

Tang Sect 46

Chapter 46.1: The Spirit Eyes' Second Soul Skill

Huo Yuhao nodded. A pale golden light flickered through his eyes as he released his Spirit Eyes. When he did, a white and purple soul ring rose up from his feet.

Astonishment once again appeared on Fan Yu, Zhou Yi, and Wang Dong's faces,

A thousand year soul ring, another thousand year soul ring. The second soul ring of Huo Yuhao's Spirit Eyes was actually another thousand year soul ring. Just what had he done during the past month!? Under a situation in which he didn't even have a single attacking soul skill, he'd actually obtained a thousand year soul ring. This was simply too inconceivable.

"A thousand year soul ring? You, how did your body endure it?" A puzzled look filled Zhou Yi's face, "If it was already somewhat fishy that you were able to obtain a soul ring for your second martial soul, just how in the world did you get that thousand year soul ring for your Spirit Eyes? Don't tell me that you also got it after sleeping for a while. If that's the case, I'll go run to the North and sleep there every day."

Somewhat embarrassed, Huo Yuhao said, "I didn't get it just by sleeping. I killed a soul beast, then discovered that it had a spiritual attribute to it. After that, I absorbed its soul ring. I didn't even know that it was a thousand year soul ring. As for why I could endure it, it seems to be because I've obtained a soul bone..."

The trio's facial muscles twitched simultaneously.

Two thousand year soul rings and a soul bone? Did Huo Yuhao fall into a treasury?

Fan Yu said, "Carefully explain everything to us. Just what in the world happened?"

Huo Yuhao nodded obediently. "I really got that soul bone after waking up. It seems to be related to the Ice Jade Scorpion; it's a torso bone. I discovered that after I pour soul power into my backbone, I can emit an extremely intense chilliness. However, this can only be maintained for a very short time before my soul power's fully drained. After killing that soul beast, I directly started to absorb it. This was because I didn't know it was a thousand year one. By the time I noticed that the soul ring coming from its body was a purple one, it was too late. In the end, I finished absorbing it without feeling much pain. Could it be because the soul bone strengthened my physique?"

Zhou Yi nodded. "It's possible. Tell us the important part of this story; tell us how you killed that thousand year soul beast. Even three-ringed students might not be able to easily kill a thousand year soul beast, but you were only a one-ringed Soul Master at that time."

Huo Yuhao said, "The soul beast I encountered was very strange. When I first bumped into it, it was a fierce, snow-white tiger. It seemed extraordinarily strong, and I knew that it wasn't something to be trifled with at first glance. I didn't even have any thoughts of fighting with it! Thus, I turned around and ran away. After I ran a long distance away, I turned around. I discovered that it hadn't chased after me; it was only looking at me. At that time, I felt that it was very strange, as tiger-type soul beasts are extremely aggressive. This point was especially emphasized during our classes. However, why didn't it take the initiative to attack me? Because of that, I mustered some courage to quietly return and observe it. In the end, I discovered that the tiger was still looking at me, but it didn't have any intentions of

making a move. Then, I tried using a long-range soul tool to attack it. But, who would've predicted that the tiger's body would suddenly turn illusory, causing my attack to miss? Right after that, it charged towards me."

"At that time, I felt that I was definitely screwed. I didn't even have enough time to regret my actions, and I ran away again. However, that tiger was much faster than me. Within a few moments, it caught up to me and pounced towards me viciously. Panicked, I released that Scorpion martial soul and blocked it with my hand. My body sank, and I fell down. Because I thought that I was finished, I subconsciously grabbed the throat of that tiger. That white tiger also attacked me, and it even released a spiritual attack. However, I had my Spirit Eyes! Though I felt waves of dizziness from its spiritual attack, I didn't suffer any real injuries. By the time I woke up from its spiritual attack, I discovered that the soul beast I'd grabbed was actually not the white tiger; instead, it'd turned into an enormous worm. It was a full meter long, and its entire body was snow-white and translucent. Oh, right. It was just like an especially large silkworm. After using that Scorpion martial soul, I felt that I'd become extraordinarily strong. That large silkworm seemed to have been crushed to death by me. I didn't think much of it then. After all, spiritual-type soul beasts aren't easy to find in the first place. Since I was able to bump into one, I hurriedly absorbed it. Then, I obtained this thousand year soul ring."

Wang Dong asked, suspicious, "What you're saying is too farfetched. Why was it a tiger, then a large silkworm all of a sudden?"

Huo Yuhao gave a mysterious smile, "Originally, I thought the same as you. However, I understood everything after trying out the new soul skill I obtained. Teachers, please take a look at this."

With that, the hint of golden light in Huo Yuhao's eyes suddenly intensified. Instantly, the purple soul ring around him blossomed with a dazzling light. He quickly took a step backwards, arriving next to Wang Dong. Right after that, Fan Yu and Zhou Yi astonishedly discovered that there were unexpectedly two Wang Dong's in front of them; there was no longer a Huo Yuhao.

Turning towards the 'Wang Dong' beside him, Wang Dong was immediately gobsmacked, "This, what is this skill?"

A distorted halo of light flickered slightly on 'Wang Dong's body, and he turned back into Huo Yuhao. Right after that, Huo Yuhao revealed another astonishing scene. The rhythmically undulating soul rings around his body transformed yet again.

The originally white and purple soul rings instantly transformed into two blood-red soul rings which were filled with a terrifying aura. The pressure that suddenly appeared caused even Fan Yu and Zhou Yi to subconsciously release their own soul rings while quickly retreating backwards.

"Hundred, hundred thousand year soul rings?" Wang Dong blurted out involuntarily. His reaction wasn't as violent as those of the two teachers. The martial soul fusion that he had with Huo Yuhao caused him to be unable to sense any danger from the two hundred thousand year soul rings.

The lights changed yet again, and the two terrifying blood-red soul rings transformed again. This time around, they turned into a weak white color that represented the white of a ten year soul ring.

The gap between a hundred thousand year soul ring and a ten year soul ring was quite large.

Huo Yuhao smiled mischievously. “This is my all-new spiritual-type skill; my thousand year soul skill: Imitation. By using my spiritual undulations, it can bend space and allow me to imitate various shapes. However, the range of my Imitation can’t exceed a diameter of three meters. Imitation gives me another special ability—that is, the ability to change the color of my soul ring as I wish. Though it doesn’t possess any attacking abilities, it should be quite useful if I use it well.”

Right, this was the second soul skill of Huo Yuhao’s Spirit Eyes. The story he’d just told wasn’t a full lie; the way he’d obtained this second soul ring wasn’t much different from how he’d narrated it. Only, the Iceworm he’d killed had been found by the Skydream Iceworm. Moreover, it was the Skydream Iceworm who’d exposed the other Iceworm’s illusory imitation.

The race the Skydream Iceworm was most familiar with was undoubtedly his own race! This Imitation skill seemed powerless, but it was the Iceworm’s best life-protecting measure. This skill was especially important to the current Huo Yuhao. With his Imitation, he could arbitrarily change the colors of his soul rings, allowing him to reveal the Ice Jade Empress Scorpion’s first soul skill without being scared of anything. This was also why the Ice Jade Empress Scorpion’s soul ring had been purple when it had appeared earlier.

“Nice, nice imitation.” In what was practically an instant, Fan Yu’s eyes lit up. As a powerful soul engineer, he immediately thought of a few effective uses of this skill within the domain of soul engineers. More importantly, he could conceal Huo Yuhao’s abilities to an even greater degree with this skill!

At this moment, Huo Yuhao was astonished as well. This was because of the number of soul rings surrounding Teacher Fan Yu.

There were two yellow rings, two purple rings, and four black rings, totalling eight soul rings. The merely forty-or-so year-old teacher was unexpectedly a powerful Soul Douluo, an eight-ringed Soul Douluo! With his teacher’s age, it wasn’t an impossibility for him to charge towards the Titled Douluo realm.

Fan Yu spoke with a low voice. “Yuhao, Teacher needs you to give me an answer right now. Will you choose to remain in the Martial Soul Department, or will we announce that you are a core disciple of the Soul Tool Department?”

Without any hesitation at all, Huo Yuhao knelt down again. Respectfully, he said, “A teacher for one day, a father forever. Teacher, I am willing to continue studying soul tools with you.”

“Good, good.” Fan Yu was overjoyed. Stepping forward, he propped Huo Yuhao up. “Good child. Since that’s the case, your teacher has to issue you a command. Since you have this soul skill, you should use it. From now on, regardless of whether you are participating in the academy’s assessments or interacting with the other students, you have to use your Imitation to change the color of your soul rings to white.” With that, the hint of a naughty smile appeared in his eyes.

Zhou Yi said unhappily, “Are you teaching him how to eat a tiger by disguising himself as a pig?”

Fan Yu smiled slightly, “Is there anything bad about that? Those old fellas from your Martial Soul Department are each shrewder than the other. If they were to learn the truth, would they not try to steal him from us?”

Zhou Yi asked, doubtful, “Didn’t Dean Qian win his bet with Dean Yan? Would Dean Qian renege on his deal?”

Fan Yu laughed coldly. “Is there anything he won’t do? In front of an outstanding student, what do bets count for? Even if Dean Yan always has a solemn appearance, he can twist his words from black to white for the sake of the Martial Soul Department’s strength. You’ve always thought that Dean Qian was very crafty, right? But, Dean Qian is still a ways off from Dean Yan. Caution is always the path to safety. Wang Dong, you have to keep this a secret as well. Otherwise, you’ll be making enemies, even within our Soul Tool Department. Let’s do it this way; you two can go back to your dorms first, and let me take care of this matter. Yuhao, you’ll have to remain in the Martial Soul Department and learn some foundational knowledge until you graduate from Year 3, at the very least. Because of this, even if I announce the fact that you’re a core disciple of the Soul Tool Department, you can’t be arrogant. You have to continue learning in a steadfast manner in the Martial Soul Department.”

“Yes, Teacher.”

This ordeal could be considered to have been crossed. Huo Yuhao couldn’t help but inwardly let out a long sigh.

Chapter 46.2: The Spirit Eyes’ Second Soul Skill

Fan Yu rushed out the door, while Zhou Yi brought Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong back to their dorm room and told them to report to Year 2’s Class 1 tomorrow morning to take the advancement test. It didn’t matter how Fan Yu handled things; Huo Yuhao would still have to take the advancement test. If a student wasn’t able to pass their advancement test, not even the dean would be capable of allowing that student to remain; the rules weren’t so easily changed.

Once Zhou Yi left, Huo Yuhao let out a sigh of relief. He’d rushed the entire way to the academy, and was extremely tired. He didn’t even wipe his bed off before he laid down on it and stretched his body.

Wang Dong angrily said, “Huo Yuhao, get up.”

“What do you want!? You can’t be diligent enough to the point that you’ll drag me into cultivating with you as well, right? Just forget about it for today, I’m exhausted. Let me sleep.” After speaking, he rolled over, and almost instantly began to snore.

Wang Dong couldn’t help but be startled when he saw this. How could this guy just fall asleep like this?

Despite what he’d said, he’d still come back in the end, and had even become a twin-souled soul master in the process. However, a mist seemed to surround him; what sort of person was Huo Yuhao?

Originally, Huo Yuhao had just been an orphan to Wang Dong, but now it seemed that Huo Yuhao had changed. An air of mystery surrounded him. His story was extremely bizarre and high unbelievable, but the facts still stood: He now had twin martial souls and two thousand year spirit rings. With these facts before them, his bizarre story really didn’t seem to have any flaws at all. The only person who knew he was lying was Wang Dong; there was no way that his soul would show signs of shattering! Could it be that he hadn’t noticed it because he was hallucinating?

In the end, even though his mind was full of doubt, Wang Dong still decided not to wake Huo Yuhao. He sat down on his bed, still covered with a fur mat, and thought, Forget it, doesn’t everyone have a few

secrets? Am I not the same? Why should I be so inquisitive? At least the sincerity he shows towards me hasn't changed, and that's enough for me.

Once his thoughts reached this point, Wang Dong couldn't help but reveal signs of fatigue on his face. Even this villain is asleep. Why should I cultivate if he's sleeping? I'm going to sleep as well! He quickly lay down and pulled the quilt over him. However, he soon got up, took another quilt from his storage soul tool, and covered Huo Yuhao with it.

"When I get up tomorrow, I need to wash these sheets... Hmph, your bed's covered in dust. I'll give you the mat later." When he came back, he'd made sure to bring another set of bedding with him.

After doing this, Wang Dong climbed back into his bed and soon fell asleep. This was the first time that he'd managed to sleep soundly in the last few days.

Huo Yuhao woke up early the next morning. He looked towards Wang Dong, who was still asleep in his bed, and couldn't help but smile.

It sure felt good to be back!

The day had just started as he carefully opened his window without making a sound. Afterwards, he gazed into the distant eastern sky. *nDve)b(In*

When light gradually began to appear over the horizon, Huo Yuhao took a deep breath and immediately began to cultivate the Purple Qi from the East.

His Spirit Eyes finally had their second soul ring, thus both his martial soul and eyesight had increased in strength. The four soul skills his first soul ring gave him had also increased in power due to the Skydream Iceworm; every single one of them now had the power of a thousand year soul ring. Even though he was only a two-ringed Soul Grandmaster, in terms of both his ability and number of skills, he could match a three or even a four ringed soul master.

His Purple Demon Eyes had also been strengthened alongside his Spirit Eyes. Purple light would now appear when Huo Yuhao used his Spiritual Shock, akin to when he'd used it before, with the help of Wang Dong and their Haodong Power.

His trip to the north had gone just as the Skydream Iceworm had said it would; Huo Yuhao's overall power had increased, and he finally had a certain degree of fighting ability.

Purple light rippled in his eyes as he cultivated, which he did until the sky outside had become quite bright.

Huo Yuhao patted Wang Dong a few times through his quilt and said, "Hey, lazy pants, it's time to get up."

"Don't be noisy, let me sleep a bit more." Wang Dong covered his head with his quilt and refused to get up.

Huo Yuhao mischievously smiled, then reached into the quilt. He proceeded to touch Wang Dong's neck and activate his ice martial soul.

“Ah!” Wang Dong shouted and almost jumped out of his bed. A pair of slender legs were revealed as his quilt flew off of him.

“Bastard, you almost froze me to death! I’ll fight you to the death Huo Yuhao!” The coldness he’d felt on his neck had caused him to immediately wake up. When he saw Huo Yuhao standing over him with a mischievous smile, he immediately knew what had happened, and pounced on Huo Yuhao.

Huo Yuhao naturally wouldn’t just wait for him. He used his Ghost Shadow Perplexing Track to quickly run away. Since his body had been improved by the Ice Jade Empress Scorpion, it was now even stronger than Wang Dong’s, and in turn his speed was much faster than before. He retreated straight out the door of their room.

“I’m gonna wash up first, then we can eat breakfast together.”

“So cold...” Wang Dong touched his neck and shivered. He looked towards the door and couldn’t help but laugh. “Huo Yuhao, just you wait!”

However, Wang Dong never got his revenge, as before they even reached the cafeteria for breakfast, Tang Ya, Bei Bei, and Xiao Xiao all come looking for them.

When the five of them met, things naturally became very lively. Huo Yuhao recounted the events of last night again, but he didn’t mention how old his new soul rings were, as he was still waiting for news from his teacher Fan Yu.

“Since teacher Fan Yu has decided to help you stay, it seems we can relax. Little Yuhao... if you do this again little Yuhao, I’ll kick you out the door!” Even though Tang Ya’s words were fierce, the worry in her eyes showed her true feelings.

Huo Yuhao apologized, “Teacher Tang Ya, senior brother, I promise that I won’t do this again. If I have any issues, I’ll discuss them with you guys first from now on.”

Bei Bei looked at him with a meaningful look as he patted his shoulder, then said, “Junior brother, though this is a good thing... As brothers, I shouldn’t need to say any more. You should first focus on passing your advancement test.”

“Yes, senior brother.” Huo Yuhao respected Bei Bei even more than Tang Ya.

Bei Bei chuckled and said, “Let’s go eat breakfast together.” There were only two cafeterias in the outer courtyard, both divided by year: one for the the Martial Soul Department and one for the Soul Engineering Department. Since they were all currently in the same department, they all ate in the same cafeteria.

Being promoted from Year 1 to Year 2 meant that the building Huo Yuhao studied in would change as well. Originally, they’d been first years, and thus had studied in the white building meant for Year 1 students. Now they’d be studying in the yellow building meant for Year 2 and Year 3 students. Huo Yuhao hadn’t come to register yesterday, but both Wang Dong and Xiao Xiao knew where to go. Thus, the three of them arrived before the yellow school building, then walked directly towards the Year 2 Class 1 classroom.

As they walked, they met three people that they knew.

Dai Huabin seemed to have grown taller, while his original cold demeanor seemed to have become more gloomy. He didn't look like a twelve or thirteen year-old teenager at all anymore. Rather, he seemed far more mature than his fellow peers.

Next to Dai Huabin was Zhu Lu; her body had begun to mature as well. Girls developed earlier than boys, and she was now almost as tall as Dai Huabin. She possessed the Netherworld Civet beast soul, thus she made no sound when she walked.

