

Tang Sect 27

Chapter 27.1: Revenge? Brother?

The teachers of Shrek Academy had seen many geniuses, but freshmen like Xiao Xiao and Wang Dong, who were this fixated on victory and this resolute in their beliefs... they were simply too rare.

The Director of the Martial Soul Department, Du Weilun, walked over to the stunned Zhou Yi. "Teacher Zhou, congratulations on teaching these two excellent students. Report them to the higher-ups. I believe that they both have the qualifications to become core disciples of the outer courtyard."

Only then did Zhou Yi react. She hurriedly replied, "Director Du, there's still Huo Yuhao. He's the core of their team, as well as their team leader."

Du Weilun was stunned, but he shook his head. "He only has a single soul ring. He's too weak. Also, he should be one of those rarely-seen spiritual-type soul masters. Don't you know how few spiritual-type soul beasts there are?" With that, he walked off the tall stage.

As the Director of the Martial Soul Department, Du Weilun wasn't just strong, he was calculative as well. He naturally saw the role that Huo Yuhao had played during the match. He was the one that had stimulated the nearly-insane fighting spirits of Wang Dong and Xiao Xiao. However, he had important responsibilities as a Director; he naturally wouldn't choose a core disciple just for his personality and leadership skills.

After listening to Du Weilun's words, Zhou Yi's entire body shook. Right! She'd always overlooked this simple problem. Although Huo Yuhao's first soul ring had a strong soul skill attached to it, he was still a spiritual-type soul master. Spiritual-type soul beasts were simply too rare, and strong ones were even rarer. Under these circumstances, the chances of Huo Yuhao becoming an expert was naturally much smaller than normal.

"No problem. If the Martial Soul Department doesn't want him, our Soul Tool Department will take him." A bright light flickered through Fan Yu's eyes as he patted Zhou Yi's shoulder. "It's hard to find strong spiritual-type soul beasts, but it's still possible to find ordinary ones. As long as he has enough soul power, he'll still be able to become an outstanding student of the Soul Tool Department—even if he only has his first soul ring. I want this core disciple."

In front of Fan Yu, Zhou Yi didn't seem to have any of her usual iciness, "No, it's not time yet. You need to give him three years. Yuhao is a specially-invited student who was recommended by the Tang Sect; he should've been a rogue soul master who grew up in a poverty-stricken family. That's why he only has a ten year soul ring. He's always been the most attentive student during class time, and although he's had a somewhat late start, he's the most hardworking and serious student I've ever met. His foundation is too weak, thus I need to stay by his side and continue teaching him. Three years will be enough for him to obtain a basic knowledge of how things are, and with his current level of diligence, he should be able to obtain three rings at the very least by that point. Once he obtains his third ring, he'll naturally have brighter prospects. At that time, he can be the core disciple of your Soul Tool Department.

Fan Yu smiled. "I can see that you like this child a lot. Since you've already planned things out for him, I'll listen to you. Once the freshmen assessment has ended, take him over to see me, and I'll let him

participate in the Soul Tool Department in addition to his regular studies. I'll see whether or not he has any talent in that field."

"Yup." Zhou Yi nodded her head, "I'll go check on Xiao Xiao and Wang Dong. Fan Yu, believe me, the Martial Soul Department will definitely regret not taking Huo Yuhao in as a core disciple."

Fan Yu replied, "Then, let's wait and see."

Wang Dong was left in a slightly better condition than Xiao Xiao, as he'd only used up all of his energy. More importantly, he had his fusion partner, Huo Yuhao. Once Huo Yuhao hugged him, his soul power naturally flowed into Wang Dong's body, allowing him to quickly recover a strand of his soul power. After using their Haodong Power, Wang Dong was able to wake up from his unconscious state in less than ten minutes.

However, Xiao Xiao's condition was much worse than Wang Dong's. She needed both soul power to active her Cauldron's Trembling Quake, as well as an extremely strong amount of control over it to maintain it. Under normal circumstances, Xiao Xiao would only use her National Treasure to deal a single attack, sending her opponent flying while applying a forced stun effect. The strength of this single blow far exceeded that of using both of her soul skills one after another. However, she didn't do this against Xie Huanyue. Instead, she'd used it to trap him. She'd done so for the sake of buying even more time for Wang Dong. Xie Huanyue's defense was simply too strong, and Xiao Xiao had been scared that he'd charge straight back towards them if he was sent flying away. Furthermore, there was a high chance of that happening due to his body's bouncing speed.

Because of that, Xiao Xiao hadn't just overdrawn her soul power alone; she'd overdrawn her spiritual power as well. As soon as the match had ended, she'd instantly sunk into a deep coma.

Fortunately, they were in Shrek Academy, which had no shortages of healing medicines. After consuming a few medicinal pills, Xiao Xiao sank into a deep sleep. However, the teacher that treated her said that she'd have to rest for a full day, at the very minimum. Furthermore, she couldn't be disturbed in any way at all, so that the medicinal pills that had been used on her wouldn't leave any aftereffects. In other words, Xiao Xiao wouldn't be able to participate in the following two matches... and that was a conservative estimate.

Zhou Yi personally carried Xiao Xiao back to her room for her to rest, while Huo Yuhao carried the weakened Wang Dong back to their dorm room.

"Wang Dong, should we give up on the next match?" As he looked at Wang Dong's pale face, Huo Yuhao sighed gently.

"No way." Wang Dong knew that Huo Yuhao was concerned about the state of his body, but his current will to fight was still as strong as it previously was. He'd never been as serious as this towards anything else as he was now.

"Yuhao, I know that you're worried about me. But we have to continue on with this tournament. If we just gave up like this, how could we face Xiao Xiao? She may have fainted, but there's still the two of us. And, don't we have our Haodong Power? We'll definitely be able to recover before the afternoon match. We have to fight for Xiao Xiao, and wait for her to come back."

As he looked at Wang Dong's determined eyes, Huo Yuhao's heart was completely moved. True feelings had blossomed between them as a result of their hardships. The matches that had occurred yesterday and today had rapidly narrowed the gap between him, Wang Dong, and Xiao Xiao. The feelings between the three of them were no longer those of fellow schoolmates, but those of comrades-in-arms who were willing to live and die together. Although this wasn't a true battlefield, they already treated the tournament as one.

"What're you waiting for? Hurry up." As he spoke, Wang Dong raised his hands.

Huo Yuhao took a deep breath, then placed his palms on Wang Dong's palms. He spoke with a resolute tone in his voice, "Let's fight for Xiao Xiao."

Sea God's Island, the Lakeside.

"Xuan Lao, what do you think?" Wang Yan stood beside Xuan Lao and asked in a quiet voice.

Xuan Lao had already finished his chicken legs, and there were now chicken wings around him. It seemed as though he'd never be full.

"Those two fellas aren't bad. As for that fella with the Body Soul you were talking about, he's lacking by quite a bit. He should have a skill that's similar to a spiritual detection-type skill, however it's unfortunate that his first soul ring is only ten years old. This is a flaw that can't be made up for." As he spoke, Xuan Lao swallowed a mouthful of wine.

Wang Yan replied, "But, Xuan Lao, he still has a Body Soul!"

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Xuan Lao shook his head. "You should know what the most important part of a Body Soul is; it's the potential that it has, as well as the variations that the martial soul can undergo during combat. It's very clear from today's match; even under that sort of pressure, his martial soul didn't undergo any variations. In other words, he doesn't possess the essence of a Body Soul. He's too old, and he doesn't have enough soul power. At the same time, his first soul ring is only ten years old. Even if he has decent potential, he isn't something that I want. Do you understand?"

Wang Yan was still somewhat unresigned. "Xuan Lao, I just found out yesterday that Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong have fused their martial souls, and can even release a fusion skill. Although I don't know what exactly their fusion skill is, isn't that enough to prove his talent?"

Xuan Lao objected. "A fusion skill doesn't mean everything. Alright, I've already made my decision. Those two little fellas can be chosen. As for Huo Yuhao, just leave it."

With that, he stood up and walked unsteadily away, a chicken wing in one hand and a huge bottle gourd in the other. His unsteady gait made it seem as if he could fall down at any time.

As he stared at Xuan Lao's back, Wang Yan couldn't help but sigh. He naturally knew of Huo Yuhao's problems, but he still felt that he had an unordinary temperament. Wang Dong and Xiao Xiao were much, much more outstanding than him on the surface, but he was still able to lead them into their matches, and had become the true core of their team. Why was this?

“Was my judgement truly wrong? No, I won’t give up. No matter what, I’ll do all I can to nurture Huo Yuhao. It won’t be too late to find Xuan Lao after he’s obtained a few achievements.”

The freshmen assessment had already entered its final stages, and the top 8 had already been decided from the morning matches. There was no doubt that these 8 teams were the most outstanding teams amongst the freshmen students. However, two of the teams that were led by Soul Elder-ranked students had actually been eliminated, to everybody’s surprise. More importantly, they had actually been eliminated by the same team.

There were only eight teams left in the knock-out round. The moment Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong arrived at the Assessment Area, they immediately attracted the attention of the other seven teams. It was clear that none of the other teams were willing to fight against the two of them in the quarterfinals—even if they only had two people left in their team.

Their Haodong Power was truly miraculous. Under Huo Yuhao’s assistance, Wang Dong had already recovered all of his soul power after cultivating for merely four hours. Furthermore, using all of his strength during the morning match, combined with the diligent cultivation he’d recently done, had allowed his soul power to increase to Rank 25.

While drawing the lots, Huo Yuhao whispered to Wang Dong, “Right, what was that skill you used at the very end of the morning match?”

Wang Dong replied, “It was a fusion skill that I created by combining my Guillotine Wing and my Light of the Butterfly Goddess. It’s the strongest move I have at my disposal. If I’m not mistaken, that Xie Huanyue possesses a very rarely seen Beast Soul that’s known as the Rubberdon. That martial soul innately possesses an extremely strong defense. His first soul skill should’ve been ‘Elephant Transformation’, while that arm-elongating skill should be ‘Elephant’s Nose’. That last skill that had a powerful crowd-controlling effect should be something like ‘Elephant’s Fury’. If you want to break that rubber ball-like defense of his, normal attacks definitely won’t work. There are only two ways that I know of: A peak-level elemental attack, such as an extremely hot fire-type skill or an extremely cold ice-type skill, or an extremely sharp skill. I used my Light of the Butterfly Goddess to activate my Guillotine Wing so that I could use its sharpness to pierce through his defenses. While that guy was trapped by Xiao Xiao, I had just enough time to charge up enough energy to use it. I was confident that a single attack of mine could destroy his martial soul.”

After listening to Wang Dong’s explanation, Huo Yuhao couldn’t help but inwardly praise him. Although he’d studied the various aspects of soul master-related knowledge during these three months, there was still a large gap between him and Wang Dong! This further solidified Huo Yuhao’s conviction to diligently cultivate.

“Team Huo Yuhao, come forward and draw your lots.” Director Du Weilun’s voice jolted Huo Yuhao awake. He then hurriedly walked forward, drawing a stick from the ballot cylinder Du Weilun held.

Du Weilun carefully looked at Huo Yuhao, thinking to himself, This kid truly has his own outstanding points, and his spiritual-type martial soul is extremely rare. Unfortunately, he hasn’t reached Rank 20 yet, and the chances of him obtaining a strong soul ring in the future are too small. If he can continue to pass all of the Academy’s assessments and remain as a student, we’ll be able to see whether or not he

has the qualifications to become a core disciple of the Martial Soul Department by the time he gets to his fourth or fifth year.

“Number 3.” After taking Huo Yuhao’s lot, Du Weilun loudly announced his number.

One of the teams who’d already drawn their lots suddenly had a change in expression; they were going to fight against Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong.

Huo Yuhao walked back towards Wang Dong. “There’s a one in seven chance that we’re going to fight against the last team that has a Soul Elder in it. If that team’s our next opponent, I think that we should consider praying to a god.”

Wang Dong had a speechless look on his face. “What god should we pray to?”

Huo Yuhao chuckled, “The Sea God, of course. Isn’t that ancestor the true symbol of our Shrek Academy?”

Wang Dong placed his right hand on Huo Yuhao’s shoulder. “Hey, that’s not funny. When there was a 3 in 32 chance in the beginning, the chances of us fighting against a team with a Soul Elder in it wasn’t even ten percent, but we still got them. When it was two in sixteen, it wasn’t even eight percent, but we still got them. Now that it’s a one in seven chance, the odds of us fighting against the last team with a Soul Elder in it are even greater than our previous odds. What do you think our odds are now?”

After hearing his analysis, Huo Yuhao immediately smiled bitterly. “We can’t be that unlucky, right....”

Although the concept of luck did exist, one wouldn’t be lucky or unlucky all the time; the facts proved it. This time around, there weren’t any Soul Elders in the team they’d picked.

After entering the Assessment Area, both teams stood facing each other and introduced themselves. This time, their opponents were from Class 9, and all three of them were Soul Grandmasters. Relatively speaking, they were an extremely strong team. However, there was a large gap between their team, and the teams that Huo Yuhao’s team had defeated in their two previous matches.

“Two agility-types and an assault-type. It’s this combination again, how boring. How should we go about this?” Wang Dong whispered into Huo Yuhao’s ear.

A light flashed through Huo Yuhao’s eyes. “Let’s just brute force our way through them.”

