

## Tang Sect 66

### Chapter 66.1: Victory! Swap!

Elder Xuan's expression turned strange. After looking at Huo Yuhao seriously for a while, he turned towards the others, "Stay here and don't move. Wait for a while."

After that, he grabbed Huo Yuhao and disappeared without a trace.

Huo Yuhao had been taken away by Elder Xuan, leaving Wang Dong somewhat anxious, "Sister Xiaotao, what's going on?"

"There's no use asking me anything," Ma Xiaotao said unhappily, "you should question Huo Yuhao instead. What did he do just now?"

Dai Yueheng's team was currently surrounding Ling Luochen. The ice on her body was slowly melting, and after a few moments, the armor of ice disappeared. She had a pale expression on her face, and she nearly fell down as her body shook.

Xiao Xiao rushed up to catch up, but she immediately felt as though she was touching ice when she touched her body.

The usually cool Ling Luochen was filled with astonishment at this moment. She didn't know what had just occurred either. After that strange scorpion had looked at her, she immediately felt as if the soul power in her body had been frozen. This was the first time she'd encountered a situation in which she was completely powerless to even resist. Even a Titled Douluo wouldn't be able to strip her of her combat strength with a mere glance! However, that scorpion had done just that.

Elder Xuan didn't bring Huo Yuhao anywhere far; he merely went to a corner of the Assessment Area.

"Just what happened just now? Explain everything in more detail." Elder Xuan asked, somewhat panicked. When Huo Yuhao had transformed into the Ice Jade Empress Scorpion, Elder Xuan's reaction was that the former was a transformed soul beast. Or rather, a soul beast that had decided to re-cultivate into a human.

After reaching a hundred thousand years of cultivation, a soul beast could choose to re-cultivate into a human. However, this path was extremely difficult, because it would then have to undergo a period of weakness. Furthermore, the aura on its body would still remain that of a soul beast. Once it was discovered by a powerful soul master, the only result was death. Furthermore, it would become that soul master's soul ring and soul bone. Only after reaching the seven-ringed rank could a soul beast thoroughly mask its aura and become a true human. However, how easy would this process be? Because of this, very few soul beasts would choose this path. With the Ice Empress' level of power, she wouldn't dare to risk her life in this way.

Greatly astonished, Elder Xuan examined Huo Yuhao's body. However, he quickly calmed down. In his heart, he already knew that there was no chance of Huo Yuhao being a soul beast. The most powerful evidence attesting to this fact was his twin martial souls. Re-cultivated soul beasts would definitely maintain their original form, and thus there was no chance of one having a second martial soul. The fact that there was no trace of the aura of a soul beast on Huo Yuhao's body merely further verified that he was truly a human.

With Elder Xuan's cultivation, no matter how many brilliant tricks a person had, there was no way to conceal anything from the former when he was holding onto you. However, Elder Xuan was curious! He had no idea how Huo Yuhao had done what he just did. If it was merely an illusion, how did Ling Luochen instantly freeze up and lose all of her fighting power?

"Earlier, sister Xiaotao asked me to release my Ultimate martial soul to suppress sister Ling Luochen." Huo Yuhao said obediently, "I figured that there'd definitely be no way for me to suppress her by simply releasing my martial soul, due to the massive gap in our cultivation levels. Thus, I used Imitation and imitated the form of my second martial soul. Then, I switched the attribute of that illusion to that of my second martial soul. I did my best to release the aura of an Ultimate martial soul. As for what happened to sister Ling Luochen, I don't know either."

He truly didn't know what had just occurred. When the Ice Jade Empress Scorpion had glanced towards Ling Luochen, Huo Yuhao's mind had gone into a daze for a bit. In reality, the true charm of that gaze had come from the Ice Empress.

Elder Xuan scratched his head and furrowed his brow. "Ultimate martial soul, Ultimate martial soul... Ah! I understand. Ice, you both have the Ice attribute. It's actually an absolute suppression. This Ultimate martial soul of yours is too tyrannical. Good, hahahaha, very good! I understand. Go, go back."

Elder Xuan had truly guessed the approximate essence of the situation. This was absolute suppression!

The key to the problem lay in the differences in their elements. Huo Yuhao and Ling Luochen were both of the Ice element, but Huo Yuhao possessed Ultimate Ice. Thus, he held an absolute elemental superiority over Ling Luochen. The moment he imitated the body of the Ice Jade Empress Scorpion, the full power of his Ultimate martial soul was released.

Though the three Emperors of the Extreme North all belonged to the chilly Ice element, the Snow Empress was still the strongest in terms of extremely low temperatures. The Snow Empress controlled the power of Snow, while the Ice Jade Empress Scorpion controlled absolute ice as the Ice Empress. In the current Douluo Continent, she was completely deserving of the title 'Ancestor of Ice'.

In terms of cultivation, Huo Yuhao was naturally nowhere near Ling Luochen. However, the problem lay in the fact that Ling Luochen had used the power of Ice, while Huo Yuhao had coincidentally imitated the aura of the Ice Jade Empress Scorpion.

The Ice Empress was one of his intelligent soul rings. Thus, she was always paying attention to him. When Huo Yuhao had imitated her aura, she was able to sense the existence of a hostile intent that originated from ice. Her concentrated gaze wasn't directed towards Ling Luochen, but the ice she was controlling. Unless there was an ice user who was even stronger than the Ice Empress, every ice element would fall under her control in front of her aura.

This was another fact that showed how weak Huo Yuhao was. If he had the same cultivation level as Ling Luochen, he would be able to possess a sufficient amount of control over his Ultimate Ice as long as the Ice Empress willed it. Then, he would even be able to directly end Ling Luochen's life with her own ice if she dared to use it against him. This was one of the terrifying aspects of the Ancestor of Ice, the Ice Jade Empress Scorpion. If the powerful four hundred thousand year-old Ice Empress still had her main body, she would be an opponent who was rarely seen on the continent.

Elder Xuan patted Huo Yuhao's shoulder in a somewhat strange manner. "I was being narrow-minded. I shouldn't have interrupted your match." This time around, he held Huo Yuhao by the armpits, and returned back to Ma Xiaotao and the rest with a flash.

"Everything's normal. Ling Luochen, leave the battle for now. Everyone else, continue." With that, Elder Xuan stepped into the void and rose back into the air to spectate the match. n)-017e/B1n

Both parties were somewhat baffled. The members of preparatory team from the outer courtyard still had some doubts in their hearts, but the disciples from the inner courtyard were very familiar with Elder Xuan's temperament. Even if he usually seemed very erratic, he was always a fair person. Since he made Ling Luochen leave the match, he naturally had a reason for doing so.

At this moment, Ma Xiaotao had approximately guessed at a hint of the truth. Among the disciples of the inner courtyard, she was the only one who knew that Huo Yuhao possessed an Ultimate martial soul. However, she didn't think that it'd be this strong. We can talk about the specifics once the match is over. Winning's more important now.

Ma Xiaotao let out a long hiss, then started her assault again. This time around, both parties were already very close to each other.

Huo Yuhao reactivated his Spiritual Detection as though nothing had happened. He'd consumed a certain amount of soul power while using his Imitation earlier, but Elder Xuan had accidentally helped him break through a bottleneck when he was probing the state and aura of his soul power. At this moment, his soul power was restored to its peak state.

Gong Yangmo's Rainbow Dragon finally showed its use now. The opposing Yao Haoxuan's auxiliary and weakening skill had already ended, but the former's auxiliary skills were still activated. This was the difference in their martial souls and cultivations.

However, a mere hundred year soul skill didn't drain much energy. As the opposing team began their attack, Yao Haoxuan hurriedly re-released the skill he'd previously used. Right now, both teams were about to clash head-on.

The person who made the first move was Chen Zifeng. He hadn't released his martial soul since the beginning of Dai Yueheng's assault, but just as the opposing team started to make their move, he finally revealed it.

An intense, red light rose from Chen Zifeng's body. It wasn't fire-type soul power like Ma Xiaotao possessed, but one that was purely blood-red in color. Following its appearance, Huo Yuhao could smell a mountain of corpses and a sea of blood coming from the former's body.

Chen Zifeng suddenly raised his head, and the pressure coming from him instantly reached a peak. His eyes turned blood-red, and a fierce killing intent emerged from his body.

He pointed with the index and middle fingers of his right hand, causing a blood-red bolt of lightning to shoot out. The blood-red soul power coming from his body seemed to be drawn towards the bloody light, and actually fused with it.

At this moment, Huo Yuhao could see a blade in Chen Zifeng's hand; a three foot six inch-long blade that was only an inch wide. The slender body of the sword had no guard on it, but there were three bloody

grooves carved into it. Mysteriously, Chen Zifeng's five soul rings didn't undulate around his body. On the contrary, they surrounded this blood-red sword.

After pausing for a moment in midair, the thin sword shot towards Ma Xiaotao like a blood-red rainbow. A bloody wound opened wherever the sword passed, and there was already a strong smell of blood filling the air even before the sword had arrived.

This was Chen Zifeng's martial soul, Soulchasing Sword.

Ma Xiaotao had a serious expression on her face. She spread her arms wide as the lightning-like sword flew towards her, causing her intense, golden-red phoenix flames to blossom out. This was her second soul skill, Phoenix Baptism.

This was an omnidirectional attack. Other than that, her first soul ring flickered as she spit out a streak of fire that went straight after the Soulchasing Sword.

As though it felt pressured, the body of the Soulchasing Sword paused briefly and let out a buzz. Right after that, an extremely sharp bloody light flashed. The Soulchasing Sword spat out three bolts of sword light. Chen Zifeng's first and second soul rings lit up, shoving away the streak of phoenix fire that was chasing after him. Though it was slowed somewhat, its trajectory didn't change; it was still headed towards Ma Xiaotao.

This was Chen Zifeng's first soul skill, Sharpness, and his second one, Destruction. The two soul skills harmonized with each other, filling his originally sharp Soulchasing Sword with destructive power.

Just as he released his Soulchasing Sword, Chen Zifeng slowed down. He stood behind Dai Yuefeng with his right sword finger on his blade, guarding against attacks from the sky.

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At that moment, Dai Yueheng finally reached Ma Xiaotao. However, even though the leaders of both teams were about to collide, the latter was still under the effects of the Soulchasing Sword. In other words, she was under attack from two people at once.

A dazzlingly golden light suddenly appeared above Ma Xiaotao's head. Once it appeared, it shot outwards, then targeted the person behind Dai Yueheng, Chen Zifeng. This golden light was from Wang Dong, who'd released his second soul skill, Light of the Butterfly Goddess.

He was currently standing atop Huo Yuhao's shoulders, the latter holding onto his legs with his hands in order to maintain the flow of their Haodong Power.

The moment they made their move, the battle fully erupted.

A bolt of lightning suddenly flickered past Ma Xiaotao's body. Dai Yueheng stopped his charge when he saw this, then squatted down and out a muffled roar. Sharp blades appeared atop his enormous, tiger-like fingers as he carefully guarded himself. Immediately afterwards, a series of consecutive 'ding's rang out. When they struck Dai Yueheng, he became unable to move even half a step forward. On the contrary, an electric light had wrapped itself around his body and entrapped him. Xi Xi had made a move, but she had simply struck too quickly. If Huo Yuhao locked onto her with his Spiritual Detection, he wouldn't have been able to see her clearly.

As students that'd been able to become official members of Shrek Academy's competing team, none of them were ordinary; all of them had their own respective specialties.

The moment that Dai Yueheng slowed down, the combination attack he'd launched with Chen Zifeng was naturally broken. Ma Xiaotao let out a cold snort, then rushed forwards like a bolt of lightning. She reached for the Soulchasing Sword with her hands as she unfurled her wings, which caused a red light to rise alongside the black light her sixth soul ring had begun to emit. The patch of sky around her was almost instantly illuminated by a red light.

Ma Xiaotao's sixth soul skill was undoubtedly her strongest one. Furthermore, the floating Gong Yangmo made his move concurrently.

Even though Ma Xiaotao thought that he had an extremely vile attitude, the two still held an extremely good relationship. It was a relationship akin to that of the relationship between siblings. Ma Xiaotao hadn't just chosen him due to his strength, but also because of the relatively good synergy that they already had.

The midair Gong Yangmo unfurled his wings, and his fifth soul ring lit up. When he released his ten thousand year soul skill, a green light accurately shot out from his body towards Ma Xiaotao's back.

His and Ma Xiaotao's green and red lights fused together in that instant, as if the wind itself were helping stoke the fire. The sky was then dyed red, and enormous, meter-long balls of golden-red fire immediately began to fall from the sky and pepper the opposing team.

Regardless of whether it was Dai Yueheng or Chen Zifeng, none of the opposing team had expected Ma Xiaotao to launch an all-out attack at the very beginning of the battle. Furthermore, the might of her already-terrifying attack had been doubled due to Gong Yangmo's help! Even though this was an attack that covered a large area, its power made Dai Yueheng and the rest's expressions change.

If Ling Luochen had still be present, she would've been able to rely on her ice element to weaken Ma Xiaotao's attack. However, she'd already been eliminated! Dai Yueheng's team's only choice was to endure the full might of Ma Xiaotao's strike.

Ma Xiaotao's headstrong temperament was undoubtedly fully manifested in her attack. In fact, ever since she'd returned to the official team, Dai Yueheng had been left in a somewhat uncomfortable state. After all, it wasn't easy for him to accept another person taking over as the head of the team. Fine! Since you're not willing to accept it, I'll use my strength to make you do so!

Not only was Ma Xiaotao powerful, her mind was extremely sharp. She'd immediately thought of a strategy to suppress her opponents using brute force the moment that Ling Luochen was eliminated. She wanted to defeat her opponents in the shortest possible amount of time, thus she'd immediately used her strongest soul skill to simplify the situation on the battlefield.

The balls of fire that were falling from the sky resembled fiery meteors as they fell towards the ground. Moreover, every single one of these 'meteors' seemed to have grown eyes. All of them had targeted one of the six people on the opposing team, with most of them naturally targeting Chen Zifeng and Dai Yueheng. After that, they headed towards Yao Haoxuan, Xu Sanshi, Jiang Nannan, and Xiao Xiao.

This was the Phoenix Meteor Shower, Ma Xiaotao's sixth soul skill!

When the fiery meteors neared their targets, they transformed into the shape of a phoenix and let out reverberating phoenix cries, then immediately accelerated towards their respective targets.

Jiang Nannan and Xiao Xiao were removed from the battlefield by Elder Xuan straightaway. With this, Dai Yueheng's team had lost another two members.

Even though Dai Huabin and Xi Xi were both Soul Emperors, Dai Huabin was at a disadvantage against the latter's attacks. Currently, he could only do his best to protect himself; he didn't have any time to care about his teammates. n-/O(-V-)e//L--&).l-)n

Xu Sanshi was left in an even more miserable state. When the Phoenix Meteor Shower had shot towards them, he hadn't thought of protecting himself. On the contrary, he'd immediately moved to help Jiang Nannan. Because of that, his enormous Shield of the Xuanwu Turtle was sent flying towards her with his fourth soul skill activated. However, the sudden acceleration of the Phoenix Meteor Shower caused Elder Xuan to take her out immediately, which resulted in his defensive shield landing on thin air. Almost immediately afterwards, he himself was removed from the battlefield. Now that he'd lost his shield, even a defense-type soul master like him wouldn't be able to withstand a full round of the strengthened Phoenix Meteor Shower!

It wasn't clear if Elder Xuan had done this on purpose, but Xu Sanshi's entire back had been scorched by the Phoenix Meteor Shower as a result of him arriving a beat late. Fortunately, he was of the water element. Thus, even though he let out a few miserable wails, he hadn't suffered too much damage.

In reality, even though Ma Xiaotao was extremely powerful, she wouldn't normally have been able to take out a team of people around their level of strength with just a single attack. However, their team simply wasn't coordinated enough. All of the people from the preparatory team had been disqualified in the blink of an eye.

In comparison, the inner courtyard disciples' strength had been fully revealed. Chen Zifeng hadn't let Ma Xiaotao grab hold of his Soulchasing Sword, and the moment that the Phoenix Meteor Shower was released, he'd immediately called his weapon back to him in order to defend himself. When he did so, Ma Xiaotao had no way to pursue him, as she needed to both maintain and control her sixth soul skill.

The Soulchasing Sword in front of Chen Zifeng continuously carved out startlingly bloody rainbows as the soul rings surrounding it continued to flicker alternately. Firstly, it easily shrugged off Wang Dong's Light of the Butterfly Goddess. Afterwards, it slashed apart the meteors that were aimed at him. At the same time, Chen Zifeng continued to move about in an illusory manner. He flashed around at an unusually quick speed in order to dodge a few of the fiery meteors, but when he did, more continued to accurately home in on him.

Chen Zifeng had revealed a valiant level of power, but he'd become inwardly puzzled. Just when had Ma Xiaotao reached this level of control with her sixth soul skill? The level of strength that the Phoenix Meteor Shower had revealed once it'd undergone Gong Yangmo's auxiliary-type skill was entirely real, but when it was strengthened like this, it was normally extremely hard to control it.

