

Tang Sect 401

Chapter 401.1: The Savage Beasts Enter Battle

He wasn't the only one with this thought in mind. Whether it was the Tang Sect or Shrek's Seven Monsters, everyone was used to fighting with Huo Yuhao as the main control-type soul master. His Spiritual Detection shared with everyone in battle was the most important guarantee for everyone's survival. However, nobody knew where Huo Yuhao was, and he was nowhere to be seen even until now.

Bei Bei rubbed his fists forcefully, and a determined look appeared in his eyes. He lowered his voice and said, "Whether or not this beast wave has anything to do with Yuhao, he will always be a part of the Tang Sect, and he will always be the most important part. I will use our sect's strength to protect him no matter what the cost may be. I hope you guys can understand."

Xu Sanshi said lazily, "Why are you saying all that? Do you think any of us will object? The new generation of Shrek's Seven Monsters are one, and the Tang Sect is one. One man's glory is everyone's glory. Furthermore, Yuhao's role in the beast wave was lighting the fuse, at most."

Bei Bei scanned everyone's faces, and could tell that nobody had any intention to object. He heaved a sigh of relief inside. Wasn't he also carrying a heavy burden on his shoulders?

Deafening booms echoed out once more as stationary soul cannon shells began to show their fearsome powers explosively. Different beams of light glowed one after another, and large masses of soul beasts perished with each instance.

The Zhuge Divine Crossbow Cannons were still firing crazily from the top of the city wall. The other soul tools and shock bombs that Shrek Academy and the Tang Sect had provided were being unleashed onto the battlefield without any reservation at all.

However, the soul beasts were forging ahead, and still drawing closer and closer to Shrek City. The smell of smoke from guns permeated the air, but the wild stench spreading from those soul beasts was even more penetrating.

Right at this moment, the four Savage Beasts who were hovering in midair finally made their move. Except for the Emerald Swan, who was moving forward slowly, the other three Savage Beasts were flying towards the top of Shrek's city wall with lightning speed. They weren't the only ones moving; every Savage Beast had twenty to thirty soul beasts of many different kinds following behind them and moving along with them. There was no exception, and all of those soul beasts possessed the ability to fly.

They were able to follow the Savage Beasts into battle, and this meant their strengths were worthy. Ferocious shadows gradually appeared one after another in the sky, and they were all soul beasts who had at least fifty thousand years of cultivation. Some of them had more than a hundred thousand years of cultivation.

This group was the true main force of the soul beast army; the main force that could determine the outcome of this battle.

The frightening force of the stationary soul cannon shells had unsettled these four Savage Beasts. They discussed with each other via their own special communication methods unique only to them, and they decided to attack with full force.

The deaths of normal soul beasts didn't really affect the Great Star Dou Forest, but if too many soul beasts died, the forest would still be shaken to its very roots. In the end, top-tier soul beasts were once low-tier soul beasts, and which soul beast didn't need an ascension process to become a powerful individual? Would the Great Star Dou Forest still have a future if too many low-tier soul beasts perished?

Therefore, even though they knew very well that Shrek City wasn't sufficiently spent or exhausted, they had no other choice but to activate their main force that could truly determine the outcome of battle. They had to send out their truly mighty beasts!

Everyone from Shrek City was as solemn as could be as they watched the large masses of powerful soul beasts flying toward them in the sky.

Of the four different sides, the Emerald Swan flew behind everyone else toward the southern city wall, and over thirty mighty soul beasts flew in front of her. There were seven or eight soul beasts who had at least a hundred thousand years of cultivation, and there were more hundred thousand year soul beasts in this group than the other three sides. The Emerald Swan was a Savage Beast, but her direct fighting strength wasn't that strong. In terms of her auxiliary powers and her healing abilities, however, not a single human could match her might. With her around, these formidable soul beasts' fighting strengths undoubtedly doubled! Nobody was willing to start a fight like this, but did Shrek City have a choice?

There were relatively few hundred-thousand-year soul beasts on the other three sides, but they were charging toward the city with the Savage Beasts who were more adept at fighting.

The Savage Beast who was charging at the fastest pace was the king of the Darkgolden Terrorclaw Bears, the Savage Beast who was known for his violent and fierce temperament: the Bear Lord!

The Bear Lord's tremendous frame and aura alone gave everyone in Shrek City a feeling as if a mountain was bearing down upon them. Among the defenders on this side, two members of the Sea God's Pavilion rose up to meet this Savage Beast: the Valkyrie Douluo, Xian Lin'er, and her husband, the Vice-Dean of Shrek Academy's Soul Tool Department, Qian Duoduo.

The Bear Lord's body was simply too massive. Even though he could rely on his formidable cultivation to soar through the sky, he still looked a little clumsy.

The Bear Lord had four hundred and seventy thousand years of cultivation, and that meant he was more powerful than the Ice Empress even when she was at her peak condition. The standards of the Bear Lord's soul power was close to that of a Rank 97 Titled Douluo. Furthermore, he was a Darkgolden Terrorclaw Bear! A Darkgolden Terrorclaw Bear with four hundred and seventy thousand years of cultivation possessed such formidable direct fighting strength that a typical Ultimate Douluo wouldn't be confident of defeating him. The Bear Lord was an overbearing presence in the Great Star Dou Forest that nobody dared to disturb. *nOVE)ℓℓ)In*

Xian Lin'er stood on the battlement calmly. The long-range attacks that those soul beasts beneath her fired were immediately sliced into pieces by a formless power when they reached within a hundred meters of her. Their attacks vanished into thin air, and could no longer cause any damage.

Xian Lin'er arrived on the western side of the city after she decided to use all the stationary soul cannon shells, her goal being to challenge the Bear Lord.

Initially, this task didn't fall to her. She was giving herself more pressure.

Ever since she broke through Rank 95 and became a Transcendent Douluo, she felt that raising her soul power even further was unbelievably difficult, and she finally understood why Yan Shaozhe spent so many years after reaching Rank 95 to ascend another rank. Yan Shaozhe had only recently reached Rank 96, and he was lauded as the number-one prodigy of their generation!

Reality proved that Shrek Academy had never lacked talent, but even talented and gifted individuals would have exhausted all their talent by the time they became Transcendent Douluo.

Every further step after Rank 95 was incredibly challenging, but every rank also meant an immense increase in strength at the same time. Xian Lin'er had once asked Elder Xuan how she could go even further. Elder Xuan told her that humans were like receptacles, and only sufficiently strong pressure could give them enough push and motivation to ignite their potential.

How many people could give Xian Lin'er this pressure in the world today? With Shrek Academy's environment and surroundings and her status, they would never allow her to take this risk!

However, Shrek no longer had a way out in their current circumstances. The soaring Valkyrie was already full of boundless belligerence and fighting intent. Therefore, she found the Bear Lord, who possessed the strongest frontal fighting strength amongst the four Savage Beasts, and who was also the king of the Darkgolden Terrorclaw Bears.

Qian Duoduo didn't stand on the top of the city wall like Xian Lin'er did. He quietly stood at a position further back on the city wall, but a layer of formidable soul power undulations permeated his surroundings.

Qian Duoduo's cultivation rank was lower than Xian Lin'er's. He had been stuck at Rank 94 for quite some time. Furthermore, he could feel that he would never break through this threshold and ascend to Rank 95 through his entire lifetime, if he didn't run into some miraculous encounter.

Therefore, he channeled more of his time and energy into researching soul tools. Ever since Xuan Ziwen had arrived, Qian Duoduo had lowered his attitude, and he had long become a frequent guest of the Tang Sect's Soul Tool Hall. He seemed to have found a direction to break through from Class 8 to Class 9 in recent days. In the end, he was a true Titled Douluo, and he wasn't like the Sun Moon Empire's Class 9 soul engineers, who became Titled Douluo through various cheap methods. Qian Duoduo's solid soul power rank meant there were many things he could do when he became a Class 9 soul engineer.

There was a row of metal barrels of many different colors planted on the ground in front of him at this moment. There were seven in total, and they were all of varying lengths, thickness, and colors, while every single one seemed to have their own unique characteristics. He was just standing calmly behind these seven barrels as he silently watched Xian Lin'er, who was standing on the battlements. His face was as calm as ever, and there were many other people standing on top of the city wall on this side. This group included seven teachers from the inner courtyard, and another elder from the Sea God's Pavilion, along with some students from the inner courtyard.

Wu Ming, whose martial soul was a Golden Crow, was part of this group, along with the boyfriend that she had walked away with from the Sea God's Fate, Chu Qingtian. More accurately put, Chu Qingtian was her husband now.

Wu Ming and Chu Qingtian stood shoulder to shoulder. Chu Qingtian seemed a little melancholic, but Wu Ming's eyes were filled with excitement, as if there were flames dancing in her eyes. She was one of the Demon Ladies from Shrek Academy's inner courtyard, and she had always possessed a thirst for battle.

Wu Ming hugged Chu Qingtian across the shoulders and whispered, "Relax a little, don't be so nervous. Haven't we been cultivating hard so that we can fight? A big occasion like this isn't something that we can encounter at any time."

Chu Qingtian laughed bitterly and said, "I would rather never face a big occasion such as this for my entire life!"

Wu Ming patted him on his back and said, "Don't worry. I will do my best to protect you later on."

Chu Qingtian rolled his eyes and said, "Please, I'm the one who should be saying that, right?"

Wu Ming giggled and said, "Who will protect who isn't determined by gender, it's determined by fighting strength."

"..."

The soul beasts flying through the sky had arrived as the two of them exchanged words.

The Bear Lord was within one kilometer from Shrek City, and Xian Lin'er shouted as she applied strength through the tips of her toes, and soared into the sky like an arrow.

The sky was the battlefield for powerful individuals at their level.

Two beams of red light emerged from the Bear Lord's eyes, and he could clearly feel intense provocation from Xian Lin'er. This human female's soul power undulations were inferior to his own, but she possessed a unique quality that attracted his attention.

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The Bear Lord roared furiously into the sky as he stretched out his arms, and his massive frame shook as he rose through the air. That wasn't all; his frame was already humongous, but he became even larger as he gradually raised his arms into the air. Frighteningly long Darkgolden Terrorclaws sprang out, and streaks of black light that resembled cracks in the sky appeared around his sharp talons. He hadn't sliced out with his sharp claws yet, but his claws' aura alone tore through the air.

Scorching green flames erupted from Xian Lin'er's body. She was growing taller, and became more than five meters tall in the blink of an eye, even as green armor appeared on her body.

Her armor covered her entire body like scales as two yellow, two purple, and five black soul rings rose from beneath her feet. Her enlarged version seemed to make her younger, as if she were a young girl who was in her twenties, and she had an aura full of belligerence and valor.

Her current form was the true appearance of the soaring Valkyrie. Xian Lin'er's martial soul was the Greenflame Dragon, and even though her body was releasing green flames, her martial soul's Element was wind. Those flames were produced after wind-type energies were swiftly converted and compressed, and possessed immense disintegrating properties.

The Greenflame Dragon was considered a species of flying dragon, and her formidable martial soul was on the same level as the Ruby Dragon that Nan Shuishui and Nan Qiuqiu had inherited within the Earthdragon Sect. The Ruby Dragon's Element was Annihilation, and that Element directly obliterated everything, while the Greenflame Dragon's disintegrating qualities were more focused on slicing and dispersing.

The Greenflame Dragon was theoretically considered a direct descendant of the Golden Dragon, and even the spear in Xian Lin'er's hands came from her martial soul at birth, similar to the Golden Dragon Spear.

The Valkyrie would never wait on the battlefield. The Bear Lord was becoming larger as he rose into the sky towards her, and Xian Lin'er's eyes sparkled with intense green light at the same time as she spun around in the air and plummeted downwards. She moved like a green shooting star as she plunged towards the king of the Darkgolden Terrorclaw Bears.

Green flames seemed to seep out of her eyes as she soared through the sky, and she arrived above the Bear Lord in a flash of green light.

The Bear Lord made his move, and he made a move that was strength personified: he swung his enormous arms in front of him and clawed out with his palms facing out.

Terrifying dark golden hues tainted the sky in the next moment. Just what kind of claws were they? Every single talon transformed into a horrifying dark golden blade that was more than a hundred meters long, and his massive Darkgolden Terrorclaws seemed as if they were about to tear the heavens apart. This petrifying sight immediately shook the soldiers who were on Shrek City's western wall.

The air was completely torn apart wherever these ten sharp talons crossed, and howls could be faintly heard from those torn spaces; one could see faint dots of starlight amid the eerie darkness.

This was the might of a Savage Beast! Even strong individuals like Di Tian and the Evileye Tyrant King were unwilling to take a swipe from the Bear Lord's Darkgolden Terrorclaws head-on. The Bear Lord was the true king of destruction!

However, something completely unexpected happened. The Valkyrie chose to meet force with force against the Darkgolden Terrorclaws that not even the Beast God himself was willing to meet head-on!

Yes, she chose to meet force with force!

A beam of golden light suddenly shot out from the top of Shrek's city wall and instantly landed on her green flames. In that instant, the green flames that were descending from the sky were layered and protected by a blurry layer of golden light.

Hazy mist surrounded all that golden light, and everything seemed a little unreal in that instant.

The Bear Lord's terrifying Darkgolden Terrorclaws swiped across her in a flash. A strange scene occurred when his claws touched that golden light. The bear's sharp claws skidded away, and the hazy golden light immediately became surreal and illusory in that moment. The green flames' downward swoop seemed to pause momentarily, as if they had been layered with grease, and they slipped through the cracks between all that dark golden light.

However, the Darkgolden Terrorclaws were simply too destructive. Even though the golden light was filled with spatial power, all that golden light was still torn to pieces as the green flames slipped past his claws.

But that wasn't important. What was important was that the Valkyrie had achieved her goal.

She slipped through the bear's deadly claws, and indignant dragon roars echoed throughout the entire battlefield. The green flames became conical, and they went straight for the space between the Bear Lord's eyebrows.

She broke through just like that.

Back on top of the city wall, Qian Duoduo stared closely at the battle in the sky, and gradually lowered a golden cannon in his hands.

That was Light of Spatial Protection, a Class 8 soul tool.

This soul tool was known amongst Class 8 soul tools as The Unbreakable Fortress, and was a stronger version of the Invincible Barrier. This soul tool allowed the user to temporarily enter another dimension when taking a hit, but even so, the Bear Lord's Darkgolden Terrorclaws still managed to tear through space itself, which meant hiding in another dimension couldn't entirely evade his attack. It wasn't hard to imagine how frightening the Bear Lord's attacking strength was. That was just pure offensive strength!

However, their plan was successful in the end. They had been married for many years, and Qian Duoduo and Xian Lin'er's chemistry and teamwork was so good that they were almost the same person.

They were very clear that in terms of strength, they were no match for the Bear Lord even if they teamed up. They could only make use of the Bear Lord's unfamiliarity and lack of understanding toward soul tools at the start of the battle to catch him by surprise so that they would have a chance to strike.

That was the reason why they had come up with such a fighting strategy, and Xian Lin'er chose to meet force with force when everyone thought she would avoid the bear's sharp claws.

The Bear Lord's frame was too massive, and his excessively large body meant he wasn't very agile. After he grew bigger, the bear was a hundred meters tall, while Xian Lin'er moved with incredible speed. The Bear Lord's arms had just swung through the air when the conical green flames reached the center of his eyebrows, and he didn't have a chance to respond.

However, the Bear Lord chose a response that surprised every onlooker.

He didn't even attempt to dodge this attack. His dark golden eyes flickered with blood-red colors, and were filled with disdain and indifference as he lowered his head, using his forehead to clash against the conical green flames.

That was an all-out attack from Xian Lin'er, a Rank 95 Transcendent Douluo, who was known as the Valkyrie! Even though she didn't use her strongest soul skill because she desired speed, could the Bear Lord's body just forcefully clash against her formidable attack that possessed disintegrating qualities?

BAM!

Green flames scattered in all directions in the sky, and Xian Lin'er's figure reappeared in the sky as she spiraled through the air. The tremendous impact rendered her unable to control her own body, and she channeled soul power continuously to stabilize herself as she flew backwards rapidly.

And the Bear Lord? He simply arched his large head backwards, and several strands of dark golden fur drifted down from his forehead. He used the back of his paws and rubbed his forehead before he howled furiously. It seemed like all he took was a little pain, and he didn't suffer any real injuries at all.

The soul masters watching from the top of the city wall were astounded when they saw this. Nothing happened to the Bear Lord when he clashed forcefully with an attack from a Transcendent Douluo? He didn't even shed a single drop of blood. That was simply too unbelievable! Were the Bear Lord's defenses that fierce and formidable?

Yes, the bear's defenses were indeed that strong.

Xian Lin'er felt this the most because she was the one who had attacked him. When her Greenflame Spear stabbed into the Bear Lord's forehead, she felt as if she had actually clashed with a shooting star. Terrifying strength instantly sent her hurtling through the air, and her right arm that was holding onto her Greenflame Spear was all sore and numb.

One could only understand whether the opponent was strong or weak in an actual encounter.

Not a single beast wasn't worthy of their reputation, and the Bear Lord lived up to his name as number five of the Ten Great Savage Beasts! There was no question that he possessed the strongest offensive capabilities among today's four Savage Beasts.

The Bear Lord's muscular chest bulged as he swung his arms outward. His thick arms stretched out at his side, and he howled furiously as he suddenly raised his Darkgolden Terrorclaws high into the sky. All his fur began to shine with intense golden light, and in that moment, he sparkled and shone like a sun.

His roars were extremely thick and dense, and they resonated through the heavens like dull thunderclaps. His roars shook the soul masters and soldiers standing on the city wall beneath him until they felt dizzy, while the soul beasts that were attacking the city became exceptionally excited. Their attacking momentum became fiercer than before, and the soul tools on top of the city wall seemed like they couldn't hold those soul beasts back any longer.

Xian Lin'er's expression instantly became serious and solemn. She had the strongest feelings about the Bear Lord because she was facing him directly. She couldn't really withstand the Bear Lord's frightening pressure, which resembled that of a mountain, even with her cultivation rank, and the green dragon scales on the surface of her body rippled continuously to dispel that pressure.

Is the Bear Lord using his signature move from the get-go? What kind of fighting style is this?

Xian Lin'er didn't dare to neglect her opponent. The Bear Lord was stronger than she had predicted, and she grit her teeth as she raised her Greenflame Spear high into the air. The green flames on her body flourished at the same time, and waves of dragon roars could be heard. Her seventh soul ring glowed as she instantly transformed into a giant green dragon and circled in midair. She unleashed layers of green flame again and again, and these flames formed a colossal green dragon head in front of her as she stared at the Bear Lord opposite her in the distance.

Qian Duoduo didn't idle around, either. Xian Lin'er was evidently unable to stop the Bear Lord by herself, and he tapped the ground with the tip of his foot as he swiftly flew out from the city. This time, he didn't carry his soul tools. Nine soul rings glimmered on his body, and his seventh soul ring sparkled as black light gradually cocooned his body while he rose into the sky. He transformed into an enormous shield, and swiftly rose to Xian Lin'er's side.

This shield was squarish, and there were black dragon patterns on its surface. A Black Dragon seemed to shimmer on the shield's surface, but the dragon's eyes weren't golden like that of the Beast God, but red instead. The shield's surface seemed to be inlaid with two red gems.

This was Qian Duoduo's martial soul, the Black Dragon Shield!

Back in the day, Qian Duoduo, Cai Mei'er, Xian Lin'er, and Yan Shaozhe were known as Shrek's golden generation because their martial souls were all powerful, and they possessed formidable strength. Yan Shaozhe was the strongest among them, and Xian Lin'er came next, and Cai Mei'er after her. Qian Quoquo was weakest one, but he was a defense-type soul master, and his defensive capabilities were the most outstanding among them. This was also the most important reason why he chose to become a soul engineer in the end. There was a part of his past that was very regrettable, and he craved offensive power.

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Faced with a powerful enemy, Qian Duoduo finally chose to fight using his own martial soul. He was willing to become Xian Lin'er's shield.

Xian Lin'er, who was in her Greenflame Dragon form, glanced at Qian Duoduo beside her. Faint light flickered in her eyes as she lowered her voice and growled, "Be careful, old Qian."

"Don't worry." His Black Dragon Shield's dragon mouth opened and closed.

The Bear Lord made his move at this moment. The thick and dense golden light on its body suddenly all concentrated toward his twin claws, and his initially dark golden claws instantly became brilliantly golden. Streaks of light that resembled waves flowed on the surface of his razor-sharp claws, eventually stopping at the edge of his claws.

"Go to hell, the both of you!" the Bear Lord shouted ferociously as he slashed his sharp claws towards Xian Lin'er, as if he were cutting open heaven and earth.

A terrifying scene appeared. Ten razor-sharp golden blades that were at least a thousand meters long appeared on his Darkgolden Terrorclaws, and ten enormous gashes were instantly torn open in the sky as the bear's frightening claws slashed toward Xian Lin'er.

The Bear Lord was furious, and the consequences were serious.

Xian Lin'er's spear did injure him. Even though his wounds weren't serious, the Bear Lord was irascible and had a terrible temper. He had dominated the Great Star Dou Forest for so many years, and it had been a long time since he was last hurt. His fight had just begun, and his opponent had already injured him! That was incredibly humiliating to him. He was one of the most arrogant kinds of soul beasts, and he didn't give face to anyone except for Di Tian. Everyone feared him in the Great Star Dou Forest.

The Bear Lord was hurt when he had just started his fight today. It infuriated him!

The attack that he was unleashing at the moment wasn't one of his innate abilities. Instead, he had managed to grow it over time, and by relying on his formidable strength. This was similar to a human soul master's self-invented fighting technique, yet this attack was even stronger than those self-invented fighting techniques, because the Bear Lord was raising his Darkgolden Terrorclaw's destructive power to its strongest possible level.

The Bear Lord's giant thousand-meter claws actually tore open the sky. Those deep and hideous gashes produced enormous vacuum forces, and Qian Duoduo and Xian Lin'er were being forcefully sucked towards them. They hurriedly channeled their soul power, and only then could they barely stabilize themselves.

The green dragon head that had condensed in front of Xian Lin'er before this flew forward uncontrollably. Xian Lin'er hadn't expected the Bear Lord's attack to have such effects, and she had no time to control her dragon head further. She gritted her teeth and activated all her soul power to propel that green dragon head further.

Dragon roars echoed throughout the sky as the Greenflame Dragon's head rose through the air. Tremendous disintegrating powers tainted the sky with bluish-green hues, and everything seemed exceptionally gorgeous.

It was a pity that this gorgeousness didn't last for very long. When those frightening thousand meter-long claws tore through the sky, the bluish-green colors were swiftly consumed by the space that had been slashed open. Xian Lin'er's green dragon head was almost instantly torn into a million pieces.

The Bear Lord had coined this attack his Skytear Claw. He had once attempted to challenge Di Tian's authority, and had relied on this attack to severely wound Di Tian. Of course, Di Tian taught him a very, very painful lesson afterwards because of this very fact. Di Tian treasured the Bear Lord's strength, so he didn't kill him for this affront. Otherwise, the Bear Lord would have become Di Tian's food a long time ago.

The Bear Lord's Skytear Claw only paused momentarily in the air when Xian Lin'er's Greenflame dragon head blocked it. Its intense golden light dimmed momentarily before it continued slashing down towards Xian Lin'er.

Xian Lin'er growled as bluish-green light circles glowed on her Greenflame Dragon form one after another, and surged out continuously. The Bear Lord's razor-sharp claws had arrived, and these light circles forcefully blocked those claws.

However, the light circles didn't last for long. The Bear Lord's Skytear Claw cut through and shattered those light circles one after another, like a hot knife cutting through butter, and his sharp claws were coming closer and closer to Xian Lin'er.

The green lights on Xian Lin'er's body became stronger, and the green flames burning on her body caused the air around her to twist and contort. But even so, she still couldn't stop those sharp claws from descending upon her.

Xian Lin'er understood in this moment that she was wrong from the start, and her choice to meet the Bear Lord's force with force was her gravest mistake. The Darkgolden Terrorclaw Bear was most adept at breaking through defenses, and his offensive capabilities were just far too strong. She didn't stand a single chance meeting force with force, and she should have chosen hit-and-run tactics. Perhaps then she would have been able to hold the Bear Lord down for a longer time.

Unfortunately, understanding everything now was far too late. The Bear Lord's claws tore open the sky, and those deep gashes in the sky possessed immense suction force. The reason why this attack was terrifying was because his opponent would know that the Bear Lord's Skytear Claw possessed frightening attacking strength, but the deep gashes in the torn space would pull his opponent in, so his opponent had no choice but to meet force with force.

Am I going to die just like this?

Right at this moment, Xian Lin'er suddenly felt her entire body lighten, and the pressure in front of her abruptly disappeared. She could see a huge patch of black in front of her.

An enormous black shield blocked for her, and the Bear Lord's sharp claws slashed against this shield with ear-piercing slicing sounds.

Black Dragons circled around the shield, and waves of dragon roars sounded like laments as nine soul rings sparkled continuously. They released soul skills one after another in an attempt to block the terrifying sharp claws, but the shield itself was quivering violently. Xian Lin'er was behind this shield, but she could clearly see cracks starting to appear one after another.

"No!" Xian Lin'er shouted at the top of her voice, and bolted forward in a flash so that she could continue blocking those Darkgolden Terrorclaws.

However, a ray of black light shot out from behind the shield and cocooned her. Black light burst out from the shield immediately afterwards.

Vigorous booms rang out continuously as the Bear Lord's Skytear Claw finally erupted into golden dots that dissipated into the sky, and the deep gashes in the sky closed up at the same time.

Black light descended from the sky, and plummeted to the top of Shrek City's western wall.

Everything happened too quickly, to the point where Shrek Academy's various powerful individuals were too late to reinforce Xian Lin'er even if they wanted to. They could only watch everything unfurl before their very eyes.

The Bear Lord's radiance was conspicuously dimmer than before after he unleashed his Skytear Claw. His chest heaved up and down as he panted faintly. Even with his four hundred and seventy thousand years of cultivation, he still had to take a breather after using all his strength in one attack.

A green beam of light surged into the sky above Shrek City and blocked the Bear Lord. It was Elder Song, who had a furious look on her face.

Elder Song hadn't participated directly in the fighting. Instead, she had coordinated with everyone and supported them from one side so that she could respond to any emergencies or dangers that might occur on any front.

Xian Lin'er hadn't expected the Bear Lord to use his signature move from the get-go, and Elder Song didn't see that coming either. She was originally focused on another side of the city. From her perspective, with her daughter and her daughter's husband teaming up against the Bear Lord, they would be able to hold him back even if they couldn't defeat him. Who would have thought that the Bear Lord wouldn't follow conventional behaviour and unleash his Skytear Claw at the start of the fight?

Xian Lin'er and Qian Duoduo had already clashed with the Bear Lord's Skytear Claw by the time Elder Song realized what was going on.

Elder Song instantly transformed into a green beam and rocketed towards the Bear Lord, using her martial soul true body, her Greenshadow Godly Hawk.

The truth was that Elder Song's abilities were the best counter to the Bear Lord. She could best evade the Bear Lord's destructiveness with her speed.

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Back at the top of the city wall...

The black light struck the city wall and revealed its original form... Qian Duoduo.

Both he and Xian Lin'er were back in their human form at this point. Xian Lin'er was in his embrace, but Qian Duoduo's tall and strong body was full of cuts and gashes that wove across his entire frame. Flesh and skin rolled and folded, and glaring white bones were revealed on many parts of his body, as if he were a man made of blood.

"Wah..." A mouthful of blood spurted from Qian Duoduo's mouth onto Xian Lin'er's body. His muscular frame swayed as he forced himself to put Xian Lin'er on the ground before he crumpled down next to her.

"Duoduo." Xian Lin'er hugged him tightly, and her eyes were filled with tears.

Of course she knew what Qian Duoduo had just done. In order to block the Bear Lord's attack, Qian Duoduo chose to detonate his Black Dragon Shield. He had relied on the formidable offensive strength that a Titled Douluo could produce by detonating his martial soul to dispel the Bear Lord's frightening Skytear Claw.

However, Qian Duoduo was severely injured because of that. Was detonating one's martial soul that easy? Martial souls were a part of any human on the Douluo Continent, and the stronger one's martial soul was, the more intimate its fusion was with one's body. To say that one's martial soul was the most important part of one's body for Titled Douluo couldn't possibly be wrong.

Qian Duoduo didn't just detonate his own martial soul, as he had to take the rest of Skytear Claw's remaining force as well.

Fresh blood fountained from Qian Duoduo's mouth. His pupils were already starting to grow slack and disorganized, but his face was strangely full of smiles.

“Duoduo, how are you, Duoduo?” Xian Lin’er wasn’t good at healing at all, and she didn’t know how to help him. “Why are you so foolish? Why did you take the brunt of everything by yourself? You...”

Xian Lin’er was sobbing uncontrollably at this point.

“Lin... Er. Heh... heh. I’ve always... wanted... to call you... that. Except... I never... dared to... on normal days. But... at a time... like this... I dare... Because, if I don’t... call you that now... I may never... get the chance again...” Qian Duoduo’s voice was quivering, but he tried his best to steady his voice. Blood continued flowing from his mouth as he spoke, and even his nose and ears were bleeding profusely. The Bear Lord’s attack wasn’t just razor-sharp, it also possessed immense vibratory force!

Right at this moment, a shadow swiftly flew over to Xian Lin’er and Qian Duoduo and landed right next to them. He pressed his hand down on Qian Duoduo as countless verdant bluish-green vines surged out from his hands and quickly attached themselves to Qian Duoduo’s body. Nine soul rings emerged from beneath his feet and circled around his body. His first, fourth, and sixth soul rings glowed first as gentle bluish-green light flowed continuously into Qian Duoduo.

This man who came forward in time to treat Qian Duoduo was the only elder of the Sea God’s Pavilion who was adept with healing and treatment: Elder Zhuang, who was an auxiliary-type Titled Douluo.

Chapter 402.1: Qian Duoduo and Xian Lin’er

He was the one who had helped to stabilize Huo Yuhao’s injuries along with Elder Xuan when Huo Yuhao returned after plucking a Yearning Heartbroken Grass.

On the battlefield, he also became the busiest person, moving to treat whoever was injured.

As Qian Duoduo suffered a critical injury, he naturally rushed over as quickly as possible.

When Xian Lin’er saw Elder Zhuang, it was as if she had seen a life-saving straw. “Elder Zhuang, save him, quick, save him! How’s Duoduo?”

Elder Zhuang looked very gloomy and gently shook his head. “Difficult!”

When Xian Lin’er heard that, her tears started to flow uncontrollably once again. If even Elder Zhuang, who was the most adept at healing in Shrek Academy, claimed that saving Qian Duoduo was difficult, more than half of Qian Duoduo’s life was already gone!

“Duoduo, you can’t die. You, how can you die? You are so strong! You’ll be able to survive. You’ll be able to, right? Tell me. Tell me that you’ll be able to survive.” Xian Lin’er grabbed onto Qian Duoduo’s hand tightly, and her voice was hoarse from all the crying.

Qian Duoduo coughed twice and spat out two foamy mouthfuls of blood. He looked slightly better after being treated by Elder Zhuang.

At this point, two other figures rushed over. They were Yan Shaozhe and Cai Mei’er, the two deans of the Martial Soul Department.

They were shocked when they saw Qian Duoduo, and they also noticed the situation on the west side of the city. Xian Lin’er and Qian Duoduo were both struck down by the Bear Lord’s all-out attack. As they

didn't know how the two of them were faring, they naturally rushed over to check out the situation immediately.