“Fine.”

The level of synergy between the two had become much higher. After a simple exchange of pleasantries, the match started.

Both sides simultaneously released their martial souls. However, the assault system Wang Dong didn’t immediately charge out. Instead, he flapped his blue wings, flying into the air while immediately activating his second, purple soul ring.

Huo Yuhao held onto Wang Dong’s ankle from below, the faintly golden light in his eyes completely concealed by the light that Wang Dong was currently releasing.

The golden patterns on Wang Dong's wings all lit up, while a smidge of orange appeared on them as a result of the Haodong Power that was being poured into them.

This time around, Huo Yuhao was able to closely observe Wang Dong from a short distance with nobody disturbing him. As a result of that, he was able to clearly see that Wang Dong's Light of the Butterfly Goddess wasn't spurting out a pillar of light, but many light orbs. Each and every golden pattern on Wang Dong's wings would spurt out a single orb of light, causing a total of several tens of them to appear. In the next instant, an orange light illuminated the entire arena.

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Their opponents never expected Wang Dong to go all out the instant he made a move. More importantly, they'd never expected the strength of his Light of the Butterfly Goddess to be this terrifying.

With the support of their Haodong Power, Wang Dong's Light of the Butterfly Goddess was equivalent to a three-ringed Soul Elder using their thousand year soul skill at the very least. All that their opponents could do was release their soul skills at full power and defend against it.

When the dazzling ray of light appeared, the two agility system soul masters were almost immediately blasted out of the arena. Although the assault system soul master was able to remain standing inside of the arena, his soul power had been almost entirely drained, and he'd suffered some minor injuries.

Because of that, Wang Dong uttered an extremely domineering sentence after he'd unfurled his dazzling wings and landed, "Are you going to leave the arena by yourself, or do I need to assist you?"

After that... there was no 'after that'. This was the quickest match that had occurred since the tournament had begun. It was also this match that had caused Wang Dong's popularity to soar, and made many people refer to him as the number one assault system soul master.

After the match had ended, Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong both rushed back to their dorms. In reality, even though Wang Dong had recovered his soul power, his overdrawing of it during the previous battle had caused him to suffer a few injuries, resulting in him being at a disadvantage in a drawn-out fight. However, only Huo Yuhao and him knew about this. That was why they'd chosen to end the match in such an explosive manner. If they'd met an opponent specialised in defense like Xie Huanyue was, the difficulty of the match would've increased exponentially—even if their opponent only had two rings.

The second their match ended, Huo Yuhao, Wang Dong, and Xiao Xiao had already entered the top 4 of the tournament. In other words, they would definitely receive a prize if they won another match. If they managed to win two more matches, they'd be the champions of the tournament.

Zhou Yi had told them that this year's batch of new students' quality far exceeded that of the previous years. If they were able to become champions despite these circumstances, they'd undoubtedly have proven their potential.

After they returned to their dorm room, Huo Yuhao didn't set up his stall. Instead, he immediately began cultivating with Wang Dong. Without Xiao Xiao's help, their following matches would only get tougher. Furthermore, they couldn't use the same tactic a second time. Their explosive method of obtaining victory during their previous match had had an enormous element of surprise to it; now that

their opponents were prepared for it, it'd be extremely difficult to pull off again. However, this was their best strategy to achieve victory with before Xiao Xiao returned.

When morning arrived, both Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong simultaneously opened their eyes and separated their palms from one another. As the sun had just risen, Huo Yuhao stood up from his bed and opened the window in their room that faced east.

A smidge of purple quietly appeared within the marble-white sky, causing Huo Yuhao's eyes to instantly turn purple.

After tidying his clothes up, Wang Dong went to clean himself up.

Everything occurred in a natural manner. After breathing in some fresh air that had been let in by the window, a faint smile appeared on Huo Yuhao's face.

Mom, can you see me? Your son has already become a true soul master. I've even become a member of one of the top 4 teams in the freshmen assessment of the continent's number one soul master academy. Don't worry about me; I'll definitely return to see you. Since you've suffered so many grievances, I'll definitely let you have a grand funeral someday. I'll make those who held you in contempt and bullied you pay.

With that, a trace of hostility flashed through Huo Yuhao's eyes, causing a layer of red to flare within his eyes before disappearing.

He didn't cultivate so diligently and devotedly just to become a peak-level expert or to become an expert amongst experts. He just wanted revenge—revenge for his mother. He'd never forgotten the humiliation he'd suffered during his youth. Although he'd received warmth from others, and had felt fraternal love between friends after entering Shrek Academy, he hadn't forgotten the eleven years of pain he'd suffered. The memories from his childhood were already deeply ingrained in his mind.

Yes, there would be a day when he returned to the place that had left a black mark on his childhood memories, as well as where his mother's remains were.

Huo Yuhao's ambition was one that nobody would've ever thought of. However, the seeds of revenge had already sprouted in his heart.

After the time needed to brew a cup of tea had passed, Wang Dong pushed the door open and re-entered their room. When he saw Huo Yuhao, who was still standing by the window, he couldn't help but puzzledly ask, "Yuhao, are you okay?" In the past, Huo Yuhao would always be ready to go shower once he'd returned. However, he was still standing in front of the window today.

Huo Yuhao hurriedly wiped the tears from the rims of his eyes and turned around, forcefully putting on a smile. "I'm fine, I was just thinking of my mother."

Regardless of it had been Tang Ya, Bei Bei, or Wang Dong, the only thing that Huo Yuhao had said about his parents was that they'd died, leaving him an orphan.

Wang Dong's gaze immediately turned soft. He walked towards Huo Yuhao and said, "Don't feel sad. What's happened has already happened. I'm sure that Auntie would want you to be happy, no? You've already had a completely new beginning in Shrek Academy, so leave those unhappy things in your past.

Go take your shower quickly. We'll cultivate a bit more once we're done with breakfast. This is truly a perfect example of the phrase, 'when it comes time to apply your knowledge, you find that you don't have enough of it! If I'd worked harder in the past, we wouldn't be this worried now.'

Huo Yuhao chuckled, then grabbed his toiletries and left the room. Could one simply just forget their revenge? If one could just 'forget' revenge, what other force could prompt a mere eleven-year-old kid to travel across the lands and head towards the Great Star Dou Forest? What else could motivate a kid—whose talent was extremely bad—to the point that he was at now? However, even though revenge could be a driving force at times, there were times where it could also cloud one's eyes.

After showering, Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong hurriedly ate their breakfasts, then cultivated until the sun had risen. After the sun had risen, they left their rooms and headed towards the Assessment Area. The champions of this year's knock-out tournament would be decided today, and after getting all the way to the top 4, none of the teams would cower from the others.

The number of spectators today was even greater than yesterday. All of the spectators were teachers, of course, as the students still had to continue their classes. The only difference was that the sloppy old man who'd appeared on the tall stage yesterday hadn't turned up today.

The top 4 teams stood together, waiting to draw lots. However, the person in charge of the lot-drawing today was no longer the Director of the outer courtyard's Martial Soul Department, Du Weilun.

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A white-clothed old man had taken his position. When he saw this old man, Huo Yuhao couldn't help but inwardly feel astonished; he'd previously seen this old man before, when he and Wang Dong had met the berserk Ma Xiaotao for the first time!

At that time, this old man had been the person in charge of the teachers who'd rushed over from the Sea God's Lake. As the freshmen assessment's knock-out tournament had progressed to its final stage today, he'd finally shown up. This clearly showed his lofty position in the Academy. Even Director Du Weilun—who possessed an extremely high amount of authority in the Academy—respectfully stood beside him.

"Greetings, youths. I'm Yan Shaozhe, the 261st Dean of Shrek Academy." The white-clothed old man carried a smile on his face as he spoke. He had an extremely warm temperament, and made it seem as if he was only an ordinary old man.

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Although Huo Yuhao had already guessed the man's identity—at least to some extent—he still unconsciously straightened his back when it was personally announced by the man, just like the other students.

Just what status did the Dean of Shrek Academy have? As the Dean of the continent's number one academy, he had the qualification to be on equal footing with the emperor of any country in the world. Furthermore, as the Dean of Shrek Academy, he was definitely a Titled Douluo super expert! He was a true, peak-level existence on the Douluo Continent.

The Dean personally appearing was something that none of the freshmen could've predicted.

“I know that all of you are very curious as to why I’ve come here, and you’re not wrong to be so. Normally, when the freshmen assessment enters its last stage, a Vice-Dean would be sufficient to show how much the academy values you. However, I have to admit that your performances during this freshmen assessment have left me extremely pleased. I’ve come because you all are the best batch of freshmen that I’ve seen during the past hundred years, so I’m very interested in you all. In addition to that, I’ll be watching all of the matches today, so I hope that I’ll continue to be pleasantly surprised by you all. Alright, let the lot-drawing begin.”

Naturally, the Dean himself couldn’t draw the lots. Thus, Du Weilun hurriedly took over the responsibility of drawing lots. However, Dean Yan himself was personally holding the ballot cylinder, which immediately caused all of the freshmen present to feel their blood boil.

This was a superpower that was only spoken of in the legends! The Dean of Shrek Academy is actually holding the ballot cylinder for us! Not to mention these freshmen, even if a group of eight-ringed Soul Douluo were here, they’d still feel deeply honoured. In an instant, the freshmen felt uncontrollably elated; Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong weren’t exceptions either.

“Team Huo Yuhao from Class 1, please come forward to draw your lot.” This time around, the first team to draw their lot was unexpectedly Huo Yuhao’s team.

Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong glanced at each other. “You go.” Huo Yuhao nudged his friend.

Wang Dong shook his head. “No, you’re the team leader. Quickly go and draw.” While speaking, he pushed Huo Yuhao out, making him the first student to draw a lot from the Dean.

Huo Yuhao felt somewhat nervous as he walked forward. When he stretched his hand out to draw his lot, he almost couldn’t control his emotions—his arm was even trembling.

Dean Yan smiled. “Little fella, there’s no need to be nervous. I hope that your team can obtain good results.”

After drawing his lot, Huo Yuhao took a step back and respectfully bowed deeply towards Yan Shaozhe. Afterwards, he handed his lot over to Du Weilun before walking back towards Wang Dong. By the time he reached Wang Dong, he discovered that the speed of his heartbeat had doubled.

“Class 1, Team Huo Yuhao. Lot Number: 2.”

The number ‘two’ signified that they’d be competing in the second arena during the semifinals. There were four numbers in the cylinder; two ‘ones’, and two ‘twos’.

“Class 5, Team Dai Huabin. Please come forward and draw your lot.”

A tall youth walked forwards with large steps. Huo Yuhao had always had a good memory, but as he looked towards the back of this youth, he discovered that he’d never seen this youth during the lot-drawings of the previous matches. Clearly, the team from Class 5 had changed the person they were sending out to pick their lot due to Dean Yan Shaozhe’s appearance.

The youth walked up to the stage and, after saluting Yan Shaozhe and Du Weilun, drew a lot. Following Huo Yuhao, he bowed deeply before handing his lot to Du Weilun. Afterwards, he turned away.

His face was handsome, yet ice-cold. His long, golden hair was split in two atop his head, and was draped over his shoulders. If one were to carefully inspect him, they'd notice that there were unexpectedly two pupils in his deep blue eyes. In addition to that, he was also slightly taller than his peers.

When Huo Yuhao saw him, his entire body suddenly shook violently. An inconceivable look filled his eyes, and his body suddenly began trembling uncontrollably as he grabbed the arm of Wang Dong, who was next to him.

Wang Dong was startled by his sudden movement. He turned around to look at Huo Yuhao, only to discover that his face was extremely pale. An unconcealable amount of hatred had appeared in his eyes. Huo Yuhao's grip was extremely strong, so much so that even Wang Dong felt that it was slightly painful.

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"Mom, I'll help you dry the clothes." A delicate seven or eight-year-old child strenuously hugged a large wooden bucket and unsteadily walked out of the courtyard to dry the clothes outside.

A beautiful, middle-aged woman stood in the courtyard as she looked at the figure of the youth, a gratified look in her eyes. She muttered to herself, "My Yuhao has truly grown up. He's become more and more thoughtful."

The little Yuhao carried the wooden bucket and left the courtyard with much difficulty. When he passed through the passage in front of him, he'd be about ten steps from the clothes-drying area.

Right at that moment, a large force suddenly slammed into his body from the side, viciously pushing his body, along with the bucket, to the ground, causing the clothes which had just been cleaned to immediately scatter on the ground.

"You bastard, do you not have any eyes? Didn't you see that the young master has returned? Screw off." An overbearing voice rang out. The little Yuhao endured the pain he was feeling, only to see eight strong-looking guards standing by either side of the pathway. The person who'd just knocked him down was a guard, and a youth—who was wearing a white robe embroidered with the pattern of a white python—walked towards him.

The youth looked extremely handsome, and he had two pupils in his eyes. In addition to that, he gave off a noble and aloof feeling. There was a stern look in his eyes, however he didn't even spare a glance towards Huo Yuhao until he stepped on a piece of clothing that had been dirtied by the mud.

"Hmm?" The white robed youth stopped and glanced coldly towards Huo Yuhao. "Beat him up." With that, he quickly walked away, as if he was scared of dirtying his eyes.

