

Tang Sect 301

[Chapter 301: A Confrontation Of Soul Tools](#)

96's eyes flashed. This was Huo Yuhao's blatant way of telling him that he wasn't going to reveal his name. He didn't probe further, but only smiled. "Number 66, what's your take on today's fight?"

Huo Yuhao seemed to be excited. "Interesting. Who says soul engineers can't fight? I think it's a good idea to fight using your own soul tool."

Number 96 chortled and said, "I think it's a good idea too."

"It seems like we have the same thinking. I've seen the groups earlier. We won't meet in this round."

"It doesn't matter. I'll win." Huo Yuhao's gaze turned sharp.

"Is that so? We'll see." 96 smiled and stood up before walking back to his original seat. There was a scornful look on his face. He believed that he had gotten whatever information he needed from this arrogant young man in a wheelchair.

Huo Yuhao twisted his lips and didn't even look at the two of them.

Testing me? You can slowly test all you want.

"To all distinguished guests, the tournament is about to begin." A staff member came in to inform them.

Both the number 96 and 98 stood up at the same time. They didn't give way to each other, but walked briskly out of the lounge together.

Huo Yuhao snorted, revealing how displeased he was.

A vicious gaze flashed across number 98's eyes. He was about to act up, but he was stopped by 96, who dragged him out towards the hall.

The hall was still as crowded as ever. Today, the central, circular stage was able to hold all the competitors. Forty-eight carving tables were on the stage, forming multiple arcs.

Huo Yuhao squinted and scanned the entire place with his Spiritual Detection. He immediately sensed that the VIP area was full, while the common area in the hall was also packed.

There were a few changes made to the hall. There had added another platform. The platform was rectangular in shape, and around five meters above the floor. It was fifty meters in length, and almost extended from one side of the hall to the other. However, it was only five meters wide. The entire platform seemed to have been made from metal, and hung in the air using cables.

Were the soul engineers going to fight on this platform? By restricting the shape of the platform to a rectangle, it was evident that it was there to prevent the competitors from dodging. Furthermore, those who were wise enough would bear the platform in mind when they made their soul tools.

Very soon, Huo Yuhao and He Caitou were brought onto the stage by the staff. Wang Dong'er and Na Na remained in one corner.

This time, Huo Yuhao and He Caitou weren't arranged side-by-side. There were two rows of carving tables facing one another. Every soul engineer would sit opposite their direct competitor. However, the Duskwater Alliance didn't explain how they had drawn the lots for this round. This was an underground tournament, and thus there wasn't any need for explanations.

Huo Yuhao's opponent was a young man who looked about twenty-six or twenty-seven years old. He was extremely ugly, with a broken nose and small eyes. His hair was messy, and slightly yellow. There was even a bald patch in the center of his head. It was very difficult to compliment his looks. However, there was an unyielding strength in his eyes. He didn't look at Huo Yuhao, but instead, his eyes were fixed on the rare metals displayed on the stage.

There was an additional storage shelf with three different compartments on every carving table. Each compartment was filled with all types of metals. The first compartment contained the ordinary metals, while the other two compartments were filled with rare metals. There were more than thirty types of rare metals!

With such a wide array of metals available, it was even possible to create a Class 7 soul tool. To test the abilities of the soul engineers, the Duskwater Alliance was very generous. The soul tools created by the soul engineers would eventually belong to them. The forty-eight soul tools that were going to be created were bound to be quite valuable.

Three small circular platforms rose up in front of the stage. There was an elder on each platform.

The platforms stopped rising after only about one meter. The elder in the center said, "Greetings to all soul engineers and guests. I'm the chief judge of today's tournament. The tournament is about to start. The countdown will start after I announce the commencement of today's round. The time restriction will be four hours. Within four hours, every soul engineer must try his best to create his own soul tool. There's only one goal: defeat the person sitting opposite you. The winners will advance to the next round."

After he finished speaking, all the competing soul engineers nodded their heads in unison and looked at their opponents.

From this round onward, the rewards of winning became very ample. Huo Yuhao learned about it from Chen An. The prize for winning this round was two kilograms each of thirty-two types of rare metals. It was equivalent to the amount of rare metals they had onstage.

For a soul engineer, a wide variety of rare metals was more attractive than gold soul coins. It was rumored that the winners of the next round could take home five kilograms of each rare metal. The variety of rare metals would even be increased to forty! Most of these rare metals were banned from being exported from the Sun Moon Empire. They were bound to be extremely valuable!

The soul engineer opposite Huo Yuhao lifted his head and grinned, revealing his yellow crooked teeth. "Brother, how are you? My name is Gao Dalou. Come on, let's have a good competition."

Huo Yuhao held his laughter as he looked at Gao Dalou. He was indeed very special! However, Huo Yuhao admired his unyielding gaze. He wasn't one to judge others based on their appearances, especially in a competition. He knew that it wasn't going to be easy to win against his opponent today.

"Competitors, please get ready!" the chief judge shouted.

Gao Dalou immediately lowered his head, his gaze sharpening. He stared at a piece of rare metal that he had already polished.

Huo Yuhao appeared more leisurely. It was as if he wasn't anxious at all.

"The match begins. Raise the soundproofing barrier!" the chief judge shouted. Twelve eye-catching hourglasses were flipped over. When the sand in these hourglasses stopped flowing, the countdown would be over. All the soul engineers today were on the same stage, and thus the soundproofing barrier could finally be set up, so the spectators could make noise. It was also the reason why so many people were here today.

All the soul engineers started to get busy immediately.

Gao Dalou's right hand quickly reached out, and a pitch-black rare metal that flashed with spots of silver landed in his palm. He revealed an intoxicated look in his eyes. He was gently rubbing the metal, as if he were caressing the skin of a beautiful lady.

Huo Yuhao was very interested in him. He reached out for a rare metal at one side of the table, and a piece of dark-red rare metal which weighed about one kilo flew towards him.

There was a scorching aura about this rare metal as it flew over.

It was Flaming Sun Iron, a metal that was only produced deep within volcanoes. It was extremely rare. It ranked as one of the top five rarest metals among the available thirty-two types of rare metals here.

The Duskwater Alliance had provided so many rare metals today, and Chen An was no longer part of the refereeing team. Huo Yuhao naturally couldn't keep all of the rare metals to himself. Naturally, he was going to choose some of the rarer metals to create his soul tool!

His opponent did the same thing. He was holding Silverstar Steel in his hand, which was the most valuable of the thirty-two rare metals present. Its density was quite high, and it had a great affinity for soul power. Any soul power that was poured into it would be doubled. It was the best material used to create an energy-gathering formation array. One kilo of that metal was worth at least a hundred thousand gold soul coins!

The Duskwater Alliance must have had spent a lot on this tournament. Of course, it was nothing compared to the amount of wagers they collected from the countless people who were betting on this tournament.

As Huo Yuhao looked at Gao Dalou's intoxicated look, he thought to himself. Has this guy never seen Silverstar Steel before? It's my first time seeing someone so intoxicated.

Gao Dalou didn't rub it for too long. After about a minute, his expression turned cautious. He carefully held the steel on the carving table in front of him. After that, he retrieved a carving knife from behind his waist with his right hand.

Huo Yuhao didn't rush to create his soul tool. He had great spiritual power, and could create his soul tools faster than the other soul engineers. He didn't want to reveal his complete abilities, however, and thus he wouldn't create the strongest soul tool. However, he couldn't lose, either. So, he observed his opponent. He was waiting to see what his opponent was creating before he thought of a strategy to counter it.

Gao Dalou didn't seem to be bothered by Huo Yuhao watching him. After he grabbed his carving knife, he started to work on his soul tool.

It was easy to tell if one was skilled. Huo Yuhao was stunned when Gao Dalou started to carve.

Gao Dalou's carving knife didn't look eye-catching, but he didn't seem to use any effort as he cut into the tough Silverstar Steel. After three cuts, he managed to carve out three proportionate areas on the steel.

There was a name for this carving technique: One Blade, Three Tremors. Such a skill couldn't be underestimated. It was only achievable after years of training. Not only must one be accurate and flawless, but the amount of strength he used must also be balanced. Most ordinary people wouldn't choose to employ such a technique on Silverstar Steel. If the carving went wrong, the piece of steel would become useless. At least, it couldn't be used to create the formation array that he had in mind.

Gao Dalou didn't stop at all. When he started carving, his carving knife seemed to have a life of its own. He wasn't very quick, but every movement of his knife was very steady. His small eyes were fixed on the Silverstar Steel, and he didn't make a single mistake.

He wasn't just appreciating it, but also studying the structure of this Silverstar Steel. Otherwise, he couldn't have been so quick.

Huo Yuhao continued to remain calm. He sat on the chair in front of the carving table and placed the Flaming Sun Iron down. He was very serious as he looked at Gao Dalou opposite him.

Gao Dalou's rhythm and steadiness gave him some inspiration. Only a few words could be used to describe Gao Dalou's way of creating his soul tool: simple and quaint.

He made the entire process seem very simple. Every cut was very precise, and no mistakes were made. He didn't need to carve out a rough shape like most soul engineers before fine-tuning the details. He completed everything in one shot.

He only used fifteen minutes to finish carving. The steel ended up in a rectangular shape with many fine patterns.

The Silverstar Steel's spots of silver light accentuated his work, and it was quite captivating, even dazzling!

Gao Dalou seemed to be intoxicated as he looked at the steel. It was like he had seen his lover, and he couldn't help but caress it a few times.

Huo Yuhao couldn't help but laugh slightly when he saw this weird expression.

Gao Dalou was jolted awake. He lifted his head to look at Huo Yuhao. He saw the piece of complete Flaming Sun Iron still in front of him.

“Hey, brother. Aren’t you going to start? Take a look. My first formation array is already completed. We are competitors!”

Huo Yuhao chortled and said, “No rush. Your method is indeed impressive. It’s really out of the ordinary! Which soul engineering academy did you graduate from?”

Gao Dalou wore a bitter look on his face, “Which soul engineering academy would want me? I can’t even afford the fees. I learned everything on my own at home. I also trained myself in this aspect by using ordinary iron scraps. I’m not afraid of being mocked by you, but I have to admit that it’s my first time seeing so many rare metals. Especially this Silverstar Steel. It’s too... too beautiful! Its affinity with soul power is too magical! If someone could let me use such rare metals forever, I’m willing to sell my life to him! I hope to win some good stuff back from this tournament.”

Huo Yuhao was moved, and he said, “Brother Gao, I’m impressed by your abilities. Let’s continue. There’s a time limit.”

“Oh, oh, yes. Let’s continue then. Continue to work hard.” As he spoke, he immediately got busy again.

Gao Dalou wasn’t bothered that others thought he was a country bumpkin who had never seen the world before. He chose the best materials...

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Huo Yuhao couldn’t help but nod in his heart when he saw Gao Dalou using the best materials to create his soul tool. The method he used was very different from most conventional soul engineers, especially in terms of some details in his technique. It was evident that he had his own style. If he were able to study soul tools to such a standard just by his own perceptions, he was undoubtedly a talent!

After finishing a piece of the outer shell, Gao Dalou suddenly raised his head. He looked at Huo Yuhao, who appeared to be deep in thought, and asked, “Brother, stop looking at me. You can’t tell what I’m making. For a country bumpkin like me, even my formation arrays are created in a slightly different manner than most ordinary soul engineers.”

Huo Yuhao was stunned, and quickly reacted. His continuous observation made Gao Dalou think that he was monitoring him before creating a soul tool that was targeted at his.

He smiled, and didn’t explain anything. He stopped monitoring Gao Dalou, and finally started creating his own soul tool.

Huo Yuhao continued to use the standard carving knife on the carving table. He vised the Flaming Sun Iron on the carving table and started his carving.

Compared to Gao Dalou, Huo Yuhao was quick and exact. The carving knife seemed to be alive in his hand, and moved continuously between his fingers. Each and every one of his movements was very accurate. If any teachers from soul engineering academies would have seen him, they would reckon that his work was worthy of a textbook example. Iron chippings flew in the air, and a complex formation array slowly took form.

Huo Yuhao carved bit by bit, unlike Gao Dalou's 'One Blade, Three Tremors'. However, he was much quicker. In the blink of an eye, he had already made a few cuts. Furthermore, the link between each cut was so precise that it seemed like he had carved everything in one shot.

In terms of technique, Gao Dalou's 'One Blade, Three Tremors' was much more difficult than Huo Yuhao's method. However, Huo Yuhao's method was stable and accurate. It was simpler for him to avoid any mistakes. Furthermore, it was very difficult to ensure the sharpness of his carving knife, since he was using an ordinary one. It was also difficult for him to make sure that it left carving marks on the Flaming Sun Iron, which was very tough. It might be inferior to a temporary but forceful form of carving, but with the help of his Spiritual Detection, Huo Yuhao managed to match up to Gao Dalou's technique, and he was even faster.

Gao Dalou finally finished creating his outer shell. When he looked up at Huo Yuhao again, he was dazed. What did he see? He saw streaks of shadows left behind by Huo Yuhao's fingertips as they danced. He couldn't see what Yuhao was doing. He only saw fine iron shavings flying out and spreading proportionally to the sides.

He... he managed to create his formation array so quickly! Isn't he scared of making mistakes? This was the first thought that appeared in Gao Dalou's mind.

He subconsciously looked at Huo Yuhao's eyes. As he was born outside the cities, he was more sensitive towards soul tools than most soul engineers in orthodox academies. To a soul engineer, the look in one's eyes was very important. It was possible to tell many things from someone else's eyes.

The look in Huo Yuhao's eyes was something else! It was clear, but there was a strange obscurity amid the deep focus. When Gao Dalou focused his attention on Huo Yuhao's eyes, he felt that he had entered a trance. It was as if his entire soul was about to be drawn away by the depth in Huo Yuhao's eyes. He was so shocked that he had to lower his head before he could regain his composure.

When he recovered from the shock, his face was filled with bitterness. He had only gone a few rounds, but he had now met an extremely strong opponent. It wasn't going to be easy for him to win!...

Even with the soundproofing barriers, the spectators who were here to watch the tournament still maintained their silence. They turned their attention to the competitors that they had wagered on.

Gambling was also a form of knowledge on its own. It was important to do pre-tournament analysis. They were well aware of the special characteristics, as well as the class, of every soul engineer.

For a wheelchair-bound soul engineer like Huo Yuhao, it was impossible for him not to garner any attention. There were some who monitored him, and there were also some who tried to bet on him. However, Gao Dalou was more eye-catching than Huo Yuhao. This wasn't because he was strong, but because of the carving knife that he had.

Gao Dalou's carving knife was a family heirloom, evident by the name on the knife. It was a top-notch knife!

Even though his family had fallen apart, Gao Dalou was secretly protected by some advanced-level soul engineers related to his family. This helped to ensure the secrecy of his carving knife. However, those

who secretly helped him didn't want him to become a strong soul engineer, so they only helped him in that aspect.

Due to the presence of his knife, Gao Dalou's odds were 10:23, while Huo Yuhao's odds were 5:6. From the odds, it was possible to tell how the gamblers rated the differences in their abilities.

Of course, there were people who bet heavily on Huo Yuhao before the tournament started, which had some influence on the odds. Otherwise, Huo Yuhao's odds would be even lower. It was just that no one knew that the so-called 'people' were actually Huo Yuhao himself.

A dim light flashed, and a look of concentration came over Huo Yuhao's face. He finally stopped, and a ball-shaped formation array slowly took form in front of him.

This formation array was hollow, and looked like an exquisite art piece. The dark-red Flaming Sun Iron seemed to have been given life, and now shone with a dim red light. A dangerous aura was continuously being released from it, and Huo Yuhao hadn't even put his soul power into it yet.

He didn't have three formation arrays like Gao Dalou; he only made one. Following this first step, he started on the other accessories. He was extremely quick. Gao Dalou was also very busy as he completed his final assembly and double-checked everything. In fact, he couldn't see Huo Yuhao's work clearly even if he wanted to. While Huo Yuhao had wasted a lot of time at the start, he was very quick now. He was so quick that it was impossible to fully follow his movements. One's vision would blur just watching him.

Time passed second by second. The first to complete his soul tool was Number 96, who took two hours. After glancing at the rest of the soul engineers, he handed his final product over.

The second competitor to finish was his opponent. When 96 claimed that he had finished his soul tool, his opponent looked at his finished product and conceded defeat. The gap was too obvious, and there was no need to compete any further. 96 had created a Class 5 soul tool in only two hours!

Most of the soul engineers finished their soul tools after about two and a half hours. This was a tournament, and the competitors didn't have to create the best soul tools. Since there was a time limit, the best method was to create the strongest soul tool one could complete within the time limit.

Gao Dalou finished fifteen minutes before Huo Yuhao, but he didn't rush to hand up his work. He stood on his side of the tables and watched Huo Yuhao.

He became more terrified the more he watched. Although he couldn't tell how Huo Yuhao worked on his soul tool, he still noticed some details.

Although Gao Dalou's method was different from most conventional soul engineers, the difference mainly lay in his technique. However, he had never even heard of Huo Yuhao's soul tool before. What's the purpose of the rings and metal strings? What's the use of those restraints? Why does the metal ball have three holes that are proportionately separated? What's he doing? That isn't a formation array!

Gao Dalou was perplexed. The more he thought about it, the more confused he became. To him, Huo Yuhao was a mystery. He was even a little curious now... what was Huo Yuhao's soul tool used for?

Huo Yuhao took three and a half hours to complete his soul tool. After he finished assembling everything, he ended up with a soul cannon around forty-two centimeters in length in front of him. The diameter of the barrel was around ten centimeters.

There seemed to be nothing special about the soul cannon. Furthermore, the most valuable material used to construct this soul tool was only the Flaming Sun Iron, even though the quality of this soul cannon was pretty good. The rest of the materials were mostly high-density metals. He had actually used very few rare metals!

“Are you done?” Gao Dalou asked.

“Yes! Brother Gao, you must’ve finished some time ago.” Huo Yuhao smiled and nodded at Gao Dalou.

“Okay, let’s hand up our work then,” Gao Dalou was curious as he walked up to Huo Yuhao, taking the initiative to push Huo Yuhao’s wheelchair. Huo Yuhao didn’t stop him, and let him do so, placing his soul tool on his thighs.

The completed soul tools had to be handed to the three judges so that they could make their decision.

Gao Dalou had also created a soul cannon. After all, they had to challenge each other in today’s tournament. An offensive-type soul tool was going to be very useful. Using defensive-type soul tools would most certainly be a pit of soul power.

“Class 4 shock cannon that can explode. It’s a pretty good soul tool.” The three judges gave their appraisal after seeing Gao Dalou’s soul cannon.

After that, they examined the soul tool that Huo Yuhao handed over.

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Five minutes later...

One of the examiners coughed in embarrassment. “Little friend, what’s the use of this soul cannon? The structure is a little special!”

Huo Yuhao smiled and replied, “It’s also a Class 4 soul tool. It’s considered a high-powered soul cannon. I used a special technique to create it.”

After whispering to one another, the chief judge looked at the other two and said, “Both of you created Class 4 offensive-type soul cannons. It’s very difficult to determine which is better. I suggest that the two of you challenge each other to determine the winner. After all, it’s important that an engineer be able to use a soul tool to fight!”

“Alright!” Gao Dalou agreed readily. While rare metals were very attractive to him, a soul engineer like Huo Yuhao was also very tempting! Under such a circumstance, he was very willing to test out the strength of Huo Yuhao’s soul cannon.

The chief judge said, “Let me tell you the rules. When the two of you fight each other, you can only use the soul tool that you’ve just created. You can also use your own soul power, but you can’t use any soul skills or any other soul tools. Once you use any other soul tool to defend yourself, it will mean that

you've lost. Of course, you only have one life. While victory is important, protecting your own life is also very important."

"I understand."

The chief referee looked at Huo Yuhao and seemed to be suggesting something with his eyes.

Huo Yuhao also looked at him calmly and said, "I understand, too."

"Alright. Send them to the Dueling Region." Immediately, a staff member walked over and led the two of them towards the sides of the Duel Region.

"Brother Chen, the young man sitting in the wheelchair used an extraordinary method to create his soul tool! Did you see it?" the judge on the left asked softly.

The chief judge replied, "It was indeed quite extraordinary. If I'm not wrong, he must have infused some elements of machinery production into it to complement his formation arrays. His formation array was created using Flaming Sun Iron. That is indeed the method you would use to create the formation array of a high-powered cannon. However, it was also a little different. There isn't any catapult formation or energy-gathering formation. Otherwise, his soul tool might even reach the level of a Class 5 soul tool."

The judge on the right said, "Let's see the duel first! Gao Dalou isn't simple either. His carving knife is top-notch. It's very difficult to tell who'll win or lose."

The chief judge smiled and said, "It seems like there are no lack of talents on our side."

"Hmm, we should ask the top brass whether we can pull some people over after the tournament ends. These two we've just seen are pretty good. Investigate their backgrounds."

After Huo Yuhao and Gao Dalou entered the long and narrow Duel Region, the spectators outside started to become very excited.

While many soul engineers had handed in their work, the judges had also decided all of the results. Huo Yuhao's duel against Gao Dalou would be the first of the day!

While watching the soul engineers create soul tools was a feast for these gamblers' eyes, it couldn't compare to a duel! It was the same reason why the Continental Elite Youth Soul Master Tournament was so popular.

One was sitting in a wheelchair, while the other had a top-notch carving knife. It was going to be an exciting duel!

Suddenly, the silent hall started to become very rowdy. Some of the VIP guests that had wagered on Gao Dalou and Huo Yuhao started to call out curses and encouragement.

Huo Yuhao smiled at Gao Dalou and said, "Brother Gao, I'm called Tang Wu. No matter the result, I'm glad to have met you." It was the fake name that he had used to enter the tournament.

Gao Dalou was excited as he said, "Tang Wu? Brother, I'm very curious about your soul tool. When this ends, let me treat you to a drink and talk about it. What do you think?"

"Great!" Huo Yuhao grinned.

The chief judge was also in the Duel Region by now, diagonally above it on a separate platform.

This was an underground tournament, so as was common there were very few rules. There weren't any restrictions on hurting your opponent. The judges were only here to determine the victor. They wouldn't bother with casualties.

"Are both of you ready?" the chief judge asked.

"Yes!" Gao Dalou replied loudly. Huo Yuhao nodded.

"The duel begins! The winner will advance!"

As the judge shouted, Gao Dalou and Huo Yuhao raised their hands at the same time.

Gao Dalou's soul cannon was dim silvery-white, constructed using Silverstar Steel. A gentle glow surfaced on it.

What was the best way to tell if a soul master was using a soul skill? it was to see if they unleashed their martial soul! Their soul power wasn't restricted by their martial soul, it could be used without unleashing their martial soul. Naturally, Gao Dalou didn't even unleash his martial soul.

Huo Yuhao's soul cannon also glowed with a dim red light, mixed with a scorching aura.

The rowdy noises in the hall started to die down, and the hall went quiet. Everyone was watching them. In such a duel, it was likely that victory would be decided in one or two strikes.

Gao Dalou's soul cannon only took a short while to charge. A ball of bright white light carrying a slight silvery glow was fired towards Huo Yuhao.

It was a shock cannon that could explode. The judges had mentioned it earlier.

The charge was around thirty centimeters in diameter, and was fired straight at Huo Yuhao.

In everyone's opinion, Huo Yuhao should unleash the attack of his own soul tool and allow both cannon charges to collide with each other in the middle before they went all-out against one another.

Huo Yuhao indeed fired his soul cannon. However, what he did was beyond everyone's expectations. When the ball of dark-red light ball was fired, it stuck close to the ground as it shot forward. It brushed past Gao Dalou's charge and flew straight towards him.

Fierce!

Both parties were going to be hurt. It was a battle between their fighting strategies!

Gao Dalou had acted first, and thus his cannon shell would reach Huo Yuhao first. Was Huo Yuhao going to directly resist it?

Everyone was shocked in the next instant.

Huo Yuhao's wheelchair seemed to come alive, and moved rapidly. It managed to dodge the incoming charge even within the narrow space.

The shock cannon had locked onto his position, thus the charge naturally followed him as he moved. Those who were sharp-eyed could tell that Huo Yuhao was using his right hand. His right hand seemed to contain magical powers. He kept on pushing or pulling the protective barriers to either side of him, which allowed his wheelchair to move and accurately dodge the charge!

There was a limit to how far the charge could travel. While it could lock onto Huo Yuhao's position, its propulsion would die down after some time. When that happened, it could only blow apart uselessly.

Just before it blew apart, Huo Yuhao mimicked a grabbing action. After that, he flung his right hand out, and his wheelchair also moved back, allowing him to avoid the cannon shell. He only heard a loud boom as the cannon shell blew apart three meters away from him. The immense shockwave pushed him towards Gao Dalou.

Huo Yuhao had avoided the explosion completely, the shockwave only affected him slightly. He had also managed to accurately dodge the entire attack. Who would have thought that a cripple could use such a method to avoid being struck by a fired charge? Even a normal person might not even be capable of doing that!

Gao Dalou didn't even see Huo Yuhao's situation. The high-powered shot was approaching him, but he wasn't as capable of dodging as Huo Yuhao was. He fired his cannon again, and this second charge collided with the high-powered burst more than ten meters away from him.

Boom!

A scorching flow of wind spread out, engulfing more than twenty meters of the narrow passageway in front of it. Gao Dalou quickly retreated, terrified. He also quickly increased his soul power to resist the powerful shockwave. Even so, he was still flung back, and hit the protective barrier not far away from him.

Was that really a Class 4 soul tool? It was important to know that the shock cannon charge had some defensive uses, as its intense shockwave could neutralize various types of attacks. To some extent, it was both offensively and defensively inclined, which was why Gao Dalou had decided to create a shock cannon. However, the high-powered shot from Huo Yuhao was too strong. It must be as strong as a Class 5 high-powered cannon shot!

On the other side, Huo Yuhao was also shocked.

Gao Dalou's shock cannon shell blew apart behind him. To him, the shockwave was nothing. It only propelled his body forward. With the protection of his soul power, he wasn't affected.

However, he felt something wrong when the shockwave struck him, a strange feeling spread across his entire body. He felt his heart stopping at that instant. Everything around him seemed to slow down, and his breathing also went still. The uncomfortable feeling made him feel like a corpse!

Fortunately, it only lasted for a second before he regained normal movement. Even so, he was interrupted as he tried to charge his high-powered cannon, and had to re-adjust his soul power again.

How is this possible? How is it possible for a shock cannon to have such an effect! Something must be wrong... With a thought, his opponent's black carving knife that had seemed very simple and ordinary surfaced in his thoughts.

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Since Huo Yuhao was affected by this strange power, he lost the opportunity to bring down Gao Dalou instantly. The impact of the high-powered cannon charge on Gao Dalou had also ended. While Gao Dalou looked a little dirty, he wasn't hurt. Both of them were astonished when they looked at one another.

"Is, is that a Class 5 soul tool?" Gao Dalou asked with a shocked expression. It seemed like he had forgotten that the two of them were still in a tournament.

Huo Yuhao shook his head and said, "Class 4. A Class 5 offensive-type soul tool can't be supported with just one formation array. Weren't you watching me just now?"

"But..."

Huo Yuhao said, "Let's have a private conversation when the tournament ends."

"Alright!" Gao Dalou agreed to his request immediately. As his hands moved, the shock cannon was fired once again. Even though he was astonished, it didn't mean that he was conceding defeat. There were a lot of rare metals at stake!

Huo Yuhao smiled and lifted his right hand, also firing his soul cannon. However, the cannon charge didn't brush past the shock cannon shell this time. With his immense spiritual power, it was easy for him to lock onto his opponent's discharge. It was literally impossible for him to fail to hit it.

Both cannon shells left the barrel at the same time. They also met at around the center point between the two of them, and blew apart. Suddenly, an intense spark of energy blurred their vision. A terrifying shock and energy undulation spread out and struck the both of them.

At this point, Gao Dalou felt that he was in a trance, and everything in front of him had turned blurry. For some reason, he felt that he had deviated from his original position. As he subconsciously turned around, he adjusted his position. When he raised his hand, he fired his cannon again. With his current cultivation, he didn't need long to charge his cannon even though he couldn't fire it continuously.

After that... there wasn't anything after that.

Boom!

