

Tang Sect 501

Chapter 501.1: Detoxing

The golden flames were so scorching that the Holy Ghost Church's Consecrated all unwittingly took a step back, not daring to touch the flames. It felt like Yan Shaozhe was burning his own spirit and body right now, purifying everything he had from this world.

"Is, is he mad? He's killing himself?" Zhongli Wu was in a daze when he saw the burning flames, and completely stunned. He didn't understand why Yan Shaozhe would make such a choice.

The flames slowly extinguished. Yan Shaozhe had disappeared, along with any trace of his aura.

Zhongli Wu should have been delighted that the Dean of the Martial Soul Department of Shrek Academy and the heir to the Master of the Sea God's Pavilion was dead. However, he felt that Yan Shaozhe had died too easily as a Transcendent Douluo. If it were him, he would have done his best to fight his way out, even if he was encircled.

Right, where's the rest of those from Shrek Academy?

When I first came out of the tent earlier, I saw at least seven or eight people from Shrek Academy. However, they were protected by the phoenix flames and concealed by the blizzard. Yan Shaozhe was fighting so hard to cover them. However, he's the Dean of their Martial Soul Department. No, something isn't right...

"Quick, go search for them! We must not let them escape!" As he spoke, Zhongli Wu flashed away, flying towards the location where the people from the Holy Ghost Church were gathered earlier.

He turned very grim when he came to where everyone from the Holy Ghost Church had assembled. On the ground was corpse after corpse. In just this short period of time, more than ten people from the Holy Ghost Church had died. Although most of them were Soul Emperors, they were still the elites of the church, since they were sent to the front line.

It wasn't easy to nurture an evil soul master. Now that ten of them had died in one go, Zhongli Wu felt his heart ache. It wasn't just ten of them. The Masquerade Douluo had also been burned to death, and the Bluesilver Holy Lady was missing. Twelve were gone, including two extremely important individuals.

Zhongli Wu felt his blood surging. He was about to spit out blood. "Bastard!" he shouted furiously.

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At this moment, those in the command tent had also reacted. Lin Hai came over, too. For some reason, he was gloating inside when he saw those dead evil soul masters.

No one liked evil soul masters, even the soldiers on the same side as them. Evil soul masters couldn't even be considered humans in the eyes of ordinary people. But everyone had to be prudent in front of them. Even Lin Hai wasn't an exception.

"Imperial Tutor, I've already summoned the leaders of the soul engineer legions we have in the sky. They also didn't see how the raiders escaped. I've already given an order to search the entire base for

them. All surveillance soul tools are operating to find them, too. The Heavenly Soul Empire has also retreated. It seems like they planned this attack; it was an ambush. How bad are your losses over here?”

Zhongli Wu took a few deep breaths and tried to suppress his rage. How bad are my losses? Incredibly bad! However, Lin Hai was already doing very well to cope with the situation. Even if he wanted to rage, he couldn't.

“Alright, please help me find them. Even if you have to dig one meter into the ground, I want them found!” Zhongli Wu ordered coldly.

“Yes.” Lin Hai acknowledged his words before turning and leaving. He wasn't willing to stay too long. It was too dangerous, given how Zhongli Wu looked like a walking volcano right now.

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The entire base got busy. Lin Hai even got his men to dig one meter into the ground. After all, the people from Shrek Academy couldn't possibly have vanished into thin air, they must have had some way of leaving. There were soul engineers and surveillance soul tools in the sky. Even if they could conceal themselves, they couldn't have possibly escaped their encirclement!

All the tents in the core region of the base were temporarily dismantled before the ground was dug up.

However, nothing came up even after two days. Not only was Zhongli Wu extremely infuriated, even Lin Hai was confused. Don't tell me they really can disappear into thin air? If Shrek Academy possesses such mysterious and magical powers, they would definitely be a much greater threat...

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As the Sun Moon Empire was puzzling over this matter, those from Shrek Academy were doing very well in the demiplane. The only worrying thing was Tang Ya's condition.

They had returned to the demiplane and sealed it shut. Even if the Sun Moon Empire dug ten meters into the ground, they couldn't possibly find them.

After Yan Shaozhe disappeared, none of their enemies could find any trace of them. Under the cover of the blizzard and phoenix flames, no one saw how they had escaped the scene.

Tang Ya wasn't in very good shape. She lay in Bei Bei's arms with her eyes closed. She was terrifyingly pale, and clutching her head in her hands, evidently in great pain.

“Yuhao, what do we do?” Bei Bei looked at Huo Yuhao like he was asking for help.

Huo Yuhao replied, “According to what the Delicate Silk Immortal told me, Teacher Xiao Ya should have been affected by some kind of evil poison. This poison has already spread to every part of her body, including her martial soul and spiritual sea.

“The Delicate Silk Immortal gave me a spiritual pill that she cultivated. It should be able to expel some of the poison. However, the problem is that the poison has fused too deeply with Teacher Xiao Ya. As she slowly detoxifies, her life energy might also slowly dissipate. She'll grow weaker and weaker. This is why we need to find the Bluesilver Emperor, to fuse her life energy with her martial soul. By absorbing the

Bluesilver Emperor's strength, she'll be able to stimulate the origin of her martial soul, re-igniting her life energy. This will allow her to live."

Bei Bei asked, "What should we do with her now? What if we don't treat her now? Wasn't she doing very well in the Holy Ghost Church?"

Huo Yuhao shook his head and replied, "It's impossible to maintain her condition, seeing how she is now. She was greatly affected when she saw you, and her consciousness is slowly coming back. This has caused a reaction in the evil poison in her body. If she continues to take in more evil poison, she might be able to maintain her condition, but she'll be more poisoned.

"Furthermore, we don't have any evil poison to give her. We need to start detoxifying her. Otherwise, once the poison runs riot in her body, even an immortal won't be able to save her life."

Bei Bei took a deep breath and calmed himself down. He asked, "Yuhao, tell me the truth. If we continue to detoxify her, how much longer can she live?"

Huo Yuhao replied, "I can't tell; it depends on how fast she's being cleansed. In my opinion, she'll only last half a year to a year's time, somewhere within that range."

Bei Bei remained quiet. When he saw how pale Tang Ya was, he gritted his teeth and said, "Alright, let's start. Within half a year, I'll do my best to find the Bluesilver Emperor for her. If I can't, that's it for her."

Huo Yuhao sighed silently in his heart when he saw how desperate Bei Bei looked. There was no other way. They couldn't possibly return her to the Holy Ghost Church.

"Alright, let me check her body first." He was already familiar with the Poison Scripture passed down in the Tang Sect, and was one of the best in terms of his understanding of all types of lethal poison.

Huo Yuhao retrieved the pill, which was releasing a dim pinkish glow, and letting out a light fragrance. When everyone smelled this scent, they couldn't help but feel refreshed. Even Ye Guyi felt much more relaxed.

When this pinkish glow touched Tang Ya, the pill shone slightly brighter. The glow also instantly turned darker.

Tang Ya's body shook, and she trembled a little.

Very soon, dark-blue patterns surfaced on her skin. It was like the patterns on her dark Bluesilver Grass.

Huo Yuhao retrieved a needle and pricked Tang Ya's finger. A drop of blood fell out. The pill received this drop of blood, which was slightly darker in hue than normal blood.

The pill was originally faintly pinkish in color, but it turned dark pink after receiving that drop of blood. The drop of blood seemed to have vaporized, and a dark blue fog gradually rose from the pill.

Huo Yuhao used his other hand to cover the top of the pill, unleashing his Ice Empress' Pincer. Under the effect of the aura of Ultimate Ice, the fog that rose up immediately condensed into powder and attached to the frozen ice crystals.

The drop of blood was purified, but it turned light pink, not the normal color of blood. The life energy of this blood was dissipating rapidly. Although it still possessed the characteristics of blood, it was visibly different from normal blood.

When he saw all this, even Bei Bei understood what Huo Yuhao was talking about earlier.

The evil poison had completely infiltrated her body. It wasn't just her blood. Her bones, meridians, and even her spirit and martial soul had been affected. The evil poison had completely linked with her life energy. Detoxifying her was the same as releasing her life energy!

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Huo Yuhao turned his palm around and took a detailed look at the dark-blue powder. At the same time, he unleashed his spiritual power to boost his olfactory sense and vision, in a bid to recognize what this poison was.

He still held some hope in his heart. Given the large number of treasures that he had obtained from the Icefire Yin Yang Well, they should be sufficient if they could expel the poison in Tang Ya's body.

But very soon, he was disappointed. After a brief moment, he lifted his head to look at Bei Bei. He shook his head gently and said, "Eldest senior, there's no other way. I've already felt it clearly. This evil poison is very complex. It's a kind of lethal poison made from a mix of other poisons, formed by mixing many other lethal poisons. As it has fused with Teacher Xiao Ya's life energy, its components can't be independently identified. Furthermore, there are also strong spiritual undulations coming from this evil poison. They should belong to the person who injected this poison into Teacher Xiao Ya's body. I have no way of separating her life energy from the poison or identifying its components."

Bei Bei nodded lightly and replied, "I understand. Yuhao, you've done your best."

"Yes. But don't worry, eldest senior, I've some confidence in keeping her alive. Given her current condition, if she continues getting poisoned, I'm afraid that the poison would completely take over her entire body within half a year's time. When that happens, her spirit will be devoured by the evil poison. There wouldn't be any way of waking her up then.

"Right now, detoxifying her requires half a year. This means that she won't die within the next half a year during the cleansing process. However, her life energy will keep on dissipating. The more conscious she is, the weaker she'll become. When her memories finally return, that will be the time when her life energy is almost drained.

"However, I have the Life Guardian Blade. From now on, she can carry it with her wherever she goes. Her life energy will be continually replenished from the life aura of the blade. In this way, she'll be able to survive for a year, at the very least. This gives us enough time to locate the Bluesilver Emperor."

After hearing his words, Bei Bei was delighted. "That'll be great! Thanks, Yuhao!"

Huo Yuhao replied, "There's no need to thank me for anything. This is the least I can do. I also hope that Teacher Xiao Ya can recover!"

Xu Sanshi asked from one side, "Yuhao, if the life energy from your Life Guardian Blade is so strong, can't it help her recover? Can't her life energy be completely replenished by it?"

Huo Yuhao shook his head and said, "It might be a possibility if it were someone else. However, it won't do in her situation. Her life origin is also being taken apart as her life energy dissipates. The same goes for her martial soul. This also means that her life energy is like water, and her body is like a container. Only sufficient water can sustain her. However, the container is now broken. No matter how much water you pour in, the water will still flow out.

"We can say that water is constantly flowing into the container, which stops it from becoming completely empty at a slower rate. She can live longer. However, the container can only be repaired if we find the Bluesilver Emperor. If we can, her life energy will solidify on its own, and she'll recover even if there's no replenishment from elsewhere."

Xu Sanshi was enlightened. "So that's the case. It's actually so confusing."

Bei Bei said, "Alright, Yuhao, you can begin now. No matter what happens in the end, we've already done our best."

Huo Yuhao nodded and said, "Yes. Eldest senior, hug Teacher Xiao Ya tightly. She'll be in real pain later. However, this first step is very crucial. At least it can guarantee that her body won't continue to be damaged by the evil poison."

"Yes." Bei Bei hugged Tang Ya tightly. Right now, he was as pale as she was. He had never been so tense.

Huo Yuhao brought the pill in front of Tang Ya. This pill contained the essence of the Delicate Silk Immortal's years of cultivation. It was even more effective in detoxification than the Delicate Silk Immortal herself.

A gentle pink light surged into Tang Ya's body under the guidance of Huo Yuhao's soul power. She shuddered as those purplish-black patterns appeared on her skin once again.

The pinkish glow from the Delicate Silk Immortal Pill touched the dark-blue. Tang Ya's body started to ripple. The purplish-black patterns seemed to be pulled apart by the pinkish light as it rippled on Tang Ya's skin.

Her body started shaking hard. Dark-blue beads of sweat instantly surfaced on her forehead.

Huo Yuhao depressed his palm slightly as he held the pill with his other hand. The diamond ice crystals of his Ice Empress' Pincer engulfed his palm. He used the Tang Sect's Controlling Crane Capturing Dragon to suck the beads of perspiration on Tang Ya's forehead that contained poison into his palm. When the beads touched Huo Yuhao's Ice Empress' Pincer, they quickly froze.

Slowly, a dark-blue ice crystal appeared on Huo Yuhao's palm as dark-blue beads of sweat kept flying out from Tang Ya's body. The beads even flew out from her shirt into the air.

Elder Song waved her hand and said, "Girls can remain. Guys, go to one side and cultivate. Don't stay here to watch."

Xu Sanshi and the rest immediately revealed a weird expression on their faces. However, they still turned around and walked to one side to cultivate. Only Xiao Xiao, Jiang Nannan, Ye Guyi, and Nan Qiuqiu remained.

Elder Song was afraid that Tang Ya's clothes would be torn during this treatment process. Huo Yuhao was trying to treat her, and thus he had no choice but to remain. However, the rest of the guys had to leave.

Tang Ya's body shook even harder. However, her life aura was getting weaker and weaker.

Huo Yuhao's Eye of Destiny opened. A beam of gentle spiritual power engulfed Tang Ya's forehead, helping to stabilize her spiritual sea. At the same time, a streak of jade-green lightning shot out and drifted above her forehead. After this, the streak of lightning slowly landed and stuck to her chest. It was the Life Guardian Blade.

The moment the Life Guardian Blade appeared, the air was filled with a strong aura of life.

Huo Yuhao's eyes flashed, and a distorted projection formed beside his body. It actually became another him. This distorted projection appeared a little illusory, but it soon became more real.

Elder Song was secretly shocked. Concrete-material spiritual power!

The Huo Yuhao that was slowly taking form silently walked forward and came to Tang Ya's side. He summoned his spiritual power and poured it into the Life Guardian Blade. He directed the life energy in the Life Guardian Blade to flow into Tang Ya's body.

It was only at this moment that a slight pinkish glow returned to Tang Ya's face. Although her life energy was still dissipating, the life energy that was being poured into her body was much stronger. At least, it was capable of maintaining her own energy level.

Bei Bei still looked as pale as ever, now able to fully sense what Huo Yuhao was talking about earlier.

After the immense life energy from the Life Guardian Blade flowed into Tang Ya's body, it would slowly seep out from the pores over her entire body and enter his. It made Bei Bei feel like his body was being nourished instead.

If this were his normal cultivation time, Bei Bei would definitely be happy with such a situation. An increase in his soul power would mean a strengthening of any soul master's body. It was very beneficial to his future cultivation.

However, how could Bei Bei be happy with the current situation he was in? Life energy was seeping out from Tang Ya's body. This meant that she wasn't absorbing anything!

