

## Tang Sect 86

### Chapter 86.1: The Origin of Destruction, He Caitou

After being powered up by the Raging Flame Ring, Shen Ce's Thousandstrike Lance was dyed with a layer of red. A glint flashed through his eyes, and the Thousandstrike Lance's third soul ring suddenly lit up. This thousand year soul ring immediately caused the weapon to turn somewhat illusory. Not only that, but a flare of light appeared behind the Thousandstrike Lance, causing it to become increasingly brighter. As a result, its glaring light suppressed even the reddish luster that came from Fei Yuyan's Raging Flame Ring.

Clearly, Shen Ce and Fei Yuyan hadn't just worked together for a day or two. Just as the former released his third soul skill, the latter simultaneously activated her second and third soul skills. However, her second soul skill was used on the Blaze Tiger.

Blazing Wings.

A four meter-wide pair of flaming wings appeared on the back of the Blaze Tiger, just like the phrase 'giving a set of wings to a tiger'. With the strength increase given by the Blazing Wings, the aura of Fire coming from the Blaze Tiger spiked, and the originally scarlet-red flames on its body started to turn a bluish-white.

After that came Fei Yuyan's third skill, which caused a layer of bluish-white flames to emerge from the body of the Blaze Tiger. The Blaze Tiger itself was an image of light, and it had released something similar to it, yet even more illusory. This caused its main body to thin somewhat.

The bluish-white Blaze Tiger didn't pause whatsoever. Flapping its wings, it leapt straight into the increasingly bright Thousandstrike Lance.

Immediately, an intense, bluish-white flame appeared on the body of the Thousandstrike Lance. Mixed within it was the low cry of a tiger, causing the members of the audience below to involuntarily hold their breath.

This was practically an unrivaled use of strengthening soul skills! By relying on four defense-type soul masters to act as a defensive wall, and the use of An Lengye's control of Ice to strengthen their defensive capabilities while reducing their opponents' speed, they were able to give Shen Ce and Fei Yuyan the chance to join hands and release a deadly attack. This was the strategy that the current Thousand Spirits Academy was using. Moreover, this fighting style had never appeared in any of Shrek's previous matches before.

Their opponents during the elimination round simply weren't strong enough. Moreover, their first fight during the round-robin round had been a 1v1 duel. Up till now, an original yet extremely powerful strategy like this had never appeared on the battlefield. This was something that even Wang Yan had been unable to predict beforehand.

Would Shrek's Seven Monsters be able to endure a crushing blow like this?

The Thousand Spirits Academy had a very simple goal—rely on a special strategy like this to combine their strongest abilities, then eliminate a few of their opponents. After that, they could take advantage

of a few mistakes their opponents made to achieve victory. This was also the strategy they had devised to use against strong teams they were fighting against.

Originally, the Thousand Spirits Academy hadn't planned to fight against Shrek Academy. After all, the latter was a champion throughout the entirety of history! The Thousand Spirits Academy didn't have the foundation to challenge Shrek Academy. However, they had lost their previous 1v1 match, pushing them to the edge of disqualification. If they weren't able to beat Shrek Academy, they would be eliminated from the Continental Advanced Academy Soul Duelling Tournament.

Hence, the Thousand Spirits Academy had a very simple strategy—they spared nothing in their fight. Even if they lost, they had to lose brilliantly so that everyone could see the true might of the Thousand Spirits Academy. They wouldn't be losing face either if they lost to Shrek Academy.

Just as Wang Yan and the Shrek's Seven Monsters were hoping for a team fight, the Thousand Spirits Academy was also hoping for the same outcome; this was because they believed that they would be able to release all of their strength in a team fight. In the end, both parties were satisfied. However, could the current Shrek's Seven Monsters withstand the might of the Thousand Spirits Academy?

"Go!" Shen Ce let out a low roar, then stretched out both hands. He was about to fling his Thousandstrike Lance that flickered with a bluish-white flame outwards.

At the same time, the four wielders of the Spirit Rhinoceros Shields suddenly moved. The very center of the Shield Wall shifted to the side, revealing a hole.

Under the effects of An Lengye's Frost Seal, Bei Bei, He Caitou, Xu Sanshi, and Jiang Nannan were ten meters away from the Shield Wall.

Describing all of this took a lot of time, but in reality, everything occurred within a few seconds. Shen Ce wasn't the only powerful person within the Thousand Spirits Academy; the cooperation and speed involved in the soul skills used by the Twin Mistresses of Fire and Ice had reached an extreme level of skill.

The four people from Shrek Academy who were currently leading the charge had blank looks on their faces. At this exact moment, a white mark appeared on Bei Bei's body. This mark was in the shape of a cross, and it appeared right on his chest.

However, an indifferent smile floated by the corner of Bei Bei's mouth at this exact moment. This was a smile of self-confidence.

The members of the audience who could clearly see what was going on, including the Emperor himself, held their breaths at this moment. Would Shrek Academy suffer a heavy blow at the very beginning of the match?

At this exact moment, they witnessed another bizarre scene. To put it more accurately, it was an astonishing scene.

Nobody would've thought that the first of the Shrek's Seven Monsters to release a soul skill would be Huo Yuhao. Moreover, he hadn't even released his soul rings.

Without any prior warning at all, Huo Yuhao's eyes shot out two purplish-golden rays of light, each more than a foot long.

This was precisely when Shen Ce was about to make a move.

Shen Ce let out a muffled groan, and the cross-shaped mark that was on Bei Bei's body instantly vanished. However, the Thousandstrike Lance had already been released. Only, it had now diverged from its original trajectory...

Opportunities were things that were given equally to both parties.

The powerful effect of the perfect combination of Huo Yuhao's Spiritual Detection and Spiritual Shock was once again unveiled in a team fight. If it was the first time a person encountered this combination of spiritual soul skills, they would undoubtedly suffer a loss.

Even as his cultivation continuously increased, Huo Yuhao's greatest improvement was in his spiritual power. His spiritual power had been continuously strengthened at a terrifying rate with the help of the Skydream Iceworm, and his first soul ring had reached the level of a thousand year soul ring. Even if his overall cultivation hadn't reached the level of a three-ringed Soul Elder, he had two thousand year soul rings by his side in reality. Moreover, these weren't just ordinary thousand year soul rings...

He had been able to instantly send Ma Xiaotao into a daze using his Spiritual Shock when his cultivation was far weaker. Now, his cultivation had increased dramatically, and his opponent wasn't even as strong as Ma Xiaotao.

Why was Bei Bei laughing? The Thousand Spirits Academy was under the impression that their Shield Wall had concealed their movements, but with Huo Yuhao's Spiritual Detection, they couldn't hide anything from Shrek's Seven Monsters; they were even able to clearly see the circulation of Shen Ce's soul power when he made his move.

Huo Yuhao made his move the instant Shen Ce had no choice but to release his drawn bowstring. As the main control-type soul master of his team, his entire team jumped into action in accordance with his timing.

A sudden change occurred to the seemingly relaxed Shrek's Seven Monsters. Wang Dong and Xiao Xiao stayed by Huo Yuhao's side, unmoving, but the four people in front of them rushed forward like fierce beasts. Furthermore, this was combined with the explosion caused by Shen Ce's Thousandstrike Lance.

Shen Ce had been fully concentrated on his control over the Thousandstrike Lance, but he had been struck by Huo Yuhao's Spiritual Shock. Thus, not only was the angle of his throw skewed, but he also suffered heavy injuries to his mind; he started to bleed from his mouth and nose. Furthermore, the new target of his lightning-fast Thousandstrike Lance was now his team's Shield Wall.

As the saying went, a fortress was most easily destroyed from within. This was something that made a lot of sense.

When the four of them had formed the Shield Wall, nobody could see any holes or weak spots from the outside. Yang Ming, Song Hu, Bai Chen, and Ye Mao were constantly shifting their positions to maintain the overall balance of the Shield Wall's defense. However, they were trying to defend against external attacks, not internal ones!

Strengthened by Fei Yuyan's soul skills, Shen Ce's full-power lance fully struck their Shield Wall from within.

With a violent boom, the countless shield images were blasted apart from within. The bluish-white flames instantly melted the Frost Shield, and even burnt Yang Ming, who was closest to the wall.

The terrifying impact caused by the Thousandstrike Lance blew the left side of the Shield Wall apart. Yang Ming and Song Hu were sent flying, and they let out a wretched cries due to the flames burning them. Traces of blood could now be seen on their right arms that had transformed into shields.

Shen Ce's all-out attack against Bei Bei had struck his own side. Fortunately, the Thousandstrike Lance hadn't flown straight towards his own teammates. Otherwise, their injuries would've been even more severe.

As these violent booms continued to ring out, Bei Bei and Xu Sanshi simultaneously let out a roar. Although they had been previously slowed down by the Frost Seal, they suddenly sped up. With a flash, Xu Sanshi made his way through the broken Shield Wall. On the other hand, Bei Bei slammed tyrannically into the remaining half of the Shield Wall.

He Caitou suddenly stopped moving, as if he were a sitting tiger. After smoking one of his Soul Power Amplifying Thin Cigars, the rumbling sounds of metal rang out from his body.

A few days ago, Xu Sanshi had encountered a stationary soul cannon while fighting against the students from the Cloud Luo Advanced Soul Engineering Academy. However, the person who was using it today was He Caitou.

Huo Yuhao had studied the art of soul tools under Fan Yu for a very short period of time. Fan Yu had established a good foundation for him, while imparting a foundational knowledge of most soul engineers as well. On the other hand, when Huo Yuhao was learning how to create soul tools, Fan Yu had prioritised his foundation over everything else.

However, He Caitou had already studied under Fan Yu for over five years. He wasn't as slow as he seemed on the surface. How could his five years of hard work be compared to the leader of the Cloud Luo Advanced Soul Engineering Academy that Xu Sanshi had previously fought against? His unleashing of a stationary soul tool was practically a transformation to his body.

There was a qualitative difference between the soul tool forts that He Caitou and Situ Yu set up. The pedestal of Situ Yu's fort had only extended towards his legs, but He Caitou's one could truly be called a fort.

Amidst the concentrated sounds of metal, a circular pedestal appeared below He Caitou's feet, fully covering his feet.

#### Chapter 86.2: The Origin of Destruction, He Caitou (Preview)

This was a genuine fort; it was impossible to leave the original location once it was set up. The place that He Caitou had chosen was also rather peculiar. He had chosen a place in the middle of the arena, slightly towards the Thousand Spirit Academy's side. Once the pedestal was finished, several metal pipes—both thick and thin—emerged from his body.

When Situ Yu, the captain of the Cloud Luo Academy, had released more than thirty metal pipes to form his soul tool fortress, he'd already exceeded the average number of pipes for a soul tool fortress. Generally speaking, as long as one had 24 attack-type soul tools along with a stable pedestal, and an enormous core formation that could conserve soul power, they'd have successfully formed a soul tool fortress.

However, if one were to examine He Caitou's body closely, they would see that there weren't 24 soul tools, but rather too many to count. The number of pipes had probably surpassed 50.

Huo Yuhao broke into a cold sweat when he saw his valiant senior brother. At the same time, he thought to himself: Is this the reason that all soul engineers have such strong bodies? So that they can control a larger number of soul tools? It seemed that he'd have to grow stronger too! If he didn't, he definitely wouldn't be able to bear the burden of all those metal weapons!

He Caitou had a total of 64 weapons on his body. Among them, the strongest was the gun-barrel on his right shoulder. This dark-colored gun-barrel was two meters long and as thick as an average person's thigh. Currently, it was emanating a metallic light and giving off a terrifying aura. However, this gun barrel was banned from the tournament, as it was a strengthening-type stationary soul tool.

Once his fortress had been finished, the muscles on He Caitou's face twitched slightly. It was difficult to describe how he was feeling right now. He smiled towards the enemy team while holding the cigar in his mouth, but his smile was full of killing intent. Afterwards, instantly turned into a ball of blazing light that was nearly as bright as the sun.

Currently, Bei Bei was fiercely attacking the remnants of the Shield Wall in an attempt to destroy them. But at that moment, he felt a wave of heat coming from behind him, followed by a thunderous explosion that landed not too far away from his head. This explosion was really quite scary. The powerful shockwaves caused him to squat down, and he had to use all the soul power in his body to protect himself. He even had to use the defensive soul tool that he'd obtained yesterday.

Afterwards, he saw various fragments falling from the sky. He then realized that the shields that'd been blocking his way were now gone.

"Holy shit." The always-elegant Bei Bei—at least, that's how he looked from the outside—unconsciously cursed as he stood back up.

All of the fragments that were falling from the sky belonged to the Spirit Rhinoceros Shield! He saw that the protective barrier outside of the arena was full of ripples, and that a large number of halos were rapidly fluctuating. He then noticed that there was a person amidst those halos, and that this person was the captain of the Thousand Spirit Advanced Soul Academy, Shen Ce.

At this moment, his body was glittering with many colors, and his five soul rings lit up one after another. However, no matter what he did, he was still being suppressed by a terrifying power, and was unable to move a single finger.

Bei Bei wasn't the only one who was surprised. The other members of the Thousand Spirits Advanced Soul Academy were also surprised by this, as all four of their defense-type soul masters had been injured from that explosion!

When the Thousand-strike Spear had injured them, Yang Ming and Song Hu had thought that they'd been unlucky. But when they saw Bai Chen and Ye Mao's current condition, they were a little happy that their Shield Wall had already been destroyed.

Of the 64 attack-type soul tools installed on He Caitou's body, 63 had simultaneously begun to glitter, which had been why his body had seemingly changed into a blazing sun. All of them had then simultaneously released their strength in the same direction. Not only had they immediately destroyed the Shield Wall, but they had also fiercely bombarded Shen Ce, who had yet to recover from Huo Yuhao's Spiritual Shock. Even though Shen Ce's skill were meant for defense, when faced with that terrifying power, he'd been directly pressed against the barrier outside the ring.

Just what kind of power was that?! Even if the Shield Wall had been previously damaged by an internal strike from the Thousand-strike Spear, it was still a defense that had been erected by two defense-type Soul Ancestors with all their might. Yet, in front of He Caitou's soul tool fortress, it had collapsed instantly!

Bei Bei and Xu Sanshi, who weren't too far away from each other, both looked at each other and saw the shock in each other's eyes. The two of them weren't the only ones hiding their strength; He Caitou had been as well! Furthermore, the strength that He Caitou had been hiding was extremely large! Even Xu Sanshi wasn't entirely sure if he could block that full-power attack from before.

Beneath the Soul Sage rank, a soul engineer held a definite advantage over a soul master of equal rank. Moreover, how could He Caitou be compared to a normal Class 4 soul engineer? If it wasn't for Huo Yuhao, he would be the number one student of Shrek Academy's Soul Tool Department, and also the only candidate for the Ultimate Soldier Plan. However, the current Huo Yuhao couldn't hope to match his attainments in regards to soul tools. Furthermore, He Caitou had used the soul tool fortress, the strongest formation at the disposal of a soul engineer. Therefore, his full-power attack had immediately shown its terrifying effects.

The tactic used by the Thousand Spirits Advanced Soul Academy wasn't bad, but it had a fatal flaw: It was too passive. It wasn't able to pressure on their opponents.

He Caitou had already begun preparing the moment he'd stepped forward. In that brief period of time, he'd completed the setup of his soul tool fortress with using his muscles. Only three seconds had passed between when he began to forming his fortress and when he launched his attack. This speed shocked the members of the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy so much that all of them stood up. Even among them, none of them could erect a soul tool fortress in such a short period of time, let alone such a complicated and powerful Class 4 soul tool fortress.

By relying on his great number of soul tools, He Caitou was able to release the strength of a Class 5 soul tool fortress while using a Class 4 one. However, he hadn't used this formidable strength of his when he'd compared notes with his fellow students.

Bei Bei and Xu Sanshi, who were thinking of going all-out, regained their senses after a short moment of surprise, and realized that the blinding light from He Caitou's soul tools were also fading.

When the light faded, Shen Ce used the protective barrier behind him as a support to jump towards the ring with great difficulty. The sturdy clothes he'd been wearing had already been turned into rags and had revealed a layer of armor beneath them.

"Clang—" The armor broke, and the instant it fell on the ground, Shen Ce's body looked thin and meager. He immediately opened his mouth to gasp for breath, and used his Thousand-strike Spear to support himself.

He Caitou spat out what remained of his thin cigar and curled his lips. "Not bad. You had a Class 5 defense-type soul tool. No wonder you managed to block my attack. You're the first Soul King that was able to take the full brunt of my soul tool fortress head-on without going down. Come, bring it on."

Afterwards, his round pedestal rotated. His 64 attack-type soul tools also moved rhythmically. This fortress of his could unexpectedly rotate 360°! Furthermore, he only needed to make some small adjustments to his aim in order to target Fei Yuyan, who was still standing on the platform. Or rather, to be more precise, he was aiming at the Blaze Tiger martial soul she'd released.

"Brothers, what are you waiting for?" He Caitou shouted. When everyone thought that he would need a little bit of rest after that all-out attack from before, the gun barrels began to light up again.

Fei Yuyan immediately became scared and directly jumped onto her Blaze Tiger in order to run away. She definitely didn't have a Class 5 defense-type soul tool to protect herself!

"Keep your cool! He can't possibly use that sort of powerful attack two times in a row!" At that moment, Shen Ce showed his worth as a team captain. Not only was his cultivation high, both his knowledge and battle experience were also quite good.

