

Desolate 1131

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Book 32: Waveshift Realm Chapter 12: Fleeing

“Y-you...” The Ninedust Sectlord was speechless. He actually had harbored ulterior motives; he wanted to wait for Daolord Solesky to be killed by other Daolords, then counter-attack and take the seal for himself.

In truth, he really didn't have much of a relationship with Solesky. However, him and Ji Ning and experienced life-and-death experiences for many years, and he really did view Ning as an extremely close friend. He was by nature an arrogant and solitary figure, willing and capable of doing anything and everything necessary to achieve his goals. If he didn't like someone, he wouldn't give a damn about them even if they were stronger than him... but once he did acknowledge a person, he would be willing to risk his life for the sake of that friend.

“Damnit. You drive me crazy. Fine, let's escape together.” The Ninedust Sectlord gritted his teeth.

“You...” Ning was stunned.

“But I want to make my position clear – if I'm unable to hold them off any longer, we need to voluntarily hand the Voidsea Jade seal over. I'm not gonna commit suicide for someone else.” The Ninedust Sectlord let out a cold snort. “For Daolord Solesky to have a brother like you who is willing to risk your life for him... he really has some bullshit luck. If it wasn't for you, his chances of escaping with the seal would be virtually negligible.”

Ning was both overjoyed and moved by this. This escape would be an incredibly dangerous endeavor. King Gorsch had died just a while ago, and this time the Daolords would probably be even more frenzied in their attempts.

“Thanks, Ninedust.” Ning silently committed this display of friendship to memory. He knew that this would be a day he would never be able to forget.

“When we work together, it won't be easy for anyone to stop us,” Ninedust sent mentally. “Alright, let's cut the crap. Time to run.”

Although they had briefly bickered, given their level of power their mental conversations happened almost instantaneously. Less than a single second had passed since Ning had collected Daolord Solesky. It was now time to flee.

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Splash! The flying black vessel suddenly burst through the surface of the river, with Ning, Ninedust, and Badland atop the vessel. Ning took control over the vessel, not hesitating at all in sending it back the way they had previously come. That way, they would be able to avoid all of the natural dangers within the Waveshift Realm.

“You can't!” Daolord Badlands opened his eyes and suddenly let out a furious shout.

“What’s wrong?” Ning turned to look at Badlands.

“I engaged in some detailed Numerancy just now. If we go back the same way we came, I think we are destined to fail. I can’t divine any way to survive if we go back that way, and I can foretell that the battles we will encounter shall be far more terrible than the ones King Gorsch endured.” Daolord Badlands pointed towards the left instead. “All other directions will result in guaranteed failure. I can sense that our only chance will come from that direction.”

“Oh?” Ning and Ninedust exchanged a glance. They had all sworn lifeblood oaths when establishing the squad to tell each other the truth. There was no way Daolord Badlands was lying to them.

In truth, they themselves knew that due to everyone having chased after King Gorsch, all the various Daolord squads were now much closer to each other than before. As a result, there was a very high concentration of Daolords in the area around Ning. Their flight would be much more dangerous than King Gorsch’s failed attempt.

Daolord Badlands was now telling them that all other paths, including the path they had originally traversed to come here, would result in certain failure. This was a testament to how dangerous this would be.

“The heavens always leave a chance; they never seal off hope entirely. It seems our only hope lies in that direction.” Ning didn’t hesitate at all, immediately sending the vessel flying at high speeds towards the direction Daolord Badlands had just pointed.

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“What?!”

“They aren’t going back the same way they came! They’re advancing towards an unexplored area.”

Sectlord Timedream, Winesage, and the other Heartforce Cultivators continued to mentally converse with each other. When they had pursued King Gorsch, they had paid close attention to the path King Gorsch was taking. While doing so, they had also mentally memorized the paths which the various squads of Daolords had taken, including Ji Ning’s. Daolords naturally had terrifyingly good memories, and they thus remembered exactly what route Ning had taken.

“I had thought they would go back the same way they came! I arranged for other Daolords to intercept and attack them, but they’re instead fleeing in a different direction. Quite crafty.”

“Hurry up and stop them.”

“Tie them down! The longer we can tie them down, the more Daolords will be able to make it there.”

Sectlord Timedream began to converse mentally with the various other Daolord squads, arranging them like chess pieces. And in truth, those Daolords were willing to serve as chess pieces for the chance of acquiring a Voidsea Jadeseal.

“Daolord Darknorth is a Heartforce Cultivator and has many unpredictable heartforce attacks we would be forced to take head-on. His avatar was capable of slaying Daolord Mistbearer, and his true body should be even stronger. My Dao-heart is lacking; I’m not going to take part in this ambush. Good luck, fellow Daoists.”

“Alas, it seems like I won’t have any chances this time.”

The weaker Daolords and the ones with flawed Dao-hearts began to slow down. They weren’t willing to face a Heartforce Cultivator head-on!

Although King Gorsch was formidable, they were at least able to see and defend against his attacks when they worked together. Heartforce attacks, however, were invisible and could only be taken head-on. If you were able to endure the attacks, you’d live; if you failed, you would die!

Whoooosh! Many other Daolords, however, continued to rush there at high speeds. Only a fairly small percentage were afraid of Ning! The most powerful second-tier Daolords didn’t really fear each other. As for the supreme first-tier Daolords, they felt no fear at all.

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Swoosh. Ning continued to flee at high speeds aboard the black vessel. Previously, when he had his heartworld projection active, he had marked down the various paths which the other Daolord squads had taken. This now proved to be quite useful.

“There they are!” Ninedust bellowed.

“The first Daolord squad.” Ning waved his hand and put away Daolord Badlands, then stared intently towards the front. They had fled for roughly the time needed to boil a kettle of tea... and a squad of Daolords had appeared. This was the first one, and there were eight of them off in the distance.

Whoooooosh. The sides drew closer and closer.

“Attack!”

“Kill them.”

“Darknorth is nothing.”

The eight Daolords were filled with a murderous intent and had savage looks on their faces. As they saw it, King Gorsch was much stronger than this Daolord Darknorth ever could be.

“Go.”

“Die!”

“Vanish.” Six of the eight Daolords didn’t hesitate in immediately taking out rare treasures. These six were second-tier Daolords, while the other two were fairly weak and were just trying their luck out.

“Kill!” The Ninedust Sectlord was brimming with killing intent as well.

“Dreamstar!” Ning immediately executed his [Dreamstar] art. Given that these eight dared to attack him head-on, the [Heartforce Eradicator] probably wouldn’t be of much use against them! Thus, Ning chose to immediately use the [Dreamstar] instead.

Invisible waves of heartforce instantly surged out towards the eight Daolords.

“Uh...”

“1...”

Even the Junior Radiant King, Daolord Yanmi, had been briefly affected by Ning’s usage of the [Dreamstar] art... and Ning’s true body was even stronger! These Daolords were obviously not a match for the Junior Radiant King, and six of them were instantly driven into an spellbound state. Only two of the Daolords were able to maintain their clarity of mind.

Now that they had fallen into a state of stupor, they obviously wouldn’t be able to activate the power within their treasures. Ning himself would need a moment of time to take out and activate the Sword Hegemon’s Dao-seal! Its power would be unleashed in accordance with his guidance; without it, it would just burst out in a straight line that would be much more easily dodged.

Boom! Boom! Boom! Terrifying black light, awesome thunder, endless blades of icy light... without guidance from their masters, they began to randomly collide against each other. Even the two Daolords who were able to maintain their clarity of mind were disrupted.

“Fools like them think to stop us?” The Ninedust Sectlord let out a bellow, then struck out with his longstaff. His longstaff stretched out to become a million kilometers long, howling through the skies and splattering apart a dangerous streak of bloody light.

“What?!”

“He was able to shatter the power of that Dao-seal?”

“How is this possible?” The two clear-minded Daolords were shocked by what they saw. Only supreme first-tier Daolords would be able to unleash such power with a casual strike. That attack had more might within it than a powerful Dao-seal!

“Die!” The Ninedust Sectlord charged forwards valiantly.

“Die.” Ning continuously executed the [Dreamstar] while also sending out his nine novessence arts like nine energy dragons towards the eight.

Even though the Ripplewater art and the nine novessence arts were being suppressed Sectlord Timedream, they were still able to strike out across a great distance towards those Daolords!

“Run, quick!” By now, three of the six dazed Daolords had come back to their senses. They immediately screamed mentally to each other, “His illusions are too powerful. Flee!”

