

## Tang Sect 251

### [Chapter 251.1: All You Know How to Do is Bully Me!](#)

Wang Qiu'er's aura suddenly changed when she twisted her waist for that punch, and Huo Yuhao felt as if he were really facing an actual Golden Dragon in that moment. The enormous fist arrived before him, driven by an unrivaled and frighteningly huge strength. This was Wang Qiu'er's punch!

They were about the same height. Wang Qiu'er's frame was long and slender, and her fist completely covered Huo Yuhao, even temporarily dispelling his Snowy Dance of Ultimate Ice. The power of Huo Yuhao's domain couldn't even conceal his body at that moment.

It wasn't hard to imagine how terrifying Wang Qiu'er was at this instant.

Huo Yuhao's Ice Empress' Wrath even felt a little stifled from that formidable draconic force, as if it was repressed within his body and he had no way of releasing it. The fist hadn't even reached him, but he already felt as if his body were about to break apart from that immense pressure. This was absolutely a matter of life and death!

Huo Yuhao's eyes began to sparkle underneath all that pressure. His abilities were typically increasingly more explosive and ferocious when he was facing great pressure.

Not even Wang Qiu'er expected Huo Yuhao to respond in this manner in a circumstance like this.

She couldn't even evade his attack; it simply wasn't possible. She dodged Huo Yuhao's right palm when she twisted her body and punched out, but an immense gravitational power emerged from the center of Huo Yuhao's fist at this moment. His right arm trembled at the same time, and his shoulder dislocated just like that, making his arm a few inches longer. Huo Yuhao wanted to rely on that minute difference to strike Wang Qiu'er before she could hit him!

Wang Qiu'er gave her all in this punch. She was as dominant as she could be, and Huo Yuhao's right fist's gravitational force was strong, but it couldn't move her at all. However, Huo Yuhao's aim wasn't to use the Controlling Crane Capturing Dragon to pull Wang Qiu'er over. He wanted to use that suction force so that his fist could land on her body before her fist could reach him!

The suction force and dislocation were completed seamlessly. He raised his left hand at the same time and guarded his chest with his palm.

Thwack! Huo Yuhao's dislocated right arm was ultimately one step ahead. Huo Yuhao couldn't be bothered with the minor details in such a dire situation. His right palm that was being pulled forward by his Controlling Crane Capturing Dragon touched Wang Qiu'er's chest on her left side.

Wang Qiu'er's aura had been raised to its peak condition, but her body now quivered strongly, and her aura immediately plummeted as her entire body froze.

The Empress' Palm – Snowless Glacier!

Yes, that seemingly harmless and floating palm embodied the Snow Empress' most powerful strike.

Wang Qiu'er was still too careless after she tricked Huo Yuhao. She had not expected Huo Yuhao to be able to dislocate his shoulder at will; she had not expected him to pull his palm forward with such a unique method, and she had not expected that his palm strike would contain such an effect.

It's so bouncy... was Huo Yuhao's first reaction before he was tossed into the air...

Boom...! Wang Qiu'er's heavy right fist hammered into Huo Yuhao's left palm before slamming into his chest and sending him flying a hundred meters into the distance. Huo Yuhao's Ultimate Ice domain was immediately dispelled at the same time.

Boom! Huo Yuhao crashed violently to the ground, and almost vomited a mouthful of blood. He realized to his surprise that Wang Qiu'er's seemingly fearsome fist contained more propulsion force than explosive impact, which meant she was showing him mercy after all! If she hadn't held back, her fist would still be weakened by his Snowless Glacier, but she would have still heinously wounded him. He would have vomited several mouthfuls of blood, and several bones would have been broken. Huo Yuhao would still have won, but he would have had to pay a heavy price for that victory.

The snowflakes dissipated, and Wang Qiu'er's body was revealed. She was just standing there, motionless. Her face was as black as could be, and nobody knew whether it was because she had been struck by Huo Yuhao's Snowless Glacier, or because some fellow had accidentally touched one of her sensitive parts.

"Ahem, ahem." Huo Yuhao stood up as he rubbed his chest.

Yan Shaozhe's looked over, and his eyes showed doubt.

Even he couldn't determine who had won this round with the Snowy Dance of Ultimate Ice blocking his vision.

Huo Yuhao forced a laugh and said, "I won. I froze her over."

He couldn't even be bothered with regulating his breathing as he spoke, and he quickly walked towards Wang Qiu'er.

Are you kidding me? The Snowless Glacier landed directly on her chest! Her heart would have been frozen over in an instant no matter how powerful or how strong she is. Her life will be in danger if I don't help her out of this.

Huo Yuhao walked briskly up to Wang Qiu'er. He discovered that Wang Qiu'er hadn't lost consciousness. At the very least, her eyes were still flowing with sharp hostility and murderous rage, but she was just standing there, and couldn't move at all. She was naturally immobile as her heart had been frozen. Any attempt at moving around would cause her veins to explode, and she would die.

"I..." Huo Yuhao suddenly realized that he had messed up. He realized to his surprise that he had frozen Wang Qiu'er's heart... which meant that he had to start from her heart when withdrawing his Snowless Glacier's intense coldness. That also meant...

What do I do?

Everyone's looking. Do I just go up and rub a few times? That's not very appropriate...

This clearly wasn't the time for contemplation. He grabbed his right arm with his left hand and fixed his dislocated arm before he retrieved a Class 6 Milk Bottle and speedily absorbed soul power from it. He forced a smile as he said to Wang Qiu'er, "I didn't mean for that to happen. You seemed like you were going to kill me, so I had to use everything I had. Furthermore, I didn't think it would have been so coincidental. That... that was an emergency, so you can just pretend nothing happened after this. Why don't you close your eyes? I'm going to start healing you. I'm extremely worried, and it is my duty to help you, so I'm just healing you! I don't mean anything else."

Snowflakes appeared once more as he spoke. However, it wasn't the Snowy Dance of Ultimate Ice anymore, it was just the Empress' Chill.

The tiny Snow Lady glowed with orangish-golden light as she fluttered behind Huo Yuhao's back. She pointed into the sky with her little finger, and the snowflakes around her immediately started rippling as they enveloped both Huo Yuhao and Wang Qiu'er's bodies.

He didn't dare to heal Wang Qiu'er like that in front of Wang Dong'er, so he had no choice but to provide some cover for himself... Of course, Huo Yuhao would definitely explain this as an attempt to protect Wang Qiu'er's reputation.

Huo Yuhao grabbed Wang Qiu'er around her waist as the flurry of snowflakes concealed them. He dispelled the Ice Explosion before he pressed his right hand on her left chest as he rubbed gently, and he gradually withdrew his Snowless Glacier's savage and formidable chill.

He wasn't having any indecent thoughts at all. She was frozen! It was still bouncy before this, but it suddenly felt as hard as a rock.

The Snowless Glacier's effects were excessively powerful, and it wasn't as easy to withdraw as the Ice Explosion was. This was especially so when it had taken effect on the heart, and taking it back was a slow and gradual process.

Huo Yuhao gradually began to feel that the blood in Wang Qiu'er's body was finally starting to flow and smoothen out. Her physique was just so formidable, and her heart stopping for a short period of time wouldn't threaten her life. However, he started to feel as if something was wrong, and the hard rock in his hands slowly became a soft and springy steamed bun...

"Are you feeling better?" Huo Yuhao tried his best to make himself sound calm, and his movements began to slow. He realized that there seemed to be a little protrusion shifting around beneath his palm.

"Is it nice to touch?" Wang Qiu'er muttered coldly.

"It feels pretty good after thawing it." Huo Yuhao carefully shifted his hands away, but his answer was sincere.

"Ah!" Wang Qiu'er screamed at the top of her voice. "Huo! Yu! Hao!"

Her leg swung through the air like a whip.

Huo Yuhao hurtled through the air like a cannonball. He seemed to fly a little further than he did before.

The snowflakes disappeared. The tiny Snow Lady was still hovering in the air, and she seemed a little dazed. Her eyes followed Huo Yuhao's body through the air, and only then did she turn around and hurriedly chase after him.

Wang Qiu'er was just standing there, her enchanting frame was quivering as tears welled up in her eyes. She screamed once more, "All you know how to do is bully me!" She planted her right foot on the ground after this exclamation, and she made another crater in the Soul Dueling Arena before her entire body transformed into a golden lightning streak as she disappeared in a flash.

Huo Yuhao was flung from that kick to a place not far from his companions. Wang Qiu'er's kick wasn't as controlled as before, and even though Huo Yuhao's arms managed to block it in time, he was kicked until he couldn't take his next breath, and his eyes turned black as he fainted and collapsed on the ground just like that.

Silence. The entire field was silent.

The same thought surfaced in everyone's minds when they heard Wang Qiu'er near-hysterical exclamation.

All you know how to do is bully me!?

What did he do to her?

"Yuhao!" Wang Dong'er darted forward and came beside Huo Yuhao. She didn't touch his body, but grasped his hands and checked his condition and vitals.

Wang Qiu'er's kick was heavy, but she wasn't trying to kill him. Huo Yuhao had just fainted on the ground, and he wasn't severely injured.

Yan Shaozhe was a little speechless with this outcome, and he swiftly came before Huo Yuhao. "How is it? Is he alright?"

Wang Dong'er's expression was as calm as ever. "He's fine. The impact was overly forceful, and he fainted from the sudden impact. He should recover after resting for a little while."

Yan Shaozhe tilted his head and said, "Today's practice combat will end here. You guys can take him back to rest right now."

"Yes. Thank you, Dean Yan." Wang Dong'er began to carry Huo Yuhao over her shoulders. Bei Bei, Xu Sanshi, and He Caitou wanted to help, but she shook her head and rejected them all. Huo Yuhao was slung over her back, his hands naturally hanging slack in front of her. Wang Dong'er grit her teeth and strode out of the Soul Dueling Arena with a calm expression on her face.

### [Chapter 251.2: All You Know How to Do is Bully Me!](#)

Her pretty eyes gradually turned red only after she left through the Soul Dueling Arena's main gate. Tears began to well up in her eyes as the thought of what had just transpired spun around in her head continuously. Even though she didn't know exactly what had happened, she had interacted with Wang Qiu'er many times, and Wang Qiu'er's ice-cold personality gave everyone a strong and lasting impression. However, Wang Qiu'er was nowhere near as cold and indifferent then, and that was

especially so when she screamed those last words. Wang Dong'er felt as if there was a heavy hammer pounding on her chest.

Yuhao, you...

Tears trickled down her cheeks soundlessly, and Wang Dong'er picked up her pace as she hugged Huo Yuhao's legs tightly. She didn't want her companions to see her fragile side. No matter how much faith she had in Huo Yuhao, she had seen everything with her own eyes, and it would only mean he wasn't in her heart if she still didn't have any ill-feelings about this. It was only because he meant too much to her that her heartache was so intense.

A girl's thoughts would be vastly different from a guy once her thoughts started getting into a blind alley. Wang Dong'er felt as if it wasn't impossible that Huo Yuhao had feelings for Wang Qiu'er. In the end, Wang Qiu'er looked more like the Goddess of Light than she did, and Wang Qiu'er wasn't inferior to her in terms of looks, figure, or abilities. Wang Dong'er didn't have any advantage over Wang Qiu'er except for the time that she had spent together with him.

Wang Dong'er deeply believed that Huo Yuhao liked her. However, that didn't mean he couldn't like someone else at the same time? Her second uncle had remarked before that men were generally capable of generous affection. But, but I can't accept that! I have to be the only person in my lover's heart...

She began to sob even more uncontrollably as she continued to think in this direction. There was no way she could accept sharing a lover with someone else. Huo Yuhao was still unconscious, or, if he had known what Wang Dong'er was thinking, he would have told her exasperatedly, "My dear, you're thinking too much."

Wang Dong'er carried Huo Yuhao all the way back to the Sea God's Pavilion before she placed him down on the bed. She took his outer clothes off and helped him wipe his face, and took care of him so that he could sleep more comfortably.

Wang Dong'er took a chair and sat silently beside him. Her tears were no longer flowing, but her expression was still as dark as ever, and the image of Huo Yuhao interacting with Wang Qiu'er echoed continuously in her mind.

Wang Dong'er's heart became increasingly confused and disorganized the more she thought about it, because she was sure that Wang Qiu'er looked at Huo Yuhao drastically differently from how she looked at other people. Even though her eyes couldn't be described as passionate, at least they weren't as cold as they usually were.

She thought back to when she had found them inside the Great Star Dou Forest, and when Wang Qiu'er was lying on Huo Yuhao's thigh. Did they develop true feelings for each other through suffering? She hadn't thought much about it then because she chose to trust him. But what about today? What did Wang Qiu'er mean when she exclaimed like that? Why did Huo Yuhao choose to conceal them by releasing his domain once more? What happened between them when he did that?

Wang Dong'er's face became paler as she continued to think. At this moment, Huo Yuhao was completely submerged within his spiritual world.

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What a brutal kick! I just wanted to save her! Huo Yuhao's thoughts were full of exasperation and frustration.

He didn't sleep for too long after fainting. However, he was unable to directly control his body when he woke up, and he realized to his surprise that his consciousness had entered his spiritual sea.

His spiritual sea's vastness was far greater than before, his boundless spiritual sea torrential as tidal waves surged around it, while dense spiritual power undulations circulated like currents.

He had also showed mercy when he fought Wang Qiu'er. Otherwise, the outcome would have been entirely different if he had used his Eye of Destiny with all his controlling abilities at the beginning.

He didn't know when he could truly wake up. Qiu'er, Qiu'er! Why did you have to shout like that? Your scream will bring me great trouble.

Huo Yuhao didn't know that Wang Dong'er was thinking in all the wrong directions, but he was absolutely certain that everyone would misunderstand because of her exclamation. More importantly, he actually did touch somewhere that he wasn't supposed to touch, and he couldn't blame Wang Qiu'er for that.

"I've been wronged!" Huo Yuhao shouted at the top of his lungs within his spiritual sea.

He really hadn't meant for that to happen. He had felt immense pressure from her, as Wang Qiu'er was the strongest person he had ever faced among others of the same age. Bei Bei and Xu Sanshi were also powerful, but their strength was very different from Wang Qiu'er's style.

Wang Qiu'er was the kind to achieve victory with a single strike, just like when he battled Ji Juechen. How different could the two of them be? The reason why she was terrifying was because of her explosive power. The frightening offensive force generated from the collision after her explosive attack made Huo Yuhao numb just thinking about it. This wasn't a sensation that Bei Bei or Xu Sanshi could give him!

He didn't know what Wang Qiu'er's attitude toward him was like during this battle. She had saved him at the last minute inside the Great Star Dou Forest, and Huo Yuhao couldn't develop any negative thoughts about her no matter what happened, as she had saved his life. This was the reason he decided to grind her down with his domain, so that neither of them would be hurt no matter who emerged victorious.

He had never expected Wang Qiu'er to erupt in that fashion, and that instance of explosive anger made Huo Yuhao feel as if his life was in danger.

It was instinctive for him to give everything he had under such circumstances, and he never thought that he would accidentally touch Wang Qiu'er's heart with his Snowless Glacier. This was a bitter misunderstanding.

The Snowless Glacier was extremely powerful once it took effect on Huo Yuhao's target. If Huo Yuhao hadn't saved her, Wang Qiu'er would have been done for. He had had no choice but to save her, and he couldn't waste a single second. So, he had saved her, but the deed brought great trouble upon himself.

But what other choice did he have? Wang Qiu'er's flying kick made Huo Yuhao feel so aggrieved, and the real reason why he fainted was because of what she had shouted. There was almost no way for him to remedy this misunderstanding.

"How am I going to explain this to Dong'er?" Huo Yuhao stared at the vast spiritual sea before him with a bitter look on his face.

He really didn't know what to say. Do I have to tell Wang Dong'er the truth, that I touched Wang Qiu'er somewhere I really shouldn't have? In that case, wouldn't Dong'er be infuriated? However, how else do I explain it if I don't tell her the truth?

"What outrageous acts have you committed now, you rascal? Why do you look so despondent?" a lazy voice suddenly rang out from all directions at that moment.

Huo Yuhao's melancholic frown immediately froze when he heard this voice. In the next moment, an indescribable elation erupted from his eyes. "Brother Skydream, brother Skydream! Where are you?"

He leapt to his feet, and controlled his consciousness to form a body as he flew into the space above his spiritual sea. He didn't care about anything else as he shouted as loudly as he could.

Yes! That lazy voice belonged to the Skydream Iceworm.

Skydream and Iceworm and the Ice Empress had been hibernating ever since the Snow Empress entered the state of polarity that day, sending Huo Yuhao's spiritual sea into turmoil, and forcing Electrolux to burn his own divine sense to save the others. A long time had passed since then, and he hadn't heard anything from either of them.

Huo Yuhao had attempted to awaken them countless times. However, he couldn't feel the Ice Empress and Skydream Iceworm's auras inside his spiritual sea anymore. His initial despondence and sorrow immediately vanished when he heard Skydream's voice at this moment. Skydream was not just a friend and a companion to him, the Iceworm was also his savior, and he wouldn't be here today if he hadn't merged with the Skydream Iceworm back then. His martial soul had become increasingly powerful with Skydream's help, and he had obtained four million-year soul skills and a second martial soul, which allowed him to merge with both the Ice Empress and the Snow Empress afterward. The reason why Electrolux's divine sense entered his mind was also because Huo Yuhao's fusion with the Skydream Iceworm had produced intense spiritual undulations which had attracted his remnant.

Skydream's position in Huo Yuhao's heart was extremely high and respected. He truly treated Skydream like his own brother. Skydream had truly changed his destiny, even though the Iceworm was just a little too lazy.

"Hehe. I'm still alive. Why are you crying?" Skydream's voice was tinged with deep emotions. Specks of golden light gradually rose up from Huo Yuhao's spiritual sea immediately afterwards, and combined to form Skydream's frame once more. However, the golden halo around his body had completely vanished.

Huo Yuhao only realized that the face that he had conjured with his consciousness was flowing with tears when Skydream mentioned it.

Huo Yuhao flew up before the Skydream Iceworm in a flash, and opened his arms wide before hugging the pudgy body while he leaned forcefully against the immense but soft frame.

“Brother Skydream, teacher Electrolux has...” Huo Yuhao began to bawl when he thought about all the unfortunate things that had happened.

Skydream heaved a faint sigh and said, “I know. Electrolux is truly a human that deserves our respect. Both the Ice Empress and I thought he was going to draw upon our strength to complete that ritual back then, but who could expect that he actually immolated himself in the end? He was the one that saved us all...”

Skydream Iceworm also began to lament and sigh with despair and regret at this point.

Huo Yuhao sobbed for a quite a long while before he recovered. He raised his head and said, “How have you been, brother Skydream? You should be fine by now. The halo around your body...”

A human face appeared on Skydream’s head, and he made a human-like expression of exasperation. “I’ve fused completely with you. Even though my spiritual origin is still sealed away, it’s been completely submerged into your spiritual sea. This body is all that I have left, and this is only a projection of my consciousness. More accurately put, I am only a guest taking up residence in your body at this point, and you can chase me out anytime you want if you wish it. Of course, that also means it’s over for me if that happens.”

Huo Yuhao replied angrily, “Can you not make hypothetical speculations? That will never happen!”

### [Chapter 251.3: All You Know How to Do is Bully Me!](#)

Skydream chuckled and said, “It’s all right, it’s all right. I don’t think I’ll die even if I leave your spiritual sea now. Electrolux’s ritual is truly miraculous, and it’s made certain transformations to both the Ice Empress and me.”

“Transformations?” Huo Yuhao stared at him with a confused look.

Skydream chided him, “Have you grown stupid? Spirits! Are you trying to say that both the Ice Empress and I are not fusing our strengths and our spiritual imprints with you willingly? The truth is that we completed the spirit seal that day too. However, we are different from the Snow Empress in a way that our process was even more successful. The reason is because we fused together a long time ago, and we were already a part of you.”

Huo Yuhao’s eyes widened and his jaw grew slack. “Brother Skydream, are you saying that you’ve also become my spirit? Does that mean you can leave my body to fight?”

Skydream chortled and said, “I’m not very good at fighting, although I do can take a stroll outside. I’m not entirely your spirit yet, and I will only become one after a certain degree of conversion. Fortunately, I was smart enough back then to let you absorb Imitation. Otherwise, you wouldn’t be able to release your martial soul when I fully convert into your spirit.”

A thought crossed Huo Yuhao’s mind and he said, “Is that because the soul ring you attached to my body will be different from normal situations after you change into a million-year spirit?”

Skydream nodded and said, “I don’t have a soul ring for you, as my soul ring has long become part of your body. However, once I change to a spirit, the soul ring will also change to a certain extent. It will be



different from the Snow Empress' spirit. There's no way for me to tell what it will look like, but you'll find out when it happens."

Huo Yuhao said, "What else needs to be done before you can change into a Spirit? Do you want to become a spirit, Skydream? Please don't force yourself if you don't want that."

The human face that Skydream had conjured made an annoyed look as he said, "Of course I do, you idiot! I will never be able to go outside if I remain like this, and I can only stay inside you. I can finally get out of here when I become a spirit. My memories and my intelligence were preserved during that ritual back then. I am extremely willing to become a spirit! Nothing much will happen to you when I become a spirit, because I'm not that adept with fighting in the first place. The most I can do is help you use some of the abilities that I have given you when necessary. The ritual is simple, all you have to do is sign the pact and it will be done."

Huo Yuhao laughed and said, "I won't be so courteous anymore, then. However, teacher mentioned before that I can't assimilate too many spirits, as it will consume too much of my spiritual power. You won't suck me dry, will you?"

Skydream replied angrily, "Why did I choose a fool like you all those years ago? I've already said that the ritual has been completed, and all that's left is the pact! Everything that needs to be absorbed has already been absorbed! Furthermore, my situation and the Ice Empress' situation is different from the Snow Empress, as we were the first to have fused with you. This is the reason why we completed the fusion long ago, and we have provided our own spiritual power to integrate into your own, so we don't need your spiritual power anymore. Otherwise, we would have separated your spirit into pieces when you fused with the Snow Empress back then. Quickly now, give me that pact, so I can go outside and roam the world."

Huo Yuhao wouldn't reject Skydream's request, and immediately began to chant the Pact Sealing Spell that Electrolux had imparted to him.

Huo Yuhao's torrential and tumultuous spiritual sea gradually began to calm during his incantation. Skydream said no more, and just levitated silently in midair.

Huo Yuhao's eyes slowly turned golden as he raised his right hand, and drew runes in the sky continuously that drifted towards Skydream.

Skydream gradually closed his eyes. His enormous frame became a little smaller with every rune that landed on his body. Gentle spiritual power circulated through his body, and his aura was slowly undergoing mystical transformations.

Huo Yuhao's senses were the most acute, and the first thing he felt was separation. Skydream was being converted to his vassal spirit, and that meant Skydream was separating himself from his own spiritual origin. It also meant that Skydream was officially leaving his spiritual origin to Huo Yuhao.

The Skydream Iceworm's virtual body was growing smaller, but it was also becoming more material, and his life energy was becoming increasingly dense.

The Skydream Iceworm's two supreme treasures were his spiritual origin that he had bestowed upon Huo Yuhao, and his life origin imprint formed by a million years' worth of life energy. At this moment, his

life origin imprint seemed like it was being awakened as the pact took effect. He continually released immense amounts of life energy, which continuously fused with Huo Yuhao. The ripples gradually made Skydream's body even more solid and material.

Huo Yuhao finally released the final rune successfully, and the pact was complete.

Skydream's frame had become small enough to fit on a palm, and he suddenly soared into the sky as a white streak of light. His tiny golden eyes were filled with excitement.

There was a golden imprint on his forehead, looking just like a vertical eye. It was the pact that bound him to Huo Yuhao.

Just like Skydream had said before, there was a huge rift between completing the process with the Snow Empress back then and completing the process with Skydream at this moment. Huo Yuhao didn't feel any abnormal undulations in his spiritual power or his soul power; the pact was already completed. Skydream had officially become Huo Yuhao's spirit from this moment onwards...Huo Yuhao's second spirit!

Whoosh! Skydream's body flashed and disappeared within Huo Yuhao's spiritual sea just like that. Huo Yuhao's consciousness returned to his physical body, and he subconsciously opened his eyes.

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It was already completely dark outside. Wang Dong'er was gone, and Huo Yuhao was the only person left in the room. The chair that Wang Dong'er had sat on while she was watching over him was still beside his bed.

Wang Dong'er had left when the sky turned dark. Huo Yuhao had still been asleep, but his vitals had returned to normal, and everything seemed fine. Wang Dong'er didn't know how to face him when he woke up, so she chose to run away from this problem. From her perspective, everything might be different when she woke up the next morning, or everyone would just forget about what had happened before. Perhaps Huo Yuhao would give her a reasonable explanation. Despondence and grief was exhausting, and Wang Dong'er had fallen into a deep sleep once she returned to her room.

"Brother Skydream!" Huo Yuhao swiftly sat up on his bed and called out softly.

"Hehe, you can't find me, you can't find me!" Skydream's voice rang out in Huo Yuhao's mind.

Huo Yuhao chortled and said, "Have you forgotten the Spiritual Detection you gave me?" He activated Spiritual Detection at once and surveyed the entire room.

"You're cheating!" Skydream's exasperated and unconvinced voice could be heard once more. Huo Yuhao finally found him using Spiritual Detection – Skydream was on his body, but hidden in the folds of his clothes.

He lifted Skydream from the folds of his clothes. Huo Yuhao didn't know whether to laugh or cry when he saw the Skydream Iceworm's appearance.

Skydream was like an absolute miniature version of his former body. He was a bit over six inches long, and only as thick as a pinkie finger. His entire body was translucent, like white jade, and his subtle movements gave off a faint aroma.

Skydream's frame was extremely tiny, but the life energy that he released gave Huo Yuhao the feeling that he had obtained another piece of Life Gold. Skydream's tiny golden eyes were like yellow diamonds in the night sky as they sparkled brilliantly.

"Skydream, why do I feel like your spirit is different from the Snow Empress' spirit?" Huo Yuhao asked doubtfully.

The Skydream Iceworm answered proudly, "Of course it is. Don't forget, I'm a million year soul beast, and I fused with your body a long time ago. I have retained my intelligence in its entirety, and I am now an independent entity, while I do not need to absorb your strength to maintain myself anymore. Come, come, come!" His tiny frame started wiggling in Huo Yuhao's palm as he spoke.

Huo Yuhao looked on in shock as a streak of light emerged from his storage-type soul tool and rushed in Skydream's direction.

Huo Yuhao would have forgotten about it if Skydream hadn't drawn it out. Wasn't this the layer of skin that Skydream had shed after they fused inside the Great Star Dou Forest back in the day? They had relied on this skin to restrain the Ice Empress before they convinced her to fuse with him.

Skydream's shed skin glowed with a faint white radiance, and gently covered his body as he continued to wriggle.

Skydream opened his mouth and bit down on the center of the skin. His body shone with a faint layer of white and golden light as he gradually merged with the shed skin.

The light on the skin became more intense, and it began to shrink... just like what had happened to Skydream in Huo Yuhao's spiritual sea. The skin slowly plastered to and fused with Skydream's body.

"I understand!" Huo Yuhao suddenly exclaimed, his eyes as wide as ever while he stared at the Skydream Iceworm. His eyes were filled with incredulity; Skydream was almost undergoing a reincarnation, and that meant that the life origin imprint that he had integrated into Huo Yuhao's body all those years ago was being extracted to fuse with Skydream's shed skin and form a brand-new Skydream Iceworm. Skydream was making himself a brand-new body, and would be able to survive independently even if he didn't return to Huo Yuhao's body. He could even survive easily in a place far away from Huo Yuhao.

"How is this possible? You're creating life, brother Skydream!" Huo Yuhao exclaimed with wide eyes and a slack jaw.

The skin finally minimized completely, and fused seamlessly with Skydream.

### [Chapter 252: The Second Spirit](#)

Skydream tossed his head from side to side. "Create life? That's not possible, and neither am I the Creator. How do I put it? I can call this pseudo life creation, I guess..."

"My life origin imprint has been preserved extremely well. Under such circumstances, I can be considered independent after completing the pact with you. The Snow Empress' life imprint integrated with her embryo when she was converting to it, and her life imprint ultimately dissipated with her divine sense when the polar reversal happened, a situation that will definitely arise when human soul masters

assimilate spirits. I'm different, as I had already fused with you beforehand, and I was a lot more powerful than you were back then, so my life origin imprint was excellently preserved. It is the reason why I can rely on my own life energy to absorb the origin energy of heaven and earth to sustain my own life energy after existing independently from our pact. However, that doesn't mean that I can create life.

"I don't have to rely on your strength anymore, but I still have to rely on this pact between us. My body will crumble without this pact, and that also means that everyone will still perish if you die: me, the Snow Empress, and the Ice Empress, who has yet to awaken. I'm different from them because I can leave your body for a short period of time, and I don't have to return to your body on normal days, although these are only the main differences. Of course, I have more autonomy. Even though I've given my spiritual imprint to you and I can no longer unleash all those spiritual-type abilities by myself, my life energy has given me another way to help you. I'm a million-year spirit, and also the only-million year spirit on the entire Continent. I can't be entirely useless, can I?"

Skydream was feeling a little proud at this moment.

"Release your martial soul and take a look."

Huo Yuhao followed his instructions and released his Spirit Eyes.

He was the only person in the room, so there was no need to hide the color of his soul rings.

Five soul rings appeared one after another – one white, and four black soul rings.

His Imitation had become a ten thousand-year soul skill when he absorbed Skydream's spiritual power.

However, Huo Yuhao had no attention for his four black soul rings. His eyes were immediately fixed upon his first white million-year soul ring.

This white soul ring was clean like jade under normal circumstances, and was not much different from a ten-year soul ring, and it wouldn't display golden patterns like the Ice Empress's soul ring.

However, the white soul ring was now different.

