back launched him with great might—at another Single-Horned Devilrhino.

All the other Single-Horned Devilrhino's suddenly lost their footing at the same time. Even Huo Yuhao, agent of their demise, found this unbelievable. One of the Devilrhino's collapsed, falling right onto the Golden Tiger's corpse.

The corpse exploded from the Ice Explosion soul skill, and the enormous body of the Single-Horned Devilrhino was tossed into the air. The frightening power of the Ice Explosion soul skill made He Caitou think back to their encounter with the corpse explosion back with the evil soul masters inside the cave. The gigantic Single-Horned Devilrhino was blown to smithereens, and its horn was blasted from the explosive force, landing right on a vulnerable long-range soul beast's head—and piercing right through it.

The four Single-Horned Devilrhinos were all locked onto Huo Yuhao, so they didn't threaten He Caitou at all, who was currently attacking with all his might.

"Senior brother, try attacking those long-range soul beasts' eyes. Fire in bursts, and conserve soul power!" Huo Yuhao yelled out while his Darkgolden Terrorclaw easily pierced through another Devilrhino's eye. The incredibly strange thing was that this Single-Horned Devilrhino was also inexplicably incapable of closing its eyes in time.

The long-ranged attacking soul beasts were definitely not in normal condition. Their mobility was reduced, and even after waves of attacks being launched at Huo Yuhao and He Caitou, not a single attack hit. Their ability to lock onto targets had vanished, and their luck with it.

Aiming at the soul beasts wasn't difficult for He Caitou, but soul beasts had very sensitive perceptions, and would swiftly dodge away when they felt something was off. Soul tools could lock on targets, but only one body at a time, and not onto a particularly small region. Still, He Caitou acted according to Huo Yuhao's suggestions.

All these incredible, miraculous, and even insidious occurrences caused his confidence in Huo Yuhao to increase many times over.

The battlefield was already extremely chaotic. Two of the four Single-Horned Devilrhinos were eliminated by Huo Yuhao in a matter of seconds, and one was killed by the Ice Explosion. The remaining Devilrhino struggled back to its feet and continued charging towards Huo Yuhao. He Caitou managed to take out two long-range soul beasts, and another one was eliminated by the exploded Devilrhino's flying horn. There were five more ranged soul beasts to kill, but skull projections still lingered over their head while they stumbled like before.

The Eye of Destiny judged them with the Light of Destiny. Combined with Huo Yuhao's third soul skill, Enfeeblement, was the cause of everything that had just happened and was happening.

Huo Yuhao finally understood the true meaning of destiny's judgement. A golden shadow glimmered behind his back, and there were wheels of light protecting it. This was the radiance and fortune bestowed upon him by destiny, while those soul beasts were abandoned by destiny's judgment. Their bodies seemed to be plagued by the god of weakness. It was a pity that even though Huo Yuhao was the creator of their bad destiny, he couldn't change his own destiny. If not, the situation would have been even more sinister.

And Enfeeblement? This was a domain-type soul skill, so it should rightfully be called Mass Enfeeblement. Those that were struck by Huo Yuhao's spiritual fluctuations would find their central nervous system affected. Enfeeblement didn't diminish the target's soul power, but it would cause the target to experience dizziness and weakness in their lower limbs, among other things.

All these crippling effects weren't conclusive. However, Huo Yuhao's Mass Enfeeblement's most potent effect, was that it could be extended for a long period of time. He had only absorbed six-thousand years out of the whole fifteen thousand in the soul ring, but he could still channel Mass Enfeeblement for an entire minute.

These twelve soul beasts were impeded by Mass Enfeeblement, and they were judged by destiny at the same time. One could only imagine their dire state. Huo Yuhao took this opportunity, and three Single-Horned Devilrhinos were felled, the tables had turned!

"Tch, tch, tch." Three brilliant needle-like beams flashed by. Three long-range soul beast's heads erupted in a cloud of blood mist simultaneously—all of them were attacked through their eyes, and their brains were vaporized instantly.

A long and thin soul tool could be seen on He Caitou's shoulder. Its foremost point was shaped like a cone, and those thin light beams were fired from the cone-like tip of this soul tool.

