

## Tang Sect 486

### Chapter 486.1: Elder Xuan is Wise

After entering the academy, Huo Yuhao and Bei Bei slowed down.

Bei Bei was a little puzzled as he asked, "Yuhao, what's going on between you and Wutong? Why did she leave without saying a word after sending you back that day?"

Huo Yuhao was helpless as he replied, "I'm unsure too! We faced danger then. She must have saved me. Perhaps she was hurt or too tired. That's why she was rushing back to the academy to rest."

He didn't dare to tell Bei Bei that he took nine stabs for Tang Wutong. If he did, he didn't know how Bei Bei would admonish him. He wasn't afraid of anyone else but Bei Bei. It was like facing Dai Luoli. He had always considered Bei Bei like his own biological elder brother.

Bei Bei said, "Since she saved you, you should go and visit her after we report to Elder Xuan. This time, Wutong has really treated you well by going so far to save you. I can tell that she likes you."

Huo Yuhao revealed a bitter smile on his face. However, he didn't outright reject Bei Bei. He only nodded slightly.

Bei Bei brought him as the two of them went to Sea God's Island. They rushed straight to Sea God's Pavilion under Bei Bei's lead.

When they were outside the pavilion, Huo Yuhao stopped in front of the Golden Tree before kowtowing. Bei Bei did the same.

Huo Yuhao thought to himself, "Teacher, I'm back alive. I faced Long Xiaoyao this time, but I don't know why he let me off. Is it because of you? Or something else? Why did my cultivation improve after I took the nine stabs? And why aren't there any wounds on my body?"

Regarding this mystery, he could only ask Tang Wutong later on. However, he could roughly remember that Tang Wutong had fainted before he completely lost consciousness. How would she know anything if that's the case? It would probably be too difficult for her.

Huo Yuhao sighed helplessly as he thought until here.

"Why are you sighing? Both of you, come in." Elder Xuan's voice came from the Sea God's Pavilion.

Huo Yuhao and Bei Bei stood up and walked into the pavilion. Among the younger generation, only the two of them and Zhang Lexuan could enter and leave the Sea God's Pavilion freely. This was because they were all members of the Sea God's Pavilion. Without a doubt, they were going to be the leading figures of Shrek Academy in the future.

Elder Xuan was already waiting for them on the first level. He looked at Huo Yuhao and said, "Yuhao, why do you create a different problem every time you leave? You're a problem magnet indeed!"

Huo Yuhao tensed up. Don't tell me that Wutong has already told Elder Xuan about our meeting with the Darkness Holy Dragon? Elder senior will still scold me if Elder Xuan blurts it out!

However, he had no other choice, since things were already at this stage. He only thickened his skin and laughed, "Elder Xuan, I don't know whether I'm fortunate or not. However, I did earn some merit this time! Even if I was wrong in some way, I should be able to make amends for it."

Elder Xuan nodded and answered, "You did make a mistake, which is to cause trouble for me. However, you did well in the Extreme North. Tell me, how did you spoil the Sun Moon Empire's plans? Logically speaking, you can't deal with an entire soul engineer legion on your own. Qiuqiu's words were also very ambiguous. She also doesn't know what you did."

Huo Yuhao coughed. "It's like that. Elder Xuan, I've got some things to report to you. In fact, do you still remember the Spirit that I have?"

Elder Xuan thought for a moment before asking, "Are you talking about that young lady? The cute one?"

Huo Yuhao nodded hurriedly and answered, "Yes, her."

"Of course I do. How could I not remember such a cute young lady? Why? What has she got to do with this?" Elder Xuan was puzzled. Even Bei Bei was curious. Even though he all along knew that Huo Yuhao's strength was a little mysterious, this had to do with Huo Yuhao's own privacy. If he didn't say anything, he wouldn't ask. But right now, his curiosity was piqued.

Huo Yuhao chuckled and said, "She isn't some young girl. Talking about her background, it's actually quite impressive."

He recounted how he came upon the embryo of the Snow Empress when he was in the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy, as well as how he fused with the Snow Empress. He also talked about how the Snow Empress had created a Spirit.

After hearing his story, Elder Xuan and Bei Bei were in awe!

The things that happened to Huo Yuhao couldn't be described by the word 'magical' anymore. A human had actually fused with the Snow Empress, ranked third among the Ten Great Savage Beasts. The Snow Empress was only inferior to Di Tian and the Evileye Tyrant King, and her cultivation was around seven hundred thousand years.

When the Snow Empress was at her peak, even if Mu En were still alive, he might not even be able to fight her. If it was in the ice plains of the Extreme North, the Snow Empress could even fight the Beast God! Such a supernatural being had actually become Huo Yuhao's Spirit.

No wonder this kid's Ultimate Ice abilities rose so quickly. Ultimate Ice is such a difficult ability to cultivate, but he was able to become a Soul Sage just like Bei Bei and the rest. So this is why.

"I led the Snow Empress to the core of the Extreme North. Under her command, the strongest species of soul beast in the Extreme North, the Tai Tan Snowdevils, agreed to help me. I led them and came up with a simple plan to destroy the base and facilities that the Sun Moon Empire's military had set up. Given the harsh conditions, they couldn't survive without their facilities. This was why they could only retreat. Believe me, with the threat of those soul beasts, and given the Sun Moon Empire is so far away, they won't be able to do anything in the short-term."

Elder Xuan's lips twisted after he heard Huo Yuhao's story. He said, "That works? You're actually able to tap into the power of the soul beasts in the Extreme North. It's really..."

"Hehe." Huo Yuhao chuckled. He was blowing his horn a bit, but he was also slightly proud of himself.

Elder Xuan glared at him and said, "Don't be too happy. Don't be so reckless when you face something like this in the future. Can't you at least send news back to the academy and wait for reinforcements first? Do you really not trust us at all?"

Although Elder Xuan was admonishing Huo Yuhao, Huo Yuhao still felt very warm in his heart. "Yes! Shrek Academy is just like my home.

"Yes, I was wrong, Elder Xuan. I'll keep that in mind in the future." Huo Yuhao admitted his mistake very obediently.

Elder Xuan wanted to scold him further, but he stopped upon seeing that Huo Yuhao was so repentant. After all, he was already a grown-up. He couldn't help but laugh, "You are eager to admit your mistakes, but you won't change your character."

Huo Yuhao scratched his head in embarrassment while Bei Bei nodded in agreement.

Huo Yuhao quickly changed the topic and said, "Elder Xuan, both of us are here to tell you about Teacher Xiao Ya. We caught an evil soul master when we went to Heaven Dou City. We managed to find out that she's at the frontlines."

Huo Yuhao was secretly relieved when he said that. Elder Xuan didn't seem to know about him and Tang Wutong. Otherwise, he wouldn't be let off so easily.

Bei Bei was anxious, and rushed to tell Elder Xuan about what Chu Yanwei had revealed.

Elder Xuan pondered for a moment. "Since that's the case, form a team in the Tang Sect. I'll think about who I should send with you."

Bei Bei was evidently a little stunned. He probed, "Elder Xuan, we're going to save Xiao Ya. Will it affect the academy?"

Elder Xuan glanced at him. "I understand what you're worried about. Don't tell me that the Sun Moon Empire doesn't know that we're going to deal with them? Not only do we have to succeed in saving her this time, but we must also do something useful. This will boost confidence in the three empires of the original Douluo Continent. At the same time, we'll bring the Sun Moon Empire back to the ground. We must think of a way to confuse them."

Bei Bei's eyes brightened, and he said, "Elder Xuan is wise."

Elder Xuan snapped, "Stop bootlicking. Tell me then, how am I wise?"

"Uh... Elder Xuan, I'm a little confused. Come, Yuhao, tell him." As he spoke, he dragged Huo Yuhao over.

Elder senior, you're dishonorable! Huo Yuhao laughed bitterly in his heart, but he didn't dare to say it out loud. He thought for a moment before saying, "Elder Xuan, you're clear in the other areas, but as for the confusion part, we just have to exclude soul engineers. We'll use traditional soul masters from the

academy to fight. The Sun Moon Empire will still think that we're mainly composed of soul masters. Even if our Soul Tool Department has developed, it can't compare to our soul masters."

Elder Xuan nodded in satisfaction and said, "That's it. Right now, Lin'er and Duoduo are busy with the Soul Tool Department. I'll ask Shaozhe to follow both of you instead. He can represent the academy. However, the lessons and training in the academy are quite tight on schedule. I can't allocate many people to go with you. I'll ask Elder Song to go too. With the two of them around, there shouldn't be any problems protecting you."

In Shrek Academy, Elder Song was only inferior to Elder Xuan. Her Greenshadow Godly Eagle had played a very important role during the beast wave.

With two Transcendent Douluo backing them up, their chances of success were greatly increased. Bei Bei rubbed his hands in excitement. "Thanks, Elder Xuan. Thank you."

### **Chapter 486.2: Elder Xuan is Wise**

Elder Xuan smiled and asked, "What are you thanking me for? I already said that Shrek Academy and the Tang Sect are just like one family. Xiao Ya is the real sect leader of the Tang Sect. Shouldn't we save her? However, do you have any way of removing the evil poison in her body?"

Bei Bei's expression turned slightly grim, and he answered, "It'll be difficult. However, we have to save her first before we even have a chance."

Elder Xuan said, "Oh, that's right. It's fine for both of you to go this time, but please be careful. Think about who you want to bring along with you on this trip. You should be the ones holding the fort at the Tang Sect, but I'm afraid you'll still be anxious even if you remain in the sect. That's why it's better for you to go. But you still need to arrange things in the Tang Sect first."

"Yes, I'll do so." Bei Bei replied excitedly.

"Elder Xuan, how's Tang Wutong? She saved me. I'm planning to go take a look at her." Huo Yuhao probed by asking Elder Xuan.

Elder Xuan replied, "You can't find her now. She's in closed-door cultivation."

"What?" Huo Yuhao was stunned as he looked at Elder Xuan.

Elder Xuan said, "I don't know what's going on with her either. She seems a little distracted after saving you. She asked permission from me to enter closed-door cultivation. No one is to disturb her. She's very talented, and is even not inferior to you. I hope this round of cultivation will do her some good."

After hearing Elder Xuan's words, Huo Yuhao naturally couldn't insist anymore. He returned to the Tang Sect after leaving the Sea God's Pavilion with Bei Bei.

Bei Bei immediately got busy. He didn't know when they would return once they left on this trip. Things were still very busy in the Tang Sect. Naturally, he had to make plans before leaving.

Huo Yuhao didn't idle either. He returned to his room and immediately summoned the Snow Empress from his spiritual sea. The situation of the Ice Bear King was unknown, but he believed the Snow Empress had a way of finding him.

He slightly sighed and thought to himself. 'I'm afraid the Snow Empress will scold me this time. I was really resigned to dying then. I really feel a little uncomfortable facing the Snow Empress, Ice Empress and Brother Skydream.

But I have no choice. No matter what, this issue has to be settled. Since he had no choice, he gritted his teeth and summoned the Snow Empress from his spiritual sea.

A figure flashed before the Snow Empress appeared. Just like Huo Yuhao had expected, she was staring at him with a cold look. It was as if he was going to be in great trouble.

"I was wrong." Huo Yuhao lowered his head and used the same trick he had used on Elder Xuan earlier.

The Snow Empress didn't say anything as she looked at him.

"Snow Empress, I admit my mistake. I..."

"Boo!" The Snow Empress suddenly laughed. She couldn't maintain the cold expression on her face anymore, and a captivating smile surfaced.

Huo Yuhao subconsciously lifted his head. When he saw her laughing, he was shocked.

"What, what are you laughing at?"

The Snow Empress suddenly turned serious and snorted, "What do you think? What do you think I'm laughing at?"

Huo Yuhao laughed bitterly and replied, "I don't know! I'd rather you scold me instead. I'll feel better then."

The Snow Empress snapped, "Daddy, are you so miserable?"

Huo Yuhao got goosebumps when she called him 'daddy'. "I think calling me that is even worse than scolding me."

The Snow Empress was furious, "I'll keep calling you that. Daddy, daddy, daddy..."

Huo Yuhao listened to her listlessly, and didn't dare to resist at all. Who asked him to be the one at fault?

The room became quiet once again. The Snow Empress looked at him just like that, but he didn't dare to look back at her. He only lowered his head.

After a brief moment, the Snow Empress laughed once again. "You're indeed a fool. No wonder Wang Dong'er called you that when you were still together. Did you really think the Darkness Holy Dragon wanted to kill you? And that we'd watch and let you die? He didn't have the intention of killing you from the beginning. Otherwise, it wouldn't have been so simple."

"What?" Huo Yuhao lifted his head and looked at the Snow Empress in a daze.

The Snow Empress snorted coldly. "Did you not understand me? That day, right from the start, the Darkness Holy Dragon had no intention of killing you. I don't know what you were thinking. Given his cultivation, he would have countless ways to kill you. He can even avoid Di Tian. However, he didn't

have the intention. Didn't you notice that? If he wanted to kill you, what would be the point of dragging you outside the city? The city is his territory. What would be the point of dragging you outside the city?"

Huo Yuhao was stunned as he asked, "He didn't want to kill me? Why did he threaten me then? And why did he lay his hands on me?"

The Snow Empress answered, "I didn't understand at the start either. I only felt that he neither wanted to kill you nor harbored any evil intentions toward Tang Wutong. Otherwise, do you really think you could have attacked so many times? If he didn't give in to you, you would already have been restrained by his domain."

Huo Yuhao furrowed his brow. "That's weird then. If Long Xiaoyao didn't want to hurt me or Wutong, what was the point of appearing? Snow Empress, tell me, quickly."

The Snow Empress said coldly, "Before I reveal his true intentions, let's talk about us first. You wanted to abandon us, right? Tell me, what should we do?"

Huo Yuhao was helpless as he laughed bitterly, "I had no choice then! Did you really expect me to be confident in the face of an Ultimate Douluo? I had no choice. I only knew that Long Xiaoyao would keep his promise. The poison in his dagger could have killed Tang Wutong. I'd rather take the poison in her place. At least one of us would be alive to relay information. I'm a man. I couldn't have let a girl take stabs for me! Furthermore, I remember the Ice Empress mentioning before that your origins have been consolidated after absorbing the Manifold Mysterious Ice Essence. Even if I died, all of you could still find new bodies."

The Snow Empress sighed and said, "You're really a fool. Ice was only saying that. Furthermore, she was only speaking theoretically. Right now, let me tell you for real. In fact, our lives are tied to you. If you die, we die. Skydream might still be able to leave your body. However, have you forgotten? When you were forming your soul core, he left the remnants of his spiritual origin to you. It's like allowing a part of his Spirit to fuse with you. He's already a part of you. If you let him go, would you still have a conscience?"

"What?" Huo Yuhao was stunned.

The Snow Empress snorted coldly and continued, saying, "Furthermore, can Ice leave? She's your second martial soul, and her origin power is in your soul bone. If you die and she's able to escape, she'll have less than one percent of her original strength. She'll dissipate before she can even find a new body. Among all of us, Star Anise is the most likely to escape. That's because Star Anise is a pure Spirit. After absorbing some ice essence, its origin is stable, and it's the only one who can find a new owner."