"Old Qian, how are you?" Yan Shaozhe squatted down on the other side of Qian Duoduo.

Qian Duoduo chortled, "I'm... fine. It's... pretty good like this. The two of you... came at the right time. I've some things... to say since I've some... time left."

Xian Lin'er's eyes were filled with tears as she said, "Duoduo, stop talking. Focus, and let Elder Zhuang treat you properly. You mustn't die. You..."

Elder Zhuang seemed to have used up a lot of soul power as he treated Qian Duoduo, and Qian Duoduo's voice slowly became smoother. He laughed bitterly. "Although my cultivation can't compare to the two of you, do you really think I don't know my own condition? Let me finish talking."

Xian Lin'er was sobbing as she said, "You, you can say anything you want..."

Qian Duoduo's gaze turned gentler as he looked at her. "Lin'er, I like you very much. It's true. From the day I entered the Academy, I've always liked you. However, you should know that I'm not good enough for you. You're so pretty, and you capture everyone's attention. I can only hide my liking for you deep in my heart, and I can only watch you from afar. Even so, I'm already very satisfied."

Xian Lin'er was in a daze as she looked at Qian Duoduo. Her face turned slightly pale. Although they had been married for years, Qian Duoduo had never said anything like this to her before.

Qian Duoduo had a reminiscent look in his eyes, "Then, I could see you every day in the Academy, and it was the greatest blessing for me. However, this blessing soon faded away. As I silently observed you, I discovered that you'd already developed a liking for someone else. You liked Yan Shaozhe. Both of you are assault-type soul masters. He's handsome, talented, and has a strong martial soul. There were so many students in our class that had a crush on him then!"

Yan Shaozhe's face turned red as he heard this, and he twisted his head to look at Cai Mei'er. Cai Mei'er acted like she didn't hear anything and only smiled slightly at him to hint that she didn't mind.

"Yes, Shaozhe is much more outstanding than me and is better than me in all aspects. At that point in time, I became slightly jealous. I was jealous that he was able to capture your heart. To surpass him, I gave my all in the hopes of catching up to him. However, a nightmare happened to me. After a temporary, preliminary selection by the Academy, we were about to be placed in different classes. As a defense-type soul master, I couldn't possibly be in the same class as you. I really hated myself then for being a defense-type soul master. I really wished I was also an assault-type or a control-type soul master! In that way, I could continue to see you every day.

"The rules of the Academy couldn't be changed, and I was eventually separated from you. After I went to another class, I thought to myself that I had to give my all. Even if I couldn't obtain your love, I had to defeat Shaozhe. At least in terms of abilities, I had to be better than him.

"I cultivated tirelessly every day. Once classes were over, I would always quietly walk past the front of your class. If I was lucky, I could take a glance at you, which left me very happy.

“However, a bigger nightmare occurred. After some time, I heard some of your classmates mention that you were dating him and that the two of you had become a couple. It was a huge blow to me then. I was extremely upset for a couple of days. I really wanted to charge in front of you and tell you that I liked you. However, I was never courageous enough. When I looked in the mirror and saw myself, I only felt inferior.

“Do you still remember? During the first internal competition of the Academy, I finally had the chance to defeat Shaozhe. I faced him during the semifinals. I fought extremely hard for that fight, and we fought for two hours until our soul power was drained.”

“I still lost in the end, though. However, I was surprised when all the teachers believed that I was unyielding, and was willing to fight. They believed that I had great potential, and started to nurture me.

“After that, I made my way into the inner courtyard and became a disciple there. I finally had more time to see you. However, I was extremely tormented every time I saw you because he was always with you. Shaozhe’s talent was indeed too great. I kept on chasing after him, but I wasn’t able to catch him. Every time we fought, I always lost. I started to believe that there was something called ‘talent’ in this world. After he became Elder Mu’s disciple, he managed to widen the gap between us. I knew then that, perhaps, I wouldn’t be able to surpass him in this life.”

Yan Shaozhe sighed as he silently listened to Qian Duoduo’s words. He said, “Duoduo, do you know? I was also giving my all at that point in time because you were chasing me too hard. I had no choice to place all my focus on my cultivation and studies to prevent being surpassed by you. In fact, you’d already succeeded then. As I was too focused on these two things, I spent very little time with Lin’er.”

Qian Duoduo chortled and said, “Is that so? That’s great, then.”

If it were any other time, Yan Shaozhe might have turned sarcastic. However, Qian Duoduo was extremely pale right now, and his life aura was getting weaker and weaker. Even though they hadn’t shared a harmonious relationship in all these years because of Xian Lin’er, Yan Shaozhe couldn’t say anything harsh to Qian Duoduo at this point.

Qian Duoduo twisted his head to look at Yan Shaozhe, and the gentleness in his eyes turned into fury, “If it were me, I wouldn’t have left Lin’er for even a minute. I would have protected and taken care of her forever? What about you? You are a scoundrel that only knows how to hurt her. You said that you cultivated tirelessly because I was hot on your heels, but why did you have so much time to flirt with other girls? Why did you hurt Lin’er? Even so, she stayed true and continued to love you deeply. Do you know that?”

Yan Shaozhe was half-red and half-pale. When he looked at Qian Duoduo, who was getting weaker and weaker, he wasn’t able to muster a reply. In fact, Qian Duoduo wasn’t wrong.

Cai Mei’er walked to Xian Lin’er’s side and gently patted her shoulder. After this, she turned around and left. She didn’t care about Yan Shaozhe and Xian Lin’er’s past. However, she was one of the girls that Yan Shaozhe had flirted with. In addition, she was the victor out of all the girls. She wasn’t willing to listen any further. Furthermore, they belonged to the same golden generation. Seeing that Qian Duoduo was on the verge of death, she couldn’t control herself.

Qian Duoduo glared at Yan Shaozhe, and his face started turning red. It seemed as if he had regained some vitality due to his fury, "You hurt Lin'er time and time again, but she forgave you time and time again! It was only when she saw you getting intimate with other women that she decided enough was enough and left you."

Yan Shaozhe lowered his head in pain. "Yes, I wasn't resilient enough. However, I realized my mistake after Lin'er left me. I searched everywhere for her, but I didn't manage to find her. I only wanted another chance. It was only after losing her that I realized how much I loved her. However, she had already become your wife after she returned. Do you know how much pain I felt then?"

"You deserve it!" Xian Lin'er suddenly lifted her head and shouted at Yan Shaozhe.

Yan Shaozhe seemed to have lost all his energy, and his head drooped.

"Lin'er is right. You deserve it! After she returned, did you persist? You chose to be a coward and quickly got together with Mei'er before marrying her. Have you ever admitted your mistake to Lin'er? Did you try to seek her forgiveness? No, you didn't. You are a coward!" Qian Duoduo's voice was trembling right now and he started to speak choppily, "Yan Shaozhe, let me tell you something. My marriage with Lin'er was actually a result of her desire to make you infuriated. Nothing has ever happened between us. Even after being married for years, we've remained clean until now. Lin'er is still a virgin. It's because she loves you that she couldn't handle the pain you brought to her, and thought of such a method to test your love for her. What about you? What did you give her in return? Your gift to her was your marriage to Mei'er!"

Chapter 402.3: Qian Duoduo and Xian Lin'er

While the huge lizard had charged with ferocious momentum, it was now unable to move even an inch closer, blocked by the Xuanwu Shield. Xu Sanshi pulled Jiang Nannan with his left hand while he unleashed his shield with his right hand. Jiang Nannan exploited the momentum of his pull to flip her body up before she did a handstand on his head. After this, she bent her waist as if she had no bones in her body. Her toes touched the top of the soul beast's neck.

Her second soul ring lit up, and a strange yellow glow spread from her legs. After this, Jiang Nannan started to spin rapidly, using her body as a pivot.

Jiang Nannan's second soul skill was called Gravity Control. She wasn't just controlling her opponent, she was also controlling herself.

The huge lizard's head was slammed against the wall. Jiang Nannan exerted force with her toes, and directly crushed the central nerves of this thousand-year lizard. Its body started contorting, and it was unable to crawl forward anymore.

Nan Shuishui, Nan Qiuqiu and Ye Guyi followed the members of the Tang Sect, ready to reinforce them if needed. Nan Qiuqiu and Ye Guyi were still fine. They fully understood the abilities of everyone from the Tang Sect, but this was the first time Nan Shuishui had witnessed them in action.

She was very impressed with all these young people who possessed six-ringed and even seven-ringed cultivations. Not only did they possess the best combination of soul rings, but each of them had specialized in something. When they unleashed their soul skills, they were extremely strong, and their

control was even more frightening. They didn't waste a single drop of their soul power, and were always able to defeat their enemies with the simplest method.

Ji Juechen was still the most lethal among everyone. When he slashed his Judgement Sword, thousand-year soul beasts were completely unable to resist his strength. Wherever his sword light passed, all the soul beasts that attempted to climb the city wall were killed. Ten-thousand-year soul beasts were only able to resist him slightly before they were overwhelmed. While the movements of his sword were very simple, he was definitely not inferior to an eight-ringed Soul Douluo in terms of lethality.

More and more soul beasts were charging up towards the top of the city walls. As physical combat started to break out, Shrek Academy fully demonstrated its strength. Every teacher and student possessed great fighting strength!

Furthermore, they shared great chemistry with one another. The assault-type, agility-type, defense-type, auxiliary-type and control-type soul masters coordinated very well with one another. They suffered very few casualties as they managed to fight off the assault of the soul beasts.

The soul rings that the Tang Sect had obtained under the leadership of Xuan Ziwen earlier played a very important role right now. Many of the Shrek City Defense Army's soul masters were strengthened because of those soul rings, and the overall abilities of the army had greatly increased as a result.

All the stationary soul cannon shells had been fired, and the soul beast army had suffered great casualties. From the air, it was clear that the soul beast army was no longer dense; there were empty spaces in many parts of the army.

Bi Ji had already given her best. However, she was helpless, since many of the stationary soul cannon shells weren't fired in her direction.

Soul tools were still very effective even though the battle had now begun to be fought through physical means. Over the past few years, Shrek Academy had started to value the use of soul tools by soul masters. In the Martial Soul Department, there were even special classes designed to instruct soul masters on the use of soul tools.

They weren't just taught how to use long-range soul tools, but also taught how to operate close-combat soul tools. Along with the help of the Self-Driving Forts, Shrek Academy was able to hold off the onslaught of the soul beasts, even though they were under great pressure.

Different sparks could be seen in the sky and on the ground. The sky was the battlefield of the strong soul masters and soul beasts. From the elders of the Sea God's Pavilion to the inner and outer courtyard teachers, those that had seven rings or more mainly fought in the sky. Their opponents were soul beasts with cultivations of fifty-thousand-years or more.

Soul masters fought based on their intelligence, abilities, and the help of soul tools. While there were more wounded soul masters, very few of them died. Once someone was injured, he was immediately replaced while he sought medical attention. After being treated, he would be sent out to fight once again.

The amount of medicine that Shrek Academy had stored could rival that of an empire. It was the result of ten thousand years of accumulation!

Time passed, second after second, as the battle became more and more brutal. The soul beast's aerial army became even more determined. Even after paying such a huge price, they still weren't willing to retreat.

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Two hours passed. Four hours passed...

More and more casualties started to appear on Shrek City's walls. The carcasses of soul beasts started to pile up, and various colors of soul rings started to appear. Some of them were extremely valuable.

Shrek was on the verge of collapse, but what about the soul beasts? From Bi Ji's pale face, it was evident that the soul beast army had suffered great losses as well.

As this was an all-out attack, the soul beasts that were charging in front were either thousand-year or ten-thousand-year soul beasts. However, these powerful soul beasts were greatly drained right now. The hundred-year soul beasts that followed behind them were obviously lacking in terms of abilities. Bi Ji knew that the Great Star Dou Forest would have to bear heavy losses even if they won this battle. Although there hadn't yet been any great losses to their higher-end combat strength, they would lose too many hundred, thousand, and ten-thousand-year soul beasts. If they were struck by the stationary soul cannon shells, they were completely wiped out.

The two thousand stationary soul cannon shells had wiped out a third of the soul beast army. It would take centuries to replenish this number of soul beasts!

However, there was no way out of this war right now. The eyes of all the soul beasts had turned bloodshot by now. It was too difficult to retreat. Only the blood of Shrek City could wash away this hatred of theirs!

Up in the sky, Di Tian was still restrained by Elder Xuan and Elder Mu. At times lights flashed in the sky, showing that Di Tian was struggling.

Six hours of the afternoon had passed!

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Night descended once again. Shrek City was shaking, and looked like it could collapse at any time. However, it managed to persist for another hour even as it shook. It seemed like there were some special force protecting it that prevented it from collapsing completely.

This special force was called faith. It was a faith in Shrek, and a faith to protect Shrek's glory.

It had only been two days since the beast wave appeared. However, Shrek City was brought to its knees in just those two days.

A hundred years ago, Shrek Academy's soul tool development hadn't reached its current state when the last beast wave appeared. However, Shrek Academy had the Body Sect's help then, which had enabled them to survive until reinforcements arrived. Furthermore, Bi Ji wasn't present then, so that beast wave was naturally not as strong.

Two days. It had only been two days! Even if the reinforcements came at top speed, they couldn't arrive so quickly.

Even though Shrek was already proud of how they had been performing, as they made the soul beasts who were lying on the flat ground outside the city and on top of the city wall pay a painful price, was Shrek City still going to walk the path of destruction?

The lights of their soul tools had practically disappeared. Almost all the soul tools used to defend the city had been destroyed. The Self-Driving Forts had also retreated into the city due to a lack of Sealed Milk Bottles to power them. The soul engineers driving them drained their own soul power to bring these Self-Driving Forts back into the city.

At the eastern side of the city, Elder Song and Xian Lin'er fought the Bear Lord, but they were continuously being forced back. At the southern city wall, the fighting was already spread across the top of the city wall.

The soul masters were exhausted. Against such a large number of soul beasts, their soul power was continuously drained even though they had the upper hand and kept on killing soul beasts.

Everyone knew that the collapse of Shrek City could happen at anytime. Once one side of the city fell, a chain reaction would begin. All of them grit their teeth and persisted. Even though they knew they were going to die, they didn't want the collapse of Shrek City to start from their side.

"Boom!" A deafening boom echoed across all of Shrek City. Even those who were busy fighting couldn't help but turn their attention towards the origin of that deafening boom.

It came from the eastern city wall. n)(0V~~eLB~~In

Elder Song's speed was slowing down as time passed, and as a result of her age. She didn't manage to dodge one attack, and was struck to the top of the eastern city wall by the Bear Lord's Darkgolden Terrorclaw.

Suddenly, a huge, irregular hole that was around twenty meters wide appeared in the city wall.

Doomed! The soldiers defending the eastern city wall turned extremely dismal. They were already in such a dire situation. If the city wall was damaged, they would lose the only thing they could depend on. Was the final breach going to occur here?

The Bear Lord roared excitedly. The soul beasts outside the eastern side of Shrek City risked everything and charged towards this huge hole.

Shrek City's soldiers were too fatigued. Even though they knew they had to give their all to plug this hole, they didn't have the energy to even move their legs. Their soul power had been completely drained. While they really wanted to cover this hole, they were completely helpless right now.

Were they really doomed?

At this critical moment, a beam of gentle golden light suddenly spread out from within Shrek City, coming from the direction of Shrek Academy.

That beam of golden light spread very quickly. In an instant, it reached all the way to the city walls.

All the humans felt warmth as they were immersed in this golden light. They felt an indescribable comfort, and their energy and soul power started to quickly recover. All the soul beasts were also pushed off from the city walls by a strong force.

Surprised cheers sounded from all four sides of the city walls at the same time. Even the stronger soul masters from Shrek quickly retreated to the region covered by the beam of golden light.

Even when the Bear Lord, Myriad Demon King, and Scarlet King attacked with all their might, they weren't able to shake this beam of golden light. Right now, the entirety of Shrek City seemed to have been engulfed by an Invincible Barrier.

While the soldiers and soul masters were cheering, the elders from the Sea God's Pavilion weren't delighted. Only they knew where that force came from.

It was the strength of the Golden Tree! This strength was the ultimate strength that the ancestors of Shrek had left behind to protect Shrek after they fused with the Golden Tree. It could only be tapped into in the direst of situations!

Chapter 403.1: Army of Spirits

Elder Mu had used the powers of the Golden Tree once before to support him and Elder Xuan in restraining Di Tian. At this time, the Golden Tree's powers were used once more to protect the entire city and to help Shrek City's warriors recover. The amount of energy that this endeavor consumed from the Golden Tree was astounding!

The battle wasn't over, and the soul beast army remained just outside the city. They were still charging against the wall as if they felt no exhaustion, and the Golden Tree's energies were being continuously spent. This also meant that Elder Mu and Elder Xuan were drawing less energy from the Golden Tree on their side, and this also meant they would seal Di Tian for a shorter period of time. It was a desperate method to solve their problems at hand without any consideration for the consequences, a solution that they could only turn to when they had no other choice!

Elder Song hovered in midair and felt her soul power regenerating as she gazed into the sky and muttered, "If the Golden Tree is used like that one more time, we may no longer be able to maintain that seal in the sky."

Unleashing the Golden Tree's energies directly affected the seal in the sky. The light ripples in the sky were now visibly stronger than before, as if Di Tian's struggles had become much more intense.

This protection would only allow Shrek's warriors to last for another two to four more hours. But what about afterwards?

Shrek Academy's senior individuals were contemplating this problem, and were almost hopeless.

Suddenly, the Valkyrie Douluo, Xian Lin'er pointed to a certain direction and asked, "Mum, look – what's that?"

She was pointing towards the northwest. She was high in the sky, so she could see clearly, and even though the night was dark, the dark green light that shone faintly from that direction were unnaturally

obvious and glaring. Those dark green hues were tinged with dark red and white, and seemed very drifty and fleeting as they moved towards Shrek City.

These dots were still quite sparse and dispersed in the beginning, but they swiftly grew in number within her field of vision. They became dense and compact as they tromped towards Shrek City, and even though they weren't moving very quickly, they were definitely moving towards Shrek City.

"What are those things? Are they our reinforcements?" Elder Song focused her attention towards those lights. The night was dark, and those lights were still quite a distance away, so she couldn't see very clearly.

Xian Lin'er forced a laugh and replied, "My only wish is that those things aren't reinforcements for the soul beast army."

The army of soul beasts didn't seem to sense the arrival of those unwelcome guests, because the golden light that suddenly emerged from Shrek City caused quite a disturbance among them. The Bear Lord, the Myriad Demon King, the Scarlet King, and the other powerful soul beasts were attacking that golden light with every ounce of their strength.

There were quite a few of them now, and it didn't take long before many different colors dotted the horizon densely in the distance.

Xian Lin'er swiftly descended back into the city. She retrieved a telescopic soul tool and then gazed towards the northwest again, and her face quickly became ghostly pale.

"What are those things? Tell me. What can be worse than total annihilation of Shrek City?" Elder Song laughed bitterly as she spoke.

Xian Lin'er was momentarily stunned. "I can see skeletons, jiangshi, headless horsemen, and many different strange and peculiar creatures. They seem like..."

"The Holy Ghost Church?" Elder Song was also taken aback. If the Holy Ghost Church interfered at a time like this, they were definitely not here to aid Shrek City. Shrek City was currently besieged by a great army of soul beasts, and the Holy Ghost Church would have only one goal if they were here: they wanted to reap unfair gains from this battle!

There were a spectacular number of soul beasts who had perished on the battlefield, and quite a number of Shrek City's soldiers were also dead. Those spirits and corpses had always been what the Holy Ghost Church liked best.

"That's not right! If they were here to reap unfair benefits, they wouldn't have appeared so quickly. They would have waited until both sides suffered heavy losses before making a move so that they could maximize their profits and gains. Furthermore, they would have to defeat this powerful beast tide. The Holy Ghost Church can't be that stupid. Can it be that they're unafraid of the beast tide attacking them?" Xian Lin'er was full of doubts and confusion.

Elder Song's expression was solemn as she said, "Unless the Holy Ghost Church has something to do with this beast tide from the Great Star Dou Forest... perhaps this has been their arrangement from the start."

Xian Lin'er snapped around at her mother and said, "Mum, your speculation is too frightening. However, the Great Star Dou Forest's soul beasts should hate the Holy Ghost Church more than they hate us. How can those soul beasts work together with them?"

Elder Song heaved a sigh and said, "It doesn't matter whether my guess is frightening or not. The only thing we can do is resign ourselves to fate."

The Golden Tree's golden light dome was becoming increasingly weaker, and Shrek's soul masters had recovered to about fifty percent of their physical energy and their soul power. They had another shot in this battle, but could they really see the light at the end of the tunnel?

Right at this moment, the soul beast army finally discovered the masses of unwelcome guests that were coming from the northwest. Shrek Academy's powerful individuals who were hovering and watching in midair heaved a sigh of relief when they saw the soul beasts' reaction.

A pack of soul beasts separated from the back of the great army outside the western and northern city walls and charged towards those unwelcome guests. Apparently, those unwelcome guests seemed ferocious and unfriendly to them as well.

Elder Song suddenly raised her voice and hollered in the sky, "Our reinforcements are here! Hold on, everyone. Victory is in sight!" Her voice was very loud, and sound waves resonated throughout every corner of Shrek City.

She soared through the sky as she spoke, transformed into a Greenshadow Godly Hawk once more, and flew towards the Bear Lord.

Elderly people had the most experience and the most wisdom. Temporarily disregarding the fact that Elder Song was the strongest individual in Shrek City's camp for now, her calm response during a crucial moment to utilize these unwelcome guests so that she could galvanize Shrek's warriors created very important effects.

At this point, Shrek City's warriors were all fatigued and exhausted. The Golden Tree could only help them recover part of their physical strength and soul power, but it couldn't take away their fatigue and their exhausted minds. What else was better to boost morale other than reinforcements?

Reinforcements meant hope, the hope to survive!

The Golden Tree's protection quietly dissipated, and the battle erupted once more after that temporary pause. Shrek's soul masters had managed to recover part of their strength via the Golden Tree's powers, and they seemed like they had been injected with steroids as their morale flourished. The coordination and teamwork that they seemed to have lost due to their fatigue and exhaustion seemed to return, and the soldiers managed to suppress the soul beasts to the point where they couldn't charge onto the top of the city wall.

This was the fighting strength that morale brought; word of reinforcements had reignited the flames in everyone's hearts!

The pack of soul beasts who had separated from the army clashed with the strange mass of unwelcome guests in the distance. Both parties started to fight, but they were quite a distance away, and nothing

much could be clearly seen. However, everyone could see beams of light glowing here and there, and the soul beasts were clearly unleashing various soul skills to fight those unwelcome guests.

The flickering lights that came from those unwelcome guests in the distance were quickly extinguished, but they seemed like the beast tide when they attacked the city, there were just so many of them! It didn't take long before the pack of soul beasts were overrun, and the mass of unwelcome guests began to pick up the pace as they charged towards Shrek City.

Xian Lin'er helped her mother fight back soul beasts while she monitored those unwelcome guests in the distance. Reinforcements? Are they really reinforcements? How can those spectral creatures be reinforcements for Shrek City? But they are clearly fighting the army of soul beasts. How else can these forces be explained other than that they are reinforcements?

Furious howls could be heard continuously from within the soul beast army. Orders came down from the higher-ranked soul beasts, and the army didn't separate any more forces to fight those unwelcome guests. They continued to attack Shrek City arrogantly with everything they had.

The enormous army of spectral creatures were coming closer and closer, and they quickly arrived near the edge of the soul beast army.

Fortunately, the night was dark, and Shrek City's soldiers couldn't see anything at all as they fought on the city wall, they could only see dots of light. Under such circumstances, nobody could tell who was here to reinforce them and where they came from. However, everyone had a lot of faith and trust in Elder Song's words, and they also believed her because they were craving reinforcements to arrive too much in their hearts.

The spectral army began to launch an offensive. Their point of entry was very coincidental: they charged in from a position between the western and northern fronts at the start of the battle. The soul beasts on these two fronts were led respectively by the Myriad Demon King and the Scarlet King, and they would definitely fight back if they were attacked. However, they were currently besieging the city with their full strength, and they didn't have much coordination between them. This external force actually forced their way deep into those soul beasts' ranks.

The soul beasts at the back of the army were relatively weaker, most of them being ten-year and hundred-year soul beasts. The spectral army charged through the army of soul beasts like a hot knife through butter.

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At this moment, there were nine large pitch-black gates located about twenty kilometers northwest of Shrek City that nobody could see, and these gates were spurting out spectral creatures continuously.

There were skeletons, liches, and frightening headless horsemen among these spectral creatures. Occasionally, there would be enormous creatures like abominations that possessed frightening fighting strength, but there were no creatures stronger than those entities.

There was a tremendous scarlet-gold vertical eye positioned in the sky in the center of and behind those nine gates, the eye flickering with eerie and chilly light.

This vertical eye's pupil was entirely white like snow, and deathly grey colors filled the space around it. There were streaks of scarlet-gold colors with sun patterns around those grey hues.

This vertical eye emanated intense spiritual undulations. Muffled incantations could be heard as those scarlet-gold lights transformed into patterns that connected those nine gates together so that they could be opened continuously.

Eye of the Asura, a martial soul true body.

Yes, Huo Yuhao was here. He had returned when Shrek City needed reinforcements most.

He had arrived before evening, but he didn't rush towards Shrek City as soon as he reached it.

He could clearly see what was happening to Shrek City high up in the sky from a distance. Huo Yuhao wasn't hasty and impulsive when he witnessed that terrifying beast tide, and he didn't head down to assist Shrek City despite his roiling emotions.

He was very clear that even though he had become a Soul Sage, and he was far stronger than typical Soul Sages, he was still by himself after all. Could he deal with that tremendous army of soul beasts by himself? He couldn't, and he would have a very slim chance of charging inside Shrek City and meeting up with his companions, and doing so wouldn't help the situation. Killing several soul beasts from the outside wouldn't solve Shrek City's problems at all, so he had to think of other ways to resolve Shrek City's dire situation.

Chapter 403.2: Army of Spirits

Therefore, he began to prepare after studying the situation carefully... preparing for necromancy.

Huo Yuhao was very clear that using necromancy and summoning spectral creatures to the Douluo Continent were the abilities of an evil soul master in everyone's eyes. However, he couldn't be bothered with his reputation at a time like this, and helping Shrek out of their siege was more important than anything else in the world.

He began his necromantic spells. He relied on his formidable spiritual power and unleashed one of the strongest necromantic spells that the Calamity Necromancer Electrolux had left on his spiritual imprints: Spectral Calamity!

He couldn't unleash the full strength of Spectral Calamity because he wasn't strong enough, so he could only summon those relatively weaker spectral creatures. Under such circumstances, they were the limit he could reach with his current strength.

Those large black gates opened one after another and connected to the demiplane Electrolux had left behind for him. Huo Yuhao began to control and command those spectral creatures when they appeared, one after another.

He didn't mobilize his spectral army as soon as they appeared. The spectral army needed time to accumulate, and when the day was still bright, he was afraid that his spectral army would cause chaos and panic in Shrek City when they appeared on the battlefield. Therefore, he waited until nightfall and the sky was completely dark, so nobody could clearly see the flatlands from a distance. Only then did Huo Yuhao command the spectral army that the Spectral Calamity had summoned towards Shrek City.

Huo Yuhao had transformed into the Eye of the Asura, and he had released as much spiritual power as he could. He relied on the demiplane that Electrolux had left behind for him to summon a great many spectral creatures within a short period of time.

Huo Yuhao understood that his spectral army would be no match for this beast tide because he couldn't summon any top-tier spectral creatures. However, what he had to do now was buy time for Shrek, and he had to delay and hurt the soul beast army as much as possible! Only then could he create an opportunity for Shrek to survive. This method was a lot more meaningful and practical than just throwing himself onto the battlefield.

Just as Huo Yuhao had predicted, his spectral army appeared at the most opportune time because of his meticulous calculations. This army of reinforcements came very suddenly but at the right time! Huo Yuhao managed to galvanize and reinvigorate Shrek City's morale. Furthermore, as luck would have it, he had mobilized his spectral army right when the Golden Tree was healing Shrek City's warriors. Shrek City's dire situation was instantly greatly ameliorated.

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Over on the eastern front, the city wall had been broken through, but earth-type soul masters swiftly repaired it. The battle was still at its peak.

Huo Yuhao chose to charge in from the northwest because he had discovered that Bi Ji was too adept with healing on the southern front. Even though he didn't know she was the Emerald Swan, who was ranked number four amongst the Ten Great Savage Beasts, he was unwilling to face an adversary like that. His spectral creatures weren't afraid of death, and his most important task was to deal as much damage to the soul beast army as possible. Huo Yuhao's spectral army would achieve a far smaller effect if he attacked on Bi Ji's front.

Huo Yuhao's strange spectral army burst onto the battlefield, most of them were skeletal soldiers and jiangshi, who were low-tier undead. However, even though they were considered low-tier, they were still strong; two or three such undead stacked together had fighting strength comparable to a ten-year soul beast. Other undead, like those headless horsemen and abominations, were considered especially ferocious in battle. Furthermore, these undead were far less afraid of death than even soul beasts, and they didn't know what pain and fear were. All they cared about was attacking manically.

Under such circumstances, the situation was gradually developing towards one that was beneficial for Shrek City.

Huo Yuhao's spectral army was rapidly spent, but the undead creatures spawned continuously from behind. At this moment, the entire spectral army had charged onto the battlefield, and seemed endless as they charged madly towards the northwestern front.

The Scarlet King and the Myriad Demon King had realized where the problem was at this point, but they still had to deal with the elders from the Sea God's Pavilion!

Every single elder from the Sea God's Pavilion was a veteran of battle; their age had given them much experience and made them resilient. Even though they could see what their reinforcements consisted of from the sky, at a time like this, it didn't matter why these unwelcome guests were here because the enemy of their enemy was their friend; the army of soul beasts was the greatest threat to Shrek City.

Therefore, they tried their best to preoccupy and restrain those powerful soul beasts so that they couldn't direct the soul beast army, and so that they wouldn't participate in the battle against the undead creatures.

The Eye of the Asura quivered and finally descended from the sky, landing on the ground as it reverted to Huo Yuhao's original figure.

The black gates closed up one after another, Huo Yuhao's spiritual power was almost completely spent. He had no choice but to stop the Spectral Calamity.

Huo Yuhao still felt a little afraid as he stared at the immense army of undead. He knew that his body couldn't keep up with his current spiritual power. If he used this necromantic spell as a Titled Douluo, he would probably be more frightening than any evil soul master, as he would possess an army of undead that was truly endless.

If he could have powerful undead like liches and bone dragons, he could directly convert living beings into undead after death, and he would possess the strength to fight against powerful opponents.

This thought disappeared as soon as it appeared in Huo Yuhao's mind. The pursuit of strength and greatness made him momentarily excited, but he broke out in a cold sweat in the next moment, because he remembered something that Electrolux had told him before.

Electrolux had told him that he couldn't rely on this powerful ability to control undead. Otherwise, disaster and bloodshed would befall the Continent if Huo Yuhao lost control of his undead army! That was very much something that he did not want to see!

Huo Yuhao crossed his legs and sat down. He turned his sight inwards and withdrew his soul rings into his body. After his last rose-gold and red soul ring entered his body, he became entirely transparent, before he disappeared into the air, just like that.