Amidst a reverberating boom, Gao Dalou's body was engulfed by electricity. He felt his entire body turning numb, and a terrifying explosion caused him to become very distressed. He was stuck on one side of the barrier, and his blood seemed to stop flowing. He felt extremely uncomfortable, and wanted to spit out blood. However, he couldn't do so.

What was going on?

The same thought appeared in everyone's mind. In their eyes, Gao Dalou made a half turn and flew towards the protective barrier to one side after his cannon charge collided with Huo Yuhao's cannon

charge. As he was only one meter away, he was caught in the explosion of his own Class 4 shock cannon shell. The shock flung him away. Blood still flowed out of his nose and mouth even when he increased his soul power to protect himself. He looked pathetic.

Fortunately, it was only a Class 4 soul tool. If it was a Class 5, he would have been killed if he didn't unleash his soul skills and other soul tools to defend himself.

Huo Yuhao wore a smile on his face. As he saw Gao Dalou sliding to the floor, he turned to the judge and said, "I guess it's time to deem me the winner. If I fire one more time, he'll be dead."

"Yes, you win," the judge nodded. Although the situation was very weird, the strength of Huo Yuhao's soul tool was indeed greater than Gao Dalou's shock cannon. However, Gao Dalou decided to incapacitate himself so that he would lose for some unknown reason. Did he really think he had no chance at all?

Huo Yuhao turned the wheels of his wheelchair and rolled over in front of Gao Dalou. He smiled and asked, "Brother Gao, are you okay?"

As he was affected by the shock cannon shell, Gao Dalou's entire body was still shaking. He struggled to prop himself up. "What happened? Why was I struck by my own shock cannon? What's going on?"

Huo Yuhao chortled and said, "You've lost. Let's go."

Gao Dalou still felt very dizzy even as he exited the Duel Region. He felt as if he was walking through a world of cotton.

After Huo Yuhao went to claim his reward, he asked, "Brother Gao, shall we find a place to sit?"

Gao Dalou laughed bitterly and replied, "Alright, but you'll have to treat me. I have no money."

"Alright," Huo Yuhao smiled as he answered.

Wang Dong'er was already there by this point. Huo Yuhao instructed Na Na to wait for He Caitou, since he hadn't finished yet. Wang Dong'er pushed his wheelchair, and they left with Gao Dalou.

He wasn't worried about his bet. Chen An was around, and thus nothing would go wrong. Gold soul coins were just numbers to him. Rare metals were more important. However, now was not the time.

Wang Dong'er didn't know about the interaction between Huo Yuhao and Gao Dalou. She was a little curious as he brought his opponent along with him. However, her current appearance was only as Huo Yuhao's maid, and thus she couldn't say anything. After the three of them left the hotel, they started walking away from the direction that led to the Ming Yue Hotel.

Back in the Golden Hall,

"Chen An, what's the background of competitor 66? His soul tool is extraordinary!" the chief judge asked Chen An. Initially, he had wanted to offer Huo Yuhao money for his soul cannon. It was obviously a Class 4 soul tool, but it had unleashed the strength of a Class 5! Whether it was in terms of the materials used or the time taken for Huo Yuhao to create his soul tool, they were both very impressive.

With such a technique, he might even be able to completely alter the method of how soul tools were created.

Chen An softly said, "Judge Chen, it's not that I want to remain mum. It's just that we can't trifle with him. He..." As he spoke to this point, he made a gesture.

The chief judge was shocked. "Are you sure?"

Chen An leaned up to his ears and whispered a few words.

"Alright. You can go. Don't tell anyone what I asked you about." A look of fear flashed across the judge's eyes before he regained his normal appearance.

"Yes!" Chen An sniggered to himself. How can I let you get close to Sir Tang Wu? I still need him to help me get rich!

Huo Yuhao brought Gao Dalou and Wang Dong'er to find a bar that wasn't too big.

While the bar wasn't huge, there was a hubbub of laughter and shouting. The moment they walked in the door, they were greeted by pandemonium. Huo Yuhao furrowed his brow at this.

"Little Dong, go and find the manager," Huo Yuhao instructed.

Wang Dong'er pinched his back with some force. After that, she furrowed her brow and walked in. Very soon, a waiter walked out.

"Is there a private room?" Huo Yuhao asked.

"No, it's full," the waiter said without any hesitation as he looked at him in his wheelchair before glancing at the slipshod Gao Dalou. He even wore a slightly disdainful expression and spoke sarcastically. "You shouldn't be coming to a bar in this state. No lady will like a cripple."

Huo Yuhao smiled. "That's not true. Cripples have their rights too, especially rich ones." As he gestured, Wang Dong'er retrieved a bag of gold soul coins.

Huo Yuhao opened the bag and swayed it slightly. Clinking sounds could be heard coming from the bag.

The waiter's expression changed, and he laughed. "I'm sorry, distinguished guest. I apologize for looking down on you. Although there aren't any rooms left, there are still two seats available."

Huo Yuhao took out a gold soul coin and said, "Give me the quietest spot. We've got business to discuss."

"No problem." The waiter's expression changed after he received the gold soul coin.

This wasn't a dubious setting like the Golden Hall, it was just a bar. Huo Yuhao wouldn't hold it against a mere waiter. Sometimes, using money was more effective than violence.

Very soon, the three of them were brought to a booth at a corner of the bar. The booth consisted of seats that were separated by a few wooden benches. There were two long sofas in this booth, and a tea-table. Although this booth looked very ordinary, it was still very quiet.

“Bring your most expensive liquor.” Huo Yuhao instructed the waiter.

The waiter’s eyes flashed, and he replied, “Alright! Please wait a minute. It’ll be here soon!”

Gao Dalou looked after the waiter, who had quickly scurried off, and couldn’t help but say, “Brother Tang, you’ll be blacklisted by them like that.”

Huo Yuhao chortled and replied, “Blacklisted? They can do it if they want to. Have you forgotten my identity?”

Gao Dalou replied, “Alright. Let’s not talk about that now. What was going on just now? Why was I struck by my own shock cannon?”

Huo Yuhao answered, “I used a small trick to daze you temporarily. After that, you were confused, and turned in the wrong direction. In such a narrow space, any slight deviation in your sense of direction was sufficient to cause a huge difference in where your attack hit. Your cannon was fired towards the protective barrier next to you, thus you absorbed the entire impact of the explosion. I’m also very curious about something. Why does your shock cannon contain a force even scarier than numbness? Not only can it interrupt a soul skill, but it even caused my blood to stop flowing. Although it only lasted for a second, its impact was quite great. Otherwise, I would’ve taken you down in my first attack.”

After hearing Huo Yuhao’s question, Gao Dalou hesitated. He lowered his head and didn’t mutter a word.

Huo Yuhao didn’t probe either. This was undoubtedly his secret.

“It’s fine if you’re unwilling to tell me. Let’s talk about something else. You mentioned that you’ve never studied at an academy before. Since this is the case, it’s quite a miracle that you were able to reach the standard of a Class 5 soul engineer!”

A Class 5 soul engineer was like a five-ringed Soul King. For him to reach such a level through self-learning before he was even thirty, it showed how much talent and hardwork he had put in!

[Chapter 303.1: Liquor, Medium, Icebreaker](#)

Gao Dalou sighed, “Yes, count me unlucky. When I was young, my father was the one who taught me soul engineering skills. In my entire lineage, there has always only been one son in every generation. We are like a sect, but we don’t have the depth of a sect. My father always believed that he could teach me with everything that he had, thus he didn’t send me to a basic soul engineering academy. However, he passed away for some unknown reason when I was fourteen, and I had just become a Class 3 soul engineer. When we found him, even his internal organs had disappeared. He had died tragically. My father was also very protective of his wealth. He was very worried no matter where he kept his valuables, and usually kept them with him in his storage-type soul tool. Once he died, my family went bankrupt. My mother passed away early. We originally had a few servants, but they left since I couldn’t pay them. Very soon, I became an orphan that lived by myself.”

Gao Dalou sounded very calm. However, the expression on his face revealed that his heart was already dead.

“After that, I had to give up on my cultivation in order to make a living for myself. I found some chores in the city. Originally, I was a soul engineer, and finding a job wasn’t very difficult. However, I would be cursed every time I suggested that my employer offer me some rare metals for my cultivation. As I was helpless, I could only do some chores that were beyond what I could handle. I earned some money to sustain myself. At the same time, I cultivated using my father’s manual. After more than a decade, I managed to reach the level of a Class 5 soul engineer. However, I’m broke now. At my level, I can’t experiment without sufficient rare metals, and I can’t produce better soul tools either. Ah...”

Huo Yuhao was confused after he heard Gao Dalou’s recounting of events. It was his first time hearing a Class 5 soul engineer being restricted by poverty. Even though he had other ideas in mind, he couldn’t help but ask, “Brother Gao, didn’t your soul tools become finished products? With your abilities, you should be able to sell your finished soul tools for decent prices even if the materials are slightly inferior. They should then be enough to fund your cultivation. Since when did soul engineers lack money?”

Gao Dalou looked a little embarrassed, “This... honestly speaking, I’m not afraid that you’ll mock me. My entire family has a bad habit. We are stingy. I inherited my father’s stinginess. I can’t bear to sell the soul tools that I’ve created! They are the products of my hard work.” He coughed twice as he finished.

Huo Yuhao’s lips moved a little. He was a little empathetic after hearing Gao Dalou’s tragic life story. However, he realized that there wasn’t any tragic story that had no reason in this world after hearing about Gao Dalou’s stinginess! Gao Dalou’s poverty was caused by himself! What a stingy soul engineer!

After pausing for a moment, Huo Yuhao asked, “What do you plan to do from now on?”

Gao Dalou sighed and said, “What else do you want me to do? I’m a Class 5 soul engineer now. I’m different from before. Maybe I’ll find a sect and see if I can get some rare metals to practice with. Brother, I believe you’re at least a Class 5 soul engineer judging from your abilities to create soul tools. Your technique is also quite conventional and orthodox. You should be from a sect. Why not introduce me to your sect? I’ve no other requests; I just need sufficient materials. If I get to keep all my soul tools, I’m willing to even sell my life to the sect.”

Huo Yuhao looked at him deeply and said to Wang Dong’er, “Xiao Dong, tell the waiter that we don’t need the liquor anymore. Let’s go.”

“Yes.” Wang Dong’er acknowledged his words and tried to hold in her laughter as she walked away. She knew that Huo Yuhao was about to con someone again. However, Gao Dalou didn’t look very pitiful. He was actually very scheming!

“No, no! Don’t go! Brother, we haven’t had a drink yet. Even if they might blacklist you, they won’t serve you bad liquor, considering your wealth!” Gao Dalou hurriedly said.

At this point, the waiter had entered and there was a bottle of pink liquor on a tray in his hand. There were also three liquor glasses and a bucket of ice.

“Sir, your liquor is here. Do you want me to open it for you?” the waiter asked Huo Yuhao.

Huo Yuhao turned to look at Gao Dalou. Gao Dalou said, “Open, open, of course you should open it! Hurry up!” As he spoke, he was already swallowing visibly.

Huo Yuhao smiled and said, "Brother Gao, liquor will make our hands numb. Overdrinking might even cause them to tremble and affect our state. You must watch out!"

Gao Dalou was completely unbothered, "No worries. No worries. We can do it occasionally."

The waiter opened the bottle without any hesitation. He added three ice cubes to each glass before pouring the liquor into each glass. After that, he respectfully left.

Gao Dalou lifted the glass in front of him and took a sip. His face became rapturously intoxicated.

"Good liquor, this is good liquor! I've not had such great rose liquor in some time! It's delicious. Brother, quickly take a sip." As he spoke, he quickly filled his glass again.

Huo Yuhao lifted his glass and gently took a sip. The liquor was indeed quite good. A light rose scent entered his throat along with the liquor itself. The scent seemed to evaporate naturally. Very quickly, it diffused through his body. A warm aura also slowly spread out and made him feel extremely comfortable.

What left Huo Yuhao stunned was that the chill in his body from the origin energy of Ultimate Ice also dropped after he took a sip of the drink.

Was the alcohol able to help him absorb the origin energy of his Ultimate Ice? With this thought, he completely downed the glass of liquor.

Huo Yuhao was completely stunned at the result.

The warmth from the alcohol suddenly increased greatly. He felt the flow of his blood getting stronger and stronger. The warmth followed his passageways and rushed towards his left arm and lower limbs. Although it was still inferior compared to the origin energy of Ultimate Ice, this gush of warmth still neutralized some of the origin energy. It also fused with his blood and soul power.

This works? Huo Yuhao didn't know whether to laugh or cry at this moment.

Gao Dalou was watching Huo Yuhao as he sipped on his liquor. When he realized Huo Yuhao's expression was changing very weirdly, he was shocked. Although this rose liquor wasn't cheap, he didn't have to feel so much pain buying it...

"Brother Tang, are you okay?" Gao Dalou asked carefully.

Huo Yuhao shook his head. He had originally wanted to draw Gao Dalou into the Tang Sect, but he realized that Gao Dalou was actually very cunning, even though he seemed very honest. In addition, he was now much less interested in him as he faced this unexpected surprise.

"Dong'er, call the waiter over." As he was agitated, Huo Yuhao even forgot that he wasn't supposed to refer to her that way.

Although Wang Dong'er didn't know why he was suddenly so excited, she still quickly called the waiter over.

"Sir, what instructions do you have?" the waiter asked respectfully.

Huo Yuhao said, "Go get me every type of liquor you have here."

“What? Every type? Sir, we have more than hundred types of liquor, even though our establishment isn’t that large! We already have forty different types of wine, and...”

“Okay, go quickly then.” As he spoke, Huo Yuhao threw his entire bag of money over.

The waiter was shocked, but a flash of greed crossed his face as he received the bag of cash. He followed with, “Yes, yes, I’ll go now! Please wait for me!”

More than a hundred types of liquor! How much would that cost?

Not only was Gao Dalou astonished, even Wang Dong’er didn’t understand what Huo Yuhao was doing. Huo Yuhao poured himself another glass of the rose liquor.

“Indeed so, indeed so!” Huo Yuhao was evidently extremely excited. After that, he twisted his head to look at Gao Dalou, “Brother Gao, you can leave first if you have nothing going on. I suddenly remembered I have something important to deal with.”

“Your important thing is drinking, am I right? Brother, how can you be without a buddy when you are drinking. I can’t do anything else, but I can be a top-notch drinking buddy!” Gao Dalou couldn’t give up this opportunity to taste so many delicious liquors. He quickly presented himself to Huo Yuhao.

Huo Yuhao shook his head and replied, “Did you not hear that I only requested a glass of every type of liquor for myself? I didn’t get any for you.”

Gao Dalou turned pale. There were more than hundred types of liquor. How would it feel to drink and compare them? He had never tried it before! It should feel very magical. However, he was being chased away. This...

Gao Dalou only had two hobbies. One was to become a strong soul engineer. The other was to drink.

“Brother, I take back what I said earlier. Let’s see if this works: I can join your sect. As long as you provide me with materials, the soul tools that I create will belong to the sect. However, please give me at least some money to buy wine. It’s best if I can even find a wife. I’ll follow you if you agree to this.”

Huo Yuhao was stunned. He hadn’t expected Gao Dalou to misunderstand his actions. He had actually lowered his own asking price of his own accord. What was going on?

He hadn’t expected Gao Dalou to treat him as a confidant. It was easy to find friends, but not drinking buddies! Gao Dalou was completely convinced after seeing Huo Yuhao ask for more than a hundred types of liquor in one shot. He was imagining the amount of liquor he could drink every day if he followed Huo Yuhao! Why would he need soul tools then?

[Chapter 303.2: Liquor, Medium, Icebreaker](#)

“Alright, that’s great. I’ll give you a fifty percent cut for every soul tool you create. We’ll come up with the materials. You just need to create the soul tools. In addition, I think you’ve also witnessed my special method of creating soul tools. You’ll be able to learn such a method once you join our sect.”

Gao Dalou’s eyes brightened, and he replied, “Of course, of course. Brother Tang, the liquor...”

Huo Yuhao waved his hand generously and said, "Little Dong, get the waiter to add one more complete set."

Gao Dalou licked his chapped lips and gave him a thumbs-up. "Awesome!"

Very soon, the table was filled with rows of liquor glasses.

"Brother Tang, let's drink."

"Cheers!"

"Dalou, let's toast once more! Oh, this liquor isn't bad. It's strong enough!"

"Great!"

"Fantastic! It's absolutely fantastic! I've never enjoyed liquor like this! Brother Tang, did you notice that the liquors made from wheat are quite light, while those made from grapes contain the lightness of grapes even though they are hard liquors? I feel very pleasant drinking them!"

"Oh, this liquor has the taste of plums. It even tastes a little smoked! It's quite special..."

"Cheers!"

"Let's go..."

"Shit..."

Wang Dong'er was stunned as she watched from the side. These two drunkards didn't stop at all. They kept on downing glass after glass of liquor. It was her first time seeing Huo Yuhao drinking like this, so she was shocked.

At the start, Wang Dong'er thought Huo Yuhao was doing this to tempt Gao Dalou. Gao Dalou was basically bought over by the liquor. However, Wang Dong'er noticed something was wrong. Gao Dalou had already been swindled. Why did Yuhao have to continue drinking with him? In a short span of time, both of them had already drank more than thirty glasses of liquor!

There was another person who was even more shocked than Wang Dong'er – the waiter who had deliver the liquor!

There were more than a hundred types of liquor. Since Huo Yuhao had ordered two complete sets of liquor, there were more than two hundred glasses of liquor. The table couldn't fit all the glasses. Once the glasses were empty, they were immediately replaced by more glasses of different liquors.

At the start, the waiter thought Huo Yuhao was trying to put on airs, and he would at most taste a few types of liquor.

However, he saw the two of them downing more than thirty glasses on their own as time passed! More than half of them were hard liquors! If they were ordinary people, they would have been completely drunk by now. However, the two of them seemed like nothing had happened.

Even though every glass of liquor had been diluted by ice cubes, they must have consumed more than a liter of hard liquor each after thirty glasses!

“Yu... Master, stop drinking.” Wang Dong’er almost addressed him incorrectly in her anxiety. She lifted her hand to grab the liquor glass from Huo Yuhao’s hand.

Huo Yuhao deftly dodged and avoided her hand. He shot a look at her. As he thought of something, he used his Spiritual Detection to tell her what he was thinking.

Wang Dong’er’s body stiffened up. After that, her eyes revealed an indescribable look of ecstasy.

Huo Yuhao gently nodded.

“That’s great. Continue. You’re in a wheelchair anyway. I can push you back anytime.”

Why was Huo Yuhao drinking so much? He wanted to test whether each type of liquor had an effect on fusing his origin energy of Ultimate Ice, or if it was only just the rose liquor. If every type of liquor could do the same thing, it must mean that liquor was very effective for him.

His conclusion was that liquor was very effective. However, the effect didn’t depend on the value of the liquor, but its strength! The stronger the liquor, the better it was! Every glass of hard liquor was like a catalyst. The origin energy in his body was increasingly being digested by Huo Yuhao’s soul power. For someone who had three immovable limbs, this was like a delicacy!

Furthermore, Huo Yuhao remained clear-headed, as all the alcohol was being used to fuse with his origin energy. He was also getting more and more excited. He could easily last for three hundred glasses without getting drunk!

Huo Yuhao was amused that Gao Dalou’s tolerance level was actually very impressive. He didn’t feel any soul power undulations from his body, Gao Dalou was just drinking normally. His eyes brightened the more he drank, just like Huo Yuhao. He was getting more and more clear-headed as he drank.

“Great liquor, this is really great liquor! I haven’t felt so happy in a long time. No, I’ve never felt so happy before! Today, I finally understand what it means when people say ‘A thousand glasses of liquor is too little when drinking with a confidant.’ Brother Tang, I’m very grateful to have met you.”

After drinking his fiftieth glass, Gao Dalou was finally getting a little dizzy. However, the excitement in his eyes only grew.

“Brother Tang, I’ll follow you in the future. I can get liquor when I’m with you! I don’t even want the percentage cut. I’m fine with just liquor. What do you think?”

Huo Yuhao chortled and replied, “This isn’t much for me. In fact, I even know a sommelier. He’s a true fanatic for delicious liquor! If you meet him, you’ll really know what it is to have a drinking buddy.”

Gao Dalou was stunned, “Is that so? Is there actually someone who can drink better than you?”

Huo Yuhao answered, “I don’t know how much he can drink, but I’ve never seen him without his liquor ever since I met him. You can find him whenever you want to try, I’m sure he’ll be happy. Don’t worry, this liquor god lives very close to my sect.”

“Alright, alright. Drink, come on! Brother Tang, let’s drink! I’ll follow you and the liquor god in the future...” Gao Dalou was finally getting drunk. Such a drunkard would never be willing to activate his

soul power to neutralize the alcohol in his body. He couldn't bear to! It was important to bear in mind that Gao Dalou was a very stingy person...

"Brother Tang, didn't you want to know the special characteristic of my soul tool? Since we are going to be in the same sect, I think it's fine to tell you. The soul tool that I carry around me has a special characteristic called Blood Coagulating. It's an added component to my Blood Coagulating Carving Knife... It's impressive, isn't it...?"

"It's fine even if I tell you. That's because only a descendant of my blood lineage can use this carving knife. I need to use my fresh blood to use this knife every time. Otherwise, it would have been stolen by many people already..."

"Fortunately the carving knife can only be used by a descendant of my family. Although its ranking is a little low because of my weak cultivation, it's the only valuable that my father left me. If anyone else could use it, my Haemagglutination Carving Knife might even make it to the top thirty carving knives."

Huo Yuhao was silently shocked after hearing Gao Dalou's words. It was a carving knife equal to one of the top thirty top-notch carving knives! No wonder it was so strong. Even the shockwaves generated by the shock cannon were so strong because of the meticulous carvings made by this knife!

After three more glasses, Gao Dalou couldn't take it anymore, and collapsed onto the table.

Huo Yuhao drank two more glasses on his own before smiling slightly. He turned to Wang Dong'er and said, "My dear, I need to pee."

Wang Dong'er was speechless. "Can't you use it for your cultivation?"

Huo Yuhao laughed bitterly. "I used alcohol, not water. You are in a guy's attire anyway. What are you scared of? Send me to the toilet. Otherwise, I'm going to pee my pants."

Wang Dong'er's face turned red. Although she had seen Huo Yuhao's body before, she had never done anything like this before! She started stammering, "Why don't we go home, and you can..."

Huo Yuhao replied, "I can't hold it in anymore."

"Aren't, aren't you afraid that I'll look at someone else? My eyes will be dirtied." Wang Dong'er finally found an excuse.

"That's true! You can send me to the door. I can go in and settle everything myself." Huo Yuhao changed his words after teasing her. Over these past few days, he had felt tortured as Wang Dong'er regained her sense of self! A lot of his extra welfare had ceased to exist. Since he could only move his right hand, he was helpless against her.

After returning from the washroom, Huo Yuhao continued to drink. The waiter thought that they were going to stop, seeing that Gao Dalou had already passed out. However, Huo Yuhao was still drinking. He stopped drinking the cheap liquors and started to drink the high-end liquors. He only called the waiter in after he had finished all the hard liquor.

"Sir, what instructions do you have?" The waiter looked in Huo Yuhao's eyes and felt like he had seen a ten-thousand year soul beast. This young man was unbelievable!

Huo Yuhao leisurely said, “You’ve seen my tolerance level. All these liquors can’t satisfy me. Is there anything even stronger?”

“This...” The waiter suddenly thought of something, and his eyes brightened. He said, “We still have some distillate here. Do you want some?”

“Distillate? What’s that?” Huo Yuhao was completely clueless about liquors.

The waiter replied softly, “Hard liquors are distilled beverages. Apart from some special cases, most hard liquors are purified distillates that have been blended and mixed with different flavors. After that, they are sold to the general public. This is a secret. I’m only telling you because you have a lot of gold soul coins.”

Huo Yuhao wasn’t moved as he asked, “How strong is the distillate?”

The waiter chuckled and replied, “It’s twice as strong as the strongest liquor that you’ve drank so far.”

Huo Yuhao’s heart twitched a little, and thought to himself, Aren’t you telling me that the liquors here have been diluted with water and other stuff?

“Give me some to try first.”

“Alright, wait a minute. However, the price of the distillate...”

Huo Yuhao revealed a slightly furious expression, “Since when is money a problem? Tell your boss, as long as the stuff is good, I want it long-term. As long as you have it, I’ll take everything. In my manor, I have an underground wine cellar that’s ten thousand square meters!”

[Chapter 303.3: Liquor, Medium, Icebreaker](#)

“What?” A ten thousand square-meter wine cellar? It’s unheard of! How rich must he be? This is the break boss needs to get rich!

When the waiter returned, he brought along a shrewd-looking elder who seemed around sixty years old.

Distillate was almost pure alcohol. It could easily be used to light a fire. However, it was extremely good for Huo Yuhao, since it contained no impurities. He immediately made a high bid for all the distillate in the bar, and even pre-ordered another batch.

They left Gao Dalou in the bar. Huo Yuhao left him a note to set their next meeting. The bar would naturally take good care of him, since he was a friend of their newfound rich client.

Huo Yuhao had already controlled himself... he didn’t steal Gao Dalou’s carving knife.

Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong’er returned to the Ming Yue Hotel with more than a hundred kilos of distillate, but he didn’t drink it right away. After he returned, he immediately entered a cultivation state as he laid down flat. He activated all his soul power and cultivated the impurities and remaining alcohol within the liquor.

The Continental Elite Youth Soul Master Tournament had reached the round-robin stage, and the Tang Sect finally caught a breather after facing two consecutive tough opponents. They defeated the next four opponents they faced easily. With their immense abilities, they managed to make their way to the top of their group after winning six out of six matches. They had one foot in the quarterfinal.

Besides the Tang Sect, there was another team in their group that won all their matches... Shrek's team! In the first five matches of this round-robin stage, they had snatched easy victories. Under Wang Qiu'er's leadership, and with their extraordinary abilities, they managed to overcome the Clearjade Sect, too. It was also on that same day that the team and vice-team leaders, Cain and Xue Bing, were unfrozen.

However, the Tang Sect didn't know that Cain disappeared after the Clearjade Sect was eliminated from the tournament...

The Tang Sect didn't depart the venue after they easily won their sixth match. They sat in the VIP resting area, all of them with serious expressions on their faces.

The next match was the clash of the day. The most established two teams in the history of the tournament were about to fight against one another!

On one side was the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy, who had won four out of their first five matches under Xiao Hongchen and Meng Hongchen's leadership. On the other side was Shrek, led by Wang Qiu'er!

For both parties, this fight wasn't just about the qualifications for the next round. It was a life and death battle, a battle of glory!

The enmity between both academies was simply too deep. In this round-robin stage, the Sun Moon team had already lost to the Tang Sect. If they lost again, Shrek would advance with the Tang Sect into the quarterfinals. If they won, the Tang Sect and Shrek Academy would face off in the next match. The Tang Sect and the Sun Moon team would advance if the Tang Sect won. If the Tang Sect lost, all three teams would be tied on the number of wins, and points would be used to calculate which two teams would advance. While the Tang Sect had maintained a hundred percent record so far, their points weren't very high because they kept on preparing themselves for the team fights. The point difference between Shrek's team and the Sun Moon team was almost negligible, and the gap might be widened in this match.

The Sun Moon team had no other way out, they had to win this match. If they won, they could ensure their spot in the quarterfinals as long as they achieved a huge victory in the last match. The Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy wanted the Tang Sect and Shrek's team to fight one another for the other spot!

It was the same situation for Shrek Academy. As long as they defeated the Sun Moon team, they would definitely qualify with six victories in the bag. Whether they were going to be the winner or runners-up of their group would depend on their last match with the Tang Sect.

Wang Qiu'er slowly stood up. She didn't walk towards the waiting area. Instead, she turned around and looked at her teammates.

"Do all of you remember what I mentioned yesterday?" she asked.

"Yes!" All of Shrek's team members acknowledged her words. They sounded very excited, and the rest of the teams in the waiting area were drawn to them.

Not only were the spectators monitoring this match, even the rest of the teams were watching this match very closely! Shrek's reputation was too well-established. The reputations of both academies meant that this faceoff between both teams was bound to be an extremely intense one!

