

Tang Sect 506

Volume 36: Moving Forwards, Chapter 506.1: He is Huo Yuhao!

The middle-aged man took his badge and immediately turned to leave. "You're following me to the academic affairs office." He began to walk as he spoke.

Huo Yuhao was momentarily stunned. This guy's a little insensitive. Does he think I'm just some loser trying to get free food?

"Please wait. I don't think I have the time," Huo Yuhao hurriedly stood up and followed him.

"Why don't you have time?" The middle-aged man frowned, and his face was still as cold as ever.

Huo Yuhao forced a laugh and said, "I'm here to participate in the Sea God's Fated Blind Date!"

The middle-aged man's expression was full of disdain. "You? You are to participate in the Sea God's Fated Blind Date? You're going to follow me to deal with this issue of freeloading. I don't care if you were once a student from the inner courtyard. At the very least, you aren't considered one now. I have never seen you before. And even if you were, coming back to the inner courtyard to get free food goes against the Academy's rules. Follow me to be investigated, and if I find out that you're here often to freeload, even if you were once a student from the inner courtyard, I will cancel your status as a student and take away your graduation certificate."

"Ah?" Huo Yuhao was astonished. He couldn't help but ask, "Is it this serious just for a meal? Furthermore, I'm still a student from the inner courtyard!"

The middle-aged man laughed coldly. "The Academy has been too lenient. That's the reason why villains like you have thrived and succeeded. Food in the inner courtyard is so precious; how can it be given to a person like you who rips people off just like that? Just look at how much you've eaten. Do you know how much this food is worth?"

This middle-aged man had stopped Huo Yuhao, and his voice wasn't soft at all. Wu Feng, Xie Huanyue, Ning Tian, Dai Huabin and Zhu Lu all heard him.

Their expressions were all a little strange at this moment. However, even Wu Feng, who was never friendly towards Huo Yuhao, didn't have a sadistic look on her face. This teacher was going a little overboard. Even if a student who had graduated from the inner courtyard came back for a meal, how could that lead to his graduation certificate being stripped? Since when did Shrek Academy become so tyrannical?

Huo Yuhao heaved a sigh. He would probably have reacted angrily if he hadn't been in Shrek Academy. However, he had always treated Shrek Academy as his home! He respected every single one of Shrek Academy's teachers, and so he forced down the fury in his heart as he lowered his voice and said, "Why don't we do this: I'll pay for the food that I've just eaten. I really can't afford this delay." He had already promised his eldest senior sister, and would probably run into big trouble if he didn't hurry over in time. What if his eldest senior sister didn't let him graduate?

"Pay? You're thinking of paying now?" The middle-aged man instantly felt like he had grabbed onto Huo Yuhao's tail. "Where were you earlier? Furthermore, how do I know if this is the first time that you've

been freeloading from the Academy? Follow me back to be investigated. We'll revisit this once the investigation is complete."

He turned to walk out as he spoke.

"Please wait, teacher," Ning Tian strode over and blocked this middle-aged teacher's path. "Why haven't I seen you before, teacher? I can vouch that he's part of the inner courtyard."

The middle-aged man was momentarily stunned. "I'm a new teacher who handles discipline. You don't know me, but I know you. Your name is Ning Tian, and you come from the Seven Treasures Glazed Sect. You can vouch for him? Are you sure? If you're covering for him, then you will also be punished."

Ning Tian frowned and said, "Teacher, he's often not around because he's usually outside carrying out missions. That's the reason why you've never seen him. Even though you're responsible for enforcing discipline, you can't be so unreasonable. You haven't even asked his name, so how do you know he's not part of the inner courtyard? If there's someone who is most worthy of eating in this canteen right now, it's not me, and it's not anybody else here. It's not even you. It's him."

The middle-aged man was already convinced when Ning Tian stood forward to vouch for Huo Yuhao, but he erupted furiously when he heard her words. "Does that mean a student has a higher status than me, as a teacher? Do you know I can punish you for humiliating a teacher for what you've said, according to the Academy's disciplinary rules?"

"Bullshit!" Huo Yuhao and Ning Tian were both holding back because they were concerned about the Academy, but there was someone here who didn't have a good temper!

Wu Feng wouldn't have said anything if this middle-aged man was targeting Huo Yuhao, but she wouldn't have it if he was targeting Ning Tian! Her fiery temper immediately exploded as she arrived beside Ning Tian in a flash.

"You suspect our identity as students in the inner courtyard, but we're starting to suspect your identity as a teacher. We've never seen you before, so what do you have to prove that you're a disciplinary teacher? Since when has Shrek Academy said that former students can't eat in the Academy? When have we had this rule? You're embarrassing yourself! Detain all of us if you can!"

The man was infuriated when Wu Feng talked back to him. "Alright, then I'll take every single one of you away! I want to see what else you all have to say in front of the Academy's rules!"

"Teacher, we have to be reasonable, and that's required even for a teacher. I think you were probably hired from outside, and you must've had a hard time passing the Academy's test. Don't ruin yourself!" Xie Huanyue said grimly as he stood up as well.

He wasn't the only one. Dai Huabin and Zhu Lu walked over slowly, and they circled around this middle-aged man from the other side. The other students from the inner courtyard all stood up and surrounded him. Everyone had a black look on their faces.

Of course, students weren't allowed to offend teachers. However, this was Shrek Academy's inner courtyard, and the students from the inner courtyard had a different status compared to students from the outer courtyard. In Shrek Academy, even students from the inner courtyard could become teachers if they were willing to go to the outer courtyard.

The middle-aged man's words had already incurred public anger. Even though most of these students didn't know who Huo Yuhao was, they all had sentiments attached to their Academy's canteen. If everyone who wanted to come back for a free meal like Huo Yuhao did would be punished by the Academy, and might even have their graduation certificates confiscated, that made everyone conflicted. Even though they didn't say anything, they still surrounded this teacher from the inner courtyard.

"Stop this, everyone. This is just a misunderstanding," Huo Yuhao hurriedly interjected. He glanced at Ning Tian, and a grateful look appeared in his eyes. Ning Tian had been the first to step forward.

Ning Tian smiled faintly and said, "We have never thought about offending and talking back to our teachers, but shouldn't teachers respect us students, as well? Yuhao, you should take your leave because you're busy. We'll deal with this. Wu Feng, can you please look for Dean Cai? I've just seen her, she should still be in the inner courtyard. Please ask her to come and deal with this. If we are really wrong, then we will admit our mistakes and let the Academy punish us however they like. Otherwise, we must ask the Academy for an explanation!"

Huo Yuhao nodded in Ning Tian's direction and said, "Alright, sorry for the trouble." That was the most appropriate way to deal with this matter. He didn't dare to stay any longer and hurriedly walked out.

"You may not leave!" The middle-aged man suddenly reached out and grabbed at Huo Yuhao's arm. The aura on his body flared up at the same time, and soul rings swiftly rose from beneath his feet. They suddenly emanated soul power and immediately pushed everyone around him a few steps backward.

"Eh?" Huo Yuhao didn't expect this teacher to be so dissatisfied with the result that he would actually decide to make a move against him. The teacher's palm contained a formidable soul skill, and eight soul rings had risen from beneath his feet. Being able to become a teacher in Shrek Academy's inner courtyard meant that he was quite strong.

However, his eight soul rings weren't in the optimal combination. He had two yellow, three purple, and three black soul rings. Even though it was considered good, it wasn't considered much within Shrek's inner courtyard.

A cold light flickered in Huo Yuhao's eyes. He had been holding back again and again, but this man just didn't know when to stop. Even the nicest people had a threshold, not to mention Huo Yuhao.

Huo Yuhao raised his left hand, and his palm immediately became jade-green in color. He didn't release his martial soul, but he pressed his hand toward the middle-aged man's palm just like that.

The middle-aged man grabbed Huo Yuhao's palm. He had thought this through, and displayed his cultivation rank as a Soul Douluo to intimidate these students from the inner courtyard. Just as Xie Huanyue had guessed, he was an external staff member who had just arrived recently.

One often felt good about becoming a teacher at Shrek Academy, and that was the reason why he naturally felt a little arrogant. Today, he had witnessed Huo Yuhao eating in the Academy's canteen without his uniform, while he was also in charge of discipline. He immediately wanted to stamp his presence among the inner courtyard students, but who knew that doing so would incur resentment from so many students? He had thought this through. He would detain the first perpetrator before he would intimidate the other students. Then, he would leave to prove whether this student in white

clothes was guilty or innocent. When that happened, he would have a chance to push forward or to retreat.

As he grabbed Huo Yuhao's hand, it gave him a very warm and damp feeling upon contact, but just as he wanted to gather his strength to channel his soul power into Huo Yuhao, he realized to his fear and surprise that Yuhao's hand had become as tough as steel. He couldn't move Huo Yuhao no matter how much strength he used.

"Teachers cannot attack students in the Academy. Shrek is an Academy, not a prison," Huo Yuhao stated in a low voice.

The middle-aged man felt a wave of intense chill come from Huo Yuhao's palm, and his entire body shivered from the cold. In the next moment, he could see that Huo Yuhao's eyes had become extremely deep and profound, and he felt like his entire soul was being sucked into them.

Huo Yuhao shook his wrist lightly and flung the teacher's hand away. However, he still didn't attack. Instead, he took a step forward and planted his feet in front of the man as the formidable aura of a Savage Beast erupted from his body!

Huo Yuhao controlled this aura, and only the students in a small radius around him could feel it. That included Wu Feng, Dai Huabin, and the others, who swiftly stumbled backwards with frightened looks on their faces.

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The middle-aged man stumbled backwards as this aura intimidated him. He lost his balance, and fell down on the ground just like that. His face had turned ghastly pale.

He had never expected this youth who looked about twenty to exude such a frightening aura. It was like something that came from a Savage Beast in human form!

Huo Yuhao turned around at Ning Tian, who also had a frightened look on his face. He nodded in his direction and said, "Just go according to what you said, and invite Dean Cai to deal with this. Thank you for today, everyone; I'll take my leave now." Huo Yuhao left the canteen with a single step, and disappeared from everyone's sight.

Ning Tian and Wu Feng exchanged a glance. Ning Tian's eyes were full of fear, while Wu Feng's eyes were full of exasperation. The corner of Wu Feng's mouth twitched as she laughed bitterly and shook her head. She was just talking about surpassing Huo Yuhao, and he immediately gave her a show of strength!

Even if this teacher wasn't considered a powerful soul master, he was a Soul Douluo. Otherwise, how could he become an external staff member working for Shrek Academy? But even a teacher like this couldn't seem to resist Huo Yuhao at all. Even though it had to do with his carelessness, the pressure that came from Huo Yuhao was even more frightening than a Titled Douluo. Furthermore, Huo Yuhao shook off the teacher's grasp so easily. Did that mean his cultivation was...

They weren't the only ones reacting this way. Those who were familiar with him, including Xie Huanyue, Dai Huabin, and Zhu Lu, were all speechless.

Xie Huanyue forced a laugh and said, "We'll always be dejected if we keep comparing ourselves to him! Looks like we won't ever catch up to him in this life..."

Wu Feng turned and left. "I'm going to look for Dean Cai."

The other students from the inner courtyard were coming to from their astonishment. Someone muttered under his breath, "I think that senior said he's going to attend the Sea God's Fated Blind Date! I have to hurry, too, it's about time."

The other students who were single, especially the girls, thronged out and vanished in the blink of an eye. Those who already had partners stayed behind and surrounded the wretched, formerly arrogant teacher.

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Huo Yuhao was also stumped once he left the canteen, because he had forgotten where he was supposed to assemble for the Sea God's Fated Blind Date.

Uh...

Forget it, I'll just head to the lakeside. The event is held at the lake anyway, so that can't be wrong. He could still remember where he had started the other time.

Huo Yuhao immediately accelerated after he thought that, and ran towards the place where he had last participated in the event; where he had stepped onto the lakewater.

Huo Yuhao quickly knew that his guess was right because he could see students from the inner courtyard, dressed in red uniforms, walking towards the lake in pairs and trios. They were walking in the same direction, and it was clear that these people were going to attend the Sea God's Fated Blind Date. He couldn't be wrong as long as he followed them.

Huo Yuhao was a little dejected. If he had known better, he would have found a red uniform to wear. My white clothes might be a little too glaring when I go onto Sea God's Lake later.

But he couldn't care about that much anymore. He would risk being late if he went to change, and that would spell big trouble.

"Eh, aren't you Yuhao? Eldest senior sister was just worrying about looking for you, afraid that you won't show up. It's fine as long as you're here." Two silhouettes quickly hurried to his side, and Huo Yuhao immediately felt relieved when he saw them. They were old acquaintances.

"Teacher Wang, senior sister Han, greetings." Wang Yan was the teacher who had led Huo Yuhao's team in the first season of the Continental Advanced Soul Master Academy Soul Dueling Tournament, and he was with his girlfriend, a former student from the inner courtyard who was second only to their eldest senior sister, Zhang Lexuan. She was Han Ruoruo, who had already become a teacher.

Han Ruoruo's set of soul skills back then still left a deep impression on Huo Yuhao, and he still had some lingering fears now that he thought about them.

Wang Yan seemed a lot more cheerful compared to all those years ago. He smiled and said, "You're finally back, Yuhao! Lexuan was worried out of her mind before this, and she even sent someone to look for you at the Tang Sect. It's fine as long as you're here. Let's go, quickly. We can't be late."

Han Ruoruo smiled and said, "That's right, we won't forgive you if you dare to be late. Eldest senior sister and I will be the hosts."

Huo Yuhao replied, "Eldest senior sister has ordered me, so how could I dare to be late? I went to grab something to eat in the canteen, and when I finished my food, I realized that I'd forgotten where we were supposed to assemble. It was great to run into you guys. But it doesn't really matter whether or not I'm there. If not for the Academy's rules, I wouldn't be here to share in the fun. I'm just here to go through the motions, anyway."

Han Ruoruo's beautiful eyes rippled a little as she laughed and said, "You still have to be there, even if you're only there to go through the motions. Let's go!"

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They walked towards the lake together. The sky hadn't turned completely dark, and he was actually earlier than he was back when he had first participated in the Sea God's Fated Blind Date. The male students from the inner courtyard hadn't completely assembled yet, while the female students were specifically guided somewhere else.

Huo Yuhao had gone through the Sea God's Fated Blind Date once before. He stared at the lake's surface that shone in the light of dusk, and fell into a bit of a daze. He could clearly remember how Dong'er had appeared in front of him that time with her true appearance, how she had called him "idiot", and how she seemed like she was being sassy and blaming him while carrying a tinge of embarrassment and happiness. Huo Yuhao would never forget it...

How great would it be if I could return to that moment! Huo Yuhao clenched his fists subconsciously, and his feelings and yearning for Dong'er were suddenly raised to their highest possible level in that moment.

"Are you alright, Yuhao?" Han Ruoruo asked in surprise.

Huo Yuhao's spiritual power was much stronger compared to back then, and it naturally flowed out as his emotions surged up. The formidable spiritual aura even caused someone as powerful as Han Ruoruo to react in shock.

Huo Yuhao was awakened from his memories, and hurriedly calmed down as he forced a smile and said, "I'm alright, senior sister."

Han Ruoruo smiled back. "As long as you're alright. I'm the host, so I'm going to go ahead and get busy. You two can wait here. Someone will come when it's time to begin." She waved to Wang Yan and Huo Yuhao and drifted away.

Huo Yuhao watched Wang Yan's eyes as they followed Han Ruoruo, which only withdrew when she could no longer be seen. Huo Yuhao giggled and said, "Teacher Wang, you're deep in the river of love!"