Concrete-material spiritual power allowed his million-year soul ring from the Skydream Iceworm to evolve once more. Imitation had become part of his innate abilities, and even though his spiritual power was almost entirely spent, Imitation would still naturally protect him.

Huo Yuhao could not be thinking about how much damage his undead army could do to the army of soul beasts. His top priority at the moment was to recover his spiritual power as quickly as possible so that he could continue working hard to defend Shrek City.

Bi Ji could see what was happening on the northwestern front, but she couldn't leave her own side behind because they needed her protection. Intel passed from soul beast to soul beast and eventually to her, and she quickly found out the details about what was happening. The Emerald Swan's elegant face became ghastly pale.

Where did this army of undead come from? Are they controlled by humans? If so, how frightening is that?

She felt her heart ache as she watched soul beasts die one after another. Their losses had far exceeded their previous estimations.

The Beast God Di Tian knew that Shrek would be hard to deal with. Therefore, he had personally engaged in battle as soon as possible so that he could take out Shrek's most ferocious fighting strength as quickly as possible.

Soul beasts weren't entirely shut off from the world. At the very least, they knew about Elder Mu's death.

However, Shrek's hidden strength still exceeded their judgment. Elder Mu's spirit was still around, and he had teamed up with Elder Xuan to seal Di Tian away. This had rendered the army of soul beasts leaderless, and they could only fight independently in terms of commandeering their fellow soul beasts.

That wasn't all. Those stationary soul cannon shells fired from Shrek City brought unimaginable pain and damage to the army of soul beasts. Many soul beasts, even top-tier soul beasts, didn't know what was going on before they were turned into dust.

Several thousand stationary soul cannon shells! These shells had caused more damage and injuries to the soul beasts than the frontline combat.

More than a million soul beasts resided in the Great Star Dou Forest, but most of them were between ten to one hundred years old, while some couldn't even be considered soul beasts.

This time, even though the Great Star Dou Forest's soul beasts had swarmed out, they had only mobilized about four hundred thousand soul beasts. Among them had been more than three hundred thousand soul beasts who had between ten to one hundred years of cultivation.

But now? How many soul beasts were left? There were less than two hundred thousand soul beasts remaining, which meant more than forty percent of the soul beast army had perished on the battlefield.

They were only assaulting a single human city! Shrek City wasn't considered a large-scale city, like the various empires' capital cities, but it had already caused so much damage to the Great Star Dou Forest's soul beasts. More than a hundred thousand of the soul beasts who had perished died from those stationary soul cannon shells. n))O--v--e/-l(/B(-1./n

At this moment, the flatlands all around Shrek City were strewn with the carcasses of soul beasts. Some soul rings had been extinguished due to time, but new soul rings drifted out from other soul beasts who had just died.

So what if they emerged victorious in this battle? Could they still charge into the human world like they had imagined at the start so that they could weaken humans as much as possible?

It was no longer possible!

Bi Ji was clear that even if they won this battle, the soul beasts wouldn't gain much from this victory. After all, there wasn't much in the human world that soul beasts desired. The soul beasts were only fighting for their survival.

But what were they going to do after this battle? Were they to continue fighting? Unless they didn't want the Great Star Dou Forest to survive, continuing to fight would only lead to their own death and destruction.

Di Tian was powerful, but he couldn't fight against the entire world by himself! Shrek Academy had their ways to restrict him, but did the other empires in the Douluo Continent not have similar methods? Therefore, even if the soul beasts could annihilate Shrek City, the Great Star Dou Forest's soul beasts could only retreat back into the forest!

This beast tide had become meaningless after their losses amounted to more than forty percent of their total forces. They didn't weaken the humans! Instead, the humans dealt a heavy blow to the strength accumulated over ten thousand years by the Great Star Dou Forest!

What do I do? What should I do?

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Bi Ji was lost. She could only command her kinsmen as she unleashed healing soul skills one after another so that she could save as many of her compatriots' lives as possible.

The undead army was still fighting. Their battle against the soul beasts was like the soul beasts' battle against Shrek City's warriors; the army of undead suffered massive losses, and ten undead had to die to kill one soul beast. But so what?

Huo Yuhao had relied on his formidable spiritual power and the demiplane that the Calamity Necromancer Electrolux had left behind for him, and summoned a hundred thousand low-tier undead creatures.

If these undead clashed with the army of soul beasts in a frontal battlefield, those undead would be rapidly overrun.

However, the soul beast army had been fighting for two days and two nights, while the top-tier soul beasts were currently preoccupied in battles with Shrek Academy's elites on the other side. Under such circumstances, what could the other soul beasts do? A hundred thousand undead charging through their ranks and the disturbance they caused was enough to affect the tide of battle.

Furthermore, even though those undead didn't know how to cooperate, injuries didn't really affect their fighting strength. Their point of entry was excellent, and the army of soul beasts on the western and northern fronts descended into chaos. Their assault on Shrek City was now conspicuously weaker than before.

Reinforcements... reinforcements were here! Shrek's warriors on the city walls didn't know that an army of undead was their reinforcements, but the soul beasts' slowing charge reinvigorated their spirits. The soul beasts who had climbed to the top of these two sides were forced back down, and some soul masters who were no longer preoccupied took this temporary break to recover their soul power.

A furious and deafening roar echoed high up in the sky. Golden-yellow clouds rolled in the sky, and an enormous figure could be faintly seen struggling in the clouds.

Di Tian couldn't participate in the battle below, but his formidable strength meant he still had a connection to the army of soul beasts, and he could still feel their situation. He had discovered that things were going wrong, and he redoubled his efforts to break through the Taotie Seal that Elder Xuan and Elder Mu were using together to hold him down.

The army of undead began to dwindle in number, and new ones no longer charged in from the distance. There were fewer and fewer undead, but the army of soul beasts that they were attacking was also dwindling!

Time continued to pass as the soul beasts attacking on the northern and western fronts had their fighting strength greatly weakened.

Boom, boom, boom...

Black lightning detonated throughout the glowing clouds high up in the sky. Cracks began to appear in the sky; Di Tian was finally about to break out from his seal!

Elder Mu and Elder Xuan had restrained Di Tian for three days with the Golden Tree's support. However, the Golden Tree had consumed a lot of energy when it had healed the city's soldiers, and when it forcibly repelled the soul beasts which were flooding in. Furthermore, Di Tian could feel the dire situation that his kinsmen were in, and he couldn't be bothered with his own injuries as he tried to break out of the seal at any cost. The seal was about to crumble!

The soul beasts were galvanized a little when they heard Di Tian's roar.

The Emerald Swan communicated with the other three Savage Beasts across the battlefield, and finally gave the order to temporarily retreat.

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The swarming beast tide gradually retreated, but they circled around Shrek City to the northwest as they retreated.

They would have to resolve the problems behind them if they wanted to exert any pressure in front of them. Even though they didn't know where the army of undead had come from, these things were far too irritating. Their assault on Shrek City could stop for now, but they had to exterminate these unwelcome guests, no matter what!

What happened afterwards proved the gap between the undead army and the soul beast army. When the army of soul beasts from all four fronts surrounded them, it didn't take more than fifteen minutes for them to overrun the army of undead, until there wasn't a single unliving creature left. Even now, not many people could see who their reinforcements were from the top of Shrek City's walls.

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The soul beasts had retreated, but they didn't move too far away. They began to eat the carcasses of the soul beasts that had died to replenish themselves.

The four Savage Beasts finally rendezvoused with one another. They didn't speak at all, and their faces looked as black as could be. They had lost this battle, and the immense losses they had sustained were

heavy blows to the Great Star Dou Forest's vitality. This was especially true since the Auspicious Emperor Beast, the Three-Eyed Golden Lion, had passed away.

They were all waiting for Di Tian to break out of his seal. Only the Beast God could make the final decision about whether they should attack or retreat.

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The top of Shrek's city walls were wretched and in tatters.

In the same moment that the army of soul beasts retreated, everyone slumped to the ground on the city walls. This included soldiers, soul masters, and even Shrek Academy's students and teachers from the inner courtyard.

They had been locked in bitter combat for a day and a night, and they had consumed far too much energy in both mind and body.

At this moment, there was hardly anyone who could still stand on Shrek's city walls. nOve(1B/1n

The boost to morale brought about by the arrival of reinforcements vanished with the soul beasts' retreat, and only surging exhaustion and fatigue were left behind.

The four Savage Beasts didn't know this, but if they had continued with another assault at this moment, they would probably have achieved impressive results!

Everyone from the Tang Sect was also slumped limply on the ground. This group included Nan Shuishui, Nan Qiuqiu, and Ye Guyi. Everyone's clothes were stained with the blood of soul beasts.

Reality proved that the battle strategies that Bei Bei had arranged were very sensible. They relied on their mutual chemistry and how close they were to each other to maintain themselves as one body even in the toughest of times.

Nan Shuishui was a Soul Douluo, and in addition to Ye Guyi and Nan Qiuqiu, the three of them became effective reinforcements. Even though everyone was injured, everyone managed to survive.

Ji Juechen became the most brilliant celebrity on the southern city wall after this battle. He had killed countless soul beasts with his Judgement Sword, and there were many warriors and soul masters from Shrek's city defense army who were hollering, "Sword God!"

At this moment, their Sword God couldn't keep himself together anymore, and he panted heavily as he leaned against the battlement. However, not a single tinge of exhaustion could be seen in his eyes, there was only excitement.

Yes, he had managed to achieve a better understanding of swordplay through this battle, and had achieved some breakthroughs with his own strength.

Ever since he got together with Jing Ziyang, many new things had been added to his life. This time, he had relied on this continuous battle and danger to infuse these new elements into his sword intent. For him, doing so was more important than raising his soul power.

Bei Bei was also panting in similar fashion, but there was a look of anxiety on his face as he stared into the sky. Shrek's perils hadn't been completely resolved.

"Look, what's that?" Xu Sanshi suddenly raised his hand forcibly and pointed into the sky.

Everyone followed the direction his finger was pointing, and could see a shadow soaring through the air in the distance. This shadow came straight for Shrek City, and descended to the city wall. A trail of green flames flickering with strange images followed behind this shadow.

The green flames were the mark of Shrek. It also meant that this person, who was flying back from a distance, was friendly!

"Reinforcements?" Everyone's eyes sparkled when they thought about Elder Song's exclamation from before. Shrek's city walls were swimming with victims who were wounded and exhausted, but the soul beasts had suffered far, far heavier losses than Shrek did. Quite a few soul masters had perished in battle, but there were a lot more who had survived.

The Tang Sect's members quivered when they felt a wave of peculiar spiritual undulations, and the shadow that was flying through the air landed beside them.

The night was dark, but this shadow carried Shrek's green signal, so his soaring figure was glaringly clear. This person quickly descended from the sky and landed on top of the city wall. Furthermore, he landed amid the Tang Sect's members.

"Yuhao!" Everyone from the Tang Sect was mired in extreme exhaustion at this moment, but they couldn't help but exclaim in pleasant surprise when they saw him.

Yes! Wasn't that Huo Yuhao who was descending from the sky?

Huo Yuhao had recovered his spiritual power and sensed the changes in Shrek City at the same time. He had managed to escape from under the Evileye Tyrant King's nose, so it wasn't hard to imagine how strong his spiritual power was.

When he discovered that the army of soul beasts had temporarily retreated, he flew to Shrek City without hesitation. Of course, he took a long detour to avoid the soul beasts that were concentrated on the northwestern front, and arrived on the southern side of the city. He used Spiritual Detection and quickly found his buddies.

"Eldest senior brother, second senior brother, third senior brother... I'm back." Tears welled up in Huo Yuhao's eyes when he saw his buddies strewn all over the ground. However, he didn't sob out loud. Instead, he swiftly released his spiritual power to check on everyone's wounds.

He heaved a sigh of relief when he was sure that everyone was more or less fine, and sat down beside Bei Bei.

Bei Bei stared at Huo Yuhao and forced a laugh as he said, "You're back after all, Yuhao. You've really caused quite a disaster this time!"

Huo Yuhao forced a laugh too and said, "I know, and I'm sorry. Eldest senior brother, I..."

Xu Sanshi said, "That's enough, Bei Bei. How can you blame Yuhao for this disaster? He didn't know that Qiu'er was the Three-Eyed Golden Lion! Are you saying that our Yuhao was supposed to die instead?"

Bei Bei turned towards Huo Yuhao and sighed faintly. "You shouldn't have come back."

Huo Yuhao gazed back at Bei Bei and said, "I had to come back, eldest senior brother."

Bei Bei glared at him. "The beast tide is still here. Haven't you considered that you'll create a spark for Shrek and the Tang Sect?"

Huo Yuhao looked up at the gash in the sky that was becoming larger and larger. "Is that Elder Xuan sealing away Di Tian? This beast tide should be ending soon."

Excitement flowed in Bei Bei's eyes. He shook his head and said, "No, Elder Xuan isn't the only one. Our ancestor is also there."

"Ancestor?" Huo Yuhao was momentarily stunned before he recovered. His eyes sparkled as he asked, "You... you're saying, our teacher is there, too?"

Huo Yuhao's emotions rippled, and everyone from the Tang Sect around him instantly felt a wave of flourishing spiritual pressure radiate from his body, shaking everyone's hearts.

Bei Bei exclaimed in astonishment, "Yuhao, your spiritual power...!"

Chapter 404.1: The Berserk Beast God

Huo Yuhao couldn't care about anything else and quickly rushed over in front of Bei Bei before squatting down. "Eldest senior, did you mention earlier that teacher sealed the Beast God Di Tian?"

Bei Bei nodded and answered, "Yes! Although my great-grandfather has already passed away, he sealed his spirit in the Golden Tree. When the beast wave started, and Di Tian attacked, Elder Xuan wasn't able to handle him on his own, and my great-grandfather used the power of the Golden Tree to seal Di Tian along with Elder Xuan!"

"Teacher!" Huo Yuhao peered into the sky and the emotions that he had been suppressing finally burst out. His tears flowed, and he knelt down as he continued staring up into the sky.

At this point, a deafening boom echoed across the sky. Following this, a huge golden figure separated itself from the sky before descending towards Shrek City. The entire sky instantly turned dark, and an indescribable, yet terrifying aura descended from the sky.

Di Tian had finally broken the seal! Furious dragon roars resonated across the sky, and patches of purple burned in the sky around him.

That golden figure that had separated itself from the sky turned back into its human form. It was Elder Xuan, and the projection of Elder Mu subtly surfaced beside him. However, he was much, much weaker than before. He also seemed very pale, and there were fresh bloodstains around his lips.

Sealing the Golden Eyes Black Dragon King, whose cultivation exceeded eight hundred thousand years, had over-stimulated his blood, and Elder Xuan was also greatly drained in the process.

Just like Di Tian could sense what was happening in the outside world, Elder Mu and Elder Xuan could do the same, too. Even they didn't expect that Shrek City could hold on without reinforcements, given the ferocious beast wave. They had also inflicted many casualties on the Great Star Dou Forest's side.

More than forty percent of the soul beast army had been killed! This was an extremely heavy blow to the forest!

While Elder Mu and Elder Xuan were very proud of Shrek's fighting strength, they didn't think this was a good thing. This situation virtually compelled Di Tian and the Great Star Dou Forest to wipe out Shrek completely. Even if the soul beasts had to retreat, they wouldn't be willing to spare Shrek after the immense losses that Shrek had inflicted on them.

Di Tian was so furious that he was close to going berserk. There was no point in saying anything else at this moment.

While the soul beast armies on the northern and western sides were greatly fatigued, the Beast God's mighty aura was finally felt again, and they distributed themselves once again under the command of the four Savage Beasts. The soul beast army on the western side displayed an attacking formation and was waiting for Di Tian's order.

At this point, spots of light started to appear in the distance. These spots were very attention-catching, though there weren't many of them. At least, there weren't more than the spectral army Huo Yuhao had summoned. However, they managed to fly over rapidly even as they faced Di Tian's immense suppression.

This was especially true for a green spot that was flying in the front. It was like a shooting star. Furthermore, it expanded in size as it charged forward. Slowly, it turned into a huge, green fireball. Even against Di Tian's suppression, it still continued to burst forward.

"Di Tian, you have to see whether I agree if you want to destroy Shrek! Let's fight again after a hundred years!" a vigorous voice called out, resonating across the entire sky, and a huge patch of green light instantly filled the sky. Di Tian's immense suppression was forcefully resisted just like that.

After hearing this voice, Elder Xuan's tense face relaxed a little. Reinforcements had finally arrived. He was both very disgusted and irked by the owner of that voice. However, it sounded extremely cordial to him right now.

How many people were there in the Douluo Continent that could resist the Beast God's suppression on his own? The owner of that voice was none other than the sect leader of the Body Sect, the Body Douluo Du Busi!

Yes, the Body Sect had arrived as reinforcements!

Whether it was Elder Xuan, Elder Mi, or the elders from the Sea God's Pavilion, no one had expected the Body Sect to be the first to arrive as reinforcements.

Shrek Academy and the Body Sect didn't share a harmonious relationship. The fight between Elder Mu and Du Busi's brother was a painful and tragic memory for both parties. Elder Mu's back was bent out of shape following that fight, and he eventually passed away from his condition, while Du Busi's brother died early.

While this hatred between both parties wasn't unforgettable, it was still deeply remembered.

However, Du Busi actually arrived just when Shrek Academy needed help the most. It hadn't even been two days! Even if news was passed down to them immediately, and they set off immediately, they might not have been so quick.

Du Busi's cultivation was slightly superior to Elder Xuan's, and he was already an Ultimate Douluo. Even though he had just become an Ultimate Douluo, and his abilities were weaker than the Darkness Holy Dragon and the Dragon Emperor Douluo Long Xiaoyao, he was still one of the strongest soul masters in the world right now.

Even though Di Tian, who was already hurt after breaking the seal, could still defeat him, he wouldn't be able to do it quickly. With Du Busi's presence, Di Tian was going to be kept busy, and there was no better news than this.

"Du Busi, it's you again! Since you're courting death, I'll fulfill your wish!" Di Tian's furious roar echoed across the entire sky. The dark night sky suddenly turned purple. Even the green that Du Busi released couldn't conceal this purple glow. All of Shrek City and the carcasses of soul beasts outside the city were dyed purple.

Huge purplish bubbles started to descend from the sky, each of them with a diameter of more than ten meters. They released thick purplish fog, and these bubbles engulfed the entire surface area of Shrek City together.

Outside Shrek City, the soul beast army led by the four Savage Beasts quickly retreated. The soul beasts quieted down and ceased their furious roars. Every soul beast from the soul beast army seemed to have its mouth sealed, and didn't dare to utter any sound.

Du Busi had just arrived. He initially thought that he could scare Di Tian slightly along with the rest of the strong soul masters from Shrek. He hadn't expected the Beast God to make a move immediately.

He didn't understand why Di Tian was so furious, either.

When Di Tian was sealed earlier, he could only sense that the soul beast army had suffered heavy losses, but he couldn't completely tell what the extent of those losses was. Earlier, he had immediately used his spiritual sense to scan the entire area. When he saw the devastation and discovered that more than forty percent of his army had been killed, he was infuriated!

Just like Elder Xuan and Elder Mu believed, this fight couldn't be reversed anymore. Even if the beast wave retreated, this blood vengeance still had to be avenged!

Di Tian was naturally aware of Du Busi's abilities. However, he was already extremely furious. No matter who came, he would still take action. He was willing to sacrifice everything to destroy Shrek!

Du Busi wore a serious look on his face. As he moved, he transformed into a hundred-meter tall giant in the air. Intense green lights shone from his body. Amidst these green lights, there was a subtle golden glow. From the looks of it, this giant was like a serious and solemn godly statue.

He didn't dare to hold back against a strong opponent like Di Tian. The moment he appeared, he immediately activated the second awakening of his Body Soul.

He unleashed his terrifying fighting strength and mimicked a lifting action. Streaks of green light were released from his body as they attacked the purplish bubbles in the sky. Every streak of green light managed to accurately locate a purplish bubble. Similarly, the streaks of green light engulfed the entire place.

Green and purple were clearly separated. However, Di Tian's purplish bubbles seemed to overwhelm the green lights unleashed by Du Busi.

It was Di Tian's Black Dragon Annihilation, which was also his strongest area attack. He rarely used this soul skill. Every time he used this soul skill, he would lose some of his longevity. Even though he had already lived for more than eight hundred thousand years, his regard for his own life was still greater than other Savage Beasts. Right now, he used this soul skill because he was furious. This showed the extent of his hatred.

Du Busi's green lights weren't weak, either. They were called Banquet of Death and were his eighth soul skill. Every streak of green light was filled with poison, and it was one of his strongest area attacks.

Green against purple, Banquet of Death against Black Dragon Annihilation. Both parties clashed at this moment.

The purplish bubbles were unexpectedly weak. They burst immediately after contacting the green lights. However, the purplish bubbles transformed into countless, smaller bubbles after bursting, and descended at an even quicker speed. It was as if the bubbles were raining down.

The green lights also transformed after contacting the purplish bubbles. They turned into green whirlpools, and their corrosive strength instantly spread out.

Many small purplish bubbles were devoured by these green whirlpools, but the whirlpools were also quickly destroyed after devouring the bubbles.

This was a clash of strength. There wasn't any flashiness in it.

The green lights and whirlpools were eventually all put out by the purplish bubbles. There was still one-third of the initial purplish bubbles remaining, and they continued to descend from the sky towards Shrek City.

Streaks of light were released from Shrek City to resist these purplish bubbles. They were the work of the Titled Douluo from Shrek Academy.

However, the purplish bubbles were too strong and domineering. Tremendous booms started to echo from every corner of Shrek City.

Groans started to sound from all directions. The purplish bubbles managed to hurt six to seven Titled Douluo to varying degrees, and drained their power.

This was the strength of Di Tian, the Golden Eyes Black Dragon King, and Beast God!

In mid-air, Du Busi also appeared extremely dismal as he suffered the greatest impact. He groaned and picked himself up before charging towards Di Tian. He now stood before the Beast God!

Chapter 404.2: The Berserk Beast God

At this point, the reinforcements arrived. The strongest soul masters from the Body Sect were flying in front. All of them had at least seven rings, and there were even eight Titled Douluo among them. It was practically the entire strength of the Body Sect. This help that they were offering was extremely critical!

Furthermore, it wasn't just the Body Sect that had arrived. There were more than a hundred soul masters behind them, and they all had at least six rings. Among them, five were even Titled Douluo!

This meant that there were thirteen Titled Douluo in this wave of reinforcements. In addition, all these soul masters were top-tier soul masters!

After they arrived in Shrek City, they quickly dispersed to the four walls.

All the Titled Douluo rose into the sky and watched as the Body Douluo fought the Beast God.

One of the Titled Douluos arrived in front of Elder Xuan. "Elder Xuan, I hope we're not too late."

Elder Xuan recognized this person. He was the Golden Body Douluo from the Body Sect, and his martial soul was his trunk. His cultivation was extremely high; he was a Rank 96 Transcendent Douluo. In the Body Sect, he was only inferior to Body Douluo Du Busi!

"Old Jin, all of you came just in time. If you were any later, we wouldn't have been able to hold them off anymore. We really owe you a big favor!" Elder Xuan laughed heartily.

The Golden Douluo Jin Peng replied, "Alright, if you really want to talk about favors, you don't owe us anything. Do you think we came here willingly? To be honest, our sects aren't close enough for us to do this."

Elder Xuan was stunned, but admitted, "That's true. This is why I was surprised to see all of you. This..."

Jin Peng said, "Shrek Academy performed a good deed by saving everyone from the Heavenly Soul Empire who was captured during the Continental Elite Youth Soul Master Tournament. Those who were captured were all young talents of our empire. We have to return this favor. It was that kid called Huo Yuhao from your Academy who came to our capital to seek help. He left immediately after leaving that information.

"However, those who were rescued recognized him as the one who brought people to Sunrise City to carry out the rescue mission. As a result, the sect leader was summoned by His Majesty. After a brief discussion, we quickly rushed over. As time was tight, we sent our best people first. There will be more reinforcements arriving at a later point. Our troops are at the border and they can't make it over, but we still have a thousand soul masters who have been deployed."

Yuhao, it was Yuhao?? Elder Xuan was delighted when he heard that Huo Yuhao was the one who had sought help for them. This meant that Huo Yuhao was still alive! This was great news, and the reinforcements even arrived just in time! With the Body Sect and the Heavenly Soul Empire's help, Shrek would be able to last for another few days even if the soul beast army attacked Shrek City with all its might. Furthermore, could the soul beasts from the Great Star Dou Forest bear such huge losses?

Jin Peng continued speaking, "The Star Luo and the Dou Ling Empires should receive your SOS soon. Their reinforcements will arrive in at most two days. What's going on with the Great Star Dou Forest? Why is there another beast wave? Regardless we'll take it that we've returned the favor after this."

Elder Xuan naturally didn't stand on ceremony right now. He nodded and replied, "Alright. Thanks a lot."

This was karma! Shrek Academy had done its best to save the hostages from the three empires, and now they were repaying Shrek's favor. No wonder the Body Sect was here, they came here because of the Heavenly Soul Empire. Right now, the Body Sect was the sect in charge of protecting the Heavenly Soul Empire, and they shared a close relationship with the imperial family.

Of course, the Heavenly Soul Empire's timely help to Shrek Academy was also an attempt for them to get into the good books of Shrek Academy. To some extent, Shrek Academy was located in the Heavenly Soul Empire's territory, and most of its students also came from the Heavenly Soul Empire. Many of the students that left Shrek took up senior positions in the Heavenly Soul Empire. The imperial family of the empire deciding to send help to Shrek Academy was undoubtedly a way of expressing their goodwill, and an attempt to pull Shrek Academy to their side. They were killing two birds with one stone.

The most important thing was that Huo Yuhao managed to deliver the information in time. He had evidently guessed that there would be some kind of reaction by the Great Star Dou Forest. However, if the beast wave didn't arrive...

Elder Xuan sighed in his heart. It would have been a story of the boy who cried wolf. Of course, that would still have been better than this. At most, they would have continued as enemies with the Body Sect.

"Is Di Tian crazy?" Elder Mu's voice suddenly sounded beside Elder Xuan.

Elder Xuan quickly lifted his head and look into the sky.

Di Tian's body with burning with deep purplish flames. He acted like he wanted to pierce the skies with every attack, and Du Busi was forced to retreat. It seemed like Du Busi couldn't hold on anymore. Di Tian's majestic aura was extremely overwhelming.

Elder Xuan's voice cracked as he asked, "Is he, is he burning his own life energy?"

Elder Mu replied, "No, he should be exhausting all his powers. He has evidently discovered our reinforcements, and is planning to use his strength to turn the situation around! If Du Busi can't handle it anymore, let's replace him. We need to restrain Di Tian at all costs. We won't have to be afraid of them in two days' time when all our reinforcements arrive. The combination of all the elite soul masters and soldiers from the three empires should be enough to suppress all the soul beasts from the Great Star Dou Forest."

BAM!

Before Elder Mu and Elder Xuan could rise into the sky, an explosive boom sounded above them.

Du Busi was struck from the sky. His body was flashing with bolts of purple lightning, and he spat out blood. Di Tian had several wounds on his body, too. He was willing to be hurt in order to deal a heavy blow to Du Busi!

"All of them have to die! We have to avenge the Emperor Beast and all the soul beasts! Even if I die here today, I must wipe all of them out!" Di Tian's voice echoed across the entire city. He peered into the sky and roared furiously, while the purple flames on his body gradually turned purplish-gold.

Elder Xuan and Elder Mu's expressions changed. Given Di Tian's eight-hundred-thousand-year cultivation, Shrek was bound to suffer heavy casualties even if the Body Sect was here to reinforce them. It might even be possible that the city would be destroyed, and everyone would be annihilated. After all, there were still a hundred thousand soul beasts outside the city!

"Di Tian, don't you dare. If you dare to destroy Shrek, I'll stop the legacy of the Great Star Dou Forest from being passed down." At this point, a strong spiritual intent was suddenly transmitted from Shrek City's southern city wall.

This spiritual intent immediately spread across the entire sky above Shrek City. All the Titled Douluo could hear it clearly, as could Di Tian.

Following this, a figure that exuded golden light slowly drifted above the southern city wall. Behind him, a rose-gold projection slowly revealed itself. It had the appearance of the Emperor Beast, the Three-Eyed Golden Lion!

"Yuhao?" Elder Mu and Elder Xuan exclaimed at the same time.

The shining spiritual intent and the person who rose into the sky was indeed Huo Yuhao. Right now, seven of his soul rings glowed. They were white, purple, black, black, black, rose-gold, and red. Everyone was shocked by the weird colors of his soul rings.

As he rose into the sky, several figures leapt up one after another and followed him. Yan Shaozhe, Cai Mei'er, Xian Lin'er, and the rest protected him in the center.

Among them, Xian Lin'er was the first to realize that Huo Yuhao had returned. Only she could guess that the undead army that had dealt a huge blow to the soul beast army and bought time for Shrek had something to do with him.

Xian Lin'er was glaring furiously as she shouted, "Yuhao, don't fool around! How can you intervene in this higher-end fight?"

Huo Yuhao looked at her and took in a deep breath before saying, "Dean Xian, everything started because of me. I can't watch as Shrek is obliterated! Believe me, I can resolve this."

"No!" Xian Lin'er shouted and reached out her hand to grab him.

However, a strange halo suddenly spread from Huo Yuhao's body. Xian Lin'er, Yan Shaozhe, and Cai Mei'er felt slightly dizzy as they were caught off-guard, and everything in front of their eyes turned white.

Even though they were drained, Xian Lin'er and Yan Shaozhe were Transcendent Douluo! However, they momentarily lost their awareness.

Huo Yuhao exploited this opportunity to increase his speed as he flew into the sky. The projection behind him also became more material.

On his forehead, his Eye of Destiny opened, and immense spiritual undulations openly surged towards Di Tian. Rose-gold light started to burn on his body.

Comparing the purplish-gold flames from Di Tian's body to the light on Huo Yuhao's body was like comparing a full moon to a firefly. However, the space around Huo Yuhao started to distort slightly when this little scarlet-gold light started to burn.

In the distance, the silent soul beast army started to cry out in lamentation.

The flames on Di Tian's body suddenly froze, and he started at Huo Yuhao with his golden eyes. His furious roar turned into shock, "You, you are the one who made the Emperor Beast an Offering. It's you!"

Huo Yuhao raised his head and replied, "Yes, it's me. Qiu'er sacrificed herself for me and turned into my sixth soul ring. I also fused her abilities as the Emperor Beast into myself. You should know that the Three-Eyed Golden Lion carries the entire destiny of the Great Star Dou Forest! While Qiu'er is dead, the legacy of the Emperor Beast is still here, with me. Her Eye of Destiny is also with me! If I die, this power of destiny will be completely destroyed, which means that the destiny of the Great Star Dou Forest will also be destroyed. You should know what kind of result that will bring."

"Ridiculous!" Di Tian roared and reached forward with his claws. A strong purplish-gold claw projection reached for Huo Yuhao.

Chapter 404.3: The Berserk Beast God

Elder Xuan, Elder Mu and the various elders from Shrek Academy charged towards the sky at the same time, trying to save him.

However, Huo Yuhao suddenly shouted at this moment, "No one comes over!" A terrifying spiritual intent was suddenly unleashed from his body, and everyone felt their spirits shaking. Even though their cultivations were more powerful than his, they still couldn't help but stop in the air.

Di Tian's attack was extremely quick. In an instant, his purplish-gold dragon claw had already landed on Huo Yuhao; he had captured Huo Yuhao!