Dai Huabin was closest to Wang Qiu'er. Right now, his eyes were burning as he looked at her. It was as if she were his idol, his enthusiasm was bordering on fanaticism!

It wasn't just him. Everyone from Shrek recalled what Wang Qiu'er had said yesterday.

.....

"Tomorrow, we are going to face the Sun Moon team. Do all of you know why the Tang Sect gave up against them in the earlier round, but fought them in the first match of the round-robin stage? Let me tell you! It's because the Tang Sect was afraid that we would lose. They did their best to weaken the Sun Moon team and give us a greater chance.

"Tell me, do we need them to create this fighting chance for us?"

"We came here for Shrek's glory! If not for the fact that Shrek's Seven Monsters are representing the Tang Sect, we would only be substitutes! During the last tournament, I wasn't even at Shrek Academy yet! But I heard of their performance. They were only substitutes then! What happened? They brought back the title. Let me ask all of you... do all of you have the heart of a champion?"

"We are members of Shrek, the glory of Shrek, and the radiance of Shrek. Our advancement will not arise because of anyone's help, but our own abilities. Tomorrow, I'll tear the skin off whoever dares to look down on us! Do all of you understand? We are not only going to show the Sun Moon team why we are strong; we are also going to show the Tang Sect that they can't underestimate us! Let's show them that we are champion material! We'll win tomorrow's fight! Shrek...will...win!"

.....

Wang Qiu'er's wild words were still ringing in the ears of every member of Shrek's team. Her voice, which inspired their passion and excitement, raised their fighting spirits to unprecedented levels. So what if it was the Sun Moon Soul Engineering Academy? So what if it was the Tang Sect? They were representing Shrek Academy – a team that had never lost this tournament before! They were fighting for Shrek's glory! Right now, they could finally chant this slogan in front of everyone!

Every time they thought of this, their auras would turn ferocious, and their fighting spirits were fired to the limit!

Wang Qiu'er saw the fire in everyone's eyes and nodded. She said evenly, "Follow me." After she finished speaking, she turned around and faced the stage. As she turned, her gaze met Huo Yuhao's. As

their gazes met, Huo Yuhao saw the look of perseverance in her eyes as she led Shrek's team towards the stage.

What left everyone from the Tang Sect shocked was that Shrek's team didn't send out their standard seven members to compete. They switched their personnel in such a crucial match.

Wang Qiu'er was in front, while Dai Huabin, Zhu Lu, Ning Tian, and Cao Jinxuan followed behind. The last two weren't Xie Huanyue and Wu Feng. They were Lan Susu and Lan Luoluo!

In terms of individual abilities, Lan Susu and Lan Luoluo were only some of the best in the outer courtyard of the academy! They only had four rings, and were only Soul Ancestors, they hadn't made it into the inner courtyard yet. But Wang Qiu'er had chosen the two of them to compete in such an important match, and left out Wu Feng and Xie Huanyue, who were both in the inner courtyard.

Huo Yuhao was more shocked that Wu Feng didn't pose any objections, even though she was such a proud character. He couldn't see any dissatisfaction from her.

Impressive, Wang Qiu'er!, Huo Yuhao complimented her in his heart. He had to admit that Wang Qiu'er's leadership skills were very strong, she was able to easily handle her bunch of tough and arrogant characters. He couldn't claim that he was at her level.

On the other side, everyone from the Sun Moon team also entered the waiting area. Xiao Hongchen and Meng Hongchen looked very serious. To the two of them, this was also a life and death battle. Their clash against the Tang Sect had left them depleted, and they now had no choice but to use their substitutes. Even though Xiao Hongchen and Meng Hongchen were very strong, the overall ability of the Sun Moon team had dropped.

Very soon, both parties entered their respective waiting areas. The entire place also went silent. Xu Tianran had already arrived on the main stage. He was very excited for today's fight, too. Yesterday, he had personally gone to visit the Sun Moon team, and promised them heavy rewards if they won this match. If they could win this match, Xu Tianran promised them the title. In the quarterfinals, they wouldn't have to face the Tang Sect. That was because the Tang Sect could only face them in the final, and the Tang Sect's next opponents included the Holy Ghost Sect!

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Xu Tianran was indeed the one who had planned the Holy Ghost Sect's participation in this tournament. However, the Holy Ghost Sect was a sect of evil soul masters, formed by disciples of the Holy Ghost Church. It wouldn't be a good thing if they were allowed to win the tournament, the people would be extremely unhappy. The reason why the Holy Ghost Sect was competing in this tournament was because they were here to deal with the Tang Sect, Shrek Academy, and even the Body Sect, who had yet to reveal themselves.

Their main mission was to remove all obstacles for the Sun Moon team. Xu Tianran had personally explained this plan to Xiao Hongchen and Meng Hongchen. If they met the Holy Ghost Sect in the finals, they would be the champions.

Since his words were so obvious, it was very easy to tell what he was suggesting to the both of them.

Both Hongchen siblings knew what Xu Tianran expected. Today's match was more important to them than the last tournament. After all, last time, they weren't the core of the Sun Moon team then, even though they had lost to Shrek's team in the finals. They weren't commanding their team, either! However, it was different this time. They were representing the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy, the Illustrious Virtue Hall, their grandfather and the entire empire. They couldn't afford to lose today's match!

Xiao Hongchen sat down in the waiting area. Even though he knew that the current Shrek's team didn't consist of the best talents from Shrek Academy, he was still very nervous. Their performances had been only so-so, and they didn't really impress anyone that much. The only person worth taking notice of was their team leader. However, there weren't any Soul Emperors apart from her. Compared to the Tang Sect, their abilities weren't that impressive.

However, Xiao Hongchen's heart felt very heavy today for some reason. It was like how he felt when they faced the Tang Sect. Don't tell me this team is able to threaten us? If we can't even beat a second-rate team, then...

As he thought until here, Xiao Hongchen couldn't help but clench his fist. His fighting spirit soared.

"Elder brother, calm down," Meng Hongchen said to him.

"Okay." Xiao Hongchen took a look at his younger sister. This time, Wang Dong wasn't their competitor anymore. Meng Hongchen was indeed very normal.

"Younger sister, let's do our best today. We must win today."

Meng Hongchen smiled. She was much more confident than Xiao Hongchen, "Elder brother, this is only Shrek's second-string team. Don't worry, we'll win for sure!"

The resting area...

Ever since Wang Qiu'er had left, Huo Yuhao had started to ponder a lot. He suddenly raised his head and said, "I understand now."

Wang Dong'er was puzzled as she looked at him and asked, "What do you understand?"

Huo Yuhao said, "I know why Qiu'er came up with this lineup. Brilliant! The Sun Moon team is definitely in trouble today."

Wang Dong'er gently strangled him and said, "Can you not be so mysterious?"

Huo Yuhao chuckled and replied, "If you let me kiss you, I'll reveal everything."

Wang Dong'er rolled her eyes. "It's fine if you don't want to tell me, but be careful tonight..."

Huo Yuhao snapped, "What are you going to do tonight? You are not even accompanying me to sleep now. Don't tell me you are going to chase a cripple off the bed? Hmph!"

Wang Dong'er came up with a scheme, and revealed a captivating smile on her face. "If you can guess what I'm going to do, I'll sleep with you tonight."

“Really?” Huo Yuhao was delighted.

“Of course not. Even if you don’t tell me, I can watch and find out.” Wang Dong’er’s attitude suddenly changed completely, and Huo Yuhao didn’t know whether to laugh or cry. She was becoming more and more like a little witch. I regret this! Why did I let her regain her conscience? However, I kind of enjoy this feeling...

“Let’s see. Wang Qiu’er will be the first in the individual elimination round,” Huo Yuhao said so softly that only Wang Dong’er and the rest of the people from the Tang Sect could hear him.

Wang Qiu’er will be the first to fight? Everyone was confused. It didn’t make sense! With Wang Qiu’er’s status as the team leader, she should be the one holding the fort.

Just as they were full of doubts, Wang Qiu’er had already leapt up onto the stage and walked towards the center.

On the other side, a tall and large youth from the Sun Moon team also jumped up onto the stage. He hadn’t appeared when they had fought Tang Sect. Evidently, he was one of the substitutes.

“It’s indeed Wang Qiu’er. Yuhao, you are brilliant!” Xiao Xiao couldn’t help but exclaim.

Xu Tianran had an epiphany, “I understand too. In fact, Qiu’er should be the first to fight.”

It wasn’t just him who had realized what was going on. He Caitou’s eyes also had a look of revelation as he smiled. It was just that he didn’t utter a sound at all.

He Caitou and Huo Yuhao were already among the top six in the underground tournament. In the next round, the top three would be decided. It was tonight. If they made the top three, they could represent the Duskwater Alliance in the finals of the tournament between the three different organizations.

They had earned quite a lot of money in the first few rounds of the tournament. It was a pity, however, that they had only obtained some rare metals. While they had several million gold soul coins, they were useless if they couldn’t be used to purchase rare metals.

Number 96 and 98 were also in the top six. Huo Yuhao or He Caitou would face at least one of them. Huo Yuhao had met Gao Dalou again, but he hadn’t revealed his true identity. He was making Gao Dalou wait patiently. Huo Yuhao would only bring him back after the tournament ended. He wouldn’t be afraid to reveal his true identity then.

“Shrek’s team versus the Sun Moon team. First fight of the individual elimination round. Both parties, please report your names.” The referee for today was still the Unbreakable Douluo. As he was very fair and left many competing teams satisfied, this Titled Douluo and Class 9 soul engineer personally refereed some of the more important fights.

Undoubtedly, there was no fight as important as the one between Shrek’s team and the Sun Moon team!

Zheng Zhan was also troubled as he looked at the members from both sides. He knew about the enmity between Shrek’s team and the Sun Moon team. This was a life and death battle! Neither party could afford to lose this match.

“Shrek, Wang Qiu’er.” Wang Qiu’er was still wearing a veil. Her powdery-blue hair flowed behind her back. Although her appearance couldn’t be seen, her large, beautiful eyes, as well as her captivating figure, still left a deep impression in everyone’s minds.

“Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy, Ye Canshang.” While he was very tall and large, he didn’t have much flesh on him. He gave everyone the impression that he was a bag of bones. There was even a weird sense of eeriness about him.

“Both parties, please step back and prepare for the match.” Zheng Zhan instructed. He even skipped the part where he was supposed to ask both parties not to hurt the other party. He knew it was futile.

Wang Qiu’er turned around and walked to her position, and Ye Canshang did the same.

Wang Qiu’er stood at her position and watched her opponent. She squinted, and revealed a dim, mysterious light in her eyes.

Ye Canshang was also staring at her. However, he was smirking. His mouth suddenly enlarged, and he grinned so widely that his lips almost reached his ears. He revealed white teeth and blood-red gums. It was an awful scene.

If it was any ordinary lady, she would have screamed in fear. However, Wang Qiu’er looked very calm.

Zheng Zhan lifted his right hand up high and looked at both parties before shouting, “Match, start!”

Wang Qiu’er immediately moved when Zheng Zhan announced the start of the fight. Everyone heard a muffled sound coming from the stage.

The soundproofing barriers around the stage were unidirectional. The noises from outside couldn’t be heard inside, but the noises from the inside could be heard on the outside.

Wang Qiu’er burst forward like a golden cannon shell as the muffled sound reverberated out.

Wang Qiu’er was very ferocious in the earlier rounds, but she hadn’t gone too overboard. However, she revealed a different aura today.

Ye Canshang didn’t delay either. Two yellow and three purple soul rings rose from his feet. Following this, a black light flashed on his body. A black figure separated from his body and appeared in front of him. However, his soul rings were still on his body.

It was a black skeleton with an eerie aura. It had the same figure as Ye Canshang.

As Ye Canshang’s first soul ring shone, the skeleton doubled in size. Its bones also became thicker.

This was Ye Canshang’s martial soul, Skeleton. It was a skeleton that used his body as a blueprint. It was a very special existence. As a soul engineer, he didn’t need to lift any heavy weapons, he could just rely on his Skeleton! That was why he could handle a much heavier weight in a fight, at least a few times greater than a normal soul engineer. This wasn’t considered very useful for a soul master, but it was very practical for a soul engineer.

However, his opponent today was Wang Qiu’er!

After Ye Canshang unleashed his first soul skill, Skeleton Expansion, Wang Qiu'er had already arrived in front of him.

With the terrifying strength that Wang Qiu'er possessed, she could easily slide one hundred meters through the air.

A huge golden fist hurtled toward Ye Canshang's head.

A dangerous gust of wind swept towards his face!

Ye Canshang only felt an uncomfortable feeling in his chest before golden lights shone brightly in front of him.

What's this rhythm? It's too quick. Isn't she supposed to be an assault-type soul master? Why is she faster than an agility-type soul master?

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Ye Canshang subconsciously ordered his Skeleton to block his body.

A pair of thick skeletal palms clawed towards Wang Qiu'er's fist.

Dodge? Was that even Wang Qiu'er's style? Dream on!

Boom! Her fist crashed against the skeletal claws. The Skeleton wanted to shut its claws, but it couldn't do so. Cracks started to appear on its hands, and extended from the finger joints down towards the wrist.

Wang Qiu'er made a half turn in the air, and her right leg chopped down like a whip.

"She can't be so quick!" Ye Canshang almost spat out blood. His Skeleton wasn't something that he summoned, but his martial soul! Since his martial soul was injured, he also suffered from the backlash.

He didn't even manage to retrieve a soul cannon before Wang Qiu'er's leg came crashing down.

This time, Ye Canshang learned from his earlier mistake, and quickly retracted his martial soul. The broken right hand of his Skeleton disappeared.

Wang Qiu'er's leg struck nothing, but it generated a gust of wind. This gust of wind seemed like a raging tornado in a mountain valley on a chilly winter night.

Ye Canshang's shirt was drenched with cold sweat in just a short span of time.

Even as her leg struck nothing, Wang Qiu'er didn't retract her power. She directly struck the ground, and used the momentum to bounce back up. She aimed her left knee toward Ye Canshang's chest.

Ye Canshang was so depressed right now that he wanted to die. He was a soul engineer. It was a bad thing to be so close to a soul master! Moreover, his opponent was Wang Qiu'er! He wanted to scream and beg her to give him a chance!

Would she do so?

Yes... but in his next life.

A layer of golden light rose from his body as he used his Invincible Barrier to protect himself.

Bang! The golden light from the Invincible Barrier undulated slightly, and Ye Canshang was scared pale. Was she really going to destroy his Invincible Barrier, too?

Beneath the stage, Xiao Hongchen was already so furious that he had stood up. He could tell that Ye Canshang had been completely suppressed, including his fighting spirit. He no longer had any chance of victory.

Ye Canshang was still struggling to stay in the fight, however. He quickly unleashed his Skeleton again. Although it was without one hand, it was still equipped with its soul tools.

As he released his martial soul, and it prepared its soul tools in turn, Wang Qiu'er was attacking the Invincible Barrier like she was pounding a sandbag.

The Invincible Barrier wasn't completely invincible, as it depleted his soul power. It was very useful if he wanted to save his own life, but it wasn't as good as a protective barrier for defensive purposes. It definitely wasn't the best choice for him to use it immediately the moment he fought Wang Qiu'er.

He unleashed his first soul cannon. Ye Canshang chose the most explosive, high-powered cannon shell. He only had one goal, to force Wang Qiu'er away so that he could have some space to demonstrate his abilities! He was on the brink of tears as he felt his soul power depleting. However, what could he do? He could only try his best to deplete her soul power as well.

Boom!

A ball of intense golden light was emitted from Wang Qiu'er's body. After that, the high-powered cannon shell blew apart.

She blew apart the cannon shell with her fist.

It exploded very close to her, and she was indeed forced back. However, the explosive force also affected the Invincible Barrier!

Ye Canshang felt his soul power dropping again. After that, he saw Wang Qiu'er returning. Furthermore, the effect of his Invincible Barrier was about to end.

This time, he saw another streak of golden light in Wang Qiu'er's hand. Following this, the streak of golden light pierced through the Invincible Barrier.

The golden light caused the barrier to be destroyed, and Ye Canshang felt his soul power expended completely.

Zheng Zhan was monitoring their fight. Just as the Invincible Barrier was destroyed, he was already in front of the two of them.

From the bottom of his heart, he greatly admired Wang Qiu'er's violent fighting style. Brilliant! She completely disoriented her opponent the moment she struck. It was a pity that her opponent represented the Sun Moon Empire.

There was likely to be a team fight after this. As the referee, he had to do his best to prevent any bloodshed.

He struck his palm against the golden light, but he didn't use too much force. After all, he was a Titled Douluo, and couldn't overly affect the proceedings. If he depleted Wang Qiu'er's abilities too much, it would be very unfair to Shrek's team.

However, he quickly retracted his hand when his palm contacted the Golden Dragon Spear. He was horrified!

He felt the flesh on his palm dissolving when he touched the spear. Although he used his soul power to stop this feeling, he was still stunned.

His palm was still effective. After all, the spear was struck by the palm of a Titled Douluo. However, it still managed to pierce through Ye Canshang's shoulder.

When Ye Canshang saw Zheng Zhan, he felt very relieved. Referee, you came at the right time!

However, his entire body stiffened when the spear stabbed through his shoulder. His soul power was completely depleted after he had suffered Wang Qiu'er's series of attacks. He didn't have any excess soul power to resist the power of the Golden Dragon Spear.

By the time Zheng Zhan reacted and pulled Ye Canshang away, his entire chest cavity had already caved in. There wasn't a drop of blood on the spear, but golden lights kept on surging towards Wang Qiu'er.

Devouring! The Life Devouring of the Golden Dragon Spear.

The life power that she drained replenished her body. Although it didn't really help to restore her soul power, it was very effective at restoring her energy. Throughout the entire fight, Wang Qiu'er had relied on her Ultimate Strength!

"You..." Zheng Zhan glared furiously at Wang Qiu'er. However, Wang Qiu'er didn't even look at him. She turned around and walked towards the center of the stage.

Everyone from the Sun Moon team stood up.

Someone had just died again. Ye Canshang's abilities weren't ordinary! However, he was only able to release a single high-power cannon shell.

Meng Hongchen jumped onto the stage. They couldn't be depleted any further. Otherwise, they were going to be like the Tang Sect, with insufficient members to compete. If that happened, how were they going to fight in the team round?

Meng Hongchen was about to become the second competing member of the Sun Moon team.

The Hongchen Siblings had already planned it out. Ye Canshang would be the first to compete, and he would test their opponent's abilities. If the opponent was too strong, Meng Hongchen would be the next to fight. They couldn't allow their opponents to deplete them any further.

Meng Hongchen turned tense as she looked at Wang Qiu'er. It was evident that she had also been holding back in the earlier rounds. Otherwise, she couldn't possibly defeat an elite Class 5 soul engineer

of the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy in such a short span of time, even if she was a six-ringed Soul Emperor.

Wang Qiu'er's gaze was still as sharp as ever. It wasn't any different from before. Her face wasn't red, and she wasn't panting. It looked like she hadn't fought at all. She grabbed the center of her Golden Dragon Spear, the tip of it pointed diagonally towards the ground. She was so icy calm that she seemed like a statue.

This was the Golden Dragon Lady in her peak state! Her terrifying explosiveness had once defeated Ji Juechen in one strike. How strong was she? Without having any understanding of her, it wasn't possible for Ye Canshang to resist her attacks. Even as Zheng Zhan intervened, he still died under the hands of the Golden Dragon Spear.

Huo Yuhao revealed an icy, divine light in his eyes. He folded his hands in front of his chest as he watched the fight. He knew that his guess was right.

The individual elimination round was a great opportunity for every member of the team to demonstrate his or her abilities. However, the individual elimination round couldn't decide the final outcome unless one team could defeat all seven members of the other team with at most two members. More often than not, the individual elimination round was used to deplete the opponents' abilities so as to gain an advantage in the team round.

When Huo Yuhao saw Wang Qiu'er picking Lan Susu and Lan Luoluo to enter the waiting area, he knew that Wang Qiu'er was completely aware that she couldn't defeat the entire Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy on her own. Their only chance was in the team round.

Huo Yuhao's guess was verified. Why did Wang Qiu'er go first? If she managed to beat three consecutive opponents, she had the right to ask for the team round to start and give up on the rest of the individual fights. With her dominant abilities, she could deplete her opponents' abilities yet conserve her own fighting strength. In this way, Shrek's team would have a greater chance of winning, since they had Dai Huabin and Zhu Lu, as well as the Lan sisters, who all possessed martial soul fusion skills.

This was undoubtedly the best strategy. Huo Yuhao couldn't think of a better strategy for Shrek's team. However, Wang Qiu'er had to take on a lot of pressure if they used such a strategy. Not only did she have to fight three people in one shot, but she still had to lead the entire team in the team round. From the start until the end, she would be under a lot of pressure. Could she handle it?

The Sun Moon team didn't repeat their mistakes against the Tang Sect. They sent Meng Hongchen in the second individual elimination round. This individual round might have a great impact on the entire tournament. Everyone from the Tang Sect sat up straight and silently waited for this fight to begin.

Not only did Wang Qiu'er have to defeat Meng Hongchen, but she had to defeat her completely. It wouldn't be easy.

"Match, start!"

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Zheng Zhan's expression was dismal as he announced the start of the second individual round. Even though he was a Titled Douluo, he couldn't stop a Soul Emperor from killing someone. This was a humiliation to him!

Meng Hongchen immediately moved after Zheng Zhan shouted. Learning from her previous lesson, she didn't immediately unleash her close-combat soul tool. Instead, she unleashed her martial soul.

A layer of peculiar-looking icy blue engulfed her entire body. Her two yellow, two purple, and two black soul rings suddenly lit up, revealing her cultivation as a Soul Emperor.

All the spectators cheered when they saw her six soul rings. Previously, Wang Qiu'er had shown how dominant she was. Her aura was so suppressive that the spectators couldn't catch their breath. Right now, Meng Hongchen showed that she wasn't inferior to Wang Qiu'er, and managed to release everyone from Wang Qiu'er's domination.

Meng Hongchen's first and second soul rings shone concurrently, and an icy blue ring suddenly spread from Meng Hongchen's feet. She had already made her mind up. Isn't your attack very strong? Alright, I shall use my defense to slowly wear you down. No matter what, you'll enter the domain of my Icevenom Ring. No matter how strong you are, you'll still be poisoned if you don't have the Ultimate Ice like Huo Yuhao. Even if I can't beat you in this round, you'll be unable to fight in the team round once my Vermillion Clear Ice toad's poison acts up in your body. When that happens, the Sun Moon team will win!

Meng Hongchen was very clear-headed. Against someone like Wang Qiu'er, who was very adept at close-combat, she was the best weapon against her.

However, Meng Hongchen and even Zheng Zhan were stunned when Wang Qiu'er didn't initiate an attack. As a close-combat soul master, she didn't intend to advance. She took a step with her left foot, and her upper body made a half turn. She lifted her Golden Dragon Spear to her shoulder with her right hand and stretched it out.

Meng Hongchen suddenly felt an indescribable and terrifying aura around her body. When she looked at Wang Qiu'er again, she saw Wang Qiu'er's eyes glowing strangely, and her entire person seemed to turn blurry. The two tips of her spear were emitting blinding golden lights. The golden lights even condensed to form sparks that appeared extremely threatening. Wang Qiu'er's entire body started to emit blinding golden lights.

A layer of golden scales spread from her spear and extended throughout her entire body. Very soon, the scales engulfed every part of her body except her face. Of her six soul rings, the first two were shining brightly.

Among all the spectators, only Huo Yuhao knew what they were. They were Wang Qiu'er's first soul skill, Golden Dragon Body, and her second soul skill, Dragon's Strength.

Not only this, but Huo Yuhao also knew that Wang Qiu'er had activated an innate ability of her Golden Dragon, the Golden Dragon's Pride. She had raised the terrifying strength of her Golden Dragon to its limit, and even activated her Golden Dragon's Perception. Huo Yuhao used his great spiritual power to sense everything that was going on, and discovered that there was a line connecting Wang Qiu'er and Meng Hongchen at this point.

Wang Qiu'er was like a volcano that was about to erupt right now. Her entire body was covered in intense, golden sparks. As the sparks grew more and more intense, her body was slowly being concealed by them. The golden sparks slowly consolidated to form the appearance of a huge golden dragon head. This golden dragon head let out terrifying roars.

This...

Even though the entire Sun Moon team knew that Shrek's team leader was extremely strong, they hadn't expected her to be THIS strong. Wang Qiu'er's abilities were beyond what Meng Hongchen had imagined. She only felt that she had trouble breathing now, as if her entire body was being restrained by a tough yet invisible string. The terrifying feeling made her extremely breathless. It was like Wang Qiu'er's spear was going to penetrate through her body in the next moment.

She didn't hesitate any further. She quickly ended her first two soul skills, and an icy-blue suit of armor quickly covered her body. Her entire body was under the protection of this armor. This time, it wasn't a weapon that appeared in her hands, it was an icy-blue shield.

It was at least a Class 6 or greater soul tool. Meng Hongchen felt slightly better for a moment, but she was horrified to discover that the golden dragon head formed by the sparks on Wang Qiu'er's body was about to change into a true Golden Dragon.

She had been given too much time to accumulate her power.

Meng Hongchen made the wrong call because of what had happened in the last round. She knew why she had made a mistake. This Wang Qiu'er was simply too cunning. She isn't just strong; she even knew what I was thinking.

Meng Hongchen clenched her teeth, as she knew that Wang Qiu'er had almost finished accumulating her power. Once she erupted, it was bound to be a lethal attack.

Even Zheng Zhan was starting to get nervous. He wondered what effect Wang Qiu'er's attack would bring about. The strength unleashed by the Golden Dragon Spear frightened him. Was it the kind of power that a Soul Emperor could unleash? Her spear wasn't any form of soul tool, but its strength wasn't lower than a Class 8 soul tool. No wonder Shrek Academy was the top academy in the world!

"Hoo...!" A low-pitched dragon roar sounded out, and the huge dragon head finally rose. The dazzling golden light formed its body, and its terrifying aura made everyone shudder.

Meng Hongchen took in a deep breath, and layer upon layer of icy-blue light started to rise from her body. However, they looked very insignificant compared to the glorious and terrifying gold from Wang Qiu'er.

This was Wang Qiu'er's true ability! Wang Dong'er twisted her head to look at Huo Yuhao. She discovered that Huo Yuhao was watching very intently, but he wasn't worried at all. He was only relieved.

"Hmph! Are you happy to see Qiu'er so strong?" Wang Dong'er asked softly.

“Yes!” Huo Yuhao subconsciously answered. However, he soon realized something wasn’t right, and quickly added, “I’m happy for Shrek that Qiu’er is so strong. It seems like they really have a chance today. I only hope that the referee will let them clash this one time. Qiu’er’s accumulation is simply too scary.”

A streak of golden light shot out just when the dragon roar was at its most resounding state. The huge Golden Dragon that had already risen into the air chased after the streak of golden light, and a terrifying golden glow instantly illuminated the entire stage. There was only one target.

“I concede defeat!” An unexpected scene occurred. Meng Hongchen grabbed her head with both her hands and quickly squatted down. At the same time, she activated her Invincible Barrier. As she screamed at the top of her voice, it was loud enough that she could break all the windows of a house if she were close enough.

Zheng Zhan was extremely tense. After hearing her scream, he acted immediately. A white barrier rose up and tried to stop the Golden Dragon Spear.

However, the streak of golden light was too strong, and instantly pierced through the barrier. Its speed didn’t decrease, and it continued to shoot forward.

The Golden Dragon that followed behind even tore the barrier to pieces.

However, Zheng Zhan stood in front of Meng Hongchen as it did. He formed a ring with both his hands in front of his chest, and a white shield appeared in the space before him.

When the streak of golden light was less than three feet from this shield, a hissing sound suddenly echoed through the air. Huge patches of distorted light started to spread with the shield as the center.

When the Golden Dragon sensed this, a terrifying roar sounded again. The entire stage became a frightening world where white and gold intersected.

Jing Hongchen couldn’t remain seated anymore. He stood up suddenly and watched the fight anxiously. His expression changed.