Time passed, second by second. The dark-blue poisonous ice crystal in Huo Yuhao's hand was already as large as his palm. The beads coming from Tang Ya's body started to fade in color.

Tang Ya's body finally calmed down under the effect of Huo Yuhao's spiritual power and the life energy of the Life Guardian Blade. She slowly fell into a deep sleep.

After the poisonous ice crystals expanded another round, Huo Yuhao retracted the immortal pill. At the same time, he put the block of ice crystals into his storage-type soul tool. Under the extremely low temperature of his Ultimate Ice, it wouldn't be able to cause any further trouble.

Huo Yuhao also heaved a sigh of relief. He stood up, but his spiritual entity was still controlling the output of life energy into Tang Ya's body to maintain the life energy inside her body.

Although this couldn't strengthen her life energy, one's bodily functions would recover at a faster speed if one had sufficient life energy, so his efforts weren't for nothing.

Bei Bei was anxious as he looked at Huo Yuhao. Huo Yuhao nodded at him. "Eldest senior, don't worry. Teacher Xiao Ya's condition is still quite stable. After this round of detoxification, the poison on the surface has all been sucked out. She won't be corroded any further, but this will make her weaker. You'll still need to take care of her."

Bei Bei asked, "Will she regain her awareness when she wakes up?"

Huo Yuhao laughed bitterly and said, "I'm afraid it's going to be difficult. I'm not sure what will really happen. However, the evil poison has invaded her body for too long. Her spiritual sea has been seriously affected. She'll need time even if she recovers.

"Furthermore, more poison has to be expelled from her body before she can recover. Eldest senior, you should speak more with her. This will greatly help her in recovering her memories. Reminisce about some personal things."

"Alright, thanks, Yuhao." Bei Bei knew that this was the best result they could have achieved. "How long will this pouring of life energy into her last?"

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Huo Yuhao unleashed his Spiritual Detection and sensed Tang Ya's pulse as well as her physical condition. After pondering for a brief moment, he said, "Around an hour. Allow Teacher Xiao Ya's bodily functions to slowly recover under the stimulation of life energy. In this way, she'll be able to live longer. As long as we find the Bluesilver Emperor in the meantime and summon Tang Ya's martial soul, as well as her original life energy, we'll be able to treat her. When we pour in life energy then, it won't disappear. She'll be able to produce her own life energy too!"

After hearing Huo Yuhao's explanation, Bei Bei felt more relieved. After the first round of detoxification, Xiao Ya's condition wasn't going to worsen anymore. What he had to do now was locate the Bluesilver Emperor.

Huo Yuhao said, "Eldest senior, I suddenly thought of an idea. Listen to it and see whether it's feasible."

"Oh?" Bei Bei's eyes brightened.

Huo Yuhao said, "Due to the Sun Moon Empire's invasion and the expansion of Shrek City, Shrek City is currently the safest place on the continent. At least this is what everyone from the three empires in the original Douluo Continent thinks. In Shrek City, there are powers from every empire.

"Over the years, the Tang Sect has slowly grown in name. In my opinion, we should announce a mission to locate the Bluesilver Emperor. Whoever can provide reliable information and helps us to locate the Bluesilver Emperor will be owed a favor under the sect's name, as long as whatever he wants us to do isn't morally wrong. Or, we can repay him by giving him a batch of soul tools. After all, we are limited on our own. However, if we can tap into the strength of the entire Douluo Continent, we'll be more able to find the Bluesilver Emperor."

After hearing Huo Yuhao's words, Bei Bei was slightly stunned. After that, he furrowed his brow and said, "No, we can't do that. We can't place such a huge burden on the sect because of Xiao Ya. We won't know what whoever helps us will want. I can't bring so much trouble to the sect because of me and Tang Ya. Even if we have to repay someone, it should be under my name."

Huo Yuhao shook his head in reply. "No, eldest senior. You are not persuasive enough. I'm afraid that you don't want to hear this. No matter who it is, our individual abilities can't convince entire empires to help us search for something.

"However, the Tang Sect is different. Right now, the three empires of the original Douluo Continent have used the soul tools that we've produced. They also know of our close relationship with the Academy. Given this, we'll be able to attract their attention once we announce this mission. From there, they'll help us to find the Bluesilver Emperor." n--o.(v.(e.)l//b./1)/n

Bei Bei sighed and said, "Yuhao, I recognize your good intentions. However, we can't do this. It took very long for the Tang Sect to achieve what it has today. We can't do this for Xiao Ya..."

"Why not? We think it's workable," Jiang Nannan suddenly interrupted.

"Nannan..." Bei Bei lifted his head to look at Jiang Nannan.

Jiang Nannan looked very determined. "Bei Bei, do you still remember why we joined the Tang Sect? We didn't aim to own such a strong sect. We are teammates and friends. Honestly, Xiao Ya is the real sect leader of the Tang Sect. You are only acting on her behalf and assuming her authority because she hasn't been around. Now that our real sect leader is in trouble, shouldn't we do our best to help her?

"Furthermore, it's not just her. No matter who faces such trouble in the sect, we'll do everything we can to save him or her. It's only this way that we can demonstrate how united the Tang Sect is, so that every disciple of the sect is willing to do his best for the sect, and treats the sect as his family. I think Yuhao's idea is workable."

After hearing Jiang Nannan's words, Bei Bei went silent. Right now, he only felt a warm flow in his chest. All these years, he had been living in pain because of Xiao Ya's disappearance. He had placed all of his energy into his cultivation and developing the Tang Sect.

Huo Yuhao and Jiang Nannan's words didn't just bring him warmth. They made him feel a sense of kinship, especially when she talked about the unity of the Tang Sect. That's right, the Tang Sect is very united!

Jiang Nannan turned her head after seeing Bei Bei lower his, and said to Huo Yuhao, "Yuhao, it's set. After we return, we'll announce this mission. I believe that there will be interested parties."

"Alright!" Huo Yuhao immediately agreed.

Bei Bei let out a long breath and nodded gently, saying, "Thanks. I'm thanking all of you on behalf of Xiao Ya."

Xiao Xiao laughed, "Eldest senior, why are you thanking all of us on behalf of Teacher Xiao Ya? We're all friends! This is what we should be doing!"

With this plan, Bei Bei was instantly in a better mood. If they were unable to find the Bluesilver Emperor, even with the strength of the entire Douluo Continent, Tang Ya's fate might indeed be sealed...

Elder Song nodded and said, "I also believe that Yuhao's plan is workable. Tang Ya is indeed the only heir to the Tang Sect. The Sect and Shrek Academy possess thousands of years of ties. I believe the Academy will support the Sect in this matter. However, please forgive the Academy, because we can't use our name, given our involvements in many areas. However, the Academy will try its best to help no matter what conditions the person who finds the Bluesilver Emperor requests."

"Thanks, Elder Song," Bei Bei said gratefully. Elder Song held a very important position in the Sea God's Pavilion, only inferior to Elder Xuan. With Elder Song's support, it was almost a guarantee that Dean Xian Lin'er and Qian Duoduo would also express their support. In addition, along with Huo Yuhao, Bei Bei, and Elder Song's votes, they already had five votes in the Sea God's Pavilion, close to half the total votes.

Things temporarily settled down in the demiplane. The mission this time had been successfully completed. Not only did they manage to save Tang Ya, they even used a Class 9 stationary shell to destroy an entire soul engineer legion of the Sun Moon Empire. This alleviated some of the pressure on the Heavenly Soul Empire at the front line.

Of course, this was only possible because the shell was detonated inside the Sun Moon Empire's base. If not for Nangong Wan, they wouldn't have accomplished this. Although the Sun Moon Empire's army still seemed to be very disciplined, they were already facing internal chaos. Investigations were underway, causing great disruptions.

The Heavenly Soul Empire was delightfully surprised by this. Although their surveillance was limited, they naturally knew about what had happened, given the great uproar that had ensued because of the Class 9 stationary shell. It was so powerful that its effects could be clearly witnessed even from tens of kilometers away. They were already informed in detail of where the Sun Moon Empire's soul engineer legions were by Huo Yuhao's surveillance, and so could piece the puzzle together.

If not for the fact that Wei Na was leading the Heavenly Soul Empire's army then, and took the initiative to carry on with the original plan, they might actually have turned the act into a real show.

Because of this matter, the marshals of the Star Luo and Dou Ling Empires were very displeased. They thought that the Heavenly Soul Empire was too conservative, and hadn't exploited such a great opportunity.

In fact, the Heavenly Soul Empire had their own difficulties. Naturally, they knew that this was a great opportunity. However, the Sun Moon Empire didn't seem to be in a bad state. Also, the armies that were gathered were already all the remaining forces that the Heavenly Soul Empire had. Once the fight fully broke out, they couldn't possibly let the Dou Ling and Star Luo Empires lead the lines, they had to be the first to act. When that happened, they were bound to suffer heavy losses.

They might not even win this fight. Even if they did, it would be a hard-fought and tragic victory. Even if the Sun Moon Empire was forced back temporarily, what if they came back again? If the Heavenly Soul Empire sustained great casualties, how could they possibly revive their empire? Even if they could, they wouldn't be able to protect it!

The Sun Moon Empire posed a great threat. However, if the Heavenly Soul Empire weakened to a certain point, and the Sun Moon Empire's threat also fell, the Star Luo Empire and Dou Ling Empires might actually be able to threaten the Heavenly Soul Empire. As a result, given such a conflict of interests, the Heavenly Soul Empire still decided to follow their original plan.

The facts proved that their decision was right. Although the Sun Moon Empire suffered heavy losses, they weren't on the brink of collapse. If there really was a fight, no one knew who would prevail. No matter what, the Heavenly Soul Empire was bound to sustain heavy losses as the aggressors. They had to breach the other four soul formations that the Sun Moon Empire had set up!

After the incident, there was a great uproar in the Sun Moon Empire. The loss of a soul engineer legion seemed to have caused Lin Hai to age overnight. He was the only one to shoulder this responsibility. Furthermore, the Holy Ghost Church had also sustained heavy losses. One of their elders was dead, one of their Holy Ladies had disappeared, and many evil soul masters had been killed. This responsibility was definitely not going to be shouldered by Zhongli Wu!

There were widespread investigations going on in the Sun Moon Empire's base. However, three days had passed, and it still seemed like those from Shrek had vanished into thin air. There were no clues to their whereabouts at all.

The only thing that Zhongli Wu felt was fortunate was that Nangong Wan, the Third Elder, and the Fourth Elder all survived, even though they had sustained critical injuries. The life energy of a Titled Douluo was very strong. After a certain period of recuperation, they would be able to recover.

Night of the fourth day...

A black crack silently appeared inside a pitch-black tent. A figure silently appeared out of it.

It was very quiet in this tent, where the Masquerade Douluo had stayed before he died. Although he was dead, no one had touched his tent, even though investigations were being carried out in the base.

This figure was hiding in a dark corner. He let out his Spiritual Detection to sense the changes in his surroundings. After a brief moment, another person walked out from the crack after the figure verified that the coast was clear.

If someone saw him now, they would be astonished to realize that the two figures looked exactly the same. They were both Huo Yuhao!

Chapter 502.1: The Medicine Refinement Plan!

The first figure that appeared was actually Huo Yuhao's spiritual avatar. Once bitten, twice shy, and Huo Yuhao was a lot more careful after the painful lesson he had learned from his previous experience. He used his spiritual avatar to investigate what was happening outside, and his original body appeared only when he made sure there was no danger. It was a lot safer.

The black crack closed, and the two shadows disappeared into the air at the same time with Imitation. They snuck out of the tent together.

Security within the Sun Moon Empire's camp was clearly a lot tighter than before. There were soldiers patrolling even where the evil soul masters resided.

The patrolling soldiers carried specific types of surveillance soul tools. They didn't use them to investigate inside the tents, but they swept across the air and the ground continuously, aiming to detect soul masters who were adept at concealing themselves, and prevent them from sneaking inside.

However, such simple surveillance was useless against Huo Yuhao's Spiritual Detection.

Huo Yuhao used his avatar to scout the path ahead, keeping his Spiritual Detection within a fixed range. He didn't touch any tents at all, and inched forward carefully from memory.

Huo Yuhao needed a safe spot to bring his companions back safely. Wherever he opened the large gate to his spectral demiplane, it would have to reappear at the same location if reopened from within. Hence Huo Yuhao had appeared in the tent that he had stayed in before.

The Holy Ghost Church definitely didn't know his spectral demiplane's characteristics. The only thing he was worried about was that Nangong Wan would reveal something, and if his identity as the Masquerade Douluo was revealed, his enemies would have the chance to set a trap.

Reality proved that Nangong Wan was still quite intelligent. He was the Holy Ghost Church's Second Elder, and he had probably concealed his betrayal very well. That was equivalent to covering Huo Yuhao's identity, and so his stealthy operations were a lot more relaxed.

It took a full hour, but Huo Yuhao finally left the Sun Moon Empire's army camp after going past many patrols and surveillance soul tools.

It wasn't difficult for him to get out with his abilities if he wanted to; increasing the number of patrols was futile. As long as they didn't do continuous blanket sweeps, he would always be able to find cracks in the defense. He had been through so many battles, undercover operations, and reconnaissance missions that he had become increasingly familiar and adept with his skills in these areas.

But even after he was out, he didn't let down his guard at all. He swiftly flew towards the Heavenly Soul Empire's camp, and went straight into the territory that the Heavenly Soul Empire controlled before he flying into the sky and proceeding towards Heavenly Spirit City.

Huo Yuhao was actually the most worried about Yan Shaozhe, as Elder Song would always smile and say nothing when he asked her about him.

Huo Yuhao finally returned to the small courtyard that Shrek Academy has been assigned to. He was startled as he entered the courtyard, because he witnessed Yan Shaozhe and Princess Wei Na coming out from the living room, chatting as they walked.

Huo Yuhao descended from the sky, immediately alerting Yan Shaozhe, who saw who it was. Relieved, he said, "You're finally back, Yuhao. You have pretty good restraint! Is everyone alright?"

"Yea... yes, we're fine. Dean, you..." Huo Yuhao spoke with his eyes wide and his jaw agape.

Yan Shaozhe smiled as he placed his index finger on his lips. Princess Wei Na quickly stepped forward as she faced Huo Yuhao with a look of pleasant surprise on her face. "You're back, Yuhao! How is it? Where's everyone else?"

Huo Yuhao naturally wouldn't reveal his secret in front of Princess Wei Na. He replied hurriedly, "Don't worry, princess, everyone else is safe. I'm back here to check on things."