Alas, how could they possibly flee more quickly than the nine novessence arts or the Ripplewater art? They were instantly surrounded and bogged down. The three still-dazed Daolords were unable to resist at all, and two of them died on the spot! A heartbeat later, the Ninedust Sectlord’s staff came howling for them...

“Run! Run!”

“He’s a supreme Daolord!”

“A supreme Daolord and a Heartforce Cultivator, working together! We aren’t a match for them!”

They had thought that this squad would be easy pickings, but it was even more terrifying than King Gorsch had been! If they were facing King Gorsch, the six items they had just tossed out would've been more than enough to put him in a tight spot. However, against the combined forces of Ning and Ninedust, it had been of no use! They made up for each other's weaknesses. This was the reason why Daolord Soleman had joined forces with Daolord Skyaxe.

"Hahaha!" The Ninedust Sectlord flew back to the flying vessel. "I enjoyed the hell out of that battle. How absolutely wonderful! If we had enough time, we would've finished off those four as well. There's no way they should've been able to escape." In the end, four of the eight had died. The other four had managed to escape.

In the Waveshift Realm, it was generally fairly easy to kill second-tier Daolords, as normal dimensional/temporal escape methods were of no use. The only choice was to fly, which meant that many of the slower ones would easily lose their lives if they were unable to beat an opponent.

"Darknorth, when the two of us work together, we might just be able to fight our way out after all." The Ninedust Sectlord chortled with laughter. "Hah! Our reputations are really gonna be spread throughout the Endless Territories."

"There really aren't many who can stop us when we work together." Ning grinned as well. In his heart, he felt tremendous gratitude towards Ninedust.

His big brother Solesky had shown him great benevolence in the past; there was no way Ning would just abandon him, but the same hadn't been true for Ninedust. Although both of them were in high spirits, they also knew that this would be a very dangerous escape attempt... and the dangers had just begun.

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Book 32: Waveshift Realm Chapter 13: Fight

The ease with which Ji Ning and the Ninedust Sectlord had slaughtered the first squad to attack them, forcing the attackers to flee in disarray, caused the Heartforce Cultivators who were 'spying' on the fight to feel stunned.

"What's going on? Who is that silver-robed man? How can he be this powerful?" Winesage asked anxiously.

"Does anyone know who the silver-robed man is?"

"Does anyone know where he comes from?"

"All I know is that he is an Ancient cultivator who is on par with me," Fiendqueen Dustrain replied.

"Since when did the Ancient cultivators suddenly give birth to such a terrifyingly powerful Daolord?"

The Heartforce Cultivators instantly began to spread this information to the other Daolords and ask them about it. Of the many Daolords present, there actually were a few who knew about Ninedust.

"The Ancient cultivators do have an incredibly talented Daolord known as Redwater who is skilled in staff-arts and walks the Dao of Water. He has become the new Sectlord of the Ninedust Sect! However, when I knew him he wasn't nearly this powerful."

“Yes, when I used my heartworld projection to suppress them, I overheard Daolord Darknorth refer to him as ‘Ninedust’.”

“The Ninedust Sectlord?”

“Daolord Redwater, the Ninedust Sectlord?”

There were simply far too many Daolords clustered within the Waveshift Realm. Even the most low-key of Daolords would still be known to some. All Daolords had to experience danger and train in order to grow more powerful. They’d naturally run into other Daolords during the process.

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The many Daolords present all understood that to withstand Darknorth and Ninedust would be no easy task! Ninedust was already on par with King Gorsch, while Darknorth was a Heartforce Cultivator. The two complimented each other very well.

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“Fuck off!” Ning let out a furious roar as his heartforce surged out in a wave via his [Dreamstar] art towards the five Daolords who had come to stop them.

After going through the Ancient Hegemon’s relic site, studying the Dreamdust script, and traversing the Thundersouth Palace as well as using the Stone Censer of Reunion for many years, Ning had reached an extremely high level in the [Dreamstar] art. By now, his illusions were on par with even the illusions that had been within the Thundersouth Palace, and even Ninedust had repeatedly been tricked by the illusions in Thundersouth Palace!

When Ning used this technique, the vast majority of second-tier Daolords would be affected by it. And in truth, this was nothing much. When Daolord Featherdress had used her [Featherdress Southrall Song], no non-Heartforce Cultivator Daolord was able to resist it, including the other supreme first-tier Daolords! This was what made Heartforce Cultivators so terrifying.

“Ahhh!”

“Where am I?”

Four of the five Daolords were trapped within illusions. The remaining one, upon seeing this, didn’t dare to attack.

“Let’s go.” Ning and the others didn’t want to waste any time. They immediately used their flying vessel to escape at high speeds.

“What just happened? How could we all have been trapped in illusions?”

“My Dao-heart is incredibly powerful. How did I end up within an illusion as well?”

When the other four Daolords came to their senses, they were so frightened they felt cold sweat drip down their banks.

“If it hadn’t been for Daolord Darknorth, the five of us could’ve joined forces to cause the Ninedust Sectlord quite a few problems. Ugh. They’ve joined forces. Blocking them is going to be extremely

difficult.” After personally experiencing the power of this combination, the squad instantly understood how terrifyingly strong the Ning-Ninedust team was.

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It was true. The Ning-Ninedust team was virtually unstoppable. Both of them had extremely powerful secret arts, and Ning’s heartworld projection was able to push back repeatedly at Sectlord Timedream’s heartworld projection. Although his own projection was repeatedly destroyed by Timedream’s, their secret arts were strong enough to allow them to endure the rest. Thus, they weren’t slowed down in the slightest.

As far as combat power went? Although they were repeatedly outnumbered by second-tier Daolords, Ning would cast his heartforce illusions upon them from far, and the majority of them would immediately fall for it! There was just no way to slow them down at all.

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In the blink of an eye, Ning’s group had spent nineteen days in flight. On the way, they had suffered quite a few attacks by Daolord squads, with two of the attacks being quite difficult to deal with. They had fought at maximum speed and managed to kill five of the Daolords.

“Eh?” Ning and Ninedust suddenly stared towards the front.

“Something’s off.” Ning’s eyes narrowed as he stared towards a red-robed youth who was flying towards them from afar. The red-robed youth’s eyes were extremely bright, and they glistened like the stars. Ning had a heavy look on his face. “He actually dares to intercept us by himself. He knows how strong we are, but he still dares to challenge us. He is very possibly a supreme Daolord.”

“Yes. Even worse, he doesn’t seem to be one of the more famous ones. We have no idea what his skills lie in.” Ninedust had a bad feeling as well. This was the first time during their flight that a sole Daolord had moved to intercept them by himself!

“Brother Darknorth. Brother Ninedust. My Daoist title is ‘Snowjoy’. I feel rather embarrassed; this is our first time meeting each other, and we’re about to get into a fight right away.” The red-robed youth laughed brightly. “Why don’t you hand over the Voidsea Jadeseal. Now that I’m here, you won’t be able to escape.”

“You think quite highly of yourself.” Ninedust smirked.

As for Ning, a cold light flashed through his eyes as he immediately sent out his [Dreamstar] art. The red-robed youth, however, just continued to stand there with a smile on his face in front of them. When the [Dreamstar] art swept past the man, the man simply continued to smile. His smile had a strange charisma to it, and his eyes only shone even brighter as he looked at Ninedust. “Brother Ninedust?”

“Hmph.” The Ninedust Sectlord let out a cold snort. “So you are actually skilled in illusions as well.”

“Alas, my illusions can in no way compare to brother Darknorth’s. He is a true Heartforce Cultivator, after all.” The red-robed youth smiled.

Ning’s face tightened as he sent mentally to Ning, “Ninedust, my [Dreamstar] did nothing to him.”

“He is probably a supreme Daolord! Supreme Daolords almost all have incredibly powerful souls and Dao-hearts. Their souls won’t be easily shaken by illusions. Don’t worry. Leave it to me.” The Ninedust Sectlord glared coldly at the distant red-robed youth, then barked, “Daolord Snowjoy? Hmph! Let’s see if you really are strong enough to bar my path.”

“After you.” The red-robed youth smiled gracefully, then flew over.

“Attack!” The Ninedust Sectlord swept through the skies, his longstaff expanding to become ten thousand kilometers long as he slammed it towards the opponent in front of him. The space around him actually twisted into a vortex, with that longstaff being at the center of the vortex as it smashed towards the red-robed youth.

The red-robed youth instantly manifested a total of six ivory-white arms. His six arms spread out like the plumes of a peacock, launching palm-strikes, finger-strikes, claw-strikes, and other attacks towards the Ninedust Sectlord.

Thud! An extremely soft and light collision could be heard. The red-robed youth’s body trembled slightly before he then continued to press the attack against Ninedust.