What he said was correct. In the end, He Caitou was only a Soul Ancestor. Even if he were stronger and could actually kill a Soul King with an all-out attack, there was no way that he'd be able to release such an attack twice in a row. *novE(lB(In*

But it was only natural for human beings to feel fear. Even with Shen Ce's timely reminder, the deterrent brought about by those gun barrels on He Caitou's body was just too strong. The Thousand Spirits Advanced Soul Academy's team members had already been thrown into confusion.

At that moment, a tall and slender figure quietly arrived behind Yang Ming.

Yang Ming suddenly felt his body sink, as though its weight had increased by several times. As soon as he tried move, his body suddenly froze. Afterwards, he felt a burst of power transmitted into him from his back. Two slender hands then seized his throat, and a hard object pressed against his back.

In the next instant, everyone saw Yang Ming's body suddenly fly towards the outside of the ring.

Jiang Nannan had made her move, and utilized her second skill, Gravity Control, alongside her first skill, Waist Bow.

Even if he'd been in his normal state, it wasn't certain if Yang Ming would be able to dodge this attack, let alone now that he was injured.

"I'm coming!" A tender voice echoed. A person suddenly stepped forwards from the team members of the Thousand Spirit Academy that were currently in disarray. Earlier, she had also been shocked, but

considering her capacity as the vice-captain of their team, she needed to show her strength now. This person was An Lengye, the owner of the Frost Bear.

The Frost Bear immediately took large strides forward under her orders, then made a grabbing motion towards the air and caught Yang Ming, who'd been about to fall off the stage from Jiang Nannan's attack. However, that wasn't all. An Lengye's fourth soul ring then lit up, and the Frost Bear howled angrily. A burst of cold air spread through the surrounding area, and An Lengye's long blue hair immediately turned white. Even her two eyes turned an icy white color, and began to emit a chilly aura. The cold wind in the air then morphed into a tornado that swept through the arena. After holding Bei Bei, Xu Sanshi and Jiang Nannan in place, it swept towards He Caitou's position.

Chapter 86.3: The Origin of Destruction, He Caitou

A soul tool fort's offensive advantages were blatantly obvious as shown by He Caitou's ability to launch omnidirectional attacks. However, in exchange for such firepower, it was nigh impossible for him to move and so he was simply unable to dodge An Lengye's attack.

An Lengye's attack was a surprise attack that was launched with perfect timing. Although Huo Yuhao's Spiritual Detection covered the entire arena, that didn't mean it was omniscient; there were still a few instances, such as this one, that could exceed his senses.

"She has a soul bone—a skull bone." Huo Yuhao used his Spiritual Detection Sharing to transmit his thoughts to his teammates' spiritual seas.

There was no doubt about it—this was the strength of An Lengye's released soul bone, strength that allowed her fourth soul skill, Frost Tornado, to surpass the level of a Soul Ancestor. Only then was she able to stop the members of Shrek from advancing. Otherwise, if Xu Sanshi and Bei Bei charged over, and He Caitou was allowed to recover and start attacking again, the match would've been settled.

The might of An Lengye's amplified attack had already reached the level of a Soul King. Bei Bei furrowed his brows greatly, then placed his hands in front of his body and quickly moved horizontally. He released a dense cloud of lightning to protect his own body, but he was still forced backwards by An Lengye's powerful attack. However, his footwork placed him right in front of He Caitou. Since his opponents were able to spot the problems of a soul tool fort, why wouldn't he be able to, as the leader of Shrek's Seven Monsters?

Right after that, however, Bei Bei suddenly felt the pressure on him lighten. Layers of barriers had appeared behind him, black barriers that rippled like water.

Xu Sanshi turned back and smiled naughtily at him. His second soul ring was flickering, and he didn't seem to exert any force at all as he took on the strengthened Frost Tornado.

This was Xu Sanshi's second soul skill, Mysterious Underworld Shield.

On the surface, it was a soul skill similar to the Shield Wall. However, the defensive power of Xu Sanshi's Mysterious Underworld Shield was far superior compared to Shield Wall.

This was especially true for the ice-type skill he was currently defending against. A portion of the attacking ice melted upon contact with Xu Sanshi's water barrier, depleting most of the attack before it



could strike Bei Bei. One could tell from the smile that Xu Sanshi gave Bei Bei that this attack wasn't pressuring him.

Although the strength of the Frost Tornado had been boosted to the level of a Soul King, she faced the same problem as He Caitou. In the end, An Lengye was still a Soul Ancestor and could not properly control the skill. Furthermore, her attack was one that targeted a large area. Its destructive power was far from the Thousand-strike Lance, which focused all its power on a single target.

However, An Lengye's actions had given the Thousand Spirits Academy enough time.

The four possessors of the Spirit Rhinoceros Shield quickly regrouped. Although they were all injured, with Bai Chen and Ye Mao's shields having been blown apart and their right arms bleeding. They were still defense-type soul masters. As a result, they could still defend themselves and weren't fully drained of their fighting strength.

When An Lengye launched her all-out attack, they had regrouped and quickly stood in front of her. Shen Ce was also able to recover to some extent thanks to the time An Lengye had bought them, while the red-faced Fei Yuyan quickly got back to her position by riding the Blaze Tiger.

She had originally competed against An Lengye for the position of vice-captain, but now, she finally understood that the gap between them was too simply too vast.

Shen Ce shouted out, "Let me do this!" At this moment, not only was he filled with the intent to fight at this moment, but he also felt grief and indignation. From his point of view, the match was going to be decided without his opponent's three strongest members having made a single move. As the saying went, an army burning with righteous indignation was bound to win. At this moment, he was prepared to put everything at stake for this fight.

A cold glint flickered through his eyes as the Thousand-strike Lance's fifth soul ring lit up. He let out a shout as he flung his weapon out.

This time, he had fully concentrated his spiritual power to defend against Huo Yuhao's Spiritual Shock.

By now, Fei Yuyan finally understood the role she needed to play in this fight, and her strength-amplifying soul skill appeared once again. Additionally, she rode the Blaze Tiger to stand in front of Shen Ce and protect him from potential sneak attacks.

Shen Ce's target wasn't anyone else but the person who'd disrupted his attacking strategy, the same person who'd caused the trajectory of the Thousand-strike Lance to swerve towards his own teammates—Huo Yuhao. Despite knowing he had no hope of victory, he still attacked to see how strong his extremely mysterious and extremely powerful enemy was.

The Frost Tornado blocked not only Bei Bei's assault but also Huo Yuhao's Spiritual Detection. As a result, the Blaze Tiger-boosted Thousand-strike Lance's incandescent glow only appeared in Huo Yuhao's Spiritual Detection the moment it left the Frost Tornado.

"Not good!" Bei Bei cried out involuntarily.

How was Huo Yuhao some kind of mysterious expert?! His real strength was only that of a two-ringed Rank 27 Soul Grandmaster.

There would only one outcome if he were to face the Soul King-ranked Shen Ce's Thousand-strike Lance that had been additionally boosted by a fire-attribute control-type soul master—Death!

Bei Bei's expression changed, along with those of He Caitou, Jiang Nannan, Wang Dong, and Xiao Xiao.

Wang Dong moved horizontally, wanting to stand in front of Huo Yuhao. However, he was stopped by the latter's left hand. In order to hold onto Wang Dong, Huo Yuhao didn't hesitate to use the enormous strength of the Ice Empress' Pincer

The looks on five people's faces changed while the other two of them had ordinary expressions on their faces—these two people were Huo Yuhao and Xu Sanshi.

A black light flashed and Huo Yuhao suddenly vanished, a tall figure taking his position. The figure raised a sturdy shield, and the image of an enormous black turtle appeared behind him. The light of his fourth soul ring vanished as it was replaced by the light his third soul ring.

In an instant, the intense black light transformed into an ice-cold wave. The air started to twist violently, causing distortions to surround the black wave.

The already enormous Shield of the Xuanwu Turtle suddenly doubled in size as a triangular point appeared underneath it. The instant the Thousand-strike Lance arrived, it stabbed fiercely into the ground. This shield was directly affixed to Xu Sanshi's shoulder, and its surface was slanted!

Boom!

The violent booms forced Xu Sanshi and his Shield of the Xuanwu Turtle back seven or eight meters before he was able to stop. And this was with the help of Xiao Xiao's Threelives Soulcrush Cauldron.

In that instant, Wang Dong and Xiao Xiao both felt a powerful, mountain-like feeling from their usually lecherous senior who always clung to Jiang Nannan. In that instant, Xu Sanshi's eyes became filled with a grave and steady look, along with an unrivalled expression of haughtiness!

When a defense-type soul master faced an assault-type soul master of the same rank, normally, neither would gain an advantage.

At this moment, however, Xu Sanshi had overturned everyone's way of thinking. He was able to rely on his defensive capabilities to not only block the attack of a Soul King who not only had one more soul ring than him but was also being boosted by another fire-type Soul Ancestor. His current defensive power could be considered to be at the very peak of the Soul Ancestor rank.

The black light vanished, revealing Xu Sanshi's straight figure. The Shield of the Xuanwu Turtle in his hands had already returned to its normal size. He used his hand to comb his hair for a bit before he said indifferently, "How relaxing!"

Wang Dong and Xiao Xiao, who were originally filled with admiration, suddenly slipped and nearly fell to the ground.

Why was Huo Yuhao not worried at all? This was because Xu Sanshi had an ability that didn't seem to have any offensive or defensive capabilities, and yet was a defense-type soul skill that could transform into something magical—the Mysterious Underworld Displacement.

He was able to instantaneously swap places with Huo Yuhao by relying on the Mysterious Underworld Displacement, taking Huo Yuhao's place to block Shen Ce's all-out blow. However, Huo Yuhao was switched to the location of the Frost Tornado that Xu Sanshi was originally in.

The might of the Frost Tornado was already reaching its end. Hence, although it was still very powerful, it wasn't life-threatening to Huo Yuhao. At the very least, it would be much better than being pierced by the Thousand-strike Lance.

Furthermore, Bei Bei was able to immediately rush over the instant Huo Yuhao was displaced due to the latter's Spiritual Detection. He pulled Huo Yuhao behind him, using his back to withstand the last bits of the Frost Tornado's might.

At this exact moment, Huo Yuhao's eyes lit up with an eye-piercing red glow as he raised his right hand and pointed a finger towards the sky.

The six blood-colored soul rings once again descended upon the field. The terrifying aura of a hundred thousand year soul beast caused even the protective barrier set up by the hundred and eight soul masters to tremble violently.

This desolate aura filled with a desolate might caused the air surrounding Huo Yuhao to seemingly solidify, and a light image flickered behind his back. Only He Caitou and Jiang Nannan, who were doing their best to hold on, were able to see that the light image was actually that of a scorpion.

"Ice, I am your master!" A low voice passed through a previously prepared sound amplifying soul tool and resonated throughout the entire Star Luo Plaza.

Every single spectator who was witnessing this astonishing scene suddenly felt as if their hearts were being crushed as they heard this voice.

The audience then witnessed a scene that they would never be able to forget for the rest of their lives. The Frost Tornado that was originally wreaking havoc abruptly paused in mid-air. Following that, it instantly rose into the air and turned back towards the students of the Thousand Spirits Academy.

Huo Yuhao didn't stop there either, and pointed a finger from his right hand towards the Frost Bear. The latter looked as if it had seen the most terrifying creature in the world, causing its body to shudder violently. Afterwards, it shattered with a peng into motes of light that filled the sky before dissipating.

An Lengye let out a muffled groan and spat out a mouthful of fresh blood before collapsing. The last thing she saw before fainting was Huo Yuhao's emotionless and lifeless blood-colored eyes staring at her.

#### Chapter 87.1: Crazy for Shrek

The four shield wielders had resisted with all of their might, yet had only barely managed to block the power of the Frost Dragon's Fist. At this point, all of their fighting spirit had been expended. All of them stared, dumbstruck, at the god-like youth before them, as blood dripped from their wounds. Afterwards, they turned to look at their team leader, Shen Ce. *novE-lB*In

As Huo Yuhao stood there, the red hue gradually fading from his eyes. His teammates left the stage, which caused him to appear as an all-dominating god as he remained on the tournament stage.

This was his second time making an appearance at the Continental Advanced Academy Soul Dueling Tournament. The first time, he'd been with Wang Dong. This time however, he'd been on his own.

The conclusion of Shrek Academy's first tournament match—when he'd first appeared—had had a sobering effect on all of the other academies. All of them immediately attempted to investigate Huo Yuhao, who seemed to possess six hundred thousand year soul rings; not only because of the appearance of his inconceivable soul rings, but also because Shrek Academy represented the strongest, most advanced soul masters on the continent.

However, none of the academies, including the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy, were able to come up with a satisfactory answer. Right now, Shrek Academy was like a dense cloud of fog to them.

How could a youth who was obviously not yet fifteen years old have become a Soul Emperor? Moreover, how could he possess six hundred thousand year Soul Rings? This was an existence that defied the heavens. Almost everybody realized that it was a diversion; it was just that nobody knew how this diversion was being used.

As such, they were all waiting for Huo Yuhao's next move; the first match had simply been finished too suddenly, but it was impossible for every match to be finished as fast as the first.

Sure enough, this mysterious youth finally made another appearance during Shrek Academy's third match. However, he yet again shocked the entire audience.

An Lengye's attack that had been activated using the power of her skull bone had reached around the Soul King level of power. Yet, when he casually destroyed it along with her martial soul projection, all of the audience's doubts immediately turned into astonishment.

Soul Emperor or not, he shouldn't have had such an easy time. However, the key issue was that nobody had been able to tell what soul skill he'd used.

Just like how the Thousand Spirits Academy members wanted to describe him as 'dominating', he had dominated the tournament as soon as he'd appeared.

Could it be that he was truly a Spirit Emperor? One with six hundred thousand year Soul Rings? Several academies began to doubt their previous judgements. If this youth had really attained that rank, who would be able to compete against Shrek Academy in this tournament? And what about the next one?

Bei Bei turned his nose up at Shen Ce, who was seated across from him, and said in a low voice, "Shall we continue?"

Shen Ce looked at his burned-out comrades beside him, then looked at the unconscious An Lengye who was currently lying on the ground. He sighed, then said, "We concede."

Huo Yuhao had almost entirely outshone his teammates. As for Shen Ce, even though he had long ago prepared to fight and was standing in front of them, he was able what his situation was clearly. As things stood right now, even if he were to explode out with the power of a soul king, he still wouldn't be unable to resist He Caitou and his soul tool fort. Nor would he be able to resist Xu Sanshi, who'd used the power of a Soul Ancestor to forcefully block the all-out attack of a Soul King and a fire-type Soul Ancestor working together.

As for the Thousand Spirits Academy's side, they'd lost the fighting strength of their deputy team leader, An Lengye. Shen Ce himself had nearly expended himself well. Even if that mysterious youth didn't make a move, they'd still lost all chance of victory. It was completely pointless to fight anymore.

"Shrek Academy wins!"

The seven members of Shrek Academy team stood in a line when they heard the referee's announcement. After giving a slight bow to their opponents, they walked off the stage one after another. Once Huo Yuhao had stepped off the stage, he pressed his palm to An Lengye. The air twisted slightly, then she gave a gloomy groan as she regained consciousness. However, when she saw Huo Yuhao, her eyes filled with fear.

Shen Ce hurriedly moved forwards to help An Lengye stand up. "Lengye, are you alright?"

"How terrifying, how very terrifying. That was definitely a real hundred thousand year Soul Ring, I swear it. I've felt that terrifying ice-type pressure somewhere before."

"What?" Shen Ce was gobsmacked. As he helped her up, he whispered, "Are you sure?"

An Lengye, face was devoid of color as she nodded. She said, "When I was sixteen, I went with Grandfather to the Extreme North in order to find a suitable third Soul Ring. However, we accidentally went too far, and in the distance, we suddenly saw a dark green silhouette flash by. The speed of that silhouette was terrifyingly fast, and Grandfather's only reaction at the time was to push me to the ground and protect my body with his own. A full fifteen minutes passed before Grandfather slowly stood back up. It was only then that I realised that a layer of frostbite had formed on a portion of Grandfather's back.

"At that time, Grandfather told me that we'd met one of the most terrifying existences in the Extreme North. That was definitely a hundred thousand year soul beast. After that, Grandfather grabbed me and we swiftly left the region. When we got back, it took him over a year for him to recover from the frostbite he'd received. Ever since then, Grandfather has never mentioned anything about taking me to the Extreme North to hunt for Soul Beasts."

"Even though several years have already passed, I'll never forget that soul beast's aura; it's the same one that that youth's Frost Bear gave off. Back then, once I'd returned with Grandfather, he said to me that the reason we were able to return alive wasn't because that hundred thousand year Soul Beast hadn't noticed us, but rather because we were too weak, and that it didn't care to bother with us. We're lucky to be alive."

Shen Ce inhaled a breath of cold air, then turned to gaze at Huo Yuhao's back, who was currently walking away from the waiting area. Without a hint of discontentment on his face, he said, "Come on, let's go. We can talk about this once we get back. Shrek Academy is indeed an existence that we can't even dream of beating! I really regret not having attended Shrek Academy's entrance exams back in the day."

He didn't harbor even an inkling of doubt towards what An Lengye had said, as not only was she his girlfriend, but also because she was usually quite quiet and reserved. This was the first time he'd seen her say so much in one go. From this, it was obvious that that mysterious youth from Shrek Academy had given her a great shock.

However, unbeknownst to them, everybody at Shrek Academy was breathing a sigh of relief.