Wang Yan blushed. "Nonsense. Let me warn you, Yuhao, I'm one of the assessors for your graduation test tomorrow."

"Ah? You're an assessor? Then you have to be a little more lenient when the time comes," Huo Yuhao said with a faint smile on his face.

Wang Yan snickered and said, "Yuhao! Let me remind you: don't think tomorrow's test is easy. Many people are waiting to 'take care of you'."

"Ah?" Huo Yuhao was momentarily stunned. "Take care of me? Why?"

Wang Yan patted Huo Yuhao on the shoulder and said sincerely, "Seems like you don't quite understand the assessment criteria for our inner courtyard's students to graduate! Let me brief you."

Huo Yuhao hurriedly humbled himself and said, "Thank you, teacher Wang. What exactly will happen?"

Wang Yan chortled and said, "Every one of the inner courtyard's students can be said to be prodigies chosen by heaven. Every one of them has outstanding talent, and they all have varying strengths. You guys are both outstanding and hardworking at the same time, which is the reason why you can stand a class above the rest and become part of the inner courtyard. If you wish to graduate from the inner courtyard, then you have to meet the Academy's standards in your strongest suit. Therefore, the inner courtyard's graduation assessment is different for every student, and everyone has different tasks."

"Uh..." For some reason, Huo Yuhao had an ominous feeling about this test, even though his cultivation was already at eight rings. He could tell from Wang Yan's words that they didn't plan to be nice to him! His graduation assessment was supposed to just be going through the motions, but it didn't seem that easy after all. n(-o/-v--e/-I)(b/-1-(n

"Teacher Wang, then how is this graduation assessment going to be carried out?" Huo Yuhao whispered.

Wang Yan continued, "I don't quite know how the assessment is going to be executed, but it's definitely not going to be easy. I've heard that Elder Xuan has personally designed your graduation assessment. You're the youngest, unprecedentedly so, member of the Sea God's Pavilion. You have contributed much to the Academy, and the Academy has to nurture you well because of that. Therefore, your assessment has to be especially strict!

"The Sea God's Pavilion will convene to discuss your examination tasks, but I'm not too sure about the details. I suspect the test won't be too easy, so good luck! I'm only one of the main assessors for you tomorrow, there are seven in total. I know that Dean Yan, Dean Cai, Dean Xian, and Zhang Lexuan are a few of the remaining six, but I'm not sure who the other two are."

Huo Yuhao's jaw slowly dropped as he listened to Wang Yan. His graduation assessment had brought the Sea God's Pavilion together for a conference, and he had seven judges? What was happening? Tomorrow's test...

Teacher Xuan is watching me closely, and the Academy doesn't look like they're going to give me a good time. Life is too hard to live...

Wang Yan laughed in amusement as he watched Huo Yuhao's depressed look. "Alright, that's enough. That's the Academy's care and concern for you. If you can't pass the assessment, you can just continue

studying and cultivating in the Academy, at worst. Look at your eldest senior sister, she's become a teacher in the Academy. You're part of the Sea God's Pavilion, so you can do the same!"

Huo Yuhao had a bitter taste in his mouth. He didn't think much about it before, but right now, Teacher Xuan was forcing him to learn about forging soul tools properly, and Huo Yuhao had to attend him. Otherwise, he wouldn't be able to forge a proper pill furnace, and he couldn't raise the Tang Sect's overall strength. Therefore, he had to pass the graduation assessment tomorrow, no matter what!

Chapter 507.1: I'm Only Here to Show My Face

Zhang Lexuan said, "The Sea God's Fated Blind Date on the Sea God's Lake. Tonight, we're going to hold our annual Sea God's Fated Blind Date again. I believe everyone has been waiting for a long time.

"The Blind Date will be divided into five segments. Everyone, be prepared! Let me emphasize once more: once you drop into the water, you'll be out no matter whether you're a guy or a girl!

"We'll also choose the most beautiful Sea God's Fairy and the luckiest guy. However, what you need to do is to first unveil the Sea God's Fairies. This is also the first step the male students have to take to demonstrate their abilities."

Han Ruoruo continued after this, "That's right! In that case, let's begin our first segment, Mutual Feelings. We'll begin from the left side of the first row. Every male student can do their best to demonstrate their abilities and try to remove the bamboo hat on a female student's head. However, you better not go overboard with your actions. Otherwise, the female students might not be polite, and retaliate. I can only pretend that I didn't see anything if that happens. In addition, don't fall into the water, just like eldest senior sister mentioned!

"First male student, you can begin!"

The moment Han Ruoruo stopped talking, the first male student drifted up. His seven soul rings shone brightly. Obviously, he was a Soul Sage from the inner courtyard. He flew into the air without aid and proceeded in the direction of the veiled young women.

Huo Yuhao had regained his focus by now. As he saw the flying male student, he nodded in approval. The abilities of inner courtyard students are still as strong as ever. This male student seems to be slightly bigger than me. I think he's an agility-type soul master. He's really quick. No wonder he was able to snatch first place.

A hundred meters was a short distance to cover for a Soul Sage. This young man had evidently been to past Fated Blind Dates before. Just as he was about to reach the veiled girls, he lifted both his hands abruptly, and a gust of strong wind generated from his soul power instantly swept diagonally upward. At the same time, this gust of wind was blowing the dresses and bamboo hats off of the female students.

This was a cunning move. What would the young women choose when their dresses and bamboo hats were being blown up at the same time?

Exclamations could be heard. Some of the less experienced female students instantly pressed down their dresses, and forgot to use their own soul skills. Their bamboo hats were immediately blown off their heads.

There were sixteen of them in total. In just a matter of seconds, half of the female students' bamboo hats were already blown off, and their actual appearances were revealed.

"Sorry, juniors and seniors!" the young man laughed. There was even a perverted look in his eyes. He turned around in the air and didn't even try to remove the bamboo hats of the remaining girls, just making ready to leave. n(-o/(V-/e./l/-b.(l-)n

"Pervert!" someone shouted angrily. Among the female students, one of them in a relatively central position suddenly lifted her hand in his direction. It didn't seem like she had used a soul skill. She only punched her fist out, and a low-pitched dragon's roar arose. A golden ball of energy shaped like a fist was unleashed towards the sly male student.

Her bamboo hat hadn't been removed. The male student was delighted right now. The ball of energy was about to strike him, but he wasn't too bothered, because the aura of that female student wasn't very strong.

He used both his hands to resist it and almost wanted to rely on its momentum to send the strike back. However, he immediately sensed something amiss when his palms touched the ball of energy.

There was an extremely fierce and domineering undulation of soul power within that ball of energy. It immediately blew apart when he touched it!

Even though he used a defensive soul skill to protect himself, he was still flung away from the explosion. His protective soul skill was destroyed, and he crashed towards the water surface free fall.

However, he was an inner courtyard disciple, after all. He took a deep breath and stabilized the surging energy in his body. A pair of silver wings instantly opened up on his back. He fluttered them gently before he managed to rapidly return and land gently on a lotus leaf.

The outer courtyard disciples cheered from the shore for this inner courtyard senior's magnificent performance. However, they didn't know that he had already broken out in a cold sweat. The energy in his body was surging madly. He kept on summoning his soul power to dispel the dominant and invasive soul power that he was subjected to earlier.

Who is she? She's strong. I'm afraid she's not just a Soul Sage. It's very possible that she's a Soul Douluo. My god! There's even a Soul Douluo among the female students. Does that mean that we're going to be greatly restrained?

The Sea God's Fated Blind Date wasn't just a blind date. To some extent, it was a healthy competition between the male and female students. This Soul Sage believed that he was one of the stronger male students in attendance today. However, he was immediately disadvantaged when he was attacked. There was no doubt that he was feeling demoralized.

Huo Yuhao revealed a doubtful look as he stood in last place on the third row. The young woman's voice that he had heard earlier sounded very familiar. However, he didn't manage to catch it too clearly, as she had spoken very briefly.

Han Ruoruo laughed. "Female student eight, you can't attack the male students directly unless the other party has invaded the cylindrical region where you are standing. However, we'll make an exception, since male student one was indeed a little overboard. There'll not be any further exceptions."

After hearing her words, the young men heaved a sigh of relief. The ladies were too fierce! If all of them attacked at the same time, wouldn't that mean that anyone who approached them would end up in the water?

Zhang Lexuan said, "Alright, male student two, it's your turn. Be gentlemanly."

Learning from the lesson of the first male student, the second male student was a little hesitant. The female students were all prepared this time. He returned without making any progress. None of the female students were unveiled by him.

There were sixteen female students in total. At the very start, eight of them had already lost their bamboo hats. This was truly very rare in the Sea God's Fated Blind Date. However, all the male students after the first one would find it difficult to achieve anything similarly impressive. The female students who were able to keep their hats on after the first round were not weak in ability or focus.

The thirty-six male students took their turns one by one. It was only after some time that another bamboo hat was removed.

Huo Yuhao was the last, just observing the performances of the male students in front of him. There were three Soul Sages among the male students, the rest either Soul Emperors or Soul Kings. This was already very impressive. However, the problem of the stronger female students in Shrek's inner courtyard remained. Apart from female student eight, at least four other female students were already Soul Sages. All of them were pretty strong.

As a result, when it was Huo Yuhao's turn, there were still four female students with bamboo hats left.

"Eh, I've been looking for you for half a day. Yuhao, why are you at the back? The more you cultivate, the further back you go! We have four bamboo hats that have not been removed. It's your turn now." Zhang Lexuan called out to Huo Yuhao. When she did, Elder Xuan and the rest immediately turned their attention to Huo Yuhao from their boat.

Huo Yuhao laughed bitterly in his heart. "Eldest senior sister, didn't you say that I could just come for show? Why did you call my name?"

However, even though he had that mindset, he still had to properly show his face since he was here. He really didn't want to be disqualified by falling into the water. It was his graduation test tomorrow. Wang Yan had also reminded him that he didn't want to offend Zhang Lexuan right now.

Huo Yuhao stepped off of his lotus leaf. Yes, he walked slowly towards the female students. He didn't appear as dazzling or impressive as the students before him. His soul rings didn't even shine. He just walked over calmly.

Zhang Lexuan was a little amused as she muttered to herself, "This fellow is really only coming here just to show his face!"

On the shore, the outer courtyard students were confused when they saw this last inner courtyard senior.

"Eh, look at this. How is this senior able to walk so freely on the lake's surface? What kind of ability is that?"

“I believe he should be a Soul Sage, and he’s deliberately controlling his altitude. However, how is he able to do it so easily?”

“No, that’s not it. This senior’s abilities are ice-type. He can freeze a layer of ice below him as he walks. This is why he finds it so easy. He wouldn’t find it so easy if he were flying.” The person speaking was Jin Sha, who Huo Yuhao had met earlier. Him being able to say that wasn’t because his vision was very clear. Given the lighting and distance, how could he possibly see everything clearly? He had deliberately observed Huo Yuhao as he went to the island earlier.

Just as the outer courtyard students were all engaged in discussion, Huo Yuhao arrived in front of the veiled women.

Initially, he had planned to make one pass around these female students before returning. However, Zhang Lexuan was watching him intently. If he really did nothing, she probably wouldn’t let him off.

As he thought about it, he mysteriously arrived in front of female student eight, who he had found familiar earlier on. He reached out for her bamboo hat.

Yes, he just reached out. He wasn’t quick at all. There was no difference between his speed and that of an ordinary person. To Huo Yuhao, given the ability that this female student demonstrated earlier, she would be able to easily block him. After that, he could just return to where he had been standing.

However, he was astonished to discover that she had no intention of protecting her bamboo hat. She let Huo Yuhao grab the edge of it without moving.

“This...” Huo Yuhao had no chance of retracting his hand now. Could he just not take her hat off? That would be utter disrespect for both her and the Sea God’s Fated Blind Date!

What was going to happen to him?

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As he had no choice, he could only take the hat off. To avoid a scenario where the female student had forgotten to stop him, he purposely slowed down. If she resisted even a little, he would immediately let go and put the hat back.

However, things didn’t go as he wished. From start to finish, she had no intention of laying her hands on him. She let him take off her hat and reveal her true appearance.

There was a long veil below the hat. Huo Yuhao only shifted the veil away after he lifted it up over the top of her face. It was only then that he saw her appearance.

His hand went stiff. Initially, he appeared very helpless. However, he was fixated on the girl right now. Even the ice under his feet started to crack, and seemed like it would buckle at any time.

In front of him was a cheeky-looking face. The girl looked like a fairy that had descended onto the mortal world, illuminated by the beam of golden light, and accentuated by her long, white dress.

Her pinkish-blue hair flowed out behind her. There were complex undulations in her flawless eyes. Her exquisite, porcelain-like face reflected a golden glow. Every part of her was perfect, so perfect that she

left those watching breathless. At this instant, all the Sea God Fairies around her paled in comparison. It was like the beam of golden light reflecting off her face was the only thing shining so brightly.

Not far away, the other young men who had joined the Fated Blind Date were all stunned. At this moment, they couldn't be bothered looking at anyone else. In their eyes, there was only this Sea God's Fairy.

Huo Yuhao's hand was trembling as he held the bamboo hat. His eyes revealed strong emotions surging through him.

"Dong'er!" he exclaimed unwittingly and the ice under him quickly froze up even more. This spread, and all the Sea God's Fairies suddenly felt the surface beneath them harden. They no longer needed to worry about their lotus leaves flipping over.

Huo Yuhao's breathing had quickened. His lips were trembling too.

Ever since he had come to this Fated Blind Date, he had begun to yearn for Wang Dong'er more and more. Right now, he felt as if he had returned to many years ago, after seeing this girl who looked identical to Wang Dong'er. He had returned to that beautiful and unforgettable night.

Dong'er, my Dong'er, are you back?

He threw the bamboo hat away and couldn't believe his eyes. Right now, his mind was in turmoil. He didn't even know what to do.

"I'm Tang Wutong?" She sounded both cold and emotional at the same time, and brought the overly-excited Huo Yuhao back to earth with her words.

Tang Wutong! Yes! She's Tang Wutong...

Huo Yuhao was as stunned as if cold water had been poured on him. When he saw that familiar face and curly hair, it dawned on him that she was Tang Wutong. Yes! She's Tang Wutong. Dong'er has straight hair. Only Qiu'er and the Goddess of Light in my heart have curly hair. She's Tang Wutong. She's not Dong'er.

Tang Wutong just stared at Huo Yuhao and saw how he turned from being extremely delighted to disappointed. He seemed to have lost his soul in his heartache.

But, I'm Tang Wutong! I'm really not Wang Dong'er, or Wang Qiu'er. I'm Tang Wutong!

Huo Yuhao had been through a lot in his life. After a brief moment of emotional turmoil, he still managed to clear his mind eventually. He mocked himself and nodded at Tang Wutong. After that, he fled without another word. He quickly returned to his place in the last row.

He didn't even try to talk to her? When they saw this, the male students in the inner courtyard were all astonished.

An absolute beauty who had let him take off her bamboo hat! What did that mean? This meant she was interested in him! However, he didn't even say anything, and left just like that?

"Wow, so beautiful, so beautiful!"

Those from the outer courtyard could see what was going on using telescopic soul tools. Tang Wutong immediately became the focus of everyone's attention.

Yes, she was too beautiful. No matter who it was, she was the focus of all attention.

Han Ruoruo and Zhang Lexuan looked at one another, and Zhang Lexuan nodded at Han Ruoruo.

"It's the second segment next!" Han Ruoruo said loudly, "After the first segment, it's time for the female students to express who they are interested in. The second segment is called Love at First Sight!