His three simultaneous blasts could only be described as the work of a sharpshooter. While the distance between him and his targets wasn't even a hundred meters, the souls beasts were dodging swiftly,

without stopping. Not even Huo Yuhao's Spiritual Detection could help him aim at those soul beasts' eyes.

He Caitou faintly felt as if there was an unknown force guiding him when he was firing these three shots. When the feeling peaked, he only aimed in roughly the right direction and fired.

Eight long-range soul beasts dwindled into two very quickly, while the last Single-Horned Devilrhino arrived before Huo Yuhao.

The Single-Horned Devilrhino had formidable defense and offense. However, it wasn't agile enough in front of Huo Yuhao.

Huo Yuhao used the Ghost Shadow Perplexing Track and brushed past the Devilrhino's side. Even though the Single-Horned Devilrhino had already locked onto Huo Yuhao, it still needed time to turn its body.

Huo Yuhao grasped this opportunity, and his Darkgolden Terrorclaw slashed down ferociously—the sharp dark-golden blades slashing through the weak underbelly of the Devilrhino.

This Single-Horned Devilrhino was the most defensively capable foe Huo Yuhao had come across since obtaining the Darkgolden Terrorclaw Right Palm Bone. Even his Darkgolden Terrorclaw couldn't stab all the way into the soft underbelly of the Devilrhino, only halfway through instead.

However, half was enough for Huo Yuhao. He bounced off the ground and plastered his entire body onto the Devilrhino's side. Meanwhile his Darkgolden Terrorclaw turned an icy-blue—the Ice Empress' Pincer!

The Ice Empress' Pincer gave the Darkgolden Terrorclaw the Ultimate Ice element, and greatly boosted the strength of Huo Yuhao's right hand.

“Squelch—” The Darkgolden Terrorclaw fully submerged itself into the Single-Horned Devilrhino's body, and the Ultimate Ice's formidable power was injected within with frightening speed.

However, Huo Yuhao immediately began to feel an obstruction from the muscles of the Devilrhino, which had clamped onto his Darkgolden Terrorclaw, and the Devilrhino used its soul power attempting to eject Huo Yuhao.

Time was not on his side—Huo Yuhao couldn't conserve soul power anymore. His spiritual power had been thoroughly drained from the series of battle, to the point where he didn't even attempt a simple Spiritual Shock.

Emerald green hues burst from Huo Yuhao's body. The Ice Jade Empress Scorpion's shadow shimmered for a second behind his back, and a blanket of icy-green light immediately expanded outwards in the next moment. The struggling Devilrhino froze in place, unable to shake off Huo Yuhao.

It was clear that Huo Yuhao had used the Darkgolden Terrorclaw that was impaled into the Devilrhino's body as the center of his attack when ice crystals quickly spread all over the body of the Single-Horned Devilrhino. Before long, the entire body was coated in a layer of sparkling and translucent ice crystals, the Devilrhino was motionless, like an ice statue.

“Tch—” Huo Yuhao pulled out his hand as he leapt up and landed on the back of the Devilrhino. He was supporting himself against the back with his hands as he panted with deep and heavy breaths—his face as pale as a ghost.

Using the Domain of Perpetual Ice without the support of Haodong power simply took too much out of him. He felt like he’d been hit with his own Enfeeblement as his body fell into a crippling state of weakness, while his spiritual power and soul power were spent. The Domain of Perpetual Ice infiltrated through the open wound caused by the Darkgolden Terrorclaw and stopped the beast’s heart, instantly turning it into an ice sculpture..

Huo Yuhao couldn’t be bothered with the other two long-range soul beasts anymore. He quickly took out another thick and thin cigar and stuffed them into his mouth, before he lit them and sucked on them as hard as he could. He took out the Milk Bottle at the same time, and restored his soul power.

He Caitou did not disappoint, and even though it was less than a hundred percent accuracy rating like before, he still got in six more missiles under the Light of Destiny’s blessing. The two remaining soul beasts still recovering from Enfeeblement—decapitated.