However, Huo Yuhao didn't resist at all. There was a calm look on his face, as if he wasn't bothered about this number one Savage Beast that was in front of him. He lifted his head and pushed his chest out. There was only a relieved and arrogant look on his face.

As Di Tian's purplish-gold dragon claws landed on Huo Yuhao's body, a terrifying force was transmitted into his body, and the rose-gold flames were extinguished.

This was Di Tian's strength. Even the Emperor Beast Wang Qiu'er couldn't do anything when Huo Yuhao ignited his spiritual sea. However, Di Tian managed to stop it easily.

Yes, Huo Yuhao had ignited his own spiritual sea when he tried to break free from Xian Lin'er and Yan Shaozhe earlier. Otherwise, there was no way he could have scared off so many Titled Douluo with his Spiritual Blast no matter how strong his spiritual power was.

Right now, his spiritual sea that was burning had been extinguished. As Di Tian retracted his claws, Huo Yuhao was also brought in front of him.

Huo Yuhao wasn't even half as tall as Di Tian's golden eyes. He looked extremely small in front of Di Tian.

“Bastard! You were the one who seduced the Emperor Beast and made her sacrifice herself as a Sacrifice for you. Do you not believe that I have countless ways to torture you and make your life worse than death?” The terrifying pressure that came from him caused the space around Huo Yuhao to start cracking. The immense suction force that came from Di Tian even threatened to pull Huo Yuhao’s spirit out. He started feeling intense pain throughout his entire body and spirit. n.-OveLb1n

However, Huo Yuhao had been through a lot of pain before. The pain that Di Tian inflicted on him couldn’t compare to the excruciating pain he had suffered when he fused with the Ice Empress. It also couldn’t compare to the pain he had suffered when he consumed the water from the Blazing Sunspring for Wang Dong’er. As for the pain that he felt in his spirit, how could it compare to the pain of watching Wang Dong’er enter a deep sleep, and seeing Wang Qiu’er sacrifice herself for him?

Huo Yuhao was very calm. The intense pain he felt caused beads of perspiration to stream down his forehead. However, his face was still filled with arrogance as Di Tian grabbed hold of him. He didn’t cry out in pain, and he wasn’t going to beg for mercy. He just stared at Di Tian calmly. It was like the death that could come at any time meant nothing to him.

Seeing Huo Yuhao willingly land in the hands of Di Tian, Elder Xuan was extremely infuriated, and shouted furiously into the sky, “Di Tian, I swear on my status as the Hallmaster of the Sea God’s Pavilion that I’ll completely wipe out all the soul beasts in the Great Star Dou Forest if you dare to harm him!”

Yes, the beast wave might have come because of Huo Yuhao. However, how much had Huo Yuhao contributed to the Academy during these years?

He had created Spirits, which had never existed before, and played a huge role in helping Shrek Academy’s Soul Tool Department thrive. He, Bei Bei, and the rest had established the Tang Sect, and helped the Academy achieve the highest glory in the previous two Continental Elite Advanced Soul Master Academy Tournaments. He was also an heir to the Sea God’s Pavilion, chosen personally by Elder Mu. He had an Ultimate martial soul, and was the pride of Shrek Academy.

He had even led the Tang Sect to save almost all the hostages that had been imprisoned by the Sun Moon Empire. It was an accident that the Emperor Beast had sacrificed herself for him. This calamity that descended upon Shrek was just fate! Just as this calamity was about to be fully unleashed onto Shrek, he appeared once again, and was willing to sacrifice himself to overcome this calamity. How could Elder Xuan watch him die without doing anything?

Di Tian coldly replied, “I never intended to let Shrek off! I’ll kill all of you! I’d really like to see how you plan to turn the entire Great Star Dou Forest into corpses.”

“I can do it!” Huo Yuhao suddenly said coldly. Even under Di Tian’s pressure, he still tolerated the agonizing pain, and this spiritual intent was still accurately passed into Di Tian’s mind.

“I have the legacy of the Emperor Beast’s Sacrifice. I now control the power of destiny that she once controlled. Perhaps I’m unable to defeat you or decide your fate. However, I can at least decide my own fate. I can end my own destiny with a thought, and die just like that.

“When that happens, I’ll end the destiny of the Great Star Dou Forest too. Beast God, do you believe in destiny?” Huo Yuhao uttered that last sentence word by word. Every word that he said was filled with immense spiritual power.

“Are you threatening me!?” Di Tian roared furiously.

Huo Yuhao calmly replied, “You can say so. If Shrek is destroyed, the Great Star Dou Forest will follow it! As the Beast God, aren’t you going to think about your subjects?”

Di Tian furiously said, “Shrek City has harmed my subjects for years! This blood feud can only be washed clean with human blood!”

Huo Yuhao snapped, “All of you deserved it. If you hadn’t lead the soul beast army to attack us, you wouldn’t have suffered such heavy losses. However, you still have half of your subjects. The Great Star Dou Forest can still maintain its ecological balance. Let’s first ignore the fact that my death will end the destiny of the Great Star Dou Forest. Ask yourself, how many of the soul beasts outside the city right now will be able to survive after you destroy Shrek? Will the three empires in the Douluo Continent let all of you off? To them, the Great Star Dou Forest is a huge treasure vault. Even after you destroy Shrek, the forest will still have suffered great losses. The three empires will find it a fantastic opportunity to move on the forest.

“The Great Star Dou Forest is doomed if Shrek is destroyed! You’ll still have hope if you retreat now.”

Di Tian suddenly calmed down, and his golden eyes also deepened. He stopped roaring, and interacted with Huo Yuhao using his spiritual intent too.

“Yes, you are right. Shrek’s destruction might catalyze the Great Star Dou Forest’s annihilation. However, are you sure humans won’t destroy us, even if we retreat now? You are wrong! They’ll still continue to target us! Humans are greedy! When there were only soul masters, a large number of soul rings were already required! Now that there are soul engineers, some of the ordinary soul masters that originally weren’t supposed to advance to higher tiers can also improve through some special methods! Even if the quality of the soul rings that they require are lower, they still have to kill soul beasts to obtain those soul rings!

“Now that the Great Star Dou Forest has suffered greatly, we’ll be unable to protect ourselves in the future. As your soul tools become stronger, will there be room for the survival of soul beasts? While the Emperor Beast’s Sacrifice is one of the reasons we started this beast wave, it’s not the only reason! More importantly, we’ve found it necessary to stop your evolution before we become your slaves and are destroyed!”

Huo Yuhao was shocked by Di Tian’s sudden composure. He no longer sounded as crazy as he was earlier... or perhaps he had actually never gone berserk at all.

“Beast God, I have a question for you.” Huo Yuhao tried his best to keep calm. He was clear that Di Tian would be able to clearly sense any spiritual undulations from him no matter how slight they were.

“Ask me,” Di Tian replied. However, Huo Yuhao could see a trace of loneliness in his huge golden eyes.

Huo Yuhao asked, “You’re the king of all beasts, the protector of all soul beasts and the number one Savage Beast, as appraised by humans. However, you’ve got to admit that humans are much more intelligent than soul beasts. Am I right?”

Di Tian replied, "Yes, you are right. Otherwise, humans wouldn't have been able to evolve from their position as prey to what they are today in a short few tens of thousands of years. Even though I'm not willing to admit it, humans are indeed the rulers of the entire continent."

Huo Yuhao said, "Do you really think that humans didn't realize the imbalance that was arising between humans and soul beasts as soul engineers became popular and the number of both soul masters and soul engineers increased? Perhaps most soul masters and soul engineers ignore this because of their own interests, but there are bound to be some with great foresight that have recognized this problem, right? After all, what good does it do for humans if soul beasts are destroyed? We'll lose our source of soul rings. If there aren't any soul masters in the future, this profession will forever be lost to history, right? That will be extremely harmful towards the development of both soul masters and soul engineers."

After remaining silent for a brief moment, Di Tian said, "So what? Are humans able to stop the greed of soul masters and soul engineers? And stop hunting and killing soul beasts?"

Huo Yuhao replied, "I've no way of doing so."

"Every living creature is greedy in his own way. No one is willing to give up an opportunity to become stronger. Your wish is that humans will stop pursuing soul rings, but that's impossible. We can only settle a problem about interest using interest."

Di Tian was stunned, "Using interest? Are you saying that you have a way of settling this problem regarding soul rings?"

Huo Yuhao replied, "I'm not certain, but we could give it a go. Can you relax your suppression of me? I won't run. Otherwise, I wouldn't have appeared. I've something to show you."

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Chapter 405.1: Convincing the Beast God

Seeing how sincere Huo Yuhao was, Di Tian slowly nodded, and relaxed his grip on Huo Yuhao. At the same time, he retracted some of the suppression that he had forced on Huo Yuhao.

Huo Yuhao felt more relaxed at this point. Even though he had made a good start, he didn't dare to slack off. He was clearly aware that the Beast God might erupt any time if he said or did anything wrong.

Things were also very quiet down below. Elder Xuan, Elder Mu and the other strong individuals from Shrek were watching tensely. Di Tian's sudden silence left them slightly weirded out, but they didn't make any moves, seeing that the Beast God hadn't killed Huo Yuhao yet.

The Body Douluo Du Busi had already crawled back to his feet. He looked very miserable right now, not expecting the Beast God to be so strong. When Di Tian unleashed his full strength, Du Busi had felt that he was completely irresistible.

The teachers from Shrek Academy were quickly organizing the students, while the Shrek City Defense Army meditated and rested. No one knew what was going to happen next, but every bit of soul power they recovered would earn Shrek an extra glimmer of hope.

A streak of white light shone from Huo Yuhao's Eye of Destiny. In the next moment, a petite figure appeared in front of Huo Yuhao.

It was a young lady who looked to be around fourteen or fifteen years old. Her dress was a spotless white as it swayed in the wind. Her genie-like deep blue eyes oozed a boundless, chilly intent, but there seemed to be a lack of quick-wittedness within them.

"This is..." Even though Di Tian was experienced and knowledgeable, he was still stunned when he saw the Snow Lady. After all, she was released from Huo Yuhao's eyes! Furthermore, he could tell that this wasn't some sort of soul skill!

Huo Yuhao's martial soul had been switched. One red and four orange-gold soul rings slowly rose around him!

As he looked at the different glows that came from his soul rings before looking at the Snow Lady in front of him again, Di Tian's golden eyes revealed a confused look.

"I am a different soul master. I possess twin martial souls, and this is my second martial soul, the Ice Jade Empress Scorpion." Huo Yuhao could also make the Ice Empress and Skydream Iceworm appear, but he didn't do so. When he had faced Di Tian earlier, he could sense the Skydream Iceworm's hatred towards him. It was unforgettable! Undoubtedly, Di Tian was the mastermind who had forcefully tried to snatch the Skydream Iceworm's million-year accumulation.

As for the Ice Empress, Huo Yuhao wanted to hide her existence, because the Ice Empress was conscious. If he revealed anything suspicious, things might turn counter-productive.

Di Tian nodded as he sensed the aura of Ultimate Ice coming from Huo Yuhao's body, "It's indeed the aura of the Ice Jade Empress Scorpion. You are indeed blessed by Ultimate Ice. Is this the Icesky Snow Lady? Can your soul ring produce a summoning-type soul skill?" After finishing this last sentence, he also became a little uncertain.

Huo Yuhao shook his head and said, "From the colors of my soul rings, you can tell that this isn't a simple soul skill. Can't you tell who she is?"

With a thought from Huo Yuhao, the Snow Lady moved. She lifted her right hand, and a streak of deep-blue sword light shot out like a bolt of lightning towards Di Tian's forehead.

As the sinister chill approached, Di Tian's eyes shone with golden light before the sword light was crushed. However, he immediately opened his eyes wide as he realized that it was a familiar chilly intent.

"Is this, is this the Snow Empress' Unparalleled Chill? You, you are the Icesky Snow Lady?" Di Tian couldn't help but exclaim as he looked at the Snow Lady in front of him.

The Snow Lady drifted in the air, but she didn't move from her position. She naturally wouldn't react to Di Tian's question.

Di Tian's gaze quickly shifted to Huo Yuhao's body, and it turned sharp. "How is this possible? Why is the Icesky Snow Lady in your body? What is the relationship between you? She seems to be unaware?"

Huo Yuhao nodded gently. "The Snow Empress' situation represents hope for the future between humans and soul beasts. I met her at..."

Huo Yuhao started to recount how he had first encountered the Snow Empress' embryo, and transformed the Snow Empress into a Spirit. He didn't even conceal the truth about Electrolux's existence. He even went so far as to talk about his spectral demiplane.

It wasn't easy to earn the Beast God's trust. Huo Yuhao had no choice but to do this. Di Tian would have certainly sensed the presence of the undead army earlier. He needed to prove that everything he said was true beyond the shadow of a doubt. Without his spectral demiplane, he couldn't have summoned an army of a hundred thousand undead, given that he was only a Soul Sage. He only hid the existence of the Ice Empress and Skydream Iceworm.

Di Tian listened silently to Huo Yuhao's story, but his emotions were undulating throughout. However, he hid them very well, and Huo Yuhao couldn't tell anything from his emotions or the look in his eyes. What Huo Yuhao was certain about was that the Beast God heeded his words.

"However, you still failed in the end. The Snow Empress lost her spirit and her awareness. How can this Spirit that you talk about be considered a success?"

Huo Yuhao calmly replied, "Yes! You are right. I can't guarantee that the conversion into a Spirit can be successful. However, how can we determine the success of this experiment just through one try? We can only ascertain the possibility of success with more attempts. However, at least we've found a new route that we can take!

"The Snow Empress gave me four soul rings. I didn't kill any soul beasts for these four soul rings. They were willingly offered to me by the Snow Empress. In addition, the existence of my Spirit is more beneficial to me than having soul rings. This is what I mean when I said that a problem of interest can only be resolved with interest.

"If a soul master can obtain a Spirit, he won't need a soul ring at that particular rank. In addition, it's even more beneficial for him. Don't you think he'll agree to this arrangement?"

"At the same time, a Spirit can bring more than just one soul ring to a soul master, and it can even be controlled by a human and a soul beast together. A soul master might pursue a higher-tier soul ring, but what about soul engineers? Furthermore, if a top-tier soul beast is used to fuse with a soul master to create a Spirit, and this soul beast is compatible with me, why wouldn't I be willing to obtain more soul rings from it? These are what we have been researching. It's a pity that we can't complete this research by ourselves. The reason is very simple: we find it very difficult to find soul beasts that are on the verge of death, and are willing to trust us!

"To a certain extent, the Snow Empress' Spirit failed because the Snow Empress' embryo was stuck in a special situation, in which it was on the verge of exploding. At that time, it was already difficult for us to ensure that she wouldn't die. However, I'm confident of succeeding if we establish a pact. This is why I hope to receive the help of soul beasts for my future research in this aspect. If you're willing to personally find a few soul beasts who are in this state to fuse with a few of our human soul masters that have reached their bottlenecks, you can help to prolong the lives of those soul beasts. Even though they might only be able to survive for another hundred years by following a human soul master or soul

engineer, they'll at least be able to experience this world in a different way. Their lives can be extended for a slightly longer period of time, which should be better than just dying.

"If this research is successful, soul masters will have more choices in the future. Every soul master can even wait until their soul power accumulates to a sufficient standard before fusing with a Spirit. I even hope that if Spirits can provide enough soul rings for us, we can let these Spirits leave these soul rings behind of their own accord. When soul masters and soul engineers need them at some stage, they can actively fuse with these soul rings. In this way, humans and soul beasts might not remain enemies in the future, but friends that rely on each other. I'd be satisfied if we could achieve such a result."

Huo Yuhao didn't continue speaking. He knew that his ideals were slightly contradictory to those of both soul beasts and humans. The Beast God needed time to think and understand his intentions. He stopped talking and waited quietly. When he flew up from the southern city wall today, he had already disregarded his own life. No matter what others thought, he believed that he was the one who had brought this calamity to the Great Star Dou Forest. If he couldn't stop this calamity, he was willing to die for Shrek.

Huo Yuhao, who was much calmer than he had been in the past, had another thought. The greatest barrier to the research on Spirits was what he mentioned earlier; there weren't enough dying soul beasts that were willing to cooperate. If he could convince the Beast God, it would be extremely beneficial to his research on Spirits!

Di Tian remained silent for a while. After some time, he slowly lifted his head. "I've never heard of the things you've mentioned to me. I don't know if you're trying to trick me. However, I can tell you that I'll risk everything to destroy Shrek City if you are lying to me. This time, we've indeed suffered great losses. However, Shrek City will no longer have the protection of the Golden Tree if there's a next time. Are you willing to follow me into the Great Star Dou Forest to attempt your research? You need to prove your words with actions."

"I'm willing." Huo Yuhao replied without any hesitation.

Di Tian nodded and said, "Alright, then you shall follow me and remain in the Great Star Dou Forest. The Three-Eyed Golden Lion is dead, and you carry the destiny of the forest with you. From now on, if you remain in the forest and continue your research on Spirits, I'll retract this beast wave right now!"

Chapter 405.2: Convincing the Beast God

Huo Yuhao remained silent for a moment, then said, "Beast God, I'll definitely continue my research into Spirits. However, I can't always stay in the Great Star Dou Forest. There are still many things that I have to do, and thus I can't make that promise to you."

Di Tian's aura suddenly became more dominant. "Do you think that I'm negotiating with you?"

The look in Huo Yuhao's eyes also turned sharp. "I'm not negotiating with you, either."

The two pairs of eyes that met were completely disproportionate. However, Huo Yuhao didn't seem to lose to Di Tian in terms of aura. If the Beast God could maintain his cool, it meant that he was willing to think about the future of the Great Star Dou Forest. At least, he wouldn't just kill Huo Yuhao outright. This was what Huo Yuhao was depending on right now.

Di Tian said, "Follow me back to the forest first." n-0Vεℓ℔1n

"Wait a minute." Huo Yuhao suddenly said.

"What else do you want to say?" The Beast God's emotions seemed to be on the verge of ignition.

Huo Yuhao answered, "I want to say a few words to my elders and seniors from Shrek Academy first. If you just take me away like this, I'm certain that the Academy will move on the forest when they recover their vitality. They might even invite all the strong individuals from the entire continent to target the forest. Do you really want to see that happening?"

Di Tian was startled for a moment, then nodded slowly. "That makes sense, and you're also qualified to do so. Alright, I'll give you a few minutes. You can speak to them now."

As he spoke, he released Huo Yuhao.

Huo Yuhao had no intention of absconding. In fact, trying to escape from the most terrifying soul beast in the world right now would be a stupid move.

"Teacher!" Huo Yuhao shouted at the top of his voice and knelt down in mid-air. He kowtowed towards Elder Mu.

When he shouted the word 'teacher', he was no longer as calm as before. Tears started to stream from his eyes.

Elder Mu was also slightly shocked after hearing Huo Yuhao's exclamation. "Yuhao, what's wrong? Are you fine? Di Tian, let him off! Otherwise, I'll destroy the entire Great Star Dou Forest!"

Di Tian snorted coldly, but didn't say anything.

Huo Yuhao hurriedly said, "Teacher, don't be rash. I've convinced the Beast God to retract his army and end this beast wave. This beast wave started because of me. I would like to say a few words to you and the various elders."

After Elder Mu, Elder Xuan and Elder Song heard his words, they were stunned. He has convinced the Beast God to retract his army? Di Tian went berserk earlier. Can he really be convinced with words?

When they looked at the Golden Eyes Black Dragon King again, Di Tian was indeed much calmer than before. Even the purplish-gold flames on his body had disappeared.

Huo Yuhao continued, saying loudly, "Teacher and elders, as we expected, the most important reason why this beast wave was started is because of the survival of soul beasts. I recounted the progress of our research into Spirits to the Beast God just now, and managed to convince him that I'll produce results for him to see. In this world, we and soul beasts are all part of the food chain. It's only by surviving together that we can maintain the ecological balance. This time, the Great Star Dou Forest has already suffered heavy casualties!

"Please trust me and let me dispel this hatred between humans and soul beasts. At the same time, I also obtained permission from the Beast God to work with him to further our research of Spirits. If it succeeds, humans and soul beasts will no longer be enemies in the future, but partners!"

All the elders and strong soul masters from the Body Sect couldn't believe it. Huo Yuhao had actually managed to persuade the Beast God by himself? It was too unbelievable. The entire Body Sect was lost, including Du Busi. They were all thinking, "What are Spirits?"

Elder Mu was a little doubtful as he replied, "Yuhao, you..."

Huo Yuhao said with certainty again, "Teacher, don't worry. I'll do my best to complete this task for Shrek, and for peace between humans and soul beasts. I hope you can find some volunteers in the Academy that have reached their bottlenecks and need soul rings. I'll lead them to carry out my experiment on Spirits in the future. Right now, I'll follow Di Tian back into the Great Star Dou Forest. Don't worry, I'll be fine with Di Tian's protection!"

"No!" After hearing that Huo Yuhao was going to return to the Great Star Dou Forest with Di Tian, all the elders shouted in unison.

Di Tian snorted coldly and said, "None of you have any say in this at all. His words have moved me today. On his account, I'll temporarily withdraw my army. If his words are lies, hmph!"

After he finished speaking, he grabbed Huo Yuhao tightly and beat his wings forcefully. As he exuded a majestic aura, he flew towards the direction of the Great Star Dou Forest. At the same time, he let out a deafening dragon roar.

The soul beast army outside Shrek City started to move. Under the command of the four Savage Beasts, they left with the injured soul beasts, and tried their best to drag some of the soul beast carcasses with them as they retreated back into the Great Star Dou Forest.

After seeing that the beast wave was retreating, the entire city descended into silence. After a brief moment, someone shouted, and cheers started to ring from all four sides.

The sky turned brighter, and the sun slowly rose in the east. The rays of sunlight that fell as dawn approached illuminated the large number of soul beast carcasses outside Shrek City. At the same time, they illuminated Shrek City, and shone on the fatigued yet excited faces of everyone in the city.

Shrek had emerged victorious! They had relied on slightly more than ten thousand soldiers to resist the onslaught of a beast wave from the Great Star Dou Forest for two days and two nights.

As the beast wave retreated, Shrek City was preserved. Shrek had won!

More than one-third of the soldiers and twenty percent of the soul masters from Shrek had been killed in this battle, and almost everyone was hurt. In addition, all the soul tools defending the city had been destroyed, and all the stationary soul cannon shells had been used up.

In spite of all this, Shrek had still managed to attain victory! This was a victory in a battle between humans and soul beasts. This was a victory that belonged to all of Shrek!

Elder Mu stared in the direction the Golden Eyes Black Dragon King had left in. There was a lost look in his eyes.

Elder Xuan respectfully asked, "Elder Mu, what should we do? Yuhao..."

Elder Mu's lost look slowly turned into a comforted one. "That kid didn't disappoint me, he has really grown up. Let's just follow his words. Let's compensate the families of those who have sacrificed their lives in the line of duty and quickly restore order in the city. At the same time, we'll have to treat the wounded.

"While the beast wave has retreated, this matter has only just begun. Let's announce our research on Spirits to the soul masters of the Body Sect and Heavenly Soul Empire that came here to assist us, and ask for volunteers while we await news from Yuhao. This war might actually not be a bad thing. If Di Tian is willing to coordinate with us in our research, soul beasts and humans might actually become friends."

"Yes!" Elder Xuan acknowledged his words.

Elder Mu took another look at Di Tian, who was slowly disappearing into the distance. Under the illumination of the sun, his elderly face was stained with an extra trace of gold, and he also wore a gentle smile on his face.

A halo descended, and he returned to the Golden Tree once more.

Du Busi had been standing beside Elder Xuan and Elder Mu throughout this exchange. Elder Mu didn't conceal anything from him when he spoke to Elder Xuan earlier. Du Busi clearly heard everything that Elder Mu had said.

Spirits? What exactly are Spirits? This secret regarding Spirits was actually able to drive that berserk Beast God to retreat. I've never been so curious about this Ultimate Douluo!

Elder Xuan turned around and said to Du Busi, "Let's go. Follow me to the Sea God's Pavilion. I'll tell you everything about Spirits."

Du Busi laughed and said, "Never did I expect that I'd be able to enter Shrek Academy in my entire life, under the condition that there's no loser between the Body Sect and Shrek Academy. Interesting! Xuan Zi, that kid who was taken by Di Tian earlier must be the kid with his eyes as his body soul, am I right?"

Elder Xuan nodded slightly.

Du Busi twisted his lips. "I last saw him a few months ago, but he now has seven rings instead of five? Shrek Academy is indeed the number one Academy on the continent!"

Elder Xuan laughed bitterly. "Alright, that's enough. You can keep your sarcasm to yourself. He just came back today. When he left, he only had five rings. I don't know why he suddenly has seven rings now." He naturally wouldn't reveal to Du Busi that Huo Yuhao's enhancement was likely to be related to the Emperor Beast's Sacrifice.

Shrek City started to settle down again. This time, the Great Star Dou Forest's vitality was greatly hurt along with Shrek Academy! However, Shrek Academy had managed to obtain huge rewards from this episode compared to the soul beasts.

Not to even mention soul rings, the number of soul bones that were gathered after this battle exceeded the total number of soul bones that had been gathered in the entire history of Shrek.

More than two hundred thousand soul beasts had been killed! Even if the possibility was only one out of a thousand, how many soul bones would still be produced? Moreover, soul bones were more likely to

appear from ten-thousand-year soul beasts. The value of these soul bones and soul rings, as well as the soul beasts' carcasses that weren't dragged away, could more than make up for the Academy's losses!

A few days later, caravans started to stream out of Shrek City and proceed in different directions. They only had one mission: exchange whatever Shrek had obtained during the war for rare metals!

Soul tools had played a very important role in this battle. Without the Tang Sect and Shrek Academy's soul tools, as well as the Tang Sect's stationary soul cannon shells from the Sun Moon Empire, Shrek would have fallen under the attack of the soul beast army even before the reinforcements arrived!

Chapter 405.3: Convincing the Beast God

Within a few days, large numbers of reinforcements arrived in batches. The first to arrive were the soul masters from the three empires. When they learned that the soul beast army had retreated, they still remained in the city for a time. Suddenly, the entire city became extremely crowded.

As Shrek Academy had suffered huge losses this time, they didn't offer some of the rewards that they had obtained during this war to these soul masters that came. They weren't being petty. They just needed a lot of resources in order to rebuild the city.

However, these soul masters definitely didn't come for nothing. Shrek Academy took this opportunity to share a very important research topic with them.

Spirits!

All information relating to Spirits, including Shrek Academy's current research progress and even Huo Yuhao's temporary agreement with the Beast God, was disseminated to all the soul masters that arrived. The soul masters from the Heavenly Soul, Star Luo, and Dou Ling Empires found out for the first time that there was something that could replace soul rings. Furthermore, this thing was even stronger than soul rings!

Shrek Academy deliberately exaggerated the effect of Spirits. Although Shrek Academy didn't have an example to prove their words, Huo Yuhao did reveal the Snow Lady during the Continental Elite Youth Soul Master Tournament. Many of the soul masters who were here to reinforce Shrek competed in that tournament and were even saved from the Sun Moon Empire by Huo Yuhao. They naturally knew about the magical Snow Lady, especially when Huo Yuhao defeated the seven-ringed evil soul master Gu Long even though he only had five rings back then.

Wasn't it because of the combined strength of the Snow and Ice Empresses? This was all attributed to the strength of a Spirit!

Suddenly, the word 'Spirit' became very popular across the entire continent. There was a new term in the world of soul masters. The only pity was that Shrek Academy didn't publicly announce the incantations needed to fuse with a Spirit. They only mentioned that Shrek City would be designated as a pilot site for the conversion of Spirits, and it would serve all soul masters. At the same time, Shrek Academy also gathered soul masters that had reached bottlenecks in their cultivation among all the soul masters that arrived in Shrek City. There wasn't any requirement, but there were only one hundred available slots. The chosen hundred participants didn't need to pay for anything, but there wasn't any

guarantee that the fusion of Spirits would be successful. In addition, there was some element of risk involved.

There was always bound to be risk involved. Among the thousands of soul masters that came, there were many who had reached bottlenecks in their cultivation.

Eventually, fifty-six people signed up for this experiment that was risky, yet potentially groundbreaking. The remaining forty-four slots were filled by Shrek Academy.

Among these hundred soul masters, the weakest had a three-ringed cultivation, while the strongest had an eight-ringed cultivation. Most tiers of soul masters were included in this experiment. These volunteers temporarily remained in Shrek City to wait for news from Huo Yuhao.

Shrek Academy once again faced the entire world of soul masters on the Douluo Continent with an unselfish attitude. Of course, this was where they were clever. If their research succeeded, the existence of Spirits would be spread by word of mouth. This was also what Shrek Academy was trying to achieve!

The benefit of Spirits was the future developments it would be able to support. It was only through letting all soul masters realize how good Spirits were that would be it possible for everyone to stop hunting and killing soul beasts. In exchange, humans and soul beasts could undergo a different form of fusion. This might also be the key to removing the hatred and conflict between soul masters and soul beasts.

Shrek Academy was arranging everything in full swing.

As the battle ended, Huo Yuhao was also brought to the Slaughtering Grounds in the Great Star Dou Forest by the Beast God.

Di Tian retracted his wings as he entered the Great Star Dou Forest. His body also quickly shrank in size. Very soon, he looked like a human once more. A streak of black light was released from his body and encircled Huo Yuhao, which helped him to fly.

The two of them flew towards the Slaughtering Grounds together. They looked like brothers right now, instead of a human and a soul beast.

There were millions of soul beasts living in the Great Star Dou Forest. However, Di Tian only led those with fighting strength out for the battle. However, his army had still comprised most of the fighting soul beasts in the forest.

The losses they had incurred had greatly hurt the vitality of the Great Star Dou Forest!

—

Huo Yuhao finally arrived at the Slaughtering Grounds. Di Tian led Huo Yuhao past the thick canopy and slowly drifted down.

Huo Yuhao was immersed in his thoughts earlier. However, he was jolted awake when the scenery around him suddenly changed. Following this, he was surprised when he looked around.

The Slaughtering Grounds in the Great Star Dou Forest was recognized as one of the most terrifying places in the entire continent. No soul master dared to venture into this area. In other words, it was like a forbidden ground for humans.

Huo Yuhao had always wondered what it was like in the Slaughtering Grounds of the Great Star Dou Forest. When he was younger, he had always imagined there to be all types of ferocious beasts here. However, what was it like in front of him now?

He first saw a lake. Although it wasn't very huge, considering that he could see the opposite side of it, it felt like the Sea God's Lake.

The surface of the lake was extremely smooth, and the dim-green water resembled the most beautiful piece of natural jade. It flashed with green lights that were filled with life. Around the lake were ancient trees that reached into the clouds. There was a slight layer of mist above the lake, and the moist air swept over to them by a light breeze, carrying the fragrance of plants along with it.

There was a strong aura of life here. The life energy here was extremely prosperous, several times stronger here than in the outside world. There were also many natural elements, and they were even concentrated, not inferior to the Icefire Yin Yang Well that he had been to before.

This place was like the source of all life. It was like all life in the Great Star Dou Forest was nurtured by this place. The principles of heaven and earth seemed to fill this place, and even the slightest sound threatened to destroy the peace and beauty of this place.

Was this really the Slaughtering Grounds? To Huo Yuhao, this place was more like a paradise for all living creatures!

The black air around him disappeared, and Di Tian stood quietly beside Huo Yuhao. "Do you sense it? Isn't it beautiful?"

Huo Yuhao replied without any hesitation, "It's too beautiful. This is like a mortal paradise. It seems like this is where the goddess of nature lives."