"The rules are very simple. Every female student has a button to control the soul lamp below her. They can light their lamps for every male student. As long as they keep a lamp on for a male student, that male student can remain for the next segment. However, those who don't make it will have to leave. Before the second segment starts, we'll arrange the male students in terms of the number of bamboo hats they removed earlier."

Among the five segments of the Sea God's Fated Blind Date, the second segment took the least amount of time. However, it was a major test for the male students. They would be eliminated, no matter how strong or outstanding, if no female student left her light on for them. After all, there were many more male students than female students. As a result, this segment was used as a means of simplifying the process of the Fated Blind Date.

Huo Yuhao was originally in the last row, and wanted to remain there. However, since he had taken off Tang Wutong's bamboo hat and there were only eight people who managed to do the same, he was in the first row now. The first Soul Sage who had taken off eight bamboo hats was to his right in the first row.

"All Sea God's Fairies, please consider your options carefully. You will be given one minute. You must think carefully! Furthermore, let me emphasize that if you don't leave a light on for any of the male students, it will mean that you are giving up on this event."

The female students each had their own plans. They were all separated, and seemed very quiet now. No one knew who they were interested in.

—

A minute passed very quickly. At Zhang Lexuan's signal, Han Ruoruo continued to emcee.

"Alright, our second segment is about to begin. First, all Sea God's Fairies, please leave your lights on for the male students. In this second segment, it doesn't mean that you are choosing someone if you leave your light on for him. You can give him a chance if you have a good impression of him. At the same time, you are giving yourself a chance. I'm sure the other party will take note of you if you leave a light on for him."

The first to face the test was the Soul Sage who had taken off eight bamboo hats earlier.

"Three, two, one. Please light your lamps for the first male student."

Almost instantly, half of the lamps were extinguished. After this, a few other lamps were extinguished.

The first male student's heart was in his throat now. No matter how strong he was, he had to leave this stage if no female students chose him. Right now, he regretted going overboard earlier. His impression among the female students had fallen dramatically after female student eight called him perverted.

Fortunately, he was a Soul Sage, which still made him attractive. Furthermore, they were all inner courtyard disciples. At the very least, they were still acquainted with him. Finally, five lamps remained lit. He was fortunately not eliminated...

The rest of the male students started to get nervous after seeing that the first of them being dealt such a huge blow right from the start. God knew what the female students were thinking...

There were too many young men! There were sixteen female students, but thirty-six male students. The ladies in the inner courtyard were very popular. A nervous atmosphere quickly clouded the entire lake.

However, the male students in the first row performed well in the first round. They were the strongest of the young men. As for the next few young men who stepped up, more than half the female students kept their lights on for each of them.

The second segment carried on very quickly. Although Huo Yuhao was in a rather backward position in the first row, it was soon his turn.

"Next, let's leave our lamps on for the male student in the eighth position. Three, two, one, begin."

Huo Yuhao was still in a bit of a daze. He had mistaken Tang Wutong for Wang Dong'er, which was a huge blow to him. His yearning for Wang Dong'er was at its greatest right now, leaving him feeling very weak. He only wanted to quickly leave this place and return to his quarters, and just hoped that all the lights would be extinguished. That way, he could just directly leave.

However, things didn't go as planned. None of the sixteen lamps were extinguished. They were all left lit for him.

Not to mention Huo Yuhao himself, even Zhang Lexuan and Han Ruoruo were astonished.

It was important to note that Huo Yuhao didn't perform too impressively earlier, even though he had taken Tang Wutong's bamboo hat off. Instead, he was the least eye-catching. Why did the ladies leave their lamps on for him? What was going on?

Chapter 507.3: I'm Only Here to Show My Face

Huo Yuhao was stunned. He only wanted to quickly leave, so why was he more well-liked now than he was in the previous blind date?

He could still clearly remember that there were seventeen Sea God Fairies the last time he was here. In the second segment, one lamp was extinguished for him, by Wu Feng. This time, all sixteen lamps were still lit for him. None of the other students who went before him managed to keep all sixteen lamps lit.

In fact, this wasn't because of good fortune.

The inner courtyard female students were all intelligent and strong. In addition, they had great taste.

There were two main reasons why Huo Yuhao had all the lamps lit for him. First, it was his ‘performance’ in the canteen. There had been a few female students taking their meal. They personally saw how Huo Yuhao frightened that middle-aged teacher without even unleashing his martial soul! How strong was that? Furthermore, he had a very special aura about him, even though he wasn’t particularly handsome. No matter what, he easily caught their attention.

The second reason was because of Tang Wutong.

Although Tang Wutong had not been in the Academy for a long time and was only a teaching assistant, she was still a student of the inner courtyard. She held two identities at once. Normally, she interacted quite a lot with the young women of the inner courtyard, and they respected her. After Zhang Lexuan, Han Ruoruo, Wu Ming, and the rest of the female seniors from the previous generation of students left, Tang Wutong was now the backbone of the current generation of female students in the inner courtyard. Furthermore, she was an exceptional beauty.

When the other female students saw how Tang Wutong allowed Huo Yuhao to remove her bamboo hat without resisting, they were all astonished. This also deepened their interest in him.

If even Tang Wutong approved of him, could he be ordinary?

Thus, this magical result.

Huo Yuhao’s lips twisted a little. However, no matter what, everyone was vain to some extent. He felt slightly better after seeing that sixteen lamps had been kept on for him. Naturally, he couldn’t just fall into the lake as an escape measure...

The segment continued. From the second row onwards, the male students weren’t so lucky anymore. Since they didn’t remove any bamboo hats, they didn’t leave any deep impressions on the female students. Very soon, many of them were out of the blind date as all the lamps were extinguished for them.

When the second segment ended, eighteen of the young men had been eliminated. It was the highest elimination rate in recent years, exactly half of the young men were gone. Even so, there were still two more young men left than young women.

The high elimination rate had something to do with the female students, too. They were all very outstanding, and good catches. Naturally, they were more demanding when it came to choosing their partners. Given the current situation, the ratio of female to male students was almost one-to-one. The young men who remained bore high hopes that they could return with a lady in their arms!

After the second segment ended, the remaining male students were rearranged again.

Huo Yuhao, who only wanted to show his face at this ceremony, was arranged in first place after all the lamps were kept lit for him. He was now in the limelight.

This time, Zhang Lexuan was the one who spoke.

“After the first two segments, I believe all of you should have some simple understanding of one another. Next, we shall begin the third segment, Love at Second Sight. This time, all female students

should take note that you can't choose randomly as you did in the second segment. Once you make a choice, you must take responsibility for your choice. Every male student has a minute to introduce himself. After his self-introduction, he needs to come to me and tell me the number of the Sea God's Fairy that he fancies. After all the male students have made their introductions, the female students will make their choices. Your choice in this segment will be your final choice. You can't go back on it. After the choices are made, we'll proceed to the fourth segment.

"Male students, please take note that you can demonstrate what you believe is your greatest ability when you introduce yourself. You can also introduce your cultivation and other things. As long as you believe your words can capture the heart of your desired partner, you can mention anything. This time, we'll mess up the order and pick who goes first through lots, for the purpose of fairness."

After hearing that, Huo Yuhao immediately heaved a sigh of relief. He couldn't fully recall these later segments. However, it was a good thing that he wasn't going to go first. He was just here to show his face.

"The first person we've picked out is Huo Yuhao!"

"What?" Huo Yuhao's face suddenly stiffened up again. Why am I still the first to go after picking lots?

"Huo Yuhao, you can introduce yourself. You have one minute." Zhang Lexuan was definitely amused as she looked at Huo Yuhao.

"Uh, okay." Huo Yuhao acknowledged her words and started to introduce himself.

"Hi everyone. My name is Huo Yuhao." Huo Yuhao drifted forward a few steps as he controlled the lotus leaf beneath him.

Yes, he only said this line.

"That's all?" Zhang Lexuan was infuriated. This fellow is indeed doing all he can to avoid the limelight!

Huo Yuhao nodded at Zhang Lexuan. He thought to himself. Since I'm just here to show my face, you can't possibly force me to say more than I want.

However, who knew that his simple introduction piqued the curiosity of the female students?

Zhang Lexuan snorted and said, "Your introduction is too simple. It won't be fair when our Sea God's Fairies make their choices. Since you're shy, I'll speak on your behalf."

I'm shy?? Huo Yuhao didn't know whether to laugh or cry.

Zhang Lexuan cheerfully said, "Huo Yuhao is a student of the inner courtyard and a disciple of the Tang Sect."

After hearing this, Huo Yuhao felt rather pleased. This was all true. Furthermore, she was advertising the Tang Sect. Why did he not realize that this was a good way of advertising the Tang Sect? Everyone from the inner courtyard was here.

However, Zhang Lexuan's words after this left him looking more and more bitter.

“He joined Shrek Academy at the age of eleven and managed to emerge as eventual champion during his first test after joining the Academy, along with two of his teammates. After that, he revealed his shocking talent. He possesses twin martial souls. The last time the Academy evaluated his abilities, we concluded that he was a Soul Sage. Currently, we are unsure of his abilities.

“He has taken part in the Continental Advanced Soul Master Academy Soul Dueling Tournament twice. The first time, he was a substitute, but he eventually became the main force of the team. In the last fight, he turned the tables and defended Shrek’s glory, emerging as the eventual champion. From then on, he was named as one of Shrek’s Seven Monsters, along with his teammates. At the same time, he is also the main control-type soul master among Shrek’s Seven Monsters. He’s their core and spiritual figure.

“During the second tournament, he represented the Tang Sect, but there wasn’t any result in the tournament due to a sinister ploy by the Sun Moon Empire. However, the top two teams back then belonged to both the Tang Sect and Shrek Academy. His outstanding performance undoubtedly made him the most outstanding participant of the tournament.

“There’s one more thing. Huo Yuhao is the person who established the Spirit Pagoda. He’s the inventor of Spirits, and is the current Pagoda Master of the Spirit Pagoda.

“Apart from this, he has also contributed greatly to the Academy. There are many things that we can’t reveal. However, the contributions that he has made have earned him a place in history as the youngest ever member of the Sea God’s Pavilion. He’s the pride of the inner courtyard, and a current elite.”

After hearing Zhang Lexuan’s introduction, the entire place went quiet. Everyone was completely silent. All the Sea God’s Fairies opened their mouths in shock as they stared at Huo Yuhao. The other male students were equally shocked.

If the other parts of the introduction didn’t astound them, then finding out that Huo Yuhao was the one who invented Spirits and the person who established the Spirit Pagoda had deeply astonished them.

All this while, no one really knew his name because he had a call sign in the Academy. The Eye of the Asura, founder of the Spirit Pagoda, was a familiar character that every student in the Academy knew!

The Sea God’s Pavilion’s youngest member and the founder of the Spirit Pagoda! These two identities were considered sacred in Shrek Academy! n)-o.-12-(e//L./b)/1-)n

Jin Sha’s jaw was almost on the ground by now. He couldn’t believe that the person that he had talked to was actually a legendary senior from the Academy. He didn’t even dare tell his fellow students that were with him, because he knew that no one would believe him.

After finishing her introduction, Zhang Lexuan smiled as she looked at Huo Yuhao. “Yuhao, are you satisfied with my introduction of you?”

What else could Huo Yuhao say? There was no way he could avoid attention now. He could only shake his head helplessly.

It was only now that the shore of the lake started to become rowdy.

Xian Lin'er furrowed her brow on the boat and said to Elder Xuan, "Is it a good idea to put Yuhao out like that? He doesn't seem too pleased!"

Elder Xuan smiled and said, "What's so bad about this? He's going to be the leading figure of the new generation. It's time that everyone got familiar with him. Otherwise, he'll always skive."

Yan Shaozhe nodded and said, "I agree with Elder Xuan. Let me see! Given his current cultivation speed, he'll be able to take over from you directly! Hehe!"

"Are you trying to skive?" Elder Xuan snapped.

Yan Shaozhe smiled without saying anything. When he saw the helpless look on Huo Yuhao's face, he was gloating inside.

Chapter 508.1: A Blind Date Alone?

Zhang Lexuan looked at Huo Yuhao again before continuing, "Because we have a phenomenal member of the Sea God's Pavilion here today, we have decided to make some amendments to the usual rules for our Sea God's Fated Blind Date in order to make it fair for everyone. Now that we have reached this segment, I suggest that we allow this esteemed member of the Sea God's Pavilion to proceed with all remaining segments first. All female students will be allowed to select him as your preferred candidate, but rest assured that all of you would still be able to select other candidates subsequently. This new measure will ensure a certain degree of fairness for the other male candidates. After all, even the Eye of the Asura can only leave with a single Sea God's Fairy."

After Zhang Lexuan finished her speech, she won the applause and praise of all the other male students.

After all, who could compete with the Eye of the Asura? With him around, there was no way that the girls would choose anyone else! Even if there were some who did not show any interest in him, they were definitely in the minority. Since the original rules of the third round dictated that all of the girls could only choose their preferred male student once, this would mean that they would not be able to choose anyone else after selecting Huo Yuhao. Because Huo Yuhao ultimately could only leave with one person, this would be massively unfair for the rest of the young men. If the rules were not changed, wouldn't they end up being sideshows for Huo Yuhao's performance?

Hence, Zhang Lexuan's suggestion was timely, and immensely well-received by everyone.

Huo Yuhao replied to Zhang Lexuan with a resigned tone, "Eldest senior sister, why must you push me into the limelight... But since things have come to this, I'll just go on and complete the remaining segments. Let's not hold up the Blind Date for the others."

After coming to terms with his current situation, he just wanted to complete the segments as quickly as possible and retire to prepare for tomorrow's test.

Zhang Lexuan nodded and announced, "Alright, now let us begin the third segment, which will be specially conducted for the Eye of the Asura. Ladies, you may now begin to select him as your preferred candidate. If you have the slightest bit of inclination towards him, I would urge you not to miss this great opportunity. He will begin his graduation examination tomorrow, which means this will be his last time participating in our Fated Blind Date!"

Huo Yuhao was stunned after hearing Zhang Lexuan's words. Is Eldest Senior Sister dead-set on messing up my world?

The way to indicate interest was still the same as before, to leave their lamp on for him. As everyone had expected, because the ladies had two chances to leave their lamps on, all of the lamps present were left lit for him!

Huo Yuhao was simply the brightest star among the other students around him. To soul masters, one's ability would always be more important than one's looks. Furthermore, Huo Yuhao was not bad-looking. Even the haughtiest ladies from the inner courtyard could not help but marvel at his fabled experiences.

Hence, they all mustered their courage to give themselves a chance at being paired with the Eye of the Asura. After all, even if they were not chosen by him, they had nothing to lose because they could always choose another candidate.

Despite seeing all sixteen lamps lit for him, Huo Yuhao was surprisingly calm. He knew that he was just going through the motions. The stares from the crowd would not be able to do anything to him. So what if all the lamps were still lit? There was only room for Dong'er and Dong'er alone in his heart. He knew he just had to let them run the show, and he would leave immediately after everything ended.

Zhang Lexuan and Han Ruoruo glanced at the sixteen lamps and nodded gently.

Han Ruoruo announced, "After Mutual Feelings, Love at First Sight and Love at Second Sight, it's time to let fate decide the romance for our next three lives! Hence, our fourth segment is called Destined In Three Lives! During this segment, I urge the other male students to pay attention to the proceedings. After all, it will be your turn very soon!

"During this segment, the ladies will take turns making their way to the one they have selected to introduce themselves. Huo Yuhao, please take a step forward. Even though some of you, and I believe all of you know who I'm referring to, have plenty of charisma and are capable of attracting more than one female student, I must offer all of you an important reminder. At the end of this segment, if any of the male students are to end up without any interest from a single female student, I'm sorry, but you will have to leave our Fated Blind Date. The rest of the young men will proceed to the final segment."