“Die.” The Ninedust Sectlord spun his staff around his waist as he prepared for another strike. The longstaff was like a Flood Dragon leaving the waters, causing great waves to appear in the area that crashed downwards towards the red-robed youth.

Boom!

Hiss!

Bang!

The red-robed youth’s attacks were extremely graceful. No matter how ferocious the Ninedust Sectlord’s attacks were, the youth was able to defend against them with extremely delicate strikes. He was able to use his six hands alone to defend against Ninedust’s longstaff without suffering the slightest of disadvantages.

Ning grew increasingly anxious as he watched. If this continued, the battle could go on for several days without any resolution.

Swoosh! Ning suddenly vanished as he used his Shadowless evasion skill to move closer to the red-robed youth.

“You wish to ambush me?” The red-robed youth’s godsense had been activated this entire time, and so he naturally was able to notice as Ning drew close to him. He let out a soft laugh. “you are a Heartforce Cultivator. If you hid far away, I wouldn’t be able to do anything to you... but you actually dare to deliver yourself into my hands?”

“Kill!” Six streams of light appeared simultaneously as Ning manifested [Three Heads, Six Arms] and sent his six Northbow swords to attack his opponent.

“Screw off.” The red-robed youth casually waved a single hand to slap back at him.

Bang! The tips of the swords collided against the center of the red-robed youth's palm. The youth's face instantly changed. He had thought that he would be able to deliver a heavy blow to Ning with a single hand, but Ning had used the most powerful attack available to him – the Blood Drop stance. This stance, when used with the Northbow swords, contained incredible power!

Although Ning felt the tremendous power contained within that palm-strike, the defensive prowess of his sword-arts allowed him to deflect and ablate much of that power with one sword. He also had the Hegemon armor, allowing him to take on as much of the strike as possible so as to ensure that his other five swords were not disrupted by the attack. Thus, the other five Northbow swords continued to fly mercilessly towards the red-robed youth.

"I told you to screw off!" The red-robed youth was irritated now. He sent three of his ivory-white palms towards Ning in a fierce assault, his palms growing in size as he slapped out towards Ning.

Boom! Boom! Boom! Ning was knocked flying backwards.

Boom! The Ninedust Sectlord suddenly landed a blow with his longstaff against the red-robed youth's waist, knocking him flying backwards as well. The youth spat a mouthful of blood out.

"Damn." The red-robed youth quickly righted himself in midair, a look of anger in his eyes as he smiled coldly towards the distant Ning. "Impressive, Darknorth. I didn't expect you to be this strong in close combat! You caught me slightly off-guard... and you didn't even spit out any blood after taking a hit from me! Impressive, impressive."

Ning was stronger than he had expected. He had to use at least thirty to forty percent of his power to deal with Ning, but this meant that he would no longer be able to fend off the Ninedust Sectlord.

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Book 32: Waveshift Realm Chapter 14: Daolord Shaka Bars Their Path

"The two of you are more powerful than I had expected. I've just developed an ultimate attack that I've yet to display in front of other Daolords. The two of you shall be the first one to see it." the red-robed youth said in a cold voice. His body began to glow with rays of astral light that coalesced to his left and his right, forming two starlight bodies.

The red-robed youth and his two starlight bodies looked absolutely identical to each other.

"A Stargod clone?" Ji Ning and Ninedust both exclaimed in surprise.

"Yes, these are Stargod clones." The red-robed youth smiled coldly. "This is the supreme technique of the Starking, the 'Stargod clones'."

The Starking was ranked ninth amongst the Daolords, and he was famous for his killer technique, the 'Stargod clone'. Every single Stargod clone had 50% of the true body's power! The Starking was able to create a total of seven such Stargod clones.

"The Starking's 'Astral Dao' is an extreme one that has obvious flaws, rendering him weak in close combat. However, it allowed him to develop his Stargod clone technique, letting him be ranked amongst the top ten in the Endless Territories." The red-robed youth smirked. "My own Astral Dao is more

perfect than his. It has no flaws at all. Although I'm only able to create two Stargod clones, I'm vastly superior to the Starking."

Ning and Ninedust traded a glance. This unknown Daolord Snowjoy was indeed quite formidable in close combat. Although he had been defending this entire time, he was still able to match Ninedust blow for blow. Now that he had two more Stargod clones with him, what were they to do?

"Kill!" The red-robed youth and his two Stargod clones simultaneously attacked the Ninedust Sectlord.

The furious Ninedust Sectlord charged forwards as well, his longstaff lashing directly outwards. His attack looked simple, but it possessed unstoppable power! The red-robed youth dodged slightly, using his palms to brush aside the attack, but the Ninedust Sectlord's longstaff suddenly twisted and swept outwards to both sides of him, simultaneously striking at the red-robed youth and the two Stargod clones at the same time.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

The two sides exchanged just a few dozen stances before one of the Stargod clones managed to land a palm-strike directly against the Ninedust Sectlord's chest, knocking him flying backwards. The Ninedust Sectlord's chest had partially dissolved into a stream of water before quickly reforming. Although he didn't have a killer attack like the Stargod clone technique, his invulnerable aquaform was a far stronger supreme defensive technique than Snowjoy possessed.

"He can't hurt me, but his true body combined with the two Stargod clones can tie me down." The Ninedust Sectlord gritted his teeth, then struck out with his right hand and produced that strange formation-diagram within his palm.

Rumble! The formation-diagram in his palm immediately flew out and expanded in size to cover an area of ten million kilometers. The enormous formation-diagram was shaped like a square within a circle and filled with layers of flowing barriers. Thousands of layers of formations continuously overlapped with each other.

"A trap formation?" The red-robed youth, who had been extremely confident this entire time, suddenly turned tense. A look of stunned anger appeared on his face.

"Let's go!" The Ninedust Sectlord immediately pulled Ning with him in a frantic retreat, the layers of formations parting in front of them. Swoosh! They entered the black vessel, then quickly fled at maximum speed.

"Stop running! Stop running!" Trapped within the enormous formation, the red-robed youth was able to do nothing besides roar angrily. He had been so close... so close! The Voidsea Jadeseal had been within reach, but this trap formation had cut off his chances.

"Break! BREAK!" The red-robed youth furiously assaulted the trap formation. He wasn't that skilled in the art of formations, and when he saw that this one was composed of thousands of layers of barriers he knew that breaching it through raw force was the only chance he had! He had to continuously consume the power within the formation. Only when its power was depleted would he have a chance to escape.

However... he had no idea that this was something left behind by a Hegemon of the Ancient cultivators! This formation was an incredibly strong one. He was trapped in it for a full hour before managing to escape. By then, Ning and the Ninedust Sectlord had fled far, far away.

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“The situation looks pretty bad.”

“The Ninedust Sectlord has a trap formation of incredible power.”

“Daolord Snowjoy’s stuck inside it.”

Word quickly spread, and the many Daolords converging on this area began to grow anxious. It took them time to slowly fly through the ninth layer, making it difficult for any group to intercept another group. They had been extremely lucky to have a supreme Daolord manage to intercept Ning’s squad, but who would’ve thought that the Ninedust Sectlord would be able to use a trap formation against him and escape with ease?

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Flee, flee, flee! Ning’s group continued to frantically flee at maximum speed. Both Ning and Ninedust knew that using a trap formation against such an opponent was an excellent ploy, but Ninedust’s formation treasure could only be slowly recharged through the usage of ten million cubes of chaos jewels! They didn’t really care about money at a time like this, but it would take two or three days for the recharging process to be completed.

Another month went by in the blink of an eye. Daolord Snowjoy was once more in hot pursuit of them, but wouldn’t be able to catch up. For now, the group didn’t encounter a second supreme Daolord.

“It’s only been a month. Based on the path in front of us, we’ll still need another two years before we can escape the ninth layer. I hope things will progress smoothly.” Ning, Ninedust, and Badlands were all standing aboard the deck of the black vessel.

Daolord Badlands suddenly frowned. He repeatedly engaged in his Numerancy calculations, only to shake his head again and again.

“What’s wrong?” Ning and Ninedust asked.

“Things are becoming increasingly dangerous!” Badlands explained, “My calculations are telling me that the situation is going to worsen no matter which way we go!”

Ninedust snickered, “They know where we are and are surrounding us from all sides. Of course things are only going to become increasingly dangerous! Our only chance is for us to escape the ninth layer. But... if they are going to try and stop us, they need to prepare to die!”

“Someone’s coming.” Ning stared towards the front.