After speaking until here, the Snow Empress paused for a moment before continuing, "Lastly, me. Initially, your teacher burned the origin of his divine sense to save me so that I could become your Spirit. Otherwise, how could you have handled my immense strength, given how weak you were back then? My origin has long been interlinked with your Spirit through your teacher's divine sense. He saved me out of goodwill. However, he also tied me to you in order to save you. If you die, I'll be the next. Do you understand?"

It was indeed Huo Yuhao's first time learning about his connection with his four Spirits. He felt very guilty now. The Snow Empress' words were very clear to him. If he died, all his Spirits, excluding the Star Anise Mysterious Ice Grass, would be buried with him!

Suddenly, his face turned red. He didn't know what to say. He had only achieved what he had today with the help of his Spirits. However, he had thought of giving up then.

The Snow Empress groaned, "I'm telling you all this to make you understand. You aren't living for one person now, but for everyone. Yes, you might have faced some obstacles in your love life. However, you're a man. Can't you live without love?"

Huo Yuhao lowered his head as he said, "Snow Empress, I was in the wrong. I won't do it again."

"Mm." The Snow Empress gently acknowledged his words and said, "Alright, you don't have to act like this. In fact, we aren't angry with you."

Huo Yuhao lifted his head again after hearing her words. "Not angry with me?" He sounded a little astonished.

The look in the Snow Empress' eyes had evidently turned gentler. She sighed slightly and said, "We can understand what you're going through, and it's not easy. All these years, you've been cultivating tirelessly and facing all sorts of dangers. You've even been spiritually affected. To be honest, you're already very tough and resilient among all humans. If it were someone else the other day, he would have made the same choice too. This is why you shouldn't think too much. We can understand your decision. You're tired. The pressure on you has been too great."

"Let me tell you something else. Remember that we are your Spirits. We are one with you. No matter what you do in the future, you must treasure yourself. It's the same as treasuring us. Moreover, you don't have to treat us as burdens or misgivings. We're part of you. That's why we should try to help you shoulder whatever burdens you have instead of giving you more pressure."

### **Chapter 486.3: Elder Xuan is Wise**

Huo Yuhao's eyes started to turn red as he looked at the Snow Empress. In fact, in his heart, whether it was the Skydream Iceworm or the Ice Empress, they were reasons for why he felt stressed. He clearly knew what their objectives were in following him. If he couldn't fulfil them, he would be letting them down!

The Snow Empress' words moved him greatly, and caused the last streak of distance between him and the Spirits in his body to vanish completely.

"Thanks, Snow Empress." Huo Yuhao sobbed.

"Call me Snow Lady. We know you're tired. That's why we won't force you in the future. Rest when it's time to rest, and relax when it's time to relax. Even against strong opponents, you have us. Long Xiaoyao was right. As an Ultimate Douluo, he has many ways of isolating your connection with Di Tian. However, he doesn't know that you and I are the same entity. I'm not some kind of greenhorn. As long as I'm around, I can get into contact with the Beast God anytime I want, and inform him that you're in danger. Doesn't Di Tian want to restrict you? He's the first person you can turn to. You might as well make good

use of him. That's why you don't have to be overly concerned for your own safety. Of course, it's still best to be careful."

"Alright, Snow Lady. What about Little Bai? He's still at Heaven Dou City. I planned to ask you if you can contact him. I'll go to Heaven Dou City to find him now."

"You don't have to go to Heaven Dou City." The Snow Empress laughed as she said, "I already knew that you were going to ask me this. When Tang Wutong left with you, I had already signaled to Little Bai to tag along. In fact, I would have asked Little Bai to go over if not for the fact that Long Xiaoyao didn't plan to kill you. With him around, you should be able to retreat safely."

"Where is he now?" Huo Yuhao asked, surprised.

"Outside Shrek City." The Snow Empress said, "I asked him to wait in the wilderness. Go and fetch him. After that, I believe that your fusion with him can begin."

"What?" Huo Yuhao was startled, "What do you mean?"

The Snow Empress nodded and said, "That's right. When you were hurt that day, Long Xiaoyao first dispelled the poison from your body before healing your wounds. According to his words, he wanted to drain your soul and spiritual power, as well as your energy, before letting you consume that thing. Once you absorb it, its effect will be greatest."

Huo Yuhao was stunned, "What thing? What exactly is that? What did Long Xiaoyao do to me?"

The Snow Empress sighed and was a little envious as she looked at him and said, "That day, Long Xiaoyao gave you a dragon pill."

"Dragon pill? What is that?" He asked, stunned.

"What?" The Snow Empress was speechless as she asked, "You don't know what a dragon pill is? Oh, no wonder. It's a treasure in this world that you basically can't find."

Huo Yuhao was curious as he looked at her. He was waiting for her to explain.

The Snow Empress continued, "That's why a dragon pill is a pill from a dragon."

"....."

The Snow Empress couldn't help but chortle after seeing Huo Yuhao's speechless look, "I'm not wrong! Why are you looking at me like that?" *nove(l)-In*

Huo Yuhao said, "That's because your explanation is too good. A pill from a dragon. Why don't you call it a dragon's egg instead?"

The Snow Empress laughed, "Dragon's egg? The effect of a dragon's egg isn't even as great as a dragon pill. Can you fertilize a dragon's egg? Even if you can, can you wait for it to grow up? A dragon takes many years to grow from a fetus to an adult."

"What's a dragon pill, then?" Huo Yuhao asked.



The Snow Empress answered, "A dragon pill is an energy body that slowly forms after a Giant Dragon becomes an adult. It contains the blood lineage of a Giant Dragon, as well as its origin strength. It's something a Giant Dragon uses to develop its spiritual senses. You can take it like this. A dragon pill from a Giant Dragon is like the soul core of a human soul master. It's even more important than a soul core. You have to kill a Giant Dragon to obtain its dragon pill."

"So fierce? Why did Long Xiaoyao give me such a pill then? What effect will it have on me?" Huo Yuhao hurriedly asked. It sounded like it was a great thing!

The Snow Empress answered, "I'm not too sure about that. However, I might have overheard that it had something to do with someone called Mu En. Mu En seemed to have asked for a favor. That's why he gave it to you."

"Teacher?" Huo Yuhao said. "Mu En is my teacher! Together, they were known as the Twin Dragons of Black and White. He was also an Ultimate Douluo, and the last Master of the Sea God's Pavilion. He's very strong, and his martial soul is the Radiant Holy Dragon."

The Snow Empress was enlightened, "I see. I don't know where they got that dragon pill. You really have it good."

Huo Yuhao said, "You haven't told me what a dragon pill is used for."

The Snow Empress said, "Its greatest effect is to cleanse your body and strengthen your blood and bones. Simply put, after you consume the dragon pill, your body will become as strong as a Giant Dragon's. Even when you try to break through to become an Ultimate Douluo, you don't have to worry about your body not being strong enough."

Huo Yuhao was astonished. As an elite student of Shrek Academy, he naturally understood what a soul master's physical strength had to do with his cultivation. Usually, a soul master's physical strength was what limited him during the later stages of cultivation. This was especially relevant at the tier of Transcendent Douluo. Most times, it was because a soul master couldn't handle the surge of soul power.

If the Snow Empress is right, does that mean I would have no problems cultivating all the way to an Ultimate Douluo in the future? It's not just a great thing! This dragon pill is indeed very powerful. Teacher, did you ask Long Xiaoyao for help? But why is he with the Holy Ghost Church then?

Right now, Huo Yuhao was lost. He didn't understand what kind of agreement Long Xiaoyao had with his teacher to lead to what had happened. However, no matter what, it was great to have consumed a dragon pill.

"That is why your soul power reached all the way to a bottleneck. The dragon pill is transforming your body, and has taken form inside your body. Otherwise you would have imploded, given your cultivation. Long Xiaoyao must have been prepared.

"He used a part of the dragon pill's strength on your body, while the rest of its strength was used to compress it in your chest. In the future, if you can form a soul core there, the strength contained within the dragon pill will be of great help to you. Long Xiaoyao has given you a big gift. Right now, we really

see hope in you. It's not just because of your intelligence or talent. It's more because of your abilities. Do you understand?"

After hearing the Snow Empress' words, Huo Yuhao still didn't understand, and looked at her with a confused look.

"You're really dumb. Had your brain turned to dust after being stabbed a few times?" The Snow Empress rolled her eyes and said, "Think about it. How many different types of strength are there in your body? First, you have the Manifold Mysterious Ice Essence. I've already absorbed a large part of the ice essence. You absorbed part of it too, and it's still in your blood. In fact, it will be of use when you try to reach Rank 90 and become a Titled Douluo. As you already have a soul core, it's much more difficult to form a second one. You'll need enough energy to support your endeavor. Otherwise, why did you think I would ask them to store all the ice essence? It's for when you form your second soul core."

"While the dragon pill that Long Xiaoyao gave you might seem to contain less energy than our ice essence, it's still very immense. Furthermore, the strength of that dragon pill is much more dominant, and it's greatly helpful to your body. That's why according to your current situation, you should form your second soul core in your chest and absorb the strength of that dragon pill. In that way, your body will evolve once again when you form your second soul core with the dragon pill as its core. Earlier, I mentioned that your strength would be similar to that of a Giant Dragon. What I meant was that it would happen after you absorb the strength of the dragon pill. But not now. Although you've been strengthened, you're still lacking compared to a true Giant Dragon. However, things will be different after you absorb the strength of a dragon pill. Even your spiritual sea will be as stable as a Giant Dragon's then. So will your body. When you fight Di Tian in the future, you'll at least stand a chance."

"This also means that you can form an unprecedented third soul core when you become an Ultimate Douluo in the future with both a dragon pill and the Manifold Mysterious Ice Essence."

"Oh." Huo Yuhao acknowledged her words. "Three soul cores sounds pretty good! I really have hope to become an Ultimate Douluo."

The Snow Empress was annoyed. "What kind of expression is that? Do you know what three soul cores means?"

Huo Yuhao was puzzled and asked, "Is it considered remarkable? Di Tian's soul power seems to come from his soul cores. How many soul cores does he have?"

"Idiot. With two main soul cores working together, one's soul power will become as powerful as Di Tian's. I'm not too sure whether Di Tian has a third main soul core. He should. This means that your abilities will be as great as Di Tian's if you form three soul cores. You'll definitely become the strongest human in the last ten thousand years."

### **Chapter 487.1: Huo Yuhao is Not Allowed to Go!**

"So fierce?" Huo Yuhao finally understood why the Snow Empress said she could see hope in the future from his strength. If he could possess power like that of Di Tian, then that meant he would be at the pinnacle of the world. When that happened, as long as he could obtain the Godly Seat, then becoming a God would be the most natural outcome.

“So that’s it. I understand. Thank you, Snow Lady.” Huo Yuhao acknowledged sincerely. The Snow Lady was both teacher and friend to him now. She had been immensely helpful to him ever since the Snow Empress had truly awakened, and that was the case both on the battlefield and in teaching.

The Snow Empress grunted and said, “There’s no need for thanks. Even though I did say that you can relax when you should, you can’t go overboard with that. You have to work hard at what you need to do. Alright, go and get Little Bai. I figure he’s probably starving.”

Huo Yuhao felt his heart skip a beat. Wasn’t that right? So many days had gone by, and yet he hadn’t given Little Bai anything to eat. Right, there’s still Big Mao and Second Mao too. They’re still in my spectral demiplane.

Huo Yuhao allowed the Snow Lady to return to his body as he left the room. He found Nan Qiuqiu before he released Big Mao and Second Mao so that she could take them to get something to eat. He quickly ran out of the city.

Huo Yuhao quickly found the Ice Bear King, Little Bai, with the Snow Empress’ guidance.

The Ice Bear King was still at a small river not far from Shrek City, and he was napping carefreely. He was still in human form with his enormous and protruding tummy, and he dipped his hands into the river water from time to time. He didn’t even have to look, yet he grabbed a fish or two with every dip as he tossed them into his mouth before he swallowed them with a few bites.

But how many small fish could there be outside the city? Furthermore, they weren’t very big, and Huo Yuhao could tell from his lazy demeanor that his appetite was clearly unsatiated.

“Little Bai!” Huo Yuhao found him with Spiritual Detection from far away as he hurriedly called out.

The Ice Bear King sprang to his feet when he heard Huo Yuhao’s voice. He moved deceptively fast as he stared in Huo Yuhao’s direction with a look of pleasant surprise.

Huo Yuhao was suspicious about whether this fellow was staring at him so passionately and eagerly because he was hungry, or because he was starting to miss him.

“You’re here, grandfather. I’m starving.” Little Bai was almost stammering as he spoke. He even nudged his hands into his clothes as he put on a very pitiful look.

Huo Yuhao stared at him as he shook his head exasperatedly. If this were made known to the public, who would believe that this “man” was one of the strongest savage beasts in the Extreme North!? He looked just like a hungry little child with that aggrieved expression on his face.

“Alright, alright. Have your fill.” Huo Yuhao took out a pile of dried meat and fish from his storage-type soul tool for the Ice Bear King to eat. n-0((v.-e.-ℓ-(B/-1.(n

Huo Yuhao had his own plans. He wanted to bring this fellow back after feeding him. Otherwise, when he began to eat his fill inside the Tang Sect, he could possibly astonish the entire Tang Sect. He might possibly even cause mass panic and hysteria!

There was no doubt that Huo Yuhao wanted to bring the Ice Bear King on his subsequent expedition to the frontlines. He had worked together with him twice now, and understood quite a bit about his strength from those experiences. Furthermore, his teamwork with the Ice Bear King and their combined

fighting strength was very effective, especially in limiting the Sun Moon Empire's aerial surveillance soul tools. The Ice Bear King was someone who could rival a Transcendent Douluo's strength.

The Ice Bear King couldn't be bothered with anything else as long as he had something to eat. He just sat down and gobbled his food elatedly.

The Ice Bear King patted his stomach after munching for a good hour. Was it strange that this fellow immediately became so energetic and lively once he was full? Huo Yuhao was rendered speechless as he looked on.

"Where are we going now, grandfather?" The Ice Bear King immediately asked Huo Yuhao.

The Snow Empress immediately came out from Huo Yuhao with a flash of white light and appeared in front of the Ice Bear King.

"Mother!" The Ice Bear King immediately lay prostrate on the ground when he saw her, and he called out to her intimately.

The Snow Empress blushed and said, "Don't call me mother. Address me as Snow Empress next time." She turned towards Huo Yuhao after that and asked, "Yuhao, do you plan to fuse with him right now, or a little while later?"

Huo Yuhao understood what she was trying to say. "Are you saying that my soul power has reached Rank 80?"

The Snow Empress nodded and replied, "Even though you've only just reached that stage, you are actually at Rank 80. You should have no problem absorbing another soul ring, and that's the same with a Spirit. Little Bai won't resist you in any way, and after he becomes your Spirit, your soul power will be boosted by at least another two ranks. That's because you have Ultimate Ice. Otherwise, a normal soul master's soul power would be boosted by at least four or five ranks."

