

Tang Sect 36

Chapter 36.1: The Awakened Gray Color!

Surprisingly, Huo Yuhao had actually stood up! Furthermore, he'd used a hoarse yet determined voice to express his wish to continue fighting.

The students who'd originally thought the battle to be over immediately quieted back down and stared at Huo Yuhao with stupefied gazes. They were unable to fathom what could be helping him stand back up since he'd been struck by Wu Feng's powerful attack. Was the position of class monitor this important to Huo Yuhao?

To Huo Yuhao, whether or not he became a class monitor didn't really matter. However, his honor was something extremely important to him; he couldn't allow anyone to tarnish it. This was the reason he'd accepted Wu Feng's challenge in the first place—even though he knew he'd probably lose. It was also the same reason he was standing back up now.

Wu Feng's hysteria immediately diminished the second that she saw the red glow in Huo Yuhao's eyes. However, the instant that Huo Yuhao's eyes turned gray, she felt as if an enormous hand had grasped hold of her neck and was strangling her.

This was the first time that Wu Feng had felt dread from Huo Yuhao. Regardless of how strong she actually was, she was still a young girl no older than twelve!

Wang Yan was also dumbfounded by Huo Yuhao's current appearance. He hurriedly took a few steps back, while his heartbeat began to accelerate uncontrollably. The only explanation he could come up with for Huo Yuhao's sudden change was a reason related to Body Souls. Thus, instead of interrupting their Soul Duel, he fixated his eyes on Huo Yuhao's body whilst doing his best to sense the changes occurring within it.

Huo Yuhao had truly transformed in some way. As his had eyes turned bloodshot, his heart filled with an unyielding will to fight and resentment surging throughout his body, a refreshing feeling had suddenly spread silently throughout his Spiritual Sea. This refreshing feeling instantly covered the entirety of his Spiritual Sea, causing even the Skydream Iceworm to let out a bewildered cry.

Gray—Huo Yuhao's Spiritual Sea instantly turned gray. However, the dormant gray pearl that had always silently resided in his Spiritual Sea had vanished.

The refreshing feeling quietly calmed down Huo Yuhao's surging resentment and allowed Huo Yuhao to quickly regain his senses. However, his eyes had turned gray due to the changes in his Spiritual Sea.

"Hatred will cloud your eyes." A wise yet clear voice rang out in Huo Yuhao's Spiritual Sea. When it did, even the Skydream Iceworm was able to clearly hear it.

Ten balls of golden light simultaneously lit up in an attempt to expel the gray stream of light that had appeared, but it didn't react at all. It was as if it was incorporeal. No matter how strong the Skydream Iceworm's origin power was, it didn't seem to affect the gray light; it hadn't even been scratched.

"You should use your spiritual power like this." Huo Yuhao discovered that he'd lost all control of his body, but he could still clearly see everything that happened. Immediately afterwards, he felt his soul

power boil. The Mysterious Heaven Technique's soul power—identical to his in terms of power, quantity, and intensity—had also had its control wrested from him.

Afterwards, his gray Spirit Eyes lit up as his Spiritual Shock was activated again. To his astonishment, this Spiritual Shock moved slower than normal as it left his eyes—as if it was a viper slowly extending its tongue.

At the same time, the original ball-like Spiritual Shock had been shrunken down to the width of a strand of hair as it gently flew towards Wu Feng.

In the eyes of the spectating students, Huo Yuhao's eyes had suddenly lit up and turned crystal clear, rather than the muddy gray they'd been before. The gray light in his eyes had flickered slightly, after which Wu Feng had let out a sharp cry.

Wu Feng had gathered her soul power around her brain the second the feeling of dread had appeared in her heart. However, at this moment, she suddenly sensed a gray needle slowly arrive in front of her. It pierced through the layer of soul power she'd created, then gently tapped her brain.

Wu Feng's flowing red hair flew into the air as her eyes turned gray as well. Immediately afterwards, she fell backwards with a sharp cry and directly lost consciousness.

The battle had ended, but the students of Class 1 had fallen completely silent, as if their necks had been strangled just like Wu Feng's earlier.

Huo Yuhao's body shook slightly, and the hint of gray in his eyes slowly faded away. However, he continued to stand as straight as a ramrod. After sweeping his already-normal eyes across the spectating students, he slowly left the arena without sparing a glance towards Wu Feng.

Wang Yan hurriedly walked towards Wu Feng and made sure that she hadn't suffered any true injuries. However, he still decided to carry her to the infirmary.

Whilst running towards the infirmary, Wang Yan felt a passionate fire ignite in his heart. Right, that was definitely the second awakening of a Body Soul. It must've been! Otherwise, why would his eyes suddenly change color? Why else would he be able to beat Wu Feng? Huo Yuhao won, he won! This won't do, I have to find Elder Xuan and have him select Huo Yuhao as a core disciple.

As Huo Yuhao was quickly approaching the resting room, Wang Dong and Xiao Xiao had just left the arena, allowing them to bump into the grave-faced Huo Yuhao.

"Yuhao, you're awesome!" Xiao Xiao excitedly cried out. However, Wang Dong walked towards Huo Yuhao after realizing that something was off.

Huo Yuhao looked deeply at Wang Dong. Afterwards, he directly collapsed onto Wang Dong's body, passed out. Moreover, his breath was scorching hot.

In reality, Huo Yuhao's injuries were even more serious than Wu Feng's. Wu Feng's dual-soul skill augmented attack had seriously injured him. However, he'd forced himself to stand upright in front of all the other students. With deep breaths as he persevered, he'd carried himself all the way to the resting room.

Wang Dong secured him tightly to his back with Xiao Xiao's help, then rushed outside with only one thought on his mind, Yuhao didn't want anyone else to see him like this, so I have to fulfill his wish. He ran towards the dorms with quick strides.

Only after Wang Dong had left did Xiao Xiao react. She hurriedly chased after Wang Dong, stopping only after they'd reached the dormitory area.

Huo Yuhao's physical body had fainted, but his consciousness had been dragged back into his Spiritual Sea. Moreover, he was exceptionally clear-headed.

"Old fella, just who are you? Why do you want to fight over territory with me?" The Skydream Iceworm grumbled.

The gray light didn't withdraw, nor did it encroach upon the Skydream Iceworm.

"This old man, fight with you over territory? Who do you think you are? You're just a fleshy worm. If it weren't for the fact that I currently only have a trace of my divine sense left, I'd turn you into fertiliser in mere moments." The aged voice wasn't willing to submit.

The Skydream Iceworm spat, "Bullshit. If you think you're strong enough, come on! Let's see who'll get rid of who! Don't think that this Brother can't see that you only have a strand of divine sense left. You don't even have any power left! Do you really think that you can beat me in a fight by yourself?"

The aged voice replied disdainfully, "You're right; this old man only has a strand of divine sense left. However, this old man's divine sense is on a much, much higher level than yours. Can you even do anything to me? Even though my divine sense has been shattered, you can't even take on this single strand of it. Think about it: If I were to gradually recover strength and memories, what would happen then? I'd crush your fleshy body, then slowly squeeze you until all of your juice had squirted out."
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"You..." The Skydream Iceworm evidently couldn't beat the old man in a war of words. He was infuriated to the point that all ten golden balls of light had unceasingly begun to surge with light.

"This, what happened?" Huo Yuhao was flabbergasted. Why had his Spiritual Sea become so lively in this short period of time?

The aged voice spoke to him in a much warmer tone, "Little fella, this old man didn't belong to your world in the beginning. I only remember that, when I was about to die, I broke through the barriers of space and entered your world with only a strand of my divine sense remaining. I don't know why that happened, but it might've been because of my overly strong soul power. When that large worm fused with you, it created intense undulations of energy that guided me towards you. Thus, my strand of divine sense entered your Spiritual Sea. Don't worry, I don't harbour any evil intentions. However, I'm afraid that I won't be able to leave you, even in the future."

"I've only been left with this single strand of divine sense, so I'm extremely weak. I need time to slowly recover all of my memories, but the resentment that appeared in your heart earlier gave me a familiar feeling that finally woke me up. I don't remember what happened in my past, but I can definitely tell you that you shouldn't let hatred cloud your eyes. Once you do something unredeemable, you'll regret it till the day you die. Furthermore, you won't be able to do anything to make up for it. Something similar

seems to have happened to me in the past. Fortunately, you're still young, and you're not too strong yet. There's still time for you to gradually dispel the hatred in your heart."

Huo Yuhao's voice changed. "You're saying that I shouldn't get my revenge?"

The aged voice replied indifferently, "That's not what I'm saying. I'm saying that you shouldn't take out your anger on people who don't deserve it. You can still get your revenge, but don't harm the innocent. For example, let's say that the chief of a village harms you. Would you slaughter the entire village if you were strong enough? Did those innocent villagers commit any sin?"

Unhappy, the Skydream Iceworm cried out angrily, "Oi, Yuhao's my host. He doesn't need you to teach him anything! Do you think that this Brother is just air?"

The aged voice replied in an extremely disdainful tone, "You're naturally not air, you're just a little bug. This old man's too lazy to bother with you, I'm going to continue restoring my divine sense." After saying this, his attention shifted back towards Huo Yuhao. "I scanned through your memories. You have too much hate built up in you. You can do as you wish and vent your hatred, but you can't let this hatred ferment. Once I've recovered enough of my divine sense, I'll do my best to help you out. Let me see what I can remember... Oh... other than a few blurry bits and pieces, it seems that I can only remember a single phrase: My hand grasps the sun and moon and plucks the stars from the sky; this world has no one else like me. Haha, hahahaha."

Chapter 36.2: The Awakened Gray Color

Amidst the loud laughter, the gray light within Huo Yuhao's Spiritual Sea receded like a tide. After a few seconds, everything around him had returned to normal, and the gray pearl had returned to its original position.

"My hand grasps the sun and moon and plucks the stars from the sky; this world has no one else like me." Muttering these domineering yet somewhat sorrowful words, Huo Yuhao couldn't help but be left stunned for a moment.

The Skydream Iceworm cursed in rage, "Bastard, bastard! That old fella actually dared to ignore this Brother. He even cursed at me! I want to kill him, I really want to kill him!"

Huo Yuhao was jolted by the Skydream Iceworm's voice, and said somewhat helplessly, "Brother Skydream, you should calm down a bit. That old mister didn't seem to have any evil intentions."

The Skydream Iceworm unhappily replied, "What do you mean 'no evil intentions'? Weren't you listening when he said that he wanted to crush me to death? This won't do. Yuhao, you have to quickly raise your strength. He's a parasite in your Spiritual Sea, thus only you can drive him out using your spiritual power. Even though his divine sense is at an extremely high level, he can't hurt you since he's a foreign object in your Spiritual Sea. Once your divine sense reaches his level, you'll be able to easily deal with him."

Huo Yuhao was somewhat helpless. "Brother Skydream, you just said that his divine sense was at a very high level. How long do you think I'll have to cultivate in order to reach his level?"

"This... let me make a few calculations." The Skydream Iceworm fell silent.

Right now, Huo Yuhao was extremely curious. The fact that an intelligent soul ring was in his body already allowed him to stand out from the masses, but he hadn't expected to absorb a strand of divine sense when he'd fused with the Skydream Iceworm. This was his Spiritual Sea, and though he was far inferior to the Skydream Iceworm and the old man, he'd clearly been able to sense everything going on in here. When that old man had spoken to him, he'd been able to sense the vicissitudes and sincerity in his voice. From that, he'd been able to tell that he truly had no intention of harming him. Furthermore, that strand of divine sense was extremely weak, so much so that it was even weaker than his spiritual power.

However, was he truly as weak as he'd seemed? Huo Yuhao couldn't help but think of everything that had just occurred. That seemingly-weak gray divine sense had taken control of his soul power, then activated the attack that had defeated Wu Feng. Even though it had been a Spiritual Shock, the gray light had been able to condense his spiritual power into something the thickness the strand of a piece of hair, which in turn had pierced through all of Wang Yan's defenses and defeated her without actually harming her. Was this level of control something that he was able to compare to?

If he possessed this level of control over his spiritual power, the strength of his spiritual-type soul skills would increase, as would the level of his soul power fusion with Wang Dong—to the point that it'd even be slightly excessive!

This was true control. However, how could he increase his level of control over his spiritual power?

"Aih..." The Skydream Iceworm let out a long sigh, "I've done a quick estimation. With your current cultivation speed, even if I were to wholeheartedly help you out, you'd still need around three thousand years for your divine sense to catch up to his."

"What?" Even though Huo Yuhao already a high estimation of the nameless old man, he'd mostly been trying to pacify the Skydream Iceworm when he'd said that he wasn't as good as the old man. However, he never expected the Skydream Iceworm, who resented the old man, to give him an answer like this. As he wasn't on good terms with the old man, it definitely couldn't be a lie!

The Skydream Iceworm was extremely helpless. "Why else would I be powerless to do anything to a mere strand of divine sense? I don't know where that old fella came from, but his divine sense is on a much higher level than mine. He's very weak now, but the level of his divine sense has already reached a level I'm incapable of comprehending. He's already surpassed the level of all living beings on this continent. It truly seems like I can't do anything to him! Only, I don't know whether he'll have any combat strength once he's recovered. We'll see, but he shouldn't have any. His divine sense is this weak now, thus even if he does repair it, it's still just a strand."

Huo Yuhao murmured, "Then, how strong was this old mister before his divine sense shattered?"

The Skydream Iceworm sulkily replied, "A level that you can't even begin to fathom right now."

Huo Yuhao said, "Brother Skydream, this old man has no evil intentions, and we can't do anything to him anyway. Since that's the case, why don't we all just live together peacefully?"

"Hmph!" The Skydream Iceworm snorted angrily, clearly unhappy.

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“You’ve made a mistake; his Body Soul hasn’t had a second awakening.” Elder Xuan moved his oily hand away from Huo Yuhao’s chest.

Wang Yan asked suspiciously, “That can’t be. If he didn’t have a second awakening, why did his Spirit Eyes turn gray? Furthermore, I clearly sensed a different aura from him! Even more so, he defeated a two-ringed assault-type soul master. Elder Xuan, why don’t we try it out again once he’s woken up?”

After sending Wu Feng to the infirmary, Wang Yan had dismissed Class 1. He’d then rushed over to the inner courtyard and found Elder Xuan, then explained the situation of Huo Yuhao’s possible second awakening to him.

This time around, even Elder Xuan had been left somewhat stunned. One of the many advantages a Body Soul had over other martial souls was its second awakening. A Body Soul that could achieve a second awakening was a peak existence among Body Souls. Moreover, a Body Soul that achieved a second awakening would immediately reach a new level. Because of this, he’d hastily followed Wang Yan to Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong’s dormitory in order to see Huo Yuhao’s condition for himself.

Somewhat impatient, Elder Xuan replied, “There’s no need to bother. Little Wang! I know you’ve been studying Body Souls, but you can’t be content with such a shallow understanding. Do you even know what happens when a Body Soul achieves its second awakening? He hasn’t even reached the most basic level of a second awakening. His soul power is still Rank 17, meaning that it hasn’t changed at all. If he’d truly had a second awakening, his soul power would’ve reached the bottleneck of Rank 20 at the very least. This kid can be considered to be quite talented, but he’s still too old. He won’t reach Rank 30 by the age of twelve, so there’s still a gap between him and the most outstanding students amongst the freshmen. In the future, don’t waste my time with him.” With that, he drank a mouthful of wine and left.

With a downcast look on his face, Wang Yan told Wang Dong to take care of Huo Yuhao, then proceeded to leave as well.

It was already late into the night when Huo Yuhao awoke. The pain in his body had already diminished by a large amount. Moreover, Wang Yan had also brought some healing medicine over. His injuries weren’t light, but his bones and internal organs hadn’t been injured. With the help of Shrek Academy’s top-ranked medicines, his injuries weren’t much of a problem.

What a soft and warm feeling. To his astonishment, Huo Yuhao discovered that he was sleeping soundly atop Wang Dong’s bed. On the other hand, Wang Dong was soundly asleep with his upper body leaning on the bed.

This wasn’t the first time that Huo Yuhao had been on Wang Dong’s bed, but it was the first time he’d slept there.

Huo Yuhao was greatly touched by Wang Dong’s actions. He clearly understood how mysophobic Wang Dong was. Normally, Wang Dong wouldn’t even let him sit atop his bed. Yet, he’d actually allowed him to sleep on his bed, despite his body being covered in dust from the Soul Duel.

After quietly getting up from the bed, he carefully picked Wang Dong up and placed him on the bed. Turning his head, he glanced towards his wooden bed that didn’t even have a mattress. He gently placed Wang Dong on the fur-coated mattress and shuffled him around before lying down next to him.

The two of them were slightly cramped, being together on the same bed, but they were still kids. They weren't as fat as Xie Huanyue, so squeezing together was still possible, though only barely.

Huo Yuhao then pulled the cover over both of them. With a warm feeling in his heart, he fell asleep again. It had been a long time since he'd had such a relaxing night of sleep without cultivating. At that moment, he completely relaxed from the various emotions he'd experienced during the day.

Morning. The sky outside slowly brightened.

As Wang Dong slowly woke up from his sleep, he slowly came back to his senses with his eyes still closed. How comfortable! What a nice sleep I had.

After being dragged along by that fella to cultivate every night, it's been such a long time since I've had such a nice night of sleep. It feels so nice to snuggle this warm and cozy pillow, and to sleep so soundly. Holding this pillow is so warm. Nice... Nice....

Filled with contentment, Wang Dong nearly fell back asleep. Suddenly, his mind shook, remembering something.

That's not right! Huo Yuhao was injured yesterday, so I should've been taking care of him! How did I manage to sleep so comfortably?

Remembering the injured Huo Yuhao, Wang Dong immediately woke up and opened his eyes.

The first thing he saw was the shape of a face. Soundly asleep, Huo Yuhao's cheeks were ruddy under the morning sunlight. A strong aura of warmth slowly emanated off of him.

Wang Dong was thoroughly stunned. He discovered that his head was currently leaning against that person's shoulder. His arm, on the other hand, was latched onto his chest, and it was even gripped tightly. His thigh was over that person's leg, and he'd even hooked his heel onto his outer thigh in order to prevent himself from falling.

This, was this a body pillow?

His mind turned blank. Three, two, one...

"AH—" An ear-piercing screech suddenly rang out through the first year dorms.

This screech was simply too loud. Even though the dorm rooms had extremely good soundproofing, it instantly jolted a large amount of first years who were cultivating or sleeping awake. n)/o-)v.(E((L.- b/!(l.n

"Aiyah, you're gonna make me fall to death."

Humans were always defenseless when they were asleep, and Huo Yuhao was no exception to this. He'd been sleeping very soundly, and he'd only felt a warm, soft 'pillow' that released a fresh odor sticking to him. With the soft yet thick fur-coated mattress he'd slept on, he'd slept very soundly. Normally, he'd already be awake in order to cultivate the Purple Demon Eyes. However, he'd slept especially soundly today.