How’s this possible? How can Shrek Academy have such a strong competing member? He didn’t know how strong Wang Qiu’er’s Golden Dragon Spear was. However, he was very familiar with Zheng Zhan! The first barrier that Zheng Zhan enacted was a Class 7 defensive-type soul tool. It was strong and extremely resilient. It was a type of barrier that only Zheng Zhan possessed, that could resist any weapons that were flung at it.

However, that Class 7 soul tool could only briefly stop Wang Qiu’er’s attack before it was crushed. Right now, Zheng Zhan was using an extremely strong soul tool that he had relied on to become famous, the Divine Unbreakable Shield. It was a Class 9 soul tool! But from the looks of it, it didn’t seem like the shield had gained the upper hand. In terms of quality, it didn’t seem to be better than Wang Qiu’er’s streak of golden light, and the Golden Dragon that accompanied it.

Meng Hongchen's face was very pale right now. She knew that if she hadn't chosen to concede defeat, she would have faced this horrifying strike! Not only would she have been killed, she would have been obliterated!

The clash between gold and white lasted for a few moments before things died down. The streak of golden light also slowly revealed its original form... Wang Qiu'er's Golden Dragon Spear!

Wang Qiu'er was still standing where she was, and as the light faded her figure was slowly revealed. As she moved her right hand, the spear turned into a streak of flowing light and returned to her palm. Her golden scales also faded away.

Zheng Zhan heaved a sigh of relief and lowered his head to look at the Divine Unbreakable Shield. He was horrified to find a slight indentation in the center of the shield!

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He knew that he had resisted this attack not because of the defensive strength of his Unbreakable Shield, but because of the gap in their cultivations. It also meant the spear was even superior to his shield! It was a weapon that was even stronger than a Class 9 soul tool?!

"Shrek wins the second individual elimination round!" Zheng Zhan announced the result without any hesitation.

In the waiting area, the other six from Shrek Academy were all standing up. They were extremely excited. Wang Qiu'er had crushed her opponents in two consecutive fights. In the second fight, Meng Hongchen didn't even manage to attack before she conceded defeat. It was a great morale booster for all of them!

However, Huo Yuhao furrowed his brow and gently shook his head.

"What's wrong?" Wang Dong'er asked.

Huo Yuhao said, "How depleted do you think Wang Qiu'er is?"

Wang Dong'er was intelligent, and immediately guessed what he was thinking. "She shouldn't have used too much in the first fight. Her first opponent was far weaker than her. However, it's different for Meng Hongchen. Her Vermilion Clear Ice toad was very difficult to deal with. Qiu'er was obviously targeting her strategy. She only had one goal, to kill her even if the depletion of her soul power was great. However, Meng Hongchen was too cunning, and backed out at the last minute."

Huo Yuhao nodded and said, "She's indeed cunning. She only conceded defeat after Qiu'er attacked. She couldn't stop after she unleashed her attack, and it was more like a duel between her and the Titled Douluo referee. While Meng Hongchen lost this fight, she wasn't depleted or hurt at all. This isn't a good thing for Shrek later. I just wonder how depleted Qiu'er is. From the strike just now, I believe at least forty percent of her soul power has been depleted."

The accurate number was actually fifty percent.

Wang Qiu'er stood quietly on the stage, a look of regret in her eyes. She had been confident in her attack, but she was duped by her opponent. Although she won, she knew that she had lost to her opponent in terms of tactics. Along with the earlier fight, around sixty percent of her energy had been

expended. Even though soul power wasn't everything for her, who had the Ultimate Strength, the team round would still be affected if she over-exerted herself.

The Golden Dragon Spear was stabbed into the ground in front of her. Two Milk Bottles appeared in her hands. Rings and rings of soul power were undulating around her hands.

Using two Milk Bottles to restore her soul power?

Those who noticed this scene were astonished by her. No one dared to use two Milk Bottles of the same class at once.

She needed to guide the soul power in the Milk Bottles into her body continuously before it could fuse with her soul power. If she sucked in soul power from two sides at the same time, how should she guide it? Even a Titled Douluo wouldn't do something as crazy as that!

However, Wang Qiu'er did. She was able to do so because of her extremely strong body.

On the Sun Moon team's side, Meng Hongchen left the stage and instructed the next competing member with a few words. After that, she discussed things with Xiao Hongchen and the other members, and gave something to this member before he got on stage.

"Both parties, please step forward and report your names." Zheng Zhan was already in the center of the stage. The heartbroken look on his face hadn't faded away yet. The cost of purchasing rare metals to repair the Unbreakable Shield would be an astronomical figure! How could he not be depressed? It was the main Class 9 soul tool that he used!

"Shrek, Wang Qiu'er!" These three words were destined to be greatly imprinted in everyone's mind today.

"Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy, Ding Xiaobu." This young man from the Sun Moon team was quite short. He was a head shorter than Wang Qiu'er, and was extremely skinny. He was like a skinny monkey.

"Both parties, please step back and get ready to start."

Wang Qiu'er was squeezing the two Milk Bottles with both her hands. She wasn't walking very quickly, but slowly taking her time. Her soul power was slowly being restored through the Milk Bottles.

Zheng Zhan's lips twisted a little. She was stalling for time! However, he didn't rush her. He had personally blocked her strike earlier on, which was in fact unfair to her. Meng Hongchen had made a tactical surrender. Under normal circumstances, she should have at least used her Invincible Barrier to protect herself, which would deplete some of her soul power too. However, this was the Sun Moon Empire!

Zheng Zhan had earned his reputation based on his fairness, so now he felt a little guilty. That was why he didn't hurry Wang Qiu'er.

Ding Xiaobu wasn't rushed at all. As he slowly walked back, he seemed to be arranging things on his body. As long as he didn't retrieve any soul tools, no one could stop him from meddling with his own clothing.

Wang Qiu'er took almost a minute to get to her position. She stood straight, turned around and put her Milk Bottles away. Her gaze also started to become more focused. At least on the surface, no one could tell that she was depleted earlier.

"Begin!"

Ding Xiaobu moved. After Zheng Zhan announced the start of the fight, he quickly leapt to one side. He was very deft. Behind him, at least fifteen streaks of lights flashed. All of them were soul thrusters that had been meticulously placed on his body.

An agility-type, close-combat soul engineer?

Wang Qiu'er also moved. This time, she didn't unleash all her strength. She pulled the Golden Dragon Spear out of the ground and chased after Ding Xiaobu. She was very quick.

Ding Xiaobu wasn't willing to clash with her, however, and started to run in circles. He used the soul thrusters behind him to adjust his speed – sometimes he was quick, sometimes he was slow. He was very agile throughout, and started to play a catching game with Wang Qiu'er.

Wang Qiu'er's gaze turned sharper and sharper. She knew that this was a strategy specifically being employed against her. It was obvious that her opponent had seen through her intentions. In addition, she was the strongest member of Shrek's team. Her opponent was trying his best to deplete her soul power. It was likely that Xiao Hongchen would be the next from the Sun Moon team to compete.

Trying to exhaust me? Wang Qiu'er snorted, and suddenly burst forward as she tipped her toes on the ground. She leapt up instantly, and used her Golden Dragon's Perception to predict Ding Xiaobu's movements. She also quickly got into position, and her spear turned into a dazzling golden light that stabbed straight towards Ding Xiaobu's chest. That instant interception, quickness, accuracy and burst of strength was extremely stifling.

Even though Ding Xiaobu was prepared, his expression changed as he saw the spear heading straight towards his chest.

One layer, two layers. Two layers of golden light were released from Ding Xiaobu's body at the same time.

The spear stabbed him. However, it only raked across his Invincible Barriers. Ding Xiaobu's Invincible Barriers retracted, and the spear wasn't able to penetrate through two closely-linked Invincible Barriers immediately. Ding Xiaobu exploited the momentum of the spear to jump back. He made a half turn in the air, and his soul thruster propelled him away from Wang Qiu'er again.

Idiot! Wang Qiu'er realized what the Sun Moon team had given Ding Xiaobu. They had given him their Invincible Barriers!

However, was it possible to use two at the same time? This was evidently a special method invented by the Illustrious Virtue Hall.

Everyone knew how expensive Invincible Barriers were. They gave those who had them a second life! However, even the best Invincible Barriers could only last slightly above ten seconds before they broke down.

Ding Xiaobu used two at the same time, which was equivalent to spending a large sum of gold soul coins! The Sun Moon team was using money to crush Wang Qiu'er and deplete her abilities.

Wang Qiu'er stopped chasing after him. She knew that she couldn't overcome his defenses before his Invincible Barriers lost their effect unless she used the Throw of Heaven and Earth like she did earlier.

She didn't chase him, but Ding Xiaobu came in to provoke her. He lifted a black cannon to his shoulder before firing a black shell at Wang Qiu'er. The shell blew apart in the air and turned into a huge black web that seemed to be covered in grease.

Speed, harassment, and Invincible Barriers! These were the three things the Sun Moon team thought of to deal with Wang Qiu'er. What they wanted to do in this fight was to deplete her as much as possible.

Wang Qiu'er could concede defeat. She had already won two fights. It would be fine for her to concede defeat to conserve her abilities. However, she needed to beat one more person before she could request to end the individual elimination round and start the team round.

If Wang Qiu'er conceded defeat, Ding Xiaobu would continue to remain onstage. Whatever happened next was likely to disrupt her plan.

More importantly, what kind of person was Wang Qiu'er? For a character as proud as her, how could she allow herself to be led around by the nose by her opponent? The sharp gaze in her eyes flashed repeatedly before she raised her spear.

A red glow shone from her eyes. Following this, the soul power that she unleashed was covered by an additional layer of red light.

Ding Xiaobu only felt that his opponent had turned into a prehistoric, ferocious beast. He became slightly tense. As he looked at Wang Qiu'er again, he saw that her eyes had turned completely blood-red.

Her original powdery-blue eyes now spread fear. Wang Qiu'er swung the spear in her hands, and two streaks of golden-red light flashed out. The black web coming towards her was destroyed.

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In the next instant, Ding Xiaobu activated two more Invincible Barriers. However, he felt like he was flying within the barriers.

His Invincible Barriers could only keep him from harm, but they couldn't stabilize him. Under the repeated attacks of the Golden Dragon Spear, he started flying around within his Invincible Barriers.

"I want to see how many Invincible Barriers you've got," Wang Qiu'er said coldly. As her sixth soul ring lit up, her eyes turned bloodthirsty and flashed with red light.

Ding Xiaobu started to scream. "I, I concede defeat!"

The red lights retracted, and Wang Qiu'er stood up straight as she held her spear. There was a mighty aura around her, and she appeared extremely valiant and heroic!

Ding Xiaobu crashed onto the ground and started to pant heavily. As he glanced at Wang Qiu'er again, his face was filled with fear.

He was really scared. Wang Qiu'er had only used her first and second soul skills earlier to defeat Ye Canshang. She had also forced Meng Hongchen to concede defeat without even using a single soul skill. However, she had used her sixth soul skill on him!

At that moment, he felt that he was going to sustain the entire impact of Wang Qiu'er relentless attacks even though he was protected by the Invincible Barriers. As for the referee, Ye Canshang's death had left him without any confidence.

Everyone only had one chance to live. No one was completely unafraid of death, and so Ding Xiaobu had surrendered. Even though he still had five Invincible Barriers he could use, and he had more than eighty percent of his soul power remaining, he was eager to concede defeat.

Wang Qiu'er looked at him coldly and said, "I hope you'll be so lucky in the team round later."

As she spoke, her Golden Dragon Spear had already turned into a streak of golden light and disappeared. She took out two Milk Bottles again before she turned around and walked back towards Zheng Zhan.

"Referee, we are going to give up on the next few individual elimination rounds. Let's go straight to the team round." After she finished informing him, she walked straight down from the stage.

One against three! Meng Hongchen was even among those three! From the looks of it, Wang Qiu'er was invincible. In the eyes of the spectators, Wang Qiu'er didn't meet any resistance at all, and beat Ye Canshang, Meng Hongchen and Ding Xiaobu. Among the three, one died, and the other two conceded defeat.

When Wang Qiu'er stepped down from the stage, all the spectators were boiling. However, they weren't cursing Shrek, but blaming the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy.

They had lost too badly.

When Ding Xiaobu walked down from the stage, he was given a tight slap.

Xiao Hongchen knocked him to the ground. The look in his eyes made him seem like he wanted to kill someone. "Idiot! What were you doing? You had so many Invincible Barriers! Why did you concede defeat?"

Ding Xiaobu also acknowledged his cowardice and mumbled, "But, but she used her sixth soul skill. I was scared..."

Meng Hongchen said, "What are you scared of? So what if it's her sixth soul skill? She's only a Soul Emperor. Do you think that she can destroy two Invincible Barriers in one shot? Even an eight-ringed soul master can't do it in fifteen seconds. Don't you know that?"

After being slapped by Xiao Hongchen, Ding Xiaobu tolerated the pain and humiliation. However, he reacted when he saw how furious Meng Hongchen was. He glared at her and said, "What about you?"

Why didn't you try to resist Wang Qiu'er's attack when you faced her? Why did you choose to concede defeat?"

"Me? Was I in the same situation as you? Do you know how much soul power she unleashed?" Meng Hongchen got even angrier seeing that he was trying to include her in this.

Ding Xiaobu snorted. "Yes, her abilities will get even stronger if she manages to accumulate her power. However, who gave her the time to accumulate her power?" He wasn't feeling subservient, especially after his humiliating defeat.

A handsome-looking and refined young man separated Xiao Hongchen and Ding Xiaobu. "Alright, alright! We're all on the same team. The fights are over. We have to recover in the team round. Do you think we can win by quarreling? What we need now is to work together. We can't lose the team round." His gaze met Xiao Hongchen's before he nodded.

This young man was in the starting seven against the Tang Sect, but he hadn't managed to fight that day.

Once he appeared, Xiao Hongchen and Meng Hongchen's fury calmed down.

Xiao Hongchen patted Ding Xiaobu's shoulder and said, "I was reckless. Let bygones be bygones. However, Xiaobu, you should know what the result will be if we lose the next round. All of you should remember what the Prince Regent mentioned yesterday. There are still six of us left. We can die, but we can't lose this round."

"Yes." Ding Xiaobu wasn't very confident. When he saw Xiao Hongchen softening his stance, he immediately nodded like a donkey and stood to one side.

Xiao Hongchen turned to the young man and said, "It seems like we'll have to change our strategy for the team round. Lan Xiu, what's your suggestion?"

Lan Xiu gestured, and all six of them gathered together to discuss their strategy.

On the other side, Shrek had a few minutes to adjust their tactics before the team round started.

"Team leader, how are you?" Dai Huabin asked in concern.

"I'm fine. Let's follow the plan." Wang Qiu'er said.

Zhu Lu, who was standing behind Dai Huabin, revealed a strange look in her eyes and lowered her head slightly. Her hands were tangled up in front of her body.

Huo Yuhao was monitoring them throughout. With his spiritual power, it was easy for him to hear what they were discussing. Dai Huabin still knows how to show concern even though he's such an arrogant character? Qiu'er's control over them is pretty strong. Or...

A strange thought appeared in Huo Yuhao's head.

After Wang Qiu'er finished speaking, she immediately sat down in the waiting area and shut her eyes. She tried her best to suck in the soul power in the Milk Bottles to restore her soul power. Only she knew

that she hadn't won the last three fights easily, even though they had appeared to be a breeze for her. The depletion of her soul power in the fight against Meng Hongchen was especially great.

However, she had had no choice. She had had to use the quickest method to defeat her opponents and reduce their numbers to increase their own morale. Although she had exerted herself quite heavily, she had managed to fulfill her plan.

She had used up more than sixty percent of her soul power earlier. If not for the fact that Ding Xiaobu was frightened, it might have been an even greater number.

She needed time to restore her soul power through the Milk Bottles. Although her speed of restoration greatly increased as she used two Milk Bottles at the same time, the burden on her also greatly increased. When Zheng Zhan's voice resonated from the stage, she had recovered only half of what she had expended.

She stood up again and opened her eyes. Her dominant aura surged out. At this instant, the aura that she revealed was even more dominant than before. It was so domineering that it almost tore the huge stage apart.

"Let's go," she said softly. Her toes pointed toward the ground, and she changed into a streak of golden light as she ascended to the stage. Behind her, the rest of the team followed her up to the stage.

On the other side, the six members from the Sun Moon team also went up on stage. Both parties faced each other as they proceeded towards the center of the stage.

Zheng Zhan was impressed as he looked at both parties. The youths today are indeed very strong!

"Both parties, please report your names."

"Shrek, Wang Qiu'er."

"Shrek, Dai Huabin."

"Shrek, Zhu Lu."

"Shrek, Ning Tian."

"Shrek, Cao Jinxuan."

"Shrek, Lan Susu."

"Shrek, Lan Luoluo."

Everyone from Shrek sounded very serious.

"Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy, Xiao Hongchen."

"Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy, Meng Hongchen."

"Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy, Lan Xiu."

"Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy, Qiu Yi."

“Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy, Ye Nongfeng.”

“Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy, Ding Xiaobu.”

After hearing them report their names, Wang Qiu'er's gaze turned towards Ding Xiaobu. She looked at him coldly. Ding Xiaobu shuddered a little as she watched him. Had Wang Qiu'er's pupils turned vertical?

Just as they were reporting their names, no one noticed that Huo Yuhao's body was already shaking slightly. Following this, a gust of clear wind blew past him. The light around him distorted slightly.

Even the rest of the members from the Tang Sect didn't sense anything.

“Both parties, retreat and prepare for the start of the fight.” Zheng Zhan didn't even instruct them before the fight began. Was there any point? They were arch-enemies, and were unlikely to heed his advice.

As both parties retreated, they were already fighting through their gazes. When their gazes met, it seemed as if there were countless projections of knives grating against one another, creating sparks.

Wang Qiu'er suddenly felt something. When she turned around to look at the Tang Sect in the waiting area, she saw Huo Yuhao.

Huo Yuhao was looking at her without any expression. There weren't any emotions on his face.

Wang Qiu'er was a little stunned. She squinted, then quickly recovered. She led her team members to their side of the stage.

As they turned around, Shrek's team went into their formation. Wang Qiu'er was standing in front of everyone, the core of the entire team. To her left was Dai Huabin, to her right was Lan Susu. Zhu Lu was behind Dai Huabin, while Lan Luoluo was behind Lan Susu. Directly behind Wang Qiu'er was Cao Jinxuan, followed by Ning Xuan. It was the same triangular formation, only with a change in personnel.

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Xiao Hongchen and Meng Hongchen weren't the two frontmost members of the Sun Moon team. Instead, up front was the tall and burly man called Qiu Yi. His complexion was very tan, and he was more than two meters tall. From the looks of it, he weighed at least a hundred and fifty kilos. His muscular arms were even thicker than Wang Qiu'er's waist. As he stood there, he looked like a human bear.

The Hongchen siblings were standing behind Qiu Yi. Behind the two of them were Lan Xiu and Ye Nongfeng. Ding Xiaobu was the furthest back. The Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy formed a very weird rhombus-shaped formation.

A triangular formation versus a rhombus formation. The auras of both teams were already in a state of mutual hostility even before they started fighting.

“Both parties, please get ready.” For some reason, Zheng Zhan started to feel very nervous. However, he was also very excited too. This fight had to be the pinnacle of clashes in the younger generation. As the referee, he was also eager to see who would win.

“Begin!”

As Zheng Zhan shouted, this battle of glory and qualification between the top soul master academy and soul engineering academy on the continent started!

Wang Qiu'er lifted her right hand and the Golden Dragon Spear appeared in her palm. After that, she leapt forward and pulled her right hand back. She seemed like she was going to fling her spear.

On the other side, Qiu Yi felt his goosebumps rising when Wang Qiu'er did this. He roared as he thought about how Wang Qiu'er was going to tear him apart. His hands clasped in front of him, and a huge circular shield appeared in his palm.

This circular shield was silvery-white. It had a protruding circle in the middle, and there were flowery patterns all over it. These patterns released gentle soul power undulations. In the center of the shield was a silvery-white gem as large as two fists clasped together.

As he unleashed this shield, a wave of silver light shone from the gem as Qiu Yi poured his soul power into it. This silver light engulfed the entire shield, and even all his teammates behind him.

After that, an icy-blue halo could be seen extending from Qiu Yi's feet. This halo started to spread until it covered the entire stage.

Wang Qiu'er wasn't just striking a pose. However, she didn't accumulate her power this time. In the next instant, her spear turned into a streak of golden light that shot straight towards Qiu Yi. A piercing sound reverberated throughout the entire stage.

She unleashed her weapon the moment the fight started. What strategy was that?

She followed her spear. Wang Qiu'er touched her toes to the ground and burst forward like a bolt of lightning. Intense golden soul power was released from her body. Her first and second soul rings lit up, and dragon scales covered her body.

Her teammates weren't slow, either. First, four streaks of lights landed on Wang Qiu'er's body simultaneously, which caused her to shine even brighter. Shrek's team had Ning Tian, who possessed the Seven Treasures Glazed Pagoda, the best auxiliary-type martial soul in the world!

She was controlling four enhancements at the same time, it was her limit. With her support, Wang Qiu'er's aura surged.

Dai Huabin, Zhu Lu, Lan Susu, and Lan Luoluo also burst forward at the same time. They divided themselves into two groups and lined up behind Wang Qiu'er. Ning Tian's right palm was extended to one side of her body. Her Seven Treasures Glazed Pagoda started to shine, and streaks of flowing light shot out of her hands. A bright silver shuttle around two meters long appeared in front of her. As she stepped onto it, she drifted up a few feet and followed the others.

Cao Jinxuan also unleashed his martial soul. The magical Time-Elapsing Clock shone brightly behind him. However, he didn't use any soul skills at this point. His gaze was focused on the entire stage.

As the golden light shot forward, Qiu Yi shouted and used his shield to block.

Dang!...

The golden light was deflected with a loud ringing sound, and returned instantly to Wang Qiu'er's hand. Qiu Yi took two steps back as the shield in his hand was struck by the spear, rippling with intense undulations of silver light.

While Qiu Yi was only a five-ringed Soul King and Class 5 soul engineer, and his shield was a Class 6 soul tool. Among Class 6 defensive-type soul tools, it was one of the best, and quite rare. It was a foot thick, and weighed more than five hundred kilos. Even so, it suffered under Wang Qiu'er's spear, showing how strong Wang Qiu'er was. It was very difficult to imagine that she possessed such great strength.

However, the Sun Moon team started to retaliate at this point.

The icy-blue halo spread further and further. It was the lethal poison of the Vermilion Clear Ictoad! Once this lethal poison spread, Shrek's fighting abilities were bound to be greatly depleted even if the fight couldn't be immediately ended. It was one of the most lethal weapons that the Sun Moon team could use.

Ictoad Venom and Ice Venom Ring. The two teams had already covered more than half the distance between them as Meng Hongchen deployed her soul skills to their fullest. Wang Qiu'er was the first to charge into the world of poison.

Not only that, but nine balls of silver light also rose behind Qiu Yi's back. These nine balls of light drifted up into the air and formed an arc. Following this, nine streaks of silver light shot out at the same time. They wove a web of light in the air, blocking Wang Qiu'er's path.

The Golden Dragon Spear swept out and clashed against the silver web. However, something strange occurred. Wang Qiu'er's strength lost its effect for the first time. She was struck back by a strong rebound force.

Behind the Hongchen siblings, Lan Xiu's eyes shone with silver light, and her hands were moving rhythmically. The nine balls of silver light revealed they were nine silvery metal balls, each of them as large as a human's head.

Lan Xiu was the Sun Moon team's main control-type soul master. This was also why Xiao Hongchen was very respectful towards him. A control-type soul engineer was very rare among soul engineers, but Lan Xiu chose this weird cultivation method for himself.

These nine balls of silver light were called the Nine Glories. Before he started learning soul tools, he was already using the Nine Glories. Initially, they were created for him by his father. However, they were only a set of Class 2 soul tools back then. Lan Xiu had continuously perfected them using his talents and practiced his control of them. It must be said that he could only create such soul tools even though he was a soul engineer.

The Nine Glories were actually nine separate soul tools. They belonged to a category of soul tools called deflective rays. These rays were special special light waves. They could deflect any type of attack. At the same time, controlling nine soul tools at the same time wasn't an easy feat. In addition, they had to be coordinated with one another.

Lan Xiu was a rare spiritual-type soul master. However, his spiritual power was very pure, and couldn't be unleashed through an intermediary like Huo Yuhao's Spirit Eyes. Without his soul engineering

profession, he might even be unable to fight anyone. No one would have bothered to nurture him, either.

However, things were different now. Based on his extraordinary spiritual power, he had displayed an extraordinary talent in using and controlling soul tools since he was young.

The nine streaks of silver light intersected in the air and seemed to form a barrier that resisted Shrek's first wave of attacks.

"I'll hold Wang Qiu'er. Go and settle the rest!" Lan Xiu shouted.

As Wang Qiu'er was struck back, she lifted her head to look at the nine balls of silver light. She raised her Golden Dragon Spear once again. This time, she aimed at the sky.

The Nine Glories were also experiencing rapid changes in the air. The nine metal balls gathered together, and nine streaks of silver light shot out, forming a clump of silver light that came crashing down towards Wang Qiu'er.

Wang Qiu'er flung her Golden Dragon Spear out, but it was deflected back by the clump of silver light. Following this, Wang Qiu'er punched out with all her strength and struck the clump of silver light. It was destroyed, but she was also forced back more than ten meters. Her distance to the Sun Moon team increased.

Beneath the stage, the expressions of everyone from the Tang Sect changed when they saw this scene. They are targeting Wang Qiu'er too much. The deflective rays were a huge obstacle to Wang Qiu'er and prevented her from using her strength. This greatly restricted Shrek's abilities!

Just as Wang Qiu'er was forced back, another person appeared beside Qiu'er. Rings of light shone from his body and rose. Barrel after barrel quickly took form as these rings of lights fused. This person was Xiao Hongchen!

Two yellow, two purple and three black soul rings rose from his feet. Seven soul rings. He had seven soul rings! He was a Soul Sage!

This was the first time in the history of the tournament that a Soul Sage had appeared. Even in the history of Shrek Academy, there had never been a twenty-year-old Soul Sage before. However, Xiao Hongchen had achieved this feat.

Countless rounds of artillery fire were unleashed. Dai Huabin, Zhu Lu, and the Lan sisters were all engulfed, unable to advance.

Ding Xiaobu had already disappeared behind the group and initiated an attack against Shrek's team. Shrek's team was completely suppressed now.

No one had expected such a situation. The Sun Moon team had been concealing their abilities until now. Xiao Hongchen hadn't fought at all before, and only revealed his extraordinary gifts at this point!

[Chapter 306.1: An Armor Made of Beautiful Ice Crystals](#)

It was an honor to become a Soul Sage before the age of twenty! In fact, only Xiao Hongchen knew the price he had paid for this. In the next five years, his cultivation wouldn't see any further improvements.

He made this sacrifice so that he could become a Soul Sage before the tournament! It was very difficult to tell how he might improve in five years' time. However, he didn't have any regrets. He wanted to beat all his opponents and reach the highest peak of the Continental Elite Youth Soul Master Tournament!

Countless cannon barrels fired off. Meng Hongchen also appeared behind him. She was wearing an icy-blue suit of armor and holding a long blue sword in each of her hands. With the fastest speed she could muster, she burst towards Wang Qiu'er.

Her earlier surrender was tactical. She was going to defeat Wang Qiu'er this time to save her reputation!

There was another person behind Xiao Hongchen, Ye Nongfeng. At this point, Ye Nongfeng lifted a special soul tool to his shoulder. The back of the soul tool was cylindrical, while the front of it was full of coils. Rings of glaring light were undulating without any rhythm on these coils and gathering towards the triangular tip of the soul tool.

Ye Nongfeng's nickname was the Destroyer. His abilities weren't that great, and his one-to-one combat abilities were extremely weak. However, he specialized in creating and using all types of unidirectional offensive soul tools. He was willing to sacrifice everything to pursue this extremity. Such a person possessed great strength when used in a team fight, just like the Tang Sect's Eye of Fear. He also possessed the ability to turn the tables in a fight. He and Qiu Yi were a combination: he was in charge of attacking, while Qiu Yi was in charge of defense. They were initially secret weapons that were brought in as substitutes. However, a few of the Sun Moon team's main team members had been killed by the Tang Sect, so they now had no choice but to fight. They were now revealing their true abilities for the first time!