A soul ring was a virtual projection of light shaped like a circle. Light was transparent, and only varied in terms of color and how bright it was.

At this moment, Huo Yuhao could clearly feel that his first soul ring was no longer made of light.

The white soul ring drifted into the sky, and Huo Yuhao could immediately feel that his four spiritual-type soul skills could be unleashed at any time. However, this white soul ring seemed like it had become entirely material.

He raised his hand subconsciously and attempted to touch it.

His hand would go through his other soul rings, as how could one touch light? However, Huo Yuhao felt warmth on his fingertips when he touched his first soul ring.

Yes, that was a real sensation... the white ring had become tangible and solid, and felt like it was sculpted from jade. Huo Yuhao touched it gently, and he could feel as if his own spiritual power was being caressed.

Skydream jumped lightly and flew up before Huo Yuhao's eyes. "The soul ring has become solid! This is the power of my million-year spirit. Watch carefully!"

Skydream's body contorted as he spoke, and he landed on the solidified soul ring. His body immediately turned golden as he started circling around the solidified soul ring.

Circle after circle of golden light began encircling the first soul ring, and the soul ring actually turned golden in the blink of an eye.

The soul ring drifted into the air and paused for a moment above Huo Yuhao's head before floating forwards, and a golden layer of light covered the entire soul ring, transforming into a golden shield that was about half a meter in diameter as it hovered in front of Huo Yuhao.

"A shield?" Huo Yuhao asked with astonishment.

"Life Reflecting Shield! This is my spirit's ability. What do you think? The name is really cool, isn't it?"

"Sounds pretty normal," Huo Yuhao answered truthfully.

"Normal?" Skydream's voice became several pitches higher. "You actually think it sounds normal? Do you know that my Life Reflecting Shield uses my own life energy as its foundations, and it's completed by using your spiritual sea as a framework. It can reflect any physical and spiritual attack!. If your opponent is weaker than you are, everything will be reflected, and the attack will be partially reflected even if your opponent is stronger than you are. You have to take everything else, but the Life Reflecting Shield will absorb and dispel part of the attack, and my life energy will take the hit. The strike will never touch you unless my life energy can't take it anymore."

"Uh..." Huo Yuhao's eyes widened. This wasn't just better than normal, that was a godly skill that could protect his life! However, Huo Yuhao immediately thought about a few issues, and hurriedly asked, "Brother Skydream, what's the surface area that this shield can cover? How many times can I use it in one day? If my opponent's attack is too strong, will you get hurt?"

Skydream was satisfied with Huo Yuhao's questions, and he said happily, "You do have a conscience after all, and you're concerned about me! You can use this shield as many times as you want in theory, but in reality I recommend that you not use this shield more than three times in a day. It isn't because I'm afraid that too much of my life energy will be expended, it's actually because this skill uses your spiritual sea as its framework. I am expending life energy when using it, but you will be consuming spiritual power. If you use it too much or inappropriately, you might even damage your spiritual origin. Three times a day is the most reasonable number.

"I don't think you have to think too much about what happens when the opponent's attack is too powerful. If your opponent's strike is so powerful that it can obliterate my immense life energy in its entirety, what chance do you have left to live? We will just die together. The consumption of my life energy is related to the reflection. Do you still remember your Life Guardian Blade? It can absorb other physical beings' life energy, while my Life Reflecting Shield can absorb any living being's life energy. More accurately put, when my Life Reflecting Shield reflects the opponent's attack, the reflected attack will definitely take effect on his or her body and cause harm, which will be converted into life energy to replenish my own. This means that consumption is not a big deal for me unless the opponent is way too powerful. My life energy can also be replenished through you, or if I eat something for restoration. Of

course, I only eat good things, and I have been eying and craving that grilled fish of yours. Make a few for me to try when it's convenient."

Huo Yuhao's heart was racing. "The grilled fish is easy. What about the area of effect?"

Skydream answered mildly, "Only in front of you. Were you hoping that I could provide a three-hundred and sixty degree protective barrier for you?"

"No, no. Frontal protection is enough." Huo Yuhao stared at the shield before him, in awe at his good fortune. He had always been lacking in terms of defense. The Ice Empress' Armor was no longer enough to satisfy his defensive needs, and this was especially true since the Ice Empress was still in hibernation, so his Ice Empress' Armor couldn't evolve any further. He hadn't dared to meet force with force when he faced off against Wang Qiu'er, but similar circumstances in the future would be a lot different now that he had this Life Reflecting Shield.

"There's nothing I can do against soul tools. I can only block soul masters' attacks," Skydream added thoughtfully.

"You can't block soul tools? But soul tools are also released by soul masters' soul power!" Huo Yuhao asked in surprise.

Skydream shook his head and said, "I've said before that this is a Life Reflecting Shield, and I can only rely on the sensation on my life energy to reflect attacks to ensure accuracy. Soul tools are fired through metal components, and there's no way I can sense that. The defensive capability is still there, but there's no way I can reflect that attack. This is especially true for those stationary soul tools, and my defensive capabilities will probably be worse than normal against them. Therefore, you should try to avoid using this skill when you're dealing with soul tools."

"Alright." Huo Yuhao acknowledged. He was already extremely satisfied despite that limitation. In the end, a soul skill couldn't be all-powerful, as wouldn't one be invincible if that was possible? Skydream's soul skill was already a great boost to his defensive capabilities!

Skydream yawned, "Alright, that's all. I'm going to sleep now, don't disturb me." His body stretched as he spoke, landing on Huo Yuhao's left hand as he spoke. He wrapped himself five times around Huo Yuhao's fourth finger, transforming into a multi-spiralled jade ring. If one didn't know what it was and perceived it with the naked eye, nobody would be able to tell that this was actually a life form.

Huo Yuhao was a little exasperated and at a loss as he stared at Skydream. He decided to pick this place... Huo Yuhao was still wearing his Starlight Sapphire storage-type soul tool on his middle finger on the same hand. He was now wearing two rings on the same hand, and he was starting to look like a parvenu.

"Can you find another place to rest, brother Skydream? Why don't you return to my spiritual sea to sleep?" Huo Yuhao probed.

"No! I'm not going back there, it's so boring inside. I will not go back unless you can wake her up. Furthermore, I need to absorb nutrients from heaven and earth to sustain my life energy in my semi-life form state. Are you asking me to absorb your life energy from within your spiritual sea?"

When Skydream mentioned the Ice Jade Empress Scorpion, Huo Yuhao hurriedly asked, "How is the Ice Empress, brother Skydream? Is she alright?"

Skydream sounded a little gloomy as he said, "She's all right, but she expended too much energy when she burned her origin back then, so she needs a longer time in hibernation to recover. If you come across any ice-type herbs or whatnot, you should eat more of them, as that will help her recover. Oh, I miss her so much! I am going to find her in my dreams, so you better not disturb me. When you want to use the Life Reflecting Shield, just release your martial soul and channel soul power into my body. I will release the shield naturally."

"Alright. You can go ahead and sleep, and I'll get something delicious for you to eat afterwards." Huo Yuhao stared a little helplessly at Skydream. He had lived for a million years, but he had probably spent more than nine-hundred and ninety-nine thousand years sleeping.

"Eh, wait a minute." Skydream was just about to fall asleep when he abruptly sprang up from Huo Yuhao's finger and hovered before him. His tiny golden eyes were full of doubt and confusion as he silently levitated above Huo Yuhao's left hand, as if he were trying to sense something.

"What's wrong, brother Skydream?"

Skydream shook his head and signaled for him to be quiet.

Skydream's tiny eyes sparkled with faint golden light, and Huo Yuhao's Spirit Eyes were naturally released in the next moment. Huo Yuhao felt the waves in his spiritual sea become tumultuous as waves of spiritual power were released one after another, while Skydream's body gradually turned golden in color. Skydream could still use Huo Yuhao's spiritual power, as they were connected through the pact after he had changed into a spirit.

But this deployment was different from before. Skydream was using his own strength before this, but he could only use Huo Yuhao's strength now, and Huo Yuhao could immediately stop the process if he wasn't willing.

Skydream drifted forward after he turned golden and landed on the Starlight Sapphire ring on the middle finger of Huo Yuhao's left hand.

He flew into the air once more after a short moment. His voice sounded solemn as he said, "Why do you have a spiritual imprint in your ring, Yuhao? No, this should be a spiritual seal, and it's extremely powerful as well. Do you know that it's dangerous for you if others' spiritual imprints remain attached to you? They can spy on you, and they can even trigger some things in your body to cause you harm. Maybe they will even choose the most important checkpoints of your cultivation to disrupt you. Quickly, take it out. I will help you dispel that spiritual seal."

"Spiritual seal? I don't think there's any," Huo Yuhao answered in shock. His spiritual power was formidable, and there was no way he wouldn't know if someone had left a spiritual seal on any of his possessions.

Huo Yuhao suddenly thought about something. He realized what was going on, and he said, "I know what you're referring to. There is no need to worry, brother Skydream."

He raised his left hand as he spoke. The Starlight Sapphire ring flickered with blue light, and a tiny pouch appeared in his hands – it was the one Wang Dong'er had handed to him back then.

Skydream's head swayed faintly, and he immediately nodded and said, "Yes, this is the one. What's this?"

Huo Yuhao said, "The Clear Sky Sect's sect leader asked Wang Dong'er to pass it to me. It's a pouch, and I don't know what's written inside. Uncle Niu Tian added a seal so that Wang Dong'er wouldn't take a sneak peek at its contents, but I can't open it yet because my cultivation isn't high enough. I reckon it probably contains some words of encouragement."

Skydream insisted on his opinion and said, "It's not a good thing for you to have someone else's spiritual seal on you. Let me help you open it."

### [Chapter 253.1: Yearning Heartbroken Grass](#)

Huo Yuhao contemplated momentarily, and he figured that opening the pouch wouldn't hurt, and there was no harm in taking a look. He nodded and said, "Alright, I'll have to trouble you, then. But I can't open it with my spiritual power. Brother Skydream, don't you need to borrow my spiritual power?"

Skydream said proudly, "It's not because you don't have enough spiritual power to open it, it's because your spiritual power control isn't there yet. This spiritual seal can't stump me."

Skydream's body bounced lightly as he spoke, and he landed on the pouch as his translucent body flickered with golden light.

Huo Yuhao's eyes glowed at the same time, and a radiant golden light gradually flowed out along with his spiritual power.

He could feel that his spiritual power was undergoing peculiar transformations as it was channeled into Skydream.

That's... Compression!

Huo Yuhao's spiritual power began to compress under Skydream's direction. Skydream had given his spiritual origin to Huo Yuhao, but he still had the most substantial spiritual imprint, one that had been baptized by a million years of life. Unless the Calamity Necromancer Electrolux came back to life, there was nobody else in the world that could compare to Skydream in terms of spiritual power manipulation.

Yes, this was a form of spiritual power manipulation. Spiritual power was an energy that originated from the spirit world, and was presented as far more abstract and illusory compared to soul power. The effects that spiritual power could achieve often couldn't be compared to soul power on the same level. The energy that belonged to the spiritual realm and soul power were like two parallel lines that did not intersect.

If soul masters were to choose which power they wanted to boost, almost all soul masters would choose soul power. This didn't mean soul power was stronger than spiritual power, it was because soul power was a lot easier to control and manipulate than spiritual power.

A soul master had to rely on his spiritual power to control his soul power, while going deeper and manipulating spiritual power directly was an extremely high-level ability. Huo Yuhao's spiritual power



control was mainly present in two forms. The first was his Sovereign's Descent that Dragon God Douluo Mu En had imparted to him, where he would delicately fuse spiritual power and soul power. He would produce immense fighting strength after fusing both energies when he was in a unique spiritual state. The other form referred to his multiple soul skills.

Huo Yuhao's spiritual power at this point was strong enough for his Spiritual Detection to reach a six-hundred meter radius around him, and he could reach more than three kilometers if he used it in a single direction. However, what if he didn't have Spiritual Detection as a soul skill? How far could he sense if he just used pure spiritual power? That would be a question of his control over his spiritual power.

Why were Huo Yuhao's attacks more powerful, and all his Spirit Eyes soul skills amplified, when he released his Eye of Destiny? The Eye of Destiny actually gave him better control over his spiritual power, and also had that mystical power of destiny.

Exemplary spiritual control required more than just formidable spiritual power. One also had to continually practice using it. Huo Yuhao's spiritual power control was unrivaled among other soul masters of his level, but he was way too far below Skydream's standard.

The compressed spiritual power gradually flowed into the pouch. Huo Yuhao felt as if Skydream were using his spiritual power to form a key, and Skydream was soundlessly and discreetly opening the door in front of him.

The pouch's spiritual seal was exceedingly tough. Skydream went deeper in his attempt to open it, and Huo Yuhao realized that the Iceworm had underestimated the spiritual seal's strength. The seal was extremely solid, and he wouldn't be able to open it even if he was a Soul Emperor if he used his current cultivation level as an estimate. He would probably require his martial soul true body to have enough control to open this pouch by himself.

However, the seal couldn't stump Skydream. The compressed spiritual power became increasingly focused under Skydream's control and gradually drilled into the seal, unraveling it from the inside.

This was a great opportunity for Huo Yuhao. Skydream was controlling his spiritual power after all, and this meant that Huo Yuhao could clearly feel the entire manipulation process. This was greatly beneficial to learn how to manipulate spiritual power.

Huo Yuhao began to feel a little dizzy from time to time as spiritual power continued flowing out. He could feel that his spiritual sea's level was plummeting, but he wasn't worried at all. Skydream had a complete understanding of Huo Yuhao's spiritual power, and he naturally wouldn't do something that he wasn't confident of, and would never hurt Yuhao, either.

An hour passed, then a soft ding sound could be heard as the pouch's mouth emanated a strange golden light. This golden light transformed into a green streak before it disintegrated into fine specks and gradually vanished into the air.

The golden light on Skydream's body disappeared along with the lights. He grunted and said, "The seal was strong, but it couldn't stump me. Don't be too hasty to look at the pouch, Huo Yuhao; you should meditate as soon as possible. Wait for your spirit to recover before anything else. If you don't recover

from this extent of spiritual power consumption as soon as possible, it will affect your spiritual sea's volume."

He returned to the fourth finger on Huo Yuhao's left hand as he spoke, and transformed back into a jade ring.

Huo Yuhao had intended to meditate even if Skydream hadn't reminded him. He had become a little dizzy, and his vision even became a little blurry from all the spiritual power consumption.

Huo Yuhao crossed his legs and sat down as he focused his eyes and looked inwards. The dizziness and fatigue helped him enter his meditative state even faster than he normally did, and his consciousness became more focused, while his spiritual sea gradually returned to its usual calm.

The pouch shone with faint light, which gradually grew pale as it laid silently on the bed beside Huo Yuhao.

The pain in Huo Yuhao's chest and between his ribs was taken care of by his powerful regenerative abilities by the time he woke up from meditation, while more than half of his spiritual power had been restored.

"Oh!" Huo Yuhao took a deep breath and gradually opened his eyes. Soul power naturally circulated around his body, and the gentle, flowing undulations became smooth and flourishing. His body had been growing physically while his cultivation had increased over time. Due to the shock from his martial soul fusions with both Wang Dong'er and Wang Qiu'er, and his spiritual sea reaching the Boundless Ocean level that nourished his body, he was now increasingly resistant to his Ultimate martial soul's negative effects, so his cultivation speed was now conspicuously faster than before.

He glanced at the sky outside. The sky was dark blue, night was about to recede, and dawn was coming.

Sigh... Huo Yuhao's emotions had naturally calmed down after a night of meditation, and his initial pleasant surprise from Skydream's awakening had subsided. He felt calm and at peace, which also meant he naturally thought about the troubles that he was about to face.

How am I going to explain yesterday's situation to Dong'er? It feels like there's no way I can explain this properly. No matter how unintentional it was, the truth is that I still touched her in the end. Will Dong'er forgive me? Should I lie? Should I craft a white lie?

Huo Yuhao began to feel stuck at this mental barrier once more. He cared too much about Dong'er, and that was the reason why he didn't want any blemish or wedge to exist between their feelings in their relationship.

What should I do? Huo Yuhao stood up and opened the window, fresh air flooding the room through the opening.

He immediately felt his spirits lift after the cold morning wind coursed over his body.

"Forget it. I'm just going to tell her the truth. It's still better than me coming up with a lie, as a lie will need countless other lies to cover up for it. Furthermore, I don't even know how to explain it to Wang Qiu'er. It will weigh on my conscience if I craft lies, and I will be feeling this guilt for a long time to come. It's better to have a short period of suffering than a long one. I will explain it to Dong'er, and I will tell

her everything about the situation before I will attempt to ask her for forgiveness. Once I smooth things out with Dong'er, I will find an opportunity to apologize to Wang Qiu'er."

The positive energy of honesty gained the upper hand in the end. Very often, lies could solve problems temporarily, but they were usually unable to solve problems permanently. Lies would pile up day after day, and the day would come when all these lies would erupt, and it would be very difficult to remedy the situation once that day arrived.

Huo Yuhao made up his mind, and was no longer despondent. He hadn't done anything wrong in theory. If Dong'er was still unsatisfied, perhaps he would just touch her a few times too!

A strange smile appeared on Huo Yuhao's face as he thought about this, and his heart began to beat faster. Dong'er isn't as developed as Wang Qiu'er. I wonder how it will feel...

"Ahem! That's way too far. How can you be so indecent and wretched, Huo Yuhao? How can you have these thoughts in your mind?" He slapped himself lightly across the face, and pulled back his wandering mind. There would always be a path to take when the time came, and there was a solution to everything. He could probably fix a few sumptuous meals for Dong'er, and he could say some nice and sweet things to her, and this whole thing would blow over.

Huo Yuhao lowered his head and glanced at the extra ring on his left hand that Skydream had formed, making sure that last night wasn't a dream, and his mood immediately became better. Skydream was awake now, he had changed himself into a spirit, and he had given Huo Yuhao another soul skill. The big competition was coming soon, so this was as good as good news could get!

Huo Yuhao had his own plans for the future. However, he had never told anyone about them; not even Wang Dong'er knew about them. No matter what happened in the future, this season's competition was the most important task he had to face at the moment.

"Oh, yes. I have yet to see what's inside the pouch." Huo Yuhao immediately recalled the pouch that had been opened the previous night when he looked at Skydream's ring, and hurriedly returned to his bed.

The pouch was still lying silently on the bed, and Huo Yuhao bent down to pick it up. The truth was that he was quite curious about its contents. Niu Tian, the Clear Sky Sect's sect leader, had asked Wang Dong'er to pass this pouch to him, but the pouch had been sealed. On the surface, it seemed as if Niu Tian didn't want Wang Dong'er to see this pouch's contents. What can it be that Dong'er can't see, but I can?

If he hadn't interacted with Niu Tian and Tai Tan, he would have concluded they were trying to mess around with him. However, he had met the two sect leaders before, so he erased that thought from his mind.

### [Chapter 253.2: Yearning Heartbroken Grass](#)

Huo Yuhao reached into the pouch after opening it. There was an ancient-looking parchment inside, which turned out to be extremely large after he unfolded it. It was almost twice the size of normal letter-writing paper. The parchment's edges weren't regular, and it looked as if it had been made without being properly cut, which made it appear more primitive and ancient.

The parchment had two sections. The first part seemed like a letter, while the second part looked like a map.

Huo Yuhao sat down beside his bed in confusion. He took a look at the letter's contents. His face immediately turned ghastly pale after that one look, and his hands even began to shake.

Yuhao, I trust that you'll have the ability to complete this task when you can see this letter. I hesitated one too many times before I decided to pass this responsibility to you.

I told Dong'er when I gave this pouch to her that she can only give this pouch to you when she's sure that you will become her future husband, and only when she knows that you're worth all her heart and all her love. It seems like you've already done that, so both my younger brother and I wish you two all the best. However, there's something I have to tell you, as this concerns your future with Dong'er.

Dong'er was born within the Clear Sky Sect, and her physique has been extremely weak ever since she was born. My younger brother and I, as well as her parents, tried everything we could to strengthen her body, but all our attempts were futile. We suddenly discovered when she was three years old that she had a strange, very unique disease. You should know that a human's martial soul is still dormant at the age of three, and it will only awaken at the age of six. However, Dong'er's martial soul was strangely awakened when she was three years old, and two appeared at the same time. Her physique was congenitally weak, and the premature awakening of her martial souls took an immense toll on her body. This episode created an enormous hidden wound.

You will notice upon close inspection that a golden trident-like pattern will appear on her forehead when she's stretching the limits of her body and her abilities. That pattern is a seal that her father put on her to suppress the hidden wounds in her body. Her parents are roaming the world in order to find exotic herbs and medicines to remedy her disease. That's the reason why they're often not at the Clear Sky Sect, while my brother and I take care of her. Her father mentioned to me that the seal can only suppress her internal wounds until she turns twenty, and if they still can't fix her injuries by the age of twenty, then she might...

Huo Yuhao began to feel the weight of this letter as he read these words. He felt as if a large hand was tightly wound around his heart, and the heartache was almost suffocating.

He couldn't wait to read the rest of the letter's contents.

Dong'er's parents finally found a herb that could fix Dong'er's internal wounds during one of their perennial attempts. The only problem was that this herb is too challenging to retrieve, as the criteria were too difficult to satisfy. This herb can only be retrieved by a man that loves her, and this man has to use his blood to retrieve this herb. Forcefully plucking this plant will damage it, and it will lose its medicinal effects. It has a very apt name... it's called Yearning Heartbroken Grass.

We've tried every method we could think of to retrieve it, but every attempt ended up being fruitless. In order to retain this last strand of hope, we could only swallow it down and wait for the person that loves Dong'er to appear. When Dong'er passes this pouch to you, she will be deeply in love with you, and will no longer holding anything back. I don't know how you feel about Dong'er, as she has been always been a girl dressed like a guy before this. However, if you do open this pouch, and when you read this letter, ask yourself whether your love for Dong'er is deep enough and focused enough. I implore you as

Dong'er's senior that you retrieve that herb for her. This is for your future happiness, and also for Dong'er's life...

Dong'er's parents are always outside searching for substitute medicines, but Dong'er is seventeen years old now. She's nearing twenty, and her parents haven't returned... hope is gradually slipping away. Therefore, both Titan and I were exceptionally delighted when we first saw you, as you have given us real hope. This was the reason we tested you in the all the ways that we did, so that we could assess whether your mentality would allow you to become Dong'er's savior. We were quite satisfied with the outcome... at least, we saw many virtues on you before you left. Dong'er has made a great choice, and you're a man that is worthy of her. However, Dong'er's life is starting to count down, and I plead that you retrieve that Yearning Heartbroken Grass, so that Dong'er's hidden injury can be fixed.

The reason why there's a seal on this letter is because Dong'er doesn't know about all this. We wanted to let her grow up happily, so we have never told her about this. We love her too much, and our only hope is that she can grow up peacefully and happily. Yuhao, I sincerely plead that you do not tell her the truth before you bring back that Yearning Heartbroken Grass. Even if you don't successfully complete this task in the end, we hope that she will be happy and peaceful in her last days.

Huo Yuhao's hands clenched unwittingly at this point. He had not expected that Dong'er had such a fatal injury, and that she only had a little more than two years left to live! This was something that Huo Yuhao couldn't accept, no matter what! He grit his teeth and forced his tears back, as he knew that he had to be strong at times like these. He knew that even if he was left with a single thread of hope, he had to bring back the herb that could save Dong'er's life.

He bit down hard on his lower lip and left a deep bite mark. He was stimulated by the pain, and refocused his attention as he continued reading the parchment.

The map below depicts where the Yearning Heartbroken Grass is located. This is a place filled with danger and peril, and it's also a place inhabited by soul beasts, while the exact location where the Yearning Heartbroken Grass grows is even more hazardous. There is a detailed introduction of the plants that grow in the area below the map. You have to try and find a book when you reach it that Dong'er's father personally left it behind. The book details all sorts of herbs and poisonous plants and their differences, and it will also guide you to find the Yearning Heartbroken Grass. There are detailed instructions and signs on the map that will lead you to where the book is hidden. You have to find the book first before you search for the Yearning Heartbroken Grass. Also, please remember not to venture too far inside. That place is charged with the origin energy of heaven and earth, and these herbs and poisonous plants have been living there for far too long, to the point where some have evolved into plant-type soul beasts. These soul beasts will bring great danger and trouble to you.

Please go, if you truly love Dong'er. We will await your good news. Do take care of yourself.

Niu Tian had signed off beneath the text.

Huo Yuhao couldn't care about anything else as he read the last sentence. He sprang to his feet and surveyed his surroundings, and there was only one thought in his head. I have to go, right now! I have to help Dong'er find that life-saving herb!

He didn't want to dally around for another second as he thought about this. He originally wanted to leave a note for Dong'er before he took off, but his mind was a mess, and he recalled that Niu Tian had mentioned in the letter that he couldn't tell Dong'er about this matter, at least not before he found that Yearning Heartbroken Grass. He was irrational and more confused because he simply cared too much for her. Under these circumstances, he only took a few clean sets of clothes before he raced out of the room.

Huo Yuhao stopped in his tracks when he arrived at the staircase. He took a deep look at Dong'er's room. It's still early. I'm sure Dong'er is still sleeping or cultivating.

Don't worry, Dong'er. I will pay any price to bring back that life-saving herb for you!

Huo Yuhao quickly darted down the stairs. He widened his stride once he exited the Sea God's Pavilion, and he ran as fast as he could towards the academy's main gate. He was just so worried, and it felt as if Wang Dong'er's life would be in danger with every moment that he delayed.

Right as he flew down towards the lakeshore and soared towards the outer courtyard, a pair of astonished eyes watched Huo Yuhao's frustrated and urgent behavior from a place not too far away.

Where's he off to? The pair of huge blue eyes flowed with doubt and suspicion. Hmph! That bastard. That day he, he... I can't let him off the hook! I'm going to follow him.

The owner of this pair of blue eyes flew into the sky while these thoughts ran through her mind. She raced across the lake in pursuit of Huo Yuhao.

Huo Yuhao didn't wish to stick around for a moment longer. He immediately soared into the sky once he left Shrek Academy, and he extended the flying-type soul tool behind his back while he infused it with soul power. The soul tool propelled his body into the air, and he started flying into the distance.

"Huo Yuhao! Come down right now!" an exclamation rang out behind him.

Huo Yuhao was momentarily stunned. However, he had already raced more than ten meters away, and he quickly controlled his flying-type soul tool to turn around. He looked back and saw a figure with flowing blue hair drifting toward him.

"Dong'er!" Huo Yuhao shouted in surprise. Wang Dong'er's image filled every corner of his mind at this moment.

"I'm not your Dong'er. Tell me, what should we do about what happened yesterday?" Wang Qiu'er said angrily.

Huo Yuhao only realized that Wang Dong'er wasn't the one pursuing him. It was Wang Qiu'er, who he had taken advantage of the previous day.

"I'm sorry, Qiu'er. Yesterday was all my fault. However, I have something important to do right now. I will take all punishment and accept whatever you want to do to me when I come back. I need to go." He turned back around as he spoke, and his flying-type soul tool erupted with light once more. He couldn't be bothered with the entanglement between Wang Qiu'er and himself. There was nothing more important than finding the herb that could save Wang Dong'er's life!

[Chapter 253.3: Yearning Heartbroken Grass](#)

Wang Qiu'er could clearly see his frustrated and worried look. A thought crossed her mind as she stomped her right foot on the ground, and her body bolted forward.

Wang Qiu'er was unrivaled amongst others of the same level in terms of explosiveness over short distances. Huo Yuhao's flying-type soul tool still had an acceleration process, and he was only just speeding up before Wang Qiu'er arrived behind him and grabbed his shoulder.

"Don't mess around, Wang Qiu'er. I really have something important to do!" Huo Yuhao exclaimed angrily.

Wang Qiu'er was equally furious. "I'm messing around? Stop finding excuses for yourself. You took advantage of me yesterday. You're going to let it go just like that?"

Huo Yuhao had to drop back to the ground because of her forceful pressure. He shook his body vigorously and broke free from Wang Qiu'er's grip.

"Wang Qiu'er, I really have something very urgent to attend to. I've already said that you can do anything you want to me when I return. Is that not enough?" Huo Yuhao's voice was solemn and intense.

Wang Qiu'er was momentarily stunned. This was the first time she had seen Huo Yuhao like this, and she asked doubtfully, "Even the color of your face has changed. What's up?"

Huo Yuhao's expression was truly discolored. His face was pale and tinged with green – his expression was as dark as it could get.

Huo Yuhao shook his head and said, "This has nothing to do with you. There's a place that I have to go to, and I have to go right now. I can't delay for another second. That's it." He turned around and prepared to leave as he spoke.

Wang Qiu'er blocked his path in a flash. "You can't leave unless you explain it to me."

Huo Yuhao clenched his fists, and his next words were squeezed out from between gritted teeth. "My patience has its limits, Wang Qiu'er. Don't think there's nothing I can do against you."

Wang Qiu'er grunted coldly and said, "You have the confidence to defeat me? Come, try it!"

Huo Yuhao was momentarily stunned. He knew that he couldn't fight Wang Qiu'er right now, as he had to retain his strength to search for that medicine to help Dong'er. He took a deep breath and suppressed the wrath in his heart, and he tried his best to make his voice gentler. He lowered his voice and said, "Alright, I'll explain. A friend of mine is severely injured, and I need to find an herb to save her life – to save her life, do you understand? I must find this herb, and her life might be in danger for every second that I waste, and if I'm too late... So, I beg you – please step aside and let me go, right now!"

He was close to shouting when he got to the last two words.

Wang Qiu'er was slightly taken aback when she listened to his explanation. She frowned and said, "Will it be dangerous?"

Huo Yuhao said decisively, “I have to go even if I have to venture into the depths of Hell. I’ve already explained it to you, so please don’t stop me any longer. Otherwise, I will no longer treat you as a friend.” He began to move once more as he spoke.

“Huo Yuhao!” Wang Qiu’er blocked him yet again with a flash.