However, the meteors that had filled the sky seemed to have grown eyes. Every single one of them had homed in on one of them; none of them were spared. Even the meteors that had previously been sent towards Xu Sanshi, Jiang Nannan, and Xiao Xiao had immediately changed directions in midair the

moment that the three of them were taken out. They'd then immediately begun to chase after Dai Yueheng, Yao Haoxuan, and him.

There wasn't much difference in the cultivation levels of the members of the official team. The level of control that Ma Xiaotao currently had over her Phoenix Meteor Shower didn't shock Dai Yueheng and the rest. Instead, it caused them to feel that it was strange. This had clearly exceeded the level of control that a Soul Emperor could have!

The art of controlling a soul skill mainly relied on a combination of spiritual power and soul power. Besides spiritual-type soul masters, who were rarely seen, there was practically no difference in the spiritual powers of soul masters of the same rank. Spiritual power would grow alongside soul power; a special situation occur would only occur very rarely.

The way that Yao Haoxuan blocked the Phoenix Meteor Shower could only be described as strange. He pounded his fists against his chest, which caused halos of light to appear and assist his teammates. He then activated his fifth soul ring, which caused his head to swell up. Afterwards, he opened his mouth and looked towards the sky. In that instant, his mouth swelled to an unimaginable degree. Immediately afterwards, he swallowed an entire Meteor, then spat it out towards another. He was actually able to block Ma Xiaotao's attack by relying on a method like this.

Dai Yueheng began to feel somewhat panicked when he saw that three of his team members had been eliminated. He let out a tiger-like roar, then swatted away a few meteors. Although flames had begun to appear on his body, he didn't pay them any attention. His first, third, and fifth soul rings simultaneously lit up.

A layer of golden-white light then covered the surface of his body, which caused his body to expand. Afterward, the white fur on his body turned golden.

Huo Yuhao had seen Dai Yueheng's third soul skill, the White Tiger's Vajra Transformation, before. However, the transformation that the latter had just released was unimaginably stronger than Dai Huabin's.

The enormous image of a white tiger then appeared behind Dai Yueheng. Its eyes flashed with a golden light, then it charged towards the Phoenix Meteor Shower in a valiant manner. It opened its palms, then either shattered or deflected every meteor that approached it. Its always-invincible aura now had a trace of desperation to it.

He only had one aim—Ma Xiaotao, who was currently maintaining her sixth soul skill. She was in an extremely vulnerable position now that she'd released her omni-directional soul skill. As such, Dai Yueheng believed that he'd be able to defeat his remaining opponents with his Soul Emperor-ranked cultivation so long as she was defeated.

Ma Xiaotao didn't have any intentions of retreating from Dai Yueheng's assault. She simply let out a low roar, "Golden Road." Afterwards, she rushed forwards to meet Dai Yueheng. Furthermore, she continued to maintain the Phoenix Meteor Shower as she did so.

The scene of Ma Xiaotao accelerating with her legs spouting fire once again revealed itself to Huo Yuhao. When she accelerated like this, she collided with Dai Yueheng in practically an instant.

They were both six-ringed assault-type Soul Emperors, and they were both inner courtyard disciples. Furthermore, there was only a slight difference in their cultivations.

However, their styles of attack were somewhat different. Ma Xiaotao relied on energy-based attacks, which was somewhat similar to Wang Dong. However, Dai Yueheng was different; he relied on pure physical power.

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As such, it was Ma Xiaotao who got the short end of the stick when they met head-on.

Following a thunderous roar, the Phoenix Meteor Shower suddenly stopped, and Ma Xiaotao's body was sent reeling from the backlash.

Currently, Dai Yueheng had released his first, third, and fifth soul skills. These skills were, respectively, the White Tiger's Shield, the White Tiger's Vajra Transformation, and the White Tiger's Devilgod Transformation, all of which had the ability to strengthen his body.

However, Ma Xiaotao hadn't suffered a complete loss. When the two of them had collided, she'd used her fourth skill. Thus, even though she'd been knocked backwards and slightly wounded, her fourth skill had managed to interrupt Dai Yueheng's strongest skill, his sixth skill. A fiery red ring was now revolving around Dai Yueheng's body. Afterwards, it spread outwards and cancelled Yao Haoxuan's buffs, which made Dai Yueheng's body numb, and also made him incapable of using any of his soul skills.

Of course, this state only lasted a very short time. After all, his body was currently under the effect of three powerful body-strengthening skills.

But at that moment, Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong's dazzling Golden Road hit their target with great accuracy.

The moment that Ma Xiaotao had been knocked back, a huge vertical eye had quietly appeared where she'd been standing before and releasing her Phoenix Meteor Shower.

The golden radiance it emitted immediately covered an area fifty meters wide, and left a golden trail behind in the Assessment Area.

Dai Yueheng, who was in a weakened state, had no choice but to meet the attack head-on. In an instant, the golden light passed through him. Moreover, Yao Haoxuan, who was still swallowing the last of Ma Xiaotao's Phoenix Meteor Shower and had been about to spit one out, also 'happened to be' directly behind Dai Yueheng. As such, he was hit by the Golden Road as well. When the Golden Road struck them, two golden statues were left on the battlefield.

Thunderous explosions then proceeded to happen one after another. Bei Bei roused his Blue Lightning Tyrant Dragon martial soul and charged towards Chen Zifeng's Soulchasing Sword. If he were to only rely on himself, it would be extremely difficult to deal with Chen Zifeng. However currently, a very dangerous flash of lightning was beside him. Even someone like Dai Yueheng was fearful of Xi Xi's attacks, not to mention Chen Zifeng. And currently, he couldn't avoid them.

"Ti—" Amidst the cry of a phoenix, Ma Xiaotao rolled upwards while in midair. Immediately afterwards, she opened her phoenix wings and charged towards Dai Yueheng once again.



At the same time, dozens of dazzling lights exploded towards the currently golden form of Yao Haoxuan.

Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong's Golden Road had the disadvantage of it only being able to attack in a straight line. Despite this, its greatest advantage was its extremely high degree of power.

Nevertheless, Dai Yueheng's body reverted back to normal in less than two seconds. However, this only applied to his outer appearance! His White Tiger martial soul was still temporarily neutralized.

Yao Haoxuan was in the same situation. In fact, he seemed to be in an even more miserable state. He Caitou returned to his normal form from that of a four meter-tall giant, then used all the power in his soul tool to charge towards Yao Haoxuan.

The outcome could be imagined: This time, it was Dai Yueheng that was sent flying. Yao Haoxuan was also covered in bruises once he was hit by He Caitou's soul tool head-on; he was directly removed from the battlefield by Elder Xuan the moment that He Caitou's attacks landed.

Ma Xiaotao didn't go so far as to pursue and attack Dai Yueheng again. She unfurled her wings and looked arrogantly down at Chen Zifeng. "Admit defeat."

Originally, he'd already been at a disadvantage under the 'Xi-Bei' combo. However right now, he was the only one left from his team. What was the point in resisting? He could only helplessly retreat and put an end to the match.

The fight had concluded, and it could be only described as an overwhelming victory. No one from Ma Xiaotao's side had been eliminated, yet Dai Yueheng's entire team had been annihilated.

Nonetheless, Dai Yueheng hadn't been injured. Ma Xiaotao had shown mercy when she'd sent him flying. He had a gloomy and surprised expression when he realized that they'd lost. He then looked towards Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong, both puzzled and astonished.

How had they lost? They'd clearly held a huge advantage in terms of individual strength! How had four members of the main team lost so pitifully! Furthermore, the cause of their loss hadn't even been the main members of the enemy team. In fact, he'd already made plans for the strongest of them, Ma Xiaotao. However, Wang Dong, Huo Yuhao, and even Bei Bei and He Caitou's power had surpassed his expectations.

The four members of the preparatory team on Ma Xiaotao's side had played a great role in this battle, while the three reserves on his team had had little to no impact before they'd been eliminated. Moreover, Ling Luo Chen hadn't even been able to display her abilities.

Elder Xuan came down from the sky with the students he'd rescued. "Quick, the losers should accept their punishment," He said with a smile, "you'll have another chance later."

"I'm a pig!" Dai Yueheng shouted without hesitation. However, his face still twitched, as he hadn't accepted this loss in his heart!

Yao Haoxuan and Chen Zifeng had no choice either; they shouted the words as well. When Ling Luo Chen said them, she was carefully scrutinizing Huo Yuhao.

Xiao Xiao also said it without any problems. Even these seniors are shouting it. Would I really lose face if I were to shout it?

Jiang Nannan also said in a low and soft voice, "I'm a pig."

Xu Sanshi attempted to flatter her, "As you'd expect from the woman I like. She still looks so cute even when she's calling herself a pig."

Jiang Nannan glared at him and said, "Go away."

Wang Dong, who was standing near Huo Yuhao, burst into laughter. However, he quickly turned his head away. Huo Yuhao's face also twitched as he tried to hold back his laughter. Senior brother Xu was madly in love with Jiang Nannan. Despite this, Jiang Nannan was trying her best to not pay any attention to him. They were truly an interesting couple.

Elder Xuan said, "Good. You have a two hour break. Afterwards, since some of you still seem to be unconvinced, you'll fight again."

When they heard that they would fight again, the seven disciples of the inner courtyard immediately sat down and began to recover their soul power. In the fight just now, everyone had used different quantities of soul power. As they meditated, they also went over the information they'd gained from the fight just now.

When they saw this, Huo Yuhao and the others also sat down to recover their soul power. Of everyone present, he and Wang Dong had consumed the greatest amount of soul power. Moreover, they'd already used their Golden Road; they wouldn't be able to use it again if they had to battle in a short while.

Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong were slowly discovering the peculiarities of the Golden Road now that they'd used it in battle multiple times.

The Golden Road itself possessed an incredible amount of destructive power. However, its limits were clearly visible when it was used against someone with a higher cultivation. It was a powerful fusion skill that combined both attack and control. Combined with Huo Yuhao's Spiritual Detection, many of its flaws were counterable. Currently, it was without a doubt their strongest skill.

Without this skill, their overall strength would definitely drop by a large margin. However, it wasn't like they were completely useless without it. Huo Yuhao's Spiritual Detection was one of the best auxiliary skills a soul master could have. Moreover, they both also had a powerful thousand year soul skill, and Huo Yuhao's Ultimate element could also suppress Ling Luochen. Countering an enemy Soul King was an extremely useful thing in a battle.

The fight just now had left a very deep impression on Huo Yuhao. Being able to fight along these senior schoolmates had been of great help to him, as he hadn't needed to show them the way. Just by being in the range of his Spiritual Detection, they'd be able to understand how they should proceed, and would display the right ability at the right moment. That had been an extremely wondrous feeling.

Elder Xuan casually chose a place to sit down. Afterwards, he took a greasy chicken leg out of nowhere and took a bite from it. Currently, his face that was hidden behind a mass of extraordinarily messy hair held a pensive expression. No one could tell what he was thinking.

Two hours quickly passed, after which they were all back on their feet.

Elder Xuan also stood up. He took a large swig of alcohol, then said with a smile, “Kids, don’t be impatient. What’s the point of fighting with the same members once again? Therefore... Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong will switch teams with Yao Haoxuan and Jiang Nannan.”

Both sides were surprised when they heard Elder Xuan’s words. The ones that had the biggest reaction were Dai Yueheng and Chen Zifeng. Both of them furrowed their brows. On the other hand, the normally cold Ling Luochen had a pensive expression.

Jiang Nannan was eager to get away from Xu Sanshi. As such, she quickly moved towards the opposite party. Yao Haoxuan had a happy expression on his face as he asked Elder Xuan, “Elder Xuan, will the loser have to shout the same slogan as last time?”

Elder Xuan immediately nodded and said, “Of course. I’m always fair, after all.”

Chen Zifeng couldn’t refrain from asking, “Elder Xuan, I don’t think that this is fair. We just lost the battle, yet you’ve replaced our members with weaker ones...”

When Xiao Xiao heard Chen Zifeng’s words, she angrily retorted, “Senior schoolmate, how could you consider Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong weak? They played a decisive role in the previous battle!”

Chen Zifeng replied, “I’ll take those words back if they can still use their fusion skill.”

Xiao Xiao was immediately dumbfounded; this was still a problem! Given their current strength, Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong definitely wouldn’t be able to use their Golden Road again. With this, their overall power would be greatly reduced.

Elder Xuan indifferently said, “Silence. It was an order. I wasn’t asking for your opinion. If you have some skills, you better use them in the fight. Before criticizing your teammates, you should make sure to not act like a pig yourself. Now then, make the changes that I said.”

As Elder Xuan spoke in a grave tone, a burst of oppressive aura began to spread over the area. None of the students dared to say another word and they quietly exchanged members.

Besides Chen Zifeng, Ma Xiaotao was also unwilling to make this exchange. Huo Yuhao’s Spiritual Detection was just too useful! Without him, would they still be able to have a tacit understanding like before?

When Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong arrived at the opposite side, Yao Haoxuan and Jiang Nannan also took their places in the opposite party. Just looking at their line up, Ma Xiaotao’s team seemed to have the advantage. Four of them were members of the main team, while the other three members from the preparatory team were all Soul Ancestors.

Chapter 67.1: Ultimate Transformation! Attribute Amplification!

The core strength of Dai Yueheng’s team was comprised of Chen Zifeng, Ling Luochen, and himself. Among the other four, Xu Sanshi was comparatively stronger in terms of direct combat. The remaining three consisted of Huo Yuhao, Wang Dong and Xiao Xiao.

To them, the only advantage brought about by having Huo Yuhao on their team was that Ling Luochen’s ability shouldn’t be restricted, but that was all.

Elder Xuan indicated for both parties to space out, but he didn't give them time to familiarise themselves with one another this time around. As soon as both parties were a hundred and fifty metres apart he sounded the command for them to begin.

Both sides were closer to one another this time around. As soon as Elder Xuan gave the signal to begin, the Control System Battle Soul Masters on both sides immediately activated their skills.

Dai Yueheng, Chen Zifeng, and Xu Sanshi were in front, Ling Luochen was in the middle, and Wang Dong, Huo Yuhao, and Xiao Xiao were in the back.

Ling Luochen ran ahead of Huo Yuhao, then turned her head back to look at Huo Yuhao, her cold gaze bearing a degree of curiosity and alertness.

Huo Yuhao shrugged his shoulders towards her. Afterwards, both of his foolproof white soul rings lit up once more. Just like before, his Spiritual Detection Sharing was activated when the moment that his first soul ring lit up.

The people in front of him shuddered all simultaneously. If it weren't for the fact that they were all well experienced in battle, they wouldn't have been able to keep themselves from turning and staring at Huo Yuhao.

Dai Yueheng and Chen Zifeng finally understood why Ma Xiaotao's Phoenix Meteor Shower had been so accurate before. However, they hadn't even thought that it had been due to Huo Yuhao. Weren't his soul rings just white, ten year ones? How could he have such a powerful spiritual-type soul skill?! Furthermore, he'd previously used an ice-attribute martial soul, right? As such, how had this spiritual-type soul skill come about?

Both parties were just over a hundred metres away from one another. It didn't matter that Dai Yueheng, Chen Zifeng, and Ling Luochen had misgivings about this soul skill in their hearts, as they had to face their opponents first.

Ling Luochen was also a Control System Battle Soul Master. The cold stream that had previously surrounded her rose up once more. As it did, Ma Xiaotao appeared directly across from her. In that moment, her phoenix wings unfurled again, and with Gong Yangmo's help, raging torrential flames appeared once more. The temperature in the assessment area rapidly began to increase.

At that exact moment, Ling Luochen felt two warm palms suddenly press themselves against her back. She couldn't help but shudder, which nearly interrupted her soul skill.

Ling Luochen was mysophobic, quiet, and cold. Besides her close relatives, she'd never let anyone from the opposite sex touch her body before. Amongst the three people standing behind her, the one directly behind her was Huo Yuhao. As such, this pair of hands undoubtedly belonged to Huo Yuhao. She was immediately enraged, but right when she was about to turn around and lash out at him, she suddenly felt that something about her soul skill had changed. It was difficult to describe the frigid air that had suddenly surged into her body from her back: Her ability was originally ice-based, thus this external force wasn't an attack, but an assimilation. She felt that her ice had turned into an existence that stood on a completely different level than before, while her entire temperament seemed to have subsequently changed because of that frigid feeling.

As one of Shrek Academy's inner courtyard disciples, Ling Luochen wasn't only stubbornly strong, she was also extremely knowledgeable when it came to soul masters. She immediately became aware of a possibility that had been unknown to her up until this point. When she thought of this possibility, she immediately understood why she'd previously lost to Huo Yuhao in such a dubious manner.

Ultimate, it's actually Ultimate Ice. This tiny youngster actually has an inconceivable martial soul like Ultimate Ice!