“Eh?” Ninedust turned to stare forwards as well. A golden streak of light suddenly appeared off in the distance... and the faces of both Ning and Ninedust instantly changed.

“Fellow Daoist Darknorth. Long time no see.” A golden-armored, golden-haired man stood off in the distance, a brilliant smile on his face and violet light shimmering in his eyes. “You’ve improved quite quickly!”

“Daolord Shaka.” Ning had an ugly look on his face. When Kongsan had failed in his attempt to kill Ning, Kongsan had asked Daolord Shaka to help out. Ning had been forced to use his Hegemon Dao-seal to survive!

The Sword Hegemon’s Dao-seal was incredibly powerful. It had slaughtered Kongsan outright! Daolord Shaka, however, had managed to survive and escape thanks to using a valuable life-preserving treasure.

“You actually dare to bar my path? Aren’t you worried that I might hit you with a second seal?” Ning said coldly.

“Ahaha!” Daolord Shaka laughed loudly. He naturally had never forgotten the terrifying scene from a few years back. “Are you really trying to tell me you had TWO such treasures? And even if you do have a second one, so what? I knew just how dangerous this trip to the Waveshift Realm would be and so I paid an incredibly heavy price to procure a protective treasure. Even if you use a second Dao-seal, I’ll still be able to escape.”

“Forget him.” The Ninedust Sectlord frowned, then sent mentally, “Let’s leave. Don’t waste any time with him.”

“Let’s go.” Ning agreed with this idea. Swoosh! The black vessel instantly sped up to a hundred times the speed of light as the two completely ignored Daolord Shaka.

“Fleeing?” Daolord Shaka instantly sped up to over a hundred times the speed of light, waving his hand and sending a streak of golden light straight towards the black vessel.

“Fuck off!” The Ninedust Sectlord brandished his longstaff, smashing the streak of golden light aside.

“Hahaha...” Daolord Shaka smiled coldly as he flew closer and closer towards the black vessel. “You won’t be able to escape.” One golden feather after another flew out from him, numbering six in total. They all transformed into streaks of golden light that furiously assaulted the black vessel.

“Damn that Daolord Shaka.” The Ninedust Sectlord charged out of the black vessel, but Daolord Shaka was able to easily evade him thanks to his great speed. Shaka moved faster than a hundred times the speed of light; there was no way for Ninedust to catch up to him at all.

“Go!” The Ninedust Sectlord waved his right hand, causing that formation-diagram to fly out once more.

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Time continued to slowly flow on.

In terms of raw power, Daolord Shaka actually wasn’t a match for Ninedust! However, he was simply too fast. Although he was trapped within the formation for a full hour, he managed to once more catch up to them in under a day! He refused to engage Ning and the others in close combat, simply launching repeated long-distance attacks from afar. This ensured that they would move very slowly, at less than half of their maximum speed.

Running and fighting at the same time... of course they would be much closer! Finally, they managed to recharge the formation treasure with chaos jewels and once more trapped Daolord Shaka, but a day later he once more caught up to them!

“They won’t be able to escape.”

“They aren’t going anywhere.”

All of the Heartforce Cultivators watching knew exactly what the situation was. Ever since Daolord Shaka had managed to catch up to Ning’s squad, they had been dramatically slowed down.

Another five days went by.

“Damn.” Just as Ning and Ninedust were once more dealing with Daolord Shaka, another figure suddenly appeared off in the distance and began to fly towards them. It was the red-robed youth, Daolord Snowjoy.

“You are finished!” Daolord Shaka roared with laughter.

“You won’t be able to escape.” Daolord Snowjoy walked towards them, a cold smile on his face.

Ning and Ninedust exchanged a glance. They didn’t fear Shaka or Snowjoy despite the two both being supreme Daolords, but when these two joined forces they would be able to completely tie down Ning and Ninedust, making their escape even slower. Most likely, even more Daolords would begin to arrive! It must be remembered that thus far, not a single one of the top-ranked Daolords had arrived yet.

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Book 32: Waveshift Realm Chapter 15: Sectlord Timedream and the Kingfreak

Daolord Snowjoy slowly walked towards them through the skies as he made his way towards the black vessel. As for Daolord Shaka, he attacked from afar using his magic treasures, using his long-distance attacks to tie down Ji Ning and Ninedust.

“Keep moving while fighting. We can’t let ourselves get tied down by them like this,” the Ninedust Sectlord immediately said.

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Ning remained in control of the black vessel, watching as Ninedust battled against Daolord Snowjoy and Daolord Shaka by himself. This was a two-on-one fight, and Ninedust was at a distinct disadvantage.

“Ninedust...” Ning sighed. In truth, there really was no need for Ninedust to involve himself, as he wouldn’t gain anything from it at all. The Voidsea Jadeseal wouldn’t be his, regardless of whether they succeeded or failed!

“What should we do? I can’t get involved in a fight at their level. In the end, I’m still not strong enough.” Ning felt quite resigned as well. Both Daolord Snowjoy and Daolord Shaka were able to ignore the effects of his heartforce techniques! As for his close combat abilities, Daolord Snowjoy would be able to overcome and suppress him with just a single one of his Stargod clones.

“We’ve been completely bogged down. Things are going to get worse and worse from now on.” Ning was truly worried.

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Far off in the distance, there were two figures riding a white vessel that was advancing towards Ning’s position at high speed. The first was an alien man who wore a crown and who was dressed in beautiful golden robes. This man had dark-red eyes and emanated the stately aura of a king. Ordinary Daolords would feel an uncontrollable urge to bow down and prostrate themselves before him. He was Sectlord Timedream! The most accomplished Heartforce Cultivator in all the Endless Territories!

Next to him stood a short, squat, and ugly man who carried an enormous scimitar on his back. He was known as the Kingfreak, and was ranked eighteen amongst the Daolords of the Endless Territories! Although he was ranked fairly low amongst the supreme first-tier Daolords, he was still one of them. No supreme Daolords could be underestimated, as they all had their own specialties.

“Sectlord, we’re closing in on them. We should be able to catch up in under two days,” the Kingfreak said in his hoarse voice.

“Excellent.” Sectlord Timedream’s lips crooked upwards slightly. “Daolord Shaka and Daolord Snowjoy have tied them down, but they won’t be able to kill Ninedust or Darknorth. As for Winesage and the others, they are still quite far away. Winesage will have to spend at least ten days before making it here. Hmph. By then, I would’ve acquired the Voidsea Jadeseal long ago.”

“You are the only one who deserves it, Sectlord,” the Kingfreak said hoarsely.

“There are three more seals in the tenth layer.” Sectlord Timedream looked at the Kingfreak. “As soon as I acquire the second Voidsea Jadeseal, I’m going to immediately use it! After that, I’ll accompany you into the tenth layer and fight for one of the remaining three. No matter what, I guarantee that I’ll help you acquire one of them.”

“They will all be yours, Sectlord,” the Kingfreak said.

“No. I’ll take any other treasures, but if we can acquire a second Voidsea Jadeseal it will go to you,” Sectlord Timedream said.

Anyone else who saw this interaction would be completely shocked. Sectlord Timedream had founded an enormous sect and was the exalted leader of it, with countless living beings in his thrall! Those who obeyed him would live; those who disobeyed him would perish. He was supreme throughout his world, and was incredibly skilled in manipulating the hearts of men.

If the ‘Godking’ of the Three Realms could be described as delighting in the torment of others, Sectlord Timedream was even worse. In fact, he had become so incredibly depraved that he truly could be described as a demon amongst demons. Despite his extremeness, he had achieved incredible things in the field of heartforce.

The Dao was neither good nor bad. The good could reach high levels in it, as could the bad.

As for the Kingfreak? He was Sectlord Timedream’s right-hand man. The Sectlord couldn’t be everywhere and do everything, and so many things were left to the Kingfreak to handle. As for the

Kingfreak, he was a mass murderer who was legendary for his ruthless callousness, a man of unpredictable temperament! The many disciples of the Timedream Sect were all terrified whenever they saw him, for fear of offending him and thus perishing for the offense.

When the two worked together, they wouldn't fear even the likes of Palace Lord Dawnstar or Winesage! One could imagine what an incredibly famous duo they were in the Endless Territories. Both were fiendish madmen... but they held genuine and deep affection for each other.

The Kingfreak was unswervingly loyal to Sectlord Timedream, and whenever they were out adventuring he always let the Sectlord have the pick of the treasures they encountered! Sectlord Timedream was a bit more selfish and often gave himself the best things first, but in his heart the Kingfreak truly was second only to himself in importance.

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Two days later.

"Ninedust! Darknorth!" A booming voice rang out in the skies.