Huo Yuhao was truly infuriated this time, and he immediately unleashed his Spirit Eyes, while his Eye of Destiny appeared at almost the same time. He knew that he would have to use his Eye of Destiny to defeat Wang Qiu’er.

“Don’t misunderstand me. I’m not trying to stop you from saving her – let me go with you. You will have a greater chance with one more person tagging along. Give me one of those flying things.” Wang Qiu’er explained.

Huo Yuhao was almost about to fire off his Spiritual Shock, but he paused as he stared at Wang Qiu’er’s eyes, which were full of sincerity. He didn’t think too much about it, and said, “Alright then.” He took out a reserve flying-type soul tool and passed it to Wang Qiu’er as he spoke.

Wang Qiu’er took the soul tool, then she asked a little embarrassingly, “This... how do I wear this?”

Huo Yuhao was rendered speechless. This girl doesn’t know a thing about soul tools! He was far too worried, but he couldn’t afford to piss off this girl before him. He had taken advantage of her yesterday, and that gave him a guilty conscience. Furthermore, he wasn’t entirely confident of defeating Wang Qiu’er if they actually fought.

He felt a little helpless as he stepped forward and helped Wang Qiu’er put the flying-type soul tool on as he briefed her on how to use it. With that, he soared into the sky and infused as much soul power into his own flying-type soul tool as he could before he raced towards the east as fast as he could.

Huo Yuhao felt a lot better once he was surging through the air. He wasn’t that concerned about Wang Qiu’er not being able to catch up – it would actually be better if she couldn’t, as that would save him a lot of trouble. Even if she could, she would be of great help with her abilities. The only thing in his mind was to reach his destination as quickly as possible, and he couldn’t be bothered with anything else.

This was Wang Qiu’er’s first time interacting with soul tools. However, one had to admit that she was very adaptable – she was a little unstable when she first took off, but she quickly mastered the flying-type soul tool’s controls. Huo Yuhao had already become a small black dot on the horizon at this point.

Wang Qiu’er was a Soul Emperor after all, and she was a lot stronger than Huo Yuhao in terms of cultivation. She figured out the important parts before she began to speed up as much as she could, and she determined Huo Yuhao’s direction of flight as she swiftly pursued him.

There wasn’t much cover in the sky, and Huo Yuhao had no intention of concealing his movements. Wang Qiu’er flew through the air for a while before she gradually closed the distance.

“This soul tool is quite interesting – it can actually fly through the air at such rapid speed. Interesting, interesting.” Wang Qiu’er’s expression was filled with curiosity, and she continuously felt the transformations in her flying-type soul tool as she sped through the air.



Huo Yuhao was flying in front, but he didn't have to turn back to look. He activated Spiritual Detection and immediately sensed Wang Qiu'er, who had already caught up with him.

You're quite adaptable, huh? Follow me, then.

He didn't bother with Wang Qiu'er anymore as he began to study the map.

The map clearly marked out the geographical relationship between Shrek Academy and his destination. The destination was within the Heavenly Soul Empire, and he had to travel east from Shrek Academy all the way to the Heavenly Soul Empire's Heaven Dou City, and then he would have to continue northeast. There was a place there where soul beasts resided, called the Setting Sun Forest.

The Setting Sun Forest paled in comparison to the Great Star Dou Forest, and it was inferior both in reputation and in surface area. However, this was still a forest inhabited by soul beasts. His final destination was located right within this Setting Sun Forest.

Huo Yuhao didn't seem like he had to rest at all. He used a Milk Bottle to replenish his soul power, while he channeled as much as he could. Wang Qiu'er behind him had voluminous soul power, and she relied on her impressive cultivation to finally catch up to Huo Yuhao after two hours.

"Hey, don't you have to rest?" Wang Qiu'er snapped. They were flying at such breakneck speed that speech was extremely difficult, and they had to release soul power to protect their faces before they could speak.

Huo Yuhao glanced at her and handed her a Milk Bottle. "You can gradually channel soul power inside, and soul power will bounce back to you. You just have to absorb that, and you can replenish your soul power."

Wang Qiu'er had no experience with flying-type soul tools, but neither was she averse to using them. She took the Milk Bottle and attempted to use it in the way Huo Yuhao had described, and she suddenly felt a clean and pure energy flow into her body, and her soul power was swiftly restored.

"This... this can restore soul power? Your soul tool research has reached this level?" Wang Qiu'er asked with a look of astonishment.

Huo Yuhao wasn't in the mood to explain anything else, so he snapped, "Even if you've never tasted pork, I'm sure you've at least seen a pig before. Do you not know about Milk Bottles?"

Wang Qiu'er grunted coldly and said, "All I can see is a pig flying in the sky."

Huo Yuhao extended two fingers and said, "Two pigs."

"You! You're the pig!" Wang Qiu'er's face flushed red.

Huo Yuhao stopped talking because he had to conserve energy and focus on flying; Shrek Academy was quite far away from Heaven Dou City. They continued flying for another two hours, but then began to feel a little fatigued, even though they had Milk Bottles to replenish their soul power.

Wang Qiu'er realized that he was ignoring her and shot him a glare. She grunted coldly and said, "Who is it exactly that you're trying to save?"

Huo Yuhao didn't respond.

"Hey, I'm talking to you!" Wang Qiu'er nudged him.

They were flying rapidly through the air, and Huo Yuhao was startled and almost lost his balance. He glared at her and said, "Just do it if you want to kill me. Can you stop spouting nonsense? I'm getting frustrated!"

"You..." Wang Qiu'er was just about to erupt, but she held herself back for some reason. She grunted again, but said nothing more.

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The sky was already bright at this moment. It was a new day, and two very important people were suddenly missing from Shrek Academy's inner courtyard.

"Yuhao? I haven't seen him. Didn't you send him back last night?" Bei Bei stared in confusion at the frustrated Wang Dong'er before him.

Wang Dong'er had woken up early in the morning, and gone to Huo Yuhao's room to see how he was recovering, while she also hoped to listen to his explanation about what had happened the previous day.

But to her surprise, Huo Yuhao's room was empty when she arrived. His bed was messy, while he himself was nowhere to be seen.

"He's not in his room, eldest senior brother. I've already searched around the inner courtyard, he's nowhere to be seen." Wang Dong'er was worried. She was sad, but she was more concerned with Huo Yuhao's safety. Huo Yuhao had disappeared without a trace, and he didn't leave a note or anything behind – how could she not be worried?

Xu Sanshi said lazily, "Perhaps Huo Yuhao feels like there's no way he can account to you for what happened yesterday, and so he ran away. Could he have eloped with Wang Qiu'er? Hehe."

Wang Dong'er was infuriated. "If you spout any more nonsense, third senior brother, our friendship is over."

Bei Bei glared at Xu Sanshi and said, "Stop making things worse. Little junior brother should have said something to Dong'er even if he's out on official business. He has left without a trace, and that's quite problematic. Don't worry, Dong'er. How about this: I'll look for Elder Xuan, and I'll ask him if he's assigned Yuhao anything, and then we'll search carefully inside the academy for him. It's still very early in the morning, so he can't have gotten far."

#### [Chapter 254.1: Invading a Territory?](#)

Xu Sanshi didn't dare to be sarcastic after looking at Wang Dong'er's worried expression. He hurriedly got up from the sofa and said, "I'm leaving too. Don't worry, Dong'er, Yuhao knows what he's doing. He must've had something urgent come up if he left in such a hurry."

Xu Sanshi's words reminded Wang Dong'er. Perhaps Elder Xuan has assigned him something?

The group appeared before Elder Xuan a few minutes later.

“Mission? No, I haven’t assigned him with anything. Didn’t you guys come back together yesterday? What’s wrong? Has Huo Yuhao vanished?” Elder Xuan was equally astonished. It was quite a big deal for Shrek Academy if a student went missing, and this was especially alarming because Huo Yuhao was a member of the Sea God’s Pavilion. Huo Yuhao could be said to be Shrek Academy’s future cornerstone.

“Don’t worry. I’ll help you guys look.” The entire academy began to move with Elder Xuan’s announcement, and everyone started to look for Huo Yuhao.

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Two hours later, inside the Sea God’s Pavilion...

“Nothing—we’ve searched everywhere. He’s not in the academy. I’ve sent people over to Shrek City, and nobody’s seen Huo Yuhao recently.” Elder Xuan lowered his voice as he spoke.

Six of Shrek’s Seven Monsters were gathered at this moment. Huo Yuhao had gone missing, and this was a big deal to everybody.

Elder Xuan’s eyes descended on Wang Dong’er as he said, “Did he say anything to you yesterday, Dong’er? What did he do?”

Wang Dong’er had been worried for the entire morning, and her eyes were long since red. Huo Yuhao was still nowhere to be seen even though they had been searching for more than two hours, and she couldn’t be any more worried than she already was. She was just anxious in the beginning, and then she was incensed, but all that was left in her heart right now was nervousness. She was even thinking that she wouldn’t pursue anything about what had happened between him and Wang Qiu’er yesterday if he could just return safely. What a kind-hearted girl!

She tossed her head from side to side and said, “He was still asleep when I escorted him back to rest. However, his vitals had returned to normal. I... I should have stayed by his side. This is all my fault, all my fault!” Wang Dong’er’s voice was starting to break, and she was about to cry.

Elder Xuan said, “Don’t be hasty. There’s something odd about all this. We have discovered from our preliminary investigations that Huo Yuhao isn’t the only person that has gone missing. Someone else has disappeared.”

“Ah?” Everyone was astounded. Was it possible that this other person was the key to finding Huo Yuhao?

Elder Xuan glanced at Wang Dong’er and said, “The other missing person is Wang Qiu’er.”

Wang Dong’er felt as if a lightning bolt struck down on her when she heard that name. Her eyes turned black, then she stumbled forward, and would have fallen if Jiang Nannan hadn’t been supporting her. Huo Yuhao had gone missing, and he had actually gone missing at the same time as Wang Qiu’er. They, they...

Wang Dong’er didn’t dare to follow that train of thought.

Xu Sanshi’s eyes widened as he muttered softly under his breath, “Was I right? Maybe they really eloped.”

Bei Bei kicked him and whispered, "Shut your filthy mouth! Huo Yuhao isn't an unaccountable person. I think something is wrong."

Elder Xuan stared at Wang Dong'er's face, which had lost all color. "Bei Bei is right, I think something is wrong. Have you guys considered the possibility that Wang Qiu'er has kidnapped him?"

Elder Xuan's words were like a lifeline to Wang Dong'er, and she immediately recovered as she stared at Elder Xuan with widened eyes.

Elder Xuan said ponderously, "I've found it a little strange ever since she joined the academy because she simply looked too much like Dong'er. In fact, they look almost identical, and their names are equally similar. Dong'er is also positive that they are not related by blood, while Wang Qiu'er's martial soul is of Ultimate strength, something that I have never seen before. All these factors raised my suspicions. However, she has relied on her own abilities to join the inner courtyard, so we cannot reject her. Furthermore, her abilities are quite formidable.

"My suspicions were greatly allayed ever since your hunting expedition into the Great Star Dou Forest. However, something must be wrong, since she vanished along with Huo Yuhao at the same time. Even though outsiders are unaware of how important Huo Yuhao is to Shrek, he has participated in the tournament before, and his twin martial souls are no secret to anyone. It's not impossible that one of our rivals has sent Wang Qiu'er to us with Huo Yuhao as the target. Don't panic, everyone, I have already gathered all the academy's teachers, and we will head out to search for him. I hope that Huo Yuhao is safe. You guys can start moving and head elsewhere to look for him."

"I'm going right now." Wang Dong'er couldn't wait any longer as she turned around and disappeared in a flash.

Everyone bid their farewells to Elder Xuan and departed one after another, until only Bei Bei remained.

"Why aren't you going?" Elder Xuan turned towards Bei Bei.

Bei Bei frowned and said, "Elder Xuan, do you really believe that Wang Qiu'er has kidnapped him? I don't think that's right. Shrek wouldn't be the number one academy on the Continent if someone could kidnap him from the Sea God's Pavilion. Nobody knows how senior sister Xiaotao left all those years ago, but we were under attack from powerful enemies back then, and our academy was emptied out as a result. However, you were here with the other elders inside the Sea God's Pavilion to hold down the fort. How could you guys let Wang Qiu'er, who's just a Soul Emperor, kidnap him?"

Elder Xuan tilted his head and said, "You're still coolheaded. The others' minds were a mess. You're right... it's unlikely that Wang Qiu'er has kidnapped him. However, you saw how dejected Dong'er was just now, and I had to find a way to stabilize her before anything else could be done. We don't know why Huo Yuhao has decided to leave, and we don't even know if he left together with Wang Qiu'er. But we can't have any internal problems. I did feel him leave after I got up in the morning. He left by himself, but it felt as if he was in a hurry. I didn't think much about it back then, but it seems he must have run into something. Think carefully, has anything important happened to Huo Yuhao recently?"

Nobody would ever think, not even in their wildest dreams, that Huo Yuhao's emergency originated from the pouch that Wang Dong'er had given him.

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Inside Clear Sky Castle...

“Eh?” Niu Tian was tasting the fragrant wine in his cup when his eyes suddenly froze.

“What’s wrong?” Tiu Tian glanced at him curiously.

Niu Tian frowned and said, “That’s strange! How has the seal been opened so quickly? That’s really strange.”

Tiu Tian was also surprised as he said, “Are you referring to that pouch that you gave her? It’s probably Huo Yuhao if it’s been opened.”

Niu Tian nodded, but he shook his head immediately afterwards and said, “It’s not strange that Dong’er has given the pouch to him. Could you not tell when they returned the last time? Dong’er’s heart is locked onto that fellow. What I find strange is, how does Yuhao have the ability to open that spiritual seal? Does that mean he sought someone else’s help to open it?”

Tiu Tian drank a mouthful of wine and said, “If it’s open, then so be it. He will have to face our final test whether or not he found someone else to help him open it. In the end, the assessment doesn’t just test his abilities. More importantly, it tests his love for Dong’er.”

Niu Tian said, “I’m not worried that he found someone to help open the seal, nor am I worried that he’s found someone to help him find the Yearning Heartbroken Grass. What I’m worried about is that he may have opened the seal by accident, and if that’s the case, that place is simply too dangerous for him with his current cultivation. I’m afraid something might happen to him.”

Tiu Tian was a little confused. “I don’t think so. That fellow is quite intelligent. Can he not retreat and run away if he realizes something is amiss? Besides, can your spiritual seal really be opened by accident? I think we should be more concerned about this fellow showing the letter’s contents to Dong’er.”

Niu Tian heaved a faint sigh and said, “Forget it. We weren’t the ones who came up with this test, anyway. Since the test has already begun, we will submit to fate.”

“Fate?” Tiu Tian gazed at the distant sky through the window, and an understanding smile appeared on his face.

Niu Tian was momentarily stunned as he watched his brother’s expression. Then he seemed to understand as well, and he smiled faintly as he stared at the clear blue skies outside. “Yes! Fate.”

.....

Huo Yuhao and Wang Qiu’er flew for five hours, and the Heavenly Soul Empire’s Heaven Dou City was finally peeking out over the horizon.

“Hey, let’s take a break!” Wang Qiu’er exclaimed softly.

“Alright.” Huo Yuhao nodded and glided downwards.

They had been travelling for full speed for five hours, and he was so exhausted that all his strength seemed to have left his body. Soul power could be replenished with a Milk Bottle, but he had to rely on

soul power and his own body to defend against the air resistance from high-speed flight. His body was sore from five hours of flight, and he felt as if his entire skeleton was falling apart. He wouldn't be able to take it anymore if he didn't rest.

They found a small patch of open ground and landed. Huo Yuhao's expression was as calm as water. He withdrew the flying-type soul tool behind his back, crossed his legs, sat down on the ground, and immediately began to meditate.

"Hey, aren't you going to eat?" Wang Qiu'er could clearly see that there was something wrong with Huo Yuhao's current behavior. The frustration and worry that seemed to come from his bones had made him a little irrational.

"I'm not too hungry. You go ahead." Huo Yuhao's storage-type soul tool always carried some food and water; this was one of the Ultimate Soldier Plan's main requirements.

He handed some food and water to Wang Qiu'er before he immediately continued to meditate.

Wang Qiu'er didn't push further, and she took the food and water and began to eat. She quietly stared at the cross-legged youth sitting before her as she ate.

Am I going to venture with him into another world of soul beasts? It's only me and him this time. What does he want, exactly? The Setting Sun Forest? How can that compare to the Great Star Dou Forest? The quality of soul beasts in that area is far inferior to the even Great Star Dou Forest's Hybrid Region. Perhaps we won't find a single hundred thousand year soul beast over there.

#### [Chapter 254.2: Invading a Territory?](#)

Wang Qiu'er silently criticized Huo Yuhao in her mind as she watched him. This guy has such average looks. Wang Dong'er is so pretty, so why is she so interested in him? But he doesn't look so good today. He's frowning even when he's meditating.

Wang Qiu'er had really thought that Huo Yuhao told her everything he did because he wanted to avoid her when she first stopped him at the academy. However, she was starting to understand that Huo Yuhao had probably actually run into something urgent. She had never seen him so worried and anxious, not even when they faced off against the three evil brothers in the Great Star Dou Forest. Which friend of his was injured that made him so distraught?

Could it be Wang Dong'er? But Wang Dong'er looked fine.

Every girl was born with a tendency to probe into others' secrets and be nosy, and Wang Qiu'er was no exception. She stared at Huo Yuhao, who was still meditating, and thoughts ran wild in her head. It didn't take long before she consumed all the rations in her hands.

"This tastes terrible!" Wang Qiu'er finished her food, but she couldn't help but mutter and criticize it under her breath. She thought to herself that this was a far cry from what he had made before. He makes really delicious food, though. Perhaps that's why Wang Dong'er likes him so much?

Huo Yuhao meditated for two hours. He recovered some energy, and his heart was a little calmer than before. He knew that he wasn't in the right state of mind, and he kept telling himself to calm down after he finished meditating.

The greater the danger he had to face, the calmer he had to be. Emotional disturbances would only make things worse and harder to deal with in the long run.

That was one of the Ultimate Soldier Plan's defining principles, and Huo Yuhao bore it in mind. He wouldn't have lost so much self-control if it hadn't been Wang Dong'er who was in mortal peril, because he was just too concerned about her safety. Wang Dong'er was simply too important to him, and it wasn't an easy task for him to ease his nerves in the face of this threat.

Don't worry, Dong'er. Even if I have to face all the dangers in the world, I will help you get that herb and I will bring it back!

Huo Yuhao wasn't hasty to get back on his way, and he fetched some food and water before he began to eat by himself. He wanted to be in his best condition to search for that herb.

Wang Qiu'er watched Huo Yuhao quietly consume his food, and she couldn't help but frown. This guy looks quite interesting when he's deep in thought.

"Hey, don't you have anything to say to me? I'm here to help you," Wang Qiu'er spoke up, displeased.

Huo Yuhao heaved a sigh and said, "Qiu'er, I will first apologize about what happened yesterday. Even though it was an accident, I will not deny away my responsibility, it was my fault. I didn't correctly judge how strong your attack was, which eventually led to... it was just my fault. However, what I have to do now is exceedingly important to me, more important than my life. Therefore, I will be extremely grateful if you truly want to help me and I will owe you a favor. If you just want to watch the show, or if you want to cause trouble for me, then I beg you... you can do anything you want to me and I'll take it, but only after I've completed this task. Thank you."

He stood up as he spoke, and bowed courteously toward Wang Qiu'er at the end.

"You..." Wang Qiu'er's eyebrows knitted. She felt a little awkward. This guy was the one who took advantage of me! Why do I suddenly feel like I am the one who is letting him down?

"We'll settle this when we get back!" Wang Qiu'er wanted to put on a strong front even though she felt differently inside.

Huo Yuhao stared at her seriously and said, "Then you're willing to help me?"

"Yes," Wang Qiu'er nodded and said, "I'm already here. Am I supposed to just watch? The Setting Sun Forest shouldn't have many powerful soul beasts, and we shouldn't run into any danger if we team up. The key question is, what exactly are you looking for? Looking for something inside a forest isn't easy. Do you have a target?"

Huo Yuhao's spirits were lifted when Wang Qiu'er said she was willing to help him. He couldn't be bothered by his awkward relationship with her at a time like this. When Wang Dong'er's life hung in the balance, all he wanted to do was acquire that herb no matter what price he had to pay. Wang Qiu'er's abilities were formidable, and they shared a martial soul fusion skill, the Dragon Roar of Destiny. Their martial soul fusion had even fended off that triple martial soul fusion. Ultimately, this expedition was a lot more likely to succeed with her around.

“I have a map, and this map has the rough location of what I need to find. We just have to search around for a bit when we get there, and that should be enough. Qiu’er... let’s not hurry into the Setting Sun Forest. I still have the three left leg bones that we picked up from last time. Why don’t we absorb one piece each, so that we can further boost our strength?”

He retrieved two wolf-ape left leg bones from his storage-type soul tool as he spoke.

“Alright.” Wang Qiu’er didn’t object. One of these things belonged to her anyway, and she took one before she sat down with her legs crossed.

Huo Yuhao said, “I’ll protect you. You can go first.”

“Okay.” Wang Qiu’er made sure she was sitting properly cross-legged. She waved her right hand, and a golden streak of soul power enveloped the left leg bone.

The left leg bone was entirely purplish-black in color, and it flickered with pale silver light. A deep dragon roar could be heard as the soul power on Wang Qiu’er’s body trembled, and a golden layer of light and encompassed and permeated the entire bone immediately afterwards.

Ding! A faint chiming sound could be heard, and the left leg bone transformed into a flowing purplish-black beam of light that drifted toward Wang Qiu’er. It followed her golden soul power, and she directed it into her left leg before it disappeared.

Purplish-black light circled twice around Wang Qiu’er’s left leg before it vanished, and her body began to shine with golden light once again. Huo Yuhao was standing guard for her, but even he could feel an immense pressure coming from her.

What a powerful martial soul!

Even though the Ice Jade Empress Scorpion was also an Ultimate martial soul, Huo Yuhao could clearly feel that the Ice Jade Empress Scorpion was still a little inferior to the Golden Dragon in terms of strength. Wang Qiu’er’s Golden Dragon martial soul was probably at a higher level than the Dragon God Douluo’s Radiant Holy Dragon and the Dragon Emperor Douluo’s Darkness Holy Dragon, which meant that it was probably the purest inheritance of dragon-type martial souls. Who knew how powerful she would be if she could become a Titled Douluo one day?

Huo Yuhao took out the map and began to study it. The map wasn’t complicated, and there were clear instructions about where he had to enter the Setting Sun Forest from. His destination was quite close to the forest’s center, and there were several other important places that were marked out in detail.

He had to find that book that recorded the various herbs and venomous plants before he could search for the Yearning Heartbroken Grass.

Wang Qiu’er’s formidable body was on full display throughout the absorption process... for fifteen minutes! She actually only took fifteen minutes to complete the absorption process!

Huo Yuhao’s mouth hung slack with astonishment when she leapt off the ground and onto her feet. That’s incredibly fast! She’s absorbing a soul bone, and it’s a soul bone produced by a ten-thousand year soul beast. How can this process be so easy for her?

“It’s your turn.” Wang Qiu’er gestured at Huo Yuhao.



“Alright.” Huo Yuhao didn’t ask any more questions. He sat down with his legs crossed and began his own fusion.

Huo Yuhao had absorbed three soul bones before this. He had fused with the Ice Jade Empress Scorpion’s torso, which included all the chest and rib bones, and was possibly his strongest soul bone. He had the Ice Jade Scorpion Left Arm Bone, which contained the mighty Ice Explosion, and he also had the Darkgolden Terrorclaw Bear’s Right Palm Bone, which carried the Darkgolden Terrorclaw’s formidable power.

All three soul bones were rare and exotic. At this moment, Huo Yuhao was starting to fuse with his fourth soul bone.

This soul bone didn’t exceed Huo Yuhao’s current cultivation. Furthermore, his body was far stronger than it was all those years ago. But his fusion process wasn’t as quick as Wang Qiu’er’s. He finished absorbing it after one hour.

Huo Yuhao felt as if his body was a lot lighter than before when he jumped up from the ground, and his left leg felt exceptionally strong. He bounced on his feet, and he realized that his jumping strength had been greatly boosted.

“Have you tried its soul skill?” Huo Yuhao asked Wang Qiu’er.

Wang Qiu’er shook her head and said, “Let’s try it together.”

They infused soul power into their respective Wolf-Ape Left Leg Bones at almost the same time. Silver light immediately flickered on their legs, and their bodies vanished into thin air in the next moment before they reappeared at their original locations.

Both Huo Yuhao and Wang Qiu’er had a look of a pleasant surprise in their eyes. It was just as Huo Yuhao had hoped! The soul skill that they had obtained was Instant Shift!

A soul skill like Instant Shift was like a life-saving trump card for any soul master. Even though the soul skills carried by soul bones could only be used for a fixed number of instances, this was already good enough to give them both a delighted surprise. Both Huo Yuhao and Wang Qiu’er would have never obtained this soul skill from their martial soul fusion skills, as Instant Shift was known as a top-tier agility-type soul skill, and neither of them were agility-type soul masters. Of all the soul masters that Huo Yuhao knew, only Jiang Nannan possessed this ability.

Huo Yuhao immediately attempted it once more. Silver light flickered beneath his feet, and he reappeared ten meters away.

“The maximum distance is ten meters. It’s a little shorter than those wolf-apes!” Huo Yuhao had chosen a distance that was further away, but the Instant Shift had ended at ten meters. It was clear that this was its maximum range.

Wang Qiu’er appeared beside him in a flash. “That’s good enough, so you should be content. Ten meters may seem like a very short distance, but it’s usually enough to turn the tables of a battlefield. Eh, why do I feel something peculiar when I’m next to you?”

Huo Yuhao also realized that his left leg began to warm up when Wang Qiu'er came next to him, as if Wang Qiu'er's left leg had become a magnet and was pulling on his own left leg.

### [Chapter 254.3: Invading a Territory?](#)

They were both veteran soul masters, and they channeled their soul power subconsciously at the same time.

Something strange happened next. Two silver streaks of light burst out from their left legs, and then intertwined together as they enveloped their bodies. They both disappeared at the same time for an instant, and their bodies instantly switched positions in the next moment.

"This..." Huo Yuhao stared at Wang Qiu'er with an astonished look on his face.

Wang Qiu'er said decisively, "Let's try again further away." She raced out as she spoke, and ran about a hundred meters away as she gestured toward Huo Yuhao.

Huo Yuhao released his soul power and activated his left leg bone as he attempted to establish a connection with Wang Qiu'er on the other side. However, he realized that he couldn't feel anything at all, and nothing changed.

Wang Qiu'er came ten meters closer, and Huo Yuhao continued to try. Nothing was different from before.

Wang Qiu'er wasn't hasty either, and she slowly shifted forward bit by bit.

Finally, when she was about fifty meters away from him, silver light exploded from their bodies at the same time, and Wang Qiu'er immediately appeared before Huo Yuhao. This wasn't the Instant Shift carried by their left leg bones anymore, as Instant Shift only had a range of ten meters. This magnet-like force between them increased its range by five hundred percent, and this was achieved with just Huo Yuhao pulling Wang Qiu'er to his side. This effect was similar to Xu Sanshi's Mysterious Netherworld Displacement after his Shield of the Xuanming Turtle evolved into the Xuanwu Shield, except Xu Sanshi's Mysterious Netherworld Displacement could target opponents weaker than he was. Huo Yuhao could only use this with Wang Qiu'er.

They exchanged a look, and they thought about the countless possibilities. They already had a martial soul fusion skill, and this special effect carried by their left leg bones was a cherry on the cake for them. In addition to their new Instant Shift ability... both of them felt as if they had struck a jackpot.

Wang Qiu'er said, "This ability probably originates from the three Wolf-Apes' triple martial soul fusion skill. Even though that triple martial soul fusion cannot be passed down through their soul bones, this ability is still quite impressive. I don't want the last soul bone, but you can't give it to the wrong person. This is very important for the both of us."

Huo Yuhao didn't conceal his intentions. "If you don't mind, I want to give it to Dong'er."

Wang Qiu'er shot him a glare and grunted as she said, "Whatever. I don't want it. Just make sure she doesn't cause me any trouble."

A sorrowful look flashed across Huo Yuhao's face. Cause you any trouble? Dong'er has to live for that to happen.

“Let’s go. We’re going to the Setting Sun Forest.” It was nearly noon at this point.

The sun was high in the sky, and it radiated scorching warmth.

“Let’s go, then.” Wang Qiu’er agreed. Huo Yuhao heaved a sigh of relief when she began to cooperate, and they activated their flying-type soul tools before they soared into the sky once more.

Huo Yuhao wasn’t acting hastily anymore, and he flew together with Wang Qiu’er as they followed the map’s markings and traveled towards the Setting Sun Forest.

They hadn’t flown for long, however, before Huo Yuhao suddenly felt something and gazed into the horizon, while he slowed down at the same time.

“What’s wrong?” Wang Qiu’er asked confusedly.

“Someone’s coming here.” Huo Yuhao answered.

Wang Qiu’er followed his gaze. Indeed, there was a group of people flying towards them in the distance from where Heaven Dou City was located.

They were in a fan-like formation, and their formation gradually changed in the sky and formed a semicircle that wrapped toward the two of them.

“Enemies?” Wang Qiu’er asked confusedly.

Huo Yuhao shook his head and said, “Perhaps not. They should be from the Heavenly Soul Empire. This is my fault for being so careless. We’re very close to Heaven Dou City, and we are just flying through the air without attempting to conceal our movements. I think we have attracted the sentries’ attention.”

Wang Qiu’er’s mouth twitched, and she said, “We’re just flying in the sky. What does that have to do with them?”

Huo Yuhao was a little speechless. “Ever since we’ve had flying-type soul tools, every nation’s laws and control has become a lot stricter than before, and this is especially so for the airspace above or around cities. Heaven Dou City is the Heavenly Soul Empire’s capital city. Think about it, if someone flew over the royal palace and tossed down a powerful stationary soul cannon shell, what would happen?”