The third person with them was naturally the young girl who owned the Ninetailed Fox soul, Cui Yajie. Compared to Dai Huabin—who was an Assault System Soul Master—and Zhu Lu—who was an Agility System Soul Master—she was different. Her abilities were a bit mixed, as her Charm was considered a control type ability, while her second skill, the Foxtail Needle, was considered to be between the assault and agility systems. When Dai Huabin and Zhu Lu had been sent to Class 2, she'd followed them. After all, they'd been a group during the freshmen assessment.

Huo Yuhao's group of three saw them, thus Dai Huabin's group naturally also saw them. The six of them stood facing one another.

When he saw Huo Yuhao's group, Dai Huabin's expression sank. The two groups could be considered to have a feud with each other. First, Huo Yuhao had beaten them during the freshman assessment. Afterwards, Dai Huabin and Zhu Lu had been expelled by Zhou Yi simply because Huo Yuhao ran for class representative.

Dai Huabin could endure losing their battle in the freshmen assessment; after all, it had been director Du Weilun's decision in the end. No matter what objections he had, he could only endure. At the same time, he also believed that, in terms of individual strength, he was still above both Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong.

However, to be expelled from Class 1 by Zhou Yi was a huge disgrace to him. Dai Huabin had never experienced this sort of humiliation in his life. As the son of the White Tiger Duke, not only had he received a strict education, he'd also developed a temperament like he was above others. If he hadn't, he wouldn't have ordered someone to beat Huo Yuhao up when he'd blocked the road at such a young age, and thus caused a tragedy for Huo Yuhao and his mother.

As the son of the White Tiger Duke, Dai Huabin naturally wouldn't be so shocked by this humiliation that he would stay down forever. In fact, it instead stimulated his morale. Not only had he become the class representative of Class 2 through his own efforts, he'd also spent a lot of effort cultivating during the past year. His diligence hadn't been any less than Huo Yuhao's, and his efforts, on top of the fact that he was already a gifted person, had allowed his cultivation to take great strides. His soul force was now Rank 36. He was definitely the strongest amongst the Year 2 students; there was no one who could match him.

It was just like the saying: 'When enemies meet, their eyes turn red'. Zhu Lu's eyes became cold, and she mockingly said, "Isn't this Huo Yuhao? Oh wait, I heard that you didn't register yesterday. Have you come to wrong place, or don't you know that the rules of the school state that students who don't register on time will directly be expelled."

Huo Yuhao smiled, his eyes still locked onto Dai Huabin, and replied, "What does this have to do with you?"

"Of course this has something to do with me," Zhu Lu said, "as a student of Shrek Academy, I naturally must defend the rules of the academy. This isn't a place you should be in, so get the hell out of here."

The relationship between the two groups had already become irreconcilable, and now that she had an excuse, she definitely wouldn't be polite.

Chapter 46.3: The Spirit Eyes' Second Soul Skill

Wang Dong replied disdainfully, "Who do you think you are? What makes you think that you can take the place of the academy in order to uphold its rules? If you two hadn't relied on your statuses as core disciples, you both would've screwed off already."

Wang Dong had pricked Dai Huabin's soft spot. An angry glint flashed through his eyes, and he snorted coldly. "You're courting death." He took a step forward and sent a palm strike straight towards Wang Dong.

At that moment, a ball of black light suddenly appeared between the two parties. It was Xiao Xiao's Threelives Soulcrush Cauldron.

Dai Huabin didn't stop his attack, and allowed his palm to slam into the Threelives Soulcrush Cauldron. At this moment, the gap in their cultivations fully manifested itself. With a muffled noise, the Threelives Soulcrush Cauldron flew uncontrollably towards Wang Dong.

At that moment, Xiao Xiao only had two choices: she could either withdraw her martial soul and expose Wang Dong to Dai Huabin, or she could allow her Threelives Soulcrush Cauldron to careen uncontrollably towards Wang Dong.

While Xiao Xiao was hesitating, a figure flew forwards and grabbed onto the Threelives Soulcrush Cauldron, stopped it, and placed it on the ground. This then separated the two parties.

The person who'd made a move wasn't Wang Dong, but Huo Yuhao.

Dai Huabin hadn't activated his martial soul, nor had Huo Yuhao. Even though Dai Huabin had only used a single hand, and though Huo Yuhao had used both of his hands, he was still able to stop the Threelives Soulcrush Cauldron in an extremely stable manner.

Dai Huabin was inwardly astonished. He'd fought Huo Yuhao previously, and his impression of Huo Yuhao from then was that, even though he was extremely crafty, and even though his martial soul was somewhat unpredictable, he definitely wasn't on par with him in terms of physical strength. Dai Huabin's physical strength was considerably astonishing; if it wasn't, he wouldn't have been able to swat Xiao Xiao's Threelives Soulcrush Cauldron away like he had. However, he'd been stopped by Huo Yuhao this easily. In other words, even though Huo Yuhao wasn't his equal in strength, he wasn't that far off. How could this be?

Xiao Xiao was similarly astonished. Though she'd heard the bizarre story of how Huo Yuhao's second martial soul had awakened, she still thought that Huo Yuhao was a control-type soul master. She'd never expected him to be this strong.

Huo Yuhao indifferently said, "Dai Huabin, if you wish to fight, we'll gladly welcome you in the Soul Duelling Arena at any time. However this is a school building. Don't you know the school rules?" Once he finished speaking, he motioned for Xiao Xiao to withdraw her Threelives Soulcrush Cauldron.

After a brief moment of rage, Dai Huabin regained his composure. He coldly replied, "There's no need to wait for us to go to the Soul Duelling Area Huo Yuhao. We're about to start the advancement test. Do you dare to make a bet with me?"

"What' bet?" Huo Yuhao asked.

Dai Huabin replied in a low voice, "We'll bet on the results you three get compared to the results that we three get in our advancement test."

Wang Dong asked in an arrogant tone, "Stakes?"

Dai Huabin replied, "If you lose, I want the prize that you won during the freshmen assessment."
nDve)lb(In

The moment he finished speaking, the expressions on all three of Huo Yuhao's trio changed. Other than the privilege to ask the academy to help them obtain a soul ring, the most important reward they'd obtained from the freshmen assessment was the left leg bone of the Emptybright Devil Leopard, which Xiao Xiao had already fused with.

Soul bones weren't like soul rings that could only follow a single soul master; when a soul master died, their soul rings would naturally dissipate. However, soul bones could be passed on. As long as the soul bone itself wasn't broken, it could still be re-absorbed by another person if its original owner had passed on, or if they'd had the limb possessing the soul bone broken.

Though Huo Yuhao and the rest didn't know whether or not Dai Huabin truly knew what the reward they'd obtained from the freshmen assessment was, this stake was equivalent to breaking off Xiao Xiao's leg!

When Zhu Lu saw the change in the trio's expression, she became very pleased and said, "What? Scared? If you're scared, just screw off with your tails between your legs."

"Bet, take the bet." Xiao Xiao said as she flew into a rage. Even though she normally had a decent temperament, how could she endure being coerced by their opponents like this?

However, Huo Yuhao shook his head. He looked towards Dai Huabin and said, "Change the stakes."

"I don't want to," Dai Huabin said coldly, "you can either bet or scram."

A fierce light flashed through Huo Yuhao's eyes. "If you lose, then what will you do?"

Dai Huabin replied, "If we lose, we'll naturally bring out something of equivalent value."

Huo Yuhao took a deep breath, then said in a low voice, "Fine. Then, I'll just confirm the stakes of this bet; The reward we got from the freshmen assessment was a soul bone, a left leg bone. Xiao Xiao's already fused with it. If we lose, then we'll follow your request and cut off Xiao Xiao's left leg and give you her soul bone. On the other hand, if you lose, I want one of your legs and a soul bone of the same

rank. This shouldn't be too excessive. As long as you can bring out a soul bone of equivalent value, we'll bet with you."

At this moment, the expressions of Dai Huabin's trio changed. They hadn't known what Huo Yuhao's trio had gotten as a prize from the freshmen assessment. It was no wonder that Huo Yuhao had asked him to change the stakes; this unexpectedly involved the severing of a limb. However, a fervent look appeared in Dai Huabin's eyes when he heard the words 'soul bone'.

"Fine, I..."

"Shut your mouth!" Just as Dai Huabin was about to reply, a shout suddenly rang out, interrupting him.

Wang Yan charged over angrily and shouted in a deep voice, "Just what are you lot doing?! You're all so young, yet you're actually using your bodies for a joke like this! Dai Huabin, why haven't you registered at Class 2 yet? Just what do you think you're doing by blocking this corridor? Are you trying to get disciplined?"

Huo Yuhao naturally wouldn't take any chances due to something as simple as a momentary impulse; this was Xiao Xiao's leg! He'd deliberately trapped Dai Huabin when he noticed Wang Yan approaching them. Furthermore, he'd purposefully spoken in a very loud voice so that Wang Yan would hear him.

"Teacher Wang, Dai Huabin is blocking our way, thus rendering us unable to enter the class and register. Furthermore, they've insisted on making a bet with us; they were also the ones who suggested this bet. We had no choice but to take on their challenge, please forgive us." Huo Yuhao respectfully said to Wang Yan, saluting as he did so.

Wang Yan snorted coldly. "I don't object to you using the results of your advancement test as a bet, as it can serve to make you work harder. However, I absolutely don't agree to the stakes of this bet. Even if you don't care about yourselves, have you even thought about your families? If you sever your leg, what sort of future would you even have left? I'll be the witness to this bet for you guys. The loser of this bet will have to bow down to the winner, apologize to them, and admit that they were wrong."

"Bowling won't do; that's too soft! You need to make them kowtow and admit that they were wrong!" Zhu Lu screeched.

Wang Yan was just about to reply, but Wang Dong quickly followed up, "Fine then. You were the one who suggested it. If we lose, we'll kowtow and admit that we were wrong. What about if you guys lose?"

After being suppressed by Wang Yan, Dai Huabin already felt somewhat dejected. Without any hesitation at all, he replied, "We'll kowtow and admit that we were wrong as well."

"It's settled then." Huo Yuhao raised his hand and slapped his palm against Dai Huabin's three times. Their bet was now considered to have been properly made. Even if Wang Yan wanted to change it, it was now too late.

Though kowtowing wouldn't mutilate anybody, there was no doubt that, regardless of who won, a large grudge had been formed between the two parties. Both parties had core disciples of the Martial Soul Department, but enmity like this was clearly detrimental towards the unity of the Martial Soul Department's freshmen. As such, Wang Yan couldn't help but furrow his brows slightly. However, the

situation had already reached this point. Both parties had already agreed on the bet, thus he could only let it go on like this.

Dai Huabin's trio opened up a path for them, and Huo Yuhao followed Wang Yan to Class 1 beside Wang Dong and Xiao Xiao.

The students of Class 1 couldn't help but feel greatly astonished when they saw Huo Yuhao return. Though Huo Yuhao wasn't considered too strong in the eyes of a large majority of students, his match with Wu Feng had left a long-lasting impression on everyone present. Furthermore, even though he was the class monitor, he'd actually missed the registration date yesterday. However, he'd still re-appeared today. Some of the students who were friendlier with Huo Yuhao couldn't help but feel worried for him, while some of the students who had enmity towards him felt schadenfreude.

Huo Yuhao sat down in the same seat he'd originally sat in during Year 1. However, just as he was sitting down, Zhou Sichen, who was sitting in the row behind him, asked curiously, "Boss Huo, why'd you come back? Reporting in late is very troublesome."

The person who'd been left in the most wretched state after Huo Yuhao's match with Wu Feng had been Zhou Sichen. He'd lost almost twenty thousand gold soul coins in one go after betting with Wang Dong and Xiao Xiao. Even he couldn't afford to take out that much money in one go!

After that day, Zhou Sichen and Cao Jinxuan had been considered friends with Huo Yuhao, Wang Dong, and Xiao Xiao. They'd also maintained a relatively decent relationship with Huo Yuhao's gang. When Dai Huabin, Zhu Lu, and Huang Chutian were expelled from Class 1, the most conspicuous students in Class 1 had naturally been Huo Yuhao's trio, in addition to Zhou Sichen, Cao Jinxuan, and the Lan sisters. Moreover, Lan Susu and Lan Luoluo were extremely friendly towards Huo Yuhao's trio. These powerful students were all amicable towards one another, thus, in addition to the cohesiveness of the original students of Class 1, it naturally resulted in the Year 1's Class 1 being extremely united. Only a small number of envious students had disassociated themselves from the rest. However, there was definitely a limit to the number of accomplishments envious people could achieve. It was still hard to say whether or not they could pass the advancement test.

Huo Yuhao whispered, "Let's just listen to our teacher's arrangements. There shouldn't be too big a problem if we do."

Zhou Sichen laughed mischievously. "That's fine. In the event that you're screwed, you'll just end up helping that brat surnamed Cao."

Right! Amongst the control-type soul masters, disregarding Huo Yuhao who'd personally been appointed by Zhou Yi, Cao Jinxuan was the strongest individual in terms of personal strength. Though the Lan sisters had a fusion skill, they were still two separate individuals. If Huo Yuhao hadn't been there, it was extremely likely that the class monitor in charge of the control system would've been Cao Jinxuan.

Cao Jinxuan was seated beside Zhou Sichen. When he heard what was said, he immediately became angry. "Zhou Sichen, return the money you owe me! When are you going to return the two hundred gold soul coins that you owe me? You actually dare to insult me, despite knowing that you owe me money? Pay me back right now, interest too!"

“Ah! I forgot.” Zhou Sichen’s expression immediately changed when he heard this. With a fawning look on his face, he turned towards Cao Jinxuan. “Brother Cao, come now. What sort of relationship do us brothers have!? I was just kidding! I was only praising you! If it weren’t for your strength, how could you succeed Boss Huo’s position?”

“You’re just trying to drive a wedge between us. Cut the crap and return my money!” Cao Jinxuan jumped up and grabbed Zhou Sichen by the neck.

When they saw the two buffoons horsing around, Huo Yuhao, Wang Dong, and Xiao Xiao couldn’t help but laugh. Even though they were fiercely arguing with each other, the two of them were actually very close friends with each other. They, along with Long Xiangyue who’d gone to Class 2, had all grown up together. They had a relationship that was essentially familial.

Chapter 47.1: The Badge of a Class 2 Soul Engineer

“Teacher Zhou’s coming!” Xiao Xiao shouted. When Cao Jinxuan and Zhou Sichen heard this, they immediately became frightened. They both shivered, then quickly returned to their seats and quickly sat down. However, it was unknown whether or not Xiao Xiao had really gained the ability to see the future, as before she had the chance to make fun of them, Zhou Yi actually walked into the room.

Zhou Sichen and Cao Jinxuan couldn’t help but turn towards Xiao Xiao and give her a thumbs up.

“This...” Xiao Xiao, who’d only intended to tease them, didn’t know whether to laugh or cry.

Zhou Yi walked in wearing the mask she always wore, showing the same expression. She swept the room with her cold gaze. Forget about the students, even teacher Wang Yan felt a chill on his back.

Wang Yan quickly walked up to Zhou Yi and whispered, “Teacher Zhou, Huo Yuhao came today.”

Zhou Yi glanced towards Huo Yuhao, then whispered, “Teacher Wang, what do you think we should do?” She naturally would not admit to the fact she already knew what was going on.

Wang Yan frowned and replied, “Quite a few people already know that Huo Yuhao wasn’t here yesterday. At the same time, Huo Yuhao’s group had a verbal clash with Dai Huabin’s group this morning. At this point, it’s impossible for us to cover this up. We’ll just have to shoulder the responsibility for it. The two of us will simply have to work together; no matter what, we can’t allow Yuhao to be expelled. Even though the academy’s rules are strict, Yuhao did enjoy the treatment of a core disciple before this. If both of us insist that he stay, the academy will definitely have to consider our opinions.”

Zhou Yi couldn’t help but reveal a look of admiration after hearing him say this. Wang Yan didn’t even know why Huo Yuhao had been late, yet the first thing he’d done was try to think of a way to prevent Huo Yuhao from being expelled. He’d done this without even asking any questions! Even Zhou Yi felt somewhat ashamed when she compared herself to Wang Yan on this matter. Once she did so, she couldn’t bear to hide the truth from him anymore. She whispered, “Teacher Zhou, were you aware of Yuhao taking elective classes at the Soul Tool Department last year?”

Wang Yan nodded and replied, “I’m aware. However, I’m not sure how his studies there are going.”

Zhou Yi said, "His grades are very good. In fact, Fan Yu has already taken him on as his disciple. Fan Yu decided to take him in as a core disciple of the Soul Tool Department, thus you don't have to worry, Yuhao won't be expelled."

"What?!" Wang Lin's pitch immediately elevated as he exclaimed, "How can this be?"

Earlier, when they'd just been whispering to one another, the students hadn't been able to hear them. However, when Wang Lin raised his voice, he caught the attention of all the students.

Wang Yan realized that he'd lost control of his voice for a moment and said, "Teacher Zhou, let's talk outside." He quickly left the classroom once he'd finished speaking.

Zhou Yi let out a sigh. Sorry Teacher Wang. I did all of this for my husband. All I can do is not lie to you. When her thoughts reached this point, she turned and looked at the shocked students, then proceeded to follow Wang Yan out of the classroom.

"Teacher Zhou, what's going on? How come I didn't hear of this? I know that you're Fan Yu's wife, but don't forget that you're still a teacher for the Martial Soul Department! This isn't possible, it absolutely can't be possible! I won't allow it!" Wang Yan was somewhat agitated.