They were in a vast, snowy plains right now. A thick layer of snow had fallen over this area, and it stretched off as far as the naked eye could see.

Ning's group had continued to fight and slowly flee. During the past two days, they had used the trap formation an additional time, but Daolord Shaka and Daolord Snowjoy had quickly caught up to them.

"Who is it?" Ning and Ninedust both turned to stare off into the distance, as did Daolord Snowjoy and Daolord Shaka.

Two distant figures were walking towards them side-by-side. The first was a red-eyed man dressed in beautiful golden robes who emanated an aura of ineffable majesty. The other was an ugly-looking man who carried an enormous scimitar on his back.

"Sectlord Timedream? The Kingfreak?" Ning and Ninedust both felt their hearts sink.

Of the current top five Daolords, Winesage and Palace Lord Dawnstar had fairly good reputations. Daolord Dreamlore had been fairly low-key before this trip, only becoming famous after defeating the Radiant King. Clearly, he wasn't the vile sort either.

Sectlord Timedream, however, was a truly demonic figure... and the Kingfreak was his most dangerous of lackeys!

"Ah, Timedream and the Kingfreak have arrived." Daolord Shaka sent mentally, "Brother Snowjoy, now that they've arrived I expect that Ninedust's group won't be able to hold out against us. However, we need to work together to acquire the Voidsea Jadesal. Otherwise, it'll probably end up in Timedream's hands."

"Agreed." Daolord Snowjoy turned somber as well. "Let us work together. Once we seize the seal, we'll work together to escape, no matter who the seal ends up with!"

"Agreed." Daolord Shaka nodded. The two immediately swore lifeblood oaths and entered into an alliance.

Even if Daolord Snowjoy did acquire the Voidsea Jadeseal, he would need Daolord Shaka's speed in order to escape! Right now, fleeing as quickly as possible once the seal was in hand was what mattered the most. The Radiant King had been able to escape precisely because of how fast he was.

As for Daolord Shaka, he needed Daolord Snowjoy's strength! Shaka himself was fairly weak compared to other supreme Daolords, after all. He wouldn't be able to resist any of the truly formidable ones.

When the two worked together, they made up for each other's weaknesses.

"Be good boys and hand over the Voidsea Jadeseal." Sectlord Timedream slowly walked over, his voice cold. "My calculations indicate that you should only be able to use that trap formation once every two or three days. You won't be able to activate it again for some time. There's nowhere for you to run. Hand it over."

"Haha! Four supreme Daolords. What luck!" The Ninedust Sectlord hefted his longstaff, roaring with laughter from his position atop the flying vessel. "Fighting against four supreme Daolords, all by my lonesome... just thinking about it gets my blood pumping! Come, come! All four of you can attack at the same time! I want to see just how tough all of you are, and I want to see if you can do anything to me!"

"If that's the case... let's attack!" Sectlord Timedream said coldly.

"Kill!" Daolord Shaka and Daolord Snowjoy were the first to charge. Everyone was entering into close combat, as they were all fairly close to each other and the first to seize the Voidsea Jadeseal would gain an enormous advantage.

"Kill." The Kingfreak drew his enormous scimitar from his back-sheath and charged towards the Ninedust Sectlord as well.

"Come on!" The Ninedust Sectlord awaited them, longstaff at the ready.

BOOM! As they fought, ripples of power began to blast out in every direction, annihilating the snow in the surrounding area and spreading out until they were blocked by some barriers off in the distance. Ninedust began to fight Daolord Shaka, Daolord Snowjoy, and the Kingfreak all by himself in a one-on-three fight.

Bang! Daolord Snowjoy landed a palm-strike on Ninedust's chest.

Slash! The Kingfreak landed a slashing blow with his scimitar on Ninedust's thigh.

Stab! Daolord Shaka plunged his longspear into Ninedust's right arm.

Ninedust was sent stumbling backwards by this barrage of attacks, with the injured parts of his body dissolving into water and then reforming anew, completely unharmed.

The distant Sectlord Timedream frowned when he saw this. "This damn Ancient cultivator really is quite valiant, and he's mastered an invulnerable aquaform. Other supreme Daolords on his overall level of power won't be able to injure him at all; they won't even be able to make him use up much of his divine power! Even Winesage would find it difficult to kill him, despite possessing a Universe treasure."

This invulnerable aquaform allowed Ninedust to transform his divine body into an endless stream of water. You could cut through it, but it would just continue to flow unabated. There was just no way to kill him.

In truth, Daolord Solesky had also mastered a similar aquaform, albeit one based on fragmentary records. However, his Dao was a bit too extreme in being defense-oriented. In attack power, he was weaker than even Patriarch Clearwind! Despite that, his defensive prowess was such that even Fiendqueen Dustrain had only been able to heavily injure him in her pursuit of him.

Ninedust's invulnerable aquaform was far superior to Solesky's, allowing him to ignore the attacks of the Kingfreak, Snowjoy, and Shaka. The attacks of the three supreme Daolords were having no effect on him.

"The Voidsea Jadeseal is in my hands. You can forget about taking it from me!" The Ninedust Sectlord roared wildly with laughter. "Stop dreaming! You won't be able to break my invulnerable aquaform no matter how hard you try."

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Book 32: Waveshift Realm Chapter 16: The Final Hegemon Dao-Seal

"Ninedust!" The distant Sectlord Timedream suddenly let out a shout. His voice was ephemeral and indistinct, reverberating within Ninedust's ears and even in his mind and soul.

"Not good." Ninedust was shocked as a beautiful gorge appeared in front of him, filled with a sea of flowers and rivers. However, he had clearly been in the middle of a vicious fight against three Daolords on a snowy plains.

"Break for me!" Ninedust roared mentally. Boom! He finally managed to break through the illusion and force the real world to appear before him once more.

Bang! Bang! Ninedust felt a terrifying level of power crash against him. Caught completely offguard, he couldn't help but spit out a mouthful of blood and be knocked flying by the strikes. He also felt a chain actually securely wrap itself around his body.

"Ninedust!" The distant Ji Ning was frantic as well. It had all happened too quickly. Battles between Supreme Daolords occurred at incredible speeds. Although Ninedust had been trapped within the illusion for merely a brief instant, it had been enough for him to suffer two strikes and also be caught and bound.

The Kingfreak was holding the other end of the chain that was now securely fastened around the Ninedust Sectlord.

Whoosh. The Ninedust Sectlord's divine body suddenly transformed into an endless stream of water that flowed through and past the chains, then reformed outside of them.

"What an impressive Timedream." The Ninedust Sectlord's face was ashen as he stared hard at Sectlord Timedream. "He really is the strongest Daolord in the art of illusions in the modern era."

"Unfortunately, I'm still not strong enough. If I was, you wouldn't have been able to break free from my illusions," Sectlord Timedream said calmly. He was still not satisfied with his performance. In this day

and age, he was the strongest pure Heartforce Cultivator; Winesage was stronger than him overall, but was inferior in heartforce alone. However, this was merely in 'this day and age'; from a historical standpoint, there had been many other Heartforce Cultivator Daolords who were far superior to him.

The truly supreme Heartforce Cultivator Daolords would almost always be the undisputed most powerful Daolords of their eras.

"Ninedust, are you alright?" Ning sent worriedly.

"I'm fine. Twas but a minor injury! I'm an Ancient cultivator; my divine body is far superior to that of ordinary cultivators," Ninedust sent mentally to Ning. In substance and in power, his body was indeed unfathomably superior to that of ordinary Daolords of the Fourth Step.

"Press the attack and make him suffer more injuries!" the distant Sectlord Timedream sent mentally to Shaka, Snowjoy, and Kingfreak. "Ninedust's invulnerable aquaform is difficult to deal with; not even Winesage would be able to kill him through direct attacks. I'll continuously use heartforce illusions against him and make it impossible for him to maintain his aquaform, while the three of you will repeatedly injure him over and over. When his divine power is depleted, he'll die."

Shaka and Snowjoy exchanged a glance. Both of them knew that killing a supreme Daolord was far too difficult, especially one with an invulnerable aquaform! They would indeed need Sectlord Timedream to repeatedly disturb Ninedust and cause him to lose control over his body for brief periods of time. When that happened, his body would briefly transform into its original form, that of an Ancient cultivator's. Only then would they be able to harm Ninedust. If Ninedust was fully awake and mentally alert, he could perpetually maintain his invulnerable aquaform. In that case, there would be no way to injure him at all.

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Boom!

Bang!

Sectlord Timedream continued to cast heartforce illusions from afar, while Shaka, Snowjoy, and Kingfreak pressed the assault furiously.