Based on overall strength, Shrek Academy's current Seven Monsters weren't actually stronger than the Thousand Spirits Academy's team. Of Wang Dong, Xiao Xiao, and Huo Yuhao, two had two Soul Rings, while only one of them had three. They were useless in team battles at such a level, thus the reason that Xiao Xiao and Wang Dong hadn't acted wasn't because they hadn't wanted to, but rather because they wouldn't have had much of an effect even if they'd to act. It was better for them to act as a deterrent at the rear.

If one were to observe them closely, they would notice that when Huo Yuhao and Xu Sanshi had swapped places with Xu Sanshi's Mysterious Underworld Displacement. When they'd done so, Wang Dong and Xiao Xiao had both quietly withdrawn their six Soul Rings. At that moment, Huo Yuhao had been extremely worried, as the spear hurtling towards him had the potential to be fatal. Furthermore, since he appeared to have six hundred thousand year Soul Rings, even the referee wouldn't step in to save him. It could be said that Xu Sanshi had saved his life. Even if he'd somehow still been able to avoid it on his own, Huo Yuhao would've been equally stressed.

Going back to the beginning of the match, if it hadn't been for He Caitou exploiting the Thousand Spirits Academy's passive fighting style in order to rapidly construct a soul tool fort and break the enemy's defense in one go, as well as directly suppress their strongest opponent—Shen Ce, as well as Huo Yuhao's possession of the Spiritual Detection and Spiritual Shock, then it would've indeed been difficult to determine who the victor would've been.

All four of the shield wielders' independent defensive ability were even weaker than that of Xu Sanshi. However, when they worked together, even Xu Sanshi, as talented as he was, couldn't compare. But in this match, Shrek Academy hadn't won through sheer force alone. They'd won through superior tactics, as well as because of their superior focusing of their abilities.

In the end, Huo Yuhao had replaced his teammates at the front, and his suppression of An Lengye's ice attribute had sealed the deal. If An Lengye hadn't been an ice-type Soul Master, then it was likely that the match would've continued. Even if they would've still won, it wouldn't have been as Huo Yuhao had made it seem.

As such, it could be said that Shrek Academy had yet again achieved a lucky victory. Not only had they win, but they'd maintained their previous degree of mysteriousness, as they'd kept each of their true strengths, a secret, and a major advantage in upcoming matches. However, Wang Yan was beginning to worry – that Thousand Spirits Academy wasn't the strongest opponent in the round-robin tournament. How long would their luck hold out?

Like the previous two matches, the members of Shrek Academy didn't linger; they left almost immediately. Huo Yuhao calmly walked into the center. No matter how loudly the audience cheered, no matter how intently they stared at him, he showed no signs of responding. Thanks to today's match, his mysteriousness would cause any opponent facing him to be terrified.

However, Huo Yuhao wasn't feeling excited, but rather quite worried. Prior to today's match, Wang Yan had warned them that their next opponent would be the strongest one they'd face in the tournament. On that team, there were a total of three five Soul Kings who had entered the top eight in the previous tournament.

## Chapter 87.2: Crazy for Shrek

An opponent like this naturally wouldn't amount to much in front of the original members of Shrek's Seven Monsters, but they were a fatal obstacle to the current iteration. If they lost this match, their true strengths would undoubtedly be revealed to everyone. However, did they really possess the capabilities to win this match? This was especially so considering they didn't even know the format of their match. Regardless of which format they had to fight in, they would be at an absolute disadvantage due to the disparity in strength. Wang Yan was already considering forfeiting this match; after all, this was the round-robin stage, and losing here wouldn't mean they would be eliminated from the overall tournament. As long as they were able to win their next match, Ling Luochen would be able to make a comeback. With an ice-type Soul King like her working together with Huo Yuhao's Ultimate Ice, they would have a much easier time facing their remaining opponents in the round-robin stage. After three more matches at most, Ma Xiaotao and Dai Yueheng would be able to return as well. The arrival of two Soul Emperors would truly grant Shrek the strength needed to take the championship.

However, Wang Yan was met with the strong opposition of the current Shrek's Seven Monsters the moment he suggested forfeiting the next match. They were no longer how they were when they had just arrived; now that they had won two matches while being bathed in Shrek Academy's glory, how could they just let this glory be tarnished without a fight?

Thus, all seven of them were determined to fight. Even if they lost the match, they still wanted to give it their all. Furthermore, it wasn't as though they had no chance at all. After all, although their cultivations weren't strong, every single one of them was a breathtaking genius. The levels of coordination they could bring out could possibly defeat the overall strength of their opponents. In the end, Wang Yan agreed to their request. This was because he understood that there was a very high chance of leaving a shadow on their hearts if they were to forfeit this match to preserve their strengths; he absolutely didn't want a situation like this to occur.

At this moment, the reason why Huo Yuhao was feeling so worried was due to the fight they had just gone through. This fight made him understand that there were no weaklings among the academies who were able to participate in the Continental Advanced Academy Soul Duelling Tournament. They had already gained many advantages in their previous matches, especially Shen Ce losing control of his Thousand-strike Lance at the very start of the match. Even in a situation like this, however, their final victory hadn't been obtained so easily.

Furthermore, this was only a team that possessed a single Soul King. If that was the case, what would happen the day after? What they had to face was a team that had three Soul Kings, a team whose overall strength was greater than that of the Thousand Spirits Academy by more than a single level. What would the situation be then?

During the first round of the round-robin segment, the Thousand Spirits Academy had faced their upcoming opponent. Wang Yan had personally seen the results of that match; this was also the match that they had witnessed from the rooftop of the Grand Imperial Star Hotel. At that time, the Thousand Spirits Academy had been completely crushed; they had had no chance at all. That match had been a 1v1 fight, and their opponent's third member had already decimated the thousand Spirits Academy. Furthermore, only two of their Soul Kings had made an appearance. This had occurred without their team leader making a move.

They couldn't lose, but how could they win? This was the question that was currently stuck in Huo Yuhao's mind. He was inwardly questioning himself for ways to raise his cultivation within a short period of time. At the very least, he wanted to bring himself to a level where he could fight against his opponents for the next round.

Huo Yuhao had an accurate judgement of his own strength. From another standpoint, every single one of his soul skills, without any exception, were extremely powerful. This was also the case for his auxiliary-type soul skills. Furthermore, the abundance of soul skills he possessed was something that even a four-ringed Soul Ancestor couldn't defeat.

Huo Yuhao had an extremely accurate evaluation of himself. Although he was still a two-ringed Soul Grandmaster, he wouldn't lose to any three-ringed opponents; he had the confidence to defeat Soul Elders. If he were to face four-ringed Soul Ancestors, however, he practically had no chance at all. At the very minimum, he had a very remote chance of winning. He had an advantage over Soul Ancestors in terms of soul skills, but there was too large a gap in terms of soul power. This was also the case even if he had the Milk Bottle. During the tournament, what good would a powerful soul skill do if he didn't have enough soul power to utilise it?

Because of that, Huo Yuhao knew that he would be able to defeat a three-ringed Soul Elder at most in a 1v1 fight. Moreover, he knew that he would actually be more effective in a team fight.

If he were to encounter an ice-type or fire-type opponent in a team fight, he could use his Ultimate Ice to impose absolute suppression on his opponent's abilities. This was especially the case for ice-type soul masters. Even if they were Soul Kings, he had the confidence to suppress them, just like he had done earlier. This was perfect elemental suppression. Even if his cultivation was weak, he was still the Sovereign of Ice. No matter how strong ordinary ice was, how could it rebel against the Sovereign? There was no way for his opponent to stop this unless there was too great a difference in terms of cultivation between both parties. n-)Ove**l**In

After that, there was the assistance that his Spiritual Detection Sharing gave to the entire team. Its accurate decision-making capabilities could even predict their opponent's next movements; that was the main reason why they had defeated their opponents today.

If the next match is a team fight, I might be able to be a bit more useful. At the very least, Wang Dong and I can restrain Soul Kings by using our Golden Road. Then we'll have a slight chance.

What the students of Shrek didn't know, however, was that the students from the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy got to their feet and left after the former's match had ended. Their next match wasn't going to be held today in the first place. The only reason why they had come was to spectate Shrek Academy's match.

The two academies which were at the very top of the ladder walked back to the Grand Imperial Star Hotel at what was practically the same time.

"Let's go to the conference room." These were the words uttered by the two teachers who were leading their respective academies.

Wang Yan looked towards the Shrek's Seven Monsters who were sitting around him, then took a deep breath and said sincerely, "Children, thank you all. To put it truthfully, even I didn't think that you'd be



able to win these few matches in a row. You guys have already tried your hardest to protect the glory of the academy. The original reason why you guys came here as members of the preparatory team was to gain some experience, but you've now become mainstays. The academy and I won't demand too much from you."

Bei Bei smiled, "Teacher Wang, you need not say anymore. Since this is an experience, let's just treat it as a more thorough experience. Please arrange our strategies, we all trust in your ability."

Wang Yan looked at them deeply, "You guys have truly come to a decision?"

With Bei Bei taking the lead, Shrek's Seven Monsters stood up simultaneously. They looked at Wang Yan with a resolute light in their eyes, and none of them were timid at all. Even Xiao Xiao, who was the weakest of the lot in terms of overall strength, was no exception to this.

"Good. You all are worthy of being called elites of Shrek Academy. I am proud of you all." Wang Yan's eyes were tearing up a bit, and his face was slightly red. Right now, he only felt that the kids in front of him were too cute. The academy truly hadn't made a mistake in choosing them as members of the preparatory team. During the most crucial moment of their current ordeal, none of them were timid; every single one of them was resolute and stubborn. It had to be known that these were seven kids whose average age wasn't even fourteen!

"Children, I dare say that as long as we can return safe and sound this time, you will definitely become the most outstanding talents our Shrek Academy has had in the past several hundred years. All of you. Good, I won't be unreasonable. Let's start making our strategies."

Wang Yan pushed his hands down, motioning for everyone to sit down.

"Our upcoming opponent is very strong. During the last tournament, they were able to reach become one of the top eight teams. They lost to the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy in the quarterfinals last time. In terms of overall strength, it's possible that they've improved enough to give them the strength needed to reach the top four. There are three Soul Kings and four Soul Ancestors in their lineup of seven. Before coming to this tournament, I only did research on the top 8 academies. This was because of the strength of our original team. I've done some deep research into this team, and I have to tell you that their team leader has been referred to as a genius seen once in a thousand years by their academy. If he was in our academy, there's a chance that he would've been chosen to represent us as well. Elder Xuan personally gave him an evaluation in the past. At that time, he said that this student would have definitely been able to breakthrough to become a Soul Emperor before the age of twenty if he was in Shrek. Unfortunately, it seems he's been delayed a bit."

The expressions of Shrek's Seven Monsters turned even more grim as they listened to Wang Yan's words. Although they knew that their upcoming opponent would be very strong, they didn't know they'd be that strong. For example, how much confidence would they have if they had to fight an opponent like Dai Yueheng or Ma Xiaotao?

Wang Yan said in a low voice, "This is the reason why I kept suggesting that we forfeit. Our chances are simply too miniscule with him and the other two Soul Kings there. I don't know what level his cultivation's reached, because he hasn't appeared during the previous two matches they've had. However, I reckon from his aura that he hasn't become a Soul Emperor yet. When a soul master obtains

his sixth ring, his physical body and aura will undergo a transformation; its a sign that a person has entered the upper echelon of cultivators. However, although he's still some ways from there, he shouldn't be too far from Rank 60."

"According to my research, this person is extremely wild. Because of this, his fighting intent will only increase when he's fighting against us; he won't retreat at all. In a situation like this, our chances of winning are even lower. Furthermore, there's definitely no way we'll be lucky enough for him not to come out. They'll definitely go all-out against us to test their strength."

"After much consideration, I only have a single idea right now. That is, we gamble. We gamble that we'll be able to get a team fight next match. A team fight is the only way we have a sliver of a hope of winning."

Everyone was concentratedly listening to Wang Yan's explanation. The current Wang Yan had already entered a trance, "Our chances of winning in the team fight come from a single one of you. That's Xu Sanshi."

### Chapter 87.3: Crazy for Shrek

"It's just as I've said. Our opponent's team leader is the strongest member of their team, so you can go think about it for a moment. As a genius seen only once in a thousand years, you can imagine how high his position is in his team. However, having such a high position can both be a good thing and a bad thing. This is because his teammates will become extremely dependent on him. Because of that, our chances of winning this match will be greater than 40% if we're able to take the initiative and take him out."

Xu Sanshi had a bitter look on his face as he said, "I understand, Teacher Wang. You want me to trade me for him!"

Wang Yan smiled slightly. "If we do it abruptly, it might not be a one for one trade. I'm confident that it won't be easy for them to take you out, seeing that you're a defense-type soul master in addition to the powerful defensive capabilities you showed in the last match. We can say that you'll be the true core of our next fight if we're lucky enough to get the team fight. Not only will you have to use your Mysterious Underworld Substitution to bring their team leader over to our side so we can beat him up, but you'll also have to do all you can to stall their helpers."

"We can prepare for you to switch positions with the enemy team leader, but they won't be able to immediately attack you since they'll be caught unprepared. At that time, it'll all depend on your own ability."

Xu Sanshi stared at Wang Yan with widened eyes. "Teacher Wang, you can't be serious. This task is simply too arduous."

Bei Bei patted his shoulder and said, "Okay, stop faking. You're more afraid of death than anyone here. Even if the others don't know about this, do you think that I don't? You have so many life-saving techniques. Let's do it this way: if you can hold on and we win in the end, I'll get Nannan to get you a reward. How about it?"

“Really?” Xu Sanshi’s eyes immediately lit up. At this moment however, Jiang Nannan’s expression suddenly changed. She said in a cold voice, “This is something between the two of you, so don’t drag me into it. I’m not a bargaining chip, nor a good you can barter with.” With that, she stood up and started to leave.

Jiang Nannan’s sudden anger startled even Bei Bei. In reality, he had only said this as a joke; he didn’t think that Jiang Nannan would react to it this seriously. He could only force an awkward smile for a brief moment.

Wang Yan flashed a look at Xiao Xiao, who quickly got up and left. After all, they were the only two girls on the team.

Xu Sanshi smiled bitterly. “You see. She treats me like this. Aih, what a waste of all my hard work! Bei Bei, you’ve screwed me over.”

“Xu Sanshi, do you have a problem or not?” Wang Yan asked in a low voice.

Xu Sanshi suddenly raised his head and said in a low voice, “No problems. Teacher Wang, leave it to me.” At this moment, Huo Yuhao could see a trace of haughtiness in the depths of Xu Sanshi’s eyes, the haughtiness that had appeared when he had blocked the Thousand-strike Lance. Just what kind of heart was hidden beneath Xu Sanshi’s unbridled appearance?

Wang Yan nodded and said, “Xu Sanshi will be of the utmost importance during our upcoming team fight. Now, let’s plan how you’ll gang up and take out the opponent’s team leader. Your overall strength is still somewhat insufficient, but we’ll win if we take them by surprise. You must make preparations to launch your all-out attacks on him. Huo Yuhao, Wang Dong...”

Just as Shrek Academy was devising its tactics and strategies for its next match, the students of the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy had now returned to the hotel as well. Likewise, they walked towards the other end of the corridor and entered the conference room that belonged to them. Only, they weren’t researching any tactics, but Shrek Academy itself.

“Let’s talk about it. How did you feel after watching today’s match?” Teacher Ma said in a low voice.

Everyone from the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy was silent. A student from the official team couldn’t help but utter, “Teacher Ma, is that mysterious youth from Shrek’s representative team really a six-ringed Soul Emperor? But, all six of his soul rings were hundred thousand year ones! Could this be a result of Shrek Academy’s latest research?”

“Idiot. Is that what you saw?” Teacher Ma said angrily, “Have you heard of any research that can let a soul master’s soul rings all become hundred thousand year ones? Moreover, how old is he? I observed him carefully earlier, and although that youth can be considered quite tall, I can tell that he’s only around thirteen or so from the inexperience between his brows. Even if he started cultivating in his mother’s womb, he wouldn’t be able to become a Soul Emperor at that age. Shrek Academy must’ve used a special technique to cover everything up.”

The student from the official team was somewhat unresigned. “Then how was he able to make an ice-type Soul Ancestor instantly lose her power? A Soul King definitely doesn’t have the power to do that, and even an ordinary Soul Emperor might not be able to.”

“It should be due to elemental suppression.” The team leader, Ma Rulong, spoke up. He said in a low voice, “Teacher Ma is right. That youth can’t be a Soul Emperor, so the only explanation we have is that elemental suppression occurred. According to my calculations, that youth’s true cultivation should be at the Soul Ancestor rank at most. This is already extremely astonishing at his age. Furthermore, I can only think of one thing that can justify why he’s so strong—he has twin martial souls.”

The leader of the preparatory team, Xiao Hongchen, who was seated opposite Ma Rulong, couldn’t help but raise his head. He nodded slightly at the latter, a few traces of admiration in his eyes. It was relatively rare for an arrogant person like him to have a gaze like this in his eyes.

Ma Rulong revealed an indifferent smile as he noticed Xiao Hongchen’s gaze on him, “I believe that although that youth is quite outstanding, he still can’t be compared to our Xiao Hongchen. However, his twin martial souls should be relatively powerful. His greatest weakness is his age.”

Xiao Hongchen’s brow furrowed. “Team leader, are you saying that I wouldn’t be his opponent if we were at the same age?”

“What do you think about it?” Ma Rulong asked indifferently.

Ma Rulong’s brows furrowed even more as he replied, “It’s hard to say for sure. How can I make an accurate judgement without fighting with him? Even if he has twin martial souls, I dual cultivate as a soul master and a soul engineer. If we’re of the same age, he might not be able to cultivate his soul power to my level.”