Zhou Yi let out a sigh, then said, "Teacher Wang, please don't get so worked up. Please, listen to me first. In our eyes, Yuhao is an extremely good student. He can even be described with the words 'unlimited potential'. However, do the higher-ups of the academy see him like this? Whether it's Dean Yan, Director Du, or even old Xuan, who you found to examine him...none of them think that Yuhao has enough future prospects to be worth investing in. As such, they refused to give him the position of a core disciple. What sort of thoughts do you think he had? He was the team leader of the team that won the freshmen exam, yet he wasn't even given the position of a core disciple in the Martial Soul Department. If you were the same age as him, and the same thing happened to you, would your heart be at peace?"

When he heard her question, Wang Yan immediately became silent. Zhou Yi's words may have been the truth, but Director Du also had his reasons.

Zhou Yi continued, "If that had been the only thing, it wouldn't have been too big of a deal. With the two of us taking care of him, I believe that, with Yuhao's talent and diligence, he definitely would've had the chance to showcase his abilities in the future. In a few years, he could've still become a core disciple, and maybe even an inner courtyard disciple. However, he decided to study soul tools. I've heard from my husband that his performance within the Soul Tool Department can only be described as astonishing. His talent even managed to catch the attention of Dean Qian. In fact, Dean Qian has personally approved Huo Yuhao becoming a core disciple of the Soul Tool Department."

Wang Yan was still a bit anxious and replied, "That's impossible. He's only been in contact with the Soul Tool Department seven to eight months, right? Normally, only Year 4 students or higher can become core disciples of the Soul Tool Department! Besides a handful of students who were specially recruited by the Soul Tool Department, there's never been an exception to this! Yuhao's only been going there to study after school; how great could his achievements truly be?"

Zhou Yi let sighed yet again and said, "Wang Yan, you know my personality. It's true that I favor Fan Yu in my heart; he is, after all, my man. However, what you've said is correct: I'm still a teacher of the

Martial Soul Department. If our Martial Soul Department had paid enough attention to Yuhao, I never would've agreed to Fan Yu's request for Yuhao to become a core disciple of the Soul Tool Department. However, what has our Martial Soul Department done to him? We broke that child's heart. Do you know how hard Yuhao has worked? Every day, in addition to his classes, he spent two hours studying at the Soul Tool Department, rain or shine. Look, I won't lie to you. Before the school year ended last year, before Yuhao even had his second soul ring, he'd already managed to become a Class 2 soul engineer. You know how strict Fan Yu is, yet it was Fan Yu who personally rated him as a Class 2 soul engineer. He attained this in eight months. Even at Yuhao's young age, he only needed eight months to become a Class 2 soul engineer. He's set a new record within the Soul Tool Department. Do you really think that the Soul Tool Department wouldn't be in a rush to accept him as a core disciple in this sort of situation?"

Once he heard this, Wang Yan suddenly became speechless. The Martial Soul Department was the one that had refused to give Huo Yuhao a core disciple position. In addition to this, Huo Yuhao had displayed an amazing amount of talent in the Soul Tool Department. As such... what reason did he have to stop him? He clearly remembered the powerful sadness and disappointment that had appeared in Huo Yuhao's eyes when he realized that he hadn't been announced as a core disciple. After thinking back to that moment, he didn't know how to refute Zhou Yi's words.

It was also at this moment that, on Sea God's Island, two crafty old men were discussing a similar topic.

Qian Duoduo sat down on a large leather couch and said to Yan Shaozhe, who was currently behind a large desk, "Old Yan! You can pay me back for the bet you lost now."

Yan Shaozhe placed a hand on the desk and leaned slightly forward. He revealed a shocked expression as he said, "I lost a bet against you? What bet? How come I don't remember this?"

"What? You forgot?" Qian Duoduo's eyes suddenly widened, "Old Yan, do you still have any face? You're too thick-skinned. Last year, during the freshmen exam, we bet on which team would win in the end. Have you forgotten about how you lost to me? Do you really believe that I won't turn this place upside down to remind you?"

Yan Shaozhe looked towards Qian Duoduo, who looked like someone had stepped on his tail, and said with a smile, "Fine, fine. However, did you really need to personally come all the way here for such a small matter? I'm extremely busy, thus why should I remember such a trifling matter? Speak, which student of my Martial Soul Department has caught your eye? I must remind you, our agreement was that you couldn't take any core disciples. Those students are precious to this dean, so don't even think about it." n)-**OVER**l1n

Qian Duoduo sat back down on the sofa angrily when he saw Yan Shaozhe own up to the bet and said, "As long as you remember. You're such a miser. If I really tried to take a core disciple from you, wouldn't you fight me to the death? Don't worry, it's only an ordinary student."

Yan Shaozhe suddenly became more vigilant. The more indifferent Qian Duoduo acted, the stranger he felt. "Old Qian, don't use your nickname to describe me. I'm definitely not as stingy as you. Your Soul Tool Department has so much money, yet you still haven't forgotten to exploit me. Tell me, who did you discover with your expert eyes?"

Qian Duoduo looked helpless as he said, "What do you mean 'discover with your expert eyes'?! When you say it like this, I feel somewhat depressed. This is an internal matter of your Martial Soul Department, but it seems that I'll have to use this bet that I finally won against you. It seems that I've lost big time this time."

"Oh?" When he heard Qian Duoduo say this, Yan Shaozhe became somewhat interested and asked, "What's going on?"

Qian Duoduo replied, "You know Zhou Yi from your Martial Soul Department? That girl who always make herself look like an old woman? She's Fan Yu's wife, and there's a student in her class that she likes who was late in registering for his classes. According to the academy rules, that student would normally be expelled. You know Du Weilun's shitty personality; he treats the academy rules like they're his father, thus it's impossible to discuss this matter with him. Zhou Yi, that girl, went home last night and complained about it. Fan Yu originally didn't intend to deal with this matter, but he couldn't handle the fact that his wife wouldn't let him sleep in his own bed! As such, he came to me. He wanted me to use the bet that I won against you to bring that kid over and make him a core disciple of our Soul Tool Department. You know that Fan Yu is the candidate to be the next Dean, and as such I can't simply ignore his request. In any case, since it's been awhile since I won our bet, if I don't make you pay up now, you really might not be able to play in the future. That's why I came over."

Yan Shaozhe looked towards Qian Duoduo with an puzzled expression. "A late student is enough for you and Fan Yu to make such a fuss? What's this student's name?"

Qian Duoduo sincerely replied, "His name is Huo Yuhao."

Yan Shaozhe's eyes flickered. "I seem to remember that name."

Chapter 47.2: The Badge of a Class 2 Soul Engineer

Qian Duoduo smiled cunningly. "He's a brat from the champion team of last year's freshmen assessment. His teammates are core disciples now, and he's the only one who's not because of his ten year soul ring. When Fan Yu came looking for me just now, I felt that he was somewhat undeserving of becoming a core disciple. However, after I thought about it, this brat still did help me beat you in a bet. Beating you in a bet isn't easy for this daddy! If I'm able to see this kid in my Soul Tool Department, I'll remember how I beat you. That'd feel really good. Thus, I reluctantly agreed. I just came over to say hi to you. I don't care about the specifics of this event; I'll let Fan Yu handle it. Whatever, I'm going back. I still have a lot of things to do."

With that, he stood up and left, slapping his butt as he did so.

Yan Shaozhe used his eyes to follow Qian Duoduo as he left, inwardly feeling that something wasn't right. Picking up a microphone-type soul tool from his table, he pressed a button and poured his soul power into it.

"Weilun?" Yan Shaozhe spoke in a low voice.

Du Weilun's voice rang out from the telephone, "Dean Yan, it's me."

Yan Shaozhe said, "Help me check something. Is there a student called Huo Yuhao who registered late?"

Somewhat astonished, Du Weilun said, "What a coincidence. There were a few students who just made a complaint to me, saying that this Huo Yuhao entered the classroom in a grandiose manner even though he came in late. I was just about to take care of this matter."

Yan Shaozhe said, "Tell me what you know of this Huo Yuhao. What's his talent like?"

Du Weilun said, "He has a bit of talent. Last year, he was one of the champions of the freshmen assessment, along with Wang Dong and Xiao Xiao. His martial soul is called the Spirit Eyes, and his soul skill should be something similar to a spiritual attack. His abilities can be considered to be ordinary, but he has the signs of possessing a Body Soul. Because he was one of the champions of the freshmen assessment, he was able to enjoy the temporary treatment of a core disciple last year. However, it's been withdrawn from him this year. His being late has violated the academy's rules, so he will be expelled."

Yan Shaozhe said, "If memory serves me right, he only has a ten year soul ring. Am I right?"

Du Weilun said, "Right. He was able to enter the academy due to the Tang Sect specially inviting him, and not because he was able to pass the entrance exam. Reportedly, his soul power was only at Rank 13 when he entered the academy. Right now, it isn't clear as to whether he's reached Rank 20. It's very possible that he hasn't reached it. And if that's the case, he'll be expelled anyway. As for his Body Soul, Wang Yan went over to Elder Xuan, who personally inspected this student. In the end, Elder Xuan was very disappointed. He said that this student had no talent, and that he wasn't worth cultivating. After that, this student was able to reveal a fusion skill with Wang Dong during the freshmen assessment; this is his only strong point. Because of this, Wang Yan went over to Elder Xuan again. After taking another look at him, Elder Xuan verified that there was no chance he could awaken his Body Soul. After that, we didn't pay much attention to this student."

Hearing Du Weilun's words, Yan Shaozhe immediately revealed a hint of a smile. Du Weilun's abilities were still worthy of recognition. Huo Yuhao was such an ordinary student, but he was able to immediately speak about his abilities in addition to a few of his experiences after entering the academy. He was definitely qualified to be the Director of Studies.

"Fine, then let's do it this way. You don't have to take care of this matter anymore. Earlier, Qian Duoduo came over to talk to me. He wants to use that time I lost to him to bring this student called Huo Yuhao into his Soul Tool Department. Supposedly, Zhou Yi requested this from Fan Yu, who then brought it up with him. Since this student's so ordinary, let's just give him to the Soul Tool Department. I can stop Qian Duoduo from bothering me about this."

"Qian Duoduo wants a student from you? This is truly somewhat strange. Why don't we wait until the advancement tests to verify his abilities?" Du Weilun asked cautiously.

Yan Shaozhe said, "Whatever. It's hard to say whether he'll even be able to pass the advancement test. Even if he has the strength of a two-ringed Soul Grandmaster, with his spiritual attribute, his second soul skill won't be too strong. His first soul ring's only a ten year one, so he isn't worth training. Let's just give him to Qian Duoduo to stop him from nagging me next time. Our Martial Soul Department has to show a bit of magnanimity. Let's just do it this way."

"Yes, Dean." Du Weilun replied, and the two simultaneously hung up.

Just as Yan Shaozhe didn't attach much importance to Huo Yuhao, neither did Du Weilun. There were many outstanding geniuses in Shrek Academy, and the ability Huo Yuhao had revealed on the surface wasn't enough to attract their attention.

However, they didn't know that Qian Duoduo had immediately erupted into uproarious laughter after leaving the Sea God's Island to go back to the Soul Tool Department's outer courtyard. A pleased look filled his face, so much so that it even exceeded the expression he'd shown when he'd beaten Yan Shaozhe in their previous bet.

"Old Yan, Old Yan. I really feel bad for you; you've been tricked again. I didn't think that my Soul Tool Department would actually have a day when we'd get a twin-souled student. This Huo Yuhao really is my lucky star; he's allowed me to take advantage of Old Yan again. He took eight months to become a Class 2 soul engineer, has twin martial souls, and a top-ranked Ice Jade Scorpion, which is at the pinnacle of the ice attribute. Perfection, perfection. Wahahaha..."

Huo Yuhao had no idea that he had been quibbled over by the Soul Tool Department and the Martial Soul Department. At this moment, he was seriously listening to Zhou Yi explain the rules of the advancement test. Other than the freshmen who'd just entered the academy, the advancement test was of utmost importance to every single student of the outer courtyard. If they couldn't pass it, they'd have to pack their bags and leave. Even core disciples weren't an exception to this. Naturally, the situation of a core disciple failing to pass the advancement test had never occurred in the past.

Zhou Yi stood behind the podium as she spoke, "The advancement test for Year 1 students entering Year 2 is relatively easy. When compared to the advancement tests the upper year groups have, your test is much more simple. The test we'll be undergoing is identical to Class 2's test. As for Classes 3 and 4, they'll have a different test due to the strengths of their martial souls."

"Our test will be held in the academy's Beast Duelling Area. I'm sure that many of you still don't know where that is. Now, I'll tell you guys where it is. The Beast Duelling Area is to the south of the Soul Duelling Area, within the tall, castle-like gray walls. The Beast Duelling Area contains many different-ranked soul beasts that have been captured by the academy throughout the years. It's specialised in helping the upper year groups cultivate. If you're able to enter Year 4 in the future, you'll be able to train yourselves in the Beast Duelling Area. The live combat classes that are held there will be the most important tests you guys will take for the sake of your future accomplishments."

"For the advancement test this time, you'll have to fight against a soul beast in the Beast Duelling Area. At the same time, you'll also be able to choose the soul beast you'll be fighting against. Different soul beasts will have different points assigned to them, and the stronger the soul beast you challenge, the higher the chance you'll be able to obtain a high score in the test. This test will be graded by teachers from the Martial Soul Department's upper year groups. It'll have a maximum score of a hundred, and the people who are able to obtain more than sixty points will be able to pass the advancement test."

"Now, I have a few things I want to warn you guys about. Number one, don't be too cautious. If the soul beast you choose is too weak, you might not be able to pass even if you're able to defeat it. Number two, don't be overly impetuous. If the soul beast you choose is too strong, in the event the proctor can't make it in time to save you during a fight, then..."

With that, a cold light flickered through Zhou Yi's eyes, causing the students present to feel a shiver up their backs. They had all seen soul beasts in the past, but not everyone had faced a soul beast in single combat. They were still young, and practically all of them had had the assistance of their teachers when they had obtained their soul rings. A prodigy like Huo Yuhao, who had obtained his rings through his own power, couldn't be seen everywhere.

"Number three, you have to keep in mind that losing the battle doesn't automatically eliminate you. If the soul beast you're fighting is strong enough, and your performance during the battle is worthy of praise, your final score might not necessarily be low. Furthermore, the standards required for control-type and assault-type soul masters are different. During a 1v1 test like this, assault-type soul masters will have higher requirements; your aim will be to defeat the soul beast you challenge. On the other hand, control-type soul masters will aim to control the soul beast. How long you're able to keep fighting will determine how many marks you obtain."

Huo Yuhao was listening very seriously; he had to listen seriously! After all, they had made a bet against Dai Huabin. The stakes of this bet were for the losing party to kowtow and admit that they were wrong. Although this only involved a matter of face to other people, this had a completely different meaning to him. If he were able to make Dai Huabin kneel in front of him and kowtow, it was equivalent to him having completed a tiny part of his revenge. Therefore, he had to win this bet no matter what.

Right at this moment, the sound of knocking on the door being suddenly rang out.

Normally, disruptions wouldn't occur during class time unless the academy had certain special arrangements. Wang Yan and Zhou Yi were stunned. Wang Yan, who was standing by the door, turned to open it.

A teacher stood outside the classroom. She was a very unfamiliar person to the students, and even Huo Yuhao didn't know that it was this teacher who'd given him the Secret Law Soul. Right, the teacher who'd come was exactly the Teacher Mu Jin who'd lost a bet against Zhou Yi. Furthermore, there were two teachers in charge of the Teaching Department standing behind her.

Zhou Yi's face sank. "Teacher Mu, why aren't you teaching in your Class 2? What are you trying to do by coming to our Class 1?"

It was unknown whether she was deliberately setting herself up against Zhou Yi, but after Zhou Yi became the teacher in charge of Year 1's Class 1, Mu Jin became the teacher in charge of Class 2.

Mu Jin laughed indifferently. "I'd heard that there was a student from your class who turned up late, but still came in for class. I specially came over to see who it was. I didn't come over to find you; it was these two teachers from the Teaching Department who were looking for you."

A cold light flickered through Zhou Yi's eyes as she walked towards the door. The two teachers from the Teaching Department had already walked into the class, and the middle-aged male teacher on the left said, "Teacher Zhou, Teacher Wang, we received the student reports. A student called Huo Yuhao from your class didn't manage to register yesterday, but he turned up to class today. You two should know the academy's rules as well. We now have to take this student away and handle his leaving procedures."

Wang Yan looked towards Zhou Yi, who laughed indifferently. "Teacher Li, Teacher Lu. What you say is indeed the case. However, this student, Huo Yuhao, is a core disciple of the Soul Tool Department.

Though he reported in late, he was completing a task assigned to him by the Soul Tool Department. The Soul Tool Department will explain this matter to you.”

Chapter 47.3: The Badge of a Class 2 Soul Engineer

The two teachers from the Teaching Department were stunned. “A core disciple of the Soul Tool Department?” Teacher Lu asked disbelievingly.

Mu Jin was already itching to interject. “Zhou Yi, if you’re going to make up excuses, at least make up realistic ones. Since when has our academy had a core disciple from the Soul Tool Department who’s only been a Year 1 student? Who doesn’t know that the Soul Tool Department only takes in core disciples once they’ve completed their Year 3 advancement tests in the Martial Soul Department? Who do you think you’re fooling with such an excuse!?”