Wei Na exclaimed, "Shrek is worthy of their name! There hasn't been anything we could do with the Sun Moon Empire, but a single operation from Shrek Academy has destroyed one of their soul engineer legions! If we can destroy another one or two of them, we might really be able to sound the horns for an assault."

Huo Yuhao forced a laugh and said, "That's easier said than done! We relied on cheap tricks this time. The Sun Moon Empire has made sufficient preparations against it happening so easily. To tell you the truth, princess, we had to use a stationary soul cannon shell that we obtained from the Sun Moon Empire a long time ago. If you want us to execute another operation like that, you'll have to give us a weapon of that standard before anything else. I'm afraid you don't have any."

It was Princess Wei Na's turn to laugh bitterly. She couldn't even bring out a Class 8 stationary soul cannon shell, let alone a Class 9 one!

The Heavenly Soul Empire had lost a lot of their territory, equivalent to losing large amounts of resources. They barely had enough to sustain their armies, while they had to rely on the Star Luo Empire and the Dou Ling Empire for anything else.

Princess Wei Na said sincerely, "Anyhow, I have to thank everyone for this operation. With what has happened, the Sun Moon Empire shouldn't be launching any offensives against us in the near future, which should give us sufficient time to prepare and build up our strength. We will develop as many soul tools as we can, and think of ways to hold them back at the same time."

Huo Yuhao nodded, but said nothing else.

Wei Na still wanted to chat with him for a little bit, but she saw that Yan Shaozhe had been standing there waiting the whole time. It was clear that they had internal matters they wanted to discuss, so she could only take her leave.

—

Huo Yuhao swiftly took a few steps forward after he watched the princess leave and came before Yan Shaozhe. He grabbed the Dean's arms subconsciously and looked him up and down.

"Dean Yan, you, you're..." Huo Yuhao didn't know what to say.

Yan Shaozhe smiled faintly and said, "You're not the only one who's confused. I think the Holy Ghost Church's Supreme Leader, Zhongli Wu is probably even more perplexed. He must still be wondering how the Dean of Shrek Academy's Martial Soul Department died just like that. Hahaha!"

Huo Yuhao released his hands and whispered, "How did you escape?"

Yan Shaozhe smiled and replied, "Little junior brother, even though there's a huge age gap between us, you should still address me as senior brother. I am your true eldest senior brother! As for how I managed to escape, it's actually very simple..."

He leaned beside Huo Yuhao's ear and whispered something, and Huo Yuhao's eyes widened after listening to his explanation. "There's actually such a magical..."

Yan Shaozhe placed his index finger to his lips and laughed as he said, "It's alright as long as you know, but you can't talk about it. This is your senior brother's secret to saving his life."

"Yes, I'll keep your secret." Huo Yuhao felt his heart skip a beat. Yan Shaozhe's secret was just too magical, but he also had to keep this secret. Otherwise, if malicious people knew about it, they could specifically target his ability, and his skill wouldn't be effective anymore.

Yan Shaozhe said, "Come, let's go into the room. Get everyone out, and we can return."

"Alright."

—

Huo Yuhao began to chant as they returned to the living room, and opened his spectral demiplane. Yan Shaozhe looked on as Elder Song and the others came out of the demiplane one after another. He couldn't help but say with a sigh, "Yuhao, even though I really don't like this ability of yours, I have to say that it can be considered a godly skill when used in certain situations! You have contributed even a secret like this to the Academy, that's..."

Huo Yuhao chuckled and said, "The Academy is my home. The Academy has given me everything that I have today, and I belong to the Academy. There's nothing to say about contributions."

Elder Song smiled and said, "You're right. On the other hand, the Academy will belong to you guys in the future. Alright, it's time for us to bid farewell to the Heavenly Soul Empire."

Even though their mission had many twists and turns, they had finally completed their task. They had helped the Heavenly Soul Empire complete their reconnaissance and dealt a huge blow to the Sun Moon Empire's army. Most importantly, they had managed to rescue Tang Ya!

Their mission had killed many birds with one stone. They had to return to the Academy as quickly as possible, because Elder Song, Dean Yan, and everyone from the Tang Sect had many things they had to deal with, after all.

Huo Yuhao replied, "Let's bid our farewells tomorrow morning. I'll take this opportunity to write down everything that I have learned in detail, and hand that to the Heavenly Soul Empire. That should help them."

Elder Song nodded and said, "That's fine."

—

They stayed for another night, and everyone regained their peak condition besides Tang Ya. The Ice Bear King, Little Bai, chose to remain in Huo Yuhao's spectral demiplane.

Everyone bid their farewells to the Heavenly Soul Empire the next day. The Heavenly Soul Empire longed for them to stay, but everyone from Shrek Academy still refused politely as they left Heavenly Spirit and returned to Shrek Academy.

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The Tang Sect, Shrek City...

Elder Song and Yan Shaozhe immediately returned to Shrek Academy once they returned to Shrek City. They also had to report this mission to the Academy and record it.

Everyone from the Tang Sect naturally returned there.

Tang Ya had awoken from her deep slumber. After her treatment that day, she had fallen into a deep slumber for a day and a night before coming to. The sinister aura on her body was a lot weaker after she woke up, but her mind was still not clear. She still appeared very muddleheaded, and there wasn't any color in her eyes. Fortunately, her aura of an evil soul master was no longer as dense, though her soul power seemed to dissipate a little along with those evil toxins. She was no longer aggressive.

Bei Bei accompanied her every day to speak to her, but Tang Ya never said anything from the beginning to the end. She was just sitting there like a stone, and she would do that for the entire day. Bei Bei had to help her eat, sleep, bathe, and even when she had to go to the toilet, like she had lost her basic ability to live.

Bei Bei wasn't unhappy about any of that. He took care of Tang Ya patiently, and rejected Xiao Xiao and Jiang Nannan's offers to share his burden. He told them that he owed Tang Ya far too much over these years, and it took them so much effort to finally take her back. He was perfectly willing to protect her like this for eternity; to love her, and care for her.

Chapter 502.2: The Medicine Refinement Plan!

"Look, Xiao Ya, the Tang Sect is right in front of us." Everyone from the Tang Sect was escorting Bei Bei and Tang Ya, and they were finally back at the Tang Sect. The Tang Sect's main gate was within sight.

Tang Ya still seemed very dazed, and she could barely walk forward as Bei Bei supported her. Her entire being seemed like a walking undead.

"Do you still remember, Xiao Ya? You told me back then that your greatest wish was for the Tang Sect to recover, and regain their former glory. That was also your late parents' wish. The truth is, I have been working hard ever since to find a way to rebuild the Tang Sect. I wanted to give you a pleasant surprise, but it's my fault that you decided to leave because I didn't try harder to understand your thoughts. That's the reason why so many things happened afterwards.

"Look, I have rebuilt the Tang Sect for you, and it grows stronger by the day. You have to recover as quickly as possible! Nannan is right, you are the rightful leader of the Tang Sect. The Tang Sect needs you to support it. How can you do that by being like this?" Bei Bei whispered into Tang Ya's ear.

Everyone walked towards the Tang Sect as he spoke.

Tang Ya's eyes were still dazed, but when she saw the Tang Sect's name on the plaque that hung over its main gate, her eyes trembled faintly as her lips quivered. "The Tang Sect..."

Even though her voice was very, very soft, everyone from the Tang Sect were at least Soul Emperors. Everyone could hear her.

Bei Bei's body shook as he stared at Tang Ya with a look of pleasant surprise on his face.

Tang Ya was still looking at the large words on the plaque. There seemed to be something more in her eyes, and her lips were still quivering. But she couldn't say another word.

Everyone naturally stopped. They paused, and nobody disturbed her as they just let her stare at those words. There was finally something that could affect her memory, which was just fantastic.

Tang Ya's eyes seemed to recover their confusion after a few moments. She leaned into Bei Bei's embrace, and the color in her eyes disappeared.

Bei Bei said softly, "Yes, this is the Tang Sect, and it's our home. You will stay here from today onwards, and I will accompany you always. Is that okay?"

Of course, Tang Ya wouldn't respond, but only then did everyone start escorting them once more, and walk into the Tang Sect.

Everyone started getting back to work once they came back. They hadn't left for a long time, and they came back much earlier than the month they had predicted. However, there was still quite a bit of work piled up. n-0velb1n

Xu Sanshi, Jiang Nannan, Xiao Xiao and the others went to handle those affairs, while Huo Yuhao accompanied Bei Bei to settle Tang Ya in.

Bei Bei stared at Xiao Ya, who was lying down on the bed, as he whispered to Huo Yuhao, "Did you hear that, Yuhao? Xiao Ya said, 'the Tang Sect!'" Bei Bei's eyes grew excited as he spoke, like a little child at the moment.

Huo Yuhao hurriedly nodded and said, "I did, of course I heard her. This is probably Teacher Xiao Ya's deepest memory. Don't worry, eldest senior brother; her memory will definitely recover as long as we continuously dispel those evil poisons. You have to continue speaking to her, as that will help catalyze her recovery. I will delegate some tasks right away, and once that is done, there are some other plans that I want to speak to you about."

"Eh? What plans? If it isn't complicated, then just tell me now. I've spoken to Sanshi, and he'll help me with some of my work for some time to come. I will spend more time accompanying Xiao Ya."

Huo Yuhao nodded and replied, "It's not complicated. I brought back some natural treasures when I brought Big Mao and Second Mao back." With that, he recounted how Big Mao and Second Mao ate all those herbs and medicines inside the Icefire Yin Yang Well back in the Setting Sun Forest.

Bei Bei didn't know whether to laugh or to cry after listening to his story. "Those two fellows! But it seems like a bad thing has changed into a good one. I didn't pay much attention when you told me last time. Seems like you've brought back quite a harvest?"

Huo Yuhao said, "It is quite copious. I have taken away almost all the fruits and whatnot which they gestated that can be considered immortal herbs. Even if they're considered hundred-thousand-year soul beasts, they need thousands of years to gestate good stuff like this."

Bei Bei asked, "What do you mean?"

Huo Yuhao lowered his voice and said, "You know, eldest senior brother, that the situation in the continent is very unclear. Even though the Sun Moon Empire has temporarily halted their invasion, war can break out again at any time, judging by the way they do things. Once the Heavenly Soul Empire can't stop the Sun Moon Empire's great army, the Academy will quickly receive the brunt of their attack.

"Furthermore, both the Sun Moon Empire and the Holy Ghost Church have perceived our Academy as a thorn in their side, and they would be more than happy to see us gone. Therefore, we have to make our preparations early if we want to be sufficiently effective in this war.

"When we were resting in my spectral demiplane several days ago, I closely studied the poison and medicine manual that Tang San, our ancestor, left behind. Tang San has detailed comprehensively what those natural treasures do, and how some herbs complement each other, and how some herbs reject each other. I am certain that everyone's cultivation will increase exponentially after consuming these herbs. The Tang Sect's overall strength will be greatly boosted afterwards!

"I think I should process these herbs soon. What do you think?"

Bei Bei answered without hesitation, "That's fantastic! Of course you may! What do you require the Tang Sect to help you with?"

Huo Yuhao shook his head and said, "There's no need for that. Eldest senior brother, I just need you to convince Teacher Xuan to give me some time. I will learn about forging soul tools from him once I finish processing the herbs."

Bei Bei laughed. "So you're worried about that. Don't worry, even though Teacher Xuan is extremely stubborn, he seems to have conceded after you crafted that Class 8 soul tool. Furthermore, he isn't an unreasonable person; you have a suitable reason, and you're doing this for everyone. He won't disagree. But are you confident in being able to do all that?"

Huo Yuhao nodded. "There shouldn't be a problem. Tang San's medicine manual points out that these natural treasures will already have very strong effects when consumed individually. But because these herbs have their own special characteristics, they will also have side effects when consumed unless they're especially suitable for a particular martial soul or body type. Forging pills from these herbs means I will attempt to fuse their unique characteristics together, which requires great control. I should have no problem with that with my Spiritual Detection.

"Furthermore, the things that I have brought back are of even higher quality than the herbs that Tang San has detailed. If I can refine them correctly, they will be greatly beneficial to the Tang Sect."

Bei Bei nodded and said, "Alright, go ahead. I fully support you on this. I'll look for Teacher Xuan in a little bit."

"That's great!" Huo Yuhao replied.

Bei Bei instructed him, “But don’t mention this to others, because you can’t give everyone too much hope. The more hope they have, the more disappointed they’ll be.”

Huo Yuhao understood the meaning in Bei Bei’s eyes. He knew that his eldest senior brother was trying to protect him. Everything would be fine if he was successful, but if he wasn’t, Bei Bei was afraid that everyone would have differing opinions.

Bei Bei took care of Tang Ya, and Huo Yuhao immediately left the Tang Sect. He had to delegate some tasks before purchasing some secondary materials. Forging and processing herbs wasn’t that simple, and even though he had just told Bei Bei that he was confident, he didn’t dare to be careless or overconfident at all. These were natural treasures, and weren’t something that money could buy. He would regret it immensely if something went wrong!

The tasks that he had to delegate were simple, and Huo Yuhao had already discussed them with Elder Song on the way back.

Elder Song oversaw all the auctions within Shrek City. She had told Huo Yuhao to look for the auctioneers, and tell them that he was to announce this task through an auction. Elder Song had already sent people to give the auctioneers a heads-up after entering the city.

The bounty, after the Tang Sect thoroughly discussed it, was finally set at a promise from the Tang Sect for a Class 8 stationary soul cannon shell or a soul tool of the same class.

That was a bounty sufficient to drive people crazy. Both Class 8 soul tools and a Class 8 stationary soul cannon shell were priceless treasures, and only the Sun Moon Empire had them.

Huo Yuhao had already thought things through. If the person who claimed the bounty chose a soul tool, then he had Hongchen’s Blessing, which Jing Hongchen had given him, and he could take that one out. As for a Class 8 stationary soul cannon shell, Xuan Ziwen was already attempting to forge one. Huo Yuhao believed that with his abilities, crafting one wouldn’t be very difficult.

As for other things and Class 8 stationary soul cannon shells, there was a limit to them, and the Tang Sect could sustain the costs.

Huo Yuhao placed the bounty successfully after Elder Song had given the auctioneers a heads-up, and went ahead and purchased some necessities for forging pills from herbs before he walked back to the Tang Sect.

Huo Yuhao calculated a few things. He would run a few experiments first with normal herbs, and would only use those natural treasures once he was practiced and more familiar with the process.

He really hoped that something would come of this. The Tang Sect would benefit greatly if this happened, and he still intended to give the Academy some, as well!

But all that was for later. He would have to wait until he successfully created those pills...

Chapter 502.3: The Medicine Refinement Plan!