Huo Yuhao was astonished when he heard her words. Soul masters needed to accumulate much more soul power to raise their soul power by another rank after reaching Rank 80. A soul master reached a different stage after every ten ranks, and the journey after reaching Rank 80 had been coined the path to heaven. Becoming a Titled Douluo was heaven, but how easy could it be to move towards becoming a Titled Douluo?

But that wasn't too surprising. Little Bai was a savage beast with more than two hundred thousand years of cultivation. Huo Yuhao would definitely receive a great boost in his cultivation after absorbing the Ice Bear King as a Spirit. He could even raise his soul power by two ranks even with his Ultimate Ice. That was strength that belonged to a Soul Douluo!

Huo Yuhao hesitated, but then shook his head and said, "Snow Lady, I can't bear to leave him. Is it really appropriate that he becomes my Spirit?"

The Snow Empress smiled and said, "You don't have to hesitate about that. I wouldn't have been so certain last time. Have you forgotten what I just told you? Even I have seen hope in you, so you fusing with Little Bai is good for him. He won't disappear because of that anyway, and his consciousness will still be around. Even if you ask Ah Tai to do this, he would be willing to go for such an opportunity. This

is an opportunity that soul beasts like us can only dream of. Therefore, you don't have to deliberate at all. Little Bai will definitely be willing."

"Yes, yes. I'm willing, I'm willing." Little Bai chimed in from the side without any hesitation.

Huo Yuhao thought to himself in exasperation, "Little Bai, oh Little Bai. You must have no idea what we're talking about, and you're just in a hurry to profess your loyalty. But this fellow is so cutely straightforward and honest.

Huo Yuhao contemplated for a moment, then said, "Snow Empress, I think I'm not going to fuse with Little Bai for now. I am about to go to the frontlines, where the Sun Moon Empire and the Heavenly Soul Empire are locked in battle. Little Bai's support will be very important for us there. Let's wait until after our expedition. Furthermore, my soul power has just reached Rank 80, and my cultivation isn't stable or consolidated yet. I'm not in a hurry."

The Snow Empress replied, "That's up to you, then, as Little Bai can do it anytime. Bring him along, and you can fuse with him whenever you feel the need to. External strength is not as important as your own strength no matter how powerful it is. Furthermore, I can feel that Little Bai is becoming increasingly close to his day of tribulation. Take him along, and you can absorb him as your Spirit as soon as you feel that something is amiss."

Huo Yuhao tilted his head and said, "Alright. We'll rescue teacher Xiao Ya, and then I'll fuse with Little Bai immediately afterwards."

Huo Yuhao took the Ice Bear King back to the Tang Sect. He emphasized to Little Bai once more not to address him as "grandfather" before entering the Tang Sect, and Little Bai was like a curious baby as he asked questions nonstop. In the end, Huo Yuhao told him that he wouldn't give him food to eat if he continued asking, and only then did he quiet down.

"Eh, who's that? Master." Huo Yuhao ran into Na Na as soon as he stepped into the door.

Several years had gone by, and Na Na's spirit and liveliness were vastly different from when she had first met Huo Yuhao. Na Na was both pretty and capable today, and she worked as a butler to the Tang Sect. Her status within the Tang Sect had grown exponentially, but the only characteristic that she couldn't shake off was that she would always address Huo Yuhao as "master" every time they met. Huo Yuhao was too lazy to correct her after a while.

"This is my friend," Huo Yuhao introduced the Ice Bear King to Na Na.

Na Na smiled at the Ice Bear King and said, "Welcome to the Tang Sect."

The Ice Bear King stared at Na Na and said, "Hello, pretty lady." He had almost never had any contact with humans before, and he almost began to drool when he saw the beautiful Na Na.

Huo Yuhao nudged him from the side, and only then did the Ice Bear King return to normal. He scratched his head embarrassedly before he followed Huo Yuhao inside.

Bei Bei's office was torn apart by the explosion, and it was still undergoing repairs as he decided to move into the conference room to deal with administrative matters.

He had arranged a series of jobs because he was in a hurry to rescue Tang Ya. He had gathered the Tang Sect's senior-level individuals for a meeting, and they had to discuss who was to participate in this operation. He was the eldest senior brother, but the Tang Sect's internal affairs and atmosphere had always been harmonious.

"Eldest senior brother, you should let me go, no matter what. It's my turn."

Huo Yuhao had just stepped in through the door when he heard his second senior brother, He Caitou's voice. There was a tinge of bitterness in his voice.

Bei Bei chuckled and said, "Don't be hasty, Caitou. By rights, I should let you go out to take a walk, but you know about our situation in the Tang Sect. Teacher Xuan can't deal with everything by himself, and you are the best with soul tools next to our little junior brother. I am most assured with you directing things. You are stable, and I have decided to let you take over my role temporarily. What do you think?"

He Caitou seemed a little depressed as he shook his head. "No. Let me go, eldest senior brother. Why don't you let little junior brother remain? He's better than me at everything. With him around, everything within the Tang Sect will be dealt with neatly and impeccably. He hasn't been staying within our walls for quite some time, and he's always running into danger when he's outside. I think we should let him calm down a little inside the Tang Sect, and he can also help relieve your burdens."

"Don't backstab me, second senior brother!" Huo Yuhao chimed in with a laugh.

#### **Chapter 487.2: Huo Yuhao is Not Allowed to Go!**

He Caitou turned around to look at him, and laughed. "What backstab? I would say the same even if you were in front of me. You have been too wild outside recently. We have been the ones dealing with so much of the sect's internal affairs, and it's your turn to stay back this time."

Huo Yuhao chortled and said, "I'm not very good at resolving the sect's internal affairs! Eldest senior brother won't rest assured giving me those responsibilities, right? I'm better at fighting instead. Furthermore, I'm the Tang Sect's main control-type soul master, and if I'm not there, everyone's strength will be greatly diminished."

He was a little worried that Bei Bei wouldn't let him go. Huo Yuhao's individual fighting strength was one of the best within the Tang Sect. More importantly, he was the only true control-type soul master within the Tang Sect. Everyone's overall fighting strength would be greatly boosted with him around. Furthermore, he had always been the one in command in battles.

Bei Bei nodded slightly and said, "It's quite impossible to fight in the outside world without little junior brother. The truth is, I do want him to keep him here to deal with the sect's internal affairs. Haih, we'll do that after this operation."

Huo Yuhao glanced at He Caitou proudly as He Caitou retorted dejectedly, "You can't be biased, eldest senior brother! Don't we have Dean Yan and Elder Song commanding the team this time? Little junior brother's absence won't mean much."

Huo Yuhao immediately said virtuously, "You can't say that, second senior brother. The Sun Moon Empire's aerial surveillance soul tools are developing very quickly, and I have been fighting against them consistently. I have a deep understanding of the Sun Moon Empire's way of battle. Furthermore, the

situation at the frontlines is still a mystery, and we don't know where teacher Xiao Ya is located. With my Spiritual Detection, searching for her will be a lot easier. Elder Xuan has already said: we have to confuse our opponents as much as possible in this operation. Your fighting strength with soul tools is so formidable, second senior brother, so what if we expose our academy's soul tool standards to them? Won't that undermine our complete plan?"

He Caitou was rendered speechless by Huo Yuhao's words. The truth was that He Caitou staying behind was most appropriate this time. However, he hadn't been outside for a long time, and was itching to do something. More importantly, Xiao Xiao was also participating in this expedition, and he was a little worried inside, as he wanted to protect her.

"I agree to let him stay behind." A deep voice could be heard at this moment.

Everyone turned towards where this voice came from, and it was Xuan Ziwen, who was sitting just below Bei Bei's position.

Everyone else's words were probably not so effective, but Xuan Ziwen's words immediately made He Caitou smile.

Who was Xuan Ziwen? He was the master of the Tang Sect's Soul Tool Hall, and he deserved much credit for the Tang Sect's recent developments. He held a very high status within the Tang Sect, and everyone in the Tang Sect's senior levels treated him with respect, like a teacher. He was Huo Yuhao's teacher in the first place, and even Bei Bei had to respect his opinions.

Huo Yuhao's expression immediately crumbled. "Teacher Xuan, you..."

Xuan Ziwen grunted and said "You still have the audacity to talk back to me? How long have you spent not studying soul tool construction? Don't forget, you're already a Class 7 soul engineer. Furthermore, I would not allow it even if you wanted to forgo your development as a soul engineer."

"Why?" Huo Yuhao stared at Xuan Ziwen confusedly. He remembered very clearly that he had made an agreement with teacher Xuan that they would focus on using all sorts of soul tools, and they would focus less on forging soul tools. They would focus more of their attention towards developing his abilities as a soul master. He had twin martial souls after all, and he was already a high-tier soul master at his current rank. His normal cultivation speed would be affected if he continued to train as both soul master and soul engineer at the same time.

Of course, that was the reason Huo Yuhao had given back then when he was discussing it with Xuan Ziwen. The truth however, was that ever since he had obtained his spiritual soul core, and after he had absorbed the Manifold Mysterious Ice Essence, training as a soul engineer at the same time wouldn't affect his cultivation speed much. n.(o/)v-/e--L./b-/l).n

Xuan Ziwen snickered and said, "You dug this hole for yourself, Yuhao. Do you remember those rare metals that you let Qiuqiu bring back here?"

"Are you talking about the Divine Ice Crystals?" Huo Yuhao asked.

Xuan Ziwen nodded and said, "Yes, I'm talking about those Divine Ice Crystals. I have never seen that kind of rare metal before, and I began to inspect it once she brought it back. I used all sorts of methods to investigate this rare metal's characteristics, and I have finally come to a conclusion."

Xuan Ziwen stood up as he stopped there. He surveyed everyone in the Tang Sect before he lowered his voice and said, "The Divine Ice Crystal's quality is comparable to any of the top-tier rare metals in the world today. Furthermore, it can only be equal or better. This means that the Divine Ice Crystals can be used to forge Class 9 soul tools, and it can even be used as materials for forging Class 10 soul tools. I've heard from Qiuqiu that you obtained quite a bit of these things!"

Huo Yuhao hurriedly nodded and said, "Yes! I have obtained quite a bit of it. Teacher Xuan, I'll give it all to you. What do you think? After all, you can just forge a suitable soul tool for me when the time comes."

Xuan Ziwen chuckled once more, and his laughter evidently meant something else as Huo Yuhao felt a chill run down his spine.

Xuan Ziwen continued, "Yes, the Divine Ice Crystal is very precious. However, you probably didn't realize that I can't craft things with the Divine Ice Crystals after inspecting them."

"Eh?" Huo Yuhao stared at Xuan Ziwen in shock. "Why?" Teacher Xuan had officially become a Class 9 soul engineer. Even though he had just broken through to Class 9, that was only because Xuan Ziwen had been restricted by his own soul power. In terms of his knowledge regarding soul tools and forging them, he was one of the best across the entire continent.

What use were rare metals that not even Teacher Xuan could use to forge, no matter how precious they were?

Xuan Ziwen laughed coldly and said, "That's because the Divine Ice Crystals will continuously release intense chills when used. This chilly air is at least one hundred degrees below zero, and at such temperatures, not even I can complete the job, even though I'm already a Titled Douluo. Both engraving formation arrays and crafting tools require the utmost concentration, and not a single mistake can be made. How can I craft soul tools with them under such circumstances? This means that the Divine Ice Crystals are very good stuff, but you are the only one who can forge them into soul tools. That's because you are the only one with an Ultimate Ice martial soul, so you're not afraid of the cold exuding from that rare metal."

Huo Yuhao's expression froze, and only now did he understand what was meant by shooting himself in the foot. Wasn't that right? Teacher Xuan's words meant that he was probably the only one who could forge the Divine Ice Crystals into soul tools within the Tang Sect, and possibly within the entire academy. Furthermore, such top-tier materials had to be used to forge top-tier soul tools, and that couldn't be done without a lot of effort. He was still a Class 7 soul engineer in terms of forging soul tools. Teacher Xuan didn't want him to leave, and that was evidently because he wanted Huo Yuhao to continue learning about forging soul tools from him!

"Teacher Xuan, since these Divine Ice Crystals will release very low temperatures during forging, will that affect its quality? If all the coldness within was released, it won't have any value even if the forging is successful." Huo Yuhao asked probingly.

Xuan Ziwen continued, "You don't have to worry about that, because I've conducted experiments a long time ago. I have called the Divine Ice Crystal a top-tier rare metal; how could I take it so seriously if I couldn't even resolve a problem like that? Divine Ice Crystals will release very low temperatures when



struck from the outside, or when soul power is infused into them, but once those actions stop, the low temperatures will recede. This means that its own energies will be contained, and it will maintain its original state. The constant change in its temperature means there's nothing I can do to it. Otherwise, I would have already attempted to forge soul tools with it. What do you have left to say?"

Huo Yuhao forced a laugh and said, "Can this wait until after I return?"

"No." Xuan Ziwen said decisively, "you have been hanging around outside for so long, and you haven't been paying much attention to forging soul tools or working hard as a soul engineer. You will lose your skills if this continues. Don't think you can do what you like just because you're talented. You are still young, but your future will be limited if your heart isn't in the right place. It's time for you to focus and curb your distractions. Therefore, I am not allowing you to go this time. You'll stay in the Tang Sect and deal with its internal affairs as you learn about crafting soul tools with me."

"Very wise, Teacher Xuan!" He Caitou boot-licked at an appropriate time.

Xuan Ziwen glared at him and said, "Don't even try. He can't go, and you can't go either. Yuhao is right that now is the time to keep a low profile and accumulate our strength. We cannot expose our strength at crafting soul tools to the Sun Moon Empire. Furthermore, your development in forging soul tools has reached the standard of a Class 8 soul engineer, so you'd better stay at the academy to learn. I predict that once your soul power breaks through Rank 80, you will become a Class 8 soul engineer."

He Caitou pulled a long face and said, "It's not as easy as it seems! I'm only at Rank 75, Teacher Xuan."

"You have to remain steady on your path," Xuan Ziwen said plainly, "Furthermore, I'll be the only one left if you leave. Doesn't that mean all the work is going to be piled onto me? You won't be very useful even if you go, so you'd better stay here and do some work. You can go out and do whatever you want once our three soul engineer legions have been established. For now, you are to do some hard labor for me."

"I..." He Caitou dropped back into his seat. How could he dare to displease Teacher Xuan? He was still hoping for him to guide him to become a Class 9 soul engineer.

Even though He Caitou was a little low-spirited because he hadn't been going out, his individual cultivation and his prowess with and understanding of soul tools had been improving exponentially over the past year. His strength was a far cry from what it was back in the day. Therefore, he didn't dare to retort even though he was depressed.

### **Chapter 487.3: Huo Yuhao is Not Allowed to Go!**

Bei Bei glanced at Huo Yuhao. He was still quite hesitant, as their operation's chances of success would be greatly boosted if Huo Yuhao was present. However, Xuan Ziwen had given so much blood and sweat for the Tang Sect, and not even he could speak out against his wishes.