Up on the main stage, the pale-looking Xu Tianran finally smiled. He looked at Jing Hongchen and heaved a sigh of relief. He said, "Hallmaster Hongchen, you are really good at hiding things! These young people are the future pillars and talents of the empire."

Jing Hongchen sighed and replied, "My grandson was very stubborn when it came to this tournament. To be honest, he consumed some special medicine to enable himself to cross the Rank 70 barrier and become an advanced-level soul engineer. However, he'll be affected by that medicine for the next few years. Before he's twenty-five, I'm afraid he'll be unable to make any further improvements."

Xu Tianran said seriously, "His spirit is commendable. He's willing to sacrifice for the glory of the country. No matter what happens to the Sun Moon team in the end, he'll be a pillar of our empire in the future."

Jing Hongchen was relieved after hearing Xu Tianran's words. He was also very excited right now. As long as his grandson and granddaughter could defeat Shrek's team in this fight, they would make history for the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy.

The four who burst forward with Wang Qiu'er didn't panic because their opponents demonstrated great strength. The four of them gathered together, and layers of light started to spread rapidly, forming a huge protective net that covered all four of them. This was the Lan sisters' soul skill, the Hairnet!

The four of them maintained their formation and quickly moved towards Wang Qiu'er. With Ning Tian's enhancement, the Lan sisters' Hairnet became very resilient even though they only had four rings. The Hairnet managed to block all the streaks of lights that were fired towards them. However, it was very difficult for them to advance.

Xiao Hongchen didn't panic at all. Lan Xiu and Meng Hongchen were enough to restrain Wang Qiu'er. Not to mention that Wang Qiu'er was depleted from the earlier fights, could she resist the suppression of two Class 6 soul engineers even if she was in her peak state? Lan Xiu was also a Class 6 soul engineer! Otherwise, how could he possibly control the Nine Glories, which were Class 6 soul tools?

After Wang Qiu'er was forced back, she didn't continue to fight her way out anymore. She started to shift positions quickly, and avoided the pursuit of the silver lights in the air.

However, the Nine Glories seemed to be alive under Lan Xiu's control. The nine streaks of silver light intersected in the air. At times, they formed a cage. At other times, they formed a net. Wang Qiu'er was greatly restrained, and couldn't get close to the Sun Moon team.

Wang Qiu'er still remained very persistent even though she was greatly suppressed. Her gaze was as cold as ever. Her spear kept on flashing, and she occasionally lifted her head to observe the Nine Glories.

She seemed to be waiting for something.

At this point, Meng Hongchen arrived. Her pair of swords carried streaks of sword light that were unleashed towards Wang Qiu'er. In the air, the nine streaks of silver light descended at the same time. Three streaks were aimed towards her right arm, while the other six wove a cage that moved towards her body. They seemed to be trying to pin her to the ground.

As Meng Hongchen arrived, the Vermilion Clear Icetoad's poison also started to engulf the entire Shrek team.

However, a layer of blurry, golden light started to shine from everyone from Shrek's team. The golden glow didn't appear to offer any form of defense, but it managed to block out the poison.

Shrek's team was prepared, knowing that Meng Hongchen could poison them. Shrek Academy had its own Soul Tool Department too!

Every member of Shrek's team was wearing a type of accessory known as a isolation-type soul tool. It could isolate all types of aura from one's body. Such soul tools were very effective against lethal poisons and polluted gases. They were specially used to resist the abilities of certain special martial souls.

They could even isolate some special elements. Simply put, it could greatly isolate the fire elements of an opponent's attack even though the impact of the attack couldn't be avoided.

Of course, there was a price to pay for using such a soul tool. The depletion from using such a soul tool was equivalent to a Class 5 protective soul barrier. Even if one wasn't attacked, the depletion would still persist. However, the effect was very useful for Shrek's team right now. They were isolating the poison from the Vermilion Clear Icetoad!

Wang Qiu'er stood straight, without moving, as she faced a crisis. Against Meng Hongchen's sword lights, there was only a cold look in her eyes.

You are still so arrogant at this point? Meng Hongchen was furious now. Although she had conceded defeat earlier for tactical reasons, she wasn't convinced by Wang Qiu'er at all. They were both Soul Emperors, and she even possessed the abilities of a Class 6 soul engineer. She didn't think she was inferior to Wang Qiu'er at all!

At this point, the nine streaks of silver light that were crashing down towards Wang Qiu'er stopped in the air.

Yes, they stopped. Following this, a weird streak of light appeared above Lan Xiu's head. It was only large as a palm as it drifted above Lan Xiu, but Lan Xiu seemed very lost, and the Nine Glories that he controlled started to dim.

They weren't the only ones with a control-type soul master! Cao Jinxuan's first and fourth soul rings lit up at the same time.

Just as the silver lights stalled in the air, Wang Qiu'er exploited the flaws that had been exposed. She ducked out of the encirclement of the silver lights. Following that, she stabbed her spear ferociously towards her opponent's chest.

Meng Hongchen's Class 6 ice swords couldn't compare to the Golden Dragon Spear in terms of length! Her sword lights had been unleashed towards Wang Qiu'er's vital areas under the assumption that she wouldn't be attacked by the Golden Dragon Spear.

Shit, their control-type soul master is up!

Meng Hongchen didn't dare to delay any further. The chest portion of her armor cracked open, and a barrel the size of a human head popped out. A beam of intense light shot out towards Wang Qiu'er.

This was an extremely powerful Class 6 energy-gathering soul cannon.

What about Wang Qiu'er? She didn't even have any intention to dodge, and followed her spear. She was one with her spear. A sonorous dragon roar reverberated across the entire venue as her third soul ring lit up.

A golden dragon head burst forward from her right hand. It seemed like it wanted to swallow the Golden Dragon Spear.

Boom!

The energy-gathering soul cannon charge was instantly destroyed as it was struck by the spear. The indestructible spear continued to shoot forward, its tip was about to reach the cannon's mouth.

Meng Hongchen was horrified, and an icy domain shone beneath her feet. This was her third soul skill, Ice Reflection. Within the domain of the Ice Reflection, she could shift her body as if she were using Instant Teleportation. Her first thought right now was to avoid the spear!

As a light flashed, Meng Hongchen shifted three feet to the side. The spear struck nothing, but Wang Qiu'er landed following this. She forcefully stomped her right leg on the ground.

Boom!

When her right foot hit the ground, it felt as if a mature elephant had landed after jumping off a building. Immense soundwaves and quakes affected the clashes in the other areas.

The ground cracked open, and the domain formed by the Ice Reflection was immediately crushed. The spear generated a gust of wind as it swept across. It seemed to form a golden wheel as it shot forward.

This was Wang Qiu'er's fighting style, extremely strong and forceful!

"Meng, come back!" Xiao Hongchen shouted. He had originally thought that Lan Xiu and Meng Hongchen would be sufficient to deal with Wang Qiu'er. At least, he believed they could suppress her, and after he dealt with the rest of them, this team round would more or less be decided.

[Chapter 306.2: An Armor Made of Beautiful Ice Crystals](#)

Xiao Hongchen hadn't expected Shrek's control-type soul master to break Lan Xiu's control instantly, severing his connection with his Nine Glories. This changed the entire situation!

Meng Hongchen also wanted to return, but she had to handle Wang Qiu'er first! Since she couldn't dodge, she could only sweep her swords and activate the abilities of these two Class 6 soul tools.

An intense chill spread out from both swords. Two streaks of icy-blue light intersected as they shot towards Wang Qiu'er. While my swords aren't as long as your spear, my sword lights are faster than you!

However, Meng Hongchen didn't understand Wang Qiu'er's character. How could she let Meng Hongchen escape with such a good opportunity presented to her?

The red lights used to deal with Ding Xiaobu earlier appeared again. Wang Qiu'er's eyes turned blood-red. The golden scales on her body opened up, and her aura changed. The spear continued on its trajectory and seemed to completely ignore the two blades.

You underestimate me too much! Meng Hongchen was furious. She couldn't dodge at this point. She quickly summoned her soul power. She thought to herself, I'd like to see who's going to be hurt more!

Pfft pfft..

Bang---!

The two light blades landed on Wang Qiu'er's body first. However, Wang Qiu'er didn't even move. The blades flashed once before dimming after they struck her. Her scales started to tremble violently, and her clothes were also torn in two areas.

After that, Meng Hongchen flew back.

A crisp, snapping sound rang out, and her Class 6 swords were broken into four pieces by Wang Qiu'er's spear. After that, the spear struck Meng Hongchen in the chest.

That banging sound was generated from the spear. Wang Qiu'er's fourth soul ring also shone at this point.

Fourth soul skill – Golden Dragon Explosion! Sixth soul skill – Golden Dragon's Bloodlust!

With the help of these two soul skills, Wang Qiu'er was in her peak condition right now. Why did she choose her Golden Dragon's Bloodlust? It was a decent soul skill for an ordinary soul master, but it was very average for a true, elite soul master. After all, this soul skill could only be used on one person. To most soul masters, using such a soul skill only increased their physical strength by thirty percent. The effect on their soul power wasn't too pronounced.

However, it was different for Wang Qiu'er! She possessed Ultimate Strength! How strong would she be if her physical strength increased by another thirty percent? Moreover, she would be in the Bloodlust state of a Golden Dragon. The increase wouldn't just be thirty percent! In addition, she still had Ning Tian's Seven Treasures Glazed Pagoda strengthening her. Her strength had reached a frightening level!

None of the Sun Moon team understood Wang Qiu'er, which left Meng Hongchen at a huge disadvantage.

Meng Hongchen spat blood as she flew through the air. She collided with the barrier on the other side of the arena before falling to the ground. Not only were her swords broken, but the protective armor in front of her chest had also cracked. Her arms were hurt, and she was bleeding profusely.

This attack hurt her internal organs. Meng Hongchen was critically injured!

"Younger sister!" Xiao Hongchen shouted. His eyes turned red, and he burst out. All his barrels combined to form a huge cannon that was more than half a meter in diameter before it fired towards the Lan sisters' Hairnet. At the same time, he rushed towards Meng Hongchen.

At this point, a strange bolt of white lightning appeared silently in front of Xiao Hongchen. The bolt of lightning targeted Wang Qiu'er, who was still in her original position after she took down Meng Hongchen.

This bolt of lightning was too sudden. An intense glow quickly engulfed Wang Qiu'er. It was so quick that she didn't have time to dodge.

Wang Qiu'er's body started to shake tremendously, and an astonishing scene appeared. Her powdery-blue hair started to turn pale-white. It lost its glow, and she fell to her knees. She was aging at an alarming speed.

This was...

Apart from Huo Yuhao, the rest of the Tang Sect's members stood up. He Caitou was the most shocked. This was a soul tool that he and Huo Yuhao had never seen before.

These were aging rays. It was a new soul tool that the Illustrious Virtue Hall had invented. Once one was struck by these aging rays, their life power would quickly be depleted and they would quickly turn old and frail. In a worst case scenario, they might even die. If their life power wasn't replenished in time, or wasn't strong enough, they would die from old age.

It was a powerful Class 7 soul tool! It was still in the experimental stage, and could only be used on one subject. The person who researched this soul tool was none other than the one using it right now, Ye Nongfeng. He was known as the Destroyer, one of the most extreme talents among the younger generation of Illustrious Virtue Hall's disciples. He was only interested in soul tools that could cause annihilation!

Wang Qiu'er's forehead and right arm started to show wrinkles.

After unleashing this attack, Ye Nongfeng also started to look very pale. He was only a Class 5 soul engineer. He had needed to use a Milk Bottle to activate this soul tool. More than eighty percent of his soul power had already been depleted, but his eyes were filled with a look of maniacal excitement. Wang Qiu'er was the first human subject he had used this soul tool on, and its effects were very obvious. This aging ray was invented and designed by him, and some other strong individuals in the Illustrious Virtue Hall then helped him to complete it. Jing Hongchen had deliberately modified this soul tool for him to use as a reward for his pioneering spirit.

Indeed, it performed a miracle right now.

"Team leader!" the rest of Shrek's team exclaimed at this moment. To them, Wang Qiu'er wasn't just their team leader, she was their spiritual leader. If Wang Qiu'er collapsed, their morale and fighting spirit would be gone.

"Bastard!" The Hairnet was destroyed. Dai Huabin activated his White Tiger's Devilgod Transformation to resist Xiao Hongchen's attack. Seeing that Wang Qiu'er had descended to such a state, his eyes turned red. He peered into the sky and roared furiously. He used his right hand to pull Zhu Lu into his embrace.

Instantly, a beam of strong white light shot into the sky. The entire stage turned into a world of black and white. A huge white tiger appeared from the sky, and seemed to traverse through space, instantly arriving in front of Ye Nongfeng, clawing at him!

At this point, Lan Xiu also recovered from Cao Jinxuan's Time Lock, and quickly activated his Nine Glories. He was about to stop the attack of the Netherworld White Tiger.

However, the Netherworld White Tiger was a martial soul fusion skill. It was a skill that two noble families of the Star Luo Empire had combined to unleash for thousands of years. Their ancestors had even followed the first-generation Sea God, Tang San, into the Divine Realm.

The Netherworld White Tiger resisted the nine deflection rays. After that, the tiger swept Qiu Yi to one side with its claws. Following that, it shut its claws and furiously attacked Ye Nongfeng until he was completely crushed. It was only when the Nine Glories struck again that the tiger was forced back. Qiu Yi quickly returned in front of Lan Xiu, and his shield shone with silver light, boosting his defense to its maximum level. The attack of the Netherworld White Tiger had been too sudden, and it came when they were at an advantage. Ye Nongfeng's death was due to his carelessness!

On Shrek's side, Dai Huabin and Zhu Lu weren't the only ones who acted. The Lan sisters also demonstrated their full abilities at this point. They held each other's hands and burst into the sky. In the blink of an eye, they filled the sky above the stage before descending. They were going straight for Xiao Hongchen, Meng Hongchen, and the Nine Glories.

This was their fusion skill, Empyrean Net.

This was the true ability of Shrek's team. Two martial soul fusion skills were used at the same time, increasing their fighting strength significantly. Of course, the price to pay for using these two fusion skills

was also very big. After using them, their soul power would drop significantly. If not for the fact that Wang Qiu'er was struck by the aging ray, they wouldn't have used their fusion skills.

At this point, a figure silently crept up behind Wang Qiu'er and stabbed a transparent Draconic Dagger towards the back of her neck.

Ding Xiaobu, who had disappeared earlier, finally appeared. He had used some method to conceal himself temporarily.

"Team leader!" Cao Jinxuan and Ning Tian shouted at the same time. However, they had discovered it too late. At this point, the dagger was already stabbing towards Wang Qiu'er's neck.

As he looked at the pale, long hair in front of him, Ding Xiaobu's eyes were filled with excitement. If he could kill Wang Qiu'er, there would be a great reward for him!

Where was Zheng Zhan? When the Netherworld White Tiger appeared, he was already lagging. The situation was too complex. Wang Qiu'er and the Hongchen siblings had taken most of his attention.

He hadn't expected a martial soul fusion skill to appear in front of Ye Nongfeng, who had lost most of his fighting strength. When he rushed over, it was already too late. Ding Xiaobu was also exploiting this distraction and attempting to kill Wang Qiu'er!

[Chapter 306.3: An Armor Made of Beautiful Ice Crystals](#)

Wang Qiu'er was on the verge of death. However, something strange happened. A white, icy flower started to bloom behind the back of her neck.

As a ding sounded, Ding Xiaobu's blade was deflected away by the flower.

Following this, a miraculous scene occurred. That icy flower rippled with rings of golden light. A weird light distorted the air. The entire stage was dyed golden, with Wang Qiu'er's body the center of it. After this, a huge, golden vertical eye drifted up in mid-air, and gusts of air dragged Wang Qiu'er's body upward.

Every gust of air left a dazzling radiance around Wang Qiu'er. Wherever they passed, pieces of armor would appear on her body.

First, her chest was covered with armor. On this section of the armor, there were bright, flowery patterns. The icy flower kept on extending around her. What was weirder was that a vertical eye also appeared on Wang Qiu'er's forehead. The eye was shining with golden light. On closer inspection, the light from the eye seemed to actually belong to...

The golden armor quickly engulfed Wang Qiu'er's entire body, her aura soaring. Sonorous dragon roars were ringing out continuously. Her pale-white hair started to regain its glow and powdery-blue color from the roots. An illusory, golden dragon-shaped projection started to revolve around her body. The armor behind her back was carved with the image of the Ice Jade Empress Scorpion. However, her long hair covered half the image. Despite this, the scorpion tail that extended all the way to her hip region could be seen clearly.

Wang Qiu'er slowly stood up straight, like a newly born war goddess. She pointed her spear forward, and the golden vertical eye in the air suddenly turned into a streak of golden light before it descended.

Under the illumination of the golden light, Wang Qiu'er's entire body became thirty percent larger, and the golden dragon that surrounded her also seemed to turn real.

What was going on?

After he witnessed the changes to Wang Qiu'er's body, Xiao Hongchen revealed a grim look in his eyes.

Did she mutate? Is she from the Body Sect, and this is the second awakening of her Body Soul? How is this possible? Her martial soul is already so strong. If this is its second Awakening, it completely violates the laws of nature!

"Ding Xiaobu, out." Just as Xiao Hongchen was in a daze, Zheng Zhan had already used his Divine Unbreakable Shield to block the golden light that had almost pierced Ding Xiaobu's chest. This time, he was forced several meters back due to the impact, and knocked into Ding Xiaobu.

Wang Qiu'er, who was completely covered in armor, revealed a strange look in her eyes. She had mushroomed in size. She was like a valkyrie that had descended upon the battlefield.

Just one gaze caused Zheng Zhan to shudder. This aura...

Nine streaks of silver light descended from the sky. The Netherworld White Tiger was deflected away again. It was a fusion skill that could be used continuously in a fight, which was very rare. However, its fighting strength would weaken as time passed if the users' cultivations weren't strong enough. After its initial outburst, the Netherworld White Tiger was restrained by Qiu Yi's Class 7 shield and Lan Xiu's Nine Glories.

On the other side, the Hongchen siblings, who were trapped in the Empyrean Net, also demonstrated their strongest abilities.

"Gua!..." Meng Hongchen let out a weird sound. Following this, she grew a size larger. She seemed to be lifting the sky with her hands before her sixth soul ring lit up. She was going to use her sixth soul skill, which she had never used before.

She sucked in her gut and grit her teeth. She appeared ferocious now, even though she was bleeding profusely from her nose and mouth.

Her back arched, and a bulge quickly rose. Layer upon layer of icy-blue light started to rise continuously from her, and a terrifying aura was soaring.

Xiao Hongchen was much stronger than his sister. A streak of dark-gold light shone from his body. He fell forward and also let out the same sound as his sister before turning into a Three-Legged Golden Toad.

However, he only maintained the Three-Legged Golden Toad form for a moment before another transformation occurred. He changed into a golden powder that quickly disintegrated before gathering together again. In the blink of an eye, he had turned into a huge soul fort with countless barrels. Countless streaks of light shot out and resisted the Empyrean Net. There were even a huge number of soul rays that were aimed towards Wang Qiu'er and the rest of Shrek's team. Ning Tian and Cao Jinxuan were the focus of the greatest firepower. This showed that Xiao Hongchen could tell that the two of them were very important in enhancing Wang Qiu'er's strength.

Cao Jinxuan and Ning Tian didn't panic at all. Ning Tian stepped onto her shuttle before landing in front of Cao Jinxuan. Although her shuttle couldn't fly very high and could only remain three meters above the ground at most, it was still very quick. Following this, a layer of golden light lit up on her body. Invincible Barrier!

Xiao Hongchen was a seven-ringed Soul Sage and a Class 7 soul engineer. The strength of the soul tools that he unleashed was extremely high. However, he couldn't overcome an Invincible Barrier used by a five-ringed Soul King! The appearance of soul tools gave many auxiliary-type soul engineers the ability to defend themselves on a battlefield, it wasn't something only realized in the Sun Moon Empire!

The Seven Treasures Glazed Sect had been very invested in soul tools over the past few years. Their aim was to mitigate the defensive weaknesses of their direct disciples.

With the defense of the Invincible Barrier, Xiao Hongchen couldn't kill Ning Tian and Cao Jinxuan without using his full strength.

Compared to the two of them, the Lan sisters weren't doing too well. The two of them had used quite a lot of strength to unleash the Emyreal Net. However, there was a limit to how much their strength would increase even if they were using a fusion skill. Their control of the Emyreal Net could match up to a Soul Emperor, but they were facing a Soul Sage!

Their Emyreal Net was quickly dispelled by the soul rays. The Lan sisters looked very pale. In such an intense fight, their inferior cultivations were still limiting factors. No matter what, there was still a gap between the overall abilities of Shrek's team and the Sun Moon team.

A similar situation occurred for the Netherworld White Tiger. The illusory light from the tiger's body started to dim. Dai Huabin and Zhu Lu's fusion skill couldn't last any longer.

While it seemed like Shrek had gained an advantage earlier, this advantage was now slowly being eroded by the Sun Moon team.

Wang Qiu'er moved at this point. She lunged forward with her left leg and her spear in front of Xiao Hongchen. She was very quick. It was very different from earlier when she had used her strength to enhance her abilities.

Her spear thrust out, and the soul rays that were targeted towards her were destroyed. Her target was the Steel Fortress that Xiao Hongchen had formed!

At this point, Meng Hongchen erupted after she completed her preparations. She bent forward and grabbed hold of her ankles. The bulge on her back burst open, and streaks of white, fluid light shot out towards Wang Qiu'er.

Even though there were only slightly more than ten streaks of these lights, an indescribable, nausea-inducing feeling surfaced when they appeared behind her. Even Xiao Hongchen quickly backed off and increased his distance from his sister.

This was the Vermilion Clear Icetoad's sixth soul skill, Corrosive Ice. She condensed her poison into a fluid before combining it with her soul power. Not only was its impact force great, the intensity of the poison was also extreme. This was Meng Hongchen's most lethal soul skill. She had tested it once

before; one drop of her Corrosive Ice was sufficient to kill a Diamond Mammoth, an extremely large soul beast.

As for humans, even a Soul Douluo wouldn't be able to handle the poison. Five and six-ringed soul masters' Invincible Barriers would also be completely corroded upon contact with her poison. More frighteningly, her Corrosive Ice could lock onto its target, and would pursue it. There was no way to avoid it, and it could pursue its target for up to a minute.

The streaks of fluid that contained massive amounts of poison were targeted towards Wang Qiu'er. Meng Hongchen was critically hurt by her earlier, and hated her immensely. She had used all her strength in this attack. Right now, her face was also very pale. The strength of her Corrosive Ice meant that she had used up almost all of her soul power. Its strength was equivalent to three six-ringed soul skills used by an ordinary soul master!

Wang Qiu'er seemed to sense something, and stopped. When the poisonous fluid was about to touch her, it suddenly stopped in mid-air, as if it had been frozen. It was converted into ice crystals, and the stench of the poison also disappeared.

Meng Hongchen's life power seemed to have been sucked dry. Her entire face turned pale-white, and she took two steps back. She lost control of her voice as she said, "Impossible, impossible! How can my Corrosive Ice be frozen?!"

She wasn't the only one who was surprised. Xiao Hongchen, who was clearly aware of his sister's abilities, was also astonished. He was in his Martial Soul True Body right now. When he realized things were amiss, he changed form once again.

The greatest strength of his Golden Toad True Body was that it could quickly turn into a soul tool of any form. It was different from using soul skills. When he entered such a state, the soul tools that he agglomerated were no longer restricted by size, only by his own cultivation. It also meant that any soul tool that he formed now was at least Class 7!

[Chapter 307.1: The Last Clash](#)

As a dark-golden light flashed, Xiao Hongchen changed into a single heavy cannon. The body of the cannon was extremely thick, and the barrel was more than a meter in diameter. Intense golden light shot out towards Wang Qiu'er, who wasn't very far away.

The poisonous crystals were crushed and scattered in the air, but the golden light was about to reach her.

Wang Qiu'er didn't dodge. Patches of ice flowers condensed in front of her body, which quickly formed a layer of diamond ice crystals. Golden sparks quickly rose from her body. Roaring mightily, the golden dragon around her body instantly grew in size and blocked Xiao Hongchen's attack.

As she focused her gaze on him, Wang Qiu'er thrust her spear out again. Golden light flashed, and the cannon was crushed. However, the golden light was like a fluid, flowing away to regroup and form another heavy cannon. That cannon was fired at Wang Qiu'er once again.

At this point, nine streaks of silver light descended and engulfed Wang Qiu'er at the same time. The Nine Glories had unleashed their strength once again.

The Netherworld White Tiger had already ended. Both Dai Huabin and Zhu Lu were attacking frantically as they panted in exhaustion. However, their attacks were resisted by Qiu Yi's shield. Lan Xiu had exploited this opportunity to help Xiao Hongchen and Meng Hongchen.

Nine streaks of silver light crashed down. Wang Qiu'er lifted her head to look at the sky. It was only at this point that the look in her eyes became clear again.

A sonorous dragon roar sounded. She trembled, and a frightening force was released from her body. The dragon surrounding her quickly expanded and destroyed the rays that were targeting her. After that, she bent her upper body back and unleashed her spear, hurling it upwards before she straightened her waist and charged towards Xiao Hongchen.

Her Golden Dragon Spear flew out five meters and changed into nine streaks of golden light.

Boom, boom, boom, boom, boom, boom, boom, boom!

Nine booms sounded at the same time. The Nine Glories instantly turned into broken scrap. Their rays weren't able to stop the attack from the Golden Dragon Spear!

Lan Xiu collapsed to the ground after his soul tools were destroyed. He had used all his spiritual power on these nine soul tools, so his spiritual power was critically damaged at this point.

Xiao Hongchen's cannon paused for a moment as Cao Jinxuan started to bleed from his eyes and nose. His Time-Elapsing Clock had made an opening for Wang Qiu'er again!

Boom!

Wang Qiu'er collided hard with the huge cannon. Xiao Hongchen wasn't flung back from this collision. When the dark-golden lights dissolved, he was in his normal form and flipped upwards. It seemed like he was trying to trap Wang Qiu'er.

Not far away, the pale Meng Hongchen leapt towards him. She was a streak of white light that collided with her brother.

It was their martial soul fusion skill, Hongchen's Yearning!

Wang Qiu'er was restrained by the golden lights that had risen again. However, she released a chill from her body and prevented the golden lights from taking proper form again.

When Meng Hongchen arrived, both siblings let out an intense golden glow. Their terrifying auras changed into a colorful rising whirlpool. The Hongchen siblings and Wang Qiu'er were all in the center of the whirlpool!

Everyone was stunned by this scene. This was a life-and-death battle! There was no other way of resolving this fight!

If Xiao Hongchen and Meng Hongchen were able to defeat Wang Qiu'er, they wouldn't have a problem defeating the rest of Shrek's team. If the opposite happened, the Sun Moon team wouldn't be able to resist Shrek's team any further, either.

Everyone subconsciously stopped. All of their gazes were fixed on the whirlpool, which was a mix of gold, red, blue, white, and many other colors. Within the terrifying whirlpool, there was a violent undulation of soul power. Even Zheng Zhan felt a little afraid as he looked at the whirlpool.

“Why did you help me?” Stuck in the whirlpool, Wang Qiu’er’s called out in her mind.

A gentle voice replied, “I wasn’t just helping you; I was helping Shrek, too. Shrek’s glory doesn’t just belong to all of you.”

“Yuhao!”

“What?”

“Nothing..”

The whirlpool continued to grow in size. From an initial diameter of three meters, it quickly expanded to ten meters, and was even expanding at an increasing rate. When it reached close to thirty meters in diameter, everyone had to retreat frantically so that they wouldn’t be affected by it.

What was going on? Who were the victors and losers? Even though many people reckoned that the Hongchen Siblings wouldn’t lose given their combined seven-ringed and six-ringed abilities, Wang Qiu’er still showed how dominant she was! However, no one knew that Wang Qiu’er was using her martial soul fusion skill right now. It was a fusion skill between her and a certain someone.

It was the Dragon Roar of Destiny!

