

## Tang Sect 456

### Chapter 456.1: The Experiment Fails?

The funnel's volume and rotation speed were also increasingly continuously along with its soul power. Its gravitational force became stronger as it became larger, and even the stones and sand around it were being pulled in its direction. However, it was immediately ground to dust by the powerful soul power.

The space around the tiny funnel slowly began to contort even more. Its volume was still increasing as it spun, but its rotation seemed a little irregular, while the funnel itself was no longer stable. It was trembling faintly.

I'm losing control!

An ominous feeling surfaced in Huo Yuhao's heart as he pounced behind a small hill on the side.

"Boom, boom, boom—" Intense explosions could be heard as a vigorous air flow rushed over his head. The soundwaves were deafening as intense soul power undulations erupted in all directions. However, everything settled down very quickly.

Huo Yuhao looked up at where the funnel was before, and he could see an enormous crater that was thirty meters in diameter and more than ten meters deep. A hurricane seemed to have swept over the large crater, and he could see many marks like blade cuts around it.

This...

Huo Yuhao, even with his full strength, couldn't do any better.

However, he didn't even use ten percent of his soul power.

High-speed rotation and compression were undoubtedly the reasons why the tiny funnel had become so strong. However, the funnel became very unstable when he lost control of it.

There were clear spatial undulations and contortions around the funnel. However, there was a clear gap between that and the Beast God's black holes. That was probably because he didn't have enough soul power.

It was no wonder the Beast God was so formidable – he had stored so much soul power in that state in his body. It would be a surprise if he wasn't that frighteningly powerful.

Huo Yuhao understood that controlling such power was far too difficult with his current strength. However, understanding and experiencing the principles concerning this was very beneficial for his future cultivation, so that he didn't take any long roads.

He decided to stop experimenting, because he wasn't sure whether he could distance himself from the pull of the funnel using Instant Teleportation if the funnel became stronger than before. What would happen if he couldn't? That meant he could only detonate it prematurely. Otherwise, the ultimate result would be that his soul power would be sucked dry, or perhaps the funnel would swallow everything. The funnel would increase to an even more frightening state before a tremendous explosion would be triggered.

Huo Yuhao had already observed and learned a lot today. As for his next experiment, he felt that it would be a lot safer if he attempted it after he had returned to the academy.

Huo Yuhao rushed back to the army camp. The explosion from before was quite loud, but the army camp was ultimately relatively far away, while he had also chosen a valley in the mountains. That was the reason why nothing much happened in the army camp.

He silently snuck back to his own tent, but was startled when he lifted his curtain because there was actually someone else in his tent.

Tang Wutong was frowning as she stood in the center of the tent and asked as he walked in, “Where did you go?”

Huo Yuhao hesitated momentarily as he stammered, “I went to the toilet!”

Tang Wutong retorted angrily. “Do you need to spend one hour on the toilet?”

“I have constipation...” Huo Yuhao answered feebly.

“You!” Tang Wutong grunted furiously as she turned to leave.

“Hey, how did you know I wasn’t in my tent?” Huo Yuhao asked subconsciously.

Tang Wutong had already stomped to the entrance of his tent. She paused and replied, “I was afraid that something would happen to you, so I decided to visit you tonight, and discovered that you weren’t here anymore. Where did you go?”

Huo Yuhao could tell that her voice was softening, and Dong’er’s beautiful face surfaced in his mind once more. His heart softened as he spoke the truth, “I went to experiment with a method of controlling soul power. It wasn’t very convenient to do it inside the army camp, so I decided to go outside.”

Tang Wutong turned around and stared at him in shock. “Your body is already like that – why are you still doing experiments? What if something happened? Couldn’t you have just waited for two more days?”

“Uh... alright, I made a mistake,” Huo Yuhao admitted his mistake conscientiously.

Tang Wutong grunted and said, “Sleep early. Good night,” And she walked away after that.

Huo Yuhao was in a little bit of a daze as he watched her departing profile. Her attitude towards me seems a little better than before! Unfortunately, she’s not Dong’er – how fantastic would everything have been if she were Dong’er!

Huo Yuhao lamented in his mind as he sat back on his bed and quietly recalled every detail of his experiment.

Two days quickly passed as Huo Yuhao’s body gradually recovered. Positive news came back from the frontlines – the Sun Moon Empire’s internal territories were indeed empty, while the White Tiger Duke’s war strategy was extremely successful. The soul master legions that had dispersed into the Sun Moon Empire’s territories were wreaking havoc everywhere, and they caused great damage to the Sun Moon Empire. The Star Luo Empire had more soul masters than the number of soul engineers that the Sun

Moon Empire had brought back, and this disparity was even wider in terms of the number of powerful individuals. The Sun Moon Empire was badly bruised and battered as the Star Luo Empire overran several of their cities.

However, the White Tiger Duke governed his army very strictly. Normal citizens were not to be harmed after the city had fallen, and their armies would pull out of the city after looting and pillaging the governing body's granaries and armories.

Conquering cities wasn't the aim of their battle strategy, and wreaking excessive destruction wasn't within the White Tiger Duke's personality either. Pillaging resources was a lot more effective – furthermore, doing so could also replenish the Star Luo Empire's own expenses.

Everyone who participated in the strategy were soul masters, and many of them had storage soul tools. Pillaging was like a gentle breeze for them.

Quickly, the Sun Moon Empire's eastern borders were in a state of emergency.

Even though their intel was shut off and they didn't know about the Sun Moon Empire's response, or about the Heavenly Soul Empire's situation, the Star Luo Empire's operations would undoubtedly relieve the situation.

The White Tiger Duke sent letters back several times to inquire about Huo Yuhao's physical state. After he made sure that Huo Yuhao was fine, he even personally wrote a commendation for Huo Yuhao for his contributions to the Star Luo Empire. The title of Marquis had also been conferred to Huo Yuhao.

Xu Sanshi and the others rested and got ready for another day, and they made sure Huo Yuhao had recovered completely before he wrote a letter to the White Tiger Duke to bid their farewells. All eight of them then departed the Star Luo Empire's army camp and journeyed back toward Shrek Academy.

Both the White Tiger Duke and Princess Jiujiu didn't want them to leave. However, the war situation at the frontlines was of the utmost priority, so they couldn't take time out to attempt to keep the eight of them here. Furthermore, they understood that these people from Shrek Academy couldn't be kept. Fortunately, both parties had established an amiable relationship after their missions – especially so after Huo Yuhao accepted his title of Marquis. This undoubtedly meant that Huo Yuhao was admitting he was a soul master from the Star Luo Empire.

Everyone flew through the air. They came as eight, and they returned as eight. Huo Yuhao had practically returned from the dead, but everyone managed to return with their lives. However, everyone had experienced the cruelty of war. This was especially so after the top-tier individuals directly participated in the war.

The Death God Douluo Ye Xishui never appeared again after she departed. At least, the Star Luo Empire had yet to encounter that terrifying Ultimate Douluo after they invaded the Sun Moon Empire. But no matter what, this Ultimate Douluo was like an enormous shadow that loomed over the Star Luo Empire's head. Her appearance would lead to rivers of blood.

The situation had descended into complete chaos. The eight of them were returning to the academy to protect it, and that was what they absolutely had to do.

Even though their individual strengths weren't much for Shrek Academy as a whole, Huo Yuhao's status was special, and his presence could even allow Shrek Academy to link up with the Great Star Dou Forest's soul beasts for aid. If that was the case, Shrek Academy would be able to hold their own against the Sun Moon Empire if it was invaded.

They maintained a strict formation as they flew through the air. Huo Yuhao flew in the center, but his eyes were a little lackadaisical.

More accurately put, he had been in this state for the past few days. Whether he was walking, sitting, flying, or perhaps even eating, he would have a dazed and listless demeanor. His companions were a little worried about him, but he would always say that he was just contemplating some things when they asked.

The truth was, he wasn't lying – he was contemplating some things that were extremely important to him. That tiny funnel that he was experimenting with was naturally the most important item amongst those things.

Huo Yuhao had officially concluded his experiment's results after his last experiment. Even though he didn't manage to create a black hole like Di Tian's soul power in the end, the entire experimental process allowed him to discover and complete things that he had never known about.

For instance, soul power would generate tremendous gravitational force once it was compressed into a solid state, and its absorption of external soul power would become stronger. This point was very important for his future cultivation.

He was a Soul Sage, and his soul power had become liquid at this point. His liquid soul power's viscosity would increase as his cultivation increased – wasn't that distinctly similar to what his soul power was like when he compressed it during the experiment? Furthermore, he had known about this principle a long time ago, that soul masters compressed the soul power inside their body continuously as their soul power increased, before more soul power would be stored. Soul masters' martial souls would naturally become stronger if their martial souls fused with stronger soul power.

Elder Mu had told Huo Yuhao before that soul masters' soul power would be continuously accumulated and compressed as they became stronger, and only when they became Titled Douluo would things begin to change.

However, Elder Mu didn't tell him much about Titled Douluo. That wasn't because he forgot about those things – Huo Yuhao's cultivation was still very low at that point, and Elder Mu feared that Huo Yuhao would attempt to run before he could walk.

Huo Yuhao recalled what Elder Mu had told him. According to Elder Mu, a soul master's soul power would reach the limit of its conversion from liquid to solid as he or she reached the pinnacle of an eight-ringed Soul Douluo, which was Rank 89, while Titled Douluo would probably have entirely solid soul power.

## **Chapter 456.2: The Experiment Fails?**

One of the most prominent characteristics of solid-state soul power was probably the fact that they could leverage the origin energy of heaven and earth in the air better. Huo Yuhao had already felt this in his experiment from before.

Even if the solid-state soul power didn't absorb the soul master's own soul power, it would still continuously absorb the origin energy in the air by itself. The pertinent soul skill's strength would therefore increase throughout this process.

This experiment was equivalent to opening a door to another world for Huo Yuhao, and it allowed him to see stranger things regarding soul masters. The first thing he wanted to do when he returned to the academy was to seek out Elder Xuan so that he could answer his questions and clear up his confusion.

"Hey, are you alright? Why are you always in such a daze? Did your injuries this time damage your brain?" Tang Wutong was flying beside him, and she couldn't help but ask him that question. This fellow has been like this over the past few days. Everyone is worried about him, but they can't really press him any further for fear of upsetting him. He keeps saying that's he's fine, he's alright – but he doesn't seem like he's alright at all!

"Eh?" Huo Yuhao was deep in thought, and his thoughts became a little jumbled when he heard Tang Wutong's voice. He frowned a little and said, "Of course I'm fine. I'm just thinking about some things."

Tang Wutong rolled her eyes and said, "What do you have to think about, that you have to do that for a few days? It's fine if something is wrong with you – just treat it as quickly as possible. Don't force yourself!"

Huo Yuhao snapped, "Nothing is wrong with me. I'm perfectly fine. There are some questions that I need to think more about, so don't interrupt my train of thought." With that, he continued flying forward as he began to contemplate once more.

This guy!? Tang Wutong glared at him, but he didn't respond at all. He doesn't recognize my good intentions at all. Hmph!

Everyone flew continuously until midday before Xu Sanshi, who had taken point, suggested for everyone to descend and have a rest. It was quite a coincidence that they descended onto a spot next to a wide river.

This enormous river was a hundred meters wide, and the flow of the water was very rapid. Even though it wasn't very clear, one would consider the bluish-green river water's clarity to be decent if its volume was taken into account.

"Huo Yuhao, I want to eat grilled fish. This river is so huge – I'm sure there are enough fish here. They must be very fat and juicy," Nan Qiuqiu exclaimed joyfully.

"Ah? Grilled fish?" Huo Yuhao stared at her, and his eyes looked a little blank.

Xu Sanshi smiled and said, "Yes, Yuhao. Your grilled fish is the best in the world. Give us another taste of it! Everyone will probably get busy once we get back to the academy. You should also stop thinking and rest your mind a little bit. You should switch up your thoughts once in a while no matter what you're contemplating."

Huo Yuhao couldn't really decline his request as he saw everyone's hopeful eyes. He nodded and went ahead to catch some fish.

Tang Wutong secretly swallowed some saliva as she heard that they were eating grilled fish. She could still vividly recall the aromatic fragrance from the last time.

Catching fish was like a hot knife on butter for a Soul Sage. Huo Yuhao chose to use the simplest and most brutal method.

He froze some of the river's water before he transformed it into icy spheres and detonated them in the water with Ice Explosion. The vigorous shockwaves flipped a large amount of fish out, and Huo Yuhao used Controlling Crane Capturing Dragon to pull them onto the shore.

The entire process took a little more than ten seconds, and he proceeded to then process the fish. Ye Guyi and Nan Qiuqiu had already gone to collect firewood, while the others helped out in their own way to prepare rations and start a fire.

Huo Yuhao's movement was extremely quick. His deep thoughts over the past few days were very helpful to him, and he had an increasingly strong feeling that he had found the right path. Therefore, he was eager to continue thinking.

The fish were processed after a short while, and a fire had been started. The grilling had begun.

Huo Yuhao didn't do anything different from the last time. He was still very familiar with the techniques for grilling fish, and grilled fish quickly appeared one after another in his companions' hands for them to enjoy.

"Oh, this is good – it's so good," Nan Qiuqiu exclaimed elatedly as she ate.

Tang Wutong was also eating, but she realized that today's grilled fish seemed a little different from the last time when they were traveling toward the Star Luo Empire's Northwestern Field Army. The fish still tasted fresh and delicious, while the fire had been controlled extremely well – but something seemed to be missing. In a more exaggerated sense, the grilled fish seemed to lack spirit.

Tang Wutong sat down beside Jiang Nannan. She couldn't help but whisper, "Sister Nannan, do you see any difference between the grilled fish today and the one we had the last time?"

Jiang Nannan was momentarily stunned. "Difference? Nope! The fish is very tasty. You don't think it's nice?"

Tang Wutong shook her head and replied, "Not that – I just feel like something seems to be missing from the last time."

Jiang Nannan was dazed for another moment before a deep look appeared in her eyes. She whispered, "I think you're right. Huo Yuhao thought you were Dong'er when he grilled fish for everyone the last time. He gave voice to the emotions in his inner heart when he was grilling for you. Afterwards, it should be because he realized that you're not Dong'er, so he has treated you like everyone else."

"Eh?" Tang Wutong stared at Jiang Nannan, surprised. She turned her eyes toward the grilled fish in her hands.

The fish is missing emotions? It's missing a spirit? Can emotions be infused into a fish? In that case, his feelings for Wang Dong'er must be very deep!

For some reason, envy seemed to develop in her heart as her thoughts stopped here.

Everyone was satisfied after eating the grilled fish, and they continued their journey.

It was midnight when they returned to Shrek City. Xu Sanshi and the others went back to the Tang Sect, while Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong went to Shrek Academy.

Huo Yuhao was the group leader, so he had to report the results of their expedition to Elder Xuan. Tang Wutong didn't belong to the Tang Sect, and she was staying in Shrek Academy in the first place.

Darkness permeated the skies. Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong weren't flying anymore as they walked toward Shrek Academy, as that was a form of respect for the academy.

Shrek City had transformed quite a bit over this period of time. With the full effort of the academy and the Douluo continent's three native empires, the new Shrek City's construction speed was one of the fastest in the continent.

According to their current speed, they would need one more year at most before the Shrek City's overall structure would take shape, and they would need another three years after that before the new city would be completely established.

Once the new Shrek City was constructed, its scale would rival that of Star Luo City and Heaven Dou City. It would be second only to the Sun Moon Empire's Radiant City, which was the number-one city on the continent.

The academy's main gates were already shut. However, that didn't pose a problem to Huo Yuhao or Tang Wutong at all. Huo Yuhao didn't want to disturb anyone, so he used Imitation before he concealed both Tang Wutong and himself, and they discreetly leapt over the wall.

The Sea God's Lake came into view in the distance. Huo Yuhao stopped as he arrived at the lakeside, and Tang Wutong did the same.

The night sky was impressive tonight. Moonlight shone across the Sea God's Lake, and it cast light on the lake's clear ripples and waves. The moonlight was gentle, while all sorts of vegetation stacked on each other by the lakeside. The Sea God's Island was barely visible in the distance as if this were a paradise on earth.

Huo Yuhao began to feel dazed as he saw everything in front of him. He could still clearly remember the time when he had realized that Dong'er was a girl – weren't they on Sea God's Lake?

The Sea God's Fated Blind Date. Everything that had happened that day left an extremely deep impression in his mind.

Idiot – I'm her idiot. I was with her for such a long time, yet I didn't realize she was a girl. That was really stupid of me!

He recounted all the sweetness and tenderness he had shared with Dong'er, and the corner of his mouth curled into a faint smile. He felt as if he could see Dong'er once more under the moonlight.

Dong'er, have you really been beside me this entire time? But why don't you show yourself to see me?

Huo Yuhao reached inside as he reminisced, and retrieved the handkerchief that he had treasured this entire time.

Tang Wutong was but momentarily stunned by the beautiful scenery on Sea God's Lake as she arrived by the lakeside. She was about to return to Sea God's Island, but she immediately realized that Huo Yuhao was in a daze once more. Except, this was different from the last time. The way he was dazed from before seemed very muddleheaded as if he were very deep in thought.