Both parties began to near each other as Ling Luochen had this revelation. Ling Luochen quickly calmed down, then immediately confirmed that it was Huo Yuhao behind her. However, when she did, she noticed that his two soul rings had actually turned into a single soul ring. Wang Dong was right behind Huo Yuhao, and he'd firmly planted both his hands on Huo Yuhao's back as well. She was able to see all of this because of Huo Yuhao's Spiritual Detection.

Her ice element had turned into an Ultimate Ice element! To Ling Luochen, this feeling was both magical and wonderful. Even though this wouldn't turn her into a true Ultimate Ice Soul Master, what Huo Yuhao had done was equivalent to amplifying her ice attribute for a short period of time, such that she could temporarily use the power of an Ultimate Ice attribute. Furthermore, Ultimate Ice that bore the power of a Soul King.

Ling Luochen's first soul ring metamorphosed into an icy staff, which she then raised over her head. However, she didn't release her second soul ring and equip her ice armor this time around. Instead, she pointed her icy staff towards the sky. When she did, an icy blue halo encased her whole body in a split second, which caused her body to be wrapped in an icy blue coat.

Immediately afterwards, an icy blue pillar of light soared into the sky. The dry heat that had filled their surroundings was immediately swept into oblivion. Not only that, but once the icy cold draft had risen ten metres into the air, it rapidly spread like a tide and pressed itself against Ma Xiaotao's phoenix flames.

No matter how firm Dai Yueheng's resolution was, he couldn't help but look up at the sky. He just so happened to see an icy blue layer overtake both Chen Zifeng and himself at an astonishing speed. That icy blue layer then rapidly came into contact with Ma Xiaotao's monstrous phoenix flames.

When they felt the chilliness brought about by the Ultimate Ice, Dai Yueheng and Chen Zifeng couldn't help but shiver, despite being her teammates. They exchanged a glance, the astonishment they felt clearly present in their eyes.

All of them were within Huo Yuhao's Spiritual Detection Sharing, thus they could naturally tell that Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong were both currently supporting Ling Luochen. Furthermore, the cold aura that Ling Luochen had revealed had completely surpassed that of the one she'd revealed in the past. The overwhelming pressure brought about by it shocked even a Soul Emperor like Dai Yueheng!

Ma Xiaotao's Reddish-golden flames rapidly collided with the icy blue streams of cold.

The people on Ma Xiaotao's team were startled to find that their deduction was wrong: The one currently winning wasn't the Soul Emperor Ma Xiaotao, but rather the Soul King Ling Luochen.

When the cold streams came into contact with the scorching phoenix flames, they seemed as though they'd suddenly encountered a downpour. The flames dissipated in the face of the cold streams, and were consequently replaced by the cold torrential streams. The cold streams of air shocked every single person on Ma Xiaotao's team, and caused them to feel a little sluggish.

Yao Haoxuan had already turned into an extremely brawny four-metre tall man, and he began forcefully thumping his chest. That was his first soul skill, 'Warfare'.

However, this yellow soul skill of his that strengthened everyone on his team wasn't able to neutralize the chilliness they felt. Contrary to his expectations, he even slowed down a little.

It was at this moment that Xiao Xiao's Ninephoenix Worshipping Flute suddenly rang out. Under her precise control, the sound waves that caused people to slow down flew past her teammates without affecting them, only affecting the seven people on Ma Xiaotao's team.

Ma Xiaotao's team was strong, but they had a problem—they didn't have a real Control System Battle Soul Master on their team. Their opponents, on the other hand, had three of them.

Under the joint efforts of Ling Luochen and Xiao Xiao, their seven-man team had now become significantly slower.

Dai Yueheng and Chen Zifeng became fired up when they saw this. They suddenly felt that their loss wasn't necessarily certain in this match, and both released their martial souls. They then simultaneously accelerated towards Ma Xiaotao. Ma Xiaotao was in a completely different situation this match, now that she didn't have Huo Yuhao's Spiritual Detection Sharing to aid her. Furthermore, Ling Luochen was suppressing her phoenix flames.

"Xi Xi, get rid of Huo Yuhao!" Ma Xiaotao shouted out as she faced Dai Yueheng and Chen Zifeng head-on without a shred of fear in her body. Bei Bei and He Caitou flanked her from the sides, but a flash of lightning immediately sparked past all of them, which formed a refraction at an alarming speed; Xi Xi had already reached Huo Yuhao's side only a second after Ma Xiaotao had shouted.

Neither Ling Luochen's cold streams nor Xiao Xiao's Ninephoenix Worshipping Flute were capable of impairing Xi Xi's speed by a large amount. She was Xi Xi: An ordinary-looking girl, yet a true assassin-like Agility System Soul Master!

"Dong—" Lightning shot out in all directions amidst the prolonged sound that was produced from a collision. Xi Xi finally revealed her true self from within the lightning.

In that moment, her pupils were vertical, while her skin had turned black, and lightning was currently coiling around her body. That's right, this was her martial soul—Lightning Leopard.

However, someone had blocked that attack of hers, which she'd unleashed with the intention to win. It was only natural that Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong wouldn't have been able to block her sudden attack head on, but there was someone who could: Xu Sanshi.

His huge Shield of the Xuanwu Turtle had landed right in front of Huo Yuhao, which had caused Xi Xi to rebound from her attack. After her attack struck, Xu Sanshi positioned himself horizontally from her.

At that moment, Dai Yueheng and Chen Zifeng were even more aware of the wonder brought about by Huo Yuhao's Spiritual Detection. They were able to completely grasp the situation on the battlefield in a three-dimensional form at all times due to his Spiritual Detection. Normally, a speedy assassin such as Xi Xi would dart behind their opponents and ambush them where they knew they'd appear. However, they didn't make a detour to deal with Xi Xi this time around. Xu Sanshi's obstruction had appeared in their Spiritual Detection, thus all they needed to do was face their opponents head-on.

Both parties were about to collide with one another, when Dai Yueheng suddenly revealed a somewhat strange smile on his face. Following that, his fourth soul ring suddenly lit up.

A bright, golden-white pillar of light soared into the sky. A brilliant, crescent-moon shaped light seemed to shine from within the light pillar. Shortly afterwards, tens of balls of light appeared from atop the light pillar and descended in a flash. They passed Ma Xiaotao by, then split into two groups. One group headed towards the sky-bound Gong Yangmo, while the other portion rapidly dispersed and shot towards Jiang Nannan and He Caitou.

Who doesn't know how to unleash a meteor shower? You have your Phoenix Meteor Shower, I have my White Tiger Meteor Shower. An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth! It's my turn to land a clean hit now that I have Huo Yuhao's Spiritual Detection on my side!

If they were competing based purely on strength alone, Dai Yueheng naturally wouldn't be able to compare to Ma Xiaotao's six-ringed soul skill with just his four-ringed one. They were both Meteor Showers, but his was much weaker than hers. However, his meteor shower had a much smaller amount of meteors compared to Ma Xiaotao, which caused every single meteor of his to be more powerful in their own right. Moreover, the main target he'd chosen wasn't the weakest amongst the three from the opposing team, but rather their team's main attacker, Gong Yangmo. As long as he was able to get rid of Gong Yangmo, the strength of Ma Xiaotao's team would plummet.

Gong Yangmo had already released three soul skills at this point. The first soul skill he'd used was 'Scarlet Strength', the second was 'Orange Soul', and the third soul skill was 'Yellow Speed'. These three soul skills caused three halos to appear atop the heads of everyone on his team, with Yao Haoxuan's amplification then added onto them. Their party was now much stronger, and if one were to isolate their team and look at each individual's current state they'd clearly be able to see this.

However, the moment that both parties were about to engage in a close-quarters battle, Ling Luochen suddenly let out another attack.

Chapter 67.2: Ultimate Transformation! Attribute Amplification!

Ling Luochen's third soul ring instantly lit up as she pointed her icy staff forward, which caused an icy-blue ray of light to strike the top of Ma Xiaotao's head.

The blue light enveloped her and instantly entrapped her within an icy prison. Ma Xiaotao's charge immediately halted her charge and her fiercely struck the icy prison with her phoenix flames.

However, the icy prison didn't shatter like she'd expected it too; only a few cracks had appeared. Ma Xiaotao's fiery flames had been completely suppressed by this icy prison.

Of the seven within the official team, Ma Xiaotao didn't just have a bad relationship with Dai Yueheng. Her relationship with Ling Luochen wasn't good either. She was of the fire element, while Ling Luochen was of the ice element. As such, their dispositions naturally clashed with each other. In the past, Ling Luochen had refused to help Ma Xiaotao suppress her evil fire. If she hadn't, she wouldn't have had to stoop to finding Xu Sanshi.

However, Ma Xiaotao had always suppressed Ling Luochen in terms of pure cultivation; she definitely didn't want to lose against her this time around.

Opportunities on the battlefield were both transient and fleeting; a single moment's opportunity could change the entire situation of a battle.

Dai Yueheng had originally planned to fight Ma Xiaotao in a direct confrontation. However, the moment that Ling Luochen had made her move he'd been able to figure out who her target was due to Huo Yuhao's Spiritual Detection. His body suddenly flickered, and his first, third, and fifth soul rings once again lit up. This brought him to the peak of his abilities, and in an instant, he found Bei Bei.

With the assistance of Gong Yangmo's Rainbow Dragon, Bei Bei was able to block three of Dai Yueheng's blows. However, he still retreated step by step as blood dripped from his mouth and nose. At the same time, Gong Yangmo was doing his best to protect himself from the White Tiger's Meteor Shower. As a result, he wasn't able to assist Ma Xiaotao. On the other hand, Jiang Nannan and He Caitou only choice was to exhaust their abilities in order to protect themselves from the White Tiger's Meteor Shower. Their originally orderly formation had crumbled in an instant.

With a flash of blue light, Yao Haoxuan—who'd just swallowed a meteor from the White Tiger's Meteor Shower and spat it out to help Gong Yangmo—was suddenly trapped in another icy prison. At that moment, Ma Xiaotao finally broke through the icy prison that had entrapped her. However, Ling Luochen's attack arrived at the same instant that she broke free.

She pointed her icy staff forwards and her ink-like fifth soul ring lit up. A dark-blue ring of ice then floated outwards, the extreme cold it emanated covering the entire Assessment Area in a layer of frost. Ma Xiaotao's evil fire was then subsequently suppressed to the point where it could only actually appear in a two meter diameter around her.

On the other side of the battlefield, Xi Xi continued to attack Xu Sanshi wildly. However, even though she was quick, her attacks weren't very strong. On the other hand, the Soul Ancestor-ranked Xu Sanshi was essentially a well-guarded fortress. He relied on the accurate predictive capabilities of Huo Yuhao's Spiritual Detection to defend Huo Yuhao, Wang Dong, and Xiao Xiao in a timely manner using his Shield of the Xuanwu Turtle.

Ling Luochen's dark-blue ring of ice continued to slowly rise, while the bluish light on it circulated and released three blue pillars of light that shot towards Ma Xiaotao, Gong Yangmo, and Yao Haoxuan respectively.

As a control-type soul master, Ling Luochen's held an enormous amount of control over her Ice. With Huo Yuhao's elemental amplification, she was able to instantly gain the initiative with this attack.

Ma Xiaotao gritted her teeth. She knew that if this attack were to land, there was a high possibility that she wouldn't be able to turn things around. She flapped her wings fiercely, which caused the soul power



within her body to suddenly explode outwards. Amidst the sonorous cry of a phoenix, her body turned illusory. In that instant, she seemed to transform into a genuine phoenix. The golden-reddish light on her legs lit up, and she accelerated toward Ling Luochen as she activated her fifth soul ring. If she wasn't able to deal with Ling Luochen, she wouldn't have another chance to take back the initiative.

However, how could Ling Luochen, who was the core control-type soul master of her team, be allowed to take on Ma Xiaotao's all-out blow?

Dai Yueheng's muscular body suddenly appeared on the only path that Ma Xiaotao could take. Amidst the roar of a tiger, his sixth soul ring finally lit up.

An enormous 'KILL' that alternated between black and white appeared in midair and collided with the charging Ma Xiaotao, who'd been assisted by her two leg soul bones.

"Boom—" A violent undulation of soul power instantly spread outwards from the point of their collision, which forced everyone it to bend down and defend themselves.

When the fierce, fiery red light collided with the golden-white tiger, they shot straight into the air. Their figures instantly separated once they'd collided with each other.

Dai Yueheng was sent flying backwards from the collision, and two deep grooves had appeared on the ground below him. When he finally stopped, he was already knee-deep in the ground.

Ma Xiaotao wasn't feeling any better. As she tumbled on the ground, she was struck by Ling Luochen's icy ring, and was frozen into a dark-blue pillar of ice as a result.

As for Gong Yangmo, even though his auxiliary abilities were extremely strong, he wasn't specialised in combat. He Caitou did his best to rescue him with his soul tools, but a ten thousand year soul skill that held the power of Ultimate Ice wasn't something that a Class 4 soul engineer could withstand. The power of Ice enveloped him, and he was frozen solid as well.

There was no need to even mention Yao Haoxuan. Before he could destroy the icy prison that had entrapped him, Ling Luochen reinforced it. As a result, his massive body was sealed within the icy prison. With Huo Yuhao's elemental amplification, Ling Luochen's level of control over the battlefield had been at least doubled.

The blood-red Soulchasing Sword flickered proudly as it shot forwards. It smashed into the solid pillars of ice that were Ma Xiaotao, Gong Yangmo, and Yao Haoxuan's bodies, then flew towards Bei Bei, He Caitou, and Jiang Nannan.

Bei Bei had already been injured, and he'd consumed an enormous amount of soul power. He Caitou's consumption of soul power had been similarly enormous. Jiang Nannan had already expended all of her strength when she'd defended herself against the White Tiger's Meteor Shower. How could the three of them currently defend themselves against Chen Zifeng's powerful Soulchasing Sword? With the help of Huo Yuhao's Spiritual Detection, the battle ended in just three breaths of time.

The battles going on on the other side of the battlefield ended as well.

When Dai Yueheng clashed against Ma Xiaotao, a flaw finally appeared in Xu Sanshi's defense. How could Xi Xi give up on an opportunity like this? She charged towards Huo Yuhao, who stood behind Ling Luo Chen, with a flash.

At that moment, however, Huo Yuhao suddenly turned around. Two bolts of purplish-golden lightning shot out of his eyes towards Xi Xi's.

Xi Xi only felt as if her head had been viciously smashed by a hammer. An instantaneous period of blankness overwhelmed her mind.

Regardless of how quick she was, she was still a Soul King. Huo Yuhao had fused his Spiritual Shock with his Purple Demon eyes, and had utilized the spiritual power from the Haodong Power; even Ma Xiaotao would've been momentarily stunned by his attack.

Huo Yuhao wasn't the only person who'd made a move; Xiao Xiao, who'd been standing there and playing her flute by herself, finally made her a move as well. Her enormous pitch-black cauldron mightily rumbled forwards as she released her National Treasure, Cauldron's Quaking Tremble. She used her strongest soul skill, then maneuvered it right in front of Xi Xi's body with the help of Huo Yuhao's Spiritual Detection. Even though Xi Xi had only been stunned for a single second, that was enough time for her.

Wang Dong's charged-up attack also finally arrived and struck Xi Xi. Even though she'd been able to quickly recover from Xiao Xiao's Cauldron's Quaking Tremble with her powerful cultivation, it wasn't possible for her to dodge this attack.

Wang Dong's thousand year soul skill, the Butterfly Goddess Slash.

Immediately after touching Xi Xi, the enormous ball of light instantly transformed into 108 blades of light, which crisscrossed as they struck her. Moreover, this skill had been strengthened by both the Haodong Power and the Golden Light. Once this attack had been released, he and Huo Yuhao fell to the ground, powerless.

These 108 blades of light weren't inferior to a powerful attack launched by a four-ringed Soul Ancestor. Even if Xi Xi was the quickest among everyone present, she was still flustered when she was struck by the attack. She'd never expected the three of them to be able to lay a trap for her with just their two and three-ringed cultivations.

She went all-out and released three consecutive soul skills before she was able to dissolve the might of the Butterfly Goddess Slash. However, she wasn't able to dodge the Shield of the Xuanwu Turtle that struck her from behind.

The other battles had already ended, and Xi Xi was sent flying by the Shield of the Xuanwu Turtle. Now that he'd taken a breather, Dai Yueheng struck out with his palms and caught Xi Xi, who continued to flicker with electricity. Despite his hair standing up from her electricity, she still gave up the moment he extended his claws.

The battle had ended, with the result of the battle still being a perfect victory. However, the victors were evidently different.

Dai Yueheng, Chen Zifeng, and Ling Luo Chen weren't joyous the moment the battle ended. Instead, they immediately turned towards Huo Yuhao, who was sitting on the ground.