Ma Rulong waved his hand and said, “Let’s not talk about this for now. I’ll continue with my analysis.”

“According to my calculations, this mysterious youth can only be at the Soul Ancestor rank at most. Moreover, his twin martial souls should be of the rarely seen spiritual-type and ice-type. Out of his spiritual-type soul skills, he must have one that allows him to directly launch a spiritual attack. Today, the Thousand Spirits Academy’s Shen Ce was affected by this skill, resulting in him making an error in his first attack. From there on, it led to his final defeat. Then, I believe that the ice-type martial soul he used to control An Lengye was his main martial soul. I’m not clear as to how he was able to subdue the Frost Bear, but his ice-type martial soul must be very powerful. The purity of its Ice must’ve been far superior to An Lengye’s, which was why he was able to suppress his opponent when they both had similar cultivation levels. Although he looked quite astonishing when he made a move then, didn’t you guys notice that An Lengye’s Frost Tornado had reached its final phase? It didn’t have much attack power left. Even that last attack was blocked by Bei Bei instead of him.”

“Let’s think about it from another angle. If this youth really has the cultivation of a Soul Emperor, would Xu Sanshi have needed to switch places with him? I noticed that two strange things happened when Shen Ce used his Thousand-strike Lance for the last time: one, the other two young teammates by the side of that mysterious youth had panicked and shocked looks on their faces. Two, all six of the soul rings on those two youths disappeared after that mysterious youth was switched with Xu Sanshi. What does this mean? It means that their six rings are fake as well. Furthermore, these fakes come from that youth’s spiritual-type martial soul. Out of his spiritual-type soul skills, he definitely has one that allows him to create illusions. He was able to create this aura of mystery around him by relying on these things.”

Both the official and preparatory teams of the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy felt their eyes widen as they listened to Ma Rulong's analysis. Teacher Ma also had a smile on his face as he kept nodding.

Ma Rulong hadn't become team leader due to his strength alone; the more important factor was his meticulous line of thinking. Were it not for the abrupt rise of the Xiao siblings, Ma Rulong would have had a complete chance of becoming the most outstanding student that the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy had seen in a hundred years.

Ma Rulong continued confidently, "To summarise everything, I have a rather accurate conclusion. I believe that something must've happened to Shrek Academy. Although the team they sent to participate in the tournament is very outstanding, they seem more like a preparatory team than an official one. There were a few people who turned up on the first day, but didn't come after. They aren't just hiding their strength; something must've happened to them. I dare to guarantee that our chance has finally come this year."

"If that's the case, it's too good for us." The female student sitting next to Ma Rulong waved her fist around. Their Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy had been suppressed by Shrek Academy for over three thousand years. They had participated in every single Continental Advanced Academy Soul Duelling Tournament since the start, but they had never beaten Shrek.

Ma Rulong sighed slightly. "Actually, I wanted to face the most powerful force that Shrek could muster, even though I know that our chances wouldn't be too great then. However, I truly wish to go all-out in a fight with our most powerful opponent."

"Why wouldn't our chances be great? Xiao Hongchen said indifferently, "Our academy has been constantly improving these few years. Shrek Academy has been limiting itself by looking down on our soul tools, so there will be a day when they will suffer a loss due to that. Even if we can't beat their official team this time, we'll definitely be able to win next time."

#### Chapter 88.1: A Decisive Battle (Preview)

Ma Rulong had a calm smile on his face, but didn't refute what Xiao Hongchen had said. Teacher Ma and the other teachers similarly didn't say anything.

A cold glint flashed in Xiao Hongchen's eyes as he lowered his voice and said, "Teacher Ma, do you know that mysterious boy's name?"

"I've already investigated that boy. He's called Huo Yuhao, but that's all I know. He doesn't exist in the data we have on Shrek Academy."

Xiao Hongchen nodded and laughed coldly before speaking. "It's hard to say whether Shrek Academy can enter the finals with their present situation. Leader, I'm afraid we won't be able to beat such a rubbish team if they continue deploying their preparatory team only!"

Ma Rulong's face sank. "Xiao Hongchen, shut your bloody mouth. I'm still the captain of Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy's representative team. You can insult yourself, but before you truly beat Shrek's strongest representative team, you have no right to insult your opponent."

A powerful aura suddenly surged out from Ma Rulong's body. Xiao Hongchen staggered back as he felt the oppressive aura. His younger sister immediately stood up, brazenly exuding a severely sharp aura. She was about to counter Ma Rulong with force.

Xiao Hongchen stretched his arm out and blocked his younger sister. A hint of a smile formed on his face. "Yes, leader. I was in the wrong. But I will prove everything to you with my actions in time. I will take your place, and that of all the seniors from previous generations who wanted to defeat Shrek Academy in trampling them under my feet."

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Sea God's Pavilion, Shrek Academy.

"Elder Mu, are we really not sending anyone over? They have to face three Soul Kings as their opponents tomorrow." The one standing before Elder Mu was the vice-dean of the Martial Soul Department, Cai Mei'er.

Elder Mu smiled slightly and said, "Is this what you wanted to ask me, or did Shaozhe ask you to pose this question?"

"Shaozhe meant for me to ask you," Cai Mei'er replied honestly.

Elder Mu chuckled. "I know it's him. He's not happy about this. I've seen all the messages he sent to me before. Those kids are doing very well. Xuannie has very good foresight. Not a single one among them is a useless scoundrel. Aren't things going well the way they are now? Why must we emerge as champions? If we send people over to them, will these children be enticed to give it their all? Go back and tell Shaozhe that these seven children with Huo Yuhao as their leader will be Shrek's glorious pioneers in the years to come. Ask him to set his sights a little further. I sent them off to the tournament for them to gain experience. Since the heavens have decided on the outcome, we don't have to try to fight it. Let the will of the heavens decide what their fate is. Who can say what will happen? Is it impossible for them to continue creating miracles? What we need to do now is believe in these children. After they return from the Star Luo Empire, you and Shaozhe, along with Lin'er and Duoduo, should personally congratulate them."

"They're fighting for Shrek's glory. We must have faith in them. It takes ten years to polish a sword. We need at least ten years to let these seven children become Shrek's future. They will be the ones sitting in the Sea God's Pavilion in the future."

"Elder Mu, you actually view them in such high regard?" Cai Mei'er was shocked. As far as she could remember, Elder Mu had never praised anyone like this before, not even his Inheriting Disciple, Yan Shaozhe.

Elder Mu smiled faintly. "That's because I understand them better than you do. You'll understand in the future. Go."

"Yes."

.....

Early in the morning.

The preparatory team assembled in the conference room after breakfast. They were all full of spirit and energy after resting up yesterday. Their energy, spirit and Qi were all at their peak. However, their faces didn't bear relaxed expressions, but rather ones that were slightly grave.

Their match today would inevitably be their toughest match in the Continental Advanced Academy Soul Dueling Tournament so far. They had to confront a strong team led by three Soul Kings without a single Soul King on their team. They didn't even have anyone above Rank 45 on their team!

Wang Yan looked at Bei Bei, He Caitou, Xu Sanshi, Jiang Nannan, Xiao Xiao, Huo Yuhao, and Wang Dong, who were all sitting in a row. His gaze swept from the first individual to the very last person in the row.

"Dearest children, the crucial battle is about to begin. I didn't tell Xiaotao and the rest how difficult this match was going to be so that they can recuperate without worry weighing on their mind. I'll emphasise this for the last time. Even if you guys lose this tournament, you guys definitely shouldn't feel like you're a disgrace to the Academy, because all of you average out to only 14 years old. I believe that it's impossible for any other academy to have students that are superior to you guys at this age. What we need to do now is pray that luck is still on our side, that the next match will be a team battle again. I similarly have but one request for you all that you must accomplish at all costs, and that is your safety. I know your hearts must definitely be bursting with energy to win this match. However, victory is nothing compared to your safety."

"I hope I can bring every single one of you back in one piece, the same way I brought you guys here. Every single one of you is the most valuable treasure to the academy. Humans only have one chance at life, and we can't regenerate our limbs either. Since that's the case, I hope you guys won't fight with your lives on the line, or to the point where you become crippled in your efforts to stake everything on this match. We don't need to you to do something like that. You guys have already done your best. In any event, you don't need to feel pressured because of everything the outside world says about us. The tournament stage is nothing but a stage for you guys to display yourselves, and nothing else. You guys are only going on a relaxing journey."

Wang Yan spoke every word with the utmost sincerity. He was more emotionally charged now, paired with the worry he held towards them. He was entirely certain that other teachers accompanying their teams to the Continental Advanced Academy Soul Dueling Tournament definitely wouldn't tell their students not to be afraid of losing. Nor would they take the initiative to bring their students' fighting spirit down. Yet, Wang Yan was doing just that now.

However, he could clearly see the raging flames burning in everyone's eyes.

These children had come far from their apprehension toward the tournament at the start, progressing to the resolution they had shown later and ending with the pride they now had to uphold Shrek's glory. That pride had already filled their hearts with the intention to fight. How could they possibly give up on the tournament now and let the consecutive victories Shrek Academy held for many years end with them?

Wang Yan inhaled deeply and stood up before speaking in a low tone. "Let's go, children. It's time we relax."

At that, he feigned a relaxed laugh and was the first to leave. However, when he turned around, he suddenly had a grave expression on his face. As the teacher in charge, the pressure he was shouldering was even heavier! Admittedly, Shrek Academy's long-held glory was not only a driving force for the students, but was similarly an immense pressure they had to face too. Wang Yan didn't even dare to imagine what it would be like for a representative team to appear in Shrek Academy after a loss. He didn't know how he was going to face the academy if they did lose. Even if the fault didn't lie with him, Wang Yan and these children behind him would be the ones who had disgraced the academy. The matter he was even more worried about was the serious mental burden these children would have to bear from that point onwards, affecting their development for all their lives. As a result of that, he was always advising them in the hopes that they could relax. However, the outcome was not ideal, for he only saw a strong will to fight in them.

Huo Yuhao didn't know how the others felt. All he knew was that his blood was burning in his body. There was no fear or worry in him, for he only wished to fight for Shrek Academy, and would do anything he could to uphold their glory. If burning his blood could increase his strength, he would do it without giving it a second thought.

It'd been more than a year since he'd entered Shrek Academy. He'd formed friendships he had never had in his life before, and received tender loving care from the whole academy. One could say that he had learned more in this year than he had in his last decade. He'd already fallen deeply in love with this academy and every single one of his comrades by his side.

He would do anything he could for the academy. That was his lifelong hope, just like how he hadn't hesitated in making his decision to become a guardian. He needed to defend Shrek Academy's glory now. In his heart, this in itself was already a glory in its own right. How could Wang Yan's words dispel his fighting spirit for this glory and Shrek's glory? His heart was burning, and his blood was boiling. There was no sense of failure in his heart, only the glory accompanying victory.

The others all had the same expression in their eyes as Huo Yuhao. The match today was inevitably going to be the most difficult one, yet it was similarly the one time their cohesion was the strongest. The seven monsters were all of one heart. At this moment, they truly considered themselves to be Shrek's Seven Monsters.

They left the Grand Imperial Star Hotel and headed toward Star Luo Plaza. They could feel the firmness of the earth with every step they took, just like the unyielding conviction they had at this very moment.

They had to win, win, win!

The atmosphere in Star Luo Plaza was still as riled up as before. Shrek Academy was going to appear again today. What surprises would they bring to the audience?

In all of the three matches Shrek Academy had appeared in before, one could say that every match had brought different stunning surprises to the audience. Huo Yuhao was mysterious, Xu Sanshi had an impeccable defence, and the seemingly-disorderly team actually had gorgeous coordination. And no one could forget how He Caitou had fought with his Soul Tool Fortress. Every single battle had left a lasting impression on the audience.



Even though the audience also found it very strange that Shrek Academy had deployed so many students who only had four soul rings, they didn't give it too much thought, since Shrek had always emerged victorious.

#### Chapter 88.2: A Decisive Battle

Shrek Academy was once again the first team to take the stage. On the other hand, their upcoming opponents had easily obtained their victories so far during the round-robin tournament, and this even included the Thousand Spirits Academy that the Shrek's team had faced previously. After all, this team was one that had entered the previous quarterfinals.

Everyone in the audience thought this match would be a powerful confrontation between the two teams due to their previous performances. Naturally, there were differences even among the strong. In the eyes of everyone present, Shrek wasn't on the same level as all of the other academies present; it was an existence akin to that of a sovereign. However, they all wished for Shrek's opponents to be a little stronger, so as to allow them to watch a more interesting fight.

Shrek's seven combatants were now at their peak condition as they entered the resting area. Now, all they needed to do was wait for the start of the match.

The members of the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy once again arrived in the arena. There was no doubt that they were still trying to observe Shrek's overall strength.

Mu Rulong couldn't help but furrow his brows as he saw the same seven people from Shrek walk out. He was very confident in his own judgement, but was Shrek going to forfeit this competition? If his predictions were wrong, how would they take on their powerful opponent today? Or perhaps, were his predictions all wrong?

A light flickered through his eyes, and Ma Rulong was nearly lost confidence in himself.

Wang Yan's current expression was evidently somewhat unsightly. It would be a lie to say that he wasn't feeling nervous right now. He couldn't fathom imagining how the audience would react if Shrek lost this match that was being watched by such a large crowd. At that time, the pressure of losing would all be forced onto the bodies of the children in front of him! Could they endure it? However, he couldn't forfeit of his own accord, as doing something like that would be even more disastrous. The always-wise Wang Yan now had his thoughts in a whirl. Even if they were to follow the strategy for the team fight that they had planned, their chances of winning wouldn't be too great. There was no need to even mention whether luck would be on their side then.

As time passed second by second, the sun had already risen high from the east.

The Emperor of the Star Luo Empire came to the city escorted by his ministers. He didn't sit down, but instead chose to walk directly towards the resting area to spectate the match.

When he saw that Shrek's team still consisted of the Shrek's Seven Monsters that had come from the preparatory team, he was slightly stunned. Astonished, he muttered to himself, "Was my judgement incorrect? That can't be! Just what is Shrek trying to do? Why did they participate in this tournament with a lineup like this? I have to see whether these youngsters are really true talents later. I hope that they're truly talents who fear no trials."

As he spoke, he seemed to recall a few things, and muttered to himself, “Huo Yuhao, twelve years old. Wang Dong, twelve years old. Xiao Xiao, twelve years old. None of the others are older than fifteen either. It’s no wonder they’re little monsters that come from Shrek! However, what about their official team? Where did they go?”

It was extremely easy for him to look into a few things as the emperor. He had been greatly interested by Shrek’s preparatory team, and he too wanted to see just how far these young kids could go, and what they could do. **noVe-Lb-In**

The referee took the stage, and used the sound amplifying soul tool to carry his voice outwards.

“This is the first match of the third round of the round-robin tournament. Both sides, take your positions. May the representative teams of Shrek Academy and Justsky Academy enter their waiting areas. Team leaders, come up to the stage to draw your lots for the tournament format.”

That was right. Today, Shrek Academy had to face the Justsky Advanced Soul Academy. Justsky Academy was identical to Shrek Academy in the sense that they both came from the Heavenly Soul Empire, but unlike Shrek, which didn’t belong to any empire, Justsky Academy was a famous academy from the Heavenly Soul Empire that had produced a large number of talents.

The Empire that insisted most on maintaining traditional soul masters and rejecting soul engineers within the continent’s four empires was the Heavenly Soul Empire. Because of that, Justsky Academy was actually even more insistent towards pure soul masters than Shrek Academy. They simply didn’t even have a division for soul engineers; they only nurtured soul masters. Regardless of whether they would be washed away in the future, Justsky Academy was currently still a notable academy that was considered powerful throughout the continent.

The team leader of Justsky Academy was a youth of around twenty or so, and his handsome looks were comparable to even those of Wang Dong. Naturally, Wang Dong was still young now, and he had yet to mature.

Wang Yan had talked about this very team leader of Justsky Academy, and he had had a very high opinion of him. This person had never made an appearance since the start of the tournament, and as a result Wang Yan had only been able to obtain a bit of information about him after much hard work.

Ye Wuqing, nineteen. A very talented person from Justsky Academy, and the leader of their representative team. His martial soul was the Golden Leaf, and he was a Rank 58 assault-type soul master who was extremely powerful. He had already represented Justsky Academy as a member of the official team in the last tournament, and now he was the cornerstone of his current team.

If it just so happened that he had turned twenty this year, there would’ve been a very high chance of him breaking through to Rank 60, becoming Justsky Academy’s first-ever Soul Emperor to participate in the Continental Advanced Academy Soul Duelling Tournament.

If that had been the case, Justsky Academy would’ve formally joined the ranks of the top-ranked academies.

Ye Wuqing’s physique wasn’t too different from Bei Bei’s. Unlike Bei Bei’s scholarliness, however, he had a much colder disposition. A cold light flickered through his eyes as he looked at Bei Bei.

The aura Bei Bei emanated was comparatively weaker than Ye Wuqing's. It wasn't just a matter of cultivation, but due to their ages. After all, the nineteen-year-old Ye Wuqing had already matured, while the fifteen-year-old Bei Bei was still a youth.

Bei Bei had a smile on his face as their gazes met, but his eyes were extremely resolute and focused; Ye Wuqing's gaze was like a sharp blade that wanted to find a hole in his body and pierce through it.

The referee said in a low voice, "Lot-drawing, start. May both parties act as a witness to this."