However, his eyes were very gentle in this moment, much like the moonlight reflecting off the lake. The corner of his mouth was curled upward, and there was a slight smile on his face.

She instantly froze when she saw him reach into his shirt and take out a handkerchief that felt extremely familiar to her. That... isn't that my handkerchief?

Huo Yuhao closed his eyes as he held onto the handkerchief and slowly took a deep breath through his nose. The moist air on the lakeside and the clear and fresh smell of vegetation wafted into his nose, while the handkerchief's crisp aroma that he had yearned for was also part of all those refreshing smells that he was familiar with. He felt as if his heart and mind were both intoxicated as his entire body relaxed.

Tang Wutong was just watching him from beside him. She blushed a little – why is he holding my handkerchief? Does that mean he knows that I was sleeping beside him that night?

Huo Yuhao opened his eyes as he looked down at the handkerchief in his hands and heaved a faint sigh. "Dong'er, when will you return to my side? Have you really forgotten about me, or do you have some hidden troubles? If you have any problems, why don't you let me face them together with you?"

Bastard! He thinks my handkerchief belongs to her. Tang Wutong was so upset that she started to pout.

Huo Yuhao was completely immersed in his wonderful memories. Naturally, he wasn't paying attention to Tang Wutong's emotional changes. However, she didn't disturb him and was just standing next to him.

This bastard – he's quite concentrated in his love. Tang Wutong couldn't help but recall the first time she had met Huo Yuhao. He almost immediately charged at her and embraced her in his arms, and that embrace was burning with passion and filled with emotions. Tang Wutong was overcome with embarrassment at that time, but she felt as if she were about to melt in his arms. She began to feel a little feverish when she recalled that moment.

### **Chapter 456.3: The Experiment Fails?**

Huo Yuhao finally came to from his deep dream after a long while, and he glanced at Tang Wutong with an apologetic look in his eyes. "I'm sorry, I phased out. Thank you."

Tang Wutong was momentarily stunned. "What are you thanking me for?"

Huo Yuhao smiled and said, "Thank you for not waking me from my dream. It feels great to be home – let's go." With that, he soared into the sky like a large bird gliding across Sea God's Lake.



He tapped gently on the surface of the lake, and a small piece of ice formed underneath his feet and supported the weight of his body. He continued gliding forward as he strode across the lake like rolling clouds and flowing water.

Tang Wutong followed behind him. She didn't step on those ice pieces but quietly flew behind him instead. Huo Yuhao glowed with spirit, health, and vigor when he spoke his thanks to her. She seemed to have seen Huo Yuhao in such a state when they left Shrek Academy – back then, he still thought she was Wang Dong'er. Now, that Huo Yuhao that she recalled seeing seemed to have returned.

Tang Wutong wanted to tell Huo Yuhao that the handkerchief belonged to her, but she erased that thought from her head when she witnessed the vigor and vitality in his eyes. Even though it was just a small thread of hope, some was better than none.

They stepped onto Sea God's Island. Huo Yuhao went to the Sea God's Pavilion, while Tang Wutong returned to her own place. Huo Yuhao would be doing the reporting, so she didn't have to follow him.

Huo Yuhao stood in front of the Golden Tree and knelt down in front of it before going to the Sea God's Pavilion. He respectfully kowtowed thrice toward the Golden Tree.

"I have returned, teacher. Even though you might find this hard to believe, I did meet Ye Xishui on my expedition. She is now the Sun Moon Empire's Death God Douluo, and she is an evil soul master who is also an Ultimate Douluo. She is likely to be the continent's first Class 10 soul engineer."

Faint golden light rippled from the Golden Tree, and dense elements of light were clearly visible. These undulations were extremely intense at first before they returned to complete calm.

"Teacher, did you hear me?" Huo Yuhao exclaimed joyfully.

The Golden Tree no longer gave him any signs. Faint golden hues radiated gently, and everything seemed to return to tranquility.

"Elder Mu can't answer you anymore. He released his strength the last time, and his spirit has been damaged. He can only nurture himself inside the Golden Tree. Yuhao, were your words really true?"

Elder Xuan had arrived beside Huo Yuhao, and his face was overcome with solemnity.

Huo Yuhao nodded and got to his feet. He recounted everything that had happened when he faced off against Ye Xishui and everything else that he had heard and seen on his expedition in front of the Golden Tree.

Elder Xuan's expression turned even blacker when he heard Huo Yuhao's words. He glanced at the Golden Tree and said, "Follow me inside."

Elder Xuan brought Huo Yuhao into the Sea God's Pavilion. They didn't wait in the main hall, but Elder Xuan brought him directly into his own room.

"Sit down," Elder Xuan pointed at a chair inside the room.

Huo Yuhao walked over to sit down and said apologetically, "I apologize for disturbing your rest by coming so late in the night."

Elder Xuan sighed and said, "How can I have the mood to rest? The situation in the continent has suddenly become so deplorable. I never thought that the Sun Moon Empire has hidden such deep secrets."

Huo Yuhao hurriedly asked, "Back when I was at the Star Luo Empire's frontlines, I heard that the Heavenly Soul Empire has lost a lot of territory, and even the Heaven Dou City has been lost. What is the situation like now?"

Elder Xuan shook his head and said, "The situation is terrible. The Heavenly Soul Empire has already lost two-thirds of their territory to the Sun Moon Empire. The Sun Moon Empire had to task some of their soldiers to handle their conquered territories, and they also had to pacify the Heavenly Soul Empire's citizens – if not for those reasons, the Sun Moon Empire would have conquered every inch of the Heavenly Soul Empire. The Heavenly Soul Empire's remaining soldiers have already rendezvoused with the Star Luo Empire and the Dou Ling Empire, and they are holding on to the last of their territories. However, it will be extremely difficult for them to defend it. The Heavenly Soul Empire has already sent messengers to the academy for aid. The Dou Ling Empire has also started to send their armies into the Heavenly Soul Empire."

Huo Yuhao wasn't overly surprised, as he had already predicted such a situation. The Dou Ling Empire's thoughts were very simple – they hoped to keep their enemies out of their borders and keep the battle in the Heavenly Soul Empire. That would evidently be more beneficial for them. Therefore, it was natural that they were sending their armies forward. Otherwise, the Dou Ling Empire would end up like the Star Luo Empire if the Heavenly Soul Empire was destroyed. They would have to prepare to suffer the Sun Moon Empire's cannon fire at any moment.

The Heavenly Soul Empire sending for aid from the academy was also expected. However, the Heavenly Soul Empire's nation-protecting sect, the Body Sect, couldn't protect them against the Sun Moon Empire's assault. How much stronger could Shrek Academy be than the Body Sect?

Shrek Academy would definitely be stronger in terms of overall strength. However, Shrek was an academy, not a sect. The academy didn't have the same common interests as the Body Sect. The academy's elders naturally wouldn't be a problem, but the teachers and students didn't have a duty to fight for the academy. Even if they agreed to, the academy's higher levels would definitely have to consider the safety of these teachers and students – quite unlike the common interest shared within sects.

Therefore, Elder Xuan had been very hesitant these days about the Heavenly Soul Empire's request for aid, and he hadn't sent out any reinforcements yet.

Reinforcements were important, but the question of scale posed a very large problem. If the Heavenly Soul Empire had been completely dominated by the Sun Moon Empire, they would be able to directly threaten Shrek City. There was no question that the Sun Moon Empire would attack Shrek City. In the beginning, Shrek Academy's participation in the war finally allowed the Douluo Continent's three native empires to beat the Sun Moon Empire back, and the Sun Moon Empire was ultimately defeated. The Sun Moon Empire holed up for a thousand years after that.

The Sun Moon Empire had obtained all possible advantages, and they would never let Shrek City go. They had the most advanced technology on the continent, and their assault could likely be even more frightening than the Great Star Dou Forest's beast wave back then.

"Elder Xuan, you have to take care of your body," Huo Yuhao could clearly see that there were more wrinkles around the corners of Elder Xuan's eyes.

Elder Xuan glanced at him and smiled warmly as he said, "To be honest, I'm not very good at being a leader. My life was carefree when Elder Mu was around. I was wanton and unrestrained, and I was very happy from beginning to end. Ever since Elder Mu left, that burden has been shifted onto my shoulders. I finally truly understand the kind of responsibility that Elder Mu had borne for so many years."

"If only the Sun Moon Empire had delayed their assault for a few decades more! By then, you would have grown to become a man, and I could have passed this mantle to you."

Elder Xuan smiled, but there was some bitterness in that smile, which was bathed with the vicissitudes of life.

Huo Yuhao said, "Elder Xuan, I will work hard to grow up. I am willing to give everything for the academy."

Elder Xuan said, "Now is not the time to give everything you have. If the situation forces our hand in the end and we cannot defend ourselves against the Sun Moon Empire, then you must remember that you must continue to live on. You and the other young men are the hope of the academy. Do you understand?"

Huo Yuhao felt his heart skip a beat. He could clearly sense some bad omens in Elder Xuan's words.

Elder Xuan said, "Ye Xishui is actually still alive – I didn't expect that. Furthermore, she has become the Sun Moon Empire's Death God Douluo. With her and Long Xiaoyao around, unless the Beast God stands directly with us against them, there is no chance that we can defeat them. Furthermore, the Beast God represents the benefit of all soul beasts. With his personality, he is no doubt more than eager to watch humans hurt each other and to see the human elites perish. That is most beneficial for soul beasts. Therefore, even if he did participate, he would wait until both parties have been badly hurt. We can't depend on him at this moment."

Huo Yuhao said, "Elder Xuan, can we gather some reclusive sects to come together and fight the Sun Moon Empire? In the end, things will be bad for them if the Sun Moon Empire conquers the Douluo Continent's three native empires."

Elder Xuan answered, "We are already doing that, and some sects have already responded positively. However, the Sun Moon Empire's soul tool technology is far more advanced than ours. Their prowess in battle sweeps aside everything in their path. I have obtained some detailed battle reports from the Heavenly Soul Empire. The Sun Moon Empire and Heavenly Soul Empire's losses are one to ten! Even with the Body Sect's participation in the defense of the Heaven Dou City, their losses were still five to one compared to the Sun Moon Empire. It's hard to say what the war will be like in the future. Fortunately, you helped the Star Luo Empire regain the Ming Dou Mountain Range, and you've finally held the Sun Moon Empire back for a period of time. Time is increasingly important for us. I have already instructed the Tang Sect to push back all soul tools that are meant to be sold and all purchase requests

so that they can focus all their efforts on crafting soul tools to equip Shrek's city defense army. We can only hope that Shrek city's defense army can turn the tides of battle."

Huo Yuhao could feel fear creeping into his heart. He naturally understood the kind of pressure that Elder Xuan had to bear to make such a decision. The Star Luo Empire and Heavenly Soul Empire both lacked resources, but the Tang Sect's production was very limited! How much effort would they have to put in to equip a legion with enough strength to fight against the Sun Moon Empire's soul engineer legions?

"Elder Xuan, why don't I seek out Di Tian tomorrow?"

Elder Xuan shook his head and said, "There's no use. Soul beasts have always only protected their own and not outsiders. Di Tian can only protect you; he's more than happy to see other humans die – the more the better. Don't waste your time. You should go and rest. You should return to the Tang Sect after resting up for a few days so that you can help the Tang Sect's Soul Tool Hall produce soul tools more quickly. All of the academy's resources and the resources that the Douluo Continent's three native empires have sent to support us have been granted to the Tang Sect. Perhaps the Tang Sect's strength will be key to the final outcome of the war."

"Yes," Huo Yuhao acknowledged and stood up.

Elder Xuan said, "We will send news from the frontlines to the Tang Sect as soon as it comes. You can rest assured as you cultivate and craft soul tools in your sect. You don't have to bother yourself with other things for the moment."

### **Chapter 457.1: The Academy's Soul Engineer Legion Plan**

"Yes." Huo Yuhao acknowledged once again before leaving Elder Xuan's room.

He didn't remain in the Sea God's Pavilion, but went back to the Tang Sect. His body had just recovered, and he didn't dare to toil the entire night. He returned to the Tang Sect, where his own room was, and begun to meditate to recover his physical strength.

On the morning of the second day, he ate his breakfast before Bei Bei gathered the senior management of the Tang Sect for a meeting.

Huo Yuhao went to report to Elder Xuan the night before. Xu Sanshi recounted the entire process in detail as a means of updating Bei Bei.

Just like Elder Xuan had mentioned, the Tang Sect's Soul Tool Hall was very busy. Shrek Academy sent all their teachers and students from the Soul Tool Department to the Tang Sect, personally led by Dean Qian Duoduo. They were now all under Xuan Ziwen.

The academy also sent over all types of resources, and Dean Xian Lin'er and Teacher Fan Yu led a batch of teachers from the Martial Soul Department to instruct the students of the academy as well as the Shrek City Defense Army on the use of soul tools.

The Tang Sect had already been relocated into two different areas. One of them was at the original address, while the other region was a huge factory that was used to manufacture soul tools.

"Eldest senior." Huo Yuhao hurriedly greeted Bei Bei when he saw him.

However, Bei Bei was unkind to him. He said, "Little junior, you aren't allowed to perform any missions without my permission from now on."

"What?" Huo Yuhao was shocked as he looked at him. He asked, "Eldest senior, why is that so?"

Bei Bei ferociously banged the table and furiously said, "Before you left, what did I tell you? My words have fallen on deaf ears, haven't they? You disregarded your own safety and took such a huge risk. How dare you still ask me why?"

"Ugh..." Huo Yuhao suddenly looked very embarrassed. He scratched his head and looked at Xu Sanshi helplessly.

Xu Sanshi chuckled and said, "Yuhao, don't look at me. You were injured earlier, such that I couldn't bear to reprimand you. Did you really think I couldn't tell what you were planning? I was fooled by you at the start. After that, I realized that the door that you left behind was supposed to be used to return back to the base, am I right? This means that you didn't stand a chance at all. If not for the power that Di Tian left in your body, you would have been dead. Eldest senior is right. Don't go out and perform any missions anymore. Remain in the sect and focus on your cultivation."

Huo Yuhao revealed a disgruntled look on his face, "Third senior, you can't put it that way. I was forced by circumstances then, wasn't I? If I didn't help the Star Luo Empire achieve a decisive victory, the Sun Moon Empire would have run riot in the Heavenly Soul Empire."

Bei Bei looked very cold, "All right, there's no use in saying all of that. Sit down. Whatever it is, you won't be allowed to leave Shrek City without my permission. Otherwise, you'll be expelled from the sect."

Bei Bei was normally very refined and very nice in his treatment of the members of Shrek's Seven Monsters. This was especially so for Huo Yuhao. This was his first time he had lost his temper against Huo Yuhao.

Huo Yuhao was instantly very fearful and didn't dare to argue back. He could only sit down disappointingly, and he appeared very helpless.

Nan Qiuqiu was sitting beside him and started to secretly laugh.

Huo Yuhao was frustrated as he glanced at her. He asked, "Is it that funny?"

Nan Qiuqiu chortled, "You deserve it. Who asked you to lose your cool? We support eldest senior's punishment of you. Just remain in the sect and cultivate."

At this moment, Bei Bei said, "During these few days that you weren't around, the Tang Sect has already started to move on all fronts. According to Elder Xuan's instructions, what we need to do first is equip an army that is capable of resisting the Sun Moon Empire's soul engineer legions. The members of this army will be formed by the teachers and outstanding students of the academy. I'm going to repeat the plan now, and we'll see if anyone has anything to add."

"The academy has considered the opinions of all parties after a conference. They've decided to set up three soul engineer legions."

Three? Huo Yuhao was slightly shocked when he heard this number. If they were like the Sun Moon Empire, each soul engineer legion would be composed of five hundred people. This meant that equipping three soul engineer legions would mean equipping a thousand five hundred people. How easy was it to create enough equipment for a thousand five hundred people to use? Furthermore, the Sun Moon Empire's soul engineer legions were strong in the sense that their soul tool technologies were leading in the entire continent. Formations of soul tools and linked soul tools were some things that the Tang Sect lacked.

Why were there so few casualties from the Sun Moon Empire's soul engineer legions when they fought? Hundreds of the Sun Moon Empire's soul engineers unleashed linked soul tools, creating a line of defense that even Transcendent Douluo were helpless against!

Wasn't it a little too hasty for the academy to set up three soul engineer legions?

Bei Bei glanced at Huo Yuhao and managed to see how astonished he was. A smiling intent flashed across his face. However, he soon returned to his cold and indifferent look and continued, saying, "Out of these three soul engineer legions, the first legion will be called the Tang Sect Soul Engineer Legion. The academy approved this name. It'll also be the most elite legion out of the three. It'll consist of two hundred soul engineers. They'll all be equipped with the most advanced technologies that the Tang Sect possesses right now. All the soul engineers will at least be Soul Emperors. The leader of this legion will be Dean Xian Lin'er, and the vice-leader of this legion will be Dean Qian Duoduo. At the same time, there'll be ten Titled Douluo in this legion, all from the academy. However, Dean Xian Lin'er will be the only Transcendent Douluo."

Two hundred? That's still rather reliable. Huo Yuhao heaved a slight sigh of relief when he heard that. However, he opened his eyes wide when he heard 'ten Titled Douluo'.