Chen Zifeng had an astonished look on his face. "Twin martial souls? And you, you also have them?" The other person he was referring to was naturally Xiao Xiao. He finally understood, at least to some extent, why Elder Xuan wanted to make them members of the preparatory team, despite them being so young.

Ling Luo Chen's question was only targeted towards Huo Yuhao, "Ultimate Ice?"

What could Huo Yuhao do except nod?

Dai Yueheng took a few steps forwards and helped Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong stand up. A trace of a smile appeared on his face. "Welcome to the preparatory team of the Shrek's Seven Monsters. I know that you have a few conflicting views with my younger brother, but I'm not him. You don't have to mind me. In the future, we'll all be companions."

There was no doubt that Dai Yueheng's words were equivalent to acknowledging Huo Yuhao, Wang Dong, and Xiao Xiao as members of the preparatory team.

However, Huo Yuhao didn't feel happy in the least when he heard Dai Yueheng's words. On the contrary, he became extremely vigilant. Dai Yueheng's smile appeared to be genuine, but the more genuine it looked, the colder he felt in his heart. When he'd met the former earlier, the trace of killing intent that had flashed through his eyes hadn't escaped Huo Yuhao's keen Spirit Eyes.

Furthermore, Dai Yueheng was one of the sons of the White Tiger Duke, Huo Yuhao's greatest foe.

An enemy that could hide his feelings was undoubtedly much more dangerous than one who wore his feelings on his sleeve. As an upperclassman, Dai Yueheng was definitely more terrifying than Dai Huabin to Huo Yuhao. Moreover, he was also his elder brother! If it weren't for the fact that Huo Yuhao looked more like his mother, Dai Yueheng would've noticed that something was wrong.

Chapter 67.3: Ultimate Transformation! Attribute Amplification!

"Thanks," replied Huo Yuhao with a smile. He was very clever; if Dai Yueheng could hide his emotions, why couldn't he? At the very least, Dai Yueheng wouldn't dare to make a move against him within the academy due to the lesson Dai Huabin had received.

"Have you felt it? A live battle is the best way to test everything out. Huo Yuhao, Wang Dong, and Xiao Xiao aren't strong enough by themselves, but they have a respectable amount of talent. Thus, I'm giving them this chance. Huo Yuhao, from now on, you're the main control-type soul master of the preparatory team. Bei Bei, you'll be its leader."

A team leader was the head of a team, while the main control-type soul master was the brains of a team. By relying on his performance in the previous two matches, Huo Yuhao was worthy of becoming the main control-type soul master in the preparatory team even with his two-ringed cultivation. Nobody objected to this.

At this moment, the frozen Ma Xiaotao and the rest finally broke free of their bindings. Shivering somewhat, Ma Xiaotao glared fiercely at Huo Yuhao.

Huo Yuhao shrugged helplessly towards her. He didn't know why, but he preferred Ma Xiaotao's faux-anger over Dai Yueheng's smile.

Elder Xuan was very pleased with today's matches. He understood how strong each member of the official team was. After Ma Xiaotao returned, there were a few voices of dissent within the team. After today's matches, however, she had revealed a persuasive amount of power. Though they'd lost the second match, everybody could see that she was slightly stronger than Dai Yueheng overall. Naturally, the situation could be different in a life-and-death match. After all, this was just a mock battle. The members of the official team hadn't used any relatively brutal techniques.

However, Elder Xuan mainly wanted to test out the seven members of the preparatory team. Bei Bei, Xu Sanshi, Jiang Nannan, and He Caitou's performances conformed to his expectations. Jiang Nannan was an agility-type soul master, and she had been suppressed relatively heavily. Thus, one couldn't blame her for not being able to perform spectacularly. However, Elder Xuan was surprised by Huo Yuhao's trio.

They had the lowest cultivation levels within their team, but they were extremely well-coordinated with each other. Huo Yuhao was also able to strengthen the combat strength of his entire team by relying on his powerful Spiritual Detection. When he was teamed up with Ma Xiaotao, he was able to use the Golden Road at the right moment in order to settle the entire battle. Though their opponents had underestimated them due to unfamiliarity, the effectiveness of the Golden Road was evident.

Furthermore, the existence of Huo Yuhao was equivalent to an ice-type soul master who could restrict everything. Ling Luochen was already the most outstanding ice-type soul master within the inner courtyard, but she was completely suppressed in front of his Ultimate Ice. When she worked together with him, she had an all-around boost to her abilities. Evidently, they couldn't be allowed to become enemies before the tournament started. Once the two of them worked together, Ling Luochen could definitely become the main control-type soul master within the official team. The reason why Ma Xiaotao had lost was because she had been completely suppressed!

Huo Yuhao's only problem was his lack of cultivation. Otherwise, Elder Xuan would've even considered letting him try to become the main control-type soul master on the official team.

These two matches had solidified the confidence in Elder Xuan's heart. He'd secretly made a decision; within the preparatory team—which was the future generation of the Shrek's Seven Monsters—Huo Yuhao's position as the main control-type master would never change.

Chen Zifeng laughed mischievously. "A few people have to pay up their bets!"

After hearing his reminder, the newly crowned victors immediately looked towards Ma Xiaotao with a smile.

The saddest of the lot were undoubtedly Yao Haoxuan and Jiang Nannan. They'd lost two consecutive matches.

Ma Xiaotao glared at Huo Yuhao again, "You just wait for me. I'm a pig."

The others could only helplessly refer to themselves as a certain chubby animal. Elder Xuan laughed as he watched all this, feeling joyous inwardly. He believed that Huo Yuhao's generation of the Shrek's Seven Monsters would definitely be stronger than the current generation in five years' time.

“Okay, you can all go back. Pack up your things. Gather at the academy’s entrance tomorrow morning. We’re going to Star Luo City to take part in a competition.”

“Star Luo City?” Huo Yuhao couldn’t help but cry out after hearing these words.

Elder Xuan looked towards him with a somewhat puzzled look in his eyes. “Is there a problem? The Continental Advanced Academy Soul Duelling Tournament is held in a different country every year. This time around, it’s the Star Luo Empire’s turn. The next one, which is the one you’ll be able to participate in as an official team member, will be held in the Sun Moon Empire. It’ll be held in the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy. Thus, you’ll have to work even harder during these next five years.”

How could Huo Yuhao not reveal a change in his emotions after hearing the words ‘Star Luo City’? He’d never been to the capital of the Star Luo Empire, but Star Luo City was something he’d heard too many times during his youth. The Duke’s Mansion he’d grown up in was only 25km south of Star Luo City! When the weather was good, he would be able to faintly see the silhouette of the imperial capital from the outskirts of the Duke’s Mansion.

Huo Yuhao’s heartbeat involuntarily sped up. He’d never thought that he would have to go back this quickly. Dai Yueheng was a member of the official team, and wouldn’t he bring everyone to the Duke’s Mansion?

Though the two brothers no longer recognised him, he was still someone who’d grown up in the Duke’s Mansion. The servants there had seen him many times in the past. The moment he thought of returning to the place he’d grown up in, the place he resented and hated incomparably, Huo Yuhao’s heart was immediately thrown into disorder.

Huo Yuhao lowered his head and replied, “It’s nothing. I just didn’t think that we’d have to go to the Star Luo Empire.”

Elder Xuan didn’t take it to heart. “Then you can all go back now.”

Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong walked all the way back to the dormitories. Nobody else had noticed anything strange about Huo Yuhao, but Wang Dong’s senses were very acute. After living with the former for more than a year, he was relatively familiar with him. Furthermore, he knew the hatred that existed in his heart.

“Yuhao, are you okay?” Wang Dong whispered.

Huo Yuhao shook his head. “I’m fine. I just can’t adapt to suddenly going back. I can’t let Dai Yueheng know of my true identity.”

Wang Dong was silent for a moment, then whispered, “Yuhao, he should be your older brother. You...”

Stirred up, Huo Yuhao interrupted him, “I don’t have an elder brother, nor do I have any relatives. My mom is dead, and I’m only an orphan.”

“Fine, fine, an orphan it is.” Wang Dong hurriedly parroted him.

“Sorry.” Huo Yuhao nodded his head gloomily.

Wang Dong walked over to him and sat beside him, "Don't think too much about it. There'll always be a way to get over this. Furthermore, it's not guaranteed that someone will recognise you even if we go back. Haven't you felt that you've changed greatly during this past year? Even someone who previously recognised you might not be able to tell who you are now. I know that you're pained, but since you've chosen to face them and seek revenge, you have to be strong. The opponent you're going against is extremely strong!"

Huo Yuhao was stunned. "Have I changed a lot?"

Wang Dong knocked him on the head once, then passed him a mirror from his bedside.

"Take a look for yourself."

Right! Using the words 'heaven-shaking and earth-shattering' to describe Huo Yuhao's transformation over his past year at Shrek Academy wouldn't be inappropriate. In the beginning, he was only a bashful, ordinary youth who even seemed rustic. Over this past year, however, not only did he experience a tremendous growth in his strength, he even became a core disciple of the academy. At the same time, an enormous transformation had occurred to his outer appearance and his demeanor.

Strength would make a person confident. With his two intelligent soul rings, and especially the Ice Jade Empress Scorpion's soul bone, he'd grown much taller.

When he'd arrived at the academy, he looked somewhat thin and weak. However, he was now as strong as a calf. His originally unhealthy facial appearance now shone with a rosy gloss. Moreover, he was filled with the aura of the sun. Wang Dong was correct—during this past year, he'd turned over an entirely new leaf. He was no longer the servant-like Huo Yuhao who'd lived in the Duke's Mansion.

"Actually, you've already set a target for yourself. Since that's the case, if we do go there, so be it. Why think too much about it?" Wang Dong stood up and took the mirror back from Huo Yuhao. Then, he took the initiative to sit in a cross-legged position and extended his hands towards him. "Come, let's cultivate. We're still too far away from our seniors in terms of cultivation! We have to work hard."

Huo Yuhao finally revealed a smile after seeing Wang Dong's serious expression, "Since a lazy fella like you is actually asking me to cultivate, let's do it. I'm going to surpass you sooner or later."

Wang Dong feigned surprise as he looked towards the window. "Eeeeh, why are there cows flying in the sky? Ah, I know. It's because you're spouting bullshit."

"Don't you dare laugh at me. I'll show you how awesome I am." Huo Yuhao suddenly pounced towards Wang Dong. Defenseless, the latter let out an astonished cry as he immediately tumbled onto the bed.

Huo Yuhao held onto his hands evilly, then shouted, "Are you gonna submit?"

"No!" Wang Dong shouted provokingly.

"You're really not gonna submit?" Huo Yuhao slowly pressed down on him, and the distance between his face and Wang Dong's began to decrease. He had a naughty smile on his face as he looked at the latter's pair of beautiful, round eyes.

As Huo Yuhao continued to get closer to him, Wang Dong could feel his breathing on his face. He was finally panicking, and hence shut his eyes subconsciously. But, he still forced out a few words, "No! I won't submit!"

Huo Yuhao was left in a daze as he looked at Wang Dong's long, trembling eyebrows. He was just a few inches away from him, and he could smell the faint fragrance coming from him. He didn't know why, but he shivered uncontrollably as he looked at Wang Dong, who was being forced down by him, so much so that he was completely helpless.

He hurriedly let go of Wang Dong's hands, then grabbed his pinkish face and squeezed it. Then, he laughed, "If you won't submit, I'll make you look like a pig. Hey, you look rather good even as a pig. Quickly, stick out your mouth so you'll look even more like one."

"Huo Yuhao, I'm gonna fight you!"

Chapter 68.1: Shrek Guardians

Two similar figures stood together.

"Brother, so how about it? Is there a chance for you to make a move?" Dai Huabin asked resentfully.

Dai Yueheng snorted coldly. "You'd best give up. There's no chance. Huo Yuhao's even more talented than you. He has a skill called Spiritual Detection that can benefit every single one of his teammates. Furthermore, it's obvious that Elder Xuan likes him a lot. The two consecutive matches we had were to show off his strength for everyone to approve of him. I don't even need to tell you what kind of person Elder Xuan is again. Also, mother is very angry over this incident. Fortunately, father's not home. Otherwise, you'd be in for a lot of trouble."

"Mother has told me to pass on a piece of news to you. If there is a 'next time', nobody is going to help you. Do you know how much pressure mother suffered to keep this matter quiet? Even the royal family doesn't dare to offend the academy. You were actually this rash?"

Dai Huabin's eyes turned red. "Don't tell me that you're just going to let this go? Did our men die for nothing?"

"Bastard!" Dai Yueheng suddenly pulled his hand back and slapped Dai Huabin's face. The latter staggered, and nearly fell to the ground.

"How old are you already?" Dai Yueheng asked sternly, "Do you not know the difference between the clan's interests and your private grudges? If this were a soul master academy within our country, I'd have let you do anything you wanted. But this is Shrek! Don't you know what the word 'Shrek' means? If you want to continue staying here, you'd better back down. Is this a place where you can simply do as you wish?"

"As for that Huo Yuhao, not only can we not go against him, we even have to rope him in. He's still very weak now, but he has the sovereign abilities of a twin-souled soul master and an Ultimate martial soul. He's a precious treasure even in our Shrek Academy. After the matter that you started, the old fellas from the academy will definitely protect him even more strictly. If you can rope him into our clan, do you know how many benefits we'll get? Have you forgotten the task our mother gave us?"

Dai Huabin turned silent. Though his eyes were still filled with rage, he'd calmed down.

Dai Yueheng's expression softened slightly. "Go back first. Don't think too much about it. Even though you can't take Huo Yuhao's position, the other positions might not be as stable. Work hard, and you'll have a chance to become one of the Seven Monsters. After this tournament, I'll have the qualifications to graduate from the inner courtyard. I'll return to our clan first, and prepare for our major project under our mother's plans."

"Okay." Dai Huabin nodded. After he turned away and left, he sneered inwardly, "Dai Yueheng, weren't you just born a few years before me? There'll be a day when you won't be able to strut around in front of me. Once I'm your age, I'll definitely be able to surpass the current you."

.....

Morning. Amidst the misty gates of Shrek Academy, a group of people slowly walked out. From their ages, it was clear that they were students of Shrek Academy. However, they weren't wearing their uniforms today. Some of the students were wearing clothes made of cloth, while some were wearing ones with flowery designs; all of them wore different things.

Flowery clothes weren't necessarily beautiful, and ones made of cloth didn't necessarily represent mediocrity. The most obvious delegates of the two types of clothes were Yao Haoxuan and Jiang Nannan.

As a result of his skinny body, Yao Haoxuan looked somewhat wretched with his flowery clothes on. On the other hand, the cloth-wearing Jiang Nannan looked incomparably elegant.

Huo Yuhao no longer wore the set of clothes he's brought to the academy. However, he treasured the set of clothes his mother had made for him, and had thus placed them in the Twenty Four Moonlit Bridges. Currently, he was no longer the poor young boy who didn't have a single penny to his name. The black set of warrior's robes he wore made him look extremely nimble. Due to the changes that had occurred to his body, he looked fourteen to fifteen years old, even though he wasn't even thirteen yet. The well-proportioned muscles underneath his robes seemed to contain an explosive amount of power within them.

Wang Dong was no longer as tall as Huo Yuhao, but his slender body, elegant aura, and clever yet beautiful eyes were extremely captivating. If the prettiest among the girls was Jiang Nannan, he was definitely the most handsome of the boys. In terms of pure appearance, he was comparable to Jiang Nannan.

The sun had just risen from the east, but they were already leaving the academy. This group of people naturally consisted of the official and preparatory teams of the Shrek's Seven Monsters. Elder Xuan wasn't the only person leading the group; Huo Yuhao's teacher, Wang Yan, also tagged along with them.

Only now did Huo Yuhao know that Elder Xuan was Teacher Wang's master. Only, Elder Xuan wouldn't allow the former to address him as such. Elder Xuan liked his inheriting disciple very much, even though he wasn't comparable to the other Heaven's Chosen in terms of cultivation. Wang Yan could travel far along the path of research into martial souls, and he would be able to teach within the inner courtyard after two more years of practice.



The group of almost twenty people walked together in twos and threes, but Elder Xuan was still as messy as ever, with his bottle gourd and chicken legs in his hands. The foodstuffs he ate seemed to alternate between chicken legs and chicken wings, and he didn't seem to ever get bored of eating them.

Possibly due to the fact that he wanted to eat and drink, Elder Xuan didn't walk especially quickly; he walked at around the pace of an ordinary person. This gave the entire group a relaxing and leisurely feeling. With their physical abilities, walking at such a pace was simply a type of pleasure.

Compared to when he had just entered the academy, Huo Yuhao had experienced an earth-shattering transformation. He'd entered by relying on the Tang Sect's special quota, and not only did he have a pitiful amount of soul power, he didn't even have a single attacking skill. His body was as frail as an ordinary person's.

The fact that he was able to completely change everything within a short year couldn't be fully attributed to his two intelligent soul rings; his painstaking hard work couldn't be ignored. It wouldn't be an exaggeration to say that Huo Yuhao had put in more than twice the amount of effort as the other students. He didn't even have any time to rest.