It was one thing to select a male student as your preferred partner; it was another to possess the courage to step forward and confess to him. Under normal circumstances, Love at Second Sight was the segment where the female students would express their interest in the male students. However, it was only when the young women stepped forward and confessed courageously that everyone could determine how sincere their feelings were.

Hence, Destined in Three Lives could very well be the most important segment.

"Alright! Now let us give our female students three minutes to make up their minds. After three minutes, all of you must make your decision. As of now, I can see that most of you admire Huo Yuhao, and that is definitely understandable. After all, he is really outstanding. However, I must say that he isn't a guy who is suitable for every girl. When a guy is too outstanding, you must ask yourself if you possess the ability to hold his attention. While you still have a chance to continue with the Fated Blind Date after getting rejected by Huo Yuhao, the other male students will have taken note of your earlier decision

regarding him. Hence, I urge all of our Sea God's Fairies to think twice before you make your decision. Your three minutes begin now!"

Huo Yuhao gently controlled the lily pad beneath his feet and glided out gracefully before everyone. It appeared eldest senior sister had helped alleviate some of the worries on his mind. The worst thing that could have happened was for him to spoil the entire atmosphere at the Fated Blind Date. That would have been terrible!

The best thing would be for everyone to not select him. He would then be able to go through the entire process peacefully and smoothly.

After hearing Zhang Lexuan's words, many female students began to question themselves. Am I able to occupy a place in Huo Yuhao's heart? Even though standing firm on their decision would grant them an opportunity to be with him, it was apparent that the chances were extremely slim. In fact, they had noticed that Huo Yuhao's face was fairly emotionless, and he had not even focused his eyes on any of them so far.

It was only during the time he had lifted up Tang Wutong's bamboo hat that he had revealed a shocked expression. But even then, he had regained his composure very quickly. In fact, the way he left Tang Wutong behind looked as though he was trying to escape from her...

Most of the young women felt that they could not hold a candle to Tang Wutong. If Wutong could not attract Huo Yuhao, they were definitely not confident in their looks or ability. An overly outstanding guy could very easily make a lady insecure. All of the female students in the inner courtyard were not dumb, and while they hesitated over their decision initially, they made up their minds very quickly.

Three minutes passed very quickly, and Han Ruoruo spoke. "Time's up! Now we will begin with Destined in Three Lives. Because of Huo Yuhao's special circumstances, we will first begin by determining how many of you are willing to select him as your preferred male student. Afterwards, we will begin with the self-introductions. Now, I will extinguish all of the lamps, and when I say begin, please light your lamps if you want to choose Huo Yuhao as your preferred partner."

"Hold on," came a voice from the crowd. The person who spoke was none other than Tang Wutong.

Han Ruoruo said, "Wutong, is there a problem?"

Tang Wutong nodded, and glided forward on her lily pad. She left the area illuminated by the beam of light before turning around to face the fifteen other ladies.

"Sisters, I have a request to make. I'm only here today for one person. And thus, I hope all of you can give me this chance. Can all of you do me this favor?"

Her words might have appeared to be a little ambiguous, but it was plain for everyone to see what she meant. Even though she spoke slowly, most of the ladies could sense the anxiety and desperation in her words.

Zhang Lexuan frowned and spoke, "Wutong, it's not right for you to pressure others to give up on Huo Yuhao. It's not fair to the rest of them."

Tang Wutong took a deep breath before replying, "I'm sorry, Eldest Senior Sister! But, I... I..." She suddenly stopped speaking as her emotions became increasingly muddled.

And to everyone's surprise, she bowed before all of the other female students and apologized, "I'm sorry... I was too anxious... Let's treat it as though I didn't say anything. Let's continue with the proceedings." Following which, she controlled her lilypad and glided back to her previous position. Her head was now lowered as her eyebrows were locked into a deep frown. No one was sure what was on her mind, but they could all tell that she seemed to be in some sort of pain.

After observing how she had acted, Huo Yuhao was similarly shocked. What's going on? It can't be because of me, right...? Wutong, you better not be like Qiu'er... My heart belongs to someone already...

Zhang Lexuan spoke sternly, "I want to remind all of you to not act in the same way as Tang Wutong did. Whoever messes up the proceedings of the Fated Blind Date will be kicked out. Let's ignore what she said and continue with the proceedings. Can we now extinguish the lights from the lamps?"

The sixteen beams of light vanished, and all sixteen female students were enshrouded in darkness.

"We now invite our female students to make their decisions. For those who are willing to introduce yourselves and display your abilities to Huo Yuhao, you may now light your lamp!" Han Ruoruo announced authoritatively.

The first golden light appeared from Tang Wutong.

A cold feeling gripped Huo Yuhao's heart. Wutong, why...?

Following that, three other lamps lit up. Two of the lamps belonged to two women who up until now had not lifted their bamboo hats. The last light belonged to an extremely beautiful female student. Even though she paled a little in comparison to Tang Wutong, she was still undeniably very attractive.

It was clear that the ladies who ended up choosing Huo Yuhao possessed immense courage, and the confidence to challenge their main competitor: Tang Wutong! n/-OVeLB1n

Zhang Lexuan nodded and spoke, "It seems like we have four Fairies who have chosen Huo Yuhao. Can I invite all four of you to step forward?"

The four lilypads floated forward until they were fifty meters in front of Huo Yuhao.

Zhang Lexuan announced, "Since Tang Wutong messed up earlier, she will be the last to introduce herself. We shall now invite our female students to take turns and introduce themselves to Huo Yuhao. The order will go like this: Fairy #3, #6, #11, and then finally #8. So without further ado, let us invite Sea God's Fairy #3 to begin her introduction. Fairy #3, you have yet to remove your bamboo hat. Would you like to remove it now?"

"I would like to remove it now." The voice of Fairy #3 was bright and loud. She lifted her hand and removed her bamboo hat.

This young woman's figure was very balanced, and exuded a very feminine kind of attractiveness. Her face only had a thin layer of makeup, and her big eyes were very attractive. Her short hair coupled with her brows gave her the look of a very beautiful heroine.

Zhang Lexuan announced, "You may now begin your introduction!"

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Fairy #3 nodded and spoke. "Hello Huo Yuhao! I am Bai Se, but everyone calls me Xiao Bai. As of now, I'm a six-ringed Soul Emperor, which is a long way from you. To be honest, even before I entered the inner courtyard, I had already heard about your achievements in the Academy. Even though I entered the inner courtyard two years before you, you overtook me with so much ease. If I were to be very frank, I would say my feelings are borne out of curiosity rather than mere attraction. I have always revered strong soul masters and hence, whoever wants to take me as their partner must first defeat me. Even if you don't choose me, I would challenge you to a duel in the later segment. That's all I have to say. It's up to you to choose me or not!"

This self-introduction was truly badass... She didn't waste any time with flowery words, and laid her credentials and thoughts bare. She was a true badass heroine!

Huo Yuhao nodded politely as he remained silent.

Zhang Lexuan was resigned as she shook her head. "Xiao Bai... You're still as blunt as ever... It seems like it will be rather difficult for you to find a husband in the future... You're no different from a man..."

"Alright. Now let us welcome Fairy #6!"

Fairy #6 was a gentle-looking lady who had not been wearing a bamboo hat. She stepped forward before gently bowing before Huo Yuhao. She spoke softly, "Hello Senior Huo, my name is Mu Yue. Similar to Xiao Bai, I heard about your incredible stories some time ago. Because I just entered the inner courtyard this year, my abilities are probably not worth mentioning. I just want you to know that I really admire you a lot. Your stories have been my source of motivation, to challenge myself and become better. Even though today is my first time meeting you in person, you have already left an indelible mark in my mind."

Her introduction was even shorter than Xiao Bai's, and she did not mention much about herself. But her self-introduction showed a lot more affection than Xiao Bai's. Furthermore, Mu Yue had an enormous advantage in her voice. The way she talked was very gentle and melodic. Even Huo Yuhao was surprised at how perfect her voice was.

Similar to how he reacted to Xiao Bai's introduction, Huo Yuhao nodded silently.

"Now let us welcome Fairy #11." Zhang Lexuan announced. "You can also choose whether you want to remove your bamboo hat for Huo Yuhao."

"I'm sorry, eldest senior sister. As of now, I don't want to remove my bamboo hat. I hope that Huo Yuhao can take it off for me." A calm and clear voice rang out from underneath the bamboo hat. Even though her voice was almost a monotone, one could sense the emotions brimming in her choice of words.

"Hi Huo Yuhao, my name is Su Tong. I'm a seven-ringed Soul Sage, and my martial soul is the Icesky Snow Lady." Her introduction was even shorter than the two ladies before her. However, her last line was enough to catch Huo Yuhao's attention. "Icesky Snow Lady?! Unless... Su Tong also possesses Ultimate Ice?"

From what Huo Yuhao knew, even in the Extreme North, the Snow Empress was the only Icesky Snow Lady around. There was no other known Icesky Snow Ladies. No one had expected to find someone with the Icesky Snow Lady martial soul among humans.

Huo Yuhao was not the only one shocked by Su Tong's words. Even Zhang Lexuan, Han Ruoruo, and some of the higher-ups from Shrek Academy were taken aback by her words.

Elder Xuan turned around and asked Yan Shaozhe, "Shaozhe, what's going on? When did we have a student with an Icesky Snow Lady martial soul in our inner courtyard? Why was I not informed of this?"

Yan Shaozhe gave an awkward laugh. "Elder Xuan, even I was not aware of this. Su Tong was only admitted into the Academy recently. When she just entered, she told us her Martial Soul was a Snow Spirit, a powerful Ice element Martial Soul. She never told us her Martial Soul was actually an Icesky Snow Lady, and we never detected her Ultimate Ice ability. It seems like she must have purposely concealed her abilities... None of us expected her to do so."

Elder Xuan paused before saying, "How old is Su Tong this year?"

Yan Shaozhe replied, "She's twenty—quite a bit older than Huo Yuhao. However, she possesses an Ultimate Ice Martial Soul. It is notoriously hard for a twenty-year-old to train one's Ultimate Ice to the Soul Sage level. Her future must be unbelievably bright."

Elder Xuan nodded and said, "Let's wait and see. Who knows? Yuhao might be able to uncover more unknown things about her."

Bai Se, Mu Yue, and Su Tong were all attractive candidates in their own ways.

Bai Se exuded the vibes of an energetic and driven heroine. Mu Yue was unbelievably gentle, while Su Tong, like Huo Yuhao, possessed Ultimate Ice, and was enshrouded in an air of mystery.

But even then, they were unable to overshadow Tang Wutong.

Zhang Lexuan looked at Tang Wutong and announced, "Fairy #8, it's your turn."

While the three ladies were giving their self-introductions, Tang Wutong was just standing there silently, occasionally frowning and stealing glances at Huo Yuhao. She had a confused look on her face as a tinge of melancholy crept across it. Her anxious breathing could not hide the uneasy feelings in her heart.

"I'm Tang Wutong." And that was all she said.

There seemed to be some sort of strange pattern in the way the ladies introduced themselves. Their introductions simply got shorter.

Zhang Lexuan frowned at Tang Wutong before announcing, "Now that we are done with the self-introductions, we can move onto the last segment, Eternal Love! Yuhao, it is now your turn to choose one of these ladies. After you have made your decision, you may leave with her. However, if someone opposes you and challenges you to a duel, you must win in order to leave with the lady whom you have selected. Failure to win means that you have to return home empty-handed. Of course, you may choose from the Fairies who did not select you. If you choose any of them, they have the right to challenge you."

Huo Yuhao nodded slightly. He already knew Zhang Lexuan had simplified the instructions given for the Eternal Love segment. After all, it was not his first time attending the Fated Blind Date, and he could still remember a large part of the rules.

Just when he was about to announce his decision — that he did not want to choose any of them — and leave, Zhang Lexuan continued, “Because we have four Fairies who have chosen you, they will now take turns to give you a one-minute confession. We will adhere to the same sequence as before. Bai Se, you may begin.”

Bai Se stared at Huo Yuhao as she glided forward on her lily pad. “Senior Huo, today is our first time meeting each other in person. To be honest, I only admire strong people, and that is why I chose you. But I must admit that we probably do not hold any romantic feelings for one another. Hence, even if you were to choose someone else, I won’t feel too upset about it. Even if you choose me, I will still find a chance to spar with you. To summarize what I have just said, rather than be your girlfriend, I’m more inclined to spar with you. If you were to trash me in a battle, who knows? I might just fall in love with you.”

Even though Huo Yuhao was just going through the motions, he was still very much amused by Bai Se’s words. In fact, her confession could be summed up as the following: “You can make whatever decision you want, but I must fight you!”

She was a true badass... Whoever married her in the future would most definitely have an enjoyable marriage... She was definitely one in a million!

Han Ruoruo announced, “Mu Yue, it’s your turn.”

Mu Yue followed Bai Se as she maneuvered her way in front of Huo Yuhao. She took a short pause before confessing, “Senior Huo, in my eyes, admiration and reverence is the precursor for love. Before I met you in person, I had heard so much about you. I know I don’t have much of an advantage before my outstanding senior sisters, but I still will stand forward to confess. This might just be the bravest thing I have done in the past ten years. I won’t regret my decision, because I really like you. Even if you don’t choose me, you will always be a hero in my heart, forever and always.”

Huo Yuhao nodded politely in her direction to acknowledge her feelings. “Her eyes and voice are too gentle... If he didn’t already have someone whom he loved, he might have wavered under such circumstances.

“Su Tong, it’s your turn.”

Su Tong did not glide forward on her lily pad; instead, she stood where she was and kept her bamboo hat on her head. The same calm and border-line monotone voice came forth again. “I know both of us possess Ultimate Ice. That’s why I’m curious to find out how different we are in terms of our power. You might be the brightest star from Shrek Academy, but I’m also very confident in my abilities. If you can use your powers to take the bamboo hat off my head, I will leave with you.”

If they were to categorize Bai Se as badass and Mu Yue as gentle, Su Tong would undeniably be haughty. Her haughtiness exuded from her words, and made many of the spectators rather uncomfortable.

Huo Yuhao remained calm as he nodded politely, just as before. However, he had already shifted his attention to Tang Wutong.

Even though he knew very well that Tang Wutong was not Wang Dong'er, he could not resist looking at her beautiful face.

"Tang Wutong, it's your turn." Zhang Lexuan announced.

Tang Wutong nodded as she looked up and stared right into Huo Yuhao's eyes. The lily pad beneath her did not move, but it began to give off a golden radiance.

"Yuhao, we have not known each other for long. But during our first encounter, you mistook me for Wang Dong'er, and hugged me. I was very angry back then, and really wanted to kill you. Afterwards, we had a couple more interactions, and I started to look beyond the initial hatred I had for you. I began to see some of your qualities: your calm, your quick thinking, and more. Whenever your group faced any form of danger, you were always the one rushing to the front and protecting your peers, sometimes at the expense of your own safety. It was during that time that I found my hatred towards you slowly disappearing..."

Compared to her self-introduction, Tang Wutong's confession seemed more like a slow recitation of her memories with Huo Yuhao.

Huo Yuhao was a bit taken aback by her words. He could still remember how happy he was when he had first "met" Tang Wutong.

"Afterwards, when we were all by the river, you grilled fish for all of us. After our feast, Nannan came over to tell me how you actually only wanted to grill fish for me. That was the most delicious meal I had ever had. What surprised me most was how eating the fish that you grilled for me gave me an indescribable feeling. At that moment, I felt lost. I don't know how to describe that feeling, but I just felt like I really admired you. It was an admiration, or rather, a sense of attraction that came from the bottom of my heart. Even though I could not put my feelings into words back then, I felt really really happy. Otherwise, I would not have allowed you to inject your soul power into me back then at the military camp. You should know very well what that means to a soul master."