"Ninedust!" Ning frantically unleashed his own heartforce, seeking to protect Ninedust. Bang! Sectlord Timedream's overwhelming surge of heartforce completely crushed through Ning's protection. At his current level, Ning was completely unable to protect the Ninedust Sectlord.

"I'm fine, Darknorth! I'm fine. Thus far, I've used up very little divine power," the Ninedust Sectlord sent mentally.

Time continued to flow on, one second after another. The four enemy Daolords completely ignored Ning. As they saw it, Ninedust was their true foe, and they also felt certain that the Voidsea Jadeseal was in Ninedust's hands! They could see that Ninedust was the most powerful member of Ning's squad, which meant that the seal should logically be in his hands. If it was in someone else's hands, why would he go so far as to risk his own life to protect the team?

In the blink of an eye, another half-day had gone by.

“Hahaha! Man, the three of you really are starting to sting me with your hits.” The Ninedust Sectlord transformed into an vast stream of water, with the vague outline of a person appearing at the center of this river. Moments later, a spirit-pill appeared in the figure’s hand, followed by the figure swallowing it. “I really did use up quite a bit of divine power over the course of this fight. Time to eat a spirit-pill.”

“Damn it.”

“Ninedust’s divine body is far too powerful, and he also has a tough protective divine ability. We’ve been beating on him for hours but have barely harmed him. He was able to recover with just a single pill.”

“There’ll be no end to this!”

Daolord Shaka, Daolord Snowjoy, and the Kingfreak were all growing anxious.

“Alright, let’s keep fighting. I have to say, Timedream’s heartforce illusions are pretty powerful. They’re serving as a great way to temper my Dao-heart.” The Ninedust Sectlord was in an excellent mood.

“Ninedust, the longer we keep you tied down, the more Daolords will come. Soon, a fifth supreme Daolord will arrive, followed by a sixth! In the end, you won’t be able to handle us all,” Sectlord Timedream said coldly.

“If that’s the case, I’ll just toss out the Voidsea Jadeseal,” Ninedust snickered. “Timedream, multiple Ancient cultivators have died by your hands. Do you really think I would ever give the Voidsea Jadeseal up to you?”

“Damn you.” Sectlord Timedream had an ugly look on his face. It must be remembered that Winesage and the others were hurrying over as well. Once Winesage arrived, who would be able to out-compete him?

“Freako.” Sectlord Timedream sent mentally to the Kingfreak, “Use the redscatter venom on him.”

The Kingfreak couldn’t help but turn to look at the Sectlord Timedream. He sent back mentally, “Sectlord, we only have that one bottle. Are you sure?”

“Use it.” Sectlord Timedream nodded.

The redscatter venom was the most terrifying type of poison the two had ever discovered, and they had found it while adventuring within the Terror Starsea. This was a deadly poison which had been developed during the Dawn War, and it was the greatest killer trump card Sectlord Timedream had available to him. This type of poison was a nightmare to any and every Daolord! Ever since Sectlord Timedream had acquired it, he hadn’t been willing to use it... but for the sake of the Voidsea Jadeseal, anything was worth it!

BOOM! The Ninedust Sectlord was once more struck by the heartforce illusion. The endless flows of water around him instantly halted, then gradually began to reform into his ‘normal’ body, which Shaka, Snowjoy, and Kingfreak continued to attack. Right as the Kingfreak launched an attack, he suddenly produced a bottle of dark-red liquid and shattered it.

Whoosh. A stream of dark-red liquid instantly invaded the Ninedust Sectlord’s body. This stream of liquid was visible to the naked eye, but it also seemed illusory. It seeped directly into his body and

pervaded his soul. This was a terrifying type of poison which had been developed during the Dawn War to deal with enemies.

“AHHHH!” The Ninedust Sectlord transformed back into human form, then began to roll around the ground and scream in agony. His face was a mask of pain, with streaks of ugly red lines stretching out throughout his body.

“AHHHHHHH!” Ninedust continued to howl in agony. He had never experienced such incredible, indescribable, terrifying pain before.

“Ninedust!” Ning felt as though his heart had stopped. He couldn’t even begin to imagine what sort of pain and torment could cause a supreme Daolord like Ninedust to scream so miserably.

“Release Ninedust! Release him!” Ning charged out and called out frantically, “We’ll give you the Voidsea Jadeseal!”

“There is no antidote to the redscatter venom. Once it touches you, you’ll suffer utter agony for a total of twelve days. This poison was meant for to be used against powerful Eternal Emperors! There’s no way Ninedust’s Dao-heart or soul would be strong enough to resist it. He isn’t even able to maintain his invulnerable aquaform any longer. Kill him, then take the Voidsea Jadeseal from him,” Sectlord Timedream laughed coldly.

The faces of Daolord Shaka and Daolord Snowjoy both turned pale. Redscatter venom? They had never even heard of it, but they couldn’t help but shiver in fear when they saw Daolord Ninedust scream in pain like that.

Ninedust’s screams were echoing in Ning’s ears, but there was no way for him to rescue Ninedust at all. This caused Ning to feel a sense of regret and powerlessness.

As Ninedust continued to scream in agony, he would occasionally turn to glance towards Ning. His eyes were filled with agony and desperation, and his lips trembled as he struggled to speak. “Kill me!”

“Attack!” The Kingfreak charged towards Ninedust.

“Kill him.” Shaka and Snowjoy exchanged a glance. This wasn’t a time to show mercy. They had to seize the Voidsea Jadeseal!

Ning was too weak. There was no way he could stop them at all. He hurriedly sent mentally, “Big brother Solesky! Big brother Solesky! Let’s hand over the Voidsea Jadeseal.”

“Big brother Solesky?”

“Big brother Solesky!!!”

Daolord Solesky was in secluded meditation within Ning’s estate-world, not accepting any communication from the outside world.

“What?!” Ning was frantic. Solesky had actually gone into secluded meditation at a time like this?

“Halt!!!” Ning drew his six Northbow swords and charged forwards, grabbing the Ninedust Sectlord. Ninedust continued to scream in agony, his eyes filled with pleading as he stared at Ning. He really did

want for Ning to kill him and spare him any more of this. With but a thought, Ning pulled Ninedust away into his estate-world.

Right now, Ninedust was completely defenseless and unable to fight back at all. He would probably die in short order if he stayed out here, and so Ning had no choice but to drag him away.

“Are you looking to die, kid?” The Kingfreak brandished the great scimitar in his hands. BOOM! Ning was smashed flying backwards, while the Kingfreak staggered one step back.

“Die.” As Ning was knocked flying backwards, he produced a deep blue crystalline leaf in his right hand. This was the second and final Dao-seal the Sword Hegemon had bestowed upon him!

Crack. He shattered the deep blue leaf.

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Book 32: Waveshift Realm Chapter 17: The Dao-Seal's Power

The deep blue crystal leaf shattered, and a flood of terrifying power that had been hidden inside it was completely unleashed! Although it held only a fraction of a full-force strike from the Sword Hegemon, the power of this blow still vastly surpassed a full-power blow from one of the eight lords of the Sacred Cities. There was no way even the most supreme of Daolords would be able to resist this level of power!

“Ahhhhhhhhhh!” Ninedust was now within Ji Ning’s estate-world, and he continued to scream in pain. His face remained a rictus of agony as those dark red lines continued to spread throughout his body. Clearly, the terrifying pain he was in hadn’t lessened in the slightest after entering this estate-world.

“Ninedust!” Ning felt both regret and fury in his heart. “All of you can go die!!!” Ning was filled with a murderous intent as he activated that flood of incredible power. Instantly, an enormous, horrifying illusion of a greatsword appeared in the area around Ning!

The illusory greatsword lay horizontal, causing spacetime to freeze and severing karma itself. Its incredible, terrifying presence caused the Kingfreak, Daolord Shaka, Daolord Snowjoy, and even Sectlord Timedream to turn pale.

“How is this possible?! He used up one of those things when he killed Kongsan. How does he have another one?!” This was the second time Daolord Shaka had ever encountered this terrifying illusory greatsword. Gritting his teeth, he immediately produced the most powerful protective treasure he had purchased prior to entering the Waveshift Realm, causing a palm-sized black seed to appear in his hand.

“Brother Snowjoy, don’t move!” Daolord Shaka sent mentally. Crack! The black seed shattered into tiny pieces of dust as the power within it was released. Vine-like tendrils furiously sprouted out the shattered black seed, spreading out in every direction and quickly covering both Shaka and Snowjoy from head to toe, forming a vine cube that was roughly thirty meters in diameter! Shaka and Snowjoy were completely covered and protected by this rattan vine cube.