While the battle seemed like it took a lon

Gong Changlong no longer felt his heart ache. Instead, he had already become numb. Even though there were many mystical beasts inside the Beast Dueling Area, a third of their thousand year soul beasts had already been eliminated in just this one battle. The color on his face turned blue with a green tinge before it turned black altogether... How could Xian Lin’er, Qian Duoduo and Fan Yu have expected such a result from the spectator’s grandstand?

Huo Yuhao surveyed his surroundings warily and awaited the next wave of soul beasts that could appear at any time. This Single-Horned Devilrhino was the most important weapon in his arsenal for the subsequent battle. He couldn’t help but think, “If only big brother Xu were here. He could concentrate all the soul beasts together, then use the Mysterious Underworld Displacement to swap over this Single-Horned Devilrhino and I would detonate it – I would be able to destroy an entire wave!”

“That’s it! Why are we still testing? If this assessment continues, all the Beast Dueling Area’s properties will be gone.” Gong Changlong walked out with a glowering look on his face. He shouted towards the spectator’s grandstand, “Dean Xian, I am also a reserve Elder of the Sea God’s Pavilion, and I am worthy enough to question the Sea God’s Pavilion, and to question the decision you guys have made using the Sea God’s Writ’s authority. Every one of you saw it – twenty thousand-year soul beasts of mine perished just like that, and all of you should know these soul beasts’ value. Take a look, how many soul rings has this wasted? The Soul Tool Department has to be responsible for capturing another batch for me. I will take this up to the Sea God’s Island right now.”

Gong Changlong spun around furiously as he spoke and was about to leave.

Xian Lin’er, Qian Duoduo and Fan Yu hurriedly leapt down from the spectator’s grandstand and arrived before Gong Changlong in a flash.

Xian Lin’er wore an apologetic face as she said, “Don’t be angry, Elder Gong. We will stop here for today. I never imagined that such a situation would happen, and it’s all because our judgment of these two students’ abilities was inadequate – so it’s all our fault. We will explain things to the Sea God’s Pavilion

ourselves. Duoduo and I will be responsible for capturing another batch of soul beasts when we come back.”

Gong Changlong’s face softened a little as he said, “That will do. Don’t pull this kind of assessment anymore – if not, how can my Beast Dueling Area endure? Leave, all of you. These two fellas are no longer welcome inside the Beast Dueling Area.” Elder Gong huffed and puffed at his beard while he glared at three of them as he spoke, before he turned around and walked out, leaving Xian Lin’er and the others laughing bitterly at each other.

Huo Yuhao had rendezvoused with He Caitou by now. They both heaved a sigh of relief when they saw Elder Gong’s furious look, and it seemed like today’s assessment was over.

The two of them felt as if they were in a dream as they watched the corpses scattered all over the ground. There were eighteen thousand-year soul beasts, and four of them were three thousand year soul beasts! Yet, they massacred every single one within fifteen minutes. Even a Soul King from the inner courtyard probably wouldn’t be able to accomplish this.

Fan Yu forced a laugh and said, “What shall we do about today’s assessment, Deans?”

Xian Lin’er expression also seemed a little sullen. She replied, “Go to the Martial Soul Department and fetch Bei Bei, Xu Sanshi, and Jiang Nannan. The assessment will continue; let them battle the others from the Shrek’s Seven Monsters. I want to see how long they can last.”

She deliberately raised her voice when she spoke the last sentence so that both Huo Yuhao and He Caitou could hear her. The two of them glanced at each other exasperatedly and swiftly sat down on the ground. They restored their soul power through Milk Bottles while they started to meditate to recover the energy they had previously expended.

Huo Yuhao realized that his spiritual power’s recovery speed inside his spiritual sea was relatively impressive. However, his second mental sea’s spiritual power recuperated incredibly slowly – as a slow as a snail sliding across the ground. He would probably need an entire day to completely recover the spiritual power he had expended – that meant his Eye of Destiny could only be used once per day.

Fan Yu was highly efficient. He had no problem extracting the several students from the Martial Soul Department, as he had Xian Lin’er’s orders. Bei Bei, Xu Sanshi, and Jiang Nannan arrived at the Beast Dueling Area within fifteen minutes.