Huo Yuhao suddenly said, "Teacher Xuan, what do I have to do so that you'll let me go? Actually, I haven't been slacking in recent days!"

Xuan Ziwen snickered and said, "You haven't been slacking? Alright! It's simple to prove that you haven't been slacking. Soul engineers will use the soul engineers' method; all you have to do is forge a Class 8 soul tool for me and show that you can use it. Only then will you prove to me that you haven't been

slacking. Furthermore, you have to be able to use it perfectly. Otherwise, you will stay inside the sect, and not even think about going anywhere. And you can't leave until you become a Soul Douluo and until you can forge a Class 8 soul tool. What do you think of my idea, sect leader?'

Bei Bei glanced at Xuan Ziwen, and then turned around to look at Huo Yuhao with a helpless look. Bei Bei would have clapped his hands in applause for what Xuan Ziwen was doing if they weren't heading out to rescue Xiao Ya. However, this operation was extremely dangerous, and everyone would be able to predict their opponents' moves preemptively with Huo Yuhao around. But he couldn't contradict Xuan Ziwen and cause him to lose face, so he could only nod as he said, "I agree."

Bei Bei thought to himself, 'Little junior brother, oh, little junior brother. Make your own luck. Whose fault is it that you've been spending so much time outside, to the point where not even teacher Xuan can look on anymore? There's nothing I can do to help you.'

Huo Yuhao sighed and said, "Teacher Xuan, that's too cruel. Can I forge a Class 7 soul tool instead?"

Xuan Ziwen grunted coldly and said, "Don't think I'm unaware that you have long been a Class 7 soul engineer. Even though there aren't many Class 7 soul tools you know to forge, crafting one with your spiritual power is not a problem, not to mention wielding one. You are a Soul Sage, and using a Class 7 soul tool is a piece of cake. There's no discussion. You have to forge a Class 8 soul tool."

Huo Yuhao forced a laugh and said, "But, teacher Xuan, I haven't even seen a Class 8 soul tool's blueprint before. How can I do that?"

Xuan Ziwen snapped, "And you still have the cheek to tell me you haven't been slacking?"

"Uh..." Huo Yuhao knew that he probably couldn't get out of this. Teacher Xuan was extremely stubborn when he got serious, and nobody could say anything to change his mind. Huo Yuhao glanced at everyone else, and realized exasperatedly that most of his companions seemed to be rejoicing in his misfortune. Nan Qiuqiu's schadenfreude was most evident.

Why isn't anyone helping me?? Huo Yuhao was very aggrieved.

"Alright, teacher Xuan, I'll try. Can you give me blueprints for a Class 8 soul tool? If I can craft one and use it, you have to let me participate in this expedition. Can you give me a few days, eldest senior brother?"

Bei Bei stared at him in surprise. "You're really going to try, little junior brother?" A Class 8 soul tool?! Was that a joke? Before Xuan Ziwen had arrived in Shrek City, there were only several soul engineers within Shrek Academy who could forge Class 8 soul tools. Among them were Huo Yuhao and He Caitou's teacher, Fan Yu, along with Qian Duoduo, their vice-Dean. Not even the Valkyrie Douluo, Xian Lin'er, was that confident in accomplishing that task. In the end, Xian Lin'er's main focus was as a soul master. She was the Soul Tool Department's Dean back then more so because she wanted to gain some dignity back from Yan Shaozhe.

Huo Yuhao was still so young! He was already struggling to craft a Class 7 soul tool back then, and it would be truly unbelievable if he could craft a Class 8 soul tool just like that.

Bei Bei tilted his head and said, "You are very stubbornly determined. If you want to try, then go for it. However, we will only wait three days for you, and then everyone will set off. I'll arrange some of the sect's various affairs within these three days, and you should make use of your time."

Since Bei Bei had approved Xuan Ziwen's request, he had to consider how to lead his companions to rescue Tang Ya if Huo Yuhao wasn't around. This was a serious matter, as they weren't that clear about the situation at the frontlines. He had to use these few days to gather some intelligence from the frontlines so that he could study it.

Huo Yuhao was probably most adept at war and battle within the entire Tang Sect. No one else there had really participated in the war before, and even when they did, Huo Yuhao was the one commanding them. He Caitou and Huo Yuhao had participated in the Ultimate Soldier Plan before, but He Caitou was focused more on learning about support, mainly so that he could provide support for Huo Yuhao. Furthermore, He Caitou wasn't going this time either!

Huo Yuhao had a look of exasperation as he said, "Alright, three days, then. Teacher Xuan, please hurry and provide me with those blueprints. I will make that attempt now."

Xuan Ziwen laughed. "You little rascal, now you know polish your spear before battle. You have been wilding so much outside, now it's time to sit down and focus. Go, let me see how you are going to craft a Class 8 soul tool. Oh, right, call me when you're about to start crafting it. Don't think you can smoke through this. Nobody can help you this time."

"Do I look like someone who smokes through things?" Huo Yuhao retorted indignantly. However, his heart was pounding in his chest. The truth was that he had wanted to look for teacher Fan Yu so that he could ask for his help. Huo Yuhao was confident that he would have no problem using a Class 8 soul tool.

Xuan Ziwen's idea of using a Class 8 soul tool perfectly meant that he wanted Huo Yuhao to unleash the soul tool's full potential and strength. Huo Yuhao wouldn't be so confident back then, but everything was different now because he actually had a cultivation rank that was worth eight soul rings! Even though he hadn't obtained his eighth soul ring, using a Class 8 soul tool wouldn't be a problem.

Seems like I can't take any shortcuts anymore,?Huo Yuhao heaved a sigh inside.?Since that's the case, then I'll just work hard at giving it a try. Teacher Xuan still doesn't know that I have a spiritual soul core, and I have improved a lot at controlling the more delicate and fine aspects of forging a soul tool. I might actually have a chance.

Xuan Ziwen had already handed over a stack of blueprints. A high-level soul tool couldn't be detailed clearly with just one blueprint. The soul tool had to be split into its shell, formation arrays, how it was assembled, how it was activated, and other crucial components. Every blueprint detailed a component, and the soul engineer still had to assemble everything after forging those components and experiment with it to ensure that the soul tool would be perfect. n-(0)7e1b1n

Huo Yuhao's face turned gray when he saw those blueprints. Xuan Ziwen was undoubtedly deliberately trying to make things difficult for him. There were more than thirty blueprints in this stack; not even a Class 8 soul tool should be so complicated.?Teacher Xuan is clearly certain and correct that I don't have a Class ?8 soul tool of my own, so he deliberately found one that is hard to forge and extremely complicated even amongst Class 8 soul tools for me. You're so mean, Teacher Xuan.

Those were Huo Yuhao's thoughts, but he wasn't angry at all. Xuan Ziwen was doing this for his own good, and Huo Yuhao was very clear about that. He knew that it was about time for him to settle down and focus on studying and cultivation. However, they were going to rescue Tang Ya this time. How could he not participate?? No matter, I'm going to give everything in this attempt. It'll be my fault if I really can't complete this task.

Huo Yuhao took the blueprints and immediately turned to leave.

"Hey, Yuhao, what about me?" The Ice Bear King, Little Bai pointed at his own nose and asked.

Everyone had already noticed this fatso, but there was definitely no problem with him since Huo Yuhao was the one who had brought him back, so nobody asked any questions.

Huo Yuhao thought about it and said, "This is my friend, eldest senior brother. He will come with us to rescue teacher Xiao Ya. Can you arrange somewhere for him to stay? I will provide his food. I'm going to take my leave. Second senior brother, can you accompany me and help me prepare some materials?"

Huo Yuhao was part of the Tang Sect's core, but he wasn't very familiar with the Tang Sect's Soul Tool Hall. This was especially so because the Soul Tool Hall had been continuously refurbished and renovated in recent months and years, and Huo Yuhao really didn't know where to find the rare metals that he would need. In order to prevent Teacher Xuan from trapping him even more, Huo Yuhao decided to ask He Caitou for help.

He Caitou chortled as he stood up and accompanied Huo Yuhao out. The truth was that he really wanted to see how Huo Yuhao could forge a Class 8 soul tool. He Caitou had been working very hard over the past year, and could even provide some help when Xuan Ziwen was crafting Class 8 soul tools. However, He Caitou wasn't confident at all in forging a Class 8 soul tool all by himself. After all, crafting a Class 8 soul tool was too delicate, and one needed formidable spiritual power and soul power for support. Furthermore, the materials needed for a Class 8 soul tool were very rare and precious. The more high-class and rare a material was, the more soul power expended in forging a soul tool. Many techniques in crafting Class 8 soul tools had to be completed in one go, and such a feat couldn't possibly be done without sufficiently powerful soul power.

Huo Yuhao left with He Caitou, while Bei Bei and the others continued to discuss who would remain. He Caitou was definitely staying behind, while Na Na accepted Bei Bei's order with a bitter look on her face. If Bei Bei wasn't there, the Tang Sect would descend into chaos if their great butler wasn't around.

Bei Bei felt that the Tang Sect needed someone to hold down the fort. Jing Ziyan decided to stay behind after their final discussions. As everyone's strength increased, Jing Ziyan knew that her abilities were already lagging behind the Tang Sect's prodigies, and she couldn't do much to help even if she participated. She had become a Soul Emperor far earlier than many of the Tang Sect's individuals, but amongst the Tang Sect's Shrek's Seven Monsters, almost everyone now either had seven soul rings, or were almost there, besides Wang Dong'er, who had gone missing while her soul power was only at Rank 67. Furthermore, her martial soul didn't have any advantages, and thus she decided to stay behind so that she could actually contribute to the Tang Sect. She was one with her husband anyway, and even if she didn't go, Ji Juechen would still definitely participate. The sword fanatic's thirst for battle was far too strong.

Besides Jing Ziyang, Bei Bei decided after thorough consideration that he would bring along the rest of the Tang Sect's core individuals. This operation was very important, and Huo Yuhao might not be able to participate. It was evident that their operation would fail if they didn't have sufficient strength.

#### **Chapter 488.1: Class 8 Decomposition Cannon**

The final decision was for Bei Bei to take the leading role, while Xu Sanshi, Jiang Nannan, Xiao Xiao, Ji Juechen, Ye Guyi, and Nan Qiuqiu would all participate. Of course, Huo Yuhao would have a spot on the team if he could pass his test. However, nobody believed that he could actually do it.

Bei Bei and four others from Shrek's Seven Monsters were part of this operation, excluding Huo Yuhao and He Caitou. In addition to the sword fanatic, who was also a Sou Sage, along with Ye Guyi and Nan Qiuqiu, who were two Soul Emperors with special martial souls, their overall strength was unprecedentedly powerful.

Of course, Bei Bei was very clear on the difference between having Huo Yuhao around and going on without him. Simply put, even if they encountered a Titled Douluo, Huo Yuhao would give them a chance to kill their opponent with these prodigies' prowess. Without Huo Yuhao, the best they could do was protect themselves.

But Dean Yan and Elder Song, who were two Transcendent Douluo, would also participate in this expedition. Their chances were probably quite good.

Bei Bei began to prepare intricately after he decided who was to participate in this expedition. He had to make sure that the Tang Sect's affairs were properly settled and arranged within the shortest possible time. At the same time, he had to make a trip to Shrek Academy's Soul Tool Department so that he could request Xian Lin'er and Qian Duoduo's support, and so that these two Deans could help him temporarily look after the Tang Sect. To that end, the Tang Sect wouldn't run into any problems.

Huo Yuhao didn't have any energy to see how his eldest senior brother was arranging things; his thoughts were entirely occupied by how to forge a Class 8 soul tool.

There was only one set of blueprints, and he didn't get to choose. Since he didn't get to choose, then he had to rely on his own effort.

Fortunately, he had He Caitou to help him. Even though he and He Caitou had conflicted with each other for a chance to participate in this expedition, they were brothers after all, and how could He Caitou sit by and watch when his brother was in trouble?

The brothers entered one of the well-equipped silent rooms within the Soul Tool Hall. Huo Yuhao realized to his surprise that the silent room's layout was very particular and exquisite. There was an extremely large platform for crafting soul tools in the middle, and this platform's surface was silver-white, while there were all sorts of equipment and configurations around it. This seemed very similar from the one that he had used back in the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy, though this one was probably better. The reason was because there were some equipment and configurations that even he didn't know about.

There were many metal racks and frames around the silent room. These racks weren't considered pleasing to the eye, but they were very practical, and that was because all sorts of rare metals were

placed on these metal racks in all shapes and sizes. Typically, the more precious a rare metal was, the smaller the pieces on the racks would be.

Forging soul tools would naturally become a lot more effective with a silent room such as this one.

Huo Yuhao couldn't be bothered with admiring the Soul Tool Hall's current development as he walked briskly before the table and laid out the blueprints that Xuan Ziwen had given him. Then, he started to study them closely.

This was the first time that he had seen such detailed and comprehensive blueprints of a Class 8 soul tool, but this wasn't the first time that He Caitou had seen such blueprints.

He Caitou's expression changed a little as he saw them. He couldn't help but utter, "Teacher Xuan is cruel enough! Little junior brother, do you know what these blueprints are for?"

Huo Yuhao was still looking at the rare metals that this soul tool required, but he hurriedly turned his attention towards the name on the blueprints' first page when he heard He Caitou's words. Huo Yuhao's expression also became extremely spectacular when he saw the name.

"Decomposition cannon!" The soul tool's name was just two simple words, but Huo Yuhao drew a cold breath.

Of course he knew about decomposition cannons, and such soul tools appeared in various classes. However, decomposition cannons of the lowest class occurred as Class 6 soul tools.

A decomposition cannon was a single-target offensive soul tool, and its core principles included the element of space and making use of space's pyrolytic properties to create formidable destructive power. Decomposition cannons were one of the hardest types of soul tools to forge no matter which class they were in, while they were also considered one of the strongest single-target offensive soul tools within their respective classes.

That was the reason why He Caitou remarked that Teacher Xuan was cruel. He was, indeed! Even Xuan Ziwen himself would have to put in some effort if he were to forge a Class 8 decomposition cannon himself. Furthermore, Huo Yuhao could vaguely remember that Xuan Ziwen had mentioned that Class 8 decomposition cannons were impractical and a waste of time. It had formidable attacking power, but forging it required too much effort, while the time and effort needed to forge such a cannon was enough to forge three other Class 8 soul tools. Even though these individual soul tools would have weaker attacking strengths, the three of them added together would still be stronger overall than a single decomposition cannon.

Yet, Teacher Xuan has chosen to use this decomposition cannon to stump me. Teacher Xuan, oh, Teacher Xuan. You are too cruel.

Huo Yuhao wanted to cry, but no tears would come. But what else could he do? There was nothing he could do against Teacher Xuan's authority.

Huo Yuhao heaved a long sigh as he concentrated on studying those blueprints.

Huo Yuhao had to make sure he knew what rare metals these blueprints required before he could gather those resources. He couldn't do anything more without sufficient materials, or everything else

wouldn't matter, and he wouldn't even have a chance to attempt this feat. What else was there to talk about?