Wang Qiu’er said, “Is that actually preventable? If we fly high enough, to a height where they can’t see us anymore before we toss the bomb, they can’t do anything about it.”

This was the first time a smile had appeared on Huo Yuhao’s face ever since they left Shrek Academy. “This proves how little you know about soul tools! It’s not as easy as you make it seem. Let’s not talk about how difficult it is to be precise when we’re too high in the sky. With current soul tool technology, flying-type soul tools have a limit to how high they can fly, rarely can one fly higher than one kilometer above the ground at this point. Any telescopic soul tool on the ground that’s watching the skies will be able to discover someone flying around, and night-vision telescopic soul tools can monitor the airspace at night.”

The group had surrounded them while they talked. There were ten soul engineers, and everyone wore standardized flying-type soul tools. They weren’t flying very fast, so it wouldn’t be impossible if Huo Yuhao and Wang Qiu’er wanted to shake them off. He wanted to get to the Setting Sun Forest as fast as

possible, but he also didn't want to bring unnecessary trouble upon himself. If they were suspected to be spying upon Heaven Dou City, and thus attracted the attention of powerful individuals in the Heavenly Soul Empire, then there would be real trouble for him. The Heavenly Soul Empire's national strength couldn't compare to the Star Luo Empire, but they were still a nation with a long history, and solid foundations.

The soul engineers didn't attack as they came up, they just surrounded the two of them. Huo Yuhao didn't unleash any offensive soul tools, and he raised both hands to show that he meant no ill.

These soul engineers from the Heavenly Soul Empire were all wearing leather armor, which was clearly intended to lessen the weight they had to carry. The person leading the group was a girl with a cold look on her face, appearing both elegant and noble. The flying-type soul tool behind her released pale blue light.

"Who are you? How dare you fly around inside our capital city's airspace? You're looking down on my country. Follow me." Her cold voice felt extremely charming and nice to hear, but the contents were a little unpleasant.

Huo Yuhao was slightly taken aback as he stared at the young girl before him confusedly. "You... are you Mu Xue?"

The ice-cold young girl was also momentarily stunned. She stared at Huo Yuhao with the same doubtful look and asked, "How do you know my name?"

Huo Yuhao heaved a sigh of relief once she confirmed his speculation. "Have you forgotten, Mu Xue? We've met before inside the Great Star Dou Forest. Back then, Uncle Mo was the one leading the group, and you guys were inside the Great Star Dou Forest to hunt soul beasts. My name is Huo Yuhao."

Mu Xue scrutinized Huo Yuhao for a moment longer. A look of revelation came over her face as she said, "Oh, yes, I remember now. You're that student from the Star Luo National Academy, Huo Yuhao, am I right?"

"Yes! That's me." Huo Yuhao hurriedly nodded his head. Back then, he, Wang Dong'er and Xiao Xiao, had entered the Great Star Dou Forest under Elder Xuan's protection when they met Mo Feiyun and his company. This girl, Mu Xue, had also been part of the company, along with another pretty girl named Wei Na. The two of them had left a fairly strong impression in Huo Yuhao's mind.

Mu Xue's face suddenly turned cold. "That's enough. Stop trying to worm your way through into being friends with me. Follow me."

Huo Yuhao was shocked. "Follow you? For what?"

Mu Xue's voice was ice-cold. "You have trespassed into my capital city's airspace. You know that, so why do you still ask me that question? Even though we've met before, today's situation is very different, and our private relationship cannot interfere with my duty. Let's go." She came up with the other soul engineers as she spoke.

She turned towards Wang Qiu'er as they moved up.

It wasn't just her; all the other soul engineers were also focused on Wang Qiu'er. This wasn't because they had realized how powerful Wang Qiu'er was, it was because Wang Qiu'er was simply too beautiful.

Wang Qiu'er looked more like the Goddess of Light than Wang Dong'er did. There wasn't any cover in the sky at this moment, and sunlight shone upon her body and made her flowing blue hair shine with pale golden light. Her enchanting beauty was nearly suffocating.

Mu Xue had always been confident about her looks, and this was especially so because her martial soul's unique quality was different from normal people. However, she felt a little inferior before Wang Qiu'er. She paled in comparison in terms of looks and aura, and even in terms of her figure.

Huo Yuhao frowned as he lowered his voice and said, "I'm sorry, Mu Xue. I'm in a hurry, and today's matter is just a misunderstanding. I have somewhere I need to be, and I accidentally trespassed in the Heaven Dou City's airspace. I am sincerely sorry that this happened, but time is of the essence. I can't delay any longer."

Mu Xue also lowered her voice. "You don't get to make that decision. Are you resisting arrest? You have to know that we have the authority to shoot you down since you've trespassed over our airspace. I'll bring you back to the city because we have been acquainted, and we'll investigate to make sure that there's nothing wrong with the two of you, and then we'll let you go. Don't worry, we'll be just and follow official procedures."

Huo Yuhao was a little exasperated as he shook his head. "I'm sorry, I really don't have the time."

Mu Xue's face turned black as she shouted angrily, "Take them down!" The nine other soul engineers immediately began to move upon hearing her orders, and each of them took out a soul tool from behind their backs.

These soul tools were about half a meter long, and there was a thick cannon barrel at the front with an opening that was roughly thirty centimeters in diameter. Nine cannon barrels were trained on Huo Yuhao and Wang Qiu'er at the same time.

As a Class 6 soul engineer, Huo Yuhao couldn't be more familiar with this soul tool. These were soul paralysis rays, and they were enhanced versions. Even five-ringed or six-ringed soul masters would be immediately paralyzed and immobilized if these rays hit them. Of course, that meant these paralysis rays had to hit them first!

### [Chapter 255.1: The Setting Sun Forest](#)

These soul engineers didn't show any mercy at all, and all nine soul paralysis rays fired at nearly the same time. One could tell that they had a lot of practice, as their shots didn't just target them, but also blocked off their paths of escape.

Huo Yuhao was also a soul engineer, and he could be considered one of the most outstanding soul engineers of Shrek Academy's younger generation. Huo Yuhao would have let himself down if he was so easily taken down by these Class 4 soul paralysis rays.

A yellow light suddenly expanded from Huo Yuhao's body and enveloped the two of them: a Class 6 soul barrier!

Nine beams of light landed on the barrier and created ripple after ripple, but the soul barrier didn't so much as tremble. Huo Yuhao knew that they had no choice but to fight.

"Don't do anything, Qiu'er." Huo Yuhao instructed Wang Qiu'er as his eyes suddenly lit up.

The air within thirty meters of them seemed to contort, and the nine soul engineers' second shots all missed, while three of them were accidentally struck by their companions and fell from the sky.

Light erupted from behind Huo Yuhao's back as he activated his soul thrusters explosively and crashed against two other soul engineers. He had never been afraid of meeting force with force with anyone at his level, except for Wang Qiu'er. Furthermore, these soul engineers were just four-ringed Soul Ancestors, and they weren't even powerful Soul Ancestors.

He forcefully knocked these two soul engineers out of the air, and golden light flickered in his eyes as he turned towards Mu Xue, who was about to make a move.

Mu Xue suddenly felt an intense dizziness in her head, and immediately lost her balance. They were high up in the sky, and losing control meant she could no longer hover, so she plummeted towards the ground.

"What are you waiting for? Hurry up and save her!" Huo Yuhao shouted at the soul engineers before they could fire off a third wave of soul paralysis rays as he dragged Wang Qiu'er off and turned around to run.

Three of the soul engineers were struck by their own paralysis rays and plunged limply through the air. Mu Xue was struck by Huo Yuhao's Spiritual Confusion and temporarily lost control of her body. The other two that were sent hurtling through the air were relatively stronger than the others, but Huo Yuhao didn't damage their flying-type soul tools, so they could still move around. The remaining four soul engineers were able to rescue their fallen comrades, but that also meant they couldn't pursue Huo Yuhao and Wang Qiu'er anymore.

Huo Yuhao shook his head lightly as he watched the falling soul engineers and their comrades who were attempting to rescue them. He controlled his flying-type soul tool and positioned himself accurately behind Wang Qiu'er before he pressed his hands against her back and activated the soul thrusters. Searing white flames extended from behind his back, and Huo Yuhao pushed Wang Qiu'er forward as they rocketed through the air. They raced for several hundred meters before he turned around as he held Wang Qiu'er's hand and they immediately completed their martial soul fusion. He pushed his flying-type soul tool to the highest possible speed, and the two of them transformed into a ray of light as they disappeared over the horizon.

By the time the Heavenly Soul Empire's team of soul engineers finally settled down, the two of them had already become two black dots in the distance. Huo Yuhao and Wang Qiu'er had completely vanished from their field of view when they managed to gather themselves.

"Bastards!" Mu Xue's fists were tightly clenched, her pretty face all tensed up.

"What should we do, team leader? Do we report to our superiors and request reinforcements? These two are difficult to deal with," one of the soul engineers whispered to Mu Xue.

The fury on Mu Xue's face vanished and she answered coldly, "There's no need. I can tell from their behavior that they don't mean any harm. Otherwise, do you think we'd still be hovering in midair? Let's go back. I will report this to our superiors." She was still rational. If Huo Yuhao had really wanted to hurt them, he definitely would've had something else up his sleeves if he could release a Class 6 protective barrier. It was unlikely that any of them would have survived this ordeal if Huo Yuhao had unleashed his true abilities.

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Wang Qiu'er didn't struggle as Huo Yuhao grasped her hand. She was being pulled along, and this meant she was positioned slightly behind him, and could clearly see Huo Yuhao's profile.

Huo Yuhao's face was still scrunched up like before, and his expression was still as black as ever. However, he was a lot calmer than he was when he had left the academy.

Wang Qiu'er felt the circulation of soul power between their bodies, and their soul power was intertwined and even flourished. Her eyes were a little lost and vacant.

This feeling...

Their combined efforts had raised their Class 6 flying-type soul tools' flight speed to the highest possible level, and Heaven Dou City was now far behind them.

An enormous forest gradually came into view in the distance. They were about to reach their destination according to the map's instructions.

It was common knowledge that soul masters shouldn't fly above a place inhabited by soul beasts, as it made them easy targets. Huo Yuhao dragged Wang Qiu'er along and quickly descended from the sky, and naturally let go of her hand once they landed on the ground.

"Have you not seen enough after staring at me for so long? Have I recently become more handsome?" Huo Yuhao turned around and smiled at Wang Qiu'er.

Wang Qiu'er grunted and said, "Why didn't you kill those people? They were so unreasonable. You didn't let me fight, either."

Huo Yuhao laughed exasperatedly. "They were just executing their duties, and they had no intention of hurting us. How could I kill them? Furthermore, we did trespass into a city's airspace, so we were in the wrong."

"Is this the place?" Wang Qiu'er didn't pursue the matter, instead changing the topic. Her eyes turned towards the vast forest in front of them.

Huo Yuhao nodded and retrieved the map. He had already determined their direction while they were still flying, and the forest had a jagged patch at this location, which was easy to find when they were looking down from high in the sky. It was a lot easier to follow the map and venture into the forest after finding this prominent geographical feature.

"Let's get going." Wang Qiu'er was the first to move, and she widened her stride towards the forest.

“Be careful,” Huo Yuhao hurriedly caught up with her. “According to the map’s markings, the place we are looking for is full of dangers.”

Wang Qiu’er tilted her mouth indifferently and said, “It’s just a tiny Setting Sun Forest, how dangerous can it be? Don’t forget that I lived in the Great Star Dou Forest by myself for a year.”

Huo Yuhao had nothing else to say. She was incredibly powerful, after all. However, he activated his Spiritual Detection at once and shared it with her before they proceeded.

The reason why those soul engineers had lost their ability to aim was due to Spiritual Interference, a soul skill of his that had been continuously evolving. It was also a soul skill that Huo Yuhao hadn’t used for a long time. The logic was the same as when he used Imitation when he faced the three evil soul master brothers in the Great Star Dou Forest: not using this soul skill didn’t mean it wasn’t good. He had to hide it because it was far too powerful.

Spiritual Interference wasn’t as brutal or forceful as Spiritual Shock. However, there wouldn’t be any negative backlash, and he could use it continuously. This soul skill was a nightmare for most soul masters, and could cover an increasingly larger area as Huo Yuhao’s cultivation increased over time. Huo Yuhao could currently cover a radius of fifty meters at this point, and he could reach one hundred meters if he was focusing on a smaller target area, and he could reach two hundred meters if he used his Eye of Destiny. This was the reason why Huo Yuhao had been so calm and composed when the soul engineers had surrounded them.

Huo Yuhao had once remarked to Skydream that Skydream had changed his entire life, and that statement was absolutely true. He could only have today’s success and his exemplary accomplishments with the abilities and help that Skydream had given him. Otherwise, he probably wouldn’t even have passed Shrek Academy’s freshman examination.

The Setting Sun Forest’s vegetation was a little sparse compared to the Great Star Dou Forest, and the plant species were slightly different as well. The main reason for this was due to their distinct geographical locations.

The Great Star Dou Forest was located in the Continent’s central regions, and the temperature there was pleasant. The temperature within the Great Star Dou Forest remained between twenty to thirty degrees celsius year-round, while winter was almost nonexistent, and ice and snow were rarities.

The Setting Sun Forest was more than a thousand kilometers north of the Great Star Dou Forest. If they travelled far enough north, they would enter the Extreme North, and so this forest’s temperature was much lower than the Great Star Dou Forest’s. Under such circumstances, coniferous trees were the main plant species found in this area, as they were more suitable for living in below-average temperatures. There were also some subtropical plants in the area as well.

There were not that many species in this forest compared to the Great Star Dou Forest, and therefore it appeared to be comparatively scarce. However, the plants that could survive in a place like this would naturally have superior survival capabilities.

They stepped into the Setting Sun Forest, and they hadn’t even taken that many steps before soul beasts appeared within Huo Yuhao’s Spiritual Detection. These soul beasts were pitifully weak, Huo



Yuhao and Wang Qiu'er didn't even have to release their auras, and the soul beasts were already scampering away. There was no need to talk about these soul beasts attacking them.

"They're all ten-year soul beasts. This place is terribly barren and infertile," Wang Qiu'er frowned.

Huo Yuhao said, "You can't compare this place to the Great Star Dou Forest. In the end, the Great Star Dou Forest is one of the most prominent places in the entire Continent, and the Core Region's Slaughtering Grounds is comparable to the core regions of the Extreme North. Those spots, along with three other extremely dangerous places, are known collectively as the Five Great Forbidden Regions."

Wang Qiu'er grunted and said, "There should only be three. The other two only appeared because of our collision with the Sun Moon Continent. Don't you want to speed up?"

"Alright. Let's pick up the pace." They didn't feel any threatening presences within the Setting Sun Forest, and Huo Yuhao naturally didn't want to waste any more time. The two of them quickened their pace and ventured deeper into the Setting Sun Forest.

The vegetation here wasn't as dense as the Great Star Dou Forest, so their movements were unimpeded. Furthermore, Huo Yuhao was anxious and worried, so he was moving forward at sixty percent of his maximum speed, while Wang Qiu'er followed closely beside him. The two of them had a tacit understanding, and they didn't hold each other's hands anymore. They were both exceptional individuals among everyone else at the same level, even before they had their martial soul fusion skill.

#### [Chapter 255.2: The Setting Sun Forest](#)

Soul masters would only truly enter the realm of high-level soul masters when they got their seventh soul ring. For people like Huo Yuhao and Wang Qiu'er, who were both prodigious soul masters with Ultimate martial souls, their respective strengths were comparable to that of a seven-ringed soul master.

They were deep within the Setting Sun Forest after racing forward for about two hours, and the vegetation became increasingly dense the further they went. However, what made Huo Yuhao surprised was that they had already gone deep into the Setting Sun Forest, yet he still hadn't detected any powerful soul beasts with Spiritual Detection. They rarely came across any thousand-year soul beasts, let alone ten-thousand year soul beasts.

The occasional thousand-year soul beast that dared to come near with malicious intentions were chased away in fright when Wang Qiu'er released a little bit of her aura. They hadn't had a single fight after traveling for two hours, an experience that could even be described as unimaginable.

"Let's take a break." Huo Yuhao had regained his composure after fusing with the soul bone before this. Wang Dong'er still had more than two years before her injury would take her life, and this matter wasn't that urgent. Huo Yuhao had also seen how incredibly powerful Niu Tian and Titan were with his own eyes, and if a powerful individual like Niu Tian said that this place was filled with dangers, then it couldn't be false.

Even though they hadn't encountered any trouble with soul beasts on their journey thus far, Huo Yuhao still decided to take a break after travelling for a certain duration of time so that they could recover to their optimal states before they pushed forward. He had been inside many places inhabited by soul

beasts, and his experience told him that maintaining his best condition was the number-one law of survival. His abilities were relatively formidable, but they still paled in comparison to a world filled with soul beasts.

They found a place that was higher than the areas around it so that they could conveniently survey their surroundings, and make it harder for them to get ambushed. They rested while munching on their rations at the same time.

“How far are we?” Wang Qiu’er asked.

Huo Yuhao answered, “Not far. The sky is still bright, so it’s easy to tell the direction. We will probably be nearing our destination within two hours.”

Wang Qiu’er nodded and said, “Yuhao, I don’t know why, but I feel as if something is not right.”

“Eh?” Huo Yuhao was astonished, and he had always been impressed by Wang Qiu’er’s senses. She had the Golden Dragon’s Perception, which was probably more sensitive and at a higher level than his Spiritual Detection. After all, Spiritual Detection could only detect tangible things and real things, while Wang Qiu’er’s Golden Dragon Perception had some clairvoyant abilities.

“What’s wrong? When did it begin?” He hurriedly pursued the issue.

Wang Qiu’er answered, “I can’t quite put a finger on it. There’s this unsettling feeling in my heart, and it’s there even though it’s not serious. It began a few moments ago... it seems like the Setting Sun Forest does have some abnormal entities.”

Huo Yuhao frowned and said, “Can you tell where this unsettling feeling is coming from?”

Wang Qiu’er glanced at him and said, “It’s coming from the direction we are moving towards. This is the reason why I asked how far we are from our destination. I’m getting this ominous feeling even when we’re still two hours away, and that means this unsettling feeling will become an alarming and perilous feeling if we continue forward. I suggest we turn back.” Wang Qiu’er’s attitude was extremely solemn when she uttered these words.

Huo Yuhao went silent and began to contemplate. This was the first time since he had met her that this girl had shown such subtle fear. Yes, she’s right. We still have two more hours to go, and her Golden Dragon Perception is already sensing danger. How perilous will the dangers we face on this expedition be?

Wang Qiu’er didn’t push him, and returned to silently eating her rations.

Huo Yuhao gobbled his rations in a few mouthfuls, and he drank some water before he started to rest. He didn’t meditate, as resting like this could also help him recover his expended soul power, and he could also prepare himself.

Wang Qiu’er’s eyebrows knitted slightly. She couldn’t tell what decision Huo Yuhao had made from his expression, but she was sure that he was considering her words. This fellow had always been quite composed.

Fifteen minutes went by.

Huo Yuhao opened his eyes once more, and Wang Qiu'er opened her eyes at the same time, as if she had felt something, and looked in his direction.

"Go back." Huo Yuhao muttered calmly.

"Alright," Wang Qiu'er stood up, and a rare smile appeared on her face. "Composure is a virtue." She turned around towards where they had come as she spoke.

She took but a few steps before she unwittingly stopped in her tracks and turned back. Huo Yuhao was not there anymore, but he wasn't behind her. He was moving forward in the opposite direction, which meant he was going towards their initial destination.

"Hey! Did you not say that we're going back?" Wang Qiu'er shouted. She sounded a little melancholic.

Huo Yuhao didn't stop moving as he said, "You can go back by yourself. You didn't have to accompany me on this dangerous adventure in the first place. Mind your own safety on the way back – goodbye." He began to pick up the pace and sped deeper into the Setting Sun Forest as he spoke.

Wang Qiu'er was rooted to the spot. She could feel an unprecedented aura from Huo Yuhao's body, and she felt as if his frame had become a lot bigger than before in that instant. She felt as if nothing could stop him on his path forward.

Who is he trying to save that's making him so stubborn and persistent? Family, perhaps? But he doesn't have any family, all he has left are his enemies. A strange look flickered across her eyes, as if she had just recalled something. Wang Qiu'er rubbed her fist and finally stomped on the ground as she launched herself in Huo Yuhao's direction.

Wang Qiu'er was a lot faster than Huo Yuhao in terms of short distance explosiveness, and she caught up with him in no time.

"Thank you," Huo Yuhao said without even turning back.

"What are you thanking me for?" Wang Qiu'er's tone didn't sound very pleasant.

Huo Yuhao said solemnly, "That you can chase me down means you are now my friend in my heart."

Wang Qiu'er sounded a little depressed as she said, "So you haven't been treating me like a friend this whole time?"

Huo Yuhao said, "No. I'm talking about a good friend that is deserving of my trust. We haven't known each other for that long, after all."

"Hmph! What makes you think I'm not trying to drag you back?" There was a tinge of threat in Wang Qiu'er's voice.

Huo Yuhao chortled and said, "You'd be doing it for my own good even if you attempted to drag me back. Of course, I would resist."

Wang Qiu'er grew quiet, but she had already arrived beside Huo Yuhao, and was looking sideways in his direction.

Huo Yuhao turned around and gave her a doubtful look. He met her radiant and piercing gaze, and he immediately felt a little embarrassed. "You staring at me at such a close distance gives me a lot of pressure."

Wang Qiu'er lowered her voice and said, "It's really very dangerous! Is it truly worth it?"

Huo Yuhao tilted his head slightly, and his eyes turned diagonally upwards to the sky. He spoke with a calm voice, almost as if this was a matter of fact. "I've thought about losing her and what would become of me. I realized that my entire world would turn gray, and I would no longer have any vitality. Perhaps, I might even lose the will to live. That's when I realized, to my surprise, that her life had become more important than my own."

Wang Qiu'er's eyes grew slack. Her big blue eyes flowed with incredulity.

"How... how is that possible? How can someone else's life be more important than your own? Is there something wrong with your brain?"

Huo Yuhao gave her a doubtful look and said, "Why are you agitated? We will always have someone whose life is more important than our own. If my mother was still alive, her life would be more important than mine in much the same manner."

Wang Qiu'er's powerful body started to quiver faintly. She lowered her head and muttered under her breath, "A... a sentiment like this actually exists, where other people's lives are more important than your own? But only the strongest will survive, and we should do anything we can do continue living, whatever the means. We only live once, and we won't get this life back once it's gone."

Huo Yuhao answered plainly, "You're right, we only live once. What you're talking about is the law of the jungle, but not the law of humanity. Humans have flesh, blood, and emotions. We are not soul beasts, and neither are we animals. We are humans. If everyone attempts to survive by doing anything he or she can whatever the means, and if everyone views his or her own benefits and interests as more important than anything else, how different would we be from wild beasts? The main thing that distinguishes us from beasts is our emotions and our sentiments, and the fact that we know how to love."

Wang Qiu'er's eyes were completely blank. Her eyes weren't just blank, it felt as if she was in a daze, and her emotions began to destabilize.

Huo Yuhao had no idea why she was how she was, but he thought about it for a while and understood how she felt. Perhaps she encountered one too many dangers during that year she was living inside the Great Star Dou Forest by herself, and those dangers gave her this desire to survive.

He tried his best to make his tone a little gentler as he said, "You don't have to think so much. Everyone has their own ways to live. Perhaps the reason why you haven't experienced what I'm talking about is because you haven't truly loved someone before. Think about it: our parents gave birth to us and raised us since we were born. How much suffering, effort, sweat, and tears did they have to put in? Did they want anything from us? No. Parental love is unconditional and selfless. Even though I lived in poverty as a kid, and I've never had a father, my mother's love for me was no less than what other parents had for their own children."

Wang Qiu'er suddenly raised her head vigorously and said angrily, "Nonsense! My parents never took care of me. They abandoned me from the day I was born, and they left me to live in a foreign environment. Do you know how much pain and suffering I've been through to survive? Have you experienced the isolation, the helplessness, the panic that nobody is around to help you, that you can just die at any moment? I only love myself!" She was almost growling when she reached the last sentence.

### [Chapter 255.3: The Setting Sun Forest](#)

Huo Yuhao was astonished by the intensity of her reaction, but he could also relate to that dejection in her heart. The resentment was faint, and only surfaced from time to time, but it was acute and extreme.

This... What experiences has she been through? So much resentment has accumulated in the deepest recesses of her heart, to the point where it's almost impossible to believe.

Strangely, they both grew silent. Huo Yuhao didn't know how to console Wang Qiu'er, and Wang Qiu'er didn't seem like she could control her emotions, but she didn't attempt to express them anymore. That faintly discernible resentment vanished along with their words.

They continued forward as Huo Yuhao tried his best to determine their location, and a soul tool meant for that purpose appeared in his hands. It was already a challenge to determine the four cardinal directions inside the dense forest, but Huo Yuhao relied on what the Ultimate Soldier Plan had taught him, and he was sure he was on the right track.

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An hour passed before Huo Yuhao made a gesture and immediately stopped walking.

"Let's take another break. How do you feel?" he turned and asked Wang Qiu'er.

Wang Qiu'er's emotions had settled down by now, but her charming face was as cold as ever. She shot a cold glance at Huo Yuhao and said, "I am now absolutely certain that the place you're heading towards is the source of the danger."

"You already feel danger? But have you realized that there seem to be fewer and fewer soul beasts the further we go?" Huo Yuhao frowned as he informed her.

Wang Qiu'er grunted coldly and said, "That's what is most terrifying. Soul beasts inhabit this area, yet they cannot live here, even though they're extremely adaptable. That shows how dangerous this area is. I think it won't take long before we will encounter these dangers first-hand."

Huo Yuhao stared at her with a calm look and said, "It's not too late to change your mind."

Wang Qiu'er said, "Stop spouting nonsense. Let me ask you, Huo Yuhao... Is Wang Dong'er the person that you are willing to throw your life away to save?"

"Eh?" Huo Yuhao glanced at her, astonished.

Wang Qiu'er continued, "I have been thinking about it, and I figured that only she is worth it."

Huo Yuhao replied, "You're wrong. My companions are also worth risking my life for."

Wang Qiu'er pressed on, "And this time? Is it her?"

Huo Yuhao nodded his head lightly.

Wang Qiu'er's eyes froze momentarily, and she grew silent for a few seconds. "I knew it."

Huo Yuhao said, "Let's rest a little more. Did you not say that danger is about to come?" He didn't continue Wang Qiu'er's topic because he realized that her eyes had become a little peculiar, to the point where her aura had changed.

"Alright." Wang Qiu'er didn't say anything else as she casually found a place to sit down. They sat opposite each other quietly while they rested.

This break was relatively shorter, as they hadn't travelled for too long before this. Huo Yuhao stood up again after fifteen minutes and gazed forward into the distance.

It was afternoon at this point, and there was still some time before evening. However, the temperature was starting to decline, and there was a crisp and cool feeling within the forest.

There were far too few soul beasts within the Setting Sun Forest at this moment. At least, Huo Yuhao drew this conclusion from his observations as they proceeded in that direction.

This sentiment hadn't been that intense when he had entered the Great Star Dou Forest. There were many soul beasts within the Great Star Dou Forest, and innumerable mighty entities among them. However, the Setting Sun Forest's landscape seemed to reflect the seriousness of the damage that soul masters had inflicted on the world of soul beasts. Perhaps it wouldn't be long before the Setting Sun Forest became just a normal forest.

However, human soul masters needed to hunt and kill soul beasts to obtain soul rings if they wanted to increase their cultivation.

This necessity would always lead to conflict and disharmony, unless all the soul beasts in the world went extinct one day. If that day did come, there would no longer be any soul masters, either.

It was apparent that they would have to emphasize their research into spirits. However, even if their research was successful, the most they could do was reduce the need for soul beasts. The truth was that spirits still required soul beasts as a foundation.

These thoughts flashed by one after another in Huo Yuhao's mind. He was a gifted student from Shrek Academy, and he was clear on the fact that this conflict would erupt in the near future. It could take ten years, a hundred years, or a thousand years, but the human world would be adversely affected if soul beasts went extinct. After another millennium, the soul master profession would become ancient history, and would no longer exist.

Forget it. I'm not going to think about all that for now. No matter what happens in the future, obtaining that herb for Dong'er is the most important task at hand.

They raised their guard as they continued forward, as peril could descend upon them at any time. Wang Qiu'er retrieved her Golden Dragon Spear, and Huo Yuhao stretched his Spiritual Detection to its limits, focusing in one direction from time to time.

They moved forward for another fifteen minutes. Even Huo Yuhao felt a little unsettled at this point, and he had an ominous feeling that something was here that made him feel a little stifled and pressured.

Wang Qiu'er murmured, "Wait."

Huo Yuhao immediately halted in his tracks and turned towards her. "I also think something is amiss. How are you feeling, Qiu'er?"

Wang Qiu'er surveyed her surroundings as she lowered her voice and said, "Have you realized that the light around us is a lot weaker than before?"

"Eh?" Huo Yuhao had been using Spiritual Detection this whole time, but his Spiritual Detection was mainly focused on soul beasts that could appear, and other sources of danger that could attack them in some way. Wang Qiu'er's reminder made him realize that this place was a lot dimmer than before.

"Can it be because the sky is getting dark?" He rarely came to the northern regions, so he didn't know much about the weather in these parts.

Wang Qiu'er shook her head and said, "It's still afternoon. Even if we go further north, there can't be so little light. Furthermore, there are no clouds blocking the sun, and you can see the trees' shadows on the ground. Furthermore, we are comparing the sunlight now to how it was fifteen minutes ago. How can the sky turn dark within such a short period of time? There is only one possibility that can cause the light to dim and weaken... the air."

"Air?" Huo Yuhao asked doubtfully.