Huo Yuhao was just about to reach the main gate when he saw someone walking towards him. They seemed to be walking towards the Tang Sect, and Huo Yuhao hurriedly accelerated when he saw this person as he exclaimed in pleasant surprise, "Eldest senior sister?"

Wasn't the person who was walking towards him the eldest senior sister of Shrek Academy's inner courtyard, Zhang Lexuan? She was also one of the Sea God's Pavilion's members.

The Sea God's Pavilion was starting to undergo a generational change. Huo Yuhao, Bei Bei, and Zhang Lexuan were elites of the younger generation, and were all part of the Sea God's Pavilion.

Zhang Lexuan was also startled when she saw Huo Yuhao. She laughed and said, "That's convenient, I was going to look for you. I didn't think I'd meet you here."

"Ah? You're looking for me?" Huo Yuhao asked in surprise. He was looking Zhang Lexuan up and down at the same time.

Zhang Lexuan was wearing a long blue dress today, which made her look even more slender. There was a faint smile on her pretty face that exuded good cheer, and she seemed to be drastically different from before.

There had always been a tinge of melancholy between her eyes back then, but she couldn't appear any more normal today. Huo Yuhao was very happy for her. Even though the Yin-Yang Love Querying Valley made him lose Dong'er, their experience there wasn't entirely bad. At least, his eldest senior sister had lost her memory of her feelings towards Bei Bei, which was a great thing for her. She had managed to discard her heaviest burden.

Huo Yuhao had heard that his eldest senior sister had accepted one of the inner courtyard's teachers, and they were dating now. Furthermore, his eldest senior sister had already become one of the inner courtyard's teachers as well, and her cultivation was improving greatly. Her status within the Academy was getting higher and higher.

"Come in and have a seat, eldest senior sister." Huo Yuhao was a disciple of the Tang Sect, and he naturally had to play the host. He hurriedly gestured courteously for Zhang Lexuan to enter.

Zhang Lexuan chuckled and said, "I'm here to find you. Since I've run into you, I'm not going inside. I'll just tell you."

"Ah? Me?" Huo Yuhao stared at Zhang Lexuan in shock.

Zhang Lexuan replied, "Yes! It's so hard to catch you. Who else can I be looking for? You're always running around outside every day, so where would I go to find you? Let me ask you, have you graduated from the Academy?"

Huo Yuhao scratched his head. He had forgotten about that. Ever since he came back from the big competition, he hadn't studied in the Academy's curriculum.

Zhang Lexuan was a little speechless. "You're part of the Sea God's Pavilion after all, so how embarrassing will it be when people find out that you haven't even officially graduated from the Academy? You should have no problem graduating from the inner courtyard with your current abilities, but we still need you to do some paperwork."

Huo Yuhao said, "But the others from the Tang Sect..."

Zhang Lexuan grunted and said, "Everyone else has already completed their paperwork; you're the only one left. You can consider yourself graduated once you pass the inner courtyard's graduation assessment, and only then can you say you're a graduate from Shrek Academy."

Huo Yuhao said, "Alright then, let me take the test. Eldest senior sister, when do you think it's appropriate for me to go?" Zhang Lexuan was right. Even though he was really busy, it was better for him to officially graduate from the Academy.

Zhang Lexuan said, "You've just returned, so you can rest for a few days. Oh, yes, there's something else. Everyone else is no longer considered a student from the inner courtyard, because they have graduated. But you haven't, and you're also single, while the next season's Sea God's Fated Blind Date is about to begin. You have to participate, do you understand?"

"Ah?" Huo Yuhao stared at Zhang Lexuan in astonishment. "I have to participate in the Fated Blind Date, eldest senior sister?"

Zhang Lexuan nodded seriously and said, "That's the Academy's rules. All single boys and girls from the inner courtyard have to participate. You're part of the Academy, and you still haven't officially graduated. How can you not participate?"

"I... eldest senior sister, let's forget about that. You know that I already have Dong'er, and even though she's missing, I can't go back to participate in the Fated Blind Date anymore." Huo Yuhao's eyes became a little dim as he spoke.

Zhang Lexuan heaved a faint sigh and said, "Yuhao, I understand your feelings, and I also feel very sorry for you. Dong'er is a good girl. However, the Academy's rules cannot be broken, right? You have to give me face. Let's do it like this: you'll just be there to participate, and I'll ask all the girls not to choose you. You won't be affected that way."

Huo Yuhao pulled a long face. "I have a lot of things to do right now, eldest senior sister. You know that this is crunch time for the Tang Sect."

Zhang Lexuan's face sank. "Do you still want your graduation certificate, Huo Yuhao? Let me tell you, if you can't pass this, nobody will give you a graduation certificate, even if you're part of the Sea God's Pavilion."

"Uh..." Zhang Lexuan was firming up, and her dignity as his eldest senior sister immediately came up. Huo Yuhao didn't dare to argue against her.

Zhang Lexuan thought for a moment, then said, "Let's do it like this. You're walking over the event anyway, and you still have to deal with graduation paperwork. Why don't you come to the inner courtyard during the night of the Sea God's Fated Blind Date, and you'll participate in the event at night, and I'll arrange for your graduation assessment on the following morning, then I'll help you deal with your paperwork. You can save the most time that way."

Huo Yuhao really couldn't turn her down anymore. He could only accept his fate. "Alright, eldest senior sister, I'll listen to you."

Zhang Lexuan's frown turned into a smile as she said, "That's better! It's a deal, then. The Sea God's Fated Blind Date will be held five days from now, and if you dare to not come, hmph! The Tang Sect will not know peace." Zhang Lexuan turned and strode away after leaving this threat.

Huo Yuhao's face was full of exasperation as he watched her leave. He really couldn't afford to offend his eldest senior sister!

But... she was right. He couldn't break the Academy's rules. Furthermore, getting his graduation certificate was also very important. He would just be there to walk through the event.

Five days from now. I can't forget about that...

—

Huo Yuhao walked into the Tang Sect as he thought, and immediately began to contemplate and research forging those pills.

Huo Yuhao needed specific tools to do this. He needed a furnace, and he needed sufficient warmth in the fire.

A pill furnace was simple. All he had to do was make a soul tool.

Huo Yuhao began to draw a blueprint for that soul tool as he contemplated. No matter what, he was still a Class 7 soul engineer who could forge a Class 8 soul tool. Even though he hadn't seriously studied forging soul tools for a few years, a small problem like this couldn't stump him.

The pill furnace had to satisfy several conditions. First, it had to be strong enough to resist high temperatures. Second, it had to produce high temperatures. Third, it had to be able to control its temperature. Fourth, the furnace itself couldn't have any effect on these herbs at all.

He should be able to start forging pills after satisfying these conditions.

It wasn't hard to forge a soul tool while satisfying these conditions...

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Just as Huo Yuhao was just about to complete his blueprint, a knock came from outside

"Who is it?" Huo Yuhao asked subconsciously, without even looking up.

"It's me!" A very dissatisfied voice could be heard from outside.

"Ah?" The person who owned this voice was one of the people that Huo Yuhao feared the most. He hurriedly stood up and opened the door.

"Why are you here, Teacher Xuan?" Huo Yuhao greeted Xuan Ziwen with a sheepish smile on his face.

Xuan Ziwen grunted coldly and said, "You dirty fellow. You're back rather quickly, but you used Bei Bei as your shield as soon as you came back. Do you think I'll let you go? How many days do you need to forge whatever pills? Give me an accurate estimate."

Huo Yuhao forced a smile and said, "How can I give you a proper estimate, Teacher Xuan? This is also my first time, and I still have to do some experiments. You know that we have to conduct experiments every

time we craft a new soul tool! It's similar for forging pills. I was just drawing up some blueprints for a pill furnace. Don't worry, once I'm done with my pills, I will immediately learn about soul tools from you. What do you think?"

"A blueprint for a pill furnace? Let me take a look." It was his first reaction when he heard "soul tool".

Huo Yuhao hurriedly handed over the blueprint that he had just drawn.

Xuan Ziwen didn't have to ask what Huo Yuhao needed from his pill furnace; he understood Huo Yuhao's intentions with a few glances.

However, his first reaction after looking through the blueprint was to slap his hand upside Huo Yuhao's head.

"Aiyo, why did you hit me, Teacher Xuan?" Huo Yuhao said aggrievedly.

Xuan Ziwen snapped, "Idiot, to think you're a Class 7 soul engineer! Don't tell others that you're my disciple, because I can't take that embarrassment. Look at what you're drawing; what is that? It would be surprising if you could actually forge pills successfully with this thing of yours. Just waiting to waste some resources."

"Ah?" Huo Yuhao admired Xuan Ziwen the most in terms of forging soul tools. Xuan Ziwen wouldn't speak without thinking about this, and he was very strict about his research with soul tools.

Huo Yuhao hurriedly sought advice humbly. "Teacher Xuan, can you tell me what's wrong with my blueprint? Help me."

Xuan Ziwen grunted coldly and said, "Now you want to learn? You have never been willing to properly learn about forging soul tools from me over the years, and you feel embarrassed now? You messed up something as simple as this! Hmph!"

"Don't think you can do this well with that spiritual power of yours. No matter how formidable your spiritual power is, if you don't have sufficient experience, if you don't have the newest theories and principles, all that is wasted. Let me just touch on two things to tell you why your furnace is useless.

"First, let me ask you, how can your furnace ensure that the herbs' medicinal effects won't be lost? Do you not know that herbs that are considered natural treasures will release their medicinal effects once they're used? Can metal seal the furnace so that these medicinal effects won't be lost? Once these medicinal effects are lost, everything that's good will flow away. Are you preparing a furnace full of dregs for everyone?"

Chapter 503.1: You Need a Class 9 Pill Furnace!

"This..." Huo Yuhao suddenly realized that he had neglected an important problem.

Xuan Ziwen followed by saying, "Secondly, let me ask you. When origin energy of heaven and earth is gathered and compressed within a certain region, what will happen when the tool compressing it has its own limit?"

"This..." Huo Yuhao started to perspire.

Xuan Ziwen laughed coldly. "It will blow apart! Even you will be blown apart! Do you not know how much origin energy there is in these treasures? Haven't you eaten them before? Can't you imagine at all? Do you really think a furnace is enough? What a joke! If you can't solve these two problems, you'll only be wasting resources."

As he spoke, he threw the blueprint at Huo Yuhao's face before turning and leaving.

"Hey! Teacher Xuan, don't go! I was wrong, I was wrong. Please advise me!" Xuan Ziwen pointed out the problems, but not the solutions. Furthermore, Huo Yuhao couldn't think of anything to deal with these two problems. He immediately chased after Xuan Ziwen.

Although Xuan Ziwen was walking away, he revealed a weird grin on his face. He thought to himself. Rascal, you'll definitely be tricked this time, won't you? Hehe!

After hearing from Bei Bei that Huo Yuhao wanted to use precious treasures to cultivate medicine, he had already anticipated that there would be problems with the furnace. The reason was very simple. When Xuan Ziwen was in the Sun Moon Empire, there was a soul engineer that he shared great ties with who was in charge of cultivating medicines for the imperial family.

Why were there so many soul engineers in the Sun Moon Empire? It was because they could be cultivated using a lot of medicine. The soul engineers who weren't talented could consume medicine to increase their cultivation speed.

In this aspect, the Sun Moon Empire held an absolute advantage over the other empires. Xuan Ziwen was also not talented in terms of his martial soul, so he had also resorted to using medicine to increase his cultivation.

His cultivation had reached nine rings through medicinal help, too. However, he realized that the medicines in Shrek weren't cultivated before they were consumed, even though they were top quality. This was a waste of medicine.

However, he didn't say anything because he had his own important research to do, and also because he wasn't very adept at cultivating pills.

Hearing what Huo Yuhao wanted to do this time, he rushed over. The reason was very simple. The furnace he needed had to be an advanced-tier soul tool if such precious treasures were used as materials to cultivate medicine. The higher the quality of the materials, the higher the requirements for the furnace. This was what that Sun Moon Empire's pill-cultivating soul engineer had told him before.

Although he didn't know what the treasures Huo Yuhao had brought back were or what their quality was, he could roughly guess from Bei Bei's simple description that at least a Class 9 furnace would be needed! Given Huo Yuhao's current abilities, he couldn't possibly produce a Class 9 soul tool. Xuan Ziwen knew that blueprint was worthless no matter how detailed or well-drawn it was, because Huo Yuhao couldn't solve a very simple problem: compressing the origin energy that was released. Without it, an explosion was the only outcome.

How could Huo Yuhao know about Xuan Ziwen's experience? He even pursued him after being admonished. Xuan Ziwen had killed two birds with one stone.

"Why are you following me?" Xuan Ziwen stopped in his tracks and looked at Huo Yuhao coldly.

Huo Yuhao hurriedly and respectfully said, "Teacher Xuan, I was wrong. I'll put more effort into learning soul tool production from you." He was also very intelligent. He knew that Xuan Ziwen was doing this as a show for him. How could he not understand what his intentions were?

Xuan Ziwen snorted disdainfully and replied, "Do I have to teach you even if you're willing to learn? Twin martial souls and Ultimate Ice. Go on then. Go and be your soul master." As he spoke, he turned around and left.

Huo Yuhao's figure immediately flashed, and he blocked Xuan Ziwen's path. He was full of smiles as he said, "Teacher Xuan, I know I was in the wrong. Even if it's a death sentence, there's still time for repentance. You should give me a chance to turn over a new leaf. Don't worry, I'll learn under you seriously. In the future, I'll do my best to become a Class 9 soul engineer. I won't give up anymore. What do you think?"

Xuan Ziwen appeared to be in a better mood now. He snorted once and said, "That's more like it. Counting on the fact that you appear more sincere today, I'll agree reluctantly. However, remember that I'm nurturing you not purely because I want you to become a Class 9 soul engineer. Although Class 9 soul engineers are very rare, they aren't the extreme."

Huo Yuhao was astonished. "So, what do you want to do?"

Xuan Ziwen revealed an intense and passionate look in his eyes. He stared at Huo Yuhao until goosebumps started to appear on Yuhao's skin.

"Before I die, I hope I can nurture a Class 10 soul engineer, and help him reach the peak of soul engineers! My talent is limited. I'll never become a Class 10 soul engineer. However, you are a prodigy. I believe that I can do it. Just work hard. This time, I won't let you leave the Tang Sect easily before you become a Class 9 soul engineer. Whatever commitments you have, I want you to throw them aside."

"This..." Huo Yuhao suddenly turned grim, and smiled bitterly at Xuan Ziwen.

Class 9 soul engineer. How is it that easy? First, I need to become a Titled Douluo. That doesn't happen in a day or two.

Xuan Ziwen laughed coldly and said, "Are you unwilling? It's up to you. Do whatever you want." As he spoke, he walked leisurely away.