Ten Titled Douluo! Even the Sun Moon Empire's Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Legion, the strongest out of the Hand that Protects the Nation, didn't have so many Titled Douluo. Moreover, all the soul engineers from this legion would at least be Soul Emperors, even though there were only two hundred of them. It really seemed like they wanted to create the number one soul engineer legion on the continent.

Bei Bei said, "Currently, we've decided to equip this soul engineer legion with custom-made soul tools, including the newly-created batch of linked soul tools. Teacher Xuan will also personally supervise and participate in the creation of core parts of all equipment. We've predicted that we'll be able to fully equip all of them within half a year to a year's time."

Huo Yuhao lifted his hand and said, "Eldest senior, I have a question."

Bei Bei glanced at him and said, "What's the question?"

Huo Yuhao said, "Given the Tang Sect's current abilities, there shouldn't be no problem creating soul tools for Soul Emperors. In terms of linked soul tools, we shouldn't have a problem either, since we have Teacher Xuan. However, Soul Emperors should only be a small part of this soul engineer legion. Soul Sages, Soul Douluo and Titled Douluo will make up the large bulk of this soul engineer legion. The soul tools that they will be using should be even more advanced, otherwise, they won't be effective enough! Do we have the ability to create so many advanced soul tools?"

Bei Bei nodded and thought to himself. No wonder he's our little junior. He managed to find the core of the problem so quickly.

"Your question is very good. Yes, we won't be able to create so many suitable soul tools given our current abilities. This is why, after much discussion, we've decided that the Tang Sect Soul Engineer Legion will be composed entirely of close-combat soul engineers. For all the soul tools we are going to manufacture, we've decided to focus on those that increase speed and offensive strength. Secondly, they'll be tailored to increase survivability on the battlefield. The only linked soul tool will be for mass defense."

After hearing his words, Huo Yuhao was immediately enlightened. At the same time, his eyes brightened. It's a great idea, isn't it? What are the soul masters from Shrek Academy most adept at? It's the way they fight. In the entire continent, Shrek Academy is the best in this aspect.

Since this is the case, why would we focus on long-range attacks? Close-combat soul engineers, increasing speed, offensive strength, and survivability. If we can achieve all these, we would naturally increase the fighting strength of our soul masters.

"If that's the case, that's great then. Eldest senior, you can continue." Huo Yuhao was in awe as he looked at Bei Bei.

Bei Bei glared at him unkindly and continued, saying, "For the other two soul engineer legions, there will be more people. The first of the other two soul engineer legions will be called the Heavy Artillery Soul Engineer Legion. They'll be equipped with the most advanced Zhuge Divine Crossbow Cannons. They'll be given three hundred of them, of varying classes. There'll be a total of one thousand soul masters in the legion. Our aim is to ensure the agility of our heavy cannons as we increase our firepower, and also to ensure that the soul engineers wielding these cannons will be able to get into formations at the quickest speed under any condition and at any place. Currently, we've already requested the purchase of a huge batch of low to mid-tier soul cannon shells. Some of them have even secretly been imported from the Sun Moon Empire. In addition, we are also manufacturing our own cannon shells."

Heavy Artillery Soul Engineer Legion. It was much simpler to equip such a soul engineer legion. The Tang Sect had already been producing Zhuge Divine Crossbow Cannons, and thus had an increasing stock of them.

However, the stronger a cannon was, the less portable it was. How could they ensure that they could move the cannons as quickly as possible? Furthermore, they still had to preserve the fighting strength of the cannons. What they needed were sufficient Sealed Milk Bottles to support these cannons.

Wait, one thousand people and three hundred cannons? It seems like eldest senior is trying to use people to make up for the lack of Sealed Milk Bottles? After all, every soul master is a source of energy. If they take turns to pour soul power into the Zhuge Divine Crossbow Cannons, they should be able to attack continuously for some time.

If three hundred Zhuge Divine Crossbow Cannons are fired at the same time, they would unleash terrifying strength!

Huo Yuhao could still clearly remember that Zhuge Divine Crossbow Cannons had played a very critical role in Shrek City when the Beast Wave came.

## Chapter 457.2: The Academy's Soul Engineer Legion Plan

Bei Bei said, "The third soul engineer legion will be named the Fort Soul Engineer Legion. It'll be composed of a thousand five hundred soul masters. Comparatively speaking, this batch of soul masters will be of lower cultivations, and they'll only be equipped with one type of soul tool – our modified all-terrain self-driving fort. Every fort can only carry five people. As a result, this soul engineer legion will be equipped with three hundred such forts."

After hearing such a number, Huo Yuhao was astonished. He first thought of the sheer amount of rare metals they needed to produce so many self-driving forts and Zhuge Divine Crossbow Cannons!

Bei Bei instantly saw through what he was thinking and took the initiative to answer his doubts before he even posed his question, "To conserve resources and increase the speed of manufacture, we've hired blacksmiths from the Heavenly Soul, Dou Ling and Star Luo Empires on high payrolls. They'll proceed with the manufacturing of the outer shells of the cannons and forts. All the metal outer shells will be built using fine iron. Although this can greatly reduce the defensive tenacity and durability of these cannons and forts, it's the only way to manufacture so many soul tools as quickly as possible. According to our estimates, the three soul engineer legions should be fully equipped within a year's time."

Relentless! This was Huo Yuhao's immediate reaction after he heard Bei Bei's words.

The academy is really going all-out this time! These three soul engineer legions consist of a total of two thousand seven hundred soul masters, including more than ten Titled Douluo. This is indeed the strength of Shrek Academy.

The Sun Moon Empire would never expect them to manufacture the outer shells of such large-scale soul tools using fine iron. After all, soul tools were precious in the sense that they were durable. How could fine iron compare to rare metals?

At least, it was unlikely that the Sun Moon Empire would use fine iron to manufacture soul tools. However, the Tang Sect was going to do just that. The only advantage that the Tang Sect had over the Sun Moon Empire was the mechanical blueprints for the Tang Sect's Hidden Weapons that originated from the ancient Tang Sect.

Huo Yuhao could guess without even asking. Apart from the most critical parts, all of the soul tools they were going to manufacture were likely going to be using fine iron, fine steel, and other ordinary metals. Even though they were also very strong, their strength could only be realized by the Tang Sect using those mechanical blueprints.

Teacher Xuan, you've really tapped into the full potential of the Tang Sect!

Bei Bei said, "Now that the first batch of soul tools for the three soul engineer legions has been completed, we've been conducting training every day. Perhaps our three soul engineer legions aren't strong enough to change the entire situation of the war, but they'll be a force to be reckoned with. When needed, we can attack and defend."

Huo Yuhao said, "Eldest senior, I have a suggestion."

Bei Bei nodded and answered, "Go on."



Huo Yuhao continued, "I suggest that we specially divide some people to specialize in manufacturing stationary soul cannon shells. A stationary soul cannon's greatest advantage lies in its effective range. Since we can use fine iron to create the main structure of our soul tools, we can also manufacture cannon shells. As long as we reduce their strength below a certain standard, fine iron and steel should be able to handle them."

Bei Bei furrowed his brow and said, "We'll only be able to manufacture Class 3 stationary soul cannon shells then. Wouldn't that be too weak?"

Huo Yuhao's eyes flashed and he replied, "It might not be. If we thicken the layer of fine iron and steel on the outer shell, we should be able to increase the soul cannons to at least a Class 4 standard. Furthermore, these outer shells can be manufactured by ordinary blacksmiths. We can add a very thin layer of rare metals as the innermost layer. In that case, we should be able to create Class 4 stationary soul cannon shells. Although the destructiveness of a Class 4 stationary soul cannon shell is only roughly at the standard of a Class 5 soul cannon, we'll still be able to gain a very huge advantage in long-range attacks if we have enough of them. They'll be especially useful for aerial soul tools. Given my spirit power, we can specialize in using stationary soul cannons to attack the Sun Moon Empire's aerial surveillance soul tools that within a ten-kilometer radius. Destroying aerial surveillance soul tools doesn't require too much power either."

After hearing Huo Yuhao's words, Bei Bei nodded repeatedly and said, "Alright. If you think this is plausible, I'll arrange for you to find Teacher Xuan when this meeting is over. After that, you can quickly perform tests and come up with a proposition before we commit to anything. We don't have many soul engineers in the Douluo Continent, but we have many blacksmiths. Hire another batch of them."

"Alright."

After this, Bei Bei introduced all the details relating to the Tang Sect to everyone. There were simply too many matters to deal with in the Tang Sect right now. Bei Bei was also very relieved now that Huo Yuhao and the rest had returned. At least there would now a bunch of them helping him with all the work. Otherwise, he would have died from fatigue. He wouldn't even have enough time to search for the Bluesilver Emperor.

After the meeting was over, Huo Yuhao left the room and was prepared to find Xuan Ziwen. After seeing the Death God and learning about some soul tools on the battlefield, he wanted to discuss all of it with him.

"Hey, wait a minute." Someone called to Huo Yuhao, causing him to turn around perplexedly. He only saw Nan Qiuqiu chasing after him with a grin on her face.

"What's wrong, Qiuqiu? You're still gloating?" Huo Yuhao laughed.

Nan Qiuqiu snorted and replied, "Am I that sort of person? I'm here to help you."

Huo Yuhao was curious as he asked, "Help me? Help me with what?"

Nan Qiuqiu chuckled and said, "Do you want to go out and play? I have an idea that will let eldest senior agree to let you go out."

“What?” Huo Yuhao appeared delighted. He didn’t really want to leave, but he might have a chance to bump into Wang Dong’er if he left Shrek City.

Huo Yuhao was doubtful as he asked, “What idea could you have?”

Nan Qiuqiu snorted and said, “You just need to agree to one of my conditions before I’ll bring you along.”

“What’s the condition? Tell me.” Huo Yuhao asked.

Nan Qiuqiu paused for a moment and she turned slightly red. After that, she answered, “I want you to be my boyfriend for a few days.”

“What?” Huo Yuhao was stunned for a moment. He was a little embarrassed as he looked at her and shook his head helplessly before turning around and leaving.

“Hey!” Nan Qiuqiu stomped her foot in anger. “Am I that annoying? Can’t you even pretend to be my boyfriend?”

Huo Yuhao shook his head and replied, “I’m sorry, Qiuqiu. We can negotiate other things, but I can’t accede to this request of yours. You should know my feelings for Dong’er. If I agree to your request, I’ll be hurting you. That won’t be good for either of us. I’m really sorry. You’re a nice lady, and I’m sure you’ll find your prince charming in the future. I’ll go and find Teacher Xuan first.” After he finished speaking, he turned around and left.

Of course, Huo Yuhao could sense the feelings that Ye Guyi and Nan Qiuqiu had for him. It was just that he was overly sad because of what had happened to Wang Dong’er and Wang Qiu’er, and really didn’t wish to associate himself with anyone else. If he were more determined when Wang Qiu’er got close to him, the tragedy might not have happened. This was why he was now very disciplined with regards to matters of the heart. Even though Tang Wutong looked almost identical to Wang Dong’er, he still decided to immediately steer clear from her after verifying that she wasn’t Wang Dong’er. He didn’t want to give her and himself the wrong impression. She had her own feelings. When a guy and a girl stayed around each other too much, it was inevitable that feelings would grow between them. Huo Yuhao didn’t wish for such a situation to happen. This was why he rejected Nan Qiuqiu so readily. Perhaps this might hurt her in the short-term, but it was better than hurting her after she was even more emotionally involved.

“Hmph! Guys are all so heartless. I don’t want any prince charming. Don’t leave. Let me finish talking first.” Nan Qiuqiu was fuming as she pursued Huo Yuhao, stopping him in his tracks.

Huo Yuhao sighed slightly and asked, “Qiuqiu, what else do you want?”

She snorted and said, “It’s a good thing for you. I still have to chase you for this. But you’re so unwilling.”

Huo Yuhao was apologetic, “I’m sorry, Qiuqiu. Ever since Qiu’er left and Dong’er fell into a coma, I’ve not been feeling very good. If there’s anything that I’ve done to offend you, please forgive me.”

Nan Qiuqiu glared at Huo Yuhao and said, “Do you know how much I hate you? It’s always like this – acting so kind and treating others as outsiders. Even if you can’t be my boyfriend, can’t you at least be an ordinary friend?” As she spoke, her eyes had already turned red.

Huo Yuhao's heart softened and he said, "We've always been friends! We're even partners, even closer than ordinary friends."

Nan Qiuqiu's expression became milder and she said, "That's more acceptable. Alright, I shall not delay you. I'll get straight to the point. Do you remember my mom mentioning that there's a mysterious place where the Earthdragon Sect is that she wishes to give to the Tang Sect?"

Huo Yuhao was moved and he said, "Yes, Elder Nan did mention it before. Why? Haven't we gone to retrieve it yet?"

Nan Qiuqiu said, "One look and I can tell that you didn't fully understand her words. My mom was telling you that the place is likely to be accessible only to you. As the temperature inside is extremely low, ordinary soul masters can't possibly survive inside, much less venture deep into it. According to the information that our ancestors left behind, there's likely to be a mine inside. This mine is also very strange – it's extremely cold inside. We can only predict that there's some kind of rare metal inside, but we can't tell how rare it is. If you're interested, you can go and take a look since you've nothing much to do now and the war situation has more or less stabilized. If you retrieve rare metals, you can bring some of them back."

### **Chapter 457.3: The Academy's Soul Engineer Legion Plan**

So it's about this matter. Huo Yuhao finally understood, and said with gratitude, "Thanks, Qiuqiu. I'll return and ask eldest senior for permission first."

Nan Qiuqiu nodded and said, "Alright, I'll go and find my mother too. I'll ask if she's free within this period of time. Haih, our sect's territory has already been occupied by the Sun Moon Empire. If we return, we must be careful too."

Huo Yuhao smiled and said, "No worries, it won't be some kind of death trap. We've already overcome the Death God. Do we need to be afraid of ordinary soldiers from the Sun Moon Empire?"

Nan Qiuqiu laughed and said, "Eldest senior just lectured you, but you've already gone back to your old ways. Aren't you afraid that I'll report you to him?"

Huo Yuhao laughed, "I'm not afraid. You aren't that kind of person. You're the most loyal."

Nan Qiuqiu snorted and said, "It seems like we can only be good brothers in this life."

Huo Yuhao chuckled, "It's great to be good brothers! See, I'm so good to my brothers. Alright, I'll find Teacher Xuan first. We'll talk when we get back."

In the next few days, Huo Yuhao was completely busy. His discussion with Xuan Ziwen took six hours before he invested his energy into developing stationary soul cannon shells. Xuan Ziwen handed this job to him. If it were Xuan Ziwen, he would find it very easy to complete this task.

As for the Earthdragon Sect, Bei Bei allowed him to proceed there after he was done with this task.

During the breaks in his experiments, Huo Yuhao wanted to make a trip to the Sea God's Island and ask Elder Xuan about a problem he had faced during his cultivation. It was just that he found it difficult to turn his attention away from his experiments after he started on them. He only found the time after he completed all his experiments.

After the Class 4 stationary soul cannon shells were completed, they were only two-thirds as strong as normal Class 4 stationary soul cannon shells. However, their effective range was almost the same. This was the result of the materials used. Furthermore, Xuan Ziwen was already very pleased that they could make it this far.

Huo Yuhao had used a few techniques in their construction. Amongst them, the most important technique was the delayed activation component of the stationary soul cannon shells.

When such cannon shells were fired, they normally relied on the thrust at their tail ends to reach far away before exploding. The components that gave them their thrust and power had to be separated using a strong rare metal. The stronger a cannon shell was, the more precious the rare metal needed to separate the components.

However, Huo Yuhao went against conventional logic this time in his design. He used a new activation technique.

First, as these soul cannon shells were specially designed for Zhuge Divine Crossbows, Huo Yuhao fully tapped into their thrusting force.

The cannons were able to fire the cannon shells around two kilometers in distance. If the shells were detonated within these two kilometers, a lot of energy is undoubtedly wasted.

Huo Yuhao didn't separate the components but placed them together in the same compartment. At the bottom of the cannon shells, he used some mechanical principles and created a delayed activation component.

When these shells were fired by the cannons, they would automatically be activated. However, as it didn't have the thrust component, the power component should directly blow apart.

However, with the delayed activation component, the power component was meant to blow apart after some time. It would take a few seconds. Within these few seconds, the shell would have flown more than two kilometers away. When the power component was about to be detonated, the central detonation component would take effect. The power component was divided into two parts. One of these parts was the second thrust component. This second thrust component would increase the speed of the shell once again, reaching the speed of an original Class 4 shell and flying far away. Due to the initial propulsion, it just needed to increase the speed of the shell. In this way, a lot of energy was conserved. Although the strength of the power component was slightly reduced as it was smaller, it was important to remember that the outer shell and mechanical components were made completely from fine iron! It was already very difficult to achieve this.

Such a cannon shell would be two-thirds as strong as usual, but its cost would only be a tenth of normal. This was not even including the fact that some rare metals couldn't be found on the market. It was indeed possible to mass-produce such cannon shells.

Of course, Huo Yuhao's research only went this far. Stronger stationary soul tools couldn't be manufactured in this way. This was because they were too strong, and needed rare metals for their outer shells. However, adopting this method would undoubtedly help to conserve resources.