Chapter 508.3: A Blind Date Alone?

Every soul master's way of cultivation, especially their circulation path, was their biggest secret. Even though Huo Yuhao might not have been able to find out much about Tang Wutong's circulation path, being given permission to inject his soul power into her was already an immense hint as to how she felt about him.

After hearing what Tang Wutong said, Huo Yuhao revealed an expression of regret. He really regretted attempting to verify Tang Wutong's identity. If he had not tried to do so, he could still live happily in the illusion that she was actually Wang Dong'er... even if "Wang Dong'er" refused to be with him. But his attempt to verify her identity completely destroyed the illusion, and left Huo Yuhao with no hope. He completely gave up on Tang Wutong after realizing that she was not Wang Dong'er.

As Tang Wutong paused, Zhang Lexuan interjected, "Tang Wutong, are you done with your confession?"

Tang Wutong shook her head fervently and clarified, "Not yet. Let me finish what I have to say."

Zhang Lexuan frowned, "Then you'd better hurry. If you take up too much time, it would be unfair to the others."

"I understand." Tang Wutong replied, before hastily shifting her gaze back to Huo Yuhao. "I'm running out of time, but there's so much I want to say to you. Yuhao, I am standing before you today just like I did back then, when you chose me even before you saw my appearance. Can you take me with you today? I have so much to say to you!"

He stared calmly at Tang Wutong, but his heart was wrenching with pain. Tang Wutong... Why must you bring up such things...? You are not Dong'er, and never will be! Even though you may look like her, you are ultimately not her... How can I take you with me?

Zhang Lexuan announced, "Alright! Now that everyone is done, it's now Yuhao's turn to make his decision. Yuhao, the time is now yours."

Huo Yuhao nodded at Zhang Lexuan and Han Ruoruo before turning his attention to the four ladies before him. He sighed and apologized, "I'm deeply grateful for the attention and affection which all of you have showered upon me. But to be very honest, I didn't intend to come today. I already have a certain lady in my heart... a girl who I met at my previous Fated Blind Date. We met each other back then and got together. However, something peculiar happened to her, and she has disappeared. Even now, I'm unable to find her.

"However, this doesn't change the fact that my heart can only contain her and no one else. Until the end of my life, I can only love her and her only. The only reason why I attended this Blind Date is because all single students of the inner courtyard must attend. Because of this, I'm terribly sorry for what I have put all of you through. Bai Se and Su Tong, feel free to look for me for a duel whenever either of you wish. I'm open to such challenges."

With that, he turned around to look at Zhang Lexuan before saying, "Eldest senior sister, let's call it a day. I will take my leave now and not interfere with the other students' blind date."

After finishing his sentence, Huo Yuhao nodded at Zhang Lexuan and Han Ruoruo and turned to leave.

"Hold on!" At this very moment, three voices simultaneously demanded that he stop.

Huo Yuhao turned around, and realized that the three voices belonged to Bai Se, Su Tong, and Tang Wutong.

Bai Se spoke anxiously, "You can't leave like this. Do you know how hard it is to bump into you in person? If I were to miss this opportunity to spar with you today, I'm not sure how long I would have to wait before I got to see you in person again. Let's just spar today!"

Su Tong gave him a cold sneer. "That's right. Even if you didn't choose us, you should at the very least spar with us before leaving. I want to prove to everyone present that I am stronger than you."

After both of them clarified their reasons, it was Tang Wutong's turn to speak, but she merely bit her lip and kept quiet. No one knew what was on her mind. But slowly, she looked back up at Huo Yuhao with a determined stare.

Huo Yuhao frowned as memories of Wang Dong'er were awakened by this Fated Blind Date. Burdened by the heartache from those memories, all Huo Yuhao wanted to do was leave this Blind Date and find a quiet corner to hide. However, these ladies were overbearing, and they were getting on his nerves.

"Okay. Since both of you are so interested in challenging me, why don't I perform two moves, and both of you try to replicate them? If either of you can replicate them, I will willingly concede defeat."

Huo Yuhao's voice was not particularly loud, but everyone present, regardless of whether they were above the lake or all the way at the lakeside, could hear him clearly.

At that very instant, the students from the outer courtyard stood up in unison in excitement. They were about to witness Huo Yuhao — the owner of the Eyes of the Asura, the Academy's youngest ever member of the Sea God's Pavilion, the founder of the Spirit Pagoda, and the inventor of Spirits — perform before their very eyes!

Was he really going to demonstrate his abilities in front of everyone? Oh, what a sight that would be! The students from the Outer Courtyard had long wanted to see Spirits — an important lesson module within Shrek Academy which had been made famous by word of mouth — with their own eyes.

Nothing could beat watching the inventor use what he had invented, right? Everyone had huge expectations for the upcoming display from Huo Yuhao.

Just when everyone was hyped up for what they were about to see, Huo Yuhao took a step forward and left the lily pad beneath him. As he stood calmly above the surface of the lake, a thick circle of ice with a diameter of roughly two meters formed beneath his feet and took his weight.

Huo Yuhao nodded politely towards Bai Se before gazing up at the sky. At that very instant, his eyes appeared to lose focus, as though his attention had drifted off and away into the skies. However, this only lasted for a short while before a massive change followed. An incredibly strong sense of nostalgia rippled out into the surroundings from him. His emotions appeared to be pouring out of his gaze.

He took a step forward off the ice into the empty space before him. Huo Yuhao levitated above the lake as his soul rings started to rise from his feet.

Every soul ring's color was pristine and free from any form of adulteration. The white, black, gold and red rings were all equally impressive as all seven rings shone brilliantly with their individual colors. The energy coming off of Huo Yuhao's body was way beyond what any normal seven-ringed Soul Sage could produce.

The outer courtyard students by the lake were not able to differentiate it, but the inner courtyard students, who were a lot nearer, were all stupefied.

Even though he only had seven soul rings, Huo Yuhao seemed to be giving off the energy levels of an eight-ringed Soul Sage! Unless...he has already become an eight-ringed Soul Sage? But if that is the case, why would he only have seven rings?

Of course, Huo Yuhao would not give away the answer. Before anyone knew it, he suddenly struck a fist up towards the sky.

At that very instant, his whole body turned golden. In fact, the soul rings surrounding him all turned golden as well. The intent from his punch left a deep impression in everyone's hearts.

Everyone present could feel a powerful feeling of nostalgia surging from the depths of their hearts. Images of the ones they missed the most formed in everyone's minds simultaneously.

Some missed their mothers, while others missed their fathers. But what was common between those mental images was the love they all had for the ones whom they missed the most.

The power of that fist's intent was so strong that even the Titled Douluo on the ship were affected by the yearning for one's loved one. At that very instant, everyone, including Elder Xuan, Yan Shaozhe, and the other powerful Douluo, had their emotions affected to different extents by Huo Yuhao's move.

Immediately following this moving performance, a powerful golden glow exploded into the air as his golden fist transformed into a pillar of golden radiance shooting straight up into the heavens, illuminating the entirety of the Sea God's Lake, and the whole of the Sea God's Island.

At that very instant, all of Shrek Academy was painted in gold.

Bai Se, who was standing just opposite Huo Yuhao, was completely stunned by what she had just seen. How was she going to replicate such a powerful move executed by the guy who was floating in mid-air before her? The move Huo Yuhao had performed contained a scary amount of spiritual intent, and Bai Se was certain that she would be severely injured or even killed if such a blow landed on her. She knew very well that even if she were currently at the Soul Sage level, instead of her current Soul Emperor level, she would not have been able to take the blow! Why is the intensity of the soul power fluctuations radiating from his body beyond that of an ordinary Soul Sage? Is...Is he still human?

At this very instant, Bai Se realized Huo Yuhao's figure was indelibly imprinted in her mind. His magnificent golden figure was now an immovable image in the depths of her heart.

As the golden color in the sky gradually faded away, the students from Shrek Academy slowly collected themselves after witnessing Huo Yuhao's move. However, just when they thought they had recovered from the shock, they were met with another unbelievable sight.

Yes, it appeared that something in the sky had once again surprised them. There was another person. Someone completely golden.

This person's silhouette was incredibly beautiful. Her long dress weighed down perfectly, her long hair covered her back gracefully, while her beauty glowed in a gentle yet alluring way. She appeared to be looking into the distance, as though she were waiting or yearning for someone.

The students from the outer courtyard could not see it clearly, but those from the inner courtyard who were participating in the Sea God's Fated Blind Date were shocked, because the levitating person looked exactly like Tang Wutong!

Only those who had seen Wang Dong'er before knew that that person was not Tang Wutong. Wang Dong'er, the former Goddess of Light, used to have wavy hair, but the person levitating in the air had straight hair. But yes, that person was none other than Wang Dong'er... the person who had stolen away Huo Yuhao's heart.

This scene was utterly breathtaking: Wang Dong'er was gazing down at Huo Yuhao from high up in the air, while Huo Yuhao returned her stare lovingly from a lower altitude. The entire Sea God's Lake was theirs, and everyone else present was invisible.

No one wanted to let out a scream of excitement or exhilaration anymore. While they were all shocked beyond belief, they did not want to spoil the beautiful scene, Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong'er's "reunion", taking place before their eyes.

Chapter 509.1: Fusion! She's Back!

Tang Wutong was in a daze as she looked at Huo Yuhao not far from her. Right now, for some reason, she felt that the distance between him and her was so far that it was unbridgeable.

Tang Wutong took in a deep breath and tried to get rid of that feeling. However, everything was in vain. She knew that she wouldn't be able to forget the look in his eyes as he gazed at Wang Dong'er. She was now immersed in Wang Dong'er's world. *n/0veℓbn*

Finally, the golden projection in the sky slowly dimmed down as Huo Yuhao looked on reluctantly. The night sky became quiet once again, and all of Shrek Academy seemed to quiet down with it.

Is this even humanly possible? How did he do this?, were the questions in every student's mind.

Only the more experienced inner courtyard students and teachers could roughly guess that it was the most advanced self-invented soul skill of a soul master. Only the most outstanding soul masters could do something like this. Furthermore, Huo Yuhao's self-invented soul skill fused his martial soul, soul power, and spiritual power. It even contained his emotions, his yearning for Wang Dong'er!

It was the Fist of Remembrance, a fist containing a surging feeling of remembrance!

The yearning in Huo Yuhao's eyes was slowly withdrawn. What replaced it was a deep look. He looked at Bai Se again and nodded to her, "Do you still want to challenge me now?"

Bai Se laughed bitterly and shook her head. She replied, "Although I knew that the gap between you and me was huge, I didn't expect it to be that huge. I've already lost my courage to challenge you. I'll consider it again when I have the courage."

As she finished speaking, she paused for a moment and took a serious look at Huo Yuhao before saying, "However, senior, did you know? After you demonstrated this move, I've become even more curious about you. I've even developed an admiration for you. To me, admiration should be the precondition for love. I won't give up easily, I'll work harder to understand you. I heard that you're from the Tang Sect. After I graduate, I want to join the Tang Sect!"

Huo Yuhao smiled and said, "The Tang Sect welcomes you, and I accept your challenge anytime."

"Alright." Bai Se answered. After this, she turned to Zhang Lexuan and Han Ruoruo and said with a high-pitched voice, "Seniors, I've already decided to pull out of this Fated Blind Date. After seeing what Senior Yuhao has demonstrated, I'm only keen on cultivating further. I'll make a move first." After she finished speaking, she jumped away and proceeded towards the shore.

After watching her leave, Zhang Lexuan revealed a frustrated look on her face. She thought to herself, Yuhao is too charismatic. He can 'infect' anyone everywhere he goes!

Huo Yuhao had already turned his attention to number eleven, Su Tong. Su Tong still had her bamboo hat and veil over her head, the veil still covering her face. At least on the surface, no one could tell what her feelings were.

At this moment, Huo Yuhao's seven soul rings slowly winked out.

"Don't you want to demonstrate your abilities to me ,too? What I want to see are not your self-invented soul skills." Su Tong said to Huo Yuhao in a high-pitched voice. However, if she could hear her voice right now, she would definitely be stunned to discover that she lacked some of the self-confidence she normally possessed.

Huo Yuhao nodded at her and said, "I'll satisfy you, then."

Soul rings started to rise from Huo Yuhao's body again. However, everyone was shocked to find out that the soul rings that re-emerged weren't the same color as they were before. They were different now!

Of the seven soul rings that rose earlier, the first one was white. This time, the first soul ring to rise was red, blood-red! It was as red as Shrek Academy's uniform, even deeper and darker! It was a red that represented strength!

"Hundred-thousand-year soul ring!" many people exclaimed in astonishment.

What followed were the rest of Huo Yuhao's soul rings. They left everyone in complete shock.

There were seven more soul rings after the first one, four orange and three red ones. In total, there were eight soul rings. Half were orange, and half were red.

A red soul ring was a hundred-thousand-year soul ring. This was basic knowledge that every soul master knew. But what did orange represent? The students from Shrek Academy, whether they were from the inner or outer courtyards, had never heard of orange soul rings before. They didn't even know what an orange soul ring represented. Everyone was flabbergasted. They looked at Huo Yuhao like he was a freak.

Huo Yuhao gradually lit up with a jade-green glow. All eight soul rings were quietly drifting around him. The clear water of the Sea God's Lake started to crystallize at an alarming speed.

Very soon, a tough icy layer spread all the way beneath the feet of both the male and female students on Sea God's Lake. As the surface beneath them hardened, they were able to relax in controlling their soul power. The speed of the crystallization was even increasing. In just a matter of seconds, the entire Sea God's Lake rippled with a layer of icy fog.

Yes, Sea God's Lake had frozen up. The entirety of Sea God's Lake was covered with ice.

The temperature in the air dipped significantly in just a short period of time. Everyone could sense the intense chill. However, the outer courtyard students could still handle the chill, as the chill only came from the surface of the lake.

Without even using a soul skill or performing any visible action, Huo Yuhao managed to freeze the entire Sea God's Lake. Although Sea God's Lake wasn't a true lake, it was still expansive. How easy was it to freeze the whole thing?

Moreover, Huo Yuhao had unleashed eight soul rings, and the color of every soul ring was astonishing.

The students of Shrek had all heard that he had twin martial souls. However, it was their first time seeing twin martial souls with their own eyes.

He had two martial souls. One was seven-ringed, and the other was eight-ringed. He was a Soul Douluo, a Soul Douluo who was barely twenty years old!

If Huo Yuhao was only a myth in the Academy in the past, he was now transforming according to the myth right now.

—

Even Elder Xuan was astonished. “Since when did this fellow have eight soul rings? They’re even hundred-thousand-year soul rings!”

Yan Shaozhe took this opportunity to say, “Elder Xuan, now do you believe that he doesn’t have to wait until the future to replace me, right? He can just directly take over from you.”

—

Huo Yuhao calmly said to Su Tong, who was standing where she was without saying anything or moving an inch, “If you can turn the lake back into water, you win. You should know that ice-type controllers like us take control of temperature first. I’m not taking advantage of you in any way.”

Su Tong nodded silently. However, she didn’t say anything before suddenly jumping up and heading. Everyone around knew that she couldn’t undo what Huo Yuhao had managed to do so easily.

Huo Yuhao turned to Zhang Lexuan and Han Ruoruo and said, “Seniors, let’s leave the lake frozen. It will melt slowly on its own. It’ll also make things easier for the other students of this Fated Blind Date. Apologies for taking everyone’s time.”