Wang Qiu'er said, "Don't you have Spiritual Detection? Concentrate it on a relatively small area and focus on what's inside, observe and see how the air is changing in that space, and then jump up into the sky and perceive how different the air is up there from how it is down here. You should be able to discover something."

"Alright..." Huo Yuhao answered slowly.

Huo Yuhao immediately focused his attention and used Spiritual Detection on the air in front of him. He discovered something different the moment he concentrated.

Even his Spirit Eyes found it difficult to distinguish the fine dust that was drifting around through the air. These dust particles were pale white. They weren't thick and dense, but they were floating stably. They were inside a tremendous forest, and the air inside the forest should be a lot better than the outside world. These dust particles clearly wouldn't be here under normal circumstances.

Huo Yuhao jumped into the air and activated his flying-type soul tool. His body was propelled upwards as he surged into the sky.

He pierced ten meters above the canopy, and his vision instantly lit up, as if he had just broken through some barrier, everything around him very bright and clear.

Huo Yuhao was still using Spiritual Detection, and he immediately discovered that the fine particles disappeared completely once he was out of the forest.

He looked down toward the Setting Sun Forest beneath him, but his naked eye couldn't distinguish anything.

A thought flashed by in Huo Yuhao's head. He continued channeling his flying-type soul tool so that he could fly even higher up.

Huo Yuhao looked down once more when he went even higher, and he could finally see what was going on.

The Setting Sun Forest looked extremely calm, but there seemed to be a faint and thin fog floating around inside the forest. What made him even more astounded was the fact that this fog gradually dissipated and vanished where they came from, but it was a lot denser in the place they were heading towards. It felt as if a patch of cloud had descended on the forest, and even the vegetation was blurry and obscured. These clouds weren't just white, as he could even see multi-colored hues in the distance.

What... what is this?

Huo Yuhao didn't have too much time to think. He immediately returned to the forest and relayed his discoveries to Wang Qiu'er.

Wang Qiu'er's eyes grew a little slack as she stared at his eyes, but she immediately recovered as she blurted out, "It's a miasma, this should be a miasma!"

Huo Yuhao was momentarily stunned. "Miasma?" He only had a fuzzy understanding of the term.

Wang Qiu'er lowered her voice and said, "A miasma is a kind of venomous gas that gradually arises from decaying and decomposing vegetation and animals that are not taken care of, and if there isn't any wind or rain to blow it away. I've seen this before inside the Great Star Dou Forest, but I've never seen it like the way you describe it. It covers such an enormous surface area, and it even contains specks of various colors.

"Different miasmas have different toxic effects. A lighter miasma will cause dizziness, vomiting, and diarrhea, while a heavier miasma can be fatal. It seems like the danger that I sensed before this is related to this miasma. The only thing is, where is this immense miasma coming from? Toxic miasma is not to be trifled with, and it's not something that we can resist with just our soul power. What do we do?"

Huo Yuhao contemplated momentarily, then said, "It seems like it's not just because of soul masters hunting that there are so few soul beasts inside the Setting Sun Forest. This phenomena must also be closely connected to this miasma. Qiu'er, you should turn back. It's too dangerous here, and there's no need for you to accompany me to face this peril."

Wang Qiu'er's eyes widened as she said, "We have encountered a situation that normal human ability cannot fend off, and you still haven't changed your mind? Will you still go inside if you know that you will never come out alive?"

Huo Yuhao answered, "I have a solution for this. Even though this solution isn't perfect, it will increase our chances of venturing deeper within. However, it's quite dangerous. I must go inside for Dong'er, and I will never have the courage to go inside again if I back down today. Go back, Qiu'er. Let me prepare."



There was miasma in the air around them, but it was still relatively weak and thin. Their physiques were quite formidable, and it wasn't difficult for them to resist the miasma at this point. This was the reason why Huo Yuhao had no intention of turning back.

Huo Yuhao released his all-terrain self-driving fort onto the open ground beside him and got to work.

#### [Chapter 256.1: Ice and Fire Destroy the Poisonous Miasma](#)

Wang Qiu'er naturally stayed with him. She followed him beside his all-terrain self-driving fort and said, "Are you going to use this toy to barge through the miasma? That's entirely impossible! The toxic fog inside is too dense, and you can't even determine the right direction to go. Even if you can do so, you'll still need to breathe when you go inside! There won't be much for us to breathe in the depths of the miasma, so what are you going to do? When that happens, will you even be able to escape? Furthermore, I am confident that certain toxic miasmas are extremely corrosive, so metal will gradually become dysfunctional, and could even melt. You think this thing of yours can fend off all the miasma? Stop dreaming!"

Huo Yuhao made no reply as he continued working on his all-terrain self-driving fort. It was just as Wang Qiu'er had said, he was attempting to make the self-driving fort more airtight.

Huo Yuhao was very familiar with this soul tool. The Starlight Sapphire ring's immense space meant he could bring along a lot of materials, so he took less than an hour to complete the adjustments to make the all-terrain self-driving fort more airtight.

Huo Yuhao went inside to try it out, using Spiritual Detection to scan every single detail and component. He made sure that the internal regions were completely airtight before he came out, and began to work on something else on the outside. From Wang Qiu'er's perspective, Huo Yuhao was incessantly stripping things off the self-driving fort before he added something else in their place in a manner that seemed overly complicated.

Another two hours passed before he finished refining his all-terrain self-driving fort, and the sky was started to turn dark.

He began to retrieve soul tool after soul tool from his Starlight Sapphire storage ring, and laid them all out neatly on the ground.

He took out sixteen Milk Bottles, and some stationary soul cannon shells. These shells were marked with various patterns and markings, forty-six of them altogether. Huo Yuhao picked out nine shells that had red markings and put the other shells away before he took out another normal storage-type ring and put it on his right hand's middle finger. He placed those nine shells inside this ring.

It was clear that he was sorting his inventory and his equipment. He checked his sixteen Milk Bottles and discovered that some of them weren't stored to the brim with soul power, so he immediately began to infuse soul power into these half-full Milk Bottles eventually completely filling every single one. Every single Milk Bottle would be imperative to the subsequent operation, and every single Class 6 Milk Bottle could completely restore his soul power over a period of time.

Wang Qiu'er looked on as Huo Yuhao completed his tasks seriously, and her expression changed continuously.

There was only one thought in her mind. She was still throwing around the statement that Huo Yuhao had just said to her before this.

“I’ve thought about losing her and what would become of me, and I realized that my entire world would turn gray, and I would no longer have any vitality. Perhaps, I might even lose the will to live. That was when I realized to my surprise that her life has become more important than my own.”

She was so important in his heart, and he would risk his own life to break through this miasmic world for her. A person could actually give so much for another person. Why? How is that possible?

She silently watched Huo Yuhao finish everything he was doing as she immersed herself within these complicated emotions. The sky had already turned dark when he finished up with his Milk Bottles.

Huo Yuhao only made some time to rest at this moment. He raised his head and glanced at Wang Qiu’er before he heaved a faint sigh and said, “Why haven’t you left?”

Wang Qiu’er grunted coldly and replied, “Why should I leave? I want to see how a fool is going to kill himself.”

Huo Yuhao smiled when he heard “fool”, as the images of Wang Dong’er and himself on the Sea God’s Lake surfaced in his mind.

“I’m not a fool. I should be an idiot,” Huo Yuhao chuckled in reply.

Wang Qiu’er was taken aback. “Is there something wrong with your brain?”

Huo Yuhao shook his head and said, “She was the one that said that. She told me before that I’m an idiot, and I’m her idiot. No matter what, this idiot has to be idiotic one more time. The sky is getting dark, you should leave at first light tomorrow. If you wish, you can wait for me outside the Setting Sun Forest, and you can go back without me if I’m not out within three days. However, please don’t tell anyone about what happened to me. Just let them believe that I’ve disappeared.”

Wang Qiu’er’s emotions erupted once more, and she began to shout at Huo Yuhao. “Idiot! You truly are an idiot, and there’s nothing that can save you from your idiocy. Is it worth it? Is it really worth it?”

Huo Yuhao didn’t mince words as he replied decisively, “Yes, it’s worth it. I have to try, no matter how much danger and peril I have to put myself through, so that Dong’er may continue to live. At the very least, I have to figure out the true mysteries contained within this place, and I will not give up even if there is but one sliver of hope. How can I look on with open eyes as Dong’er passes into the void from her hidden wound? How can I look on as my entire world turns gray? I can’t let that happen.”

Wang Qiu’er bit down on her lower lip. “Idiot, idiot! Idiot!”

Huo Yuhao didn’t bother with her any longer, and he collected some relatively drier branches from around him and began to make a campfire.

Huo Yuhao had no qualms about starting a fire here, as there weren’t many soul beasts left in this area of the Setting Sun Forest. He was quietly observing how the faint miasma in the air reacted to his campfire at the same time.

Heated rations were still tastier than cold ones. Huo Yuhao didn't dare to cook food from the things around him, as the plants and vegetation around him had been immersed in this miasma for an incredibly long time, and they probably contained all contained toxins to some degree. He made some thick soup from the rations and food that he had brought along with him and began to eat.

Wang Qiu'er's emotions had exploded for a moment, but she swiftly returned to normal. She came over to his side and began to eat as well.

Night inside the Setting Sun Forest was a lot colder than inside the Great Star Dou Forest. There wasn't much wind, but the environment's eerie cold and humidity was still exceedingly uncomfortable.

Fortunately, they had this campfire. The two of them sat around the campfire and sipped on their warm soup, and this helped them dispel the chill.

Gulp... Huo Yuhao finished the soup in his bowl and stretched out comfortably. He got to his feet and surveyed the area with Spiritual Detection to make sure there were no dangers or threats around them before sitting back on the ground.

Wang Qiu'er sipped her soup in small mouthfuls. She was very serious in this endeavor, as if she was holding some precious treasure in her hands.

"Qiu'er, at which time of day is this miasma the thickest? When is it the thinnest?"

Wang Qiu'er answered coldly, "It's thickest in the morning, and it's thinnest at midday."

Huo Yuhao's eyes closed into a squint. "Since that's the case, it's probably because the morning is a lot more humid than the rest of the day. The accumulated moisture throughout the night probably makes it easier for this miasma to travel. Sunlight is strongest at midday, and the moisture within all this miasma will partially evaporate under direct sunlight. It will thin without the help of voluminous water vapor. Is that correct?"

Wang Qiu'er nodded.

"That's good, then." Huo Yuhao closed his eyes, and he seemed like he was starting to meditate beside the campfire.

"Hey! What are you going on and on about?" Wang Qiu'er sounded a little upset.

Huo Yuhao opened his eyes once more. He heaved a faint sigh and said, "I'm serious, Qiu'er. You should leave at first light tomorrow."

Wang Qiu'er grunted coldly and said, "What makes you think you can tell me what to do? Do you think you are the only one that is allowed to do idiotic things?"

Huo Yuhao shook his head. "But there's no need for that. It's too dangerous, and I am not even ten percent confident in succeeding. I'll have to rely on guesswork, trial, and error for many things."

"Stop beating around the bush. Say it, what's your plan, exactly? Since I have already followed you this far, do you think I can just look on while you venture into danger and peril all by yourself? Who do you think I am?" Wang Qiu'er's voice was ice-cold. Even though her tone was cold, her words were warmer than even the campfire before him when they fell into his ears.

Helping hands in one's direst moment were usually the most precious things one could ever have.

"Thank you." Huo Yuhao took a deep breath and said, "If you're willing to help, then I think our chances of success will be raised to thirty percent. If this toxic miasma is the only threat in this place, then I have an eighty percent chance of escaping with my life at least. The only thing I'm worried about right now is if there are other dangers besides this toxic miasma."

Wang Qiu'er was astounded when she heard his words. "Are you being blindly optimistic? Why do you think you have an eighty percent chance of escaping with your life?"

Huo Yuhao answered, "Perhaps I'm not as familiar with forests inhabited by soul beasts or with miasma as you are, but my judgment and decision-making skills are still quite reliable. The person that imparted this map to me is a senior, and I am positive that he harbors no malicious intent. This is the reason why he added a seal on the map when he gave it to me, so that I would only come here to find the Yearning Heartbroken Grass to save Dong'er's life when I was strong enough. I opened this seal by chance, and before I have obtained the necessary strength.

However, the records suggest that not every area on the way to my destination is covered by this toxic miasma. Otherwise, I may not even have the confidence of retrieving what I'm looking for even if I were a Titled Douluo. This miasma greatly hinders my Spiritual Detection, so how else could I find what I need to find? I trust that this task that this senior has given to me isn't that difficult to accomplish."

Wang Qiu'er grunted and said, "These are but your conjectures."

Huo Yuhao chortled and replied, "We have to hypothesize boldly, but we have to prove it conscientiously and carefully. Furthermore, I have other safeguards. You've already said that this miasma is strongest during the early morning, and it will weaken at midday. That means there is no doubt that we should move forward at midday. Furthermore, since the warmth from sunlight impedes the miasma, why don't we create something hot so that we can weaken the miasma around us?"

#### [Chapter 256.2: Ice and Fire Destroy the Poisonous Miasma](#)

"I've been observing it using Spiritual Detection ever since I started the campfire, and I realized that the miasma has no way of resisting fire, and clearly vanishes around this campfire. It's apparent that flames are fatal to this miasma. I don't have any fire-type abilities, but some of the soul tools that I carry around can create some fire, and are proving extremely effective. I've already attached these soul tools to the all-terrain self-propelling fort, and I've made the fort even more airtight than before, along with some other changes that will be imperative to keeping us alive.

"Also, my second martial soul possesses Ultimate Ice. Perhaps ice won't have the same effect on the miasma as fire does, but the miasma carries miniscule toxins that will be greatly weakened under exceedingly cold temperatures. Furthermore, my Ultimate Ice can affect the water vapor that makes up the fog. The miasma will also be weakened without water vapor to help it permeate.

"I've combined all this with the prepared safeguards to keep us alive. Even if we can't venture too deep inside, we will have no problem breaking out, since all we have to do is prevent the miasma from corroding our flying-type soul tools. That being the case, we will have no problem escaping from here."

The incredulity in Wang Qiu'er's eyes grew stronger and stronger as she listened to Huo Yuhao's analysis. She was truly astonished... she had just been daydreaming beside him during this short period of time, but he had already come up with so many solutions to deal with the problem. Everything he said made perfect sense. Rational judgment told her that not everywhere within this miasma was dangerous, and they also had ice and fire to handle the problem. The danger from Wang Qiu'er's point of view seemed to diminish.

Huo Yuhao chortled as he stared at the astonished look on her face. "Do you suddenly feel that I am smart and powerful?"

Wang Qiu'er snapped, "Enough nonsense. Hurry up and rest. We'll get moving tomorrow."

They began to meditate beside the campfire. The miasma was undeniably dangerous, but it also formed a protective dome around them. There were so few soul beasts in the area that they weren't threatened at all.

The night passed without any other words.

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Huo Yuhao activated his flying-type soul tool at first light and soared into the sky to monitor the surrounding miasma.

Wang Qiu'er's words were accurate. The miasma in the morning was conspicuously denser, and he could see faint white fog around their location. However, the miasma around these parts was not that toxic, and dissipated or disintegrated when it came near the campfire.

Huo Yuhao adjusted his altitude from time to time so that he could better monitor the situation, and he recorded everything that he saw. He didn't dare to be careless about anything that concerned his and Wang Qiu'er's safety, especially anything that would have an impact on whether he could retrieve the Yearning Heartbroken Grass or not.

The sun rose fully as he continued to observe and calculate. Huo Yuhao continuously communicated his observations to Wang Qiu'er, and they patiently waited for midday to arrive.

Finally, it was almost time. Huo Yuhao and Wang Qiu'er ate some more, had their fill of water, and set off in their peak condition.

Huo Yuhao's eyes were as cold as ice as he stared at the thinning miasma in the air.

The weather was good today; the sun was radiant as it loomed over the earth, and there wasn't a single cloud to be seen. Truthfully, it wasn't what Huo Yuhao had wanted most. What he wanted most was heavy rain and a thunderstorm!

The miasma would be weakened to a larger extent if a heavy downpour came down upon the Setting Sun Forest. Unfortunately, this was still the dry season, and storms were few and far between in the northern regions to begin with. The scorching sun completely dashed his hopes.

"We'll be setting off soon, Qiu'er." Huo Yuhao turned towards Wang Qiu'er.

“Let’s go.” Wang Qiu’er’s expression was equally cold and stoic, but there was a tinge of excitement beneath her eyes. This was the first time she had encountered a situation like this, where Huo Yuhao’s intricate and comprehensive plan resolved the various dangers and threats. She was filled with curiosity and excitement against a natural phenomenon such as this, and the mystery of the unknown and uncertain dangers was extremely stimulating to her.

Huo Yuhao extended the flying-type soul tool behind his back, and reached out for Wang Qiu’er with his left hand.

Their lives were at stake, and it was necessary to conserve as much soul power as they could with every step they took so that they could maintain themselves at their peak conditions. Their martial soul fusion would have a substantial part to play in this endeavor, and Huo Yuhao couldn’t be bothered with anything lesser at a time like this.

Wang Qiu’er glanced at him and hmped, but eventually slipped her left hand into his palm.

Their hands clasped together, and their soul power naturally interacted, flourishing soul power undulations rippling out. Huo Yuhao looked up at the sky as he grabbed Wang Qiu’er’s hand, and channeled soul power into her before they both soared into the sky.

They surged out of the Setting Sun Forest and continued to climb higher and higher. Their Class 6 flying-type soul tools propelled them up, and they quickly reached several hundred meters in the sky. However, Huo Yuhao showed no signs of stopping as he continued flying upward with Wang Qiu’er.

The miasma beneath them covered a tremendous area, which Huo Yuhao had roughly gauged beforehand. The strongest part of the miasma permeated to about three hundred meters above-ground, and these were the parts that had hints of color. The miasma here looked exceptionally beautiful, but was also exceedingly dangerous.

They climbed to about seven hundred meters before Huo Yuhao stabilized his altitude. They were currently high enough to avoid the miasma’s toxicity, and he took another glance at it before he pulled Wang Qiu’er along and flew towards the place where the miasma was the thickest.

Never once did he consider using the all terrain self-propelling fort to move forward on the ground toward their destination. The miasma on the ground would become increasingly thick, which meant that it would also become more corrosive. This would take a continuous toll on the fort’s protective barrier and his soul power, whereas using their flying-type soul tools expended a lot less.

More importantly, his Spiritual Detection would be greatly impeded as they went deeper into the thick miasma. This meant that it would be impossible for him to determine direction and proceed toward his destination as fast as he could.

It was different in the sky. Discerning direction in the air was convenient, and he was almost sure that the place where the miasma was the densest was likely where he had to go. The place where exotic things existed were undoubtedly unique, and this toxic miasma could be considered one of this place’s unique features.

Even if using flying-type soul tools consumed more soul power than moving along the ground with his all-terrain self-propelling fort, Huo Yuhao would still choose the sky because it was a lot faster, and they

could reach the skies above their destination in no time. Huo Yuhao's subsequent plan could be executed as fast as possible, and this meant he would be conserving soul power.

The area they were coming from was in the toxic miasma's outer regions. They were flying as fast as they could through the sky, and it took but a few minutes before they reached the sky above the area where the miasma was most dense.

Huo Yuhao held onto Wang Qiu'er with his right hand as he raised his left hand into the air. A beam of light sparkled from his ring, and a stationary soul cannon about one and a half meters long appeared in his hands. He held the cannon stably on his shoulder, and let go of Wang Qiu'er's hand for a moment. He swung his wrist, and the storage ring on his left hand immediately produced two stationary soul cannon shells in his hands – these were the cannon shells with red markings that he had picked out the previous day.

Huo Yuhao placed one shell into the barrel and held onto the other one as he activated Spiritual Detection. He was looking down from the sky, and the area he could cover was naturally greater than usual, while there was nothing obstructing his vision.

Wang Qiu'er controlled her flying-type soul tool and flew behind him while she tilted herself backward, so that she wouldn't affect his flying-type soul tool's stability as she grabbed his shoulders with both hands at the same time. Their martial souls began to fuse, greatly boosting Huo Yuhao's soul power.

Huo Yuhao didn't pause at all, swinging his right hand and tossing the cannon shell in it down. It fell away rapidly, while he quickly supported the stationary soul cannon with his right hand and locked onto the shell with his Spiritual Detection. Just as the cannon shell was about to pierce through the thick miasma, Huo Yuhao fired his soul cannon.

Boom! The tremendous recoil pushed Huo Yuhao several meters through the air as a brilliant red beam erupted from his soul cannon. The cannon shell barreled forward at devastating speed, and went straight for the other cannon shell that Huo Yuhao had tossed out earlier.

The shell fired by the stationary soul cannon naturally flew a lot faster than the one that was in freefall through the air. Huo Yuhao had used Spiritual Detection to lock onto his target, and his accuracy was comparable to ruler measurements. A red streak of light unerringly struck the cannon shell that had just plunged into the thick miasma.

Boom, boom, boom! A series of explosions could be heard, and the thick miasma was immediately tainted fiery-red. The entire miasmatic cloud began to tremble violently and tumultuously as sparks flew in all directions.

The stationary cannon shell that Huo Yuhao had used was a Class 5 explosive incendiary bomb. It wasn't as powerful as the Giant Lightning Cannon that he had used before, but it had an extremely large area of effect. The explosion would also generate a terrifying amount of intense heat, whose waves would permeate in all directions. A single Class 5 explosive incendiary bomb could cover a radius of at least a hundred meters, and was exceptionally violent!

Huo Yuhao opted to use two shells, and made it so that these two shells would collide and detonate in the air for an even more explosive impact, which would cause even more damage to the miasmatic cloud.

On the other hand, detonating the cannon shell on the ground might damage the herb that he was supposed to retrieve. He wanted to obliterate the miasma, not this magical herb!

His calculations could be said to be impeccable and precise, and he executed his plan as perfectly as could be.

### [Chapter 256.3: Ice and Fire Destroy the Poisonous Miasma](#)

Huo Yuhao didn't conserve his stationary soul cannon shells, and fired another two more, one after another without hesitation. More frightening explosions rippled through the air.

The first explosion had already cleared away a large amount of the toxic clouds, and the second explosion detonated at a position slightly below the first one. Their vision immediately became clearer when the second explosion went off.

"Let's go." Huo Yuhao swiftly stored his stationary soul cannon before reaching back with his right hand and grabbing Wang Qiu'er's arm, and they plunged towards the ground.

The stationary soul cannon had opened a path, but it couldn't be maintained for too long. Once the high temperature dissipated, the thick miasma in the surroundings would immediately start to condense once more. Four Class 5 stationary soul cannon shells had opened this path, and Huo Yuhao couldn't waste such a great opportunity.

Their bodies plummeted rapidly, and they quickly dove toward the thick miasma. Huo Yuhao and Wang Qiu'er could clearly see that the surrounding miasma was starting to close up at an alarming speed. The miasma was just too thick and dense, to the point where it seemed to materialize in the sky as it collapsed in on the hole.

The vegetation beneath them was conspicuously different from the plants in the Setting Sun Forest's outer regions. Many of these plants were dotted with colors, but this spectacle didn't represent anything good at all. Colorful plants often meant acute venom; this was common knowledge they had learned at Shrek Academy.

Huo Yuhao was extremely calm at this moment. He pushed his Spiritual Detection to its largest possible range and meticulously monitored everything that was happening around him. It was clear that there was no way out once he and Wang Qiu'er submerged themselves in the toxic cloud, and they could only move forward. They only had this one chance. If they backed out, they would no longer have the ability to delve into this mysterious miasmatic world a second time.

They barreled through several hundred meters in the blink of an eye. They were just about to hit the ground when Wang Qiu'er went ahead and punched downward. Golden light erupted amidst a deep dragon roar as fearsome strength compressed the air around them until it began to crackle shrilly. Wang Qiu'er created a deep crater in the ground as explosions continued to ring out, and the colorful plants on the ground, and the liquids within them, were sent flying in all directions.

They landed stably on the ground, and Huo Yuhao activated his Class 6 protective soul barrier immediately, enveloping them both, and swiftly began to survey his surroundings.

The world around them was so colorful that everything felt like rainbows. The multicolored plants on the ground covered every single piece of ground, and not a single inch of soil could be seen. There were



hardly any trees or woods in this area, which was probably because of the corrosive power of the plants' toxins.

Wang Qiu'er was a little surprised as she observed, "Strange... the miasma on the ground isn't as dense as it is in the sky..."

This was true. They were in the miasma's core regions, and the miasmatic clouds here were tinged with the colors of the rainbow. However, it was only present as a faint mist here, and even though it hindered their vision to a certain extent, it wasn't enough to block their line of sight completely. The miasma was undoubtedly a lot thinner than the thick and toxic clouds in the sky above them.

Huo Yuhao explained, "Clouds and mist always permeate and drift away upward. I already noticed this, as even though the miasma is dense in these parts, it's obvious that it's drifting upward, so the miasma on the ground probably isn't as toxic as it is above us. However, these multicolored miasmatic clouds are still extremely dangerous. I can already feel the miasma corroding my protective barrier, even though it's energy-based."

Huo Yuhao had already determined the right direction when they were in the sky. He pulled Wang Qiu'er and immediately proceeded towards their destination.

They were very careful as they pushed forward. Cold energy condensed beneath Huo Yuhao's feet, and a layer of frost appeared on the ground with every step that he took so that he could block off the plants they were walking on.

The soul protective barrier could clear away the plants in front of them, but it couldn't do anything against the plants beneath their feet, so Huo Yuhao had to resort to this clumsy method. There was no doubt that this consumed soul power, but it was safer than otherwise. He was not about to let himself come into contact with any of these venomous plants or the multicolored miasma, as he had no idea how toxic these things could be. It would be almost impossible to retreat if something happened to him right here, or if a hole opened in his protective barrier.

They began to see some things that made their skin crawl as they pushed forward. Enormous bones and skeletons would appear on the ground from time to time, and those bones were also as multicolored the miasma around them. Clearly, these weren't plants, but the remains of soul beasts that had perished from the poison.

Crack! A sound could be heard from not too far away, which startled them both. They concentrated their soul power at almost the same time as they gazed in the direction the sound came from.

A large skeleton began to lean sideways. The bones beneath it had clearly become fragile and brittle from the corrosion, and the skeleton crashed to the ground with a loud boom in the next moment, exploding into a million broken pieces. The brilliant colors above them became even denser than before.

Huo Yuhao and Wang Qiu'er both drew cold breaths as they looked on. They could see that the venom was so toxic that it could corrode bones, to the point where these bones became fragile, and eventually disintegrated. It was not hard to imagine the number of soul beasts that were buried underneath these multicolored plants.

A soul beast's skeleton was the toughest part of its body, and some were even used by humans as special materials. One of the items that best represented this was undoubtedly the Golden Dragon Spear in Wang Qiu'er's hands. It felt as if everything in this miasmic world was being corroded. This toxic cloud was just too overwhelmingly poisonous!

Wang Qiu'er muttered, "These remains have become nutrients for the toxic miasma. The miasma continuously murders other living beings, and even the birds flying through the skies above have become victims. This cycle has made the miasma stronger and stronger. Perhaps, after millennia, the entire Setting Sun Forest will become a toxic and miasmic forest. That's just... too horrifying."

Huo Yuhao's eyebrows were tightly knit together as he began to pick up the pace. He had realized that the colors outside his soul protective barrier were becoming denser as the multicolored miasma began to stick to his barrier. He could withdraw his protective barrier to shake off the toxic miasma, but that would mean he and Wang Qiu'er would be exposed to it.

The toxic miasma was exceedingly corrosive, and Huo Yuhao could clearly feel that his soul power was being consumed at an alarming speed. This was definitely not something that he wanted to see, so he had no choice but to push forward more quickly than before. When they reached a point where both he and Wang Qiu'er couldn't take it anymore, he would use an explosive incendiary bomb to open a path like before, and they would then use their flying-type soul tools to escape from this toxic world. It was the only way to stay alive.

The world around them was full of brilliant colors as they continued forward. The map wasn't useful anymore at this point. Huo Yuhao could still use the map to roughly determine their location before they came in, but he could only rely on luck and continual Spiritual Detection to find his destination once they were inside.

Huo Yuhao would activate Spiritual Detection to sweep in a single direction every few minutes. This method was a little clumsy, but it was still effective. In addition to his exemplary memory, it made sure they were not walking around in circles.

An hour quickly passed. Huo Yuhao had already expended his first Milk Bottle. However, Wang Qiu'er was the one that actually used the Milk Bottle, as he had to focus his energy on his Spiritual Detection. Their soul power was connected, so replenishing Wang Qiu'er's soul power meant Huo Yuhao was also replenishing his own.

Huo Yuhao began to narrow down his destination after the hour of exploration. However, the miasmic clouds outside were starting to put more and more pressure on him, to the point where the multicolored miasma completely blocked off his vision outside the protective barrier. He also had to strengthen his protective barrier continuously to maintain its integrity.

"Wait," Huo Yuhao whispered as he immediately pulled on Wang Qiu'er. She was already in his embrace before she could even react.

Wang Qiu'er was still carefully perceiving everything around her, and this sudden change startled her. A dense masculine aura smacked her in the face, and she even felt a little dizzy, as if she had been struck by the toxic miasma outside.

An incredibly cold aura emanated from Huo Yuhao's body in the next moment, and this aura crossed over Wang Qiu'er's body and permeated outside.

"I've done it!" Huo Yuhao's delighted voice could be heard, and Wang Qiu'er was shocked awake as Huo Yuhao released her from his embrace at the same time.

Wang Qiu'er turned to look, and saw that the multicolored radiance had been replaced by icy-blue colors in a five-meter radius around them. Voluminous rainbow-colored particles had been blown into the air, and the dense miasmic particles that were originally plastered on the soul protective barrier vanished at the same time.

This is...