"Teacher Xuan, don't go!" Huo Yuhao hurriedly chased after him, and laughed bitterly. "See, I barely have eight rings now. How easy is it for me to reach nine rings? Moreover, I still need to become a Class 9 soul engineer. Aren't your requirements a little too high? Yes, I guarantee that I'll work hard. Should you not relax your demands? How about a Class 8 soul engineer?"

Xuan Ziwen didn't even bother with him. He continued to walk forward as if he didn't hear anything.

Huo Yuhao was also helpless now. He knew that he couldn't succeed without Teacher Xuan's help this time. However, wasn't it a little too strict to stop him from leaving the Tang Sect before he became a Class 9 soul engineer? If he wasn't fortunate, wouldn't that take him from eight to ten years?

"Teacher Xuan, Teacher Xuan!" Seeing that Xuan Ziwen was getting further and further away, Huo Yuhao continued chasing after him. He gritted his teeth and said, "Alright, I agree. However, I can't

absolutely not leave the sect. I'll try not to leave Shrek City. However, if there's something important, especially when the Academy requests it, I'll need to go."

Xuan Ziwen also knew that he couldn't force Huo Yuhao too much. He nodded and said, "That's fine." Shrek Academy was very supportive of his research, and they shared a good relationship. In addition, Xuan Ziwen also knew that Huo Yuhao was one of the members of the Sea God's Pavilion. If the Academy had something for him to do, Xuan Ziwen couldn't possibly stop him.

With his words, Huo Yuhao heaved a sigh of relief. Before he could say anything else, Xuan Ziwen added, "Rascal, don't think I don't know what you're plotting. If you try to use the Academy to sneak off, don't blame me for being unkind. I won't show any mercy then. I'll leave the Tang Sect just like how I left the Illustrious Virtue Hall."

"Ugh... Teacher Xuan, am I that sort of person? Why would I use the Academy as an excuse to sneak off? Don't worry, I'll study seriously." Although Huo Yuhao felt a little guilty, he still spoke the truth in his heart. This was no time to offend Xuan Ziwen!

Xuan Ziwen nodded in satisfaction and said, "Alright, follow me then. We have to design your furnace properly. We need a Class 9 furnace for stability."

"Class 9!" Huo Yuhao was really shocked.

Xuan Ziwen laughed coldly and said, "Do you think it's so easy to refine treasures? Without a Class 9 furnace, you won't be able to contain the aura of such good stuff. Not only do you have to seal it, you'll have to compress it, too! All the details have to be considered. You have no room for failure. Do you really think you're performing an experiment?"

Huo Yuhao wanted to reply 'yes!'. He had brought back a lot of good stuff this time. Although he couldn't perform an experiment using the same materials, it was still possible for him to choose one that wasn't too expensive. However, he didn't dare say that. Xuan Ziwen was very serious!

Instead, he humbly asked, "Teacher Xuan, what should we do?"

Xuan Ziwen said as he walked, "We'll perfect the blueprint over these next few years. I had a friend who was a pill-cultivating master; I heard him explaining how to cultivate pills before. However, he didn't create a Class 9 furnace back then, he only thought of it. You must join in the design. Although your cultivation and experience are lacking, your spiritual power is strong enough. It shouldn't be a problem for you to take a look at some complex blueprints. You'll be my assistant when I make the furnace."

"Yes!" Seeing the serious look on Xuan Ziwen's face, Huo Yuhao was touched. He knew that it was very valuable to be able to accompany a Class 9 soul engineer in his attempt to make a Class 9 soul tool! Xuan Ziwen was bound to advise him during the process. Such an experience would be beneficial to him in his efforts to become a Class 9 soul engineer himself.

Huo Yuhao followed Xuan Ziwen to his laboratory. Xuan Ziwen was always very quick in doing whatever he wanted, especially in the area of soul tools.

Chapter 503.2: You Need a Class 9 Pill Furnace!

He took out a piece of white paper and immediately made a simple drawing.

To produce a complex soul tool, the first thing to do was to list out the requirements. After that, solutions had to be devised. The third step was to create the necessary formations using those solutions. Then, the formations had to be linked with one another. During this process of linkage, it was important to simplify things without compromising usefulness. The last step was to perform a mechanical run-in.

After these five steps, the core formations could then be worked on. The outer shells were then created based on how the core formations came out.

The entire process was rather complicated.

When Huo Yuhao successfully created the Class 8 decomposition cannon, he was still some way off from the standards of a Class 8 soul engineer. After all, the blueprint that he had then was provided by Xuan Ziwen.

As Xuan Ziwen drew out a blueprint, he muttered to himself, "First is the choice of materials. Since our pill furnace will be Class 9, we need to consider the materials that we will use. Even though using core formations can generate energy compression and isolation, the materials used have to be resilient and resistant enough to isolate external substances. At the same time, it needs to be a good conductor of heat..."

Huo Yuhao stood at one side and listened to Xuan Ziwen seriously as he looked at the blueprint being drawn up. Everything being said was for his benefit.

During the process of research, time always passed very quickly.

Xuan Ziwen was indeed a Class 9 soul engineer. It had only been a day, but Huo Yuhao was already feeling pretty overwhelmed, even given the strength of his spiritual power. He had to meditate to restore it. However, Xuan Ziwen was still forgoing food and sleep for his research. The blueprint that he was drawing up already made up a stack of paper.

The complexity of Class 9 soul tools was far beyond Huo Yuhao's expectations. This Class 9 soul tool was formed by multiple Class 8 soul tools. Not only did it involve the knowledge of spatial systems, but temporal systems, too. Every detail deviated greatly from what Huo Yuhao had learned in the past.

Furthermore, in the process of creating a Class 9 soul tool, every rare metal used was absolutely precious. It was very difficult to carve each and every one of them. Not only did one require great soul power, but one also needed to combine his soul and spiritual power. Even with Huo Yuhao's immense spiritual power, the complicated core formations were still astonishing to him. He was completely bamboozled.

He didn't understand everything Xuan Ziwen was talking about. However, Xuan Ziwen didn't seem to be bothered at all. He continued to ramble on, and didn't repeat himself at all, letting Huo Yuhao work out everything by himself. He only asked Huo Yuhao questions occasionally. If he got them right, they would continue. If he was wrong, he would be admonished.

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In the blink of an eye, three days passed. A prototype had been made. Xuan Ziwen was already on the fourth step of the blueprint, the simplification and combination of the required formations.

This combination wasn't just for the purpose of eventually coming up with a core formation. Rather, through the simplification, they hoped that the core formation could also be simplified. This would make it less difficult to create.

Of course, this was only a relative statement. A Class 9 soul tool still required a great amount of effort to forge.

Class 9 stationary shells were even more difficult. This was because the core formations of a Class 9 stationary shell required very detailed and extreme designs, in addition to the complexity of it, so that it could produce the greatest strength when it blew apart. As a result, it could detonate anytime during the production process.

"Yuhao." A soft voice came from outside. Huo Yuhao turned around and saw He Caitou waving to him.

Huo Yuhao took a look at Xuan Ziwen, who signaled that he could go over. His gaze was fixated on his blueprint from start to finish.

Huo Yuhao walked over in front of He Caitou. He lowered his voice, "Second senior, what's the matter?"

He Caitou lowered his voice. "I came here to find you. You and Teacher Xuan have already been here for three days. It's time to rest when it's time to rest. You should remind him, too. This was what eldest senior said to me. Another thing: don't forget you have to make a trip to the Academy the day after tomorrow. Eldest senior sister sent someone to remind you today."

"Oh, oh." Huo Yuhao recalled now. He had agreed to Zhang Lexuan's request to join the Fated Blind Date. At the same time, he needed to get his graduation certificate.

He smacked his forehead and replied, "Thank heaven that you reminded me. Otherwise, I would really have forgotten! Thanks, second senior."

He Caitou smiled and said, "We're brothers. You don't have to thank me. What are you and Teacher Xuan researching?"

"A pill furnace," Huo Yuhao replied. Although Bei Bei didn't allow him to talk about cultivating pills, it was fine to mention a pill furnace.

He Caitou was curious. "A pill furnace? For what purpose?"

"To cultivate pills," Huo Yuhao replied, "Teacher Xuan wants to make an advanced-tier pill furnace. This is so that pills can be cultivated for disciples of the sect to consume, which would quicken their cultivation speed."

He Caitou's eyes brightened and he commented, "That's great! I'm anxious after seeing that all of your cultivations have been increasing significantly!" Ever since he became a Soul Sage, He Caitou felt that his cultivation speed had been lagging behind. It wasn't that he wasn't working hard enough; it was because of his martial soul.

He Caitou was a food-type soul master. It was harder for a food-type soul master to cultivate during the later stages of his cultivation, and much more difficult for a food-type soul master to increase his soul power compared to an ordinary soul master. However, with the right medicine, it would be much easier. Regarding this, He Caitou had always been very accepting. He was a soul engineer, too. Most soul

engineers relied on medicine to improve. It would be great for him to have medicines to consume. If his cultivation wasn't high enough, it would affect his ability to become a Class 8 or 9 soul engineer.

Huo Yuhao smiled and said, "Don't be anxious. When the pill furnace is done, we can try it."

He Caitou nodded and said, "I'll return first. The past few years have been tiring. However, I still feel a sense of achievement when I see soul tools being created. Learn well from Teacher Xuan. Little junior, you are much more talented than me. You must do your best!"

"Definitely!" Huo Yuhao acknowledged.

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He Caitou left and Huo Yuhao returned to Xuan Ziwen's side. He continued to analyze the blueprint along with his teacher.

Over these last few days, Xuan Ziwen was rather satisfied with Huo Yuhao. Huo Yuhao hadn't left his side during the past three days. Furthermore, he was actually very pleased inside, even though he was scolding Huo Yuhao frequently. Huo Yuhao was very intelligent, even smarter than he was before. Regarding his descriptions, he was always able to draw inferences about other cases. At times, he even came up with suggestions that stunned his teacher.

Xuan Ziwen was rather pleased to have such a clever student. However, he always acted fierce to prevent him from being overly full of himself. Talents had to be restrained a little to prevent them from getting arrogant.

Huo Yuhao was indeed much more intelligent than he was before. The reason was very simple: Wang Qiu'er's sacrifice. Wang Qiu'er had given him the Skull of Destiny. Not only did it increase Huo Yuhao's spiritual power, but it also greatly enhanced his intelligence, though even Huo Yuhao was unsure of how that had happened.

In fact, if not for the fact that his intelligence had greatly increased, his cultivation wouldn't have grown at such a rapid speed, even if he consumed the rarest substances and fused with a large amount of life energy.

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In the blink of an eye, another day passed. It was easy for one to forgo sleep and food when one was deep in research. It was only when He Caitou came to find Huo Yuhao again that he remembered he needed to make a trip to the Academy.

Xuan Ziwen didn't stop him. He had to collect his graduation certificate, after all. They were already at the last stage of their blueprint. Given Huo Yuhao's current abilities, he wouldn't be able to comprehend this stage. It was a point where nothing could be allowed to go wrong. If something did, all the precious materials would go to waste!

After exiting Xuan Ziwen's laboratory, Huo Yuhao took in a deep breath. It was unprecedentedly comfortable feeling the surge of fresh air into his lungs.

“Second senior, I’ll go first. Please help me tell eldest senior that I’ll be back tomorrow morning.” It was bright outside, but Huo Yuhao had been in the laboratory for many days. He hadn’t tracked the time at all.

He Caitou stopped him and asked, “Little junior, are you planning to go just like that?”

Huo Yuhao answered, “Of course! What other way is there?”

He Caitou was speechless. “Little junior, eldest senior sister mentioned that you are going for the Sea God’s Fated Blind Date. You are the face of the Tang Sect now. Look at you. You’ve not changed your clothes since you returned. You’ve not showered for many days either, and your hair is a mess. If you go like this, she’ll send you back. Go and tidy up before getting some food. Freshen up first.”

“Ugh...” If not for He Caitou’s reminder, Huo Yuhao wouldn’t have realized that he had so many problems right now. He hadn’t showered in days, and had skipped a few meals. He had been immersed in the world of soul tools. He seemed so slipshod right now. How could he represent the Tang Sect like this?

Huo Yuhao’s face turned red, and he said, “I’ll return now. Thanks for your reminder, second senior.”

He Caitou laughed, “You! Quickly, go. Eldest senior has already prepared clothes for you. Go and represent the Tang Sect. Recruit more students. You must be more presentable, do you understand?”

“Oh, yes.” Huo Yuhao replied. He felt warm inside. Eldest senior is so busy taking care of Teacher Xiao Ya, but he hasn’t forgotten about me. His concern makes me feel as if he’s my biological elder brother.

Chapter 503.3: You Need a Class 9 Pill Furnace!

Before Huo Yuhao returned to his room, he first tried to determine the position of the sun. It’s still morning, less than two hours to noon. It seems like eldest senior deliberately asked second senior to call me so that I’d have time to tidy myself up.

A set of brand new clothes was laid on the table in the room. Huo Yuhao quickly took a hot bath, and afterwards all his fatigue seemed to have disappeared. Given his current cultivation, he was fine even if he didn’t sleep for a few days.

Just when he had finished showering and was prepared to put on his clothes, he suddenly heard an anxious voice calling him in his head. “Yuhao, Yuhao!”

The Snow Empress’ call jolted Huo Yuhao awake. He hurriedly asked, “What’s wrong, Ice Empress?”

A white light flashed, and the Snow Empress appeared in front of him. She appeared very anxious, “Where’s Little Bai? When he was still in your demiplane, I had already sensed something amiss. Quickly, let him out. I’m afraid he might face a bottleneck soon.”

“What?” Huo Yuhao was given a scare. The Ice Bear King and Snow Empress were closely connected. The Snow Empress had saved him, and transferred some of her abilities to him. This was how he became the Ice Bear King. They had a tight connection. If the Snow Empress said something like this, she must have discovered something.

Huo Yuhao didn't dare to delay any further. He quickly recited a few incantations and opened the door that led to his demiplane. He entered the demiplane along with the Snow Empress.

When he came in, he was completely shocked. There was an unprecedented change in his demiplane.

The entire sky was dark and gloomy. Bolts of lightning intersected in the sky. Immense pressure bore down from the skies, suppressing the countless specters on the ground. Some of the stronger ones roared at the bolts of lightning, as if they were trying to resist the heavens.

The Ice Bear King was standing on a mountain, just standing there quietly. Right now, he appeared very calm. He was still in his human form, and there were still some food scraps on the sides of his lips. His gaze was deep and long. There was even a sense of self-mockery and disdain to it.

As he stood there, he really seemed to have become the core of the entire demiplane at this moment.