He had finally finished. Huo Yuhao reported his results to Bei Bei and was excited as he sat in the chair in front of Bei Bei, gulping down water. He was completely tired out over the past half month.

Bei Bei couldn't help but smile when he saw Huo Yuhao's excited look. After Huo Yuhao and the rest returned, they had helped him with a lot of work. He had been much more relaxed over the past half month.

"Yuhao, when are you planning to leave since the experiments are done?" Bei Bei asked.

Huo Yuhao was puzzled as he asked, "Leave? Where to?"

Bei Bei was speechless and said, "Your memory is failing you! Have you forgotten what you promised Qiuqiu? They are helping us. We can't delay any further. Go and take a look. If it's some kind of precious rare metal, bring it back."

Huo Yuhao recalled his conversation with Nan Qiuqiu that day and was embarrassed as he scratched his head. "Alright, eldest senior. I'll go over in a day or two."

Bei Bei said, "Alright, you can go in two days' time. You should also rest over these two days. You can't spend all your time researching in the future. Look at Teacher Xuan. He's a soul tool maniac right now."

Xuan Ziwen had become the busiest person in Shrek City. However, it was weird. He managed to become a Titled Douluo amidst all his business. Recently, he was researching his special Class 9 soul tool. Once his research was over, he would become a true Class 9 soul engineer. He would even be stronger than most ordinary Class 9 soul engineers.

Huo Yuhao chortled and said, "I can't rest. I had some doubts during my cultivation earlier. I still need to ask Elder Xuan about them. Eldest senior, I'll leave first if there's nothing else. I'll go to the Sea God's Pavilion straightaway. If you want to find me, ask someone to go over there to call me over."

After he finished, he quickly rushed out. To him, every minute was precious.

His soul power had increased by another rank over the past half month. He was now a Class 74 control-type Soul Sage. This increase was a result of his accumulation, as well as his research into the soul power of the Beast God.

As he was busy performing experiments, Huo Yuhao didn't manage to improve in his earlier cultivation. But now that the experiments were over, it was time for him to work towards improvements in that area.

"Yuhao, wash up before going." Bei Bei smiled as he called out to Huo Yuhao from behind.

"Alright." Huo Yuhao acknowledged his words before he disappeared.

Bei Bei wore a smile on his face and shook his head helplessly. He gently leaned back in his chair. Suddenly, he seemed to have thought of something. He pulled the drawer in front of him open and took out a small jade box.

Pinkish lights flashed inside this box. It was given to him by the Delicate Silk Immortal, and it was one of the two valuable treasures needed to save Tang Ya. However, the only problem was that the Bluesilver Emperor had yet to surface until now.

Xiao Ya, where are you? How are you doing?

Bei Bei's expression turned gentler as he thought of her. However, he was deeply worried. It had already been so long since he had received any news of Tang Ya. Without a doubt, she must have been completely influenced by those evil soul masters and lost her awareness.

Bei Bei really wanted to risk everything to find her. He had already secretly decided in his heart that he was going to leave the Tang Sect to find her after the three soul engineer legions were fully equipped. No matter what price he had to pay, he had to bring her back safely even if he couldn't find the Bluesilver Emperor.

Huo Yuhao quickly went to Shrek Academy after leaving the Tang Sect. The academy was considered to be in the inner city now. Although Shrek City had expanded, Shrek Academy hadn't. They only added an extra experimental ground outside of the Soul Tool Department.

Now that war had begun on the continent, even Shrek Academy wasn't completely safe. Apart from the students who were already in the academy, the number of new students was decreasing. If Shrek Academy was already like that, there was no point talking about other academies.

Huo Yuhao went straight to Sea God's Island after entering the academy. When he was outside the Sea God's Pavilion, he first kowtowed to the Golden Tree before going in to find Elder Xuan.

Elder Xuan looked much better than he had the last time they had met. He directly brought Huo Yuhao to his room to talk to him.

"Elder Xuan." Huo Yuhao was delighted as he rushed in front of Elder Xuan. "My experiments have succeeded. We can start manufacturing low-tier Class 4 stationary soul cannon shells now. If we make them in batches, we should be able to surprise the Sun Moon Empire."

Elder Xuan was in awe as he said, "Oh? You've actually succeeded? You're indeed a genius!" It's only been a few days, but Yuhao has already completed such crucial research. It's even something the Sun Moon Empire can't replicate.

After Huo Yuhao started researching, Bei Bei had already reported his idea to Elder Xuan during their regular meetings at the Sea God's Pavilion.

Shrek Academy was no longer peaceful after the war started. The Conference of the Sea God's Pavilion was meant to be annual, but it was now changed to regular monthly meetings. If there were other special situations, more of such meetings had to be organized.

### **Chapter 458.1: Soul Core**

"Don't tire yourself out, Yuhao. You look so worn out." Elder Xuan smacked the dust off his shoulders and said concernedly.

Huo Yuhao laughed in embarrassment. Bei Bei's warning fell on deaf ears. He was excited after completing his experiments, and was eager to tell Elder Xuan everything about the mysteries of soul power.

"Elder Xuan, wasn't I possessed by the Beast God Di Tian when I was resisting Elder Ye Xishui? Then, the Beast God poured in his strength into my body from afar through spatial power. He descended using my

body. Even though my passageways were damaged following that, I managed to understand some certain traits of Di Tian's soul power. When I did my research after that, I found out something strange."

Huo Yuhao recounted his discoveries, along with the details of his experiments to Elder Xuan.

Elder Xuan was still smiling when he first started, and nodding his head from time to time. He was very pleased with Huo Yuhao's curiosity. However, his expression slowly changed as he continued to listen.

He performed high-pressure compression on his soul power and controlled it outside his body, creating a spatial distortion and allowing him to imitate Di Tian's black hole soul power.

This kid is too brazen.

"...Elder Xuan, whatever knowledge the academy taught before only applies to Soul Douluo and below. There's no other knowledge beyond Soul Douluo. When one becomes a Titled Douluo, what kind of changes will happen to his soul power? Is Di Tian's black hole soul power only applicable for Ultimate Douluo? In other words, is he the only one with knowledge of it? Although they are both Ultimate Douluo, Di Tian was evidently stronger than Elder Ye Xishui. If Ye Xishui doesn't use the Death God, she won't be Di Tian's match in a direct confrontation."

Elder Xuan silently nodded. He sighed before saying, "I didn't expect you to reach this level so quickly. Since you've asked, I guess it's fine that I tell you."

"You aren't wrong. When a soul master becomes a Titled Douluo, his soul power will transform from its original fluid state to a solid state. That's the Rank 90 bottleneck, and the soul master will obtain his ninth soul ring to become a Titled Douluo. This is a very difficult bottleneck to break through for most soul masters. This is why there are so many Soul Douluo, but a scarcity of Titled Douluo."

"There's a very big problem when one's soul power changes from a fluid state to a solid state. It's very difficult to cultivate soul power in the solid state. Let's not talk about those Soul Douluo who can't transform to become a Titled Douluo. Let's only talk about Titled Douluo. You've already sparred with many Titled Douluo. Have you ever realized that even Titled Douluo of the same rank can actually differ a lot in their abilities?"

Huo Yuhao immediately nodded and said, "Yes! I've discovered this point. Isn't this because of one's martial soul?"

Elder Xuan smiled and said, "That's right. It has some relation to one's martial soul. The stronger one's martial soul is, the better he is able to unleash the strength of it when he combines it with his soul power. However, you might know about something. The stronger one's martial soul is, the greater the amount of soul power during cultivation. This is because one's martial soul can contain a part of his soul power. The stronger a martial soul, the greater the amount of soul power it can store."

"One can store a portion of his soul power in his martial soul?" Huo Yuhao was astonished. He really did not know about this.

Elder Xuan smiled and said, "Yes. You should be realizing it now. A soul master can unleash his Martial Soul True Body if he's at least a Soul Sage. His Martial Soul True Body can help him to store some of his soul power. You'll only learn such knowledge in the academy if you're at least a Soul Sage. You didn't

realize it because the amount of soul power you have is already greater than other soul masters of the same rank. Don't forget, you have twin martial souls."

Huo Yuhao pondered, then asked, "Does this mean that it is very difficult for a Titled Douluo to improve further when his soul power reaches a solid state?"

Elder Xuan smiled and nodded lightly, "That's right, you're correct. The reason is also very simple. If your soul power is in the gaseous or liquid state, it can flow inside your body. Now, let me ask you, can your soul power still flow if it's in a solid state?"

Huo Yuhao was stunned for a moment, and subconsciously shook his head. "Yes! How can one's soul power flow inside his body if it's in a solid state?"

Elder Xuan said, "Your research is going in the right direction. In fact, the situation that you've laid out is exactly the soul core that only appears for Titled Douluo. It refers to the core of soul power, the foundation of a Titled Douluo. Soul power is compressed from a fluid state to a solid state, which is then immersed in the dantian of a soul master. That is the soul core. The soul core revolves continuously, and will absorb external soul power through the soul master for the soul master to use. Whether it is in terms of fighting strength or recovery ability, the soul master will be stronger than before."

"However, it is much more difficult to improve once one's soul power solidifies compared to when it's in the fluid or gaseous state. This is because a human can't possibly circulate solid soul power through his body. This is why a human can only dissect the solid soul power in his body into beads before controlling the circulation of his soul power in the gaseous or fluid state. Not only is this process difficult, but it is also very dangerous. As a result, some soul masters who didn't think that they were talented would give up on further improvements after they became Titled Douluo. They would remain at Rank 91. This is very safe for them."

It's actually so complicated??Huo Yuhao was shocked when he heard that.

Elder Xuan continued, saying, "However, it's not entirely true that soul power can't circulate in one's body in the solid state. If a soul master's spiritual power is strong enough that he can control the beads of soul power to appear in the gaseous or fluid state, he can naturally circulate his soul power. Given this, solid, fluid and gaseous states could possibly exist together. To control one's soul power at this level, one can only be a Transcendent Douluo. As a result, after becoming a Transcendent Douluo, cultivation might actually become easier. At least there's a correct cultivation method."

"Of course, Transcendent Douluo would still find it difficult to improve. There's a limit to how much soul power a human body can handle. It can still be compressed in the gaseous or fluid state, and it is already highly compressed in the solid state. It can no longer be further compressed. In order to allow one's body to handle more soul power, it comes down to the question that you asked earlier – why does Di Tian's soul power contain such strong spatial power?"

"Di Tian has an eight hundred thousand year cultivation. Although he has not lived in this world for eight hundred thousand years, he has still lived much longer than us. Throughout his entire life, he has been understanding the mysteries of space and time, granting him his current cultivation. No one on the continent can compare to him in this aspect. His soul power, which is every little black hole that you saw, contains an immense amount of compressed soul power. It is stored in his body using time and



spatial power, which enables him to handle it. Once a fight breaks out, he can unleash immense fighting strength by controlling his soul power.”

“My current soul power is Rank 98. All these years, I’ve been troubled by how to control that spatial power and stabilize it after compressing my soul power. I can perform some simple control of spatial power. Come, take a look.”

As he spoke, Elder Xuan stretched out his hand, and a ball of yellow light appeared out of nothing in his palm. It was a yellow ball of light, which looked very real. There were thin spatial cracks around it.

Earth-type soul power! This was clearly Elder Xuan’s solidified soul power!

Elder Xuan’s eyes brightened. Suddenly, the spatial cracks that surrounded the ball started to widen, and the ball started to collapse inward. A small black hole was formed. A terrifying suction force dragged Huo Yuhao toward it, and he almost knocked into Elder Xuan.

After that black hole formed, it started to revolve at high speed. The origin energy in the air started to be sucked into the black hole.

The yellow light on Elder Xuan’s body became more intense. The little black hole stabilized as it was surrounded by a layer of gentle yellow light. It stopped spinning faster, but revolved at a constant speed.

“This is roughly how it is in Di Tian’s body. He uses his own soul power to cause a collapse in space, forming a black hole that can devour origin energy. Theoretically speaking, this black hole can continuously devour origin energy. However, there would be instability if I can’t control it, which would eventually lead to an explosion. I heard Elder Mu mention that if an Ultimate Douluo can complete a black hole and maintain it at a limit that he can handle, the black hole would be able to remain indefinitely. In that case, this black hole can even devour our entire continent.”

“Of course. Such a possibility is very rare. Elder Mu was only making deductions too. Such a black hole soul power would require immense spiritual power to be controlled. After it’s controlled, it can be absorbed into one’s body. I can complete such a process, but I can’t transform my soul power in that way like Di Tian. Currently, there’s only one black hole of soul power in my body right now. It’s my soul core. The soul power that’s flowing in my body is still existing in three states.”

“If I can transform one-tenth of the soul power in my body into a black hole, I can create a second black hole soul core, possibly in my chest or brow, thereby becoming an Ultimate Douluo. However, it’s not easy! I’ve already tried many times, but I’ve always missed by a bit. Compared to substituting my soul power, creating a second soul core is easier. Elder Mu and Long Xiaoyao both took this path. I think Ye Xishui did the same too. Only Di Tian took a different path. This is why he is much stronger than most ordinary Ultimate Douluo.

## **Chapter 458.2: Soul Core**

“Furthermore, I suspect that Di Tian has a second soul core. His abilities are already close to that of a god. If he were human, he might have been accepted by the Godly Realm already.”

Huo Yuhao listened very seriously. To him, such knowledge was simply too important. This has also allowed him to clearly see his future path of development.

Elder Xuan smiled and said, "Yuhao, it's much easier for you to become an Ultimate Douluo compared to us. This is because you have twin martial souls. Remember, you must aim to achieve double soul cores the moment you become a Titled Douluo. As long as you can form black holes with those two soul cores, you can easily overcome the barrier to becoming an Ultimate Douluo. Haih, it's a pity that time is not on our side. If you had another thirty years to become an Ultimate Douluo, why would we be afraid of Ye Xishui and Long Xiaoyao? An Ultimate Douluo with twin martial souls would be much stronger than both of them. You could even possibly challenge Di Tian."

Huo Yuhao said, "Elder Xuan, how can soul power be stabilized as it transforms into a black hole? In my experiments, I found myself losing control before the revolution of my soul power had generated sufficient spatial power. The key lies in my fear. I feared that I would suffer some kind of backlash once I lost control. This is why I don't even know what my limit is."

Elder Xuan laughed and said, "Fool, don't be too ambitious! You're only a Soul Sage right now. Even though you have twin martial souls, you're still a Soul Sage. You can't possibly form a soul core right now. However, you have a very great advantage over other soul masters. Because of this advantage, I'm confident that you can directly form double soul cores when you become a Titled Douluo."

"Are you talking about my spiritual power?" Huo Yuhao immediately understood what Elder Xuan meant.

Elder Xuan nodded and replied, "That's right, it's your spiritual power. Your spiritual power is greater than most other ordinary soul masters, comparable to a Titled Douluo. There are very few spiritual-type soul masters, but a spiritual-type Titled Douluo will most certainly become a Transcendent Douluo. This is because spiritual-type soul masters have greater control than most ordinary soul masters. It's fine for you to carry out such experiments right now. At least you'll get to accumulate experience. However, don't be too fixated on it. You can't help it if your abilities aren't up to par. As your soul power is insufficient, you can't possibly compress all your soul power inside your soul core when you change it from the fluid to the solid state. The bigger the soul core, the stronger the Titled Douluo."

Huo Yuhao was moved, and asked, "Elder Xuan. If I try to form a soul core right now, what might happen?"

Elder Xuan was stunned for a moment, then smiled. "First, it's almost impossible. While your control might be strong, it's very difficult to control spatial power. If things go wrong, you'll be courting your own death. During the process of carrying out soul power compression, the demands on a soul master's physical tenacity are very great. One's body is like a container that stores soul power, whereas the transformation of soul power from a fluid to a solid state will generate immense energy. If your body isn't strong enough, you'll blow apart and die. This is why you can't just try for fun."

"Assuming you really succeed, your future cultivation is bound to increase significantly. A solid soul core absorbs origin energy at a much faster speed than your meditation right now. However, what will happen when you reach Rank 90? You already have one soul core and you can't possibly compress all your soul power inside it. When you reach Rank 90, you'll need to attempt the compression of your second soul core. It's only in this way that you'll become a Titled Douluo. However, your soul core will definitely appear in your dantian. There's a very high possibility that your first soul core will form in your dantian as well. There's also a possibility that you can form two at the same time. However, if there's

already one soul core in your dantian, you'll have to take a look at my condition if you want to form a second soul core somewhere else."

Elder Xuan was a little helpless as he pointed to himself.

Huo Yuhao understood what he meant. According to Elder Xuan, assuming that he did the impossible and formed a first soul core, it would be as difficult for him to form a second soul core as it was to become an Ultimate Douluo from a Rank 98 Transcendent Douluo.

"I understand. Thank you."

Huo Yuhao nodded gently.

Elder Xuan said, "Didn't you say you wanted to challenge your limits earlier? You can try. I'll watch over you. I would also like to see how good your control is. I suggest you try with one-tenth of your soul power. When your soul power reaches the solid state and continues to increase until you feel like you can't control it anymore, I'll be here. Don't worry. I'll ensure your safety."

Huo Yuhao was delighted, "Thanks Elder Xuan. Shall I start now?"

"Yes, you can start now."