Di Tian said, "Yes, this is a place that nurtures life. This lake that you are seeing contains the holiest Water of Life in the Great Star Dou Forest. This lake has existed for more than a million years. This is the lake that nurtures all life in the Great Star Dou Forest. It's a miracle on its own. It gave the forest its own ecological balance over a million years. Initially, I..." He stopped when he reached that part. He revealed a sense of loss in his eyes, as well as an awed look.

Huo Yuhao didn't look at him. He was completely astonished by the beauty of the scenery that was in front of him.

The Water of Life. Yes! That was only this name that could express the beauty of it!

"I didn't expect this! Who would have thought that the core region of the Slaughtering Grounds was actually so beautiful?"

Di Tian said with a sense of loss, "This is the work of nature. It's the source of life that nature offered to this world. I hope that everything you said today is true."

Huo Yuhao nodded, turned to Di Tian and said, "Soul beasts are a part of this world. Without soul beasts, there naturally wouldn't be soul masters. I'm afraid such a beautiful place wouldn't exist, either."

"Don't worry, I'll do my best. You should know that I'm wagering my life. Just like soul beasts, humans only have one life."

At this moment, a furious roar sounded, and a dark-golden figure flashed to their side in an instant. "Why, Di Tian, why?"

This figure had adopted the human form of a muscular man. He was more than two meters tall, and his muscles were extremely well-developed. When he saw Huo Yuhao beside Di Tian, he lifted his hand, and terrifying, sharp, dark golden blades extended out. He clawed towards Huo Yuhao.

Huo Yuhao stood in place without moving. He knew how insignificant he was here.

Di Tian furrowed his brow. "Bear Lord, don't cause trouble." As he lifted his right hand, a black barrier appeared in front of Huo Yuhao. As a piercing scratching sound resonated, the Bear Lord's attack was blocked.

This muscular man was the human form of the Bear Lord!

The Bear Lord glared furiously at Di Tian and said, "Di Tian, do you know how many of our brothers and sisters were killed? How many of our compatriots are dead? Those despicable humans were about to fall to us! Why did you give the order to retreat? Why?"

Di Tian's eyes suddenly brightened. He exuded a threatening might from his bright golden eyes. The sovereign-like suppression that came from him materialized into a layer of golden light that trapped the Bear Lord.

The Bear Lord went silent. He was astonished. He unleashed a layer of his own dark golden light as he tried to resist Di Tian's suppression.

"Remember, I'll have your palm for breakfast if you dare to talk to me in that tone again," Di Tian said very slowly.

The Bear Lord's arrogance had evidently been restrained, and he lowered his head, "I'm sorry Di Tian. It's just that too many of us were killed. I..."

Di Tian also retracted his suppression. "I know that. Do you really think I'm not heartbroken? This time, the humans' abilities were beyond my expectations! Furthermore, they had reinforcements! Have you even thought about how the three empires would react if we destroyed Shrek City at all costs? We've already been drained. If we continued, we'd have faced a catastrophe."

The Bear Lord was stunned. His intelligence was much weaker than his offensive strength. He was immediately stunned by Di Tian's words.

A few projections flashed past, and a few other soul beasts appeared in front of Di Tian. They were Bi Ji the Emerald Swan, the Myriad Demon King, and the Scarlet King!

Chapter 406: His and Her Story

Huo Yuhao stood to one side as he took in the scene before him in awe. Five of the ten great Savage Beasts, feared by all soul masters, were present. The Beast God himself, who was ranked first among the ten great Savage Beasts, was here. Including the Icesky Snow Lady inside him, who was ranked third, and the Ice Jade Empress Scorpion, seven of the ten great Savage Beasts were present. It was an unprecedented gathering!

The terror in his heart disappeared. He became unusually calm. While an experience like this was extremely dangerous, how could it not be exciting, too?

The Myriad Demon King and the Scarlet King both had ugly expressions on their faces. Bi Ji's head was lowered, and her face was pale. Sadness filled her beautiful eyes.

"Take a seat," said Di Tian plainly.

The other four Savage Beasts looked at him. Upon hearing his words, they all sat down in front of him.

Di Tian turned his head to look at Huo Yuhao and said, "You may sit, too. Repeat what you told me. Release the Snow Empress, too."

"Okay," agreed Huo Yuhao, nodding. He sat down where he was, unleashed his Eye of Destiny, and released the Snow Empress. He repeated the words he had said to convince Di Tian, including the conversation he had had with him.

"...War will only lead to destruction. Only by creating something of greater value can we resolve the problem at its root."

When she heard Huo Yuhao's words, Bi Ji the Emerald Swan's gaze became more focused. The Myriad Demon King appeared to be in deep thought. The Scarlet King and the Bear Lord, however, only understood a bit of it. The Scarlet King would furrow his brows occasionally, while the Bear Lord would look at Huo Yuhao fiercely. He seemed to be on the verge of attacking him at any moment.

Huo Yuhao remained fearless as he spoke.

Di Tian said, "You heard what he said? If what he says can be achieved, the situation of the entire continent will change. The Emperor Beast offered herself up for him, and hence, he inherited the Emperor Beast's fortune. In other words, if he dies, the fortune of Star Dou will end."

Upon hearing Di Tian's last sentence, the Scarlet King and the Beast Lord appeared to have understood. The most obvious indicator of their comprehension was the Bear Lord looking at Huo Yuhao differently. His gaze became much less severe. No matter how powerful he was, he would not risk his home!

Bi Ji looked at Huo Yuhao. At such a close distance, her emerald-green eyes were moving. "What happened between you and the Emperor Beast? Why would the Emperor Beast offer herself up for you? Can you tell us about how you two met?"

Huo Yuhao paused for a while, and a look of pain flashed across his eyes. In the past few days, to keep calm, he had tried not to think so much. He did not want to remind himself of Qiu'er's death.

Now, when this Emerald Swan asked him, he could not help but think about it. The five Savage Beasts looked at him. Undoubtedly, the other four Savage Beasts wanted to know the response to Bi Ji's question, too.

The Emperor Beast, the Three-Eyed Golden Lion, was the highest existence in the entire Great Star Dou Forest. Even Di Tian would not presume to be better than her! However, none of the five Savage Beasts could understand why would she willingly offer her life for a human.

Huo Yuhao took in a deep breath, and said, "I met Qiu'er in the Great Star Dou Forest. At that time, I had gone to the forest to get soul rings. Elder Scarlet King, do you remember the first time we met the Emperor Beast, the Three-Eyed Golden Lion?"

A look of shock crossed the Scarlet King's face as he said, "Are you the one who wanted me to send soul beasts out in exchange for the Three-Eyed Golden Lion? At that time, the Taotie Douluo came with you, right?"

Huo Yuhao nodded and said, "That's right. That time, Elder Xuan brought Dong'er and me into the Great Star Dou Forest. Coincidentally, we met the Three-Eyed Golden Lion there. Elder Xuan captured her, and my forehead touched hers. A peculiar change happened between us. Our brains received each other's memories. That was when my Eye of Destiny was activated, which greatly increased my spiritual-type abilities.

"After I left the Great Star Dou Forest, the impact of this incident on me became more severe. While the memories of the Three-Eyed Golden Lion were in my mind, her memories were way too pure. They were just memories of her cultivating in the forest, and there weren't many changes. Hence, I did not take a closer look at them. However, unlike me, she told me that that contact made her see how exciting the human world was. So she chose to take a human form and enter our human world."

When they heard him say this, the faces of the five Savage Beasts turned ugly, especially that of the Scarlet King. For a long period of time, he was in charge of looking after the Emperor Beast. However, none of them knew that the Emperor Beast had left.

Huo Yuhao continued, "When she entered the human world, she followed my memories and transformed into the most beautiful person in my mind. Then, she entered my life..."

He started to talk about the first time he had met Wang Qiu'er, as well as the ups and downs of his relationship with Dong'er. This time, he recounted his tale very carefully. Unknowingly, he became completely engrossed in his own memories. Qiu'er and Dong'er flashed past in his mind. All of his memories were crystal-clear.

After the battle, the five Savage Beasts were angry and tired. However, as Huo Yuhao told them his story, they all calmed down. Even the ferocious Bear Lord gradually became engrossed in the story of Huo Yuhao, Wang Dong'er, and Wang Qiu'er.

Huo Yuhao told his story passionately. At that moment, he bared his heart. When he talked about how Wang Dong'er chose suicide to save him in the Yin-Yang Love Querying Valley, which caused her to fall into a coma, the Emerald Swan could not help but exclaim as if she had personally experienced it. When he told them about how he had burned his Spiritual Sea to save Qiu'er, and how he was eventually revived by Qiu'er's Sacrifice, the five Savage Beasts were all dumbstruck.

Of the five Savage Beasts, even the weakest one, the Scarlet King, had lived on this world for two hundred and sixty thousand years. Naturally, they could tell that Huo Yuhao's story was completely true. His spiritual power made this tragic love story feel even more real for them.

When they first heard that the Three-Eyed Golden Lion had sacrificed herself for a human, the five Savage Beasts all thought that she had been tricked. None of them had expected such a complex process.

Was there deception in this process? All there was in this story was love, something which soul beasts found hard to fathom.

Tears fell from Bi Ji's eyes. The Scarlet King's brows were furrowed. The Myriad Demon King appeared lost in thought, and the Bear Lord's face brimmed with righteous anger. In the eyes of the Beast God, Di Tian, there was nothing but dejection. Despite their different expressions, they were all deeply engrossed in his tale.

"Qiu'er, Qiu'er..." Huo Yuhao pursed his lips tightly, but they could not help but twitch. No matter what, Dong'er was still alive, and he could still think of her. However, Qiu'er was gone forever. Not even her corpse was left.

A leaf, which was about as big as two palms, was delivered to him. On the leaf, one could see a glistening puddle of the Water of Life.

Huo Yuhao turned his head. What he saw was Bi Ji's tear-streaked face.

"Thank you." After he received the Water of Life, Huo Yuhao slowly drank it. A thick life energy filled his body, but it could not take away his pain.

Di Tian sighed softly. His eyes were sorrowful. "I never expected the Emperor Beast to die like this."

Bi Ji lowered her head and said, "I don't know why, but I think her choice was right. Even though she only had a short period of time, she experienced the most intense emotions."

The Bear Lord snorted and said, "Humans are complicated. Why don't they just snatch someone to mate with?"

The Myriad Demon King's mouth twitched, and he said, "All you know is how to mate. Human emotions are far more complex."

The Bear Lord glared at him and said, "So what if I mate? Mating is natural. If I don't mate, how can I ensure the continuity of my line and the entire Great Star Dou Forest?"

The Myriad Demon King snorted. However, he could not risk offending him, and so, he said nothing more.

The Scarlet King kept quiet. Compared to the other four Savage Beasts, his position was much lower.

Di Tian said, "The Emperor Beast is dead. We can't save her now. However, what do you think of this matter about Spirits?"

The Myriad Demon King said, "It's believable. At least, we have the example of the Snow Lady. However, will they lose their consciousness after they had been transformed into Spirits? Isn't this the same as dying? Boy, how confident are you that we soul beasts can maintain our consciousness even after we have been turned into Spirits?"

Huo Yuhao said, "I am about seventy percent sure. The Snow Empress' situation was unique. When her powerful energy exploded, I would have been dead if not for my otherworldly teacher, who burned his own divine sense. In a normal Spirit Fusion between a soul beast and a human, this problem will not occur. Hence, I'm quite confident of success."

He was not boasting. The Snow Empress was not the only Spirit in his body. The Skyworm Icedream existed, too! He was fully conscious, and right now, he was cursing the five Savage Beasts furiously from inside his Spiritual Sea. However, Brother Skydream dared not show himself now. If he did, Huo Yuhao would be in serious trouble.

Bi Ji said, "I feel that we can give it a shot. After this battle, many of us have been severely injured, beyond curing. All they can do is to wait for death. I've already ordered the Emerald Swans to gather them together and treat them. However, for many of them, they are inches away from death. They are the best candidate for this Spirit experimentation."

Di Tian nodded and said, "Alright, go ahead. Huo Yuhao, may you succeed."

Huo Yuhao wiped the tears from his face and nodded. He could sense the chill in Di Tian's voice, and he understood the consequences of failure.

However, this was the best possible time, for both humans and soul beasts. His spiritual power had increased by a lot, and he was confident.

"Elder Bi Ji, before the process of Spirit Transformation begins, may I trouble you to convince the soul beasts that will be taking part in this ceremony? They are injured because of humans, and it's likely that they are filled with hate for us humans. For Spirit Transformation to work, both parties need to be willing. If not, if either party is unwilling to do so, failure will ensue. You need to assure them so that there can be a possibility of success.

"At the same time, I have one suggestion. Other than asking the soul beasts which have been severely injured in the war, can we ask soul beasts who are nearing the end of their lives, but did not participate in the war? Soul beasts are straightforward, and I fear they may not let go of their hatred so easily. On the other hand, for soul beasts who are naturally near death, I feel that they will be calmer. This is an experiment, and hence, we need to consider various factors."

Bi Ji looked at Di Tian. Di Tian nodded and said, "Yes, it's fine. Do as he says."

"Scarlet King, send word to Shrek to bring their participants in this experiment to the edge of the Great Star Dou Forest."

The Bear Lord's mouth twitched as he asked, "Will they dare to come?"

Huo Yuhao looked at him seriously and said, "All cooperation is built on the sincerity of both sides. This beast wave brought death and destruction to both sides. If we can't let go of this hatred, there's no future for either of us."

Di Tian said coldly, "He's right. When you head back, rein in all your subordinates. This matter concerns the future of Star Dou. If there are any slip-up, don't blame me for being unforgiving. While I am still ten thousand years away from my Ninth Metamorphosis, don't think you can do what you want and get away with it. Just try me!"

As he said that, he looked intently at the Bear Lord. Despite the Bear Lord's strength, he did not dare to lift his head.

In the Great Star Dou Forest, other than Di Tian, the strongest being was the leader of the Darkgolden Terrorclaw Bears. Right now, Di Tian was telling him not to act rashly!

The Myriad Demon King looked at the Bear Lord from the corner of his eyes. He evidently did not respect him. In terms of fighting strength, he was weaker than the Bear Lord. However, he never once viewed him as a worthy foe. What use was a fellow with all brawn and no brain? Even if Di Tian died in his next Metamorphosis, the Great Star Dou Forest would not be controlled by the Bear Lord. The Myriad Demon King, Bi Ji, and the Scarlet King had all already agreed to this.

Faced with Di Tian's pressure, the Bear Lord could only lower his head. However, there was clear resentment in his eyes.

Di Tian turned to Huo Yuhao and said, "Rest next to the Water of Life. The rest of you can return to your territories. Bi Ji, start the preparations."

"Yes," Bi Ji agreed quickly.

The four Savage Beasts all left. Di Tian looked at Huo Yuhao, and then, as if his entire body was weightless, floated toward the center of the lake made from the Water of Life. What shocked Huo Yuhao was that the moment his body reached the center of the lake, his body turned fainter and fainter, until it finally disappeared...

Chapter 407.1: Conversation with the Beast God

Huo Yuhao crossed his legs and sat down by the lakeside. He retrieved some food from his storage-type soul tool and began to eat as images flashed by in his mind, one after another. His emotions wouldn't calm down for a very long time.

He didn't know whether he could return after entering the Great Star Dou Forest this time, but there were some things he couldn't leave behind. The thing he wanted to do most right now was visit the Clear Sky Sect and see Dong'er.

His eyes became gentle and tender when he thought about Dong'er, but the thoughts in his heart became increasingly determined and resolute.

He couldn't stay here forever. Him being imprisoned here indefinitely was no different from death! But he couldn't leave now, he had to complete his experiments with Spirits and resolve the conflict between Shrek City and the Great Star Dou Forest before he could leave. After that happened, he could leave with no worries at all.

He had thought about many things on the road back, and had made a plan for his future.

Huo Yuhao was clear that some people from the Academy had definitely seen his army of undead; that was an army of a hundred thousand undead! It was impossible that nobody saw it. Perhaps nobody was thinking about that for now, but what about when everyone calmed down? His buddies from the Tang Sect would know what was going on, and the Academy could guess as well.

Summoning undead was an ability that belonged to evil soul masters! He had made that decision with no second thoughts because he had thought it was the right thing to do, but he also understood that summoning an army of undead as large as that meant that he could no longer hide his secret of having a third martial soul, which held his Necromancy!

He wanted to leave some things behind for Shrek Academy and the Tang Sect before he left. Afterwards, he had so many other things to do! He wanted to look for Dong'er, and there was something else he had always wanted to do.

His emotions and his state of mind were unstable, but his formidable spiritual power allowed him to plan carefully and rationally. He had his own plans on how he would leave this place, and just like he had said to the five Savage Beasts, there were only eternal benefits in this world. Under the pretext of having sufficient benefits, leaving this place wasn't impossible.

Huo Yuhao sat down with his legs crossed, and began channeling his soul power to aid his recovery. He had faced down five great Savage Beasts, and the pressure that he had to take from Di Tian above Shrek City before this had exhausted much of his energy. Even his body was a little hurt, but his formidable life energy meant these wounds didn't cause him any real damage.

Soul power circulated in his body as a rose-gold vertical eye gradually emerged behind his back. Light that resembled patterns of the sun shimmered around this vertical eye, and everything seemed very peculiar as gentle spiritual undulations expanded outward from Huo Yuhao's body.

The Water of Life not too far from him rippled faintly because of the spiritual undulations coming from his body. Huo Yuhao could feel that the strength from his Life Gold was very greedy, and it wanted to absorb the Water of Life's life energy, but he forcibly suppressed it. Of course, he wanted to boost his own life energy, but this Water of Life was part of the Great Star Dou Forest's core, and it contained immense life energy, far larger in volume than his Life Guardian Blade and his Life Gold. If he dared to absorb the Water of Life's life energy at a time like this, he would be shaking the Great Star Dou Forest at its very roots! Di Tian would never let him get away with that if he did so!

After Huo Yuhao had left the Evildemon Forest, he had hurriedly absorbed his seventh soul ring and immediately travelled to the Heavenly Soul Empire. He was smart enough not to inform the Body Sect directly. Instead, he went to look for the Heavenly Soul Empire's royalty, Princess Wei Na, and returned to Shrek City as soon as possible after passing that information to her. He had used his full strength to unleash his necromantic spell and summoned his army of undead afterwards.

Only now did he take the time to finally stop and catch his breath. At the same time, he felt the changes in his body after he became a Soul Sage.

Huo Yuhao felt as if he were weak, like a lamb to the slaughter, when he was up against someone like Di Tian, who was stronger than even Ultimate Douluo. But he was calm now, and focused on sensing the transformations in his body. Only now could he see what had actually happened to him.

The soul power flowing through his body had become a gentle purplish-gold color. He understood that his soul power hadn't evolved by itself. Instead, his soul power had changed qualitatively after Qiu'er had offered herself to him. nOve-lb(1n

At the same time, Huo Yuhao could clearly feel that after he fused with Qiu'er's strength after her Sacrifice, his physique had become many times stronger than before, especially in terms of strength. His strength had grown exponentially!

Qiu'er was the Three-Eyed Golden Lion, and she was thick with blood descended from the Golden Dragon. Otherwise, she couldn't have pretended that she possessed a Golden Dragon as her martial soul! Right now, her Golden Dragon's strength had merged completely with Huo Yuhao's soul power, and had become part of him. Compared to that, his soul power's evolution was secondary, and the changes to his body had undoubtedly built a stable foundation for Huo Yuhao's future progress.

Soul power wasn't the only thing restraining soul masters after they became Soul Douluo, their bodies were limiting factors, as well! Overly immense soul power demanded more and more from a soul master's body. Therefore, many Soul Douluo repressed their soul power growth rate while they used all sorts of methods to train their physiques, and only when their bodies attained higher levels of strength did they dare to try and raise their soul power to another level.

Once soul masters became Titled Douluo, they would be faced with such a situation at almost every rank of soul power. This also meant that towards the final stages of a soul master's progress, a soul master's body became one of the most important factors that limited their development.

Huo Yuhao possessed immense life energy bestowed upon him by his Life Gold. That, in addition to the strength of the Golden Dragon that Wang Qiu'er had offered him, meant he wouldn't have to be concerned about his body, at least before he became a Transcendent Douluo.

There was no need to mention his spiritual power's qualitative changes. He had relied on his fusion with Wang Qiu'er and even killed a hundred-thousand-year Evileye Tyrant. Even though his element's crushing superiority had determined the outcome of battle, Huo Yuhao's spiritual power was so frighteningly strong that it was also a substantial reason for his victory.

He had absorbed two soul rings within a short period of time, and his strength had grown to the point where he had become one of the stronger individuals on the Continent. Furthermore, he could feel that as he became stronger, he had managed to consolidate and understand much more about his personal abilities during the three months he had spent in closed-door cultivation. Following the passage of time, these understandings would help him grow even faster.

Dong'er was in a deep slumber, and Qiu'er had offered herself to him, and both incidents broke his heart. But he was a lot stronger than others of his age, and after Ultimate martial souls broke through seven rings, their initial limitations would swiftly disappear. His talents and his potential would be gradually revealed in the future.

Huo Yuhao briefly sensed the transformations in his body before he slowly entered meditation. He was swiftly recovering his physical and mental strength amid the dense life energy released by the Water of Life.

One day passed before he woke up from his meditation. He opened his eyes, and felt invigorated and fully energetic. He took a deep breath, and thick life energy flooded in through his nose. He felt so comfortable that he almost moaned.

Huo Yuhao began to understand why Di Tian could metamorphose eight times and become the king of the Savage Beasts with more than eight hundred thousand years of cultivation. Perhaps the Golden Eyes Black Dragon King hadn't been alive for eight hundred thousand years, but he resided in a place where life energy was so dense, and he still had the Auspicious Emperor Beast and the Skydream Iceworm, among other external forces, amplifying him. It would be strange if he didn't evolve.

A faint fragrance wafted from in front of him. Huo Yuhao lowered his head subconsciously, and saw several green fruits stacked up in front of him.

These are...

These green fruits were spherical, and there were fine and compact golden dots on their surface. Thick aromas lingered around them, and they were very alluring.

Huo Yuhao came from Shrek Academy, and he was very knowledgeable. He was momentarily astonished before he immediately identified these fruits.

These were Goldenjade Fruits, considered very rare and exotic. Goldenjade Fruits were natural treasures that boosted a soul master's physique and soul power. They were indeed treasures, as they were very beneficial and nutritious for soul masters.

There was no doubt that Di Tian had ordered some soul beast to send these fruits to him.

Huo Yuhao wasn't courteous at all as he picked one up and gobbled it up in a few bites. The fruit wasn't very delectable, its flesh was chewy, it oozed with juice, and it wasn't sweet. Instead, it tasted bitter. But Huo Yuhao didn't dare to waste even one bit of something this good, and he even ate the fruit's outer skin.

He wasn't greedy for more, and stopped after ingesting one. The effects of a Goldenjade Fruit were very potent, and he wouldn't be able to absorb more even if he ate them. One was enough for now.

After a few moments, gentle and warm currents began to spread from his gut to every corner of his body. The soul power inside his dantian became a lot more lively, and Huo Yuhao didn't have to activate it as they followed naturally and circulated along the path designated by his Mysterious Heaven Technique.

Huo Yuhao had seven soul rings, and this Goldenjade Fruit's boosting effects weren't that impressive. However, the fruit was very nutritious, and adding in his meditation during the past day, his mind and body were instantly raised to their peak condition.

Huo Yuhao took a step out as a layer of faint golden light glowed on him. He slowly punched out with his fist, and his body instantly became brilliantly golden. Spiritual power and soul power immediately fused together, and that rose-gold vertical eye naturally appeared behind him.

He had simply concentrated for this punch, but Huo Yuhao discovered to his surprise that this fist's strength was comparable to the force of his Fist of Remembrance. Golden light radiated and didn't dissipate, as if a golden whirlpool was consuming everything within ten meters of his fist. The seamless fusion between soul power and spiritual power produced an all-new ability.

Huo Yuhao heaved a sigh of admiration inside. Just as teacher said back then, this is the feeling of a perfect Sovereign's Descent, where spiritual power and soul power are seamlessly integrated!

Chapter 407.2: Conversation with the Beast God

He didn't stop as he continued to think. He used Ghost Shadow Perplexing Track and the Tang Sect's most basic fist techniques at the same time.

His movements were very slow. He paused almost after every punch, and he focused on understanding and sensing the changes in his soul power and spiritual power. Huo Yuhao obtained better understandings of his own abilities after every movement.

But he was very careful throughout the entire process. He relied on his formidable spiritual power to skillfully control his attacking force so that he didn't hurt the plants around him.

His movements slowly began to speed up, but the golden colors released from each punch became smaller and smaller. Initially, the golden colors stretched to more than ten meters, but they were gradually withdrawn to about seven to eight meters, and then to five to six meters. By the time his body became like an illusion moving at high speed, the radiance on his fists had vanished completely, and even the undulations from his soul power and spiritual power were gone.

A shadow began to stretch out behind his back, but that shadow wasn't his afterimage. Instead, it was the Goddess of Light. ~~no~~ In

The Goddess of Light moved in the same way that he did. However, she was reflected from his body, so the two of them seemed like they were moving together, as if they were dancing on the lakeside.

Huo Yuhao practiced this set of fist techniques for two hours. When he withdrew his fists and stood up straight, the Goddess of Light appeared right in front of him and didn't dissipate as she did the exact same thing.

Dense golden light gradually rose around Huo Yuhao and transformed into spirals above his head as they expanded out from him, one after another.

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The past two hours had been very qualitatively transformative for Huo Yuhao. He had completely absorbed the Goldenjade Fruit's effects, and he had used the past two hours to finally streamline and understand the changes to his body that his two new soul rings had brought about, truly grasping the strength of being a Soul Sage.

"Impressive fist techniques," a plain voice rang out, and Huo Yuhao snapped his head around and gazed into the distance. He was the only person by the lakeside before this, but there was someone else there at this moment. Wasn't that the Beast God Di Tian, dressed in black?

Di Tian was in his human form. He stared at Huo Yuhao, and his eyes flowed with faint approval.

Huo Yuhao bowed subtly in his direction and said, "You flatter me. I'm like the light of a firefly in front of you, elder."

Di Tian smiled plainly. He seemed just like a warm elderly man at this moment as he said, "No, you are outstanding enough. You're probably not even twenty years old, or a little older than twenty, at most. It's no wonder the Auspicious Emperor Beast gave you her approval. You possess many special qualities that other humans don't. You can still keep your composure in a dangerous place like this, and you can achieve one hundred percent concentration. You can already be considered very outstanding because of this."

Huo Yuhao said nothing. He didn't know how to continue the Beast God's conversation, and the set of fist techniques that he had just displayed just happened because he felt like it.

"Training by yourself is so uninteresting. Why don't I accompany you?" Di Tian's next sentence rendered Huo Yuhao speechless with slack eyes and widened jaws.

The Beast God had more than eight hundred thousand years of cultivation... did he really want to fight Huo Yuhao?

"Elder, you..." Huo Yuhao stared lifelessly at Di Tian.

Di Tian smiled faintly and said, "We're just having a practice fight. Just try your best."

Di Tian made his move before his words finished registering in Huo Yuhao's mind, and he didn't give Yuhao time to think about it at all. He took a step forward, his hands were still behind his back as he charged toward Huo Yuhao.

Huo Yuhao immediately felt a frightening and stifling pressure slam him in the face from the moment Di Tian made his move. That feeling resembled the same feeling he had felt in the Yin-Yang Love Querying Valley, when he was completely crushed by that projection. When he was crushed back then, his body had crumbled into dust, and nothing was left!

However, Huo Yuhao wasn't like he was back then. He didn't use a single soul skill against Di Tian's charge, because he didn't have the time to activate his soul skills. He stood in place as he circled his hands before him with his palms facing out, and slowly pushed out.

Di Tian was as fast as lightning, while Huo Yuhao felt like a doddering old man.

However, because his movement was so slow, his palms pushed out at the same moment Di Tian arrived in front of him.

In that moment, Di Tian discovered to his surprise that Huo Yuhao had become illusory to his senses, as if he had integrated with nature around him. Huo Yuhao's life energy and even his fortune was one with nature.

Bam!

Huo Yuhao was sent hurtling backward, and landed on the floor after flying more than ten meters out. He stumbled as he hit the ground, and seemed like he was in disarray, but he used Ghost Shadow Perplexing Track and dispelled the impact bit by bit.

Di Tian stood where he was and didn't pursue Huo Yuhao. He tilted his head at Huo Yuhao and said, "Now I believe that the Auspicious Emperor Beast has given all her destiny and fortune to you. It's a pity that you're not a soul beast, and you can't bless the Great Star Dou Forest like she did."

Huo Yuhao stopped moving as well. Di Tian clearly hadn't used his full strength, but even so, he had felt as if his spirit and his blood were about to be forced out of his body from the impact when Di Tian collided with him. It had felt like a mountain had crashed into him.

"Thank you for showing mercy, elder," Huo Yuhao said as he bowed towards Di Tian.

Di Tian frowned and said, "You humans have so many formalities."

Huo Yuhao's answer was neither haughty or humble. "This is human culture that we have inherited over the generations: filial piety, respect for one's seniors, loyalty, politeness, honor and shame. Those things form the foundations of human culture."

Di Tian said plainly, "I don't know about all that. However, we're just starting. Try your best." His body quivered as he spoke, and he charged towards Huo Yuhao once more. He moved a little faster this time.

Huo Yuhao didn't dare to be careless. He understood from his previous experience that the Golden Eyed Black Dragon King wouldn't deal him a fatal blow, and his footwork changed subtly as he took two quick steps out and adjusted his position. His soul power circulated smoothly and at his whim within him, and a vertical eye flickered behind his back as he merged all the forces in his body once more. His eyes turned rose-gold in color, and compared to the previous round, he managed to enter his peak condition within a much shorter period of time this time around.

Bam!

They clashed again, and Huo Yuhao stumbled backwards. He was pushed more than ten steps backwards before he could regain his balance. However, his situation was a lot better compared to when he was sent hurtling backwards before.

Di Tian's eyes flowed with surprise, but he said nothing as he charged at Huo Yuhao once more in a flash.

Huo Yuhao naturally didn't dare to relax one bit. He was starting to readjust and harmonize himself when he was thrown backwards, and he made sure that his mind was calm so that everything in his body could come together as one. Huo Yuhao could feel that Di Tian's strength was stronger in their second clash, but his own force had become a lot stronger as well. Therefore, his defense was a lot better than during their first collision. More importantly, that feeling where his spirit was almost shaken out of his body was gone, and his spiritual sea was unnaturally stable. A rose-gold vertical eye hovered above his spiritual sea.

The Skydream Iceworm's original body was hovering in his spiritual sea. His Golden Eyes were filled with anger, and dense spiritual power flooded out from him and integrated into Huo Yuhao's spiritual sea.

However, a bluish-green figure appeared in front of him at the same time. This figure raised her hand and knocked him on the head as she shook her head at him.

The Skydream Iceworm seemed a little depressed as he stared at the charming yet dissatisfied face in front of him. He reluctantly stopped his actions and withdrew his spiritual undulations.

Huo Yuhao could feel everything that was going on clearly, but he couldn't be bothered with thinking about them. Something else happened when he clashed with Di Tian for the third time.