The two teachers from the Teaching Department were briefly stunned. Teacher Lu then turned to Mu Jin and said, “Teacher Mu, we’ll take care of this matter. You should return to Class 2 and look after your students.” Zhou Yi’s excuse was so inconceivable that they actually suspected it to be the truth. At the same time, having Mu Jin fan the flames of conflict would clearly be detrimental to the harmony between teachers.

Mu Jin snorted resentfully. “I hope the academy will notify me of the results once everything has been settled.”

“I’ll tell you the the results right now. Huo Yuhao is my disciple and he’s also a core disciple of the Soul Tool Department.” A tall figure appeared by the door to the classroom, it was Fan Yu who was even accompanied by Director Du Weilun.

“Director.” The two teachers from the Teaching Department hurriedly greeted Du Weilun.

Du Weilun entered the classroom and spoke with a solemn voice, “With the approval of both Dean Yan Shaozhe and Dean Qian Duoduo, Huo Yuhao will no longer remain a temporary core disciple. Instead, he will now formally assume the role of a core disciple of the Soul Tool Department. The reason for his tardiness was due to a task assigned to him by Teacher Fan Yu. Hence, this matter concludes here. Huo Yuhao will stay in Class 1 and continue to learn the various types of foundational knowledge in the Martial Soul Department until Year 3, at which point he will transfer to the Soul Tool Department.”

Upon hearing Du Weilun’s announcement, the other teachers remained silent. Mu Jin’s eyes were filled with an incredulous look. From her perspective, even if Fan Yu had wanted to help Zhou Yi out, he would never have used a method like this! Furthermore, he’d actually managed to convince Du Weilun.

“No, this can’t be right. Director Du, which of the qualifications to becoming a core disciple of the Soul Tool Department does Huo Yuhao meet? Becoming a core disciple of the Soul Tool Department requires one to be extremely talented and experienced in the various aspects of soul tool creation!” Mu Jin said, unwilling to concede.

Fan Yu snorted coldly, then shouted, “Huo Yuhao, stand up and come here.”

Huo Yuhao immediately stood up and strode forwards. Although he was confused as to why Mu Jin was targeting him, he wasn’t nervous in the slightest when facing so many teachers. On the contrary, he felt

inwardly warm. Zhou Yi, Wang Yan, and Fan Yu were all protecting him, causing him to be filled with confidence.

Fan Yu flipped his wrist, causing an octagonal blue badge to appear in his palm. The badge had two diamond-like stars embedded within it.

“Huo Yuhao has learnt the art of soul tool creation under me ever since the freshmen assessment ended. After eight months, he was able to pass the test required to become a Class 2 soul engineer under my guidance. In accordance with the academy’s status within the world of soul engineers, I asked Vice-Dean Qian Duoduo from the Soul Tool Department for help. With his confirmation, I awarded him the badge of a Class 2 soul engineer. All it took him was eight months of time to advance from an ordinary soul master to a Class 2 soul engineer. This level of talent has already created history within Shrek Academy’s Soul Tool Department. Thus, how could we not take him in as a core disciple?”

At this moment, even Du Weilun was astonished. He hadn’t known a thing about Huo Yuhao’s involvement in the Soul Tool Department!

He had only taken eight months to become a Class 2 soul engineer? Even the word ‘genius’ was insufficient to describe this level of talent. After all, Huo Yuhao was still only twelve years old! Even in the Sun Moon Empire, which highly valued soul engineers, a twelve-year-old Class 2 soul engineer was an incredibly rare existence.. How was this possible?

However, it was already too late for him to try to stop the Soul Tool Department from taking Huo Yuhao as a core disciple, they had just announced it to the world. Du Weilun was certain that Fan Yu couldn’t have made all this up. But the more he believed this story, the more depressed he felt. He could only console himself with the fact that that Huo Yuhao was only talented in the matter of soul tools. No wonder Dean Qian had personally gone to fetch Dean Yan; there was actually a foreshadowing like this! A mistake, they had made a large mistake! If they had known about this earlier, they would’ve told Dean Yan about it earlier. Even if he still agreed to Huo Yuhao becoming a core disciple of the Soul Tool Department, he might have at least been able to obtain a few more advantages from Dean Qian.

Even if Shrek Academy’s Martial Soul Department had a status that far surpassed that of the Soul Tool Department, their financial state was incredibly pathetic. Oftentimes, the Martial Soul Department had to rely on the Soul Tool Department in order to increase the funding they got.

Zhou Yi coldly swept her eyes towards Mu Jin, “Director Du, Mu Jin is the teacher in charge of Class 2, but nonetheless she has come over to my Class 1 to stir up trouble. Doesn’t this seem inappropriate?”

Du Weilun immediately woke up from his regret. Since the situation had already reached this point, there was no longer any use for regret. He spoke in a solemn voice, “Teacher Mu, return to your class immediately. You will not receive a second warning.”

Mu Jin looked at Zhou Yi hatefully, then glanced at the expressionless Fan Yu before finally stamping her foot and leaving.

Zhou Yi said indifferently, “Director Du, I honestly feel that Teacher Mu’s attitude isn’t too suitable for a teacher in charge of a class. We wouldn’t want her wasting the time of those outstanding students.”

Du Weilun furrowed his brows, "This is a matter for the academy to decide. Okay, you can continue with your class. The advancement test will start in the afternoon, and I shall personally attend and observe how the test goes for your Year 2." With that, he nodded towards Fan Yu and left along with the two teachers from the Teaching Department.

Fan Yu patted Huo Yuhao's shoulder before following Du Weilun away. He'd finally been able to announce that Huo Yuhao was a core disciple, and he had even done this with the approval of Dean Yan Shaozhe. This matter was already settled and now the Martial Soul Department couldn't renege on their words even if they wanted to. After leaving the classroom, the hint of a faint smile appeared on the corners Fan Yu's mouth. Even if the Soul Tool Department wasn't able to have a rise to glory in his generation, it would definitely be able to do so in Huo Yuhao and He Caitou's generation.

Under the awestruck gazes of the other students, Huo Yuhao sat back down in his original seat. Other than Xiao Xiao and Wang Dong, who'd known in advance, today's events had had stunned the entire class.

Having studied together for a year, everyone knew that Huo Yuhao was an orphan who didn't have any background to rely upon. However, it seemed as though he'd been treated generously by everyone ever since he had entered Shrek Academy. First, Zhou Yi hadn't hesitated to expel two core disciples for him. This time around, the Soul Tool Department had taken him in as a core disciple and had even given him the badge of a Class 2 soul engineer. Just with his qualifications as a Class 2 soul engineer, Huo Yuhao would be able to be hired for a generous salary in any country on the continent. A soul engineer was a talent that was desperately required by every country, so much so that they could be referred to as strategic resources.

.....

"What?! A Class 2 soul engineer?" Yan Shaozhe looked disbelievingly at Du Weilun. Various thoughts flashed through his mind and he couldn't help but furrow his brows for a moment.

After leaving Class 1, Du Weilun had immediately rushed back to report to him.

"Dammit, we were tricked. We were tricked by that old bastard Qian Duoduo." Yan Shaozhe smacked his table violently, a look of regret on his face.

Du Weilun said, "Dean Yan, it isn't that serious. If that kid Huo Yuhao's only talented in the field of soul tools, allowing him to become a core disciple of the Soul Tool Department can be considered to be making full use of our resources."

Yan Shaozhe waved his hand. "No, it can't be that simple. You've forgotten something; if it's just as you said, why would the Soul Tool Department be so impatient to take him? It would be fine for them to just announce that they're taking him as a core disciple by the time he reaches Year 4. A student who's outstanding in the field of soul tool creation definitely won't attract our attention. As for why he was late this time, Zhou Yi and Fan Yu could've found another excuse to settle this matter. However, Qian Duoduo personally came over to deal with this matter with me, and he even used the bet that I lost to him last time. Haven't you realised what this means?"

Du Weilun was astonished as well, "You're saying that, other than the strong points the Soul Tool Department values highly, he also has a few areas which we of the Martial Soul Department value?"

Yan Shaozhe nodded, "That's definitely the case. Otherwise, Qian Duoduo wouldn't have come over to look for me straightaway. It's no wonder I felt something was off. I didn't think that I'd be schemed against by that cheapskate."

Du Weilun smiled bitterly. "Dean, the matter's already done and dusted. The Soul Tool Department has already announced that he's one of their core disciples, so we can only acknowledge that. In the end, he's only a single student. There are many outstanding talents among their generation, so we should just pay a bit more attention in the future so as to not be taken advantage of by the Soul Tool Department."

"Yup." Yan Shaozhe nodded, "Let's do it this way. This afternoon, participate in the entirety of their advancement test. Other than checking up on a few core disciples, pay special attention to this Huo Yuhao. In the event he really performs exceptionally, let me know immediately. Right, we can't renege on our deal via normal means, but what if this kid reneges on it by himself and chooses to leave the Soul Tool Department?"

With that, Yan Shaozhe couldn't help but reveal the hint of a crafty smile on his face. I can't directly take him in as a core disciple, but what if he takes the initiative to request it from us? Then that's a different story. This matter isn't something that's completely non-manipulable!

.....

For once, the afternoon class ended before the bell rang. After explaining the various important topics regarding the afternoon's advancement test, Zhou Yi dismissed the class. This was to allow them to go back and prepare, adjusting the conditions of their bodies to their most optimum states for the sake of taking their test in the Beast Duelling Area in the afternoon.

Placing the badge of a Class 2 soul engineer on his shirt, Huo Yuhao couldn't help but feel a strong feeling of success in his heart. The workmanship of the blue, octagonal badge was extremely exquisite, and the two diamonds embedded on it were even more brilliant.

"Stop showing it off shamelessly." Wang Dong couldn't help but tease him, "You're grinning from ear to ear."

Huo Yuhao chuckled, "Supposedly, having this thing is considered to be the same as receiving the approval of the Soul Engineering Association. You'll be able to get a decent job wherever you go with this. At the very least, I won't have to worry about food and clothing in the future."

Wang Dong unhappily said, "Just look at how much you're bragging. Let's go back and cultivate now."

Huo Yuhao had an amazed look on his face. "Has the sun risen from the west? When have you become this hard-working?"

Wang Dong snorted, "I've always been very hard-working, alright?"

Chapter 48.1: A Terrifying Deterrence!

Huo Yuhao stifled a smile. "Right, you're so hardworking. In fact, you're so hardworking that you cover your head with your blanket every day so as to not get up in the morning. I wonder who this 'hardworking person', the one who's asked me not to wake him up every morning, is."

"Humph!" Wang Dong snorted and pushed Huo Yuhao away as he took large strides towards the dorms. Huo Yuhao laughed as he hurried after him. When they arrived back at their dormitory, they greeted the old man who was reclining near the entrance, then headed to their room.

"Come here, let me take a look. Let me see just how much your cultivation's increased now that you've obtained your second soul ring and a second martial soul." Wang Dong said as he plopped himself down on his bed.

Huo Yuhao laughed. "You're so anxious. Could it be that you're trying to prepare for the bet that we have in the afternoon? Since it's a score-based test, I reckon that we'll add all of our scores together and compete against their combined score. Don't tell me that you're not confident in yourself?"

Wang Dong glanced at him. "Of course I'm confident in myself. I'm just not confident in a person who's holding us back like you."

Huo Yuhao was left speechless when he heard this. He immediately took off his shoes and sat down on Wang Dong's bed in a cross-legged position. "Here, I'll let you experience just how awesome this brother of yours really is." After hearing the Skydream Iceworm refer to himself as his brother everyday during their journey, Huo Yuhao had learned to use the phrase as well. no17e(lb-1n

Wang Dong unhappily spat, "Didn't I give you a set of bedding? Why're you sitting on my bed?"

Huo Yuhao replied, "Come on, stop that bad habit of yours. Hurry up."

Wang Dong didn't press the issue. He turned to face Huo Yuhao, then pressed his palms against Huo Yuhao's. Immediately afterwards, a look of astonishment appeared on both of their faces.

They were both able to sense that their soul power fusion had formed a powerful soul power, which had in turn substantially increased both of their soul power. Furthermore, it wasn't a simple quantitative change; it was such a substantial improvement that it could be considered a qualitative change. When they'd separated one month ago, their Haodong Power could be described as a tiny brook. Their fused soul power now however, was practically akin to a small river. As the turbulent soul power flowed throughout their bodies, they both were able to clearly sense that their soul power was circulating at 150% its original speed.

The majority of what Huo Yuhao felt was the explosive increase in Wang Dong's soul power, but Wang Dong felt something different; he discovered that not only had Huo Yuhao's soul power increased by a substantial amount, but the width of his passageways had doubled as well. The amount of Haodong Power the two had created was relatively enormous, yet it wasn't inhibited at all when it circulated through Huo Yuhao's passageways. It managed to complete an entire revolution without any difficulty at all. In fact, Huo Yuhao's circulation speed even exceeded Wang Dong's. It was as if a heavenly treasure had been used on Huo Yuhao's body, causing an astonishing transformation to occur to it. When the Haodong Power had finished flowing through Huo Yuhao's body, Wang Dong sensed a formidable burst of power from his body.

Though the two felt astonished, they'd already started cultivating. As such, they didn't dare to be careless at all. They hurriedly guarded their minds and gradually entered a meditative state.

They cultivated all the way until lunchtime before stopping. When they finally slowly withdrew their palms and opened their eyes, both of them had a somewhat strange gaze in their eyes as they looked at one another.

They'd only cultivated for two hours, yet they both felt that their soul power had distinctly increased. With this sort of cultivation speed, they could potentially raise both of their soul powers by a single rank in less than a month! This cultivation speed was simply too astonishing.

"You're simply a freak!" Wang Dong couldn't help but blurt out.

Huo Yuhao unhappily retorted, "Then what about you? Aren't you one as well? This was a combination of me being well-prepared and my good fortune."

Wang Dong smiled mischievously. "It's no wonder that you were so confident when you made that bet with Dai Huabin. Don't worry, as long as your score in the advancement test is higher than Zhu Lu's or Cui Yajie's, our chances of winning will be extremely high. I'll definitely work hard in order to beat Dai Huabin's score."

Huo Yuhao nodded, then asked, "Are you saying that the proctor will be able to notice if we cheat?"

Their minds were practically connected at this point, as Wang Dong naturally understood what he was thinking. "I'm afraid that it'll be extremely difficult. However, I can sense that your control has increased by a substantial amount, so it should be fine if you're careful. We have to make Dai Huabin and the rest kowtow before us. Let's see whether he'll dare to be so unbridled after that."

When he and Wang Dong reached the canteen, they learned that Huo Yuhao's lunch quality hadn't dropped, despite him being stripped of his privileges as a core disciple of the Martial Soul Department. A thirty-or-so-year-old chef was already waiting for them outside. When he saw Huo Yuhao, he immediately approached them.

"You're Huo Yuhao?"

"And you are?" Huo Yuhao could guarantee that this was his first time meeting this man.

The middle-aged man who was dressed as a chef smiled. "I'm Master Fan Yu's personal chef. From here on out, I'll personally be bringing you your food." Once he'd finished speaking, he handed Huo Yuhao the box of food he was holding.

Huo Yuhao stared blankly. Once he came back to his senses, a warm feeling immediately spread through his heart; his teacher was truly too thoughtful. He thanked the chef and accepted the box of food. Once he had, he and Wang Dong entered the canteen together.

Wang Dong said, "You're really great! You even have someone to deliver food to you. The core disciples of the Soul Tool Department are truly treated in an extraordinary manner."

Huo Yuhao chuckled. "Go and order your food."

When Huo Yuhao opened the box of food he'd received and saw the food inside of it, he couldn't help but feel astonished. This meal was simply too sumptuous!

To Huo Yuhao, the food that the core disciples of the Martial Soul Department had been able to eat had already been of the best quality. However, the food that Fan Yu's personal chef had given him exceeded that by more than a single level.

Inside of the box were two dishes, a bowl of soup, and large bowl of rice. They seemed extremely simple at a glance, but the ingredients that had been used to make them could be described as precious treasures.

There was a piece of paper that labeled the food inside of the box as well, with instructions written on it that detailed which food should be eaten in which order so as to obtain maximum efficacy from the ingredients as well.

Firstly, he needed to drink the soup that had been made from a hundred year jade ginseng stewed together with the essence of a gastrodia elata¹. Huo Yuhao was no longer the previously ignorant kid that he had been; after enjoying the benefits of a core disciple of the Martial Soul Department for an entire year, he had a certain level of understanding towards these top-level ingredients. He could also roughly calculate that the cost of this bowl of soup alone exceeded fifty gold soul coins.

The Martial Soul Department's canteen served a similar dish, but it contained a mere ten year jade ginseng instead of a hundred year ginseng. As such, its ingredients were very inferior when compared to the dish in front of him. This bowl of soup could nourish the brain and body, and was considered an exceptionally good type of nourishment.

Of the two dishes, one of them contained the simmered muscles of a hundred year Earth Dragon. These Earth Dragon muscles had been obtained from a genuine Earth Dragon. The combat strength of a hundred year Earth Dragon was absolutely at the pinnacle of hundred year soul beasts, as it was the representative of power-type soul beasts. Its muscles could nourish both the muscles and bones of a human being, thus its benefits were especially great for a teenager like Huo Yuhao.

When Huo Yuhao opened the dish, he found out that the Earth Dragon muscles had unexpectedly been turned into a soft stew. It would've had to have been cooked for at least three full days to reach this degree of softness! Not only was it incredibly delicious, it was also incredibly beneficial to eat.