Two of the eight guards immediately ran towards the little Yuhao, then began to viciously beat him up.

Huo Yuhao had only been eight years old at the time, so how could he even have the energy to resist? Hearing the commotion going on outside, Huo Yuhao's mother had rushed out from the courtyard and used her own body to shield her son while bitterly begging the guards to stop. However, the mother and son duo were beaten to within an inch of their lives before the two guards finally stopped.

Huo Yuhao was still young at the time, so his recovery ability was a bit stronger than his mother's. However, his mother's body was already weak from an illness that had accumulated over her many years of hard work. Furthermore, the beating she'd received this time had left her with extremely severe injuries. After two years, she fell gravely ill, and then eternally left the world.

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Three years had passed, and he'd grown much older. However, even though this was the case, Huo Yuhao would never forget his pair of indifferent eyes, nor his cold voice from that time.

It was him; he was the main culprit who'd caused his mother's death. Redness gradually filled Huo Yuhao's eyes. He clearly saw those striking twin pupils that signified the direct descendants of the Duke's Mansion. And that person was the youngest son of the Duchess. In other words, he was his half-brother; he was the person who'd caused the death of his mother. He was Dai Huabin.

Dai Huabin's face was as cold as ever. Even as he stood before Dean Yan Shaoze, he didn't lower his proud head. Unlike the other students who'd stood before the Dean, he was much calmer. Only his tightly clenched fists revealed the restlessness in his heart.

He'd clearly forgotten who Huo Yuhao was. That's right! Even though he'd brought a calamity down upon Huo Yuhao and his mother at that time, he'd never recognised him as his half-brother.

"Team Dai Huabin, Lot Number 1." After Du Weilun made his announcement, Dai Huabin returned to his team. Huo Yuhao's emotions calmed down by quite a bit when he was no longer able to see Dai Huabin's face. The current him needed Wang Dong's support to even stand firmly on the ground.

Wang Dong was filled with shock. This was the first time that Huo Yuhao had ever been so emotional, and he was completely unsure as to what had happened to him. However, it was certain that this had something to do with that Dai Huabin.

"Yuhao, Yuhao, calm down. What happened to you?" Wang Dong softly consoled him.

As the lot-drawing continued, nobody noticed the change in Huo Yuhao's expression. Only when the lot-drawing had ended did Huo Yuhao manage to regain his composure. However, Wang Dong could still feel his body trembling. Furthermore, this was the sort of trembling that only occurred when one's emotional state had reached its limit!

"Can you still fight?" Wang Dong asked, concerned. There was no time left to ask 'why', as the semifinals were just about to start. nove.lb-1n

Huo Yuhao took a deep breath, then forcefully restrained the pain he had in his heart as he softly nodded. "I can. Just now, what number did Dai Huabin get?"

Wang Dong furrowed his brows. He didn't even hear such a loud announcement? The change in his emotions was that great?

"He drew a one. If we fight against them, it'll be during the finals. Earlier, I heard someone say that he was the last three-ringed Soul Elder left in the freshmen assessment."

“A three-ringed Soul Elder?” A cold light flashed through Huo Yuhao’s eyes. “Right! A three-ringed Soul Elder? He’s had so much support and so many resources; why wouldn’t he be this outstanding? Come, let’s go finish our match.”

At this moment, Huo Yuhao seemed to have regained his composure. The trembling on his body and the violent emotional fluctuations he’d been experiencing completely vanished. Wang Dong felt as if everything that had just happened were just figments of his imagination. However, he knew that they definitely weren’t hallucinations!

Chapter 28.1: Synergic Cooperation, Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong Achieve Victory

Huo Yuhao had buried his hatred for Dai Huabin in the very depths of his heart. It had already turned into a driving force for him, and as such he was willing to go to any lengths to get revenge for his mother. However, this was Shrek Academy, and he wanted to stay here in order to become even stronger. The revenge he wanted wasn’t just a simple massacre either—he wanted to console his mother’s soul in heaven. He knew what his mother’s greatest wish was; it was something that she hadn’t even dared to hope to accomplish while she’d been alive. However, Huo Yuhao still aimed to complete it. Because of that, he couldn’t just throw everything away just for revenge. Regardless of whether or not he could defeat Dai Huabin, he couldn’t throw away his life’s greatest wish for a single person. If the truth were to be exposed, he might not be able to continue studying at Shrek Academy. Therefore, he could only endure; he could only bury his hatred and use his own method to obtain revenge.

Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong’s opponents during the semifinals were three Soul Grandmasters from Class 10. Moreover, they possessed somewhat strange martial souls.

Even though their opponents didn’t have any three-ringed Soul Elders on their team, they definitely still weren’t weak. After all, they’d been able to stand out from the masses and reach their current positions.

The three freshmen from Class 10 were all boys that had heroic and exuberant appearances.

“Class 10, Zhou Sichen. I’m an assault system Soul Grandmaster.”

“Class 10, Long Xiangyue. I’m an agility system Soul Grandmaster.”

“Class 10, Cao Jinxuan. I’m a control system Soul Grandmaster.”

Their resounding and forceful voices were a manifestation of their confidence. They didn’t have any traces of fear in their eyes as they faced Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong.

“Class 1, Huo Yuhao. I’m a control system Soul Master.”

“Class 1, Wang Dong. I’m an assault system Soul Grandmaster.”

Due to Wang Dong’s breathtaking performance during their previous match, the proctor—who could be considered the judge of the semifinal round—had been switched to a roughly sixty-year-old elder. He gave off an extremely strong aura simply by standing there, showing that he was an extremely strong existence. He was clearly an especially strong teacher that’d been sent out to prevent any accidents from occurring during the match.

“Match, start!” As soon as the proctor announced it, the semifinals officially began. At the same time, an intense clash had also begun in Arena 1, where Dai Huabin was.

Since it was only the two of them left, Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong couldn’t move far away from each other; they clearly understood that they didn’t have any chance of victory in a 2v3 situation without using their Haodong Power.

This time around, Huo Yuhao stood in front, while Wang Dong stood behind him. Afterwards, the two of them simultaneously released their martial souls. Wang Dong then folded his wings around Huo Yuhao, enveloping him within them like a mat awning.

Their opponents had clearly done some research on their battle styles. Considering Wang Dong’s sudden explosiveness in yesterday’s match, they’d paid a large amount of attention to him. As such, their opponents instantly released all of their strength the moment the match started.

However, the agility system Long Xiangyue didn’t charge forwards straightaway. Instead, he quickly hid behind Zhou Sichen’s back. Surprisingly, Cao Jinxuan did the same as well, causing the three of them to stand in a straight line.

In that instant, their strange martial souls appeared.

A white light shone as a book appeared within Zhou Sichen’s hands. At the same time, both of his hundred year soul rings lit up, causing the book’s pages to flutter open and release two rays of light in succession. These rays of light then congealed in front of him.

This was Zhou Sichen’s special Tool Soul, the Treasure Bible.

Normally speaking, book-type martial souls were trash souls that very few people had been able to successfully cultivate. However, Zhou Sichen had a variant martial soul; his Treasure Bible had even given him Rank 7 innate soul power. Furthermore, he could directly absorb the energy of any soul beast he killed for its soul ring, whenever his soul power reached a bottleneck. Most importantly, he had no attribute restrictions for his soul rings, so he could absorb and utilise the abilities of any soul rings he absorbed. In other words, he could use an ice-type soul skill one moment, before using a fire-type soul skill the next. It was an extremely unusual Tool Soul.

At that moment, he’d released two soul skills, which had in-turn formed two beasts. One of the beasts he’d summoned was a bear covered in yellow light, while the other was a fierce tiger covered in flames.

Ever since he’d obtained his Treasure Bible, Zhou Sichen’s goal had been to become an assault system soul master. Because of that, even though he could choose any soul beast to become his soul ring, he’d only chosen ones that had assault system soul skills. This was all for the sake of his dream of becoming an assault system soul master.

The bear and tiger duo hurriedly rushed in front of the three, then roared towards Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong.

However, the person standing behind him wasn’t the agility system Long Xiangyue, but the control system Cao Jinxuan. Cao Jinxuan had a look of concentration in his eyes, and was emitting a distorted halo of light. Even people standing next to him would think that he looked somewhat blurry. However, despite that, an exquisite clock had quietly appeared above his head.

The clock itself was horseshoe-shaped, and its white body was roughly half a meter tall. Its watch face was round, and a rotor engraved with golden patterns lightly swayed beneath it. After the clock appeared, both of Cao Jinxuan's hundred year soul rings seemed to have become a part of his body, causing them to rhythmically sway in-sync with the clock.

Zhou Sichen's Treasure Bible was already something rare, but Cao Jinxuan's clock was a rarity amongst rarities; his martial soul was known as the 'Time Elapsing Clock', and its rarity amongst Tool Souls wasn't inferior to Wang Dong's Radiant Butterfly Goddess.

The three were simultaneously moving together, so naturally, Long Xiangyue couldn't be lacking compared to the other two. He'd maintained a relatively large distance from Cao Jinxuan, but they were still in a straight line. Despite being an agility system soul master, he unexpectedly possessed a Tool Soul as well. After releasing his martial soul, an enormous boomerang appeared in his hand. One 'side' of the boomerang was more than a foot long, so it looked somewhat imbalanced in the hands of Long Xiangyue, who hadn't even turned twelve.

After the boomerang appeared in his hand, Long Xiangyue paused slightly for a moment. Immediately afterwards, he bent his body backwards, then abruptly swung his body back towards the front as he sent the boomerang flying out. In the instant that he made his move, both of his soul rings lit up.

However, his expression suddenly changed the instant he made his move, as his originally clear judgement had suddenly turned vague.

Their three-man formation was undoubtedly specialised to fight against Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong; how could the two of them simply sit there and watch without doing anything?

Of the five people in the arena, the first person to have released their soul skill had actually been Huo Yuhao.

The instant he'd seen their opponents line themselves up, he'd known that they wouldn't be able to pull off the same trick against them. Regardless of who he was fighting against, Huo Yuhao would always release his Spiritual Detection Sharing in the first possible instant that he could. It was practically undetectable, yet it was able to give them an extremely large advantage.

Chapter 28.2: Synergic Cooperation, Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong Achieve Victory

Because of that, the agility system Long Xiangyue was struck by Huo Yuhao's soul skill the instant he threw out his boomerang. The skill he was struck by was one of the four soul skills that came from his first soul ring—Spiritual Interference.

His Spiritual Interference's strength was much weaker than his Spiritual Shock's, so much so that it could practically be disregarded. Even Wang Dong hadn't sensed that Huo Yuhao had released it. In order to conceal the fact that he'd released an all-new soul skill, Huo Yuhao didn't allowed Wang Dong to touch him, so that he didn't use it with their Haodong Power. Instead, he'd made sure to release his Spiritual Interference with his strength alone. **novE.1b)**In

The interference that occurred for a split second caused a his consciousness become somewhat blurry for a moment, however at that moment, Wang Dong had enveloped him within his wings, thus protecting Huo Yuhao.

The boomerang shot through the air, carving a beautiful arc through the air as it flew towards Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong. From the intense light released from the boomerang, as well as the two soul skills that had been added to it, it was obvious that it couldn't be blocked easily. However, it was still disregarded by the two of them.

Wang Dong had revealed his strength in the previous match, but the main character in this match was now Huo Yuhao.

The instant Long Xiangyue threw out his boomerang, an intense purplish-golden light shot out from Huo Yuhao's eyes, who was mostly concealed within Wang Dong's wings.

Zhou Sichen only heard a muffled groan from behind him. Immediately afterwards, the Time Elapsing Clock that had just been released instantly disappeared; Cao Jinxue hadn't even had the chance to release a soul skill. Under Long Xiangyue's astonished gaze, Cao Jinxue collapsed to the ground unconscious.

However, Huo Yuhao was able to control the strength of his Haodong Power-boosted Spiritual Shock after his experience with it last time. Thus, Cao Jinxue only fainted—he wasn't injured like Ning Tian had been.

Cao Jinxue's martial soul had seemed rather unusual, and he was even a control system soul master. In Huo Yuhao's opinion, he was the most dangerous of the three. Thus, he hadn't hesitated to use Haodong Power to instantly take care of him. After all, not every soul master would possess a defensive martial soul as perverted as the Rubberdon. Cao Jinxue wasn't an exception to this. Defenseless, he instantly fainted.

"Pu——" The boomerang struck the ground a foot away from Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong. The sharp aura it emanated startled even Wang Dong, and even though he didn't know what Long Xiangyue's soul skills were, he was stupefied to discover that it'd be extremely difficult to block it without taking any damage if he were to clash with it head-on.

Zhou Sichen glanced backwards and opened his mouth, astonished. He'd clearly been standing in front of Cao Jinxue, but he'd still been knocked unconscious. Just how had their opponents done it? Naturally, he didn't know of the existence of something like Huo Yuhao's Spiritual Detection. As long as one was in his detection radius, they wouldn't be able to hide from him; not even if they flew into the air or hid underground.

However, as a team leader, Zhou Sichen was able to remain extremely cool-headed. After being startled for a brief moment, he instantly knew that he couldn't keep guarding himself. Both the Earthen Bear and Devilflame Tiger he'd summoned roared simultaneously before they charged towards Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong.

The boomerang that had landed beside the two of them disappeared, then reappeared in Long Xiangyue's hand.