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However, he suddenly felt like he'd soared into the sky. The originally warm feeling he'd had suddenly became chilly.

Immediately afterwards...

"Putong!" The warm sensation that Huo Yuhao had felt from the blanket suddenly turned into that of the cold, hard floor as he was shoved out of the bed. He hit the corner of his bed followed by the ground. The soundly sleeping Huo Yuhao only felt the world suddenly invert as he fell to the ground, confused, and let out a yell.

However, his yell was drowned out by Wang Dong's sharp screech. As he woke up, he felt a cold shiver run up his spine. He looked up, only to see Wang Dong—his blanket tightly clutched against his chest—glaring at him with a vicious light in his eyes. His large eyes seemed almost like they could spew fire, just like Wu Feng yesterday.

"What're you doing?" Huo Yuhao massaged his sore chest as he got up from the floor.

Wang Dong's chilly voice seemed to be forced through the gaps in his teeth as he enunciated each word he said, "Why. Were. You. Sleeping. In. My. Bed?"

Huo Yuhao stared blankly. He immediately realised what had gone wrong: Clearly, Wang Dong hadn't been willing to sleep together with him. However, his good sleep from the previous night had caused his mind to be especially clear.

"Ah? How would I know? Wasn't I fighting with Wu Feng yesterday? The only thing I remember after that is being kicked awake by you."

"Ah?" Wang Dong was left flabbergasted at this as well. Right! Huo Yuhao had fainted after his match with Wu Feng, and had continued to sleep all the way until now.

"Why'd I end up in your bed in the first place?" Huo Yuhao looked at Wang Dong, a dumbstruck expression on his face.

Wang Dong's expression reddened, and he sulkily said, "Naturally, because of my good intentions! I was worried that you'd catch a cold since you were injured!"

Huo Yuhao rolled his eyes. "Then why did you kick me out of it?"

"I..." Wang Dong hadn't expected Huo Yuhao to blame him. However, he truly wasn't clear as to what had happened. The only thing he remembered doing yesterday was looking after Huo Yuhao. After that, he'd gotten tired as well, then had fallen asleep. However, he didn't remember climbing into his bed! Furthermore, he'd even gone under the blanket and hugged Huo Yuhao! This was simply too embarrassing...

Huo Yuhao humphed and turned to look at the sky outside. Ignoring Wang Dong, he opened the window. It was just about time for him to begin cultivating the Purple Demon Eyes for the day.

Wang Dong grew increasingly bewildered as he sat up on his bed. Did I subconsciously climb up into my bed and go to sleep after I got tired?

This seemed to be the only logical explanation to Wang Dong.

That kick was quite hard. Is he really okay?

After thinking to this point, he jumped off the bed. Somewhat embarrassed, he said, “Yuhao, sorry! I forgot that you were sleeping in my bed last night when I woke up. You know how mysophobic I am. When I saw that there was someone next to me when I got up, I subconsciously... please don’t be angry! Does your injury still hurt?”

Huo Yuhao didn’t utter a word in response. Instead, his gaze was fixed on a distant patch of white in the eastern sky. He took a deep breath, then exhaled slowly.

Because of this, Wang Dong was under the impression that Huo Yuhao was truly angry. He silently stood in the corner and waiting for Huo Yuhao to finish cultivating the Purple Demon Eyes. Though he’d already entered the Tang Sect, he hadn’t yet begun cultivating the Tang Sect’s secret techniques alongside Huo Yuhao.

After finishing his cultivation of the Purple Demon Eyes, a purple glow briefly surged through Huo Yuhao’s eyes as he stood up. Of all the techniques he was currently cultivating, the one that he’d improved the most in was definitely the Purple Demon Eyes; his progress in it was comparable to traversing a thousand miles in a single day. His Spirit Eyes and the Purple Demon Eyes complemented each other extremely well, which allowed him to improve a large amount every day. This had held even truer ever since he’d entered the Totality realm of the Purple Demon Eyes. Because of this, his four soul skills’ strength had also increased along with the Purple Demon Eyes. This was the main reason why the distance, precision, and judgement of his Spiritual Detection had improved so quickly.

“What? You still aren’t showering yet?” Huo Yuhao walked outside unhappily.

“Yuhao, don’t be angry! I really didn’t do it on purpose.” Wang Dong said, a pitiful expression on his face.

Huo Yuhao was inwardly joyous, but he put on a magnanimous appearance and said, “Whatever, it’s not like it’s the first time I’ve experienced this bad habit of yours. You call yourself a guy, but why do you have to be so clean? You even have that sweet smell on you. Look, where you kicked me doesn’t hurt anymore. Quickly shower, we’ll cultivate for a while after we eat breakfast since we wasted last night’s cultivation time.”

The issue had smoothly been swept away because of Huo Yuhao’s words. After the two showered, they put on a set of clean uniforms, then ate breakfast.

After becoming a core disciple, one would receive a badge specially meant for core disciples. The badge was dark green and had a golden border. Even though Huo Yuhao was currently only able to enjoy the treatment of a core disciple, he’d still been given a badge. Only, he had to return the badge once the school year had ended.

With the core disciple badge, they were treated completely different within the academy. As an example, they were able to eat the best type of food in the canteen. The nourishment and nutrition provided by this food was guaranteed, and even provided a certain amount of help towards their cultivations. The two of them ate a hearty meal, then returned to their dorm room to cultivate for a while. Afterwards, they headed towards Class 1.

There were already quite a few people already in the classroom by the time they arrived. However, the entire classroom instantly turned silent when the two of them entered. Everyone present's gaze had instantly focused on Huo Yuhao, who acted as if nothing had happened.

In turn, Huo Yuhao's gaze was aimed towards Wu Feng's seat. However, Wu Feng hadn't shown up yet. He calmly walked toward his seat alongside Wang Dong and sat down. Afterward, he discovered that a trace of reverence was now present within the gazes of many of the students looking towards him.

The facts had already presented themselves. Yesterday's fight had shaken practically all of the students; even Dai Huabin hadn't been an exception. Of the four classes within Year 1, Class 1 had the highest level of strength. In turn, the strongest students within Class 1 would naturally be the core disciples.

The person that Huo Yuhao had defeated was a core disciple! In other words, his strength was comparable to a core disciple's, at the very least. Moreover, he was still only a one-ringed Soul Master. What if he became a two-ringed Soul Grandmaster? Advancing from the one-ringed rank to the two-ringed rank was much easier than from the two-ringed to the three-ringed rank. At that time, wouldn't he be even stronger? *nove.05/In*

The students who'd previously looked down on his ten year soul ring had become much more well-behaved today. At the very least, no one had looks of disdain present in their eyes as they looked towards him.

Huo Yuhao had wanted an effect just like this. Even if he'd lost yesterday, he still would've been able to awe a large number of students by injuring Wu Feng to such a degree. He wanted to study in Shrek Academy for at least six years, hopefully even more. If everyone held him in contempt, his mental state would definitely be affected. If that happened, how would he even cultivate with peace of mind!?

The class bell rang, and the two teachers, Wang Yan and Zhou Yi, walked in just in time for class to start.

Zhou Yi's aged face seemed very serene, but her gaze was as sharp as a blade as she coldly swept it across the class. The students who were originally from the other classes didn't think much of it, but the original students of Class 1 inwardly shuddered; they knew that this perverted old grandma was about to show her authority.

The facts proved to be just as they'd predicted. When Wang Yan had told Zhou Yi about the previous day's incident, he'd been showered with a barrage of reprimands. Wang Yan's status within the Academy was higher than Zhou Yi's, yet she didn't seem to care at all. After she'd finished cursing at Wang Yan, she personally left to check up on the bed-ridden Huo Yuhao, and only left after verifying that he was fine. However, Huo Yuhao had still been asleep at the time.

Wang Yan stood next to the classroom's entrance, but didn't walk towards the podium. Zhou Yi walked towards the podium by herself. She swept her cold gaze across the entire classroom, which caused even the students that were unfamiliar with her to quiet down underneath her sharp gaze.

Wang Yan had never held a class together with Zhou Yi. Rather, he'd only heard of her style of teaching in passing. After being scolded by her yesterday, he'd been inwardly annoyed. He thought to himself, I want to see how you'll take care of these students, who're all Chosen.

"Everyone, stand up!" Zhou Yi shouted coldly.

As if there a heated iron had suddenly been placed in their chairs, the original students of Class 1 instantly stood up. The other students stood up as well; some of them quickly, some of them slowly. In their opinion, this old lady wasn't as large of a deterrent as Wang Yan. Even Wang Yan had been forced to agree to Wu Feng's suggestion after being pressured by her yesterday. Just what could this old lady do to them?

Zhou Yi icily said, "Very good. There are a total of 67 students within this class, while one person hasn't arrived yet. 36 of you stood up as soon as I ordered you to, while the other 30 or so students procrastinated. If I call your name, stand in the corridor as punishment."

"Huang Chutian." The first person she'd called out was Huang Chutian, who was also currently receiving the treatment of a core disciple like Huo Yuhao.

Huang Chutian was flabbergasted. He laughed. "Teacher Zhou, you don't need to be this serious. Isn't it just standing up a bit late?"

Zhou Yi didn't bother with any superfluous words. With a flash, she appeared in front of Huang Chutian and grabbed ahold of his collar. Afterwards, she directly flung him out a window. Other than a brief shriek that rang out from outside the window, Huang Chutian's voice could no longer be heard. Not only were the students flabbergasted, even Wang Yan himself was astonished by Zhou Yi's actions.

Zhou Yi continued coldly, "Ye Yulin, Yu Ling, Tang Xiaoxiao, Ouyang Haiya..." The other 30 students who'd stood up late were all quickly called out.

After learning from Huang Chutian's mistake, nobody dared to object to Zhou Yi's actions. The offending students obediently left the classroom, one look at the six flickering soul rings around Zhou Yi's body being all they needed to know how little of a chance they had.

Zhou Yi indifferently said, "I'll now announce two pieces of information. Number one: I'll be choosing the class monitors of the class. The monitor from the Assault System will be Wang Dong, and the monitor from the Control System will be Huo Yuhao. Number two: From today onwards, anyone who dares to question a teacher's decisions will directly be expelled."

"Teacher Zhou, wasn't the class monitor supposed to be elected?" Dai Huabin suddenly asked.

Zhou Yi looked at him coldly. "I just said that anyone who dares to question a teacher will be expelled. Since you're a core disciple, I'm unable to expel you. However, I will request that the Academy transfer you out of Class 1. Dai Huabin, stand up and leave this class."

Chapter 37.1: The Protective Hegemon Flower

Dai Huabin was stunned. He hadn't expected Zhou Yi to be this harsh, and he could only stare blankly for a moment. Before he was able to react, Zhou Yi had appeared right in front of him. Despite Dai Huabin being the strongest individual amongst the freshmen, he was still completely powerless in front of the six-ringed Zhou Yi. He followed in Huang Chutian's footsteps as he was immediately thrown out the window by Zhou Yi.

Zhu Lu's voice was intermingled with both anger and astonishment as she cried out, "Teacher Zhou, I can't accept this!"

Zhou Yi grabbed ahold of her and flung her out of a window as well. "If you aren't able to accept it, you can scram too."

The class had been shaken when Huang Chutian was thrown out, but now the entirety of Class 1 had become so silent that even a pin hitting the floor would be heard. Even the students who'd been told to stand outside in the corridor had been able to hear the commotion, and everyone had momentarily been overwhelmed with shock. This caused the atmosphere in the room to instantly turn grave.

Wang Yan eyes widened in astonishment as he finally realized why Zhou Yi had never been promoted to a high-ranked teacher. Her, her temper was too...

"Teacher Zhou!" Wang Yan hurriedly shouted.

Zhou Yi appeared in front of him in a flash, shocking the students, who thought for a moment that she was about to throw Teacher Wang out. However, Zhou Yi only said icily, "Teacher Wang, you're the main teacher in charge of Class 1, while I'm the assistant teacher. However, I have the qualifications to carry out my personal teaching philosophies. As such, I'll have to trouble you to make a report to the Academy stating that the students 'Huang Chutian', 'Dai Huabin', and 'Zhu Lu' have severely violated class discipline. Seeing that they're either core disciples of the outer courtyard or temporary core disciples, I'm unable to expel them. However, I'd like the Academy to transfer them out of this class, as I refuse to teach these types of students. At the same time, Wu Feng hasn't attended the first day of class, and hasn't given a reason for her absence. Thus, I'd like to request that the Academy transfer her to another class as well."

Wang Yan hurriedly replied, "Teacher Zhou, calm down. They're core disciples!"

Zhou Yi glared at him icily. "In my eyes, there are only obedient and disobedient disciples; outstanding and trashy disciples. There are no core disciples. I've already decided that they need to screw off. Now then, you can go ahead and teach the students in the classroom. I'm going to teach the students outside." With that, she turned and left the classroom.

Xiao Xiao whispered, "Yuhao, see that? Teacher Zhou's helping you out for the injustice you've suffered. I like her protection."

Wang Dong's evaluation of her was even more succinct, "Her domineeringness has been exposed!"

Zhou Yi was truly domineering. In only a short three minutes, she'd expelled three core disciples, as well as one temporary core disciple. If it were any other teacher in the Academy, they never would've done this. At this moment, even Wang Yan felt that she was a lunatic.

However, it was true that Zhou Yi's actions had stunned the students of Class 1. Every single student present suddenly felt an extremely intense sense of crisis.

Core disciples couldn't be directly expelled by a teacher, but the other students could be! After core disciples had been used to set an example, who would dare to go against Teacher Zhou's authority?

At this moment, the students both within and outside the classroom all suddenly became extremely obedient.

The original students of Class 1 were already having a moment of silence for the students that'd been left outside with Teacher Zhou. They understood Teacher Zhou's methods of teaching all too well. However, not only did they feel joyous towards this matter, they even felt a sense of closeness. They all felt that she'd vented some anger for Huo Yuhao; this was equivalent to venting some anger for the entirety of the original Class 1!

Wang Yan began his class with a heart full of depression. Even if he wanted to accuse Zhou Yi of misconduct, he'd have to wait until after class to do so. However, Wang Yan quickly discovered that the class's atmosphere had changed.

Compared to yesterday's lax atmosphere, the remaining thirty or so students in the class were extremely serious, to the point that they seemed to basically be thirsting for knowledge! Moreover, the discipline in the class had become so good that he basically couldn't find anything to even be fussy about.

He couldn't help his way of thinking gradually shifting because of this. It seems like being somewhat strict isn't that bad after all!

Naturally, Huang Chutian, Zhu Lu, and Dai Huabin—who were currently crawling up from the field they'd landed in—didn't feel the same about Zhou Yi's strictness. The three of them were somewhat dumbstruck; never in their wildest dreams had they expected a situation like this to occur.

Dai Huabin had felt like he had the qualifications to be a class monitor, as Wang Dong wasn't his equal in terms of strength. However, he'd never expected Zhou Yi to not care about his cultivation or his identity, nor had he expected her to literally throw him out of class. Furthermore, she'd even kicked him out of Class 1.

Of the four classes in Year 1, Class 1 was the strongest, and was also the class that specialised in teaching control-type and assault-type soul masters. If Class 1 didn't want him, where could he go? The only answer to that was Class 2. However, Class 2 taught defense-type and agility-type soul masters! What could he learn there? More importantly, this was simply too embarrassing. As the son of the White Tiger Duke, he'd actually been kicked out of his class! If it hadn't been for his status as a core disciple, he would've had to simply pack his bags and leave. For a brief moment, Dai Huabin was so filled with hatred that he clenched his fists, ready to explode.

However, where was he again? This was Shrek Academy, the continent's number one academy. As a three-ringed Soul Elder, he was definitely an excellent figure amongst his peers. However, in a place like Shrek Academy, where experts were like stars in the sky, he was worth a fart! Even if his father, the White Tiger Duke, were to personally come, he'd have to kowtow in front of the upright sculptures of the first generation Shrek's Seven Monsters. What could he do?

"Huabin, what should we do?" Zhu Lu was somewhat agitated. As an agility-type soul master, she should've gone to Class 2 in the first place. However, she'd been specially placed into Class 1 because of the martial soul fusion she had with Dai Huabin. However, they'd been expelled together. At the same time, her arrogant temper was no less than Dai Huabin's!

Dai Huabin clenched his teeth tightly. "We'll follow the Academy's arrangements. I'll remember this humiliation. There'll be a day, hmph..."

In the end, Wang Yan didn't accuse Zhou Yi of misconduct. Furthermore, he decided to stand by Zhou Yi's decision. At the end of the day, the remaining students in Class 1 had all ended up being extremely obedient. Their learning efficiency was also much higher than any class Wang Yan had ever taught.

Wang Yan had no choice but to accept the facts that had been placed in front of him! He admitted that, even though Zhou Yi's teaching methods were somewhat rough, she was extremely efficient. With a partner like her, he'd definitely be able to produce a good batch of students. Because of this, he decided to have a private conversation with Zhou Yi before he went to the Academy to report the issue that had occurred at the end of the day. He only had one condition: He wanted to continue teaching Class 1 beside Zhou Yi all the way up until they'd graduated from the outer courtyard. Zhou Yi agreed.

"You're making trouble. Is there anything good that I can say about you, Zhou Yi? The classes have only just been divided, yet you've already caused such a large ruckus. Are you scared that they don't know who you are? The freshmen that you taught were cumulatively able to obtain the best results in the freshmen assessment, thus the Academy was going to promote you to a high-ranked teacher. And yet now, you've gone and done this. Don't you think..." With an angry expression on his face, Du Weilun looked towards Wang Yan and Zhou Yi, who were seated in front of him.

Zhou Yi indifferently replied, "This is the way I teach my students. If I can't become a high-ranked teacher, so be it. Either you get rid of me, or I'll continue to teach like this."

"You—" In a moment of anger, Du Weilun almost decided to actually get rid of her. However, he wasn't Zhou Yi, nor was he as impulsive as her. It was widely known that there was a problem with Zhou Yi's way of teaching, but one had to admit that the way she taught was extremely efficient. The number of inner courtyard students that Zhou Yi had nurtured was much higher than an overwhelming number of high-ranked teachers. Naturally, the number of students she'd expelled was also the highest in the Academy.

Wang Yan hurriedly tried to smooth things over. "Director Du, please don't be angry. Actually, Teacher Zhou wasn't really wrong in doing what she did. These new students were overconfident because of their talent, which made them somewhat rebellious. They'll now be much more obedient after today's lesson, which in turn will be extremely advantageous for both their and our future classes. Furthermore, none of the students that Teacher Zhou removed were actually expelled in the end. They still have their identities as core disciples, so they'll still be able to receive pointers from inner courtyard teachers. Moreover, they'll still be able to continue studying in the Academy, so it won't affect them too much. As such, I support Teacher Zhou's strict way of producing brilliant students."

After hearing Wang Yan's words, Du Weilun's expression became much better to look at. He pointed towards Zhou Yi, and an exasperated expression appeared on his face. "Is there anything good to say about you? When will a hegemon flower like you become any softer?"