Fortunately, Xuan Ziwen just wanted to see what Huo Yuhao could do after slacking for so long. Therefore, there were no problems with resources even though he deliberately chose a difficult Class 8 soul tool to pin him down.

Shrek Academy had been receiving support from the Douluo Continent's three native empires in secret. They didn't have that many rare metals, but they could be considered well-equipped. Even though their haul couldn't compare to the Sun Moon Empire's scale, the three empires' combined national strengths were sufficient to support all kinds of research and soul tool production.

Huo Yuhao used one hour to gather all the materials that he required with He Caitou's help, and only then did he begin perusing the blueprints for forging this soul tool. His expression quickly changed after just one look.

So complicated, this is just too complicated! Teacher Xuan, you're asking for my life!

Huo Yuhao felt like he couldn't take it anymore after going through the blueprints for a little while. Twenty-four pieces out of thirty were for designing formation arrays. Huo Yuhao wouldn't complain if twenty-four formation arrays were needed, because that was just a quantitative problem. He wouldn't have any trouble with that with his speed at crafting soul tools.

The problem was that these twenty-four pieces actually depicted just three formation arrays, which meant that every formation array had eight pieces on average, and what did that mean? That meant every formation array was as complicated as one could get. Those weren't simple two-dimensional pictures – they were all three-dimensional – they even breached topics of four-dimensional spatial features.

For instance, the most important formation array hovered within the soul tool. This was the first time that Huo Yuhao had even heard of a formation array being used this way, not to mention ever having seen one.

Huo Yuhao felt like he didn't know where to start. A Class 8 soul tool. It really is a Class 8 soul tool after all!

Huo Yuhao heaved a long sigh. Does heaven want to punish me?

Huo Yuhao began to scrutinize those blueprints after momentary sighs and laments. He was never one to admit defeat just like that, and he had a defiant personality that made him stronger the more suffering he took.

Huo Yuhao quickly immersed himself in his studies. He wasn't hasty to attempt to forge the soul tool, but he just studied and interpreted the blueprints intently.

From Huo Yuhao's perspective, forging wasn't too difficult. Forging a Class 8 soul tool shouldn't be too difficult with his current soul power. That was especially so because he had support from his formidable spiritual power. With his spiritual soul core, Huo Yuhao was confident that his spiritual power wasn't inferior even compared to a Class 9 soul engineer.

The crucial problem lay in understanding this soul tool's principles and its forging method before he could get any work started.

He Caitou was still watching from one side in the beginning, but he quickly realized that Huo Yuhao had been completely absorbed into the blueprints. He Caitou was also staring at these blueprints seriously from the side, and even though these blueprints were so complicated that he wanted to vomit blood, they were still invaluable treasures for soul engineers like them! Not every soul engineer could obtain blueprints of such top-tier soul tools, and that was especially soul for the Douluo Continent's three original empires. Top-tier soul tool blueprints were considered extremely rare.

However, He Caitou felt like he couldn't keep going anymore after observing for a short while. The Class 8 decomposition cannon's blueprints were absolutely the most complicated ones amongst the various blueprints of Class 8 soul tools that he had seen. Furthermore, they weren't just complicated. He Caitou felt like his head was spinning after just looking at those three-dimensional blueprints for a short while.

He Caitou knew that he was lacking in spiritual power. Even though he was already working very hard, he knew that his spiritual power could only catch up after his soul power passed Rank 85 for him to consider these blueprints.

He stole a glance at Huo Yuhao, and discovered that Huo Yuhao was very seriously studying them, but he didn't seem like he was completely lost. He Caitou couldn't help but feel a tinge of admiration and envy. Little junior brother's spiritual power is truly admirable!

Soul engineers were more reliant on spiritual power in some sense compared to soul masters, and that was more the case as soul engineers became stronger.

Time continued to pass. He Caitou accompanied Huo Yuhao for another two hours inside the silent room before he left quietly, as he knew that he could no longer help him in here. He didn't know how much time would pass before Huo Yuhao would awaken from his contemplation.

He Caitou left quietly, and informed the Tang Sect's other members that nobody was to disturb Huo Yuhao.

One day passed in the blink of an eye, and Huo Yuhao had been inside the silent room from the beginning to the end. He Caitou came to visit him twice discreetly, and Xuan Ziwen even came to see Huo Yuhao once. However, Huo Yuhao didn't speak, and neither did he move as he stared at those blueprints, like his entire being was completely immersed within them.

He Caitou sighed exasperatedly, while Xuan Ziwen was feeling happy inside. Of course, he knew how difficult it was to forge a Class 8 decomposition cannon. This was meant to deliberately stump Huo Yuhao, after all.

Xuan Ziwen was clear that becoming a Class 9 soul engineer was his limit with his talents. That wasn't because his abilities at research weren't enough, but because he didn't have enough soul power. He couldn't possibly become a Transcendent Douluo in the future, and if he couldn't become a Transcendent Douluo, then he wouldn't have a chance to try to become a Class 10 soul engineer in the future.

## Chapter 488.2: Class 8 Decomposition Cannon



Therefore, even though he had become a Class 9 soul engineer, his understanding about all that was far deeper than before. That was the reason why he came to realize how important Huo Yuhao was as a prodigy, and that only Huo Yuhao could carry on his legacy and work towards breaking through and becoming a Class 10 soul engineer. Therefore, Xuan Ziwen gave some deep thought about this, and decided that he had to find some way to convince Huo Yuhao no matter what, so that he would properly learn about forging soul tools from him. Under such circumstances, he needed Huo Yuhao to remain. Otherwise, wouldn't his intentions just be empty thoughts?

Xuan Ziwen wouldn't be surprised if Huo Yuhao couldn't complete the decomposition cannon, but he didn't wish to see Huo Yuhao not have any solutions at all. From what he could see, if Huo Yuhao could at least immerse himself within those blueprints, then he definitely would gain some understanding of them. That was enough for him.

Huo Yuhao was a youngster who had just become a Class 7 soul engineer. What else could Xuan Ziwen expect from him, if Huo Yuhao could understand a Class 8 decomposition cannon, which had a complexity that came close to a Class 9 soul tool? As long as Xuan Ziwen could guide him, and in addition to his continuously improving cultivation, Huo Yuhao wouldn't need more than one or two years before he could become a Class 8 soul engineer. Xuan Ziwen was very clear about Huo Yuhao's talents. That fellow was just too talented. Not only was he intelligent, but he also had formidable spiritual power supporting him, so he had a much easier time forging soul tools than other soul engineers.

On the second day, Huo Yuhao still hadn't moved or spoken, neither had he eaten or had anything to drink. He Caitou was starting to get worried, and he conveyed what he saw to Bei Bei. Bei Bei personally spoke with Xuan Ziwen, and he wanted to interrupt Huo Yuhao so that he could stop, but Xuan Ziwen stopped him.

"What? Stop? What kind of joke is this? Do you know how difficult it is for a soul engineer to be so immersed in his own studies? He can only truly experience the beauty of soul tools if he is frequently immersed in them and experiencing revelations from them; only then can he improve quickly. Not to mention two days, he can spend half a month not eating or drinking with that body of his without a problem. The deal has been struck anyway, you guys will wait three days for him. If he doesn't come to after three days, you guys can just leave without him."

Xuan Ziwen stopped Bei Bei irritably. From his perspective, Huo Yuhao was like a qualified soul engineer in his current state. He was more than eager for Huo Yuhao to continue being in such a state.

Bei Bei couldn't convince Xuan Ziwen, so he had no choice but to allow He Caitou to continue sending food and water to Huo Yuhao.

But Huo Yuhao paid no attention to all that. His eyes didn't shift away from those blueprints. He Caitou once observed Huo Yuhao closely for a little while, as he was afraid that Huo Yuhao was in a daze from scrutinizing those blueprints, but he quickly realized that Huo Yuhao was completely fine.

The reason was because Huo Yuhao's expression was changing throughout the process. Sometimes he would frown, and sometimes he would express pleasant joy. There was a time when Huo Yuhao even slammed the table with his hand, which startled He Caitou.

It was evident that Huo Yuhao was just immersed in his own research, and there was nothing wrong with him.

Two days had gone by while Huo Yuhao was still like that. The third day quickly arrived.

Bei Bei had already made all the necessary arrangements for the Tang Sect. Xian Lin'er and Qian Duoduo, their two Deans, had agreed to his request to take care of the Tang Sect, and they told Bei Bei to complete his task assuredly. However, Elder Xuan had also given them a time limit; everyone had to come back within one month, whether or not they could rescue Tang Ya. The Tang Sect needed them after all, and the Tang Sect's development was related to their resistance against the Sun Moon Empire in the future.

"The third day is coming, and little junior brother seems like he won't be coming with us." Bei Bei said helplessly to Xu Sanshi.

They were about to depart the next day, so they made some final preparations.

Xu Sanshi pulled a long face and replied, "I wonder why teacher Xuan is so determined this time. I'm honestly not confident at all without little junior brother around! I didn't feel that way last time, and he has always been the one planning strategies and whatnot. We're about to go onto the battlefield by ourselves this time, and I am a little lost about where to start."

Bei Bei couldn't help but laugh. "Seems like we have to train a little. Otherwise, won't we become laughingstocks?"

Xu Sanshi snapped, "Don't bite off more than you can chew. Who will be the main control-type soul master without Yuhao? You, or me? Or who else? Not even sister Ziyang is going, and Ziyang can still be considered a half control-type soul master. Seems like Xiao Xiao has to take this role, but her control only works within a small area of effect, and when the battle is spread out over a larger area, she probably can't keep everything under control. Bei Bei, why don't we look for Teacher Xuan to convince him to let Yuhao go this time? He'll learn properly when he gets back."

Bei Bei sighed and said, "I know how important little junior brother is. However, Teacher Xuan's attitude is very resolute. You know that the Tang Sect couldn't have developed so quickly in recent months and years without him, and we couldn't have had so much support from the academy. Teacher Xuan doesn't typically ask anything of us, so I can't reject his request this time when he is so determined.

Furthermore, he usually has a casual personality, but he's very stubborn when he's decided on something. I'll only infuriate him if I look for him again. Forget it, let's just work hard by ourselves. I don't think we'll have too much trouble rescuing Xiao Ya with Elder Song and Dean Yan around."

"I guess that's all we can do," Xu Sanshi replied exasperatedly, "alright, I'm going back."

Xu Sanshi stood up as he spoke, when a voice suddenly came from outside. "Done, he's done."

Both Xu Sanshi and Bei Bei were momentarily stunned as He Caitou charged in from outside with an excited look on his face.

"What's done?" Xu Sanshi asked confusedly.

He Caitou said excitedly, "Little junior brother is done going through the blueprints, and he's starting to forge the soul tool. He's asked me to look for Teacher Xuan. I'm here to relay this good news before calling him."

Xu Sanshi shook his head helplessly and said, "Are you alright, second senior brother? Are you saying that he will succeed after he's done going through the blueprints? Won't that make becoming a Class 8 soul engineer too easy? You can go look for Teacher Xuan."

"Yes! He might not succeed at forging the soul tool even though he's done with the blueprints," He Caitou forced a laugh as he slapped his forehead, "I just watched little junior brother stare at blueprints for three days, and my thoughts went sideways that he would definitely succeed when I saw that he was finally getting down to crafting it."

Bei Bei smiled and said, "There's nothing sideways about that. Little junior brother might actually succeed. Isn't he very adept at creating miracles?"

He Caitou nodded and said, "I also think there's hope. That's because soul engineers have to understand a soul tool's principles before forging it, and they have to figure out a soul tool's blueprints such as this one that they've never seen before. Little junior brother has been going through them for almost three days, and he's finally getting to work. Perhaps he's doing that because he's out of time, or perhaps he has really understood them. I'm leaning towards the latter, as little junior brother never does things without thinking. Therefore, he will only have a chance at forging the soul tool if he can understand those blueprints. Even if he isn't yet a Soul Douluo, he has twin martial souls, so his soul power is stronger than most other soul masters at the same rank. Maybe he can really do it, and his spiritual power is just so formidable. Alright, I'm going to look for Teacher Xuan, and you guys can go take a look if you're interested. Let's cheer little junior brother on together, and hope that he'll succeed."

He Caitou ran out excitedly after his speech to notify Xuan Ziwen.

Bei Bei and Xu Sanshi exchanged a look, and they almost uttered at the same time, "Let's go!"

Huo Yuhao was done with the blueprints, but he didn't start forging immediately. Instead, he drank some water, but didn't eat anything as he sat down with his legs crossed while he began to meditate.

Huo Yuhao had spent almost three days on these blueprints, and he had consumed a lot of energy doing that. How could he craft a Class 8 soul tool without his energy in perfect condition? This was his first attempt!

Huo Yuhao was still meditating when Xuan Ziwen, Bei Bei, Xu Sanshi, and He Caitou slunk into the silent room, and he seemed to be deep in meditation.

Everyone besides Xuan Ziwen was a little stunned when they what he was like.

Xuan Ziwen nodded instead and said, "That's good, he still knows that he should regain his energy before making this attempt. Seems like he's very confident! Let's wait and see."

Waiting around was typically very torturous. At least, that was the case for most people, but Huo Yuhao quickly gave them a reason to remove that torturous feeling, because something was happening to his body.

Huo Yuhao only had faint soul power undulations before, but as time continued to pass, those undulations started to change. Furthermore, those changes were extremely weird.

Faint gold colors began to emanate from inside his body. That was very normal for most people, as they would think that it was just his soul power presented externally. Most people could reach this state when they were unbridled and they didn't need anyone to protect them.

However, Huo Yuhao's aura was just so dominant. A terrifying aura that resembled that of an ancient awakening beast rippled from his body as the faint golden light continued to flow out in waves. Everyone inside the silent room, including Xuajin Ziwen, began to feel a little stifled, and found it difficult to breathe.

"Is he using Imitation when he's meditating?" Xuan Ziwen asked snappily.

"I don't think so," Bei Bei's expression became solemn. He was well-aware of Huo Yuhao's abilities, and they were inside the Tang Sect. How could he be using soul skills when he was meditating? But what was going on with that golden light that was emanating from his body?

### **Chapter 488.3: Class 8 Decomposition Cannon**

Huo Yuhao quickly gave his answer as fine, compact scales began to appear on his skin. These scales were diamond-shaped, and even appeared three-dimensional, as the center of every scale protruded upwards. Under such circumstances, there were many reflections off the surface of these scales, and that made the faint golden light radiating from his body even more brilliant and eye-catching. Huo Yuhao's formidable aura continued to rise, and every instance gave everyone a kind of frightening pressure.

"If we hadn't been so used to spending so much time with this fellow, we'd probably think he's a savage beast in human form!" Xu Sanshi said admiringly.

It didn't take long before Huo Yuhao's aura that resembled a savage beast finally stabilized. Everyone heaved a sigh of relief at the same time. At least they didn't have to channel soul power to resist that tremendous pressure. But their eyes quickly widened, because a strange black whirlpool gradually appeared in the middle of Huo Yuhao's eyebrows. Everyone felt their spiritual seas quiver vigorously when that whirlpool appeared, and formidable spiritual power was immediately unleashed from within it like a hurricane.