Right before his palms pressed against Di Tian's frame, his palms suddenly arched inwards as a gentle suction force appeared in his palms. Sucking Di Tian in with his current strength was probably futile, like an insect trying to move a tree, but Di Tian was momentarily startled when the gentle suction force appeared because he didn't expect Huo Yuhao to do such a thing. Di Tian instinctively controlled his own power, and his forward impact naturally weakened a little.

Bam!

Huo Yuhao only took five steps back this time. Furthermore, his yielding hands suddenly pushed out as he stumbled backwards, and a sphere of light flew out and slammed into Di Tian, who was hot on his heels.

Di Tian's movements didn't stop. However, this was the first time Huo Yuhao had retaliated!

The golden light vanished into thin air in front of Di Tian. Huo Yuhao and Di Tian clashed once more, but Huo Yuhao was sent flying through the air because he was preoccupied with retaliation.

Huo Yuhao felt his chest tighten, but he didn't feel discouraged at all. He was very determined, and he had already gone through so many of life's tribulations.

Flying a distance through the air from the collision wasn't all that bad. At least, he was able to put some distance between Di Tian and himself. A longing look flowed from his eyes, and he seemed to turn transparent all over when he withdrew his right fist.

Wang Dong'er's projection appeared quietly behind him. However, she seemed different from before – this time, Wang Dong'er's projection was colorful, as if she had actually descended beside Huo Yuhao. She was smiling beautifully, and her charming eyes were tinged with bashfulness as her long and pinkish-blue hair draped over her shoulders. She twirled her hair with her fingers playfully, and there was even a subtle sassiness at the corner of her lips.

Yes, this was the most beautiful Wang Dong'er in Huo Yuhao's heart. Dong'er was behind him, and she was also in his heart.

The Fist of Remembrance!

Di Tian could have slammed into Huo Yuhao one more time before he could unleash his Fist of Remembrance, but Di Tian deliberately slowed down this time. He allowed Huo Yuhao to raise his fist's aura to its highest possible level.

Di Tian watched that longing in Huo Yuhao's eyes and that dash of anxiety at the corner of his mouth, and then studied the enchanting and elegant young girl behind his back. Even the Golden Eyed Black Dragon King was full of admiration at the sight.

Has this fellow raised human fighting techniques to such a high level? Not even many Transcendent Douluo can reach a level of integration and fusion like this, can they?

Chapter 407.3: Conversation with the Beast God

Di Tian no longer held his hands behind his back anymore. He reached out with his left hand and opened his palm to block Huo Yuhao's fist.

He didn't do so because his body wasn't strong enough to take this punch. Rather, he did so out of respect.

Not a single sound was produced in this clash. Di Tian's smooth white palm grabbed Huo Yuhao's fist, which was glistening golden.

However, Di Tian's expression changed drastically in the next moment, and he swiftly released the young man's palm, as if he had grabbed hot charcoal. Huo Yuhao's Fist of Remembrance reached in deep just like that and slammed against Di Tian's chest.

Golden light gathered, and there seemed to be a giant and formless hand with an iron grip on Di Tian's body, such that he had no choice but to take a hit from this fist.

The Beast God's body quivered as dark golden light flickered once on his body. The space around him that had collapsed was instantly shattered, and he transformed into a dark golden ray and withdrew far into the distance. Huo Yuhao's punch didn't hit anything in the end.

If a human or a soul beast had been watching this fight, they would probably have been so astonished that their eyeballs would have popped out.

Who was Di Tian? He was the strongest Savage Beast in the entire Continent. He was the Beast God of the Great Star Dou Forest! Yet he was forced by a Soul Sage to the point where he had no choice but to evade his attack. If this was spread to the outside world, Huo Yuhao would become an instant celebrity.

Di Tian waved his left hand and frightening soul power undulations appeared in midair. An enormous pitch-black dragon claw appeared out of nowhere and grasped Huo Yuhao, sealing all the soul power that he wanted to activate in the next moment. Di Tian forcibly pulled him out from his longing emotions.

Huo Yuhao woke up completely as he sensed all that tremendous squeezing pressure around him. He gazed at Di Tian, and couldn't help but feel a little dazed.

Di Tian himself seemed a little dazed at this moment. His expression was a little pale, but his eyes flowed with a dash of tenderness. However, his expression swiftly returned to normal, and he didn't seem very friendly when he looked at Huo Yuhao once more.

"Your spiritual power is stronger than I had imagined. This strength isn't something the Auspicious Beast has bestowed upon you! Concrete-material spiritual power!"

Huo Yuhao was also a little dazed. He didn't really understand why Di Tian was so afraid to interact with his Fist of Remembrance. With Di Tian's strength, not even the Haodong Palm can hurt him even a little bit, let alone the Fist of Remembrance! But why is his expression so strange?

Di Tian said plainly, "You can train by yourself. However, you'll have to make the necessary preparations for what you have to do two days from now." With that, Di Tian vanished into thin air beside the lake, just like that.

Huo Yuhao didn't move an inch as he watched Di Tian disappear, and he began to contemplate.

What can it be that makes even the Beast God afraid? It can't be the strength of my Fist of Remembrance. Even if my spiritual power were twice as strong, I couldn't possibly hurt him. Since he's not afraid of my attacking strength, then...

Emotions!

Yes, he's afraid of the longing feelings within my Fist of Remembrance.

My soul power is like an ant compared to the Beast God. However, the gap between our spiritual powers isn't that great. When I'm longing for Dong'er, my spiritual power is raised to its highest possible level, to the point where I am unable to control it properly. This longing feeling is completely presented in my Fist of Remembrance, and it must be that emotion that affected the Beast God. It must be that emotion that triggered his memories, and everything that he misses so much, so that he evaded my fist in the end.

Huo Yuhao was very intelligent. He understood the process after contemplating for just a short period of time. Who says soul beasts don't have feelings? Seems like the Beast God has feelings and emotions deep in his heart!

Huo Yuhao's thoughts stopped here, and a faint smile appeared at the corner of his mouth. His thoughts were full of wonderful goodness, as he thought about the joy of being together with Dong'er.

The greatest reason why his Fist of Remembrance was so powerful was because he would be immersed in his emotions. Back then, he had used this strength to defeat two evil Soul Douluo, and this was the very reason why he could accomplish that feat.

However, just as Xu Sanshi had said to him, he couldn't rely on his Three Ultimate Haodong Skills in the future. Otherwise, once Wang Dong'er woke up and returned to his embrace, his cultivation would be greatly weakened. At the very least, his fighting strength would be greatly reduced.

Di Tian was gone, but Huo Yuhao didn't stop cultivating. He rarely had the opportunity to be in such a quiet place that was so rich with life energy at the same time, in addition to the Goldenjade Fruit's nutrition. He seemed to have returned to the days when he had just entered Shrek Academy with Wang Dong'er, when he didn't sleep or rest so that he could meditate more.

Huo Yuhao discovered as he meditated that no matter what he did, Dong'er's figure kept surfacing in his mind. He was in a bit of a daze. Yes! Ever since I left the Duke's mansion, I've been together with Dong'er, and even though we've been separated from time to time, we were still thinking about each other and longing for each other. Don't worry, Dong'er, I'll definitely look for you when I settle some things!

He became more immersed in his meditation as thoughts spun through his mind. He felt and sensed the fusion between his soul power and his spiritual power, and every soul skill that he had absorbed.

Typical soul masters never had enough soul skills to use. They had to decide whether they needed control-type or assault-type soul skills when choosing soul rings, whether they needed soul skills for single targets or an area of effect. Questions like those always bugged them, but Huo Yuhao was in the opposite situation; he just had too many soul skills!

He was born with twin martial souls, and this meant he innately had twice as many soul skills as normal soul masters did. Furthermore, he had two hundred-thousand-year soul rings among his many soul rings, and he had another rose-gold soul ring that belonged to Qiu'er, which was equivalent to a hundred-thousand-year soul ring. He had another one million-year soul ring that gave him four soul skills, and he had several soul bones, as well!

Huo Yuhao wasn't afraid of not having enough soul skills. Instead, there were too many of too many different kinds, and he always had certain problems choosing which soul skills to use. This was also what Huo Yuhao had to iron out at the moment.

His Three Ultimate Haodong Skills' side effects were too great, so he had to use them as seldom as he could afford to in the future. Under such a situation, choosing soul skills and how he was going to fight became Huo Yuhao's most important matter at the moment.

Huo Yuhao didn't want to add any soul rings to his second martial soul, the Ice Jade Empress Scorpion, at least for the moment, because there was no need for him to increase his number of soul rings. Obtaining more soul rings would boost his physique, but he didn't have to worry about that after assimilating the Golden Dragon's strength.

He would rather work hard to improve his Spirit Eyes, and only when he became a Titled Douluo would he try his best to add higher-level soul rings to his Ice Jade Empress Scorpion. From his perspective, not even ten-thousand-year soul rings meant much to him; only hundred-thousand-year soul rings could satisfy his needs.

Huo Yuhao had no idea how many ranks above 70 his soul power was at the moment. After he absorbed his seventh soul ring, because that soul ring belonged to a hundred-thousand-year Evileye Tyrant, his soul power rose by quite a bit. He estimated his soul power to be at about Rank 72, more or less. He wasn't even twenty years old, and yet his soul power was extraordinary. This also meant that if the Continental Advanced Soul Master Academy Soul Dueling Tournament was happening right now, he would still be qualified to participate in the tournament. He was a Soul Sage with an Ultimate martial soul! He also had twin martial souls! He could probably easily sweep most teams by himself, or perhaps every single team!

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Two days passed as he meditated. Even though time was very fleeting for soul masters and their cultivation, these two days had been very beneficial for Huo Yuhao. He was starting to find the path that belonged to him.

Di Tian didn't reappear over these past two days, but nobody knew if that was because his emotions had been stimulated by Huo Yuhao's Fist of Remembrance.

"Di Tian!" A respectful call rang out, and Huo Yuhao was jolted awake from his meditation. He noticed the Emerald Swan wasn't far from where he was when he raised his head. He had no idea when she had arrived.

She lives up to her name as one of the Ten Great Savage Beasts! I didn't notice her even with the sensitivity of my spiritual power.

Bi Ji was still relatively friendly towards Huo Yuhao, and she nodded subtly in his direction. Huo Yuhao hurriedly got to his feet and returned her greeting.

A black shadow drifted in from the center of the Water of Life. Di Tian's appearance hadn't changed since they'd last met, and he asked plainly, "Is everything prepared?"

Bi Ji nodded and said, "The people from Shrek have arrived. However, we have to hurry. I'm afraid our kinsmen won't be able to control themselves."

"Alright, let's go." Di Tian waved his hand, and Huo Yuhao immediately felt the space around him go dark. He was already soaring through the sky when he regained his senses.

Probably only these few Savage Beasts dared to fly across the Great Star Dou Forest, and only the Beast God dared to fly so outrageously.

There was a patch of dark clouds beneath Di Tian's feet. Bi Ji, Huo Yuhao, and he were standing on these dark clouds as they soared towards the edge of the forest. They seemed like they were moving very slowly, but they were actually flying at lightning speed.

Huo Yuhao was a little worried when Bi Ji mentioned that she was afraid her kinsmen couldn't control themselves. Huo Yuhao understood what that meant; the Great Star Dou Forest's soul beasts had just fought a violent battle against Shrek City, and both sides had suffered heavy losses. Under such circumstances, both parties definitely hated each other to the core.

Shrek Academy's people were over at the Great Star Dou Forest's edge, and it was possible that the soul beasts there would attack the humans because they couldn't control their impulses.

Di Tian was flying far too quickly. At least, he was faster than any soul tool that Huo Yuhao could think of. The dark clouds began to descend while these random thoughts were still spinning his head as cursing sounds and the howls of soul beasts rang out one after another in his ear.

A dull dragon roar echoed through the skies, and the sky darkened completely. The situation was a little messy a second ago, but it calmed down in the next moment.

The dark clouds landed on the ground, and Di Tian appeared in front of the soul beasts with an ice-cold expression on his face. He turned around and faced the masses of soul beasts being led by the Bear Lord, the Myriad Demon King, and the Scarlet King.

Chapter 408.1: Dragon King's Claw

They were inside the Great Star Dou Forest's Peripheral Region, and there were thousands of soul beasts in this place. Almost every soul beast that had at least a hundred-thousand-years of cultivation was concentrated here, and all of them were at least ten-thousand-year soul beasts. Most of these soul beasts had participated in the battle not long ago, and even those who hadn't heard about the damage that the bitter and cruel fight with those humans brought to them. Almost every soul beast's eyes were filled with hatred and violence.

There were also many humans a thousand meters from them on the other side.

Every single elder from Shrek Academy's Sea God's Pavilion was here. Other than them, the Body Sect's leader, Du Busi, led the soul masters who were here to reinforce Shrek Academy. In addition to the Soul

Sages that the three empires had deployed to reinforce Shrek, there were at least several hundred other people here. Furthermore, their individual fighting strengths were superior to the soul beasts. If the Beast God Di Tian was taken out of the picture, it would be hard to determine who would emerge victorious if both parties erupted into battle.

Elder Xuan heaved a faint sigh of relief when he saw Huo Yuhao, who naturally arrived at the same time as Di Tian. Quite a few people from the Tang Sect were here, beside the elders from the Sea God's Pavilion.

Bei Bei, He Caitou, Xu Sanshi, Jiang Nannan, and Xiao Xiao were all here. Besides them, the Earthdragon Sect's sect leader, Nan Shuishui was also here. Nan Qiuqiu and Ye Guyi were absent.

Everybody became a little excited when they saw Huo Yuhao.

Huo Yuhao signaled to his companions that everything was fine.

"Di Tian, is this how you host your guests?" Elder Xuan's voice travelled from far away, and every soul beast could hear him.

Di Tian turned around and faced the humans. "At least for now, you are not guests in the Great Star Dou Forest. You are still our enemy."

Elder Xuan's eyes grew focused. "Does that mean that you're not sincere this time?"

Di Tian answered coldly, "Sincerity depends on whether your experiment is successful. What's the point of sincerity if your experiments are unsuccessful?"

Elder Xuan said coldly, "Di Tian, don't think we are afraid of you. There is an army of a hundred thousand soldiers gathered at Shrek City right now. We will follow you to the end if you wish to do battle."

Du Busi and Elder Xuan combined could restrain Di Tian, even if they couldn't defeat him. The reinforcements who had arrived in Shrek City over the past three days were numerous enough to the point where they had the strength to meet the Great Star Dou Forest head-on.

"Elder Di Tian, Elder Xuan, please calm down. The existence of Spirits is beneficial for both parties. May I conduct the experiment before we begin negotiations?"

Huo Yuhao raised his voice and spoke as he walked over to Di Tian's side.

Elder Xuan's expression warmed a little when he saw Huo Yuhao. The soul beasts had suffered severe losses during the war, but did Shrek Academy not suffer in similar fashion? Even though Shrek Academy's losses were relatively smaller compared to their adversaries, Shrek Academy had lost the greatest number of people in this war across the last ten thousand years. There were already more than a thousand dead from this battle alone.

Di Tian turned around towards Huo Yuhao and nodded as he waved towards Bi Ji.

Bi Ji unleashed a crisp call as various powerful soul beasts instantly stood to one side, and a group of soul beasts gradually walked out.

These soul beasts could only be described as frail and infirm. Those who were severely wounded walked in front, and some of these soul beasts were carried by other soul beasts as the Emerald Swan and her kin treated them. The soul beasts who were positioned at the back seemed very lackadaisical, and their soul power undulations were extremely weak. Evidently, their lives were about to end.

Elder Xuan gestured to the humans, and the crowd separated as the volunteers stepped out.

Huo Yuhao was surprised that not a single member from the Tang Sect appeared amongst these volunteers. Jiang Nannan and Xiao Xiao had recently broken through to Rank 60, but they had claimed their sixth soul rings before this. The Tang Sect's other members hadn't reached a bottleneck. Nan Qiuqiu was close, but she was still one step away.

However, Huo Yuhao wasn't entirely unfamiliar with these volunteers. He actually saw someone he was very familiar with amongst the volunteers...Dai Huabin!

Dai Huabin's soul power is at Rank 60 now? And he hasn't obtained a soul ring?

Not just Dai Huabin stepped out; Ning Tian and Wu Feng were also there, and Ning Tian was dressed like a man as he walked out while holding hands with Wu Feng. Wu Feng was no different from how she used to be, but her expression had become a lot gentler than before.

Several other students from Shrek Academy's inner courtyard had also volunteered. Huo Yuhao could name most of them, while the rest of the volunteers consisted of individuals from those who came to reinforce Shrek City. They greeted and gestured to Huo Yuhao in the distance in unison as they walked out.

Huo Yuhao wasn't very familiar with them, but he could vaguely guess that he had probably rescued most of these people from Sunrise City, and that was the reason why they recognized him.

The soul beasts and soul masters who had volunteered stepped out from their respective camps and stood at the front.

Huo Yuhao turned around and looked at Di Tian as he said calmly, "Elder Di Tian, please attach restrictions to me, but don't hinder my circulation of soul power and spiritual power. You can give me poison if you like."

Di Tian was momentarily stunned, but he immediately understood what Huo Yuhao was trying to say. He answered plainly, "No need. Go."

He is worthy of being called the Beast God! Is he not afraid of me taking this opportunity to escape??Huo Yuhao couldn't help but admire Di Tian as he stared at Di Tian's calm expression. This was how the strongest individual in the world carried himself!

Huo Yuhao didn't say anything flattering, but bowed deeply in Di Tian's direction before he turned around and strode towards the center of both parties.

The Bear Lord frowned and said, "Di Tian, this fellow is very slippery. What if..."

"Shut up!" Di Tian's calm voice was full of unquestionable majesty.

The Bear Lord closed his mouth and said nothing more. His eyes were full of fury and resentment, but he didn't dare to talk back to Di Tian.

Huo Yuhao walked to the center of both sides by himself and said, "Please send your respective representatives out."

A soul beast was delivered in front of Huo Yuhao from the soul beasts' camp. This soul beast was in a truly terrible situation – it was a tiger, and Huo Yuhao could judge from its shape and size that it had at least ten thousand years of cultivation. However, half its body was no longer there, and if the Emerald Swans hadn't been continually supporting his life with healing soul skills, this tiger would have died a long time ago.

The one hundred human volunteers glanced at one another. They were a lot more anxious compared to the soul beasts, and nobody wanted to be the first brave volunteer to take this risk. In the end, nobody knew whether creating Spirits would be dangerous, and they would be a lot nearer to those soul beasts if they stepped forward. If the soul beasts attacked, they would take the brunt of their assault.

At this moment, a cold voice declared, "Let me!"

Someone strode out from the group of humans, and he widened his strides, arriving in front of Huo Yuhao with a few leaps.

A complicated look flashed across Huo Yuhao's eyes when he saw this person, because this person wasn't anyone else but his half-brother. At the same time, this person was the one who had caused his mother's death, and was also his enemy... Dai Huabin!

Even though Dai Huabin's mother was the real culprit, Dai Huabin had directly caused his mother harm. Dai Huabin had kicked Huo Yuhao's mother when her body was already frail and weak. His mother's condition had deteriorated from there, and she couldn't be treated anymore afterwards. Huo Yuhao hated the Duke's wife the most, but Dai Huabin was number two for sure.

He had suppressed this hatred deep in his heart over the years. However, his hatred began to surface as he became stronger and stronger all the way until they were inside the Yin-Yang Love Querying Valley.

Huo Yuhao and Dai Huabin had attempted to rescue their father in the Yin-Yang Love Querying Valley, and had eventually saved the White Tiger Douluo, Dai Hao. Afterwards, Dai Huabin didn't hesitate to ruin his own physical appearance for Zhu Lu, and Huo Yuhao had finally developed a thread of respect for Dai Huabin. However, respect was only respect in the end, and his hatred had never been dispelled.

It wasn't hard to imagine how Huo Yuhao was feeling as he stared at Dai Huabin.

From Huo Yuhao's perspective, this was a great opportunity to exact revenge! As long as he was willing, he could make an accident happen when Dai Huabin was assimilating with his Spirit, and Huo Yuhao could end his life, just like that!

However, this thought only flashed once in Huo Yuhao's head before he gave it up. He arrogantly told himself, "One day, I will use my own identity to stride back into the Duke's Mansion, and I will exact my revenge uprightly and frankly. Murdering him in the dark is shameful, and I can't bring shame to my mother."

With these thoughts in mind, Huo Yuhao swept away the dark shadow in his heart as he nodded in Dai Huabin's direction.

Dai Huabin looked at him with an expression that was far better than before. "You saved my father back then, and I haven't been able to thank you. Perhaps, thanking you is a little late, but I will always remember this favor. You will not be my enemy in the future." He pointed at his heart as he spoke.

Huo Yuhao felt his feelings ripple when he heard those words. He nodded and said, "Prepare yourself. After this, you have to be completely sincere and willing to fuse with the soul beast for it to become your Spirit. You can't reject it in any form at all, because the process will fail otherwise. What I am about to use is an equality contract. If the fusion is successful, the soul beast will become your soul ring. I trust that you know how beneficial Spirits are, so I won't explain any further."

"Alright, come." Dai Huabin just stood there as he relaxed his body and unleashed his martial soul. Dense black and white fur began emerging from his body, and his frame became larger and burlier.

Huo Yuhao turned towards the soul beast and said, "I know you can understand me. This process will be the same for you. If you want to live, and if you want to allow your life to continue, then you have to follow through with this experiment. Do you understand?"

The tiger stared at Huo Yuhao with its remaining eye and slowly nodded its head.

Huo Yuhao took a deep breath and said, "You two have to relax at the same time. Don't reject me in any way, and I will guide you both to complete this fusion ritual."

Huo Yuhao released his Spirit Eyes as he spoke. More accurately put, his Spirit Eyes had transformed qualitatively into another existence after he fused with Wang Qiu'er; they were now the Eyes of the Asura!

Chapter 408.2: Dragon King's Claw

An enormous rose-gold vertical eye appeared behind Huo Yuhao's back as seven soul rings – white, purple, black, black, black, rose-gold, and red – gradually emerged and rose up.

A complicated expression flashed across Dai Huabin's eyes when he saw Huo Yuhao's seven soul rings. He sighed inside, Seems like I will never be able to catch up to him. Seven rings... he's a Soul Sage now, and he's a Soul Sage with a hundred-thousand-year soul ring! Even though he didn't know what had happened to Huo Yuhao recently, Huo Yuhao's exponential advancement dealt quite a blow to Dai Huabin.

Huo Yuhao's eyes shone with clear golden light as he gazed at the tiger. He reached over slowly with his spiritual power, and helped this soul beast condense its spiritual imprint and spiritual power before he helped adjust and regulate its blood so that it would be prepared for the contract. Huo Yuhao began to guide Dai Huabin only when he was done with the tiger.

Something unexpected happened right at this moment. The tiger's dim and lifeless single eye suddenly sparkled with fierce light as its crippled frame forcibly leapt off the ground, and it opened its mouth and bit down at Huo Yuhao. Eye-catching red light shone from its body at the same time; it was triggering its own soul power, and seemed like it was going to self-destruct!

It wasn't hard to imagine how powerful a ten-thousand-year soul beast's self-destruction would be. Furthermore, he was right next to Huo Yuhao, and its intentions were very clear from his behavior. It wanted to hold Huo Yuhao down before it self-destructed, and then they would die together.

Unfortunately, he was up against the Eye of the Asura. Huo Yuhao had already realized that something was wrong when his blood began to surge inside his body. Huo Yuhao's seven soul rings switched to five, and his fourth soul ring glowed as brilliant orange-gold light sparkled. Huo Yuhao slapped out with his right hand with lightning speed, and he touched the tiger's body gently before he pressed it down from midair just like that.

The red light emanating from the soul beast was extinguished just like that. The tiger seemed like it had been frozen and plunked back on the ground, and it seemed to have been transformed into a statue. It didn't move an inch at all.

The Snow Empress' Three Ultimate Techniques, Snowless Glacier!

Before, Huo Yuhao had had to expend a lot of soul power and had to concentrate all his energy to unleash this attack. In this moment, Huo Yuhao used Snowless Glacier easily and casually, and everything seemed as smooth like rolling clouds and flowing water. He wasn't hindered at all.

"Bastard! He wants to take this chance to kill my kin." The Bear Lord howled furiously as his body instantly enlarged, and he prepared to pounce at Huo Yuhao.

Right at this moment, an incredibly dignified voice that was accompanied by terrifying soul power erupted from the Beast God.

"Let me see who dares to move." Di Tian soared into the air as he spoke, and he turned a half round in the sky and arrived in front of the Bear Lord. His eyes were entirely golden as he raised his right hand, and purplish-gold flames burned as Di Tian grabbed the Bear Lord's Darkgolden Terrorclaw, which he was swinging at Huo Yuhao.

The king of the Darkgolden Terrorclaw Bears possessed almost unrivaled strength, and his claws were razor-sharp, but his claws couldn't move a single inch in Di Tian's iron-like grip.

The Bear Lord howled, "Di Tian, you still want to protect that human at a time like this? He killed our kin!"

Di Tian stared at him coldly and said, "You have challenged me time and time again, Bear Lord. Do you actually think that I don't dare to kill you? Even if you want to challenge me, you should be smarter about it. Since you want to die, I will fulfill your wish."

The purplish-gold flames on Di Tian's hand became stronger as he spoke. Similar purplish-gold flames began burning on his body at the same time, and he pressed the Bear Lord down from the sky just like that.

The indignation in the Bear Lord's eyes became fear. He had always been known for his strength, but in this moment, the strength that was coming from Di Tian's single hand was so strong that the Bear Lord couldn't resist him at all.

Di Tian raised his other hand, which began to transform as he raised it up. His human hand became a dragon claw, dark as the night. However, that dragon claw looked like oblivion in the Bear Lord's eyes as a trembling fear from deep within his heart surfaced. He could clearly feel that this dragon claw was a frightening existence that could take his life!

This was the Dragon King's Claw!

The group of restless soul beasts all quieted down when Di Tian's pitch-black dragon claw appeared. They laid down on the ground, prostrate, their bodies quivering. Even the Emerald Swan, the Three-Headed Scarlet Devilmastiff, and the Demoneye Tree went down on one knee.

What was the Dragon King's Claw? Legend had it that the Black Dragons were the Dragon God's personal bodyguards. After the Dragon God separated into the Gold Dragon and Silver Dragon, the Black Dragons protected his two great avatars, and even the Ninth Dragon Prince didn't dare to offend the Black Dragons for nothing. The reason for that was because the Dragon God had fondly recalled the Black Dragons' loyalty, and he gave their leader the title of the Dragon King, and also taught the Dragon King's Claw to the Black Dragons. Only the leaders of each generation of Black Dragons could inherit this supreme innate ability!

The Dragon King's Claw wasn't that different from other powerful soul skills to humans. However, it was vastly different for soul beasts. The Dragon King's Claw carried the Dragon God's aura, and only the most powerful soul beast in the world could possess a skill like this. Once the Dragon King's Claw was unleashed, every single soul beast that wasn't similarly blessed by a God had to submit. Otherwise, they would perish, and disappear into oblivion in the face of the Dragon King's Claw.

Di Tian had never used his Dragon King's Claw before today, not even against the Evileye Tyrant King. But at this moment, he unleashed his Dragon King's Claw, which meant that he was representing the Dragon God, and he was representing the Black Dragons who had protected him. Whoever resisted him, without considering the frightening force that the Dragon King's Claw had against soul beasts, would be challenging every single soul beast in the world that possessed dragon blood.

All soul beasts that had even a thread of dragon blood were proud of that fact. Dragons had once ruled the Douluo Continent: there were sky dragons, there were earth dragons, and there were many species who were relatives of the dragon race. Not even the Dragon God himself could count how many different species of soul beasts possessed dragon blood.

Therefore, not a single soul beast dared to resist the Dragon King's Claw. The Bear Lord was scared shitless! He truly felt Di Tian's intense killing intent!

"Di Tian, no, Di Tian, I was wrong. Forgive me, Di Tian. I promise I will never challenge your authority again." The Bear Lord wasn't an idiot, after all. He had been alive for several hundred thousand years, so what was more important than his life?

Di Tian muttered coldly, "This isn't the first time. You've gone behind my back in the past, and I've been too lazy to fault you for all those little things. However, today's matter concerns the Great Star Dou Forest's future, and yet you dare to stir up trouble. Are you really treating me like I don't exist?"

Di Tian's Dragon King's Claw slashed down from the sky as he spoke, and went straight for the Bear Lord's head.

“Mercy, Di Tian!” Bi Ji couldn’t help but exclaim.

Di Tian’s claw was going for the Bear Lord’s head, but he slanted his claw and struck the Bear Lord’s shoulder instead. The terrifying force of Di Tian’s Dragon King’s Claw was on full display.

Back then, the Valkyrie Douluo Xian Lin’er had used her full strength, but had only chopped a few strands of hair from the Bear Lord’s forehead with her Greenflame Spear. However, the Bear Lord’s frame seemed like it was made from tofu in front of Di Tian’s Dragon King’s Claw, and Di Tian’s claw cut into his shoulder just like that.

“Aargh –” A shrill and agonizing howl erupted from the Bear Lord’s mouth, and his muscular body began to tremble like a pendulum.

Di Tian was right in front of the Bear Lord as he stared into his eyes, which were already full of fear. “This will be the last time. If there’s a next time, I will use your life to wash away my wrath.”

He swung his left hand as he spoke, and the Bear Lord’s enormous frame was sent hurtling through the air like a cannon shell. The Bear Lord crashed through the Great Star Dou Forest, black lightning streaks flickering on his body as if they were about to tear his body apart completely as he flew through the sky. The Bear Lord continued to howl painfully as tough dark golden hair scattered in all directions in the air, and horrifying gashes appeared one after another on his body.

The entire place was deathly quiet.

Who would have thought that the Beast God, Di Tian would lash out against the Great Star Dou Forest’s second-strongest individual himself? Furthermore, he did so with such brutal force. Di Tian’s Dragon King’s Claw was so mighty that he suppressed the Bear Lord to the point that the Bear Lord couldn’t resist at all.

Bi Ji, the Myriad Demon King, and the Scarlet King, along with all the soul beasts on scene, were all prostrate on the ground. Nobody dared to move a muscle.

Di Tian turned around. His expression was ice-cold as he said plainly, “If anyone dares to go against my words, I will make his spirit burn in hell forever.”

The soul beasts didn’t dare to make a sound. They were just lying there on the ground, quivering, and certain soul beasts who had relatively weaker minds even began to lose their bowels.

On the other side in the human camp, Elder Xuan and Du Busi wore solemn expressions. Dragon King’s Claw... Di Tian possessed the Black Dragon’s strongest esoteric ability. They weren’t sure what would have happened if Di Tian had hysterically unleashed his full strength that day!

Elder Xuan couldn’t help but admire Elder Mu even more. If Elder Mu hadn’t used the Golden Tree’s strength to trigger the Taotie’s powers in his body and forcefully imprison Di Tian, Shrek City would probably have been crushed to a pulp by the beast wave. Di Tian was a lot stronger than they had imagined!

Huo Yuhao saw everything Di Tian did. He was now comparing the Beast God with other powerful individuals he had met before, and he realized that besides that teacher of his who came from another world, the Calamity Necromancer Electrolux, nobody was as powerful as the Beast God. Not even the

Darkness Holy Dragon could compare to Di Tian. If Elder Mu were still alive and at his peak condition, he would probably only have a chance against the Beast God if he teamed up with the Darkness Holy Dragon.

Huo Yuhao was sure that Di Tian wasn't a demigod like Electrolux. Otherwise, he wouldn't have to worry about the dangers of his next metamorphosis. Demigods possessed abilities that transcended this world... Of course, Huo Yuhao couldn't tell what that level was like right now...