Although he now possessed talent that made even the upper echelons of the academy approve of him, he didn't dare to relax at all. He deeply remembered what his Teacher Wang Yan had told him; as a wielder of an Ultimate martial soul, his cultivation speed would drastically decrease after reaching Rank 30. At that time, his cultivation speed wouldn't be comparable to that of an ordinary soul master. He could cultivate alongside Wang Dong, but he still paid attention to this matter. Moreover, he was even dual-cultivating in the Martial Soul and Soul Tool Departments. Thus, he had to work even harder.

After the earnest conversation he had had with He Caitou, Huo Yuhao paid much more attention to the Ultimate Soldier Plan. If he could become a person that could change the entire situation of a battlefield by himself, he would have the qualifications to seek his revenge!

Due to his current mentality, Huo Yuhao didn't want to waste any time. Seeing that they weren't walking too quickly, he immediately whispered to Wang Dong, "Let's cultivate for a while."

Wang Dong glared at him unhappily. "I'm gonna die of exhaustion. What bad luck I have, having a roommate like you."

Huo Yuhao chuckled, "Haven't you felt that you've been improving so quickly with me urging you on? You should be grateful to me."

Wang Dong snorted, "I'd rather rest for a bit. Come. You're not allowed to use Spiritual Detection."

With that, Wang Dong ran straight towards Huo Yuhao. However, instead of colliding with him, he flickered around the latter's body at a rapid rate.

Huo Yuhao continued to slowly follow the group, but they were at the very back of the group, and thus wouldn't be afraid of anyone noticing them. Huo Yuhao raised his hand, then started to make pushing and pulling motions with a regular tempo. A pale, white light could faintly be seen at the tops of his hands.

Wang Dong immediately slowed down. Evidently, he'd sensed what Huo Yuhao was doing. However, he immediately accelerated using his soul power, doing his best to maintain his current level of speed.

Whilst walking together with Bei Bei, He Caitou turned around. He saw Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong with a weird look in his eyes and whispered, "Senior brother, isn't Wang Dong using the Ghost Shadow Perplexing Tracks? What's Huo Yuhao doing?"

Bei Bei naturally saw what the two of them were doing. He revealed a sincere look of admiration on his face. "Huo Yuhao's using another secret technique of our Tang Sect. It's called the Controlling Crane Capturing Dragon, and its user can use their soul power to release a pushing or pulling motion within a fixed range. It's a skill that's extremely practical in close-combat. I'll teach it to you later. Actually, even if your martial soul isn't a combat-oriented one, you'll be able to wield a decent amount of strength in a close-combat situation once you've finished training in our techniques."

Xiao Xiao looked towards the two of them with a somewhat envious look in her eyes, then moved closer to Bei Bei, "Senior brother, let's try this out as well."

Bei Bei couldn't help but laugh. "We're not too suitable for what they're doing. The training they're doing now is more suitable for people whose cultivations are closer to each other. If I use my Controlling Crane Capturing Dragon on you, you won't even be able to use your Ghost Shadow Perplexing Tracks."

Xiao Xiao's lips pouted, "Those two are so close that they're like the same person. I can't interrupt them either! They're both guys, so why are they so intimate with each other? Hmph!"

She was truly somewhat envious of the intimate relationship that Wang Dong had with Huo Yuhao. In the past, she'd thought that it would be much easier for her to mix around with guys due to the fact that she was a girl! However, the intimacy that Huo Yuhao had with Wang Dong was evidently much deeper than the friendship she had with them.

He Caitou gave a silly laugh, "Since the two of them can complete a fusion skill, they're naturally close to each other. However, a martial fusion between two people who don't share the same bloodline is quite rare. Xiao Xiao, why don't I help you out? I don't know how to use the Controlling Crane Capturing Dragon, but I can use some of my weaker soul tools to help you train your Ghost Shadow Perplexing Track. How about that?"

Though she felt that He Caitou's extremely rugged body and black skin looked somewhat fierce, Xiao Xiao was always a very kind and straightforward person in her interactions with other people. Thus, she nodded, "Sure! I want to train hard as well. Otherwise, I'd deserve to be eliminated if I lagged behind them."

## Chapter 68.2: Shrek Guardians

Elder Xuan and the seven members of the official team stood at the very front, while the seven members of the preparatory team trailed behind them. Because of that, Xu Sanshi and Jiang Nannan were able to listen in on Bei Bei's conversation with the others.

It wasn't easy for Xu Sanshi to obtain an opportunity to go out with Jiang Nannan. Naturally, he was tagging along with her shamelessly.

Jiang Nannan was simply helpless in front of Xu Sanshi. Thus, she strictly forbade him from entering a one meter area around her and from harassing her. After Xu Sanshi nodded like a baby chick eating rice, she ignored him.

Seeing that Huo Yuhao and the rest were working hard, Xu Sanshi immediately devised a plan. He smiled mischievously, "Nannan, see how hard they're working. Why don't we practice as well? Look, my hard and thick skin is great for you to practice your throwing skills. Naturally, I can take on your grappling skills as well." His thirsty face was clearly telling Jiang Nannan, grapple me, grapple me!

Jiang Nannan turned around and looked at him with an icy look in her eyes, "It'd be better for you to scram than anything else."

Xu Sanshi immediately contorted his face and said indignantly, "Nannan, just what can I do to make you understand my heart!? I'm sincere towards you. Just how can I make you be willing to be together with me?!"

Jiang Nannan stared at him hatefully, and a tint of red that arose from either bashfulness or anger faintly appeared on her exceptionally beautiful face. "I won't be together with the hedonistic son of a rich family like you no matter what. A beast's intentions still come from a beast's heart. Stop bothering me. Also, I'm called Jiang Nannan. Please use my surname while referring to me."

With that, she turned around and sped up, increasing the distance between her and Xu Sanshi.

Xu Sanshi covered his face with his hands and cried out sorrowfully, "Just let me die, die, die."

Bei Bei was already next to him somehow. With a smile on his calm face, he asked sincerely, "Do you need help?"

Xu Sanshi put his hands down and flew into a rage, "Are we brothers? Are we still brothers? I just knew that you'd be a guy who enjoys schadenfreude and kicking someone who's down. If Xiao Ya weren't here, you'd have revealed your true nature already."

Bei Bei had a look of surprise on his face. "You want to talk about being brothers now? Why do I recall you saying that you'd be willing to 'stab yourself twice for the sake of your brother, but stab your brother for the sake of a girl!'"

Xu Sanshi was left embarrassed. He raised his head high. "A girl can give me a child, can you? A girl can sleep with me on a bed, but can you?"

Bei Bei gave a warm smile, "I can't do the former, but I can do the latter."

Elder Xuan, who was walking in front, suddenly staggered mysteriously. Then, he violently spat out the mouthful of wine he had in his mouth before glaring fiercely at Bei Bei and Xu Sanshi.

The two of them straightened their faces, not daring to say anything more.

"Okay! Come over!" Elder Xuan spat out a mouthful of saliva, then used his dirty, greasy sleeve to wipe his mouth before yelling out unhappily.

The group of fourteen hurriedly stepped forward and formed a circle around him. Due to the fact that they were just training, Huo Yuhao, Wang Dong, and Xiao Xiao were slightly out of breath.

Xu Sanshi still believed that it was Bei Bei's words that had triggered Elder Xuan. "Just wait for your scolding. Hehe." He whispered coldly.

At this moment, Bei Bei didn't have any traces of a smile on his face. He had a ruthless look, and he mouthed a few words, "Since I'm going to get scolded, I'm gonna tell Jiang Nannan that you actually like guys. You were only chasing her to hide your real sexual orientation."

"Your sister..." Xu Sanshi's face reddened.

Bei Bei maintained full eye contact with him and said, "I don't have a sister."

Elder Xuan suddenly ruffled his hair and glared at the two of them, "If you two spout anymore bullshit, I'm gonna beat you to the point where you won't even be able to take care of yourselves anymore."

Ma Xiaotao laughed, "Elder Xuan, you're in perfectly good condition! However, our public morals are truly degenerating! They're so young, but they've inclinations like this. I suggest that the academy have a rectification campaign."

"I'm perfectly straight!" Bei Bei and Xu Sanshi cried out together.

"Psh—" Ma Xiaotao had a look of disdain on her face, "Was I talking about the two of you? I was talking about Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong. What're you panicking for? There's no gold hidden here."

Xu Sanshi smacked Bei Bei and said indignantly, "I blame you for all of this! My reputation!"

Jiang Nannan snorted and whispered, "Did you even have a reputation? You're a..."

Xu Sanshi's hearing wasn't bad. "Nannan, it isn't like that! That time, I..."

"You dare?" Jiang Nannan suddenly raised her head. Her gaze resembled that of a dagger, and it was even that of an exceptionally sharp one. Xu Sanshi shivered instinctively, then instantly shut up. He put on a righteous appearance, giving off the impression that he wouldn't say anything even if he was killed.

Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong were inwardly laughing themselves to death, but everyone here was an upperclassman. It wouldn't be good for them to laugh out loud, so they held in their laughter to the point where their stomachs hurt.

Wang Dong whispered, "Adultery. There's definitely adultery between seniors Xu and Jiang."

Suddenly, everyone felt the temperature surrounding them drop. The words 'killing intent' arose involuntarily in their hearts, making all of them shut up.

The killing intent that had appeared instantly caused Huo Yuhao, Wang Dong, and Xiao Xiao to stiffen up due to their low cultivations. Fortunately, it only lasted for a moment before disappearing.

Elder Xuan acted as if he'd heard and done nothing, and spoke in a low voice, "We aren't far from the academy, and there a few things that I have to say now. You seven from the preparatory team have to listen carefully to me. This concerns the future direction of your path in the academy." *n)-Ovel* **B**In

Elder Xuan's usual attitude wasn't too calm, but this was the first time they'd seen him act so seriously. Huo Yuhao and the other six felt their hearts go cold, and they immediately curbed their previous laughter. Then, they paid full attention to Elder Xuan.

The seven from the inner courtyard seemed to know what Elder Xuan was about to say, but they had solemn looks on their faces. Moreover, they radiated a unique sort of arrogance.

Elder Xuan said, "Our Shrek Academy has existed for over ten thousand years. Normally, a powerful soul master can live for two hundred years at the very least, while some can live even longer. Moreover, more and more students enter the inner courtyard every year. However, the total number of inner courtyard disciples who currently remain within the academy doesn't even reach a hundred. Do you know why this is the case?"

Xu Sanshi said, "It's because our seniors have graduated, right?"

Elder Xuan shook his head, "You're half-right. There are a few disciples of the inner courtyard who leave the academy after graduating, but I now want to talk about the disciples who don't graduate."

At this point, Elder Xuan's voice clearly contained a few more traces of sorrow, "They were all good kids. Though they weren't able to truly graduate, their names still exist within the school register. They took the ideals of the academy as their own ideals. It's not that they didn't have the strength to graduate, but because they died for the sake of the academy's ideals."

"In reality, there are many other students who have the qualifications to enter the inner courtyard. However, many of them choose to leave the academy after graduating from the outer courtyard. It's because entering the inner courtyard of Shrek Academy doesn't just signify that you'll get better things and better teaching. The weight of the responsibilities you'll receive will be similarly large. Those students who choose not to enter the inner courtyard admit that they aren't able to shoulder this task. After agreeing to keep this a secret, they leave."

"The academy respects the choices of all of its students, but I want to say that every single student who has entered the inner courtyard to pursue their studies is a hero. Not a hero of the academy, but a hero of the entire Douluo Continent."

The word 'hero' was still very unfamiliar to the young Huo Yuhao and the rest. However, this word carried an indescribable weight to it when it came from Elder Xuan's mouth.

Elder Xuan said solemnly, "The thing that you aren't allowed to disclose is the fact that you've already taken a step into the inner courtyard from the very moment you guys became members of the preparatory team. However, it's just because of this that I have to confirm whether you are willing to shoulder the burdens of the academy before we leave. If you're not willing to, I can return you to the academy, and nobody will blame you. You will still complete your studies and graduate successfully. Furthermore, I have to say that there isn't much the inner courtyard has that the outer courtyard doesn't. The reason why disciples of the inner courtyard are strong is linked to that responsibility I mentioned. If you choose to go back, you'll have to keep the same secret as the students who choose to leave after graduating. Can you do it?"

Huo Yuhao's group of seven could feel that the secrets that Elder Xuan was about to reveal weren't that humongous. The seven replied simultaneously, "Yes."

Elder Xuan said, "The Douluo Continent was originally extremely large. After the collision and fusion it had with the Sun Moon Continent, it became even larger. Of the four great empires, the Sun Moon Empire covers the largest area. Its various mineral resources are extremely plentiful. However, they're still foreigners to us. Even if several thousand years have passed, they aren't compatible with the three empires of our Douluo Continent. We aren't able to truly accept their existences. This formed a mutual

alliance we have against them. Although there isn't any large-scale war on the Douluo Continent, disputes always exist. If this dispute occurs among the normal countryfolk, it won't cause too much damage. However, a dispute among soul masters is different."

"Not all soul masters are kind. A large number of people will have inflated egos due to their strength, and they'll get an air of haughtiness that makes it seem as though they're the number one expert under the heavens. They may even have evil intentions as a result. These people will then bring about enormous casualties to the ordinary folk. A soul master committing an evil act is a common occurrence, and it's getting higher as the days go on. Oftentimes, the more talented and stronger a soul master is, the higher the destructive power he'll have after stepping onto the path of evil. There was once a Soul Emperor who massacred an entire village just because the food they served him wasn't up to his standards. Why is that the case? It's because soul masters far exceed ordinary people in terms of strength, and also because they lack restrictions and control."

"Our Shrek Academy doesn't consider itself a righteous organisation, but we aren't willing to allow calamities like this occur. Roughly six thousand years ago, the academy split into the outer and inner courtyards..."

### Chapter 68.3: Shrek Guardians

Elder Xuan became even more solemn as he said, "You must be thinking, 'Police? Police what?' We aren't trying to police the injustices within the continent, because that's realistically impossible. The Douluo Continent's too vast, and there are an uncountable number of people within the four empires. There are already five million permanent residents in our Shrek City alone. Moreover, we can't even police the disciples from the inner courtyard. Because of that, we only police soul masters. We target people, and even government officials, but never an entire country. We have our own sources of intelligence, and once something evil that a country is unable to, or doesn't want to police occurs, or if a soul master turns to the path of evil, we'll send out disciples of the inner courtyard to deal with the issue. Now, the disciples of the inner courtyard are known as police, the Shrek Police. Our inner courtyard has another name—the Shrek Guardians. Right now, I'm the current vice-leader of the Shrek Guardians." n(-σ/v)-e-.L.)b()I-(n

"You must be thinking, how do we police everything? The continent's so vast, and the number of evil acts committed are many. We don't even have a hundred people in the inner courtyard, so how do we do this? I can tell you this. Every single country, even the largest Sun Moon Empire, would never dare to look down on our Shrek Guardians. Although there are only around a hundred disciples in the current inner courtyard, we have over twenty thousand graduates from the outer courtyard. At the same time, there are nearly a thousand students who have completed their service as Guardians. Casualties appear frequently within the inner courtyard, but I dare to say that every single person who steps out from Shrek Academy's inner courtyard is an elite of humanity as a whole. Furthermore, our academy has the most outstanding teachers within the continent, and every single teacher in the academy is a Guardian.

"Every single disciple of the inner courtyard is a Guardian, and for them to graduate, they have to complete thirty assignments. These assignments not only test the strength of our disciples, but also their hearts. Our Shrek Academy doesn't want to nurture plain experts, but true talents who are willing to protect the peace and stability of the continent."

“What I want to tell you is this—we are Guardians, and also enforces of the law. Everything that the Shrek Guardians deal with is problematic, and extremely dangerous. There was even one occasion where we had to deal with a Titled Douluo. A threat to your life could occur at any time. Because of this, the first thing you have to cautiously consider is whether you’re willing to become a Guardian.”

“Furthermore, there isn’t any compensation for a Guardian.” At that point, Elder Xuan’s solemn tone softened much more; he saw the gazes in the eyes of the seven members of the preparatory team. None of them had erratic looks in their eyes, but rather staunch and stubborn ones. They had undoubtedly made their decisions already.

Dai Yueheng walked up to Elder Xuan’s side and said in a low voice, “Junior brothers and sisters. I will tell you that, according to many of the seniors who have graduated, becoming a Shrek Guardian is the greatest honor they have ever been given. Even if they’ve already graduated, many of them still do things that a Guardian should do. To evildoers, we are the butcher’s blade; to the weak and bullied, we are existences on the level of Gods of kindness to them. There are uncountable numbers of people who have received the help of the Shrek Guardians, and the act of helping them is the best way we can perfect our hearts. I’ve always believed that doing good deeds doesn’t help others, but ourselves. That feeling of satisfaction is something that’s irreplaceable.”