Xu Sanshi looked like he was in a good mood, and he looked like he couldn’t wait to get it on while he wore a mischievous and wry smile on his face. Jiang Nannan was calm and composed, and even though she maintained a distance between Xu Sanshi and herself, they were no longer as distant as before. This was probably the reason why Xu Sanshi was in a good mood – at least there was progress.

Bei Bei was as elegant and refined as always. However, he no longer had that faint smile on his face ever since Tang Ya had left. He couldn’t wait for the holidays so he could go to Heaven Dou City to find Tang Ya. He had no clue why he felt as if his hair had been standing on end recently, and he grew even more worried about Tang Ya venturing towards Heaven Dou City all by herself. He had had his own revelations after the grand competition, and he had also reached a crucial point in his cultivation, while the academy had also ordered him not to leave. He was also about to face the immense pressure of the examination to enter the inner courtyard during his graduation.

“Senior brother, big brother Xu, sister Nannan.” Huo Yuhao stepped forward elatedly. He hadn’t seen Bei Bei and the others ever since their closed-door cultivation after they returned.

However, Bei Bei and the others were as astonished as ever. The Beast Dueling Area was incredibly messy – there was a giant crater from the Ice Explosion, there were soul beasts’ severed limbs, and there was a multitude of corpses strewn all over the place.

“Little junior brother – what’s all this?” Bei Bei asked with a face full of doubt.

Before Huo Yuhao could explain, Xian Lin’er lowered her voice and said, “Bei Bei, Xu Sanshi, Jiang Nannan – I have an immediate assessment task for you guys: take down Huo Yuhao and He Caitou. The battle will start immediately. If the three of you lose the fight, then I will ask the Martial Soul Department to increase the difficulty of your assessments to enter the inner courtyard next year.”

“Ah?” Bei Bei and the other two were immediately shell-shocked.

Fan Yu chimed in. “This is also an assessment for Huo Yuhao and He Caitou. Look at the corpses of soul beasts around you – they were the ones that killed them all. The battle will start immediately.”

Bei Bei’s eyes sparkled. There seemed to be blue lightning flickering within his eyes when he turned back toward Huo Yuhao, and he was the first to mentally prepare himself. The academy had their reasons for arranging something like this, and he knew that it wouldn’t be bad for Huo Yuhao and He Caitou if he followed his teacher’s instructions.

“Watch out, junior brother.” A crackling lightning strike burst from within his body as he spoke, and his right arm swiftly transformed. Bluish-purple dragon scales began to spread, first towards his chest then all the way to his hips. He lunged towards Huo Yuhao in a flash.

Xu Sanshi and Jiang Nannan were a beat slower, but they immediately realized what was happening and released their respective martial souls before they launched their own attacks. Xu Sanshi went for He Caitou, while Jiang Nannan hid herself behind him. With the Shield of the Xuanwu Turtle defending them, there were no cracks or loopholes for soul tools in front of them to exploit.

Even though this battle was incredibly rushed and hasty, Bei Bei and the others’ experience and discipline in battle were quickly put on the display, and everyone went for their most suitable targets.

Huo Yuhao laughed bitterly inside. He felt a little stifled facing off against his eldest senior brother, and this wasn’t just because his soul power had only been restored to about fifty percent, his spiritual power had only recovered to about thirty to forty percent, and his second mental sea wasn’t operational at all. This was also because of his relationship with Bei Bei.

Bei Bei had always been like a mentor and a big brother to him. It could be said that without Bei Bei’s care and help, Huo Yuhao wouldn’t have been able to stand his ground when he first came to Shrek Academy. He was already disadvantaged in terms of his mentality even though this was only a friendly battle.

Huo Yuhao unleashed the Spiritual Detection as fast as he could as Bei Bei lunged directly at him. He connected himself to He Caitou while he used the Ghost Shadow Perplexing Track to make a swift retreat in an attempt to distance himself from Bei Bei.

Bei Bei's experience in battle was as rich as it could be. He was the Tang Sect's eldest senior brother, and he was simply too familiar with the Tang Sect's Six Great Secret Techniques.

The Ghost Shadow Perplexing Track's most prominent point was that it was mutable and unpredictable. There wasn't a rhythm or pattern to take advantage of. However, Bei Bei was familiar with this technique, and as such was acutely aware of its speed.