This time around, Long Xiangyue became more vigilant and concentrated as he prepared to throw the boomerang again. After covering himself with dense soul power, he threw it.

Huo Yuhao only had a single soul ring, and wasn't willing to expose the fact that he possessed his Spiritual Interference soul skill. However, for him to disrupt a prepared soul master without the assistance of the Haodong Power would be an extremely difficult task. This time around, the boomerang had completely locked onto him.

This was Zhou Sichen's original plan. From the understanding they had towards Huo Yuhao's team, they were able to faintly guess towards the importance of this one-ringed soul master. Thus, he'd wanted Long Xiangyue to go all-out and take care of Huo Yuhao before they did anything else. As long as the referee sensed that Huo Yuhao wouldn't be able to take his blow, he'd directly remove Huo Yuhao from the match. After that, they could join forces to fight against Wang Dong, which would practically be a definite win for them.

However, Huo Yuhao completely ignored his boomerang. Under the strength-amplifying abilities of the Haodong Power, the purplish-golden light shot out from Huo Yuhao's eyes again, this time towards Zhou Sichen.

After Cao Jinxuan's sudden fainting, how could Zhou Sichen not be careful? He'd done the same thing as Long Xiangyue; he circulated his soul power around his entire body, especially his brain. He did all of this just to protect himself from Huo Yuhao's spiritual-type soul skill.

Unfortunately, he was fighting against a skill powered by Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong's combined efforts. How could his Spiritual Shock—equivalent to an attack from a Soul Elder—be so easily defended against?

The instant that purplish-golden light shot out from Huo Yuhao's eyes, Zhou Sichen's head suddenly rocked backwards, as if he'd suffered a heavy blow. Immediately afterwards, his body followed suit.

From his Spiritual Detection, Huo Yuhao was able to tell that he'd guarded himself against spiritual-type attacks. Because of that, his Spiritual Shock this time was at full power.

Zhou Sichen knew what his opponent was intending to do, yet he'd still been unable to do anything about it. However, the defense of an assault system soul master was relatively strong, and although the attack was able to knock him down, he hadn't yet fainted. He had, however, lost control of the two soul skills his Treasure Bible had released, resulting in the two beasts suddenly stopping in the middle of their charge towards Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong.

The instant he released his second Spiritual Shock, Huo Yuhao shouted, "Teacher, save me!"

The boomerang had already crossed half the distance between Long Xiangyue and Huo Yuhao, and it was just about to reach Huo Yuhao. However, Wang Dong didn't protect him; he unfurled his wings instead. An intense, golden light began to appear on his dazzling blue wings. This was his second soul skill, the Light of the Butterfly Goddess. At that exact moment, the Haodong Power that had originally been in Huo Yuhao's body, rushed into Wang Dong's body, rapidly filling it up.

When he heard Huo Yuhao's cry of help, the proctor naturally couldn't simply ignore him. When a student cried out for help during the freshmen assessment, it signified that he'd given up and would no longer attack.

A black figure flashed, and the boomerang appeared in the hands of the proctor. Nobody saw the proctor release his soul power or a soul skill, yet the light from the boomerang had already vanished.

At that exact moment, Wang Dong released his Light of the Butterfly Goddess.

Right. After crying out for help, Huo Yuhao hadn't even attempted to defend himself, so much so that he'd even withdrawn his martial soul, causing the single white ring around his body to disappear. Nobody could claim that he was breaking the rules, but in reality, he'd transferred all of the Haodong Power they'd created to Wang Dong.

Immediately afterwards, the orange tinted golden light devastated the entire arena.

The referee, who'd just caught the boomerang, had no choice but to make a move yet again. He released an enormous umbrella, which instantly expanded outwards. Only then was he able to block Wang Dong's Light of the Butterfly Goddess, which was a bombarding attack that lasted for three seconds. He knew that both the collapsed Zhou Sichen and Cao Jinxue, along with Long Xiangyue—who'd just released his boomerang—were simply unable to block Wang Dong's attack.

Team Huo Yuhao had won yet again, allowing them to advance to the finals.

Chapter 29.1: The Two Deans

As the match going on in the other arena magnificently continued, the semifinal match in Arena 1 had already ended. The time it had taken for Team Huo Yuhao's match to end was much shorter than anyone had expected.

Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong had won again. Even though they were lacking a team member, they'd still been able to win the two matches afterwards, allowing them to progress directly from the top 8 to the top 2.

Although this match had ended very quickly, they were still lacking a person, which had made it a very narrow victory. If it weren't for their Haodong Power playing an extremely crucial role in their matches, they wouldn't have even had a chance at winning. If this were a life and death match, it would be very hard to tell who would've won.

Huo Yuhao had used the rules to his advantage, which had allowed him to escape unscathed from the boomerang due to the proctor's protection. However, what if there hadn't been a proctor? Wang Dong would've had to block Long Xiangyue's attack for him. Furthermore, Huo Yuhao wouldn't have been able to activate his Spiritual Shock on Zhou Sichen in a situation like that. Once his two summoned beasts joined the battle, it would've become hard to predict the outcome.

Their change in tactics, in addition to the appearance of Huo Yuhao's four soul skills, had allowed them to barely eke out a victory. However, nearly all of their skills had been exposed. Huo Yuhao had already used his Spiritual Shock multiple times during the knock-out tournament, thus their future opponents would definitely be vigilant towards it.

The freshmen assessment was only designed to test the cultivation of a student's martial soul. However, modern soul masters were always equipped with soul tools during combat, and there was no lack of extremely defensive soul tools. At many times, the advantages a martial soul had would actually become disadvantages because of this.

Despite this, a victory was still a victory. After defeating Zhou Sichen's team of three, Team Huo Yuhao had formally entered the top 2. They were guaranteed to at least obtain second place, which also guaranteed them a prize.

As soon as the match ended, they immediately left the Assessment Area and went back to their dorm room. It was highly probable that their last opponent would be the team from Class 5 that Dai Huabin led. As to whether or not Xiao Xiao would recover in time for the match, Huo Yuhao wasn't clear. However, a spark had already been lit in his heart; he had to win this next match.

Once they got back to their dorms, Wang Dong couldn't help but ask, "Yuhao, what happened to you before the match? Did you recognise that Dai Huabin?" Huo Yuhao's reaction when he saw Dai Huabin had been extremely strange. The normally-calm Huo Yuhao had almost lost control of himself; how could Wang Dong not be baffled?

Huo Yuhao took a deep breath. After hearing the words 'Dai Huabin', his body shook uncontrollably. He lowered his head and madly ruffled his hair before sitting down heavily on his bed. Afterwards, he slowly spoke in a hoarse voice, "Dai Huabin is the son of the White Tiger Duke. You should know who the White Tiger Duke is."

Wang Dong nodded. "Naturally. The White Tiger Duke is the hereditary and perpetual Grand Duke of the Star Luo Empire. He has an extremely venerated position. The White Tiger Duke's clan was originally the royal family of the Star Luo Empire. However, the Star Luo Empire was nearly destroyed during a massive war that occurred a few thousand years ago. The empire was only saved due to the cooperation of a few large sects in the empire. When that happened, those sects guarded the entire country. At that time, the bloodline of the White Tiger Duke had withered to the point that they were extremely weak, and their subjects were unwilling to continue serving them. Thus, that generation's White Tiger Duke stepped down and gave the throne of the emperor to the general who'd quelled the rebellion that had occurred. That general's family is the current royal family of the Star Luo Empire. However, royal blood still flows through the veins of the White Tiger Dukedom, so the new emperor bestowed him with the hereditary position of Grand Duke so that his family could enjoy riches and honor in perpetuity."

"The blood flowing through the veins of the White Tiger Duke's clan is still the blood of a former royal family, so the White Tiger martial soul that they pass on is an extremely strong Beast Soul. The head of our Shrek Academy's first generation Shrek's Seven Monsters was the Evil Eyed White Tiger Dai Mubai, who came from the White Tiger Dukedom. I didn't think that this Dai Huabin would actually be a descendant of the White Tiger Dukedom."

Wang Dong's voice paused. He looked Huo Yuhao straight in the eye. "Then, then you and Dai Huabin..."

Huo Yuhao replied, "My mother was a servant of their clan, while I was born without a father. My mother worked in the White Tiger Dukedom in order to provide for me..." He didn't say that he was actually one of the White Tiger Duke's sons, as he'd never thought of him as his father. Furthermore, he hated the man who'd ruined his mother's life. He'd rather say that he didn't have a father, and wasn't willing to admit the truth of his real identity. As he told the story of his life to Wang Dong, about how his mother had been beaten up for the sake of protecting him, and how she'd finally died of her illnesses, Huo Yuhao was reduced to tears.

“That bastard.” Wang Dong suddenly smacked the wooden bed and stood up with a ‘whoosh’.

“What are you doing?” Huo Yuhao hurriedly grabbed ahold of him.

Wang Dong angrily said, “I’m naturally going to help you seek revenge! Let’s go! Let’s go right now!” He’d originally thought that Huo Yuhao was just an ordinary kid who’d been born poor. Only now had he become aware of what Huo Yuhao had gone through. It was no wonder that he’d already become as silent as he was by the mere age of twelve. Furthermore, he was much calmer than his peers, and he cultivated like his life depended on it.

Huo Yuhao stood up and pushed Wang Dong back onto the bed. A light flashed through his eyes. “No, we can’t do that. It’s not time to confront him yet. This is Shrek Academy. Let’s not even mention whether or not we have the strength to do anything to him within the confines of the Academy; the Academy definitely won’t tolerate our malicious actions. He’s only one of the main culprits behind my mother’s death. I want revenge from all of them, not just from him alone. As such, the target of my revenge is the entire White Tiger Dukedom. Therefore, I want to become stronger—strong enough to take on the entire White Tiger Dukedom and obtain the revenge I seek.”

Wang Dong looked at Huo Yuhao, astonished. He didn’t think that Huo Yuhao’s unwillingness to seek revenge was a cowardly act at all anymore. On the contrary, he sensed an extremely chilly aura from Huo Yuhao’s body.

The heaven-turning hatred that had instantly burst forth from Huo Yuhao’s body was so great that even the three rivers and five lakes weren’t able to wash it away; the hatred in his eyes was simply that deep. The current him was like a lion that was about to devour its prey; he was completely different from the normally-warm and diligent Huo Yuhao.

An eleven-year-old child had actually been able to conceal his hatred this much, while remembering everything. From this, it could be seen what he’d experienced during his eleven years of life. This definitely wasn’t something that could’ve accumulated in a single day!

The anger in Wang Dong’s eyes gradually dissipated. After wiping some of the tears from his eyes, he asked in a quiet voice, “Then, how do you intend to seek your revenge?”

Huo Yuhao shook his head. “The current me is just a mere ant that the White Tiger Dukedom can stomp on at any time. What I need to do right now is become stronger, much stronger. The White Tiger Dukedom will continue on, but after ten, twenty, thirty, or even fifty years from now, there will come a day when I’ll find them. When that happens, I’ll sever the bloodline of the White Tiger Dukedom.”

In that instant, a savage light appeared in Huo Yuhao’s eyes. His pupils had even turned blood-red due to the deep hatred that had been carved into his heart. In that instant, the grey pearl in his spiritual sea shook lightly, causing Huo Yuhao to feel dizzy for a brief moment. His body swayed for a moment, but he was barely able to stand firmly on the ground with Wang Dong’s support. nDvE-lb.1n

Wang Dong assumed that he’d been stirred up due to his emotions. However, he’d never thought that there was such a deep hatred hidden within Huo Yuhao’s heart.

Chapter 29.2: The Two Deans

Huo Yuhao held Wang Dong's shoulders with his hands and fiercely stared at him. The red in his eyes seemed to have deepened as he said, "Wang Dong, I think of you as a brother. Please help me keep my secret."

Wang Dong clearly had a higher cultivation than Huo Yuhao, but he suddenly felt fear in that instant. Right after that feeling of fear appeared, he felt even more sympathy and pity for Huo Yuhao. They were both only eleven, yet how had he lived during his eleven years of life? On the other hand, how had Huo Yuhao lived!?

Huo Yuhao slowly closed his eyes and forcefully took a deep breath, calming his raging emotions. He'd hidden this hatred for far, far too long already. After entering Shrek Academy and passing the freshmen assessment, he'd finally felt hope, hope that he could seek revenge for his mother. However, when he saw Dai Huabin today, the flames of hatred in his heart had finally erupted. And yet, he couldn't explode now, nor did he dare to. He had to continue to endure, until that strand of hope sprouted into his future.

"Ai—" A deep sigh suddenly rang out, causing Huo Yuhao to instinctively shiver. His relaxed mind instantly became vigilant as he released his Spirit Eyes, sweeping the area around him with his Spiritual Detection. He let out a low shout, "Who's there?!"

The dorm was extremely quiet, and nothing abnormal appeared when Huo Yuhao scanned it with his Spiritual Detection. Wang Dong was astonished as he looked at Huo Yuhao; he didn't know why he'd suddenly become so nervous. **Ve-Ib-In**

Puzzled, Wang Dong asked, "Yuhao, what happened to you?"

Huo Yuhao was stunned. "Didn't you hear it?"

"Hear what?" Wang Dong had a surprised look on his face.