Huo Yuhao first calmed himself down and adjusted his state of mind. He shut his eyes, and his spiritual power started to flow. He also checked his soul power in his body.

Elder Xuan stood by one side and silently nodded. "This kid is still as composed as ever. He's not lost his cool at all.

When Huo Yuhao opened his eyes again, his eyes were already covered with a layer of gold. He slowly lifted his right hand, and his milky-white soul power started to flow out.

As his soul power was in the fluid state, it looked like a puddle of milk in his palm. None of his soul power seeped out of his hand as he controlled it using his spiritual power.

More and more of his soul power started to appear and drift above Huo Yuhao's palm. It was slowly revolving. This time, Huo Yuhao had poured out more soul power than he did the previous two times in his experiments. With Elder Xuan protecting him, he naturally didn't need to worry too much.

Under his control, the circulation of his soul power started to increase in speed. At the same time, it also started to slowly compress. During the process of compression, Huo Yuhao slowly increased the input of his soul power.

His fluid soul power started to become viscous, but its speed kept on increasing under Huo Yuhao's intentional control. There was a layer of gold surrounding his white soul power. It was this layer of gold that protected his soul power from seeping away.

If it were any other seven-ringed soul master, his soul power would quickly vaporize if he let his soul power out of his body just like that without using any soul skills. After vaporizing, his soul power would then vanish into the air.

Elder Xuan nodded in approval as he watched Huo Yuhao's control of his spiritual power. Even though this didn't drain too much of his spiritual power, there was a very great demand on detail. It wasn't easy for Huo Yuhao to do something like this.

His soul power was slowly transforming from the fluid to the solid state. Huo Yuhao's expression also started to turn serious. However, his soul power didn't shift in the slightest under his control. It continued to constantly revolve.

It had finally transformed into the solid state. It was very difficult to imagine a Soul Sage doing this! Elder Xuan was in awe, and also became more focused. He was ready to react to any situation.

Huo Yuhao's soul power kept on compressing and revolving.

Slowly, his solid soul power took form. The little funnel that Huo Yuhao was familiar with appeared. As he had poured more soul power into it this time, the appearance of the funnel caused a greater suction of origin energy from outside compared to before. The terrifying suction force directly spread outward. Inside the Sea God's Pavilion, origin energy was in abundance. Suddenly, Huo Yuhao felt as if the energy from this little whirlpool had increased at a rate that was at least twice as quick compared to the previous two experiments.

Distorted lights around his solid soul power started to become more and more evident. The intense suction force didn't just suck in origin energy. It was also absorbing Huo Yuhao's own soul power. Huo Yuhao had no choice but to continuously pour his soul power into it to enhance the strength of his solid soul power.

"Very good, continue. Don't worry. Let me see what standard you can reach." Elder Xuan's voice sounded in Huo Yuhao's ears, alleviating his worries. However, he didn't immediately increase the output of his soul power. Rather, he allowed his soul power to absorb the soul power in his body. At the same time, he kept on strengthening the control of his spiritual power in a bid to maintain the stability of his solid soul power.

Elder Xuan had mentioned before that he had to maintain the stability of his solid soul power if he wanted to make it his soul core. Once stability was lost, a huge explosion would ensue. That would be very perilous.

Under Huo Yuhao's intentional control, his solid soul power started to stabilize, as well as continuing to strengthen. The surge of origin energy also became faster and faster. Huo Yuhao even saw dim gold appearing on the walls in the room. The Golden Tree was absorbing origin energy from the outside world just as it was pouring out origin energy. This went to show that Huo Yuhao's solid soul power was absorbing origin energy at an immensely quick rate.

Elder Xuan's body lit up with a layer of dim golden light, isolating him from the outside world. This was because Huo Yuhao's solid soul power was already starting to absorb his own soul power. However, Elder Xuan was able to isolate it, given that there was a huge difference in their cultivations.

A mysterious look slowly appeared across Huo Yuhao's face. On his forehead, his Eye of Destiny had already slowly opened. He increased the output of his spiritual power once again and continued to control the revolution of his solid soul power with stability.

Seconds passed, and more than half of Huo Yuhao's soul power had already fused into this solid soul power. He also started to feel that he was slowly losing control of the revolution of this solid soul power. His spiritual control was still maintaining its stability. However, it was impossible for him to stop it anymore. If he did so, there would only be one result: an explosion!

### **Chapter 458.3: Soul Core**

Huo Yuhao's spiritual power didn't weaken in the slightest as he continued to pour out his soul power. Elder Xuan was stunned to discover that the spiritual power surrounding the solid soul power was getting stronger and stronger. It had even turned from the original gold to rose-gold. It was as if a layer of solid spiritual power existed and perfectly maintained the stability of the solid soul power.

His spiritual power is really strong. It seems like I have underestimated the strength of his spiritual power. It is much stronger than I expected. Perhaps this kid's spiritual cultivation has improved recently.

Elder Xuan was right. After experiencing the war between the Star Luo Empire and Sun Moon Empire, Huo Yuhao was even personally involved in a fight between Ultimate Douluo. His body had suffered critical injuries, but he had developed a deeper understanding of spiritual aspects. After all, the spiritual power of two Ultimate Douluo was stronger than his. Under the kind of pressure that he faced, his spiritual power naturally grew as it was stimulated.

At this tier, even a minor increase in his spiritual power was still considered a huge improvement.

The terrifying soul power undulations continued, and Huo Yuhao started to find it a little overwhelming. He could still hold on in terms of his spiritual power, but the solid soul power was absorbing his soul power at a faster speed, just as the amount of soul power in his body was less than that in the form of the solid soul power. Huo Yuhao only felt as if the soul power in his body was rushing out, whereas the revolution of the solid soul power had reached a speed that he couldn't see properly even with his Spirit Eyes.

Fifty percent, sixty percent, seventy percent. When more than seventy percent of his soul power had been absorbed from his body, Huo Yuhao already couldn't control the output of his soul power. What he couldn't see was that the entire Sea God's Pavilion had already let out dim golden light. Above the Sea God's Pavilion, origin energy had already formed clouds in the air. Immense origin energy continuously gathered in the direction of the Golden Tree.

Some of the elders in the Sea God's Pavilion were awakened from their cultivation at this moment. How could they possibly not notice such a great disturbance in the pavilion?

Is someone trying to become a Transcendent Douluo?? This was their immediate reaction. This was because something as strange as this only appeared when someone was trying to form a soul core.

After this, they discovered that the core of all the soul power undulations came from Elder Xuan's room. To them, this wasn't considered a very impressive level of soul power undulations. Instead, they thought that the undulations were a little weak. There should be a greater disturbance if it was a Titled Douluo trying to become a Transcendent Douluo.

However, they weren't worried, since everything was happening in Elder Xuan's room. After observing for a while, they all returned to meditate. The concentrated origin energy in the air was also very

beneficial to their cultivation. However, the prerequisite was that they had to create a barrier around themselves to prevent their soul power from being sucked away.

Eighty percent! More than eighty percent of Huo Yuhao's soul power had already been devoured. Right now, he needed to use a portion of his spiritual power to control his entire body so that his soul power would leak out at a slower speed. Perspiration had already drenched his forehead, and he started to look paler and paler.

However, Elder Xuan was very impressed that Huo Yuhao was still able to stabilize and control the solid soul power even under such conditions. He didn't let it shift at all.

At this moment, something strange happened. The original milky-white solid soul power started to change color – it turned a dim gold. Furthermore, this golden color was intensifying.

After seeing this, Elder Xuan was astonished. He lifted his head to look at Huo Yuhao. Although Huo Yuhao was already finding it very tough right now, he was still trying his best to hold on.

“Yuhao, hang on. Your solid soul power is starting to develop elemental characteristics. Perhaps you can really construct a soul core. Your situation is different. If you manage to construct a soul core right now, you might actually reach the Rank 89 bottleneck in a much shorter period of time. Although it's still difficult to become a Titled Douluo, this might be your opportunity. Hang on.”

After hearing Elder Xuan's words, Huo Yuhao was slightly stunned. He continued to use his spiritual power to control the remaining soul power in his body from being sucked out too quickly. This was because the solid soul power was not just absorbing his soul power; it was also absorbing the origin energy in the air. If it sucked less soul power from him, it could absorb more of the origin energy in the air.

In addition, Huo Yuhao had the deepest sense of this solid soul power since he was the one who had created it. He could clearly feel that the development of elemental characteristics was on the spiritual level. This meant that this solid soul power contained the spiritual power of his Spirit Eyes. It was fusing with his first martial soul.

His spiritual power kept on growing. His soul power couldn't compare to a Titled Douluo, but his spiritual power could. Under the effect of his Eye of Destiny, he continued to let out more spiritual power from his body. His Eye of Destiny also turned rose-gold. An aura of destiny also started to appear as he let out his spiritual power.

The revolution of his solid soul power continued to speed up. It was slowly turning golden. Apart from the immense soul power undulations, there were also decently strong undulations of spiritual power that appeared. The spiritual power that Huo Yuhao unleashed to protect the solid soul power had even stuck to it and started to be devoured.

At this moment, the solid soul power slowed down in its suction of origin energy from the air and Huo Yuhao's soul power. This gave Huo Yuhao an opportunity to catch his breath.

I must hang on.

Huo Yuhao recognized that his abilities were lacking as he faced off against stronger individuals. He was clearly aware that his current cultivation was still not good enough to challenge individuals of higher

cultivations. He had to work hard in his cultivation and increase his abilities right now. Elder Xuan had mentioned that this was a great opportunity, which was also what he had thought earlier.

As for a future, second soul core, it wasn't impossible for him to form it even if it was difficult. In addition, he had another thought. If he could hang on and wait until his solid soul power formed a soul core, it might even be a stepping stone for him to form a second soul core in the future.

The golden color turned more and more intense. The aura of his Spirit Eyes had already completely immersed into his solid soul power. However, Huo Yuhao's soul power had already been drained such that there was only a little left over. He gritted his teeth and hung on. However, he couldn't just hold on because of the void in his body. He was trembling slightly. Without some soul power to support his body, his ability to let out spiritual power would also be affected!

Elder Xuan furrowed his brow. He couldn't help Huo Yuhao in the formation of his soul core. It could only be completed by the soul master himself. It seems like Yuhao won't be able to hang on! After all, his cultivation is too weak. Even if he has twin martial souls, his soul power is still not at the level of a Titled Douluo. Haih, it seems like pure spiritual power is still insufficient to complete the formation of a soul core.

However, he should be proud of himself for what he's achieved. After all, I was Rank 88 when I reached his standard in the past. He's only Rank 70 or so right now.

The yellow light that Elder Xuan released was getting stronger and stronger. He was ready to intervene. When Huo Yuhao couldn't hang on anymore, he would use his soul power to cage in Huo Yuhao's solid soul power before sending it high up into the air and detonating it. In this way, there shouldn't be much danger. However, Huo Yuhao would need a few days to recover after this experience. The drainage of his soul and spiritual power wasn't something that he could easily recover from.

Huo Yuhao's body was already shaking tremendously by now. He was now relying on his willpower to hang on. The immense suction force kept on pulling his body forward. Once he couldn't hang on anymore, he might even be sucked in.

A soul master couldn't possibly carry out such an experiment on his own. This was because the end result was death. This was why a soul master needed someone strong to protect him. A Soul Douluo had some ability to protect himself since his soul power had already reached a certain standard. Even so, there were many cases of Soul Douluo getting critically hurt as they tried to become a Titled Douluo.

Just as Elder Xuan was ready to intervene, a beam of golden light shone behind Huo Yuhao's back. Following this, a ball of milky-white light drilled out from his back. At the same time, a circular barrier appeared in front of him. It helped to isolate the suction force of the solid soul power.

Life Reflection Shield!

The ball of milky-white light that appeared slowly took form and transformed into a huge iceworm. Rings of golden light patterns subtly appeared.

The moment it appeared, a wave of pure soul power was poured into Huo Yuhao's body, stabilizing him.

Brother Skydream! Huo Yuhao naturally knew the origin of this force.

The Skydream Iceworm's voice sounded in his head, "Continue. I'm here."

The moment his voice was heard, the Life Reflection Shield disappeared, and the suction force was felt again, but with the support of the Skydream Iceworm, Huo Yuhao managed to recover slightly. The soul power that the Skydream Iceworm poured into his body contained concentrated spiritual power. As it was released, the solid soul power's color intensified even more quickly. The gold turned bright gold. Spatial cracks also started to appear around it.

The light coming from the Skydream Iceworm's body became stronger and stronger. Streaks of milky-white light separated from his body and entered Huo Yuhao's body.

There was a comforted look in the Skydream Iceworm's eyes. However, what Huo Yuhao didn't know was that the Skydream Iceworm had poured in most of his remaining origin strength from his million-year cultivation into his body.

### **Chapter 459.1: Fusion of Soul Cores**

Even the Beast God Di Tian wanted this strength back in the Great Star Dou Forest. The Skydream Iceworm was far too valuable, and this origin power wasn't something that Di Tian could take without the Skydream Iceworm's consent. Therefore, the Beast God had gathered other savage beasts to absorb the Skydream Iceworm's soul power that he had obtained after so many years.

In the beginning, the Skydream Iceworm took his own origin power into Huo Yuhao's body when he had first fused with him. Huo Yuhao's cultivation had thus been able to improve continuously, and his spiritual power's exponential qualitative change all had to do with the Skydream Iceworm's origin power. Otherwise, how could his body transform so smoothly?

However, the Skydream Iceworm didn't give all his origin power to Huo Yuhao, because his body's capacity was far from enough.

There was another more important thing that Huo Yuhao didn't know. As long as the Skydream Iceworm maintained his origin power and kept it from dissipating, then the Skydream Iceworm could still choose another human to merge with even if Huo Yuhao passed away.

In this moment, when the Skydream Iceworm decided to fuse his most valuable possession into Huo Yuhao's body, Huo Yuhao and he could no longer be separated. Either Huo Yuhao finally stepped onto the path of becoming a God, or he would live and die with him.

The truth was, the Skydream Iceworm had long contemplated fusing his origin power with Huo Yuhao when Huo Yuhao had interacted with the God Realm a long time ago. How much Huo Yuhao's body could bear was sufficient. However, the Ice Empress had stopped him. The Skydream Iceworm should wait until a crucial moment, and give his origin power to him when Huo Yuhao was breaking through. That would be much more effective.

Wasn't this the important opportunity they were waiting for? The Skydream Iceworm didn't expect this moment to arrive so quickly.

Soul beasts cultivated differently from humans. Therefore, they couldn't guide Huo Yuhao in this respect. However, both the Skydream Iceworm and the Ice Empress were some of the strongest people in the world, and they all possessed incredibly strong abilities within their domains. Of course, they



could see that this moment was an incredible opportunity for improvement to Huo Yuhao. An opportunity like that only came once in a blue moon – at least, such opportunities were considerably rare. It would be a pity to miss it.

The Skydream Iceworm's origin power was incredibly strong because his was a pure and perfect fusion between spiritual power and soul power. The Skydream Iceworm had completely discarded his element of ice when he was helping Huo Yuhao construct his second martial soul. The Skydream Iceworm only had pure soul power and spiritual power at this moment. This was the reason why he was most suitable for helping Huo Yuhao form his first soul core.

Elder Xuan's eyes were wide with astonishment. Huo Yuhao was already almost overcome with weakness, but the enormous Iceworm's appearance behind his back enabled his spirit to swiftly recover, while his soul power was being unleashed at an exponentially quicker rate, and continuously as well. It didn't take long before the volume of the solid-state soul power he had created was comparable to that of a Soul Douluo.

That was just unbelievable – it was the first time that Elder Xuan had seen such a thing!

Even though a powerful martial soul can help soul masters store a certain amount of soul power, Huo Yuhao is storing far more than he should be able to. Furthermore, his two martial souls are the Spirit Eyes and the Ice Empress Jade Scorpion. What is with this huge worm? Does this mean that Spirits can help soul masters store even more soul power?

Elder Xuan shook his head exasperatedly. Prodigies and geniuses cultivate in a different fashion from what is the norm after all. I'll just wait and see to what stage he can reach.

The cracks around the funnel-shaped soul power began to turn gold, while the black hues that belonged to spatial cracks began to appear within the golden colors.

Huo Yuhao realized to his surprise that when his spiritual power reached a certain level inside the solid-state soul power, it was just as the fusion of soul power and spiritual power was like inside his own body. The state of his soul power was very similar to when he was unleashing his Three Ultimate Haodong Skills, while the only difference was that his soul power was now solid instead of liquid.

It seems like solid-state soul power is still a reflection of my own ability after all!

However, Huo Yuhao realized some even stranger things right at this moment. The solid soul power was still absorbing his soul power and spiritual power, while Huo Yuhao could still hang on with the Skydream Iceworm replenishing him. This solid soul power was starting to absorb more than just those two things – it was actually gradually absorbing the spatial power contained within the cracks in space.

Is this where the secrets of creating the combination lie? Huo Yuhao widened his eyes, and was working hard to control everything while observing closely at the same time.