"Crackle!" A thunderous boom could be heard as a colossal Thunderous Dragon Claw slashed out through the sky and went directly for Huo Yuhao's body. The lightning bolts had yet to reach him, but Huo Yuhao could already feel his entire body starting to go numb. There was no doubt that Bei Bei's cultivation had grown exponentially again. The Thunderous Dragon Claw's ferocity was augmented, and its area of effect was much wider than before.

Huo Yuhao placed his hands in a circle before him, and his Spirit Eyes began to glow. His Spiritual Detection found the Thunderous Dragon Claw's weakest spot, and his left hand formed the Controlling Crane while his right hand formed the Capturing Dragon. With a single pushing and pulling action, he pushed the Thunderous Dragon Claw to one side.

"Eh?" Bei Bei glanced at Huo Yuhao with a surprised look on his face. However, he took the time that Huo Yuhao needed to stop and block the Thunderous Dragon Claw to swiftly close the distance between him and his junior brother. He made a grab at Huo Yuhao's shoulder as he bent the center of his palms inwards – he was also using the Controlling Crane Capturing Dragon technique.

Bei Bei was more than ten ranks above Huo Yuhao in cultivation, and formidable suction power immediately pulled at Huo Yuhao till he stumbled. It wouldn't be easy for Huo Yuhao to defend against Bei Bei's Controlling Crane Capturing Dragon even at his peak, and he was no match Bei Bei in cultivation. This was the reason why it was challenging for him to evade this attack even though his Spiritual Detection could predict and detect it.

He Caitou finally displayed his fearsome and ferocious side. His consumption from the previous battle was far smaller than Huo Yuhao, since he hadn't needed to expend much energy with Huo Yuhao's spiritual guidance. His soul power had been restored to more than eighty percent, and his soul tool fort asserted its dominance in all directions. He managed to suppress both Xu Sanshi and Jiang Nannan so that they couldn't come near – instead, they were gradually forced back.

He Caitou's soul tool fortress was a great counter to Jiang Nannan's abilities, and it was hard to throw him out when he was solidly rooted to the ground. However, the destiny's blessing from before when he was facing the soul beasts was completely gone. The Eye of Destiny's powers had a limited duration, and Huo Yuhao could only maintain it for about three minutes with his current strength.

The Darkgolden Terrorclaw sprung out once more, and he clashed against Bei Bei's Thunderous Dragon Claw head-on.

"Clang!" A metal clanging sound boomed, and Bei Bei felt as if five streaks of intense chill shot through his arm from five incredibly sharp talons, and they were drilling deep into him with hysterical speed. He was taken by surprise, and he unleashed his Vigorous Thunderbolt in an instant. Huo Yuhao also released his own Class 2 soul barrier at the same time.

His soul barrier was immediately shattered to pieces, but he managed to block the Vigorous Thunderbolt's immense power of paralysis. The Ice Empress' Armor released diamond-like ice crystals that blanketed his entire body and resisted the Vigorous Thunderbolt. Huo Yuhao was pushed back several meters, but he wasn't injured.

Bei Bei looked down at his dragon claw and realized, to his intense bewilderment, that the sharp tips of his talons each had a thin crack. Even though these cracks weren't that big, his right arm's dragon claw was the toughest spot on his entire body. His gaze was immediately attracted to the Darkgolden Terrorclaw on Huo Yuhao's right hand.

"Junior brother, is that the Darkgolden Terrorclaw soul bone from the Darkgolden Terrorclaw Bear?" Bei Bei asked in astonishment.

Huo Yuhao chuckled and said, "Very discerning, senior brother."

Bei Bei gave Huo Yuhao a thumbs-up with his left hand and said, "Great job. However, I'm going to give everything I have." He had already noticed that Huo Yuhao had three soul rings on him, and he had never underestimated or looked down on his little junior brother.

He howled into the sky, and Bei Bei's entire skeleton crackled with a series of explosive popping sounds. His frame grew in size as he became taller by an entire head, while the flesh on his body was conspicuously more bulging than before. His eyes sparkled with bluish-purple lightning, and snake-like streaks of lightning webbed all over his body like a net of lightning.