The other dish contained the marrow of an Azure Bird, and was served with bean sauce. The Azure Bird supposedly had a trace of the Phoenix bloodline, and not only was its marrow delicious, it was also extremely nourishing to the bones of a human being.

These three dishes altogether could be referred to as the Dragon Muscle Phoenix Marrow Jade Ginseng, and regardless of if you were talking about its nourishing effects or its price, all three of them were first-class dishes.

Even the rice was special; it was known as Crystal White Jade Rice and it seemed to be filled with tiny pearls. It could replenish one's Qi and would nourish one's body, thus increasing one's physical strength.

The material price along for this meal surpassed a hundred and fifty gold soul coins!

When Wang Dong returned from ordering his food, he took a look at his own food, then looked back at Huo Yuhao's. A strange light appeared in his eyes once he did so. "Yuhao, I'm jealous now. I want to go to the Soul Tool Department as well. When did the Soul Tool Department's food become that good? I

heard that the food that their core disciples eat in their canteen is far inferior to what we of the Martial Soul Department get! However, it seems like the Martial Soul Department needs more nutritious food.”

Wang Dong’s information wasn’t wrong, but that only applied to ordinary core disciples of the Soul Tool Department. Was Huo Yuhao ordinary? Not only was he Fan Yu’s direct disciple, he was also the Soul Tool Department’s first-ever core disciple with twin martial souls. The Soul Tool Department had placed all of their hope on him, but even Huo Yuhao didn’t know this.

Huo Yuhao chuckled, then pushed some of his food towards Wang Dong. “Here, we’ll split it fifty-fifty. Give me half of your food. We can taste many different things this way.” He didn’t even wait for Wang Dong to reply before he impolitely shoved a large amount of Wang Dong’s food onto his plate and began to eat it with large mouthfuls.

Wang Dong silently gazed at him when he saw this. However, in the end, he didn’t refuse Huo Yuhao’s offer. Thus, he and Huo Yuhao ate the two different dishes available for the core disciples of the Martial Soul Department and the Soul Tool Department together.

— —

The Beast Duelling Area.

As the largest specialised area within Shrek Academy, it was also the largest building within Shrek Academy. The space that the Beast Duelling Area occupied was as large as all of the buildings and dorms within the Martial Soul Department, including Shrek Plaza, combined.

Within the entire Douluo Continent, academies that could use their power to actually capture and raise soul beasts were as few and far between as phoenix feathers and qilin horns. Of them, Shrek Academy was the one and only academy that could achieve such a scale as the Beast Duelling Area; even the royal families of the various empires were unable to do something create something like it. Capturing and raising soul beasts wasn’t easy. One had to maintain the wild nature of a soul beast whilst keeping track of the different diets and habits different soul beasts had. At the same time, one also had to ensure their own safety whilst ordering them about. Investing in something this huge was something that ordinary soul master academies simply wouldn’t dare to even dream of.

The taxes obtained from Shrek City every year all went to Shrek Academy. And of this enormous sum of money, an entire third of it went into the Beast Duelling Area. It was obvious what sort of investment the Beast Duelling Area needed.

Students who’d just entered the academy would generally feel that the school fees alone were expensive, but students who managed to enter the Beast Duelling Area wouldn’t have this feeling. The amount of money they paid as school fees compared to the investments that Shrek Academy made was akin to comparing the glow of a firefly to the radiance of the moon.

Other than the taxes received from Shrek City, another form of income that Shrek Academy received came from the Soul Tool Department. Every year, the soul tools created by the Soul Tool Department would be sold outside of the academy. However, these sales were limited to the Heavenly Soul Empire, the Dou Ling Empire, and the Star Luo Empire; they didn’t include the Sun Moon Empire. This was also the reason that Yan Shaozhe had said that Qian Duoduo was rich.

1. A Chinese herb.

Chapter 48.2: A Terrifying Deterrence!

The Beast Duelling Area also had an underground portion. Originally, right after it had been built, there were also more than a hundred soul engineers helping the artisans and smiths. Thanks to various powerful Soul Tools, they were able to restrict the various soul beasts inside cages. However, powerful soul masters and soul engineers were required to guard the place year-round. According to the rumors, there were even some ten thousand year soul beasts imprisoned as well. However, there weren't any hundred thousand year soul beasts captured. Although capturing a hundred thousand year soul beast alive was extremely difficult, it wasn't impossible. However, a hundred thousand year soul beast was equivalent to an unimaginable amount of wealth to any soul master. It wouldn't be an exaggeration to say that just one hundred thousand year soul beast could instantly cause a soul master to soar into the sky. A hundred thousand year soul ring and soul bone would provide four soul skills together! Just how terrifying was that?

At the same, there was still the Beast Dueling Arena. It was specially provided to the students of Shrek Academy in order to allow them to conduct combat training, as well as to assess their abilities. Currently, the Year 1 students had just entered the Beast Dueling Arena in order to take their final test.

The Beast Dueling Arena was an oval-shaped building; its longest side had a diameter of roughly 190 meters, its shortest side had a diameter of roughly 160 meters, and it was approximately 60 meters tall. If one were to look at it from the outside, they would see that it was divided into four layers. The first three layers were built in a multi-arched style, and every single arched entryway had stone columns on both sides that acted as supports. On the other hand, the fourth layer had a decorated rampart that faced four narrow paths with four great arched entrances, which led directly to the spectator's stand inside of the Beast Dueling Arena. The spectator's stand inside of the Beast Dueling Arena was also divided up into four sections, and under special circumstances, Shrek Academy could conduct special area differentiations. The building looked extremely grand, and could be described as both glorious and magnificent.

The enormous Beast Dueling Arena was capable of accommodating up to ten thousand spectators, though a large part of its enormous space was taken up by the interior of the Beast Dueling Arena. Like the Soul Dueling Area, one could both fight against a single soul beast or against several soul beasts simultaneously. Senior students of the Martial Soul Department were definitely familiar with the Beast Dueling Arena, as students with a higher cultivation base would often come to it in order to hone their combat skills. At the same time, it was a nightmare to those with lower cultivation bases.

After the fourth year, every single class would come to the Beast Dueling Stage once a week for a lesson, the cumulative results of which would influence the score of the students' final test.

When Huo Yuhao, Wang Dong, and Xiao Xiao walked into the great Beast Dueling Arena together, they almost couldn't believe their eyes. Despite whatever background they had, the building in front of them was definitely the most magnificent construction they'd ever seen.

"Yuhao." The Skydream Iceworm's voice suddenly echoed inside of Huo Yuhao's mind. Even though Huo Yuhao had become used to Brother Skydream appearing and disappearing on a whim, he was still nearly frightened to death by his sudden appearance.

“What’s the matter, Brother Skydream?”

The Skydream Iceworm said, “You want that boy to kowtow in front of you and admit that he was wrong, right? I’ll teach you the easiest way to do so. This will also become one of your future fighting styles.”

When he heard this, Huo Yuhao became very happy. “Tell me,” he replied.

The Skydream Iceworm began to explain, “Alright, you have to...”

All of the Year 1 students needed to retrieve their forms for their final test first, which would in turn tell them the order they’d need to follow to go on stage. Places for their scores and their rank were also on the form they received.

Everyone lined up to receive their form. While they were doing so, Wang Dong looked around for Dai Huabin, until he noticed him standing a short ways away from them. He nudged Huo Yuhao with his elbow and said, “Look, Dai Huabin and the others are here.”

Huo Yuhao nodded, then walked over to where Dai Huabin was currently standing.

Wang Dong was dumbfounded. What is Yuhao trying to pull? How could he be so impulsive? However, he and Xiao Xiao didn’t waste any time trying to guess Huo Yuhao’s motive; they both immediately followed behind him.

Dai Huabin had also been paying attention to them, thus he naturally noticed when Huo Yuhao suddenly approached them. He didn’t reveal any weaknesses as he simply gave Huo Yuhao a cold look as he approached.

The other students that were in line didn’t know about the bet between them, but they did know that these two groups had were the final contenders during the freshmen test. At the same time, Dai Huabin and Zhu Lu’s expulsion was already widespread. It was clear that the two groups held a grudge against one another. Thus, the six of them had become the focus of every single student.

Huo Yuhao stopped around three meters from Dai Huabin, and after pausing briefly, he said, “Dai Huabin, today is the day of our bet. I want to know, do you regret making the bet?”

Dai Huabin instantly became speechless when he heard this, then thought, This Huo Yuhao must have gone crazy... After thinking this, he coldly replied, “I, Dai Huabin, have never gone back on my word. Today, our two parties of three will participate in the several phases of the final test; the party that has the lowest cumulative score will kowtow and admit their fault to the other.”

Huo Yuhao nodded and said, “Good, then I ask everyone present to act as a witness for today’s bet. What do you think, Dai Huabin?”

Dai Huabin subconsciously replied, “That’s fine. However, if you regret decision, you and Wang Dong better kowtow and admit your mistakes right now. Xiao Xiao’s a girl however, so I can make an exception for her.”

Huo Yuhao sneered and said, "I'll wait for you here once the test is over." He turned around as soon as he'd finished speaking and left.

The conversation between them attracted the attention of the students from both the first and second classes of Year 1, who were in the process of receiving their final test forms. They immediately began to gossip in low voices, which caused Dai Huabin's complexion to become uglier and uglier, until he coldly stated, "You only have yourself to blame for invoking this disaster. Since you want to lose even more face, I'll be more than happy to help you do so." The way he saw it, Huo Yuhao had purposely said those words in front of so many people simply because he'd wanted the entirety of Year 1 to know about the bet between them. Now that he'd done so, the loser of the bet would forever be unable to lift their head inside of the academy. Where did his confidence come from? Even though he knew that Huo Yuhao probably had a few tricks up his sleeve, Dai Huabin had complete confidence in his own abilities. He'd trained extremely hard over the past year!

Once everyone had received their forms, the students followed their respective teachers into the great Beast Dueling Arena one after another.

Since they had to take the final test, they didn't head towards the spectator's stands. Instead, they lined up inside of the Great Beast Dueling Arena's Beast Dueling Arena in an orderly fashion as they waited for their turn to take their test.

The total number of Year 1 students that were present to take the test equaled over a hundred. Furthermore, as it was their first time taking a test in the Great Beast Dueling Arena, the academy had attached a lot of importance to their safety. As such, twenty teachers were waiting for the students when they arrived. They were in charge of taking care of the soul beasts, protecting the students, and assessing their abilities. The number of participants was quite high, but in the interest of letting everyone familiarize themselves with the way that things were done, the Great Beast Dueling Arena hadn't been divided into separate arenas; the students would take the test one at a time. Doing it this way would allow the teachers to see things more clearly, and in turn would let them assign grades more accurately.

Du Weilun had also come, and would be the head examiner today. He, along with the other four teachers in charge of grading the students, were all sitting atop a tall platform that they could clearly observe the Beast Dueling Arena from.

Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong, as Class 1's two well-known leaders, naturally stood in the front, while in Class 2's group, the ones standing in front were Dai Huabin and Xie Hanyue. There wasn't much of a difference between Xie Hanyue and Dai Huabin's cultivations, but the former's defensive ability was extremely strong—it was at the point where Huo Yuhao and the others could only take notes.

As Mu Jin stood beside Dai Huabin, she gazed towards Zhou Yi with an icy gaze full of evil intentions.

Zhou Yi whispered, "Yuhao, you've already been accepted as a core disciple of the Soul Tool Department. Just try your best here. Make sure not to choose a soul beast that's too strong to be your opponent; you should simply maximize your chance of victory. However, you also don't need to hold back. You've already seen the order in which you'll participate. In order to give the students some encouragement, the academy has decided to have the leaders of the two classes be the first to go on stage. Once our class has sent a person to take the test, Class 2 will send their leader to take the test.

Wang Dong, it will be your turn in a short while. You absolutely have to be successful. If you're confident, I advise you to choose the soul beast with the highest rank. This way, even if you lose, as long as you manage to resist for a long enough period of time, your score won't be terrible."

"I understand. You don't need to worry, teacher." Wang Dong made a gesture with his somewhat delicate fist.

"Hold on, Teacher Zhou. Let me go first," Huo Yuhao suddenly said.

"Hm? Yuhao... This will affect the reputation of our class." Zhou Yi said after a pause.

Huo Yuhao nodded. "Teacher Zhou, I won't disappoint you."

When she saw the resolute look in Huo Yuhao's eyes, she hesitated for a moment, then gritted her teeth and nodded. "Good, you can go first." Even though she wanted to exceed Mu Jin, she still wasn't willing to extinguish the enthusiasm of her disciples.

Du Weilun's voice suddenly echoed from the tall platform, "The test is starting. Year 1 Class 1 will send its student out first. Afterwards, Class 2 will send out a student from their class."

Huo Yuhao grasped his test form as he entered the Beast Dueling Area with long strides. He immediately got an indescribable feeling—as if all the blood in his body had suddenly begun to seeth from excitement. Maybe it was because there had been many, many battles in this place. Coming here produced an intense fighting desire in every student of Shrek Academy. Only by fighting could one truly understand what they'd studied. This was also why the Beast Dueling Arena existed, and was also why the students that had graduated from Shrek Academy would become outstanding soul masters that every great empire would fight over.

Once Huo Yuhao had handed his form over to the teacher in charge, the teacher placed it atop the ascending platform right below the Judge's Stand. Huo Yuhao's assessment form almost immediately arrived in Director Du Weilun's hands.

The first examinee that Du Weilun had to assess was exactly Huo Yuhao. Du Weilun immediately focused; he was impatient to see how outstanding this student—someone who the Soul Tool Department hadn't been able to wait to take under their banner—was. Fighting soul beasts and fighting other students from the academy were two completely different things. Soul beasts were innately hostile towards human beings; they wouldn't show any mercy when they fought. As such, this would give the students the feeling of a life and death crisis. Huo Yuhao was only 12 years old. Would he really be able to go all-out?

Huo Yuhao arrived in the middle of the stage. Two teachers would act as referees here, in order to assure the complete safety of the students. no 17e(lb-1n

The referee on the left asked him, "What do you cultivate in?"

Huo Yuhao respectfully replied, "The Control System."

The referee continued, "Choose the soul beast that you would like to take the test with. Remember, a Control System Soul Master has to do their best to focus on the word 'control'. You'll only have a single chance to assess your abilities. Don't waste it. Soul beasts are divided into hundred year intervals,

ranging from a hundred year soul beast to a thousand year soul beast.” The students from both Class 1 and Class 2 were focused on Huo Yuhao, who would be fighting a soul beast alone. For most of them, it would be their first time fighting a soul beast on their own, thus they would be lying if they said they weren’t nervous. Of course, they all hoped to gain some valuable experience from those who would be taking the test before them. This final test would decide whether or not they could keep studying at the academy!

Chapter 48.3: A Terrifying Deterrence!

A ray of light flashed through Huo Yuhao’s eyes as he said in a low voice, “I choose a hundred year soul beast.”

“A hundred year soul beast? Are you sure?” The teacher in charge of assessing his skills thought he had misheard him; the first students to go on stage were usually the most outstanding of the bunch, but choosing a mere hundred year soul beast... this was a bit too strange. Even if he was a control-type soul master, he shouldn’t have made a choice like this!

Huo Yuhao nodded and said, “Yes, I choose a hundred year soul beast.” His voice was very loud; all the teachers and students, even the ones standing far away, could hear him.

Zhou Yi felt everything in front of her going black, and wondered in her heart, ‘What is Huo Yuhao trying to do?’

On the other hand, Mu Jin had the look of someone taking pleasure in another’s misfortune. Dai Huabin, who was at first taken aback, immediately regained his senses, showing a disdainful look.

Under Huo Yuhao’s insistence, the referee nodded and said, “Then we’ll choose a hundred year soul beast to conduct your test. Are you ready?”

“I’m ready,” Huo Yuhao replied without the tiniest bit of hesitation.

“The test will now commence.” The referee gestured toward a distant place, immediately giving rise to a mechanical sound. In the distance, a huge hydraulic gate was slowly opening, and the sound of something dashing about madly could be heard from the pitch-black corridor behind it. All the students that were busy laughing at Huo Yuhao immediately went silent. It was their first time being in this kind of situation, and they started to feel an indescribable pressure weighing down on them.

A streak of green light burst out from the depths of the corridor. Its speed was incredibly fast, and it traveled dozens of meters in an instant, directly pouncing toward Huo Yuhao.

Its body was two meters long and one meter tall. It had green fur that swayed in the wind, and a pair of pale-brown eyes that were full of excitement. This was a very common agility-type soul beast, the Wind Spiritwolf.

At this moment, Huo Yuhao’s body had a sudden change. Under the astonished gazes of the surrounding people, two blood-red rings of light suddenly emerged from under his feet, both with four pale-gold glittering lines on them. When they appeared, even Huo Yuhao’s eyes changed to a crimson red.

It seemed as if a terrifying aura from ancient times had suddenly appeared. Everyone around him saw a blood-red light spreading from the center of Huo Yuhao's body. At this moment, they found his small body to be as frightening as a demon from ancient times.

"Awoo——" The Wind Spiritwolf called out pitifully; that body that was dashing about madly suddenly stopped in midair. After that, it rolled on the ground like a gourd, lying weakly on the floor. Even excrement and urine could be seen here and there.