“I’m very proud to have completed twenty-eight assignments to this point. I’m already not far from thirty. During this process, I’ve killed bandits who raped and pillaged, and government officials who didn’t care for their citizens’ lives. I’ve rescued children who were forced into slavery. The inner courtyard has a motto—with great strength, comes great responsibility, and one’s heart travels along the same path as the good deeds one performs. I’m willing to work together with you guys.”

Dai Yueheng’s words were very plain, but they contained a unique effect to them. Even Ma Xiaotao, who didn’t get along well with him, had a solemn expression on her face as he recounted his experiences as a Guardian. Other than the pride on her face, she had a unique splendor to it as well. It was as though they were bathing in their glory.

Elder Xuan nodded. “Okay, you have to give me an answer now. Enter, or leave.”

“Enter!” The seven simultaneously cried out. In that instant, the thoughts of the seven from the preparatory team seemed to be linked. It was only then that they understood the missions and responsibilities that a disciple of Shrek Academy’s inner courtyard had to shoulder. At this point in time, they didn’t feel any of the glory that came with being a Shrek Guardian, but they unhesitantly accepted this task.

Elder Xuan smiled a very happy smile. “Very good. I wasn’t mistaken with you lot. None of you are cowards. I’ll tell you this—there was another reason behind all this. It’s because you’re about to take on your first Guardian mission in a bit. Xiaotao, you can explain our assignment this time. Wang Yan, give them the equipment of a Shrek Guardian.”

“Yes.” Wang Yan nodded, then took a few rings from his storage tool and passed them to every single person there.

The ring was very beautiful; the ring itself was made of a silvery-whitish metal, and a jade-green gem the size of a fingernail was embedded on it. The glistening gem shone with a bright light, and the green on it

was filled with the aura of life. The top of the ring was carved into the shape of a Shrek, making it unforgettable.

Ma Xiaotao said, "You'd better take care of this. This is the symbol of a Shrek Guardian, and only we have it. Now, put a drop of your blood on the surface of the ring, so it'll connect with your bloodline. As long as you're one of us, you can use the Guardian Ring to verify the identity of a Guardian in front of you. The ring is also a storage tool, and it contains a complete set of equipment that we use. You can take a look at it now."

"We have our specialised clothing, a mask, a cloak, and a distress signal. During a mission, we can't let anyone see our appearances, so as to prevent things from affecting our lives. Thus, we need a mask. Most importantly, we have a distress signal. This signal is something that only we have, and after any Guardian releases it during a dangerous event, every student of Shrek Academy—outer courtyard or inner courtyard—will immediately go over to help you. It's much more effective than you think."

"Our assignment this time is to head towards a mountain range that borders the Star Luo Empire and the Sun Moon Empire to hunt down a group of bandits. The Advanced Academy Continental Soul Duelling Academy is going to start soon, so we have to finish this in three or four days."

"These bandits are extremely savage and sly. They specialise in killing merchants who pass over the border, and they leave no survivors. They do every evil thing imaginable to their victims. The mountainous area they're hiding in has some complicated terrain, and it's precipitous. Moreover, there are many caves they can hide themselves in, so it's disadvantageous for an army to attack them. More disgustingly, the area where those bastards live in belongs partly to the Sun Moon Empire and the Star Luo Empire."

"The Sun Moon Empire has never had a good relationship with our Star Luo Empire. In a situation like this, it's very hard for the two nations to cooperate. Whenever an empire sends its army out, those sly bastards will run over to the other side. Once, they even started a small scale war between the two countries. However, they're still living fine now. Numbers won't be effective against them. There aren't even three hundred of those bandits, but they're familiar with the terrain, and they have many tricks. Because of this, a small team like us is better equipped to deal with them."

"These bandits call themselves the Envoys of the Death God, and they're supposedly headed by a relatively powerful evil soul master. Because of that, we can't be careless at all. A majority of you haven't killed a person before, and you're going to have a brand-new experience now. I have to stress that the target of our assignment this time is to leave no survivors and completely eliminate them. There aren't any elderly, weak, women, or children in this group of bandits, and none of them are kind."

Killing someone? This term was extremely foreign to Huo Yuhao and the rest. This was especially true for Huo Yuhao, Wang Dong, and Xiao Xiao; after all, they were only twelve. Their hearts started beating more rapidly after they heard the words 'killing someone'.

Ma Xiaotao smiled and looked towards Huo Yuhao, "What? Scared? Don't wet yourself when the time comes, since nobody's going to wipe your butt for you."

Huo Yuhao's face immediately reddened. "I'm not scared at all."



He really didn't feel like he could lift his head in front of Ma Xiaotao. After the events of that day, a shadow had been cast over his heart.

Ma Xiaotao laughed mischievously. "It's good that you're not scared. The seven of us will be the main team during this mission, and you guys should do your best to protect yourselves while helping us from the side. These bandits are extremely unbridled; they've even titled themselves the 'Hand of Death'. Within that vast, mountainous area, as long as you bring up the names 'Hand of Death', or 'Envoy of the Death God', the folk there will be scared witless."

"This mountainous area was formed four thousand years ago as a result of the collision between the two continents. Because of that, it's called the Ming Dou Mountain Range. It has an extremely vast amount of mineral resources, and it produces extremely precious minerals. Because of that, the Star Luo and Sun Moon Empires have been continuously fighting over that mountain range for many years. The Star Luo Empire can give us a certain amount of help."

Chapter 69.1: Evil Soul Master

"We've already informed the guards from the Star Luo Empire stationed near the Ming Dou Mountains before we departed. They'll provide us with a detailed map and accurate information in due course. If there are no further questions, we have to depart at full speed. Keep your Guardian Rings properly. You can only wear them when you're executing a mission."

Everyone expressed that they were ready one after the other. Ma Xiaotao then said, "The ones with lower cultivations will slow us down. There's no way we can accommodate to you guys, so we're going to do things this way. I'll take Huo Yuhao along with me. Dai Yueheng, you take Wang Dong. Ling Luochen, you take Xiao Xiao with you. Let's go."

Ever since Ma Xiaotao started giving her presentation regarding the Guardian mission, Elder Xuan hadn't said another word – everything was in Ma Xiaotao's control. This was not only his confidence in Ma Xiaotao's ability to command a group, but it was also a way for her to polish her skills. It would be no good if a dragon lacked a leader. This Guardian mission was also the final learning curve for them all before the tournament started.

"I want senior sister Ma to take me with her." Wang Dong suddenly spoke before rushing to Ma Xiaotao's side. He continued talking as he smiled with admiration, "Senior sister Ma, I admire you the most. Can you take me along with you?"

Ma Xiaotao was stunned for a moment before she smiled and said, "Fine, I'll take you with me. Dai Yueheng, you take Huo Yuhao with you. Let's go." As she spoke, she dragged Wang Dong's underarm up with her right hand and leapt up, taking off on their journey.

Dai Yueheng and Ling Luochen also reacted in the same way, taking Huo Yuhao and Xiao Xiao respectively as they accelerated.

Huo Yuhao was silently cursing in his heart. Since when did Wang Dong admire Ma Xiaotao? It actually seemed as though the ineffable hostility he had directed toward senior sister Ma before was real. What was that guy doing?! n/.0V~~e~~IBIn

Just because he knew this didn't mean that Ma Xiaotao knew it too. With Ma Xiaotao's help, Wang Dong now had a contented look on his face. He was extremely pleased with himself for what he'd done. Only he knew of the little scheme he'd concocted in his heart.

This full-scale acceleration revealed how powerful the inner courtyard disciples were. Bei Bei, Xu Sanshi and Jiang Nannan were already going all-out, but they were still finding it extremely tough to follow along. On the other hand, He Caitou was in slightly better condition than them because he had an accelerator soul tool helping him. He could control how much he wished to speed up with a Rank 4 accelerator soul tool. Adding onto the fact that he had a robust body, it wasn't that strenuous for him to follow closely behind Ma Xiaotao.

Even though Ma Xiaotao was bringing Wang Dong along with her, she'd remained at the forefront since they'd set off. She even had to slow down from time to time and wait for those behind her. The immense speed stemming from her torrential fire phoenix soul could be seen as clear as day.

Huo Yuhao felt like he was riding on clouds as Dai Yueheng pulled him along. Dai Yueheng supported Huo Yuhao's underarm with his wide and powerful palm, just like a steady and soft support. Dai Yueheng would cover more than ten metres every time the tips of his feet touched the ground, darting forth like an arrow. When he was just about to slow down, the tip of his foot would immediately touch the ground once more, causing him to speed up. As a result of that, he was extremely stable even though they were advancing very quickly. Huo Yuhao didn't have to do anything, but could still move forward at such a high speed thanks to Dai Yueheng.

The scenery on both sides of the road was a blur. Even with his Spirit Eyes, Huo Yuhao still felt rather dizzy at the sight.

"Yuhao, I heard that things aren't pleasant between you and my younger brother?" Dai Yueheng asked Huo Yuhao as he ran at full speed.

Huo Yuhao was taken aback, not because of what Dai Yueheng said, but because he could actually talk without the slightest hint of a tremble in his voice while running at such a high speed. He spoke just like he was holding a normal conversation. Dai Yueheng was really a person of formidable ability!

"Yeah." Huo Yuhao ambiguously snorted out.

Dai Yueheng had a sincere look on his face as he said, "Even though I don't know how you guys became enemies, I think Huabin is in the wrong. As his elder brother, I'll apologise on his behalf. Huabin's been exceptionally talented ever since he was a kid, which eventually formed the arrogant attitude he has now. I've already reprimanded him before, and even slapped him across the face. Now that I think about it, that was the first time I've hit him. Let bygones be bygones. We're all in Shrek Academy to cultivate. You're now a member of the Guardian team, so we'll be brothers-in-arms and fellow soldiers from now on. I hope you won't hold any more grudges in your heart, and speak up if you need help. I'll repay what Huabin owes you on his behalf."

Dai Yueheng worded his sentences too beautifully. If it wasn't for the fact that Huo Yuhao had truly felt the maliciousness and strong killing intent coming from Dai Yueheng before, he might've really felt embarrassed by his actions before because of what Dai Yueheng said. However, he could only sneer at the other party in his heart now. Is Dai Yueheng trying to rope me in?

“Senior brother, I am actually in the wrong as well. You’re right. Let bygones be bygones.” Huo Yuhao really couldn’t mask his expressions like Dai Yueheng; he couldn’t put such a sincere look on his face. He could only try his best to remain calm. How could a few apologetic sentences settle the grudge he held towards them for killing his mother, along with the miserable and hard life that he’d faced since he was a child? What’s more, Huo Yuhao’s perception was sharper than most people’s. With the Spiritual Detection, Huo Yuhao saw that Dai Yueheng’s pulse was calm all throughout when he was talking a moment ago, with nothing out of the ordinary. That also meant that he was in a stable frame of mind, which was incompatible with how one would usually be a little excited when being sincere.

Dai Yueheng was slightly more pleased when he heard what Huo Yuhao said. He could see that Huo Yuhao still harboured ill feelings in his heart, but from his point of view, Huo Yuhao was only a child who didn’t reveal his emotions regardless of how talented he was. Conversely, it was normal for him to show reluctance and hesitation in his expression. However, it wasn’t a bad start, since he was willing to let the previous matter pass. From his point of view, it wasn’t that difficult to rope in a child. Moreover, Huo Yuhao’s skill was quite good, but his level of cultivation was too low after all was said and done. At the moment, his level of cultivation was still far from a level that could threaten him. Thus, Huo Yuhao was far worse than Dai Huabin if he were to compare the both of them.

Dai Yueheng smiled faintly and said, “That would be for the best. Once we spend more time together, you’ll get to know what kind of person I am.”

If Huo Yuhao had been who he was before he entered Shrek Academy, he might not have been able to mask his emotions, and would definitely have been at a loss when confronting Dai Yueheng. However, he had matured a lot over the past year. He knew that it was definitely not possible for him to get his revenge in such a short time. Since that was the case, he could only feign civility.

“Senior brother, I heard senior sister Ma mention an evil soul master just now. What’s that?” Even though Huo Yuhao wasn’t at Dai Yueheng’s level of cultivation, he hardly needed to expend a great deal of effort in running now. As a result of that, he could still use soul power to protect his nose and mouth to speak.

Dai Yueheng chuckled and said, “I knew you were going to ask that question. Evil soul masters are also soul masters, but they’re very scary.” Even with his cultivation and self-confidence, Huo Yuhao actually caught a smudge of fear in Dai Yueheng’s eyes when he uttered the words ‘evil soul master’. Huo Yuhao had originally asked this question without thinking it through. However, he was secretly shocked that an elite of Shrek Academy like Dai Yueheng was actually afraid of an evil soul master.

“Evil soul masters have been in existence since long ago. It is said that Ancestor Tang San, who was part of the first generation of Shrek’s Seven Devils encountered a powerful evil soul master one year. What’s more, that individual was also an evil Douluo. He was nevertheless able to obtain a domain-type ability from the other party. A so-called evil soul master is a soul master who has a few very exceptionally evil martial souls.”

Huo Yuhao was shocked when he heard this and said, “There are evil martial souls too?”

Dai Yueheng nodded and said, “Martial souls can be anything. There’s no distinction between good and evil if you view a martial soul on its own. But when the martial soul needs to be cultivated through

special means, then that martial soul must definitely be evil. You'll understand when I give you an example."

"More than six hundred years ago, a powerful evil soul master appeared on the continent. He eventually became a Titled Douluo powerhouse, and granted himself the title of Blood Baby. His cultivation method was extremely unique, and his martial soul only awakened when he was eighteen years old. After his martial soul awakened, he had a certain craving for babies. He needed to suck a baby's brain and swallow a baby's heart before he could cultivate. Don't you think this kind of soul master is evil? How many babies did he need to kill to cultivate from being a normal soul master to a Titled Douluo?"

Huo Yuhao felt a shiver run up his spine, all the way up to his scalp. That feeling that resembled pins and needles almost made him cry out in surprise. He never thought that a soul master like that actually existed in this world.

Dai Yueheng had a same look of fear in his eyes, "Titled Douluo Blood Baby was tyrannically strong. In a short span of twenty years, he attained the rank of a Titled Douluo through that evil cultivation method of his before he even turned forty. When he was using his soul power, a blood baby would appear, and with it would come incomparably frightening firepower and corrosive abilities. Amongst all of his nine soul rings, the lowest one was a thousand years old, and he even had two ten thousand-year soul rings. Later on, the previous commander of the academy's Guardian squad personally undertook the task of disposing of him. It took him five whole years to find him before eradicating him from the face of the earth. Before that, he had killed tens of teachers and students from our academy. What do you say, isn't this evil soul master frightening?"

"Perhaps evil soul masters weren't born evil, but the strength and power of every soul master is the same, and so it is very easy for one to walk the path of darkness. Who can resist the temptation of obtaining such powerful and readily available power? In the end, one can only follow the devil's path and fall from grace. These evil soul masters are the biggest enemies of the Guardian squad, and they are also the most difficult for us to deal with. But once we realise that an evil soul master has appeared, we must quickly eradicate them as fast as we can, because not only are they extremely destructive, but their growth is very rapid. Even though it is very difficult for an evil soul master to live too long a life, they can cause massive destruction in the years that they walk the face of the earth."

Huo Yuhao suddenly felt enlightened, "So it's like that! Thank you, senior brother!" Even though he'd been on his guard around Dai Yueheng from the start, he couldn't help but admit that as an inner courtyard disciple, Dai Yueheng's knowledge and experience was far greater than his.

"Senior brother, I still have a question. Senior sister Ma said that we have to complete this mission in three days. We've been progressing very quickly, but our academy is in the Heavenly Soul Empire, bordering the central north region of Star Luo Empire. On the other hand, Ming Dou Mountain is to the west of Star Luo Empire, and is more than a thousand miles away. We might not be able to hurry there in three days even if we were to give it our all! Let's not even talk about killing the enemy!"

## Chapter 69.2: Evil Soul Master

Dai Yueheng gave him a mysterious smile. "Don't be impatient, you'll know all about it in the afternoon. I believe that every single member of the preparatory team shares the same doubts as you. We're just an academy, but the amount of strength we have hidden is much greater than you can imagine.

Regardless of whether we're talking about current students or ones who've already graduated, every single person related to the academy is a source of wealth. This includes manpower, and connections."

After a simple conversation, Huo Yuhao gradually got used to talking with Dai Yueheng. At the same time, he did his best to suppress his hatred to the depths of his heart. The two quickly became familiar with each other. Dai Yueheng wasn't as serious as he looked from the outside, and unlike his silent brother Dai Huabin, he was much more entertaining. During the journey, he shared a few interesting stories about his assignments as a Guardian, opening Huo Yuhao's eyes to the larger world. After all, travelling ten thousand miles was better than reading ten thousand books. Huo Yuhao began to recognise that he simply knew too little about the world. When compared to the entire Douluo Continent, he was still a piece of white paper which only had an outline of a drawing sketched on it.