Suddenly, a bolt of lightning struck down from the sky onto Little Bai's head. Little Bai roared furiously, and his hair all stood on end. A layer of icy-blue light surfaced to resist the lightning. As it clashed with the bolt of lightning, the lightning dissipated, and Little Bai's body shook a little. There was an electrifying look in his eyes after this happened.

"This is..." Huo Yuhao was astonished as he watched beside the Snow Empress. The Snow Empress appeared very serious and said, "It's started, it's actually started. I didn't expect your demiplane to be so close to reality, a Lightning Catastrophe can actually happen here! This is a catastrophe that soul beasts have to face every hundred thousand years. Although the catastrophe faced by each soul beast is different, it is without a doubt that a Lightning Catastrophe is the most dangerous. No wonder I always had this feeling that Little Bai wouldn't be able to survive this catastrophe. It's actually a Lightning Catastrophe!"

Huo Yuhao asked, "What should we do now? Can we help him resist the Lightning Catastrophe?"

The Snow Empress shook her head and replied, "No, you can't. You'll only be courting death. Your cultivation is too weak. If I still had my original body, we might still stand a chance. However, it's not possible, I'm only a spiritual entity now. I'm afraid of lightning. I'll also be courting death if I go and help him."

Huo Yuhao anxiously asked, "Don't tell me that we can only watch? What if he dies if he can't resist it anymore? Is there no way at all?"

At this moment, another bolt of lightning struck. Little Bai found it more difficult to resist the lightning this time. Not only did he stagger, but he also returned to his original form. A patch of hair on his shoulders had already been charred.

"We have no other way right now," the Snow Empress said decisively. "We can only leave him to it. This fellow is too greedy. If he had returned to the Douluo Continent with you, we would have known about any catastrophe before it arrived. However, he can't sense anything here, he can only suffer. If he's able to hold on, that'll be great. Even if he can't, he won't be completely decimated. As long as a streak of his spiritual sense is left, we can still transform it and bring him back."

Huo Yuhao looked at the Snow Empress. He was helpless right now. The Snow Empress had experienced such a catastrophe seven times. She was more experienced, and he could only listen to her advice.

Fortunately, the lightning was only targeting Little Bai. The sky was getting darker and darker. Thick clouds were gathering above the mountain. If the lightning targeted the specters, this demiplane would surely be ravaged.

BOOM! BOOM!

Two consecutive bolts of lightning struck. Little Bai summoned his soul power to its maximum, and an icy-blue shield surfaced above his head, resisting those two bolts of lightning. However, Huo Yuhao could clearly sense Little Bai's aura growing weaker.

The power of lightning was great, and contained the natural qi of heaven and earth. Huo Yuhao felt as if his body had been baptized by the thunderous natural qi when he felt it so close to him.

Little Bai peered into the sky and roared. His massive body squirmed a little. Following this, a beam of icy-blue light shot into the sky, charging straight for the clouds. Instantly, everything within a region spanning a thousand meters in diameter was turned into ice and snow. Snowflakes danced in the air, and the temperature fell dramatically.

Huo Yuhao wasn't harmed even though he was in this region, since his martial soul was Ultimate Ice, and he also had the Snow Empress with him.

Little Bai was retaliating. Huo Yuhao opened his eyes wide to see what Little Bai had achieved.

The truth, however, was that Little Bai's attack wasn't very effective.

Bolts of lightning struck down and dismantled the beam of light that he unleashed. Even though there was still a streak of light that hit the clouds, weakening them, Little Bai's body was already shaking uncontrollably as the streak of light dissipated. The soul power undulations that came from his body had weakened considerably, too.

The earlier attack was already his strongest strike. Huo Yuhao and the Snow Empress rushed over. The Ice Bear King had already been facing the lightning for some time. His soul power was almost drained.

The clouds seemed to be infuriated. Bolts of lightning struck towards Little Bai.

Little Bai didn't appear to be out of hope when he peered into the sky. There was only a persistent look on his face. An icy-blue whirlpool slowly appeared on his forehead. The surrounding air currents seemed to undulate tremendously, and the bolts of lightning were resisted just like that.

Huo Yuhao saw a core shaped like a snowflake at the center of that rapidly spinning whirlpool. It was Little Bai's soul core. It turned out that one's soul core could be used like that...

When Huo Yuhao saw the soul core, he heaved a sigh of relief. This was power that only a Titled Douluo or a hundred-thousand-year soul beast possessed! He and his teammates had killed Titled Douluo before. However, they were always very fortunate. If the Titled Douluo they had killed had unleashed their soul cores, their fighting strength would have been significantly greater. However, Huo Yuhao could tell that this was Little Bai's last resort. Once his soul core was damaged, his life would be in great danger, and his cultivation would fall significantly. He might even completely lose his cultivation. It was why Titled Douluo rarely relied on the strength of their soul core.

To Huo Yuhao, observing this fight was a good way of accumulating experience. Personally witnessing a soul beast overcoming a catastrophe was very rare among human soul masters.

Boom, boom, boom, boom!...

Bolts of lightning continued to fall. Little Bai's soul core was still capable of resisting them initially. However, his aura gradually started to weaken, and his soul core started to shake unstably. Given his condition, the strength of his soul core couldn't completely protect his body anymore. Patches of black started to appear on his body. He was also forced to sit on the ground by the lightning striking him. His gaze was also becoming dimmer and dimmer.

BOOM!

Yet another ball of lightning struck. Little Bai was flung into the air as an explosion reverberated across the demiplane. The air currents surrounding his soul core instantly disappeared, leaving his soul core exposed.

"Little Bai!" Huo Yuhao screamed. He sprinted forward without any hesitation.

"Yuhao, don't go!" The Snow Empress didn't expect Huo Yuhao to be so quick. She was already too late before she could stop him. Huo Yuhao instantly teleported above Little Bai. He mimicked a lifting action, and his immense Ultimate Ice soul power was unleashed from his body.

Another ball-shaped bolt of lightning formed in the sky and crashed down toward Little Bai, Huo Yuhao placed himself between the ball of lightning and Little Bai.

There was a decisive look in his eyes. He knew that what he was doing was dangerous. However, if he didn't do this, he wouldn't be able to forgive himself.

He couldn't forget how Little Bai had accompanied him and called him "Grandpa". Without Little Bai, he wouldn't have been able to breach Heaven Dou City. Without Little Bai, he wouldn't have been able to resist Ju Zi, or sneak into the Sun Moon Empire's base.

Little Bai had been with him all this while, silently contributing to his cause. Apart from eating, he didn't ask for anything else. Every time he took action, he gave his all. He even got injured. Although Huo Yuhao hadn't expressed his gratitude, he knew all this in his heart.

Chapter 504: The Beast God's Bewilderment

The Ice Bear King was very innocent. He appeared very foolish, but was very determined. Even though he knew that the Snow Empress had lost her original body, he still listened to her, precisely because she had saved him and brought him up. He treated the Snow Empress like his mother, and treated Huo Yuhao as his grandfather.

If the Ice Bear King was in a life or death situation and Huo Yuhao only stood by one side watching, how could he be fit to be the Ice Bear King's partner?

This was why Huo Yuhao didn't hesitate at all. To him, any price he had to pay was nothing compared to that clear feeling in his heart. He was willing to take the risk for Little Bai.

However, he wasn't completely irrational. He wanted to rely on the reverse scale. Although he didn't know whether it could resist the lightning, he still did it willingly.

As the ball-shaped lightning fell from the sky, the terrifying natural qi instantly engulfed Huo Yuhao. The Snow Empress wanted to rush over, but was flung away by the immense natural qi.

The Ice Bear King was filled with astonishment. He had collapsed on the ground and clearly sensed his life dissipating away. He also clearly saw how that ball of lightning completely engulfed Huo Yuhao, who was so small compared to him, but appeared so tall and mighty in mid-air right now.

"Grandpa..." Little Bai was sobbing. He could no longer remain as calm as he was before. Two big beads of tears rolled down from the sides of his eyes. He could clearly sense the concern that came from Huo Yuhao.

"Yuhao!" the Snow Empress shouted. At this moment, she was also filled with astonishment. It was her first time seeing a human risking everything to save a soul beast. Even if he had the Beast God's reverse scale, how could he be sure that the Beast God would appear at this moment to save him? Moreover, this was the spectral demiplane, not the Douluo Continent. Even if Di Tian was here, could he do anything?

Before any answer was known, Huo Yuhao still charged over without hesitation. What did this show? It showed his attachment to Little Bai. If he was already like that to Little Bai, how would he treat the Snow Empress, the Ice Empress, and the Skydream Iceworm? It would naturally be better.

At this moment, the Snow Empress was filled with gratitude. She wasn't just grateful that Huo Yuhao had saved Little Bai. She was also grateful that he had shown her the kind side of humans. The Snow Empress knew that if Huo Yuhao survived this ordeal, she and the other Spirits would no longer have any other barriers with him anymore.

A sonorous dragon roar eventually sounded out. However, the voice also sounded like it was in torment. A pitch-black glow spread out and engulfed all the lightning. Huo Yuhao fell from the sky and crashed to the ground. In the sky, a pitch-black dragon claw remained in mid-air, and grabbing towards the catastrophic clouds.

At the same time, a furious voice sounded, "Huo Yuhao, you are really courting death. If you die in the forest, I could still steal your destiny. You rascal!"

The Snow Empress smiled. However, the smile only lasted for a moment before it froze in place. That was because of the claw.

The claw grabbed towards the sky. The catastrophic clouds were so strong that they had almost killed the Ice Bear King. However, they were crushed by the claw.

"Dragon! God's! Claw!" the Snow Empress said, word by word. At the same time, she also took the opportunity to vanish into Huo Yuhao's body just as Di Tian was too distracted to notice.

Right now, Huo Yuhao felt as if his body was about to disintegrate. However, he wasn't in pain, because he was completely numb at this point. All his bones, muscles, passageways and even his spiritual sea were numb at this point.

However, what he found very surprising was that he felt an itch. It was both uncomfortable and comfortable at the same time.

What was going on?

The catastrophic clouds disappeared. The Beast God's voice sounded once again. "Yuhao, what are you doing? Why is there a Lightning Catastrophe? How dare you use your own body to get in the way of a Lightning Catastrophe? If you do this one more time, you can go and die!"

Di Tian was indeed infuriated. Although he had used his claw to destroy the catastrophe, he was the one who suffered the greatest impact of the lightning when he was summoned by the reverse scale. It was important to know that it was the last stage of the catastrophe, which was when it unleashed its strongest attack. Even a three-hundred-thousand-year soul beast like the Ice Bear King couldn't handle it! Di Tian rushed over using spatial power, and suffered such a strong attack immediately. It was understandable how much pain he was in. He was really hurt.

Huo Yuhao revealed a smile on his face and touched his completely charred hair. He chortled, "Beast God, thanks. I was just helping a friend. If I didn't, he would have died."

"What?" The dragon claw disappeared. A near-transparent black projection surfaced in mid-air. Di Tian couldn't truly transcend time and arrive here with his real body, especially since they weren't on the Douluo Continent. The fact that he was able to do even this much fully demonstrated his deep understanding of spatial power. Regarding that fact, Huo Yuhao was truly petrified. Di Tian was much stronger than he had imagined!

Di Tian looked around, and revealed a weird look on his face. "What is this place? It's not the Douluo Continent. It seems to be a parallel spatial dimension. Eh, is this a demiplane? How is this possible? Was this a demiplane created by a mortal being?"

As Di Tian spoke, the astonishment in his voice became more and more obvious.

In the Douluo Continent, he recognized himself as the strongest existence. He was also the closest to becoming a god. His senses were far more acute than any other Ultimate Douluo or Savage Beast. It was because of his sensitivity, especially towards spatial power, that he was able to become the strongest out of the Ten Great Savage Beasts in the Douluo Continent.

Even so, he wasn't completely confident in creating such a demiplane!

This wasn't a complete plane, because he couldn't sense a complete ecology in this plane. There was no aura of the gods in this demiplane, either. This also meant that it had to be the work of a mortal being. If that was the case, how strong was the person who had created this plane? At the very least, the Beast God was inferior to him. It seemed like there was someone stronger than him, someone who was between a god and him that existed. To him, this wasn't a huge blow. Rather, it was an exciting discovery!

It had been awhile since Di Tian had the motivation to cultivate. It was because he clearly knew that he couldn't possibly become a god, even if he worked harder. He could only maintain his current state. However, after witnessing the existence of such a demiplane, how could he not be delighted? If his

abilities could increase such that he could create such a demiplane, would he be able to survive the next Catastrophe and possibly live for another hundred thousand years?

After realizing all this, Di Tian was suddenly very motivated. The fury he had for Huo Yuhao earlier also mostly dissipated.

When he turned his attention to Huo Yuhao again, he naturally noticed the Ice Bear King.

“Ah, an ice-type Savage Beast with a three-hundred-thousand-year cultivation. Are you from the Extreme North?” The Beast God was a little puzzled as he looked at the Ice Bear King.

The Ice Bear King didn’t utter a sound. Right now, he was only looking at Huo Yuhao. There was a look of closeness in his eyes, as if he were looking at his own father or kin.

The Beast God was very powerful. He knew from the look in the Ice Bear King’s eyes that Huo Yuhao had been resisting the attack on his behalf. The astonishment that the Snow Empress experienced earlier came to him, too!

Although the Ice Bear King didn’t come from the Great Star Dou Forest, he was also a soul beast. Di Tian considered himself the king of all soul beasts in the Douluo Continent. All soul beasts were like his people. When he saw how Huo Yuhao had risked his life to save a Savage Beast, his anger dissipated even further.

Huo Yuhao asked Di Tian, “Beast God, can you save him? He’s critically hurt from resisting the Lightning Catastrophe.”

Di Tian descended from the sky and landed beside Huo Yuhao. He only took a few glances at the Ice Bear King before he said, “I can’t save him. His origin is greatly damaged from resisting the Lightning Catastrophe, and his soul core has also cracked. The only way to save him now is to make him your Spirit. Eh, how has your soul power reached Rank 80 so quickly?”

Although Di Tian’s reverse scale was on Huo Yuhao’s body, he could only sense what was going on whenever Huo Yuhao felt the aura in the godly realm, or when he was in danger. He couldn’t monitor Huo Yuhao all the time. Right now, he was shocked to realize that Huo Yuhao was already at Rank 80. This fellow’s cultivation is increasing too quickly.

“Is there really no way?” Huo Yuhao asked anxiously, “You’ve overcome eight Catastrophes. You’re so experienced. Come, save him!”

Di Tian snorted and said, “Given my current status, why would I lie to you? If I can’t save him, I can’t. Aren’t you Rank 80 now? Quickly, fuse with him. Otherwise, it’ll be too late. Since you saved him, I’m sure he’s willing to become your Spirit.”