Huo Yuhao's spiritual power was released for just an instant, but that instant sent everyone stumbling backwards uncontrollably.

His spiritual power was released and withdrawn in a single instant, but it was released again in the next moment.

"I can't handle it anymore. I'll step out for a little while." Xu Sanshi turned and left the silent room with a stifled look on his face.

Bei Bei and the others also walked out with strange expressions on their faces. Huo Yuhao's spiritual power was too strange, and under such circumstances, they were continuously sustaining spiritual shocks. That was more painful than being in a fight, because they couldn't fight against it either, as resisting would likely create shocks to Huo Yuhao.

The only person who didn't leave was Teacher Xuan, who was already a Class 9 soul engineer.

Xuan Ziwen stared at Huo Yuhao with widened eyes, and his mouth hung slightly agape as a look of disbelief filled his eyes.

That... what is that whirlpool?

The others in the Tang Sect didn't know, and that was because they weren't at that level yet, but Xuan Ziwen was!

Shrek Academy had wanted to express their gratitude for his contributions to the Soul Tool Department, and several Transcendent Douluo had personally helped him from his soul core. Even though his foundations weren't very secure, as he barely became a Titled Douluo, and he could be stuck at Rank 91 for his entire life, Xuan Ziwen could probably spend his entire lifetime without becoming a Titled Douluo otherwise with his foundations. If he couldn't do that, he couldn't become a Class 9 soul engineer.

He knew how difficult it was to form a soul core because he had done it himself. Back then, he felt as if he had died, and he felt very deeply about how powerful and frightening a soul core was.

But what was he looking at now? The center of Huo Yuhao's eyebrows was filled with formidable spiritual power undulations, and it seemed to release and withdraw spiritual power along with his breathing. It seemed like a soul core!

But how's that possible? He's just a Soul Sage, so how can he have a soul core? It was very difficult for me to form my own soul core when I was breaking through to become a Titled Douluo. Wouldn't he have a much harder time forming a soul core as a Soul Sage?

But judging from the spiritual undulations that are coming from the center of his eyebrows, that is a soul core! God! Will this fellow give me a very pleasant surprise? No, that's not possible. Even if his spiritual power is strong enough, he can't possibly finish forging a Class 8 soul tool like this one. Forging soul tools requires more than just powerful soul power. A soul engineer also needs powerful soul power to support him. Otherwise, the soul engineer will find it very difficult to complete everything in one go. He also has to be able to use a Class 8 soul tool perfectly in our deal, and a decomposition cannon expends a lot of soul power.

Xuan Ziwen gradually calmed down as his thoughts stopped there. However, when he felt Huo Yuhao's spiritual undulations and felt his own undulations from his soul core, he still discovered some differences. At least, what made him more gratified was that Huo Yuhao's thing that was similar to a soul core couldn't compare to his own soul core in terms of overall strength.

Then that is definitely not a soul core. Yes, doesn't he have that Eye of Destiny? Maybe this is his Eye of Destiny's unique appearance? Xuan Ziwen continued to console himself. He had never heard of a Titled Douluo who could establish a soul core between his eyebrows.

Xuan Ziwen turned and left as well. Staying in the silent room and continuously resisting Huo Yuhao's sporadically appearing spiritual power wasn't comfortable at all.

Everyone was still outside when he left the room. Huo Yuhao was still meditating, so they naturally stayed back to protect their junior brother.

“Teacher Xuan, don’t you think Yuhao’s aura is a little strange? Why do I not remember him having such formidable spiritual power before? Can it be that he has run into another miracle in the time he’s spent outside?” Xu Sanshi asked curiously.

He Caitou was deep in thought as he nodded and said, “Yes, I don’t remember his spiritual power being that powerful. Furthermore, his soul power seems to have changed. I have no idea where that aura that resembles a savage beast comes from, and the golden light radiating from his body doesn’t seem to be coming from his soul power. It goes from in to out, and I don’t know what’s going on. Feels like he himself has turned golden.”

Xuan Ziwen shook his head and said, “I’m a soul engineer, not a soul master. You have to bring these questions to the Titled Douluo in Shrek Academy. Anyway, I don’t care what he’s doing, and he’s not leaving unless he can forge a Class 8 soul tool.”

Bei Bei and Xu Sanshi exchanged a helpless look. They still wanted to try to convince Xuan Ziwen, but it seemed like they should dispel that thought to prevent the bitterness of being rejected.

Huo Yuhao meditated for a shorter time than everyone imagined he would. Two hours later, the soul power undulations from inside the room gradually receded, and a gentle hum that resembled a dragon’s roar could be heard.

“This fellow. If he’s done, then he’s done. Why is he calling out?” Xu Sanshi laughed as he chided, and he was the first back inside the silent room.

However, he realized something was wrong once he came back, and that was because Huo Yuhao was still sitting there with his legs crossed and his mouth clothed. The dragon hum from his body was still resonating, but that sound seemed to come from his chest. The dragon hum was faint, and it seemed to form a feedback loop with his soul power as it resonated.

What’s happening?? Xu Sanshi turned around and glanced at Bei Bei. Bei Bei had a dragon-type martial soul, and if he didn’t know, Bei Bei should know.

However, Bei Bei’s expression showed the same astonishment. It was evident that he couldn’t understand anything that was happening with Huo Yuhao.

Huo Yuhao was startled as he gradually opened his eyes. His senior brothers and sisters were all here, and even Ji Juechen, the sword maniac, was here.

Ji Juechen almost wasn’t in time, but Jing Ziyan immediately ran to call him when she witnessed the strange things happening to Huo Yuhao. Ji Juechen was very interested in and curious about any kind of special circumstances, especially when they were happening to Huo Yuhao. Therefore, he hurried over as quickly as possible. But he couldn’t understand anything that was happening to him.

“You’re all here, eldest senior brother?” Huo Yuhao sprang to his feet.

Huo Yuhao was completely reinvigorated, and he was in his peak condition after more than two hours of meditation.

At his current cultivation rank, not eating for a few days wasn’t a big deal. Furthermore, he possessed immense energy from the Manifold Mysterious Ice Essence, and that was enough to sustain his energy

expenditure. Even if he didn't meditate, his soul power would be continuously rising, as his spiritual soul core's greatest benefit was that it helped a soul master cultivate in every instant.

Xuan Ziwen took a few steps forward and came before Huo Yuhao. "Alright, there's not much time left, and nighttime has befallen us. If you haven't forge the decomposition cannon before daybreak, then you will stay here with me."

Even though he suspected that Huo Yuhao already had his own soul core, now wasn't the time to ask him. Xuan Ziwen had to wait for him to stay back before asking him. From his perspective, Huo Yuhao couldn't possibly forge a Class 8 soul tool no matter how prodigious he was.

Huo Yuhao nodded and said, "You're very cruel, Teacher Xuan. You didn't have to give me such a complicated one even if you want me to forge a Class 8 soul tool. This soul tool breaches knowledge about space, and you would have stumped me if I hadn't gained some understanding of spatial power in recent weeks."

"What? You understand something about spatial power?" Xuan Ziwen's expression was full of disregard. "Do you know what spatial power is? That's something that only Titled Douluo or stronger individuals are worthy of studying. You little rascal, hurry up if you're going to it, and stop delaying. I will be watching from the beginning to the end so nobody can help you cheat."

Huo Yuhao chuckled and said, "I don't need to cheat. Even though I'm not that confident, I'm still going to try. Let me warm up."

He walked behind the working platform as he spoke.

Huo Yuhao's expression immediately calmed down as he entered the area around the working platform, and even his aura seemed to become warm and calm. Xuan Ziwen was very satisfied about that point. Even though his prized student hadn't been conducting any research into soul tools or forging them in recent months, he didn't throw away too much regarding forging soul tools. At the very least, Huo Yuhao's theory and concepts were still sound.

Huo Yuhao was just standing there quietly, and he was silent for about thirty seconds as he adjusted his breathing, heart rate, soul power undulations, and even his spiritual power. He allowed every inch of his aura to enter a certain rhythm.

Xuan Ziwen still had a scornful look on his face in the beginning, but his expression quickly gave way to one of surprise, and that was because Huo Yuhao's current state was too similar to that of a very powerful soul engineer.

#### Chapter 489.1: The Eighteen Ice Needles

Adjusting one's breathing and spiritual power are things that I've not taught him before! How did he manage to do it? Xuan Ziwen was puzzled as he looked at Huo Yuhao. Right now, he was more and more interested to know how his student managed to achieve such a standard. *noVe(l)b.1n*

At this moment, Huo Yuhao moved. He wasn't quick. He casually grabbed a piece of rare metal and placed it in a mold. After that, he lifted a forging hammer and started to hammer the piece of rare metal.

Is he making the outer shell first? Xuan Ziwen revealed a skeptical look on his face.

For a soul engineer, the core formation should always be produced first when making a soul tool. This was because creating the outer shell of even an advanced-tier soul tool wasn't very difficult. The real difficulty lay in the core formation.

However, Huo Yuhao wanted to manufacture the outer shell first. What was he doing?

In fact, he had thought too highly of Huo Yuhao. Huo Yuhao only chose to make the outer shell first for one reason. He was too raw!

He had not seriously manufactured a soul tool for a long time! The last time he did so was during the tournament in Radiant City. Even though he had managed to understand the blueprint over the past two days, what if he made a mistake if he started with the core formation? He had to practice first and get used to the feeling of making a soul tool. This was what he did.

A slight error when making the outer shell could be rectified. However, the core formation would become useless with even the slightest problem. He would then have to start over again, which was a waste of resources.

Huo Yuhao didn't want that to happen. This was why he started with the outer shell first to get back into the feeling of making soul tools.

"Ding, ding, ding..." A series of crisp sounds resonated. At the start, Huo Yuhao was still rather slow. However, he gradually picked up speed.

This was because the rare metal in front of him was very clear. Every minor detail on it was under his perusal. Under such a circumstance, he didn't need to think too much. In addition, he felt that he was simply too slow, given how strong his spiritual power was. This was why he naturally picked up speed. In others' eyes, he actually looked pretty quick.

As he forged the metal, it sounded as if raindrops were drumming rhythmically against banana leaves. Not only was it pleasant, but Huo Yuhao's movements were also very delightful.

Xuan Ziwen nodded repeatedly as he watched Huo Yuhao's movements. There were generally two ways to make the outer shell of a soul tool. In one, the metal could be directly punched after creating a mold. This would allow the metal to take shape in one go. This was more applicable for larger-scale soul tools. The second way was to use Huo Yuhao's current method of forging the metal himself.

It was comparatively easy to forge the metal on the carving table, since there were all sorts of equipment he could turn to.

However, Huo Yuhao was so quick that Xuan Ziwen couldn't achieve the same standard if he were in his place. What this required was stability and accuracy. At the same time, one's observations had to be quick.

The inner parts of a piece of rare metal weren't completely stable. This was applicable across all rare metals. This was why any changes to a rare metal had to be carefully observed when it was being forged, even if it was only for an outer shell. This allowed for the most effective use of rare metals.



Although Huo Yuhao was quick, he was accurate. Under his control, the lines on the metal were forged such that they were very neat. From this, it was evident how sturdy his basic foundation was. Xuan Ziwen was originally very displeased with how lackluster Huo Yuhao was performing during this period of time, but this displeasure slowly faded away. No matter what, Huo Yuhao was a student that he had nurtured!

Very quickly, the first piece of the outer shell was created. It was time for the second piece.

With the first piece as experience, Huo Yuhao quickly adapted, and found it much easier with the second piece of the outer shell. Furthermore, the soul power undulations that he released from his body soon disappeared.

Oh? This kid is using his own strength to forge the metal? Won't his muscles be sore?

Sore? Huo Yuhao felt as if he had the strength of a ten thousand year soul beast even if he didn't use his soul power. Ever since he had fused with Wang Qiu'er, his strength had grown significantly. More recently, he had even absorbed Manifold Mysterious Ice Essence and a dragon pill. With these two treasures, he felt as if he were a human savage beast. When he fully absorbed all the medicinal power of the dragon pill, he would truly become a human savage beast.

Although rare metals were tough, he was already as strong as a Titled Douluo. This was nothing to him.

Very soon, Xuan Ziwen discovered that his worries were unfounded. Piece after piece of the outer shell was created by Huo Yuhao. Furthermore, he was also getting faster and faster. Giving up the use of his soul power had no effect on him at all. Occasionally, he even lifted his head to laugh. Even still, the forging hammer still landed very accurately on the rare metals before him.

A genius is a genius! Xuan Ziwen raved in his heart. From Huo Yuhao, he fully understood how a spiritual-type soul master always had an edge over ordinary soul masters with regards to creating and researching soul tools.

Huo Yuhao only took an hour to create the outer shell of a Class 8 decomposition cannon, which required more than forty external accessories.

Every part of the outer shell presented a beautiful streamlined design. Even with Xuan Ziwen's strict standards, there were no flaws at all.

After completing the outer shell, Huo Yuhao moved slightly. After that, he started to move the pieces of the soul tool on the carving table.

Everyone knew that he was about to start on the core formation, which was the most important part of a soul tool.

It was evident how complex the core formation of a Class 8 soul tool was. Moreover, this was Huo Yuhao's first attempt at a Class 8 soul tool! Not to even mention that Xuan Ziwen wasn't confident about his chances, everyone around also didn't think that he would succeed.

However, Huo Yuhao was very composed right now. His expression was very calm, and there was even a confident smile on his face. This baffled many people. They knew Huo Yuhao very well, and knew that he

was great at creating miracles. This was the reason why they were willing to wait here and witness the birth of a miracle.

Xuan Ziwen only stood there quietly and watched. He wasn't rushing Huo Yuhao, only waiting for him to do his stuff.

Huo Yuhao retrieved a piece of rare metal and focused. At the same time, he lifted his right hand and made a grabbing gesture toward that piece of rare metal. His eyes also turned dim-golden.

His gentle spiritual power was like a lady's hand. It landed gently on that piece of rare metal. To others, Huo Yuhao was only unleashing his spiritual power. However, Huo Yuhao could clearly sense that the piece of rare metal started to show closely-woven lines. These lines were the blueprint that he remembered.

Even though he had long since memorized the blueprint, he still carefully projected it on the rare metal using his spiritual power to ensure that things went smoothly.

He didn't use the carving knife on the table. Each of the fingertips of his right hand now had dark gold blades at the end of them. Wasn't this his Darkgolden Terrorclaws?

However, he didn't fully unleash his Darkgolden Terrorclaws. He only revealed an inch. In this way, he could achieve the same effects as using a carving knife. His Darkgolden Terrorclaws could compare to most of the carving knives on the carving knife leaderboard.

It wasn't that Huo Yuhao didn't want to use his Life Guardian Blade. It was because his Life Guardian Blade had grown too large. It was no longer in the shape of a carving knife. It wouldn't be very smooth using it.