The Domain of Perpetual Ice. Huo Yuhao had used his Domain of Perpetual Ice to freeze the water vapor within the toxic miasma, and he controlled these frozen particles to push outward so that his barrier was a little cleaner.

This method was a little dubious, and it felt as if he was drinking poison to quench his thirst. In the end, the Domain of Perpetual Ice consumed a lot of soul power, and Huo Yuhao wouldn't have decided on this method if not for the fact that his protective barrier was reaching the end of its life.

Huo Yuhao withdrew his barrier at this moment and released it against immediately afterwards. His soul power consumption was instantly restored to the optimal level. Huo Yuhao also took this opportunity to take a breather.

Wang Qiu'er forcibly suppressed her palpitating heartbeat as she suggested calmly, "Why don't you use your third eye to probe around? We may consume a lot more soul power if we continue going around in circles."

She didn't need Huo Yuhao's explanation to understand that the embrace happened because he didn't want her to get hurt because of his soul skill. Bringing their bodies into close contact meant that Huo Yuhao could use their martial soul fusion to unleash his soul skill beyond her body, and it was clearly the best choice at the moment. But... but this guy still hugged me in the end!

#### [Chapter 257.1: Jade Phosphorous Flower of the Seven Absolutes](#)

The truth was that Huo Yuhao also had butterflies in his stomach. Wang Qiu'er's body was a lot softer and more tender than he had imagined. Of course, that tenderness only lasted for a second before it became rock-hard. He was afraid that Wang Qiu'er would suddenly erupt, but her calm words made him extremely relieved. What an intelligent girl! Huo Yuhao was full of awe and admiration inside.

Huo Yuhao nodded and closed his eyes, and golden light flickered on his forehead as he slowly opened his Eye of Destiny. He stopped moving forward and remained where he was. The extreme chill brought about by his Domain of Perpetual Ice could be maintained for quite a while, and that slowed down the toxic miasma's assault.

His initial judgment was correct, ice and fire were exceedingly damaging and controlling towards the miasmic clouds. It was a pity that he was far from strong enough. If he had been a Titled Douluo, he could possibly channel his Domain of Perpetual Ice with all his might to create an enormous blizzard and actually obliterate some of this miasma. If he kept sweeping across this area for a prolonged period of

time, he wouldn't need very long to clean out all the miasma in this area. If he could find the origin of all this, this large naturally-occurring disastrous land would no longer consume life.

Faint light continued to flicker as Huo Yuhao's face flowed with a subtle chill. The Eye of Destiny on his forehead glowed with golden light, and his martial soul fusion with Wang Qiu'er boosted his Eye of Destiny's power exponentially.

His martial soul fusion with Wang Dong'er also gave him an all-around boost, but Wang Qiu'er gave him an explosive amplification, and this was mainly presented in his strength and his spiritual power. This boost was extremely pure, just like their martial soul fusion.

Huo Yuhao's martial soul fusion with Wang Dong'er could be considered a general boost, while his martial soul fusion with Wang Qiu'er could be considered a specific boost. The amplification direction was different, so each had their own effects. At this moment, Wang Qiu'er's explosive effects were more effective for this attempt at stretching the limits of his Spiritual Detection.

Huo Yuhao channeled his Eye of Destiny with all his might, and a powerful golden beam of light fired out from his vertical eye. This golden beam was deep and profound, and even Wang Qiu'er didn't dare to stare directly at his brilliant golden eye.

Scenes flashed by in Huo Yuhao's Spiritual Detection, and his head also began to swivel as he searched his surroundings. Even Huo Yuhao himself was astonished by the distance he could reach with Spiritual Detection. He realized, to his surprise, that he could reach far past his normal limit of five kilometers. His soul power was consumed at an alarming rate, but the vast distance that he could reach undoubtedly saved him a lot of time.

This amplification is so powerful, it feels even stronger than it was inside the Great Star Dou Forest. This thought crossed Huo Yuhao's mind, and his eyes grew slack in the next moment. The golden light disappeared, and his vertical eye closed up before it vanished with another flicker of golden light.

"How is it?" Wang Qiu'er asked softly, and she seemed a little fatigued as well. In the end, Huo Yuhao wasn't the only one expending spiritual power.

Huo Yuhao's eyes sparkled as he replied, "I think I have found the direction leading to our target! The miasma over there is different. I think it's more toxic, and I can see that the miasmatic clouds beyond that patch are conspicuously lower than before. It's likely to be the valley that we're looking for. Let's go, quickly!"

He grasped Wang Qiu'er's hand as he spoke and raced in the direction he had just identified.

They were naturally moving a lot faster than before now that they had a proper target. Huo Yuhao didn't conserve any soul power, and raised his protective barrier to the highest possible level to keep all the miasma outside as they pushed forward as fast as they could.

His Spiritual Detection had reached more than seven kilometers, and his target was right at the end of that range.

This place was filled with deadly venom, but Huo Yuhao and Wang Qiu'er only needed fifteen minutes to rush seven kilometers.

The second Milk Bottle was already in Wang Qiu'er's hands, and a different world from before swiftly appeared in the distance in front of them.

Everything was bluish-green, and just so astounding and eerie.

Cyan hues blanketed the earth, while the plants that grew around them covered large patches of earth in a seemingly messy and disorganized manner of teals, aquas, and turquoises. Faint blue-green mist floated up from them before gradually beginning to expand outwards.

"What kind of plant is that?" Huo Yuhao didn't dare to venture forward blindly, and he halted in his tracks as astonishment flowed from his eyes.

These blue-green plants extended to either side of them. They weren't that tall, about half a meter tall, and every single plant had nine strangely shaped leaves. These leaves resembled human hands, but each one had seven fingers, while some of the relatively larger ones had nine fingers. There were enormous cyan flowers located at the tips of every leaf, and the mists were being released from the large flowers' stamens. The mist gradually expanded in all directions before flowing into the multicolored miasma.

The cyan hues they let off were a substantial part of the multicolored miasma.

Huo Yuhao gazed far into the distance, and could see with his formidable vision that huge patches of miasmatic clouds were gathered behind these bluish-green plants. These miasmatic clouds were gradually flowing towards the ground, but their densities were comparable to what they had encountered in the sky before this.

It was no wonder he couldn't see this when he was still in the sky, as the densest miasmatic clouds were sinking down in this area. There was no question that the place the miasmatic clouds were sinking into was a mountain valley.

Wang Qiu'er stared at the bluish-green plants before them, as if she were trying to distinguish something. Huo Yuhao quickly retrieved a bright silvery piece of metal from his storage ring and threw it towards the blue-green plants in the distance.

It was a piece of platinum, a metal which had a very high resistance to corrosion.

The platinum piece hurtled through the multicolored miasma and quickly became tainted with various colors. However, astounding and terrifying transformations began to happen to it when it reached the space above the bluish-green mists in the sky.

The platinum began to emanate dense streams of green mist when it came into contact with the toxic green clouds, and then its volume began to diminish at breakneck speed. Half of the platinum had disappeared by the time it hit the ground, and it only took about three breaths before that tough and corrosion-resistant metal vanished into thin air.

"This... this corrosion is so strong." Huo Yuhao drew a cold breath. He felt as if his legs were filled with lead, and he didn't dare to take another step forward. He could tell from how the platinum was corroded that this acidic mist was not something that his Class 6 protective barrier could defend against.

Could he fly past it from above? However, the cyan mist reached an incredible height, and looked like it formed a dome that loomed over the valley. What exactly is this? How can it be so horrifyingly toxic and acidic?

Huo Yuhao retrieved a soul tool as thoughts spun around in his head, and fired a soul ray at the green mist in the distance.

A red beam of light surged forward and left a fiery radiance behind in the air. This was a soul flameray, and even though it was just a Class 3 soul tool, it was extremely effective at burning things up.

The rainbow-colored miasma surged and dissipated when it came into contact with the flame. However, once this flame ray reached the green mists beyond, the multicolored miasma had a lot more green inside, and it became conspicuously more resistant to the flames.

When the flames reached the green mists, the scene that Huo Yuhao absolutely didn't want to see occurred. The toxic green clouds suddenly became a lot stronger than before after the flames incinerated it. The green clouds all around them surged with lightning speed as they poured back along the cleared path burned by the flame, right towards where Huo Yuhao and Wang Qiu'er were standing.

"Run!" Huo Yuhao dragged Wang Qiu'er as he turned around to run without hesitation. He knew very well that he couldn't let a single ounce of that green mist touch his body, or they would both remain here as fertilizer!

They turned and ran in the opposite direction. Huo Yuhao brought out the stationary soul cannon from before as he ran, and the green toxic mist chased them down from behind as if it had a life of its own. The bluish-green mist was moving even faster than their running speed, and he didn't dare to hesitate or delay for even a single second.

He fired twice, and the poisonous clouds in the air exploded to open up a path for them. Huo Yuhao grabbed Wang Qiu'er as they soared into the sky, while he unleashed his Domain of Perpetual Ice to its highest defensive capability as he pulled her into his embrace. He activated his flying-type soul tool, and the four soul thrusters behind his back erupted at the same time, raising his speed to the highest possible level and driving him through the air. The green clouds loomed behind them, but Huo Yuhao and Wang Qiu'er soared through the hole within the poisonous clouds in the air that they had just opened up before the green clouds could reach them.

Huo Yuhao flew eight hundred meters into the sky in one go before he dared to slow down. His forehead had already broken out in a cold sweat.

Wang Qiu'er hadn't done anything at all. Besides completing his martial soul fusion for him, she was just following him around.

Huo Yuhao hugged her for a longer duration than before this time, and there seemed to be an extra something in Wang Qiu'er's otherwise calm expression.

"That's too frightening. The green toxic mist isn't afraid of fire, and it can even retaliate." Huo Yuhao released Wang Qiu'er from his embrace, and only then did he realize that the girl hadn't even opened her flying-type soul tool. Her pretty eyes seemed like they were deep in thought.

“Hey, open your flying-type soul tool. My soul power has been consumed until there’s almost nothing left,” Huo Yuhao hurriedly reminded her.

“Oh.” Wang Qiu’er acknowledged as she infused soul power into the flying-type soul tool behind her, and she worked together with Huo Yuhao to stabilize herself in midair.

Huo Yuhao glanced downwards. What he saw was a torrential green mushroom cloud, which had surged five hundred meters into the air before it gradually receded. The multicolored miasmic clouds were assimilated once they came into contact with this green cloud, as if the miasmic clouds for several kilometers around them had been riled up with this explosion. It felt as if the toxic clouds had been infuriated.

“Why do I feel like these poisonous clouds have a life of their own? I am absolutely certain that my target is located in the valley behind those poisonous green clouds.” Huo Yuhao’s eyebrows were tightly knit together.

Wang Qiu’er suddenly lowered her voice and said, “I remember now. I know what those green plants are.”

#### [Chapter 257.2: Jade Phosphorous Flower of the Seven Absolutes](#)

Huo Yuhao was pleasantly surprised as he said, “What is it?” He had to understand what these toxic things were so that he could devise a plan to fight against them.

Wang Qiu’er replied, “That looked like the Jade Phosphorous Flower of the Seven Absolutes.”

Huo Yuhao was taken aback. “Jade Phosphorous Flower of the Seven Absolutes? What’s that?” He had learned about many plants during his lessons at Shrek Academy, as some soul beasts existed as plants, but he had never heard of this one.

Wang Qiu’er stared at him with solemn eyes and said, “You are right about one thing; these poisonous clouds do have life, and this life originates from those flowers.”

A thought crossed Huo Yuhao’s mind as he asked, “Are you saying that these bluish-green flowers are plant-type soul beasts?”

Wang Qiu’er nodded and said, “At least some of them are.

“The Jade Phosphorous Flower of the Seven Absolutes is one of the most poisonous plants in the world. Its toxins contain acute corrosive acid, and it’s known as the number-one corrosive toxin, while also containing an extremely powerful neurological poison. Coming into contact with it will cause the physical body to decay, and one will also have to withstand intense pain and suffering. However, this flower is also very rare and precious, and it’s possibly every plant-type soul master’s dream. If plant-type soul masters can find a Jade Phosphorous Flower of the Seven Absolutes that has already become a plant-type soul beast, and assimilate it as their own soul ring, then that soul master will possess the flower’s intense venom. You’ve already seen how powerful that poison can be.”

Huo Yuhao’s eyes widened, and his jaw hung slack. “Are you telling me that this area that is at least a kilometer wide and possibly stretches around the entire valley is filled with these Jade Phosphorous

Flower of the Seven Absolutes soul beasts? There are so many of them, yet they can still be considered an endangered species?"

Wang Qiu'er's eyebrows were locked together as she said, "I am also very surprised at this fact, and that's also why I didn't tell you about it in the beginning. According to what I remember, the Jade Phosphorous Flower of the Seven Absolutes likes to live in groups, but their reproductive capabilities are terrible. They have strict requirements for their environment, and they have to absorb immense amounts of nutrients to sustain themselves during their growth process. Not all the flowers that we just saw have evolved into soul beasts, but most of them have already completed the evolution process. Otherwise, how could they control so much of the bluish-green toxic clouds to attack us?"

"I think you noticed that some of their leaves were shaped like human hands with nine fingers. This species is known as the Jade Phosphorous Flower of the Nine Absolutes, and that means they have evolved to become plant-type soul beasts. Furthermore, this flower also belongs to a superior level in the world of plants, and has at least ten thousand years of cultivation when they evolve into soul beasts. That also means that there are possibly hundreds or thousands of Jade Phosphorous Flowers of the Nine Absolutes among the plants we saw. Let's not discuss us, even a group of Titled Douluo would be in a hurry to get away from here. The ten-thousand year Jade Phosphorous Exotic Flowers channel something called the Jade Phosphorus Poison Cloud, and every plant releasing their poisonous clouds at the same time is a power that's nearly invincible."

Huo Yuhao drew a cold breath as he heard Wang Qiu'er's explanation. Huo Yuhao had always believed ever since he got that letter from Niu Tian that this task was accomplishable, since Niu Tian had given it to him. Even though it was possibly overwhelmingly challenging, he should at least have a chance of success.

However, after listening to Wang Qiu'er's explanation of how frightening the Jade Phosphorous Flower of the Nine Absolutes was, he understood that his chances were as slim as they could get. He would undoubtedly become fertilizer for these flowers if he pushed forward forcibly.

There were countless plant-type soul beasts around this place... top-tier plant-type soul beasts! They could also work together, and they could launch an attack with a colossal area of effect, as if they were an army. They could be said to have no loopholes at all.

How could he have even a sliver of chance under such circumstances? Huo Yuhao grew silent, and even his eyes began to dim and grow solemn. He could no longer see any hope at all.

Wang Qiu'er's eyes flowed with struggle and conflict as she stared at Huo Yuhao's dejected and defeated face, as if she were hesitant about something.

Huo Yuhao heaved a sigh and said, "I will remember this place. Let's retreat and rest up." He had already used two Milk Bottles, and even though he still had several incendiary cannon shells, they would be completely useless against the Jade Phosphorous Poison Cloud, and fire even seemed to make these clouds stronger. If they pushed forward blindly, they would be simply sending themselves to certain death. He wasn't afraid of death if he had to do so to save Dong'er, but he couldn't just die for nothing.



Huo Yuhao grabbed Wang Qiu'er's hand as he spoke, and turned around and flew away from the valley. He flew out of the area covered by the miasmic clouds before they descended back into the Setting Sun Forest.

Huo Yuhao took the two empty Milk Bottles from Wang Qiu'er once they were on the ground, and then gradually infused soul power into each Milk Bottle while he silently contemplated.

His mental state wasn't in the right condition at the moment, and there was no way he could make it better. He was faced with an impossible situation, and there was practically no way he could move forward. As intelligent as he was, Huo Yuhao began to feel as if he was at his wit's end, and he had exhausted everything he had.

Wang Qiu'er just stood there as she watched his dark and gloomy expression. Her tensed brows began to smooth out as she heaved a faint sigh and said, "I don't think I'm wrong to label the Jade Phosphorous Flower of the Seven Absolutes as rare and precious. Venomous flowers as powerful as this are extremely rare even deep within the Great Star Dou Forest, and there are hardly more than three that appear at the same time even if they do. They require too much from their surroundings, and that means it's very difficult for them to evolve into soul beasts. So many Jade Phosphorous Flowers of the Seven Absolutes existing in this area only proves one thing."

Huo Yuhao looked up at her and asked, "What does it prove?"

Wang Qiu'er lowered her voice and said, "It proves that the valley behind them truly contains some exotic treasure, and I'm certain that, whatever it is, there's a lot of it. Perhaps the valley has an environment that's extremely beneficial for growth, and that has provided enough nutrients for these flowers.

"I observed carefully when you pulled me through the air before this. I realized that the Jade Phosphorous Flower of the Seven Absolutes dots the area surrounding the valley, but not a single one grows near the edge of the valley. That means there should be something inside the valley that's countering them and holding them back, such that they don't dare to spread inside the valley. The miasmic clouds that we faced before this probably come from these flowers – such an enormous volume of these flowers has led to the death of many soul beasts, while the vegetation all around has been corroded. The forest's unique location and environment also means that it's a lot easier for this miasma to form, and this accumulation over the years has resulted in the level of miasma that we see now."

Huo Yuhao lowered his voice and said, "That also means that my judgment is correct. The herb that can save Dong'er must be located within that valley. However, we still have no way of crossing over to the other side. The Jade Phosphorus Flowers of the Seven Absolutes, and the Jade Phosphorus Flowers of the Nine Absolutes that they have evolved into, aren't something we can fight against. The Jade Phosphorous Poison Cloud is probably so dense that the clouds will dispel my Class 6 soul protective barrier immediately once they touch it. If that happens, the two of us will melt into liquid in the blink of an eye."

Wang Qiu'er frowned and said, "You don't have to make it sound so disgusting. Haven't you heard of the saying that everything in the world has a weakness? The flowers are strong, but there must be something in the world that can counter it. For example, such a thing exists in that valley. Furthermore, I also know one such weakness."

Huo Yuhao was taken aback as he said urgently, "You... why haven't you told me before?"

Wang Qiu'er said coldly, "You are the one who wants to save Wang Dong'er, not me. I would have told you if you hadn't been so melancholic."

Huo Yuhao was momentarily stunned, and emotions undulated in his eyes for a moment. "Please tell me, Qiu'er. I..."

Wang Qiu'er interrupted him roughly and said, "Sure, I can tell you. But only if you kneel down and beg me to."

Huo Yuhao was stunned once more, and then he was instantly infuriated. "Are you crazy?"

Wang Qiu'er stared at him with an extremely noble and cold look. "I'm not crazy, you're the one that's crazy. So what if you can pierce through the Jade Phosphorus Poison Clouds? Can you predict the dangers that you will face afterwards? Since you've already decided to die, what use do you have for dignity? Kneel and beg me, and I will tell you. Otherwise, scam back to the academy."

Huo Yuhao gradually calmed down, and he heaved a faint sigh. "Does this really have to happen, Qiu'er?"

Wang Qiu'er grunted coldly, but said nothing.

Huo Yuhao turned around and gazed at the miasmic clouds in the distance. "I have already explained so much to you. Why do you still not understand?"

Wang Qiu'er didn't even look at him as she turned around and began walking in the direction that led out of the Setting Sun Forest. She was very sure that Huo Yuhao had no chance of finding that herb and surviving through the ordeal at the same time.

"Wait!" Huo Yuhao called out to her.

Wang Qiu'er turned around and glanced at him coldly. "Let's go!"

Huo Yuhao stared at her deeply and said, "Since it has to happen, then so be it."

Wang Qiu'er's expression relaxed a little. Is this guy finally going to cooperate with me? However, for some reason, there was a thread of disappointment deep within her heart. In the end, one's own life was more important...

However, her large blue eyes suddenly began to widen just when that thought appeared in her mind... because as she looked on, Huo Yuhao's tall figure knelt grandly on the ground in her direction.

Huo Yuhao's expression was still as calm as ever... yes, he was kneeling on the ground. This was the first time that he had knelt down in front of someone other than his mother.

Men would never kneel without a good reason, but he was full of determination as his knees touched the ground.

"I beg you, Qiu'er, tell me what the Jade Phosphorous Exotic Flowers' weakness is. Thank you." His voice was still as calm as before, but this calm was heartbreaking. Every single word pierced Wang Qiu'er's heart as if they were sharp blades.

He... he's actually kneeling down. He's actually kneeling down before me! He has relinquished a man's dignity just to save her. Why? How can this happen? Why?!

Wang Qiu'er felt as if her face was growing cold, and she touched her cheeks subconsciously, and felt tears.

I'm crying... I'm actually crying! Are my tears flowing for him? No, why would I cry for him? Why?

Her lips were trembling, and she continued to quiver as tears rolled down from the corners of her eyes. She rushed to his side and grabbed his collar before she lifted him up from the ground and hurled him heavily against a thick and tall tree beside them.

Boom! The large tree shuddered as leaves drifted down onto the ground. They fluttered all around the two of them, and it felt as if they were being bathed in a rain of greenery.

Huo Yuhao's face was still calm and composed. Tears continued to trickle down Wang Qiu'er's face, and her emotions immediately erupted.

"Are you trying to protest against me?!" she shouted at him hysterically.

Huo Yuhao said nothing. He stared at her with a faint smile on his face, and his smile was just so calm and plain in that moment...

### [Chapter 257.3: Jade Phosphorous Flower of the Seven Absolutes](#)

"Why? Why do you have to give so much for her? Is she worth it?"

He was still smiling faintly, and he still didn't make a sound. He had already shown his heart from the moment he knelt down in front of her. He had to go, no matter what he had to face.

"Go, go, go!" Wang Qiu'er continued to shout. "Just go, and go to your death. The Jade Phosphorous Flowers fear the cold!. If you channel your domain to the strongest possible level, even those Jade Phosphorous Flowers of the Nine Absolutes will be afraid of you. Go, you bastard! I will not follow you to a certain death, you can go by yourself if you want to die for her! You will never return, ever!"

She tossed him heavily into the distance as she spoke, and he flew for dozens of meters before finally slamming into a tree.

Huo Yuhao didn't utter a word from beginning to end, he was just quietly staring at her with a faint smile on his face. He still wore the same smile even when he got to his feet after crashing into the enormous tree, which had snapped in two from the impact.

"Thank you." He finally opened his mouth, and said words that couldn't get any simpler as he strode towards the miasmic clouds.

Wang Qiu'er didn't follow him this time.

Huo Yuhao paused after a few steps and turned back around. He looked at Wang Qiu'er, who was still rooted to the ground, her shoulders still quivering.

"You're a nice girl, Qiu'er. We will always be friends whether I return from this expedition dead or alive." He left this statement for her and gave her a radiant smile before he turned back around. He didn't stop

or slow down this time as he widened his stride and walked away. His steps were determined and unwavering.

“Bastard!” Wang Qiu’er suddenly exclaimed and hurled her right fist violently. She hammered heavily on the large tree that she had just tossed Huo Yuhao against.

The tree was thick enough for a person to place his or her arms around, but the broken half of the tree flew backwards into the distance and slammed against another large tree before it broke apart into smithereens. Her punch was just too strong and ferocious.

Wang Qiu’er bit down on her lower lip as she collapsed to the ground, and tears flowed down her face uncontrollably. “Why? How can there be a fool, an idiot like him? Why is he willing to give his life for a girl? He’s still going to do it even though he knows he’s going to die! Has he really gone crazy?”

Huo Yuhao’s faint smile surfaced repeatedly before her eyes... that despicable smile! The final image stopped at the moment he knelt down before her.

Wang Qiu’er knew that she would never forget this moment, when he knelt down in front of her for another woman. She would remember this for the rest of her life.

“Huo Yuhao! You... you’re such a bastard!” Wang Qiu’er shouted in Huo Yuhao’s direction as he departed the scene. Intense golden light erupted from her body, and every inch within ten meters around her glowed with golden luster.

Huo Yuhao wasn’t that far away, so he could still hear her voice. That faint smile appeared on his mouth once more, but he didn’t turn back around.

I’m sorry, Qiu’er. Perhaps this is the best ending. After all, I am the only person that should be here for this dangerous endeavor.

So, the Jade Phosphorous Seven Exotic Flower was not afraid of fire, but it was afraid of extreme cold. No wonder uncle Niu Tian had figured that he had the ability to venture into this place.

What Huo Yuhao didn’t know was that Niu Tian had decided to give that pouch to Wang Dong’er because of Huo Yuhao’s Snow Empress Spirit. He had both Ultimate ice and snow, and extreme chill was a natural counter to the toxic miasma all around him. Of course, the prerequisite was that he had to be strong enough. Niu Tian had never expected that Huo Yuhao had Skydream Iceworm, and that Skydream was strong enough to break the spiritual seal. This ended up with Huo Yuhao coming into the Setting Sun Forest prematurely.

Huo Yuhao hadn’t moved too far before he found a relatively flat place to sit down. He began to meditate to restore his soul power, while he filled the final two empty Milk Bottles at the same time.

Huo Yuhao closed his eyes, and began to devise and refine the plan in his mind. It was impossible to make his plan entirely seamless and without loopholes, but he had to make sure to prevent all dangers that could possibly appear.

Today’s adventure wasn’t a complete waste, as he had managed to figure some things out, while also discovering that the Jade Phosphorous Flowers were the true originators of the toxic miasma. This information was imperative to his operation and what he was about to do.

Wang Qiu'er seemed to have given up on him, and didn't follow him. Huo Yuhao had had a peculiar sentiment when he knelt down; he had wanted to show his determination to her, but he had also wanted to consolidate this determination for himself. Furthermore, he had become a lot calmer and more rational than before.

He had thought it through. He didn't have to find the herb on this expedition, and the mentality of paying with his life even if he was unsuccessful was irresponsible. What he had to do was do everything he could and whatever was necessary to obtain that herb.

It wasn't embarrassing to ask for help. If he couldn't do it by himself, then he would have to ask the academy for help. Shrek Academy's abilities meant there was definitely something they could do against all this miasma. Furthermore, the Jade Phosphorous Flower of the Nine Absolutes would be extremely beneficial for the academy's plant-type soul masters.

According to Niu Tian, Wang Dong'er's hidden injury would only be triggered at the age of twenty, while she was currently only seventeen years old. Niu Tian would never use Dong'er's life as a joke, so this time estimation should be accurate. That also meant that he had more than two years left.

On the other hand, if Skydream hadn't helped him open that spiritual seal, he would never have opened that seal by himself to see everything that he had seen until after at least another year. That also meant that this endeavor wasn't that urgent.

Huo Yuhao gradually realized all this after he encountered the Jade Phosphorous Flowers of the Seven Absolutes. The worry, the anxiety, and even the feeling of valiant sacrifice settled down after he thought everything through. What he had to do now was everything he could to probe the valley's secrets. Obtaining sufficient and valuable information was enough.

If he didn't have the strength to find this herb, it wouldn't be difficult to rely on his own abilities to retreat safely so that he could go back with his life. He would then find another opportunity to come back here to retrieve the herb when his chances were boosted to the highest possible level, and that outcome was what he really wanted.

The reason why he said all that he did to Wang Qiu'er was because he really didn't want to owe her this favor. Huo Yuhao could faintly feel something from Wang Qiu'er's emotions and her attitude... However, he already had Dong'er, and he couldn't touch Wang Qiu'er's feelings at all, and this was especially true because they were in a perilous place. Even though he knew that his operation would be a lot easier if he had Wang Qiu'er's help, he didn't dare to ask her for more help.

He knew that he couldn't afford to owe her this favor. Therefore, he would rather she leave his side than allow her to continue on this hazardous adventure with him. Huo Yuhao had still perceived Wang Qiu'er as just his friend before this, and when they pushed through the poisonous clouds, he had unleashed his abilities while hugging her at the same time. However, she had subconsciously leaned into his shoulder, and it was then that Huo Yuhao realized something wasn't right. I'm sorry, Qiu'er...

---

Midday had just passed, and Huo Yuhao wasn't about to wait until the following day. He recharged both Milk Bottles and used another hour to rest so that he could be at his optimum condition.

This was the hottest time of the day, so the miasmic clouds weren't any stronger than before. Huo Yuhao checked his inventory and equipment once more before he activated his flying-type soul tool and soared into the sky, and back towards the place locked in his memory.

Huo Yuhao had Spiritual Detection to accurately determine his location, and he quickly found the place where the dense multicolored clouds sank downward, and where bluish-green lights shone faintly.

He didn't plunge through the toxic clouds here. Instead, he hovered in midair about one kilometer from his destination.

"This is about right. I won't touch those Jade Phosphorous Poison Clouds." Huo Yuhao mumbled under his breath, and the stationary soul cannon was back on his shoulder in the next moment.

His method was no different from before, and he tossed one shell before he fired another one from his shoulder immediately afterwards. Two incendiary explosive bombs collided in midair, and the subsequent explosion created an enormous hole in the miasmic clouds.

Huo Yuhao didn't fire another two rounds with the experience from before, as he had enough understanding and judgment about the poison clouds' thickness and strength. He didn't have to waste his cannon shells, as those things, would be critical to protecting his life when he broke out from this place.

Huo Yuhao plummeted towards the ground as soon as the hole appeared.

Right at this moment, a golden light erupted beside him without warning and dove down through the sky along with him.

The owner of this golden light was burning up with pale golden flames, and the faint miasma dissipated and vanished when it came into contact with these flames.

"You... why have you followed me?" Huo Yuhao's voice was full of exasperation.

There was no question that Wang Qiu'er was the owner of this golden light. Huo Yuhao hadn't used Spiritual Detection at all so that he could conserve soul power, which was why he had no idea that Wang Qiu'er had followed behind him, and that she had picked this "opportune" moment. They were both barreling through the poisonous clouds, and there was no way he could reject her participation anymore.

### [Chapter 258.1: Paradise on Earth](#)

Wang Qiu'er's pretty face seemed like it was covered with a layer of frost. "Do I look like someone who doesn't finish what I start?" She grabbed Huo Yuhao's left hand authoritatively as she spoke, and the two of them initiated their martial soul fusion.