Huo Yuhao was startled by Wang Dong's reply. "Someone just sighed. I heard it clearly, why didn't you?"

Wang Dong shook his head, a blank expression on his face. "I didn't hear anything. Were you hallucinating?"

Huo Yuhao expanded the range of his Spiritual Detection to its maximum, but nothing strange appeared. After that sigh, no other strange sounds had rung out in the dorm room.

Could I really have hallucinated? Doubt appeared in Huo Yuhao's heart. However, he quickly removed that thought from his mind. He was a spiritual-type soul master, which meant that his senses were much sharper than those of an ordinary person. Besides his vision—which was his strongest sense—his other six senses were relatively strong as well. Even if his emotions were raging, he wouldn't have hallucinated. Furthermore, that sigh had been extremely clear; it had sounded like it was right next to his ear.

"Brother Skydream, Brother Skydream." Huo Yuhao called out inwardly.

"Whaddaya want?" The Skydream Iceworm's lazy voice rang out. An overwhelming majority of its time was spent sleeping. The only reason it had remained awake during the past few days was due to its interest in Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong's martial soul fusion.

"I just heard a sigh—did you hear it as well?" Huo Yuhao asked.

"A sigh? You brat, did your emotions get to your head!? What sigh? If it's not something important, don't interrupt my sleep. Also, you should calm down a bit. If you can't even control your emotions with the little strength you have now, you won't be able to tell how you died in the future. It doesn't matter if you die, but what if this Brother is involved?"

At this moment, Huo Yuhao was truly shocked. Unexpectedly, even the Skydream Iceworm hadn't heard that sigh. Was it truly non-existent?

No, he couldn't believe it. He was completely confident in his judgement. However, where did that sigh come from? With the Skydream Iceworm's power, how could someone have evaded its senses? That's impossible; the Skydream Iceworm is a million year soul beast! Even if its combat strength is lacking, it's still practically an unparalleled existence in terms of spiritual power.

Just as Huo Yuhao was thinking about this to himself, the Skydream Iceworm's voice rang out again, "Right, Huo Yuhao, I have to remind you of something. You need to use your Spiritual Shock as little as possible. If it's exposed, your opponents will be prepared for it next time. Although it's been strengthened by your what-cha-ma-call-it 'Purple Demon Eyes', it's highly probable that you'll receive a backlash if someone with a higher cultivation than you is guarding themselves against it. That's very dangerous for you."

Astonished, Huo Yuhao hurriedly asked, "Brother Skydream, under normal circumstances, how much stronger would someone have to be to make me suffer a backlash from my Spiritual Shock?"

The Skydream Iceworm replied, "If they're careful, and they know how to properly use their soul power, someone that's just a single rank higher than you can make you suffer a backlash. Otherwise, why would I have been left in such a wretched state within the Great Star Dou Forest? If the Spiritual Shock was unparalleled, why was I left in such a miserable state for so many years? The main reason why your Spiritual Shock performed so stunningly during your previous matches was because you had the element of surprise. In addition to that, it's also been strengthened by your Purple Demon Eyes. Lastly, it's because of your soul power fusion with Wang Dong. All of these factors caught your opponents unprepared. However, you'll have to be careful if everyone starts prepared against your Spiritual Shock. On the contrary, you can simply use your Spiritual Interference. Although it's much weaker than the Spiritual Shock, one of its benefits is that you won't receive a backlash from it. Remember, you won't be able to always defeat a three-ringed opponent just by releasing a Spiritual Shock—even with Wang Dong helping you. In the future, you should use it sparingly."

Huo Yuhao smiled bitterly. "It's not that I want to use it a lot. Rather, Brother Skydream, of the four soul skills you gave me, I don't have any other ways to attack besides the Spiritual Shock!"

"Ugh... that's another problem. However, just be patient for a while. How old are you? Why're you so impatient! Quickly get to Rank 20; I have my own ways of letting you have enough combat strength. At the very least, you won't be at a disadvantage against anyone of the same rank as you. Anyway, I'm going back to sleep."

The Skydream Iceworm's words were a timely reminder to Huo Yuhao, while simultaneously decreasing his urge to pursue the source of that sigh. The Skydream Iceworm had already mentioned 'Rank 20'

many times, and Huo Yuhao had just been reminded of this fact again. Clearly, Rank 20 would be an important rank for him. If he could break into Rank 20, his strength would probably experience a flying leap, allowing him to possess at least a certain amount of fighting power. At that point, he wouldn't need to keep relying on his companions.

After thinking this, Huo Yuhao's emotions gradually calmed down, after which he began cultivating with Wang Dong while recovering his soul power.

The afternoon fight would definitely be a hard one, not only because it was the fight that would determine the champion of the freshmen assessment, but also because it was an ordeal to his heart! However, he couldn't run away from this fight; either way, he'd have to face Dai Huabin one day. Since that was the case, he'd use this fight as a form of training for his heart.

The dorm room had turned quiet. Due to their martial soul fusion, Wang Dong could sense the change in Huo Yuhao's emotions. After discovering that he'd actually been able to calm down this quickly, not only was Wang Dong astonished, he even somewhat admired Huo Yuhao. From looks alone, Huo Yuhao wasn't just a single rank below Wang Dong. However, in Wang Dong's eyes, the eleven-year-old Huo Yuhao already had the resoluteness of a man.

The two cultivated all the way until it was time for lunch, which allowed them to fully replenish their soul power. When they reached the canteen, they were met with a big surprise.

"Hey you two fellas, I heard that you managed to enter the finals. Good, because this young lady has returned. How could you go to the finals without me?" Xiao Xiao happily leaned against the door to the canteen as she stared at Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong, who were about to enter.

Chapter 29.3: The Two Deans n--Ove**l**bln

The two of them were immediately overjoyed. They quickly walked over to her, and Huo Yuhao hastily asked, "Xiao Xiao, have you recovered?"

Xiao Xiao giggled. "Naturally! I have twin martial souls, so I'm obviously very talented. How long did you guys think I'd have to rest after a little scene like that? As a matter of fact, there's nothing wrong with me anymore. Let's go, I'll treat the two of you to lunch. Let's eat something nice for lunch today so that we can make sure we're well fed when we beat those fellas in the afternoon till they can't even take care of themselves. Hehe."

Huo Yuhao smiled, then moved his right hand forward. Once again, Wang Dong immediately placed his hand on top of Huo Yuhao's hand as fast as he could, while Xiao Xiao's ended up at the very top. The three of them looked at each other, and confident smiles appeared on their faces.

"We'll be the champions."

Lunchtime had just started, so not many students had arrived. The instant they said that they'd be champions, the slightly sharp voice of a girl rang out, "How shameless. You're not even scared of bragging. The champions will definitely be our Class 5."

Huo Yuhao's group of three simultaneously turned around to see three freshman students walking towards them. The person in the middle was Huo Yuhao's personal enemy, Dai Huabin. The person who'd spoken, on the other hand, was a black-haired girl who was standing to his left.

This girl had very special eyes; the color of her left and right eye were unexpectedly different. Her left eye was pale blue, while her right eye was pale yellow. As she focused her gaze on the trio, her pupils unexpectedly turned into vertical slits, making her look extremely peculiar.

Dai Huabin had a stern look on his face, but he remained silent. After sweeping his gaze over the trio, he walked proudly into the canteen. On the other hand, the black-haired girl snorted disdainfully towards them. However, the other girl in their group—who had long pink hair—smiled sweetly at them. Her smile was extremely charming; so much so that it seemed to seep into one's bones. Clearly, these two girls were Dai Huabin's teammates.

Wang Dong and Xiao Xiao were about to explode, but they were stopped by Huo Yuhao. Dai Huabin clearly hadn't recognised him, and after Huo Yuhao's internal struggle earlier, he'd been able to remain calm on the surface when he'd met him again.

"A war of words has no meaning. Let's settle it in the Assessment Arena after lunch." After speaking indifferently, Huo Yuhao walked into the canteen with his companions in tow.

If this were a normal day, Huo Yuhao would never eat the Academy's most expensive, top-ranked dishes—even if someone were to treat him to them; they were simply that expensive. However, today was a different story. Xiao Xiao had overdrawn herself yesterday, and her body needed nourishment. In the end, Xiao Xiao wasn't able to treat them to the meal, as Wang Dong took the initiative to pay the bill. It wasn't that Huo Yuhao didn't want to pay it, but he gave up after seeing the numbers on the bill. The money he'd accumulated after selling roasted fish for a few months he'd been in the academy still weren't even enough to pay for his school fees next term. Furthermore, the school fees required for second year students was supposedly even more expensive.

Dai Huabin's group of three naturally ate the best food in the canteen as well. The two parties weren't far away from each other, and the faint smell of gunpowder had already started to permeate through the air. Only, none of them dared to start a fight. After all, their match in the afternoon was more important.

After eating lunch, Huo Yuhao's trio found a quiet place by the Sea God's Lake to study some battle tactics for their match in the afternoon. They were about to face an extremely strong opponent, and it was impossible for them to not be nervous. Even though they were only freshmen, and though their strength couldn't be considered anything within Shrek Academy, this championship match was of the utmost importance to them; any minor detail could decide the final victor of the match.

"It's about time, let's head to the Assessment Arena." Xiao Xiao said.

"Yup." Huo Yuhao nodded.

At that moment, Wang Dong suddenly said, "Yuhao, hug me for a second."

Xiao Xiao's eyes immediately widened. However, she quickly returned to normal when she saw a chilly killing intent appear in Wang Dong's eyes.

Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong had a somewhat tacit understanding between themselves. His body shook, and he immediately understood what Wang Dong meant.

"Wang Dong..."

Wang Dong smiled indifferently, and a cold light flickered through his eyes. However, his voice was extremely gentle, "If we don't try, how will we know?"

Huo Yuhao took a deep breath and stopped speaking. Afterwards, he spread his arms and hugged Wang Dong.

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The Assessment Arena seemed eerily quiet. Even though they'd already reached the finals of the freshmen assessment's knock-out tournament, there were no spectating students.

Shrek Academy did its best to keep an element of privacy regarding a student's abilities. Thus, students definitely wouldn't be able to spectate other's assessments.

Any students who weren't participating in the assessment had to continue their classes. Thus, today was the day where there was the fewest number of students in the Assessment Arena.

However, a lack of students didn't mean that there was a small amount of people present. Almost all of the teachers who didn't have any classes were gathered at the Assessment Arena to watch the finals. Even the Dean of Shrek Academy, Yan Shaozhe, had personally come to watch this match match. Accompanied by Du Weilun and the other teachers, he walked up to the tall stage.

Even though this was only a freshmen assessment that was held three months after school had started, nearly all of the students from Shrek Academy's inner courtyard had revealed their talents during this freshmen assessment. As a result of this, they were regarded highly by the college and nurtured. The reason that Dean Yan Shaozhe had come was due to the extraordinary strength of this year's batch of new students. Normally, even students of Shrek Academy would need around three years or so to reach the three-ringed rank. At the same time, a cultivation of three rings was required for third year students to be promoted to fourth year students.

However, there had actually been three new students who were already at the three-ringed rank. With this level of strength, they were practically guaranteed to enter the inner courtyard in the future. Even Yan Shaozhe himself wished to see which of the two teams would become the champions of this year's batch of freshmen.

However, the team he was paying the most attention to was Huo Yuhao's team, due to Du Weilun's report. By relying on the strength of two Soul Grandmasters and a Soul Master, Huo Yuhao's team had actually managed to beat both Ning Tian and Xie Huanyue's teams, who were both Soul Elders. Furthermore, Wang Dong and Xiao Xiao's performances could definitely be described with the word 'breathtaking'.

Wang Dong's Radiant Butterfly Goddess was an unrivalled martial soul that was second to none, even in Shrek Academy. On the other hand, Xiao Xiao's potential as a twin-souled soul master was even larger. Soul masters who possessed twin martial souls had been rarities during the early days of the Douluo Continent, and that still held true to this day. Even as the number one academy in the world, Shrek Academy currently only had three students, including Xiao Xiao, with twin martial souls. However, the other two students were already disciples of the inner courtyard, and they were all ranked among the top 10 overall students of the Academy.

As for Huo Yuhao, Du Weilun had also explained his situation to Dean Yan Shaozhe. Huo Yuhao had a rare Body Soul, which was a spiritual-type martial soul as well. Unfortunately, he hadn't had a good upbringing, which had resulted in him only being at Rank 17. Furthermore, he only had a ten year soul ring. Although he had a relatively decent amount of talent, the flaws in the starting steps of his cultivation couldn't be fixed. At the same time, there was also the question as to whether or not he'd be able to obtain a sufficiently strong soul ring as the holder of a spiritual-type martial soul. Due to the culmination of these factors, Du Weilun had put quotation marks around Huo Yuhao's name, and had also expressed his unwillingness for Huo Yuhao to become a core disciple of the Academy.

Yan Shaozhe was still reassured by the way Du Weilun was handling things. As the Director of Studies, Du Weilun had a very insightful gaze, while both being fair and impartial at the same time. He'd made extremely important contributions to Shrek Academy as a whole by nurturing a large quantity of outstanding students.

However, Yan Shaozhe wasn't the only Dean of Shrek Academy. He was the Dean of the Martial Soul Department, but Shrek Academy also had a Dean of the Soul Tool Department. Together, these two Deans managed everything in the Academy.