Wang Yan was already nervously clutching his armrests as he sat in the waiting area. He inwardly prayed for a team fight. One could say that all of his plans had been based around a team fight. Furthermore, that was the only way they had a chance of winning! Conversely, they wouldn't have a single chance if they didn't get a team fight!

While everyone waited for the results of the lot-drawing with bated breaths, the outcome of the lot-drawing finally came out at this moment.

Even Bei Bei, who was burning with fighting intent, instantly had a change in expression after seeing the outcome of the lot-drawing. This time, luck hadn't sided with Shrek; this result was what they didn't wish to see the most.

The referee said in a loud voice, "The match between Shrek Academy and Justsky Academy will be held as a 2-2-3 match. In other words, we will have two 2v2 matches before a 3v3 match. Two out of three victories is sufficient to win the whole match, so if a side wins both of the 2v2 matches, the 3v3 match will be cancelled. May both team leaders step down and make their preparations."

Wang Yan felt his head buzz for a moment before going blank the instant he saw that they had drawn the 2-2-3 lot.

How would they fight this 2-2-3 match? They practically had no chance at all when facing Justsky Academy, which had three Soul Kings! Over, everything was over. Wang Yan, who had originally had some semblance of wishful thinking, was now left completely disappointed. It seemed as though all of the energy from his body was sucked dry as he sat in his chair.

Bei Bei's footsteps were clearly stiffer as he walked back. The expressions of the other six of Shrek's Seven Monsters became gloomy. There was already no use for the preparations they had made before the match. The reason why Wang Yan hadn't made any preparations for the other two tournament formats was because they simply had no chance of winning in them at all.

"Children, listen to me." Wang Yan gritted his teeth and stood up, a sincere look in his eyes as he looked at the Shrek's Seven Monsters in front of him. "Let's admit defeat. At the very least, this can be considered a strategic defeat. Let's make it so that our opponents won't be able to fully understand our condition."

"No." Bei Bei let out a resolute, low shout, "If we run without a fight, we can't be considered students of Shrek Academy. Teacher Wang, no matter what, let us give it a try. Even if we lose, we have to lose contentedly. We'll lose without any regrets. Teacher Wang, you've already done a lot for us. Now, it'll all rely on us. From now on, can you let me lead the team?"

At this moment, Bei Bei's scholarly aura suddenly turned into a powerful one; it seemed as if he could control everyone seated in the waiting area. His current gaze was clearly much more concentrated than usual, and any traces of laziness had completely vanished. It was as though a sleeping lion that was filled with unrivalled tyranny had been awakened.

Wang Yan nodded practically instantly, because he knew that persuasion wouldn't work at all. He suddenly felt that Bei Bei's eyes were very terrifying, as if they could swallow a man whole. He could even see the fighting intent that was burning through his eyes.

"Junior brothers, junior sisters, let me ask you a single question: are you willing to just lose and throw away Shrek's glory?" Bei Bei asked in a low voice, his fists clenched tightly.

Huo Yuhao had never seen his senior brother act so seriously. The six of them practically simultaneously replied, "We're not willing." At this moment, a fiery blaze seemed to have ignited from their heads. This was clearly the strength of conviction that came from a unity of wills!

"Good!" Bei Bei said solemnly, "Now, I'll arrange the order in which we'll go out. I'll leave you guys to plan your own strategies. I believe that we have the strength to fight against our opponents and win in the end. We need to burn, burn our soul power, burn our own bodies, and even burn our own lives for the sake of Shrek's glory. Today, we need to fight, to fight for what we can call our future. The only way we can stand straight and call ourselves Shrek's Seven Monsters is by winning today. We won't lose any face for the title 'Shrek's Seven Monsters'!"

### Chapter 88.3: A Decisive Battle

Bei Bei spoke in a very deep yet powerful voice. His gaze fell on his close brother, Xu Sanshi first.

"Sanshi, you're up first."

Xu Sanshi nodded. At this moment, he awakened the domineering attitude he normally kept hidden, setting it ablaze as his will to fight. He squinted his eyes slightly, a cold glint shining in them. "I will definitely win the first match. Either they'll beat me till I can't get up anymore, or I'll emerge victorious. Who's partening up with me? You?"

Bei Bei shook his head and said, "No. If we both appear in the first round, the following matches will be very difficult for the team even if we win. I need to stay behind and oversee the team."

His gaze shifted to Jiang Nannan standing beside him. There was a deep and sincere look in his eyes as he said, "Nannan, I don't know what happened between you and Sanshi in the past for you to look down on him so. None of that is important to our present formation. I hope you can put down all personal grudges for the moment. You must fight with him. The best outcome will only occur when you both work together. After this match ends, I'll beat him up for you if you want. But now, I'm asking and ordering you as your captain to fight the first match with Sanshi. Will you do it or not?"

Jian Nannan was stunned. She had really never expected Bei Bei to pair her with Xu Sanshi. From her point of view, Huo Yuhao should be the one fighting with Xu Sanshi, not her. But once her eyes met Bei Bei's honest gaze, and feeling her comrades' gazes on her, Jiang Nannan only gritted her teeth and said, "Fine, I'll go."

Bei Bei nodded forcefully at her. "Thank you. Now go. Let them see the power of Shrek's Seven Monsters."

"Yes." Jiang Nannan nodded lightly. Without even glancing in Xu Sanshi's general direction, she walked out of the waiting area in a flash and headed up to the stage first.

Xu Sanshi quickly chased after her. When he walked passed Bei Bei, he stuck his thumb up. "Bei Bei, I love you."

"Scram!" Bei Bei huffed unhappily. "If you can't win even like this, don't come back!"

"I'll castrate myself if I don't win." Xu Sanshi strode up on stage after he threw those words out.

The five other members of Shrek's Seven Monsters realised that after he said that, his whole demeanor suddenly underwent an earth-shattering change.

Wang Yan's mood recovered a little at this moment under the influence of the intense will to fight coming from Shrek's Seven Monsters. He temporarily let go of his worries and spoke to Bei Bei in a low voice. "Bei Bei, why did you pair Jiang Nannan and Xu Sanshi together? With Xu Sanshi's defensive abilities, wouldn't it be better to pair him with He Caitou's explosive firepower?"

Bei Bei shook his head and said, "Teacher Wang, you don't understand Sanshi. What he needs isn't firepower, but rather something to arouse all of his power. There's no one more suited for this than Jiang Nannan. Jiang Nannan will be the detonator to set him on fire. Just wait and see. Sanshi's strength is nothing compared to what it was before. He will reveal his true cultivation to us. I believe he can win this match!"

Wang Yan nodded lightly. Since he'd handed over the right to command the team to Bei Bei, he could now only give him his unconditional trust. Moreover, they were in a desperate situation where anything goes, after all. There was one point Bei Bei made that he highly approved of. They were two remarkable people living in the same period. Did they lack students with four soul rings in the outer courtyard? No! Why were they blossoming with the most resplendent light? There must definitely be a reason behind that.

For the first time, Wang Yan felt as though he had a little confidence in the team again.

After Jiang Nannan went on stage, she stood to the side without consulting anyone. After Xu Sanshi followed her up on stage, he did something out of Jiang Nannan's expectations. He didn't greet her, nor did he say anything. He only stood in front of her in a very natural manner.

Jiang Nannan looked at Xu Sanshi's broad shoulders, and a dull look suddenly appeared in her eyes. In this moment, he seemed to have changed into a person filled with masculinity. There was an intense confidence oozing out of him that she couldn't make sense of. Without releasing the slightest bit of his soul power, Xu Sanshi made one feel as though he was a massive shining entity. He looked like a volcano that could erupt at any time.

What's wrong with him? Is it because of me? To Jiang Nannan's surprise, such a thought actually formed in her mind. She quickly shook her head forcefully to expel such distracting thoughts from her mind. She looked at Xu Sanshi standing in front of her again and felt that he wasn't as hateful as he usually was in

this kind of situation, to say the least. If it wasn't because of that time... maybe she would really be attracted to him?

Just as Jiang Nannan let her imagination run wild, Justsky Academy's first 2v2 team took the field.

Their pair was also comprised of a boy and a girl, with figures that were even a little similar to Xu Sanshi and Jiang Nannan. The girl was very beautiful. Unfortunately, luck was not on her side in this round, as she had encountered the one known as the number one beauty in the outer courtyard of Shrek Academy – Jiang Nannan. Under Jiang Nannan's shining beauty, she seemed to be a little drab and dull. Even the boy standing next to her couldn't control his gaze as it fell on Jiang Nannan first.

"Xu Sanshi. She's Jiang Nannan," Xu Sanshi said in a low voice.

A 2v2 battle couldn't compare to a team battle. Teamwork was most important in team battles, and there wasn't a chance to distinguish the members apart from one another. Wang Yan had given them a rundown on every one of their opponents, but they'd never seen their opponents before, nor had they paid attention to them, so it wasn't easy to tell who was who. Thus, they introduced themselves first so that they could see who their opponents were as thus be able to act on Wang Yan's information.

"I'm Yang Yifan," said the youth from Justsky Academy.

The girl glanced at Jiang Nannan with a slightly envious look in her eyes that was directed at the other party's for looking immature, yet being remarkably beautiful. "Yu Mengdi."

It's these two. Xu Sanshi suddenly knew what was going on. Sure enough, one of them was a Soul King. It seemed like their opponents also didn't plan on staking all their strength on one throw.

Seeing as both parties had introduced themselves, the referee called out in a low voice, "Both parties fall back and get ready."

Both parties simultaneously backed away from one another. It was a must to create distance between both parties regardless of whether it was a team battle, singles or doubles. This was so that all types of soul masters could freely display their abilities.

Xu Sanshi spoke to Jiang Nannan in a low voice as he backed away. "Nannan, I'll create an opening for you. We'll win as long as we get rid of Yu Mengdi. You don't need to bother with the other one. I won't give him a chance to attack you. You'll have to wait, then go all-out in your attack when I tell you to. Before that, just focus on what I'm doing."

"Okay," Jiang Nannan muttered in agreement. Since she had to cooperate with him in this match, she couldn't flare up at this time regardless of how much she hated Xu Sanshi.

Xu Sanshi was ecstatic. He suddenly felt his heart being tickled when Jiang Nannan said this. It was rare for her to be so gentle and agreeable, so maybe he felt that way because she'd scolded him too much on a daily basis.

When both parties reached the edge of the tournament stage, the referee shouted out, "Start!"

Without a doubt, releasing martial souls was key in a fight. Both parties finished this process in the blink of an eye. Xu Sanshi didn't appear to be lazy this time around. He held the Shield of the Xuanwu Turtle in his hands as he charged up in big strides. Jiang Nannan flashed and bounced lightly behind him.

Since Xu Sanshi was relatively robust compared to those in his age group, Jiang Nannan was practically invisible from the front as she hid behind him.

On the other end, Yang Yifan and Yu Mengdi released their martial souls too. Yang Yifan's martial soul was a long dagger. In reality, he was an agility-type soul master despite his tall physique. His body flashed as he moved around and over to the other side.

Yu Mengdi's martial soul wasn't that simple. Once she released her martial soul, much of the feeling of being stunned was somewhat similar to when Wang Dong released his Radiant Butterfly Goddess for the first time.

A pair of spotlessly white wings shining with strong golden rays of light unfurled from her back. Yu Mengdi was suddenly covered in a soft layer of gold. The saintly aura she emitted made one feel as though they wanted to worship her.

Her hand flashed with golden light, and a long golden sword appeared within it. This wasn't a soul tool, but rather a weapon condensed completely out of soul power. Five soul rings formed of the best proportions, two yellow, two purple, and one black, simultaneously appeared on her.

A black soul ring meant that a ten-thousand-year soul ring had appeared. This was the first time Shrek Academy had encountered an opponent who had a ten-thousand-year soul ring in this tournament.

Justsky Academy valued this first match a lot. Among the three Soul Kings, Yu Mengdi's cultivation was ranked second, and she was only second to Ye Wuqing. Her martial soul was the Angel. Even if it was only a two-winged Angel now, it was already a considerably powerful martial soul. If her cultivation could reach the rank of a soul master with seven soul rings, then she would have four wings. If she was able to become a Titled Douluo with nine soul rings, she would have six wings. Every additional pair of wings was equivalent to an evolution of her martial soul. This was closest to the strongest body soul in existence.

As a result of that, Yu Mengdi wasn't weaker than Ye Wuqing in the slightest in terms of her potential to grow. They were both determined to win this match.

The audience couldn't see the problem Shrek Academy had. However, a few individuals from other academies who had discerning eyes could see many problems with Shrek Academy's performance from their previous matches. Justsky Academy was among those who had seen through them.

As a result of that, he was filled with excitement rather than fear as he faced Shrek Academy today.

#### Chapter 89.1: The Xuanwu's Awakening (Preview)

Justsky Academy realized that this wasn't Shrek Academy's strongest pair. Even so, they still represented Shrek Academy. As long as they could defeat them, that would make them the first team to defeat Shrek Academy in the last few thousand years! Such a victory and its glory would be invaluable to Justsky Academy's.

This was why Justsky Academy had worked hard to prepare for this match. The circumstances motivating them and making them determined to win this match.

When Yu Mengdi saw that Shrek had only deployed two Soul Ancestors with four soul rings, she calmed down. From her point of view, they already had this match in the bag. It was a match with Soul Kings against Soul Ancestors, additionally, she had her powerful Angel soul. She had absolute confidence in her abilities!

Yu Mengdi flapped her wings, suddenly increasing her speed. Her movement reminiscent of a golden meteor as she shot straight at Xu Sanshi. Simultaneously, Yang Yifan, who clearly seemed to be well coordinated with her, also moved. His body flashed as he pounced towards Xu Sanshi from another direction. They acted as though they didn't see Jiang Nannan at all, making it clear that their target was Xu Sanshi. From the looks of it, they wanted to end this match with just one attack.

Xu Sanshi didn't panic even as the two powerhouses simultaneously attacked him. He slowed down and lowered his voice, "Nannan, you don't have to interfere. Just wait for my signal." The Shield of the Xuanwu Turtle in his hands as he spoke.

Yu Mengdi and Yang Yifan were extremely well-coordinated with each other. Yang Yifan's dagger seemed to approach Xu Sanshi from the side at nearly the same time that Yu Mengdi landed right in front of him. The two of them instantly and simultaneously released their soul skills.

Yu Mengdi's first soul ring was already glowing as she released her golden swords. Her second soul ring subsequently lit up as well, and her pair of golden swords immediately formed a perfect cross in the sky. She spread her wings out, releasing golden rays of light into the cross.

A beautiful and melodious singing voice rang out from the cross. Bright rays of golden light accompanied by a holy aura pressed in Xu Sanshi's direction.

Yu Mengdi revealed how superior her Angel was with just this attack. Her first soul skill was a peculiar weapon-type skill called Divine Dualsword. After equipping this soul skill, any other soul skill she used would be released through her first soul skill.

Ordinary soul masters had to be very skilled in order to release stacked soul skills. The more soul skills that were stacked atop one another, the more difficult it was.. Not only did the user have to skillfully control the soul skills but the soul skills themselves also needed to coordinate with each other. This was a high-end technique even for Shrek's inner courtyard disciples. Yu Mengdi's martial soul had the advantage of naturally being able to release at least one more soul skill along with her first soul skill.

Sacredglory Crucifix. That was the attack she was using now. It was an attack that possessed all the effects of a holy attack. It was not only a powerful attack but was also one that burned with a persistent holy flame. Her Angel really was the best martial soul to restrain evil soul masters.

Yang Yifan's attack wasn't weak either. As an agility-type soul master, his strength shone through in his powerful attacks. His second soul ring lit up as a two-meter long sword-shaped glow extended out from his dagger, piercing toward Xu Sanshi's ribs like lightning.

Everyone had always paid attention to Shrek Academy during the tournament. They'd all watched Xu Sanshi's previous matches, and his strong defensive abilities paired with his Shield of the Xuanwu Turtle had left a lasting impression on every single one of them.



This was why the pair had commenced their attack on a strong note in an attempt to destroy Xu Sanshi's defense in the shortest time possible. Naturally, Jiang Nannan was of little importance to them, as she'd shown herself to be a mediocre contestant throughout the tournament.

Xu Sanshi didn't seem to be panicking at all when faced with their attacks. Instead, he abruptly stopped in his tracks, quickly dispelling their attacks with a very simple move.

His fourth soul ring glowed, signaling that he had activated his Mysterious Underworld Displacement.

In the blink of an eye, Xu Sanshi switched positions with Yang Yifan. Yang Yifan was originally stabbing his dagger at Xu Sanshi but was now stabbing Yu Mengdi. On the other hand, Yu Mengdi's Sacredglory Crucifix was falling straight on Yang Yifan.

It was in situations like this that the Mysterious Underworld Displacement could showcase its true power. The ability to change the course of any battle at the most crucial moment.

However, this wasn't the first time Xu Sanshi had used this move in this tournament. How could his opponents not prepare for it when he had used this powerful soul skill numerous times?

Yu Mengdi had a disdainful look on her face when Xu Sanshi used the Mysterious Underworld Displacement. She raised the holy sword in her hands and the Sacredglory Crucifix flew past Yang Yifan's head, heading straight for Jiang Nannan, who was now exposed after Xu Sanshi's dodge. Yang Yifan didn't withdraw his dagger either, but rather, seized the opportunity to flop on his back to avoid Yu Mengdi's attack. The reflection from the dagger carved a crescent moon across the sky as he slashed towards Jiang Nannan, who was now behind him. The teamwork between them both could be said to be impeccable in every aspect, whether it was adapting to changes or their control over their techniques.