The swift journey lasted all the way till midday before they stopped to rest. The students from the inner courtyard all had normal expressions, and their breathing was only slightly hurried at most. However, other than He Caitou, who'd flown the entire journey with the assistance of a soul tool, the other three Soul Ancestors from the outer courtyard were drenched with sweat.

Jiang Nannan was an agility-type soul master, and she had a nimble and agile body. As a result, she was left in a slightly better state. Though her sweat dripped from her body, her clothes weren't drenched. However, the assault-type Bei Bei and the defense-type Xu Sanshi were left in a miserable state. This was especially true for Xu Sanshi. He was the heaviest of the four, and he left a huge mark of water when he landed on the ground.

"Huo Yuhao, show off some of your abilities." Ma Xiaotao put Wang Dong down, then turned towards Huo Yuhao.

"Ah? Show what off?" Huo Yuhao asked, astonished.

Ma Xiaotao laughed. "What else? Food, of course! I don't think everyone here knows this, but at the very start, he sold roasted fish by the entrance to the academy every night to pay off his school fees."

"Right, right. I approve. Yuhao's the best at this." Xu Sanshi, who was panting violently on the ground, raised his hands and feet. His appearance looked somewhat comical.

Bei Bei laughed, "You really look like an overturned tortoise. It's no wonder you're the Xuanwu Turtle!"

"Psh..." Jiang Nannan couldn't help but laugh after hearing Bei Bei's words.

Xu Sanshi was about to explode, but he immediately changed his expression after hearing Jiang Nannan's laugh. He said angrily, "Seeing as you amused the goddess in my heart, I'll forgive you."

At this moment, the gazes of everyone present were gathered on Huo Yuhao. Even Elder Xuan wasn't an exception to this. When everyone had been travelling earlier, there were no traces of him to be seen. When everyone stopped to rest, however, his alcohol-drinking, chicken-eating figure immediately appeared.

Somewhat embarrassed, Huo Yuhao said, "But, I have no ingredients. Actually, I only know how to make a few simple dishes. I don't know how to make any complicated ones. I only brought a few seasonings."

“Simple.” Elder Xuan suddenly appeared by Huo Yuhao’s side, and the latter was startled the moment he opened his mouth.

“Xiaotao, you’re in charge of lighting a fire. Dai Yueheng, Chen Zifeng, I’ll give you a task. Go catch some fish, the more the better. Ling Luo Chen, Xi Xi, go catch some wild game. Gong Yangmo, go follow them.”

Yao Haoxuan hurriedly raised his chest to volunteer himself. “Elder Xuan, what about me?”

Elder Xuan glared at him unhappily, “You? Just stay there obediently. Do you think this old man will eat something that a bastard like you spits out?”

“Urp... actually, it’s very clean.” Yao Haoxuan said flatteringly.

“If you don’t want to stay hungry, quickly get to work. Huo Yuhao, you’re the chef today. Everyone else, go find some charcoal. Don’t just laze around.” As he spoke, Elder Xuan sauntered over to Huo Yuhao, then whispered, “Is the roasted fish you make really delicious?”

Huo Yuhao scratched his head. “It should be quite decent.”

Elder Xuan nodded, “Then this old man will stay hungry for a bit to try your work. If I’m not satisfied, humph humph, I’ll make you wear tiny shoes in the academy.”

“This...” Huo Yuhao didn’t know whether to laugh or to cry at seeing Elder Xuan’s expression. The latter seemed as though the heavens and the earth didn’t matter compared to food.

It had to be said that the elites of Shrek Academy were absolutely impressive at completing tasks. Within a mere fifteen minutes, a sufficient amount of firewood was placed in front of Huo Yuhao, who’d built a temporary stove by using the rocks around him.

After a few more moments, Gong Yangmo, Xi Xi, and Ling Luo Chen returned with two hares, two pheasants, and even a plump deer in tow.

“Start, start.” Elder Xuan waved his bottle gourd at Huo Yuhao, signalling for the latter to start.

As Huo Yuhao watched astonishedly, Ling Luo Chen revealed a delicate use of soul power. Under the effects of her Ice element, the five wild animals floated up into the air. Then, she stripped them, tidied them up, and cleaned them as though she was skillfully carving an ox. Within the blink of an eye, five cleaned up pieces of first-rate game appeared in front of Huo Yuhao.

What a powerful control of Ice! Huo Yuhao sighed inwardly in praise. Although he had an Ultimate Ice martial soul, he was much, much weaker than Ling Luo Chen in terms of control.

After peeling away the outer layer of wood from the charcoal, Huo Yuhao started cooking. Sure enough, he’d brought a few seasonings along with him. Furthermore, there were quite a few types of them.

Perhaps it was due to his destitute childhood, but even though he had a fixed amount of savings already, he still brought a few of these things along with him whenever he went out.

The amount of oil that was present in these animals that had grown up in the wild was sufficient, and hence he didn’t need to add too much oil. However, the most important thing was still his control of fire. Just like when he was roasting fish in the past, Huo Yuhao rubbed his own seasonings on the

stomachs of the animals before starting to control the fire. His roasting technique was actually rather simple. After asking Ma Xiaotao to ignite the charcoal, he took a stick of dry wood and occasionally prodded the charcoal within the stove. At the same time, he flipped the animals on the stove. The facts had once again proven that Spiritual Detection was rather good when cooking...

After a while, the fragrant smell of meat started to diffuse outwards. The wild animals on the stove had turned an even, golden-yellow colour, and hissing sounds had begun to ring out from the stove as a result of the fat dripping into the fire. However, it was at this exact moment that the fragrance of the meat was at its strongest.

Currently, Elder Xuan looked like a gluttonous child. He wasn't even drinking his alcohol as he squatted beside Huo Yuhao, waiting anxiously. Furthermore, he would even glare viciously at the others who were swallowing their saliva, as if he were claiming the area around Huo Yuhao as his own.

At this moment, Dai Yueheng and Chen Zifeng returned. From a distance, the two of them were able to smell the fragrance that came from Huo Yuhao's stove. They were greatly astonished at Huo Yuhao, who was busily working his skill in a familiar manner. He's only a second year student, which means that he isn't even thirteen. Just how is he this good at cooking?

They'd brought back the fish, and Chen Zifeng had even fashioned his outer shirt into a pocket that contained a clump of mushrooms. The delicate mushrooms even contained a few traces of last night's dew, and their fresh and tender surface resembled the skin of a young girl.

The two of them walked up to Huo Yuhao, and Dai Yueheng said, "Yuhao, we've brought the fish back." The two of them had indeed brought back a large amount of fish. The two of them had brought back a total of seven to eight kilos worth of fish, and they'd threaded them through using a string. As a result, the string resembled a bridge that separated him and Chen Zifeng by a total of five meters.

Huo Yuhao looked up, then revealed a look of happiness as he looked at the mushrooms in Chen Zifeng's bosom, "Two seniors, I need a wooden wok. Sister Ling, I'll have to trouble you to help clean these fishes. You don't have to descale them, just cleaning their innards is fine."

"Okay." Ling Luochen nodded. Unexpectedly, she revealed a seldom smile as she looked at the serious Huo Yuhao. Her impression of her seemingly-omnipotent junior brother grew increasingly deeper, and she couldn't help but think of her own naughty little brother.

The problem of the wooden wok only needed two minutes to be resolved. Dai Yueheng used brute force to overturn a large three, then allowed Chen Zifeng's Soulchasing Sword to carve it up. Then, a perfectly round large wok appeared in front of Huo Yuhao. However, Ling Luochen quickly used her Ice element to clean it up as a result of the bloody smell coming from the Soulchasing Sword.

At this moment, the five wild animals were nearly cooked. The first of which to be finished were the two pieces of chicken.

The moment Huo Yuhao took them off the grill, he instantly felt his hands lighten. A figure had already run off into the distance with two chickens in tow, only leaving behind the words "I'll leave the rest to you guys."

Yao Haoxuan couldn't help but sigh at this scene. "A wild chicken's still a chicken! Elder Xuan should be called Elder Chicken."

"Are you trying to die?" An unclear voice suddenly exploded out like a bolt of thunder. Right after that, Yao Haoxuan was sent flying into the air, landing in the fork of a nearby tree as he let out a miserable wail.

Xu Sanshi let out a muffled laugh with his hand covering his mouth. "Senior Yao actually called Elder Xuan a gay dude. Isn't he just waiting for a calamity to befall him?"

Bei Bei nodded in agreement. "Right. The gay dude's clearly you."

"Bullshit, this brother of yours only likes girls. I like girls with big butts!" Xu Sanshi said indignantly. However, he didn't expect to see Jiang Nannan's murderous eyes again after he spoke. She humphed angrily, then left to the side.

"Fuck! Bei Bei, this old man wants to fight with you." Xu Sanshi ran towards Bei Bei, red in the face.

"Then you'd better not think of eating my junior brother's roasted meat." Bei Bei said calmly.

Xu Sanshi's hand was about to touch Bei Bei's body, but he instantly stopped. He angrily stayed his hand. "I'm gonna take care of you once I'm done eating. Bei Bei, do you know what I hate most about you?"  
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Bei Bei shook his head in a very serious manner, "How is a man supposed to know what a pig is thinking?"

"You..." Xu Sanshi had no choice but to stay indignant due to Bei Bei's threat, "This old man hates the fact that you keep spouting bullshit with an innocent look on your face. You're clearly an evil bastard. I really don't know why Xiao Ya likes you."

Chapter 69.3: Evil Soul Master

Bei Bei instantly replied, "Because mine's bigger!"

"Bullshit." Xu Sanshi immediately rose to his feet. "Is yours as big as this daddy's?"

Bei Bei raised his index and middle fingers towards Xu Sanshi. "First off, I won't compare myself to shelled peanuts." Afterwards, he put down his index finger, which left only his middle finger extended. "Second, I was referring to my age."

"I can't take it anymore!" Xu Sanshi finally bared his fangs and pounced towards Bei Bei. However, it was at that exact instant that Huo Yuhao's voice distracted him.

"The rabbit's done."

To a human, being ripped apart by five horses was definitely one of the most miserable tortures they could suffer. However, the most appalling tragedy that could occur to two wild rabbits was being divided amongst ten or so people.

The instant that Huo Yuhao spoke, the two rabbits were torn apart and scattered. This was a classic example of there being too many wolves, yet too little meat! The funniest thing that Huo Yuhao took



away from this was the fact that his seniors even had to compete with each other in terms of strength while eating...

Ma Xiaotao was the strongest of the lot, and was also the quickest. As such, she was also the first person to make her move. Dai Yueheng wasn't much slower than her, thus the two were able to split one of the roasted rabbits amongst themselves. The rest of them, on the other hand, had to split a single rabbit amongst them.

Xu Sanshi was once again the most miserable of the lot. As an extremely slow defense-type soul master, he was only able to obtain a rabbit head.

Of course, there were still a few people who were a bit worse off than him. Wang Dong and Xiao Xiao, who had the lowest cultivation levels amongst the fourteen, didn't get anything. However, Huo Yuhao had managed to keep two rabbit legs for them when Ma Xiaotao and Dai Yueheng had grabbed the first rabbit.

There were too many wolves and not enough food. As such, Huo Yuhao's busy job had just began. He didn't begin roasting fish immediately. Instead, he had Ling Luochen fill the wooden wok with ice, then had Ma Xiaotao heat it till the ice had melted and begun to boil. Afterwards, he added the mushrooms that Chen Zifeng had brought back, then threw two fish into it.

Ma Xiaotao's current appearance was definitely enough to overturn a country. In one hand, she held one half of a rabbit and ate it heartily, with her other hand she heated up the wooden wok using her phoenix flames. Her control over fire wasn't any less than Ling Luochen's control over ice, thus the water within the wooden wok gradually began to boil. Due to her meticulous control, only the outer layer of the wok started to blacken; there were no signs of it being burnt.

Huo Yuhao was even more skilled at roasting fish than they were at controlling fire. The stove was large enough for him to roast four fish at once.

A fragrant smell soon began to diffuse outwards. By this point, the plump deer had almost was almost done.

Even Teacher Wang Yan, who usually didn't have many requirements regarding food, was moved by the smell. He retrieved a few leather bags, each of which contained some black-colored foodstuffs, then passed them to everyone present.

These were the prepackaged meals that inner courtyard disciples usually ate when they went out on assignments; they were made using more than ten different types of medicinal herbs, alongside several refined ingredients that were highly nutritious. They had an extremely high amount of nutritional content, and could help one recover their physical strength in an extremely short period of time; they were very useful to inner courtyard disciples. However, there was just one problem with these foodstuffs: They didn't taste very good...

Considering the fact that Wang Yan had tagged along this time, their current mission was relatively difficult. Not only did he have to serve as the leader of the team for the Continental Advanced Academy Soul Duelling Tournament, but he also had to deal with the logistics for the students. Considering Elder Xuan's personality, would he be the sort of guy to do something like this? The importance of his appearance was more to act as a deterrent.

They all ate lunch together, beaming with joy. They had originally planned to rest for only an hour or two, but in the end, they stayed for over three hours.

Everyone ate until they were filled to the brim. Both the fish's size and Huo Yuhao's cooking technique were more than enough to sate everyone's appetite. Once everyone had finished their meal, the seven seniors from the inner courtyard and the seven students from the outer courtyard immediately gathered together, which caused their relationships to improve by a decent amount. This was especially true for Huo Yuhao, who had become the most popular of the bunch now.

The thick soup that had been made with mushrooms and fish was also delicious. Huo Yuhao had only added a pinch of salt, but the soup tasted very good. The funniest thing was that, Elder Xuan hadn't been able to finish his soup because he'd already eaten two chickens and four fish. However, he'd taken out a large calabash and proceeded to pour half a wok of the soup into it, supposedly to finish it during their journey. Everyone else couldn't help but think of the phrase 'If you can't eat it all, you'll have to take it home', but nobody dared to say anything about it after what had happened to Yao Haoxuan.

"Yuhao, I'll carry you this time. I'm not much slower than Dai Yueheng." Yao Haoxuan laughed cunningly.

"Forget about it," Chen Zifeng said unhappily, "it's already good that you can keep up with the rest of us. It'd be best if an assault-type soul master like us did it instead. Junior brother, following your brother Chen can't go wrong. Don't worry, I'll take care of any ingredients you need in the future."

"Ice is still more suited to be with Ice. I can also take you along with me." The normally-cold Ling Luochen unexpectedly spoke up. The moment her words rang out, the entire place turned silent. The Ice Lady, who was famous in the inner courtyard as such, had never spoken such nice words to a male before; she'd never even been to a formal marriage interview held in the inner courtyard! Yet, she seemed to treat Huo Yuhao somewhat differently. **noVei(lb(1n**

In the end, Huo Yuhao ended up continuing onwards with Dai Yueheng. His reasoning was sufficient: One, his strength; secondly, to continue with his arrangements from the morning.

The fourteen students were truly quite quick. Even though they'd rested for such a long time, they'd still obtained a sufficient amount nutrients. They finally arrived at the border between the Heavenly Soul Empire and the Star Luo Empire after two hours. When they arrived, a large army camp blocked the path in front of them.

Dai Yueheng put Huo Yuhao down, then entered the barracks by himself. Huo Yuhao rapidly learned why Dai Yueheng had been so secretive in the morning.

They didn't enter the barracks, yet Dai Yueheng borrowed more than ten military-grade flying-type soul tools.

If a soul master wanted to fly, the only way for him to do so other than having a martial soul that could fly would be to wait until he'd become a seven-ringed Soul Sage. However, one could only rely on pure soul power to fly short distances at that rank. Only Titled Douluo-ranked super experts were capable of flying extended distances.

However, flying-type soul tools first began to appear in the Sun Moon Empire following the rapid development of soul tools. Their appearance brought about enormous trouble to the neighbouring

Heavenly Soul and Star Luo Empires. The two countries used almost all of their strength to obtain the blueprints for the Sun Moon Empire's flying-type soul tools, then manufactured their own.

A flying-type soul tool could naturally only be utilised by soul masters, and it also had a relatively high cost of production. Normally, only soul masters with at least four soul rings could use one. The army didn't have many of these soul tools either; after all, four-ringed soul masters were simply too few in number!

Despite this, Dai Yueheng had managed to borrow more than ten flying-type soul tools in one go; this wasn't something that a normal person could do. This made all sorts of feelings well up in Huo Yuhao's heart. Right! Dai Yueheng's father was the White Tiger Duke—the commander of the Star Luo Empire. If he used his identity as the eldest son of the Duke's first wife, what did borrowing a few flying-type soul tools amount to?

Huo Yuhao clenched his fists when he thought of that person. Fortunately, a large part of his attention was drawn to the flying-type soul tools, thus he didn't lose his composure in front of everyone else.