At the same time, a large number of yells could be heard from that faraway cave inside the great Beast Dueling Arena.

What did a red soul ring represent? It represented a hundred thousand year soul beast, it was the soul ring of a first-class soul beast. Every hundred thousand year soul ring was a rare existence; forget the students, even the teachers present on the scene didn't have one.

And at this moment, Huo Yuhao had not only displayed a red soul ring, but two of them. No matter if it was the visual impact or the terrifying aura, under that oppressive power, every part of the great Beast Dueling Arena was shrouded in a deadly silence.

But those caged soul beasts inside the great Beast Dueling Arena were not the only one to be affected. Even the students and the teachers were greatly affected. It was as if they were facing a terrifying wild beast that had no equal. Under this fearful aura, they unconsciously released their martial souls, immediately assuming a defensive posture.

A certain number of not-so-courageous female students started to cry copiously, and even the teachers' faces went pale from fright when they saw that silhouette in the middle of the stage that was neither big nor tall.

Du Weilun had stood up from his seat long ago, the radiance of eight soul rings emanating from his body. Facing the aura of a hundred thousand year soul beast, he was no exception to the crowd; he had immediately released his martial soul.

"I... Impossible. He's just 12 years old, how can he have a hundred thousand year soul ring? But this aura... is precisely that of a hundred thousand year soul beast! Moreover, that burst of aura just now... was much stronger than that of the hundred thousand year soul beasts I've seen in the past. Just how did he do it?"

The red light slowly started to disappear. First it was the red color in his eyes, then the two red soul rings on his body. Then, the terrifying aura also slowly disappeared without a trace, and everything finally returned to normal. The oppressive aura emanating from Huo Yuhao's body hadn't spread too far; it had only affected those inside the great Beast Dueling Arena.

A bad smell started to spread in every direction from that faraway dark cave, a stench that got stronger as time passed.

Huo Yuhao turned toward the two teachers that were still dumbfounded, and said while respectfully bowing, "Teachers, I've finished my test."

Indeed, the test had concluded. That Wind Spiritwolf was nothing but a hundred year soul beast, and it had taken the terrifying presence of a hundred thousand year soul beast head-on, while being the sole

target of its wrath. Therefore, it was not only so scared that it had wet itself, but it was also lying on the ground, twitching, with foam coming out of its mouth. What fighting spirit would it even have left?

"T-this..." The referee was speechless. He had assessed the abilities of god-knew-how many students in this final test in the arena, but this was his first time dealing with something like this.

Although Shrek Academy was famous for producing monsters, they still shouldn't be this monstrous! A Year 2 student with a hundred thousand year soul ring? And two of them to boot? n--*O((v..e//l--b-)l-/n*

After the initial great shock had passed, everybody's first thought was clearly, 'What had happened?' The only exceptions were Zhou Yi and Wang Dong, because they had already been shocked last night, but last night's shock was nowhere near comparable to the impact created by the scene just now.

Although Zhou Yi had heard Fan Yu saying that Huo Yuhao's imitation skill could do wonders... never would she have expected it to have such a terrifying effect. He hadn't even had to use his twin martial souls to win this battle.

That's right, Huo Yuhao's opponent was a soul beast that had cultivated for merely a hundred years. However, he hadn't moved from start to end, and had won this battle just by releasing his martial soul. How could this result be considered bad? This was simply the pinnacle of control! Now, Zhou Yi was finally clear on why Huo Yuhao had selected a hundred year soul beast instead of a stronger one. He wanted to have complete assurance. Had that soul beast been stronger, would he have been able to make it lose its fighting capacity with just the aura of a hundred thousand year soul ring? Even if he could, it wouldn't have had as great of a reaction as the hundred year soul beast before them.

The visual and mental impact of Huo Yuhao's display had really been too strong. As a result, not only were the two classes shocked, even all of the teachers were shocked! At this moment, everyone in the Beast Duelling Arena was dead silent, looking stupidly at Huo Yuhao, who was returning to his place with the other Class 1 students.

Zhou Sichen swallowed a mouthful of saliva and whispered, "Old Huo, that isn't the reincarnation of some hundred thousand year soul beast or something, right? That was just too terrifying. I almost wet myself."

Cao Jinxuan said, ill-humored, "I almost shat myself too."

After that short moment of surprise, the referee in the middle of the arena, as well as the other members of the committee on the tall platform, all looked toward Director Du Weilun. The meaning of their looks was very clear: 'What should we do now?'

Exactly! What should they do now? This situation was out of the ordinary, to say the least. How should they proceed? No matter how unbelievable it seemed, a student had used two hundred thousand year soul rings to scare a hundred year soul beast to death. Huo Yuhao had naturally passed the test, but how should they decide the score?

But right at this moment, several forms suddenly emerged from the side door of the great Beast Duelling Arena's beast cage. In front of them was an old man with a red face, a tall stature and an even more eye-catching head of red hair. Rushing forward, he howled, "What happened? Who the hell did it? All

soul beasts under ten thousand years were so scared that they shat themselves, and all of them are incredibly weak right now. Du Weilun, was this your doing?”

Du Weilun forced a smile and said, “Old Gong, it wasn’t me.” While speaking, he descended from the tall platform, landing near that old man and explaining what had just happened to him in a low voice.

This old man with red hair was named Gong Changlong, and he was the person in charge of this great Beast Dueling Arena. He had a high status inside Shrek Academy, and his research regarding soul beasts was very thorough. Even Du Weilun had to be polite to someone like him.

“Hm? Something like that happened? Impossible. Absolutely impossible. No matter what kind of natural talent he has, or how many heavenly treasures he relies on, it’s impossible for a 12-year-old to assimilate a hundred thousand year soul ring. Which boy did you say it was? Call him and bring him here, I need to take a look at him.” Gong Changlong was a hot-tempered guy, and he immediately started shouting out loud.

Somewhat embarrassed, Du Weilun said, “Old Gong, we’re in the middle of the final test, I was wondering if you could wait for the test to be over...”

Gong Changlong interrupted him with ill-humor and said, “Test, my ass. Were you even listening to me? All the soul beasts under ten thousand years old shat themselves from fright, and all those under a thousand years shared the same fate. How exactly are you planning to continue your test? These soul beasts need at least two or three days of rest to recover. Do you have any idea how long it will take for my men to clean up this awful stench? It was so difficult for us to train them to not shit wherever they wanted to, but now, all our efforts have been wasted.”

Even Du Weilun hadn’t expected things to become serious to this degree. Right now, they were unable to continue the final test. This seemingly unimportant affair would actually have an impact on the students’ studies.

“Fine, old Gong. I’ll give everyone a short explanation. Wait a moment.”

Du Weilun turned around and arrived near the students of the two classes. After pausing for a moment, he said, “Due to certain circumstances, today’s final test will be suspended. The teachers will now bring the students back to their classrooms to take lessons.”

Zhou Yi quickly asked, “Chairman Du, what about Huo Yuhao’s test?”

Du Weilun frowned and said, “Let’s say that he passed. Huo Yuhao, come with me.” After finishing his sentence, he turned and returned to old Gong.

However, Huo Yuhao didn’t immediately follow behind him. Instead, he went toward the front of Class 2, looked coldly toward Dai Huabin and said, “Remember to wait for me outside. If I’m not mistaken, according to our bet, the one with the higher score will be the winner. You’ve lost, I’ll be waiting for you to kowtow and admit that you were wrong!”

Chapter 49.1: The Claw of the Ice Empress

“I’ll be waiting for you to kowtow and admit that you were wrong!” These words struck Dai Huabin like a hammer blow and left him stunned. His already ice-cold countenance turned even paler as the blood

seemed to drain out of his face. "I'll be waiting for you to kowtow and admit that you were wrong!" These words struck Dai Huabin like a hammer blow and left him stunned. His already ice-cold countenance turned even paler as the blood seemed to drain out of his face.

He remembered now that just before they'd entered the large Beast Duelling Arena, Huo Yuhao had specifically emphasized that their bet would be settled today. However, never in his wildest dreams would Dai Huabin have expected Huo Yuhao to actually pass the advancement test with such an overbearing method. As if that wasn't enough, Huo Yuhao had also revealed his dual hundred thousand year soul rings.

No matter how much he tried to deny it, the facts were right in front of him! Furthermore, the presence of the hundred or so students from the two classes along with the presence of Teacher Wang Yan made it difficult for him to renege on his bet.

For a moment, Dai Huabin felt as though there was a mouthful of air stuck in his chest. His throat tasted sweet and with a 'wa', he spat out a mouthful of fresh blood.

He was simply too competitive. However, the more competitive one was, the harder it would be for one to bear losses or humiliation. n-(OvelbIn

Zhu Lu let out an astonished cry and hurriedly rushed over to support him only to be roughly shoved aside by Dai Huabin. Traces of blood had already appeared in his eyes as he glared fiercely at Huo Yuhao who had already left alongside Du Weilun. Suddenly, he dropped to his knees and shouted out loud, "I was wrong!" As he said this, he fiercely smashed his head into the ground. Then, he stood up and ran away.

Huo Yuhao paused his footsteps when he heard Dai Huabin's loud voice. His gaze was somewhat dazed, but his nose ached.

Mom, did you hear that? Dai Huabin admitted he was wrong. He's the son of that man and that woman. And this is just the beginning, I will definitely make them pay for the eleven years they made you suffer.

Huo Yuhao didn't turn back to look at Dai Huabin. After pausing for a brief moment, he strode forward and continued following Du Weilun to meet with Gong Changlong.

Dai Huabin crawled to his feet and ran away immediately while Zhu Lu and Cui Yajie hurriedly chased after him. Huo Yuhao's target was only Dai Huabin, so naturally Wang Dong and Xiao Xiao wouldn't go over to trouble the two girls. This time, not only had they won but they had done so by using an inconceivable method that had astonished the entire audience.

Du Weilun walked over to Gong Changlong with Huo Yuhao in tow, "Elder Gong, I've brought the person over. Look..."

Before he could finish his sentence Gong Changlong let out a cold snort. Suddenly, his body flashed and he sent a palm flying straight towards Huo Yuhao's head.

Instinctively, Huo Yuhao's body flashed as he moved backwards using the Ghost Shadow Perplexing Track. However, the enormous attractive force that suddenly came from Gong Changlong's fan-like palm forcibly halted his movement, causing his body to stumble forward as his footsteps became chaotic.

Furthermore, a terrifying wave of heat appeared within the force of attraction, causing water-like ripples to instantly form in the air around Huo Yuhao's body.

Du Weilun didn't stop him since he knew that Gong Changlong was only trying to test Huo Yuhao. In reality, he was extremely curious too and if it wasn't for the situation occurring in front of him, he would've verified Huo Yuhao's abilities himself. A milky-white light suddenly flashed across Huo Yuhao's eyes as he forcefully stood his ground with a stamp. A spotless white soul ring instantly rose from his feet, since he couldn't evade Gong Changlong's blow his only option was to take it on forcefully. As if he was supporting the heavens, he moved his palms to block Gong Changlong's palm.

Even though it was currently the middle of the day and there was still ample sunlight. When Huo Yuhao raised his hands to block Gong Changlong's palm, the nearby teachers could clearly see that his palms were flickering with a dazzling light almost as if he was wearing a pair of diamond gloves. At the same time, all of them suddenly felt an intense chill spread through them. The arrival of this chilliness was not only sudden but also ferocious, it was so powerful that it seemed to have the ability to pierce into one's bones. This dense cold aura even caused someone of Du Weilun's cultivation to instinctively shiver. The three palms connected and Gong Changlong's right palm suddenly turned fiery-red as if it was a burning hot piece of coal. A 'chichi' sound rang out the instant he collided with Huo Yuhao's palms. Large billowing waves of white mist burst forth from the point where the two collided, so much so that their entire bodies were hidden within the mist.

The clash caused Huo Yuhao to retreat a few steps before falling onto the ground with a thump. Although, his butt had landed on the ground and he had a somewhat astonished expression on his face. His appearance clearly showed that he hadn't suffered any injuries.

Gong Changlong's astonished face was clearly seen once the white mist has dispersed. "What a good brat," he said, "You possess the Ultimate Ice attribute which allowed your martial soul to suppress this old man's. What bothers me however, is how a one-ringed Soul Master like you possesses soul power comparable to that of a Rank 20 Soul Grandmaster? Also, where's the hundred thousand year soul ring you were supposed to have?" No one saw this but despite dispersing rapidly, an icy mist still lingered about the right hand he hid behind his back.

Huo Yuhao stood up. He naturally understood that this elder was only trying to test his cultivation. He replied respectfully, "Teacher, I don't have a hundred thousand year soul ring. That was only a special soul skill of mine. As for my soul power being above Rank 20, that is because I have two martial souls. My first martial soul has two soul rings. Earlier, I sensed that you had a fire-attribute martial soul and since it just so happens that my second martial soul is an ice-attributed one. I decided to use it in the hope that I'd be able to retaliate better. "

Du Weilun was already widening his eyes when Huo Yuhao revealed his ice-type martial soul. Especially after he saw that singular white soul ring appear. Upon also hearing Huo Yuhao personally say that he had twin martial souls, he felt everything in front of him go black. Depression took him over and he nearly spat out blood like Dai Huabin.

Even if Huo Yuhao's Class 1 had both him and Xiao Xiao that possessed twin martial souls, in reality, they were the only ones in the entire outer courtyard who had twin martial souls! People with twin martial

souls were absolutely gifted and talented existences. Even in the extremely harsh Shrek Academy, all the previous students with dual martial souls had become core disciples and entered the inner courtyard.

The thing that depressed Du Weilun the most was the fact that he thought that Huo Yuhao had wasted his twin martial souls! As a student of Shrek Academy, a ten year soul ring was already a disgrace and Huo Yuhao had a ten year soul ring on not one but both of his martial souls. Speaking of which, hadn't he mentioned that the hundred thousand year soul ring he had revealed earlier was a skill? The curiosity in his heart wasn't one bit less than Gong Changlong's.

Gong Changlong nodded seriously. "Very good, it's a very powerful skill. Both its power and attribute have reached the pinnacle. If I'm not mistaken, you definitely have a soul bone within you. Moreover, it's a power-type soul bone. There is no other way for you to have been able to burst out with so much power otherwise.

Earlier, he had been extremely furious towards the person who'd sent his soul beasts into a mess. It was due to this anger that he had been prepared to disciple Huo Yuhao using that palm attack of his. After sensing Huo Yuhao's soul power, the strength contained within his palm should've easily sent him flying according to common sense. At the very least, he should've tumbled head over heels across the ground. However, Huo Yuhao had only retreated a few steps backwards and landed on his butt, as if nothing serious had occurred to him.

Chapter 49.2: The Claw of the Ice Empress

This wasn't just the might of soul power, but the manifestation of his physical strength. Gong Changlong couldn't help but feel astonished by this. After all, it had to be known that he was one of the top ten experts in Shrek Academy as cultivation rank went.

Huo Yuhao said, "Yes. Thanks to a fortunate encounter, I obtained a torso bone."

Du Weilun felt like he was going to go blind; everything in front of him was going dark again! A torso bone? They'd only had a one month holiday, but he went and got himself a torso bone? Since when were torso bones this inexpensive? Didn't he say that he was an orphan? The Soul Tool Department, it must've been them! The Soul Tool Department actually invested so much in him? Wait, Gong Changlong praised the skill that came from that ten year soul ring of his? n-/σ..V.-E(/I./B/)I-/n

Du Weilun couldn't hold in his curiosity anymore, "Huo Yuhao, just what in the world happened to you? Just what soul skill did you use earlier to make all the soul beasts within the Beast Dueling Arena go limp from fright? Don't you know how hard it is to train these soul beasts? Either you tell us what happened or you'll have to compensate us for our loss."

Gong Changlong's face sank. "Little Du, what are you doing? He's just a kid and an outstanding student on top of that. You're called Huo Yuhao, right? Tell me, this old man is also very curious about you."

In such a situation, Huo Yuhao naturally wouldn't try to conceal anything. He replied obediently, "My first martial soul is my Spirit Eyes, and its second soul ring gives me a skill called 'Imitation'. This Imitation skill can let me change the shape of my body to imitate various things, and can fake the age of my soul rings as well. Earlier, I made both my soul rings imitate the shape and aura of hundred thousand

year soul rings. However, I wasn't able to fully imitate their auras due to my lacking cultivation. Otherwise, its effects would've been even better."

He wasn't trying to boast. He had been trying to imitate the aura of the Ice Empress and if a four hundred thousand year old soul beast had suddenly appeared in front of a group of soul beasts who had far inferior cultivations, just the pressure from its aura would have been enough to flatten them all.

After hearing Huo Yuhao's explanation, Du Weilun and Gong Changlong suddenly understood everything. Gong Changlong couldn't help but reveal a strange light in his eyes, "Good, good, this is an interesting soul skill. This Imitation is really good! If you had this skill in the Great Star Dou Forest, you would have been able to avoid a large number of conflicts. This would then be extremely useful when you're hunting soul beasts. This old man's called Gong Changlong also known as the Beast King. I have another question for you. What's your second martial soul? I know that it's advisable for you twin-souled soul masters to keep your second martial a secret and so this old man won't expect you to reveal your secret for free. How about this? I'll promise to do everything in my power to help you obtain a soul ring in the future if you're willing to tell me about your second martial soul. Do we have a deal? "

Huo Yuhao was overjoyed. A spiritual-type soul beast was simply too rare and this teacher was evidently in charge of the Great Beast Duelling Arena. His assistance would undoubtedly save Huo Yuhao a lot of time and effort.