Huo Yuhao nodded at the male and female students to acknowledge them. I should be able to leave now. The Academy invited me over because they wanted me to demonstrate my abilities and inspire everyone to cultivate. I’ve helped them achieve their goal.

“Wait a minute.”

Huo Yuhao appeared slightly dissatisfied as he was halted once again. He wasn’t in a good mood right now. He was starting to become a little angry as he was stopped over and over again. However, his anger dissipated when he saw the person who had halted him.

There was no more complicated look in Tang Wutong’s eyes now. Her determined gaze was flashing with golden light. Even though she wasn’t Wang Dong’er, she still looked very similar to her. No matter what, Huo Yuhao couldn’t bring himself to be angry with her.

“You’ve already demonstrated your abilities to them. What about me?” Tang Wutong said calmly.

Huo Yuhao furrowed his brow and asked, “Tang Wutong, are you challenging me?”

“Why not, since the rules allow it?” Tang Wutong replied calmly.

Huo Yuhao sighed and replied, "But I don't want to fight you. I'm not in the mood, either. You should know that I won't hurt you."

Tang Wutong said, "What if I insist?"

Huo Yuhao's eyes flashed, and he said coldly, "How do you want to fight, then?"

Tang Wutong revealed a smile. It seemed rather weird. It appeared to be a teasing smile, but very uncomfortable, too. When the two expressions came together, it indeed made her smile appear a little odd.

Huo Yuhao's heart skipped a beat when he saw her smile. For some reason, he felt something was about to happen.

Tang Wutong said, "Forget it, I don't want to fight you either. Although I don't think that I'll lose to you, you taught me that day that I shouldn't bite the hand that fed me."

"What do you want, then?" Huo Yuhao asked.

Tang Wutong replied, "Do you still remember our time in the Star Luo Empire? Back then, you used your soul power to check my power before you left. I agreed to your request back then. Right now, I want to do the same to you. I want to try what you did. Is that considered fair? I've already let you check me. If you want to leave, you can do so."

"What?" Huo Yuhao didn't expect Tang Wutong to make such a request. He was a little confused, as he couldn't figure out what her goal was.

"Why, are you scared?" Tang Wutong looked a little provocative as she stared at him.

Chapter 509.2: Fusion! She's Back!

Huo Yuhao shook his head and said, "That's not a problem. However, I just want to know what you're checking for. What are you trying to feel in me?" He was clearly unconvinced that Tang Wutong only wanted to sense his soul power.

Tang Wutong pursed her lips and answered, "Did you tell me the reason when you did this to me before? You only patronized me with a few words."

"Alright. Do it then." Huo Yuhao only wanted to leave now. Furthermore, he was also confident that Tang Wutong wouldn't harm him.

The surface of the lake was already frozen solid. Tang Wutong directly walked off of her lotus leaf towards Huo Yuhao.

Zhang Lexuan and Han Ruoruo didn't stop her. Everyone was watching quietly. Huo Yuhao was also unaware what Tang Wutong was going to do, much less the rest of the people.

The distance between them closed quickly, Tang Wutong stopped in front of Huo Yuhao. She nodded at him and said, "I'm going to begin."

Huo Yuhao didn't answer, and only quietly spread his arms. It actually looked like he was about to catch her.

Tang Wutong's face turned red. After hesitating slightly, she lifted her hands and placed them on his.

Tang Wutong's hands were soft and delicate. One could be aroused even touching her tender palms. Huo Yuhao was startled, and tried to force himself to detach Wang Dong'er from his thoughts. However, he realized that he couldn't do so.

Tang Wutong and Wang Dong'er were simply too alike. Even if they were different people, it was almost impossible to not link them together.

It wasn't Huo Yuhao's first time sensing her soul power, and she gradually poured her soul power into his hands.

Precisely because he had experienced it before, he knew that Tang Wutong's soul power was extraordinary. Although it wasn't like his Ultimate martial soul, Huo Yuhao felt that her soul power was even stronger than his Ultimate Ice soul power. Her soul power contained something that wasn't in his soul power, something that seemed extraordinary and seemed to have been enhanced.

As for what it was, Huo Yuhao couldn't say in detail. However, he was certain that it existed.

Huo Yuhao didn't resist at all. He allowed Tang Wutong to freely pour her soul power into him and touch his soul power.

As his cultivation increased, the quality of Huo Yuhao's soul power was not that far from Tang Wutong's, especially after he absorbed the Manifold Mysterious Ice Essence, even though there were still some qualitative differences. *n/Ove/bIn*

At this moment, Huo Yuhao suddenly saw Tang Wutong smiling. He was a little stunned when he looked at her, as he didn't know why she was smiling.

It was at this time that a pair of huge golden wings appeared behind Tang Wutong. Soul rings also started to surface from her feet.

Black, black, black, black, black, black, red, and red.

There were actually eight soul rings. They were even fully complementary. There were six ten-thousand-year soul rings and two hundred-thousand-year soul rings.

Huo Yuhao was astonished at this moment. He also didn't know that Tang Wutong was actually a Soul Douluo. She actually has eight rings already. She went into closed-door cultivation earlier so that she could obtain eight rings?

However, even if she has eight rings and wants to demonstrate her abilities to me, what's the point of doing so?

There were dense scaly patterns on her wings, which were dragon wings. Tang Wutong's martial soul was the powerful Radiant Dragon God's Butterfly. Although they were dragon wings, they were still shaped like butterfly wings.

Just as Huo Yuhao was confused about what Tang Wutong was doing, her forehead suddenly lit up. A golden trident was exuding a strong glow.

Huo Yuhao felt instantly felt dizzy when he saw the glow from the golden trident. However, there was a weird sense of closeness, as well.

An astonishing scene appeared. Tang Wutong's wings fluttered gently, and streaks of golden light started to spread out like fog. As these streaks of light quickly spread, they actually surged towards the trident on her forehead, and were quickly absorbed by the golden trident.

This was...

Huo Yuhao was shocked as he looked at Tang Wutong. He was the closest to her, and her soul power was inside him, and he could feel it most acutely. However, he couldn't understand what was going on.

It wasn't just Tang Wutong's wings that had experienced changes. Even the soul power that was pouring into his body was experiencing changes. Some of the changes were more obvious: the something in her soul power that Huo Yuhao had sensed earlier was rapidly weakening, whereas that familiar and close feeling he had sensed was becoming stronger and stronger. The intense discrimination of his soul power was also gradually disappearing.

Her soul power and martial soul are actually changing? Is this even possible? Don't tell me that this is her self-invented soul skill?

Huo Yuhao was a genius, and believed that he had a deep understanding of soul masters, since he was the person who had invented Spirits. Moreover, there were also the Snow Empress, Ice Empress, and Skydream Iceworm within him. Much of their knowledge had been imparted to him.

However, Huo Yuhao didn't get a reply when he tried to call to them. All of them, including the Ice Bear King and the Star Anise Mysterious Ice Grass, were asleep. They didn't respond at all.

Slowly, Huo Yuhao's eyes opened wider and wider. Tang Wutong's wings were gradually changing...

First, her scales became illusory, as if they had been absorbed by the wings. The dragon scales gradually disappeared. The original golden glow also slowly dimmed. The edges of the wings started to turn a dim blue. Furthermore, that color was slowly intensifying.

"This, this..."

The soul power that Tang Wutong poured into him slowly started to change. It was becoming more and more complementary to his soul power, and even started to entangle itself with it. After this, it even...

Slowly! Gradually! Fused!

Huo Yuhao was in a daze right now. Fuse? It actually fused? Even though the speed of fusion is slow, it's still fusing! It's slow, but continuous!

It's as if... it's like it was before...

Haodong Power!

Huo Yuhao's heart was shaking. He had only patronizingly raised his hands, but now he subconsciously tightened his grip on hers. The way he looked at her also started to change.

The draw from Tang Wutong's forehead was becoming stronger and stronger as golden light fused with the golden trident. The wings behind her back and the scales on her wings had completely disappeared, and were quickly turning blue. There was now a V-shaped golden pattern covering the blue of her wings.

It was no longer the Radiant Dragon God's Butterfly. It was...the Radiant Butterfly Goddess!

Huo Yuhao's heart was completely gripped right now. At this moment, the pain in his heart had completely disappeared. What replaced it was only a strong sense of suffocation.

It was his first time experiencing what a miraculous recovery was. At this instant, the seemingly pitch-black night sky had finally brightened up.

Tang Wutong looked at Huo Yuhao. There seemed to be boundless love and yearning in her captivating eyes. She smiled, and her discomfort seemed to have disappeared. What was left was only that teasing look. However, there was a crystal-clear tear in her eyes at the same time.

On the boat, everyone, including Elder Xuan, stood up. They were all stunned. Huo Yuhao didn't know what was going on, and neither did they. No one could guess what had actually happened to Tang Wutong.

Finally, the last streak of golden light was absorbed by Tang Wutong's golden trident. What was left was only the combination of blue and gold, the combination that he was most familiar with. The combination that he had been thinking of all this time.

"Am, am I in a dream?" Huo Yuhao was in a daze as he looked at Tang Wutong. His voice was trembling madly. It was trembling so much that it didn't even seem like he was talking.

"Idiot," Tang Wutong snorted.

Idiot? What a familiar word! Huo Yuhao only felt a stinging feeling in his eyes, and tears flowed out uncontrollably.

At this moment, there wasn't any derogatory connotation to this call. It made him feel as if the entire world was blissful.

All the negative emotions in his heart seemed to have been split apart and swept away at this moment.

He wanted to say something, but there was something in his throat. He couldn't say a single word more.

At this moment, soul power surged from Tang Wutong's hands. It was very strong, and instantly surged into Huo Yuhao's body. During this process, Huo Yuhao's Mysterious Heaven Technique was subconsciously fusing with it.

Yes! This was the Haodong Power that they both possessed!

The last time they had fused was on the Sun Moon Empire's battlefield. Back then, Huo Yuhao was not even a Soul Emperor. Now, they were both Soul Douluo!

The immense soul power raged through Huo Yuhao's body. The soul core on his forehead was stimulated, and opened up. His soul power was being enhanced at an alarming speed.

It was unprecedentedly strong. Huo Yuhao only felt that countless whirlpools seemed to have appeared in his fluid soul power. Every whirlpool was crazily absorbing and compressing soul power, making him stronger and stronger.

He was in control of his soul power. It started to take form as it flowed from his right hand through him, out from his left hand, and entered Tang Wutong.

Chapter 509.3: Fusion! She's Back!

Tang Wutong pulled Huo Yuhao with both her hands. She pulled so hard that he took a step forward. She was now in his embrace. Suddenly, both their bodies lit up, and their eight soul rings released a fascinating and unprecedentedly bright glow.

Huo Yuhao disappeared. A huge vertical eye that was filled with gentleness and love appeared where he was previously.

Eye of the Asura!

Tang Wutong also disappeared, and turned into a giant but beautiful Radiant Butterfly Goddess. Her wings closed up and engulfed that vertical eye.

All the lights retracted instantly. When they shone again, everyone couldn't help but squint.

A tri-colored beam made of blue, gold and jade-green light appeared. The vertical eye, which seemed so abstruse, as if it were another dimension on its own, shot out from this beam of light.

The tri-colored beam of light shot a thousand meters into the sky before turning into a huge beam that seemed to support the entire sky.

On the shore, Bei Bei was now in tears as he witnessed everything. He muttered to himself, "A Golden Road Amidst Withering Resplendence."

Yes! Wasn't that tri-colored beam of light Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong'er's fusion skill, A Golden Road Amidst Withering Resplendence?

Ten years ago, they had used this powerful fusion skill to earn their reputation in Shrek Academy.

Ten years later, this fusion skill revealed its true brilliance. It was more than a hundred times stronger. A sense of awe could be felt everywhere in the air. That beam of golden light seemed to have permanently imprinted itself on the sky.

The huge vertical eye rose into the sky. Two projections lit up at either side of the vertical eye. On one side, there was the Ice Jade Empress Scorpion, which was shining with diamond ice crystals and a jade-green glow. The other side was completely black. However, there was a weird golden pattern that flashed. It was the dense and heavy Clear Sky Hammer.

The two projections instantly fused into the vertical eye. Suddenly, the vertical eye changed. A jade-green hammer surfaced as distorted lights shone. The hammer struck the sky.

There weren't any resounding sounds to be heard. However, the entire Shrek Academy shook slightly. A jade-green halo that spanned more than a hundred meters in diameter appeared in the sky. The inside of this halo was a deep, black and hollow hole.

Yes, it had hammered the sky until it cracked!

Xu Sanshi was grabbing tightly onto Bei Bei's shoulder. He was muttering word by word, "Blaze! Amidst! The! Frost! The! Heavenly! Emperor's! Hammer!

The sky cracked. The two sides of the hammer revealed different projections once again. One side was the rose-gold Eye of the Asura, while the other side was still the pitch-black Clear Sky Hammer.

Both the Eye and the Clear Sky Hammer fused together. The originally jade-green hammer suddenly turned golden. Following this, it disintegrated. Countless small golden hammers flashed past within a region covering a thousand meters in diameter. Strong spiritual undulations caused everyone to feel stunned.

Jiang Nannan sobbed as she threw herself into Xu Sanshi's arms. He Caitou's voice trembled as he said, "Mantra Amidst the Void, Spiritual Tempest. She's back. Dong'er is back!"

Everything soon returned to a peaceful state. The Ice Jade Empress and Radiant Butterfly Goddess silently surfaced. They gazed at each other.

In the next moment, they performed their last fusion.

As they fused, there was only a golden pattern left in the sky. Following this, a captivating leg walked out from the hole. A bright golden figure quietly appeared in the void.

She was wearing an elegant golden dress. On her forehead, there was a vertical eye with sunray patterns. She was holding a long dragon pike in her left hand. In her right hand, there was golden trident that was filled with dominance, strength and elegance.

Her wavy pinkish-blue hair drooped behind her back all the way down to her feet. As she appeared, everything around her lost its gloss.

A gentle icy fog circled her body, and snowflakes started to dance in the air.

"This..."

"Solitary Dance Amidst the Frost, Raiment of Light!"

Yes, she was back.

Bei Bei, He Caitou, Xu Sanshi, Jiang Nannan and Xiao Xiao were all very emotional at this point.

They were all good friends with Wang Dong'er! When Wang Dong'er was still in a coma, Huo Yuhao was depressed. But how could they not be depressed too? They only avoided mentioning her name in front of Huo Yuhao because they were afraid of triggering his emotions further. However, this didn't mean that they weren't sad! It was just like how Huo Yuhao was also very worried about Tang Ya, and risked his life to save her. They were teammates, close friends, sworn friends and Shrek's Seven Monsters.

Right now, they were all very emotional when they saw the familiar Golden Road, Heavenly Emperor's Hammer, Spiritual Tempest and Raiment of Light.

In fact, they had known that Tang Wutong was here for the Blind Date. Zhang Lexuan and Han Ruoruo also knew, but they didn't tell Huo Yuhao beforehand. This was because they were afraid of making him feel conflicted. At the same time, they wanted to give him a surprise.

Right now, they couldn't contain themselves when they saw what was happening, even though they had already predicted this long ago.

The Goddess of Light descended from the sky as she was surrounded by icy fog, dim golden light, and the ravishing and holy looks of the Goddess of Light, as well as the Eye of Destiny on her forehead. Even Yan Shaozhe was in awe, even though he was a Transcendent Douluo.

Everyone could sense how strong the Goddess of Light was. This was the fusion of light and ice, and the best form that Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong'er could adopt together. No, it should be the best form that Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong could adopt together.