The joint attacks initially directed at Xu Sanshi were redirected to Jiang Nannan.

The only thing they found a little strange was that Jiang Nannan didn't move an inch from where she was standing when faced with their joint attack. But it definitely wasn't because she was shocked to the bone. Her gaze fell on Xu Sanshi at this moment, a mocking expression on her exquisitely stunning face. She seemed to be asking Xu Sanshi whether this was his way of protecting her.

Xu Sanshi had never expected their opponents to be so perfectly in sync with one another. Even though he had guessed that they would take countermeasures against the Mysterious Underworld Displacement, he assumed that they would at least be flustered since they were already attacking him. However, he'd had the tables turned on him as the pair managed to beat him at his own game.

The mockery in Jiang Nannan's eyes seemed to light a fire within Xu Sanshi and his eyes immediately reddened.

"Scram!" A crazy roar burst forth from Xu Sanshi as he smashed the Shield of the Xuanwu Turtle into the ground. A powerful black halo instantly extended from the shield, forming a dome that enveloped spanning more than ten square meters. As this occurred, a rumbling sound could be heard.

A powerful tremor sent Jiang Nannan's body flying out of the dome and at the same time enveloped her opponents within the dome. Yang Yifan's dagger failed to strike its target, but Yu Mengdi's Sacredglory Crucifix was still emitting an intense golden light. It seemed as though it was about to break through the enclosure.

But it was also at this very moment that the Shield of the Xuanwu Turtle in Xu Sanshi's hands lit up the whole stage. A strange light started warping the surface of the shield. The feeling it exuded was one that resembled the movement of a human's muscles. After that, the whole surface of the shield changed.

A dark green snake with red eyes appeared on the thick, intricately-designed shield. Following its appearance, the Mysterious Underworld Quake that was originally black suddenly turned dark green. An intense blast that sounded just like a huge explosion had occurred rang out in the enclosed area. The Sacredglory Crucifix that was originally going to break through the enclosure was swallowed up in the blink of an eye. And that wasn't the end. Yang Yifan bore the brunt of the attack; his whole body shook violently till he fell on the ground.

Yu Mengdi was a Soul King and was much stronger than Yang Yifan. Even so, she lost her balance and fell from the sky. She crossed the Divine Dualswords in front of her chest and released her third soul skill. The angel wings on her back curled around her body protectively, turning into an oval light cocoon. Only then was she able to block that dark green light.

Offstage, Wang Yan's mouth dropped open as he watched this scene. "T-this is..." he squeaked out.

Bei Bei smiled and said, "Although he doesn't have an Ultimate martial soul, his martial soul far transcends regular martial souls. If there is one person amongst the seven of us who can compare to junior brother's Ultimate martial soul, it'd be Sanshi. However, his martial soul is sealed and he can't break the seal on his own without a strong stimulus. Luckily, he seems to have succeeded this time. But this means that definitely can't participate in the next match. After all, he won't be able to understand the true meaning of his martial soul before he gains seven soul rings."

Surprised, Huo Yuhao asked, "Senior brother, just what is Big Brother Xu's martial soul?"

Bei Bei's eyes shone as he said, "The bloodline of a Godbeast, Xuanwu. His Godbeast bloodline is even purer than Senior Sister Xiaotao's Evil Phoenix. Normally his martial soul is sealed and only ever bursts out when he's in an extremely dangerous situation. This is when he is at his strongest and all of his soul skills will bear the Godbeast stigma."

As opposed to the joy on the Shrek Academy's end, the students from the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy were staring blankly at the stage. Xiao Hongchen, who had been arrogant up till this point, also widened his eyes in shock. "No, this is impossible. How can he possibly have a Godbeast bloodline that's comparable to mine? Aren't Godbeast bloodlines supposed to be so diluted and rare that they're about to disappear? Even in my case, it'd be impossible for me to have the aura of a Godbeast if not for my martial soul mutation. And this bloodline... is this Xuanwu?"

Having broken through the seal on his martial soul, Xu Sanshi flew across the stage and stood in front on Jiang Nannan again as he released his Xuanwu in front of him.

After breaking the seal on his martial soul, Xu Sanshi's body had gone through some slight changes. He was taller and bigger than before; his physique similar to that of an adult's. On top of that, there seemed to be a faint jade light coming from his short hair. His muscles had swelled up, giving him the aura of an immovable mountain as he stood there.

"I told you I'd protect you." Xu Sanshi's deep voice had dropped a few octaves and the somewhat frivolous feeling his voice used to have was now replaced with a magnetic charm.

Expecting to have to defend herself, Jiang Nannan's third soul ring was originally shining but even she was shocked by such a sudden change. She never knew this shameless scoundrel was actually hiding such strength in him. Even though he was still a Soul Ancestor, the aura surrounding the present Xu Sanshi was far beyond his rank.

The effect of the Mysterious Underworld Quake had just completely disappeared. Yang Yifan, who had actually collapsed to the ground, was completely dazed. At this moment, he couldn't crawl up no matter how hard he tried.

#### Chapter 89.2: The Xuanwu's Awakening

Xu Sanshi let out a roar towards the sky, causing the Shield of the Xuanwu Turtle in his hands to shine with a jade light. The light resonated with his body, enlarging his entire body to the point where his jacket began to rupture due to his sturdy muscles. An intense dark green light burst forth, causing the air within the tournament stage to turn viscous. Following that, his third soul ring lit up. The current him was no longer like a soul master, but a savage soul beast.

His third soul skill, Mysterious Underworld Force, caused the strength of his body to instantly double after being amplified by his Xuanwu bloodline. Furthermore, the Mysterious Underworld Force he activated within his current state didn't just strengthen his own body; it even affected a very large area around him. The wave-like viscosity that made it seem as though one was trapped within a wave was precisely because his Mysterious Underworld Force had instantly gathered a large amount of the water elements around him.

Yang Yifan momentarily lost all of his combat strength, but Yu Mengdi didn't. She immediately felt that something was wrong after the effects of the Mysterious Underworld Quake dissipated. This wasn't the strength that a four-ringed Soul Ancestor should possess, and this was especially evident after she witnessed the enormous changes that had occurred to Xu Sanshi's body. Although she didn't fully understand what was going on, she made a prompt decision and immediately chose the correct answer to the situation—and that was to attack!

She needed to give Yang Yifan a moment to recover. The original self-confidence she possessed had already been greatly reduced, and she couldn't guarantee the outcome of this battle if her opponents were working together.

With her Divine Dualswords held above her head, her third soul ring lit up. A golden flare of light quickly rose above her body, and the image of a six-winged Angel faintly appeared behind her. Her body was instantly dyed gold following the appearance of this Angel—this was her third soul skill, Angelic Protection. This would double the attack power of her next attack.

Right after that, her fifth soul ring lit up. The black soul ring that represented the strength of ten thousand years instantly lit up, causing the distant audience to involuntarily hold in their breaths and widen their eyes. This was the first appearance of a ten thousand year soul skill during this tournament, and everybody wanted to see just how strong it would be.

"Angelic... Godsealing Slash!" A charming voice rang out from Yu Mengdi's voice. This wasn't just a simple calling out of one's own skill. Every single one of the words she called out contained different musical notes, and her Divine Dualswords emitted a clear buzzing with each note. When she yelled out

the word 'slash', the Divine Dualswords merged into one and formed a sharp sword light ten meters long and three meters wide that slashed towards Xu Sanshi.

The referee on the stage immediately charged over quickly the moment he saw this attack. He absolutely did not think that Xu Sanshi would be able to take this blow. *nove/LB-In*

Yu Mengdi's attack could be said to be a fusion of her first, third, and fifth soul skills. Combined with the strength of her Angel soul, the might of this attack of hers was comparable to that of a Soul Emperor's! An attack like this could only be released by the very strongest of Soul Kings, even in an academy like Shrek Academy.

The pressure caused by Xu Sanshi's awakened Xuanwu made Yu Mengdi unhesitantly use her full power. No matter what, Justsky Academy wouldn't just give up this extremely rare chance to beat Shrek Academy.

"Nannan, I'll give you three seconds. Is that enough?" Wielding the Mysterious Underworld Shield that had already evolved into the Xuanwu Shield, Xu Sanshi revealed no fear at all as he faced the enormous pressure in front of him.

"That's enough." Jiang Nannan said in a low voice.

As he spoke, Xu Sanshi lifted his shield. After that, everybody could see his first three soul rings light up. More astonishingly, these three soul rings instantly merged together and formed a black soul ring that emitted a brilliant light.

The dark green snake on the Xuanwu Shield seemed to awaken. It raised its tongue slightly, and a red light began to blossom from its eyes as an enormous image of a turtle-snake rose behind Xu Sanshi's back.

This was the fusion of a godbeast bloodline and multiple soul rings.

The three soul skills that Xu Sanshi was currently using were respectively, the Mysterious Underworld Quake, Mysterious Underworld Shield, and Mysterious Underworld Force.

At this moment, his three soul skills fused into one, releasing the awesome might of a ten thousand year soul skill. However, if one were close enough to see Xu Sanshi, who was currently surrounded by jade-green light, they would discover that his face had turned incomparably white the instant his three soul skills had fused together.

The black light wreathing the Xuanwu Shield instantly enlarged to the point where it had a diameter of three meters. The enormous shield slanted forwards, blocking the might of the Angelic Godsealing Slash.

The instant the two ten thousand year soul skills collided, an ear piercing groan spread throughout the entire tournament stage. The outer protective barrier emitted a piercing bright light, causing the distant spectators to be momentarily unable to see what was going on on the stage.

Yu Mengdi would never have thought that she would encounter a situation like this. The instant her Angelic Godsealing Slash landed on the Xuanwu Shield, she felt as if her attack had been swallowed by a vast sea. After that, a violent boom rang out. Furthermore, her soul power had been greatly weakened, while her third soul skill instantly vanished.

A low roar suddenly spread throughout the entire arena at this moment. This roar that resembled the awakening of a godbeast covered an entire half of the tournament stage, and everyone—including the referee, who was a seven-ringed Soul Sage—felt their minds go blank from that terrifying roar. Their bodies seemed to have been swallowed by the most viscous swamp, rendering them unable to move.

“Nannan, now.” Xu Sanshi’s somewhat hoarse voice rang out by Jiang Nannan’s ear.

At this moment, Jiang Nannan’s body vanished. Covered by the intense light generated by the collision between the Xuanwu Shield and the Angelic Godsealing Slash, nobody was able to see how she vanished, nor how she appeared behind Yu Mengdi.

Jiang Nannan had appeared right behind Yu Mengdi. She gently leapt up, then landed a kick on Yu Mengdi’s lower back.

Xu Sanshi had fused three of his soul skills into a ten thousand year one—the Xuanwu Roar. At this moment, Yu Mengdi was still paralysed as a result of that souls skill, causing her to be unable to resist Jiang Nannan. Xu Sanshi’s estimation of her strength was very accurate. Three seconds, she couldn’t do anything for three seconds. Even the good-hearted referee was delayed for a full second by his Xuanwu Roar before he was able to return to his senses.

After being kicked in the back by Jiang Nannan, Yu Mengdi’s body was immediately thrown forward in the shape of a crescent. In battle, Jiang Nannan wasn’t as kind as she looked on the outside. With her right hand pulling on Yu Mengdi’s hair, Jiang Nannan locked her legs onto her neck. After that, she flipped around in midair, causing Yu Mengdi’s body to fly out weightlessly and fiercely collide with the distant protective barrier before sliding to the ground and off the tournament stage. This entire process took only three seconds, and Yu Mengdi felt her entire body ache when she came to her senses. However, she was now below the stage. Furthermore, some of her important veins had been crushed, and the intense bursts of dizziness and nausea resulting from that caused her to remain on the ground for a long while before she was able to recover.

There was no need to even talk about Yang Yifan. Without even needing Jiang Nannan to make a move against him, Xu Sanshi had already walked up to him and kicked him straight off the tournament stage like a burlap sack. Even Yu Mengdi had been dazed for three seconds; after he was slammed into the ground by the Mysterious Underworld Quake, he didn’t get back up. That was fairly tragic.

In reality, even if Xu Sanshi were able to unseal the Strength of the Xuanwu, he wouldn’t be a match for Yu Mengdi in a one-on-one fight. After all, he lacked means of attacking. Furthermore, his soul power and potential would be drained at an astonishing rate after releasing the Strength of the Xuanwu. As an agility-type soul master however, Jiang Nannan was able to coordinate perfectly with him. Xu Sanshi’s incomparably powerful defensive abilities perfectly complemented her speed and close-combat abilities.

In a situation where anyone with a discerning eye was able to tell that they weren’t in a favourable position, they were actually able to pull off an unexpected first victory for Shrek Academy.

“We’ve won.” Xu Sanshi’s body trembled slightly, and the dark green light on his body faded away. At this moment, Jiang Nannan finally discovered that his face was as pale as a sheet of paper, and his body was tottering. Blood was even seeping from his mouth and nose.

Although he had released the Strength of the Xuanwu, how could Yu Mengdi's Angelic Godsealing Slash that was comparable to an attack released by a Soul Emperor be so easily blocked? After forcefully blocking that attack, Xu Sanshi had suffered heavy injuries. His body was swaying from side to side, and he was about to collapse on the ground.

Jiang Nannan subconsciously took a few steps forward and supported him by the arm.

"You... how are you?" Jiang Nannan whispered.

Xu Sanshi looked her in the face. Although he had an ugly expression on his face, his eyes were still filled with happiness, "I'm feeling very good. I'll always be happy fighting with you. If anyone wants to hurt you, they'll have to step over my dead body. Nannan, do you know? If it weren't for you, I would never have been able to break through the seal on my martial soul and release its true power."

At this point, his chest started to undulate violently. After letting out another muffled groan and spitting out a mouthful of fresh blood, his body fell straight towards Jiang Nannan.

Startled, Jiang Nannan hurriedly helped him up. Xu Sanshi wasn't much taller than her, and so she could only put his arm over her shoulder and walk back to the waiting area.

Below the stage, Shrek Academy was already in great jubilation. They had won their first match. This meant that they had taken a sturdy step forward through an impossible pass. Only Bei Bei's mouth twitched for a moment as he whispered, "This cheap person really won't give up on a single chance!"

A certain someone who was placing his entire weight on a soft and fragrant-smelling person felt his nose itch. He felt his eyebrows move slightly, and he resisted a sneeze.

"The first round of the 2-2-3 match goes to Shrek Academy." When the referee announced the results of the competition, his voice contained a few traces of astonishment.

### Chapter 89.3: The Xuanwu's Awakening

Right! Disregarding him, even the many high-ranking soul masters, soul engineers, and teachers present had never seen someone's martial soul in battle before! Not mention such a large increase in that person's power following said evolution. Furthermore, Xu Sanshi had actually overcome the difference between ranks! It had be realized that, even though Yi Mengdi was only Rank 53, her Angelic martial soul was strong enough to allow her to fight against peak-rank Soul Kings! Yet, she'd still lost Xu Sanshi and Jiang Nannan. Even though the former appeared to have suffered heavy injuries though, if this had been a true battle to the death, the outcome was questionable. However, in the end, a Soul Ancestor had actually managed to beat a Soul King in battle! This hadn't been a team fight either, but a 2v2 fight.

Everyone at Justsky Academy, from Ye Wuqing to the ordinary students, had gloomy expressions. They'd originally been filled with hope that they'd be able to beat Shrek Academy, but this loss had been akin to a bucket of ice water.

Within Shrek Academy's waiting area. **noε-lB(1n**

"Good. Now then, don't get too excited everyone. We've still got more predicaments to overcome." Bei Bei clapped, drawing the everyone's attention to him.

“Even though we’ve won the first match, Sanshi definitely won’t be able to make it to our next match. As he’s injured his vitality, I’m not sure how long he’ll take to recover. Previously, he told that if anything caused him to forcefully break his seal, he’d temporarily become stronger, but that he’d heavily injure his body and drain his potential in doing so. Nannan, is it possible for you take him back to recover? This place isn’t suitable.”

If this was any other time, Jiang Nannan definitely would’ve outright rejected Bei Bei without hesitation. However, when she thought of the last few words Xu Sanshi had uttered to her, she unexpectedly nodded, put his arm over her shoulder, and left.

What she didn’t see, however, was the ‘unconscious’ Xu Sanshi give Bei Bei a slight thumbs up that only he was able to notice.

The corner of Bei Bei’s mouth rose slightly, and he laughed while inwardly thinking, You’ve earned this with your own hard work.

“Will the participants of the second round please take the stage.” The referee’s words drew the attention of Shrek’s team back to the competition, while the audience immediately tensed up again. That’s right, there were still two matches left! Furthermore, their opponents still had two Soul Kings on their team, one of whom was their most powerful member and team leader.

Everyone, including Wang Yan, turned to look at Bei Bei. Shrek’s first lineup had already proven Bei Bei’s worth in their eyes.

Bei Bei already seemed to have a plan in mind as he whispered, “Since we won the first match, we’ve gained the initiative. What we’re hoping for the most is that they’ll impulsively send out both of their Soul Kings, or that they at least send their team leader out. Caitou, Xiao Xiao, you two are up first. You don’t need to feel any pressure; just do your best to keep yourselves safe. I had originally planned for Wang Dong and Xiao Xiao to go out, but since Wang Dong and Huo Yuhao have a fusion skill, it will be key in the round that we’ll win.”