Zhou Yi, her eyes as calm as before, replied, "When Fan Yu thinks that I'm not soft enough."

When Du Weilun heard this, he felt like he'd go crazy if Zhou Yi stayed there any longer. He hurriedly said, "Fine then, you two can leave. Zhou Yi, from now on I won't care about any ruckus you make. However, this time, you'll have to follow this class all the way from Year 1 until they graduate. If, by that time, you haven't produced five inner courtyard disciples, I'll fire you."

If Dai Huabin, Zhu Lu, Wu Feng, and Huang Chutian were still in Class 1, Wang Yan wouldn't have thought much of this request. However, he felt uncertain about this since they lacked these four core disciple-level students.

However, Zhou Yi didn't reveal any weaknesses as she replied, "There will only be more than that, not less." After saying that, she turned around and left. Everything had smoothly been settled.

As Zhou Yi and Wang Yan were making their report to Du Weilun, Huo Yuhao was walking over to the Soul Tool Department by himself for the first time.

Since he could no longer sell his roasted fish anymore, there was now a two hour gap between the end of class and dinnertime. After saying farewell to Wang Dong, he headed straight for the Soul Tool Department.

From today onwards, he would have to learn from Teacher Fan Yu in the Soul Tool Department.

With the golden badge Fan Yu had given him in-hand, Huo Yuhao entered the Soul Tool Department unimpeded. Afterwards, he went directly to Testing Area 12. As soon as he opened the door, he saw He Caitou busily messing with something atop metal table while Fan Yu stood beside him, guiding him.

"Teacher Fan Yu, senior brother He." Huo Yuhao hurriedly walked over, only to see He Caitou fiddling with a few metallic parts.

Fan Yu smiled. "You've come? I heard about what happened yesterday. Nice job, real men can't surrender. Caitou, be a bit more careful. You'll have to handle it by yourself for a little while."

After He Caitou greeted Huo Yuhao, Fan Yu led him over to another metal table.

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Fan Yu pulled over a chair, looked towards Huo Yuhao, and said, "You're my last disciple, so I'll definitely teach you in a way that's different to the other Academy teachers. At the same time, our schedule's going to be much tighter. You'll have to come over here for at least two hours after dinner before you can head back and rest. Do you have any problems with that?"

Huo Yuhao replied without any hesitation, "No problem, teacher. I'm not afraid of hard work; I'll definitely study hard."

Fan Yu nodded. "You don't need to keep telling me that you're hardworking. Show it to me with your actions. Let me ask you this: What are Soul Tools?"

Huo Yuhao was stumped; his understanding of soul tools was limited to the two trips he'd made here.

Fan Yu didn't seem to have any hopes of Huo Yuhao answering his question. He directly answered his own question, "Soul tools are weapons that soul masters activate using soul power. Each and every soul tool is intimately linked to a soul master's soul power. Even a stationary soul tool, which needs very little soul power, isn't an exception to this. Today, I'll be teaching you some basic knowledge about soul tools, which you'll have to remember all of."

"Yes."

“It’s impossible to tell when soul tools were first created, but the true development of soul tools began when the Sun Moon Continent collided with our Douluo Continent. You should know the history of our continent; the enormous collision that caused a massive war between our two continents. Though we were able to win in the end, the Sun Moon Continent inflicted enormous losses on the various empires within our Douluo Continent by relying on their soul tools.”

“Why then, was the Sun Moon Empire able to develop their soul tools to such an extent? Other than their painstakingly hard work, the main reason that they were able to do so was because of their resources. There are many precious metals available within the Sun Moon Empire, and it’s precisely because of these precious metals that they were able to create exceptionally high quality soul tools. Over these past few thousand years, the level of their research into soul tools has gone more and more in-depth. Moreover, the strength of the Sun Moon Empire’s Soul Tool Army has already exceeded that of a few of our Douluo Continent’s empires. As such, the main reason that they were able to do this was because of their resources. In turn, the conflict between their various empires will never end precisely because of their natural resources. However, the strength of the Sun Moon Empire has unceasingly increased due to their soul tools. If it weren’t for their lack of consummate experts, they would’ve already begun an all-out war.”

“Because of that, soul tools are strategic weapons for the various empires on the continent. However, the fact that a soul tool requires a soul master to utilise it stops an army from being able to use them on a large-scale basis. Otherwise, the conflicts that would’ve occurred would’ve been even more terrifying.”

“You should know that our Shrek Academy is the number one academy on the continent. That, however, refers only to our Academy’s Martial Soul Department; our Soul Tool Department isn’t the highest ranked on the continent.”

After saying this, a light seemed to flicker through Fan Yu’s eyes.

“Ah? We’re not? Is the number one Soul Tool Department in the Sun Moon Empire?” Huo Yuhao asked.

Fan Yu nodded. “You’re correct. The top ranked Soul Tool Department belongs to the Sun Moon Empire. It’s known as the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy, and it’s specialised in both nurturing soul engineers and researching soul tools. Because of both the early start they got, and the precious metals they have access to, they have a large advantage over us. For example, they were the first ones to create stationary soul tools.”

“We’ve always been chasing after the footsteps of the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy, but we’ve never caught up with them. However, I believe that this sort of situation won’t last forever. We have our own advantage over the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy, which lies in the fact that we have far more talented soul masters.”

“The heavens are fair. They gave the Sun Moon Empire an abundant amount of resources, but they didn’t give them too many talented soul masters. However, it’s different for the countries that originally belonged to our Douluo Continent. There’s always been a saying in the world of soul engineers: The stronger a soul tool is, the stronger the soul master required to utilise it. However, at the same time, you need stronger soul masters to create stronger soul tools. This is the path that we’re currently following.”

“Now then, I’ll give you a simple explanation of the ranks soul engineers have and what types of soul tools there are.”

“Soul masters that follow the path of researching, creating, and using soul tools are collectively called soul engineers. Soul engineers have different levels, but their titles aren’t as complicated as ‘Soul Grandmasters’, ‘Soul Elders’, ‘Soul Ancestors’, and such that soul masters have. Instead, we simply separate them by class. As such, we have Class 1 through Class 10 soul engineers. Currently, the strongest soul engineer on the entire continent is Class 9; there aren’t any Class 10 soul engineers. Do you know why that’s the case?”

Huo Yuhao shook his head blankly.

Fan Yu continued, “The difference in class between soul engineers is determined by the class of the corresponding soul tool they can control. I’ll give you an example so that you can understand what I mean: If you can create and control a soul tool suitable for soul masters that are Rank 10 and below, you’ll be a Class 1 soul engineer. If you can create and use soul tools that are suitable for Rank 10 to 20 soul masters, you’re a Class 2 soul engineer. Following this rule, Class 9 soul engineers need to be Titled Douluo as well. As for Class 10 soul engineers, the first step is having a cultivation of at least Rank 95.”

“There’s a limit to the amount of energy a person has. A soul master’s cultivation is extremely arduous; even people with an absolutely heaven-defying amount of talent have to go through an untold number of difficulties and an extremely large amount of hard work in order to simply become a nine-ringed Titled Douluo expert. Let’s not even mention the time they’d have to use to study and research soul tools as well. Because of that, while soul engineers are common, high-ranked soul engineers are extremely rare. From what I know, there are only three Class 9 soul engineers within the Sun Moon Empire. However, the highest ranked soul engineer within the Heavenly Soul Empire, Spirit Ling Empire, and Star Luo Empire is only at Class 8.5.”

Huo Yuhao asked in astonishment, “There are even half ranks?”

Fan Yu replied, “That Class 8.5 soul engineer actually belongs to our academy; he’s the Dean of our Soul Tool Department. He’s already reached the Titled Douluo rank, but he’s currently unable to create a powerful soul tool that only Titled Douluo can use. That’s why we call him a Class 8.5 soul engineer. The reality is, we don’t have a single Class 9 soul engineers throughout all three of our empires. Ever since the high-speed development of soul tools, a Class 10 soul engineer has never appeared on the continent before; it’s only there in name. If a Titled Douluo manages to reach Rank 95, he reaches a totally different level. There might not even be a single Rank 95 expert amongst ten Titled Douluo, much less one who’s also a soul engineer.”

“Now that you know about the different ranks that soul engineers have, let’s talk about the different types of soul tools. After several thousand years of development, soul tools have become increasingly mature. As such, soul tools have been separated into three different categories: close-combat soul tools, long-range soul tools, and stationary soul tools.”

“As the name implies, a close-combat soul tools focus on close-combat, and allow a powerful offensive or defensive skill to be unleashed via soul power. Speaking relatively, there are very few soul engineers who use close-combat soul tools. A large majority of soul engineers don’t have martial souls that are good for combat, so they’re somewhat timid in a close-combat situation. Though close-combat soul

tools aren't weak, it's hard to find a chance to use them against other soul masters at a similar rank. Because of that, most close-combat soul tools are used by combatants from the Martial Soul Department. On the other hand, a majority of soul engineers use long-range soul tools."

"You've already seen Caitou's demonstration; he was using a long-range soul tool. Long-range soul tools drain much more soul power than close-combat soul tools, but if they're used skillfully, they can be equivalent to an additional soul skill with an extremely large amount of destructive power. With Caitou's current level of control and skill, even a four-ringed Soul Ancestor might not have the upper hand in a fight against him. Nobody at the three-ringed rank can compare to him."

"Lastly, let's talk about stationary soul tools. Stationary soul tools are the most difficult of the three to create, with their material requirements and creation techniques able to be described with the phrase 'to perfect something that's already outstanding'. Extremely complicated formation arrays have to be carved onto the soul tool when it's created, and you also need to use soul power as a source to power it. It has the largest amount of power and range, but it drains the greatest amount of resources amongst the three types of soul tools. Furthermore, it has another problem: Unlike a long-range soul tool, where you can use your soul force to lock onto your opponent, you have to manually aim a stationary soul tool. This is the main reason that I was so interested in your Spiritual Detection."

"Ever since the advent of the use of stationary soul tools on the battlefield, the gap between our three great empires and the Sun Moon Empire has been decreasing, so much so that it's practically become nonexistent at this point. If it weren't for them being afraid of the fact that we have even more consummate experts than them, the Sun Moon Empire definitely wouldn't have endured for so long. Because of that, the main focus of my research is on stationary soul tools. Once we can accurately launch long-distance attacks with stationary soul tools, it'll play a crucial role in any future conflicts we have."

"Other than close-combat, long-range, and stationary soul tools, there's also subdivisions of soul tools. For example, the attack-type, defense-type, illumination, and other such soul tools that I'll gradually teach you how to create and use in the future. Now then, we'll be moving on to the last section of today's crash course: The components of a soul tool."

With that, Fan Yu stood up and retrieved a rectangular metal box. The box was black, roughly a foot long, and as wide as a fist. It was square-shaped at the top, but arc-shaped at the bottom.

Fan Yu fastened the metal box to his left forearm then made sure it was snug. Afterwards, he tapped it in an unknown fashion, causing the black box to immediately begin changing.

A series of clangs rang out as the black box began to completely cover his left forearm. Three protrusions as thick as a thumb appeared above it.

"This soul tool's known as a Sleeve Cannon. It's a relatively common long-range soul tool, and it's activated by soul power. Here, watch."

With that, Fan Yu raised his arm. Three rays of white light immediately shot out from the three metal tubes that had appeared, and a strong undulation of soul power immediately shot towards the distance. They struck the distant metal wall, instantly causing halos of light to appear in it.

“The principles behind a soul tool are in fact, extremely simple. Using special methods and techniques, they turn soul power into destructive energy. The most common technique we use is compression, and the way that we do that is by using Formation Carving.”

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As Huo Yuhao carefully observed him, Fan Yu removed the Sleeve Cannon from his left arm and slowly dismantled it. While doing so, he explained, “A soul tool is mainly split into three portions: the outer shell, the inner shell, and the core. The outer shell is what you can see on the exterior of the soul tool. You need to use the most durable and heat-resistant metals to create the outer shell, so as to prevent them from being easily destroyed in the long term. On the other hand, the inner shell is different; the inner shell’s most important feature is its ability to magnify and conduct soul power. Because of that, it has to be created using extremely precious conductive metals such as crystal-silver. At the same time, the inner shell’s ability to magnify soul power allows the user to reduce their consumption of soul power whilst using the soul tool. It’s because of this that soul engineers below Class 7 are stronger than soul masters in a drawn-out fight. Lastly, the core of a soul tool is the most important part. It needs to be created using the most precious types of metals and gems. Different types of formation arrays have to be activated using different levels of soul power, and correspondingly, we have to change the materials used for the inner and outer shells of the soul tool. The core can be considered the most important part of the soul tool, and the carving of a formation array is the most important step for a soul engineer.”

“When we determine the rank of a soul engineer, the most important step is to look at the formation array they carve. If you can carve a formation array of a certain rank, and your own soul power has reached that rank as well, you can then be considered a soul engineer of that rank.”

“There aren’t any shortcuts in learning how to carve a formation array. Once you’ve finished memorizing the formation that our predecessors racked their brains to create, you’ll simply have to continuously experiment with a few ordinary metals. That’s the only way that you’ll be able to constantly improve. Once you’ve learned the various theories of formation array carving, you’ll finally be able to create something that can be considered your own. When that happens, you can graduate.”

“The most important parts of our research are reflected through formation array carving, as it’s much easier to pair an inner and outer shell with a formation array as the base. Caitou has a lot of talent in this field. Despite how relaxed he appears to be, he has a special characteristic that his peers don’t have. That characteristic is his concentration. If you want to carve an extremely detailed formation array, you can’t lack concentration.”

“It’s not as if you can’t make any mistakes while carving formation arrays. However, the fewer mistakes you make, the more durable your formation arrays will be.”

After saying this, Fan Yu finally stopped. Huo Yuhao, who seemed to be deep in thought, made him feel extremely satisfied, as he could feel a level of concentration from Huo Yuhao that was comparable to He Caitou’s. Furthermore, Huo Yuhao’s facial expression showed that he’d been able to absorb the information very quickly; he seemed to already have a certain level of understanding towards soul tools.

A short period of time later, Fan Yu asked, “Do you understand now?”

Huo Yuhao nodded. “Teacher, I understand.”

Fan Yu smiled. "These are the most basic things that you'll have to learn from now on. Now then, what you'll first need to do is build a solid foundation in preparation of creating soul tools. This will take quite a long time to do, but it's a fundamental part of being a soul engineer. The only way that you can become an outstanding soul engineer is by laying a solid foundation. You should know that, as a soul engineer, you'll have to personally create every single soul tool that you'll use. This is because only you can understand yourself the best, and because you have the most confidence in yourself. We'll start by teaching you how to forge metal. If you want to become an excellent soul engineer, you'll first have to become an excellent blacksmith."

After he'd finished speaking, he gave Huo Yuhao a set of blacksmithing equipment that contained a funnel, a furnace, an anvil, a forging hammer, and more. Afterwards, Fan Yu began to teach him the art of forging, step by step.

Forging was separated into four main steps, as was more or less the case for all precious metals. Even the base of a formation array followed this principle.

The first of these steps was material purification. By unceasingly hammering a metal at high temperatures, one would be able to expel the impurities within it, in turn causing it to become more compact. The higher a material's purity, the better it would perform. However, different metals had slightly different methods of purification.

The second step was molding. While some metals could be poured into a pre-made mold, a large majority of metals had to be molded by hand.

The third step was tempering. Tempering was a somewhat complicated process, but more than anything else, it's something that requires experience.

The last step was polishing. Meticulously polishing and inscribing metal was the last step in creating a soul tool; it was the process that perfected an already outstanding item. However, once a core formation array had been polished, a formation array would have to be carved on the base.

Once these four steps were performed, and all the necessary parts were assembled, a soul tool would be created.

It seemed simple on paper, but every single step had extremely stringent requirements. And right now, Huo Yuhao was starting from the very first step of forging—material purification. The sound of a forging hammer smashing against metal began to ring out from Laboratory #12.

At dinnertime that evening, Wang Dong noticed that Huo Yuhao's hands were visibly shaking.

"Hey, why're your hands shaking?" Wang Dong asked, puzzled.

Huo Yuhao replied sulkily, "You go and smash a metal hammer into a metal block for over an hour, see what happens. If I hadn't had my Mysterious Jade Hands, my hands would currently be full of blisters."

As they ate, he gave Wang Dong a concise explanation of the basics of soul engineering that Fan Yu had taught him.

After he'd finished listening, Wang Dong had a disapproving look on his face. "Aren't you just creating more trouble for yourself? That Teacher Fan Yu said it as well; once we've reached the seven-ringed Soul

Sage rank, soul engineers simply aren't a match for us soul masters. Why bother? You're already lagging behind in terms of cultivation, yet you've decided to take time off to train as a soul engineer. Won't this slow down the rate of your improvement even more?"

Huo Yuhao shook his head. "No. I have to become a soul engineer." He had his own thoughts in mind. There were many characteristics of a soul engineer that he needed. Furthermore, Fan Yu had informed him that soul engineers were beginning to become even more popular than soul masters on the continent, even at the higher ranks. A single soul master only had the combat power of a single person, while a powerful, peak-level soul engineer could create a terrifying army.

His enemy was currently the White Tiger Duke and his wife, which was equivalent to making half of the Star Luo Empire his enemy! Even if he managed to reach the Titled Douluo rank, would he safely be able to win solely by relying on the strength of a soul master? Because of this, he didn't just want to become a pinnacle-ranked soul master; he wanted to become a pinnacle-ranked soul engineer, so that he could forge the strongest soul tools for himself.

This goal of his was still very far, far away from coming to fruition. However, Huo Yuhao still had his own sense of pride and confidence. He wasn't afraid of suffering, and in turn was willing to put in twice the effort of an ordinary person. On top of these things, he also had the Douluo Continent's first ever million year soul ring. The Skydream Iceworm had also told him that the strength of his million year soul ring would increase along with his cultivation.

After eating the top-ranked dinner that core disciples could eat for free, Huo Yuhao's body felt comfortably warm; an indescribable sense of relaxation had filled his body.

Wang Dong wiped his mouth and said, "Let's head back and rest for a bit."

Huo Yuhao replied, "I still have to see Teacher Fan Yu and train for another two hours, you can head back first. We can meditate once I'm back."

Wang Dong rubbed his forehead. "Huo Yuhao, you know, sometimes I think that you're a madman."

Huo Yuhao chuckled. "A cute madman?"

Just as the two were leaving the canteen, they bumped into Tang Ya and Bei Bei. Seeing Huo Yuhao, Tang Ya patted her increasingly conspicuous chest like she was sighing in relief. "Little Yuhao, I thought that something had happened to you. It's good that nothing's happened, it's good."

It turned out that Tang Ya and Bei Bei had also heard about Huo Yuhao's match with Wu Feng yesterday. Since he hadn't left to sell any roasted fish, they'd assumed that he'd suffered serious injuries. After the two had thought about it for a bit, they'd realised that it was dinnertime. Thus, they decided to head over to the canteen and try their luck... just in time for them to bump into Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong, who'd just finished their meals.