The Star Luo Empire's flying-type soul tools were somewhat cumbersome. The main body of the soul tool was a meter-long, half-meter wide, and one-foot thick metallic box. The two sides of the box were connected to a set of folded wings, which would have a four-meter wingspan when they were unfurled. These ensured that the user would have enough buoyancy in midair.

This wasn't their first time that the inner courtyard disciples had used a flying-type soul tool. However, Dai Yueheng patiently gave a simple tutorial to the students from the outer courtyard.

The most important step in using a flying-type soul tool was the take-off, during which the user had to pour their soul power into the soul tool and shoot it towards the ground. The user could unfurl its wings once they'd risen into the air, then could rely on the turbulence in the air to float. After that, they only needed to convert their downwards propulsion into a parallel one via the soul tool to be able to accelerate in midair.

However, there was a certain difficulty involved in the usage of a flying-type soul tool. Only a soul master with four or more soul rings could use one due to the amount of soul power required to reach an altitude of a certain level. If the user wasn't that strong, they wouldn't be able to reach that height, which in turn meant that they wouldn't have enough buoyancy to even float in the air, much less fly.

At that moment, a problem arose due to Huo Yuhao, Wang Dong, and Xiao Xiao's cultivation levels. However, there was a more pragmatic solution to this, which was relatively simple. That solution was for them to let someone else bring them into the sky, then let that person fly using the flying-type soul tool.

Of course, it was somewhat simpler for Wang Dong, as he could fly in the first place! It wouldn't be too hard for him to rely on the Radiant Butterfly Goddess' wings to rise into the air, then fly forwards with the flying-type soul tool. Thus, the real problem lay with Huo Yuhao and Xiao Xiao.

He Caitou didn't use the flying-type soul tool that Dai Yueheng had brought over, as he'd brought one himself. Furthermore, his one was much more compact and delicate. His was only half the size of the Star Luo Empire's, while its wings were somewhat smaller. Despite this, it was clearly more effective. Not only had he brought one for himself, he'd also brought one for Huo Yuhao as well.

Wang Yan said, “Students from the outer courtyard, go practice using your flying-type soul tools for a bit. Students from the inner courtyard, you’re responsible for teaching and protecting them.”

Dai Yueheng had originally planned to help Huo Yuhao, but he now had no choice but to extinguish this thought when he saw He Caitou helping the latter get used to the delicate flying-type soul tool made by the Soul Tool Department.

As He Caitou helped Huo Yuhao put on the flying-type soul tool, he said, “Yuhao, once you reach a higher level of cultivation, our teacher will teach you how to make a flying-type soul tool. The soul tools made by our Soul Tool Department only need their users to have three or more soul rings, and they’re more economical with their use of soul power. However, these aren’t the most advanced types of flying-type soul tools on the market. Supposedly, the Sun Moon Empire has managed to add a special gem that’s capable of storing and replenishing soul power to their flying-type soul tools. Even a one-ringed soul master is able to use them once it’s stored enough soul power.”

Huo Yuhao was astonished. “Can soul power even be stored in a soul tool?”

He Caitou smiled bitterly. “Exactly. Currently, this is the greatest gap between us and the Sun Moon Empire. However, it isn’t that easy to complete this piece of research. The Sun Moon Empire wants to allow ordinary people to use soul tools, however if a day like that truly comes, a great war would be inevitable.”

#### Chapter 70.1: Flying-type Soul Tool

Huo Yuhao felt his heart immediately go cold. Right! If ordinary people could master the use of soul tools—even if it was only the lowest-ranked Soul Ray—then an army of over tens of thousand soldiers equipped with soul tools could be created. How terrifying would such a thing be!?

“Senior brother, then can you explain why our Tang Sect declined? In any case, ordinary people aren’t able to use soul tools yet. However, our mechanical hidden weapons don’t need soul power!

Bei Bei, who was attempting to fly, sighed when he heard Huo Yuhao’s words. “They’re trying to overcompensate. Furthermore, the army’s best long distance weapon is still the bow and arrow. Our hidden weapons have quite a short range of effectiveness, while their cost of production is very high due to the quality of the materials we use. As such, the army naturally wouldn’t equip itself with our weapons. In the past, we mainly sold our hidden weapons to large-scale sects. However, they’ve since switched to soul tools.”

Huo Yuhao suddenly felt a flash inspiration flit through his mind, but he wasn’t able to tell just what this inspiration had been about.

“Yuhao, come here. Let’s test out our flying-type soul tools. The process should be relatively smooth. Here, I’ll help you up.” Once he’d finished, He Caitou grabbed Huo Yuhao’s arm, then released two beams of white light from the flying-type soul tool on his back, which propelled the two into the air.

The feeling of one’s feet leaving the ground was somewhat mystical, yet was also terrifying; after all, this was Huo Yuhao’s first time flying.

Ma Xiaotao’s had already begun to help Xiao Xiao fly on the other side, albeit with some screeching on Xiao Xiao’s part.

To use a flying-type soul tool, one first had to gather one's thoughts, then needed to channel their soul power from their back into the core formation of the flying-type soul tool in order to produce a propulsive force. The contraption had a few buttons on it for the sake of adjusting its wingspan. However, a larger wingspan didn't necessarily mean that one would fly faster; that was determined based off the change in one's turbulence. As long as the user was able to maintain a high amount of forwards momentum, they wouldn't fall down.

As Huo Yuhao was a soul engineer, controlling such a soul tool didn't pose a challenge to him. Right now, all he needed to do was learn how to control his balance.

However, he couldn't really calm down at the moment; he was currently distracted by the astonished voices of both the Skydream Iceworm and the Ice Jade Empress Scorpion, who were currently engaged in a conversation in his mind.

"The humans actually have something like this. Isn't this equivalent to simply putting on a set of wings?" The Ice Empress asked, astonished.

The Skydream Iceworm replied, "The reason that humans—not soul beasts like you and I—are ruling the continent, is mainly due to the disparity in our creativeness! When I was in the Great Star Dou Forest, I saw even more powerful soul tools. Those weapons were truly terrifying; even hundred thousand year soul beasts didn't dare to take them head-on."

The Ice Empress said in a somewhat lonely voice, "The life of a human is truly much more colorful than that of a soul beasts. I've lived for nearly four hundred thousand years, yet I only have ice and snow in my memories."

The Skydream Iceworm hurriedly consoled her, "Aren't things different now? Isn't this proof that you've made the right decision? We'll definitely see more interesting things as we watch Little Yuhao grow up! Unfortunately, we can't just spoil him. If we could, I'd have considered making him more powerful quicker."

The Ice Empress sighed. "This is rather good, I guess. Only, I'm not to sure how the Snow Empress is faring. Her situation isn't much different from my previous one. Actually, she might be in an even more dangerous position than I was. I'm afraid that she won't be able to make it past her next bottleneck!"

The Skydream Iceworm replied, "Why don't we head back and retrieve Snow Empress as well?"

"If you're trying to die, don't bring me along," The Ice Empress unhappily said, "don't tell me that you think you can persuade her. At that time, if it weren't for the fact that you'd trapped me and threatened my very existence, do you think that I'd have chosen this sort of passive route that I can't control? The Snow Empress can control her desires even more than I can. Furthermore, she's the true master of the Extreme North. It's impossible for her willing to in a state like this, where she'd be attached to a human." n017e-ℓB-1n

The Skydream Iceworm laughed mischievously. "That isn't completely impossible! If she were to fall in love with me, she might risk everything to be together with me."

"Have you no shame!? Don't blame me for not telling you this! When the Titan Snow Devil King tried to ask the Snow Empress out, do you know what happened? All of the bones in his body, including his skull,

were crushed by her! It took him over a thousand years to recover his strength. And that's only because the Snow Empress decided to leave him a trace of his life due to the wisp of the Ice God's bloodline he possessed. If you want to be crushed into a gallon of juice by the Snow Empress, you'd best get far away from this place first."

"Eep, I was just joking, just joking! The only person I love is you. Who cares about some Snow Empress? She's just some fleeting clouds, some fleeting clouds!" The Skydream Iceworm said in an extremely resolute tone.

The Ice Empress snorted coldly. "Get your evil spiritual power away from me. The Snow Empress can undergo a metamorphosis utilizing her innate skill, and she's already managed to break through various calamities. If I'm not mistaken, she shouldn't be too far from her seventh calamity now. I hope that she succeeds."

While they spoke, Huo Yuhao had already begun to control his flying-type soul tool. The omni-assisting Spiritual Detection once again played a wonderful role in this: He was able to clearly detect the changes in turbulence in the air, and accurately react by changing the angle of his wings. It only took him a short while of testing to master flying in a straight line. Afterwards, he began attempting to glide through the air. On the other side, Xiao Xiao had already fallen from the air thrice. If it weren't for Ma Xiaotao, she would've been smashed into several pieces already...

Even Bei Bei, Xu Sanshi, Jiang Nannan, and the rest had trembled in fear when they'd first tried out their flying-type soul tools. Despite their experience, they still needed a certain amount of time to familiarise themselves with its usage.

Good things naturally couldn't be enjoyed by just a single person. The others were soon able to enjoy the aid of Huo Yuhao's Spiritual Detection. After an hour of practice, everyone was at least able to stay in the air. Once everyone had reached this point, they all naturally entered a state of meditation to recover their soul power, then took flight again.

For the sake of receiving the help of Huo Yuhao's Spiritual Detection, the outer courtyard disciples all gathered behind him. Wang Yan was now above them, while Elder Xuan had disappeared off to some unknown place again. With Ma Xiaotao in the lead, the seven from the inner courtyard opened up a path in the shape of a 'V' and flew straight ahead at full speed.

The greatest advantage of flying was the fact that one wouldn't be blocked by the terrain; instead, one could take the shortest path to one's destination. Huo Yuhao didn't know how his seniors were able to keep track of their bearings, but all he needed to do right now was maintain his Spiritual Detection in order to help out his teammates around him.

At this moment, Wang Dong and Huo Yuhao were practically inseparable. Wang Dong was flying beneath him, and had unfurled his flying-type soul tool's wings. On the other hand, Huo Yuhao had stretched his hands out and was currently holding onto his neck.

The moment they'd started to fly like this, they'd suffered questions from the others. However, the two of them naturally wouldn't talk about the Haodong Power. As a result, they both shook their heads mysteriously at the others' questions.

Chapter 70.2: Flying-type Soul Tool

With the Haodong Power circulating through their bodies, their flight speed wasn't one whit inferior to that of Bei Bei, Xu Sanshi, Jiang Nannan, or He Caitou's. Unlike Xiao Xiao, who had a rope tied to her waist—which made her look like a kite as she was pulled along by Ma Xiaotao—they were able to fly by themselves.

The others were occasionally able to faintly see a faint golden light momentarily appear on Wang Dong's body. Afterwards, that faint golden light would gradually flow from his body to Huo Yuhao's.

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They were able to fly a total of five hundred miles in two hours, but this was their limit, due to the outer courtyard disciples with relatively lower cultivation levels. However, Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong had actually been able to persist without the assistance of any outside parties, much to the surprise of the inner courtyard disciples.

Due to their earlier hold-up, the sky had already begun to dim by the time that they landed to rest.

"This isn't good; we won't make it in time. This old man will carry you guys for a while." Elder Xuan's voice rang out as his leisurely figure materialized from the nearby forest, as if he'd instantaneously teleported there.

"However, before we set off, I'm a bit hungry. You guys should know what to do!" Elder Xuan walked over to Huo Yuhao with a smile on his face, then patted his shoulder with a somewhat encouraging look.

This time around, they didn't need Elder Xuan to divide them up. Everyone immediately took up their positions, while the cook, Huo Yuhao, had to enter the limelight again before he'd even had the chance to recover his soul power.

Besides the Haodong Power, a large reason that he and Wang Dong had been able to last for two hours was due to the latter's Golden Light left arm bone. If it weren't for the fact that they'd been able to continuously recover their soul power throughout the journey, they would've been exhausted already.

They weren't able to find any fish for dinner, but the smell of wild game couldn't be any easier for them to track. Combined with a few mountain berries and bamboo shoots, they once again enjoyed another sumptuous meal. The inner courtyard disciples were so pleased that they praised Huo Yuhao incessantly; with Huo Yuhao present, it was practically like they were on vacation.

It took another two hours for them to finish dinner, and it also took quite a while for everyone to recover their soul power afterwards. The sky had already turned dark by the time that everyone had fully recovered. Fortunately, the stars lit up the evening sky, so their sight wasn't impeded.

Huo Yuhao was the person least affected by the darkness. With the visual acuity his Spirit Eyes granted him, there wasn't much difference between nighttime and daytime to him.

"Here, fasten this to your waist." Wang Yan passed a long length of rope to Huo Yuhao. The rope had a specialised lock fashioned to one end of it, such that it could be fastened to a person's waist and thigh. The entire rope was over thirty meters long.

Huo Yuhao took the rope and fastened it to himself. He already knew that a rope such as this was meant to be used alongside a flying-type soul tool. When there were soul masters with different cultivation

levels, using a rope like this would allow the soul master with the higher cultivation level to take the one with a lower cultivation level along with them, so as to increase the joint distance flown by the two people, thus allowing the two to maintain a quicker flying speed.

Huo Yuhao wasn't the only person to receive a rope; everyone else did as well, including Wang Yan. Once everyone had received a rope, the ends to all of them were handed to Elder Xuan.

"Little fellas, you'll have to do your best to protect yourselves in a bit. Once we ascend, everyone should maintain a forwards-facing position. Once I give you the signal, activate your soul power to prevent yourselves from being injured by the turbulence around us. Understood?"

"Understood."

Elder Xuan's going to make a move? Huo Yuhao's mind shook. He Caitou, who was behind him, rose into the air with him in tow.

Nobody could see what Elder Xuan had done, but a flying-type soul tool that was half as thick as Huo Yuhao and He Caitou's had appeared on his back. A set of dark-red wings quickly unfurled until they were about two meters or so wide, which wasn't considered too wide. However, there were twelve thrusters on the ends of his wings. It had to be known that the militarised versions of the flying-type soul tools, along with even Huo Yuhao and He Caitou's ones, only had two thrusters! Just what sort of flying-type soul tool was this?

Huo Yuhao quickly understood what these twelve thrusters signified. Once everyone had gotten into a forwards-facing position in the air, Elder Xuan's voice rang out, "Is everyone ready? Three, two, one, let's go!"

Following Elder Xuan's shout, all twelve thrusters on his wings simultaneously burst into life with blazing white light. Immediately afterwards, Huo Yuhao felt a large burst of force at his waist. Due to the enormous tension acting on him, the wings on his back automatically slightly withdrew. Afterwards, he wasn't able to clearly see his surroundings anymore.

At the same time, the ear-piercing whistles coming from the turbulence around him affected his hearing. After only a few short seconds, he found it somewhat intolerable. Merely relying on his soul power to protect his body didn't seem to be sufficient anymore.

Wang Dong was still holding on to his legs from below, but he wasn't in a much better condition either. Their Haodong Power circulated at high speed through their bodies, while the golden-reddish color coming from his left arm flickered unceasingly as it protected his own body.

Huo Yuhao didn't dare to be negligent; he immediately released the Ice Jade Empress Scorpion, which caused a resplendent layer of crystalline diamonds to cover the surface of his body. This was the Ice Empress' Armor. n/-0V**eLbIn**

Sure enough, the pressure that had enveloped him immediately lessened the moment that he activated the Ice Empress' Armor. Huo Yuhao also tried to release his Spiritual Detection in order to check his surroundings, but to quickly discovered, to his astonishment, that he wasn't able to release his soul skill more than a foot away from him.

This... just what was going on?



“You’re travelling too quickly. As such, your spiritual power is being severed and scattered the moment it leaves your body. Be a bit more obedient and don’t try to do anything else. That human’s really strong.” The Skydream Iceworm gave Huo Yuhao a timely reminder.

The Ice Empress was somewhat unresigned. “He wouldn’t even be my opponent if it was the previous me.”

The Skydream Iceworm immediately changed his tone and said, “That’s because my Bing Bing is awesome!”

“Shut up!”

As he was only using a defensive soul skill, the drain on his soul power wasn’t too large. After using the Ice Empress’ Armor for a period of time, Huo Yuhao switched over to a Class 2 Soul Shield, which had a decent amount of defensive capabilities. At the very least, there wouldn’t be any problems with it protecting his body from the turbulent wind.

The pinnacle level of speed that Elder Xuan was travelling at made Huo Yuhao made it so that he was only able to sense a patch of pitch-blackness. Even raising his head to see the stars and moonlight was impossible. As a result, he could only do his best to protect himself. This was Elder Xuan’s strength! Anybody could remain in equilibrium in mid-air using a flying-type soul tool, and the air didn’t normally have much resistance at all. However, Elder Xuan was actually able to travel at such a terrifying speed by himself with so many people in tow! Just how could this be explained using the word ‘strength’ alone?

Previously, they’d travelled around four to five hundred miles in a timespan of two hours. Now, if they were to travel for two entire hours, would they really just stop at a thousand miles?