Yes, it's like that. The solid soul power was clearly swallowing the spatial power contained within the cracks in space. It was very strange – the cracks in space became increasingly larger as their spatial power was absorbed, while even more spatial power filled them. Furthermore, Huo Yuhao's spiritual power was being expended at an exponentially faster rate, while the wild and violent spatial power was

tearing at his spiritual power. Huo Yuhao wouldn't have been able to hang on if not for his Eye of Destiny.

Time continued to pass. The Skydream Iceworm that was almost material behind his back also became increasingly illusory. The Iceworm's origin power had already integrated into the solid soul power through Huo Yuhao's body. Even if his experiment ultimately ended in failure, the origin energy of heaven and earth would be very beneficial for him, especially with respect to his fusion of soul power and spiritual power. The Skydream Iceworm would truly become his Spirit after everything ended, and they would be inseparable, just like the Snow Empress.

The Skydream Iceworm's origin power that was coming from behind him became increasingly weak. Huo Yuhao could feel his body descending into weakness once more, and he gritted his teeth as he tried his best to hang on. Even though he didn't know what kind of price the Skydream Iceworm was paying, Huo Yuhao could still feel his weakness. Brother Skydream has given so much to help me – I have to hold on, no matter what!

He gritted his teeth and continued releasing more spiritual power. There was nothing he could do about his soul power, so he could only keep working through spiritual power. The spiritual power in his spiritual sea flowed as if it were limitless, and even more strangely, the aura of destiny within his Eye of Destiny seemed to become stronger. A faint shadow of the Three-Eyed Golden Lion actually surfaced behind his back and enveloped his entire being in a layer of rose-gold colors.

Huo Yuhao was giving his all in this moment. If he failed at compressing his soul core, he would be severely injured, and this could possibly end in worse injuries than when all his passageways were shattered. In the end, he even used all of his own origin power that he could control.

The cracks in space became increasingly strong. The contortions and ripples in space, along with that strange sensation, were all deeply imprinted into Huo Yuhao's mind.

It wasn't easy to sense spatial undulations from day to day. One could create those cracks in space with forceful attacks, but those cracks would only appear for an instant before disappearing again, so sensing and studying them would be impossible. However, those spatial undulations were appearing around his compressed solid-state soul power continuously and finely. They were closely related to his soul power and spiritual power, so studying and sensing them became very easy.

Beads of sweat began to appear on Elder Xuan's forehead because he was nervous. Elder Xuan could tell that Huo Yuhao was continuously releasing soul power and spiritual power, and every possible strength in his body was reaching their respective limits. Elder Xuan also understood that he would inflict heavy damage to Huo Yuhao if he interrupted him at such a moment.

But fusing with the mixture wasn't as simple as creating it. The individual's body had to be able to bear the mixture! Huo Yuhao had only recently become a Soul Sage, and he had just sustained severe injuries. Could he really absorb the soul core into his body?

The cracks in space on the surface of the solid soul power became closely woven like a web. Black cracks appeared continuously, and the solid-state soul power's absorption and rotation speed were nearing their absolute limits. All space was being completely distorted around it, and all Huo Yuhao could see

was a ball of gold, rose-gold and black merged together into a strange sphere, which contained frightening soul power.

Come! Collapse! Huo Yuhao roared in his heart, and he transformed the meagre remainder of his spiritual power into Spiritual Shock before he fused that entirely into the solid-state soul power. It was at this time that the Skydream Iceworm behind him gave every last bit of his origin power. The Skydream Iceworm transformed into a beam of flowing light, reintegrated into his body, and vanished.

Success would be determined in this exact moment.

The solid-state soul power quivered faintly. Huo Yuhao had a strange feeling in this moment that the solid-state soul power, which was rotating ever so quickly, had suddenly stopped – it went from extreme motion to extreme motionlessness. This sudden sensation made him depressed. However, Huo Yuhao felt as if everything had grown blurry around him in the next moment, as if he were now within the starry skies, and only that gentle spatial power was around him.

Space suddenly collapsed in that instant, as if everything was collapsing together with his body as the epicenter, while terrifying spatial power immediately tore his body to pieces.

However, his body reformed itself after it was torn to pieces, and his consciousness returned. Huo Yuhao saw to his surprise that the solid-state soul power had collapsed into a black hole.

Huo Yuhao only took one look before he felt as if his soul were about to be sucked in. There was endless darkness inside the black hole, and there were boundless unknowns, but he couldn't feel the kind of soul power contained within it at all. However, he could clearly feel a connection that resembled a bridge between the black hole and himself.

### **Chapter 459.2: Fusion of Soul Cores**

There were fine golden waves rippling continuously around the black hole. These golden waves gradually froze and took shape, and Huo Yuhao discovered to his surprise that they actually took a strange eye-like shape, while the black hole in the middle was the pupil.

This... is this my soul core?

Elder Xuan was watching him from the beginning to the end. In this moment, he shared the same shock and astonishment.

Huo Yuhao had formed his own soul core as a Soul Sage. This was the first time he had heard of such a thing, let alone seen one! He had witnessed a miracle happen with own eyes, and was filled with pleasant surprise.

Furthermore, he obtained some inspirations from Huo Yuhao when he was compressing his mixture. Huo Yuhao's compression method was different from typical soul masters. He was clearly using a lot more spiritual power than soul power, and when his element finally fused with his soul core, his martial soul seemed to become his main guide. This order looked very important. In the instant when the soul core collapsed inward, its soul power undulations were unnaturally stable, and it didn't need any external strength to control it.

The soul core had been formed in this moment, and it no longer absorbed Huo Yuhao's soul power. It was only gently absorbing the origin energy of heaven and earth in the air. However, the deep darkness within it and the aura of the mixture itself clearly gave Elder Xuan a feeling that this core wasn't that much different from that of a Transcendent Douluo. The only difference was that it was a little smaller.

"Yuhao, try to absorb it. However, you have to be very careful – if you feel like your body can't take it anymore, release it immediately. You'll have to risk regressing your cultivation instead of forcing yourself. Otherwise, this soul core can obliterate you with its power. You should feel whether your body can take its power once it enters you. Remember – don't force yourself. If you feel even a little bit like you're forcing yourself, don't try fusing with the soul core."

"Yes," Huo Yuhao steeled his nerves. He was still very much overcome by surprise, because he realized that soul power was coming back into his body when it was originally empty of it. Furthermore, his soul power was recovering faster than before, and his spiritual power was recovering at a similar speed. Everything seemed connected to his soul core.

Huo Yuhao wasn't overly hasty to absorb the soul core. Instead, he crossed his legs and sat down in front of it. He channeled his soul power quietly as he replenished it while he observed any changes that were happening in the mixture.

Elder Xuan was momentarily stunned before he said hurriedly, "Wait for a moment before you absorb it – your soul core seems different from most. It's far too stable, and it doesn't seem like it will lose control or become unstable even without your control. If that's the case, you can try recovering all your soul power and spiritual power before attempting to absorb it. Don't worry, I will observe from the side, and will immediately warn you if something is wrong with it."

Huo Yuhao nodded toward Elder Xuan. His own feelings were identical to those of Elder Xuan, except this was his first time forming a soul core, so he didn't know what it was supposed to be like.

Elder Xuan drew a cold breath. This was the first time he had seen such a stable soul core that was almost near perfection. Did this mean that soul masters could create a soul core such as this before becoming a Transcendent Douluo, as long as their spiritual power far exceeded their soul power?

Typically, Titled Douluo would have to immediately absorb their soul cores after completing them when they were breaking through to become a Transcendent Douluo. Otherwise, if their soul cores became unstable, everything that they had worked for could possibly be for nothing, while the soul core could possibly hurt the Titled Douluo's own body.

Huo Yuhao's soul core was different from the rest – it was so stable that it was almost like a normal object. Quite a long time had passed since the soul core was formed. However, it was still extremely stable, and the way it absorbed the origin energy of heaven and earth wasn't as forceful and ferocious as that of a Transcendent Douluo's soul core. But this kind of stability was even more precious and hard to come by.

It seems like Huo Yuhao might have a chance to fuse with his soul core successfully! That was just unimaginable. Elder Xuan was witnessing yet another miracle from Huo Yuhao.

Time continued to pass. Huo Yuhao's soul power and spiritual power were recovering at an astonishing speed, and it took him less than an hour before he reopened his eyes, back to his peak condition.

“Can I begin, Elder Xuan?” Huo Yuhao turned toward Elder Xuan.

Elder Xuan was astonished. “Your soul power and spiritual power have recovered?”

Huo Yuhao nodded.

Elder Xuan didn’t ask any further. Instead, he tilted his head and said, “Yes, then you may begin. Remember what I’ve said before – it would be better for you to not complete the fusion than take any risks.”

“Yes.” Huo Yuhao acknowledged and turned his gaze toward his soul core.

Huo Yuhao could feel a boundless and terrifying existence inside his soul core that could consume everything, just like when he was observing it before. When he stared at it, he immediately felt an incredibly strong attractive force that seemed like it wanted to pull his spirit into it.

Huo Yuhao closed his eyes and opened his Eye of Destiny. Rose-gold patterns immediately shone from his Eye of Destiny.

Huo Yuhao’s Eye of Destiny gazed at the black hole, and he realized to his surprise that he had a feeling as if his Eye of Destiny was staring at itself, as if the black hole was what it was like after his Eye of Destiny was magnified.

Everything was just so unimaginable. Huo Yuhao didn’t have to control it; his Eye of Destiny naturally produced a strange gravitational force that pulled the black hole towards him. The faint golden light around the black hole also began to shrink, and even its original body was contracting.

By the time the black hole was several meters in front of Huo Yuhao, it had shrunk to the same size as his Eye of Destiny. Golden light patterns shone from both ends, and it fit itself against his Eye of Destiny as if it was imprinting onto it.

Elder Xuan’s eyes widened. He understood what Huo Yuhao wanted to do – he wasn’t just about to fuse with his soul core. The location that he chose wasn’t his dantian, which was a location that was easier for the soul master to absorb his soul core. Instead, he chose the center of his eyebrows, which was the hardest place to accomplish fusion.

Typically, even Transcendent Douluo breaking through to become an Ultimate Douluo would choose the chest instead of between the eyebrows when forming their second soul core. The reason was because the space between the eyebrows was too close to the brain, and a single mistake could threaten their life.

However, Huo Yuhao’s situation was evidently different from everyone else. Spiritual power was his fate, and in the process of forming his soul core, his spiritual power allowed his soul core to become very stable. His martial soul was Spirit Eyes, while the space between his eyebrows was one of three locations that could absorb soul cores, and it was so close to his martial soul’s location at the same time. Therefore, Huo Yuhao’s idea wasn’t impossible! He would leave his dantian empty so that he could store another soul core there when he was breaking through to become a Titled Douluo. In that case, he could possibly have two soul cores when becoming a Titled Douluo. Elder Xuan thought about his twin martial souls, and felt that this path that Huo Yuhao had chosen was most suitable for him. He exhaled deeply as he remained stunned.

For the first time, Elder Xuan felt that he could no longer teach this little fellow in front of him.

Golden light pressed together as his soul core slid in. Huo Yuhao's body quivered vigorously, and two beams of rose-gold light blasted from his eyes as if they were two materialized swords. Elder Xuan wasn't far from him, and he took a step back subconsciously.

His Eye of Destiny shone with light from the center of his eyebrows, and its sun patterns seemed like they were being reinvigorated. They layered together as they glowed and stretched outward from his forehead to the space between his eyebrows. The sun patterns looked like they were growing, and they quickly stretched over his entire forehead. Huo Yuhao's hair drifted into the air and danced in midair, even though there was no wind.

Huo Yuhao felt as if a terrifying and indescribable power had been injected into his spiritual sea. This power was like a sharp cone that was splitting his head apart; as if it were about to suck his spiritual sea dry; as if it were really about to open up another eye on his head. That agonizing feeling made him feel a clear sensation of being shattered.

Huo Yuhao's path could be said to have been forged through pain and agony ever since the day he had fused with the Skydream Iceworm and the Ice Jade Empress Scorpion.

He possessed many abilities that soul masters couldn't even begin to imagine. However, he had to sustain countless instances of unimaginable pain to gain such abilities!

His strength increased after every episode of agony. At the same time, every instance strengthened his spiritual resolve and endurance. His tolerance toward pain was not something that most normal people could match.

Towards the end, Dong'er and Qiu'er left him one after another, and he almost broke down because he had suffered too much pain in his heart. He had grown after that – he grew from a young boy to become a young adult, and he was a true warrior.

In this moment, Huo Yuhao's body was still trembling intensely as he was struck by this agonizing pain. His lower body was still stable, and his hands were clenched tightly into fists. However, he was subconsciously channeling his Mysterious Heaven Technique with his full strength. Immense spiritual power swirled within his spiritual sea according to his whim to resist that intense pain.

Four large Spirits hovered above his spiritual sea. They knew that everything that was happening was very important to Huo Yuhao. With the exclusion of the Skydream Iceworm, who had sacrificed his origin power, the other three Spirits were all using their consciousnesses to protect his spiritual sea so that it wouldn't shatter.

Golden sun patterns quickly stretched from his forehead over his face, before they went down his neck, his collarbone, his chest, his arms, and his abdomen...

Several short minutes passed as Huo Yuhao's entire body was covered with sun patterns. That wasn't all – an enormous vertical eye slowly opened behind his back, and this eye was rose-gold as well. It radiated sun patterns, and that frightening suction force appeared once more. It was two times stronger than before, and the origin energy of heaven and earth in the air swiftly and immediately gathered toward Huo Yuhao.

### Chapter 459.3: Fusion of Soul Cores

Huo Yuhao's clothes almost instantly disintegrated into dust, revealing his body, which was a perfect fusion between energy and beauty.

Sun patterns covered his tall and large frame, giving others a feeling of simple mystery.

The vertical eye behind him gradually became a black hole as it consumed everything in the air. Even Elder Xuan began to feel that his soul power and spiritual power wanted to leave his body, and he had to release even more soul power to control them.

Time continued to pass. Huo Yuhao's trembling slowly stabilized, and the rose-gold colors in his eyes slowly dimmed as he gradually shut his eyes. However, the Eye of Destiny on his forehead became increasingly bright.

The vertical eye contained the endless stars of the night sky, deep whirlpools, and uncountable worlds of radiant colors – as if the black hole contained everything in the world and beyond.

Has he succeeded??Elder Xuan was also a little nervous. He was still confident of pulling out the soul core in the first few seconds when Huo Yuhao was fusing with it, but even Elder Xuan couldn't do anything in this moment. Huo Yuhao's fusion with his soul core was far too deep, and Elder Xuan couldn't do anything to separate them. Otherwise, Huo Yuhao's own life would be at risk.

Truly high risk but high reward!?Elder Xuan heaved a sigh inside.

Far inside the Great Star Dou Forest, not even the Beast God would have expected that his descent into Huo Yuhao's body had advanced his understanding of strength at that level, and Huo Yuhao was even bravely experimenting with it.

The sun patterns began to ebb like tidewater. They receded as quickly as they had appeared, and even Huo Yuhao's skin faded away with the sun patterns as he shone with faint rose-gold colors. However, it seemed like his entire person was sublimating into itself.

Huo Yuhao finally stopped trembling. The Eye of Destiny on his forehead gradually withdrew, and when its glow was extinguished in the end, all that was left was a black whirlpool that swirled continuously.

There were fine and delicate rose-gold light patterns around the whirlpool. Every single line flashed and changed shape continuously, as if they were all cracks in space.

The black whirlpool was clearly on Huo Yuhao's forehead, but one would feel that it in fact belonged to another world upon closer inspection. That mystical feeling transfixed Elder Xuan's gaze.

Huo Yuhao's fusion today had given him inspiration – a lot of inspiration at that.

The black whirlpool was becoming smaller as it rotated until it finally disappeared in the end, and Huo Yuhao's forehead became clean once more.

What was even stranger was that Huo Yuhao's aura vanished entirely along with the black whirlpool. He was sitting there like a rock, but also like clear spring – there wasn't a single trace of his own aura, as if his entire being had become illusory; as if Huo Yuhao had disappeared along with that black whirlpool into another world.

Elder Xuan took a deep breath. He knew that this little fellow had created something entirely new once more. According to his knowledge, nobody amongst human Titled Douluo had ever successfully created a soul core above his dantian. There were three areas – the space between the eyebrows, the chest, and the abdomen. These locations were extremely important for a soul master toward his later years, and a soul master's soul power could only transform qualitatively by forming a soul core. This was at the core of being a Titled Douluo.

Soul beasts had a relatively easier time forming soul cores than soul masters. In the end, soul beasts' physiques were much stronger than those of humans. Di Tian's soul power had been completely converted into soul cores, and there was nobody else like him in the world. Therefore, he was the most powerful individual amongst all the Ultimate Douluo.

In this moment, Huo Yuhao managed to create his first soul core as a seven-ringed Soul Sage. There was no question that his cultivation would improve at a rate far exceeding typical individuals. This was an unimaginable accomplishment! The only thing Elder Xuan was worried about was whether Huo Yuhao could form his second soul core to become a Titled Douluo after he reached Rank 89.

Elder Xuan had been working towards creating his second soul core over all these years, but he was still one step away, even after all this time. It wasn't hard to imagine how difficult creating two soul cores was. However, Huo Yuhao had already chosen this path, and he could no longer regret his choice.