Huo Yuhao said, "Teacher Xiao Ya, senior brother, I apologize, but I need to head to the Soul Tool Department's Testing Area to continue training! I don't have time to explain everything to you right now. You can ask Wang Dong about yesterday's incident since he knows what happened." As soon as he'd finished speaking, he hastily walked away. The first steps of one's journey would always be the

toughest ones, and he wasn't willing to give up on his training in the Martial Soul Department. Thus, he naturally had to make the most of his time.

Suspicious, Tang Ya asked, "What's happened to Little Yuhao?"

Wang Dong laughed. "Him? He's a madman. Well, using his own words, he's a 'cute' madman. When he cultivates, he has so much enthusiasm that he isn't even human anymore."

Wang Dong explained yesterday's issues, as well as the matter of Huo Yuhao becoming Fan Yu's last disciple, to Tang Ya and Bei Bei. However, he decided to keep the matter of Huo Yuhao becoming a core disciple of the Soul Tool Department a secret out of consideration for him. After all, the Martial Soul Department could immediately withdraw his temporary core disciple treatment if they were to find out.

After they'd finished listening to Wang Dong, Tang Ya and Bei Bei looked towards each other.

Bei Bei smiled bitterly. "I didn't think that our many years of hard work wouldn't even amount to our junior brother's three months. It seems that Teacher Fan Yu has actually taken him in as a disciple. Xiao Ya, perhaps the responsibility of reviving our Tang Sect will fall onto the shoulders of our little junior brother."

Tang Ya nodded, somewhat relieved. "That's fine to. I wasn't really talented at creating soul tools in the first place, so I wouldn't really be able to accomplish much, even if I continued. It'd be better if I focused on our Tang Sect's traditional hidden weapons."

With a puzzled expression on his face, Wang Dong asked, "Senior brother, Teacher Xiao Ya, what are you two talking about?"

Bei Bei said, "Both the rise and fall of our Tang Sect were because of our hidden weapons. Ever since the high-speed development of soul tools began, our Tang Sect began to decline in turn. Because of that, we lost a lot of income. After thinking it over, Tang Ya and I realised that the only opportunity we have to revitalise the Tang Sect is to fuse our hidden weapons with modern soul tools. Because of that, both of us entered the Soul Tool Department. However, I'm a core disciple of the Martial Soul Department, while my classes in the Soul Tool Department are all electives. Right now, I'm only a Class 1 soul engineer. Xiao Ya is able to spend more of her time over there, but her personality makes it so that it's hard for her to focus while she's studying and researching. She's only a Class 2 soul engineer right now, and it will be hard for her to advance to a Class 3 soul engineer."

Tang Ya interjected, "But Teacher Fan Yu's different! Teacher Fan Yu is the number one genius of the Soul Tool Department, as he's one of very few Class 8 soul engineers that are rarely seen throughout the entire continent! He's second only to the two Deans of the Soul Tool Department, and he's widely accepted as the only person in our academy's entire history capable of becoming a Class 9 soul engineer. He's also the current candidate to succeed the Dean. In essence, if you can become his disciple, you've basically entered the inner circle of the Soul Tool Department. Not only will you receive the best education, you'll also obtain the all-around backing of the Soul Tool Department. Little Yuhao's truly capable! He's unwittingly done something that we've been yearning for. Bei Bei, I think that we can teach Yuhao the Hidden Weapon Hundred Separation."

Chapter 38.1: Huo Yuhao, a Class 1.5 Soul Engineer?

Bei Bei nodded slightly. “Our little junior brother hasn’t been in the academy for long, but he’s definitely much calmer and more hardworking than his peers. His personality is warm yet stubborn, while his first soul ring’s only a ten year one. However, if he can fully develop in the Soul Tool Department, he’ll definitely play a crucial role in the revival of our Tang Sect....”

Tang Ya interjected, “The Tang Sect’s already fallen to this point in our generation. If it doesn’t develop any further, it might really come to an end. If that were to happen, how would we face our ancestors? Wang Dong, since Yuhao’s gone to the Soul Tool Department tonight, you should follow me and begin learning the secret techniques of our Tang Sect. Once I teach him the main principles and cultivation techniques of our hidden weapons tomorrow, his studies will improve enormously.”

Wang Dong looked towards Tang Ya and Bei Bei with a somewhat helpless expression on his face. He inwardly thought, I’m not a little bee that’s as hardworking as Huo Yuhao! I’m being forced to work hard! When he realized that he’d be dragged into cultivating overnight with Huo Yuhao—without sleep—he couldn’t help but smile bitterly.

The next day, the teachers of the Martial Soul Department were informed that the first year students Dai Huabin, Zhu Lu, Huang Chutian, and Wu Feng would be transferred to Class 2 in order to continue their studies.

They’d undoubtedly raised a few appeals. However, Shrek Academy was still Shrek Academy. Regardless of your identity, everyone would be treated equally while studying here. The academy would first and foremost respect the decisions of its teachers, not to mention how Teacher Wang Yan had explained the situation. A few students had been kicked out of Class 1, but they’d still remain in the academy. Furthermore, these core disciples were arrogant due to their outstanding talent, so suffering a setback like this wasn’t necessarily a bad thing.

After this incident, the atmosphere inside of Class 1 changed into one that was somewhat jittery. Though they didn’t tremble the moment they saw Zhou Yi, nobody dared to disobey what she said. When he saw this, Wang Yan had no choice but to respect her; after a ruckus like that, the learning atmosphere in Class 1 had immediately transformed into the best he’d ever seen amongst all the classes he’d taught.

Most of the students’ lives in the academy became much calmer after this, but this was only true for a large majority of the students. To a ‘diligent little bee’ such as Huo Yuhao, his life was filled with vigor every day. Naturally, only he himself felt that it was full of vigor. In Wang Dong’s opinion, he was practically a man made of iron...

As soon as he woke up in the morning to train his Purple Demon Eyes, it would mark the beginning of another intense, yet fulfilling day. To Huo Yuhao, his classes in the Martial Soul Department during the day were actually the easiest things that he did during the day, as he only needed to use his brain. Under his teacher’s guidance, he learned tactics, cultivation techniques, combination techniques, and all sorts of other things that soul masters used.

He didn’t even waste the free time he had during the afternoon. As soon as he finished lunch, he’d drag Wang Dong into cultivating with him for a period of time. Not only did this increase the energy he’d have available during the afternoon, it also improved his cultivation.

This caused Wang Dong to feel that researching the Haodong Power alongside Huo Yuhao had absolutely been a mistake. He wouldn't even need to remember to cultivate, as once it was time, Huo Yuhao would drag him along to begin cultivating. Because of this, the normally-lazy Wang Dong was forced to begin working diligently as well, in turn causing his soul power to increase at a relatively fast pace. n//Ove**l**In

As soon as school ended, Huo Yuhao would rush over to the Soul Tool Department to study soul tools with Fan Yu. The four hours he spent there every night were, to him, the most exhausting period of the day. Fan Yu's way of teaching was extremely strict, and the standards that he held for his last disciple were so high that they were second to none, even in Shrek Academy. When He Caitou had been going through the first stages that Huo Yuhao was currently going through, he'd suffered untold hardships.

However, Fan Yu was astonished by the fact that Huo Yuhao seemed to be a rubber ball filled with elasticity: No matter how hard he pushed him, he'd always bounce back. Not only did he complete the tasks that Fan Yu assigned him in an excellent manner, he was even meticulous to the point that there weren't any flaws in his work at all. Sometimes, Fan Yu even thought that Huo Yuhao was the one being too harsh on himself. However, in the end, Huo Yuhao still managed to conscientiously complete every task he was assigned without any complaints. Even when he was exhausted to the point that he couldn't even return to his room, he didn't grumble at all. There was many times when Fan Yu had to personally send him back, but even when that happened, he wasn't willing to sleep. Instead, he'd have Wang Dong help him into a cross-legged position in order to cultivate.

Of the Tang Sect's secret techniques that were related to hidden weapons, the first that Huo Yuhao used was the forging technique—the Chaotic Wind-Splitting Hammer Technique. This technique borrowed the force generated by his lower body in order to move the hammer he held with his upper body, causing every single strike with a hammer to continuously increase in power. Not only did it save energy, it even managed to increase the quality of his forging. It was a secret technique that the Tang Sect that had never passed on.

Huo Yuhao was entirely relying on his own intuition to learn and utilise the Chaotic Wind-Splitting Hammer Technique. Even though he continuously had the Mysterious Jade Hands active, blisters began to appear on his palms, and a layer of flesh was scraped off his palms as they formed calluses. Those calluses were then scraped off, forming new calluses. However, he didn't slack off for a single day, nor did he grumble. On the contrary, he took pleasure in it, assiduously working hard, like a true ironman.

After three months, Huo Yuhao was able to chain together eighteen consecutive hammer strikes using the Chaotic Wind-Splitting Hammer Technique, and after five months, had increased to thirty six consecutive strikes. The highest realm that one could reach with the Chaotic Wind-Splitting Hammer Technique was only eighty one consecutive strikes, but by the time he could chain thirty six strikes together, he'd already passed the first stage of soul tool creation. In Fan Yu's own words, "The student has surpassed the master."

He Caitou had taken a full year to pass this stage, yet Huo Yuhao had only taken five months. Admittedly, the Tang Sect's Chaotic Wind-Splitting Hammer Technique had played a decent part in this, but Huo Yuhao's fearless tenacity had been the main reason.

In the blink of an eye, autumn had ended, and winter had arrived. And after that, winter ended, and spring arrived. At this point, eight months had passed since the beginning of Huo Yuhao's studies in the Soul Tool Department.

Huo Yuhao, Wang Dong, and Xiao Xiao, as well as Dai Huabin and Zhu Lu, had already reached the end of their first year in Shrek Academy. After this, they had vacation time.

Every year, Shrek Academy would have a month-long vacation. This month naturally wasn't meant for students to relax and tour around during. Instead, it was meant for them to completely digest the things they'd learned during the past eleven months, and for them to continuously cultivate. After this one month rest-period, they'd have to undergo their advancement test. Students that weren't able to pass their advancement test would directly be expelled. Because of that, the holiday period tended to be the most exhausting and busy time for the overwhelming majority of students. Who would dare to truly relax and rest during a time like this!?

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Within the Soul Tool Testing Area's Laboratory #12.

Fan Yu and He Caitou both stood beside Huo Yuhao—who was currently working on an enormous metal table—watching him very quietly. Fan Yu had clasped his hands behind his back, but he was watching every move that Huo Yuhao made very attentively. On the other hand, He Caitou had his fists clenched tightly, clearly somewhat nervous.

Huo Yuhao was currently seated in front of the metal table, and was holding a hexagonal piece of metal that was roughly the size of a walnut in his left hand. His right hand gripped a slender, thin knife, which he was using to carefully carve an inscription on a piece of metal.

His movements were extremely slow, but his hands were equally as stable. Every single movement that he made with his knife was made with extreme clarity.

The piece of metal was bluish-gold in color, and released a somewhat peculiar aura. As Huo Yuhao continued to carve with his knife, complicated patterns began to gradually appear on it.

Huo Yuhao's pupils shone with a pale gold luster, and even though he'd been focused for a long period of time, he hadn't blinked once. Time passed second by second, but his body remained unmoving, like a sculpture. Only his fingers—which were controlling the tiny sculpting blade—slowly moved alongside the guidance of his soul power. His tempo didn't waver in the slightest.

An excited light gradually began to appear in He Caitou's eyes, and a strange light appeared in Fan Yu's eyes. Even his clasped hands couldn't help but slowly turn into fists.

Finally, Huo Yuhao slowly carved one final cut, finishing a miniscule engraving on the piece of metal. Afterwards, he finally stopped.

The golden light in his eyes slowly faded away, and a trace of exhaustion appeared on his face. However, a brilliant smile had already appeared on his face by the time he raised his head to look towards Fan Yu and He Caitou.

"Teacher, senior brother, I've succeeded. From now on, I should be a Class 1.5 soul engineer, right?"

He Caitou looked towards him with a blank look in his eyes. “Yuhao, you... you’ve really succeeded?”

Huo Yuhao carefully raised the piece of metal with his right hand, and a gentle trace of soul power slowly flowed into it. Immediately, the metal piece shone with a clear, blue light, causing the soft halo of light it had originally had to turn into a foot-high pillar that rose into the air. The blue halo of light was straight yet sturdy, and had no signs of flickering. On the other hand, the metal piece itself shone with a penetratingly blue light.

“Good, good, good!” Fan Yu finally said. From the excitement on his face, one could tell that his emotions had been roused.

“Yuhao, good child. You aren’t just a Class 1.5 soul engineer. Your cultivation hasn’t reached the required level, but other than that, I can tell you that you’ve already become a fully fledged Class 2 soul engineer. You have an extraordinary amount of talent that ordinary people can’t even begin to hope for, and you’re incomparably hardworking on top of that. There were no coincidences in your success. This is your reward for the eight months of hard work that you’ve endured!”

He Caitou cheered, then pounced towards Huo Yuhao. After grabbing ahold of him, he flung him into the air. Huo Yuhao’s face was filled with happiness, but he pursed his lips tightly.

Right, the small metal piece he’d just engraved was the core of a Class 2 soul tool!

He’d completed the foundations of forging after five months of hard work, then had taken another month to learn molding, tempering, and polishing, as well as the other necessary procedures. Afterwards, he’d finally begun to learn how to engrave formation arrays. This was also the most important step in creating a soul tool.

If Huo Yuhao’s previous learning speed could be described as quick, the main reason behind that was because of his hard work and diligence. However, he’d begun to reveal his true genius in creating soul tools after he’d begun to learn how to engrave formation arrays.

Huo Yuhao was much calmer than his peers, and also had an innate advantage compared to others—his Spirit Eyes. By relying on the Purple Demon Eyes alongside his Spirit Eyes, his visual acuity was several times greater than that of an ordinary person’s.

More often than not, students would fail while engraving a formation array due to miniscule errors they’d made. However, a situation like this would almost never occur with Huo Yuhao.

Chapter 38.2: Huo Yuhao, a Class 1.5 Soul Engineer?

His Spiritual Detection could create a clear, three-dimensional shape of the metallic core in his mind. Because of this, he would basically never make a mistake, regardless of how deeply he had to cut, or how many cuts he had to make. This, combined with Huo Yuhao’s seriousness, allowed him to only need a month to finish engraving his first formation array from the time he started memorizing it from theory and putting it into practice.

In other words, Huo Yuhao had taken seven months to formally become a Class 1 soul engineer.

At that time, Fan Yu had told him that, although he wasn’t clear what the record in the Sun Moon Empire was, Huo Yuhao was definitely the fastest person to become a Class 1 soul engineer in all of the

Heavenly Soul, Dou Ling, and Star Luo empires. He Caitou taking one year and four months to do this had already been considered breathtaking by Fan Yu, but Huo Yuhao had only needed half that!

Huo Yuhao had been extremely concentrated on his studies and practice. In Fan Yu's opinion, he didn't seem to know the meaning of 'dry and dull' at all. Even if it was the exact same Class 1 formation array, he would engrave several hundred of them onto an ordinary piece of metal with gusto.

After another month, Huo Yuhao had attempted to engrave a Class 2 formation array onto a true core. And he'd succeeded; he'd actually succeeded! Though Fan Yu had already predicted it to some extent, he couldn't help but tear up at the sight of his disciple truly succeeding in front of him.

Strong teachers were hard to find, but talented students were just as hard, if not harder to find! That's not mentioning a talented disciple that was also willing to give 200%. Fan Yu was an extremely harsh teacher, but even he hadn't been able to find a single fault with Huo Yuhao.

It should be known that a Class 2 formation array is at least three times more complicated than a Class 1 formation array. Moreover, the requirements towards the usage of soul power are extremely high. Huo Yuhao's success had had no element of luck to it at all; he'd truly controlled everything perfectly.

After Fan Yu waved towards He Caitou, he finally let Huo Yuhao go. Fan Yu couldn't help but be filled with pride when he saw his pleased disciples.

Huo Yuhao had just passed his twelfth birthday, and was now half a head taller than when he'd entered the academy.

The top-ranked food that he'd received from the Martial Soul Department had provided him with more than enough nutrients. Combined with his five months of forging training and enormous activity level, Huo Yuhao's body had become much sturdier. Though his muscles weren't as exaggerated as He Caitou's, he had still become relatively rugged-looking. The lines drawn by his muscles were evident, but they were filled with flexibility. If he were to take off his clothes, he'd look like a small leopard ready to pounce. His gaze had also become much calmer and much more resolute, while his back was naturally straight as he stood there.

Fan Yu beckoned towards his two disciples. "You guys can sit down. Yuhao, give me your completed core. This is the first Class 2 soul tool you've made, so I'll assist you with creating its outer and inner shell as a graduation present for you."

"Thank you, teacher." Huo Yuhao didn't decline as he replied with a smile, then handed the core over to Fan Yu.

Fan Yu continued, "The holidays are about to start. What do you two have in mind?"

He Caitou smiled in a silly manner. "Teacher, I'm an orphan, so I'll just stay in the academy and continue training. My little junior brother's improved too quickly; I already feel threatened by him. I want to become a Class 4 soul engineer by next year. In my opinion, I don't think he'll need long to catch up with me."

Fan Yu smiled. "You don't have to be so humble. The journey of a soul engineer gets tougher and tougher as you move forwards. Your junior brother truly has a monstrous level of talent in the aspect of formation array engraving, but his cultivation is still lacking. If he wants to engrave higher-ranked

formation arrays, he'll have to first increase his cultivation rank. If he doesn't, he won't have enough soul power to finish an engraving. Yuhao, this is also something you have to do. You need to work hard to increase your cultivation. If I'm not mistaken, your soul power should've already reached Rank 20. I'll take you to the Great Star Dou Forest, as you need a suitable soul ring to improve even more."

Right, Huo Yuhao's cultivation had already reached Rank 20. Moreover, he'd reached it two months ago. During these past eight months, he'd cultivated incessantly. With the Haodong Power's assistance, the rate at which his soul power increased was no less than his rate of improvement in the creation of soul tools.

When he'd reached Rank 20, there had still been some time left until the holidays. Because of that, Wang Yan had suggested that he not rush to obtain a soul ring. Instead, he'd asked Huo Yuhao to continue cultivating diligently. According to a grandmaster from Shrek Academy's first generation, a soul master's cultivation wouldn't simply halt because of their inability to obtain a soul ring. Instead, the bottleneck would naturally restrict it from exploding upwards. In other words, although Huo Yuhao wouldn't increase in rank after hitting Rank 20, his latent cultivation would still continue to improve. Once he'd obtained his second soul ring however, it would immediately explode upwards.

Because of that, Huo Yuhao had continued to cultivate. Wang Dong's cultivation speed was also extremely quick. Cultivating with the Haodong Power alongside Huo Yuhao had caused his cultivation speed to double. In the past eight months, his soul power had risen by an impressive three ranks; he'd already reached Rank 28. According to Wang Dong's calculations, he'd be able to break through to the three-ringed rank by summer at the latest. This cultivation speed was already fast enough to astonish many people.