His five fingers gently tapped the rare metal before his wrist started moving. Suddenly, everyone saw a dark-golden light flash before five slivers of rare metal slipped off the original piece.

Carving using five blades simultaneously?

He Caitou opened his eyes wide. Even Xuan Ziwen was stunned.

Following this, Huo Yuhao's five fingers started to move gently and rhythmically. It was as if he were gently caressing the rare metal. Slivers continued to fall from the piece he was working on. The outer layer was soon being carved out. Huo Yuhao's actions weren't quick, but He Caitou and Xuan Ziwen both knew that his carving method was much faster than the traditional method of carving a core formation.

The general shape of the core formation was soon carved out.

However, a smile soon surfaced on Xuan Ziwen's face.

That's right. Huo Yuhao's actions were shocking, but pleasing. However, he realized that Huo Yuhao's actions weren't that magical. During this carving process, Huo Yuhao had only carved the outer shape of the core formation. He hadn't touched the most delicate part of it yet. He only simplified the carving process for the outside. The true essence of the core formation would depend on how well he did later on. Furthermore, this was only one of the twenty-four core formations required.

The difficulty of creating this Class 8 soul tool lay in how to combine twenty-four core formations into three core formations. This required all twenty-four formations to be completely flawless throughout the entire process. During the combination of these formations, immense soul and spiritual power was needed as support before the entire process could be completed.

### **Chapter 489.2: The Eighteen Ice Needles**

Huo Yuhao indeed slowed down. He retracted his other four fingers before using his left hand to pick up the rare metal. Only his right index finger continued to make minor carvings on the metal. Even though he was still quick, he was now much slower than before.

Metal scraps continued to fall, and Huo Yuhao was extremely focused.

Even though it was only the first out of twenty-four core formations, it was still much more complex than the central core formations of many Class 7 soul tools. The more advanced the soul tool, the more difficult it was to make. It was just like soul masters and soul engineers – the higher the cultivation, the more difficult it was to achieve.

Xuan Ziwen felt a sense of nostalgia as he watched Huo Yuhao. Then, when he was still in the Sun Moon Empire, he had relied on a Class 8 decomposition cannon to become the youngest Class 8 soul engineer in the Illustrious Virtue Hall. At the same time, he became their chief researcher!

He was really high-spirited then. It was a pity that his power was restricted in the Illustrious Virtue Hall. Eventually, he was poached by Huo Yuhao, and came to the Tang Sect.

However, Xuan Ziwen didn't regret his choice at all. Ever since he had come to the Tang Sect, he had shown respect. At the same time, the Tang Sect and Shrek Academy didn't skimp on providing him with all types of resources. Otherwise, how could he have become a Class 9 soul engineer in such a short period of time?

Although Xuan Ziwen knew that he wasn't inferior to anyone else in terms of soul tool research, he was also very aware that his foundation in terms of his soul power cultivation was very poor. Initially, he had relied on all sorts of medicine to become a Soul Douluo. Before he reached Class 9, he believed that anyone with seven rings in the Tang Sect could easily defeat him if he didn't use a soul tool.

Normally, he was very busy with work. He didn't even have time to think about daily matters. Now that he finally had the time to rest, all types of thoughts ran through his mind. However, he was still very fixated on Huo Yuhao.

Huo Yuhao was going faster and faster. From his initial unfamiliarity, he slowly regained the feeling of making a soul tool. Even he himself was delightfully surprised by that.

This rare metal seemed to have been enlarged in his eyes. Even some very minor details were attended to under his meticulous observation.

At the start, he didn't dare to use any carving techniques. However, as time passed, he found things much easier using his spiritual power as a guide.

Very soon, his first core formation had been completed. He carefully placed it at a corner of the carving table. He then picked up his second piece of rare metal and started to carve it.

Xuan Ziwen took a few steps forward and silently picked up that first core formation, carefully observing it. After a brief moment, he nodded and put it back in its original position.

This kid has indeed not been slacking. This was the appraisal that Xuan Ziwen gave after seeing the core formation.

From the fact that Huo Yuhao could create a core formation in such a short period of time, it was evident that he was a qualified Class 7 soul engineer. He was even one of the more experienced ones. Perhaps I should let him try one of the simpler Class 8 soul tools. He might successfully create them.

Of course, this was only an instantaneous thought in Xuan Ziwen's mind.

Huo Yuhao was already getting faster and faster. The creation of the second core formation took only four-fifths of the time he needed to make the first core formation.

All twenty-four core formations were being built for the same goal. There were three groups of eight, and each group had their own similarities. Furthermore, they were also interlinked in some aspects.

Huo Yuhao took two hours to finish the first group of core formations. The eight formations were neatly arranged on the table.

Xuan Ziwen revealed a weird expression on his face when he saw this.

He could still clearly remember that he had taken a total of six days to finish creating a Class 8 decomposition cannon when he was still a Class 8 soul engineer. As for the first group of core formations, it had taken him three days.

It was the same core formations. The first group was the most difficult. It was only at the later stages that one could proceed faster as he grasped the technique.

This kid has actually succeeded? At least it doesn't seem like he's made a mistake. It'll be even easier later on. Surely he hasn't made a mistake, has he?

Xuan Ziwen wanted to remind Huo Yuhao that he could take a break halfway into making an advanced soul tool to recharge.

However, when he looked at Huo Yuhao, he immediately discovered that Huo Yuhao was very energetic. He didn't seem the least bit tired at all!

He doesn't need to rest then. Xuan Ziwen thought to himself wickedly.

He turned around and walked out. He found that it was already dark outside. From the sky, it seemed like it was six hours to daybreak.

Hmph, if he can't finish before daybreak, it won't count even if he succeeds in the end. Furthermore, so what if he succeeds? If it can't be used, he'll still lose.

Even Xuan Ziwen didn't realize that his mentality had already changed. At the start, he had believed that Huo Yuhao was destined to fail. Right now, he was already starting to think of ways to keep Huo Yuhao behind. The change wasn't gradual.

Huo Yuhao naturally didn't know what Xuan Ziwen was thinking. He was completely invested right now.

It was indeed much easier to complete the second group compared to the first group. However, he wasn't complacent at all. This was because he knew that any flaws could result in total failure.

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This was a Class 8 soul tool. He needed to pour in soul power to link the components. If there were problems with the internal structure of the core formations, the entire formation would be disabled. When that happened, his efforts would be futile, and he would have wasted precious rare metals too. That was something he didn't hope to see.

One by one...

As Huo Yuhao did his work, he was also counting. As time passed, he felt that his movements were getting more and more fluid.

I've seemed to become better from not practicing! Hehe, Teacher Xuan should be rather astonished.

However, this thought only flashed across his mind before disappearing. This was because he almost made a mistake from being this slightly distracted.

In fact, his improvement from a lack of practice was an anomaly. As for the reason, it was because his cultivation had risen too quickly. Using his immense spiritual power as support and his originally sturdy foundation, he managed to remain error-free as he had immersed himself in the research of soul tools over the past few days.

No matter how complex the core formations of a Class 8 soul tool were, they were still core formations. What was needed was only more effort, soul power and experience.

Huo Yuhao definitely sorely lacked experience. However, he had an advantage in the other aspects. The soul power of a soul master with twin martial souls was greater than most other soul masters of the same tier. Right now, Huo Yuhao's soul power had only reached Rank 80, but he had the soul power of an ordinary Rank 85 Soul Douluo. This also meant that his actual cultivation wasn't too far from a Titled Douluo. After all, he already had a soul core!

The second group was completed!

Huo Yuhao let out a long breath. After he finished his second group of core formations, he finally lifted his head and stretched his neck to relax.

"What time is it, eldest senior?" Huo Yuhao asked Bei Bei.

Bei Bei replied, "It's only four more hours to daybreak."

"Alright." Huo Yuhao responded before he got to work once again.

The rest had already returned to rest. Only Bei Bei, Ji Juechen, Xuan Ziwen and He Caitou remained in the room.

It was normal for He Caitou and Xuan Ziwen to remain behind. However, Ji Juechen caught everyone by surprise by staying as well. He didn't say anything either, and only stood where he was like a target

board. He silently observed Huo Yuhao. There were undulations in his eyes, as if he were thinking of something.

The others didn't disturb him. This Sword Fanatic had a different mindset from ordinary people. However, his cultivation speed didn't lag compared to those from Shrek's Seven Monsters.

Right now, he was sparring less and less with the others. However, there was an obvious improvement every time he did so. In addition, he had identified one opponent, and kept going to that opponent. This relieved the pressure on many others. This person that he had identified was Xu Sanshi.

Ever since Xu Sanshi gained the Xuanwu Shield and fused with the Golden Tortoise, his abilities were on the rise. He had even beaten Ji Juechen. In addition, his defense was so strong that he was unafraid against Ji Juechen.

In the Tang Sect, Ji Juechen was known for having the strongest offense, while Xu Sanshi had the strongest defense. It was only right for the two of them to spar. Xu Sanshi avoided Ji Juechen, as he didn't want him to find him.

Huo Yuhao only took one hour to finish the second group of core formations. However, he slowed down on the third group. This was because the third group of core formations was the most complex. The requirements for precision were also much greater. There was one formation that was in the center of the entire formation. This formation was the smallest, but the most complex.

It was only the size of a cherry, but the patterns that had to be carved on it were very complex. There were easily two or three times more patterns in this one than there were in the others.

Huo Yuhao first completed the seven other formations in the third group before he started on this most complex formation.

He was very careful, and slowed himself down. The golden lights in his eyes were much brighter than before. This was because he was afraid of making even the slightest error.

Xuan Ziwen silently watched at one side. He had a look of admiration by now. He didn't know what to say about this student in front of him.

### **Chapter 489.3: The Eighteen Ice Needles**

He Caitou was slumped at one side. Originally, he had thought that Huo Yuhao had wasted his learning on soul tools after more than a year of hard work, and that he would have caught up with him because of that. However, it seemed like he didn't manage to do so. He even seemed to have lagged further behind. The gap between their talents couldn't be closed so easily with hard work!

However, his slump only lasted for an instant. He Caitou was also very tenacious. Even if he couldn't catch up right now, that didn't mean he would forever be behind. At a certain standard, persistence, luck and intelligence all played very important roles.

Huo Yuhao suddenly stopped as he was halfway through carving his core formation. Xuan Ziwen was surprised when he stopped. Although he really wished for Huo Yuhao to stay and learn more about soul tools with him, he also subtly hoped that Huo Yuhao would succeed.

Successfully creating an advanced-tier soul tool was a great confidence booster for a soul engineer. This was why he felt very conflicted right now.

It was very critical for a soul engineer to finish a core formation in one go. Stopping halfway was a recipe for disaster!

However, following this, Xuan Ziwen saw Huo Yuhao's Eye of Destiny slowly opening.

Rose-gold sun rays spread from the Eye of Destiny. Very soon, they covered his entire forehead. The spiritual undulations in the room suddenly became very strong. Whether it was He Caitou, Bei Bei, Xuan Ziwen or Ji Juechen, they could clearly sense that their spiritual seas started to surge under the stimulation of that immense spiritual power.

His spiritual power is so strong! Is it really possible for a Soul Sage to possess such immense spiritual power?

Xuan Ziwen suddenly lifted his hand and shut his mouth. This was the only way he wouldn't exclaim.

He only took a glance at the Eye of Destiny before he saw the deep whirlpool within it. As he quickly shifted his gaze away, he was already shocked in his heart. If it was only a guess earlier, he was fully certain now. Yes, Huo Yuhao has a soul core. It's even a spiritual soul core. He only has seven rings, seven rings!

Xuan Ziwen's actions didn't catch anyone else's attention. This was because they also saw Huo Yuhao's Eye of Destiny.

Ji Juechen's reaction was the quickest. He had the strongest willpower. In his heart, there was only his sword and Jing Ziyun. There was nothing else. This was why he quickly shut his eyes when he found out that Huo Yuhao's expression wasn't right. At the same time, he started to think about his sword intent. This helped him to break free from the weird spiritual undulations.

Bei Bei was like Ji Juechen. Although he wasn't as pure as Ji Juechen, his willpower was still very strong. Once he discovered that something was amiss, he immediately lifted his hand to cover his eyes. At the same time, he unleashed his Radiant Holy Dragon and circulated his soul power to protect his spiritual sea. This was why he wasn't too greatly affected.

Xuan Ziwen was a Titled Douluo. Although he was astonished, he was fine.

He Caitou was the only one who was in trouble.

He was originally astonished by Huo Yuhao's soul engineering talents. When Huo Yuhao's Eye of Destiny opened, he only felt dizzy before he was drawn in by Huo Yuhao's soul core. He couldn't shift his eyes away, and subconsciously took a step forward.

However, he discovered something was wrong after taking this step. He tried to shut his eyes, but he realized he couldn't do so.

Huo Yuhao's spiritual power was simply too strong. Furthermore, his soul core was spinning at the greatest speed the moment he opened his Eye of Destiny because he was too focused. This was why he was so greatly affected.

Fortunately, there were others in the room.

Xuan Ziwen immediately rushed to He Caitou's side and quickly covered his eyes. He then smacked He Caitou's shoulder with his other hand.

He Caitou jolted awake from his astonishment. As he twisted his head to look at Xuan Ziwen, there was already a horrified look on his face.

Xuan Ziwen sighed and shook his head to signal He Caitou not to look at Huo Yuhao's vertical eye.

At this moment, Huo Yuhao had already resumed carving. This time, he was evidently faster. Scraps of metal slipped off his fingernail. The small metal ball seemed to be dancing in his hands.

Can he really succeed?

No one knew the answer to this question, including Huo Yuhao himself.

However, that tiny metal ball kept on changing. The dense patterns on it increased and increased. At the very end, the entire metal ball was shaped like a fretwork, and strange soul power undulations gradually surfaced within it.

Xuan Ziwen took in a deep breath before slowly letting it out. Before, he had used an entire day to finish this core formation. It was also then that he felt as if he had reached the peak of his abilities in terms of soul tool production.

He would never forget that feeling. But right now, Huo Yuhao proved to be in better shape than he was back then. Furthermore, he had seen the blueprint for less than three days. He didn't have any experience or knowledge of how to create Class 8 soul tools!

Two hours passed. Huo Yuhao finally slowed down. There were beads of perspiration falling off his forehead. However, he was still as focused as ever. He didn't waver at all. His immense spiritual power ensured that he was still fully concentrated.

He's about to finish it!?Xuan Ziwen subconsciously clenched his fists.

Yes, I'm about to finish it!?Huo Yuhao said to himself.

He was only left with the final step, but this was a very difficult step to take. This last carving required him to twist his blade eighteen times consecutively in one go before the patterns could be engraved. This didn't just require control of his spiritual power, but also strong soul power to support this motion. This was because this last carving was inside the rare metal. He needed to condense his soul power into a thin needle to perform the carving. Even a needle-shaped tool wouldn't work, because it wouldn't be sharp enough. Also, the angle couldn't be controlled as freely as it could with his soul power.