Chapter 408.3: Dragon King's Claw

"What happened wasn't your fault – continue. You can choose any soul beast you want to cooperate with your experiment." Di Tian turned to Huo Yuhao and spoke plainly, jolting Huo Yuhao awake from his fearful thoughts.

Huo Yuhao nodded and glanced at Dai Huabin beside him. Dai Huabin's reaction was drastically different from his. At this moment, the half-brother with whom he shared a father only had excitement in his eyes. Dai Huabin stared at Di Tian as if he were gazing upon his idol, a pure worship of strength.

"Thank you for your trust." Huo Yuhao bowed towards Di Tian before he walked towards the soul beasts who were representing the Great Star Dou Forest for the experiments.

Di Tian had heavily injured the Bear Lord and was also telling Huo Yuhao through his actions how important these experiments were, and how much emphasis he placed on them. Huo Yuhao didn't know what the Beast God would do if his experiments failed.

There were many powerful individuals in the human camp, but from the strength that Di Tian had just displayed, he didn't even consider these humans a challenge to him.

Huo Yuhao didn't take long to choose a soul beast. He picked another tiger, but he didn't pick from those who were injured. Instead, he picked from the group whose lives were almost at an end due to old age. This tiger was another ten-thousand-year soul beast, and from its appearance, it had about twenty thousand years of cultivation. With Dai Huabin's talent, this tiger was very appropriate for his sixth soul ring.

Huo Yuhao brought this soul beast, whose movements were already a little sluggish, in front of Dai Huabin. This soul beast was a Black Tiger. Its entire body was pitch-black, and there was a white "King" etched onto its forehead. It was five meters long, and even though it was old and infirm, one could tell see its power when it was in its prime. Its skeleton was large, and its four paws were especially thick and wide.

The Large-Palmed Black Tiger was a ferocious soul beast that was adept in melee. Tigers were typically highly regarded within the forest, but very few tigers could go further after reaching a hundred thousand years. It was because tigers were innately domineering and overbearing, and after breaking through a hundred thousand years, they were likely to threaten the ruler's sovereignty. Di Tian didn't have to make a move; the Bear Lord and the Myriad Demon King wouldn't allow any tiger to break through two hundred thousand years.

Huo Yuhao said to this Large-palmed Black Tiger, "I can sense that your life energy is about to be exhausted. If you complete your fusion with him, you will exist in another form. You will still be a king,

and you can still accompany him into battle, and you will still be able to use your powers as a king. Are you willing to try?"

This Large-Palmed Black Tiger's life had several months more to it, at most. The truth was that it had almost died at the hands of other soul beasts before it came forward today, and Bi Ji's kindness had saved it.

Huo Yuhao chose soul beasts who were old and infirm because they hadn't participated in the beast wave, which meant they didn't harbor that much hatred against Shrek City's soul masters.

The tiger nodded slowly. Whether it was because of Di Tian's forceful intimidation or because it wanted to prolong its life, this tiger had no reason to object.

Huo Yuhao continued, "That's good. In a moment, I will begin guiding your spiritual imprint to condense. You have to relax and cooperate with me so that I can fuse your innate abilities with your spiritual imprint. You have to do everything willingly, and only after that can I help you complete the contract."

The Large-palmed Black Tiger growled, and its spiritual undulations became a little excited. However, it was still relatively calm. nove-~~L~~-1n

Huo Yuhao turned to Dai Huabin and said, "Same goes for you. You have to accept this tiger from the bottom of your heart. The fusion after this will be a little painful, so you'll have to hang on."

"Come!" Dai Huabin had always been one of Shrek Academy's individuals who craved strength the most, and even though his tolerance for pain and suffering wasn't as good as Huo Yuhao, he wasn't that far off due to this desire to strengthen himself.

Huo Yuhao reassured both parties before he stared at the Large-palmed Black Tiger, and the Eye of Destiny slowly opened on his forehead.

He had to use his full strength so that he could ensure success!

Spiritual power that wasn't very intense, but gave others a sticky feeling, surged out from Huo Yuhao and encompassed both Dai Huabin and the tiger.

Huo Yuhao's soul rings, that had transcended ordinary circumstances, rose from beneath his feet and attracted the attention of every single human and soul beast there.

A gentle golden light burst out from Huo Yuhao's rose-gold Eye of Destiny and landed on the tiger's forehead.

The tiger quivered once before it just lay there.

The tiger's current physical situation meant there was no way it could release a burst of energy or use too much strength, but it was best at relaxing.

Huo Yuhao's formidable spiritual power wasn't something it could fight against. His spiritual power went straight in smoothly, and Huo Yuhao quickly found its spiritual imprint and spiritual origin.

Huo Yuhao wasn't hasty, gradually releasing amiable will as he guided the tiger to control its own spiritual power at the same time.

A faint golden layer of light began to emerge from the tiger's body. Under Huo Yuhao's guidance, its spiritual origin, its spiritual imprint, and part of its purest soul power began to gather with the mysterious power contained within its innate bloodline.

This was a very long process. In the end, he was working on a soul beast that had more than twenty thousand years of cultivation. Furthermore, this was the first time that Huo Yuhao was carrying out a material experiment. He didn't dare to be careless at all, and he did everything meticulously.

Nobody knew more about Spirits than Huo Yuhao. Following the improvement of his spiritual power, Huo Yuhao gained an increasingly deeper understanding of the magic that Electrolux had left behind for him. Juxtaposed with the changes in his martial soul, his ability to control his spiritual power became stronger every time he underwent closed-door cultivation.

Both parties watched Huo Yuhao's actions nervously, and not a single human or soul beast dared to make a sound.

They knew that if Huo Yuhao succeeded, he would make history on the Douluo Continent. He would have invented a formidable ability that could be popularized besides soul rings and soul bones!

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Fifteen minutes later, the golden light on the tiger's body became stronger, and everyone could see that golden light had begun to surge from its tail. Its body began to decay and darken wherever this golden light passed; its tail's fur lost its shine first, and its hind legs went next. The golden light that was slowly shifting forward became increasingly brilliant.

Finally, all that golden light concentrated on the tiger's head and had become so intense that nobody could see its body anymore.

Huo Yuhao raised his left hand as the golden light condensed into a staff that appeared in his grip, and deep and drawn-out incantations could be heard.

Those incantations were very bright and clear, but nobody could understand what he was saying. The unfamiliar voice seemed to cause heaven and earth to tremble along with it.

A golden hexagon began to take shape on the ground. This hexagon encompassed Huo Yuhao, Dai Huabin, and the Large-palmed Black Tiger.

Huo Yuhao's body slowly drifted into the air, the Eye of the Asura appeared behind his back as a vertical eye.

His chanting became sharper and higher in pitch as his seventh soul ring glowed, and the vertical eye behind him burst with light as that light swallowed him entirely, and he transformed into the Eye of the Asura.

Rose-gold sun patterns lit up several hundred meters around him, and intense spiritual undulations caused even the expressions of the Beast God, the Taotie Douluo Elder Xuan, and the Body Douluo Du Busi to change.

Rose-gold streaks of light flickered one after another as Dai Huabin and the Large-palmed Black Tiger were pulled closer to one another.

A beam descended on Dai Huabin's head, and another pulled on the tiger. Under the effects of Huo Yuhao's chants, they were finally pulled to within one foot of one another.

Huo Yuhao's will guided Dai Huabin, and Dai Huabin slowly raised his right hand and pressed it against the Large-palmed Black Tiger's forehead. Dai Huabin began to chant something, as the tiger also began to make sounds that sounded like whimpering.

The hexagon beneath them became brighter and brighter as strange glyphs rose up one after another. These glyphs circled around their bodies as gentle spiritual and soul power undulations orbited them at the same time.

Di Tian, Elder Xuan, and the others who had seen many things and were very knowledgeable could clearly feel the peculiar transformations that were happening between Dai Huabin and that Large-Palmed Black Tiger.

The process was similar to absorbing soul rings. Dai Huabin was actually absorbing something from the tiger, while the tiger's life energy was continuously slipping away. However, its body was integrating into Dai Huabin's body, creating something that wasn't a soul ring.

Both the humans the soul beasts could tell at this point that Huo Yuhao's research into Spirits had its reason and rationality. Even though the process wasn't yet complete, they knew that Huo Yuhao's claims weren't empty.

The Eye of the Asura slowly rose into the sky and retreated as Huo Yuhao returned to human form and ended his martial soul true body.

Huo Yuhao had already helped Dai Huabin and the tiger complete the necessary incantations. Now, he would have to wait and see if they could complete their fusion.

Huo Yuhao took a deep breath and watched everything that was happening in the hexagon nervously. This was an equal contract, so approval from both parties for each other was more important than anything else. If either had any objections during this approval process, the ceremony would fail.

At this moment, the benefit of Huo Yuhao choosing this old and infirm Large-Palmed Black Tiger began to show. The tiger was aging, and if it didn't approve Dai Huabin and couldn't become his Spirit, then the tiger would die for sure! These circumstances discreetly raised the tiger's sincerity exponentially. Huo Yuhao couldn't guess Dai Huabin's mentality at this moment, so he could only resign things to fate.

Seconds and minutes passed as the light inside the hexagon became increasingly strong, while the glyphs became increasingly numerous.

Suddenly, all the glyphs paused in midair as the Large-palmed Black Tiger's enormous frame slanted and collapsed inside the hexagon. It had lost every last bit of its life energy.

The soul beasts that were prostrate on the ground, especially those who were about to be experimented on, all stood up in unison and stared at Dai Huabin. Fear and anger began to surface in their eyes.

Chapter 409.1: Spirit Experimentation

However, at the very next moment, all of the symbols surged toward Dai Huabin like rivers emptying into an ocean. A black soul ring almost twice as big as a normal soul ring rose from underneath his feet. As it rose, his original five soul rings also became much darker. ~~no~~ In

“Rawr!” A ferocious tiger’s roar rang out from Dai Huabin’s mouth.

“Rawr!” Then, another excited tiger roar was heard!

Dai Huabin’s new black soul ring glowed brightly. His entire body became illusory, and with that, a ray of black emerged from his chest and landed in front of him.

Four huge tiger paws landed on the ground. Wasn’t that shadow that Large-Palmed Black Tiger? However, it was no longer near the end of its life. Instead, its body had become much stronger. Furthermore, its fur now glowed with a faint, golden light. Streaks of white tiger stripes appeared on its back, and the ‘King’ symbol on its forehead was much larger. While its body looked illusory and incorporeal, it was otherwise indistinguishable from before.

“Rawr!” It roared excitedly once more. The Large-Palmed Black Tiger turned around, stood up, and placed its front paws on Dai Huabin’s shoulders.

Dai Huabin laughed, “It worked!” As he said that, he grabbed the front two paws of the Large-palmed Black Tiger and lifted it up strongly. Its paws landed on his back, and then both human and tiger paused. After Dai Huabin unleashed his White Tiger, the fur between its black and white stripes turned black. He slapped forward with his right hand, and in mid-air, a huge black tiger paw appeared. It smashed down onto the ground, creating a crater a few meters deep in the shape of a tiger’s paw.

The Large-palmed Black Tiger behind him lowered its head and charged. Dai Huabin and it were synchronized perfectly. He leaped into the air and landed firmly on his back. The four limbs of the Large-palmed Black Tiger brimmed with strength as it jumped up and down in the plains between the humans and the soul beasts. It was incredibly fast, and Dai Huabin laughed excitedly.

“Spirit, it really is a Spirit!” After a momentary calm, the soul masters burst into discussion as excited voices rang out everywhere.

The same thing happened on the soul beasts’ side. Instead of chattering, the many different types of soul beasts roared and grunted.

The chill in Di Tian’s eyes disappeared, replaced with an unusual excitement.

It had worked! The equal contract between Dai Huabin and this Large-palmed Black Tiger was successful. The Large-palmed Black Tiger was now his replacement for his sixth soul ring!

Both humans and soul beasts could see the massive advantage a Spirit had over a soul ring. First of all, a Spirit could provide a soul skill just like a soul ring. Just now, Dai Huabin’s Black Tiger Spirit Palm was able to demonstrate the strength of a soul skill. Furthermore, a Spirit had consciousness! Right now, it carried Dai Huabin on its back and served as his steed. How majestic was that?! Furthermore, this Large-palmed Black Tiger could evidently fight as well. This was way superior to merely possessing a soul ring!

“Wait a moment, I want to do an experiment,” Huo Yuhao said, as he sent spiritual intent out to Dai Huabin, who had already ridden away.

Instantly, the Large-palmed Black Tiger turned around and returned to Huo Yuhao.

The Large-palmed Black Tiger lowered its body, and Dai Huabin slid off it and stood in front of Huo Yuhao. Right now, his face was brimming with excitement. He had dared to take part in this experiment not because he trusted Huo Yuhao, but because he didn't want to forgo any opportunity that could strengthen him. The first person to do anything would face risks, but Dai Huabin was smart. As the first person in line, Huo Yuhao would do his best to make sure that it went smoothly. Obviously, he was proven right!

This Spirit, a Large-palmed Black Tiger, was much better than he had expected!

Huo Yuhao turned to look at the soul beasts and said, "Elder Di Tian, please come forward." Then, he looked at the human side and invited Elder Xuan forward as well

They were the representatives from the two sides!

Di Tian and Elder Xuan's bodies shone, and in the next instant, they were standing next to Huo Yuhao.

Huo Yuhao said to Di Tian, "Elder Di Tian, please verify that this Large-palmed Black Tiger has retained its original consciousness."

The body, or carcass, of this Large-palmed Black Tiger, still lay there. Next to Dai Huabin stood its Spirit.

Di Tian nodded as he looked at the Large-palmed Black Tiger.

With just one action, this twenty-thousand-year Large-palmed Black Tiger was able to demonstrate that it had retained its original consciousness to the Beast God. It crouched on the ground and it straightened its tail into the air, like a pug wagging its tail to endear itself to the Beast God.

A deep growl emerged from the mouth of this Large-palmed Black Tiger. Huo Yuhao did not know what it said, but from its spiritual fluctuations, he could guess that it was talking to the Beast God.

Di Tian listened for a while before nodding. Then, he lifted his right hand and placed it on Dai Huabin's shoulder.

Dai Huabin's body trembled for a bit as he tried to resist, but how could he defy the powerful Beast God? Elder Xuan and Huo Yuhao did not intervene to stop Di Tian from placing his hand on Dai Huabin's shoulder.

Di Tian closed his eyes and sensed quietly. Dai Huabin felt his body going as still as a statue. There was no way for him to move.

The Large-palmed Black Tiger next to him looked at him occasionally. Its excitement turned into fear, an innate fear of the Beast God.

Elder Xuan looked at Huo Yuhao inquisitively, but Huo Yuhao just smiled and nodded at him. The moment the ceremony was completed, he was confident that it had succeeded.

Di Tian did not probe for too long. He retracted his right hand, and the Beast God opened his eyes once more. He looked at Huo Yuhao, and his severe expression softened. He nodded at Yuhao and said, "You have made history."

These four simple words made Huo Yuhao feel as if a huge burden had been lifted from his shoulders. He replied to Di Tian, "I'm just glad that I didn't let you down."

Di Tian nodded and said, "Continue, let's see what its success rate is like."

Huo Yuhao nodded earnestly.

The success of a single experiment did not mean anything. If its success rate was only ten percent, then no matter how good a Spirit was, it would not be very effective. There would be no way for him to introduce it to the masses.

Huo Yuhao turned to Dai Huabin and said, "Please go back."

Dai Huabin looked deep in his eyes and said, "Thank you, I owe you one." With that, he leapt into the air, and his Large-palmed Black Tiger did the same, catching him in mid-air. Together, they turned into a bolt of black lightning as they quickly dashed back to the human's side.

Dai Huabin was not the only excited one! This Large-palmed Black Tiger was just as excited. It had reached the end of its life, but it managed to live again using another method. Furthermore, it was at the peak of its strength. While its life was interconnected with Dai Huabin's, this fate was much better than death. By tying its fate with Dai Huabin, it could even experience the wonders of the human world.

Dai Huabin's success made both humans and soul beasts excited about the experiment. Even the soul beasts that were severely injured felt their hatred for humans decrease. After all, who did not want to live? One's survival instinct was always stronger than the desire for revenge.

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However, Huo Yuhao still did not choose an injured soul beast for his second experiment. Instead, he chose another old soul beast.

From the humans, he chose an outer courtyard student of Shrek Academy again, whose soul power had just reached Rank 30.

This fusion was exceptionally successful. This time, the entire contract ceremony took less than two hours to complete. A thick purple soul ring and a Purplejade Falcon became this student's Spirit.

While a Purplejade Falcon could not be ridden like a Large-palmed Black Tiger, the two of them shared a mental bond, which made the student jump around excitedly.

The crowd was ignited by the two successes. The first thing to change was the emotions of the soul beasts. Their intense enmity dropped visibly, and the soul beasts which were in line now showed signs of anticipation.

Huo Yuhao did not stop. He conducted experiments, one after another. His initial successes created a good foundation for his later trials. Not only did it make him more experienced, but he also earned the trust of both humans and soul beasts. As the two sides formed their contracts, it was less likely for any problems to occur.

However, not all contracts were successful. Among the soul beasts, some of them still tried to resist the humans. After twenty rounds of experimentation, Huo Yuhao failed twice. One of the soul beasts died, as its body was too weak.

However, this did not affect the overall results of the Spirit experimentation. A success rate of ninety percent answered many questions.

Huo Yuhao's vast spiritual power prevented fatigue from setting in. He continued his experimentations from dawn until night. In between, he rested twice. When night fell, all one hundred experiments were completed.

Among them, eighty-six pairs were able to form their contracts successfully. Among the fourteen pairs that failed, six soul beasts died because they were too weak. The other soul beasts which lived were in pretty bad shape, too.

Huo Yuhao did not end the experiment just like this. He helped the remaining eight soul beasts that survived form contracts again.

This time, five succeeded and three died.

In the end, the success rate stood at ninety-one percent. Ninety-one soul masters from Shrek Academy and the original three countries of the Douluo Continent now possessed their own Spirits.

The experiment could be considered a success, and the results were better than expected. The soul masters with Spirits all released their Spirits to interact with them and deepen their bond. As the others looked at how excited they were, they could not help but admire them.

Chapter 409.2: Spirit Experimentation

However, not everyone was happy. The unhappiest bunch were the Titled Douluo. Their soul rings were all complete, and they could never possess a Spirit. When they saw their juniors with their Spirits, how could they not be envious of them?

While the experiment was successful, Huo Yuhao asked to remain with the soul beasts, standing distinctly apart from the soul masters.

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The first day of the experiment was a huge success, but it was not the end. They still had to do a lot of statistical research, such as the situation of a fusion between a soul master and a Spirit, the amount of spirit power drained, and the number of soul rings that could be formed, among other things.

The next question they wanted to investigate was how many Spirits a single human could fuse with.

Then, they wanted to research if Huo Yuhao's equal contract could be done by the soul masters themselves. If they wanted to perfect the Spirit System, there were many things for them to do.

Of course, Huo Yuhao did not have to do all these things personally. Shrek Academy's research in the area of martial souls was ranked first on the entire continent. The many elders of the Sea God's Pavilion and teachers of the Academy had already started their research and data collection. Once soul masters could form equal contracts by themselves, there would be a lot less things for Huo Yuhao to do.

Huo Yuhao's hard work for the day had not been wasted. The most obvious change was that the enmity between the humans and the soul beasts was greatly reduced. They were no longer spoiling for a fight, and the Bear Lord had yet to reappear.

The success of the Spirit experimentation helped to alleviate the unresolved conflict between humans and soul beasts. Even though further experiments were required, they had at least found a direction to work toward. Just like the Beast God Di Tian had said, Huo Yuhao had made history today!

As he smiled faintly, Huo Yuhao finally closed his eyes tiredly, and started to meditate. While his spiritual power was strong enough, he was completely drained after today.

Elder Xuan stood next to him to protect him while he rested. On the side of the soul beasts, the Myriad Demon King and the Scarlet King stood on either side of him, as well.

In the eyes of both humans and soul beasts, Huo Yuhao's position had been greatly elevated. He was the only one who could currently complete Spirit Contracts.

The people who were the most excited were the soul masters who had already fused with their soul beasts. The signing of the equal contracts meant that they were the first batch of soul masters to possess Spirits. As of right now, a Spirit was much more useful than a soul ring. Even if they could only possess one Spirit, this would greatly increase their strength. Some of them even hoped that the subsequent experiments would fail so that they would be the only ones who possessed Spirits. Of course, such a perverted mindset was only shared by a few of them.

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Many soul beasts spent the night in admiration and regret, particularly those who had reached a bottleneck. This sentiment was shared by the soul masters who lacked the courage to be the first batch of test subjects.

The soul masters from Shrek Academy were in a better mood. After all, Huo Yuhao came from Shrek Academy. They believed that they still stood a chance to get a spirit in the future. However, the external soul masters were dejected. They could not remain in Shrek City forever. The moment they left, they would never be able to experience a Spirit Fusion! Obviously, there would be truckloads of soul masters hoping Huo Yuhao could help them fuse with Spirits. He could barely manage the soul masters from Shrek Academy by himself!

At this time, Shrek Academy demonstrated its magnanimity. The elders of the Sea God's Pavilion indicated that the moment Shrek Academy achieved a breakthrough in Spirit research, they would attempt to spread it across the entire continent, and not keep it for themselves.

The reinforcements all acknowledged this promise. They knew that Shrek Academy would never go back on its word. In the Douluo Continent, Shrek's prestige and name were without equal. If they said they would do it, they would do it. If not, they would not even have shared the secret of Spirits with everyone in the first place.

The vast majority of soul masters understood Shrek Academy's mindset. After all, the conflict between soul masters and soul beasts had become increasingly aggravated. In the Douluo Continent, the habitats of all soul beasts, with the exception of the Great Star Dou Forest, had been shrinking for several

thousand years, due to the increase in soul masters and soul engineers. In particular, the development of soul engineers affected even ten-year and hundred-year soul beasts. If this continued, what could humans do when they no longer had soul power? At that time, even the soul tools that required soul power would be useless, much less soul masters.

The appearance of Spirits helped to mitigate this perennial conflict between humans and soul beasts. As long as they could be propagated, it would slow the reduction of soul beasts and give them time to reproduce. Of course, the formation of Spirits still needed soul beasts, and very few soul beasts were on the brink of death. Hence, Spirits could not completely resolve the conflict between human and soul beasts, but only mitigate it to a certain extent. However, this was a good start. With its Spirit research, perhaps Shrek Academy would even be able to obtain more breakthroughs. What if they found a better way to replace soul rings?

Before the appearance of Spirits, many soul masters would have snorted at this notion. However, the moment Spirits appeared, these same soul masters were in awe. The situation became completely different. They became much more confident in Shrek!

With the success of his research and experimentation on Spirits, Huo Yuhao was able to atone for his previous mistakes at Shrek Academy. Furthermore, the more radical elders of the Sea God's Pavilion, such as Elder Song and Elder Xuan, did not even believe that this problem was Huo Yuhao's fault.

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The next morning, as the sky in the distance started to turn white, Huo Yuhao woke from his meditation and habitually unleashed his Purple Demon Eyes to start his cultivation.

He then surveyed the bodies of the Spirits and soul masters, and asked them how they felt. Then, he personally inspected the level of coordination between each Spirit and soul master, as well as the degree of consciousness of each Spirit.

After a whole day, he was able to gather a huge amount of data. At night, he invited a few human representatives, as well as the Savage Beasts who represented the soul beasts.

"Everyone," said Huo Yuhao, as he bowed to everyone present. After all, these characters were incredibly influential in the entire continent, particularly the Beast God Di Tian, who was probably the strongest being in the entire Douluo Continent.

Di Tian nodded at Huo Yuhao. He was noticeably warmer than before.

Huo Yuhao continued, "Elders, the success rate of the experiment yesterday is delightful. The success rate is above ninety percent, which indicates that my research has been successful. Today, I conducted even more research and further experiments, which show that the situation is optimistic. Right now, the soul masters and Spirits that have fused are very well-coordinated, particularly the soul masters whose martial souls share the same element as their Spirits. After their fusion, their strength has increased visibly, and their Spirits have remained conscious and aware. Two Spirits, however, were the exceptions. Earlier on, they both suffered massive brain damage, and in the fusion process, they lost their consciousness."

Di Tian nodded. He could accept some amount of failure. After all, this was just the beginning. With more experience, he believed that the process could be bettered.

Huo Yuhao continued, "Other than these two soul beasts, the other Spirits are in good shape. They can fight according to their own will and can also assist their soul masters to a certain extent. Through my research, I have discovered that for hundred-year Spirits, they can only give their soul masters a single soul skill. This goes without saying. Furthermore, in the future, they can no longer give their soul masters any more soul skills. However, their demand for their soul masters' spiritual power is the least, and this type of fusion is the most successful.

"For thousand-year soul beasts, when they sign their equal contracts with their soul masters, they will need a longer time to fuse. They have higher emotional demands of one another. When the two sides fuse, I can help to coordinate the two sides to a certain extent. If not, the success rate will decrease significantly. Furthermore, these fusions demand more spiritual power from both soul master and soul beast. According to my current studies, it is difficult for a soul master to gain another Spirit after having fused with a thousand-year Spirit. Unless their mental cultivation is exceptional, it is not likely for them to experience a second successful fusion."

Huo Yuhao mentioned the downsides of Spirit Fusion of his own accord. Both Di Tian and Bi Ji nodded when they heard this. They were satisfied with him. His words were enough to demonstrate the sincerity of his experiment.

Huo Yuhao continued, "When it comes to ten-thousand year soul beasts, it will be very hard for them to undergo a Spirit Fusion. I need to use a lot more of my spiritual power to control their emotions. This is because after a soul beast reaches the ten-thousand-year threshold, it will become sentient, and vastly more intelligent. Its emotions become harder to control.

"Furthermore, their own spiritual power and strength will increase, and hence, their autonomy will make them reject the contract to a certain extent. When they sign their contracts with soul masters, both sides will require more spiritual power. Furthermore, the pain these soul masters must endure will be beyond the level a normal human can endure. Hence, in the process of completing this pact, the soul masters must demonstrate a very strong will.

"However, I am certain that unless a soul master has a spiritual-type martial soul like me, it is impossible for a soul master to fuse a second time after he or she has fused with a ten-thousand year Spirit."

Chapter 409.3: Spirit Experimentation

"However, a thousand-year Spirit and a ten-thousand-year Spirit are obviously more useful than a hundred-year spirit. Through my conversation with the soul masters and the Spirits, I realized that a thousand-year Spirit with two soul skills can fuse with a soul master. However, after fusion, its first soul skill can fuse with its soul master, as well. In other words, the soul master can use another soul skill, exactly as if he had gained another soul ring. This soul skill can be used by the Spirit itself as part of its fighting skills. The other soul skill will be hidden in the Spirit's body. If a soul master's cultivation reaches the bottleneck of the next rank, the Spirit can unleash its soul skill to be the soul master's next soul ring. The precondition is that the soul master must accept it.

“From my perspective, it is highly likely that soul masters will accept it because their Spirit can only unleash the soul rings that it gives them. This will further strengthen his Spirit and compensate for the disparity between this soul ring and a higher-ranked one. At the same time, the higher the rank of that soul ring, the harder it will be to obtain it, and more difficult to find one that is suited for himself. Hence, why doesn't he just use the soul skill the Spirit can give him? To many soul masters, this is not a hard choice.

“When it comes to ten-thousand-year Spirits, they are even more useful for a soul master. First of all, the biggest benefit of a ten-thousand-year Spirit is that they are sentient. While it is harder to fuse with one, once completed, their intelligence will enable them to fuse their own fighting abilities with their soul master's, greatly benefiting the latter. In a fight, the Spirit will be part of the soul master's fighting abilities, and that's without it even providing a soul skill.

“A ten-thousand-year soul beast, according to its cultivation, can provide between three and four soul skills for its soul master, who has the option to choose. In comparison, a soul master can only depend on luck when fusing with a soul ring. Furthermore, when one obtains a ten-thousand-year Spirit when one already has six rings, one will choose the soul ring the Spirit brings along with it when they add a seventh ring. This will ensure that the soul skill will be implanted into the Spirit, giving the Spirit an additional ability. For soul masters, this is tantamount to obtaining a ten-thousand-year soul ring.

“A soul master's seventh soul skill is his Martial Soul True Body, which does not carry a soul skill with it. This is something that perplexes us soul masters, especially because of the benefits of a seventh soul ring. By giving the seventh soul skill to one's Spirit, this problem will be eliminated. Even if a soul master cannot use the soul skill himself, it will still benefit him greatly! This is equivalent to having one extra soul skill, how great is that?”

Huo Yuhao described it very clearly, and the humans and soul beasts who heard him all nodded. On the soul masters' side, many eyes gleamed. These powerful soul masters were all thinking how their disciples' fighting styles would change after they had obtained their Spirits. ~~nove-18~~.In

As the first batch of test subjects, they were already ahead of their time!

Di Tian said, “These benefits are good. The problem now is, what's the success rate of the soul masters forming these contracts themselves? If we can't resolve this problem, no matter how good Spirits are, all they will bring to us soul beasts is more harm.”

Huo Yuhao nodded and said, “I've considered this problem. What I can be sure of now is that if they try to fuse with hundred-year soul beasts, the success rate will be similar to mine. However, if they try it with thousand-year soul beasts or ten-thousand-year soul beasts, the success rate will drop visibly. However, this may not always be the case.

“In signing a contract with a soul beast and completing the Spirit Transformation, a very important point is the spiritual power of the soul master involved. When the soul beast and the soul master are both willing, his spiritual power is extremely important. Hence, there's one situation which is highly beneficial to the Spiritual Fusion process. Not only can it greatly increase one's chance of success, but it will also benefit the soul master immensely.”

“Oh, there’s such a way? What is it?” Du Busi the Body Douluo asked. From his tone right now, he did not treat Huo Yuhao as his junior, but instead as his equal.

Huo Yuhao said, “The soul master has to delay obtaining his next soul ring. Let me give an example: when a four-ringed Soul Ancestor’s soul power reaches Rank 50 under normal circumstances, he will try and obtain another soul ring to become a five-ringed Soul King, right?”

“When he obtains his soul ring, the most powerful one he can obtain is a ten-thousand-year soul ring. He can’t obtain one that is twenty thousand-years or more. I won’t go into details, but everyone’s following me, right?”

The many powerful humans all nodded.

Huo Yuhao said, “So what if he doesn’t try and fuse with his soul ring at this moment? What will happen? Ten thousand years ago, the Grandmaster of Shrek Academy told us in his research into the ten core forces of the soul master world that soul power will continually accumulate until the soul master has obtained his next soul ring, before it will burst out. In other words, if one continues cultivating, one’s soul power will continually increase, but it won’t reveal itself.

“For many soul masters, they cannot bear such a delay. After all, by obtaining a soul ring, one’s soul power will increase tremendously, which is also accompanied by an improvement in the quality of the soul master’s strength. However, if a soul master does not obtain a soul ring at this moment and continues cultivating, he will not only improve his soul power, but also his spiritual power. For a normal soul master, his spiritual power will increase along with his soul power. The more he cultivates, the more he meditates, the stronger his spiritual power will be. If his soul power can be suppressed for a while, and he is given more time to improve, his spiritual power can fulfill the criteria easily when he fuses with his Spirit. At the same time, this kind of training will make a soul master more stable and resilient, traits which are important when it comes to Spiritual Fusion. The success rate will thus naturally increase. Even without me, the contract can be completed.