Huo Yuhao heaved a sigh. He wasn't willing to receive too much help from her so that he could prevent their feelings from developing. However, he was still relieved when Wang Qiu'er did catch up with him. His exploration attempt would be a lot more relaxed than before with her around, and he would also be a lot safer than otherwise.

His soul protective barrier enveloped Wang Qiu'er within it, so she stopped releasing her golden flames to defend herself, and the two of them landed on the ground as if they had been together the whole time.

They were back in that rainbow-colored world, but they were a lot more familiar with their surroundings from their previous experience. Huo Yuhao pulled Wang Qiu'er along the moment they landed and ran towards the edge of the ravine where the Jade Phosphorous Flower of the Seven Absolutes was growing.

"Why aren't you breaking through the middle? Have you forgotten its location?" Wang Qiu'er asked confusedly.

Huo Yuhao said, "You said it before, I don't know what unforeseen dangers I may face over there, so I can't just break through the middle. It will be too late if I run into any contingencies and I have to deal with them on the spot. Furthermore, I also want to test the extent to which these Jade Phosphorous Flowers are afraid of the cold."

Wang Qiu'er glanced at him coldly, and that noble and aloof feeling made Huo Yuhao feel as if he was being looked down on.

"I thought you weren't afraid of dying. Why don't you just throw your life in and get it over with? So, you're afraid of dying after all. I guess I overestimated you before."

Huo Yuhao snapped, "Why would we want to die if we can live? That's enough, let's not bicker. We are consuming soul power. Take the Milk Bottle, and I'll have a go."

Huo Yuhao gave a Milk Bottle to Wang Qiu'er just in case she needed it, and the two of them stopped about thirty meters away from the Jade Phosphorous Flowers.

The Jade Phosphorous Poison Clouds produced by these flowers were still gathered together, but they didn't permeate too far outside, and only loomed over the valley.

Their mentality had been greatly affected after their initial astonishment when they first saw these flowers, but Huo Yuhao began to feel something different now that he was back here for the second time.

"It's too neat... Qiu'er, don't you feel like these flowers are arranged too neatly? Why do I feel like someone did this?" Huo Yuhao lowered his voice as he spoke.

Wang Qiu'er was momentarily stunned, and couldn't be bothered with bickering anymore. "Now that you mention it, it does seem like it..."

Huo Yuhao flipped his right hand, and a water bag appeared in his hands. He released Wang Qiu'er's hand, and she naturally shifted behind his back as she pressed her right palm against his back so that they could maintain their martial soul fusion.

Huo Yuhao opened the water bottle and poured out the water from inside. The water that was poured out was immediately frozen in midair by his Ultimate Ice soul power, and a large sphere of ice quickly appeared before him.

Wang Qiu'er looked on as Huo Yuhao did all this, a strange feeling surfacing in her heart. This guy seems to trust me a lot, I'm pressing against a vital point on his back! If I channel my soul power, I can break his nerves and end his life. He's not afraid of that? Hmph... why should I even kill him? Killing him will dirty my hands, Wang Qiu'er thought to herself arrogantly.

The sphere of ice was roughly a foot in diameter. Huo Yuhao's left hand was holding it up, and gradually turned icy-blue, while the temperature within his protective barrier began to plummet.

Huo Yuhao shook his wrist, and the enormous ball of ice flew out as it spun through the air. Huo Yuhao was a disciple of the Tang Sect, and he had great control over his fingers and wrists. He was using one of the Tang Sect's hidden weapon techniques as he hurled the ball of ice, which emanated an icy-blue radiance as it flew straight out.

The multicolored miasma was extremely powerful, and immediately seemed like it was about to attach itself to the sphere of ice once it appeared. However, this sphere of ice contained Huo Yuhao's Ultimate Ice, so how could the miasma attach itself to it so easily? The multicolored particles were blown in all directions wherever this sphere of extreme chill went, and it was clear that the toxic miasma was severely affected after the water vapor inside was frozen.

The sphere pierced through the multicolored miasma, and it finally arrived at the bluish-green Jade Phosphorous Poison Clouds. Just as Huo Yuhao and Wang Qiu'er had speculated before, these poison clouds were controlled by those flowers that had evolved into the Jade Phosphorous Flower of the Nine Absolutes, which were plant-type soul beasts. Large patches of poison clouds were stirred up once this sphere of ice plunged into them, and the bluish-green mist poured forward.

However, every kind of poison mist or gas had a unique characteristic... they definitely contained some water within them. Pure smoke or mist dissipated extremely quickly, and there was no way it could drift through the air for a prolonged period of time, and it would be blown away by the wind.

Once the poison clouds approached the sphere of ice, Huo Yuhao could see that the poison mist was pouring forward into the chill from his Ultimate Ice, while it produced large volumes of bluish-green particles that drifted in all directions. The area that the poison clouds covered would then increase for an instant, but then quickly thin.

Huo Yuhao's experiment clearly wasn't as simple as tossing the sphere through the clouds, and he raised his left hand as he clenched it tightly.

Boom!

The ball of ice immediately exploded, and the Ice Explosion that Huo Yuhao had infused into it unleashed its full force. A violent explosive force immediately caused the sphere to dissipate into countless ice particles that flew in all directions, while the shockwaves swept towards the Jade Phosphorous Flowers around them.

Huo Yuhao was already using his Spiritual Detection to meticulously observe how the flowers reacted.

The flowers surrounding the vigorous explosion began to sway and tremble like tidal waves, but they were a lot tougher than Huo Yuhao had expected. He had infused Ice Explosion into that sphere of ice,



but he wasn't able to blow away even a single petal, and he only managed to make them sway and shake, while their bodies were undamaged.

A strange scene occurred just when Huo Yuhao was feeling a little disappointed.

The bluish-green flowers quickly closed up, as if they were children who were drawing their blankets over themselves because they were afraid of the cold. The flowers ten meters around the explosion closed up, and the poison clouds in that region became a lot thinner than before.

"They are afraid of the cold!" Huo Yuhao was elated. A thought surfaced in his mind as orange-gold light radiated, and the tiny Snow Lady came out from the middle of his eyebrows and hovered next to him.

Huo Yuhao hurriedly told the Snow Lady not to leave his soul protective barrier through his mind, so that she wouldn't be hurt by the poisonous clouds outside.

"Yi yi ya ya!" The Snow Lady's big dark-blue eyes flowed with indifference and contempt. She pointed at the poison clouds outside before she waved her tiny and tender little fingers at Huo Yuhao.

Huo Yuhao was shocked as he asked, "You're not afraid of poison?"

"Yi yi ya ya!" The Snow Lady gave him an affirmative answer before she flew out of the protective barrier.

Huo Yuhao was just feeling a little worried as the orange-gold light on her body began to sparkle. Intense chills billowed from her body as the humid miasma in the air began to transform subtly. Large patches of multicolored miasma swiftly began to dissipate as if they had encountered something terrifying, and uncountable multicolored particles drifted to the ground while the air around them cleared up.

"This..." Both Huo Yuhao and Wang Qiu'er were stunned on the spot. The toxic clouds that they had so feared were like nothing before the little Snow Lady. What was going on?

"Idiot. Ultimate Ice is the best counter to all the toxins in the world. Didn't you know that? Useless!" Skydream's lazy voice appeared in Huo Yuhao's mind.

Where would I ever know that from...?

The corner of Huo Yuhao's mouth twitched as he spoke in his mind, "Why didn't you tell me earlier, brother Skydream?"

"I just woke up."

"....."

The Snow Lady turned around in midair and flew back, while the orange-gold light radiating from her body wrapped back around to envelop Huo Yuhao and Wang Qiu'er inside. The poisonous clouds around them were instantly dispelled, and there wasn't much left to threaten them at all.

Huo Yuhao turned towards Wang Qiu'er as he forced a laugh and said, "It seems like Ultimate Ice can counter acute poison after all."

Wang Qiu'er frowned and said, "Seems like it. If that's the case, then Ultimate Fire can probably counter toxins as well."

Huo Yuhao said, "Let's not talk about all that. Let's take a look and see if we can venture deeper into the valley."

They began to walk toward the Jade Phosphorous Flowers while the Snow Lady protected them. The intense chill from the Snow Lady's body was a lot stronger than the sphere of ice from before, and both the multicolored miasma and the Jade Phosphorous Poison Clouds had no way of fending her off. The flowers closed up one by one as the extreme chill assaulted them, while the surrounding poison clouds dissipated continuously, and could no longer threaten the two of them.

Ultimate Ice can beat all toxins... how did I not know that...? It's no wonder uncle Niu Tian wasn't worried about sending me here at all...

Huo Yuhao's confidence was greatly boosted with this discovery. He lowered his voice and growled, "Let's go!"

Huo Yuhao grabbed Wang Qiu'er's hand as they soared into the sky. The Jade Phosphorous Flowers were extremely poisonous, and were naturally untouchable, but they had their flying-type soul tools. The little Snow Lady landed on Huo Yuhao, and the orange-gold light that she released became their best defense.

Huo Yuhao was afraid that the speed at which the Snow Lady's chill took effect was limited, so they didn't fly very quickly. However, the mass of Jade Phosphorous flowers wasn't that wide, and it didn't take long before they pierced through the ravine of death and arrived next to the edge of the valley.

The edge of the valley was extremely steep, like it had been cut off by a knife. Multicolored miasma was still concentrated within the Jade Phosphorous Poison Clouds, and they blocked Huo Yuhao's vision to a large extent.

Huo Yuhao exchanged a look with Wang Qiu'er. They had discovered that Ultimate Ice was a natural counter to acute poison, so the ominous and perilous feeling in her mind was greatly reduced.

"Let's fly down?" Wang Qiu'er gestured downwards.

Huo Yuhao nodded and said, "Be careful."

"I know that." Wang Qiu'er rolled her eyes, and her Golden Dragon Spear appeared in her hands with a flash of golden light.

Huo Yuhao carried her as they jumped into the air. The Snow Lady was still clearing the way for them as they controlled their flying-type soul tools and gradually descended into the valley.

### [Chapter 258.2: Paradise on Earth](#)

They swiftly entered the multicolored poison clouds. The Ultimate Ice was extremely effective at clearing the path ahead, and not a single ounce of the poison cloud broke through to their defenses.

This is fantastic! Huo Yuhao was ecstatic. His adventurous and explorative heart was piqued once more, and he could tell from the current situation that he had a much better chance of finding that mystical herb.

The multicolored miasma here was thick, just like it was in the sky. Huo Yuhao couldn't see anything at all, and he couldn't even detect anything with his Spiritual Detection. However, he still left his Spiritual Detection activated, channeling soul power into his protective barrier at the same time, so that he could avoid all possible threats and dangers.

What happened next proved that Huo Yuhao's meticulousness was warranted.

A black shadow suddenly appeared soundlessly within his Spiritual Detection's area of effect, and swept towards them at an alarming speed.

"Watch out!" Huo Yuhao growled.

Hovering in midair at this moment was undoubtedly the most dangerous thing they could do. Huo Yuhao didn't dare to conserve soul power as he swung his right hand out and instantly slashed through the dense mist with his Darkgolden Terrorclaw. His right hand slashed through the air with lightning speed, using the complete version of his Darkgolden Terrorclaw.

The Snow Lady and Huo Yuhao's mind were connected, and that meant they had exceptional chemistry with one another. She blew in the direction of the attack, and cold energy burst ahead of them. Large patches of poison clouds dissipated and cleared up their vision.

It was a dark-blue vine dotted with rainbow-colored patterns. It was as thick as a human thigh, and whipped towards them like an enormous python.

However, the Darkgolden Terrorclaw was the Darkgolden Terrorclaw Bear's signature move, and Huo Yuhao gave everything he had with this strike. A dark golden streak of light flashed by, and the thick vine was immediately cut into a million pieces as it drifted away in the wind.

Huo Yuhao raised his voice and reminded Wang Qiu'er, "It's clear that there are precious and exotic things here that are extremely beneficial for plant growth. This should be a place inhabited by many plant-type soul beasts, and they are extremely powerful. Be careful."

Several other thick vines swept towards them at this moment. The rainbow colors on these vines were clearly caused by the toxic miasma, and the fact that they were completely fine meant they probably contained acute venom as well.

"You control our descent. Let me try!" Wang Qiu'er shouted as she thrust her Golden Dragon Spear forward while she grabbed the other end of it, so that her Golden Dragon Spear could reach the maximum area of effect.

She was the Golden Dragon after all, and she was always dominant and fearsome.

Perhaps she had been stifled for too long after dealing with the poison clouds for two days, or perhaps this was a cathartic release of her fury towards Huo Yuhao, but her strike was exceptionally ferocious.

She was using her Golden Dragon Spear like a flail. A thick blue vine whipped towards her, and Wang Qiu'er swung her Golden Dragon Spear towards it like a lightning bolt. A boom could be heard as she smashed the vine into the distance.

Vines were typically quite flexible and elastic, and the front parts would still whip forward even if the vine itself was struck.

However, the vine didn't react this way as it was struck by the Golden Dragon Spear. The vine flickered with golden light and rippled back into the distance, breaking apart into pieces as it flew through the air. Light circled around the Golden Dragon Spear, and Huo Yuhao could clearly feel that Wang Qiu'er's life energy had become a little stronger than before.

The Golden Dragon Spear lived up to its name as a god's weapon. It could absorb life energy from its target. Huo Yuhao felt faintly terrified in his heart, and he was consoling himself on his good fortune when he managed to defeat Wang Qiu'er that day.

Bam, bam, bam! The Golden Dragon Spear waltzed through the sky, every strike accurately struck the dark-blue vines that were whipping toward them, and every single vine eventually disintegrated into pieces.

Wang Qiu'er didn't seem like she was under any pressure at all, even though more vines continued to appear. Golden light continued to flicker around her as she protected Huo Yuhao and herself impeccably.

Huo Yuhao controlled their descent, but he didn't dare to move too quickly, as he didn't know what awaited them at the bottom. He extended his Spiritual Detection in the direction of those flying vines and attempted to find their source.

He quickly discovered where these vines came from – they were all growing on the cliff, and some of these vines even reached a hundred feet long. They could feel Huo Yuhao and Wang Qiu'er's presence, so they launched their own attacks. Furthermore, the number of vines growing on the cliff walls increased the further down they went.

"Let's go further down." The vines are limited in length after all, I can just fly along the cliff wall.

Huo Yuhao took Wang Qiu'er along as they dropped tens of meters deeper into the valley. The aggressive dark-blue vines that were attacking them eventually disappeared, and it was clear that the two of them had exceeded the vines' attack range.

An agile mind was enough to help them avoid some problems.

They descended a lot faster than before without the blue vines attacking them, and split the clouds open as they pushed ahead. They dropped about three hundred meters before the poison clouds around them suddenly cleared out, and their blocked vision instantly became clear.

Huo Yuhao hurriedly controlled their momentum and hovered in midair. It was a lot easier to run into problems if they were attacked when their senses suddenly changed.

However, his entire body froze right when he stopped in midair, and Wang Qiu'er was equally stunned.

They had been extremely careful and vigilant ever since the day they entered the Setting Sun Forest, and kept their guards up against any possible dangers that could appear.

They knew that their expedition wouldn't be smooth-sailing or relaxed when they discovered the toxic miasma.

The multicolored miasma, the Jade Phosphorous Flowers of the Seven Absolutes, the Jade Phosphorous Poison Clouds, and the venomous vines growing from the valley's walls... every single entity could have been fatal. This place was protected by so many fatal poisons, so what kind of sinister place was this?

But, but...

What was before Huo Yuhao and Wang Qiu'er now far exceeded their expectations. They had pierced through the multicolored poison clouds, and what they breathed in was an unprecedented fresh air full of life energy. The place they were looking at wasn't sinister at all, it felt like heaven on earth!

The air was completely covered by the rainbow-colored clouds, and the rainbow colors shone and reflected over the valley, making it appear extremely enchanting.

The valley walls in the distance were full of the dark-blue vines that had ambushed them just now, and the entire wall looked like it was made from sapphires that flickered with a faint rainbow-colored luster.

The valley couldn't be considered large, but many different plants were growing within it, while there were just too many colors to count as they gazed across it. There were so many beautiful flowers, and each was prettier than the last, bearing all sorts of fruits. Many plants shone with varying degrees of light, and one could tell even with the naked eye that these plants were exotic and extraordinary.

The most astonishing thing was the lake in the middle of these plants. The lake was clearly separated into two parts. One side was icy-blue in color and it exuded a faint white air, while the other side was fiery-red, and the light above this side was slightly distorted. One part was blue and the other was red, and these two parts were like colossal jewels engraved into the ground. The waters evaporating from this lake permeated the dense life energy from the lake all over the valley.

Ever since Huo Yuhao became a soul master, he had to absorb the vital energy of heaven and earth whenever he had to train using his Mysterious Heaven Technique. However, he had never encountered a place with vital energy as strong as the paradise that he was in right now.

Not even Clear Sky Peak could compare to this place. Huo Yuhao had only felt this overwhelming vital energy from the Frigid Jade Essence Bed that was now broken. However, the Frigid Jade Essence Bed had only contained pure cold and iciness, while this mystical world that they were in contained almost every single element, and also vast amounts of life energy.

Their eyes grew slack from their awe and astonishment. Everything before their eyes was just too enchanting and pristine!

"This... this is a paradise!" Wang Qiu'er's voice was trembling. Her body shone with faint golden mist, as if were she responding to and reciprocating with the thick life energy within this valley.

"I am certain that there is nowhere else on the Douluo Continent that is as suitable for plant growth as this place is. The life energy in this place is at least five times that of the Great Star Dou Forest's Core

Region. How can there be such a place on the Continent? It's possible that someone is protecting this place, too..."

Wang Qiu'er had the same opinion as Huo Yuhao did. Neither of them believed that the Jade Phosphorous Flowers outside had grown out by themselves. Their arrangement was just too neat.

Huo Yuhao heaved a sigh of admiration and said, "You do need formidable power to protect a paradise such as this. This place is just too beautiful. Why does the lake have two different colors? What is it, exactly? Do you know?"

Wang Qiu'er shook her head and said, "I'm not an encyclopedia. How can I possibly know everything? Let's go down. There are no more miasmic clouds here."

Huo Yuhao said, "But I feel like this place is even more dangerous than before. Have you not felt that most of the plants here have evolved into plant-type soul beasts because the life energy in this place is overwhelmingly dense?"

Wang Qiu'er was momentarily stunned, and gazed downwards carefully. Many plants had begun to sway because they had appeared, and some had even turned in their direction, while other plants shone more intensely.

"What should we do?" Wang Qiu'er asked, "We can't just turn back, since we're already here."

The greatest disadvantage that plant-type soul beasts had compared to animal soul beasts was mobility. Many plants couldn't move around, and were just rooted to the spot, so their attack and control range was limited to an area with their bodies at the center. This was like the vines that they had encountered on the cliff walls – they couldn't reach beyond their maximum length and distance to attack the two of them.

However, plant-type soul beasts were extremely formidable in the range that they could reach, and were possibly stronger than animal soul beasts in this respect. This was the reason why even exceptionally powerful animal soul beasts wouldn't want to come to a place where many plant-type soul beasts were gathered.

Huo Yuhao took out his map and looked at the map's lower part.

The map that Niu Tian had drawn was separated into two parts. The first part depicted the Setting Sun Forest and the valley's rough location within the forest, while the second, more simplified part depicted the location of the book that he had described in his letter.

### [Chapter 259: You You](#)

This time, the fiery-red flower that was levitating in front of the enormous pink flower began to move. It rotated in the air and absorbed the icy-blue beam. The beam disappeared, while the fiery-red flower merely dimmed a little.

The Snow Lady's attack wasn't that powerful, but it was still Ultimate Ice. It was absorbed and dispelled so easily, so it wasn't difficult to imagine what the red water's temperature was like. It had to be a temperature produced by Ultimate Fire!

The large pink flower seemed to have been infuriated at this moment, and every single petal began to tremble before they started to sway rhythmically, and they shifted as if they were lifting something upwards.

Huo Yuhao's mouth hung slack as he looked on in fright. Flower after flower that resembled the one that had just appeared were created from the red lake water and positioned behind this huge pink flower. There were thousands of them, and they congregated behind the large pink flower in throngs and masses.

This fellow can actually control the strange lake water...

Huo Yuhao hadn't imagined he would end up facing off against so many entities that originated from Ultimate Fire, and he was almost ready to tuck tail and run without any hesitation at all. However, an amicable female voice could be heard right at this moment.

"Human, it's your good fortune that you can make it here, but I will no longer show you mercy if you continue to provoke me."

Huo Yuhao's charged soul thrusters were prepared to erupt before he suddenly stopped everything. He stared at the giant pink flower before him with slack eyes and his jaw half-open as he mumbled, "You... you can talk?"

Huo Yuhao had encountered soul beasts who could talk before, but it was the first time he had seen plants who could talk.

Wang Qiu'er came up beside Huo Yuhao with a flash of golden light and grabbed his hand. Her face was full of anxiety as she muttered, "That's a hundred-thousand year plant-type soul beast. Prepare to run!"

Yes, one hundred thousand years! Typically, only hundred-thousand year soul beasts could speak the human language. The Cerberus that he had seen before could speak the human language, and this peculiar giant flower before him also could. This meant the flower was likely to be a hundred-thousand year plant-type soul beast.

No matter how much confidence Huo Yuhao and Wang Qiu'er had in their abilities, they would never consider themselves strong enough to fight a hundred-thousand year soul beast.

A hundred-thousand year soul beast was comparable to a powerful Titled Douluo, and certain especially formidable hundred-thousand year soul beasts could challenge a Transcendent Douluo. They had actually run into an unassailable problem!

"I'm not a hundred-thousand year soul beast." The giant pink flower's petals began to open and close, and her voice was just so friendly and warm that the two of them felt extremely comfortable listening to her.

"Yes, you have an aura similar to the ice well... no wonder you could break through the Jade Phosphorous Flowers outside to reach this place." The large flower muttered under her breath, and there seemed to be a hint of excitement in her voice.

Huo Yuhao and Wang Qiu'er's soul power was completely interjoined. They glanced at each other, and they could see the astonishment in each other's eyes. This flower was clearly a hundred-thousand year

soul beast, yet she claimed that she wasn't. Furthermore, her voice sounded warm and amicable, and it didn't seem like she harbored any intention of attacking them.

Huo Yuhao was extremely intelligent, and immediately tried to probe the flower. "Greetings, senior. We've found our way here by accident, and we don't know where this place is. We didn't want to provoke or offend you, and I hope that you can forgive us."

"Oh, so that's what happened! It's nothing much, I can forgive you." It was easy to talk to this giant pink flower, and the fiery-red flowers that were floating in the sky returned to the red side of the lake and disappeared as she spoke. The pressure that Huo Yuhao and Wang Qiu'er had faced before vanished in an instant.

Huo Yuhao didn't lower his guard even though it was easy to talk to this large pink flower. He asked once more, "Senior, I don't know where we are. Since you can speak the human language, why do you say that you're not a hundred-thousand year soul beast?"

The large pink flower replied, "This place is called the Icefire Yin Yang Well. That person says that this place is one of the world's Three Great Cornucopias. Since the two of you are here by accident, then please leave as quickly as you can. You are lucky to have met me. If you had run into the other short-tempered fellows, they would probably have killed you on the spot as fertilizer. However, I haven't seen humans for a long time, and I'm very happy to see you guys here today. Quick, talk to me, and I might even consider giving you some benefits."

The corner of Huo Yuhao's mouth twitched, because he realized to his surprise that this amiable enormous pink flower actually liked to nag!

"Alright! Let me accompany you in conversation, then. The empty space around you should be considered safe, right? I haven't asked yet, senior, what is your name?"

The large flower tilted as if it were a human head that was deep in thought. "That person says that I'm a medicinal herb, and he calls me the Delicate Silk Immortal. You can call me You You.. yes, that name sounds good. Does it sound good?"

"Yes, it sounds really good." Huo Yuhao hurriedly followed the large flower's conversation. He was thinking about something else. This flower was known as the Delicate Silk Immortal, so she should also be a medicinal herb? An immortal herb, and a herb that had already evolved into a plant-type soul beast...

"You haven't told me yet, senior. Why do you say that you're not a hundred-thousand year soul beast?" Huo Yuhao immediately fired off another question.

The Delicate Silk Immortal giggled and said, "That's because I haven't lived to a hundred thousand years of age. I'm only ten thousand years old. Actually, I'm a little more than ten thousand years old, but I can't really remember anymore."

Wang Qiu'er beside Huo Yuhao blurted out, "That's impossible! How can you be only ten thousand years old? If you're just ten thousand years old, it'd be impossible for you to have enough consciousness and intelligence to evolve into a plant-type soul beast. Furthermore, you can already speak!"



You You spoke with obvious pride. “I’m sure you didn’t know this, but even though I’m not a hundred-thousand year soul beast, my abilities have reached that level. The Icefire Yin Yang Well nourishes us, so the plants that live here grow ten times faster than the plants in the outside world. That is the reason why I’m just ten thousand years old, but I’m equivalent to a hundred-thousand year plant. You humans are quite stupid, eh.”

Astonishment! You You made it sound so casual, but both Huo Yuhao and Wang Qiu’er were full of surprise and awe as they heard this.

One day spent in this place was equivalent to ten days in the outside world. Plant-type soul beasts could grow ten times faster than if they were outside – what a terrifying number! That also meant that there were probably a lot more plant-type soul beasts in this place than they had initially thought, and they were probably far more frightening at the same time. It was just as the Delicate Silk Immortal had said, that it was their good fortune that they came to her before going anywhere else. No – Niu Tian’s guidance in his letter had saved them, because if they had gone somewhere else and encountered another short-tempered and aggressive hundred-thousand year plant-type soul beast, they would probably have been dead by now.

“Hey, why aren’t you guys talking anymore? Say something, guys. Chat with me, quickly! If not, I may decide to stop protecting you. Without my protection, even the plants and the Icefire Yin Yang Well’s aura will harm you.”

Thoughts spun in Huo Yuhao’s head, and he quickly came to a decision. He bowed respectfully towards the Delicate Silk Immortal and said, “I’m sorry, You You, I’ve lied to you, and I am now apologizing to you. The truth is that we didn’t come here by accident, and we’re here for a purpose. Someone wants me to come here to find a book. Have you seen this book?”

The Delicate Silk Immortal’s enormous flower suddenly began to sway vigorously from side to side. “Ah, ah, ah! So you have been sent by that person. It’s actually him! How is he? I haven’t seen him for so long, and he doesn’t often come back to see everyone. Tsk, tsk.”

Truthfully, Huo Yuhao didn’t know who “he” was referring to. Was it referring to Wang Dong’er’s father or Niu Tian?

“He... he should be alright. Is that book really with you?” Huo Yuhao continued to probe.

“Yes, yes. It is.” The purple stamen in the flower’s center began to sway rhythmically, and an ancient book that was crafted from some unknown material drifted into view.

Huo Yuhao was elated! Every single one of uncle Niu Tian’s words have turned out to be true. I just didn’t expect this book to be protected by a hundred-thousand year plant-type soul beast. That’s incredible! Is the Clear Sky Sect actually that powerful?

Huo Yuhao still didn’t know what other plants there were inside this place, but he was absolutely certain that this valley was filled with exotic entities and resources. Any plant here grew ten times faster than they normally would... what kind of principle was that?

“Can you give it to me, You You? Thank you.” Huo Yuhao began to feel excited as he realized that he could possibly retrieve the medicinal herb that could save Wang Dong’er’s life.

“No can do. I’ve been protecting it for ten thousand years, so how can I give it to you so easily?” You You’s answer made it sound as if she couldn’t bear to part with that book.

“Ten... ten thousand years?!” Huo Yuhao was stunned on the spot. He suddenly realized that the person that had left this book behind, the person that You You was speaking of, wasn’t Niu Tian, and neither was it Dong’er’s father. Who could that be? Ten thousand years! He left this book here for ten thousand years? That’s almost impossible to believe...

“Yes! It’s been ten thousand years. That person said that this book can only be given to his descendant, or to someone with the right destiny. Furthermore, his descendants have to undergo a test before they can claim this book. You have to do two things if you want this book: you have to prove that you’re his descendant, and then you have to pass the test. Only then can you take it.”

Huo Yuhao asked confusedly, “How can I prove that?”

The Delicate Silk Immortal’s voice became a little solemn as she said, “It’s quite dangerous if you want to prove yourself. If you are unsuccessful, then you might die; that’s the rule he left behind. He said that this place is almost like heaven on earth, and we can never let evil humans know about this place. Those that are pretending to be his descendants will have to die. I will definitely not kill you, but it’s hard to say the same about the other guys. Are you sure you want to prove that you’re his descendant?”

Huo Yuhao felt his heart skip a beat. He understood that the Delicate Silk Immortal was speaking the truth. Plant-type soul beasts could be in every corner of this place, and he probably wouldn’t even have a chance to run if they all attacked him at the same time.

Huo Yuhao’s calm and composure paid off at this moment. He pondered momentarily before he said, “You You, can you tell me how I can prove that I’m his descendant? Someone directed me here, but I do not know whether I am his descendant. I don’t wish to die, so can you tell me how I can prove that I’m his descendant? This way, I will be surer of myself.”

“Yes, alright. You have to eat an herb to test if you’re his descendant. If you survive after ingesting it, that proves that you’re his descendant, and if you die, that means you’re not.”

“Ah?” Huo Yuhao had never expected the test to be like that. There weren’t any hints or clues at all! It would be truly regrettable if he died from rashly eating some herb.

“What herb is it?” Huo Yuhao pressed the issue.

The Delicate Silk Immortal shook her large flower and said, “I can’t tell you that. If you decide to take this test, then I will bring it to you.”

“No! You can’t do it.” Wang Qiu’er exclaimed almost without hesitation, and she grabbed Huo Yuhao’s arm while she stared at him anxiously.