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“Ninedust has been poisoned by our redscatter venom and is no longer a threat. After we kill him, the Voidsea Jadeseal will be ours.” Sectlord Timedream had begun to move closer towards Ninedust’s

direction as well as Shaka, Snowjoy, and Kingfreak had charged forward. All of them knew that the Voidsea Jadeseal was about to fall into someone's hands; if he moved closer, his chances would be much greater.

"What?! Darknorth actually pulled Ninedust into his estate-world?" Sectlord Timedream smirked. "He's courting death. We were completely focused on Ninedust earlier and couldn't be bothered with him. We should be able to wipe him out in a few seconds."

Although Ninedust was suffering indescribable torment, the fact that he was able to mouth out the words 'kill me' showed that he was able to maintain a modicum of consciousness. Ning was on his side, and so he wouldn't resist being drawn away into Ning's estate-world. The others, however, wouldn't have that chance.

"Die, then." Sectlord Timedream followed the Kingfreak, Shaka, and Snowjoy in charging straight towards Ning. Much like how Solewind was decent in close combat, Sectlord Timedream was a first-tier Daolord in close combat as well.

BOOM!

The heavens turned dark. The world went silent. Time and space froze. Karma itself was severed.

An overwhelming, awe-inspiring aura of power manifested as a giant illusory greatsword appeared out of thin air. Sectlord Timedream was shocked, his earlier confidence gone. Both he and Kingfreak were vile men who had wandered the Endless Territories for many years. As a result, they had battled against a number of mighty major powers in the past, and had encountered a number of terrifying Dao-seals. However, the illusory greatsword in front of him gave him a sense of terror that was greater than anything he had ever felt before!

The Sword Hegemon's field of expertise lay in annihilatory attacks, after all!

"FREAK!!!" Sectlord Timedream screamed mentally as he reached out, producing a dazzlingly beautiful snow flower in his hands.

"Sectlord." The terrified Kingfreak was frantically retreating as well, seeking to reunite with Sectlord Timedream.

Whoosh. The snow flower bloomed, expanding to cover the surrounding area and protecting both Sectlord Timedream and the Kingfreak.

Generally speaking, the most valuable would be kept in Sectlord Timedream's hands! Only if they found a second copy would the treasure go to the Kingfreak. Treasures like the redscatter venom that had to be used in close combat, Timedream would let the Kingfreak hold on to, as the Kingfreak was responsible for charging into the fray as the vanguard. This flower, however, was a protective treasure that would cause a formation to appear once activated. The formation could be used to trap foes, but it could also be used to resist outside attacks. This was the most powerful tool Sectlord Timedream at his disposal.

The beautiful flower wrapped itself around the Kingfreak and Sectlord Timedream, protecting them in multiple layers of formations.

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Not a single one of the four supreme Daolords were able to escape from Ning's illusory greatsword. They had instead chosen to produce the most powerful protective treasures they had to resist it. Escape on their own? All of them knew this was impossible!

"Die." Ning stared intently at Sectlord Timedream and the Kingfreak, as well as that enormous flower around them. He wanted to kill the two of them most of all, because they were the ones who had poisoned Ninedust!

BOOM! The illusory greatsword chopped directly against that enormous flower. The flower instantly began to tremble as it swiveled, its layers of petals furiously shifting aside the force of the attack. As the petals continued to spin, waves of terrifying might began to blast outwards in every direction.

Boom! Boom! Boom! The nearby Daolord Snowjoy and Daolord Shaka were protected within their vine globe, and the waves of power smashed against them as well. The vines, however, were incredibly tough and managed to resist the force.

"Absolutely terrifying. We're facing just a tiny amount of its full power that's been diverted in our direction. How can it still be this strong?" Protected by the vine globe, Snowjoy and Shaka had ashen looks on their faces.

"How can this be?" Sectlord Timedream's face turned ashen as well from his position within the flower formation. He was in command of the formation and thus could clearly sense what was happening to it.

The flower formation possessed incredible powers of endurance, and it operated on the principles of shunting aside power and enduring the rest, with more than 90% of any attack being diverted away. And yet, the chopping attack of this illusory greatsword was clearly still unleashing more power than the flower formation could endure. Its petals were already beginning to rip and tear.

"It's about to crumble." Finally, one petal completely crumbled apart. A second then crumbled, followed by a third... and as it did, the amount of power that was being shunted to the nearby vine globe began to gradually lessen as well.

"Not good."

"Quick!"

The Kingfreak and Sectlord Timedream almost simultaneously produced a pair of unique protective treasures to protect themselves. Although this formation was the only Hegemon-level treasure they had, they did have several treasures that were comparable in might to the eight lords of the Sacred Cities. As for the weaker treasures, those were merely on par with the Kingfreak and Sectlord Timedream themselves and thus were of no use to them.

Rumble... whoosh... whoosh... Finally, the flower formation completely burst apart and shattered apart into small pieces. The remaining power of the illusory greatsword chopped straight towards the Kingfreak and Sectlord Timedream!

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! The barriers erected around them immediately began to break apart as the two of them were both knocked backwards.

Thud! Sectlord Timedream slammed into the snowy ground, kicking up a wave of snow around him. He spat out a mouthful of blood, but a look of wild joy was on his face. "Survived. I survived!"

"Survived. We both survived." The Kingfreak was filled with joy as well.

Only those who had faced that strike personally would understand how terrifying it had been. The illusory greatsword of the Sword Hegemon was a frontal, head-on, crushing attack! Even the remaining fragments of its energy had been enough to terrorize and terrify the Kingfreak and the Sectlord.

"It first destroyed a Hegemon-level formation, then destroyed four other protective treasures... and it still had enough power to injure the two of us! What a terrifying treasure." Sectlord Timedream glared at the distant Ning, his eyes filled with murder. "He destroyed quite a few of our treasures. Kill him, Freak."

"I will." The Kingfreak was enraged as well. How could he not be? The puny Daolord Darknorth had brought him to the brink of death! He immediately unsheathed his great scimitar and charged straight towards Ning.

Sectlord Timedream watched from afar, not following this time. In truth, he really had been badly frightened by Ning's usage of that Hegemon Dao-seal. "He probably doesn't have a second one... right?" For a person to have a single copy of such a treasure was already incredible. Two? Two would be inconceivable. Three? What, was it as common as dirt?

In truth, given Ning's level of power it would've been extremely difficult for him to acquire such treasures through adventuring. The Sword Hegemon had only chosen to give him two due to taking him on as an honorary disciple! This was because the Sword Hegemon had known that his death was impending and unavoidable, which was why he was willing to spend an enormous price to create these Dao-seals. In normal situations, not even figures like the Brightshore Hegemon would be willing to gift Dao-seals of such terrifying power to mere honorary disciples.

The more power a Dao-seal packed, the harder it would be to craft. In ordinary combat, the Sword Hegemon would've been able to unleash ten or twenty full-strength blows with ease, but to compact and compress all of that power into a Dao-seal was incredibly difficult. If he merely put in a small portion of his full power, perhaps the same level of power as the eight lords of the Sacred Cities possessed, things would be much easier... but infusing a full-force blow into a Dao-seal truly required an enormous amount of effort and expense!

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Book 32: Waveshift Realm Chapter 18: Omega Sword Dao – Level Three

Ji Ning only had a total of two Dao-seals from the Sword Hegemon. The first had been used up against Kongsan and Shaka, while he had used up the second one here in the Waveshift Realm. He really was out of treasures on this level now.

"Damn." Hidden within his vine treasure, Daolord Shaka felt a sense of pain in his heart. He had paid an extremely high price for this seed, precisely because he had felt himself to be in life-threatening danger during his last encounter with Ning.

“Daolord Darknorth actually focused all of his power against Timedream and Kingfreak, and I just suffered a few collateral shockwaves? That means I just completely wasted this seed for nothing.” Daolord Shaka felt endless regret. This vine globe’s protective powers were immense, but it was a single-use item. Now, it had been used up without actually making much of a difference.

“Let’s wait a while longer. Darknorth might have a third seal!” Daolord Shaka mused to himself.

“Brother Shaka, why aren’t we going out yet?” The nearby Daolord Snowjoy said anxiously. “The Kingfreak is already attacking. Once he kills Daolord Darknorth, the Voidsea Jadeseal will end up in his hands.”

“Don’t be anxious. Let’s watch for a while longer,” Daolord Shaka said immediately. “Darknorth might have another one.”

“Another one? Could he really have another such treasure?” Daolord Snowjoy didn’t believe it.