His third soul skill, Thunderous Fury, had also evolved. Huo Yuhao could feel a tremendous gravitational energy emanating from Bei Bei. The fine and complex bluish-purple net of lightning seemed like it wanted to suck everything into itself, and subsequently tear it apart. The Ultimate Ice energy that he had injected into Bei Bei's body through the Ice Empress' Pincer and his Darkgolden Terrorclaw were instantly dispelled after the Thunderous Fury's explosive release.

Bei Bei's prowess was worthy of his status as the leader of the new generation of Shrek's Seven Monsters. He made a grab through the air at Huo Yuhao. This was another Thunderous Dragon Claw, but the force of this attack was vastly different from before.

An enormous streak of bluish-purple lightning formed a lightning claw with three meters wide that lashed at Huo Yuhao. This lightning claw was infused with vigorous suction power, as if Bei Bei had incorporated the Controlling Crane Capturing Dragon's effects into his soul skill.

Huo Yuhao couldn't struggle out from this formidable suction power with his current cultivation, so he could only face it head-on.

Two purplish-golden beams of light burst from Huo Yuhao's eyes – Spiritual Shock!

Bei Bei's eyes sparkled at the same time. Purple light flashed across his eyes, but the difference was that Bei Bei's eyes seemed to contain two lightning whirlpools. Invisible spiritual power clashed violently, and Bei Bei's head was forced backwards slightly while his forward movement was halted. However, he wasn't injured in any substantial way. He also knew how to use the Purple Demon Eyes, and he was also incredibly familiar with Huo Yuhao's abilities. How could he not be prepared for his little junior brother's signature move?

However, the power of Huo Yuhao's spiritual shock took Bei Bei by surprise. His forward momentum was hampered, but his Thunderous Fury wasn't over yet.

His Thunderous Dragon Claw had arrived before Huo Yuhao, and the immense suction power already caused Huo Yuhao to lose his balance slightly. The monumental expenditure during his battle against the soul beasts before this was starting to show. Huo Yuhao didn't have enough soul power, so formidable abilities such as the Domain of Perpetual Ice and the Ice Empress' Wrath were out of the question. The Eye of Destiny was similarly unusable. His third soul skill, Mass Enfeeblement, was incredibly powerful, but it was a ten thousand year soul skill, and consumed a lot of his soul power. He had looked very glorious and spectacular before, but there weren't that many soul skills that he could still use at this point.

Huo Yuhao took a deep breath, and he exceeded everyone's expectations when he decided to take this hit. Yes, he didn't any soul skills to defend himself as he curled his body as much as he could before he took a direct hit from the Thunderous Dragon Claw.

Bei Bei couldn't prolong his control over this soul skill due to the Spiritual Shock's effects, so Huo Yuhao only took a direct hit from the Thunderous Dragon Claw's original power after it was amplified by Thunderous Fury.

The gigantic lightning claw swiftly closed up and trapped Huo Yuhao's body in a vice-grip. Huo Yuhao's soul barrier was activated, but it immediately shattered into pieces, and even the original item broke apart.

Huo Yuhao's own body was in a dire state. Streaks of lightning surged all over his body, and the ice crystals formed by his Ice Empress' Armor exploded into a layer of icy mist that permeated the sky. His own body wasn't electrocuted by the lightning streaks, but his body quivered, twisted, and contorted as he collapsed onto the ground. This strike's power did what it meant to do, and Huo Yuhao's defenses were completely overcome.

He Caitou wasn't having a good time on the other side either. His soul tool fortress managed to hold Jiang Nannan back, but Xu Sanshi's defensive abilities countered his as well. Repeated bombardment meant Xu Sanshi and Jiang Nannan couldn't advance, but using the soul tool fortress consumed a lot of soul power.

Xu Sanshi darted forward with Jiang Nannan in between He Caitou's intermittent attacks, and he finally found an opportunity and slammed into He Caitou's body.

He Caitou's choice was a little comical. He realized that he was about to crumble, so he released his Class 4 soul barrier while he withdrew his soul tool fortress. His soul tools were extremely weak, and if the Shield of the Xuanwu Turtle directly clashed against them, most of them would probably be damaged – how could he bear to let that happen? This was just an assessment, after all.