He nodded hurriedly and replied respectfully, "Teacher Gong, I'm willing to tell you about my second martial soul."

Du Weilun and the other teachers by the side all had curious expressions on their faces but Huo Yuhao clearly wasn't planning to satisfy their curious minds. A golden light flickered through his eyes as he immediately activated his Spiritual Detection.

A three-dimensional image of the surrounding 100 meters immediately appeared in Gong Changlong's brain, and then image quickly focused on Huo Yuhao's back. It entered his shirt, and the tattoo on his back appeared fully in Gong Changlong's mind.

This was also Gong Changlong's first time experiencing the wondrous Spiritual Detection, and he couldn't help but click his tongue in wonder, "What a good skill! Even among the world of twin-souled soul masters, your combination of martial souls is absolutely at the peak. Very good, very good. So, your second martial soul is that thing. It's no wonder your ice attribute is at such an Ultimate level. The academy's truly picked up a treasure this time. Don't worry, this old man will keep this secret for you. I'd never thought that I could see a martial soul like this within my lifetime."

The more Gong Changlong spoke about it, the more curious Du Weilun became. However, the second martial soul of any twin-souled soul master was an extremely important secret; they wouldn't easily divulge it unless it was absolutely necessary. Due to Xiao Xiao's Ninephoenix Worshipping Flute being a Tool Soul, it was too easy for it to be exposed. Thus, she didn't bother concealing it. However, Huo Yuhao's second martial soul clearly wasn't easily distinguishable. However, Gong Changlong had said that it was an Ultimate martial soul. Thus, it absolutely wasn't bad at all.

Furthermore, another question had popped up in Du Weilun's mind. Huo Yuhao's second soul skill was his Imitation. Then, was the soul ring he'd unleashed from his ice-type martial soul a real one? Was the

soul skill even Gong Changlong praised a mere ten year soul skill? Even if he was beaten to death, he wouldn't believe it!

Huo Yuhao said obediently, "Teacher Gong, Director Du, if there's nothing more to say, I'll be going back first."

Gong Changlong nodded, "You can go back. If you have any spare time in the future, you can come over here and play for a bit. However, I'm forbidding you from imitating a hundred thousand year soul ring here. Otherwise, I'm going to make you go and clean up the beast cages."

Huo Yuhao smiled mischievously and ran off.

Du Weilun didn't stop him. What good would stopping him do? He was already a core disciple of the Soul Tool Department! The current Director Du only felt everything in front of his eyes going black. Even in his wildest dreams, he'd never thought that he'd let the Soul Tool Department pick up such a good deal. Furthermore, this was something that he and the Dean had forsaken.

In reality, Du Weilun couldn't really be blamed. Huo Yuhao's previous performances had simply been nothing spectacular. However, his trip to the Extreme North had caused his strength to experience a qualitative leap.

After bidding farewell to Gong Changlong, Du Weilun left hurriedly. The advancement test of the second year students hadn't gone smoothly, and he had to go back and rearrange it. At the same time, he had to report the day's events to Yan Shaozhe.

After Huo Yuhao walked out of the Great Beast Duelling Arena, he was instantly surrounded by a large number of students.

"Boss Huo, explain yourself clearly. Just what in the world happened with that hundred thousand year soul ring of yours?" Lan Susu called out, standing by the side.

"Yeah. Boss Huo, you have to compensate me for my trousers. I almost pissed myself because of you." Zhou Sichen stood by the side, fanning the flames. Immediately, he caused his fellow students to erupt into laughter.

"Then you didn't piss in the end, right? If you take a piss in front of everyone here, I'll pay you back." Huo Yuhao said unhappily.

Zhou Sichen was immediately forced to shut up.

Huo Yuhao spoke in a loud voice, "I'm sure that everyone can guess that those hundred thousand year soul rings of mine were definitely fake. I can only say that it's a new soul skill I've obtained that doesn't have any other practical uses. I won't talk about any further details! Let me keep a few secrets."

The advancement test had just started and wouldn't just end due to such a matter. Just as Huo Yuhao and the other students were returning to their classes in a lively manner, Dai Huabin stood in a shadowy corner not far away from them. As he wiped away the bloodstains at the corners of his mouth, a cruel light appeared in his eyes.

"Huabin, are you okay?" Zhu Lu asked worriedly.

Dai Huabin replied coldly, "Help me request Teacher Mu for a leave of absence. I'm going out for a bit."

"What are you going to do?"

"Mind your own business" Dai Huabin said coldly. With that, he turned away and left.

Chapter 50.1: Ancestor Tang San...

Due to the advancement test being cancelled, Class 1 and Class 2's students had to return to their respective classrooms to take lessons.

After a short discussion, Wang Yan and Zhou Yi called Huo Yuhao over to ask him a few questions. Afterwards, they finally began their afternoon class. However, Huo Yuhao didn't return to his seat. Instead, he was told go to and stand on a nearby platform. Then, Zhou Yi was called over by the teachers of the Teaching Department, as Director Du Weilun was holding a meeting.

"Due to special circumstances, the advancement test will be delayed for two to three days," Wang Yan told the students of Class 1, "This will give you a bit more time to train. Today, you all saw the battle between Yuhao and the Wind Spiritwolf. Soul beasts are not affected by emotions, and the first thing you need to do to fight them is maintain your composure. You must display everything you've learned. Soul beasts aren't scary. Most of the time, they only fight by relying on their natural instincts. Firstly, you'll have to overcome that psychological block in your mind, as fear will weaken your combat strength by a large amount. Let go of your hesitation. Only then will you be able to give it your all." He glanced at the students. "Ask yourselves, were you scared when that Wind Spiritwolf appeared?"

A large number of students immediately lowered their heads in shame.

Wang Yan continued, "It didn't happen because you were weak; it happened because you don't have any experience fighting soul beasts. If you were to fight against a fellow classmate with the same strength, would you still be afraid? Of course you wouldn't. That's because you believe that your fellow classmates won't actually hurt you. Then, do you think soul beasts or we soul masters are stronger? I can give you a definite answer to this. Under a situation in which both parties have identical cultivations, we soul masters will definitely come out on top."

He raised his hand and pointed toward his head. "That's because we human beings possess wisdom. You fear soul beasts because they have low intelligence. Furthermore, they won't think twice before killing. However, just wait till you get used to the fighting style of those soul beasts. At that point, you'll discover that the ones that are truly formidable are us soul masters. We can use our martial souls and soul skills to come up with many different kinds of tactics. But you have to remember this: no matter how outstanding the tactic, or how powerful the soul skill, only those who have courage will be able to show their true power. This advancement test will decide if you'll be able to keep studying at the academy. In a certain way, you can say that it will also decide your future. Today, we'll have a last minute lesson to improve your courage. Yuhao has the ability to change the color and aura of his soul rings. I ask everyone to not unconsciously release your martial souls. No matter how strong the pressure you're feeling is, try to keep your calm. Yuhao, you can start."

Huo Yuhao nodded, and a golden light flickered in his eyes. At the same time, two white soul rings slowly emerged from under his feet. They seemed to be ten year soul rings.

Just now, when Wang Yan had pulled him aside to ask him a few questions, it was about this; whether he was willing to use this method to help the other students. Huo Yuhao had already briefly explained how his soul skill worked. Otherwise, Wang Yan wouldn't have asked him something like this. Huo Yuhao didn't hesitate, and immediately complied. He was the class leader, after all. Thus, he was willing to help his fellow classmates. Moreover, at this point, he was unable to conceal his imitation skill. Thus, there was no need to hold back. He had managed to scare many soul beasts to death by relying on the Skydream Iceworm's instructions. In addition, this had allowed Huo Yuhao to experience some of the myriad possible variations of this skill.

These white ten year soul rings weren't going to have a great effect on the nearby students. Their color quickly changed from white to yellow.

Looking at the soul rings that had suddenly changed color, the students of Class 1 were astonished; this skill was really mysterious! It really could change the color of Huo Yuhao's soul rings at will.

Wang Yan said in grave tone, "The white color represents a ten year soul ring. It's the lowest ranked soul ring that we soul masters can fuse with. The yellow color represents a hundred year soul ring. The color of a soul ring will change according to its age, do you know why that is? Because there is a great amount of energy compressed inside it. And every soul skill will use this energy in a different way. Therefore, it's not a given that a lower ranked soul ring will definitely have a bad effect."

The yellow soul rings then changed into purple ones. As these purple thousand year soul rings each made their appearance. Huo Yuhao's body started to emit an invisible pressure, making the Class 1 students somewhat nervous. After all, the only one that was known to possess a thousand year soul ring in the class was Wang Dong.

"Everyone, be careful." Huo Yuhao said loudly. The two thousand year soul rings on his body transformed once again, the purple color suddenly becoming darker, until it slowly changed to black.

This classroom wasn't as big as the great Beast Dueling Arena. The appearance of two ten thousand year soul rings immediately created a heavy oppressive feeling that spread everywhere from Huo Yuhao's body. At this time, Huo Yuhao was drawing support from the Ice Jade Empress Scorpion's aura. It was a very ferocious soul beast, and when Huo Yuhao suddenly channeled its aura through those two ten thousand year soul rings in such tight quarters, its tyrannical aura gave the students the feeling of being crushed into smithereens.

Immediately, the students with a weak cultivation base felt their soul rings come out of their bodies. Even their appearances became pale.

Wang Yan furrowed his brows as he told Huo Yuhao, "No need to increase the output further. Just keep this level of intensity." He had the feeling that all these students would wet themselves if Huo Yuhao were to release the power of a hundred thousand year soul ring in this small and narrow place. And he absolutely didn't want that; keeping the level of intensity at ten thousand years was the best thing for the students.

"After cultivating for ten thousand years, soul beasts will experience a qualitative leap. Generally speaking, if a human being wants to deal with a ten thousand year soul beast alone, he will need the strength of at least six rings. If he wants to deal with a thirty thousand year soul beast, he will need the

strength of seven or more rings; and even then it would only be something he could try after obtaining a martial soul true body. Earlier, I said that soul masters would generally be stronger than soul beasts of the same rank. However, in the history of our Douluo Continent, there is only once instance of the strongest soul master surpassing the strongest soul beast. That happened when the first generation of Shrek's Seven Monsters was still around. The best example among them is exactly the founder of the Tang Sect, the Asura Tang San. Except for that period of time where our human race was stronger than the soul beasts, we have always been unable to contend with the strongest soul beasts."

"As for soul beasts that have cultivated for a hundred thousand years, even a Titled Douluo would find it hard to fight against them alone. That's because soul beasts who are able to cultivate for a hundred thousand years will definitely have a powerful inherited bloodline. And to suppress a hundred thousand year soul beast, one will need to be at least a Titled Douluo of the 95th rank or possess a sufficient number of soul bones."

"A tide of soul beasts once emerged from the Great Star Dou Forest, attacking our Shrek Academy. That time, the academy suffered severe losses. Inside the Great Star Dou Forest were some soul beasts who had even exceeded the hundred thousand year rank. The hundred thousand year rank isn't actually the limit for soul beasts. There are some soul beasts that are particularly gifted by the heavens, and by relying on their cultivation, they can break through the limit of the hundred thousand year rank, reaching a completely new realm. These soul beasts that can surpass the hundred thousand year rank are called transcendent soul beasts. I can guarantee you that the Great Star Dou Forest still hides some transcendent soul beasts. For us soul masters, a hundred thousand year soul beast is a first-class treasure. It will give us a hundred thousand year soul ring and a soul bone, totalling four soul skills. However, transcendent soul beasts are akin to a calamity. Even if we pay a huge price to kill them, it will be very difficult to obtain something valuable from their bodies. This is because the soul ring produced by a transcendent soul beast is not something we can absorb so easily. The body of the soul master that tries might be unable to withstand its power."

Zhou Sichen couldn't help but ask, "Teacher Wang, even Titled Douluo can't absorb it? Didn't you say that after surpassing the 90th rank and becoming a Titled Douluo, one's body will undergo a qualitative leap?"

After he finished his sentence, his expression changed, and he paled slightly. Huo Yuhao was continuously releasing the oppressive aura of a ten thousand year soul beast, and this aura was incessantly attacking the minds of the students. They needed to keep their concentration up; only then they would be able to suppress the fear in their hearts.

Wang Yan replied ill-humoredly, "You are going against common sense with these questions. Had this been the advancement test, they would have sent you home already. Tell me, how many rings does a Titled Douluo have?"

Zhou Sichen promptly replied, "Nine rings! Ah..." After speaking, he finally understood.

Exactly, a Titled Douluo already had nine rings. They were existences of the highest level. How could they have another soul ring?

Wang Yan said with faint smile, “You finally understand your mistake. If you do your best and manage to resist this fear inside your hearts, teacher will tell you a secret. This secret is about the top-ranked soul ring.”

The students were attracted by Wang Yan’s words, and the fear inside their hearts diminished a bit. The students that had already released their martial souls also made an effort to withdraw them.

n).0vELb1n

Wang Yan said in a grave tone, “What Zhou Sichen said just now was against common sense. However, I’ll tell you this: in the history of our Douluo Continent, it’s not like there haven’t been soul masters with ten rings. This secret piece of information was recorded in our Shrek Academy.”

Ten ring? After hearing those words, all the students were shocked. The fear in their hearts was also reduced a little more.

Wang Yan said, “The main subjects of my research are martial souls and soul rings. After doing a lot of research, I can guarantee you that it is possible to have ten rings, and having ten soul rings almost equates to becoming a God. In the records of our academy, there was some information about a person possessing ten soul rings; a God-ranked powerhouse. And this person is exactly the one I mentioned a while ago, the founder of the Tang Sect—Ancestor Tang San. Among his twin martial souls, his main martial soul, the Blue Silver Emperor, possessed ten soul rings. Researchers from later generations decided to call it a God-ranked soul ring.”

Chapter 50.2: Ancestor Tang San...(Preview)

Of all the of students in the class, Wang Dong was the person who had to face the least amount of pressure. He was extremely familiar with Huo Yuhao, and the two of them were able to fuse their martial souls! It didn’t matter what ability Huo Yuhao used, he wouldn’t feel too great of a threat from any of them. When he heard Wang Yan’s words, he couldn’t help but ask, “Teacher Wang, then what color are God-ranked soul ring?”

Wang Yan replied, “Even I don’t truly know. Based on historical documents, the ninth soul ring of Ancestor Tang San’s Bluesilver Emperor was bluish-gold. His second martial soul—the Clear Sky Hammer—also had a different colored ninth soul ring; it was dark-gold. It’s very possible that it was also a God-ranked soul ring. Based on this, we can deduce that God-ranked soul rings will all have different, unique appearances.”

Wang Dong asked, “Didn’t you just say that one’s tenth soul ring would be a God-ranked one? How was Ancestor Tang San’s ninth soul ring able to become a God-ranked one?”

Wang Yan smiled slightly. “We’ll first have to talk about a legendary soul beast that once existed on our Douluo Continent. Even among the teachers within the academy, only a few of them know about this secret. This legendary soul beast was known as the Deep Sea Devilwhale Emperor, and its cultivation had supposedly neared the million year rank. However, nobody is clear as to whether or not it actually surpassed a million years of cultivation. According to our historical documents however, once Ancestor Tang San absorbed its soul ring, it fused with some sort of energy in his body, which caused it to become a dark-gold God-ranked soul ring. Ancestor Tang San had already broken through the pinnacle of cultivation at this point, meaning that his soul power had reached Rank 100 and that he’d become a

God. Only with the help of his main martial soul's tenth soul ring—the Bluesilver Emperor—was he able to kill the Deep Sea Devilwhale Emperor.”

When Wang Yan finished speaking about Ancestor Tang San's God-ranked soul ring, Huo Yuhao was left in a daze. After hearing about the possibility of a million year soul beast who might have appeared in the past, he was stunned speechless.

At that moment, he couldn't help but ask, “Teacher Wang, did the Deep Sea Devilwhale Emperor really reach a million years of cultivation?”

Wang Yan shook his head. “What really happened is more complicated. According to the large amount of research conducted over tens of thousands of years by powerful soul masters, a soul beast is normally limited to a hundred thousand years of life. When they hit this limit, they'll encounter a calamity of sorts, at which point they'll have to choose between attempting to break through this limit, or transforming into a human. Earlier, I said that soul beasts able to break through this limit are known as transcendent soul beasts. However, all of them will still have to face a calamity like this every hundred thousand years. Once they break through ten calamities, they'll become existences close to that of a God. If they can leap through the golden gate and transform from a carp to a dragon, they'll be able to become true Gods. As far as I know however, a soul beast has never been able to complete this step. Even the Deep Sea Devilwhale Emperor wasn't an exception. As such, regardless of whether or not it was able to reach a million years of cultivation, it would still only remain a transcendent soul beast so long as it wasn't able to become a God. Of course, only a God can force these terrifying transcendent soul beasts to surrender. If one doesn't have as much as power as someone like Ancestor Tang San, even someone with the ability to kill a transcendent soul beast like the Deep Sea Devilwhale Emperor wouldn't be able to completely absorb its soul ring and soul bone.”

Huo Yuhao asked, “Teacher Wang. Before Ancestor Tang San became a God and left our world, did he have any other martial souls than his Bluesilver Emperor and his Clear Sky Hammer?”