Huo Yuhao seemed to enter a state of deep meditation as he sat there with his legs crossed. He didn't wake up, and his body was still filled with a feeling of illusion. Only a powerful individual like Elder Xuan could feel the spatial power permeating around them.

Having a soul core meant that one's martial soul could already absorb strength from the space all around them. The soul core wasn't just absorbing the origin energy of heaven and earth – the power of space was unlimited. This was the reason why the Death God Douluo was so astonished when she discovered that the Beast God had mastered spatial power.

They were all Ultimate Douluo. If Ye Xishui and the Darkness Holy Dragon were at the same standard, then Di Tian was at a standard several levels higher than them. The two of them had to rely on external objects to close this gap.

Huo Yuhao could no longer feel that intense pain anymore, and in his daze, he felt as if he were entering another world. He was hovering in the darkness within this world, and there was no end to it – all was endless stars and night.

He was trying very hard to control himself, but nothing responded to his attempts at all. He could only close the distance between his senses and everything around him when he fully concentrated on the stars above, and only then could he see this starry world.

Space and light – this was everything he was feeling in this moment, and he seemed to feel as if everything that he was was being purified.

Everything around him was just so surreal. However, all this surrealness seemed to contain the profundities of heaven and earth.

This feeling was both magical and painful. Huo Yuhao found himself immersed in those sensations.



“Ah? Yuhao is meditating at your place?” Bei Bei stared at Elder Xuan, who had personally arrived at the Tang Sect. Bei Bei found that hard to believe, and he asked nervously, “Is he alright?”

Elder Xuan shook his head as he smiled and said, “Don’t worry, he’ll be fine. This is quite a big opportunity for him. You guys have to work hard – otherwise, Huo Yuhao will leave everyone in the dust in the not too distant future.”

Bei Bei forced a laugh and nodded as he said, “That fellow is truly a prodigy!”

Elder Xuan said, “Don’t make it sound like that. He has gone through much more pain and suffering, and he has put in a lot more effort, than you guys have. Talent is one thing, and effort is another. You have too many things to deal with in the Tang Sect; you should quickly share your burden with others so that you don’t overlook your cultivation. You must understand that you have completely inherited Elder Mu’s blood, and your future is boundless, so cultivation is the most important thing. At least, before soul tools can become stronger than an Ultimate Douluo, we have to focus on our cultivation. That’s the core of being a soul master.”

“Yes,” Bei Bei said solemnly.

Elder Xuan then asked about the Tang Sect’s progress before he left.

Bei Bei escorted Elder Xuan, and then returned exasperatedly to where he dealt with the Tang Sect’s administrative items. He muttered under his breath, “I was hoping he could help share my burden – looks like he’s run away once again. Hopefully he can awaken from his meditation as soon as possible.”

However, Bei Bei didn’t expect Huo Yuhao to meditate for a much longer time than he thought he would.

A month passed in the blink of an eye. There was still no news from Huo Yuhao, and Bei Bei, Xu Sanshi and the others personally went to the Sea God’s Pavilion to visit him. They made sure that he was still meditating before they returned, assured.

The others from the Tang Sect didn’t have such an easy time going into the Sea God’s Pavilion. However, there was one person who would discreetly visit the Sea God’s Pavilion, and Elder Xuan didn’t stop her.

Tang Wutong stood silently inside the room. She was staring at Huo Yuhao, who was sitting there with his legs crossed and silent like a child. Her eyes were very gentle. She seemed to feel that mystical strength from Huo Yuhao’s body, and this strength was faintly affecting her own soul power undulations.

This guy is sublimating. That was Tang Wutong’s judgment.

Tang Wutong had gone to the Tang Sect after Huo Yuhao began to meditate for a week. She was there with a task from Elder Xuan, and she was responsible for monitoring the Tang Sect’s soul tool production. She unintentionally discovered that Huo Yuhao was meditating inside the Sea God’s Pavilion, and she went to find Elder Xuan to ask if she could see him.

Elder Xuan didn’t stop her, and he saw her figure very often ever since then.

Tang Wutong didn’t know what she felt towards Huo Yuhao. She had thought that he was a lecher when they first met, and then believed him to be brave and clever when they were at the Star Luo Empire’s

western frontlines, and then she believed him to be affectionate and loyal when he saved her life against the Death God. Even his story with Wang Dong'er made her feelings toward him transform continuously.

Huo Yuhao had been sitting there peacefully over the past month, and Tang Wutong had already gotten used to watching his calm silence. Every time she returned after visiting him, she would become exceptionally concentrated when she meditated herself, and her cultivation became more effective than usual. She had gradually formed this habit.

She was just standing there quietly, and an hour went by.

I think it's time to leave. Tang Wutong suddenly realized that she didn't want to leave him behind.

But she had to go back in the end. Over this period of time, after she experienced the battle at the Ming Dou Mountain Range, much of her potential had been unleashed, and she was improving very quickly.

I should go back. I don't know when he will wake up, or whether we will come together again in the future. Perhaps we will not. I pray that he finds Dong'er as soon as possible.

Those thoughts passed through her head, but she suddenly felt a sour tinge in her thoughts.

What... what is happening?

Just as she was feeling a little dazed, a strange sensation suddenly appeared on her body. She realized to her surprise that her soul power was starting to circulate even though she didn't do it deliberately, as a layer of faint purplish-gold light shone from her body.

#### **Chapter 460.1: I'm Willing to Never Wake Up**

The soul power undulations weren't powerful, but they were definitely there.

Tang Wutong felt her heart skip a beat, while that strange feeling immediately disappeared. Losing control of one's soul power was an extremely frightening thing, and was something that nobody wanted to deal with.

Tang Wutong suddenly felt everything light up in front of her in this moment. When she fixed her eyes once more, she witnessed Huo Yuhao's glowing eyes.

What kind of eyes are those?! They seem to contain the endless starry skies, and are so deep that the end cannot be seen. In that instant, Tang Wutong felt like her eyes were transfixed.

Huo Yuhao's eyes weren't shining with any kind of light. However, the space between him and Tang Wutong still became very bright.

This feeling was impossible to describe with words, as if there were an unknown source of light present at that location. Tang Wutong stared at his deep eyes that were like whirlpools, and she felt as if her brain had gone completely blank. The feeling of losing control over her soul power became increasingly evident, but everything seemed to calm down once more in the next moment. Waves of dragon roars resonated through her mind, and they were chiming with joy.

“Dong’er...” Huo Yuhao stared blankly at Tang Wutong, who wasn’t far from him, and was just standing there, staring at him in a daze. Huo Yuhao began to levitate from the ground just like that.

The air on the Sea God’s Island was very clean, so he was sparkling clean even though he had been meditating there for a month.

Tang Wutong was wearing a blue gown today, and this was once Wang Dong’er’s favorite color. Only thoughts of Dong’er resided in Huo Yuhao’s mind in his moment.

Huo Yuhao had been in deep meditation for over a month. He had gone back and forth through the brightness within those endless starry skies, but everything seemed to vanish the moment he saw Tang Wutong. In this exact moment, she was the only thing in his eyes – his alluring, familiar, and elegant Goddess!

The space around him seemed to change, and neither Huo Yuhao nor Tang Wutong knew how they closed the distance between one another.

Huo Yuhao gently stretched out his arms and embraced her.

He felt as if he had wrapped his arms around the entire world in that moment, as if he were the dictator of those boundless starry skies.

Everything is just wonderful – just so wonderful.

Tang Wutong was no longer staring at those bottomless eyes, while her own became agile and sensitive once more as she emerged from her dazed state. But she realized that she had melted into a warm and wide embrace.

“Dong’er, Dong’er...” There was a gentle call in her ears, and that voice sounded like a dream. That voice sounded as if it were calling for a spirit from ancient years, and that voice which was so gentle and full of emotion made Tang Wutong a little intoxicated. She realized that she could no longer control herself – except it wasn’t her soul power this time; she had lost control over her body.

She raised her hands subconsciously. She was hesitant and jerky, but her hands kept moving forward, and she wrapped them around Huo Yuhao’s broad waist. She closed her eyes in that moment, and all she felt was warmth, security, comfort, and intoxication.

They were hugging each other so tightly in that moment, and the entire room seemed to glow.

Huo Yuhao muttered under his breath, “Even though we are just in a dream, I am willing to remain in this dream forever. Please allow me to sleep for eternity if this a dream. Dong’er, I miss you – I miss you so much. Did you know? I am but left with an empty vessel in the days that you’ve left my side. You’ve returned, and my spirit has returned. I love you, Dong’er. I am willing to love you with my everything to the end of eternity, and I am willing to burn my own life and soul so that we can be together. That is all I want. If this is a dream, let me remain in deep slumber.”

Tang Wutong was momentarily stunned, and her sensations of indulgence and immersion receded instinctively.

He’s calling her... her... Wang Dong’er...

I am just his dream. I am just a shadow of her.

A taste of bitterness appeared at the corner of her lips. She didn't want to leave this warm embrace, but she had no choice but to gently put down her hands that were tightly wrapped around him, no matter how much yearning she had to be in his arms.

"I'm sorry, I am Wutong."

A gentle voice rang out beside Huo Yuhao's ears. This was like a thunderclap for him, and he subconsciously released his arms and floated backward like a lightning bolt.

Tang Wutong no longer had anything to lean on as he shifted, and her elegant frame stumbled forward for a moment before she stabilized herself.

Huo Yuhao's eyes were filled with hope and dreams before this, but they gradually dimmed as he stared at Tang Wutong in front of him.

Tang Wutong turned her eyes aside. She seemed to lose her own spirit as he left her arms, and she appeared a little dazed. That empty feeling gave her unimaginable agony deep within her heart, and she felt like she wanted to die.

Huo Yuhao's face was a little pale as he stared at Tang Wutong. "Sorry," he said with difficulty.

"I'm the one who should be sorry. I startled you and woke you up from your dream. But I am not her, and I am sorry for making your sweet dream become a nightmare."

Tang Wutong nodded gently in his direction before she swiftly turned around and glided away. She didn't give him another look from the beginning to the end.

She didn't dare to look at him. She was afraid that his eyes would hook her spirit once more if that happened. Yes, she didn't dare.

Huo Yuhao was just standing there as he watched her leave with listless eyes. There was an almost hysterical voice in his heart that was calling for him to hold on to her, but he remained standing there in the end, motionless.

She's not her. She is Tang Wutong, and not my Dong'er!

But why did our embrace feel so familiar? If she didn't say it, perhaps I would really have treated her as Dong'er.

Where are you, Dong'er?

Tears flowed down his cheeks like a waterfall. He clutched his fists tightly as he suddenly turned and stared outside the window.

Huo Yuhao could see Tang Wutong, who was dashing away crazily. He could see the radiating purplish-green hues from her body, and an unknown force pulled at his body and his heart. He watched her until she disappeared beyond the horizon, and that figure that was identical to that of Dong'er's vanished just like that.

Dong'er, Dong'er –

In the Tang Sect.

“Bam!” Nan Qiuqiu began to pout as she kicked away all the stones that were blocking her way. She had been very depressed over the past month.

We had an agreement! We were supposed to return to my sect and explore the hidden area. But he didn’t even say anything to me before he went into his closed-door cultivation! And he picked the right time for that as well. Is he deliberately trying to avoid me? We have already agreed on being brothers, so why is he dodging me? What an asshole!

Everyone in the Tang Sect had been very busy over the past month. They were either busy with administrative matters or cultivation.

Nan Qiuqiu was the same. She wasn’t assigned much work because she had a very irritable and impatient personality. She was tasked to focus more on cultivation. However, cultivating for too long also made her feel frustrated and dull. She was really starting to find this loneliness unbearable.

She was still walking forward as a figure blocked her path.

“Hey, get out of my way!” Nan Qiuqiu was already in a bad mood, and her hot temper immediately erupted. She didn’t even lift her head as she exploded.

“You won’t be able to marry in the future if you keep doing this,” the person blocking her didn’t move away, but instead quipped back at her.

“What the fuck does that have to do with you?!” Nan Qiuqiu was furious. She raised her head and looked at the person blocking her way, and her eyes widened as her jaw dropped.

Huo Yuhao stared at her with a faint smile on his face, but he sounded like he was chiding as he said, “Don’t curse, you’re a girl.”

Nan Qiuqiu’s sizzling fury from before was immediately extinguished. She was just now clearly full of complaints about this guy in front of her, but she now found herself unable to vent her anger when he was standing in front of her.

Her voice was a lot lower than before. “It’s true anyway. Why do you care whether I can marry? Hmph, you still know how to come back.”

“I’m sorry, Qiuqiu,” Huo Yuhao said apologetically, “I didn’t know this delay would be so long. I’m sorry!”

Nan Qiuqiu’s mood was instantly lifted when she heard Huo Yuhao apologize. She looked up at him and said, “Are you still going? I’ve been waiting for you for more than a month.”

Huo Yuhao answered, “Yes, of course we’re going. We can leave at any time – I await your instruction!” He even bowed at Nan Qiuqiu as he spoke.

Nan Qiuqiu was elated. She placed her hands behind her back and nodded proudly as he said, “Yes, that’s much better. I will forgive you temporarily because of your good attitude, and I will think about how to deal with you according to how you behave later on.”

“Alright,” Huo Yuhao stood up straight as he smiled and said, “Let’s go back to the Tang Sect. I will report to eldest senior brother, and then I can leave with you.”

“Yes!” Nan Qiuqiu acknowledged as she turned around and pranced back toward the Tang Sect. However, she didn’t notice the faint dash of loneliness deep within Huo Yuhao’s smiling eyes.

Huo Yuhao went to find Bei Bei immediately after returning to the Tang Sect.

Bei Bei appeared much better than he had one month ago. Xu Sanshi and the others had helped share much of his burdens after they returned, and he finally had time to continue cultivating.

“You’re finally awake, little junior brother. How was it? How much have you gained?” Bei Bei spoke with pleasant surprise.

Huo Yuhao nodded and answered, “I have gained much. However, I can’t duplicate it for everyone.”

Bei Bei shook his head with a smile on his face. “That’s nothing to worry about. Everyone has his or her own path. You have yours, and we have ours. Everyone’s path is different, but we will all reach the same destination in the end, as long as we work hard and find the right direction, and if we don’t take any shortcuts.”

Nan Qiuqiu giggled from aside. “Eldest senior brother, your words are starting to sound more and more philosophical. You live up to your name as the Tang Sect’s eldest senior brother!”

Bei Bei chuckled and said, “Qiuqiu, are you taking Huo Yuhao back to your sect? We have delayed this matter for quite some time, and I am sorry for that. Do help me apologize to your sect leader.”

## **Chapter 460.2: I’m Willing to Never Wake Up**

Nan Qiuqiu nodded and said, “It’s fine. I’ve already told my mother, and she said that cultivation is more important, and we can go at any time whenever Yuhao is free. My mother returned to our sect about half a month ago. I’ve heard that Dragon City, where the Earthdragon Sect is located, has been conquered by the Sun Moon Empire, and she wants to go back to deal with some administrative matters. She will withdraw all of the sect’s resources this time and transfer them to Shrek.”

Huo Yuhao was momentarily shocked when he heard that the Sun Moon Empire had conquered Dragon City. He turned towards Bei Bei and asked, “How is the war going, eldest senior brother?”

One month was quite a long time, and their situation could change in the blink of an eye.

Bei Bei said, “Don’t worry, little junior brother. The situation is considered relatively stable. Ever since you guys helped the Star Luo Empire break through the Ming Dou Mountain Range’s defensive perimeter, the Star Luo Empire has unleashed an assault on all fronts against the Sun Moon Empire’s territory. Even though their forward momentum isn’t too quick, they’ve managed to disturb the Sun Moon Empire so that they have no choice but to turn back their soldiers to reinforce their own territory. The pressure on the Heavenly Soul Empire has been reduced. The Heavenly Soul Empire and the Dou Ling Empire’s reinforcements have rendezvoused, and they are trying their best to resist the Sun Moon Empire’s pressure. Even though the Sun Moon Empire is still conquering more and more land, their speed has been considerably slowed. This has given us some time.”

Huo Yuhao heaved a sigh of relief when he heard Bei Bei's words. It seemed like the Star Luo Empire had been reasonably effective.

Ultimate Douluo were indeed powerful, but the Death God Douluo couldn't rely on her own strength to cover the entire battlefield. Before they left back then, the White Tiger Duke had already decided on their direction to divide and conquer so that they could target the locations where the Sun Moon Empire lacked soldiers, and hence destroy all their legions in those areas. They harassed the Sun Moon Empire over large areas with small teams. Ye Xishui's individual strength was very powerful, but she couldn't cover every single spot. This should be the battle strategy that was effective in the end.

The White Tiger Duke wasn't inferior to any of the Sun Moon Empire's commanders in terms of strategy and tactics.

Bei Bei said, "Even though you are unlikely to run into the Sun Moon Empire's main forces on your journey, you guys still have to be careful. You have to help the Earthdragon Sect's leader return to Shrek City while you explore their mysterious areas. Qiuqiu, don't be unreasonable or playful with Huo Yuhao, do you understand? Otherwise, I will confine you when you return."

Nan Qiuqiu stuck out her tongue and said, "Understood, eldest senior brother. Can you not see how obedient and lovable I am right now?"