This piece of rare metal in Huo Yuhao's hand was very tough. He needed to carve it using his soul power, twist his 'needle' eighteen times consecutively, and do everything with the same magnitude of strength. Unless one was a Soul Douluo, all of these were almost impossible.

Xuan Ziwen had the urge to ask Huo Yuhao to stop right now and let him finish this final step. In this way, Huo Yuhao's previous efforts wouldn't be wasted. Otherwise, if he failed, it would deal a huge blow to him.



Just as he was hesitating, Huo Yuhao had already started.

His left thumb and index finger pressed gently against the core formation. Even though he only touched it with his fingertips, his grip was still very sturdy. He had also retracted his Darkgolden Terrorclaws. A small, jade-green needle-shaped light slowly appeared on his fingertip.

Ice needle!

Following this, Huo Yuhao moved his fingers. His body shone with jade-green light, while the ice needle that he had formed pierced into the core formation delicately. Under Huo Yuhao's control, it started to twist.

The entire thing was a little raw. It wasn't perfectly smooth. However, Huo Yuhao didn't stop at all. His Eye of Destiny shone even brighter, illuminating his soul core.

He completed this eighteen-rotation carving. He didn't even know some of the techniques because he had never learned them before. However, how did he complete it? Using his own way, he drained twice the amount of soul power.

Xuan Ziwen was filled with questions and astonishment right now. He couldn't believe that someone could be so talented.

However, whether he believed it or not, Huo Yuhao still continued. In addition, he was still pouring out his soul power with even greater speed. The small core formation was already exuding dim silver light. This was evidently the result of pouring in his soul power. Moreover, it wasn't his ice-type soul power, but his pure soul power. There weren't any elements to this soul power.

This also meant that Huo Yuhao was multi-tasking right now.

Xuan Ziwen's facial muscles were contorting. However, he was already numb in his heart. Was this a miracle? No, it wasn't a miracle to him anymore. It was a complete wonder.

"Whoosh!" A light sound was heard. Huo Yuhao's jade-green ice needle brought out the last scrap of metal. The core formation had already been activated as Huo Yuhao poured in his soul power, and it now magically drifted in mid-air. There were tiny but obvious spatial cracks around the dim silver light. There were indeed spatial elements!

This most vital core formation had finally been completed. Huo Yuhao let out a long breath and held onto the carving table as he panted.

All twenty-four core formations had been completed, along with the outer shell of this soul tool. What Huo Yuhao had to do next was piece them all together before he was fully finished. Without a doubt, this assembly process would require greater soul power and technique. However, was he troubled?

Huo Yuhao lifted his head and smiled at Xuan Ziwen. "Teacher Xuan, do we still have time?"

Xuan Ziwen turned gloomy. "Cut the crap. Be serious."

"Yes!" Huo Yuhao's attitude was very positive, and he respectfully acknowledged Xuan Ziwen's words. After that, he immediately began, and started to piece the components together.

Doesn't he need to rest for a while?

His arms opened to either side of his body. After this, he raised them up. Suddenly, the other seven core formations in the third group all flew up and drifted in mid-air.

### **Chapter 490: I'm Rank 80**

There was an invisible air current around Huo Yuhao's arms that was guiding these pieces of metal.

"Controlling Crane Capturing Dragon." Bei Bei muttered softly.

The seven pieces of metal slowly gathered. Under Huo Yuhao's control, they were congregating towards the silver ball that drifted in the air.

This works?? This time, Xuan Ziwen was watching with a learning attitude.

Among the three groups of core formations, this was the group that was the most difficult to form. The difficulty lay in the fact that the core formations had to be joined together as the soul master poured his soul power into them. There wasn't any room for error at all.

Even if he could do it, he would still need some tools to complete it. But right now, he was only using his own abilities. Wasn't he afraid that his soul power was insufficient?

His spiritual soul core spun quickly, and provided a large amount of soul and spiritual power to Huo Yuhao. The seven core formations that were in the air were under his strict observation. He adjusted their positions and slowly but steadily joined them together.

When they were only an inch from the silver ball, Huo Yuhao stopped them, then poured his soul power into all of them at the same time. Immediately, these seven core formations brightened and exuded gentle silver light. At this point, Huo Yuhao carefully controlled them as they combined.

With his Spiritual Detection in action, he didn't need to worry about any errors.

"Clang!" An apple-sized group of core formations had been formed. Blinding silver light was rapidly sucking away Huo Yuhao's soul power.

Among these eight core formations, there were energy-storing core formations. This Class 8 decomposition cannon had to maintain the circulation of soul power within it as a means of stabilizing the spatial power.

Xuan Ziwen was completely in a daze right now.? How did Huo Yuhao make this process seem so simple?

Huo Yuhao let out a long breath as he saw the silver metal ball drifting in front of him. "I've finally completed the critical step."

Following this, he joined the other two groups of core formations. Since he had already joined the most difficult group, the other two groups were naturally not a problem for him. The next step would be the installation process.

The dark sky slowly turned deep blue. Dawn was about to arrive. Huo Yuhao carried the one and-a-half-meter Class 8 decomposition cannon that was shining with dim silver light as he stood in front of Xuan Ziwen.

He has actually completed it.

Xuan Ziwen subconsciously took the cannon in his arms. He didn't even need to test it. He had personally watched Huo Yuhao create it. Even though he didn't use a conventional method, he didn't make any mistakes throughout the entire process.

Huo Yuhao pulled a chair over and sat down. "I've finally finished it within the time limit. Teacher Xuan, can I go this time?"

Xuan Ziwen used one hand to hold the cannon as he grabbed Huo Yuhao with his other hand, saying, "Yuhao, did you learn how to create soul tools from someone else?"

Huo Yuhao laughed bitterly, "No! Didn't you see how raw I was?"

Xuan Ziwen's lips moved, "Raw? You call this raw? You managed to make a Class 8 soul tool after seeing the blueprint for only three days. It's even a complex decomposition cannon. You dare to call this raw?"

Huo Yuhao was a little embarrassed. "Teacher Xuan, have you forgotten? I was able to make a soul tool above my class before! When I was a Class 5 soul engineer, I could already make a Class 6 soul tool. That's why it's really nothing much. My spiritual power is above average. I have a natural advantage when creating the core formations."

Xuan Ziwen was a little speechless now. A genius indeed couldn't be measured using common logic! This kid has become a Class 8 soul engineer just like that? Isn't this too ridiculous?

"No, you can't go. I want you to remain and learn the basic knowledge of a Class 8 soul engineer under me. I have the confidence that you'll become a Class 9 soul engineer as long as you can become a Titled Douluo in the future. Furthermore, what we really lack now is a talented soul engineer. No matter what, you can't leave this time."

"What?" Seeing how persistent Xuan Ziwen was, Huo Yuhao was completely annoyed now. "Teacher Xuan, you can't go back on your word! Didn't we agree? If I make this decomposition cannon, you'll let me go. Don't worry, I'll be back within a month."

Xuan Ziwen was adamant. "No. Do you know how precious one month is? If the war continues, do you know when the enemy will come? Furthermore, I'm not going back on my word. You haven't finished this decomposition cannon. Don't tell me that you can make this soul tool unleash its full strength, even though an eight-ringed Soul Douluo would find it difficult?"

Huo Yuhao's expression turned weird as he looked at Xuan Ziwen.

Bei Bei patted his shoulder and said, "Yuhao, why don't you stay behind? I've already arranged things on the other side."

Huo Yuhao shook his head and said, "No, eldest senior. It would be fine if it were something else. But we're going to save Teacher Xiao Ya this time. I have to go. Teacher Xuan, though I don't wish to contradict you, I have to tell you that I can perfect the use of this decomposition cannon if that means that I can participate in the mission."

“Rascal, are you out of your mind? It’s already not easy for you to create a Class 8 soul tool. You still want to go above your class and try to use it? Creating it and using it are two different concepts.” Xuan Ziwen rambled furiously.

Huo Yuhao sighed and said, “Teacher Xuan, my soul power is already at Rank 80. In addition, I have twin martial souls. I have a natural advantage in terms of the total amount of soul power I have. Additionally, the purity of my soul power and the recovery ability of my spiritual soul core means that I can even try a Class 9 soul tool.”

“What? Rank 80?” Xuan Ziwen wasn’t the only one who exclaimed this time. Bei Bei, He Caitou and Xuan Ziwen all exclaimed at the same time.

Huo Yuhao scratched his head and said, “When I got those Ice Divine Crystals, I inadvertently discovered some Manifold Mysterious Ice Essence. Only I can absorb that thing. That is why I made great progress. Oh, yes, eldest senior, I went to the Icefire Yin Yang Well and brought back some good stuff. I’ll share it with everyone later. The plant-type soul beasts in the well gave it to me. It’s the essence that they produced themselves. I believe it can help everyone’s cultivation.”

Bei Bei looked at Huo Yuhao before turning to Xuan Ziwen. He probed, “Teacher Xuan, surely Yuhao wasn’t slacking, right?”

Xuan Ziwen’s breathing had evidently become a little unbalanced. “Slack your head.” After he finished speaking, he turned his head and left.

Just as Bei Bei and Huo Yuhao thought he was angry, Xuan Ziwen’s voice sounded from afar. “One month, just one month. One month later, you’d better get back. Do you understand me? You won’t be able to leave then.”

“Yes, I understand.” Huo Yuhao was delighted. He knew that he had finally convinced Teacher Xuan.

Xuan Ziwen didn’t persist in asking Huo Yuhao to test the cannon. This was because he believed Huo Yuhao wasn’t lying. Rank 80? He’s already Rank 80 at his age? He must have set a record in Shrek Academy’s history.

Xuan Ziwen appeared to be furious as he left. However, he was actually very delighted. Huo Yuhao’s foundation was there. He had full confidence that he could nurture Huo Yuhao into a true Class 8 soul engineer in the future.

“This matter is finally settled.” Huo Yuhao only wanted to sleep right now. He had drained a lot of his energy over the past three days and nights.

“Little junior, are you fine? If not, we can leave a day later,” Bei Bei asked concernedly.

Huo Yuhao shook his head and answered, “There’s no need for that, eldest senior. We can’t make Dean Yan and Elder Song wait for us. I’m fine. I’ll grab a bite later. I’ll take this time to meditate for two hours and eat just before we leave.”

Bei Bei was in a good mood too. With Huo Yuhao around, he was more confident in their mission this time. This was especially after he realized that Huo Yuhao's soul power had reached Rank 80. This also meant that the Tang Sect finally had a Soul Douluo apart from Teacher Xuan.

"Little junior, keep the stuff that you brought back from the Icefire Yin Yang Well with you first. There's bound to be casualties because of the war. We'll give them to whoever needs them. It's a waste to directly use it to increase our cultivations. Furthermore, we are cultivating quite well right now."

"Sounds good." Huo Yuhao acknowledged his words and immediately started to meditate. There was nothing better than meditating to restore his energy right now.

Daybreak.

The sky had already turned bright, and Bei Bei led those from the Tang Sect outside Shrek Academy as they silently waited.

Huo Yuhao was still a little listless even though he had already grabbed a bite. However, some of his energy had been restored after resting for two hours. He could only rest after getting to the frontlines, but Shrek Academy wasn't too far from the fighting.

Not long afterward, Dean Yan Shaozhe and Elder Song walked out from the academy.

"Elder Song, Dean Yan." Bei Bei hurriedly rushed up to receive them.

Elder Song smiled and asked, "Are you guys ready?"

"We're all ready," Bei Bei answered.

Elder Song was the most senior, and was also the strongest. Right now, it was evident that she was leading the rest.

Bei Bei was leading the people from the Tang Sect. With Xu Sanshi, Jiang Nannan, Huo Yuhao, Xiao Xiao, Ji Juechen, Nan Qiuqiu and Ye Guyi with him, they indeed had a strong lineup for this mission. Only a few leading figures from the Soul Tool Hall remained in the Tang Sect. Xuan Ziwen, He Caitou, Gao Dalou, Na Na and Jing Ziyan were all holding the fort at headquarters.

"Alright, let's move out." Elder Song waved her hand. She was already flying in the air.

Yan Shaozhe nodded at everyone else before he flew up.

Ever since the last beast wave and after he was emotionally hurt, he had been keeping a low profile. Now that he was following Elder Song to the frontline, and considering that Elder Song was Xian Lin'er's mother, he became even more reserved.

Everyone from the Tang Sect followed behind the two Transcendent Douluo and proceeded towards the frontline.

Shrek City was within the Heavenly Soul Empire's territory. It was located to the southeast of the empire. Even though more than two-thirds of the Heavenly Soul Empire's territory had been occupied, the west of Shrek City was still under the Heavenly Soul Empire's control. Apart from this, the empire still controlled most of the southeast parts of its borders.

The south of the empire was linked to the Star Luo Empire. To prevent the Sun Moon Empire from attacking them from the south, the Star Luo Empire did their best to support the Heavenly Soul Empire. This helped the remaining troops of the Heavenly Soul Empire regain some stability. East of the Heavenly Soul Empire was the Dou Ling Empire. Close to half of the Dou Ling Empire's troops were in the Heavenly Soul Empire trying to resist the Sun Moon Empire. The three empires of the original Douluo Continent could be said to be banding together to fight a common enemy.

The team from Shrek needed to cross the plains of the Heavenly Soul Empire and reach the north of it before proceeding to the northwest. In less than five hundred kilometers, they would reach the frontline. This showed how close the Sun Moon Empire's army was from Shrek City.

For someone as strong as Elder Song, flying for two hours at her fastest speed would bring her to the frontline. With the Tang Sect team with her, they would need around four hours. From afar, the Sun Moon Empire's military base could be seen on the ground.

This was the first time that everyone from the Tang Sect had seen a battlefield of such a scale. Compared to the borders of the Star Luo Empire, the battlefield here was much larger.

The Heavenly Soul Empire had set up their formation in a city known as Heavenly Spirit City. As they had too many soldiers, they had no choice but to extend their formation outside the city. Most of the army was quite spread out. This was to keep them all from being targeted by a single powerful soul tool. Ever since the start of the war, the Heavenly Soul Empire had on many occasions suffered under the hands of stationary soul cannons.

There were close to five hundred thousand soldiers in the three empires. The Heavenly Soul Empire had the most soldiers here.

A number greater than a hundred thousand was already very impressive, not to even mention five hundred thousand. Peering from the sky, it appeared as if there were an infinite number of soldiers.

On the other side, the Sun Moon Empire had around three hundred thousand soldiers twenty-five kilometers from the borders of the Heavenly Soul Empire.

The weather was very good today. This was why the entire battlefield was visible. This was especially so for Huo Yuhao, who used his Spirit Eyes. He could even see the aerial surveillance soul tools over the Heavenly Soul Empire.

What a vast battlefield! Although the Star Luo Empire had many soldiers, most of the empire was covered in mountainous regions, and the scale of its army was also not as great as that of the Heavenly Soul and Sun Moon Empires. This was why it wasn't very obvious that they had many soldiers.

"Rest for a moment." Elder Song asked everyone to stop. They weren't too far from Heavenly Spirit City. In a war, misunderstandings arose easily. To prevent this, it wasn't wise for them to advance recklessly.