In the center of the whirlpool, a golden vertical eye slowly appeared. It was filled with depth and majesty, and could even see past the mysteries of destiny.

Countless streaks of golden light were released from that golden vertical eye. The entire whirlpool stopped, and then started to decrease in size at an alarming rate.

In mid-air, a slender figure formed from the golden vertical eye. The golden lights returned to Wang Qiu’er’s hand as her spear. Right now, her veil was already crushed. Her ravishing looks were visible in front of everyone at this moment.

“This is...”

It was such a familiar appearance! Commotion immediately ensued. Why? Why is she onstage? Isn’t she the lady formed from Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong’s martial soul fusion skill?

Her ravishing looks were too memorable. Right now, everyone was shocked.

On the main stage, Jing Hongchen had already lost his cool, and shouted, “Stop the fight!” However, it was a pity that his voice couldn’t pass through the barriers.

Wang Qiu’er changed into a streak of golden-white flowing light before she dashed down. She turned into a huge golden dragon covered in icy armor as she moved.

This was Wang Qiu’er’s fifth soul skill in her Dragon Roar of Destiny state, Golden Dragon’s Roar!

Bang!

Boom, boom, boom, boom, boom, boom!...

The entire stage was boiling as if it had been struck by a Class 9 stationary soul cannon shell. A frightening explosive force was being unleashed, with the whirlpool at the center of the explosion.

The rest of the members from both teams were instantly flung into the air by the horrifying impact of the explosion, smashing into the barriers at the sides. The center of the stage even caved in a few meters.

Zheng Zhan protected his body using his Divine Unbreakable Shield. He stared at the the core of the explosion. Even he couldn't intervene in such a confrontation. Any movement of his could potentially affect the result of the fight!

Young people nowadays are too strong! The explosion that had just occurred was probably at a Soul Douluo's level of power. However, they were only two Soul Emperors and a Soul Sage!

Debris fell from the sky. The shockwaves from the explosion lasted for more than ten seconds before they faded away.

The soul engineers who maintained the defensive formation around the stage experienced more than a one-third dip in their combined soul power, but they managed to keep the barriers from being damaged. After all, the explosion was proportionally distributed around the entire stage. If the explosion had been targeted at one point, these barriers might not have been able to resist it.

The entire stage seemed to have been hammered by a titan. There was a huge depression forty meters in diameter and five meters in depth at the center of the stage now!

Everyone's attention was first captured by a golden figure. Wang Qiu'er was standing proudly at the center of the stage in the depression. Right now, her armor had already disappeared, and she had returned to her original size. However, she still looked as beautiful as the Goddess of Light!

A stream of blood flowed down the edge of her lips. However, this didn't affect how ravishing she appeared. Right now, she had left a deep and memorable impression in many people's minds as she stood there like a valkyrie.

Xiao Hongchen and Meng Hongchen were separated to either side of her. Meng Hongchen was down on one knee, and spitting out blood. She seemed completely out of energy now.

Xiao Hongchen's condition was even worse than hers. He was back in human form. He looked as if he had been knocked down, as there were many wounds on his body, and his limbs were twisted around. It was difficult to tell if he was alive or dead.

Wang Qiu'er slowly turned around and looked at Lan Xiu and Qiu Yi before coldly asking, "Are we still going to continue this team round?"

Zheng Zhan had no choice but to intervene. He could tell that the Hongchen siblings weren't in good shape. If he didn't announce the end of the fight, their lives might be in danger.

"The team round goes to Shrek..."

“Wait a minute!” A furious voice sounded. The barriers around the stage were removed, and Jing Hongchen burst onto the stage. He arrived beside Xiao Hongchen in the blink of an eye and quickly gave him a pill. After that, he stood up and shouted, “There’s something wrong with this fight! We need to investigate thoroughly. Do not announce the outcome yet!”

After he finished speaking, a commotion ensued. While they had lost the team round, everyone had to admit that it was an exciting fight, and extremely intense. But Jing Hongchen’s sudden appearance stalled the announcement of the result of this fight, and left everyone with an ominous feeling.

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“Is the Sun Moon Empire trying to be a sore loser?” a cold voice sounded. Following this, a streak of light descended from the sky and landed beside Wang Qiu’er.

It wasn’t an outsider; it was the eldest senior sister of Shrek Academy’s inner courtyard, Zhang Lexuan.

Jing Hongchen looked at the tragic state his grandson was in, and was completely heartbroken! It took only a simple inspection to ascertain that Xiao Hongchen’s internal organs were critically hurt, and his limbs were completely fractured. It was unknown whether he could even survive, much less recover!

“I said there’s something wrong with this fight. We need an investigation!” Jing Hongchen bellowed, his eyes completely red.

Zhang Lexuan replied coldly, “Alright, point out the problem if you think there is one. Even though this is the Sun Moon Empire and we’re from Shrek, I believe the Sun Moon Empire’s citizens can see for themselves. What right do you have to doubt our students? Tell me. If you can point out any evidence to prove that we used unfair methods, we’ll concede defeat.”

Just as they were bickering on the stage, Huo Yuhao’s body shuddered slightly. However, he soon regained normalcy. It was just that his expression was a little pale. He coughed gently and used his hand to cover his mouth. He rubbed away a tinge of blood at the edge of his lips.

“You’re back?” Wang Dong’er whispered into his ear.

Huo Yuhao looked over at her and smiled. “I knew I wouldn’t be able to hide it from you.”

“You must tell me what happened when we return. What was with Qiu’er’s armor?” Wang Dong’er asked softly.

“This... I still have a tournament tonight,” Huo Yuhao reminded her.

Wang Dong’er snorted and didn’t continue speaking. However, she grabbed his right hand and transferred some of her soul power to him.

Zhang Lexuan wasn’t going to give in. Jing Hongchen wanted to end the fight and treat his grandson’s injuries, but that had to wait now.

“Alright. Let’s clear things up. Wang Qiu’er, tell me, what’s your background? Why do you look so much like the martial soul fusion skill exhibited by Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong? We need an explanation.”

Wang Qiu’er laughed scornfully. “Is there a problem just because I look like her?”

Jing Hongchen coldly replied, “You look identical to a martial soul fusion skill!”

Another voice sounded at this point. “Hallmaster Hongchen, you don’t have to find a reason. Qiu’er is only identical to me because we are sisters.”

As this voice sounded, a figure jumped onto the stage and came up beside Wang Qiu’er.

Jing Hongchen was in a daze. He realized at this point that Wang Dong and Wang Qiu’er looked very similar.

“Sisters?” Jing Hongchen muttered. Following this, he was shocked when Wang Dong’er removed the hairband that held her hair together. Her powdery-blue hair flowed down, and she gently rubbed off the camouflage on her face and neck, revealing her true appearance.

Suddenly, an identical pair of faces appeared in front of everyone’s eyes.

Such a ravishing look actually belonged to two people. Wang Dong and Wang Qiu’er. They...

Meng Hongchen shivered when she saw this. She wanted to say something, but she couldn’t. Her eyes rolled upwards before she collapsed to the ground.

Wang Dong’er said loudly, “My name is Wang Dong’er, and this is my elder sister, Wang Qiu’er. The Raiment of Light that Yuhao and I exhibit is mainly controlled by me. Is there a problem because it looks like me? Are our identical looks a reason to decide the outcome of the fight? Hallmaster Hongchen, your grandson and granddaughter lost the fight. You are representing the Sun Moon Empire if you are trying to be a sore loser.”

“The, the two of you...” Jing Hongchen hadn’t expected such a situation. Wang Dong was actually a woman. He still recalled that his own granddaughter seemed to...

“Hallmaster, quickly treat your grandson. He’s critically injured.” Zheng Zhan was already beside Jing Hongchen at this point, and whispered in his ear. At this point, Zheng Zhan also seemed very grim. As the referee, he had been humiliated because Jing Hongchen stopped him from announcing the result of the fight! However, Jing Hongchen’s grandchildren were already in such a state. This fight was very important to the Illustrious Virtue Hall, and he understood this clearly!

Jing Hongchen shot a vicious glare at Wang Dong’er and Wang Qiu’er before he snorted in anger. He raised his hand and wielded a beam of red light, dragging his grandchildren’s bodies to him before flying off.

Zhang Lexuan immediately turned his attention to Zheng Zhan and said, “Referee, I think it’s time to announce the result.”

Zheng Zhan nodded. After taking a deep look at them, he announced, “The round is over! Shrek Academy wins the team round!”

“We’ve, we’ve won...” Ning Tian muttered to herself.

Dai Huabin hugged Zhu Lu and was filled with excitement and wild joy. The Lan sisters hugged each other and started weeping.

Cao Jinxuan looked around him and realized there was no one to celebrate with. At this point, Zhou Sichen rushed up to the stage and picked him up.

“We’ve won! We’ve defeated Sun Moon! We’ve defended Shrek’s glory!”

In the resting area, everyone from the Tang Sect apart from Huo Yuhao stood up, clenching their fists tightly. At this point, they felt as if they had returned to five years ago when they defeated the Sun Moon team in the last tournament. Yes, Shrek had won! Shrek’s glory had been defended once again!

It is indeed unfair. Huo Yuhao thought to himself as he sat in his wheelchair. So what? So what if it’s unfair, if I’m doing this for Shrek’s glory? Is it fair that the Sun Moon team is using soul tools specially created for them by the Illustrious Virtue Hall? In this world, there’s no absolute fairness.

“Cough cough!” Huo Yuhao covered his mouth with his hand and wiped away another patch of blood. He was even more hurt than Wang Qiu’er during the final clash. After all, he had helped her block many attacks. Rather than saying Shrek had won, it was more accurate to say that both parties had suffered greatly. If not for the fact that Meng Hongchen’s soul power had been depleted earlier, and she was also injured, the last confrontation between both parties might have even been even worse.

Huo Yuhao had changed into a suit of armor and relied on Wang Qiu’er to control their fusion skill. Furthermore, he had used his Imitation so there was no way anyone could find out.

On the stage, Wang Qiu’er gently collapsed onto Zhang Lexuan. However, she revealed a rare smile on her face. She turned her gaze to Huo Yuhao. She didn’t say anything, but she revealed the slightest tinge of gentleness in her weakened state.

Zhang Lexuan smiled at Wang Dong’er, saying, “Dong’er, thanks.”

Wang Dong’er shook her head and replied, “We are all from Shrek Academy. Eldest senior sister, you don’t have to stand on ceremony! Furthermore, I think everyone will believe me if I claim to be Qiu’er’s sister. Qiu’er, are you willing to be my elder sister?”

Wang Qiu’er was stunned for a moment. A weird look flashed across her eyes. “Elder sister?”

Wang Dong’er realized that she had misunderstood her, and rushed to correct her words. “It’s fine in that way, but not fine in that other way.”

Wang Qiu’er was in a momentary daze, and she revealed a bitter look on her face. “I know. I’d like to rest for a while. Eldest senior sister, let’s return.”

“Okay.” Zhang Lexuan sent Wang Dong’er a deep gaze before helping Wang Qiu’er off the stage.

This exciting fight was finally over. Shrek had defeated the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy. At this point, they had won six matches along with the Tang Sect. They were going to qualify! Their last match with the Tang Sect was going to determine their placing in the group.

Wang Qiu'er was spent today. Although it wasn't obvious, it was clearly evident that she was gravely hurt from how weak she was. Fortunately, Shrek didn't lose any members. What kind of sparks would be created in their clash with the Tang Sect?

After the Sun Moon team's loss, the spectators were feeling down. However, they were most embarrassed by Jing Hongchen's intervention. Their hatred for Shrek had diminished a little. Of course, it also had to do with Wang Qiu'er and Wang Dong'er. They were both too beautiful! If they were from the Sun Moon Empire, they would have been goddesses in everyone's eyes.

Up on the main stage, Prince Regent Xu Tianran's expression was changing unpredictably. However, this didn't continue for too long. After a while, he put a smile on his face and said, "Tell the imperial physician to make a trip to the Illustrious Virtue Hall to treat the Hongchen siblings. He must heal them at all costs."

"Your Highness, you are very generous," Ju Zi complimented him.

Xu Tianran smiled at her and said, "Let's go, let's return. Imperial Tutor, I'll need to rely on you for the remaining rounds of the tournament."

"Okay." The Imperial Tutor grunted, but Xu Tianran didn't seem to be bothered. Ju Zi stood up and pushed his wheelchair as he left.

"Your Highness, do we need to pacify the citizens? I'm afraid today's defeat..." Ju Zi said softly as she pushed him along.

Xu Tianran replied, "What's there to pacify, since their skills aren't up to par? Let it die down. The tournament hasn't ended yet, so I don't think their attention will dwell too much on this matter. Send someone to investigate Wang Qiu'er's background. I still think there's something wrong. She seems a little too strong. Xiao Hongchen and Meng Hongchen's martial soul fusion skill can even trouble an eight-ringed Soul Douluo, but Wang Qiu'er is only a six-ringed Soul Emperor. How was she able to win so easily? She was even depleted in the earlier fights. Something must be wrong. Humiliation! It's a humiliation! If not for the fact that Jing Hongchen is still useful... hmph!"

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A cold light flashed across Xu Tianran's eyes. He shut his eyes and didn't speak further. Ju Zi felt a chill run down her spine. He wasn't being generous! It was only because Jing Hongchen and his Illustrious Virtue Hall were still useful, and thus Xu Tianran wasn't willing to offend him, so he tolerated the defeat. Xu Tianran was too scary...

The Ming Yue Hotel...

Wang Dong'er retracted her left hand and asked curiously, "Tell me, what happened?"

Huo Yuhao knew that he couldn't hide things any further, and revealed how he was able to form a martial soul fusion skill with Wang Qiu'er. He also recounted how he was able to unleash the Dragon Roar of Destiny.

After hearing his recounting of events, Wang Dong'er was in a daze. It was too much of a coincidence. Not only did Wang Qiu'er look identical to her, but she could also form a fusion skill with Huo Yuhao.

"Hmph!" Wang Dong'er snorted furiously and jumped off from the bed.

"Dong'er, I was in the wrong," Huo Yuhao said submissively.

An amused look flashed across Wang Dong'er's eyes, but she placed her hands on her hips before furiously saying, "Do you know why you were in the wrong?"

Huo Yuhao was clever. "I know. I shouldn't have kept the truth from you. I was only afraid that you'd misunderstand, that's why I didn't tell you anything. However, my Dong'er is such a magnanimous person. Why would she be bothered about something as trivial as this? I'm the coward who made you angry. I'm in the wrong. I understand my mistake now. Dong'er, forgive me. Don't worry, my heart is only for you. Honestly speaking, I also felt very weird when I found out I could form a martial soul fusion skill with her. I was even more curious about her background. However, I'm still unable to see anything. I can only feel that she doesn't have any ill intentions."

Wang Dong'er laughed coldly. "Of course she doesn't have any ill intentions. She only has love for you."

He promptly broke out coughing at her words.

Wang Dong'er thought for a moment before saying, "To prevent you from 'committing an offense', I'll forbid you from interacting with Wang Qiu'er alone. If there's anything you want to talk to her about, I must be by your side. Do you understand?"

"Yes, Your Majesty," Huo Yuhao quickly agreed with a sincere look on his face.

Wang Dong'er returned to the bed and sat beside him. "Yuhao, you must know that I'm not jealous. It's just that your body isn't in good shape, but you are still working so hard. It's better to be involved in fewer matters. Am I right?"

"Yes, you're right. You're right." He could only agree with her now.

Wang Dong'er sighed and said, "Seeing that you've been performing well recently, I wanted to accompany you to sleep tonight. However, I'm hurt because you've been lying to me for so long. Your punishment will be that you'll continue to sleep alone on the bed. I'll sleep on the sofa."

"....."

"Alright, go and cultivate. You still need to compete in the round of six in the soul engineering tournament tonight. I'm afraid your opponent will be difficult to deal with. How's your injury?" Wang Dong'er stopped joking and asked worriedly.

Huo Yuhao replied, "Don't worry, my body is different from a normal person's. With the immense life power of the Life Gold, this injury is nothing. I'll be able to recover by tonight. Protect me. I'll start cultivating now."

Although Shrek Academy had won the match today, Huo Yuhao seemed to feel more inhibited. He felt that the tournament was getting more and more complex. However, there weren't any clues on the surface.

The Starlight Sapphire ring on his right hand shone, and a porcelain jug appeared in his hand. It contained the distillate that he had bought from the bar the other day.

Wang Dong'er retreated to a sofa at the side, watching him.

After he opened the jug, a strong alcoholic smell drifted out. The distillate was very strong, and had not been blended yet. An ordinary person would be drunk after two sips of it.

A dim icy fog spread out from Huo Yuhao's body. He placed the jug to one side and quickly stripped, revealing his muscles. The surface of his skin was already covered with icy fog. The image of the Ice Jade Empress Scorpion surfaced behind his back. It was a sign that he had unleashed his second martial soul.

He grabbed the jug again and quickly swallowed the distillate as if he were a whale. Every time he stopped to breathe, his skin would shine with a dim red glow. It was a stark contrast to the icy fog around him.

He quickly circulated his soul power, and a dim golden glow appeared. His immense spiritual power enabled him to accurately circulate his soul power, and under that precise control, his soul power started to initiate the catalytic effects of the distillate. He circulated his soul power according to the method of the Mysterious Heaven Technique.

A streak of azure light flashed past his brow. A small yet shiny and transparent azure-green carving blade flew out. It surrounded Huo Yuhao's body and drifted above his head after making a circuit around him. A green aura descended and fused with Huo Yuhao's body. It was the Life Guardian's Blade!

With the strong life power of the blade and the catalytic effects of the distillate, Huo Yuhao started to fuse with the origin energy of Ultimate Ice at a much faster rate. Although he wasn't able to move, his soul power was increasing at a faster rate than before. In addition, the speed at which he absorbed the origin energy increased as his soul power grew. His confidence in his cultivation also grew as a result.

Wang Dong'er seemed to be immersed in her thoughts as she looked at Huo Yuhao. She revealed a slight smile on her face. He's really getting stronger and stronger. Ah, Wang Qiu'er, you are really a huge headache! She's also so nice to him. I must watch this fool properly...

Night fell, and four figures appeared in a dark corner as usual.

He Caitou lowered his voice and asked, "Yuhao, our opponents tonight won't be easy to deal with. Must we win or...?"

Huo Yuhao replied, "Second senior, you are Tang Si and I'm Tang Wu now. You should call me second brother. We can't make any mistakes now. We must win tonight! Use some of your true abilities. The rare metals that we can potentially win tonight can't be bought with money, and the Tang Sect needs them. After we reach the round of three, we can compete against the other two underground

organizations. It's a pity that we can't bet with rare metals or it would be even better. Let's make a huge wager tonight, and win more money first."

Huo Yuhao had already amassed more than twenty million gold soul coins after winning his previous rounds. The amount of money he had was enough to equip an army of ten thousand soldiers. However, twenty million gold soul coins was nothing in the world of soul engineers. Soul engineering was a profession that burned a lot of money. Creating a successful soul tool was very lucrative, but how many soul engineers had a close to hundred percent success rate like Huo Yuhao? That was why some strong soul engineers often created soul tools of lower classes to exchange for money to sustain their daily expenses. It was also why soul engineering sects were very cautious when they accepted disciples, and why the Illustrious Virtue Hall was so respected. Without the support of an empire, there wasn't any way soul engineers who engaged in elite and advanced research could survive!

At the familiar Green Hotel, Chen An was waiting at the entrance since he was no longer a judge. As Huo Yuhao and He Caitou advanced further and further in the tournament, his attitude was becoming ever more respectful.

"Young Tang masters, quick. Let's enter." Chen An immediately went up to receive Huo Yuhao as soon as he saw him, a fawning look on his face.

Huo Yuhao passed all his gold soul coins to him and said, "Divide it into two and stake each half on my brother and me."

"Second master, we've not started the lot drawing. You..." Chen An roughly knew how many gold soul coins Huo Yuhao had. He was a little hesitant, as it would be quite a huge bet. Even the most distinguished guests in the Golden Hall didn't bet so much. Furthermore, he didn't even know his opponent yet, and the last six competitors left were all very strong.

Huo Yuhao smiled and replied, "No worries. If I didn't even have this little confidence, I wouldn't be here at all. You can use it to bet. I'm confident."

"Yes!" Chen An acknowledged his words respectfully.

"We don't have to rush to enter. How's the matter I asked you to settle?" Huo Yuhao asked.

Chen An appeared to be in a spot and said, "It's indeed a little difficult to buy rare metals now. Although we have some channels to purchase rare metals, you must know that the three underground organizations are organizing their own tournament. Rare metals are being used in great amounts in these tournaments, and a huge batch of them is being used as rewards for the participating soul engineers. The control on rare metals has become very strict, so..."

Huo Yuhao snorted coldly. "That's is your problem. Don't bother explaining it to me. I only want to see the results. If you do this well, I'll promote you from Class 5 to Class 6, and from five rings to six rings."

"What?" Chen An was stunned after hearing his words. He seemed a little doubtful.

"Why? Don't you believe me?" Huo Yuhao glanced at him coldly.

"I believe, I believe!" Chen An hurriedly nodded.

Huo Yuhao said, "Although I'm a domineering person, I'm never stingy towards those who help me. Give me your hand. I'll let you feel it for a while."

Chen An was dazed for a moment, and extended his right hand.

Huo Yuhao used three fingers to feel his pulse. Suddenly, Chen An felt a wave of pure soul power transferring into his body from Huo Yuhao's fingertip. This wave of soul power wasn't very strong, but it was extremely pure. There didn't even seem to be any elements present, but it contained vibrant life power.

Suddenly, Chen An felt the pores on his body opening up. His blood was surging, and he instantly felt much younger. He was even more astonished to realize that his soul power was undulating rapidly after the pure soul power entered his body. He could feel his own soul power being enhanced, it was too obvious. In addition, he didn't sense any evil aura from it!

[Chapter 308: The Soul Engineering Tournaments Round-Of-Six](#)

However, this wonderful feeling only lasted for three seconds before it disappeared after Huo Yuhao released his hand.

"This, this... Master Tang, how is it possible?" Chen An felt as if everything he had known was a lie. He hadn't expected that a soul master could help increase the cultivation of a soul engineer. He quickly inspected his body and sensed the changes in his soul power. As he did, he discovered that the enhancement was real. His soul power didn't stop increasing even after Huo Yuhao's finger stopped contacting his hand. It was real!

Chen An was only a soul engineer, and his martial soul wasn't very outstanding. His cultivation was able to reach Class 5 because he had consumed all sorts of medicine and used soul tools to forcefully stimulate his progress. He had thought that he would remain in this class for the rest of his life. His cultivation hadn't increased in the last seven years!

But right now, his soul power had finally experienced an increase after years of dormancy. Furthermore, he was also felt that the impurities in his soul power were being cleansed by the introduction of Huo Yuhao's soul power. Although the immense life power only surged in his body for a moment before disappearing, it still generated a lot of benefits for him. The feeling of being filled with energy, rushing blood, and youth was too wonderful. At this point, Chen An was looking at Huo Yuhao with a burning passion in his eyes.

Huo Yuhao calmly said, "In this world, no one can understand everything. There are many things that exist even if you don't think they do. Do you understand?"

"Yes! Yes, I understand!" Chen An hurriedly nodded. Wang Dong'er and Na Na furrowed their brow when they saw how submissive he had become. They didn't know what Huo Yuhao had done to him that caused his attitude to change greatly.

Huo Yuhao said, "Alright, bring us in. Please carry out my orders as soon as possible. When this tournament ends, I'll be going into retreat to study soul tools. It'll be difficult to tell if we'll ever meet again. Don't worry about the money. If you can bring the goods, I'll have the money for you. Of course, you must keep this confidential. Otherwise, don't expect to obtain any benefits from me."

“Yes, I’ll certainly keep it confidential.” Chen An was in an unsteady state right now. To a soul engineer, there was nothing more astonishing and surprising than an increase in his cultivation. This was especially so when the enhancement was extremely pure. Chen An didn’t sense any side effects at all! If he could really become a Soul Emperor, he might be able to become a Class 6 soul engineer. While Class 5 and Class 6 were only one class apart, the treatment of soul engineers from these two classes varied immensely! How could a Soul King and Soul Emperor be treated the same way? There was also a huge increase in one’s abilities when one advanced from a Soul King to a Soul Emperor. Furthermore, Chen An also recalled that Huo Yuhao had once mentioned that he might consider letting him become an evil soul master if he performed his tasks well. If that was the case, it wasn’t a foregone conclusion for him to become a Soul Sage! To Chen An, this was a great motivation!

He was determined to take the risk and complete the task Huo Yuhao had asked of him. In this world, there were only eternal benefits. The benefits that Huo Yuhao could bring to him made him extremely determined to take that risk. After being in the Duskwater Alliance for so long, he had many contacts he could use...

Chen An was very excited as he led Huo Yuhao and the other three into the Golden Hall before he left. Numbers 96 and 98 had not arrived at the resting area yet...

Huo Yuhao didn’t speak much as he arrived. This was the Duskwater Alliance’s territory, so there was a possibility of being monitored. It was best to remain silent.

Chen An returned after a while. He bent his waist and whispered something into Huo Yuhao’s ears, “Every soul engineer will be given ten hours to create a soul tool today. There aren’t any restrictions on the number of soul tools that can be created. The fights will only commence early tomorrow morning. There are fewer restrictions now. Apart from the restriction of using any other soul tools, there aren’t any other restrictions.”

Huo Yuhao thought of something and asked, “This means that I can use soul skills?”

Chen An nodded and replied, “Yes. Apart from testing one’s soul tools, this is also a test of one’s overall abilities. I heard that the grand final between the three organizations will be held in a similar style. Everyone is going to compete on a bloody stage. Only one will emerge as the champion out of the nine competitors in the grand final. Only the first three will be rewarded. I heard that the winner will take home a Class 9 soul tool.”

After hearing the words ‘Class 9 soul tool’, Huo Yuhao was also shocked. It was too great of a reward. What were Class 9 soul tools? Strategic weapons! In the Sun Moon Empire, how many Class 9 soul tools were sealed inside the military vault? Even Class 9 soul engineers were restricted by the materials they possessed and the difficulty of creating Class 9 soul tools. Generally speaking, there were very few people who had more than three Class 9 soul tools. Of course, Jing Hongchen was an exception, since he was backed by the empire.

The destructive power of a Class 9 soul tool was even more devastating than a Titled Douluo in terms of a single attack. With a Class 9 soul tool as a reward, the soul engineers who competed weren’t afraid to risk their lives!

“You’re good.” Huo Yuhao acknowledged. “Go and get busy. I know what to do. Remember to help me place the bets.”

Seeing how confident Huo Yuhao was, along with the miraculous scene he experienced earlier, Chen An had already made up his mind. He was going to place some of his own money on Huo Yuhao. No one would mind more money!

As Chen An left, Huo Yuhao revealed a slight grin on his face. The task he had set for Chen An wasn’t very difficult. Everything Chen An felt was real. The immense life power came from the Life Guardian Blade. As for the pure soul power, Huo Yuhao had retrieved it from the origin energy of Ultimate Ice when he cultivated in the morning. He left a shred of it to strengthen Chen An’s conviction. It was quite precious! It was also very helpful to Huo Yuhao’s own enhancement of his soul power.

After this period of cultivation, Huo Yuhao’s soul power would increase by leaps and bounds. He was more and more confident that he would be able to walk again soon.

The door opened. Number 96 and 98 walked in, still decked out in black. When he saw Huo Yuhao, 98 twisted his mouth and said, “I didn’t expect this! You actually managed to reach this stage. You’d better pray that you don’t meet either of us!”

Huo Yuhao smiled and replied, “It’s difficult to tell who will win or lose. I bet ten million gold soul coins on myself. I wonder if you dare to do that?”

Number 98’s expression changed, “Ten million? I didn’t know you were such a wastrel. You’d better pray that you don’t draw me as your competitor.”

Number 96 dragged him away, simply nodding at Huo Yuhao. The two of them walked to one side and sat down.

Huo Yuhao squinted, thinking of the carving blades that the two of them had used, and revealed a smile on his face.

Wang Dong’er thought to herself after seeing his smile, What’s he up to again? He must be trying to dupe these two fellows.