He Caitou’s eyes met Xiao Xiao’s, and they both immediately understood what Bei Bei’s intentions were; he was clearly saying that he already planned to give up on their second round. The only reason they were being sent out was in order to waste their opponent’s Soul Kings. Bei Bei’s plan was undoubtedly spot on; the more people Shrek sent out alongside Huo Yuhao and his Spiritual Detection, the greater their chances of winning would become.

Despite this, the fighting intent in He Caitou and Xiao Xiao’s hearts was no less than that of their companions! The instant that their gazes met, they were both able to see the intense unwillingness in each other’s eyes.

Bei Bei grabbed He Caitou’s shoulder, then placed his hand on Xiao Xiao’s. He solemnly said, “I know that you two feel unresigned, but there always have to be a few people who do certain things for the sake of victory. You guys have to remember that this isn’t the last round of this tournament; Sanshi can’t join us for the next match anymore, so you guys had best come back healthy no matter what; we still need you for the matches after this. Understood?”

He Caitou’s expression was somewhat grave as he looked Bei Bei in the eye, but he still nodded.

Xiao Xiao's response was somewhat half-hearted, but she managed to resist the urge to refute him.

"Good luck you two. Shrek's glory belongs to all of us together."

He Caitou and Xiao Xiao proceeded to walk onto the stage together. The instant that they'd left, Bei Bei turned around to face Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong, then solemnly said, "The final victors of today's match will be decided in the third round. I only have one thing to say: Use every last bit of strength you have. No matter who wins, in the end, we'll have at least displayed our strength."

"Sanshi's victory in the first round was extremely dangerous. If Nannan didn't have a teleportation skill, that Soul King with the angelic martial would've instantly been able to turn the tables once she woke up. As such, we don't have any more chances. Our opponents will definitely be more careful from here on out. There's no way for us to win by a fluke now that they're fighting with all of their strength. Alright, you two need to rest up—prepare yourself for our next match."

Huo Yuhao was now inwardly afraid; the excitement he'd previously felt had been replaced by a heavy sense of pressure.

Pressure would have entirely different effects depending on the person: A weak-natured person could even collapse beneath heavy pressure and become even weaker. However, a person who was full of fighting spirit could be willing to give his all for his glory and ideals. The greater the pressure, the greater the rebound. At the same time, the driving force behind the pressure would become even more abundant.

The current Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong were just like this: Wang Dong tightly clenched his fists, a fierce flame of resolve rose in his eyes. As for Huo Yuhao, he squinted his eyes as a bright light flickered through the bottom of his eyelids. He then reached over, grabbed Wang Dong's fist, and leaned over to whisper something to him.

A light smile appeared on Bei Bei's face when he saw this. The reason that he'd allowed them to shoulder an even greater amount of pressure was because he was so familiar with his junior brothers. They were the kind of people that would squeeze out even more of their potential under great pressure.

Wang Yan watched from the sidelines as this happened. He was filled with gratification as he watched Bei Bei's calm leadership, and suddenly felt that losing today wouldn't necessarily be a bad thing. At the very least, the psychological trauma he'd been worried about wouldn't appear with a team leader like Bei Bei.

Even though the awakened Xu Sanshi was stronger than Bei Bei in terms of overall strength, but there was a large gap between him and Bei Bei in terms of their ability to look at the big picture and take command. It seems that Bei Bei is even more than I am to lead everyone here. I'll just let them do as they wish. Maybe these kids really can create a miracle for Shrek.

Bei Bei gradually furrowed his brows as he stared at the tournament stage. His face grew increasingly grave, for he'd just discovered that their opponents would be tougher than he'd imagined; the leader of Justsky Academy hadn't appeared during the second round.

It had to be known that Justsky Academy would lose the match if they were to lose their second round. In a situation like this, Ye Wuqing had actually managed to remain patient, which definitely exceeded Bei



Bei's predictions. This meant that Shrek Academy would have an even harder time in the third round if they lost the second round.

He Caitou and Xiao Xiao slowly made their way up onto the stage. The straightforward Caitou immediately did the same thing that Xu Sanshi had done, and loudly said to the two members of Justsky Academy in front of him, "Shrek Academy, He Caitou."

Xiao Xiao immediately followed up, "Xiao Xiao."

The two students from Justsky Academy had peculiar expressions when they saw He Caitou—his dark skin was normally only seen in the Sun Moon Empire. However, a person like him had appeared on Shrek's team. Despite this, He Caitou's suppression of the Soul King-ranked Shen Ce with a soul tool fort was still fresh in everyone's minds.

"Justsky Academy, Tang Xiaolei."

"Justsky Academy, Xue Lang."

The two students immediately replied with their own names. Tang Xiaolei had a tall and straight figure, but he wasn't too muscular. However, his eyes were extraordinarily lively, and a purple light seemed to flicker through them. This was the first contestant that He Caitou had seen besides Huo Yuhao who possessed such a solid pair of eyes.

Xue Lang was slightly shorter than Tang Xiaolei, but he was much sturdier; the width of his shoulders and the thickness of his arms were comparable to He Caitou's. Of course, this was a comparison between the twenty year-old Tang Xiaolei and the fifteen year-old He Caitou.

Tang Xiaolei and Xue Lang were only slightly flabbergasted when they looked at He Caitou, but they weren't simply astonished when their gazes landed on Xiao Xiao.

They'd both seen Xiao Xiao's previous matches while they were in the rest area. However, she hadn't done much during either of the two occasions that she'd appeared. Thus, nobody knew what her true abilities were.

Xiao Xiao wasn't even twelve yet; she was only a few days older than Huo Yuhao. Combined with her how small she was, she looked like a small child; a few people would've believed that she wasn't even ten yet. The juxtaposition between the two was simply too strong.

Even though Tang Xiaolei and Xu Leng were anxious to obtain victory in this match, they couldn't help but feel that something was off when they saw Xiao Xiao. Their eyes then simultaneously landed on He Caitou's body. As for the six soul rings that Xiao Xiao had previously revealed, the two only felt disdain in their hearts. If a small girl like her was truly a Soul Emperor, then they could just go directly commit suicide.

The two of them had forgotten a single thing, however: Despite Xiao Xiao's extremely baffling appearance, and no matter how old she looked, she was still a student from Shrek Academy—she was still somebody that Shrek had chosen to send to this tournament.

The referee felt somewhat unwilling when he saw Xiao Xiao, but the competition was still a competition. He motioned both parties to their respective sides of the arena, then raised his right hand and shouted, "Match, start!"

Both parties instantly released their martial souls, and Xiao Xiao's two yellow hundred year soul rings finally appeared on the tournament stage spectated by over ten thousand people.

Chapter 90.1: The Desperate Super Fusion Cannon

"Ah—!" The crowd immediately flew into an uproar when they saw Xiao Xiao's two yellow soul rings.

Not even the weakest team would send out a two-ringed student to participate in a tournament like this!

The Continental Advanced Academy Soul Duelling Tournament required that its participants be under the age of twenty. If a person couldn't breakthrough to the Soul Elder rank by the age of twenty, could he even be considered an outstanding student? This was a tournament for high-ranking soul master and soul engineering academies. A two-ringed soul master appearing on the tournament stage had never occurred for an extremely long period of time.

At this moment, however, they were personally witnessing this exact scene. Yet since this was such a rare occurrence that it didn't feel real.

For example, Tang Xiaolei and Xue Lang. The two of them were involuntarily stunned for a moment by Xiao Xiao's two rings, to the extent that their movements slowed by a bit. She had previously revealed six rings, but now she only had two of them. Just what was Shrek Academy doing?

They were stunned for a moment, but He Caitou wasn't. n-0vEℓℓ1n

The moment the referee announced the start of the match, he took a large step forward. Just as everyone was thinking that he was going to use a valiant strategy like the soul tool fort, He Caitou didn't. He entered a half-squatting position, and an enormous black two-meter cannon appeared on his right shoulder. Its appearance was very similar to that of a stationary soul cannon.

The referee was first stunned at seeing this, but he quickly wiped away all thoughts of interfering. This was because a white light—which was clearly a sign of soul power being gathered—began to flicker from this mouth of the cannon. From this, he could tell that this wasn't a stationary soul cannon, but an energy-gathering soul cannon.

However... did an energy-gathering soul cannon need to be this large?

The referee was filled with doubt, but Tang Xiaolei and Xue Lang didn't think the same. The instant He Caitou showed that enormous energy-gathering soul cannon, they suddenly felt a terrifying wave of pressure from him. It seemed as though this cannon would be able to threaten their very lives if it were to be activated.

Normally, a soul engineer who didn't walk the very edges of the path would equip himself with an energy-gathering soul cannon due to its formidable might. Although it drained a lot of soul power, it would serve as a trump card at crucial moments.

An energy-gathering soul cannon was also called a force-gathering soul cannon because it was a soul tool that condensed and compressed soul power before launching it in a powerful all-out attack. Its main fault lay in the process of gathering soul power, while its main benefit was its powerful attack power. It would normally appear on a soul engineer's chest, but it would absolutely not be as terrifyingly large as the one He Caitou had on him now.

Most other soul masters were at a loss towards tools like the energy-gathering soul cannons that He Caitou was currently using; only truly powerful soul engineers would understand what this thing was.

The resting area of the Sun Moon Imperial Soul Engineering Academy.

"That, that is? That can't be. A super energy-gathering soul cannon? Shrek Academy has actually developed a super energy-gathering soul cannon? But, he's a four-ringed Soul Ancestor. Can he even use a soul tool like this?" Ma Rulong was astonished.

Teacher Ma furrowed his brows tightly and muttered to himself, "It seems like we've always been underestimating Shrek Academy's Soul Tool Department. Their research capabilities aren't as weak as they seem on the surface."

Right, the thing equipped on He Caitou's shoulder was something that completely shouldn't have appeared within this competition. This soul tool was first developed in the Sun Moon Empire, and it was called the super energy-gathering soul cannon; it was also a soul engineer's singular most powerful weapon.

The simple use of this super energy-gathering soul cannon would drain almost all of a Soul King's soul power. That was the only way to release most of its might.

He Caitou naturally didn't have the strength of a Soul King, but the super energy-gathering soul cannon he wielded wasn't actually a complete one; the core formation within it had been modified slightly, though it seemed identical to the original on the surface. Once he became a Class 5 soul engineer and modified it again, he would be able to release the strength of a proper super energy-gathering soul cannon.

Although it wasn't a complete one, the soul power within He Caitou's body started to pour into the super energy-gathering soul cannon at an astonishing rate.

Right, he had a very simple plan—he wanted to finish everything with a single stroke. He was very clear that fighting a Soul King and a Soul Ancestor with his and Xiao Xiao's strengths would yield practically no chances for him at all. If he wanted to win, he had to stake everything. Because of that, he decided to take out this incomplete super energy-gathering soul cannon.

He Caitou did his utmost to inhale the Thin Cigar in his mouth as he squeezed out every single bit of his soul power and poured it into the cannon. The Thin Cigar actually turned into ash within three puffs due to his furious inhaling.

Xiao Xiao stood by his side, immediately replacing the Thin Cigar for him according to the plan that they had set up beforehand. Furthermore, she even helped light it for him.

The two ends of the tournament stage were separated by a distance of a hundred metres. This was an extremely short distance for soul masters; one could charge through that entire distance within three

breaths of time at most. However, He Caitou didn't dare to be careless at all. He knew from Wang Yan that one of their two opponents was a soul master who specialised in long-range attacks.

However, he had no other options. They could only stake it all, as doing so would at least give them a sliver of hope; not staking it all would guarantee their defeat. They were originally planning to use the strategy of Tian Ji in the horse race<sup>1</sup>, so although they knew that their opponents were specialised in long-range attacks, He Caitou had no other choice but to carry out his plan.

Tang Xiaolei and Xue Leng were astonished by Xiao Xiao's soul rings, resulting in them blundering away a bit of time. However, they quickly returned to their senses due to the might of the super energy-gathering soul cannon.

Xue Lang roared wildly, and he exerted strength in his legs to dash out like lightning. A violent transformation occurred to his body as he charged forward; silvery-grey fur started growing wildly on his body, and his muscles and bones grew at an astonishing speed. The biggest change occurred to his head; his mouth started protruding outwards, revealing a pair of sharp teeth. His legs became extraordinarily thick, and his arms turned into a pair of sharp claws. At the same time, his first soul ring was already flickering.

Xue Lang's martial soul was the Wolf, the Soulwolf. His martial soul in and of itself wasn't considered too powerful, but the reason why he was able to enter Justsky Academy's official team was due to a few relatively powerful soul skills he had gotten his hands on.

For example, there was his first soul skill that he was currently releasing: Wolf Transformation.

When a soul master who had a Beast Soul released their martial soul, their strength would be determined by how closely their transformation resembled that of their martial soul. This Wolf Transformation of his was a self-strengthening skill, and its effects were akin to a weakened version of Dai Yueheng's White Tiger's Vajra Transformation.

This skill gave Xue Lang an all-round increase in speed, power, and soul power, causing his combat strength to instantly increase.

Xue Lang was an agility-type soul master, but he was able to take on an assault-type soul master to a certain extent after using his Wolf Transformation.

In contrast to Xue Lang's rapid charge forward, Tang Xiaolei's bright eyes instantly turned bright purple, as though a purple flare was being released from his eyes. He raised his left hand, causing a large bow to appear within his palm. He was one of the three Soul Kings who had appeared in this match, and his two yellow and three purple soul rings flickered brightly.

Ye Wuqing clearly had a lot of trust in Tang Xiaolei, seeing that he dared to send him out instead of going himself in this second round.

Tang Xiaolei raised the longbow in his left hand and placed his right on the bowstring, a purple light flickering through his eyes as he did so. Immediately, the energies around his body began to surge at an astonishing rate. In an instant, the suppressive aura that he generated was actually not inferior to the super energy-gathering soul cannon that He Caitou had.

The longbow in Tang Xiaolei's hands was 1.8 meters long; its entire body was bright purple, and the luxurious patterns on it shone with a purple halo. It was called the Purpleflower Bow, and Tang Xiaolei had always thought that his martial soul was unique and unmatched. Other than the fact that it wasn't suited for group battles, it was incomparable among martial souls specialising in long-range attacks.

Although this was something that only he considered, this indirectly proved how powerful his long-range martial soul was.

Tang Xiaolei's wrist seemed to shake slightly as he drew the Purpleflower Bow with lightning speed. In an instant, a yellow beam of light shot out and practically instantly reached He Caitou. The beam didn't target He Caitou himself, but the super energy-gathering soul cannon on his shoulder.

The speed of this arrow was simply too quick. Combined with the fact that it gave off no signs beforehand, and the entire process could only be described with the phrase 'lightning quick'. What was more unusual, however, was the fact that the five soul rings that had originally surrounded Tang Xiaolei had decreased to a total of four after he fired this arrow. He didn't have any arrows, so what he fired was actually his own soul rings.

The hairs on Xue Lang's skin stood up involuntarily the moment this arrow of light brushed past him. Even if he knew that this was an attack launched by his partner, a trace of fear still flashed past his eyes. This was because he knew the might of the Purpleflower Bow.

If one were to ask who the person who had the strongest suppressive and instant-attack abilities within Justsky Academy was, the answer to this wouldn't be Ye Wuqing or Yu Mengdi, but the Purpleflower Bow-wielding long-range soul master who was also a self-proclaimed assault-type soul master, Tang Xiaolei.

Tang Xiaolei's martial soul had many flaws. Namely, his Purpleflower Bow required him to use his soul rings as arrows to be fired. Furthermore, his soul power would be fully drained the moment he fired all of his arrows. He had to meditate patiently to recover his soul power, and only when the condition of his soul power return to its peak would he be able to release his soul rings again.

In other words, he could only shoot a total of five arrows in a battle. After shooting those five arrows, he would be as good as dead.

A flaw like this would be fatal to any soul master, but he was still able to represent Justsky Academy to turn up for this tournament in front of more than ten thousand people. This was naturally because his advantages were able to make up for his disadvantages; mainly, his terrifying attack power.

A terrifying consumption of soul power that limited him to just a few attacks made it so that he possessed a terrifying amount of attack power. Furthermore, he didn't need to gather his energy like He Caitou's super energy-gathering soul cannon. Because of that, when comparing notes with each other, even Yu Mengdi and Ye Wuqing had to be careful of Tang Xiaolei when he still had soul rings on his body. The only way they could have a chance of winning was by making him waste all of his soul rings.

1. Sending weak contenders to fight the opponent's strong contenders, then strong against their weak.

Chapter 90.2: The Desperate Super Fusion Cannon

At this moment, the lightning-like bolt of yellow light was just about to arrive. However, He Caitou wasn't finished with his energy-charging yet. He simply couldn't move, nor could he dodge the attack that was coming towards him. On the other hand, Xue Lang had crossed over fifty metres in his wild charge; he would enter his attacking range within one more breath of time.

At this exact moment, the young, two-ringed girl stepped out, unbeknownst to Tang Xiaolei or Xue Lang.

A large, pitch-black cauldron appeared not far away from He Caitou's body without any prior warning. The instant that yellow arrow of light was about to hit He Caitou, the cauldron took the initiative to let out a rumble. Its enormous body obstructed the arrow at an angle, as though it had grown a pair of eyes.

A dazzling burst of sparks and an ear-piercing boom erupted from the large cauldron, an astonishing gorge having been cut into its surface. After that, the yellow arrow of light was deflected slightly, practically scraping past He Caitou's shoulder as it flew towards the protective barrier.

"Skree—" A shrill whistle rang out. More astonishingly, a small hole had actually appeared on the protective barrier formed by a hundred and eight soul masters, causing it to ring with a weird sound. Although it was instantly repaired, that yellow arrow had completely disappeared. However, the hole had clearly existed; the penetrative power of Tang Xiaolei's arrows could be seen from that.