Chapter 29.4: The Two Deans

Naturally, Yan Shaozhe—who overlooked the Martial Soul Department—had a slightly larger amount authority amongst the two Deans. However, the Soul Tool Department was an independent body which had a certain amount of competitiveness with the Martial Soul Department. Due to this, he didn't really have that much jurisdiction over the Soul Tool Department.

Other than the two Deans, the Martial Soul Department and the Soul Tool Department each had their own Vice-Deans who were in charge of taking care of the outer courtyard. After all, Yan Shaozhe and his counterpart in the Soul Tool Department focused more of their energy on the inner courtyard, as the inner courtyard was the true nucleus of Shrek Academy. Due to this, they wouldn't normally bother with matters in the outer courtyard.

The Dean of the Martial Soul Department's outer courtyard was also the Vice-Dean of the Academy. He was a scholar who spent most of his time on the studies of the fifth and sixth year students. He picked excellent students from the outer courtyard to become disciples of the inner courtyard, while sending these disciples through many types of strict assessments. However, he didn't manage many matters other than that. Other than the Dean from the outer courtyard, the person who had the greatest authority in the Martial Soul Department was Du Weilun.

As the Director of Studies for the outer courtyard's Martial Soul Department, Du Weilun had an extremely large amount of authority. However, there were no competitors for his position. During his twenty years of teaching, he'd conscientiously given an outstandingly large number of contributions to the Martial Soul Department. As a result of this, Yan Shaozhe was extremely reassured when he took charge of things, and completely trusted his judgement when it came to the students.

"Weilun, who do you favour in today's match?" Yan Shaozhe asked with a smile.

Du Weilun chuckled. "I'm slightly more confident in Dai Huabin's team. Although Huo Yuhao's team managed to defeat two other teams that were led by Soul Elder-ranked freshmen, the overall strength

of Dai Huabin's team is definitely somewhat stronger than that of Huo Yuhao's team. This is especially so for his two teammates; they're both quite strong. All three of them have a decent chance at entering the inner courtyard in the future."

Yan Shaozhe smiled and nodded. At that exact moment, a vigorous voice suddenly rang out, "Since Director Du thinks that Dai Huabin will win, I'll say that the other party will win."

Yan Shaozhe didn't even turn around, but the trace of a smile had already appeared on his face, "Qian Duoduo, why'd a fella like you come running over here? As soon as I smelled the scent of copper from your body, I knew it was you."

The newcomer was a sturdy fifty-or-so year-old man. He didn't have any wrinkles on his face, but he had a head full of white hair that resembled steel needles, making him look someone who'd experienced a lot in life. His tall, stalwart body looked as if it had been carved from granite itself, and he was at least 2.2 meters tall. His wide shoulders and rugged muscles didn't seem to have gone limp due to his age, while his bronze skin glowed with a metallic luster due to the rays of the sun, and a strong smell of metal wafted off his body. However, the person next to him was the person that Zhou Yi had taken Huo Yuhao to see in the past; Fan Yu.

Yan Shaozhe didn't even look back, but Du Weilun had already turned around, a trace of astonishment flashing through his eyes. He hurriedly bowed in respect. "Vice-Dean Qian, how do you do? What brings you here?"

The good-natured Qian Duoduo who always had a smile on his face was the Vice-Dean of the Soul Tool Department, who took care of the daily activities within it. He had a lofty position in the Soul Tool Department, and he only had one person above him. His position in Shrek Academy was slightly higher than even Du Weilun's.

In Shrek Academy, promotions couldn't be randomly given out. There were two main ways to obtain a promotion: The first method was based on a teacher's ability to teach, as well as the contributions he'd made to the Academy, while the other method was by relying on one's own strength. Throughout the enormous Shrek Academy, there were only a total of four Vice-Deans, and they could be considered the true backbones of Shrek Academy. However, a person who'd obtained such a high position clearly hadn't done it by doing something as simple as contributing to the Academy. Their individual strengths were all at the peak.

Vice-Dean Qian Duoduo chuckled. "I was just passing by, when I heard you and Old Yan guessing who would win. I personally like betting, so Old Yan, would you like to bet with me?"

Yan Shaozhe finally turned around, laughing as he did so. "A fellow who smells of copper like you would never come here without a reason. I don't believe that you've come here with such a simple purpose in mind. If you're coveting the people from our Martial Soul Department, you'd better take a look before doing anything."

Qian Duoduo casually walked over to Yan Shaozhe and sat down. "What do you mean, 'the people from our Martial Soul Department'? They're only freshmen. They haven't chosen their Departments yet. You can say that again when they've made their final choices in their third year. Your Martial Soul

Department just provides a foundational level of education to these freshmen. So come on, do you wanna bet or not?"

Du Weilun had already moved to one side, greeting Fan Yu as he did so. Fan Yu smiled in return, and the two found a place to sit behind the two Vice-Deans.

Fan Yu had an extremely high position within the Soul Tool Department. Although his current position was lower than Du Weilun's, Du Weilun clearly understood that Fan Yu was definitely going to be the future Vice-Dean of the Soul Tool Department, and that he could even be the successor to the Dean. Contrarily a Director like him was highly likely to have reached the end of his career.

Yan Shaozhe wasn't fooled by Qian Duoduo's provocation. He smiled and shook his head. "I'm not going to bet with you. Old Qian, you're even trying to make a quick buck from me. When I get back, just watch me tell on you to Lin'er."

Qian Duoduo's facial muscles twitched as he indignantly said, "Give me a break, you were an expert at acting shamelessly even when you were young. I'm more moral than you. You use Lin'er as a shield every time, do you have any face at all?"

As Du Weilun listened on, his heart twitched. These two major figures—who could change the entire balance of the Douluo Continent—are actually arguing over here. If the students were to hear them...

Yan Shaozhe chuckled as he looked at Qian Duoduo's indignant expression. "Fine, what do you want to bet?"

Only then did a smile reappear on Qian Duoduo's face. "If my team wins, you'll have to let me pick a freshman from your Martial Soul Department to enter the Soul Tool Department within three years, and you can't stop me from using any tricks."

Yan Shaozhe snorted coldly and curled his lips. "I knew that you were up to no good. I'm not betting."

Qian Duoduo replied with an easy-going voice, "Don't be so impatient, let me finish talking first. Firstly, I won't choose any of the students you've selected to be core disciples. Next, I won't choose any students who are able to cultivate above Rank 30 before finishing their second year. Is that fine with you?"

Yan Shaozhe was stunned. "Old Qian, do you even need to make a bet with me? Don't you take these kinds of students every year?"

Qian Duoduo had a gloomy expression on his face as he said, "Don't bring it up. These new fellas keep aiming so high that they don't even understand our Soul Tool Department. They've basically entirely ignored us. We've had no lack of students over these past few years, but students who're truly suitable for our Soul Tool Department are rarities among rarities. You know about that plan of ours, and if we want to nurture a talent like that according to our plan, we can't do it using ordinary Soul Engineers. It's true that Soul Engineers are extremely important, but the people who can properly use them are just as important as the people who make them! Therefore, I want to choose a few students who have better martial souls. However, the fellas from your side are all following you like a chicken following a hen. You've hidden them so well that I haven't even had a chance to pick any students. If I don't get any suitable students, our plan is basically screwed. Don't forget, you also agreed to that plan during the

Dean's Meeting. If you won't support our work, then I'll just bring Lin'er to the Martial Soul Department's inner courtyard next time. Let's see if you dare to stop her."

When he saw Qian Duoduo's sincere look, Yan Shaozhe pondered to himself for a while. Afterwards, he said, "You won't choose any of my core disciples? And you won't choose any of our students who're able to reach Rank 30 by their second year?"

Qian Duoduo immediately assumed the appearance of a righteous person, "When have I, Qian Duoduo, not kept my word?"

Yan Shaozhe nodded and said, "Fine, I'll take that bet. In addition to that, I'll still let you choose a student even if you lose, so you can't say that I'm not supporting your work. However, if you do lose, you'll have to give me a hundred Stationary Soul Cannon Shells for me to play with if you lose. Also, they have to be high-explosive ones. Those toys are really fun to play with."

Qian Duoduo's expression immediately changed. "Old Yan, you're being too black-hearted. Do you know how much it costs to make a hundred shells? I need a hundred gold soul coins to make just one of those 'toys'."

Yan Shaozhe smiled. "If you don't dare, let's call the deal off. I wasn't willing to make a bet with you in the first place."

Qian Duoduo had a pained look on his face as he replied, "Fifty of them."

As if he was scared that Qian Duoduo would regret his decision, Yan Shaozhe immediately said, "Deal." How could he casually use a high-explosive shell specially made for a Stationary Soul Cannon just to satisfy himself? Even having the chance to play with one was already quite decent. Although he was the Dean of Shrek Academy, he couldn't damage his own house!

Qian Duoduo stared blankly at Yan Shaozhe. Afterwards, he looked at Yan Shaozhe with a startled look on his face. "You old thing, I've been tricked by you again!"

Yan Shaozhe immediately burst into laughter. However, he didn't notice the crafty look that had flashed through Qian Duoduo's eyes.

Chapter 30.1: The Finals

Yan Shaozhe laughed, while Qian Duoduo had a look of righteous indignation on his face. In reality, however, Qian Duoduo had also burst into laughter inwardly. Glancing at Yan Shaozhe, he inwardly thought, Old Yan, Old Yan. No matter how sly you are, you'll have to drink the water this daddy uses to wash his feet with. Hehe, I hope that you don't regret this in the future. Of course, it'll be too late to regret it then. Wahahaha!

Naturally, the two teams that were participating in the finals of the freshmen assessment's knock-out tournament weren't aware that their match had gotten to the point that even the two Deans were betting against each other.

Both sides had arrived in the arena early. One side was making their preparations, while the other observed their opponents.

Even though Dai Huabin didn't recognise Huo Yuhao, he was naturally able to sense the threat that Huo Yuhao's team posed to him. If he based their chances on cultivation rank alone, their team should win. However, there were several things that 'should' have happened yet hadn't. As such, nothing was set in stone. Was Ning Tian's team weak? Both Ning Tian, who possessed the Seven Treasures Glazed Pagoda, and Wu Feng, who possessed the Fire Dragon, were outstanding first-rate students from this year's batch of new students, and the overall strength of Ning Tian's team hadn't been far off from their team's strength. Had Xie Huanyue's team been weak? Xie Huanyue had an extraordinarily strong defense, but their match had still ended with the proctor being forced to interfere and protect him. If the proctor hadn't, he might not have been able to leave in one piece.

There was the powerful Wang Dong, the twin-souled Xiao Xiao, and finally Huo Yuhao, who was somewhat mysterious despite only being a Soul Master. The three of them made Dai Huabin feel threatened. Because of this, they'd made sufficient preparations before the match started; they'd even found the teams that had previously fought against Huo Yuhao's team and asked them about their fights in order to carefully understand Huo Yuhao and his teammate's abilities.

Compared to Dai Huabin's cautious and concentrated state of mind, Huo Yuhao was currently feeling a few different emotions. He'd done everything he could to hide his hatred deep within his heart, but his heartbeat still sped up violently when they entered the arena to begin the final match of the knock-out tournament. He truly wanted to simply get his revenge now! However, he knew that that wasn't a realistic option. With so many teachers present, as well as the referee who'd be monitoring and controlling the match, it would practically be impossible for him to kill Dai Huabin with his current strength.

"Yuhao." Wang Dong whispered.

"Yep." Huo Yuhao turned to Wang Dong and saw the cold look in his eyes. "Relax, don't expose any flaws." He urged Huo Yuhao, his voice so low that even Xiao Xiao couldn't hear him.

At that moment, the referee entered the vast Assessment Arena. All of the partitions had been removed during the afternoon, exposing the enormous Assessment Arena.

The referee waved towards both sides, motioning for them to enter the arena.

Huo Yuhao's trio proudly entered the arena. As per usual, Huo Yuhao stood in the middle, while Wang Dong and Xiao Xiao stood on either side of him. On the other side of the arena, Dai Huabin also stood in the middle as he walked into the arena, while the two girls on his team stood beside him.

The referee called the two parties to him and said in a deep voice, "The finals are about to begin, thus there will be a change in the rules. Listen well. As of now, you can move as you wish in the arena, but students with flying-type martial souls are no longer allowed to fly more than ten meters into the air. For the sake of allowing you to display the entirety of your strength, you can go all-out with your attacks; don't hold anything back anything during the match. I'll take care of the situation if any problems arise. However, any participants I have to rescue will be disqualified from the match. Do you understand?"

“Understood.” Both parties simultaneously replied. A peculiar light flashed through both Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong’s eyes. At the same time, a trace of chilliness appeared in Dai Huabin’s eyes as an incorporeal killing intent seemed to erupt from his body.

Although Dai Huabin wasn’t the eldest son, he was still one of the White Tiger Duke’s sons. He’d received the best education a child could since he was young. He hadn’t just learned how to cultivate his martial soul; he’d also learned about how to participate in a war, as well as ways to kill others. The White Tiger Duke was a commander of one of the Star Luo Empire’s three armies. As such, his sons would definitely obtain military experience in the future.