96 and 98 came a little late. They only sat down for a short time before some staff members came to inform them that the tournament was about to begin.

They entered the Golden Hall again. 96 and 98 were in the spotlight, while Huo Yuhao naturally caught some attention too, since he was in a wheelchair.

He had caused some trouble on his first day of the tournament, but his performance had been average in the succeeding rounds. There wasn’t anything very special about him. He wasn’t like 96 and 98, who had blazed their way into this round. However, Huo Yuhao was able to edge out his opponents every time, and finally reached the round of six. If he won this round, he would be qualified to represent the Duskwater Alliance.

As there were only six people left, the stage in the hall was also much more spacious. There were three distinct regions, and the carving table in each region had been enlarged. At the center of the stage were

three circular tables. Every table was stacked with rare metals. They were the rewards for the victors today.

The startling thing was that the Duel Region behind it had been dismantled. There was only the circular stage in the center.

Huo Yuhao and the rest were brought to a tunnel behind the stage. They didn't enter through the main door of the hall like before. In addition to the four of them, there were two other young men around twenty-seven or twenty-eight years old waiting there, who appeared quite excited. They were also competitors in the round of six. According to the information Chen An had given Huo Yuhao, they were both Class 5 soul engineers. They were the weakest two of the six remaining competitors.

On the stage, a handsome young man wearing a dazzling golden shirt walked up to the stage.

"Greetings to all distinguished guests. I'm the emcee for today's tournament. You can call me Ajin. I'll help everyone interpret today's fights."

All the spectators got excited when they heard that the match was about to begin. They started to cheer, and whistling could be heard from time to time. They had placed heavy bets on today's fights, since they could now bet on specific individuals. As for how the six of them would be paired up, it was going to be decided using lot. This lot-drawing would be very important.

"First, let me introduce all of you to our top six soul engineers. I must reiterate that the information that we released regarding the six of them before the start of the match and the analysis that I'm going to give you now are all based on their performances in the previous rounds. We've never asked them what their class or abilities are. That's because it's taboo to talk about such things."

Ajin's voice suddenly sounded very high-pitched. "Let's welcome our first competitor, whose number is 37, onto the stage."

A young man slightly to the front in the tunnel behind quickly ascended the stage. He took two to three steps and walked over in front of Ajin, placing both his hands behind his back.

"He has defeated many strong opponents en route to the last six. He even created a strong yet rare Class 5 soul tool in the previous round. We estimate that he's a Class 5 soul engineer, and specializes in creating dexterous, offensive-type soul tools."

"Next, let's welcome our number 85 competitor up onto the stage."

The other young man also quickly went up to the stage. He stood beside 37. His introduction was similar to 37, it wasn't very special. Those who were sharp could tell that they were the weakest two. They were also given higher odds to win.

"Third, let's welcome our number 66 soul engineer up on the stage. I'll need some of my staff members to give him a hand."

Huo Yuhao was pushed onto the stage by two staff members.

The emcee came to his side and smiled at him before saying, "Although it's a little inconvenient for him to move, he managed to triumph in every round of this tournament. We don't know what his limit is,

but we estimate him to be a Class 5 soul engineer. From his calm and composed performances, we can roughly tell that he has a strong, yet mysterious amount of potential.

“Our fourth competitor today is our number 88 soul engineer. He has been wearing a mask all this while, and has a huge and burly figure.”

He Caitou walked up to the stage and quickly made his way over beside Huo Yuhao.

“He once demonstrated his strength. We estimate him to be between a Class 5 and Class 6 soul engineer. In fact, I’d like to know why he’s always wearing a mask. Perhaps he’s a familiar, reputable soul engineer in our empire! I rate him highly.”

He Caitou listened to Huo Yuhao’s instructions and didn’t mutter a word. After all, he was wearing a mask. His appearance seemed very cold.

“Our fifth competitor is our number 98 soul engineer.

“He is very strong, and even possesses an extremely special, sharp carving blade. We believe it to be a top-ranked carving blade, and estimate him to be a Class 6 soul engineer. We can confirm that his abilities are Class 6 and above. I don’t think any of the first four competitors would like to draw him in this round.

“Our last competitor is our number 96 soul engineer. Just like our number 98 competitor, we believe him to be a Class 6 soul engineer. He also possesses a sharp carving blade that we believe to be a top-notch carving blade. We’ve announced earlier that he and our number 96 soul engineer won’t meet each other in this round since they are the strongest. This is to ensure that we can send our best lineup to the grand final. Let the lot-drawing begin!”

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“Let’s draw the lots!”

When the emcee uttered these four words, 98 deliberately glanced at Huo Yuhao in his wheelchair, who was a head shorter than everyone else. His lips moved, and he seemed to be mouthing, “Pray!”

Huo Yuhao smiled a strange smile. Yes! Pray, but it’s you who has to pray that you won’t be matched with me...

The lot-drawing process was simple. There was a large crystal ball, and six tiny balls inside with magnets on them. There were two magnets in each of three different areas inside the crystal ball, and the tiny balls that were drawn to the magnets in these respective areas when the crystal ball began to rotate would face each other today.

The balls with 96 and 98 were already attached to two different regions, which meant the two wouldn’t meet each other in this round. The four other balls were still at the bottom.

“Alright, I will commence today’s crystal lottery. Spin!” The emcee pressed a button beneath the crystal, and the crystal ball gradually started to rotate.

The four balls at the bottom were gradually tossed into the air as the crystal began to spin faster and faster. The three grooved areas with magnets attached to them didn’t move.

The first ball was quickly sucked away to one of the remaining empty regions.

“Alright, number 88 into the third region. I have to say that you’re quite fortunate, mysterious soul engineer 88. You’re lucky that you’re not up against the two of them, who we have estimated as powerful Class 6 soul engineers.”

He Caitou’s number was the first to be drawn. 98 glanced at Huo Yuhao once more, as if he was saying, Your chances of meeting us are a lot higher now.

Another tiny ball was sucked into one of the regions with a whistle right at this moment. This time, this ball was sucked into the region with 96 inside.

“37 versus 96, inside the first region.”

37 was instantly overcome with despair. He knew that he had a chance against He Caitou, but he had no chance against 96. 96 was confirmed to be a Class 6 soul engineer, and he possessed a ranked carving knife as well!

“Alright, the fifth one has been retrieved. 66 versus 98, in the second region.”

Both 98 and Huo Yuhao’s eyes immediately became a little peculiar. Their gazes met, and Huo Yuhao saw a sardonic smile, while 98 saw a look of exasperation and helplessness.

There was no suspense with the last draw. 85 versus 88, in the third region. He Caitou was practically given a walkover.

“Alright, the lottery has been completed. Everyone will be given fifteen minutes to place their bets. Only you who are here will be able to take advantage of this treatment. The opportunity will never return if you let it slip... the fifteen minutes begins now! May I invite the three contesting pairs to move to your respective seats? The next ten hours will be tiring and exhausting, but the ultimate winner can take the rare metals that have been prepared for you at the center of the competition stage. It’s very difficult to evaluate these metals, because they can’t be purchased on the market. Every winner will win fifty-four different kinds of rare metals, five kilos of each!”

The lottery had been completed, and the entire Golden Hall began to hustle and bustle. Everybody had their own guesses and estimations from the lottery, and everyone would undoubtedly have the most confidence making their bets at a time like this. Of course, placing their bets within the allotted fifteen minutes also meant that their odds were a lot lower than before. Even so, the entire place still descended into chaos, and all thirty-six betting booths were packed with people.

He Caitou came over to Huo Yuhao and pushed his wheelchair into the second region, while 98 tagged along.

“You’re finished, little fellow. Your only chance to live is if you admit defeat right now,” he continued proudly, “This is what it means to say ‘God knows what you did’. You’re too arrogant, so you ended up having to face me! Hahahaha!”

Huo Yuhao turned around and looked at He Caitou. He frowned and said, “Am I that arrogant? 98, are you that confident of gobbling me up?”

98 grunted coldly and replied, “If I can’t beat someone like you, hmp!”

Huo Yuhao laughed. "Why don't we place a bet? This tournament exists for wagering anyway!"

A suspicious look flashed across the other soul engineer's face. "You still dare to wager with me, young man? What are the stakes?"

Huo Yuhao said, "I'll take your carving knife. If you lose, then that carving knife will belong to me, and I won't take your life. See, I'm such a conversationalist, and I'm so amiable and generous."

"You want my carving knife?" 98 wasn't a fool. He could tell from Huo Yuhao's smiling face that he wasn't anxious or worried at all, and he felt alarm bells go off in his head. Has he been hiding his abilities this entire time?

"What about you? Unless you have your own ranked carving knife, you're not worthy of making this bet with me."

Huo Yuhao answered, "I don't have a ranked carving knife, but I have a soul tool. What do you think?" He reached inside his pocket and took out a soul tool that resembled a chest plate. It was the Hongchen's Blessing that Jing Hongchen had given him.

"Take it and let him feel it, brother." Huo Yuhao passed his Hongchen's Blessing to He Caitou beside him.

He Caitou's took Huo Yuhao's Hongchen's Blessing and stepped over to 98. They were all soul engineers, so everyone was relatively discerning about soul tools. He Caitou revealed the Hongchen's Blessing's formation arrays to 98 for a single look before he infused his soul power into it and released a thread of the soul tool's aura. He then passed it back to Huo Yuhao.

98's eyes grew slack. That was... a miniature formation array?

Soul tools weren't necessarily more powerful as they got bigger, and this was especially true with regards to their formation arrays. Smaller soul tools were easier to carry, too. For instance, Hongchen's Blessing was only several centimeters thick. How could Huo Yuhao carry it with him everywhere he went if the formation arrays inside were too big?

Creating miniature formation arrays was ten times harder than the same normal-sized formation arrays. Typically, only soul engineers above Class 7 would attempt something like this. 98 had only been given one look at it, but he realized that the soul tool that he had just seen possessed at least five miniature formation arrays, and every single one seemed exceedingly complex. This soul tool was definitely not a prototype, and was undoubtedly Class 8, at the very least! It also possessed a dense and intense aura. The miniature formation arrays inside were already incredibly valuable by themselves, because every high-level soul engineer crafted formation arrays with their own unique methods. Learning something about these unique methods was priceless to mid-level soul engineers!

98 hadn't expected Huo Yuhao to wager something as precious as this against him. Of course, he was confident that his ranked carving knife's value wasn't inferior to this soul tool.

Greed began to stir in his heart. His eyes closed into slits as he stared at Huo Yuhao, and Huo Yuhao stared back at him. Huo Yuhao's eyes were calm, and there even a tinge of condescension in them.

Is this a trick? Has he been hiding his abilities this whole time? He wants to bait me and win my ranked carving knife!

98 was a little arrogant, but he wasn't an idiot. Otherwise, he wouldn't have become the soul engineer that he was today before the age of thirty! He pondered long and hard, and decided that he would reject this wager. Even though his aura would be beaten back because of this, it was better than actually losing his ranked carving knife that was too precious to him.

However, he noticed a fine detail right at this moment. Huo Yuhao was using his right hand to grip the wheelchair's armrest, and it seemed a little strong. Even his finger's joints were a little greenish-white.

Soul engineers all had good eyes. Otherwise, how could they craft intricate and delicate soul tools? A thought flashed through his mind as he stared at Huo Yuhao's right hand, which was still gripping the wheelchair's armrest tightly. Maybe he doesn't have the confidence to defeat me at all, and he simply wants to use this wager to beat back my grandeur?

98 began to scrutinize Huo Yuhao closely when he thought about that possibility. He quickly found another fine detail; Huo Yuhao's other arm seemed to be quivering, the arm that he had never used before. Huo Yuhao's calm eyes were flickering with something, and those eyes seemed to betray a little anxiety and discordance. These details weren't obvious, but 98 managed to pick up on these clues as he observed Yuhao closely.

"Okay, I'll take the bet." A confident smile surfaced on his face.

Huo Yuhao was momentarily stunned. "You're really betting with me? I'm lacking a ranked carving knife anyway. Many thanks to you, then!"

98 stared back mischievously and said, "Do you really have the confidence to defeat me? I don't think so. Since you want to die, little fellow, I will fulfill your wishes today."

Huo Yuhao answered coldly, "We'll have that bet, then. If you're not afraid, we can make this bet public, and the Duskwater Alliance can be our witness. Otherwise, what if you lose and you deny that this bet exists?"

98 was full of avarice, and his mind was already made up. No matter how he looked at Huo Yuhao, he felt as if he was trying to put up a strong front. A cold smile appeared on his face as he said, "Alright, the Duskwater Alliance will witness our wager. They will see how you lose that soul tool to me. You, come here." He reached out and hollered at the emcee on stage not far from where they were.

Akin walked over hurriedly. He was just an emcee, and he didn't dare to offend the Sun Moon Empire's soul engineers. Soul engineers were the most highly regarded profession in the country!

"What do you need, sir?" Akin sounded a little fawning.

98 grunted coldly and said, "I want to wager with my opponent, and we are betting on who will be the eventual winner. I want the Duskwater Alliance to lay witness to this wager."

"Ah? Okay!" Akin's eyes sparkled. He was the Golden Hall's top-rated emcee, and he knew all too well what the audience loved to watch. Exciting things were a lot better for the gambling atmosphere, and this was especially true when everyone was still placing their bets!

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Ajin hurriedly made sure he knew everything there was to know about the situation. He immediately picked up his speaker-type soul tool and announced on stage, "Everyone placing your bets, please wait a moment. There's a minor interlude that I have to tell everyone about so that everyone can make better judgments. Just a few moments ago, 98 and 66, who are both mighty soul engineers, have announced their own wager! 98 will use his own carving knife as the stake, and 66 will use a powerful soul tool as his! We will invite the tournament's chief judge to assess these two items so that we can confirm their value. Of course, the wager has been announced and completed, and both parties cannot take anything back anymore."

98 grabbed the speaker-type soul tool from his hands and said loudly, "My stake is a carving knife. It's the same one that will be used later on in the competition."

He stuffed the speaker-type soul tool back into Ajin's hands after this sentence. When he turned around at Huo Yuhao, he could see that Huo Yuhao's head was lowered, and there seemed to be sweat dripping down from his temples.

"Why don't we let it go, brother?" He Caitou whispered into Huo Yuhao's ear.

"Let it go? No, it's too late. The announcement has already been made." His ears were pretty good, and 98 could clearly tell what they were going on about.

At this moment, the three judges that the Duskwater Alliance had sent forth stepped onto the competition stage. The judges had changed once more because this was the round of six, so the judges that came forward today were all Class 7 soul engineers. These three mighty Class 7 soul engineers had veils draped over their faces, as it was clear that they had some reputation in the outside world, so they were afraid that people familiar with them would recognize them.

The three judges stepped onto the competition stage and quickly arrived before them.

98 directly retrieved his carving knife and handed it over. He wasn't afraid of people pining after his carving knife, as the world seemed to look on. Furthermore, he had quite a background to back himself up.

His dark green carving knife was a tad bigger than most carving knives. The blade seemed to have rust marks, but they didn't seem like actual rust. It seemed ancient and unornamented, and there were two dragon-shaped engravings on both sides of the blade. It emanated chilly sensations, and even the naked eye could tell that this carving knife was extraordinary.

The middle judge among the three took the carving knife carefully. He was immediately overcome with a look of astonishment. "This... Darkness Green Dragon?"

98 answered proudly, "Yes, it's my Darkness Green Dragon."

The judge turned around and took Ajin's speaker-type soul tool. He deepened his voice and said, "98 has chosen his Darkness Green Dragon as his stake. This is a ranked carving knife, the Darkness Green Dragon is ranked 59th on the Carving Knife Leaderboard. It carries darkness and wind elements, and any soul tool that it creates will carry these two elements. It's three times heavier than typical carving knives, and is well-known for its stability. Using this carving knife with suitable soul tools will create

formidable effects, and it will have a ten percent increase in success rate when forging soul tools above Class 7.”

Yes, this was a formidable ranked carving knife. Ranked carving knives were almost priceless to soul engineers.

The three judges turned towards Huo Yuhao when they finished introducing 98’s carving knife. Huo Yuhao was grasping his Hongchen’s Blessing as tightly as he could with his right hand, and his eyebrows were tightly knit together, but he didn’t make a sound at all.

96 came over beside 98 and asked him a few questions inquisitively while he glanced at Huo Yuhao from time to time.

98 whispered some explanations to him with a smile on his face. 96 frowned slightly, and he responded as if he were chiding his friend.

“What are you betting with?” The judge stepped up to Huo Yuhao.

Huo Yuhao hesitated for a moment before he over his Hongchen’s Blessing.

“My teacher gave this to me. Don’t spoil it.” The look of reluctance on his face was undeniable as he spoke.

The leading judge examined the soul tool’s formation arrays as he took Huo Yuhao’s Hongchen’s Blessing. His body trembled as he blurted out, “This is the Illustrious Virtue Hall’s...”

“Shut up!” Huo Yuhao interrupted him with an angry shout.

The judge seemed to realize something, and he hurriedly closed his mouth as he continued to inspect the soul tool. The other two judges came over, and all three of them inspected it for a long time as their eyes flowed with astonishment and shock.

This was a soul tool that Jing Hongchen, the Illustrious Virtue Hall’s Hallmaster, had created himself. Even though they weren’t sure if this was a Class 9 soul tool, they could tell that this was an incredible soul tool from how complex it was and from the materials that were used to craft it.

The three judges exchanged looks, but 98 was a little impatient. He walked over and said, “Can you make the announcement? You guys can’t be biased. Otherwise, hmph!”

The chief judge nodded. He picked up the speaker-type soul tool and said, “66 has chosen a high-level soul tool as his stake. For some special reasons, we cannot describe this item, but we can attest that its value is comparable to the Darkness Green Dragon. Alright, we have finished assessing their stakes, and the Darkness Green Dragon will temporarily be given back to 98 for use in the tournament. This soul tool will be kept with us, and it will be given to the victor after this round. The wager has been established, and the Duskwater Alliance will treat either party that goes back on his word at enemies. We will do our best to make sure that this wager goes through.”

The three judges kept the Hongchen’s Blessing after the announcement and returned to their seats. The judges were sitting on three elevated chairs three meters above the ground, so they could watch everything that was going on with the contestants from their vantage point.

Ajin took the speaker-type soul tool back and said loudly, "Alright, the interlude is over. I trust that the wager between these two soul engineers has influenced your bets in some way, my dear guests. You have ten minutes left, hurry up and make your bets! The booths will close once time is up."

The gamblers were indeed a lot livelier after this interlude's excitement and stimulation.

Huo Yuhao's face seemed to glow with ice-cold light as he hit himself softly on the left shoulder. An amused smile broke out across his face.

He's taken the bait in the end!

He Caitou escorted Huo Yuhao to the second region's crafting desk before he patted him on the shoulder and returned to his own side.

98 walked over to his own crafting desk opposite Huo Yuhao. There was a bright smile on his face as he said, "So, this soul tool is from the Illustrious Virtue Hall. It's quite impressive... looks like you're committed quite a bit to this gamble."

Huo Yuhao answered coldly, "You still have a chance to regret your words. Otherwise, won't you be devastated if you lose your ranked carving knife to me?"

98 laughed out loud. "I wouldn't be so sure that I'll be the one that will be devastated after this round. You're daydreaming if you want me to retract my wager. Weren't you so arrogant and outrageous before this? Why are you cowering now? Enough bullshit, we'll see who wins this wager with our abilities. Don't worry, even though I have absolute confidence that I will win, I will not underestimate you. I will use the soul tools that I'm most adept and familiar with against you today, and I won't give you a single thread of a chance at all."

Huo Yuhao's face changed slightly, but he said nothing more. He closed his eyes and began to conserve his energy and mentally prepare himself.

The rare metals and the myriad of refined metals that were to be used in this round were sent up. This round was ten hours long, so a lot more metals had been prepared for today. Some were placed on the crafting desks, while a rack specially given to each contestant was placed next to each of them for their own convenience.

The fifteen minutes allotted for betting quickly passed, and the gamblers returned to their seats one after another. After the lots had been drawn, the audience knew that the most attractive and interesting faceoff would be between the two soul engineers who had made their own individual bet. The other two were conspicuously unbalanced, and the odds were pathetically low. The odds for the match between Huo Yuhao and 98 were relatively higher, while Huo Yuhao's odds were the highest. This was because he was against 98, and nobody could see how he had any advantage at all. Without talking about anything else, the judges estimated him as a Class 5 soul engineer, while 98 was a Class 6 soul engineer. 98 also possessed a ranked carving knife, the Darkness Green Dragon!

Huo Yuhao's odds were at 1:3, while his opponent's odds were at 5:4. The other two matchups were more evenly split.

“Begin!” The soundproof barriers rose right after the chief judge’s announcement. The emcee was already outside the competition stage, and was responsible for narrating today’s competition. He quickly got onto a tall structure outside the competition stage, and took a seat five meters above the stage. His seat was equipped with a speaker-type soul tool and a telescopic soul tool. The emcee could clearly see what the six soul engineers were doing on stage.

All six soul engineers began to move once the announcement was made. This round had no limit as to the number of soul tools that each contestant could create. That also meant that every contestant was allowed to create as many as they wanted within the stipulated time. The choice that each contestant had to make with regards to the volume and power would be up to them.

Huo Yuhao’s eyes were especially focused and serious today. He had the same faith that he would definitely be victorious, but he also understood that 98 wasn’t easy to deal with. The man had a ranked carving knife, and he was also a Class 6 soul engineer, so his standards were comparable to Huo Yuhao’s own abilities. The only thing that guy didn’t have was Huo Yuhao’s Spirit Eyes, which gave him an advantage.

A dash of golden light glowed beneath Huo Yuhao’s eyes. He waved his right hand over his forehead, and a green blade charged with life energy appeared in his hands: his Life Guardian Blade! His opponent had a ranked carving knife, so how could Huo Yuhao match up to his opponent if he didn’t use his own?

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Outside the competition stage, Ajin exclaimed at almost the same time as Huo Yuhao retrieved his own ranked carving knife. “Wow, wow! Look at that, my dear guests. What has our 66 taken out? It’s a carving knife that’s entirely green in color, and from my perspective, that carving knife looks like it’s been sculpted from a jewel. It’s very eye-catching, and it’s a green color filled with life energy! It’s so beautiful! 66 does have some substance to back him up. It’s no wonder he dares to wager against 98!”

The people that had bet on 98 became a little gloomy once they heard this.

98 couldn’t hear what was going on outside, but he seemed to feel something when Huo Yuhao took out his Life Guardian Blade. He looked up, and was momentarily stunned, and his eyes coincidentally met Huo Yuhao’s stare. Their gazes met, and he was met with Huo Yuhao’s calm and composed smile.

He grunted coldly and muttered, “So that’s the thing you’ve been hiding? Let’s not talk about the fact that your carving knife is not even ranked, and even if it is ranked, it’s more important to see who the user is.”

Huo Yuhao didn’t respond at all. He picked up a piece of rare metal known as Multiridged Devilgold and began his own construction.

This metal had a unique characteristic. This metal always seemed like it had uncountable ridges even when it was first mined, but everything else was as smooth like a mirror. This was how the name Multiridged Devilgold came about.

Multiridged Devilgold was different from other metals because it was inherently resistant to soul power. Any soul power that was infused into it would be rejected, and it could even produce a reactionary force

several times the power of the soul power infused inside. If the soul power infused inside exceeded the range that the Multiridged Devilgold could take, the metal would explode.

Multiridged Devilgold wasn't considered very rare because it was still produced in relatively large amounts. It was typically the best choice for crafting defensive soul tools.

This was especially true when soul engineers wanted to craft formation arrays for a protective soul barrier. The product would possess the Multiridged Devilgold's natural resistance to energy and soul power once completed, an excellent effect.

The only problem was that Multiridged Devilgod was extremely tough, and at the same time naturally resistant to soul power. This meant it was a lot more difficult to create formation arrays from this metal.

However, this was no problem at all before Huo Yuhao's Life Guardian Blade. The sharp bluish-green blade cut nimbly into the Multiridged Devilgold, and the Life Guardian Blade absorbed every single ounce of life energy from the metal with every stroke and every part it touched. With Huo Yuhao's precise control, life energy was only sucked away from the places that the blade actually cut into, and those parts naturally became extremely weak without any life energy at all. Huo Yuhao was engraving and cutting into the Multiridged Devilgold as if he were slicing tofu, and the metal was quickly forged and engraved into a disc-like shape about the size of his palm.

Ajin knew quite a bit about crafting soul tools, so he could commentate properly. His jaw hung open as he looked on from his high seat.

"Oh my heavens! That's just incredible! Multiridged Devilgold is extremely resistant to soul power, but it's become as weak as tofu beneath 66's mystical carving knife."

98 was also carving and sculpting a rare metal. He was focused on creating his own soul tool, so he no longer looked at Huo Yuhao; all his energy and attention was focused on the soul tool in front of him. His Darkness Green Dragon flickered with faint green light with every stroke, and caused the metal to ripple at the same time.

The Golden Hall outside was in an uproar compared to the competition stage's silence. Everybody was discussing things vigorously with their companions and the people they were familiar with.

Ten hours was a really long time, and many people started to leave after watching the show for more than two hours. However, they were just getting something to eat, and weren't actually leaving.

The Duskwater Alliance's service was exceedingly good. Food and refreshments were provided outside the Golden Hall, everything free of charge.

The audience could also redeem blankets free-of-charge, and the sofas that they were given to sit on were spacious and very comfortable for lying down. Even though these sofas couldn't compare to actual beds, it was much better than sitting up for the next couple of hours.

The Golden Hall's lighting became progressively dimmer over time, so the competition stage's lighting stayed the strongest.

Some officials got onto the stage discreetly and delivered some food and drinks to the competing soul engineers before they slunk away. They even had thick cotton layers beneath their shoes so that they could avoid making too much sound, and could avoid affecting the competitors.

Time continued to pass, and soul tools were completed one after another. Ajin stepped off his high seat after another period of commentating to rest as well. It was getting late, and the gamblers had to rest. They couldn't absorb any more commentating anyway.

The six people on stage were very focused, and they didn't want to waste even a single second of time.

The contestants would signal to the judges after each soul tool was completed, so that the judges could assess them and confirm that they had been completed. These soul engineers could keep their soul tools only after the judges had given their approval, and these soul tools would be used in the face-off afterwards.

After three hours, 98 had already finished two soul tools, while Huo Yuhao had yet to finish a single one; he was the only person among the six contestants who hadn't raised his hand yet. Some of the gamblers who weren't resting and were still very excited, and those who had placed their bets on him, were getting worried. Of course, this was a minority, as only those who could take a high risk would choose to bet on the underdog.

98 completed four soul tools in six hours. This was an astonishing speed, as all four soul tools were Class 5 soul tools.

Class 6 soul engineers didn't have to craft Class 6 soul tools if they were limited by time. Soul engineers would have to consider defending themselves first before anything else in a contest between soul engineers, rather than attacking their adversary. Therefore, one soul tool was clearly not enough for combat, and having a balanced and suitable combination of soul tools was the best choice.

Six hours went by, but Huo Yuhao still hadn't raised his hand a single time. There were many seemingly sophisticated components on his crafting desk. Some were formation arrays, while others were parts and accessories that the judges couldn't fathom. Nobody knew what exactly he was doing, and they were perplexed that he still hadn't finished a single soul tool.

98 would look up at Huo Yuhao from time to time. His eyes seemed a little doubtful as well. What's this fellow trying to do? Why doesn't he have a single completed soul tool yet? He must have some ability to boast of if he dares to use that thing as his stake. Is he panicking? No, he must be using some special method or technique. His eyes are very focused, and it doesn't look like he's giving up.

98 naturally paid more attention to Huo Yuhao as these thoughts ran through his head. His eyes darted to the crafting desk opposite him intermittently, and his hand movements were naturally a little slower than before.

He quickly discovered that Huo Yuhao was actually crafting one single soul tool. Those parts and accessories were laid around the table to form a vague shape. He's only crafting one soul tool? Is he trying to gamble everything he has on some excessively powerful attack?

His eyes closed into slits, and he pondered for a moment longer before he began to craft another soul tool. His movements were conspicuously faster than before as metal dust and fragments drifted all over the place. His eyes flickered with dark and cold light as he thought to himself, You want to ambush me with an extremely powerful soul tool, huh? Then I will foil your plans before you can even execute them properly.