“In an optimal situation, if a four-ringed soul master can increase his soul power to Rank 60 before obtaining a Spirit, I can guarantee that his success rate, even if it’s with a ten-thousand-year Spirit, will be more than eighty percent. Once it’s done, he can obtain two ten-thousand-year soul rings, which will allow his strength to increase massively.”

Du Busi nodded non-stop. The conditions that Huo Yuhao were laying out could definitely be met. In his Body Sect, there were soul masters who cultivated like this. For some of the more anxious and gung-ho disciples, he would purposely deny them their soul rings so that they could improve their personality.

Elder Xuan said, “Your contract seems very difficult. How long will it take to master?”

Huo Yuhao said, “I’ve considered this, too. I believe that it’s not ideal for everyone to learn it. Once someone knows how to make a contract, a soul master will find it hard to resist the temptation of finding a Spirit. They will go and search for soul beasts, and the process of Spiritual Fusion is extremely difficult. Once it fails, the soul beast will be injured, and the soul master will not escape unscathed, either. It’s best for someone like me to facilitate the process as an outsider. This maximizes the success rate and prevents either side from getting hurt. Furthermore, the conductor will also be able to bear a portion of the pressure placed on the soul master. This will make the contract process a lot easier.”

Elder Xuan frowned and said, "You are just one person. Will you help everyone?"

Huo Yuhao said confidently, "Of course I can't do it alone. However, I believe that there are some people who are competent enough."

This aroused Di Tian's interest, and he asked Huo Yuhao, "What kind of people?"

Huo Yuhao replied, "Soul masters with spiritual-type martial souls like me!

"Normally, they will cultivate their spiritual power. The more powerful their spiritual power is, the stronger their martial soul be. Hence, in terms of spiritual power, even a three-ringed Soul Elder will be have greater spiritual power than a normal Soul Emperor. With spiritual-type soul masters as the middleman, the chance of success will naturally be higher. Furthermore, after they learn the contract process from me, it will increase their chances even more.

"While there are not many soul masters with spiritual-type martial souls, they are still a significant portion of the population. However, there are only a few spiritual-type soul beasts, so it's hard for them to become strong. If we can gather them, I'll train them and guarantee that afterward, the success rate of a Spiritual Fusion mediated by them will reach seventy percent or more. The specific success rate will depend on the spiritual cultivation of the soul master. By then, I will have divided them by their cultivation. Those with more powerful spiritual power will help the higher-ranked Spirits and soul masters, and those with less powerful spiritual power will fuse the ten-year and hundred-year Spirits with lower-ranked soul masters. This will help to increase the chances of success."

"This makes sense," agreed Du Busi promptly. "Yuhao's words make sense. Xuan Zi and I share the same opinion. The contract is rather complicated, and not something that an ordinary soul master can master. Furthermore, as one makes the contract, it will drain one of their spiritual power. With a bunch of people dedicated to facilitating the contract process, the success rate will be higher. Those who possess spiritual-type martial souls are the best candidates.

"Good idea! We can try it once we get back. I have some soul masters like the ones you've described in my Body Sect. Let me tell you now that the Body Sect will learn from Shrek Academy."

Huo Yuhao said nothing, but smiled faintly.

Elder Xuan's mouth twitched as he said, "Old Poison, you sure know to benefit yourself! Huo Yuhao is the only one who can administer the contract. You now plan on learning the skill for yourself!"

Chapter 410.1: Spirit Pagoda

Du Busi laughed heartily and said, "Isn't that great? We'll be saving Yuhao the trouble of traveling everywhere. Shrek Academy has already guaranteed that they will publicize this contract."

Elder Xuan frowned and turned to Huo Yuhao.

Huo Yuhao seemed to have expected this situation to appear a long time ago, and Du Busi wasn't the only one to have such thoughts. The other powerful individuals from the various sects and academies were all very interested in his contract.

Huo Yuhao smiled faintly and said, "You don't have to worry, elders. I have a suggestion for that. First, we have to split the process into several steps. For the first step, everyone will have to send someone

from your respective sects and academies who has at least three soul rings and is a spiritual-type soul master to Shrek Academy, so that we can conveniently train everyone together. Since Shrek Academy has promised to release the method of contracting Spirits to the public, we will not go back on our word.”

Every powerful soul master’s face began to sparkle when he said those words. Their heads bobbed up and down, and their eyes were as friendly as could be as they stared at Huo Yuhao.

Huo Yuhao said, “But...”

Everyone’s eyes focused. They stared at him quietly; from their perspective, Huo Yuhao definitely had some conditions to fulfill. However, even if he proposed certain conditions in favor of Shrek Academy or for himself, everyone could only agree so that they could have contracts with Spirits. In the end, Spirits could be considered something that would change the course of history for the development of soul masters in the future! Whoever could be ahead of everyone could develop one step faster than everyone else. Who was willing to give that up?

Huo Yuhao continued, “But we need to have rules. First, the contract between soul masters and soul beasts must be established on the foundations of mutual willingness. Our rationale for researching Spirits from the beginning wasn’t so that we could boost the strength of soul masters even further. Rather, we researched Spirits so that we could reduce the number of soul beasts we have to kill, and so that we can reduce the conflict between humans and soul beasts.

“Both humans and soul beasts are a part of the Continent, and we are all part of the balance of life. Killing soul beasts excessively will move humans closer to our own extinction in the future. Therefore, I have to ask everyone to remember this point.”

Everyone that Huo Yuhao was facing were powerful Titled Douluo, but Huo Yuhao wasn’t timid at all. His face was very solemn and serious when he said those words.

The group of powerful individuals tilted their heads slightly. They were all substantially important people in the world of soul masters, and they were very clear about a future where the number of soul beasts in the Continent was greatly diminished, and where top-tier soul beasts were few and far between. Therefore, even though Huo Yuhao’s words seemed a little simple compared to the benefits that Spirits would bring, they were still moved by his words.

Huo Yuhao continued, “Therefore, because of our original intentions, we cannot let the fusion of Spirits spread unchecked. All kinds of circumstances will arise if that happens, and Spirits will turn from a good thing into a bad one. Thus, I suggest that we establish an organization specifically for the fusion of Spirits and the contracts involved. This organization will help reconcile humans and soul beasts, and we will fix dates to execute fusions with Spirits.”

“Form an organization? What kind of organization do you want to establish?” Du Busi asked doubtfully.

Huo Yuhao answered, “This organization’s main function will be to supervise and take charge of the contract between soul beasts and soul masters. At the same time, only spiritual-type soul masters who belong to this organization can be taught the method of conducting this contract. These spiritual-type soul masters cannot withdraw once they join.”

The group of Titled Douluo couldn't help but draw a cold breath when they heard his words. They were all intelligent people, and they understood what kind of immense strength this organization that Huo Yuhao was suggesting they establish would possess when it was developed.

The director who controlled all this would control all sources of Spirits! Everyone knew how practical Spirits were, and this was definitely the direction that soul masters would pursue in the future. Under such circumstances, if an organization controlled everything to do with Spirits, how great would their power over soul masters be?

"This organization will belong to Shrek?" Du Busi spoke his doubts without hesitation. If this organization was in Shrek Academy's hands, then Shrek Academy would no longer be the number-one academy in the world... they would skyrocket to become the number-one entity in the world!

Huo Yuhao shook his head and smiled, "Don't worry, elders. Shrek doesn't have this ambition. This organization will belong to everyone, and it will be managed by everyone. My suggestion is for all three empires to choose several sects and academies who will send out their representatives, and Shrek Academy will also send out our representative, and we will come together to form a conference hall for this organization. Every decision that this organization has to make in the future will have to go through this conference hall. As for the rules after joining this conference hall, they will be up to you, elders, and the three empires to determine."

Everyone heaved a sigh of relief when they heard his words.

Elder Xuan smiled faintly, but he didn't speak too much from the beginning to the end. This organization had been something that Huo Yuhao, Yan Shaozhe, and the others had considered when they first began their research on Spirits.

If this organization wasn't monitored and checked, its strength would spread unchecked. There were too many tricks and schemes that humans could use against soul beasts, and who could predict how this organization would change in the future? Therefore, certain regulations were necessary for executing the equal contracts. However, this wasn't something that Shrek Academy could control on their own.

If Shrek Academy was the only one controlling this organization, perhaps Shrek Academy's strength would swell rapidly in the short term, but when that happened, they would become the entire Douluo Continent's enemy. Shrek Academy's strength would arouse the envy of others!

Therefore, this organization could only belong to all three empires and Shrek Academy at the same time. The Academy seemed to be at a disadvantage in this agreement, but Shrek Academy only had their own city behind them, and their Academy was being lifted to the same status as the other three empires, so this was considered a success for the Academy. Furthermore, Shrek Academy was the one who had done all that research on spirits, so the three empires had nothing to say. They would feel they were taking advantage of Shrek Academy.

Under such circumstances, nobody would object. Careful discussions and negotiations would have to take place in the future to determine how this organization would be monitored and managed.

Di Tian had been listening quietly from one side this entire time, and a smile appeared on his face as Huo Yuhao finished his speech.

Clap, clap, clap!

Di Tian began to clap for Huo Yuhao. "Supervise... this word is great. I hope you humans can achieve that. I think Yuhao is right. Soul masters contracting Spirits by themselves is almost impossible, and no matter what, soul beasts will always be enemies to humans. Only those Spirits who have completed a contract with a soul master and fused into that person's body will become your true companions and friends. However, how are you going to find suitable soul beasts? This task will be very challenging for you, and only us soul beasts can help you with that. If you guys can establish an effective organization, then I will send a representative from my side to join in as well."

The Titled Douluo's eyes sparkled when they heard his words.

Soul beasts entering the organization wasn't a bad thing. Actually, it was great! This meant Di Tian had basically approved this experiment, and when Di Tian eventually sent someone to this organization, the Great Star Dou Forest would naturally assign those soul beasts that needed this Spirit fusion. This meant the fusion of Spirits would become a lot simpler.

"Alright, let's do it. The Body Sect supports this decision." Du Busi contemplated momentarily before he suddenly slapped his thigh forcefully. He was the first to express his approval.

Elder Xuan was sitting beside him. He twitched his mouth and said, "Even though I admire you giving your approval, can you not slap your thigh next time?"

"How painful can it be if I slap myself?" Du Busi didn't seem embarrassed at all. Instead, he seemed very proud, and Elder Xuan shook his head in exasperation.

The other Titled Douluo deliberated for a moment before they also expressed their support, one after another.

Of course, their support was not enough. This matter was very important, and still required support from the Douluo Continent's three native empires before it could be rolled out officially.

The appearance of Spirits had changed the Douluo Continent irreversibly. No matter what, this process couldn't be completed so quickly. The incumbents were incredibly efficient for achieving an agreement like this within two days.

Huo Yuhao exhaled deeply and quietly. He had finally managed to take this step, and all sorts of refinements and adjustments were coming, but his main task was to teach this contract to others and plan everything. He had to gradually withdraw from being the core of the research into Spirits.

Elder Xuan looked at Huo Yuhao with a pleasant and satisfied look in his eyes. Ever since Huo Yuhao took the initiative to step forward and handle this matter with Spirits, he had been very reasonable, and he had handled everything very well in all aspects.

However, a dark shadow flashed across Elder Xuan's heart. Elder Song and Xian Lin'e had told him about the army of undead. He did have some understanding about this ability of Huo Yuhao's, but this army of undead came from an evil soul master's powers, after all! If Huo Yuhao was to take over as the Master of the Sea God's Pavilion in the future, a blemish like this would cause great inner conflict within the Sea God's Pavilion. In the end, evil soul masters had great difficulty controlling their state of mind.

What was even more frightening was that Huo Yuhao was simply too talented and prodigious. If problems began to appear in his mentality when he became a Titled Douluo, disaster would follow. Such a disaster wouldn't just include Shrek, but might also spell disaster for the entire Continent!

Elder Xuan wasn't the only one with this worry. Elder Song and Xian Lin'er shared the same concerns. However, they didn't spread what they knew about the army of undead, and only the few of them knew about Huo Yuhao's undead army within the Sea God's Pavilion. In the end, the battle was very intense at that moment, and only those powerful individuals who were stationed on the northern and western fronts who were observing the soul beasts' movements on the periphery could see this army of undead. However, only the three of them knew that this army had something to do with Huo Yuhao.

Chapter 410.2: Spirit Pagoda

Elder Xuan no longer bothered with Du Busi. He turned to Huo Yuhao and said, "Yuhao, have you considered how you're going to establish this organization? What will it be named?"

Everyone was discussing things among themselves, but now their eyes returned to Huo Yuhao. After Huo Yuhao rescued those hostages at Sunrise City and with his discovery of Spirits, Huo Yuhao shared the same status as those powerful Titled Douluo. They understood that this creative and ingenious prodigy from Shrek Academy would undoubtedly become one of the strongest individuals on the Continent in the future.

Establishing a supervisory body that was shared among the three empires and forming a conference hall of soul masters for decision-making was as generous as Shrek could be. The various powerful individuals wouldn't say too much about how the organization was going to be established, what it was going to be named and whatnot because as the inventor of Spirits, Huo Yuhao had the most right to make these decisions.

Huo Yuhao thought for a moment, then answered, "The main purpose of this organization that we are going to establish is to focus on reducing the killing of soul beasts by humans and to gradually change the relationship between humans and soul beasts. Doing so will catalyze the completion of the equal contract between humans and soul beasts, and Spirits will be a way for soul beasts to transmit their spirits on. Why don't we call this organization 'Spirit'? My teacher, the one who taught me how to execute this contract, left another secret method to create a magic formation in the shape of a tower so that the process of transmitting spirits will become easier, and so that a soul master's spiritual power can be more condensed. Therefore, our organization will be called... the Spirit Pagoda. How's that?"

"I suggest that Shrek City construct the first Spirit Pagoda. At the same time, the Spirit Pagoda's headquarters will be located in Shrek City. Shrek Academy is recognized by all three empires as a public place, so establishing the tower's headquarters in Shrek City will be most appropriate. After the first Spirit Pagoda is completed successfully, the second batch of towers will be established within all three empires' capital cities. These towers will serve as emblems for the organization, and they will also transmit spirits at the same time. My suggestion is for the third batch of towers to be established in cities that are relatively closer to soul beast habitats. This way, transmitting spirits will become a lot more convenient. As for how the organization will be established and what the rules will be, I'll have to ask you and the Academy to decide that with the empires' top officials."

The Spirit Pagoda was called a tower, but in reality, more of how it was named was because Huo Yuhao wanted to commemorate his teacher, the Calamity Necromancer Electrolux, who had passed away. Electrolux once said that one of the proudest things that he had done in his life was that he had once erected an eternal tower.

Huo Yuhao had never seen that tower, but that tower was undoubtedly what his teacher liked most. He decided to name this new organization as a tower to commemorate him.

Elder Xuan tilted his head as he listened to Huo Yuhao's words. He was very satisfied with Huo Yuhao's suggestions; the organization's name wasn't that big a deal, as it was just a label. What was more important was that Huo Yuhao had suggested that the Spirit Pagoda's headquarters be located in Shrek City. This meant that forces from all over the world would deploy powerful individuals to be stationed at Shrek.

At the same time, the second batch of Spirit Pagodas would come long after the first one was constructed, because the first tower had to train sufficient soul masters with spiritual-type martial souls so that they could expand their organization. After this period of time, Shrek City would undoubtedly wield absolute authority over anything with regards to transmitting spirits. If the Great Star Dou Forest cooperated with them, it wouldn't take long for Shrek City and Shrek Academy's status to rise by yet another level on the Continent.

Huo Yuhao didn't swallow the secret of Spirits by himself, yet he also helped the Academy develop rapidly. What he had done was the greatest benefit that the Academy could reap. That gloomy shadow in Elder Xuan's heart because Huo Yuhao possessed necromantic abilities dampened a little. At least, from what he could see right now, everything about Huo Yuhao was still normal.

Elder Xuan didn't express his opinions directly. Instead, he turned to everyone else and asked them, "Does anyone have any objections to Yuhao's suggestion?"

This group included Du Busi, and these powerful individuals shook their heads and expressed that they had no objections and that they approved of Huo Yuhao's suggestions.

Shrek Academy had publicized the secret of Spirits, which was a very important one, to the outside world. They were also going to establish an organization that everyone could participate in. The most important issue had been resolved, and it would be extremely shameless if anyone still didn't want to let Shrek Academy reap some benefits from this arrangement.

Furthermore, Huo Yuhao was right. Shrek Academy had always been known for their independence, and they weren't biased towards anyone. Establishing the tower's headquarters in Shrek City was most appropriate, and even though Shrek City was inside the Heavenly Soul Empire, Shrek City was actually similarly distanced from all three capital cities.

Huo Yuhao turned towards the Beast God Di Tian, and Di Tian tilted his head in his direction. Di Tian also approved of his suggestions.

Huo Yuhao would have to continue with his experiments, and all kinds of sophisticated and strict research would have to come next so that he could base the abilities of Spirits on solid ground. Other than that, everyone would have to deal with the various and numerous administrative tasks needed to establish the Spirit Pagoda.

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Those powerful individuals all returned to their respective empires. They brought their first batch of soul masters who possessed Spirits to their empire's royal families to convince them. Everyone began to work on everything that had to do with establishing the Spirit Pagoda.

Huo Yuhao spent most of the subsequent month on his experiments. Furthermore, experiments weren't the only things he had to do; he also had to draw the Spirit Pagoda's construction blueprints, and he had to record the spell for the equal contract and how to use it. This precious knowledge was sealed and stored inside the Sea God's Pavilion.

Nobody asked Huo Yuhao about his army of undead, and Huo Yuhao didn't return to Shrek Academy. Di Tian requested he remained in the Great Star Dou Forest to continue his experiments, which also meant that he could let Shrek Academy's people see him, but they couldn't bring him back.

Huo Yuhao didn't object much to those requests, and he spent the subsequent month working hard at many different tasks.

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Shrek City was also very busy. They had sustained heavy losses when the beast wave washed over them. Repairs required quite some time and a lot of materials and resources.

Shrek's merchants and businessmen began to work on all fronts. Furthermore, after those soul masters returned to their respective countries, it didn't take long before the three empires sent diplomats to Shrek City to discuss matters regarding the construction of the Spirit Pagoda.

Just as Huo Yuhao had predicted, not a single empire could resist the appearance of Spirits. The diplomats sent forth by those countries were here to negotiate and discuss how exactly the Spirit Pagoda was to be established, and how this organization was to be controlled.

The incumbents underwent a long and drawn-out negotiation. Huo Yuhao didn't even bother to ask about how the negotiations progressed, because these things were no longer important to him. He believed that everything would be fine with Shrek Academy at the helm.

In the end, those spiritual-type soul masters that the Spirit Pagoda produced in the future would be called Spirit Masters, which would be considered a new and separate profession.

The three empires dispatched representatives from their various sects and academies to become part of the Spirit Pagoda's conference hall. Every empire had nine seats, and every member had to at least be a Soul Douluo.

Every empire had to ensure at least three people who were members of the Spirit Pagoda's conference hall were stationed in Shrek City.

Besides these twenty-seven members, Shrek Academy would also choose nine people to become members. Their status was similar to that of an empire, as they participated in the Spirit Pagoda's future development.

All thirty-six members would control the entire Spirit Pagoda's operation and development, while the headquarters would still be established in Shrek City. Huo Yuhao had discovered Spirits, so he was nominated as the hall's thirty-seventh member. Furthermore, only he would be a member for life!

The Spirit Pagoda would have to choose four Pagoda Masters – one main one and three deputies – to deal with daily administrative tasks and whatnot. Every ten years, the Pagoda's members and its Pagoda Masters would be reelected, while no member could remain in office for more than two terms. Only those who were members before could participate in the election to become a Pagoda Master.

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The Spirit Pagoda's first conference hall meeting was carried out in the second month after Huo Yuhao's successful experiment.

Everyone nominated the Master of the Sea God's Pavilion, Elder Xuan, as the first Pagoda Master. One Titled Douluo from each of the three empires who were of good moral standing and reputation were nominated as Vice-Pagoda Masters.

Huo Yuhao was a lifetime member, and he was appointed as the honorary Pagoda Master. He didn't participate directly in the Spirit Pagoda's management, but his status within the organization was exceedingly high as, after all, Spirits and the Spirit Pagoda wouldn't be around if not for him.

At the same time, Shrek Academy fought hard to ensure Huo Yuhao become the only person who could participate independently in the election for the Pagoda Master in the future. In other words, he didn't have to represent the four different parties in the election.

The Spirit Pagoda's various rules, regulations, and systems were being completed. After discussing things with the Great Star Dou Forest, the Spirit Pagoda wasn't constructed within Shrek City in the end. Instead, it was located five kilometers outside of Shrek's southern city wall.

This meant the Spirit Pagoda would be open to humans and soul beasts at the same time.

Within the Spirit Pagoda's conference hall, besides its thirty-seven human members, the Great Star Dou Forest had its representatives as well. Di Tian personally led this group, and he was part of the conference hall, along with the Emerald Swan Bi Ji, the Demoneye Tree Myriad Demon King, the Bear Lord, and the Three-Headed Devilmastiff. Five Savage Beasts represented the soul beasts within the conference hall. One Savage Beast would be permanently assigned to the conference hall to participate in all sorts of discussions and administrative matters. Furthermore, the soul beasts' representative would have a special status, and this representative would have veto power for the conference hall's decisions. Of course, this veto power couldn't come from just one of them – all five Savage Beasts had to make a decision before Di Tian could propose and use their veto power.

The Spirit Pagoda's power and authority seemed split up, but in reality, the Continent's three native empires, Shrek City, and the Great Star Dou Forest all supported it. This meant that there was no other organization across the entire Continent that could compare to the Spirit Pagoda's backing.

The humans hustled, and the Great Star Dou Forest didn't idle, either. Di Tian personally stepped out to communicate with several other soul beast habitats so that he could spread the situation about Spirits to these other habitats.

Chapter 410.3: Spirit Pagoda

Huo Yuhao wasn't worried about how far Di Tian could go. With the Great Star Dou Forest's absolute status in the world of soul beasts on the Douluo Continent, convincing other soul beasts wasn't difficult at all. Probably only the Extreme North, which was a place of bitter cold, was relatively more challenging, but soul masters rarely ventured there to obtain soul rings in the first place.

Three months quickly passed from the start of Huo Yuhao's first successful experiment, just like that.

The Spirit Pagoda began operating on all fronts. The first batch of soul masters who possessed spiritual-type martial souls were selected by the three empires and sent to Shrek City afterwards. Huo Yuhao was in charge of teaching them how to conduct equal contracts.

Shrek Academy's soul masters were the first people to enjoy the benefits of Spirits. Huo Yuhao directed everything personally, and more and more students from Shrek Academy who reached bottlenecks gained their own Spirits.

Over the past ten years, Shrek Academy had gone through two different stages of vigorous development, with both soul tools and Spirits, and Shrek City became increasingly powerful.

Furthermore, the relationship between Shrek City and the Great Star Dou Forest was being mended because of these new Spirits, and Shrek City took this opportunity to rebuild and expand their city's surface area. They also made some long-term plans.

Shrek City would be considered an inner city, and they would expanded five kilometers out from its city walls. Five kilometers didn't seem like much, but those five kilometers were extended from Shrek City's original walls! Once these five kilometers were built up, Shrek City's surface area would be equivalent to any large-scale city in the three empires.

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The Sun Moon Empire's behavior over these three months was relatively peaceful. Because of the Spirit Pagoda's establishment, the Continent's three native empires didn't make a move against the Sun Moon Empire, and this allowed Xu Tianran to heave a sigh of relief, to his own astonishment. Time was also exceedingly important for the Sun Moon Empire. They had already spoiled their relationships with the other three empires, and a great war could happen at any time. The longer they could delay this war, the more time they had to prepare!

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"Elder Di Tian." Huo Yuhao was still in the Great Star Du Forest's Slaughtering Grounds inside its Core Regions, and he called out while standing beside the Water of Life as he faced the clean and limpid lake water.

Over the past three months, the Spirit Pagoda had begun to take shape thanks to his hard work and efforts. Furthermore, he was the most welcomed human being inside the Great Star Dou Forest. Just as how Wang Qiu'er was treated back then, the Scarlet King became his personal bodyguard. Huo Yuhao could proceed anywhere he wanted in the Great Star Dou Forest smoothly and unhindered. This place was considered a forbidden ground for humans, but this place was like his own back garden to him.

“You’re here.” Di Tian’s voice rang out, and a black shadow quietly appeared in the middle of the lake. This black shadow arrived by the lakeshore in a few flashes.

Di Tian had already handed everything that had to do with Spirits over to Bi Ji for her to manage. Over the past three months, Huo Yuhao had taught the first batch of Spirit Masters, while also helping multiple soul beasts who were near death to transmit their spirits at the same time. As of today, more than three hundred soul beats had been allowed to extend their lives. From the perspective of the soul masters that these soul beasts fused with, this fact was equivalent to avoiding killing over three hundred soul beasts. These soul masters would still choose Spirits to substitute soul rings in the future, and they would kill even fewer soul beasts.

Of the five Savage Beasts, with the exception of the Bear Lord, who rarely showed himself, the other four Savage Beasts, including the Beast God, were very satisfied with everything that Huo Yuhao had done.

Huo Yuhao bowed respectfully to Di Tian and said, “Elder Di Tian, the Spirit Pagoda’s foundations have been established. This is the first pagoda, so its scale will be relatively larger. Therefore, I reckon it will take at least one to two years to complete any follow-ups. There are forty-two soul masters in the first batch of Spirit Masters, and their cultivation ranks vary from four to eight soul rings. Under my guidance and my teaching, they are all able to conduct the contract on their own.”

Di Tian nodded and said, “You humans are quite efficient. I’ve heard about these things from Bi Ji.” Bi Ji was currently the first Savage Beast to be permanently stationed in the Spirit Pagoda’s conference hall to represent all soul beasts.

After the conference hall’s first meeting with the whole committee, there were over ten members who had been permanently stationed in Shrek City. Including the four Pagoda Masters, there were nine other members from the three empires, while Shrek Academy’s nine members were all members of the Sea God’s Pavilion at the same time. Naturally, they were around, but in Shrek City instead. As for Huo Yuhao, he had been living in the Great Star Dou Forest this entire time.

He had been very busy over the past three months, but the Beast God had treated him well. He had provided Huo Yuhao with all sorts of fruits that were full of spiritual qi, and in addition to the fact that Huo Yuhao was transmitting spirits every day, his spiritual power became steadier and more consolidated, while his soul power was raised by another rank. He had used Shrek Academy’s soul power detectors to test himself, and discovered that his soul power was at Rank 73, which was a little lower than his original prediction. However, this fact also told Huo Yuhao that every subsequent soul power rank after Rank 70 was of great magnitude.

Huo Yuhao estimated that, with his current cultivation speed, and if he didn’t encounter any special circumstances, opportunities, or epiphanies, he would become a Titled Douluo when he was around thirty years old. That would be an absolutely outstanding feat among humans!

“You were looking for me. What do you want?” Di Tian asked Huo Yuhao.

Huo Yuhao contemplated for a moment, then said, “Elder, I have been accountable to you with regards to Spirits. I wish to leave.”

“Eh?” Di Tian’s aura instantly changed when he heard his words. His eyes suddenly became sharper, and he said, “What’s up? Is our Great Star Dou Forest not good enough for you? This place is full of spiritual qi, and so dense with life energy. This place is most suitable for you soul masters to cultivate. If you are willing to, you can even stay beside the Water of Life to cultivate. Your future is boundless.”

Huo Yuhao raised his head and stared right into Di Tian’s eyes. “Then, how long do you plan to keep me here?”

Di Tian was momentarily stunned.

Huo Yuhao lowered his voice and said, “You should know, elder, that humans cultivate a lot faster than soul beasts. Otherwise, we couldn’t have dominated and conquered the entire continent within a few short tens of thousands of years. Yes, with my current strength, you can easily imprison me in the Great Star Dou Forest. However, I trust that you won’t restrict my cultivation, because that is the basis of my life in the end. Choosing death isn’t difficult for me, but if you allow me to continue cultivation, I will become a Titled Douluo in about ten years, give or take. I will take thirty years more at most to become a Transcendent Douluo, and with the abilities that I possess, not even you may be able to stop me once I become a Transcendent Douluo if I want to leave.

“I am connected to the fortunes and fate of the entire Great Star Dou Forest, so you can’t kill me, and the most you can do is imprison me or seal me away. However, you should also understand my status in the human world. If you do that, the Academy will stop at nothing to turn the situation around, and the peaceful equilibrium that the humans have just established with your Great Star Dou Forest will change once more.”

“Are you threatening me?” Di Tian muttered coldly. That enormous pressure that felt like a mountain to Huo Yuhao appeared once more and pressed down on him.

Huo Yuhao forcibly resisted this pressure as he grit his teeth and said, “No, I’m not threatening you, I’m just stating facts. I will always be a friend to the Great Star Dou Forest, and I can even promise you that I will never kill a single soul beast in the Great Star Dou Forest ever again. However, there are still many things that I have to do, and I can’t stay here forever. If you insist on keeping me here, then I will choose death. Qiu’er has given the power of Destiny to me, and you can imprison me here so that I will never be able to leave this place, but not even you can stop me from severing my own fate and destiny. This means that nobody in this world can stop me if I choose to die.”

Di Tian suddenly withdrew his pressure. He placed his hands behind his back and stared coldly at Huo Yuhao. “Where do you want to go? What do you wish to do?”

Huo Yuhao forced a laugh and said, “There’s something that I have to do, and there’s someone that I have to visit afterwards. And then, I have to fulfill a wish that I’ve always had.”

Di Tian asked again, “And after you do all those things?”

Huo Yuhao was a little taken aback. He shook his head and said, “I haven’t thought much about afterwards.”

Di Tian said plainly, "Since that's the case, then I only have one request; after you finish everything you have to do, you must return. You can choose to reside in Shrek City, the Spirit Pagoda, or the Great Star Dou Forest."

"Alright," Huo Yuhao answered subconsciously, and his eyes filled with pleasant surprise in the next moment. "Are you saying that I can leave?"

Di Tian was expressionless as he answered, "I know that I can't keep you here, just like I couldn't keep the Emperor Beast here back then. With your current strength, people will have a hard time trying to kill you. Here, take this." Di Tian swung his hand as he spoke, and tossed something at Huo Yuhao.

Huo Yuhao grabbed the item subconsciously. He looked down, and realized that Di Tian had given him something like a pendant.

This pendant looked like a leaf, and it was about as big as an infant's palm. It was black all over, and there were ridges on its surface. These ridges shone faintly with purple hues.

There was a single black line strung around this pendant, which didn't seem very thick, but was very tough.

"Wear this on your neck. You're not allowed to take it off. You can go now." With that, Di Tian turned around and drifted across the lake's surface.

Huo Yuhao grasped the pendant, which felt faintly fresh and cool. He stared at Di Tian, who was slowly moving further away from him, and he instantly felt his mind and body relax. Waves of fatigue and exhaustion coursed over him as soon as he began to relax.

He had toiled far too much over these past three months, which had been very tiring.

Huo Yuhao hung the pendant around his neck. He wasn't hasty to leave. Instead, he crossed his legs and sat down beside the Water of Life and started to meditate.

Huo Yuhao entered meditation very quickly because his mind and body were relaxed. Flourishing soul power flowed through his body, and his immense spiritual power naturally rippled throughout his spiritual sea.