Jiang Nannan finally leapt into action, and when she stepped on He Caitou's shoulders, He Caitou raised both his hands in the air to signal that he wanted to surrender.

Xian Lin'er's expression was a little sullen. She understood that her impromptu assessment didn't achieve the best results. Soul masters were soul masters after all, and the Shrek's Seven Monsters were

best buddies from the beginning, so it was impossible for them to fight with everything they had. However, this meant that she hadn't seen Huo Yuhao and He Caitou's real limits yet.

"Are you alright, junior brother?" Bei Bei swiftly came before Huo Yuhao and wanted to help him up, but Huo Yuhao flipped around on the ground and launched a Darkgolden Terrorclaw with his right hand. This attack wasn't aimed at Bei Bei, but rather it slashed to another side. The Darkgolden Terrorclaw erupted with a colossal wave of dark golden light, and a giant claw that was three meters long surged across the sky and violently slammed against the ground, leaving five deep grooves.

"You can't be so careless, senior brother." Huo Yuhao smiled as he got to his feet. Even though he appeared terribly unkempt and wretched from the lightning strike, he didn't seem like he was substantially injured. The Ice Empress' Armor's defensive capabilities were still relatively formidable, and the Thunderous Dragon Claw that was no longer under Bei Bei's control could only make him numb. Bei Bei didn't follow up on his assault, so he wasn't considerably injured.

Of course, Huo Yuhao still lost the battle. If Bei Bei had followed up with another strike, then his life would have been in danger. However, he used actions to tell his senior brother that he couldn't be careless no matter what.

Bei Bei wore a look of amazement. "This... this must be the Darkgolden Terrorclaw's complete version. You are so fortunate, junior brother!"

Bei Bei was familiar with the Darkgolden Terrorclaw, as he favored soul bones that were related to claws. He had always wanted to attach a suitable right arm soul bone to himself, but hadn't been able to.

Huo Yuhao chuckled and said, "Senior brother, this is one of my takeaways from our expedition into the Great Star Dou Forest. My expenditure during the soul beast assessment was a little too great – if not, I would have let you have a taste of my third soul skill."

The assessment was over. Even though it was a little anticlimactic, Xian Lin'er, Qian Duouo, and Fan Yu still admired Huo Yuhao.

The Ultimate Soldier Plan had been suggested for a long time, but this was the first experiment. Even though the assessment's results were a little below expectations, Xian Lin'er's mood was still pretty good after she frowned momentarily. Huo Yuhao's display of well-rounded prowess and mighty fighting strength would undoubtedly have a catalyzing effect on the entire Ultimate Soldier Plan.

"Alright, the three of you can go back." Xian Lin'er said to Bei Bei and the two others with an expressionless look on her face.

Xu Sanshi snickered and said, "Dean Xian, about reducing the difficulty of our inner courtyard assessment... What do you think...?"

Xian Lin'er snapped, "Reduce what? Did you guys give your all? You call this an assessment? It was clearly an artificial performance for us to see. Scram, and don't make me angry."

"Uh..." Xu Sanshi glanced at Bei Bei, but Bei Bei looked like he didn't see Xu Sanshi's expression. Who would choose such a time to invite a snub?

“We should catch up at night when we have time, junior brother.” Bei Bei greeted Huo Yuhao and He Caitou before he hurriedly departed with Xu Sanshi and Jiang Nannan.

Xian Lin'er's mouth twitched and she said, “When you have time? Let me tell you the truth – when the Ultimate Soldier Plan has officially begun, you guys will no longer have time to yourselves. From now on, your lives will be incredibly rich!” She deliberately placed emphasis on the last word, and both Huo Yuhao and He Caitou could feel their hearts beating out of their chests as they listened.

Reality proved that Xian Lin'er wasn't lying. Once the assessment was over, the two Deans and Fan Yu immediately took them both back to the Soul Tool Testing Area.

They didn't give Huo Yuhao or He Caitou time to meditate so that they could speedily restore their soul power, and a new teacher appeared before them.