All six contestants continued crafting their soul tools nervously and hurriedly. They raised their hands again and again, and the gamblers who were resting before began to wake up. The ten hours were almost up, and Huo Yuhao was the only odd one out among the six contestants who hadn't created a single finished product.

Eight hours went by. Huo Yuhao had been working anxiously this entire time, but he finally looked up from his work. There was a clear look of fatigue on his face. He had formidable spiritual power, but he had been tensed up and nervous for many hours. He was truly feeling a little exhausted from crafting this soul tool before him.

There were almost a hundred accessories and components laid out on the crafting desk before him.

Huo Yuhao had designed this soul tool with the Life Guardian Blade as its core ever since he remembered that he had the carving knife. This was also the first time that he had attempted to make it, and it was because of this fact that he had to be very careful and meticulous throughout the entire process. Of course, his meticulousness was also highly related to the soul tool's inherent complexity.

Huo Yuhao glanced at the hourglass next to him. I have one hour left. I guess I have enough time to finish it.

Huo Yuhao wasn't in a hurry. He sat there with his eyes closed so that he could focus his attention, and he channeled soul power across his body to adjust his body's state and his state of mind.

His soul power couldn't complete its circulation because his left arm and his legs were frozen. Therefore, he found it a lot more difficult to adjust his condition and his body's state. This was also a substantial reason why he felt so exhausted after just ten hours. If he had done this before he was injured, he could continue for two days and two nights without a problem.

I have to accelerate my absorption of the Ultimate Ice origin energy of heaven and earth. Fortunately, I've found some methods recently...

Fifteen minutes went by, but Huo Yuhao was still sitting there motionless, and the round was inching towards its end. There were very few people who had placed their bets on him, but these few people were still exceedingly displeased as they watched him, and many of them even started to curse and shout.

There would be a corresponding doll on the soul engineers' respective desks for each soul tool that they completed. At this point, the soul engineer with the most soul tools had six finished products, but Huo Yuhao hadn't even completed one. He wouldn't even be allowed to enter the faceoff after this if he didn't have a single completed soul tool.

Everybody looked on as the ten hours slowly ticked down to fifteen minutes...

[Chapter 310.1: The Adjudication Shield](#)

There were only fifteen minutes remaining in the Radiant City Elite Soul Engineering Tournament's round of six.

Huo Yuhao had just been sitting there with his eyes closed for almost an hour, resting up. He finally opened his eyes, and his eyes sparkled before he got down to work once again.

A formless layer of Spiritual Detection blanketed his crafting desk, and every single sophisticated component seemed like it was numbered. He raised his right hand to draw a component from the desk's other end toward him using Controlling Crane Capturing Dragon and pressed it down on another part to lock it in before placing them flat on the crafting desk. His right hand began to move like a butterfly meandering through flowers, and he was so fast that he left afterimages on his crafting desk.

The multiple soul tool components of different shapes and sizes that were made from all sorts of rare metals were being continuously assembled by his right hand. A soul tool gradually took form on his crafting desk.

Time continued ticking down. The other five contestants had already finished their work; nobody would dare to risk the final minutes to complete their soul tools. They gave themselves enough of a buffer and reserve time during their crafting process, so all their eyes drifted over to Huo Yuhao at the same time.

They could see that Huo Yuhao didn't have a single doll on his crafting desk at all, meaning he had no finished product. The other five contestants had different expressions on their faces, and even He Caitou's eyes flickered with a hint of worry. Hongchen's Blessing is a Class 9 soul tool! What's he doing? With his Spiritual Detection to guide him, how can he not create a single soul tool after ten hours?

The hourglass had dwindled down to its final minutes, and the fine grains of sand were gradually flowing away. 98 smiled condescendingly; he was entirely confident of winning even if Huo Yuhao could finish crafting the soul tool he was working on. It was easy to make mistakes when working under such tense conditions. Besides, could this soul tool be operational and effective? In other words, could he really succeed in completing it?

Even if he does succeed, I already have a plan to counter that. What can he do with just one soul tool?

Yes, his stake was quite impressive. It looked like a defensive soul tool that's at least Class 8! Very suitable for me!

"It's done." Huo Yuhao raised his right hand vigorously, and his soul tool dropped down onto his crafting desk with a clang. His hourglass still had a teeny bit of sand.

The gamblers who placed their bets on him fell back into their respective seats, as if their souls had departed their bodies. Huo Yuhao had finally completed one soul tool, which meant that there was still a thread of hope. A single thread was better than nothing at all.

98 frowned from where he sat opposite Huo Yuhao. He could see that Yuhao had forged a very strange-looking soul tool that it was shaped like a shield. The shield's physical appearance was split into three different parts. There was a protruding center shaped like a sphere and as large as a human head, whose silver-white metal surface shone with gentle bluish-green light.

The shield's outer surface was mostly grey metal, with this protruding hemisphere at its center, and otherwise very unassuming. Its outermost circumference was a pale blue metal, and a lot thinner compared to its other parts. One would realize upon closer inspection that this shield was crafted by assembling many different components together. There were multiple rare metals contained inside, and even an established soul engineer like 98 couldn't identify them all with one look.

"Time's up, contestants. Please stop everything you're doing. Judges, please step forward to assess their soul tools." Ajin was back on the stage. The soundproofing barrier dropped, and clamorous noises immediately flooded the competition stage.

The three judges were already on stage, and the first person they approached was Huo Yuhao. Huo Yuhao hadn't produced a single soul tool throughout the entire round up until the last moment, and they wanted to make sure whether he was qualified to continue in this round.

A few people were sitting inside a guest lounge at the center of a structure hovering in the air above the Golden Hall. There was a lady dressed in a long black robe seated in the middle of everyone, her baggy and oversized robe covering her entire body. One could only tell her gender from the faint lines of her physical frame.

She was wearing a conical bamboo hat, and a black veil covered her face. Only her two peculiar bluish-grey eyes were revealed, and they were silently watching everything that was happening outside.

The guest lounge was very quiet at this moment; everybody was just watching without making a sound.

"What do you think about 66, Old Three?" the lady sitting in the middle asked plainly.

The person she was talking to was an elderly man who looked about sixty years old. His silver-white hair dangled behind his head, and he had a very tough and muscular physique. He wasn't that young anymore, but his eyes were still exceedingly sharp and pithy.

"That youth is very sophisticated, vice sect leader. I noticed that he was crafting an extremely complicated composite soul tool from the very beginning, but it's the first time that I've seen this production method. There are seventeen formation arrays contained inside. The largest one is an energy-gathering formation array, and it's also the one that's located at the shield's center. He was the slowest when he was creating that formation array, but I couldn't see anything out of the ordinary about it. The other sixteen formation arrays should be deflective rays and something of the like. Some are a little different from the rest, and the six formation arrays on the outermost circumference should be deflective rays with reversal capabilities, if my eyes didn't fail me. That also means that this shield should have absorbing capabilities."

"Deflection and absorption at the same time? What's he trying to achieve?" The vice-sect leader's silver-white eyes showed a little doubt and suspicion.

The elderly man shook his head and said, "I won't be able to guess that, either. Even though he's not considered a very high-level soul engineer, every soul engineer has his or her own innovations and creativity. This soul tool's complexity can be compared to a Class 7 soul tool, and I can tell from the final assembly phase that there are many gears and other structures that I cannot understand. Most of them

should be his own inventions. I have to say that this youth is a genius. I wish to take him in under our wing if it's possible."

Another elderly man sitting on the vice-sect leader's other side smiled and remarked, "Even you hold this fellow in high regard? Since that's the case, I'll find someone to talk to him after the contest and ask him about his thoughts. Some of my people told me before this that they've closely inspected the soul tool that he's using for their individual wager, and that soul tool is from the Illustrious Virtue Hall. Furthermore, it's likely that the Hallmaster of the Virtue Hall, Jing Hongchen himself, was the one who created it. It's a Class 8 soul tool at the very least, but it's actual strength can only be confirmed after proper assessment."

The vice-sect leader sounded a little surprised. "Can he be Jing Hongchen's disciple? But I've never heard of Jing Hongchen having a crippled disciple. Do you think this fellow can defeat your precious disciple?"

The first elderly man shook his head and said, "It's hard to say. Between my two disciples, Huang Zheng is relatively levelheaded and steady, and he does things more stably. He's the senior brother, and lives up to his status. However, Mo Ke is more talented. But his greatest weakness is that he is easily arrogant and condescending. He's a little better in front of me, but he's always arrogant and condescending towards outsiders. I've reminded him countless times, but he's never kicked the habit. I do wish to see him lose to 66 today, and that's not a bad thing for his future growth and development."

The vice-sect leader said, "We shall wait and see, then. Second Elder, how are the Duskwater Alliance's profits looking from this tournament?"

The other elderly man that spoke to the first one replied, "We have gained almost thirty-three percent more than our original projections."

The vice-sect leader nodded her head and said, "Very well. After this, we will increase our control over the government's rare metals. You have to send some people when the time comes, as these are our sect's core resources."

"Yes," the Second Elder acknowledged respectfully.

The three judges swiftly made their assessments on the competition stage, and they affirmed that Huo Yuhao had successfully created a soul tool. However, the judges shared the third elder and the vice-sect leader's confusion, and they didn't understand why Huo Yuhao would craft a soul tool like that. This was a defensive soul tool in a fight, which meant that Huo Yuhao would be the passive one taking hits. Did he want to defeat his component by grinding down his soul power?

98 didn't look so good when he saw that Huo Yuhao's soul tool was a shield. Initially, he had believed that Huo Yuhao was creating an offensive soul tool with incredible attacking strength. But it seemed like his judgment was wrong, and that meant some of his plans to counter Huo Yuhao were wasted. He had spent four hours creating an Invincible Barrier against Huo Yuhao specifically because of his erroneous judgment.

All six soul engineers were quickly validated. 98 had six completed soul tools, Huo Yuhao had only one, and 96 also had six. He Caitou had five, and the remaining two had four each.

96 and 98 had a great advantage over the others in terms of the number of soul tools they had created.

The chief judge took the speaker-type soul tool from Ajin. He announced the number of soul tools that each contestant had finished before he lowered his voice and said, "I'll pose my routine questions now. The crafting phase is over, and because this is the round of six, every soul tool will have to be field-tested, no matter how each one has turned out. Your soul tools have to be proven in battle to show their strengths and their worth. Let me ask you now – does anyone feel that your soul tools are not enough to fight against your opponent? You have the option to back out now. Otherwise, you are responsible for your own injuries, and even your death once we enter the combat phase."

There was a lot more tension on the competition stage once this was said, and the atmosphere felt a lot more antagonistic. Many officials were already on stage to remove the six crafting desks, and they also temporarily removed the rare metals that were intended as prizes. It was clear that this circular competition stage was where the six soul engineers would fight it out!

[Chapter 310.2: The Adjudication Shield](#)

Nobody backed out. The prizes were so rich and generous, who didn't want to give it a shot? Even if someone ended up on the losing end, they could still admit defeat. It was very unlikely for someone to die in a tournament that was focused on comparing soul tools.

"Very well. Since nobody has decided to back out, we shall commence the combat phase. May I invite 96 and 37 to start the first match?"

Huo Yuhao's individual bet with 98, along with the incredible value of their stakes, meant that they would probably be the last to fight. The first match would definitely be between the more unbalanced pairs.

37 fought against 96, and was already at a complete disadvantage in his aura and disposition. There was no suspense at all, and 96 took just five minutes to achieve an overwhelming victory. Then it was He Caitou's turn against 85.

He Caitou gradually stepped towards the competition stage with a large cannon on his shoulders. He had crafted five soul tools – the black heavy cannon on his shoulder, a round breastplate, a shield, a waistplate, and a helmet.

Those were his five different soul tools, and he was well-equipped in terms of both attack and defense. Almost every single contestant chose this direction.

He Caitou's opponent was a little simpler in comparison. His opponent had a breastplate, and one relatively smaller soul cannon on each of his shoulders. He also had a belt-like soul tool around his waist.

They were inside the Golden Hall's competition stage after all, and it was a lot smaller than the Continental Elite Youth Soul Master Tournament's competition stage. Neither party had much space to move around, and any long-range attacks could reach the other side in no time.

The three judges returned to their positions, and the chief judge exclaimed, "Begin!"

Both He Caitou and 85 unleashed their martial souls at almost the same time. He Caitou was very quick, and six soul rings rose up from his feet. On seeing this, the audience erupted into shouts and

exclamations! He Caitou was a six-ringed Soul Emperor, and this meant that this tall and broad-shouldered man in a mask was likely to be a Class 6 soul engineer as well! The people who had placed their bets on He Caitou began to gasp and exclaim in joy and delight.

85 paled in comparison. He had two yellow and three purple soul rings; only five soul rings, and he didn't have the most optimal soul ring combination.

Both parties chose to unleash the same soul tool initially, a protective soul barrier. A layer of white light rose up and enveloped their bodies inside. Both soul barriers were Class 5, as they had only had ten hours to craft their soul tools.

The belt-like soul tool that 85 had around his waist burst with colorful light, and circle after circle of intense light rippled out from it. His soul power undulations began to flourish with lightning speed.

"Wow! Look, everyone! The soul tool around 85's waist is an extremely rare energy-gathering soul tool. It can focus and condense the user's soul power over a short period of time. It's very difficult to create a soul tool like that, and one has to be very precise in the crafting process! Otherwise, one mistake will cause injuries to the user. I can imagine right now that 85's subsequent attack will as vigorous and violent as a thunderstorm! With his energy-gathering soul tool's amplification, his attacks can rival that of a Class 6 soul engineer for a short period of time."

He Caitou didn't respond as he watched his opponent's energy-gathering soul tool. He calmly raised his left arm and blocked his chest, the footlong shield on his left arm beginning to chime faintly and radiate a layer of orangish-yellow light.

"Eh, look! What a great counter! The shield that 88 has chosen to use should be a soul reflecting shield! This shield is highly resistant and effective against all soul power attacks, or more accurately, all kinds of soul rays. The only problem is that I can't tell what this soul reflecting shield's Class is..."

The fight begun, and Ajin's saliva was spewing all over the place as he commentated excitedly on the battle.

An energy-gathering soul tool could temporarily increase a soul engineer's offensive ability, but it also consumed a lot more soul power. The user would have to achieve victory as quickly as possible.

85 felt his heart sink when he saw He Caitou's six soul rings. He knew that he only had one chance to win.

Because of this, he didn't wait for He Caitou to do anything else, and fired off the twin soul cannons on his shoulders. Two different lights blasted toward He Caitou.

The soul cannon on his left shoulder was a brilliant white soul ray. The air around it felt a little strange as this ray surged out, and everyone seemed to see cracks and tears in the air wherever this soul ray passed. The air seemed to become glassy and shatter in its wake.

The other soul cannon fired a pink sphere of light. This sphere was as big as a fist, but it grew increasingly larger as it flew through the air.

Every single contestant who could make it into the round of six had their own unique strengths, and 85 wasn't an exception!

Even Huo Yuhao was a little astonished as he watched those soul cannons. Both of them were Class 5 soul tools that were rarely seen.

The soul ray that cracked open the air as it flew was called a splitting shockwave. Even though it was similar to a shock bomb, there was a world of difference between them.

Shock bombs relied on intense and forceful shockwaves and undulations, but the splitting shockwave resembled uncountable knives and blades. Powerful cutting effects would be dished out to the target, and it would cut in very irregular patterns. The splitting shockwave was highly destructive, fierce, and brutal. However, it was very difficult to craft one of these, and it was quite challenging to control it as well. Splitting shockwaves were inherently unstable, and could easily injure their user. Therefore, soul engineers typically didn't opt for such a soul tool.

However, 85 seemed very confident, and it was clear that he was very familiar with using similar soul tools.

The pink sphere on the other side wasn't much worse, and it was known as an enfeebling cannon. This cannon could be considered a more primitive version of the aging ray which had been used on Wang Qiu'er.

It was difficult for any energy-based defenses to dispel a enfeebling cannon's effects, and anybody struck by it would immediately enter a weakened state. This weakened state was a prolonged and continuous one, and the victim would have to rest for a very long time to recover.

Both soul tools were considered incredibly difficult to craft among Class 5 soul tools. Furthermore, a lot of soul power had to be consumed when using them.

It was clear that 85 was prepared with his equipment. He had a Class 5 protective soul barrier to defend himself, and his energy-gathering belt boosted his soul power, while his two formidable soul cannons would take care of his opponent. His setup was quite impressive.

The splitting shockwave was the first to reach He Caitou. It clashed with He Caitou's soul barrier, shrill and ear-piercing sounds ringing out. The audience could see cuts and scars swiftly webbing out across He Caitou's soul barrier.

The splitting shockwave's most frightening characteristic was that it could be fired continuously. As long as the user had enough soul power to sustain his or her attack, this attack could be used continuously and without pause. Of course, this attacking style increased the chances of the soul tool itself breaking apart.

The enfeebling cannon shell followed immediately afterwards. It was not hard to imagine that He Caitou's soul barrier would definitely not be able to withstand the splitting shockwaves if he entered a weakened state, and it was likely that that would be instantly sliced and diced into pieces. 85 immediately took the upper hand as he made his first attack.

But He Caitou wasn't worried or panicky from beginning to end. He pressed his shield and its orange light, and the orange radiance seemed to materialize as it wrapped around his protective soul barrier and barricaded the splitting shockwave without. The cracks and scars immediately vanished.

He Caitou's feet moved as the enfeebling cannon shell came shortly after. He took a step to the left, evading the attack with incredible speed. The fact that his large and bulky body could make such agile and nimble dodging movements was astonishing.

The enfeebling cannon charge was locked onto him, however, and began to follow him as he waltzed around.

The helmet on He Caitou's head lit up, a bright silver beam erupting out of it and circling once around his body. The enfeebling cannon charge was pursuing closely behind him, so it was naturally encompassed within this beam's radius, and was instantly scooped up by the silver light.

"This... is this what's known as a Class 5 capturing hand? It can capture any powerful energy-based existence, and is primarily used to counter stationary soul cannons. It's quite a surprise that 88 has created a soul tool like that. It's a very clever creation."

He Caitou's capturing hand wrapped around the enfeebling charge, and its lock-on effects were immediately dispelled. He Caitou hurled the cannon charge back out towards 85, wanting to give his opponent a taste of his own medicine. The pink light sphere hurtled straight towards 85 at a speed faster than it had originally been launched at!

85 was overcome with shock, but his response was still appropriate. He Caitou's capturing hand could capture any energy-based entity at a certain speed, but it couldn't keep any lock-on capabilities. 85 dodged to one side and avoided this cannon shell, but his splitting shockwave paused for a moment because of his movements.

Right at that moment, a brilliant blue pillar of light surged across the competition stage. This blue pillar boomed like a thunderbolt, and the entire Golden Hall seemed to tremble and shiver along with it. There was only a protective dome around the competition stage; there wasn't a sound-proofing barrier. Therefore, everybody in the audience could hear the crisp and deafening boom.

The heavy cannon on He Caitou's shoulder was finally unleashed, a Lightning Cannon! This was one of He Caitou's favorite soul tools!

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Frightening lightning tore the air open as it thundered towards He Caitou's opponent. The bluish-purple lighting caused the air to twist and contort, and 85 had just evaded his own enfeebling cannon charge when his face changed.

Class 6! That's a Class 6 lightning cannon! My protective soul barrier can't handle that!

He hesitated for a single moment before he shouted, "I admit defeat!" He did have an option against this attack. He could use his Invincible Barrier to defend himself, but doing so was no different from admitting defeat. Almost every soul engineer above Class 5 was equipped with an Invincible Barrier, but this item was so outrageously expensive that nobody would ever use it unless the circumstance was a matter of life and death. This was especially so when the tournament prohibited using soul tools that were not crafted during the tournament, and this meant using an Invincible Barrier was equivalent to admitting defeat.

Boom!

The Lightning Cannon was withdrawn after just one shot. But even so, 85 was immediately thrown backwards from the impact, and his Class 5 protective soul barrier instantly shattered. His soul power was almost entirely smashed away by the impact, and his entire body was burned black. He puked out a mouthful of blood when he dropped back to the ground.

Ajin couldn't help but exclaim, "85 loves wealth more than he loves his life! I believe he has an Invincible Barrier with him, but he couldn't bear to use it. I would have done the same thing if I had been in his shoes. It's a pity I'm not a soul engineer..."

The battle was over, and victory had been determined. He Caitou was actually quite merciful and generous. Otherwise, if he had unleashed his Lightning Cannon's strength to its fullest extent, 85 would have been heavily injured, or instantly killed!

"Thank you for showing me mercy." 85 climbed to his feet and immediately bowed respectfully to He Caitou. Even though he had lost this round, his opponent had instantly stopped attacking after he admitted defeat. He was full of goodwill towards his opponent.

He Caitou remembered everything that Huo Yuhao had told him. He didn't make a sound, but nodded in his opponent's direction before he departed the competition stage to claim his prize.

Two matches out of three were over. 96 was very powerful and dominant, and He Caitou's last Class 6 soul tool was equally strong and impressive. Both of them gave the audience a deep and lasting impression.

Soul engineers typically resolved their combats very quickly, and rifts in strength and standards were quickly presented in a fight. The highlight of the show was about to begin, and the contestants that had bet against one another were about to fight!

Everyone in the audience began to take shorter and quicker breaths. Some were pleased and others upset about the result of the previous two matches, but the third and final match had the best odds. This was especially true for those who had placed their bets on Huo Yuhao; every single one of them could feel butterflies in their stomach. Even though they knew their chances of winning their bets were slim, they still had to hold on to that thread of hope until the very end. The odds were one to three... these was considered very good odds, and they would make windfall profits if they won this bet!

Those who had placed their bets on 98 weren't worried at all. Six soul tools versus one... unless his opponent had a trump card that ensured his victory, 98's advantage was just too evident. There was nothing they had to be worried about at all.

Huo Yuhao smiled, but his smile felt a little chilly. Officials pushed his wheelchair onto the competition stage, and 98 stepped onto the stage on the other side, fully equipped with his six soul tools.

Their gazes met, and the corner of 98's mouth curled into a smile. "Do you feel the pressure now, little fellow? Give it up. I won't kill you, considering you've given me such a nice present. I'll let you keep your life because of that."

Huo Yuhao's face was black. "We haven't even fought yet. How are you so sure that you'll win? Let me tell you, I have a lot of soul power. Hmph!"

98 laughed heartily and said, "That means you want to use that shield of yours to grind me down until I have no soul power left? Do you think that's realistic? I have at least a hundred ways of breaking through your defenses. You're so outrageous and arrogant even though you're sitting on that wheelchair. Now I understand why you are crippled."

Huo Yuhao felt a knot form in his heart. Even though he was intentionally showing weakness to his opponent, he still didn't feel very happy when his opponent labelled him as an outrageous and arrogant cripple.

"We'll see during the match. I hope you won't cry after losing the battle. The Darkness Green Dragon, huh? It's already mine," Huo Yuhao grunted coldly, but he didn't seem like he had any substance to back up his words.

"My Darkness Green Dragon is right here. I'm afraid you can only look at it. Hahaha!" 98 waved his right hand, and a dark green light waltzed around his fingertips like a spiritual serpent that had come alive. Huo Yuhao had to admit that 98 was quite accomplished with soul tools, and he had his own attainments.

"Judge!" Huo Yuhao suddenly shouted.

All three judges turned towards him confusedly.

Huo Yuhao said, "I've already given my stake to you before this. The crafting phase is over, so shouldn't 98 give his stake to you just like I have? That's only fair!"

98 felt his face freeze for a moment, but he quickly returned to normal. He generously revealed the Darkness Green Dragon in his hands and said, "Take it away, then. It will come back to me in a moment's time, anyway."

Huo Yuhao could clearly tell that 98 couldn't bear to part with his carving knife when the judges took it away.

All soul engineers at every class were as intimate with the carving knife they always used as if it were their own child. It was natural that any soul engineer would feel a little out of place without their favorite carving knife in their possession.

They entered the competition stage and took their sides. They had the soul tools that they had crafted earlier on them.

Huo Yuhao placed his shield flat down on his legs and gently caressed its surface. The unsettled expression on his face gradually disappeared, and he finally displayed a self-confident smile.

He was absolutely certain that this shield was one of the most successful soul tools that he had crafted over his entire life, and had named it the Adjudication Shield.

"Are you guys ready?" the judges inquired from their elevated seats.

"I'm ready!" Both Huo Yuhao and 98 responded at the same time.

“Alright. Bring up the protective barriers!”

The pale yellow protective barriers rose up and formed a hemisphere that encompassed the entire competition stage. The barriers were there to prevent the soul tools unleashed from damaging the Golden Hall.

Huo Yuhao raised the shield in his hands. 98 seemed as casual as ever on the other side, and he raised a strange-looking soul cannon with his right hand.

“Begin!”

The round of six’s final match began with the judge’s announcement.

Huo Yuhao raised his shield in front of him. However, not a single soul ring could be seen on his body.

On the other side, whistling sounds could be heard beneath 98’s feet as two yellow, two purple, and two black soul rings rose up, one after another. Dense soul power undulations immediately rippled from his body.

He wasn’t at all hasty to attack. Instead, he took a few steps forward as he placed his soul cannon on his shoulder.

Of the other six soul tools that he had created, other than his Invincible Barrier, he took the longest to craft this one.

This soul cannon looked like it was embedded into his shoulder, and it gave the audience the feeling that it was part of his body. This was a quality that an outstanding soul engineer had to possess, and every soul tool he created had to have chemistry with the soul engineer’s body.

This soul cannon was silver-white in color, and faintly radiated green light. The cannon’s mouth was flat and rectangular, and the entire cannon seemed a little peculiar. The black, flat opening began to flicker with light.

98 channeled his soul power, and a soul tool on his waist behind his back erupted with light. He also had an energy-gathering soul tool, but his energy-gathering soul tool was a little gentler than the one that belonged to 85. At least, the soul power undulations didn’t seem as strong.

However, once this soul tool was activated, the soul cannon on his shoulder erupted with green light. There appeared to be black streaks of air circulating around the cannon’s mouth.

Huo Yuhao hid his body completely behind his shield. Blue light sparkled on his shield, and a faint wheel of light could be seen that increased the shield’s defensive area of effect. The hemispherical protrusion in the shield’s center didn’t change much, while the silver-white regions at the shield’s center and on its edges shone with relatively more intense white light. The shield had quite an impressive outward appearance to the naked eye.

However, the gamblers who had placed their bets on Huo Yuhao felt their hopes dwindling to nothing. Could he really grind down his opponent’s soul power with this shield?

They witnessed Huo Yuhao’s soul rings at this moment. He had two yellow, two purple, and one black soul ring. This was the optimal soul ring combination, but he only had five. He was a Soul King, so how

he could win a war of attrition against a Soul Emperor? A Soul Emperor's soul power was at least two or three times more plentiful than a Soul King's.

Huo Yuhao rarely revealed his soul rings' true colors to outsiders so that he could hide his identity. He was using Imitation to mask their actual colors!

98's soul cannon fired, and a dark red beam stretched through the air, sweeping towards Huo Yuhao.

Inside the central guest lounge, the third elder muttered under his breath, "I want to see how this fellow is going to defend himself against Mo Ke's corrosive decomposition cannon. With the Darkness Green Dragon's amplifications, this corrosive decomposition cannon would be considered very powerful even among Class 6 soul tools. It's very explosive, but its continuous destructiveness is its strongest attribute. No matter what deflective and absorptive effects that shield possesses, it can only take effect on material entities. How is he going to defend himself?"

Huo Yuhao proved how he could defend himself on the competition stage. He placed his shield in front of him, and began to chant something under his breath. The shield blocked everyone's vision, and his eyes suddenly turned grey.

The audience watched as the corrosive decomposition beam was about to reach his shield. A grey streak suddenly burst from Huo Yuhao's body and condensed into a sphere of smoky fog that blocked the beam's forward movement, just like that.

A series of crackling sounds could be heard as steam rose up from the competition stage. Huo Yuhao didn't move at all, but a black skeleton suddenly appeared before him. This skeleton seemed to have been called from nowhere, and the gray fog blocked the light beam for one moment before this black skeleton forcefully intervened.