Bei Bei stared at her as she attempted to act like she was aggrieved. He couldn't help but laugh as he said, "You? Obedient and lovable? Heaven pity and protect us! Alright, go and pack up, and then you can leave."

Nan Qiuqiu turned and darted away excitedly. She had been looking forward to going out to play for a long time.

Huo Yuhao chose to stay behind. He could tell from Bei Bei's eyes that his eldest senior brother had something to say to him.

"Yuhao, help me look for the Bluesilver Emperor when you go to the Heavenly Soul Empire if it's possible." His eyes were full of lament and frustration when he said those words. He knew that their chances of finding the Bluesilver Emperor were very slim. In the end, the Great Star Dou Forest was already very helpful, but they still hadn't discovered anything yet. All they did was provide a lead that a certain soul beast had seen the Bluesilver Emperor within the Heavenly Soul Empire, and this was the reason why Bei Bei had brought it up to Huo Yuhao.

Huo Yuhao nodded and said, "Definitely. Do you have solid leads regarding the Bluesilver Emperor, eldest senior brother?"

Bei Bei said, "I don't have any proper leads. Someone from the Great Star Dou Forest mentioned some soul beasts have seen the Bluesilver Emperor in the Heavenly Soul Empire, but we don't have any precise leads. Oh, yes – if you have time, you can visit the Setting Sun Forest. I have kept Big Fur and Little Fur there, and it's been some time. I wonder how they're like."

Big Fur and Little Fur were the two Darkgolden Terrorclaw Bears that Huo Yuhao and Wang Qiu'er had rescued from evil soul masters a long time ago. They had been fed over the past few years, and were a

lot larger than before. Bei Bei had left them in the Setting Sun Forest back then before he returned to the Tang Sect to deal with administrative matters.

“Alright, I’ll take a look,” Huo Yuhao acknowledged. He couldn’t help but think about Wang Qiu’er, who had sacrificed herself for him, when he thought of Big Fur and Little Fur. Wang Qiu’er was with him when they had rescued Big Fur and Little Fur!

Bei Bei glanced at Huo Yuhao and said, “Right, Yuhao. I heard that Tang Wutong has been visiting you very often when you were meditating. Have you seen her? She even found an excuse to come to the Tang Sect not long ago to look for you.”

Huo Yuhao was momentarily stunned, and the image of Tang Wutong dashing away surfaced in his head. He nodded and said, “I’ve met her already.”

Bei Bei contemplated for a moment. He wanted to say something and seemed very hesitant, but he kept his words to himself in the end. “Alright, little junior. Be careful on the road, and return as quickly as possible. If you can’t find the Bluesilver Emperor, then forget it. As for Big Fur and Little Fur, you have to tell them not to destroy the immortal herbs around the Icefire Yin Yang Well.”

Huo Yuhao nodded.

He was all alone in this world, so there was nothing much for him to pack. He took a shower and changed into some clean clothes before he packed a few extra sets of clean clothes, some rations, and some water. He bid his farewells to his companions, and he went to see Xuan Ziwen at night. Huo Yuhao and Nan Qiuqiu departed the Tang Sect in the morning on the next day, and they went straight toward the Heavenly Soul Empire.

Shrek Academy was positioned at the border between all three empires. They were originally within the Heavenly Soul Empire’s borders, while Dragon City, which was where the Earthdragon Sect was located, was in the Heavenly Soul Empire’s northeastern regions. They just had to proceed north from Shrek City to reach Dragon City.

Huo Yuhao and Nan Qiuqiu activated their respective flying-type soul tools as they left Shrek City before they rose into the sky and travelled towards the north.

Both of them felt very liberated as they left the city. The endless skies were just so clean, and everything flashed by past beneath them.

Nan Qiuqiu was flying beside Huo Yuhao, and for some reason, she felt as if there was something different about him. He appeared a little more transcendent than before – of course, that was a good feeling, but Nan Qiuqiu’s heart sunk into a dilemma once again, since she had already given up on her feelings toward him.

Can this guy stop being so outstanding?

Ye Guyi had gone into closed-door cultivation since they returned the last time, and she wasn’t done yet. Nan Qiuqiu knew that she wanted to keep herself from seeing Huo Yuhao as much as possible so that he couldn’t pull her heart along. Nan Qiuqiu also wanted to go into closed-door cultivation, but she couldn’t stand all that loneliness. Furthermore, she still had to take Huo Yuhao to the Earthdragon Sect.



She was still hoping deep within her heart that something would happen between them during their expedition.

“Hey. Why are you so taciturn?” Nan Qiuqiu couldn’t control herself anymore after flying for more than an hour.

Huo Yuhao still seemed very casual and elegant as he flew in the sky, and he didn’t make a sound.

He turned towards her confusedly and said, “Why? What do you want to talk about? Don’t you think the wind is very strong? Talking will waste soul power.”

Nan Qiuqiu was infuriated. “Then so be it. We should still chat – it’ll be so boring otherwise.”

Huo Yuhao answered, “Alright, let’s chat. About what?”

Nan Qiuqiu was momentarily stunned as she said, “What did you gain from your deep meditation? Don’t tell me you’ve had another breakthrough, and you’re already at Rank 80! I will truly be ashamed if that’s the case.”

Huo Yuhao shook his head and said, “Of course not. Improving soul power requires continual accumulation. Even though I accumulate soul power relatively quickly, I can’t reach Rank 80 so fast. I still need some time.”

Nan Qiuqiu stared at him suspiciously. “Back in the Earthdragon Sect, my seniors all start shaking their heads when they talk about reaching Rank 80 after breaking through Rank 70, as if reaching Rank 80 is very difficult. Why do you sound like your success will come naturally?”

Huo Yuhao stared back at her exasperatedly. “With your talent, you will realize my words stand true when you reach my cultivation rank. However, Qiuqiu, I have to remind you that you have to pay attention to your spiritual power. When your strength reaches a certain standard in the future, spiritual power will be extremely important if you want to continue improving. Your strength will halt if you don’t have sufficient spiritual power, and you will find it very difficult to continue breaking through.”

This was Huo Yuhao’s greatest takeaway after completing his soul core. His tremendous spiritual power made up for his insufficient soul power. Furthermore, the greatest benefit of having formidable spiritual power was towards the soul core’s stability.

Huo Yuhao was just a Soul Sage. Even though he had twin martial souls and was stronger than normal Soul Sages, he was still a Soul Sage in the end. But his spiritual power far exceeded his soul power, and under such circumstances, his ability to control his soul power was far stronger than other soul masters. This was how he managed to unexpectedly create his soul core this time.

Huo Yuhao understood very well that he would need even more spiritual power when he fused with his second soul core. Any soul master who wanted to fuse with their soul cores would need spiritual power as a shield to support them, and thus spiritual power was the most crucial component to his future advancements.

Why couldn’t Elder Xuan fuse with his second soul core to become a true Ultimate Douluo? A large part of that lay in his lack of spiritual power, in addition to his lack of opportunity and luck. Every attempt ended in complete failure, and at his level, he had to readjust himself for a long time after every failure

before he could try again. His confidence would also be affected after experimenting too many times without success, and that was a very terrifying thing for soul masters.

Nan Qiuqiu stared at Huo Yuhao's serious look and mumbled, "How do I train my spiritual power? I'm not a spiritual-type soul master. I can't just try and control my soul power futilely."

Huo Yuhao smiled and said, "You can't take shortcuts in cultivation. Actually, there are some methods that you can try to raise your spiritual power."

Nan Qiuqiu's eyes glowed. "What methods?" She was very interested about becoming stronger, and this was especially so in a place like the Tang Sect. The Tang Sect was full of elites, and anyone could be left behind.

### **Chapter 460.3: I'm Willing to Never Wake Up**

Huo Yuhao said, "For instance, like this." He stared at Nan Qiuqiu, and his eyes suddenly became deep and profound. Nan Qiuqiu felt as if there were a black maelstrom in each of his eyes, and she could feel an indescribable and terrifying pressure emanating from his body that locked her body down in an instant.

She could feel a tremble that came from her own spirit, and she was terrified as she subconsciously gathered her soul power to resist that pressure. However, she quickly realized that her attempt was futile, because that pressure didn't come from soul power at all – it was pure spiritual power. Furthermore, that spiritual pressure was so strong that she couldn't even speak. Her flying-type soul tool became unstable as well, and she teetered in midair and seemed like she was going to plummet.

The pressure was suddenly lifted, and Nan Qiuqiu felt as if an enormous mountain had been lifted from her body. She panted in deep breaths as she tried her best to control her flying-type soul tool. She glared at Huo Yuhao and said, "Are you crazy? Are you trying to kill me?"

Huo Yuhao smiled and said, "This is the most effective method to train your spiritual power. If, at any moment, you can successfully resist my spiritual pressure, then your own will have reached a certain standard. Such training like this is very hard to come by. Didn't you feel like you were very bored along the way? Then I will take this chance to help you. We're not in a hurry anyway."

"I don't..." She couldn't even say "want" when the enormous spiritual pressure that had just disappeared descended onto her once more.

Even though Nan Qiuqiu was a little more prepared than before, she was caught still off-guard in front of Huo Yuhao's formidable soul power. This time, she was so badly beaten that she plummeted straight towards the ground.

Huo Yuhao grabbed Nan Qiuqiu at an appropriate time in midair, and made sure that she wouldn't fall to her death. He waited for her to regain control of her body and for her to stabilize herself before the spiritual pressure came back.

"I'm not fighting back anymore. Throw me to my death if you dare!" Nan Qiuqiu was furious after this repeated itself a few more times!

She felt extremely fatigued after those episodes of immense spiritual pressure. She didn't even bother to fly as she just allowed herself to drop down.

Huo Yuhao had no choice but to catch her and land on the ground.

Nan Qiuqiu kicked toward Huo Yuhao as they dropped to the ground. Huo Yuhao dodged lightly towards the side and said, "I'm doing this for your own good, Qiuqiu."

"Psh. You're trying to take this opportunity to get back at me!" Nan Qiuqiu glared at Huo Yuhao with an indignant look on her face.

Huo Yuhao frowned slightly and said, "Looks like I was wrong about you."

Nan Qiuqiu was momentarily stunned. "Wrong about me? What are you wrong about me?"

Huo Yuhao continued, "I have always believed you were a very strong lady. If others can't bear this method of training spiritual power, I'm sure you can. This is very beneficial for you becoming a Titled Douluo in the future. I didn't expect you not to be able to take it after these few times. You're no different from a typical little girl. Forget it – I won't give you any more pressure. Meditate and rest up, and once you've rested up, we shall hurry towards the Earthdragon Sect." He gave her a disappointed expression as he spoke and turned his head to one side.

Nan Qiuqiu frowned as her eyebrows went almost vertical. "Who says I can't take it? I can take it. But... but you're so evil. Are you targeting me deliberately?"

Huo Yuhao snapped back. "I'm not so frivolous. I wouldn't be willing even if someone else begged me."

Nan Qiuqiu grunted and said, "Alright, then let me recover. Don't think you can overcome me when I'm prepared."

Huo Yuhao twitched his lips and said, "Prove it."

Nan Qiuqiu crossed her legs and began to recover with a competitive heart.

Huo Yuhao smiled faintly as he watched her enter meditation. Provoking this girl is the way to go! She'll probably be tricked even if she knows I'm trying to bait her.

The Earthdragon Sect could be said to have taken out their most important belongings so that they could establish close cooperation with the Tang Sect. Bei Bei had told Huo Yuhao privately that the Tang Sect had to find some way to repay them if possible. The Earthdragon Sect wasn't considered a top-tier sect amongst the sects on the continent, but they were still considered a very old and powerful sect. The Earthdragon Sect had provided much help to the Tang Sect in terms of resources. Furthermore, with Nan Shuishui's support, the Tang Sect's middle to high level strength had been bolstered. The Earthdragon Sect's several hundred disciples still belonged to the Earthdragon Sect in name, but Nan Shuishui had already expressed generously that the Earthdragon Sect would fully support the Tang Sect if anything happened.

Of course, the Tang Sect reciprocated the Earthdragon Sect's sincerity. Almost a third of the Earthdragon Sect's disciples had successfully fused with Spirits, which was a very laudable accomplishment amongst the sects. The other sects all looked on with watering mouths, except they didn't understand the Tang Sect like Nan Shuishui did, and they were just a little hesitant for the moment.

Huo Yuhao listened to Nan Qiuqiu as she introduced her sect's secret grounds. He understood that even though Nan Shuishui and Nan Qiuqiu spoke of this as a gift to the Tang Sect, this was equivalent to a gift for him. If there really was a rare ice-type metal inside, then that would be extremely useful for him. He could possibly fix the problem of channeling soul power around his human-shaped soul tool.

Human-shaped soul tools didn't present any problems for the average soul master as long as their rare metals, jewels, and formation arrays were used appropriately. However, he had an Ultimate martial soul, and typical rare metals couldn't bear his Ultimate Ice once he used it. Even if those rare metals had enough resistance, they didn't provide any amplification effects. Instead, those rare metals could hinder him instead.

Huo Yuhao didn't want to owe too many favors, and this was especially so when he knew of Nan Qiuqiu's feelings toward him. Therefore, he wanted to take this opportunity to help her.

Nan Qiuqiu's recovery speed was considerably fast, and she leapt to her feet energetically after an hour.

"Are you ready? You can't say I'm ambushing you this time," Huo Yuhao placed his hands behind his back and stared at Nan Qiuqiu amusedly.

Nan Qiuqiu couldn't stand his mocking smile. She said proudly, "Come!"

"Be careful." Huo Yuhao warned her as his eyes suddenly became extremely deep and profound. This time, his spiritual power was very gentle as it pressed against Nan Qiuqiu.

Nan Qiuqiu sensed that spiritual pressure, and she immediately concentrated to face it. She felt as if this pressure wasn't that powerful after a few moments, and a proud look immediately appeared on her face. She grunted and said, "I knew it. I was a little panicky in the sky. Otherwise, your spiritual power would have been useless against me, unless you used soul skills."

Huo Yuhao smiled plainly and said, "Pay attention."

His spiritual pressure gradually began to increase as his voice dropped.

Nan Qiuqiu was tough in her words, but she knew the gap between Huo Yuhao and herself. Her expression froze as she gathered her strength once more to fend off Huo Yuhao without quarter.

Huo Yuhao's spiritual pressure started to increase bit by bit. This level of increase was small, but it was still happening continuously. Every increase gave Nan Qiuqiu a little more pressure.

Beads of sweat began to appear on her forehead, and her face turned a little rosy as her mouth opened slightly. A faint aroma wafted from her body because she was sweating.

Huo Yuhao was just standing there. He didn't even use his eyes to look at her as the pressure unleashed from his body continued to strengthen.

Nan Qiuqiu gradually began to see hallucinations appear in front of her eyes as her breathing became very labored. She felt as if there were an enormous and formless mountain that was weighing down on her soul.

No – I need to hold on. I can't let this fellow look down on me.

She gritted her teeth before she suddenly shouted to boost her own form as a layer of pinkish light emanated from her body. That was her Rouge Dragon; her martial soul emerged automatically under Huo Yuhao's formidable spiritual pressure.

A pinkish diamond-shaped crystal instantly appeared on Nan Qiuqiu's forehead as her martial soul appeared. She clearly felt a lift in the pressure as the spiritual power inside her spiritual sea fused with her martial soul and resisted Huo Yuhao's pressure more effectively.

Unfortunately, she couldn't even catch a breather as Huo Yuhao's spiritual pressure suddenly increased. That tremendous pressure made her body tremble as the pinkish light around her shone brilliantly.

She couldn't help but feel a chill run down her spine. Has this guy's spiritual power really become this powerful?

Nan Qiuqiu was very clear that Huo Yuhao hadn't yet released his martial soul. This meant that he was pressuring her with pure spiritual power, without any amplification from his Spirit Eyes. However, Nan Qiuqiu had unleashed her martial soul. No matter what, I'm still a Soul Emperor! Am I about to crumble against his spiritual pressure?

Huo Yuhao still wasn't looking at her as the spiritual pressure increased continuously.

Pinkish dragon scales emerged over Nan Qiuqiu's body. Her face and eventually her entire body was covered by dragon scales, but these dragon scales couldn't defend her against Huo Yuhao's spiritual pressure. Her body started to quiver and sway, and she gritted her teeth as she clenched her fists tightly. However, she was starting to break apart against the tremendous spiritual pressure.

No, I can hold on! Nan Qiuqiu's stubbornness acted up. Just as Huo Yuhao thought, provoking this unbending girl was always the simplest and most effective method.

Time continued to pass as Huo Yuhao's spiritual power continued to increase. Even he was a little surprised in this moment, as he hadn't expected her to be able to resist his pressure for so long. An hour had passed, while he had already unleashed forty percent of what he could release.

This "forty percent" couldn't be underestimated – this amount was equivalent to the spiritual pressure that an eight-ringed Soul Douluo could unleash. Ever since Huo Yuhao completed his fusion with his soul core, his spiritual power's overall volume could be compared to that of a Transcendent Douluo, while his recovery speed and effectiveness followed in tandem. It was already quite impressive that Nan Qiuqiu could withstand forty percent of his spiritual pressure.

A thread of blood began to appear at the corner of Nan Qiuqiu's mouth. Her eyes and pupils became a little slack, but her unbending will kept her on her feet.