Huo Yuhao shook his head. “There shouldn't have been any more. When Ancestor Tang San had his last battle with the Martial Soul Hall, the two opponents he faced were both God-ranked experts. According to the historical documents at least, a situation in which Ancestor Tang San possessed three martial souls didn't appear. Yuhao, why would you ask something like this?”

Huo Yuhao scratched his head. “I was just casually asking something random. The God rank is simply too far away from us, thus I was just wondering whether or not we'd obtain a third martial soul if we reached the God rank.”

Wang Yan smiled slightly. “Your train of thought is very good. Our research into the field of martial souls is precisely because we want to explore more of their secrets. One should definitely make bold hypotheses and verify them carefully. Alright, let's stop for now.”

His last sentence was directed towards Huo Yuhao. The other students instantly felt their bodies loosen up, which immediately causing the soul power in their bodies to undulate intensely, and in turn caused them to feel an incredible sense of relaxation. Only then did they recall the the pressure that Huo Yuhao had been releasing since he'd imitated the aura of a ten thousand year soul ring.

When Wang Yan saw the students act as if they'd been relieved of a large burden, he smiled slightly. "The menacing aura that a soul beast emits and the pressure that a soul master emits are actually just two different types of intimidation of your spirit. As long as your spiritual power is stable enough, you'll be able to stand unmoving like a reef near the seaside no matter how intense the pressure is. Earlier, your minds were captivated by my story, thus you completely forgot about the pressure Yuhao was emitting. Head back and have a good rest. Afterwards, prepare yourselves as best as you can for the advancement test. We'll end class here. Tomorrow, we'll continue to train in the same way."

Every single student within the classroom—including Huo Yuhao—had resolute looks in their eyes as they looked towards Wang Yan. Indeed, Zhou Yi couldn't compare to a scholarly teacher such as Wang Yan when it came to theoretical knowledge. However, Zhou Yi was much better than him at controlling her students. Since they were both simultaneously in charge of the class, they even complimented each other. At the very least, Class 1 no longer had a single student under the two-ringed rank after the past year's worth of study.

At this moment, there was still a period of time before dinnertime. As such, Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong decided to head directly towards their dorm. At Huo Yuhao's strong behest, they began to cultivating as soon as they arrived.

Huo Yuhao wasn't truly trying to be hardworking today, however, he had a few questions for the Skydream Iceworm. The only way he could have a conversation with the Skydream Iceworm currently was by entering a state of cultivation with Wang Dong and calming down.

As the Haodong Power circulated through their bodies, the dense undulations of soul power they emitted strengthened at a rapid rate. Both of them had experienced a qualitative leap in their cultivations during their vacation, thus the advantage they had in terms of cultivation speed since they'd fused their soul power was becoming more and more distinct.

"Brother Skydream, Brother Skydream." Once he'd entered a meditative state, Huo Yuhao immediately began to circulate his soul power in a controlled manner while calling out to the Skydream Iceworm.

The Skydream Iceworm responded to him quite quickly. Its lazy voice rang out, "What're you doing? Is this about that Deep Sea Devilwhale Emperor?"

Huo Yuhao said, "Yeah! Brother Skydream, was that Deep Sea Devilwhale Emperor really a million year soul beast?"

The Skydream Iceworm smiled mischievously. "Don't you already have an answer to this?"

Yes, the reason that Huo Yuhao had asked Wang Yan if Ancestor Tang San had had a third martial soul was precisely to verify whether or not the Deep Sea Devilwhale Emperor was a million year soul ring.

Huo Yuhao said, "Since you've answered me like this, it truly wasn't one?"

The Skydream Iceworm replied, "I've already told you: I'm the only soul beast on the continent who's been able to break through to the million year rank. The moment I broke through the boundary of the million year rank, I felt something deep in my heart. It's impossible to describe what that feeling was, but I instinctively knew that I was the first soul beast to reach this level. There hasn't been anyone else able to. The number of soul beasts that reside in the ocean outnumber the soul beasts on the continent,

thus it isn't surprising for powerful soul beasts to appear there. However, I can guarantee that there are no million year soul beasts among their ranks."

Huo Yuhao said, "Brother Skydream then, then... shouldn't you be a God?" He still had an enormous amount of doubt within his heart. Once he'd obtained his second soul ring for his Spirit Eyes, he'd immediately discovered a secret. The Skydream Iceworm had always disguised the true color of his Spirit Eyes' first soul ring. Lazy as he was however, the Skydream Iceworm had immediately delegated this task to Huo Yuhao once he'd obtained the ability to conceal his abilities. In truth, the first soul ring that the Skydream Iceworm had given him—his intelligent soul ring—was an impressive gold color. It was completely different from the regular white, yellow, purple, black, and red colored soul rings. When Teacher Wang Yan had talked about Ancestor Tang San's God-ranked soul ring, a thought had immediately popped into Huo Yuhao's mind. Wasn't the first soul ring of his Spirit Eyes a God-ranked soul ring as well? n/-0veIB1n

The Skydream Iceworm unhappily replied, "Stop dreaming. If I'd truly become a God, would I really have been bullied by those fellas in the Great Star Dou Forest? True, the soul ring that I gave you has the foundations of a God-ranked soul ring, but it absolutely isn't one. It's currently lacking two things: One, it needs a Godly Imprint that belongs to you. Only when you've obtain the cultivation of a God and have branded it with your imprint will it truly become a God-ranked soul ring. The other thing you require is a Godly Seat. Do you really think that it's so easy to become a God? It's definitely impossible to succeed without experiencing innumerable trials. However, it's still too early for you to be thinking about these things. All you need to know is that this Brother is a unique and genuine million year soul ring in the truest sense of the word. Understood?"

"Oh," Huo Yuhao replied, "Brother Skydream, don't go back to sleep yet. I still have another question to ask you. Earlier today, I used one of the soul skills that the Ice Empress gave me. Why was I suddenly so enormously powerful?"

The Skydream Iceworm immediately flew into a rage, "Aren't you just full of crap now! Who do you think the Ice Empress is?! She's one of the most powerful soul beasts who currently exists. You've received her soul ring and soul bone, and even though you only absorbed a very small amount of her power, your physique was strengthened by an enormous amount. Furthermore, the two soul skills that she gave you are both power-type skills. These two things—her terrifying amount of power and her Ultimate Ice attribute—culminated into the soul skill you released earlier: The Ice Empress' Pincer. However, you have to remember that the Ice Empress' Pincer can only be utilised at its maximum in a close-combat situation. On the other hand, you have to try your best not use the two skills her torso bone gave you. They simply require too much soul power; you wouldn't be able to endure it. Oh, right. When you've fused your soul power with this little fella in front of you, you should be able to barely release a trace of the power those two skills possess. In reality, you should feel proud of yourself. The person who tested you just now is one of those people you humans call a 'Titled Douluo'."

Huo Yuhao was astonished. "Brother Skydream, you're saying that Teacher Gong is a..."

Chapter 50.3: Ancestor Tang San...

"My intuition is never wrong," The Skydream Iceworm said, "Whatever, if you have nothing else to say, Brother is going to sleep. Continue cultivating diligently."

After having a conversation with the Skydream Iceworm, the doubts in Huo Yuhao's mind had cleared up. Having gone through today's affairs, his self-confidence had increased even more.

News of Huo Yuhao's stunning performance in the Great Beast Duelling Arena quickly spread throughout the entirety of the outer courtyard. However, under the conjectures of a few brainy people, the other students were able to surmise that he had used an aura-imitation skill. Because of that, he didn't cause too large a ruckus.

The advancement test for the Year 2 students was postponed for two days. Furthermore, Zhou Yi brought another piece of news to Huo Yuhao after the meeting the teachers had. The academy's Teaching Department had requested that he retake the advancement test without using his Imitation this time around. They guaranteed that he would obtain the minimum marks required to pass, but they still hoped that he would do all he could to display his own strength in order to obtain even higher marks.

Du Weilun wasn't willing to resign himself to the truth! After the advancement test had ended, he had organised a meeting with the other teachers before going over to see Dean Yan Shaozhe. Yan Shaozhe then gave him a single order—that was, for him to clarify what Huo Yuhao's second martial soul was, in addition to his soul skill.

.....

"Second young master, this is too risky. Shrek Academy is the continent's number one academy, and experts are extremely common there. The number of Titled Douluo they have exceed that of our empire. Rashly killing someone within Shrek Academy will be extremely inconvenient for the Duke."

"Then what if it's outside Shrek Academy?"

"If it's sufficiently far away from Shrek Academy, we can try. Second young master, you have to calm down. If you really can't take it anymore, you can ask the eldest young master for guidance."

"No need, I've already thought it through. I was clouded by my anger. I'll think of a way by myself first. If I really can't do anything about it, I'll draw them out for the sake of the White Tiger Duke's honor. At that time, you are not allowed to dissuade me anymore."

"Yes."

.....

"Haha, that old fella Yan Shaozhe must be foaming with anger in his office. How delightful, it's really so satisfying!" Qian Duoduo was lying on his wide sofa, his mighty body taking up almost half the space of the sofa, which could normally fit three people. He had a pleased look on his face.

Fan Yu, who was sitting opposite him, said sincerely, "Dean Qian, thank you." He was truly grateful to Qian Duoduo. He had made a timely move, allowing them to thoroughly bring Huo Yuhao over to the Soul Tool Department at the most crucial moment. Moreover, Yan Shaozhe couldn't do anything at all now.

Qian Duoduo waved his hand, "What're you thanking me for? This is all for our Soul Tool Department. However, that old fella Yan Shaozhe is very crafty. We still have to be alert."

Fan Yu was stunned. “Be alert for what? Yuhao’s already a core disciple of our Soul Tool Department!”

Qian Duoduo said, “You can’t think this way. I understand that old fella Yan too well; he’s not a person who gives up easily. He won’t do something like threaten us, but he’s extremely good at tempting someone. You still need to have a good conversation with that little fella Yuhao so he won’t be fooled by any means. Tell Yuhao that our Soul Tool Department can give him anything that Yan Shaozhe offers. I simply don’t believe that Old Yan will just let me snatch away the meat I’ve obtained. Humph. Two martial souls, hahaha. I just need to imagine Old Yan’s current expression to feel extremely happy.”

Fan Yu smiled slightly. “I don’t think that you need to worry. After interacting with this child Yuhao for so long, I have confidence in him. I can guarantee you one thing—as long as he gets his rank as a soul master up to the required rank, he’ll definitely become a soul engineer of the same class. Within five years, before he graduates from the outer courtyard, I’ll work hard to make him a Class 5 soul engineer. When he then enters the inner courtyard, we’ll be able to have him and Caitou implement the Ultimate Soldier plan.”

“The Imitation skill that Yuhao’s just obtained has eliminated a large obstacle to our Ultimate Soldier plan. This skill has no offensive uses, but it’s absolutely the strongest ability that a person can use to conceal themselves! The heavens above are truly thinking about our Soul Tool Department. Yuhao’s practically made for our Ultimate Soldier plan.”

Qian Duoduo nodded. “Fan Yu, I have a proposal. This kid Yuhao has an extraordinary amount of talent as a soul engineer, and we can’t restrict him too much using conventional ways. I feel that He Caitou shouldn’t continue being cultivated for the Ultimate Soldier plan. If Huo Yuhao can become the Ultimate Soldier we nurture, then He Caitou can be the Armory of the Ultimate Soldier.”

Somewhat concerned, Fan Yu said, “But Dean, isn’t this too risky? In the event we fail...”

The smile on Qian Duoduo’s face vanished, and he spoke in a grave voice, “There isn’t an ‘in the event’. If a person with twin martial souls can’t make our plan succeed, then that only proves that our plan doesn’t hold any water. If we go with the mentality of staking it all on one person, our chances of success are much greater.”

Fan Yu furrowed his brows. “Then I’ll have to think about it for a while. I need to ask Caitou for his opinion on this as well.”

Qian Duoduo smiled. “Yup. This issue isn’t urgent. They’re still young, so we have to establish their foundations well. Right, when is Huo Yuhao coming over?” n).0v**EL**b1n

Fan Yu said, “The Martial Soul Department’s having their advancement test. I’ll get him to come over after his test.”

Qian Duoduo said, “He’s already a core disciple of our Soul Tool Department now. After the Martial Soul Department’s advancement test ends, bring him over and let him participate in our advancement test as well. I want to see his capabilities in live combat.”

“Okay,” Fan Yu replied, filled with confidence. He had absolute confidence in the disciple he was pleased with.

Two days later.

The Great Beast Duelling Arena. Outside the Arena.

“Huo Yuhao, do you dare to make another bet?” Dai Huabin blocked Huo Yuhao and Wang Dong’s paths.

Without even waiting for Huo Yuhao to open his mouth, Wang Dong interjected, “What? You can’t accept it? The only reason why you’ve dared to come again is because you’re fully aware that Huo Yuhao’s been restricted from using his soul skill. Losing is losing, and you’ve already forgotten the pain that came from that scar of yours, eh? You’ve already kowtowed and admitted that you were wrong.”

A cold light flickered through Dai Huabin’s eyes, “What’s wrong with seizing an opportunity? I lost, and I admitted it. I’m only asking as to whether you dare to make another bet with me. This time, I’ll bet against you two by myself. I’m betting that I’ll be able to exceed the total of your scores by myself.”

The moment he spoke, Wang Dong immediately raised his brow, “Dai Huabin, you’re being too arrogant.”

Dai Huabin said icily, “Do you dare, or do you not?”

Wang Dong said angrily, “Since you wanna bet, we’ll bet. We’ll use the same stakes as before. The losing party will kowtow and admit that they were wrong, but three times this time.”

Dai Huabin turned towards the silent Huo Yuhao, “What do you say?”

Huo Yuhao said indifferently, “Seeing that you were willing to accept your loss last time, fine. We’ll take your bet.”

Dai Huabin squinted his eyes. After coldly sweeping his gaze over the two, he turned away and left.

As Wang Dong looked on at Dai Huabin’s leaving figure, he suddenly let out a laugh. Keeping his voice low, he turned towards Huo Yuhao, “Sure enough, it’s exactly as you predicted. That fella has well-developed limbs, but the brain of a moron. He actually dared to make a bet like this for the sake of revenge. He’s really thinking too highly of himself, and he’s looking down on us too much.”

Huo Yuhao smiled slightly. “Actually, he’s not looking down on us. It’s just that we have too many secrets that the others don’t know about. If he makes a decision based on common sense, it’s natural for him to be fooled by us.”

The Haodong Power was their greatest secret. Without the Haodong Power, it would’ve been impossible for their cultivation to increase so quickly. Huo Yuhao even had two martial souls in addition to the Ice Jade Empress Scorpion’s torso bone and soul ring. These weren’t things that others would know about.

Other than that, he still had an even greater secret, a secret that even the teachers didn’t know about.

Earlier this morning, Wang Dong had finally tested Huo Yuhao’s soul power after they had cultivated at an astonishing pace for two consecutive days. In the end, he was stunned all the way from breakfast till they reached the Great Beast Duelling. It was because Huo Yuhao’s soul power had already reached Rank 26.

When Huo Yuhao had entered Shrek Academy at the very beginning, he had only been at Rank 13. One year later, he was now Rank 26. It could be said that within the entire academy, Huo Yuhao’s leap in power was something that the other students were completely unable to compare with.

Soul power couldn't be measured using simple numbers. If the soul power needed to bring someone up from Rank 0 to Rank 13 was considered one unit, then the soul power needed to bring someone from Rank 13 to Rank 26 was at least five units. In other words, Huo Yuhao's soul power had quintupled within a year! This was completely inconceivable!

Even among the students of Class 1, his current soul power placed him in the top ten of the class. However, only Wang Dong knew about this secret. Moreover, Wang Dong himself had secrets! Furthermore, it wasn't just limited to a single secret...

The process of the advancement test was identical to that of two days ago; Du Weilun personally came over to oversee the test again. Furthermore, it wasn't just Du Weilun who'd come over this time. The proctor and the refereeing teacher were both stunned by the fact that the Martial Soul Department's Dean Yan Shaozhe had actually come in person. Furthermore, he had replaced Du Weilun as the main judge.

Just when was an advancement test of a lower year group belonging to the outer courtyard able to move an important person like the Dean? And yet, nobody would've guessed that Yan Shaozhe had actually come for a single student.

As the Dean of Shrek Academy's Martial Soul Department, Yan Shaozhe had an esteemed status. If he was willing to hold a post in any country, he would definitely receive the treatment of a state advisor. However, Yan Shaozhe had always remained within Shrek Academy. The thing he enjoyed most was seeing many outstanding geniuses being nurtured by himself, making Shrek Academy even more powerful.

From the others' point of view, a single student wasn't worth him appearing in person. From Yan Shaozhe's point of view, however, this was extremely worth it. This was an extremely rarely seen twin-souled soul master!

Not only had he come, he had arrived extremely early. Before the advancement test had begun, he had found the Beast King Gong Changlong and had a simple conversation with him for a period of time. Though Gong Changlong hadn't revealed what Huo Yuhao's martial soul was, he said the word 'Ultimate' to Yan Shaozhe. This word solidified Yan Shaozhe's confidence even more. A series of plans had already formed in his heart.

Seeing the students who had already entered the arena, a faint smile appeared on the corner of Dean Yan Shaozhe's mouth. Qian Duoduo, ah Qian Duoduo, I want to see which of the two of us will have the last laugh.