Huo Yuhao being treated as core disciple of the Martial Soul Department naturally wasn't limited to food alone. Teachers from the inner courtyard would come over every week to provide them with some pointers as well. Even though a person like him—as someone who could only enjoy the treatment of a core disciple—was only a side character, the number of things he'd learned absolutely wasn't any less than the others. *no ve(1B-In*

"Teacher, there's no need. I was one of the champions of the freshmen assessment, and one of the prizes I received was for a teacher to help me obtain the most optimum soul ring I could withstand. You're still busy with your research, so there's no need to trouble yourself."

Fan Yu chuckled. "Right! I forgot about that. You can go find Director Du directly then; he takes care of these things. When do you plan on going?"

Huo Yuhao replied, "The day after tomorrow. I'll leave in the morning. Please don't worry, I'll do my best to come back early. I'll head back as soon as I get my soul ring."

Fan Yu nodded. "Yuhao, if you're just trying to upgrade your martial soul, I suggest that you get an attack-type skill. However, I suggest that you diligently train in your Spiritual Detection if you want to increase your abilities as a soul engineer. However, I can't give you any specifics as to what soul ring you should obtain. Furthermore, the soul ring you obtain also depends on fate. Thus, it'll be up to you to create your soul tools."

“Yes. I’ll take note of that, teacher.” Huo Yuhao nodded seriously. However, this was the first time he’d told a lie to Fan Yu. He didn’t have any plans to ask the Martial Soul Department to help him obtain a second soul ring for his Spirit Eyes. He wanted to do it by himself, as he had the Skydream Iceworm.

Once he thought about how he was finally going to become a Soul Grandmaster, and how he’d formally awaken his second martial soul with the help of the Skydream Iceworm, he couldn’t help but inwardly turn fervent.

Fan Yu continued, “We’re about to begin vacation, so you don’t need to continue working anymore today. Go on, head back to your dorm and pack up. Rest for a bit too.”

He Caitou couldn’t help but widen his eyes. This was the first time he’d ever heard his teacher say the word ‘rest’.

By the time he’d left the Soul Tool Department’s Testing Area, the sky had already darkened. The weather today honestly wasn’t that great. A light drizzle gradually fell, and the sound of the pattering rain brought a slight chill to the spring night.

However, Huo Yuhao didn’t feel that the rain was bad at all. On the contrary, he felt somewhat carefree, as if it were washing away his exhaustion. Just as he was about to step out into the rain and experience this refreshing feeling, he suddenly shifted his gaze towards the left.

An umbrella had already been opened, and beneath it was someone wearing a Year 1 uniform. His short, pinkish-blue hair gave off the beauty of a fairy beneath the rainy night, while his similarly large pinkish-blue eyes were filled with both ingenuity and a slight trace of astonishment.

“Even the ironman is goofing off?” He said as he smiled towards Huo Yuhao.

Astonished, Huo Yuhao looked towards him. “Why’d you come?”

“It’s raining. We’re gonna be splitting up the day after tomorrow, so I came to get you.” The youth flipped his short, pinkish-blue hair, the gaze in his eyes somewhat peculiar.

Huo Yuhao chuckled. “You can’t bear to part with me? There’s only a month before we’ll all be back together. Let’s go. We’ll head back to our room first. And I’m not goofing off; Teacher Fan Yu specially allowed us to leave early.”

The person who’d come to get him was Wang Dong. After eight months, the still-developing Wang Dong had also grown slightly taller. Only, he hadn’t grown as much as Huo Yuhao had. Huo Yuhao was now taller than him by a little bit.

The two people slowly walked across the wet ground as they returned to their dorms. Normally, Huo Yuhao would’ve walked through campus as quickly as possible. Today however, he’d slowed down. With the scenery being as rainy as it was, he’d immediately felt that something was different. Thus, the two of them had deliberately slowed down as they walked back to their dorm.

“Did the Soul Tool Department agree to help you get a soul ring?” Huo Yuhao asked.

Huo Yuhao nodded. “Of course. I’m a core disciple of the Soul Tool Department after all.” He couldn’t help but feel somewhat apologetic as he said this. In order to keep the Skydream Iceworm a secret, he had no choice but to tell a white lie to both parties.

Wang Dong replied, "I'll be heading back home too. I'm also leaving earlier than you. Thus, you'll have to take care of yourself. It's a pity that I haven't reached Rank 30. Otherwise, I'd come with you to hunt a few soul beasts. That would've been nice."

Huo Yuhao chuckled. "Don't be so discontented. Ever since we got the Haodong Power, hasn't our cultivation speed increased by a large amount? Go ask the other students; who else do you think could improve as much as you after reaching Rank 20? After we get back and pass the advancement test, you'll be able to reach Rank 30 after two or three months at most. I haven't obtained my second soul ring yet, but I reckon that I'm about Rank 22 or so right now. As time passes, the advantage that we get from our Haodong Power will become more and more obvious. Let's try and catch up to Dai Huabin in soul power by the time we're in Year 4."

Chapter 38.3: Huo Yuhao, a Class 1.5 Soul Engineer?

During the past eight months, Huo Yuhao had dedicated as much of his energy to cultivating as he could. With his current rank, he could calmly face Dai Huabin. However, this didn't mean that his hatred had dissolved; on the contrary, he'd buried it even deeper inside of himself. His hatred had already been deeply rooted inside of him, thus how could he erase it so easily?

He wasn't clear as to just how high Dai Huabin's soul power was compared to his, but he safely estimated it to be around Rank 33 or so. Although the rate at which a person's cultivation improved drastically decreased after crossing the Rank 30 threshold, going up three or four ranks in a year wouldn't be much of a problem with Dai Huabin's level of talent, plus his previous cultivation. Furthermore, it seemed that he'd cultivated diligently after he was kicked out of Class 1.

Wang Dong smiled, but didn't say anything, as a large amount of confidence had begun to emanate from his gaze.

The route they'd taken could easily have been taken in around ten minutes, but they purposefully took much longer. Just as they were about to reach their dorm room, Wang Dong suddenly said, "Let's go sit next to the Sea God's Lake for a while. It's not very easy to find you goofing off. It's also been a long time since I've tasted your roasted fish."

Huo Yuhao was somewhat embarrassed. "I didn't prepare anything. If I'd known you wanted some, I definitely would've roasted some for you."

Wang Dong smiled devilishly and shoved the umbrella into Huo Yuhao's hands as he said, "Just wait here." After saying that, he ran back to their dorm room as fast as he could. A few moments later, he reappeared and gestured with the bright blue bracelet in his left hand towards the Sea God's Lake. "Let's go."

Huo Yuhao's eyes widened. "You planned this in advance!"

Wang Dong didn't deny it. "I was originally planning to wait for you to finish at night and drag you out for a little midnight fun, but I didn't think that you'd finish early. It's perfect timing; we're about to go on vacation, and it's hard to indulge for a bit. In any case, don't even think of sleeping tonight if you don't fill me up."

Huo Yuhao chuckled. "Alright. As long as you have enough ingredients, I'll keep feeding you until you can't move."

Beneath the eaves of the dormitories, the old grandpa who was normally always sleeping couldn't help his eyes from widening slightly. The corner of his mouth curved slightly as he gazed towards Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong, who were running into the distance. He thought aloud, "Back then, how many girls said that to me!? And every time they'd say that, I'd be the one to feed them until they were full... These two fellas sure are interesting."

After excitedly running towards the Sea God's Lake, Wang Dong held up the umbrella so that Huo Yuhao could start a fire. The rain wasn't very strong, thus the umbrella was able to cover the entire area they'd chosen. After only a moment's worth of work, a fire had been lit. The unique smell of charcoal began to slowly rise into the air, but didn't disperse due to the rainy weather.

Mist began to appear atop the Sea God's Lake, and slowly enveloped the distant Sea God's Island. The misty lake in turn gave off a cool yet damp feeling, while the now-bonfire gave Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong waves of warmth. The two of them looked towards each other at practically the same instant, their cheeks flushed from the reflection of the bonfire. As they smiled towards each other, a warm feeling seemed to bore into their hearts.

After setting up his stove and placing the raw fish on it, Huo Yuhao began to roast them with his full attention. The concentration on his face was no less than when he'd engraved formation arrays onto the cores of soul tools.

Wang Dong stood next to him, holding the umbrella up. However, instead of looking at the fish that were being roasted, he looked at Huo Yuhao's serious face. The cool air, the hot furnace, and the golden mackerels—which had begun to release a fragrant smell—sketched a moving image as they combined. As Wang Dong gazed at Huo Yuhao, he instinctively knew that he'd never forget this scene. He also quite enjoyed the thought of Huo Yuhao roasting fish for him, and him alone.

Finally, Huo Yuhao finished roasting the first piece of fish. Huo Yuhao immediately handed it to Wang Dong and said, "Eat it while it's hot."

"Yup." Wang Dong took the fish from Huo Yuhao, and ate the fish carefully. The fragrance of Huo Yuhao's roasted fish, which he hadn't tasted in such a long time, caused his eyes to turn somewhat red.

As he roasted some more fish, Huo Yuhao said, "Speaking of roasted fish, we should call Teacher Xiao Ya, senior brother, and Xiao Xiao over. They enjoy it as well."

"No way! You belong to me today!" Wang Dong blurted out.

Astonished, Huo Yuhao raised his head to look towards Wang Dong. When he did, he saw a somewhat stubborn look in Wang Dong's pinkish-blue eyes.

"I mean that your roasted fish belong to me," Wang Dong hurriedly interjected. The contrast between the dark sky and the bonfire caused his face to appear extremely flushed.

Afterwards, they continued to eat roasted fish for so long that they didn't even know how long they'd been eating. Only after they'd gotten full did they return to their dorm room.

Once they got back to their dorm room, Huo Yuhao laid down on his hard, wooden bed. "Ah... it feels so nice to fill myself up. I've decided to just be lazy for the entire day tomorrow, and to have a nice sleep tonight. You're right, we should take a break once in awhile."

"No, get up and cultivate." Wang Dong walked over to him and pulled him up as a sarcastic smile appeared on his face.

"You can't be serious." Huo Yuhao wailed. "It's been so hard for me to rest lately!"

Wang Dong replied, "We're separating the day after tomorrow, thus we should make the most out of the rest of our time left to cultivate together. You can go goof off by yourself when you don't have the Haodong Power. Come on, get up."

"Alright..." With a helpless look on his face, Huo Yuhao slowly got up. Just as he was about to sit down in a cross-legged position on his wooden bed, Wang Dong suddenly said, "Come over here. Seeing that we're about to separate, and that you just roasted so much fish for me, I'll let you sit over here while you cultivate."

"Huh?" Huo Yuhao was stunned. Afterwards, he smiled cunningly as he looked towards Wang Dong's fur-covered mattress, then obediently jumped onto Wang Dong's his bed without any reservations.

"Who said that you could get up here now? Go change into a clean set of clothes!" Wang Dong hurriedly shouted.

However, Huo Yuhao had already sat down in a cross-legged position. "You need to stop having so many bad habits. Quick, the sun's gonna come up if we don't start soon."

Only after hearing Huo Yuhao say this did Wang Dong sit across from Huo Yuhao, a somewhat unwilling expression present on his face. Afterwards, the two pressed their palms against each other's and began to circulate the Haodong Power. The moment they closed their eyes, a faint smile appeared on both of their faces.

The morning of the next day.

Once they got up, Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong felt that their minds had been completely refreshed, possibly due to the peaceful night they'd had. Today was the last day of their Year 1 classes, as Shrek Academy's holidays would officially start tomorrow.

After eating breakfast, they headed towards their classroom early. Fan Yu had already begun Huo Yuhao's vacation, thus he didn't need to go and train his soul tool creation today. Eleven months had passed since he'd entered Shrek Academy, yet he'd never been as relaxed as today. The relaxing feeling that enveloped his entire body made him feel warm and comfy.

Huo Yuhao decided that he wouldn't bother with anything else today; he'd have a good rest today.

Zhou Yi and Wang Yan walked into the classroom together. Whenever Zhou Yi was there, regardless of what time it was, the atmosphere in Class 1 could only be described using the word 'solemn'. Today was no exception, even if the holidays began tomorrow. At this point in time, nobody dared to provoke the hegemonic flower known as Zhou Yi! In the event that her old mind suddenly blew up, none of them would be able to handle it.

Wang Yan walked up to the stage, while Zhou Yi walked towards the back of the classroom and sat down in an empty chair.

“Students, this will be your last day in Year 1. The academy hasn’t arranged any assignments for you. I’ll be giving you all some parting words, then you can head back and pack up your things.”

Once Wang Yan said this, the entire class immediately erupted into cheers. They didn’t even care that Zhou Yi was there. Since the holidays were about to start, everyone had their hearts set on going home. After all, who wouldn’t want to go home and see their relatives!? Naturally, those with no relatives were an exception to this.

Wang Yan smiled. “We’ve all worked hard this year. I can say with pride that you’ve been the most outstanding class I’ve ever taught. On behalf of Zhou Yi and myself, we thank you all for working hard. Your hard work will bring glory to those of us in Class 1.”

“However,” Wang Yan said, suddenly shifted the topic of discussion, “unlike the other academies, Shrek Academy doesn’t have any final exams. As to why this is the case, I’m sure that everyone already knows. We’ll be testing whether or not you’re qualified to become a second year student at the start of the next year. Because of that, you can’t relax at all, even when you go back home. You’ll have to work even harder during the next month. This is the only way that you can continue to study in Shrek Academy next year. I’m fond of every single one of you, thus I hope that we don’t have to say farewell to anyone next year.”

“Now then, I’ll tell you all a few of the main points regarding the advancement test. You’ll have to remember this: The first part of the advancement test has no skill requirements. It tests your absolute strength, or in other words, your soul power. If you want to get into Year 2, you’ll have to be Rank 20. If you haven’t gotten two soul rings by the time we take the advancement test, I suggest that you not bother coming next year. Regardless of how well you perform during the other assessments, it won’t be of any use if you haven’t gotten two rings. The academy won’t change its rules for anyone. As such, if you’re a student who hasn’t reached Rank 20 yet, you’ll have to cultivate for your lives. At the same time, you’ll also have to get a second soul ring in order to prove that you’ve reached the Soul Grandmaster level.”

“However, having a two-ringed cultivation doesn’t mean that you’ll definitely pass the advancement test. Even Teacher Zhou and I don’t know the specifics of the advancement test at this point in time. However, I can tell you my advancement test was like. That year, the Year 2 advancement test had every single student challenge a hundred year soul beast under the supervision of a teacher. Remember this—you’ll have to do it alone, without any outside assistance. If the supervising teacher makes a move, the assessment will be over. This test is the academy’s most-often used assessment. You should be happy if you get this test, as it tests your pure, unadulterated strength. However, there’s a chance that they could give you an even more difficult test that requires luck, strength, and intelligence, but these tests normally only appear in upper year tests. At the same time, this advancement test isn’t just related to every single one of you; it’s related to our class, as Class 1 also has to undergo an advancement test. This assessment is an extra one that you’ll have to finish as well.”

Chapter 39.1: The Three Emperors of the Extreme North

Everyone had been able to understand Wang Yan's first words, but some of them became somewhat confused when he started talking about a class advancement test. What was a class advancement test?

Wang Yan indifferently continued, "Every single class acts as a whole body. As such, if that whole body can't advance to Year 2, what use would there be in the students advancing? From another standpoint, the class advancement test is a test for Teacher Zhou Yi and I. During the class advancement test, we'll choose three to seven students to participate in a special test. The advancement level of our class will be determined by how well we do in this assessment. If we complete this assessment perfectly, then 100% of Class 1 will advance; every single student that can pass the individual assessment will be able to continue their studies in Year 2. However, if we can't complete it perfectly, we'll have to expel a percentage of students from Class 1, despite them passing their individual tests. In other words, even if every single one of you passes the individual assessment, if we only end up getting 90% on the class advancement test, the last 10% of students in the Class 1's assessment ranking will be expelled."

Once he'd finished his explanation, the entire class immediately understood what he meant, which in turn caused them to be dumbstruck. The students that had thought they could relax and take a short break during the holidays were astonished to the point that their mouths were wide open. This was especially true for those who had higher cultivations, as they'd thought that they could breeze through the advancement test. They'd never expected the possibility of there being a class advancement test.

Wang Yan smiled. Though it seemed warm, it actually contained an ominous feeling. "I think that, if any of the students who've been chosen to participate in the class assessment make a mistake that causes the evaluation of the class to drop, the entire class will remember that person."

"I'm also a student who's graduated from Shrek Academy, so I'll tell you about what my experience was like. Realistically, the period of time after you pass your advancement test and begin your studies again is actually the happiest and most exciting time you'll experience in Shrek Academy. Contrarily, the holidays are hell for an overwhelming majority of students. Unless you're unwilling to continue studying here, you should know what you all have to do once you get home."

"That's all I have to say. Class is dismissed, you can head back and pack up your things." Wang Yan waved his hand as he dismissed the class.

The students of Class 1 were dumbstruck; their original excitement and enthusiasm had vanished from the face of the earth. Was it really possible for a two-ringed student to take on a hundred year soul beast by themselves? Although a large majority of them possessed hundred year soul rings, how many of them had actually been the one to hunt the soul beast that they'd obtained their soul ring from? Not to mention the class advancement test that they'd have to pass afterwards.

Wang Dong had a bitter smile on his face as he asked Huo Yuhao, "Say, do you think that I'll be chosen for the class test?"

Huo Yuhao glanced at him. "What do you think, class monitor Wang?"

Depressed, Wang Dong stood up. "Whatever, there's no use talking to you! Let's head back to our room and cultivate. An extra day of cultivating is still an extra day. Since we've only got one month, I'll try to reach Rank 30 as quickly as possible, even if it means that I have to eat pills everyday."

Huo Yuhao smiled. "If you can manage to reach Rank 30 before we take the advancement test, I strongly believe that it will be much easier for you. Don't worry, I'll volunteer to participate in the class assessment so that I can be a strong support for you."

"Wang Dong, Huo Yuhao. You two stay behind for a bit." Zhou Yi's cold voice rang out.

The two of them hurriedly paused their footsteps. After the other students had left, Wang Yan and Zhou Yi had called the two of them over to the stage.

"What are your thoughts on the class assessment that Teacher Wang mentioned?" Zhou Yi asked.

Helpless, Wang Dong replied, "What can I say? The two of us will just have to go together. Oh yeah, we'll have to get Xiao Xiao as well." Xiao Xiao had already fused with the soul bone she'd received, causing her strength to increase dramatically. Moreover, she was someone that possessed twin martial souls. Even though her soul power cultivation speed wasn't as fast as Wang Dong and Huo Yuhao's, she was still one of the quickest within Class 1.

Wang Yan nodded. "The two of you definitely have to participate together when the time comes. We don't know the specifics of the assessment, but you'll still have to work hard during the next month. Yuhao, are there any problems regarding your second ring?"