After hearing Di Tian’s words, Little Bai was already nodding repeatedly before Huo Yuhao even opened his mouth. Not only was there a look of excitement in his eyes, but there was even great eagerness.

Huo Yuhao knew that there was no other way. If even Di Tian couldn’t save him, Little Bai wouldn’t be able to live. He pursed his lips, and then nodded at Little Bai.

Little Bai’s eyes brightened immediately. It was as if he experienced a surge of energy just before he died. He forcibly turned himself around and bowed in front of Huo Yuhao.

Di Tian said, "Begin then. I'll protect you. After you fuse with him, I have something important to ask you."

"Thanks." Huo Yuhao didn't say much. After he expressed his gratitude, he immediately started to recite the incantations for an equal contract.

In terms of fusing with Spirits, Huo Yuhao had the greatest experience out of all soul masters. He was the person who had established the profession of a Spirit Transmission Master, and the Pagoda Master of the Spirit Pagoda.

A formation gradually appeared below Huo Yuhao and the Ice Bear King. Huo Yuhao sensed the Ice Bear King's intent, and slowly released his spiritual power, summoning him.

The Ice Bear King slowly lifted one of his front paws and extended a finger to Huo Yuhao.

His finger was too thick. Even when Huo Yuhao placed his entire palm on the Ice Bear King's finger, it couldn't even cover the fingertip.

A gentle icy-blue light rippled from the Ice Bear King's body. He was a Savage Beast that had survived two Catastrophes. After experiencing this Lightning Catastrophe, he was technically a Savage Beast that had been through three Catastrophes. It was just that he could survive no longer.

A dim blue glow also appeared on Huo Yuhao's body.

"Eh!" When he saw the changes to Huo Yuhao's body, Di Tian exclaimed gently in surprise. However, he didn't say anything further.

The icy-blue glow released from Little Bai's body turned into rings that engulfed Huo Yuhao. Huo Yuhao was stunned to realize that Little Bai's origin strength was completely compatible with his. There wasn't any rejection during the fusion process at all. He also didn't feel bloated because Little Bai's origin strength was too great. After he fused Little Bai's strength into his body, it quickly fused with his soul power. It even helped to absorb the Manifold Mysterious Ice Essence in his blood.

Huo Yuhao turned ice blue. The seven soul rings of his Ice Jade Empress Scorpion also gradually surfaced.

Red, orange, orange, orange, orange, red, and red. Seven soul rings shone brightly.

In a normal fight, Huo Yuhao wouldn't reveal the colors of his soul rings, it was equivalent to telling his opponents that he was extraordinary. However, there was nothing he could do about it right now. He definitely didn't dare to be careless, and did his best for this fusion. His soul rings were thus in their original form and color. *noVe*l (In

Di Tian's pupils shrank a little. He was in awe. This kid is indeed extraordinary! No wonder he can attract the calls of the godly realm. I must monitor him more closely. No matter what, I can't let him bring the aura of the Destiny God Beast into the godly realm...

The Ice Bear King's body slowly collapsed, and his life aura slowly disappeared. A brand-new red soul ring with three golden patterns slowly rose from his feet.

From this moment on, Huo Yuhao had truly become a Soul Douluo. He was now an eight-ringed Soul Douluo!

Even Huo Yuhao didn't expect his Ultimate Ice martial soul to be the first to reach eight rings.

In fact, it was becoming increasingly more difficult to add soul rings to his main martial soul. It was too difficult to find a spiritual-type soul beast. Furthermore, as the number of Spirits he had increased, Huo Yuhao became even less willing to kill soul beasts to increase the number of soul rings he had.

?Chapter 505.1: Xiao Bai the Jiangshi

This fusion provided enough strength that his Ice Jade Empress Scorpion no longer needed any soul rings. This wasn't a small thing. If his spiritual sea couldn't handle the spiritual strength of his Spirits, everything would be for naught. The impact on him would also be very great, and it might be a possibility that his spiritual sea would be crushed.

It wasn't possible for someone to replicate the method by which Huo Yuhao had fused with five Spirits. He was only able to do so because his spiritual power was in the concrete-material realm, and also because he possessed the Three-Eyed Golden Lion's Skull of Destiny, as well as his Spirit Eyes' soul core.

The icy-blue glow slowly faded. Huo Yuhao only felt that he was continuously improving. The soul power in his body kept on rising. The pleasure of experiencing a breakthrough made him feel as if he were about to fly.

His body was filled with strength. The remaining Manifold Mysterious Ice Essence instantly melted and fused into his body.

The Ice Bear King's body was already stiff. His life aura had completely vanished. However, a brand-new life was slowly taking form in Huo Yuhao's body. Little Bai's Spirit was slowly forming.

The Ice Bear King was a soul beast who had lived for hundreds of thousands of years. Logically speaking, he should be able to give Huo Yuhao a soul bone. But Huo Yuhao was stunned that no soul bone appeared. It was just his Spirit that formed.

A red eighth soul ring fully demonstrated the strength of a hundred-thousand-year soul beast.

He slowly stood up and looked at the Ice Bear King's massive corpse. Huo Yuhao couldn't help but sigh. "Little Bai, I still couldn't help you in the end."

In fact, Huo Yuhao didn't want Little Bai to be his Spirit after he developed feelings for him. By becoming his Spirit, it meant that Little Bai would lose his body. To a certain extent, he was dead. Huo Yuhao wasn't fully confident of becoming a god! If he was able to help Little Bai overcome his bottleneck, he would have been able to live for another hundred thousand years.

Just as Huo Yuhao was feeling a little down, the Beast God Di Tian suddenly exclaimed in astonishment, "Oh, what's going on? Undead?"

Huo Yuhao thought that some specters were venturing towards them. He wanted to take a look, but he was shocked to realize that Little Bai's charred corpse had actually moved. After this, the corpse gradually sat up.

This...

Huo Yuhao was wide-eyed in shock as he looked at Little Bai. Little Bai straightened his back. His body was still gigantic, but the charred bits started to fall off his body. After this, he let out a deep roar.

His roar was very special. Compared to his original roar, it was much sharper and weirder. However, the specters that thought that things had returned to normal following the lightning catastrophe actually looked in his direction.

After this, Huo Yuhao sensed some kind of special strength gathering in this direction and into Little Bai's body. His aura was increasing at an alarming speed.

As the charred bits fell off of his body, Little Bai's skin grew a layer of greyish fur, still flashing with dim-blue light. Little Bai's eyes also turned grey, and a weird glow kept on transforming him.

"Has he become an undead?" Huo Yuhao muttered to himself in shock.

Di Tian nodded and said, "It seems so. It seems that he has been restricted by this world. It's the work of this demiplane. Even after he became your Spirit, it seems like some of his spirit is still in his own body. After that, his body slowly transformed into an undead. He was originally a Savage Beast, which means he was very strong, and his body is still resilient enough. Although he was lethally hurt earlier, he seems to have become stronger after becoming undead. His aura isn't weak at all."

Huo Yuhao revealed a bitter smile on his face. He didn't know whether it was a good thing that Little Bai had become undead...

At this moment, a white light flashed. Little Bai, who had turned into his human form, appeared beside Huo Yuhao. When he saw his original body was roaring into the sky, he was also astonished.

He had just completed the Spirit fusion, and still hadn't sensed the changes to his own body before this situation surfaced.

As the Beast God was around, the Snow Empress couldn't appear. As a result, Little Bai ran out on his own.

Huo Yuhao was astonished as he asked Little Bai, "Little Bai, what's going on? Can you sense the changes to your body?"

Little Bai replied, "Grandpa, I'll try." As he spoke, he shut his eyes, and the gentle power of his spiritual origin cautiously extended towards his body.

His body, which was absorbing the spectral aura from the demiplane, immediately sensed it when Little Bai tried to reach over. His body immediately turned around and looked back at him.

As the four eyes met, Little Bai and his spectral body shook. In the next moment, Little Bai revealed a delighted look on his face.

"Boss, I've connected with it. It's still me! I can sense my own aura."

Huo Yuhao was confused, and scratched his head. He asked, "What's going on?"

Little Bai replied, "It seems like I was restricted by the rules of this world when I tried to become your Spirit. A streak of my spirit still remains in my body. Without me controlling my own body, it started to change according to the rules of this world. That's what happened. I should be a vampire, as humans would call it. However, I feel stronger even though I'm a vampire now, especially my body. However, I need to absorb more energy first. Hehe, I already told you that I love this place. It's great, I can live as two entities now. This is amazing!"

Huo Yuhao was also in a bit of a daze. He didn't know whether this was a good or a bad thing. However, since it had already happened, and Little Bai could connect to his own body, things were already considered not too bad. At least he wouldn't be attacked. If Little Bai's corpse was even stronger than Little Bai was originally, it wouldn't have an opponent in this demiplane, and could rule the entire place. It was indeed not a bad thing.

Huo Yuhao nodded and said, "It's good as long as you're fine. Little Bai, return to my body first and let me sense the changes. You've just become my Spirit. You can't waste too much of your origin strength."

"Alright!" Little Bai immediately agreed. He disappeared into Huo Yuhao's body after staring at Huo Yuhao with a stirring look in his eyes.

Huo Yuhao turned to the Beast God. Di Tian was annoyed as he said with a weird expression, "Huo Yuhao, you're becoming more and more unclear to me. Tell me about the history of this demiplane. It couldn't have just appeared out of thin air. How did you find this place?"

After pondering for a moment, Huo Yuhao decided to tell the truth. There was no point in hiding things from Di Tian. Although his reverse scale had restricted his connection with the godly realm, Di Tian had still saved him on many occasions. Huo Yuhao didn't like him, but he didn't hate him either. He only treated him as a target that he wanted to reach in the future.

"This demiplane was created by a teacher of mine. He was called Electrolux, the Divine Law of Necromancy. He was a noble existence that hailed from another world."

Huo Yuhao recounted how he had managed to fuse with Electrolux, and how he was guided by him, gaining strong necromantic abilities in the process.

Di Tian didn't doubt him at all or pose any questions. He only listened seriously.

The Divine Law of Necromancy came from another world. Electrolux even had his own divine sense. All these were considered rather inspirational to Di Tian. Regarding this, Huo Yuhao didn't think it was critical. Even if Di Tian learned anything from this, he couldn't become a god.

"Alright, you've told me everything I need to know. This demiplane is rather good. You must preserve it well. It can become part of your power. Given your current abilities, you can already use it to a great extent. You must be careful in the future. Stop getting into trouble, I can't always save you. Do you understand?" Di Tian said seriously.

"Yes. Thank you, elder Di Tian, for saving my life!" Huo Yuhao nodded at Di Tian.

The projection that was Di Tian disappeared as quickly as it had appeared. It just vanished into thin air. Huo Yuhao was secretly in awe. Elder Di Tian is indeed the strongest existence on the continent! When can my control of spatial power reach his standard?

Little Bai's corpse was still absorbing the spectral power in the demiplane to transform itself. Huo Yuhao didn't dare to stay too long, as he still had things to attend to. If not for the fact that Little Bai had suddenly faced an urgent problem, he would have already tidied himself up and gotten ready to leave for Shrek Academy.

When Huo Yuhao returned to the Tang Sect and his own room, he was feeling depressed.

The reason was very simple. His hair...

Was that heavenly lightning so easily resisted? Even though Huo Yuhao wasn't clear about what kind of effect the lightning had on his body, he could clearly see the frazzled hairs on his head right now.

His hair was neither long nor short. It just reached his shoulders. Now that it was all sticking out like a porcupine. He couldn't even press it down. How could he see anyone like this?

He couldn't help it, he had to take a bath again. Enough water finally restored his hair to normal. However, as he was struck by lightning, his hair was still curly after returning to normal. But the effect wasn't that bad. At least he didn't become ugly...

Chapter 505.2: Xiao Bai the Jiangshi

Looking at the sky outside, it was already dark. Huo Yuhao quickly dressed in the new clothes that Bei Bei had given him. They fit well. He was wearing a white warrior robe, which only had a few accessories. However, many parts of the robe were made from silk. Even though the robe was white, it refracted light to differing degrees, and made Huo Yuhao look very elegant in it.

Huo Yuhao also felt more energized and refreshed as he donned the robe.

At this moment, Huo Yuhao felt his first sense of excitement after fusing with Little Bai as his fifth Spirit. This excitement didn't come from his Spirit, but from the fact that he was now an eight-ringed Soul Douluo.

A Soul Douluo was only inferior to Titled Douluo! Huo Yuhao was barely twenty years old. No one in the history of Shrek Academy was able to achieve what he had at this age.

Zhang Lexuan became a Soul Douluo when she was thirty, and she was already the pride of Shrek Academy back then.

Huo Yuhao shuddered when he thought of her. He didn't dare to delay any further. He didn't even bother with eating, and quickly rushed towards Shrek Academy. If he was late, she might be infuriated with him. He couldn't afford to offend her, he still had to graduate!

Huo Yuhao rushed all the way to Shrek Academy. School had already ended, and the students were all streaming out. The gates of the Academy were far more crowded than they were when he had entered for his first time, so long ago. Due to the expansion of Shrek City, the entire Academy was now a busy area.

It took some effort to squeeze through the gates. Just as he was prepared to enter the Academy, he heard some students discussing something.

“I heard there’ll be a Sea God’s Fated Blind Date in the inner courtyard tonight, on the Sea God’s Lake. Furthermore, this year’s Fated Blind Date is different from previous years. Even those not from the inner courtyard are allowed to observe the event. This is unprecedented, but I’m not sure what the reason for it is.”

“I’m sure you don’t. My cousin is from the inner courtyard. This time, the Sea God’s Fated Blind Date is open to outer courtyard disciples because it’s being used as a way to stimulate us to work harder. It’s only by working hard and becoming an inner courtyard disciple that we can participate in a Sea God’s Fated Blind Date. It’s important to know that our seniors who take part in the Blind Dates are extremely talented. It would be great to have such a partner. Furthermore, I’ve heard that the success rate is high. A lot of seniors were unwilling to reveal their feelings when they were still in the outer courtyard. They can take this chance to reveal them all. Of course, I’ve also heard that it’s important for one to be strong enough if they want to achieve anything in the Blind Date.”

“Yes, we need to work hard! I’m going to work hard. One day, I must stand on the Sea God’s Lake and participate in the Sea God’s Fated Blind Date! Let’s go and get something to eat quick. We’ll rush back after we finish eating and get a good spot. Otherwise, we won’t be able to see anything.”

“Hehe, you don’t know what I’m going to do. I’m prepared to buy a magnifying soul tool. With that thing, I can even see the sleeves of our seniors clearly. In addition, it’s not that expensive, either. The Tang Sect has just released a new batch of them. Do you want one?”