As a result of this, Dai Huabin had a much colder temperament than his peers; he already had the basic mannerisms of a soldier. Of the White Tiger Duke’s many sons, he had the best amount of talent, which in turn made the White Tiger Duke value him highly. On the other hand, any of the White Tiger Duke’s sons could inherit the position of Grand Duke. This had formed Dai Huabin’s firm and ruthless personality. When he was only five years old, he’d personally killed his first young soul beast.

“Both sides, introduce yourselves.”

“Huo Yuhao.”

“Wang Dong.”

“Xiao Xiao.”

On the other side, Dai Huabin’s team of three exuded an obvious sense of hostility.

“Dai Huabin.”

“Zhu Lu.” The black-haired girl said.

“Cui Yajie.” The pink-haired girl said.

The referee spread his arms wide and said, “Both teams, return to your sides of the arena. When I give the signal, you may begin attacking.”

Both parties slowly moved backwards, but Huo Yuhao continued to keep his eyes trained on Dai Huabin. A savage light flickered through Dai Huabin’s eyes as they revealed a faint killing intent. However, he was astonished by the fact that Huo Yuhao didn’t yield at all. Strength-wise, there was a world of difference between the two of them. However, the aura that Huo Yuhao was letting out at this instant didn’t lose to Dai Huabin’s at all.

At that moment, the onlooking teachers were completely silent. Even Yan Shaozhe and Qian Duoduo had become fully concentrated on the arena below them.

As Fan Yu looked towards the retreating form of Huo Yuhao, he inwardly thought to himself, Brat, I hope that you won’t disappoint me. This match isn’t just related to your freshmen assessment; it’s also the most important assessment that the Soul Tool Department has for you.

Both parties quickly reached their respective sides of the arena. The Assessment Arena was extremely large, thus, due to the distance between them, both parties had already become miniscule dots in each other’s eyes.

The referee raised his right hand, then brought it down swiftly. Immediately afterwards, a clear ‘Begin!’ rang out in the ears of the participants.

The instant after the announcement was made, both parties moved identically; they both charged towards each other.

At that moment, they were separated by too great a distance; even Huo Yuhao was unable to scout their opponents with his Spiritual Detection.

Wang Dong let out a shout as he ran, causing the wings of his Radiant Butterfly Goddess to unfurl. He flew directly into the air, but didn’t overtake Huo Yuhao. Instead, he flew right above him.

They understood that there was little chance of them winning if they were to compete in pure strength; Dai Huabin’s White Tiger was even better than Wu Feng’s Red Dragon in terms of quality, albeit only slightly. Furthermore, Wu Feng had only had two soul rings. Even though Ning Tian was a three-ringed Soul Elder, her strength-boosting boost had been completely halted by Huo Yuhao’s Spiritual Shock. However, Dai Huabin definitely wouldn’t allow himself to lose to the same trick; he’d definitely guard himself against Huo Yuhao’s Spiritual Shock. With his cultivation rank as a Soul Elder, Huo Yuhao’s team were fated to be dragged into a bitter fight in which their only chance of winning would lay with Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong’s Haodong Power.

Xiao Xiao ran in front of Huo Yuhao, using her body to shield his. Simultaneously, she took out her Ninephoenix Worshipping Flute.

On the other hand, Dai Huabin’s trio kept their previous formation as they wildly dashed forward. Dai Huabin was in the very front, and he shouted loudly as he ran, “White Tiger, Possession!”

Chapter 30.2: The Finals

An intense, white light suddenly exploded from his body, causing his arms to simultaneously expand as he charged forward. His chest stuck out, and bone-cracking sounds rang out from every corner of his body. His muscles suddenly swelled up, causing his clothes to be stretched taut. All of his muscles were now extremely prominent, and even the air surrounding him seemed to have turned wild.

His golden hair instantly turned black and white, with the white hair taking up a majority. However, the few strands of black hair on his head were especially obvious. Four faint lines appeared on his head, forming the ‘King’ character. (王)

Of the transformations that occurred to his body, his hands had been transformed the most. They doubled in size, and white fur covered the backs of his hands. Short, dagger-like claws began to unceasingly extend and retract from his ten fingers as he moved them, and each claw—eight inches in length—was just like the edge of a knife, and flickered with a cold, ghostly light.

Dai Huabin slowly crouched forward, and his four pupils became a deep, ghostly blue, making it seem as if he were a machine specifically designed for slaughter.

Three halos of light began to slowly rise above his feet; two of them were yellow, while the other was purple. As his soul rings revolved, his surging soul power formed a wave of pressure that exploded outwards.

Huo Yuhao couldn't help but purse his lips as he saw the White Tiger martial soul. If his martial soul hadn't undergone a variation, he would've possessed a martial soul that was just like Dai Huabin's! If he also possessed the strong White Tiger martial soul, even the wife of the White Tiger Duke wouldn't be able to suppress him if she wanted to. Any child of the main bloodline who possessed the White Tiger would be an extremely important person who would be groomed by the clan. Furthermore, he was even the son of the White Tiger Duke, albeit a bastard child.

Various transformations had also occurred to the two girls beside Dai Huabin. The heterochromatic eyes of the black-haired girl on his left—Zhu Lu—became even deeper in colour, and her ears pricked up. Furthermore, her charming figure became even more slender and powerful. Sharp claws appeared on all ten of her fingers, and even though they weren't as sturdy as Dai Huabin's, they gave off an illusory sense of swiftness. Although her current speed hadn't exceeded Dai Huabin's, her body unexpectedly gave rise to a series of consecutive afterimages as it flickered.

The pink-haired girl, on the other hand, was even stranger. After releasing her martial soul, she seemed to have aged by three or four years, causing her originally twelve-year-old self to turn into a young lady that was filled with youthfulness. Her pink hair grew even longer, and even formed large curls at the bottom, making it look like a pink waterfall that rose into the air. Her eyes became clear and gem-like, causing her whole body to be filled with the vigor of youth. Her ears had become pointed as well, even more so than Zhu Lu's. Furthermore, one couldn't help but stare blankly at her perfect features. Most importantly, two long tails had appeared from her back. Each tail was around one meter long, and their thick, pink fur was illuminated by the rays of the afternoon sun, making it so that one couldn't help but want to rub them.

Cui Yajie's pink eyes immediately found Huo Yuhao's, and she smiled charmingly at him. Her first soul ring quietly lit up, but the light coming from it wasn't very obvious. If one wasn't paying careful attention to it, it would be overlooked.

Huo Yuhao's pale gold eyes flashed, but he remained unmoving.

Cui Yajie's body shook, and her peerless face turned slightly pale. Her martial soul—the Ninetails Fox—was a relatively high-levelled existence among Beast Souls, and it had a few unique characteristics. It would grow a single tail for every extra soul ring she obtained, and her strength would increase accordingly. Her first soul skill was called 'Charm', and she'd used it on Huo Yuhao, albeit to no effect.

The Ninetails Fox was part spiritual-type and part assault-type, and she'd chosen the same path for her cultivation. However, Huo Yuhao's Spirit Eyes were a martial soul that focused completely on the spiritual-type. Due to that, it would be hard for Cui Yajie's Charm, which was a spiritual-type skill, to affect him.

After this brief period of time passed, both teams were now within fifty meters of each other. Thus, the speed-reducing effect of Xiao Xiao's Ninephoenix Worshipping Flute started to show itself, causing the speed of Dai Huabin's trio to decrease clearly. However, Zhu Lu was affected most by it; the number of afterimages she'd created decreased by two, and she didn't seem so illusory anymore.

As the distance between them shrank, Dai Huabin's team entered the range of Huo Yuhao's Spiritual Detection, causing their every move to appear as a three-dimensional image in the minds of Huo Yuhao's team.

Dai Huabin's team made the first move. Zhu Lu's body flashed, causing her speed to suddenly increase. This created a series of consecutive afterimages that appeared behind her as she pounced towards Huo Yuhao. Although she was affected by the speed-reducing effect of the Ninephoenix Worshipping Flute, her speed was still as shocking as ever.

Huo Yuhao's trio were all inwardly astonished. Before their match started, they'd heard that Zhu Lu's martial soul was the Netherworld Civet, and that she was an Agility System Battle Soul Master. However, she was undoubtedly the quickest Agility System Soul Master they'd ever met. Were it not for the Ninephoenix Worshipping Flute's speed-reducing effect, it would've been hard to even catch her shadow.

The instant Zhu Lu made her move, Dai Huabin started to go on the offensive. He roared, and in a flash, an intense white light gathered around his head as his second soul ring lit up. Right after that, a ball of white light shot towards Wang Dong. Clearly, he didn't want to give Wang Dong any chance to save Huo Yuhao.

Cui Yajie was originally using her Charm on Huo Yuhao, but she suddenly shifted the target of her skill to Xiao Xiao.

The three of them coordinated extremely well. They each targeted a member of Huo Yuhao's team that they had an advantage against. Cui Yajie wanted to disrupt Xiao Xiao's Ninephoenix Worshipping Flute, giving Zhu Lu the chance to attack Huo Yuhao. Zhu Lu wanted to rely on her speed to take care of the enemy commander. On the other hand, Dai Huabin clashed against Wang Dong's strength with his own strength.

Were it not for Huo Yuhao's Spiritual Detection, their team would've immediately suffered a loss. After all, there was a distinct gap between the two team's cultivations. However, the foundational gap between their predictive skills changed the entire situation.

The moment Cui Yajie changed the target of her skill, Huo Yuhao made his move. However, he chose not to work together with Wang Dong. They were currently in a 3v3 match, and if he and Wang Dong joined forces against a single opponent, the remaining person would definitely cause a huge inconvenience to them.

Huo Yuhao released his Spiritual Shock. Target: Cui Yajie.

The timing of Huo Yuhao's attack was simply too ingenious. The Skydream Iceworm had warned him of the backlash that could occur as a result of his Spiritual Shock, but Huo Yuhao had the help of his Spiritual Detection. Why would he launch an attack on an opponent who was guarding against his attacks? The instant he chose to activate his Spiritual Shock was the exact instant when Cui Yajie changed who she was targeting—the instant she used her Charm on Xiao Xiao.

Cui Yajie's Charm and Huo Yuhao's Spiritual Shock were both spiritual-type skills, but the difference between the two skills was shown now. Cui Yajie needed visual contact for her Charm to be activated, but Huo Yuhao didn't need anything of the sort. Furthermore, his Spiritual Shock had no activation signals.

Cui Yajie let out a muffled groan. An intense, stabbing pain suddenly filled her brain, causing her to stagger forward and nearly fall. However, her spiritual power was much greater than an ordinary Soul

Grandmaster's, and Huo Yuhao's cultivation rank was below hers. Without the assistance of the Haodong Power, Huo Yuhao's Spiritual Shock wasn't able to pose an enormous threat to her. However, it was still able to stop her from interrupting Xiao Xiao.

Chapter 30.3: The Finals

The instant that Huo Yuhao made his move, Xiao Xiao activated her Threelives Soulcrush Cauldron. The black cauldron flew towards Huo Yuhao, suddenly dropping to the ground just as Zhu Lu was about to reach him.

Zhu Lu was extremely quick, thus she was able to quickly evade. However, the Threelives Soulcrush Cauldron suddenly split in three to form a straight line in front of her. Xiao Xiao then activated her first soul skill, Cauldron Quake.

Amidst the thunderous booms, the quaking ripples emanated from Xiao Xiao's Threelives Soulcrush Cauldrons formed a protective barrier in front of Huo Yuhao. Although Zhu Lu was quick, she wasn't able to dodge all three cauldrons in such a brief moment. When Xiao Xiao had released her soul skill, she knew that she was screwed. Thus, she'd instantly stopped the soul skill she'd just activated and had turned to the side, narrowly dodging the quaking ripples from Xiao Xiao's Cauldron Quake.

At the same time, another intense boom rang out. With a muffled groan, Wang Dong landed beside Huo Yuhao.

He'd suffered a loss after trying to block Dai Huabin's second soul skill—the White Tiger's Fierce Light Wave—with his Guillotine Wing, causing an unstable light to flicker around his wings as they shook. In addition, a trace of blood began leaked out of his mouth and nose.

The gap in their soul power's strength had immediately been revealed.

Once Dai Huabin had obtained an advantage, he wouldn't give it up easily. He quickly shot forwards, a savage glint in his eyes. On the other hand, the crafty Cui Yajie rapidly hid behind him, so as to dodge Huo Yuhao's attacks.

Dai Huabin was a bold person, but he had a plentiful amount of combat experience; he was much more experienced than Huo Yuhao's trio at least. The instant his body shot forward, his first soul ring lit up, causing a layer of white light to surround his entire body, especially his head. He was clearly guarding against Huo Yuhao. This was his first soul skill—White Tiger's Shield. Not only did it have an extremely powerful defense, it also increased his combat strength,

Both parties had already been close to one another, and this clash only brought them even closer. Dai Huabin pounced towards Wang Dong, landed in front of him, and swatted at him with his claw.

On the other side, Zhu Lu's body flashed as she fought against the Threelives Soulcrush Cauldron. She was simply too fast however, as Xiao Xiao needed 120% of her focus to block her with the Threelives Soulcrush Cauldron—even with the speed-inhibiting effect of her Ninephoenix Worshipping Flute and Huo Yuhao's Spiritual Detection. If Zhu Lu hadn't been suppressed by a combination of so many factors, she would've been able to approach Huo Yuhao and attack him.