Huo Yuhao immediately shook his head. "There aren't any." He was still afraid of Wang Yan questioning him, as that would expose his lie. Fortunately, Wang Yan didn't follow up with any further questions. He'd clearly been reassured by Huo Yuhao.

Zhou Yi said, "Your studies here will be even more intense next year. I won't bother talking too much about other things, as you two should head back early. As class monitors, I hope that the two of you can come back somewhat earlier. The earlier you come back, the better, as Teacher Wang and I will be informed of the contents of the assessment around ten days or so before we begin school. Following this, you two will be able to prepare for it if you come back early."

"Yes." Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong nodded simultaneously.

Zhou Yi replied, "Go on."

"Teacher Zhou, Teacher Wang, goodbye." Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong respectfully said goodbye to the two teachers. Although they were about to begin their holidays, they were still somewhat unwilling to leave the academy.

In the end, Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong's original plans—to make the most of their time to cultivate—didn't succeed, as Xiao Xiao, along with Bei Bei and Tang Ya, were waiting for them outside. Thus, the words that Huo Yuhao had said last night became a reality; he ended up roasting some fish for everyone.

Their meal wasn't just limited to the five of them, as Huo Yuhao also called over his senior brother, He Caitou. After the six of them had gathered, it became rather lively; they continued messing around like crazy until it was night time. Huo Yuhao didn't tell anyone where he was going to obtain his soul ring, and in the end, his white lie wasn't exposed.

Another morning began.

Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong walked across the Sea God's Lake's lakeside path. Since they had storage-type soul tools, they naturally didn't need to carry a backpack with them. The two of them remained silent as they slowly walked forwards.

Mist proceeded to slowly cover the Sea God's Lake, while the damp air blown by the lakeside wind battered their bodies, causing their uniforms to become somewhat moist.

Though the lakeside path was rather long, it still had an end. As the morning sun slowly rose, the water vapor surrounding them gradually evaporated.

"I'm leaving now, but I'll come back early. See me off." Wang Dong said as he turned towards Huo Yuhao. When Huo Yuhao saw Wang Dong, he could clearly see the trace of liquid sparkling at the corners of his eyes.

During the past eleven months, the two of them had practically been together all the time, cultivating day and night. Though they weren't inseparable, they'd become best friends. Just as they were about to separate from each other, a strong feeling of reluctance seemed to clog up their throats. Though this feeling didn't last long, it caused them to feel the pain of separation temporarily.

Afterwards, Wang Dong ran out of the academy like he was escaping from Huo Yuhao. He didn't turn around, but he couldn't help the tears in his eyes from flowing uncontrollably. He muttered to himself inwardly, Huo Yuhao, you big dummy!

Huo Yuhao couldn't help but rub his eyes as he watched Wang Dong's slender figure gradually disappear. Afterwards, he turned towards the doorplate of Shrek Academy.

Teacher Xiao Ya, elder senior brother, senior brother He, Teacher Zhou, Teacher Fan Yu, Teacher Wang... I'm leaving now. I'll definitely give you all a big surprise when I get back. I've never forgotten the oath I made back then; I'll definitely make those that looked down on my white soul ring feel terrified whenever they see the color white in the future. I'll come back as soon as possible.

After taking a deep breath to calm his surging emotions, Huo Yuhao made sure that he was headed in the right direction as he left the academy. In the blink of an eye, he'd vanished as he ran along Shrek City's official road to the north.

To the twelve-year-old Huo Yuhao, the melancholy that he felt from separation was still very easy for him to control. After madly running for two hours beneath the caress of the cool breeze, he opened his mind and felt an indescribable sense of delight.

A year ago, he'd been a beggar-like youth who'd just left the White Tiger Duke's Mansion.

One year later, today, he was a control-type soul master that only needed to obtain a soul ring in order to advance to the level of a Soul Grandmaster. Furthermore, he was even a Class 2 soul engineer. At the same time, he simply had too much information inside of his mind right now.

Huo Yuhao might not have improved the most out of the students within Shrek Academy this year, but he had definitely transformed the most. It had only been year, but it seemed like he'd shed his mortal body and bones. This was something that nobody could deny.

“Brother Skydream, how far to the north do we need to head?” In the past, the Skydream Iceworm had been very fond of sleeping. In fact, it wouldn’t be uncommon for it to not speak to Huo Yuhao for over a month. Only after Huo Yuhao’s soul power broke through to Rank 20 did it finally awaken from its dreams. Somewhat unexpectedly, the elder that had previously appeared had been abnormally silent. The gray pearl was exceptionally silent, and other than the ripples it had made last time, it hadn’t changed in the slightest. The Skydream Iceworm had even maliciously said that its strand of divine sense must’ve been thoroughly destroyed.

However, Huo Yuhao didn’t know that, if its strand of divine sense truly had disappeared, the gray pearl definitely wouldn’t have remained inside of his Spiritual Sea.

The Skydream Iceworm’s lazy voice rang out, “Just keep heading north, you’ll definitely be on the right track. This road is quite long. Didn’t you constantly practice running around with a heavy load on your back in the academy? This time, you don’t even have to carry a heavy load. Based on your current speed, it’ll take at least ten days to reach where we’re headed.”

“Ah? Ten days?” Huo Yuhao asked, flabbergasted. “Brother Skydream, where are we headed? Why do we have to travel so far north? My current speed isn’t slow at all! If I go all-out and run forwards for a full day, even if I don’t manage to cross a thousand miles, I’ll hit 800 miles at least! If I were to run for ten days, that’s eight thousand miles!”

“Yep! That’s about how far it is from here. We’re heading to my old home—the Douluo Continent’s Extreme North,” The Skydream Iceworm said in a tone that seemed completely natural. “Don’t forget, that’s the place that I’m most familiar with.”

Puzzled, Huo Yuhao asked, “Brother Skydream, isn’t that too far? I still have to participate in the advancement test once I get back. Won’t it be too late for me to get back in time? Is this the only place you know of that has a spiritual-type soul beast?”

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The Skydream Iceworm replied, “My home’s not the only place with spiritual-type soul beasts; the Great Star Dou Forest definitely has some as well. The problem is, you’re not getting something as simple as a soul ring. The most important thing you need to do is awaken your second martial soul, and to do that, you’ll have to get your second soul ring from the Extreme North. I’ve already planned it all out for you. If you have the energy to talk nonsense, why don’t you speed up a little bit more? The earlier we get there, the more time you’ll have. If everything goes smoothly, it won’t be a problem for us to get back to Shrek Academy in a month.”

Huo Yuhao, who’d originally thought that he had an ample amount of time to obtain his soul ring, suddenly felt a pressing sense of urgency. Afraid of wasting any more time, he hurriedly sped up. As he adjusted his breathing, he continued taking large strides towards the north.

He’d asked the canteen for two days worth of food the day beforehand. As such, he didn’t need to worry about food for the next two days. Fan Yu had also given him a hundred gold soul coins which, combined with his original savings, should be enough for his journey.

A year of bitter cultivation had formed Huo Yuhao’s unyielding personality. Being able to cultivate in a solitary environment was definitely not something that just any soul master could do. Huo Yuhao

calmed down and discarded any distracting thoughts in his mind as he wholeheartedly rushed towards the north. After running for between four and six hours, he'd stop to take a break, as he'd drained nearly all of his soul power. The instant he recovered his soul power, he'd start running again.

Considering the situation he was in, he ran without any restraints on his speed. Perhaps even a three or four-ringed expert might not be able to run as far as he had in a single day.

In the blink of an eye, three days had passed. Huo Yuhao was already able to sense the air around him getting colder and colder. However, the frigid cold didn't slow him down at all. He entered a city, bought a thick set of clothes, and replenished his supplies. Most importantly of all however, he bought a map.

He was currently within the Heavenly Soul Empire. As long as he continued to head north, he'd reach the northern borders of the Heavenly Soul Empire; at that time, he'd have reached his destination. Shrek Academy lay on the southeastern border of the Heavenly Soul Empire and the Star Luo Empire. Thus, Huo Yuhao's journey would take him from the southernmost part of the Heavenly Soul Empire to the northernmost part. From this alone, the exhaustion he'd suffer throughout his journey could be imagined.

However, Huo Yuhao didn't feel tired in the least. On the contrary, he treated it as experience for the future. Other than the first city he'd entered, he didn't enter any other cities before reaching the northern border; he rested in the wilderness. Of the many things he'd purchased, one them had been a small, foldable tent made of leather. The tent itself wasn't large; it was roughly 2 meters long and 1.2 meters wide. However, it was enough for him to rest in. This, added to the warm sleeping bag he'd brought, gave Huo Yuhao a good rest. Moreover, he'd always cover himself with his sleeping bag when he entered a meditative state, making it so that he didn't even need to lie down or sleep.

Huo Yuhao had lived in the Duke's Mansion his entire life, prior to entering Shrek Academy. Thus, he'd never experienced a harsh winter before. However, the one year of bitter cultivation he'd endured had caused him to gain an extremely sturdy physique. After adapting to it for a few days, he was much more comfortable in the cold. For the sake of saving money, he chose not to buy a fur cloak; he only bought a heavy cotton shirt.

After running at his top speed for eight days, Huo Yuhao finally neared the northern border of the Heavenly Soul Empire. Upon reaching this point, his location on the map had simply become a patch of white.

Pausing his footsteps, Huo Yuhao stopped to take a small breather. The white mist that left from his nose instantly turned into fragments of ice that dispersed into the air.

Huo Yuhao pulled his hood over his head to block the frigid wind from digging into his face. However, the freezing air still managed to pierce into his body like miniscule daggers via the small holes in his clothes.

Water would instantly freeze into icicles where he was now. As if to prove this point, a layer of frost had already covered Huo Yuhao's eyebrows.

Huo Yuhao couldn't help but feel somewhat depressed as he carefully looked at his map. Based on his current position on the map, he'd reach an empty void if he continued to head northwards. There was a small warning above that void:

“The Extreme North, an area forbidden to humans. Soul beasts roam about freely here. Danger, danger, danger!”

The three ‘danger’s were written in red.

“Brother Skydream, stop sleeping. We might’ve reached our destination, thus I’ll need you to lead the way from now on.” Huo Yuhao inwardly called out to the Skydream Iceworm.

“Lead the way? Lead what way?” The Skydream Iceworm’s stuporous voice rang out. After coming to his senses, the only million year soul beast on the Douluo Continent stared blankly for a brief moment, then said, “I don’t recognise this place!”

“What?” Huo Yuhao was astonished. “Brother Skydream, please don’t joke around here! I followed your instructions and ran north for a full eight days to get here. If you don’t recognise this place, what should we do?”

With an extremely innocent voice, the Skydream Iceworm replied, “I really don’t recognise this place. I used to live in the northeastern part of the continent, which is still extremely far from here. Later on, I drifted towards the south, before finally reaching the Great Star Dou Forest. This should be the north-central area of the continent, which was originally the northwestern area of the Douluo Continent. How am I supposed to know my way around here?”

Anxious, Huo Yuhao asked, “Then what should we do? Brother Skydream, you...”

The Skydream Iceworm let out a cunning laugh. “I made you worry for a bit. Fine, I won’t joke around with you anymore. Even though I don’t know what direction we need to head here, you’ve forgotten just how powerful my spiritual force is! I don’t even need to worry about what direction we need to go. As long as we follow my spiritual force, we’ll be able to find what we need. Isn’t that enough? Right, strip now.”

Huo Yuhao was instantly stunned. “You want me to take my clothes off? Brother Skydream, this is a world of ice and snow! You’re going to cause me to freeze me to death!”

The Skydream Iceworm grumpily spat, “Quickly do it, else you’ll really freeze to death if you don’t. And why did you call this a world of ice and snow? In the past, I’d be sweating from such high temperatures. This is still very, very far from the truly cold areas. On the other hand, the thing that we’re looking for is located in the very center of the Extreme North. You can’t even imagine how cold it is there. Quickly, take off your clothes so that I can help you out a bit. If you don’t, you’ll be finished in less than two days once we continue heading forward.”

At this point in time, Huo Yuhao could only choose to believe in the Skydream Iceworm. He simply didn’t have any other choice. Helpless, he removed the thick cotton shirt from his body.

As soon as he did, the biting cold of the freezing northern wind penetrated his entire body. This feeling was akin to him suddenly eating ten popsicles at once. Amidst this world of ice and snow, it was even possible to see steam rising from Huo Yuhao’s body.

Clenching his teeth, Huo Yuhao took off the rest of his clothing as quickly as possible, exposing his sturdy muscles. He couldn’t help but sway due to the extreme temperatures here. This feeling was definitely so ‘relaxing’ that he couldn’t even relax.

“Take your underwear off as well! Why did you even leave them on? If you don’t wanna let me help you out for a bit, don’t blame me when your little brother freezes to death.” The Skydream Iceworm let out a devilish laugh.

Huo Yuhao angrily replied, “Do it quickly, else it’s going to freeze to death right now!” His voice was currently trembling. Ignoring the Skydream Iceworm, he quickly took off his underpants.

As the biting cold wind slammed into his body, Huo Yuhao’s body turned bright red, causing him to resemble a boiled shrimp.

However, the Skydream Iceworm didn’t utter a word. Even though Huo Yuhao repeatedly called out to it, it didn’t respond at all.

Feeling that he was about to freeze to death, Huo Yuhao immediately prepared to jump towards his clothes. However, his surroundings suddenly transformed as a layer of pale gold light slowly spread out from his head. As the golden light dispersed, it expelled the cold from his body. Immediately, a warm feeling began to spread throughout his entire body.

“Ah—” Huo Yuhao couldn’t help but let out a groan from the pleasure. He even nearly began to cry. This feeling was simply too stimulating...

Afterwards, a gentle lump of white light suddenly shot out from his chest. To Huo Yuhao’s surprise, he discovered that the lump of light seemed to be more like a lump of flesh that had grown from his chest. The light began to quickly expand in midair, until it had become as large as Huo Yuhao. Afterwards, it slowly began to spread itself over his body.

As the white light slowly glued itself to Huo Yuhao’s body, he felt as if a layer of film had been applied to his skin. The white light gradually vanished along with the warm feeling. However, the frigid cold he’d felt didn’t come back despite the disappearance of the warm feeling. As the biting cold wind swirled around him, it seemed to simply glide past him. Though he still felt the impact of the wind hitting his body, it didn’t feel cold in the slightest.

“Brother Skydream, this...” Huo Yuhao had a look of astonishment on his face. Everything that had just occurred had undoubtedly exceeded the range of his understanding.

The Skydream Iceworm’s lazy voice rang out, “This is my shedded skin from my original body that you saw previously. Previously, didn’t it stick to your chest? I’ve made it cover your entire body now. Since I grew up in such a place, how could I be scared of the cold? The skin I shed is extremely good at ventilation, and can resist the elements. In addition to that, it can also hide your aura. Otherwise, rashly entering the Extreme North with your measly bit of strength would just be courting death. Now then, quickly put on some clothes. Do you think that you look good naked?”

Huo Yuhao was left speechless. He inwardly thought to himself, You’re the one who made me strip naked! However, he had to admit that the Skydream Iceworm was being considerate. After putting his clothes back on, he no longer felt cold at all. Moreover, the layer of shedded skin from the Skydream Iceworm didn’t feel like it was there at all. Huo Yuhao couldn’t help but feel somewhat more confident in entering the Extreme North with the aid of this mystical ability.

At this moment, the Skydream Iceworm suddenly spoke with an extremely serious tone, “Yuhao, you have to listen to my commands at all times from now on. You can’t make any careless mistakes. If you don’t listen to me, not only will you have to stay in the Extreme North forever, you’ll cause me to get into trouble as well.”

“Okay.” Huo Yuhao nodded. He’d naturally listen to the Skydream Iceworm’s instructions. If he didn’t, he’d be groping around in the dark.

“Continue heading northwards. We’ll talk once you reach the central area of the Extreme North. Did you make sure to bring enough food? I reckon that we’ll have to stay here for over ten days, as this place doesn’t have any water or food for you to eat or drink.”

Huo Yuhao patted the Twenty Four Moonlit Bridges on his waist and replied, “No problem, I’m all prepared.” After saying that, he equipped the few soul tools that he’d previously created. Since the cold had disappeared, he was able to keep himself in peak condition.

Chapter 39.3: The Three Emperors of the Extreme North

Huo Yuhao set out once again, headed towards the north. Though the biting cold wind no longer posed a threat to him, the frost that had gradually accumulated on his body still managed to slow him down. As he continued to travel northwards, the advantage that his Spiritual Detection gave him became more and more pronounced: Whenever he encountered an unfamiliar area, he could simply use his Spiritual Detection to continue travelling and avoid any possible dangers.

As Huo Yuhao travelled, the Skydream Iceworm stayed awake, which was an extremely rare thing for him to do. The reason he’d stayed awake was so that he could make sure to tell Huo Yuhao when to change directions. As he continued to travel northwards, Huo Yuhao was able to faintly sense that the Skydream Iceworm had been releasing some of its spiritual power in front of him. Compared to the Skydream Iceworm’s terrifying spiritual power, he was like a grain of rice adrift in an ocean. However, despite being able to sense it, he didn’t know what the Skydream Iceworm was looking for.

In the blink of an eye, two days had passed. By this time, Huo Yuhao had already fully entered the desolate and uninhabited Extreme North. He’d encountered a few soul beasts, but due to the guidance of the Skydream Iceworm, he’d yet to meet an existence that actually posed a threat to him.

As he continued onwards, the snow became thicker and thicker. Once it was higher than his knees, Huo Yuhao had no choice but to chop down a tree and create two wooden planks, which he tied to bottom of his feet. Though they weren’t much, they were able to reduce the stress on his feet. And, whenever he reached a downhill slope, he was able to use them to slide down. In the end, he’d found a pretty decent method to travel through the snow with.

Two days later.

Even though he’d slowed down quite a bit, he was already 400 miles into the Extreme North. The frequency at which the Skydream Iceworm told him to change directions had become much higher as well.

Suddenly, the Skydream Iceworm's voice rang out as he anxiously said, "Quickly lie flat on the ground and bury yourself beneath the snow. Don't move an inch once you've done so. You can't move no matter what—even if something touches you."

Huo Yuhao was shocked when he heard this. Afterwards, he laid down as fast as he could, covered himself with the surrounding snow, and held his breath.

Not even ten breaths of time had passed before Huo Yuhao's body began to shudder uncontrollably. Even though he'd buried himself beneath the snow, he was still aware of his surroundings! By relying on his Spiritual Detection, he was still able to sense the outside world to a certain extent.

He was shuddering because he'd suddenly sensed an incomparably terrifying aura outside. However, the instant that this aura had appeared, the trace of spiritual power he'd left outside had instantly shattered. He hadn't even been able to tell what the newcomer looked like.

From what Huo Yuhao could tell, the newcomer was extraordinarily large, and the terror brought about by its aura had reached the apex. In fact, it seemed like it could wipe him off the face of the earth with a mere breath. Immediately after sensing this, he felt a heavy pressure weigh down on his back and viciously shove him even deeper into the ground.