“What? There’s something as good as that? Of course I want it. I can still use it to peep at girls in the future...”

As he listened up to that point, Huo Yuhao became nostalgic. I really didn’t expect outer courtyard students to be allowed to observe the Fated Blind Date. It seems those two juniors are right. Permitting them to observe the event can help stimulate their cultivation. This isn’t really a bad thing.

It feels so much better than when I just joined the Academy! How great would it be if I could watch the Sea God’s Fated Blind Date with Dong’er?

As he thought of Wang Dong’er, Huo Yuhao felt a bit of heartache, and gently shook his head. He quickened his pace as he headed towards the inner Academy.

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The Academy was very crowded. Huo Yuhao put his student badge on his chest, so no one stopped him. However, he knew fewer of the students now that a few batches had graduated. At most, a few students thought that he was dressed rather weirdly, because almost all the students took pride in wearing the uniform of the Academy.

When Huo Yuhao made his way to the shore of Sea God’s Lake, he was stunned to realize that the sky was still bright. It was barely evening, but there were already people seated at the better spots. He came to a spot on the shore that was close to the lake itself, and saw a young outer courtyard student just settling down. There was a mat that could seat more than ten people on the ground. He seemed to have just finished setting it up, and the edges of the mat were pressed down with various items. After he finished, he tidied up the mat as he sat down in satisfaction on it.

Huo Yuhao smiled and said, "Junior, why are you taking up so much space?"

The outer courtyard student didn't even lift his head and replied, "Who says that I'm alone? I'm here to reserve seats for others. There's more than ten of us. They went to get some food, and will be back soon."

Huo Yuhao laughed, "All of you have indeed allocated your duties well!"

That student laughed in return, "Yes! If we don't come early, we won't have good spots. We're already so tired from cultivating every day. This is a good opportunity to relax. All of us treasure this opportunity. It's excellent to be able to witness how our seniors are going to seek love. We came here to set our own targets."

Huo Yuhao smiled and said, "It's good that you're not here just to skive. However, it's also good to take a breather every now and then."

"Oh?" This outer courtyard student felt something amiss when he heard how Huo Yuhao was advising him. He lifted his head and looked at him.

Huo Yuhao's robe caught a lot of attention. After that, he saw the badge on Huo Yuhao's chest.

The badge given to the inner courtyard disciples was red. There was also an image of a Shrek Monster on it. It was extremely obvious on Huo Yuhao's white robe.

"Ah! A senior from the inner courtyard. Are you a senior from the inner courtyard?" The outer courtyard student was immediately impressed.

The inner courtyard disciples in Shrek Academy were highly respected. They were even more respected than some teachers in the outer courtyard. After all, inner courtyard disciples all had at least five soul rings. The more outstanding ones even had seven rings. If this was the outer courtyard, they would already be a Dean. Furthermore, they were all young, and extremely talented.

The outer courtyard students were already talented, and the inner courtyard students were even more so. Normally, inner courtyard students rarely interacted with outer courtyard students, as they were very busy with their cultivation. So this outer courtyard student was very excited when he met an inner courtyard disciple.

Huo Yuhao smiled and replied, "Yes! Nice to meet you, junior."

The outer courtyard student jumped up excitedly. "Senior, I'm called Jin Sha. My friends call me Sandbag. You can call me that, too! Are you going to Sea God's Island?"

Huo Yuhao nodded.

The outer courtyard student was shaking with excitement as he asked, "Will you be going to the Sea God Pavilion's Blind Date tonight?!"

Huo Yuhao smiled. "It's the Sea God's Fated Blind Date. You've said something wrong."

"Er, er... I'm too excited. I was at a loss for words."

Huo Yuhao nodded and said, "I'll be there."

“Wow, that’s great! Senior, I envy you so much! I wonder when I can participate?!” Jin Sha said excitedly.

Huo Yuhao saw his uniform; he was a Year 3 or 4 student. From his soul power undulations, it seemed like he had three rings.

“You’ll get your chance if you work hard. Let’s work hard together, junior. I’ll go and register first. If we’re fated to meet again, we’ll meet each other again.” As he spoke, Huo Yuhao waved his hand before he flew up and towards the Sea God’s Pavilion.

“Bye, senior!” Jin Sha waved back at Huo Yuhao.

At this moment, Huo Yuhao was already more than ten meters away. He touched the surface of the lake with his toes as he proceeded towards the Sea God’s Paviliom.

To Huo Yuhao, this was very easy. However, Jin Sha was filled with admiration and envy. As he watched Huo Yuhao slowly disappear into the distance, he couldn’t help but mutter to himself, “When can I as be as strong as this senior? He can fly over water without even unleashing his martial soul. He’s really powerful! He has to be at least a Soul Emperor!”

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Huo Yuhao naturally didn’t know that Jin Sha was evaluating how strong he was. Very soon, he reached Sea God’s Island. After reaching the island, he naturally went straight to the Sea God’s Pavilion. He didn’t know where to register for the Blind Date.

The Sea God’s Pavilion was as calm and quiet as ever. The refreshing and fragrant air gave one an invigorating feeling. It was indescribably comfortable.

Huo Yuhao knelt down in front of the Golden Tree and respectfully kowtowed thrice. After this, he stood up and walked into the Pavilion.

The Sea God’s Pavilion was very quiet right now. After entering, he didn’t sense anyone’s aura. He couldn’t use his Spiritual Detection either, as he didn’t want to alarm the elders.

He was feeling a little depressed right now. It was already evening, but he didn’t know where to go for the Sea God’s Fated Blind Date! There wasn’t even anyone to ask.

However, at this moment, his stomach started growling. He hadn’t eaten in a few days, and his stomach was revolting.

As he thought of eating, Huo Yuhao started to salivate. The food in the inner courtyard had always been very tempting. To ensure that the students were fully nourished for their cultivation, the food in the inner courtyard had always been made from the best ingredients on the continent, and delicately prepared.

Not only was the food nourishing, it was also very tasty. It was one of the programs that the inner courtyard disciples enjoyed most. When they were still at the Academy, Shrek’s Seven Monsters would constantly find excuses to come over to Sea God’s Island and have a meal. They wouldn’t leave without filling their stomachs.

Chapter 505.3: Xiao Bai the Jiangshi

Since he couldn't find anyone, he figured he might as well go to the canteen, where he might run into someone, as well as grab a bite to eat.

Huo Yuhao walked out from the Sea God's Pavilion and rushed straight to the canteen in the inner courtyard.

It was meal time. When he went into the canteen, he saw many familiar faces. Furthermore, the food in the inner courtyard had been prepared. Some people were queuing up, while some were already eating.

"Hey, isn't this Huo Yuhao? What a rare guest! How does he have time to come to the inner courtyard?" some unfriendly voices spoke up. When Huo Yuhao turned his head, he immediately saw a familiar face. It was Wu Feng, the person who had opposed him when he first came into the Academy.

It had been a long time since he had met her. Wu Feng appeared less sinister than she had in the past. Her body was much more slender, and she was also much more voluptuous. She looked a little bit like Ma Xiaotao back then.

Ning Tian was seated beside Wu Feng. When he saw Huo Yuhao, his expression also turned slightly weird.

They had gone through the Love Querying test in the Yin Yang Love Querying Valley. Finally, Ning Tian had managed to change her gender, from a 'she' to a 'he'.

When she returned, Ning Tian spent a long time trying to adapt. It was only because of Wu Feng's help that she managed to gradually adapt to becoming a guy. At the same time, she fell in love with her male identity. After all, she could now openly be together with Wu Feng after she became a man. She could also become the true heir to the Seven Treasures Glazed Sect.

After that, the two of them cultivated together in the inner courtyard. Due to their compatibility, they improved very quickly. They thought Huo Yuhao wouldn't be able to catch up to their cultivation speed, as he was too busy outside. Perhaps their gap had already been reduced significantly.

"Wu Feng, how are you?" Huo Yuhao greeted Wu Feng. At the same time, he nodded at Ning Tian. Naturally, he wouldn't comment much on her gender change.

It wasn't just Wu Feng and Ning Tian who were there. After hearing their conversation, a few familiar faces came over. Dai Huabin and Zhu Lu were among them, along with Xie Huanyue.

They were once rising figures in the outer courtyard. Many years had passed since then. Right now, Wu Feng, Ning Tian, Xie Huanyue, Dai Huabin, and Zhu Lu had become the elite disciples of the inner courtyard.

As they developed, the older generation of disciples, led by Zhang Lexuan, Han Ruoruo and Wu Ming, had already graduated. They were now involved in some enterprises related to Shrek City. Although they hadn't left the Academy, they were no longer part of the inner courtyard. Among the new generation of disciples, Dai Huabin was currently the strongest. He was now close to becoming a Soul Sage. Although some of the more experienced inner courtyard disciples were stronger than him, it didn't change the fact that he was one of the leading figures in the younger generation of disciples.

When Dai Huabin saw Huo Yuhao, he was not as indifferent and hostile as he was before. However, he didn't appear overly friendly, either. He nodded back before pulling Zhu Lu away to get their food.

Wu Feng snorted and replied, "I was doing well, but I don't think you're that well. Why are you here? Are you still an inner courtyard disciple? I've never seen you cultivating in the inner courtyard."

Huo Yuhao laughed bitterly. "Of course I am. I've not officially graduated. I'm here today to take the graduation test."

Wu Feng's eyes brightened. "Graduation test? It seems like you're confident. Our graduation test is very difficult."

Huo Yuhao said, "Let me try then. If I can't, I'll continue working hard. Take a seat, I'll go get something to eat." As he spoke, he turned around and went to get some food. He really was quite hungry by now.

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The food in the inner courtyard was as scrumptious as ever. Huo Yuhao got a big portion of emerald sea cucumber and another portion of stewed dragon meat, as well as some hibiscus crystal rice. He found a corner and started eating.

The inner courtyard disciples in the canteen weren't just people that Huo Yuhao was familiar with. There were some who he didn't recognize. There were other guys and ladies who were curious when they saw Wu Feng talking to him. They were all inner courtyard disciples, but they had never seen Huo Yuhao before. Naturally, they were curious.

Although Huo Yuhao wasn't particularly handsome, he had a very special aura. Even in a canteen full of elites, he became the focus of everyone's attention when he entered.

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Wu Feng twisted her lips and whispered to Ning Tian, "Brother Tian, what do you think Huo Yuhao's cultivation is at right now? Do you think he's a Soul Sage yet?"

Ning Tian replied, "I guess so. He's been a member of the Sea God's Pavilion since some time ago. He enjoys much greater privileges compared to the rest of us. Although I don't know what he's been busy with all this while, it feels like he's much stronger than he was before."

Wu Feng snorted and said, "So what if he's stronger? We've been working so hard recently. We'll be able to close the gap. He bloomed early. But if he doesn't work hard, he'll soon be overtaken. When we're Titled Douluo, we don't know who will be stronger."

Ning Tian shook his head as he chuckled. He didn't say anything. In fact, both he and Wu Feng knew that they couldn't compare to Huo Yuhao in terms of talent. Wu Feng wouldn't admit it only because of her own pride. They all knew that Huo Yuhao had long since transcended their level.

They had always treated Huo Yuhao as their target. As for whether they could catch up to him, it was unknown.

They weren't the only ones who treated Huo Yuhao as a target. Xie Huanyue and the rest whispered at this moment, "I think it's going to be difficult to catch up to him! He even established the Spirit Pagoda. When all of you are at seven rings, are you going to choose to fuse with Spirits?"

After hearing Xie Huanyue's words, Wu Feng and Ning Tian looked at one another, and couldn't hide their desire.

They had seen how effective Spirits were. Right now, everyone knew that Spirits greatly enhanced the abilities of soul masters. If a Spirit was used well, it could be far more powerful than soul rings. To most soul masters, fusing with a strong Spirit to be their origin Spirit was the best. At least up until now, no one had fused with two Spirits as Huo Yuhao had.

Xie Huanyue lowered her voice, "If you want to fuse with a Spirit, it's best not to offend him. He holds an important position in the Spirit Pagoda. Even the elders in the Spirit Pagoda respect his opinions. If he comes up with any tricks, we'll be unable to do anything."

Wu Feng was petrified, and retracted some of her initial hostility. To genius soul masters like them, their future abilities and cultivation couldn't be taken lightly!

Ning Tian laughed as he shook his head and said, "If Huo Yuhao was so petty, he wouldn't be so successful now. You don't have to worry about this. However, I don't think he's simply back for the graduation test."

Wu Feng was stunned as she asked, "Don't tell me you're talking about the Sea God's Fated Blind Date tonight?"

Ning Tian nodded and said, "He might participate. Otherwise, why did he come back within these two days to take the test? Wang Dong'er is missing, and he hasn't graduated. He's also single. According to the rules of the inner courtyard, he has to participate!"

Wu Feng's expression turned weird as she looked at Ning Tian.

Ning Tian turned red and asked, "Why are you looking at me? It's all in the past." *nOVE/lb)1n*

Wu Feng coughed and said, "Nothing, I'll keep a close watch on you! Let's go and watch tonight."

Ning Tian nodded and said, "Let's go. We can watch from the boat."

—

As they were discussing things, Huo Yuhao was having a good time with his meal. The food didn't disappoint him. As he ate, he felt a warm feeling in his belly, which slowly flowed out to his arms. He was feeling extremely relaxed.

Even though he had the Manifold Mysterious Ice Essence in his body, and didn't need to eat since he could get his nutrients from the ice essence, it was much more satisfying to gain his strength through eating. Who would not want delicacies? Huo Yuhao was often starving when he was a child. He treasured and enjoyed food a lot.

He gobbled up all his food and left nothing at all on his plate.

Just as he was finished eating, someone knocked on his table.

Huo Yuhao ate his last mouthful of rice, puzzled as he lifted his head. Being disturbed while eating wasn't very proper. Initially, he thought it was Wu Feng or Dai Huabin. However, he discovered it was a middle-aged man he didn't know when he lifted his head.

This man looked as if he was thirty-some years old. He appeared very solemn, and asked coldly, "Who asked you to eat in the inner courtyard canteen? Who are you? Tell me your name!"

"What?" Huo Yuhao was stunned. "I'm a disciple of the inner courtyard. Why can't I eat in the inner courtyard?"

The middle-aged man snorted, "Do we have such a disciple? Not even wearing your uniform?"

"This..." Huo Yuhao was a little awkward. "I'm sorry! You must be a teacher in the inner courtyard. I've not been in the inner courtyard for some time, and my uniform no longer fit me. That is why I'm dressed in something else. Look, this is my badge."

As he spoke, Huo Yuhao quickly removed his badge from his chest and passed it over.