The Goddess of Light gently landed on the icy surface. She scanned the entire place, and a slight smile appeared on her face.

Initially, Huo Yuhao had controlled three of the four fusion skills that Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong'er shared. Only this Goddess of Light was mainly controlled by Wang Dong'er. At the same time, this fusion skill was the most extreme out of the four fusion skills.

This was because the Goddess of Light possessed almost all the abilities that Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong'er had. She combined their powers perfectly.

The Goddess of Light had appeared once again. Right now, this Goddess of Light was the combination of the eight-ringed Huo Yuhao and eight-ringed Tang Wutong!

A fusion skill which was a combination of the powers of two eight-ringed soul masters should be as strong as the abilities of a Titled Douluo. Currently, they were two of the strongest in the world of soul masters. As for how strong the Goddess of Light was, no one knew as of now.

The Goddess of Light lifted her head to look at the sky, revealing a complex look in her eyes. Following this, a gentle, golden glow rippled from her body. Everything seemed to turn illusory within this golden glow.

Two figures separated from the Goddess of Light. Under the golden light, they turned back into Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong.

Four eyes met. Huo Yuhao was already in tears. A tall, big man was now crying like a child. Huo Yuhao had turned his yearning for Wang Dong'er into the Three Ultimate Haodong Skills. Right now, his yearning for Wang Dong'er had turned into love and tears.

He hadn't expected such a surprise today. This surprise enhanced his life and made him long for life. It was everything; it was the courage to carry on living, the will to pursue excellence and the confidence to reach for the godly realm.

When Wang Dong'er was in a coma, Huo Yuhao's entire world had turned grey, but it was now colorful once again.

"Dong'er!" Huo Yuhao hugged her. He hugged her tightly, as if he wanted to make her a part of him. He only felt that his mind and heart were being enhanced right now. His soul power was surging, and their Haodong Power was unleashed the instant he hugged Tang Wutong. His passageways widened, and thick soul power undulations surrounded both him and Tang Wutong.

Tang Wutong lay in his embrace. Her arms circled around his waist and back. She gently said, "I'm Tang Wutong, not Dong'er."

"It's not important. It's not important right now." Huo Yuhao said agitatedly. He wasn't willing to let go of her anymore. He had found his love again. This feeling made him feel as if he had earned a new life.

Zhang Lexuan and Han Ruoruo looked at each other and smiled. The two of them said together, "A union has been made. Huo Yuhao, Tang Wutong, congratulations."

"Thank you, thank you." Huo Yuhao couldn't say anything else right now. His heart was already filled by the person in his arms. He gently touched the icy surface with his toes and shot into the sky. In the next instant, he turned into a beam of golden light that disappeared deep into Sea God's Island.

It was only at this instant that everyone on Sea God's Lake and the shore of Sea God's Lake reacted. Although most people didn't know what had happened, they saw what the result was. They saw that astonishing yet touching scene.

Suddenly, the atmosphere at the Sea God's Fated Blind Date was raised to the extreme.

Huo Yuhao didn't return to the Sea God's Pavilion. He hugged Tang Wutong as he flew to the platform that they had fought on together before. This was the quietest place on the island right now. They wouldn't be disturbed.

Huo Yuhao continued to hug her tightly even as they landed. It was as if he really wanted to fuse her with him.

It was only now that Huo Yuhao felt that everything that had happened before was unreal. Yes, it was unreal.

There was nothing more appropriate than the Haodong Power to prove Tang Wutong's identity. The Haodong Power only belonged to him and her!

Even though it was much stronger than it was before, its origin was still the same. He was too familiar with this. He was too familiar.

Chapter 510.1: You Still Have to Go Through My Father

Tang Wutong leaned into Huo Yuhao's arms as she quietly felt his passionately burning heartbeat. They shared this embrace, and two slender shadows stretched out under the moonlight.

Tang Wutong pushed Huo Yuhao away gently after a long while, and stood straight from within his arms.

Huo Yuhao lowered his head and stared into her eyes. Tang Wutong felt her heart skip a beat, as his gaze was just too passionate, hot enough to melt steel.

“Yuhao.”

“Mm.” Huo Yuhao’s hands were still around her waist, and he didn’t relax his grip at all, like she would immediately leave him if he did.

Tang Wutong said gently, “Give me some time, okay?”

Huo Yuhao was momentarily stunned. “What’s up with you, Dong’er?”

Tang Wutong shook her head gently. “I’ve already said, I’m Tang Wutong. I’m not Wang Dong’er. Really, I’m Tang Wutong.”

“Eh?” Huo Yuhao stared at her in surprise. He responded confusedly, “Dong’er, didn’t you come here to reunite with me on the Sea God’s Fated Blind Date because you’ve recovered your memory?”

Tang Wutong gently shook her head and said, “More accurately put, I have recovered the memory that belonged to Wang Dong’er.”

Huo Yuhao was even more perplexed. He stared at her in confusion and asked, “What’s happened, exactly, Dong’er?”

Tang Wutong said gently, “Just call me Tang Wutong from now on. That’s my real name. Dong’er is a fake name I used back then.”

Huo Yuhao immediately nodded. Her name was secondary to him; what was most important was Tang Wutong as a person.

Tang Wutong’s eyes seemed a little blurry as she smiled bitterly and said, “To be frank, I had to think long and hard about meeting with you on the Sea God’s Lake today, and that’s because I know I’m not entirely ready yet. Listen to me, okay?”

“Okay.” Huo Yuhao’s eyes instantly became a little more nervous. Even though he was very excited because of his reunion with Dong’er, he could tell from Tang Wutong’s expression that things didn’t appear that simple. How could he not be nervous?

Tang Wutong held his hand and pulled him over to a flat surface beside them and sat down.

“Do you remember that day? The Dragon Emperor Douluo forced us into a corner, and you stabbed yourself nine times to save me.” Tang Wutong’s voice trembled a little as she spoke. Even though that had happened a long time ago, she could feel her heart and soul quivering when she thought back to what had happened that day.

“That day, when I watched you plunge that knife into your own body with a plain and emotionless look on your face, my entire heart tied itself into a painful knot, and I was hurting so much. Only then did I realize what suffocating heartache felt like. I will never forget that feeling.”

“I’d already developed some positive feelings towards you by then, but there was no way I could identify what that feeling was. But I knew that you didn’t stab yourself with that knife for me because you liked

me, you did it because I was your companion. Perhaps, part of the reason was also because I look very, very similar to Wang Dong'er. Furthermore, what I saw in your eyes wasn't pain – it was liberation. Yes, liberation. In that moment, I suddenly felt so terribly afraid, and that wasn't just because of the pain that you were suffering. More of that was because of your eyes that seemed like you were liberating yourself. Only then could I clearly see how deep your love for Wang Dong'er was."

"I was struck a little deeper with every stab, and my emotions quickly crumbled. When I watched you stab yourself for the last time, when you were definitely going to die, I felt like something somewhere deep in my heart had cracked apart. That pain was indescribable, and in that moment, I seemed to lift some kind of seal as countless things surged through my brain. I passed out."

"When I woke up and saw you next to me and that you weren't dead, nothing seemed bad about the situation. I was a little lost because there were too many memories in my mind. That made me panic and afraid, and my entire being was lost and confused. I didn't like that feeling, but I seemed to like how those memories returned to me. Therefore, I carried you and took you back to the Tang Sect. I returned to Sea God's Island after taking you back, and I told everyone I was going into closed-door cultivation so that I could sort out these messy memories."

"I gradually began to understand that, yes, your initial judgment wasn't wrong, and I am Wang Dong'er. Rather, I used to be Wang Dong'er, your Wang Dong'er. But Wang Dong'er's memories aren't the only ones in my mind. Have you not realized? Back when I was Wang Dong'er and when I was together with you, I never spoke to you about my childhood. That's because Wang Dong'er back then didn't remember anything that happened in her childhood. And now I, Tang Wutong, and not Wang Dong'er, am a complete version of myself. Wang Dong'er's memories are of those years that she spent with you. Other than that, I have many memories about my childhood, some remnants of which have come through Wang Qiu'er."

"I don't know what's going on, but for the moment, Wang Dong'er's memories have taken charge amidst all my memories. Memories of my childhood and those remnants from Wang Qiu'er seems to have merged together with those main memories. I'm lost and I don't know what to do, but I do know that I cannot lose you, you're just too important to me. But I cannot lie to you, and I cannot tell you that I am purely Wang Dong'er, because I am Tang Wutong. I am Tang Wutong, who was once Wang Dong'er. Aside from my childhood memories and Wang Qiu'er's remnants, I have the memories spent with you that belong to Tang Wutong. These memories are making me confused and frightened, and I don't know if you're willing to accept me like this. I haven't been able to sort through everything yet, and I need some time. I need some time to see myself clearly."

Huo Yuhao slipped into a bit of a daze as he listened to Tang Wutong's description, but his eyes gradually became gentle and tender once more. There wasn't just deep emotion in his eyes, they were also full of loving pity.

Huo Yuhao opened his arms and took her into his embrace. He gently caressed her wavy pinkish-blue hair as he said gently, "You're thinking too much, silly girl. You became my Dong'er from that moment when my soul power fused with yours and recreated our Haodong power. I can understand everything you're saying, and the reason why you've become like that is because of that strange illness that you suffered from as a child. If I had known you were Dong'er without her memory, even if you'd completely forgotten me, I would still find ways to make you like me all over again. Right now, your memories are

just a little mixed up, so how can I not accept you? As long as I'm sure that you're my Dong'er, no, I should say that you're my Wutong, then I am content. I will love you, treasure you, and wait until you've completely rediscovered yourself, until you've completely merged your memories together. I have an entire lifetime to wait, so I'm not worried or impatient. I'm not worried at all. But this time, I will never let you leave my side again, no matter what. I will always protect you, and I will be wherever you are. Nobody can separate us anymore."

Tang Wutong listened to his confession that came from his heart, and her eyes slowly turned red as she leaned into his arms and gently shut her eyes. "Do you know, Yuhao, I really wasn't ready at all. I was afraid that I wouldn't have a chance to prove to you that I'm your Dong'er, and I was also afraid that you would reject me because I'm no longer purely Dong'er. But I couldn't not try, because I didn't know if my future self would have a chance if I missed this chance. I'm very happy, I'm truly very, very happy. I will definitely work hard to merge all my memories together, with Dong'er's memories guiding everything. But I've realized that besides my childhood memories from which you are absent, all my memories are filled with you."

Huo Yuhao chuckled and said, "That's good enough!"

Tang Wutong's elegant body suddenly tensed as she turned to look at him.

"What's wrong?" Huo Yuhao was sensitive, and immediately felt that change.

Tang Wutong frowned slightly and said, "Yuhao, I'm afraid there will be trouble in the future because we are together. I'm afraid you'll have to gain my father's approval first."

Huo Yuhao laughed and said, "I think I'm considered outstanding among the younger generation. How can my father-in-law not approve of me?"

Tang Wutong shook her head gently and continued, "It's not that simple. I'm my father's only daughter, and my father's love for me is definitely not beneath yours. He's said that anybody who wants to be his son-in-law has to accept and pass his strict assessment."

Huo Yuhao replied without hesitation. "That's normal. A father-in-law testing his son-in-law is natural. I will accept everything, no matter how difficult the tests are. Furthermore, I believe that he won't deliberately give me trouble if he knows how much I love you."

"But, my father..." Tang Wutong stopped there, as the golden trident on her forehead suddenly flickered, and she swallowed the rest of her sentence. She blushed faintly, and her expression became a little strange.

Huo Yuhao didn't notice all that, and he just hugged her. His heart was full in this moment.

Tang Wutong also leaned into his arms as she slowly closed her eyes. It wasn't hard to imagine the conflict and struggle that she had suffered in her heart, and an unsettling feeling echoed in her heart from time to time. Yet now, finally, she had managed to find her man once more in the second Sea God's Fated Blind Date that they had participated in together.

She lifted her hand and gently touched the golden trident on her forehead. Tang Wutong couldn't help but pout a little, like she was trying to express cheeky displeasure to someone.

Chapter 510.2: You Still Have to Go Through My Father

It was daybreak, and the light of the morning sun stretched gradually from beyond the horizon as a gorgeous and transparent beam.

It carried the gentle morning dew as it shone upon a beautiful couple in the Sparring Arena. n-.Ov**ELB**In

Huo Yuhao gradually opened his eyes as purple light could be faintly seen from the bottom of his eyes, and he absorbed the purple energy that came from the white sun in the east. His entire being's aura seemed to be awakened.

He lowered his head and stared at Tang Wutong, who was still sleeping soundly on his lap, and his eyes became incredibly tender.

Yes, they slept for the entire night in this place. They didn't confess anything more, and they just had each other's warm embraces as they felt each other's heartbeats and love. They slowly fell into slumber as they immersed themselves in that intoxicating sensation. The shadows in their hearts seemed to have been dispelled after this night, and as Huo Yuhao opened his eyes and saw the light coming from the horizon, all he felt was that his fatigue from the recent months was gone. His mind felt even more liberated than his body did.

Huo Yuhao gently caressed Tang Wutong's long hair, and he realized that his feelings towards her seemed to have changed compared to a long time ago. There was more treasuring besides love, and there was nothing more joyous for him than for Dong'er to return to his side. Just like he had told her last night, he wouldn't let her leave his side ever again, no matter what. He would protect her for his entire life.

"I was wondering where you two were. You're actually all the way out here. Did you sleep here last night?" A voice suddenly rang out in this moment, and Huo Yuhao was awakened from his thoughts. He turned around, and saw his eldest senior sister, Zhang Lexuan, walking up from beneath them with an amused look on her face. She quickly arrived next to them.

Tang Wutong woke up. She had slept lying down, and used Huo Yuhao's thigh as her pillow. She was sleeping very comfortably as she opened her blurry eyes and saw Zhang Lexuan. She hurriedly sat up as she lowered her head. She blushed as she said softly, "Eldest senior sister."

Zhang Lexuan grinned and said, "The two of you have been reunited after all, and I didn't waste my efforts this time. Seems like the two of you have settled everything?"

Huo Yuhao stared at Zhang Lexuan in shock. "Eldest senior sister, so you already knew..."

Zhang Lexuan laughed. "Of course. Otherwise, why do you think I'd help her? Why would I arrange everything like that? Would I let the two of you confess to each other in private? But I wasn't very confident when the event was halfway through, because I didn't know how Tang Wutong would convince you, stubborn donkey. Seems like she did have a solution after all!"

Huo Yuhao scratched his head. What had happened last night was no longer important for him. What was important was that he had managed to find Dong'er once more. Rather, he managed to find Tang Wutong again.

“Eldest senior sister, why are you looking for me so early in the morning?” Huo Yuhao was a little displeased about Zhang Lexuan interrupting their warm and peaceful time together.

Zhang Lexuan rolled her eyes and said, “Yuhao, have you become forgetful? You must have forgotten about real business because you have Wutong. Do you still want to graduate?”

“Ah? Yes, I...” Huo Yuhao really did forget that he had his graduation assessment today! Furthermore, Teacher Wang Yan had told him that his graduation test would be difficult yesterday. He was still thinking about the assessment when he was participating in the Sea God’s Fated Blind Date, and he was supposed to prepare for the test after going through the motions for the event. But Tang Wutong had recovered Dong’er’s memories, and their Haodong power had fused once more, and that made him forget about his test completely.

Only now when Zhang Lexuan brought it up did Huo Yuhao remember that he had such an important thing to do.

“You did forget, didn’t you! Are you still taking the test? Let me tell you, if you don’t take this test, you’ll have to wait for at least three years before you can have another chance. Hurry up.”