Originally, he'd been holding his breath. However, the instant this heavy pressure appeared, the oxygen he'd been holding instantly disappeared. Afterwards, his entire body sank so deep into the snow that he reached the soil beneath it.

Huo Yuhao felt a hard shell cover his body the instant the heavy pressure appeared. Even though he'd been forced into the ground, he'd only been shoved in. Other than the suffocating pressure he felt, he hadn't suffered any injuries.

Were it not for the Skydream Iceworm's previous command, Huo Yuhao definitely would've made a noise. Due to the pressure and the command he'd received, he didn't even dare to move at the moment. Instead, he forcefully endured the pain that came along with being suffocated.

The enormous pressure that was weighing down on him suddenly disappeared, while the terrifying aura he'd felt began to move further and further away from him. As he continued to choke, Huo Yuhao felt his chest burning up. n(-o)(\/-e)-ℓ./B)-I--n

However, he couldn't move before the Skydream Iceworm told him that it was alright. He could only endure. If he didn't, there was a large chance that he'd encounter a calamity that could kill him as easily as breathing.

After another ten or so seconds had passed, the terrifying aura disappeared completely. Once it had, the Skydream Iceworm indicated that he could get back up.

After getting to his feet with difficulty, Huo Yuhao immediately gasped for air. Even though he wasn't afraid of the cold, inhaling the cold air still caused him to instinctively shiver. He hurriedly lowered how much air he was taking in with each breath, but his chest continued to move up and down violently.

Even though he hadn't seen what exactly had crushed him, he was certain that he'd just escaped from the gates of hell! The outer shell that he'd felt suddenly harden had been the Skydream Iceworm's shedded skin. If it hadn't been for that, he would've been squashed into a meat patty.

He continued to inhale and exhale for quite a while before managing to recover somewhat, albeit with difficulty. The moment he stood back up, astonishment involuntarily appeared on his face. The first thing that he'd noticed were the enormous footprints around him, and he was in the middle of one of these footprints.

Each footprint was around five meters long and two meters wide. In contrast, Huo Yuhao's imprint in the ground wasn't even a third of a single footprint. He was able to see the enormous footprints headed towards the distance.

After everything was said and done, Huo Yuhao was still just a kid. After encountering a situation like this, how could he not be scared?

"Brother Skydream, wh-what was that... thing just now? How could its footprints be this big?"

The Skydream Iceworm's somewhat nervous voice rang out, "We nearly gave away our location. That fella's also a spiritual-type, thus he was actually able to block my Spiritual Detection. Fortunately, my spiritual power vastly exceeds his in quality. Because of this, I was able to notice him while he was still a certain distance away from us. You're really lucky, kid. You were actually able to meet the Titan Ice Devil King, one of the Three Emperors of the Extreme North. Luckily, we were able to hide from that fella. If we hadn't, only one thing awaited us: death. Even if it was me when I was at my peak condition I would've died, let alone you."

"The Titan Ice Devil King? What species does it belong to? Is it also a soul beast?" After the anxiety and palpitations in his heart had died down, the curiosity of a young man quickly won over Huo Yuhao's heart.

The Skydream Iceworm replied, "The Three Emperors of the Extreme North are equivalent to the kings in the Great Star Dou Forest. They're the rulers of the Extreme North, as well as the true consummate experts here. They're practically unparalleled existences in a cold environment such as this. In terms of overall strength, those fellas from the Great Star Dou Forest most likely wouldn't be able to beat the soul beasts of my Extreme North, even if they all happened to work together. Only, the Extreme North has too large of an area and range. This, combined with the few soul beasts present, makes it much harder for them to gather."

"The Extreme North has a large number of hundred thousand year soul beasts, so many in fact, that the amount exceeds the amount within the Great Star Dou Forest. After all, the environment here is extremely harsh, and very few humans dare to intrude. In addition to this, the Three Emperors all share a common characteristic—their cultivations all exceed a hundred thousand years."

Huo Yuhao was stunned. He was no longer the ignorant kid he'd been when he met the Skydream Iceworm. After studying in Shrek Academy for more than a year, his knowledge towards both soul masters and soul beasts had drastically increased.

"Brother Skydream, if I'm not mistaken, soul beasts have no ways of growing after they've cultivated for a hundred thousand years. Once they reach that point, their life force will begin to deteriorate. Your situation is an extremely unique one, such that even our academy's Director Du hasn't ever seen anything like it before. However, not all hundred thousand year soul beasts are able to constantly eat the best heavenly treasures like you were! How did the Three Emperors do it? Are you one of them?"

“Hai... they naturally don’t include the likes of me. If I were really one of the Three Emperors of this place, why would I need to go so far as to run away!? At that time, I was forced to run away because of one of the Three Emperors. The lands beneath the heavens are vast, and are filled with extraordinary things; I’m not the only soul beast who’s had a lucky encounter. Isn’t it possible for someone else to have a lucky encounter as well? Indeed, the Three Emperors are different from me. We Iceworms can only be considered lower ranked soul beasts within the Extreme North. Most of the time we’re just considered food. On the other hand, the Three Emperors of the Extreme North all have noble origins; the blood of the Ice God flows through their bodies. To begin with, they belong to the strongest races in this freezing place. As such, their ability to gather heavenly treasures is definitely not weak. Combined with the secrets that they know, it’s definitely not impossible for them to have a cultivation breakthrough.”

“But now that I think about it, it really is extremely hard to break through the hundred thousand year barrier by solely relying on cultivation. In the million years that I’ve been alive, the number of soul beasts that I’ve seen succeed doesn’t exceed ten. And of those ten, only three of are still alive. The others all died while trying to make a breakthrough to an even higher cultivation realm. The hurdle that soul beasts have to cross every hundred thousand years is an extremely arduous task.”

“That guy who passed by just now was a descendant of the Titan Giant clan, which was supposedly visited by the ancient Ice God. He belongs to the Titan Ice Devil clan. If you want to talk about race alone, they’re undoubtedly the strongest race in this freezing place. They currently only have several hundred clansmen left. However, despite this, when they gather together, they become an unparalleled existence. Titan Ice Devils are over ten meters tall at birth, while adult Titan Ice Devils are over fifty meters tall. The Ice Titan Devil King who just passed by was over a hundred meters tall, and he’s definitely the largest living creature on the Douluo Continent. Furthermore, we’re not talking about a ‘one of a kind’ thing. Even within the ocean, soul beasts that can compare to it in size alone are as rare as phoenix feathers and qilin horns.”

Huo Yuhao was flabbergasted. “A hundred meters tall? That’s too scary. Isn’t it an unparalleled existence then?”

“Unparalleled?” The Skydream Iceworm snorted disdainfully. “That’s obviously not the case. Not to mention the entire continent, it’s not even unparalleled in the Extreme North. It’s ranked last amongst the Three Emperors. Of course, the chances of a human being able to beat it here in single combat is naturally basically zero.”

Astonished, Huo Yuhao said, “It’s only ranked third with such a terrifying body? Then the other two Emperors....”

The Skydream Iceworm replied, “Having a larger body isn’t always better. Contrarily, there are some times where it’s more advantageous to have a smaller body. The other two Emperors aren’t nearly as big as that guy, but they’re both stronger than him. According to what I know, this Titan Ice Devil King should’ve only managed to break through the two hundred thousand year bottleneck with quite a bit of difficulty. I reckon that it won’t be able to breakthrough to the three hundred thousand year level. One of the other two fellows has already passed the three hundred thousand year bottleneck, while the other has passed the even more terrifying five hundred thousand year bottleneck. Other than myself, it’s currently the oldest soul beast on the Douluo Continent. If you were to determine the strongest soul

beast on the continent, the leader of the Extreme North's Three Emperors is definitely a powerful contender for that position."

Chapter 40.1: Skydream, Ice Emperor

Hearing the Skydream Iceworm's words, Huo Yuhao couldn't help but swallow a mouthful of saliva. "Brother Skydream, stop it. If you continue talking about the Three Emperors, you'll destroy the little bit of confidence I've finally built up. The Three Emperors of the Extreme North are still too far away from me. Let's be a bit more realistic now. When can I get my second soul ring? Also, I have to awaken my second martial soul."

"They're too far away from you? No, no, they're not at all." The Skydream Iceworm said mysteriously, "Yuhao! Haven't you heard the phrase 'the rewards of your harvest are only as big as your guts'? Our target this time is the 2nd ranked Emperor!"

"What?" Huo Yuhao was practically struck by lightning. As the corner of his mouth twitched, he said in all earnestness, "Brother Skydream, don't you think we've traveled a bit too far just for us to give it some free food?"

The Skydream Iceworm spat unhappily, "What do you mean, free food? You good-for-nothing, just see how cowardly you are. Aren't they just the Three Emperors of the Extreme North? What's there to be scared of?"

Huo Yuhao had an indignant expression on his face as he said, "There's nothing to be scared of? If there's nothing to be scared of, why'd you run away?"

"I..." The Skydream Iceworm flew into a rage, "It's different now. I'm no longer the person I was. Since I dared to bring you here, I naturally have a way to deal with that fella. What good does it do for me if I get you killed? Could I even continue living then? With your weak body, how're you gonna take revenge for me and let me stand with my chin held high if we don't take some desperate measures?"

After feeling astonished for a brief moment, Huo Yuhao calmed down. Feeling somewhat helpless, he said, "Fine. In any case, I'm trusting you with my life. Even if you sell me away, I can only count the money you'll get. Let's go. The earlier I die, the earlier I'll reincarnate. Where do we go?"

"Continue heading northward. That guy only lives within the core regions of the Extreme North. From now on, you have to slow down. You're about to enter the borderline of the Extreme North's core regions, and it's extremely cold here. However, it houses the strongest soul beasts within the Extreme North, like that fella earlier. Even my Spiritual Detection was tricked by it. Moreover, there are some especially quick soul beasts, so we'll have to be even more careful. Otherwise, we're definitely screwed if we meet one."

"Yup." Huo Yuhao could be considered to have understood the Skydream Iceworm. It definitely had a certain amount of assurance in what it was doing, but it wasn't a hundred percent certain; there was still a chance of failure. However, according to his knowledge of the Skydream Iceworm, something that could make it risk its life would definitely yield great results if it were to succeed. It was very possible that it would reach a completely astonishing degree.

For the sake of concealing himself even more, Huo Yuhao removed the planks of wood from his feet. After that, he slowly trudged through the half-meter deep snow. Right now, he was completely certain that were it not for the Skydream Iceworm's shedded skin, he'd turn into an ice statue after a mere ten minutes in a place like this.

In a crazy place like this, even the snowflakes were hard. When the biting wind stirred up the snow on the ground, the layer of frost that formed could even resist an omni-directional soul skill. When the wind got stronger, Huo Yuhao had no choice but to crawl about on the ground. He wasn't scared of the cold now, but that didn't mean that he wasn't scared of the wind.

Because of the overly low temperatures here, he sometimes felt the light on the horizon twisting somewhat. However, this place had a beautiful multicoloured radiance that other places didn't have.

After continuing forward for two more days, Huo Yuhao began to feel somewhat exhausted. It wasn't because of a lack of physical energy, but a lack of food and drink.

Though he wasn't afraid of the cold, he couldn't do without food! No matter what rations he took out of the Twenty Four Moonlit Bridges, it would immediately freeze into a popsicle the moment it came out. Even chewing was a strenuous activity now, but he could only use his teeth to crush his food. The Skydream Iceworm wasn't willing to let him set up a tent for fear of attracting the attention of other soul beasts.

There was no need to even talk about drinking water. He had no way of drinking the water he'd brought at all. The instant he took it out, it was frozen solid. He simply had no way of pouring it out of his water flask. Thus, he could only eat the snow on the ground that had accumulated over god knows how many years. Whenever he swallowed a mouthful of snow, the coldness from it went straight to his heart. His internal organs had no defenses, and the moment he swallowed a mouthful of snow, his body shivered for a long period of time before he was able to recover.

Under a situation like this, he could only do his best to reduce his consumption of food and drink. However, trudging through the snow consumed an extremely large amount of physical strength. When this was combined with his lack of nutrition, he was gradually unable to withstand it any longer.

As he sat within this snowy land, there was nothing but thick piles of snow all around him. Gasping for breath, Huo Yuhao said, "Brother Skydream, I can't go on like this! I'm already at the point where I don't think I can hold on any longer. Even if we meet that soul beast you're looking for, how will I have the energy to kill it and fuse with its soul ring!? Even if I succeed, I might not even have the energy to go back out. I don't think I can withstand it any longer."

With that, he lowered his head and shoved it into his cotton shirt. He took a bite from the rations he had stored within his shirt. He was originally planning to use his bodily warmth to soften his rations a bit, but he simply wasn't able to do so due to the Skydream Iceworm's shedded skin. His rations remained as hard as ever, so he could only nibble off a bit with much difficulty. After waiting for it to soften a little in his mouth, he slowly chewed on it and swallowed it.

"Okay, okay. You don't have to keep whining anymore. We should be just about there. Next up, we'll have to wait for an opportunity to come." The Skydream Iceworm continued, "Take a rest for a while. After that, listen to my instructions."

After hearing that he wouldn't have to continue walking any further, Huo Yuhao let out a large sigh of relief. He had completely entered the core regions of the Extreme North. Not only was it extremely cold here, he had even encountered a few soul beasts from time to time. With the amount of power those soul beasts possessed, merely looking at them from a distance was enough to make Huo Yuhao feel a chill run up his spine! Though they couldn't compare with the Titan Ice Devil King he had bumped into previously, they were still existences above the ten thousand year rank. In a god-forsaken place like this, he couldn't even find any thousand year soul beasts.

After resting for fifteen minutes or so, Huo Yuhao's original location was buried in snow. Only then did he stand up.

The Skydream Iceworm's voice rang out in his mind with an unprecedented seriousness, "Yuhao, I need you to make a quick estimation. If you didn't have the protection of my shedded skin, how long could you last in conditions like this?"

Huo Yuhao was stunned. Thinking about it for a moment, he said, "If I use all of my soul power, I should be able to last for five minutes. But I definitely can't last for more than ten minutes."

The Skydream Iceworm said, "I'm going to go bring that fella over, so I'll have to release my aura. After that, my shedded skin will play a decisive role that will determine whether or not it will be willing to become your soul ring. Because of that, you must remain in a motionless state for a period of time after I bring it over. During this period of time, not only will I have to trap it, I'll have to negotiate with it. Your job is to remain still, otherwise all our previous efforts will have been for naught."

With a bitter look on his face, Huo Yuhao said, "Boss, why didn't you tell me this earlier? If you had, I'd brought a few more cold-resistant clothes!"

The Skydream Iceworm snorted coldly, "Do you think that clothes can block out the low temperatures here? You're already overestimating yourself by saying that you can last here for five minutes. Next up, you'll have to make a temporary residence underneath the snow. I'll leave some of my shedded skin here and suck out the soul power within it. You'll have to light it up with a match and draw heat from it. After that, no matter what happens, you must not do anything rash if I don't give you the signal. This time around, we're either going to make it or break it. You can use your Spiritual Detection to observe everything outside, but you must not make any rash moves. Understand?"

Huo Yuhao nodded hurriedly.

Building a house made of ice underneath the snow wasn't an easy task! The ice underneath the ground was as hard as steel, and even after pouring his soul power into the White Tiger Dagger, it took Huo Yuhao a full day to barely carve out a small ice house which could contain his curled up body. After doing this, he was tired to the point where even breathing was strenuous.

"Now, I'm going to start. Yuhao, you have to do three things for us to succeed this time. Firstly, you'll have to endure the freezing cold for a short period of time. Secondly, luck; we'll have to see whether I have the luck to defeat the soul beast I'm calling over. Lastly, we'll have to rely on your willpower. You're the person I've chosen, so we're both screwed if you don't succeed. If you succeed, on the other hand, I dare say that you'll immediately become the number one genius in the entire Douluo Continent. Now, let's give it our all."

At that point, the Skydream Iceworm's voice had turned somewhat frenzied.

What could Huo Yuhao even say now? After getting all the way here, he could only follow the Skydream Iceworm all the way till the end; there was no other path he could take. There were no benefits to talking more, so he nodded forcefully, indicating that he would fully support the Skydream Iceworm.

An intense undulation of soul power slowly began to appear within his mind, and Huo Yuhao felt waves of dizziness overcome him. By relying on the walls of the ice house, he was able to prevent himself from collapsing.

His only soul ring had already floated up into the air noiselessly, and the pure white soul ring released a brilliant luster. It slowly moved rhythmically into the air, hovering around his body as it did so.

The pale gold light in Huo Yuhao's eyes began to gradually transform, and he was very aware that he had lost control of his body.

At this moment, he felt his consciousness spreading outwards rapidly, expanding towards the distance. It felt as if he was overlooking the earth from the sky above, and it was an entirely different feeling from when he normally used his Spiritual Detection.

The vastness of this Spiritual Detection exceeded the more-than ten thousand square kilometers of the core regions of the Extreme North. However, the ray of light suddenly darkened, just as if daytime was transitioning to nighttime. An invisible pressure instantly spread outwards from Huo Yuhao's body along with the extremely terrifying amount of spiritual power that came from him.

To his astonishment, he discovered that he actually felt a pleasure akin to that of a sovereign descending upon the world. The feeling of having the earth and snow completely serving him, and having everything within the grasp of his palm, was simply too wonderful. It seemed as if he could destroy everything with the flip of a hand, and that he could judge everything within the reach of his eyes.

Muffled sounds of thunder started to ring out in the gloomy sky, but Huo Yuhao astonishedly discovered that his body had completely turned bright-gold in colour.

Chapter 40.2: Skydream, Ice Emperor

The pure white halo of light surrounding Huo Yuhao slowly began to change color, as his originally white soul ring gradually changed from white to pale gold, then from pale gold to bright gold. The golden luster coming from it was definitely much brighter any soul rings Huo Yuhao had seen in the past.

There were white ten year soul rings, yellow hundred year soul rings, purple thousand year soul rings, black ten thousand year soul rings, and red hundred thousand year soul rings. And yet, all of them would only be able to submit in front of the boundlessly imposing golden luster of this golden soul ring.

This... this was the true color of the Douluo Continent's unrivalled, and only, million year soul ring! It was also the first time that the Skydream Iceworm had released the true color of its soul ring into the world.

The astonishing golden luster immediately caused a strange feeling to rise in Huo Yuhao's heart.

One day, I will no longer let the Heavens cover my eyes—where I will no longer let the Earth bury my heart. I want everything in the world to submit to me, just like that man who could grasp the sun and moon in each hand, and could pluck the stars from the sky.

At that moment, not only did the Skydream Iceworm show how powerful he was, he'd even buried a seed of faith inside of Huo Yuhao's heart; the faith that he could become the sovereign of the entire world. This was the first time that Huo Yuhao had a dream even loftier than his wish for revenge.