"Eeh! What accurate judgement." Tang Xiaolei was slightly astonished as he looked at Xiao Xiao. He couldn't help but squint his eyes as he saw her flickering second soul ring, the purple glint in his eyes brightening up even more.

Right, this had been Xiao Xiao's own ability to judge. Huo Yuhao definitely couldn't spend a large amount of his spiritual power to help them out because of the third match he had to partake in, so this was all caused by Xiao Xiao herself. That was a wonderful feeling for her. Although her eyes couldn't keep up with the speed of Tang Xiaolei's arrow, she was able to instantaneously activate her Cauldron Sweep to forcefully change the direction of that arrow.

However, Tang Xiaolei had already drawn his Purpleflower Bow for the second time. His arrow was still yellow this time, but it gave off a completely different feeling.

Earlier, he had used the swift Speed Arrow. However, his current arrow was filled with a crazy force of oppression.

Xue Lang had crossed another ten or so metres at this moment, but his speed was still increasing,

"Wuuu—" A mournful tune suddenly rang out. It was evidently somewhat sharp and piercing, but Tang Xiaolei and Xue Lang felt their minds jolt when they heard it. At the same time, they slowed down for an instant.

One shouldn't underestimate the effects of this instantaneous decrease in their speed. This exact instant made Xue Lang, who was already ready to attack Xiao Xiao and He Caitou, jump into the air, while delaying Tang Xiaolei's arrow for another moment. Thus, it was able to win more time for He Caitou.

Just what was that? A soul tool? Tang Xiaolei and Xue Lang were drawn towards the long flute in Xiao Xiao's hands.

No, that clearly wasn't a soul tool. The two soul rings surrounding Xiao Xiao had changed into a single one.

In that instant, every single person from the audience and the other representative teams finally understood why Shrek Academy would send out a weak, young girl to the Continental Advanced Academy Soul Duelling Tournament. This was because this young girl was actually a twin-souled soul master who had infinite potential! Could any of the academies present here even bring out a twin-souled soul master?

So what if she only had two soul rings? The fact that she had twin martial souls signified that she had a boundless future. For a brief period of time, nobody dared to underestimate Xiao Xiao anymore; their gazes on her even became fervent. This was especially so for the teachers in charge of the various teams. They all had a single thought: 'How good would it be if she was in our academy!' n.)σ-(v)-e(/I-(B/.1)n

After Xue Lang was slowed down for a moment, he didn't immediately speed up to close the final twenty metres that were separating the two parties. Instead, he angled his body downwards as though he was swallowing a man whole.

This was coordination, the coordination between him and Tang Xiaolei. This was because Tang Xiaolei's second arrow had finally arrived at this moment.

The sharp whistle coming from this arrow was much more intense than the previous one. Furthermore, it wasn't just a beam of light like the previous one, but a ball of light that was as large as a watermelon.

If anyone present was able to clearly see the yellow arrow in flight, that person would immediately see that it was a crystal-yellow arrow which was rapidly rotating in mid-air.

This was Tang Xiaolei's second soul skill, Destruction Arrow; a spiralling arrow.

Its penetrative power wasn't as high as the previous arrow, but its destructive power far surpassed it. This was especially so due to the extremely astonishing explosive force that came along with it.

Nobody would ever have thought that Xiao Xiao would actually abandon He Caitou and rush out. No, she couldn't be considered to be abandoning him. Instead, she used her body to block He Caitou and rushed towards Xue Lang.

The black cauldron that had previously appeared was now gone. Three rays of black light shone from Xiao Xiao's body as she charged forward, forming a horn formation.

Although she was a twin-souled soul master who possessed infinite potential, she was currently still a two-ringed Soul Grandmaster! She was still extremely weak in front of Tang Xiaolei and Xue Lang. However, she still decided to charge forward without turning back.

He Caitou's eyes instantly turned red. Before Xiao Xiao had rushed out, she softly whispered to him, "Senior brother He, I can only do this much. I'll depend on you for everything else."

He Caitou was the physically largest person among Shrek's Seven Monsters, while Xiao Xiao was the smallest. One could imagine how he was feeling, seeing that a little girl was standing in front of him to face a Soul King and a Soul Ancestor. At that exact instant, the image of the little girl he had never paid

special attention to was now branded in the softest parts of his heart. He would never forget her resolute eyes when she looked at him, and her small, tender cute face.

Xiao Xiao!

He Caitou clenched his teeth, using all of his strength to release his soul power. His blood vessels suffered an intense blow due to the overly quick release of his soul power into the super energy-gathering soul cannon, and tiny beads of blood started to seep from the surface of his skin. His veins were completely revealed on his forehead, and it seemed as though his body could explode from his own soul power at any time.

Xiao Xiao's small face looked somewhat chilly, but her eyes were filled with a raging will to fight. Even if she clearly knew that any of the two opponents in front of her could easily defeat her, or even pulverise her if they wished to, she still decided to charge forward without turning back.

Shrek's glory didn't just belong to their seniors; it similarly belonged to her, to Huo Yuhao, and to Wang Dong. It belonged to the weakest trio as well.

Huo Yuhao had contributed enough as the team leader during the previous matches, and even Wang Dong had contributed by releasing the Golden Road alongside him. The only person who hadn't done anything was her; she had never contributed anything to the team before. She was only a background figure in the eyes of the others—that was what Xiao Xiao felt in her heart.

This was especially so when Bei Bei sent her out along with He Caitou. This feeling in Xiao Xiao's heart intensified even further; she was being used to lure her opponent's most powerful forces away and waste them. Xiao Xiao had always been filled with arrogance as a twin-souled soul master, and so she had already decided to do whatever she could in this match, regardless of whether she would lose or not.

Thus, she rushed out at this crucial moment. The feeling of prediction in her heart had become increasingly powerful, and she discovered that she could even sense the time needed for He Caitou to finish charging up his super energy-gathering soul cannon. Furthermore, she knew that she had to fight for more time for him to finish charging it.

The downward-slanting Xue Lang felt palpitations in his heart as he saw Xiao Xiao rush towards him.

The young girl in front of him was clearly much weaker than him, but her charming face seemed to be radiating with light. By charging recklessly like that, did she not want her life? Was Tang Xiaolei's arrow so easily blocked? Was she mad?

At this exact moment, Xue Lang was actually considerate towards Xiao Xiao. The young lady in front of him was not only pretty, but her staunch attitude and bravery had already infected him to the point where he had no plans of taking the initiative to attack.

"Xiao Xiao!" Below the stage, Huo Yuhao, Wang Dong, Bei Bei, and Teacher Wang couldn't help but cry out. This was originally a match that they had planned to throw! However, Xiao Xiao had no plans on giving up.

As the Destruction Arrow neared, even Tang Xiaolei himself was infected by Xiao Xiao's fearlessness in the face of death. However, he couldn't retrieve an arrow that he had fired. Moreover, this was an issue



that was related to Justsky Academy's glory. Thus, he had to clench his teeth and release his attack no matter what. But, his eyes subconsciously drifted towards the referee.

Right, the referee. The referee had already charged over, and he wasn't even thirty metres away from the area where both parties would collide. However, even a seven-ringed Soul Sage couldn't instantaneously teleport thirty metres!

At this exact instant, Xiao Xiao's eyes lit up. An intense white light suddenly rose from her body, and her two yellow soul rings blossomed with beautiful light, as though they were burning. The three cauldrons in front of her merged together, then flew straight towards Xue Lang.

This was Xiao Xiao's most powerful attack: National Treasure, Cauldron's Quaking Tremble.

Xue Lang's movements were sluggish, to the extent that he was somewhat late when releasing his skill.

An enormous might that completely surpassed his imaginations suddenly blossomed outwards as the Threelives Soulcrush Cauldron's Cauldron's quaking tremble was completely focused on him; he was temporarily paralyzed.

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Furthermore, the Threelives Soulcrush Cauldron flew right into the path of the Destruction Arrow. Xiao Xiao was not only temporarily blocking Xue Lang with the greatest amount of power she could muster, but she was also stopping Tang Xiaolei's fatal blow.

"Boom—"

A violent boom rang out, shaking the entire tournament stage.

Since Tang Xiaolei's first arrow was able to puncture a small hole into the protective barrier, how could his second arrow—which focused on destruction—be any weaker?

A terrifying explosive force practically instantly shattered Xiao Xiao's Threelives Soulcrush Cauldron. After using Cauldron's Quaking Tremble, the Cauldron simply had no energy left to block the destructive power of the Destruction Arrow. However, it acted as a detonator that caused the Destruction Arrow to explode prematurely.

The remnants of the explosion directly spread towards Xue Lang, who was in a temporarily paused state.

The instant that terrifying explosive force descended upon Xue Lang, he unusually didn't feel any anger at all. While using all of his soul power to defend himself, he only felt admiration towards the courageous girl in front of him.

Right, she had already done her best. A young girl, whose cultivation hadn't even reached that of a three-ringed Soul Elder, had forcefully blocked a Soul Ancestor and hurt him using the strength of his own companion by relying on her own strength. Moreover, she had simultaneously blocked the attack of a Soul King. Who could ask her for more?

A martial soul was the foundation of every single soul master. Xiao Xiao's entire body seemed to be struck by an enormous hammer in the instant the Threelives Soulcrush Cauldron shattered. She wildly

spat out a mouthful of fresh blood, and her advancing body fell straight to the ground with blood seeping from her seven apertures. She had fallen completely into a deep coma.

“Ah—” He Caitou’s eyes went red as he let out a mad roar. In an instant, a cloud of bloody mist erupted from his body. The charging process, which had originally needed five to ten more seconds to complete, was actually completed instantly.

The super energy-charging soul cannon instantly turned into a white blaze, and an indescribable, yet terrifying feeling pervaded the entire tournament stage.

The hundred and eight soul masters in charge of maintaining the protective barrier subconsciously poured their soul power into the golden pillars in front of them, turning the protective barrier dark yellow.

After the Threelives Soulcrush Cauldron shattered, Xiao Xiao fell straight to the ground with no signs of waking up. Tang Xiaolei’s soul was stirred by the scene, but he was still a Soul King-ranked expert, and this match was just that important to Justsky Academy. He adjusted his mental state in an instant, then raised the Purpleflower Bow in his hands.

Time no longer permitted him to hold back anymore. The danger he felt from He Caitou’s super energy-gathering soul cannon was simply too great.

Three beams of purple light were pulled back into a single line, a gradual change occurring to them. The first arrow was the lightest shade of purple, while the last was the deepest. When the last arrow left his bow, the Purpleflower Bow in Tang Xiaolei’s hands turned it into a purple flare that rose into the air. Immediately, a purple blaze started to rise from the three arrows, twisting the air in front of them. By the time the three arrows crossed half of the tournament stage, He Caitou unleashed his super energy-gathering soul cannon.

At this moment, every member of the audience—including the various representative teams and the party surrounding the Star Luo Emperor—held their breaths. They had completely forgotten that the match they were spectating had Shrek Academy participating in it. Every single person present had been infected by the desperation felt by Xiao Xiao as she resolutely used her strength as a two-ringed Soul Grandmaster to stop two opponents who vastly outclassed her.

Everyone felt as though they were being choked; that feeling was completely indescribable. In their eyes, the young girl who fell down spitting blood was just that steadfast and brave, yet so stubborn and cute. Even if she had already fallen while spitting blood, she was still an unconcealable being of light who drew the attention of everyone present.

A vast ray of white light appeared on the tournament stage. This wasn’t a pillar of light, but a ball of light. The instant it was released, He Caitou was marked with a cross-shaped symbol. No matter how he moved, this symbol would follow him.

When the white ball of light left the super energy-gathering soul cannon, the entire tournament stage mysteriously started to distort. From the perspective of the audiences, the situation on the tournament stage seemed to have instantaneously turned blurry, making them unable to discern anything. However, Xue Lang, Tang Xiaolei, and the seven-ringed Soul Sage who was the referee felt space shattering

instantly. Moreover, they felt their bodies shattering along with the space, making them nearly vomit blood.

Tang Xiaolei's gaze changed in the next moment, and he was instantly terrified. He was originally absolutely confident in his own attack, but he now discovered that the target he had placed on He Caitou had vanished following the distortion of space. In other words, the three strongest arrows he had released had lost their mark.

Right, the three rays of purple light had suddenly split into three as they flew through the distorted space. As a result, they simultaneously split up and flew towards three directions, akin to that of a triangle. Moreover, He Caitou was right in the middle of that triangle.

After that, Tang Xiaolei saw the white blaze grow bigger and bigger as it approached him. The ball of light was only a foot or so wide, but he felt as though he couldn't breathe.

His soul power was completely drained after releasing the five arrows, making it so that he had no strength to resist at all. He was originally hoping for his three arrows to interrupt He Caitou's attack before defeating him, but who would've guessed that the latter's super energy-gathering soul cannon was able to twist the space around him?

At this moment, the astonished referee finally played his assigned role.

Following a roar, one white, two yellow, three purple, and one black soul ring appeared. The seven-ringed referee then sped up explosively, his seventh soul ring flickering.

Amidst a low roar, a mountain-like figure flew straight out and stood in front of Tang Xiaolei.

This figure was actually an enormous elephant that was shrouded by a thick layer of armor. Soul rings seemed to faintly light up around the body of the enormous elephant as it formed a earthen-yellow screen of light that fiercely collided with the super energy-gathering soul cannon.

"Kaboom—"

A person who had never seen the might of a super energy-gathering soul cannon would definitely not be able to imagine how terrifying it was.

In the first place, a weapon like this should not have appeared on the tournament stage. This was because a super energy-gathering soul cannon simply took too long to charge up, while a tournament held among soul masters had an extremely quick tempo. He Caitou had spared no costs, injured his own body and urged all of his soul power to reduce the charging time of the weapon by a half, but it still took so long to charge up. If this were an ordinary fight, he would've lost god-knows how many times already.

Although it had a long charging time, its might was similarly terrifying. It was equivalent to taking the soul power of a soul master within a certain area and unceasingly compressing and condensing it using an enormous and complicated formation array before focusing it in one point and releasing it using the mouth of the cannon.

The army was provided with a few super energy-gathering soul cannons, but it wasn't given too many. This was due to its limited attack range, which was only around five hundred metres or so at maximum. Thus, a very powerful godly archer could definitely affect its charging. Furthermore, each usage of it

would ignite a miniature sun within the army which was using it; it would be strange if their opponent didn't prioritise taking it down first.

"I've done it. Xiao Xiao, did you see it? I've done it." The loud sounds of an explosion didn't just ring out in front of them; three terrifying explosions similarly rang out behind He Caitou. Only, the sounds of these three explosions were masked by the explosion in front.

He Caitou felt a large force strike his back amidst the violent booms, throwing him forward. He then smashed violently into the tournament stage, and the place he landed was just beside Xiao Xiao.

The current tournament stage was now a patch of beauty if looked at from afar. The dark yellow protective barrier surrounding the tournament stage was now gold, and the hundred and eight soul masters maintaining it now had grave expressions on their faces.

Differently colored lights started exploding on either end of the tournament stage. One of the ends of the stage shone with an intense white blaze, while the other shone with purple.

The tournament stage had suffered a massive amount of destruction due to the release of these two terrifying forces. The ear-deafening noises coming from the stage could even be heard in places very far away from Star Luo Plaza.

However, the current situation was a quiet world to a certain someone. This certain someone was precisely He Caitou.

He Caitou felt as though his entire body had been emptied out as he lay on the ground. The strong taste of a cigar continued to unceasingly slice his throat like tiny knives.

He was already somewhat desensitised to the violent bouts of pain overcoming him. Now, he was trying to look towards Xiao Xiao's direction from his fallen state.

The incomparably quiet Xiao Xiao definitely couldn't hear any of the violent explosions that were coming from the outside world at this moment. Her face was very pale, and her thin lips were still tightly pursed together. As she furrowed her brows, faint traces of blood could be seen flowing from her seven apertures. Not only did she look miserable, but she also gave off an indescribable sense of heartache.

The current Xiao Xiao was just that cute in He Caitou's eyes. The conversation that only the two had heard on the stage earlier was now resounding in his mind.

"Brother He, do you have any especially strong soul tools that aren't restricted?"

"I have one, but it needs a very long time to charge up."

"Then, how about we stake it all? I can help you stall for some time. I can't guarantee that I'll be able to give you enough time, but I'll do my best. We're also students of Shrek Academy, so for the sake of Shrek's glory, we can't just easily forfeit. Our youth isn't an excuse."

"Xiao Xiao. But..."

"Don't 'but' me, brother He. If we don't use all of our strength to stake it all, we'll definitely regret it for our entire lives. If a girl like me isn't scared, don't tell me that you are."

“I’m naturally not scared, but I’m worried for you.”

“There’s no need to worry about me. I’m a member of Shrek’s representative team, not just a little girl. Let’s just do it this way!”

Right. It was this exact conversation that had sealed their strategy on the tournament stage, and also the path that the match would follow. At this moment, He Caitou didn’t even know whether he was feeling any regret in his heart.

Struggling, he did his best to crawl over to Xiao Xiao. He bent his body, then used his wide back as a support to carry Xiao Xiao’s body while enduring the falling gravel that came from the blown up tournament stage.

“Little girl, I will never let you protect me in the future again. I should be the one who’s protecting you!” He Caitou felt his mind go dizzy. He continuously endured the pain of the falling gravel landing on his back, but even in the instant he fainted, he continued to use his elbows and knees to support his own body to protect the brave little girl under his back from the falling rocks.