“Oh, okay. Wutong, come with me.” Huo Yuhao turned around and grasped Tang Wutong’s hands as he spoke. They were finally reunited, and he wouldn’t let her leave his side, no matter when and what.

“Alright.” Tang Wutong nodded in acknowledgement, there was some amusement in her eyes as she stared at him. She could feel his nervousness towards her, and she was very happy about that!

The test naturally wouldn’t happen so early in the morning. Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong went to eat something before they arrived outside the Sea God’s Pavilion together. Zhang Lexuan told him that the test would begin here.

Their surroundings were very tranquil and peaceful when they arrived in front of the Sea God’s Pavilion. Nobody else was around, and Huo Yuhao led Tang Wutong as he knelt down in front of the Golden Tree and kowtowed respectfully.

“Do you know, teacher? I’ve finally found Dong’er again, and she’s called Tang Wutong now. Her illness has been treated, and we are finally back together again. I will never let her go again, and I will always be beside her to protect and love her. I will take her as my wife, and you must come if you can on the day that we get married! You are my closest family, and we would be especially happy if you could give us your blessings.”

Golden light seemed to flicker on the Golden Tree, as if the Dragon God Douluo Mu En was answering them.

“You’re still young, and you’re thinking about marrying? Weren’t you always so depressed and lifeless before this?” Elder Xuan’s teasing voice could be heard.

Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong stood up, but they were a little dazed as they turned around, because the formation that they could see was a little too large.

The Elders of the Sea God’s Pavilion streamed out from the Sea God’s Pavilion under Elder Xuan’s lead. Elder Xuan walked at the forefront, while Elder Song and Elder Zhuang followed behind him. The other

elders were behind them, along with the Martial Soul Department's Dean, Yan Shaozhe, the department's vice-Dean, Cai Mei'er, the Soul Tool Department's Dean, Xian Lin'er, and its vice-Dean, Qian Duoduo. Their eldest senior sister Zhang Lexuan, Bei Bei, Teacher Wang Yan, and Han Ruoruo followed at the back.

Almost every single person from Shrek Academy's upper echelons had arrived. Am I not the only one taking the graduation test today? This thought surfaced in Huo Yuhao's mind.

"Greetings, Elder Xuan, elders." Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong hurriedly came forward to greet them.

Elder Xuan could see that they were holding hands, and he couldn't help but laugh as he said, "Are you satisfied now? Let me tell you, if you want to leave Shrek City again, you may, but Wutong has to stay. You can go wherever you want, and we won't restrict you at all."

Huo Yuhao immediately said without hesitation, "No, I'm not going anywhere. I will be wherever Wutong is."

"Hahahaha!" Huo Yuhao's attitude caused all the elders to laugh out loud.

Elder Song couldn't help but smile and shake her head. "Youngsters! Youngsters after all."

Huo Yuhao scratched his head embarrassingly. What he said was instinctive, and just came out of his mouth.

Tang Wutong blushed even more, but she had no intention to withdraw her hand from Huo Yuhao's grasp.

Elder Xuan said, "Alright, let's talk about legitimate business. I've heard from Lexuan that you're planning to pass the test and conclude your studies in the academy?"

Huo Yuhao was a little speechless. Do you not know what I want? My graduation test has already brought out the various elders. What are they trying to do?

"Yes! I have been studying in the academy for many years, and I wish to pass the test so that I can officially become a graduate from the inner courtyard." He had other thoughts on his mind, but he was still very honest and politically correct on the surface. It seemed like this formation would be quite a challenge to overcome, so it was better to be a little more honest and sincere.

Elder Xuan nodded and said, "Good! That counts as an accomplishment in your studies, and that's a very glorious thing for students. Because of your especially outstanding performance, everyone will observe today's graduation test. Lexuan! You will be the main supervisor. Tell him what today's test will be about."

"Yes!" Zhang Lexuan acknowledged as she stepped out and stared at Huo Yuhao amusingly. But for some reason, Huo Yuhao could feel that her smile wasn't a friendly one.

"The original plan was to give you seven tasks, but after my report to the Sea God's Pavilion's Elders, they have decided that because of your contributions to the academy, and because you're also part of the Sea God's Pavilion, we will condense seven tasks into three."

Huo Yuhao's head swelled when he heard that there were seven. Seven condensed into three seems pretty good. But these three tasks will probably be very difficult.

Yes, Zhang Lexuan's subsequent words made Huo Yuhao react with utter shock.

Zhang Lexuan said, "First, because you've accepted teachings from both the Martial Soul Department and the Soul Tool Department, both departments will give you an assignment to accomplish separately. These constitute the first two assignments, and they have been given by Dean Yan and Dean Xian respectively. Dean Xian's assignment for you is for you to forge a Class 9 stationary soul cannon shell for the academy, and Dean Yan's assignment is for you to defeat him in battle..."

"What?" Huo Yuhao stared at Zhang Lexuan with wide eyes and open jaws, like he was witnessing the descent of God.

This is the graduation test? What kind of test is this?

His first assignment was to craft a Class 9 stationary soul cannon shell, and his second assignment was to defeat Dean Yan. Dean Yan was a Rank 97 Transcendent Douluo who possessed the Radiant Phoenix as his martial soul! What kind of joke was that?

Zhang Lexuan pretended she didn't hear Huo Yuhao's exclamation as she continued, "As for your third assignment, it's intended to test your integrated abilities. The academy will give you a third assignment once you complete the first two, and the academy will let you graduate once you complete that one."

Huo Yuhao was completely speechless at this point. He glanced at Zhang Lexuan, and then at Elder Xuan beside her. He laughed bitterly and said, "Elder Xuan, do you think we can do it this way? I'll just remain a student at the academy, and I'm not going to graduate. Is that okay?"

Elder Xuan said amusingly, "Yes, of course you may. The academy will be proud to always have a student like you. But I have to remind you of one thing! Huo Yuhao, the academy has a very explicit rule that students are not allowed to have intimate relationships with teachers. Tang Wutong is now an assistant teacher for the academy. Therefore, there is a problem with the status between the two of you. You can continue being a student, but you won't be able to have this relationship with Teacher Tang in the future. Do as you wish."

Chapter 510.3: You Still Have to Go Through My Father

"Ah?" Huo Yuhao almost vomited blood. This is a conspiracy! This is such a devious plot!

He could clearly smell a conspiracy, and it was a conspiracy indeed. He had just found Dong'er, Tang Wutong, yesterday, and today's test was so incredibly difficult. They were even using Tang Wutong to threaten him. So treacherous! This is just too treacherous!

"Elder Xuan, are you sure that's right? Teacher Wang Yan and senior sister Han Ruoruo..." Huo Yuhao tried to talk back.

Elder Xuan said casually, "After they got together, Han Ruoruo immediately took her graduation test and passed it. She's now a teacher in the academy, so there's no problem with her status. You can do the same if you pass the graduation test!"

Huo Yuhao was as gloomy as ever. "Then is my test the same as senior sister Han?"

Elder Xuan maintained his casual tone as he said, "Why do you keep asking such foolish questions, child? What is our academy's mission? To nurture monsters, not normal people, right? Since that's the case, won't our students receive different graduation tests? Graduation tests for the inner courtyard's students are different for every person, don't you know that? Therefore, your test is definitely different from Han Ruoruo's test."

Zhang Lexuan nodded and said, "Know how to be content, Yuhao. The academy is already being very lenient towards you. You have a long time limit for this assessment, so you don't have to be too greedy. You can just complete this test within three years."

The corner of Huo Yuhao's mouth twitched. "Eldest senior sister, have the contents of my graduation test been reviewed and changed impromptu? Why don't I just take the original seven assignments?"

Zhang Lexuan replied grandly, "Yes, the test has been changed! We reviewed and changed the test last night. You have already displayed the strength of an eight-ringed soul master, and your eight rings are extraordinary. How can a normal assessment satisfy our requirements for this test?"

"I..." Huo Yuhao was full of regret, and his regret was already turning his insides green. Why did I flex? Now, my test is truly very difficult.

Huo Yuhao laughed bitterly and said, "But there's no way I can complete this test! You know how difficult it is to craft a Class 9 stationary soul cannon shell, Dean Xian, so how can you give me such a difficult task? That's just too difficult. And, Dean Yan, you're a Rank 97 Transcendent Douluo, and I've just passed Rank 80. There's still an insurmountable gap between the two of us. I don't think I can reach your rank even after thirty years, not to mention three!"

Yan Shaozhe smiled faintly and said, "That's enough, stop trying to undervalue yourself. How can I not know your abilities? You're most adept at creating miracles, and as for reaching rank 97 after thirty years, I don't think you'll need that long. Alright, why don't I give you some leeway? Don't you have martial soul fusion skills with Tang Wutong? My test shall allow you two to team up in battle. Consider your task completed if the two of you can team up and defeat me together."

Xian Lin'er nodded and said, "Then I shall give you some leeway as well. Don't you have Xuan Ziwen, that Class 9 soul engineer in the Tang Sect? Why don't we do it this way: you can team up with him, and he's allowed to help you. The two of you shall craft two Class 9 stationary soul cannon shells for the academy, and then you can consider your task completed."

That's extortion! That's just pure extortion of labor! Huo Yuhao wanted to cry and break down. But he had just found Tang Wutong again, and his mood was just too good. He wanted to cry, but no tears came out.

Elder Xuan pulled a generous face and said, "Since everyone has decided to be lenient, then I shall as well. Before you complete your test within three years, I shall allow you to be together with Tang Wutong temporarily. But if you can't complete your tasks within three years, don't blame me for breaking you two apart."

Huo Yuhao's face turned black. Is there much of a difference between you being lenient or not? Is there? Is there?!

Yan Shaozhe grinned and said, "Youngsters have to be confident in themselves. This is considered both pressure and motivation for you. Originally, we didn't intend to give you so much pressure, but now that you've gotten together with Wutong, you must be in a very good mood, so that pressure must be liberated quite a bit. We can't progress without no pressure at all. Since your original pressure has been lifted, then we will naturally give you pressure again so that we can avoid you not being focused or not putting in effort."

Brutal!

Huo Yuhao couldn't say anything to argue. The academy had been teaching and helping him over so many years so that he could gradually become one of the elites of the younger generation. Now, the academy wanted to give him trouble for his graduation assessment and give him pressure. What could he say?

Huo Yuhao's face was as black as could be, and his expression was full of helplessness.

Tang Wutong squeezed his hand.

Huo Yuhao turned to Tang Wutong as she smiled and said, "Dean Yan is right, having pressure isn't a bad thing. You're not the only one who needs to work hard. I have to as well. We can work hard together. Three years isn't considered a long time, but it isn't too short."

Tang Wutong's encouragement was much more effective for Huo Yuhao than any mystical pill. He took a deep breath and turned back to his various Elders as he nodded and replied, "Alright, I will definitely give my all to pass this graduation test."

Elder Xuan grinned and said, "That's right. Don't worry, during the time that you're cultivating, the academy won't assign any extra tasks to you. As for your final assessment, we will determine that according to your circumstance and the situation on the Continent. You just have to work hard on cultivating when you go back. Your trip to the Heavenly Soul Empire's frontlines has dealt a heavy blow to the Sun Moon Empire. You've ruined one of their soul engineer legions, and killed an evil Titled Douluo. That must be quite a blow to them. The Sun Moon Empire shouldn't make any large movements for a while. News from the frontlines has told us that the Sun Moon Empire's empress, who's known as the Sun Moon Valkyrie, is pregnant, and she shouldn't be placing herself at the frontlines for a while. That should give us enough time to prepare and gather ourselves."

The Sun Moon Valkyrie is pregnant?

Huo Yuhao trembled a little as he heard those words. Of course, he knew who the Sun Moon Valkyrie was referring to.

A feeling that was hard to describe rose from his heart. His relationship with Ju Zi was vague and difficult to understand, but they were definitely not enemies.

Back then, when he and her were together at the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy, he still didn't know that Dong'er was a girl. Ju Zi could be said to be the first girl that had touched his heart. Afterwards, because of their respective identities and statuses, and also because of the target that Ju Zi had set for herself, they slowly drifted apart until they met again on the battlefield.

Ju Zi remarked that Huo Yuhao was soft-hearted, but the truth was, how could she not be soft-hearted when facing him? Huo Yuhao couldn't develop any kind of belligerence or unfriendliness towards her.

Ju Zi is pregnant? The Sun Moon Empire's emperor, Xu Tianran's child. Even though Huo Yuhao knew that they didn't share that kind of sentiment or relationship anymore, he still couldn't help but feel a little sour and bitter inside. Perhaps it was normal for a guy to feel like that.

"Elders, since the graduation test is like that, then I'm going to hurry back and work hard." Huo Yuhao laughed helplessly as he turned to leave.

"Don't be in such a hurry," Elder Xuan stopped him.

"Eh?" Huo Yuhao glanced at Elder Xuan confusedly.

Elder Xuan continued, "Look, us elderly men have gathered for you. That's not easy! Furthermore, we can't let you make this trip for nothing. As the saying goes, if you know yourself and you know your enemy, then you will always emerge victorious. I'm afraid you don't really understand Shaozhe's abilities. Why don't the two of you have a practice battle with Shaozhe? First, so that we can see exactly how powerful the two of you are, and second, this will be a good chance for you to understand Shaozhe's abilities. In that case, you will have a target or guidelines for your subsequent cultivation."

A practice battle with our Dean, Yan Shaozhe?

Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong exchanged a look. Who was Yan Shaozhe? He was the Dean of Shrek Academy's Martial Soul Department, and he was the previous Master of the Sea God's Pavilion, Mu En's eldest disciple. In some sense, he was still Huo Yuhao's senior brother, and he was also a Rank 97 Transcendent Douluo. Yan Shaozhe's strength could be ranked within the top five in Shrek Academy, and his Radiant Phoenix also possessed some extremely mystical abilities.

Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong had just recently attained their eighth soul rings, and in terms of strength, perhaps not even ten of them could match Yan Shaozhe. However, that was before considering their martial soul fusion skills.

The truth was, the Elders of the Sea God's Pavilion had opened a conference overnight yesterday so that they could talk about Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong's martial soul fusion skills. Of course, these Elders wouldn't give Huo Yuhao trouble just because they had nothing better to do. The reason why they had decided on these three incredibly difficult assessments was after they considered things in the long-term. These graduation assessments were meant to be difficult not because they wanted to give him trouble, but because they wanted him to spend more time cultivating hard in the academy and at the Tang Sect.

The Elders could see Shrek Academy's immensely glorious future from Huo Yuhao and Tang Wutong's four martial soul fusion skills. These two soul masters were both considered top-tier soul masters, and they could unleash four different martial soul fusion skills. That meant that once they became Titled Douluo, they might be able to fight against an Ultimate Douluo!

Shrek Academy was still weaker in terms of overall strength compared to the Holy Ghost Church, and the only thing they could rely on was the academy's foundations accumulated over ten thousand years,

in addition to the complicated relationships between the Dragon Emperor Douluo, Long Xiaoyao, the Death God Douluo, Ye Xishui, and the Dragon God Douluo, Mu En.

But if the Sun Moon Empire wanted to conquer the entire continent in the future, they couldn't possibly wrap around Shrek Academy. They would meet on the battlefield at some point. The academy was definitely at a disadvantage in terms of fighting strength at the highest level.

Even though Shrek Academy and the Great Star Dou Forest's soul beasts had an intimate relationship, when push came to shove, the Beast God Di Tian would never make a move for Shrek Academy.

Not to mention the fact that Shrek Academy had dealt severe losses to the soul beasts during that beast invasion, huge losses to both human parties were beneficial for the world of soul beasts. That meant the soul beasts couldn't possibly help Shrek Academy in any way.