As if he could sense the change in Huo Yuhao's mental state, the Skydream Iceworm seemed gratified. Right! Since he'd been able to become the main body for a million year soul beast, there'd be a day where he would become the true master of the Skydream Iceworm. If he didn't have any lofty ambitions, wouldn't he that be akin to covering a precious pearl with a layer of dust?

Golden balls of light began to emerge from Huo Yuhao's forehead. As each golden ball left his body, Huo Yuhao began to feel more and more hollow. By the time the ninth ball of light had left his body, he'd even begun to feel somewhat tottery.

In the beginning, the Skydream Iceworm had entered his body with a total of ten balls of light. This was the Skydream Iceworm's spiritual origin, as well as the nucleus of its strength. Now that nine balls of light had left his body, only one ball of light—the one that Huo Yuhao had already absorbed—remained within his body. That was the only connection left between Huo Yuhao and the Skydream Iceworm.

The nine golden balls of light slowly descended from the air. Once the first ball of light had landed on the snowy ground, the second ball landed on top of it. The other seven balls followed suit as they stacked on top of each other. Afterwards, the total volume of the nine balls of light gradually began to decrease, while the golden light that they were emitting became increasingly tangible. At that moment, Huo Yuhao was clearly able to sense how strong the Skydream Iceworm was. It had such a terrifying amount of spiritual power that it could even cause a meteorological phenomenon.

Once the nine golden balls of light had finished stacking atop one another, they gradually began to form a shape. Unexpectedly, they solidified into the shape of a golden man made of light. More astonishingly, its appearance was completely identical to Huo Yuhao. Even the golden clothes it wore were identical to Shrek Academy's uniform. Huo Yuhao didn't know whether to cry or to laugh when he saw this.

Once the Skydream Iceworm's spiritual body had taken shape, he sent a thought outwards with his spiritual force, "Ice Emperor, I know that you've already sensed that I'm here. I, Skydream, have come to take my revenge. Do you dare to come out and meet me?"

As soon as the Skydream Iceworm had begun speaking, an unfathomably strong wave of spiritual power had instantly covered Huo Yuhao's body, thus shielding his presence within the ice house.

However, the Skydream Iceworm and Huo Yuhao were still a single entity. Because of that, Huo Yuhao could still tell what was going on outside via the Skydream Iceworm's spiritual power after he came in contact with it. When the Skydream Iceworm enlarged the range of his spiritual power, he was still able to sense every single detail within a thousand meters. However, the more magical thing was that, this time around, his perception had entirely replaced his eyes. He could truly see everything outside through his perception, not just shapes.

After finishing his sentence, the Skydream Iceworm quieted down. However, the golden luster his body emitted continued to shine brightly. The bright golden light he was emitting was extraordinarily clear within the pure-white world. Black clouds began to appear in the air as the sky grew darker and darker, which caused the atmosphere to become increasingly grave. However, the golden luster emitted from the Skydream Iceworm's body remained as brilliant as ever beneath the dusky sky.

The Skydream Iceworm didn't seem to be worried at all as he quietly stood there. The violent winds continued to thrash about around him, but he stood there mightily, unmoving.

Huo Yuhao was able to sense all of this. However, in an area outside of the range of his perception, an innumerable amount of soul beasts had scattered in all directions, terrified.

There was a chance that the Skydream Iceworm wouldn't even be able to defeat a ten thousand year soul beast in direct combat. However, there wasn't a single soul beast on the entire Douluo Continent that could contend with him in terms of pure spiritual power.

The Skydream Iceworm's biggest problem lay in its bloodline. Even though he'd cultivated for a million years, in the end he was still a low-ranked Iceworm. With a background like this, even though he'd been able to become stronger due to the constant evolutions he'd undergone, and had obtained an enormous amount of energy due to the Ten Thousand Year Ice Pith's unceasing nourishment, he had become akin to a mountain full of treasure; he had treasures, but he didn't know how to use them. If you were to describe it in soul master terms, he was an expert who possessed a terrifying amount of soul power, yet didn't have any soul rings or soul skills.

When there was a large gap in cultivation between him and his opponents, he could still rely on the absolute strength of his spiritual power to defeat them. However, when he met an opponent that possessed at least a certain level of strength, he would be completely out of luck. Regardless of how strong his spiritual power was, if he didn't have a way to concentrate it into a terrifying spiritual skill, his killing power would always be limited. After becoming Huo Yuhao's million year soul ring, he'd become extremely envious of the four soul skills that Huo Yuhao had received. Only, the Skydream Iceworm was someone who'd always cared about face; he'd never admit how envious he was.

If, when the Skydream Iceworm had had a tyrannical million year cultivation level, he'd only had a single soul skill, almost every single soul beast on the Douluo Continent wouldn't have been able to pose a threat to it.

At this very moment, he'd released all of his spiritual power. It extended out and covered basically everywhere that he wanted it to. A third of the Extreme North's core regions, at the very least, had been encapsulated within his Spiritual Detection.

Although the Skydream Iceworm appeared extremely carefree on the surface, his current actions were definitely not simple at all, as he hadn't used his own aura to release his spiritual power. At the very least, soul beasts that were unfamiliar with him definitely wouldn't think that this was something done by someone who possessed no attacking skills at all.

The Skydream Iceworm had used his terrifying spiritual power to imitate the aura of a certain soul beat that lived within the Extreme North. Faced with this aura, the other soul beasts didn't dare to have any thoughts of resisting at all. This was the aura of the leader of the Extreme North's Three Emperors. This

was the aura of the soul beast who possessed a cultivation of five hundred thousand years along with its noble bloodline.

Furthermore, he'd purposely evaded the territory of the leader of the Extreme North's Three Emperors. Due to his meticulous control over his Spiritual Detection, he wasn't scared of being discovered by the person he was imitating. As such, the soul beasts in the area that he'd wanted to intimidate had immediately scuttled away after being frightened. They simply decided not to bother him and Huo Yuhao anymore.

On the other hand, the second-ranked Ice Emperor who he was looking for was also encapsulated within the range of his spiritual power. Having known him for a long time, the Ice Emperor naturally wouldn't mistake his aura for someone else's. Besides, he'd also said such unbridled words.

With the Skydream Iceworm's understanding of the second-ranked Ice Emperor, he believed that it would definitely come. This was because he himself was an extremely beneficial supplement that would tempt all soul beasts. Furthermore, this Ice Emperor was a soul beast whose cultivation exceeded the three hundred thousand year rank, yet couldn't break through the four hundred thousand year barrier.

The Ice Emperor understood himself well, and understood the Ice Emperor just as well. At that time, the Ice Emperor had nearly died not long after its cultivation had broken through to the three hundred thousand year rank. Currently, it probably wasn't too far away from reaching the four hundred thousand year rank. Previously, when breaking through to the three hundred thousand year rank, the Ice Emperor had said that it had reached its limit. Moreover, it had injured its origin energy, thus making it impossible for it to reach the four hundred thousand year rank. The only way that it could break free of its fetters was for it to absorb the Skydream Iceworm's enormous yet pure energy. If it were to do this, it would even overtake the first ranked Emperor in one fell swoop.

The Skydream Iceworm's only stroke of luck was that the first ranked Ice Emperor wasn't aware of his existence. Otherwise, he believed that it would have definitely caught him—even when he was still in the Great Star Dou Forest.

Having been lured by something related to its survival, the Ice Emperor had no other choice. It definitely wanted to come, and it definitely would come. When the Skydream Iceworm was clearly able to sense its aura, a crafty smile appeared on his face.

Time continued to pass second by second, but the Skydream Iceworm didn't seem to be panicked at all. Even though it was hard for the hiding Huo Yuhao to endure his stiffening body, he didn't even dare to breathe too loudly, just in case. He wasn't sure when the so-called Ice Emperor would appear, but this was undoubtedly a life-and-death trial for both him and the Skydream Iceworm. He still wasn't sure what the Skydream Iceworm was relying on in order to kill a super-expert like the Ice Emperor, who even Titled Douluos were terrified of.

As Huo Yuhao continued to wait in his shelter, he felt his heartbeat slowly speeding up. At the same time, he felt both anxious and afraid, as his body began to stir with excitement. Just as this began to occur however, he suddenly felt the outside world change.

The originally pitch-black sky suddenly shook violently, and immediately afterwards, a jade green light instantly appeared in the distant northern horizon.

In the blink of an eye, the dusky sky had turned a penetrating yet alluring jade green. This touching shade of color made it seem like the aloof sky had suddenly turned into an enormous jade green gem. In an instant, the originally oppressive aura within the sky had vanished into thin air.

When the jade green light entered the Skydream Iceworm's thousand meter range, Huo Yuhao finally became able to sense it. He couldn't help but inhale a deep breath of icy air. It's coming, it's really coming.

"Skydream, you're actually still alive. It's no wonder that you're the longest-living soul beast from our Extreme North." A crisp voice rang out in all directions. The appearance of this voice was followed by a terrifying sound wave. The snow on the ground instantly rose by three meters as the sound wave struck it, akin to a wave suddenly passing through an ocean. Only the hundred meters around the Skydream Iceworm's body remained calm, as it had been protected by the enormous spiritual power coming from his body.

"Ice Emperor, you haven't died yet, so why can't I be still alive? Don't you remember what I said that year? 'If I don't die, there'll be a day when I'll become your partner.'" The Skydream Iceworm's voice suddenly turned gentle. This somewhat overly-sentimental voice even gave Huo Yuhao a few goosebumps.

Chapter 40.3: Skydream, Ice Emperor

In this exact instant, Huo Yuhao couldn't help but widen his eyes after thinking of a certain possibility.

With their current combination, coming to the Extreme North would undoubtedly pose an enormous danger to them. Though the Skydream Iceworm was powerful, he was currently attached to Huo Yuhao after becoming his first soul ring. Even if he was an intelligent soul ring, he was still a part of him. He still relied mainly on Huo Yuhao's strength to determine whether they were strong or weak.

Under a situation like this, the Skydream Iceworm's best option should've been to make Huo Yuhao stronger by obtaining his other soul rings first. Once he was strong enough, they could've come to the Extreme North to find this so-called Ice Emperor in order to awaken his second martial soul!

However, the Skydream Iceworm had impatiently decided to come here and find the extremely terrifyingly strong Ice Emperor right after he'd gotten to Rank 20. Was it even possible for there to be no danger involved in this journey? Regardless of how meticulously the Skydream Iceworm had planned everything out, he and Huo Yuhao might be buried eternally in the Extreme North if he made a single mistake. n..**OVELb1n**

Just what made the Skydream Iceworm insist on him coming here, even if there was an enormous risk involved in doing so? Was it just to make him become even stronger? After hearing its gentle voice, it really didn't seem like the case!

After this thought flashed through Huo Yuhao's mind, he unexpectedly went silent. He didn't have any other choice but to believe in the Skydream Iceworm. More than that, he prayed that the Skydream Iceworm hadn't come here due to the reason he'd thought of. Right now, he could only patiently wait and observe silently.

“Skydream, you’re courting death.” The Ice Emperor’s clear voice was suddenly filled with killing intent, and the jade green sky instantly turned dark green. An intense killing intent descended from the sky, and the originally protected hundred meter diameter around the Skydream Iceworm’s body instantly shrank to a diameter of ten meters.

However, the Skydream Iceworm wasn’t scared of the Ice Emperor in a simple contest of spiritual power. Smiling, he spoke in a very unhurried and graceful manner, “No, I’m just expressing my true feelings. I’ve lived for a million years, and I’ve spent a large majority of them sleeping. However, the only thing within the depths of my heart that I can’t control is you. Ice Emperor, do you know why I’ve chosen to come back at a time like this? It’s because I’ve calculated that you’re about to reach your limit and reach a dead end within a hundred years. At that time, you won’t be able to break through to the next rank. Then, you’ll disappear in this icy world. That’s why I’ve come back. I can’t wait anymore, and an endless life has no more meaning to me. I don’t have much longer to live anymore. I’ve come back to let you continue living and let us truly be together.”

Inwardly sighing, Huo Yuhao shut his eyes. Sure enough, that was the case! The Skydream Iceworm had really tricked him; he truly had his own motives for coming here.

From the moment he’d met the Skydream Iceworm, Huo Yuhao had trusted him unconditionally from the bottom of his heart. The Skydream Iceworm had given him a million year soul ring in addition to four soul skills, which was equivalent to giving him a brand new life.

In Huo Yuhao’s heart, the person he’d felt the most grateful to was this fellow, this intelligent soul ring of his. The Skydream Iceworm had a higher position in his heart than Tang Ya, Bei Bei, and even Wang Dong.

At this moment however, Huo Yuhao felt as if something within his heart had shattered. The emotions he’d repressed since his youth suddenly exploded out like a dam bursting. He lied to me, he actually lied to me!

An unprecedented amount of grievance turned into a river of teardrops that flowed down his cheeks before rapidly freezing into chunks of ice that gathered by the corners of his eyes. After all, Huo Yuhao was only twelve. Just as he’d believed that everything in front of him was filled with hope, the Skydream Iceworm’s betrayal had instantly shattered his tenacious heart.

Huo Yuhao wasn’t scared of hardships, nor was he scared of any difficulties. As long as he saw hope in front of him, he was willing to give it his all.

His one year in Shrek Academy had changed his personality drastically. In Shrek Academy, he had friends, teachers, and companions. From another standpoint, this had all been given to him by the Skydream Iceworm. It was precisely because of the Skydream Iceworm’s existence that he had confidence and faith in his heart. However, the Skydream Iceworm’s betrayal had practically cut off the root of his faith, brazenly uprooting the tall, confidence-filled tree from his heart.

This feeling could no longer be described using the word ‘painful’. Huo Yuhao’s hope had been completely obliterated.

Though the Skydream Iceworm's spiritual power was extremely powerful, he had focused all of his energy on the Ice Emperor's reaction; he didn't notice the heaven-shaking, earth-shattering transformation in Huo Yuhao's heart.

Hearing the Skydream Iceworm's words, the Ice Emperor turned silent. As if the Skydream Iceworm had precisely called out the worries in its heart, it pondered silently.

Somewhat nervous, the Skydream Iceworm said, "I've come back, Ice Emperor. We haven't seen each other for so many years, but you're not even willing to come and see me in person?"

The Ice Emperor's cold voice rang out again. "Skydream, don't you know that my tribe is a predator of your tribe?"

The Skydream Iceworm laughed indifferently, "I know that of course, but why does that matter? Is there a rule that states that one can't like their own predator? And it's precisely because of that that I like you even more."

The Ice Emperor said disdainfully, "Unfortunately, you don't have the qualifications to like me. However, I'm very touched. You've actually agreed to bring yourself back as food for me to eat. How could I not help you accomplish your goal to fuse our bodies together like this? You should be able to sense that I'm approaching you right now. Just wait for me, I'll get to you within fifteen minutes. I'll take all of your love, and I'll treat you well. I'll slowly eat your body and energy bit by bit and make you a part of my body."

The Skydream Iceworm seemed to already be familiar with the Ice Emperor's way of speaking. Somewhat helpless, he said, "Can't you be a bit gentler? You're always so cold and overbearing. It's no wonder you're still single. Right, I've always wanted to ask you this: is that joke going around the Extreme North true? Did you like the Snow Emperor back then?"

"Skydream, I'll definitely rend your body into ten thousand pieces!" The Skydream Iceworm's words seemed to have touched upon the Ice Emperor's most sensitive feelings, causing its voice to instantly become hysterical. At that moment, the dark green sky suddenly turned a deep black.

The smile on the Skydream Iceworm's mouth had never disappeared, as if it was purposely trying to rile up the Ice Emperor. On the other hand, there were no longer tears flowing from the eyes of the hiding Huo Yuhao. Only, he felt his heart go somewhat cold.

From their conversation, it was obvious that the Skydream Iceworm and the Ice Emperor had many grudges and emotions between them. It was definitely not as simple as the Skydream Iceworm had said. The Skydream Iceworm had purposely riled up the Ice Emperor, which meant that he definitely had his own motives; he definitely had a move he was planning to unleash.

However, did this really matter to him? Was the Skydream Iceworm still deserving of his trust? He had lied to him, bringing him to this danger-filled Extreme North. Was his only objective to help him awaken his second martial soul? No, that was definitely not the case. In the end, he had still lied to him.

Taking a deep breath, Huo Yuhao's face gradually turned chilly. The grief in his heart had caused a violent change to occur in his mental state. His nervousness and excitement had disappeared, and only a patch of ice remained in his heart.

As if it had sensed the change in Huo Yuhao's emotions, the gray pearl located within the depths of his mind shook lightly. However, it quickly returned to normal.

A voice that Huo Yuhao couldn't hear muttered to itself within the gray pearl, "The personality this kid's cultivated since his youth goes to extremes too easily. His greatest weakness is his own heart. To him, this could be considered a form of training. Otherwise, how will he be able to mature? It's better for me to not interfere. However, that large worm's made me look at him with a completely new light than before!"

The gray pearl then quieted down. In this exact instant, the Skydream Iceworm's voice rang out in Huo Yuhao's mind, "Yuhao, the preparations are all ready. When I give you the signal, you'll have to endure the cold. You'll have to persevere, got it?"

"I will." Huo Yuhao replied coldly.

Possibly due to the nervousness he felt, the Skydream Iceworm didn't notice the change in Huo Yuhao's mental state.

After fifteen minutes passed, the Ice Emperor who said that it'd take fifteen minutes to appear finally showed itself.

The dark sky turned jade green, and a jade green light streaked across the sky. With that flash of jade light, another soul beast appeared in front of the Skydream Iceworm.

Huo Yuhao was also concentratedly observing what was going on. Though he hadn't personally seen the third-ranked Titan Ice Devil King, he'd seen its terrifying footsteps before. In his opinion, the Ice Emperor who was also a member of the Three Emperors shouldn't be much smaller than the Titan Ice Devil Emperor.

However, Huo Yuhao couldn't help but feel somewhat stunned when the Ice Emperor finally appeared in his perception. He couldn't help but inwardly sigh in admiration, It's really too pretty.

Right, the Ice Emperor was very beautiful. Though it was just a soul beast, Huo Yuhao couldn't help but sigh in admiration.

The Ice Emperor was roughly 1.5 meters long, which meant that it wasn't even as big as the Skydream Iceworm's previous body. Huo Yuhao had made lots of predictions towards the Ice Emperor's race, but they were all wrong. The Ice Emperor was a scorpion, a scorpion whose beauty had reached the pinnacle.

Could the words 'scorpion' and 'beautiful' even be used together? Huo Yuhao was now certain of his answer to this question.

The 1.5-meter-long Ice Emperor had two colors on its body. One was the color of ice, and the other was a jade green color.

The front end of its body had four layers stacked above each other, and each layer was longer than the previous one by a third of a meter. Its head lay on the frontmost layer, and its silver-white mouth shone with an ominous, cold light. The front of its body was covered a type of special scale that Huo Yuhao had

never learned of in Shrek Academy. No, instead of call it a scale, it was more accurate to say that it was protruding outwards.