Huo Yuhao turned around to her, and his eyes were full of complicated emotions. “It’s likely that I will succeed, Qiu’er. Even though I don’t know what this thing about descendants is about, and I don’t know who the person who left this book behind ten thousand years ago was, I know that obtaining this book is the only way I can find the medicinal herb to save Dong’er’s life. Uncle Niu Tian directed me here, and I trust that he won’t harm me. He must think that I’m a descendant of the person that left this book behind, and so he has assigned this task to me. Therefore, I am fifty percent certain that I will be fine.”

“No! Absolutely not.” Wang Qiu’er’s words were decisive. “Fifty percent? The other fifty percent will cost you your life, don’t you know that? Do you think it’s worth it for you to die just like that? I can tell you that every single plant in this place is sophisticated, and I have studied plant-type soul beasts before. However, I do not recognize more than two-thirds of the plants in this place. Your chances of survival don’t even stand at fifty percent, I don’t even think you have a thirty percent chance to survive. If you die, I...”

Wang Qiu’er suddenly realized that Huo Yuhao didn’t seem to be listening to her. His eyes seemed a little vacant, and he was looking up diagonally into the sky, as if he were thinking about something.

Yes, Huo Yuhao was thinking, and he was thinking about Wang Dong’er.

The Wang Dong that he knew surfaced continuously in his mind, to the point when Wang Dong became Wang Dong’er.

Wang Dong was his arrogant dormmate, and then became his best buddy. They cultivated together, studied together, and teacher Zhou Yi scolded them when they were late together...

They fought side by side in the Continental Advanced Soul Master Academy Soul Dueling Tournament, and they fought with everything they had to defend Shrek’s honor and glory...

At the Sea God’s Fate on Sea God’s Lake, the Raiment of Light had been heavily imprinted in the deepest parts of his heart.

The truth was that he had felt that something wasn’t right with Wang Dong a long time ago, and had wanted to test her gender when they met again. However, he didn’t have to investigate anything, and she revealed her gender to him during the Sea God’s Fate.

### [Chapter 260.1: Polychoria](#)

Mutual Feelings, Love at First Sight, Love at Second Sight, Destined in Three Lives, Eternal Love!

Huo Yuhao couldn’t forget about everything that had happened that day, and how beautiful she was. She’s the Clear Sky Sect’s little princess, but she still chose me without any regrets or complaints...

He could never forget the nights that he had shared with her, every night when they stayed together beneath the same roof, the same window, and every night when they cultivated together...

Huo Yuhao was absolutely certain that Wang Dong’er would give everything she had for him, too. He could feel the love she had for him, she had become a lot gentler than before, and her love for him drove this personality change. Everything fell into his eyes.

He could clearly remember that Wang Dong’er had shyly told him when she gave him the pouch that her first uncle had told her she could only give the pouch to him when she was completely sure that he was the one. This meant she was giving her entire life to him.

“Dong’er...” Tears trickled down Huo Yuhao’s cheeks. His eyes were full of the memories he had of her.

I miss you so much, Dong’er.

Wang Qiu'er looked identical to Wang Dong'er, and she was standing right next to him. However, he felt as if Dong'er was so far away from him, as if she were on the other side of the world. He really wanted to take her into his embrace at this moment.

Wang Qiu'er was stunned as she watched Huo Yuhao's tears roll down his face. This wasn't the first time she had seen him cry, but for some reason, she felt her heart grow cold this time. It's obvious that his tears aren't flowing for me... is he thinking about her?

Is she really that good? But we look exactly the same! Why? Why is this happening?

Huo Yuhao suppressed his emotions and wiped the tears from the corners of his eyes as he softly pulled away Wang Qiu'er's arm that was holding on to his own.

"You're right, my chances of survival aren't great." Huo Yuhao began to speak, his expression once again calm and composed.

Wang Qiu'er was delighted. She was about to say something before Huo Yuhao turned towards the Delicate Silk Immortal and said, "You You, will I be able to leave this place in peace if I decide not to try?"

You You said, "Yes. As long as you don't touch anything else in this place, and you're not afraid of the intense poisons outside, then you can leave as and when you want to." There was no question that she had a lot of self-confidence in her speech. It was still hard to say exactly how many hidden dangers there were inside this valley. At the very least, You You was confident enough that she wasn't afraid of Huo Yuhao bringing outsiders into the place. Perhaps there were more hundred-thousand year plant-type soul beasts in this place than everywhere else on the Continent combined.

Huo Yuhao nodded and told her, "Thank you."

He turned around and stared at Wang Qiu'er. Wang Qiu'er returned his gaze with a complicated expression in her eyes and said, "Let's go."

"Alright." Huo Yuhao nodded his head gently, but his eyes were still welling up with tears.

Wang Qiu'er took the initiative to grab his hand. Even though the Delicate Silk Immortal had said she wouldn't stop them from leaving, there were still many other dangers in this place, and it was still a lot safer for them to maintain their martial soul fusion.

However, just when Wang Qiu'er began to infuse her soul power into Huo Yuhao, she realized that her soul power didn't connect with his.

"You..." Wang Qiu'er glanced at him in surprise. Huo Yuhao's wrist suddenly flipped around at this moment, and he used the Tang Sect's Arresting Technique to accurately pinch Wang Qiu'er's carpal vein as he injected soul power into her. Wang Qiu'er immediately felt as if half her body had become extremely numb.

Huo Yuhao then raised his right palm and sliced down onto her neck. Wang Qiu'er's pretty eyes were fixed on Huo Yuhao with a look of incredulity, but her body still crumpled downwards like a rag doll. Not in her wildest dreams did she expect Huo Yuhao to attack her!

Huo Yuhao pulled gently and supported her waist with his right hand as he carefully placed her flat on the ground.

Huo Yuhao was very apologetic as he said, "I'm sorry, Qiu'er. I know you won't let me make this choice if I don't do this to you. Yes, you're right; it's very likely that I will fail this test. However, if I don't even have the courage to try it, I will be letting Dong'er down."

His expression became extremely relaxed when he uttered the last few words. Huo Yuhao gazed into the horizon and said, "We are bound to do crazy things from time to time in our lives. Dong'er, my only hope is that I can see you again."

"Whew... you're such an idiot!" Skydream's voice rang out in Huo Yuhao's mind.

Huo Yuhao was momentarily stunned, and he frowned faintly as he replied, "Are you going to stop me too, brother Skydream? I..."

Skydream said plainly, "That's enough, you don't have to say anything more. Just do it. Why would I stop you? If the Ice Empress were the one that was injured, I wouldn't cower away, either! Furthermore, you're underestimating how strong your body is. Don't forget that your body has absorbed Life Gold before, and you possess Ultimate Ice as well. You went through so much suffering when you fused with the Ice Empress back then, and the circumstances were so difficult, but you did it anyway. Your willpower is far superior to that of the average person, and I don't believe you will die just from eating some herb."

Huo Yuhao said, "What if it's poison?"

Skydream grunted and said, "It'll be perfect if it's poison. Do you know the Delicate Silk Immortal's identity? She's so high up in the hierarchy that she can be considered above the other immortal-level herbs. I think most of the other plant-type soul beasts within the valley will listen to her command. I am also a soul beast, and I can feel that she doesn't harbor any hostility against you. What's more important is that the Delicate Silk Immortal possesses formidable resistance against poison. The reason why there aren't any other plants growing around her is because she is the natural counter to all toxins. With her beside you, all you have to do is breathe vigorously even if you've been poisoned. It would be quite hard to die from it even if you wanted to."

Huo Yuhao's eyes grew a little slack. "Why didn't you tell me that earlier? If I could have explained to that to her, then I wouldn't have had to knock her unconscious. When she wakes up, I..."

Skydream's tone was a little arrogant as he said, "I just woke up."

"Alright, you win."

He had been so sure he was going to die, but that negative thought was immediately converted into absolute confidence after he listened to Skydream's consolations. Yes! How can an herb kill me? I don't believe that.

Huo Yuhao's thoughts stopped here as he stepped before the Delicate Silk Immortal. He lowered his voice and said, "Please give me that herb. I am willing to undergo this assessment."

“Hehe! That’s great! You’re so courageous. Let me think, what should I give you?” The Delicate Silk Immortal was clearly quite ecstatic, and her enormous pink blossom was tossing from side to side.

Huo Yuhao immediately became despondent. What’s happening? Has she not decided upon the herb way before this? Why is she making an impromptu decision? This Delicate Silk Immortal is so eccentric...!

The Delicate Silk Immortal seemed to detect the changes in his emotions. She spoke with a scolding voice, “Don’t worry. I’ve been alive for far too long, so it’s normal that my memory isn’t fantastic. Let me take a look at you.”

A purple beam of light floated out from her stamen as she spoke and landed on Huo Yuhao. Huo Yuhao maintained his vigilance, but the Delicate Silk Immortal’s ability arrived with no warning, and he couldn’t detect anything with his Spiritual Detection, either. This meant the Delicate Silk Immortal was stronger than he was in every possible way, and if he wanted to stop it, he could only meet force with force, because he had no chance of avoiding it.

Fortunately, the purple beam didn’t contain any hostility at all. The Delicate Silk Immortal withdrew it after a while and muttered to herself, “So, that’s the case. Let me give you this.”

Another purple beam shot out from her stamen as she spoke. This purple beam fired into the distance, and reached one hundred meters across the valley before it landed in a patch of vegetation.

The purple beam paused momentarily before it was withdrawn. Huo Yuhao had powerful eyes, and he could instantly tell that there was a single plant at the other end of it now.

This herb was entirely unassuming, and its entire body was bluish-green. What was strange was that the plant had three snowy-white leaves in the center, and there were several drops of water in the middle of these leaves, as if they were the remnants of the morning’s dew.

Huo Yuhao knew nothing about this herb. He had no idea what it was, and the herb was quickly brought before him under the Delicate Silk Immortal’s guidance.

It was impossible for Huo Yuhao not to be nervous. This herb could be mortally dangerous to him, after all! Huo Yuhao’s eyes focused as he stared at the herb. “You You, how should I consume it?”

The Delicate Silk Immortal answered, “First, let me ask you a question. You’ve come to the Icefire Yin Yang Well today, and no matter who told you about it, you must have a reason for being here. What are you doing here?”

Huo Yuhao lowered his voice and said, “I’m here in search of a magical herb, called the Yearning Heartbroken Grass. I need it to save someone’s life.”

The Delicate Silk Immortal said, “Yes, that must be it. I knew nobody would attempt to go through all those poison clouds for no reason at all. Lift your head and open your mouth.”

Huo Yuhao took a deep breath. It was impossible for him not to be hesitant about something that concerned his life or death. However, the thought that Dong’er could collapse in front of him and there would be nothing he could do about it flashed across his mind, and whatever hesitation he had before vanished into thin air. He gradually raised his head and opened his mouth, his eyes even more determined now.

The Delicate Silk Immortal controlled the herb and slowly brought it before Huo Yuhao. She tilted the plant, and the transparent dewdrop-like water droplets on its leaves immediately flowed into Huo Yuhao's mouth.

Huo Yuhao felt a sweet taste flow down his throat, and a crisp aroma that refreshed his heart and mind immediately filled every corner of his body.

Is this poisonous? Why does it taste so good? Huo Yuhao was still thinking to himself when he realized to his surprise that the herb was rapidly wilting away after the dewdrop-like liquid flowed into his mouth. The plant became a pile of dust in no time, and all it left behind were a few seed-like pods.

Purple light flashed, and these tiny seeds flew far away into the distance. Nobody knew what the Delicate Silk Immortal had in mind for them.

There's no reaction at all? Huo Yuhao immediately channeled and circulated his soul power after ingesting those droplets as he protected his internal organs.

#### [Chapter 260.2: Polychoria](#)

Huo Yuhao discovered that the liquid worked similarly to the Delicate Silk Immortal's fragrance. It was extremely easy absorb it, and the liquid immediately became part of him once he ingested it, so there was no way he could separate it with his soul power. He didn't feel uncomfortable at all. Instead, clean and refreshing sensations coursed over his entire body, feeling very comfortable.

Huo Yuhao didn't dare to delay. He sat down cross-legged and quietly felt all the delicate changes that were happening to his body.

It didn't take long before the thing he was waiting for arrived.

The refreshing sensations extended across his entire body at first, but that feeling gradually started to withdraw and follow his veins through his limbs as they travelled upward towards his head.

This poison targets the head? Huo Yuhao felt his heart skip a beat. The brain was the most intricate part of the human body, and it was also the most important part, as the spiritual sea was located inside the brain. If toxins damaged the brain, even if he survived the ordeal, he could lose his rationality and his ability to think.

Huo Yuhao controlled his soul power, and his soul power immediately congregated into seven defensive lines at breakneck speed. These defensive lines webbed over his body in an attempt to block that fresh and chilly feeling from pushing up into his head. He reached downward with his spiritual power at the same time and combined it with his soul power, so that he could make use of the Sovereign Descent's mystical effects.

From Huo Yuhao's perspective, fusing his soul power and his spiritual power provided an all-round defense, and was probably enough to barricade that peculiar herb's effects.

However, Huo Yuhao realized he was wrong when the refreshing sensation surged up into his head. The herb's effects didn't travel along his passageways like his soul power did! The sensation had integrated into his veins, and it circulated through his body along with his blood!

Huo Yuhao reacted quickly once he discovered this, and he swiftly sealed off his veins and passageways.

This response was effective. His veins stopped circulating, and since the herb's effects were sealed within his veins, they also stopped flowing through his body.

Huo Yuhao heaved a faint sigh of relief, but he quickly realized that he was just being daft. How long could he seal off his veins and passageways? Completely sealing off his veins meant that he was stopping his heart from beating. Even though he was a powerful Soul King, he could probably only keep this up for several minutes before he would die from the lack of oxygen.

If the herb's effects were concentrated in one place, he could let blood from his body into that area so that he could expel the toxin from his body. However, the problem was that the herb's effects were pouring in from every single part of his body! That meant that there was no way he could completely expel the toxin from his body unless he drained every single ounce of blood that he had.

What kind of herb is this? It's so fierce and formidable. Huo Yuhao's mind began to work at lightning speed as countless thoughts surfaced in his mind in an attempt to find a solution. However, his efforts were futile; he couldn't find an appropriate response for this problem.

He had now kept his veins sealed for a little too long, and he began to feel weak and suffocated. He couldn't keep this up for much longer.

That's it... looks like I can only take the hit.

Huo Yuhao recalled what Skydream had just said to him, that toxins were useless as long as he was around the Delicate Silk Immortal. Since that was the case, then it was possible that the Delicate Silk Immortal hadn't given him poison. If so, then what could possibly happen to him if the herb's effects integrated with his body? He could only truly feel how it would affect his body through the integration process.

It was better to try it than to let himself die from suffocation. With that in mind, Huo Yuhao gradually withdrew his spiritual power back into his spiritual sea, before slowly reopening his veins so that his blood could flow once more.

The refreshing feelings appeared as soon as his veins were released. The sensations continued flowing upward through his veins, and slowly congregated towards his head.

Huo Yuhao concentrated all his attention on the flow of these sensations. The clean and refreshing feeling quickly reached across his chest, but didn't attack his heart in any way as it continued travelling upward, just as he had suspected.

The sensations swiftly crossed his neck. Even though Huo Yuhao was controlling the speed of his blood flow, the refreshing feeling was bound to continue upward as it flowed along with his blood. The sensations rushed into Huo Yuhao's head, but they didn't launch an attack against his spiritual sea or against his brain – they just exploded.

This eruption made Huo Yuhao momentarily confused and hysterical. He felt a cold and clean-feeling wave burst across his brain, and there was an indescribable restrictive feeling about everything. The sensations then began to congregate towards his eyes as if they were all rivers flowing into an ocean.

Oh no! Huo Yuhao lost his composure as he suddenly considered a possibility. What did the Delicate Silk Immortal discover when she surveyed his body? She was trying to inspect his martial soul! His martial



soul was his Spirit Eyes, so the Delicate Silk Immortal picked an herb that specifically targeted his Spirit Eyes.

The intensely refreshing feeling had completely covered his eyes at this moment. Huo Yuhao felt as if his Spirit Eyes were being continuously rinsed by a peculiar force, as if something was being continuously injected inside them. What confused him was the fact that he didn't feel any agonizing sensations at all, and though he tried everything to make this feeling disappear, nothing worked. He couldn't do anything even when he sealed off his veins and blood flow.

Does she want to obliterate my Spirit Eyes? That was what Huo Yuhao was most afraid of. However, he was already stuck in this situation, and the only thing he could do was channel his soul and spiritual power, and do all he could to protect his Spirit Eyes.

His Spirit Eyes were neither fragile nor weak. They were his main martial soul, and had been cultivated constantly through the Purple Demon Eyes, so they could in fact be considered powerful and formidable. Simply put, even if Huo Yuhao's eyes were stabbed by normal metal, it was unlikely they would be hurt.

Spiritual power circulated around and through his Spirit Eyes. The refreshing sensation's backflow and absorption seemed extremely quick, and the feelings gradually disappeared. Huo Yuhao became increasingly nervous. He was most afraid that this peculiar force would erupt again after integrating into his body, and completely destroy his Spirit Eyes.

The clean and fresh feeling slowly became fiery warmth. His eyes felt as if they were being bathed in lukewarm water, and his soul power and spiritual power became supplements for absorbing the herb's effects. Huo Yuhao didn't feel any pain, nor did he experience the eruption that he was expecting. Instead, he could feel an unprecedented degree of comfort in his eyes. The energy that had been injected into his eyes was nourishing his Spirit Eyes, and every pulse of absorption made him feel incredibly comfortable.

This... is this actually a harmful herb? Doubt finally surfaced in Huo Yuhao's mind. Can it be that I am that person's chosen one, the person that the Delicate Silk Immortal speaks of? It seems like my judgment was correct. Uncle Niu Tian dared to send me here, and that means I should be able to pass the assessment in front of me.

His anxiety slowly faded, and he began to regain his composure. Huo Yuhao continued channeling his soul power and spiritual power as he began to catalyze his absorption of the herb's medicinal effects.

The girl that he had knocked unconscious came to right at this moment.

Wang Qiu'er possessed the Golden Dragon martial soul, and her physical capabilities were extremely powerful, and Huo Yuhao hadn't used that much force when he sliced down on her neck. It didn't take too long before she naturally recovered by herself.

Wang Qiu'er couldn't be bothered with being angry when she saw Huo Yuhao sitting on the ground with his legs crossed. She didn't even have to think to guess what he had done.

“You’re such an idiot!” Wang Qiu’er cursed under her breath, her large pinkish-blue eyes full of worry and anxiety. She targeted the Delicate Silk Immortal in the next moment, and pointed the Golden Dragon Spear in her hands as she exclaimed, “What... what did you give him?”

The Delicate Silk Immortal giggled and said, “I have given him something good, of course. But I won’t give it to you even if you want it.”

Wang Qiu’er said coldly, “Listen... if something happens to him, I will make sure you die right where you are even if I have to pay with my life. I may even destroy everything else in this place. You’d better pray that nothing happens to him.”

The Delicate Silk Immortal was a little surprised as she said, “You sound like you have a lot of self-confidence. Where is your confidence coming from?”

Wang Qiu’er looked up at the sky as she gradually raised the Golden Dragon Spear in her hands. Her body became a little translucent, and a strange energy flowed from her body in the next moment.

She was shining with a faint scarlet-gold light. This light wasn’t intense, and neither were there any soul power undulations. However, the Delicate Silk Immortal’s enormous flower trembled when this scarlet-golden light appeared, and even the plants around them started to quiver faintly.

“You... how can you possess a power like that? You, you...” The Delicate Silk Immortal’s voice was no longer smooth, as if she had suddenly recalled something.

The scarlet-gold light was withdrawn as Wang Qiu’er said coldly, “Tell me what you’ve given him, and whether he will be alright. I will make sure everyone else will die with him if he dies.”

“Calm down. I didn’t give him anything bad,” the Delicate Silk Immortal explained hurriedly, as if she were a little fearful of Wang Qiu’er now.

“You didn’t give him anything bad?” Wang Qiu’er asked doubtfully.

“No!” The Delicate Silk Immortal continued, “That person left this rule behind all those years ago, and this rule is targeted at the people who come to this place in search of medicine and herbs to save someone’s life. The truth is that there isn’t a fixed herb for all these adventurers, and I choose the herb on a case-by-case basis. First, I have to be sure that the adventurer is here to save a life, and then I have to see whether the adventurer has the courage to consume the herb that I’ll eventually give him. If the adventurer decides to consume this herb, that proves he or she has the courage, and this adventurer is willing to sacrifice his or her own life to save someone else. I will approve of a person like this, and this adventurer will be worthy of undergoing the subsequent assessment.”

Wang Qiu’er’s eyes grew vacant as her jaw hung slack. “This... what’s going on?” She turned back towards Huo Yuhao, where she saw a scarlet-gold sphere hovering above his head, while scarlet-gold light threads gradually wove and integrated themselves into his eyes.

The Delicate Silk Immortal said, “That person said that this is a test of a person’s personality, and a person cannot be evil if he or she is willing to sacrifice his or her life for someone else. Yes, he’s courageous enough, and I’ve given him a mystical herb that’s extremely suitable for him, and he should be thanking me. Please don’t use that ability that you just showed me. Even though it’s likely that we won’t be able to resist it, you will definitely die along with us.”

### [Chapter 260.3: Polycoria](#)

Wang Qiu'er grunted coldly and said, "Why would I fight you to the death if you hadn't threatened us? This guy is so foolish, but he has his fool's luck. The person that you speak of is a real bastard..."

Somewhere deep within the clouds in some unknown place, that person unwittingly sneezed...

The Delicate Silk Immortal was a little displeased as she said, "You are not allowed to speak ill of him, he's a very good person. He could have destroyed us all when he first came here, but he didn't, and he even gave us a general plan so that we could use the Icefire Yin Yang Well's effects to grow as quickly as we could. He's our savior! Otherwise, I wouldn't help him at all!"

Huo Yuhao did profit from his misfortune, after all. The refreshing feeling in his eyes gradually disappeared. He felt as if his spiritual power had been boosted, and that this transformation was qualitative rather than quantitative.

The water inside his spiritual sea was originally golden, but there was now a blurry purple layer of light hovering above it. Both colors merged together to become a beautiful hue of purple-gold.

Huo Yuhao's entire spiritual sea was now in his grasp when he willed it so, and even Skydream, who had transformed into a ring on his finger, had a faint purple layer encircling him.

The vertical eye above his spiritual sea that represented the Eye of Destiny didn't change much. That also meant that the herb had only affected his Spirit Eyes.

Huo Yuhao slowly opened his eyes after the last of the herb's effects had been assimilated. He realized to his intense shock that the world had become entirely different when he perceived it again.

The world around him seemed to be a lot more colorful than before. His eyes could detect the most delicate and intricate changes in his surroundings, and he could see the peculiarities of every detail even when he didn't release his martial soul.

Huo Yuhao looked up at the sky above him. What he saw wasn't those rainbow-colored poison clouds. Instead, he saw countless minute particles, and he could distinguish each particle's color even though he was quite far from them.

Huo Yuhao turned back towards the Delicate Silk Immortal, and he realized that he could see the vast life energy circulating inside her. This life energy was a faint pink color, and it wove continually between her petals, stamen, and neck. He could even see what the energy undulations were like in the lake behind her.

Huo Yuhao released his Spirit Eyes – he subconsciously wanted to try and see how his body would react with his Spirit Eyes activated – and he discovered that time began to slow.

Huo Yuhao scrutinized everything with his Spirit Eyes. Not only did everything become a lot clearer than before, but everything seemed to also slow down. This sensation was just too strange, to the point where he almost couldn't believe what he was seeing.

What he had just ingested wasn't a harmful herb, it was a mystical herb that was exceedingly beneficial for his Spirit Eyes!

This feeling clearly represented the Purple Demon Eyes' highest level!

Of the Purple Demon Eye's four different realms, Huo Yuhao had already reached the third realm. However, he had now ferociously broken through the third realm to reach the final realm, Mustard Seed. The ability to see even the smallest details represented the highest possible realm. Furthermore, his spiritual power also began to evolve along with his Spirit Eyes.

Huo Yuhao activated Spiritual Detection, as this was the soul skill that he used most often. When he did, he could see faint purplish-golden light radiating outwards, with his Spirit Eyes at the center. Everything that this purple light reached was presented in his mind as clear as could be, and he could now use Spiritual Detection on the Delicate Silk Immortal where it had failed utterly before.

This... is this a crystallization of spiritual power? It's a qualitative change, it really is!

"This isn't an actual crystallization of your spiritual power – true crystallization should mean your spiritual power should have both form and substance, and I never reached that level even when I was at the pinnacle of my cultivation. My spiritual power is extremely vast, as I have accumulated it for a million years. If I had reached the realm where my spiritual power had both form and substance, heh, those bastards in the Great Star Dou Forest would have scampered away." Skydream's voice was clearly a little excited. He was the happiest one when he witnessed the transformations occurring within Huo Yuhao's Spirit Eyes and to his spiritual power. Skydream was Huo Yuhao's spirit, and that meant Skydream was a direct beneficiary of all of this, too!

Huo Yuhao hurriedly asked mentally, "Brother Skydream – what realm am I in now?"

Skydream answered, "I think you've already entered the metaphysical realm, even though you're just at the beginner level. However, this realm is an important checkpoint that ninety-nine percent of spiritual-type soul masters and soul beasts absolutely have to cross. I originally imagined that it would have been quite impressive if you could reach that realm within ten years, but who knew? You have skyrocketed to this realm after eating that thing. You will understand when you listen to my explanation..."

"When your spiritual power has form but no substance, you can even use spiritual power to suppress your Ultimate Ice soul power, and you can envelop your soul power when you cultivate so that it will no longer affect your body. Your cultivation speed will no longer be affected by Ultimate Ice, not in the least. Your cultivation speed after this can even surpass that of normal soul masters, while every single spiritual-type soul skill that you possess has undergone a qualitative change as well.

"You can absorb another portion of the spiritual origin that I've sealed away in your spiritual sea. I will help you with that when we return, so that you can completely consolidate your position in this realm.

"When you have cultivated long enough that you've reached the pinnacle of this realm, then you can attempt to break through into the realm where your spiritual power has both form and substance. Once you've reached that stage, nobody else in the world can challenge you in terms of spiritual power!"

This pleasant surprise was simply too great. Huo Yuhao's spiritual power had been strengthened exponentially, while his overall abilities had also risen by an entire level. Even though his soul power wasn't boosted at all, his spiritual power had changed qualitatively to the point where he had reached the metaphysical realm, and that meant improvements in his soul power weren't that far away.

“Hey, hey...are you alright?” An extremely displeased voice suddenly jolted Huo Yuhao awake from his pleasant surprise.

Wang Qiu'er had seen him open his eyes, and then she realized that he was just smiling foolishly to himself. Wang Qiu'er was startled when his eyes began to shine with a faint purplish-golden light that began to extend outwards, because she had a feeling as though she was completely naked and exposed to a certain someone's vision. The feeling of being stripped naked didn't feel so good, and Huo Yuhao's pupils had also begun to undergo some peculiar transformations.

His pupils were originally pure black in color, but there now seemed to be another pupil within them – this pupil was purple, and the two pupils in a single eye became purple and gold when he released his Spirit Eyes. Everything looked extremely strange and peculiar.

“This is... is this your body soul's second awakening?” Wang Qiu'er asked in surprise.

Huo Yuhao was momentarily stunned. “My body soul's second awakening? I don't think so...”

Wang Qiu'er handed him a mirror. “Look at your eyes! Why would there be such a tremendous transformation if your body soul hasn't been awakened for the second time?”

Huo Yuhao was also overcome with astonishment when he took the mirror and stared at his own pupils.

I have four pupils now! I... I actually have polycoria! This is the White Tiger Duke's iconic polycoria!

Back in the day, he had been despised as the runt of the litter because he didn't have polycoria, and the others in the duke's mansion looked down on him for that. His martial soul had mutated because of the genes that his mother had passed down to him, and this made everyone treat him like a useless piece of trash.

If... if I had been born with polycoria, and inherited the White Tiger Duke's White Tiger martial soul, the duke's wife would have never dared to treat my mother like she did, no matter how outrageous she was. Oh heavens, do you know how unfair you were to me and my mother? Why did you have to torment us like that?

Huo Yuhao felt countless emotions rush to his head as these thoughts ran through his mind. His Spirit Eyes had evolved, and it was likely that his martial soul had been awakened for the second time, so he should be happy. However, he couldn't feel happy at all, and his mother's image filled every corner of his mind.

“Eh, are you so touched and grateful that you've been overcome with astonishment?” the Delicate Silk Immortal asked curiously.

Huo Yuhao gradually calmed his emotions, but his eyes were still full of sullenness and grief.

Wang Qiu'er wanted to get him back for knocking her unconscious after he woke up. However, she could see the dejection in his eyes, and she swallowed everything that she wanted to say.

“What's up?” Wang Qiu'er touched his shoulder gently.

Huo Yuhao shook his head and got to his feet. "My Spirit Eyes and my spiritual power have undergone some transformations after I absorbed that herb. You're right, it's possible that this is the second awakening of my Spirit Eyes, but I can't be sure at the moment."

Wang Qiu'er said, "You should really thank You You." She immediately repeated everything that You You had said to her before this.

This was the test? Huo Yuhao was no longer that little resentful and vengeful youth that he had been when he first departed from the Duke's mansion. His grief was fleeting, and he quickly recovered from it.

"You You, if I hadn't taken that herb and I decided to leave with Wang Qiu'er, what would you have done?" Huo Yuhao didn't directly express his gratitude, and asked this question instead.

The Delicate Silk Immortal heaved a sigh. "Why are you so smart? A question like this hurts our relationship. If you hadn't taken the herb, that would only mean that you're not determined and you're extremely selfish. How would a person like this not tell anyone else about this place? Even though we are confident in being self-sufficient and of defending ourselves, there are just too many humans, and we can't be sure if we can protect our home in the end. According to that person, we can do what we want to you. If you had the ability to break through from here, then you should be allowed to leave."