Wang Dong had already suffered a loss during his first clash with Dai Huabin, who had now approached him again. It was clear who held the upper hand.

They were both Assault System Battle Soul Masters, but they specialised in different areas. Wang Dong's Radiant Butterfly Goddess had extremely strong energy-type attacks like the Light of the Butterfly Goddess, but the White Tiger had always been good at close-combat attacks. As a result of this, Dai Huabin would have the upper hand in a close-range fight like this.

Dai Huabin was astonished by the fact that Wang Dong hadn't activated his second soul skill yet. After landing on the ground stably, Wang Dong still continued to meet Dai Huabin's claw with his Guillotine Wing.

Dai Huabin snorted coldly and forcefully grabbed ahold of Wang Dong's wings with his claws, completely ignoring their sharp edges. He wanted to rely on his own strength to crush Wang Dong's martial soul. From this, his amount of self-confidence could be seen.

The moment before his claw touched Wang Dong's wing, Dai Huabin suddenly felt a sense of crisis in his heart. He suddenly discovered something different about Wang Dong's Guillotine Wing. Previously, Wang Dong's blue wings had been outlined with a golden edge. Now, however, a faint layer of orange had on top of that golden edge.

That's not right. As a result of Dai Huabin's vast combat experience, he was able to react the instant he sensed that something was wrong. He forcefully stopped his claw, then stamped on the ground with his right foot. This forcefully changed the trajectory of his charge, allowing him to dodge to the side. At the same time, he activated his White Tiger's Fierce Light Wave again, launching it towards Wang Dong as he dodged to the side.

However, the situation this time had completely changed. The instant that Dai Huabin had changed directions, Wang Dong hadn't chased after him. Instead, he'd unfurled his wings and flown up into the air. He then landed on Huo Yuhao's shoulders, allowing him to dodge Dai Huabin's White Tiger's Fierce Light Wave's bombardment.

With Huo Yuhao's Spiritual Detection, Wang Dong's grasp of the battlefield was extremely accurate. As a result of his rushed attack, Dai Huabin hadn't been able to lock onto Wang Dong. Thus, Wang Dong had been able to dodge his White Tiger's Fierce Light Wave. On the other hand, the change in Dai Huabin's movements had exposed Cui Yajie, who had been hiding behind him.

Cui Yajie was completely stupefied when she saw the golden streaks appear on Wang Dong's wings. Only after the battle had reached its current stage, had Wang Dong finally revealed his second soul skill, the Light of the Butterfly Goddess. n-) \mathcal{O} .) \mathcal{V})(e/. \mathcal{L})/ \mathbf{b} /.1-(n

This was the art of war. Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong both knew that it was an impossible task to defeat Dai Huabin within such a short period of time. As a result of this, Cui Yajie had been their target since the very beginning. They hadn't even hesitated to expose a weak point in their formation by allowing Wang Dong to take on Dai Huabin without the assistance of their Haodong Power. All of this had been done to temporarily distract Dai Huabin.

Although Dai Huabin had a vast amount of combat experience, he was still a twelve-year-old child. How many calculations could he perform in an instant? On the other hand, Huo Yuhao's way of fighting entirely relied on the predictive nature of his Spiritual Detection. He didn't even need to tell Wang Dong anything; he could basically direct Wang Dong just by continuously changing the focal points of his

Spiritual Detection. This was a type of mutual understanding that the two had gradually formed after the many matches they'd fought together.

Cui Yajie was only a Soul Grandmaster, and as such, she definitely wouldn't be able to block the Light of the Butterfly Goddess that had been activated by Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong's Haodong Power. However, at that moment, she revealed her vicious side.

As the Light of the Butterfly Goddess shot towards her, it was basically impossible for her to dodge it. On the other hand, Dai Huabin had pounced to the side and wasn't able to rescue her. However, she didn't retreat, sidestep, or reveal a flustered expression. In that instant, her second soul ring lit up. She swiftly swung her body, causing both of her pink tails to fly outwards. However, she didn't target Wang Dong, but instead Huo Yuhao, who was beneath him. Her tails flew straight towards Huo Yuhao's chest.

One shouldn't assume that she had a large, soft tail. This wasn't fur, but an attack filled with the might of Cui Yajie's second soul skill.

Huo Yuhao was able to clearly sense the terrifying amount of soul power contained within Cui Yajie's two tails from his Spiritual Detection. Her soul power hadn't simply been condensed; it had been focused into the very tip of her tail, just like a needle. If he were struck by it, he'd definitely die.

This was Cui Yajie's second soul skill, Foxtail Needle.

One who knows both his and their enemy's strength is sure to be invincible in battle. Although Huo Yuhao's trio didn't completely understand the comprehensive strength of their opponents, they were definitely able to predict their every move with Huo Yuhao's Spiritual Detection. However, the understanding Dai Huabin's trio had of their team was limited by their previous performances.

Chapter 30.4: The Finals

As far as they were aware, Huo Yuhao had merely stood to the side and released his spiritual-type soul skill during his team's previous matches. Other than that, he'd never made a move. ~~nove/lb/ln~~

As a result of this, Cui Yajie never expected to miss. She naturally couldn't dodge Wang Dong's attack, but it would've been worth it if she could've dragged Huo Yuhao down with her. After all, her teammates could be targeted by Huo Yuhao's Spiritual Shock at any time.

When they'd begun fighting at close range, the referee had immediately moved closer to them. The instant that Wang Dong unfurled his wings, he moved.

For the sake of allowing the six freshmen to use all of their strength, this match had no restrictions on the amount of power they were allowed to use. The spectating teachers would only be able to clearly observe their potential if they went all-out. Due to that, the referee wasn't just an experienced teacher, but was an agility system soul master. Furthermore, his cultivation had reached the seven-ringed Soul Sage rank. The moment he made his move, his speed far surpassed that of what Huo Yuhao and the rest could've imagined.

When Cui Yajie had viciously launched her attack towards Huo Yuhao, the referee had already arrived next to him. Even the referee thought that the two of them would ring-out simultaneously.

Just as the referee was about to make a move, Huo Yuhao had moved.

His figure suddenly turned illusory, and his figure swiftly moved backwards with a gentle sway, unexpectedly forming an afterimage.

His speed definitely couldn't compare to the agility system Zhu Lu's, but the movement he'd made was definitely not something an agility system soul master could perform. More importantly, his footsteps had been extremely mysterious, which had resulted in Cui Yajie's Foxtail Needle not being able to locate its target. As such, its condensed power hadn't been able to be released.

In that exact moment, Wang Dong's Light of the Butterfly Goddess surged downwards; not just towards Cui Yajie, but also towards Dai Huabin.

Wang Dong was standing on Huo Yuhao's shoulders, and moved backwards along with him as a result. However, Huo Yuhao's Spiritual Detection made it so that his soul skill definitely wouldn't miss. Furthermore, the Light of the Butterfly Goddess was an extremely strong soul skill that could be used as both an AoE attack and a single-target attack.

The referee threw Cui Yajie out of the arena with his right hand. His judgement was extremely good; Cui Yajie was no longer able to strike Huo Yuhao, but she would definitely be seriously injured, if not killed, if she were bathed in the Light of the Butterfly Goddess. As for Dai Huabin, he didn't bother helping him.

When the Light of the Butterfly Goddess landed on Dai Huabin's White Tiger's Shield, a series of explosions rang out. In order to minimize the area of contact with Wang Dong's attack, he crouched down in a half-kneeling position while using his palms to protect his head.

However, the strength of Wang Dong's attack exceeded his imagination. Although it was only a two-ringed soul skill, Dai Huabin was nearly unable to withstand its might. His White Tiger's Shield actually almost shattered from defending against it.

The air surrounding Dai Huabin's body suddenly twisted as his demonic eyes turned blood-red. His third soul ring flickered with a noble purple color as it slowly rose into the air. His body—which had become muscular due to the White Tiger's Possession—expanded yet again, causing his muscles to bulge even more. Moreover, his clothes completely burst apart, revealing the distinct silhouette of his muscles. Strangely, black patterns had appeared on his skin, and were it not for the hair on his skin, they'd be identical to that of a tiger's.

His palms became even larger, while his claws turned bright silver. However, his body was covered by a layer of intense golden light, making it seem as if his skin had become gold-plated. In addition to that, a bloodthirsty light filled his blood-red eyes, in-turn causing the hegemonic aura of a Beast King erupt from his body.

The instant he released his third soul skill, Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong both felt an intense sense of crisis fill their hearts.

A strong, golden light erupted from Dai Huabin's body, causing his speed and strength to increase explosively. He repeatedly slammed his palms outwards, forcefully destroying the balls of light created by Wang Dong's Light of the Butterfly Goddess.

Although the target of Wang Dong's attack wasn't him specifically, it was still a powerful soul skill that had been activated by their Haodong Power, and its strength had definitely reached the level of a Soul

Elder's thousand year soul skill! Dai Huabin was the first person who'd been able to block the Haodong Power-fuelled Light of the Butterfly Goddess since the start of the tournament!

This was the strength of a top-ranked Beast Soul. In the end, Wang Dong's cultivation rank was still inferior to Dai Huabin's. After all, he wasn't a Soul Elder, even after he'd fused his soul power with Huo Yuhao's. If Huo Yuhao's cultivation rank had reached Rank 20, Dai Huabin definitely wouldn't have been able to react in such a manner. However, their current situation was due to the gap in their strength.

In an instant, Wang Dong's attack completely dissipated. After 'sacrificing' Cui Yajie, Dai Huabin—who was now at his peak condition—had finally arrived before Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong. Although it was a 1v2, he'd already taken the upper hand in terms of pressure alone.

The instant Wang Dong's Light of the Butterfly disappeared, Dai Huabin stamped the ground with his left foot, causing a muffled bang to ring out. Immediately afterwards, he shot forward like a bow, not towards Wang Dong, but towards Huo Yuhao.

This was Huo Yuhao's first time being so close to Dai Huabin. With his hated enemy so close to him, Huo Yuhao was unable to remain calm no matter how hard he tried to force himself.

Huo Yuhao hurriedly moved backwards with the Ghost Shadow Perplexing Track, but how could his speed compare to that of the Soul Elder-ranked Dai Huabin? The distance between them instantly shrank, and Dai Huabin sent his palm straight towards Huo Yuhao's chest.

At that exact moment, Huo Yuhao suddenly stopped moving. He stared at Dai Huabin with a brilliant light in his eyes, causing the air within a five-meter diameter of him to slightly distort. Even the major powers observing from the Spectator's Stand weren't able to notice this slight change.

This wasn't his Spiritual Shock, but his Spiritual Interference. Huo Yuhao clearly understood that the only person who'd suffer a loss if he used his Spiritual Shock on Dai Huabin in his current state would be himself. Furthermore, he'd definitely suffer a backlash. Thus, he chose to use Spiritual Interference, which would never have a backlash. Furthermore, he used his ever-growing amount of control over his spiritual power to limit the range of his skill to a diameter of five meters.

The instant Huo Yuhao activated his Spiritual Interference, Wang Dong suddenly fell forward in a strange manner, as if he'd slipped. However, his Guillotine Wings flickered with a pale orange light, and still slashed towards Dai Huabin. He'd aimed his attack at both sides of Dai Huabin's neck.

No matter how tough the White Tiger's Vajra Transformation made him, Dai Huabin definitely wouldn't dare to forcefully take on Wang Dong's Guillotine Wings with just his neck. However, Huo Yuhao's Spiritual Interference had distracted him for a second. It was just a second, but he'd still been slowed down half a beat!

Because of that, Dai Huabin's movements had become slightly sluggish when he felt the sharpness of Wang Dong's Guillotine Wings. Thus, he could only use his palms to forcefully block Wang Dong's attack.

How could a hastily-released attack be compared to an attack that had been charged up? Although Dai Huabin was using his White Tiger's Vajra Transformation, he still wasn't able to blast Wang Dong away. On the other hand, a golden light suddenly appeared on Wang Dong's folded wings. Once again, he activated the Light of the Butterfly Goddess.

With the support of Huo Yuhao and the Haodong Power, the strength and activation speed of Wang Dong's soul skills far surpassed his usual level. His current strength had already reached the Soul Elder level. Compared to a Soul Elder, the only thing he lacked was a third soul skill.

Dai Huabin was inwardly astonished. Wang Dong's grasp of tempo was simply too amazing, to the extent that he simply couldn't react. Helpless, he could only go all-out with his defense. He activated his White Tiger's Fierce Light Wave at close range, causing it to collide with Wang Dong's Light of the Butterfly Goddess.

One was a concentrated all-out attack, while the other was a defensive counterattack that had been hastily released. One was a thousand year soul skill, while the other was a hundred year soul skill. At this moment, both parties had similar levels of soul power. Thus, the winner of the clash was immediately decided.

A violent boom rang out from the area between Wang Dong and Dai Huabin. Wang Dong had launched his attack from above, while Dai Huabin had launched his while facing upwards from down below.

After the terrifying boom rang out, Wang Dong flew into the air with his wings unfurled, easily dispersing the force of their collision. However, Dai Huabin was left in a sorrier state; he'd sunk knee-deep into the ground, while his upper body was bared and facing the sky. A golden light exploded from his body, showing that his White Tiger's Vajra Transformation had sustained an incredible blow.