“Don’t worry, I’m much faster than Timedream and Kingfreak. I’ll definitely intervene at the critical moment,” Daolord Shaka said.

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Daolord Shaka and Daolord Snowjoy continued to watch from behind the protective vine globe as the Kingfreak charged straight towards Ning.

“Die, kid.” The Kingfreak’s eyes were filled with fury and murder. “I won’t give you any chance this time.”

“No, Kingfreak. You’ll be the one to die.” Ning manifested three heads and six arms, wielding all six of his Northbow swords.

BOOM! The Kingfreak’s enormous scimitar glittered with cold light as it chopped straight towards Ning. Although Ning was skilled in defense, the disparity in power was too great and he was still sent flying backwards! The Kingfreak quickly charged forwards once again in pursuit of Ning.

Boom! Boom! Boom! The two battled fiercely, with Ning just barely able to defend. Thanks to his defensive sword-arts and his Hegemon armor, he was able to just barely hold on, even though he was fighting against a higher-tier Daolord.

“He doesn’t have any more Dao-seals with that level of power.” The distant Sectlord Timedream revealed a delighted look as he charged forwards as well. “Freak, this kid is taking you pretty long. Let me help you out.”

“He’s weaker than me, but he has a very powerful protective divine ability,” the Kingfreak sent mentally. “Sectlord, if we work together we’ll be able to defeat and capture him with ease.”

“Attack.”

“Kill.”

Daolord Shaka and Daolord Snowjoy charged out of the vine globe they had been watching from as well. Based on how badly Ning was being beaten, they felt certain that Ning didn’t have any more terrifying

Dao-seals left. They naturally chose to immediately come out and fight over the Voidsea Jadeseal as well.

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Ning was in dire straits! The Kingfreak, Sectlord Timedream, Daolord Shaka, and Daolord Snowjoy were all attacking him. They wanted to kill him.

“AHHHHHHH!!!!” Ning suddenly let out an enraged howl as his aura expanded dramatically!

Ninedust had been helping out strictly out of a sense of loyalty to Ning, but he was now suffering unspeakable torment and was in such pain that he begged for death. When Ninedust silently mouthed the words ‘kill me’ towards Ning, Ning felt as though his heart was being stabbed by knives. He was filled with pain, regret, and guilt!

He wanted to hand over the Voidsea Jadeseal to end this battle, only to discover that his big brother Solesky had gone into secluded meditation. He truly had been driven to his wits end!

When he used the Sword Hegemon’s Dao-seal...

When that overwhelmingly awesome phantom of a giant greatsword had appeared and emanated that terrifying aura of sword-intent, Ning’s soul had suddenly trembled. The bottleneck that had trapped him for so many years had suddenly loosened, with many new insights slowly beginning to enter his mind.

Many years ago, when he had used the Stone Censer of Reunion in the Thundersouth Palace, he had managed to reach the third stage in all five of his sword-intents – the Blood Drop sword-intent, the Shadowless sword-intent, the Soleheart sword-intent, the Heavenbreaker sword-intent, and the Yin-Yang sword-intent. However, he had been unable to fuse them together into the third-level Omega Sword Dao. Right at this moment, however, his mind, heart, and truesoul were all in a completely berserk, frenzied state.

When the illusory greatsword manifested, these many emotions mixed together with the insights he gained from that terrifying sword-intent. And so... although the Hegemon’s Dao-seal hadn’t slain anyone, when the Kingfreak attacked Ning, Ning didn’t move to flee despite having no more seals available to him. Instead, he ‘foolishly’ chose to engage the Kingfreak in close combat... and as he fought, a new surge of sword-intent slowly took form in his mind.

When the sword-intent was completely and fully formed, the third stage of his Omega Sword Dao finally took shape!

The rage, regret, and guilt Ning had suppressed inside his heart fully exploded.

“AHHHHHHHHH!!!!” Ning reared his head to let out a frenzied roar, his primal cry echoing in heaven and earth.

“Prepare to die!” Ning turned his gaze towards the attacking Kingfreak, Sectlord Timedream, Daolord Shaka, and Daolord Snowjoy.

Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! One energy dragon after another flew out of Ning’s body as his nine novessence arts burst forth, transforming into an utterly terrifying Yin-Yang Chaosworld. His

Omega Sword Dao – Yin Yang was already on par with the formations which Daolord Allgod had used at his peak, and when used via his Omega Sword Dao they exploded with terrifying levels of power.

Sectlord Timedream’s heartworld projection was actually forcibly held at bay!

“Expand, my heartworld!

“Grow, my Dao-tree!

“Evolve, my divine body!”

Ning didn’t hesitate at all, pouring all of his chaos spirit-pills into his body. Chaos spirit-pills were pills that could be used in combat to quickly replenish divine power and Immortal energy. Chaos jewels were far slower in comparison. While chaos nectar was fairly fast, it was quite marvelous and using it in such a way was far too wasteful. For example, if you wished to merely replenish your divine power, a thousand cubes of chaos jewels would have the same effect as roughly a hundred million cubes of chaos nectar! This difference was a shocking one!

Ten spirit-pills that were worth roughly ten thousand cubes of chaos nectar would be enough to achieve the same effect. Although this was more ‘expensive’ than using chaos jewels, they didn’t bring any burden to the divine body, which could rapidly and fully absorb all of their energy.

Ning was currently using the high level spirit-pill known as the chaos spirit-pill, with every single pill being worth ten thousand cubes of chaos nectar!

But of course, replenishing divine power was different from fueling the body with the energy it needed to evolve. The amount of energy Ning needed right now was staggeringly vast, which was why most Daolords would prefer to absorb chaos energy from the outside world instead. If they wanted to be a bit extravagant, they might use chaos jewels! Using spirit-pills would be an even more extravagant method. As for using chaos nectar? That was virtually impossible.

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Whoooooosh. The towering Dao-tree within his body began to grow. It had originally been 252,000 meters tall, and it now began to grow taller and thicker. Even its branches began to thicken as the entire Dao-tree expanded in size, stopping only when it reached a height of 297,000 meters!

297,000 meters was the absolute limit for Daolords of the Third Step. But of course, although Ning was ‘merely’ a Daolord of the Third Step, his path was that of the Omega Sword Dao. As a result, his Dao-tree was unfathomably thicker than that of other Daolords, which meant that his roots were far deeper and more stable.

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Boom! His heartworld began to furiously expand. A hundred chaos spirit-pills instantly appeared in the center of the heartworld, and the heartworld began to ravenously devour their power and expand at high speeds.

.....

Boom!

When Ning had broken through to become a Daolord of the Second Step, he had relied on chaos jewels and had succeeded after just a few brief moments. This time, he was using the energy of the chaos spirit-pills to make his breakthrough. Thus, his divine body was completely transformed in almost the blink of an eye! Every single cell in his body was evolving simultaneously as there was enough energy to support this, making the process incredibly fast.

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His divine power and his Immortal energy broke through at the same time as well. His heartworld absorbed the most energy; Ning had prepared a hundred chaos spirit-pills for it, and it took a fairly long period of time to absorb the energy.

The azureflower mist energy began to slowly transform, but it too would take some time. He had a total of 1111 drops of the azureflower mist energy, after all, and every single drop was condensed from all of his divine power and Immortal energy combined. If he was to use chaos spirit-pills to completely replenish his azureflower mist energy... even Ning wouldn't be able to afford that much.

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With Ning at the center, nine energy dragons flew out to form the Yin-Yang Chaosworld. This smashed straight into Timedream's heartworld projection and came crashing towards all four Daolords.

At the same time, streaks of sword-light began to appear in the skies. Some of the streaks looked like towering, dominating mountains. Some looked incredibly, terrifyingly sharp. Still others looked inscrutable and unpredictable, moving about at high speeds.

Thousands of streaks of sword-light appeared. This was the manifestation of Ning's third-stage Omega Sword Dao! The stronger a Dao, the more powerful an aura it would manifest. The power of the aura of Ning's Dao alone was already on par with roughly 20% – 30% of his true close combat ability.

Boom! Boom! Boom! The tightly clustered streaks of sword light flew straight into the Yin-Yang Chaosworld, then attacked the four Daolords.

Whoosh. Ning's aura began to stabilize as it ascended to a higher level. Just a few heartbeats later, his divine power and his Immortal energy had both completed their breakthroughs. Ning's body blurred as he once more manifested [Three Heads, Six Arms]. Six Northbow swords at the ready, he glared at his foes.

"Kill!" Ning rode the countless streaks of sword-light and commanded his Yin-Yang Chaosworld in a direct attack.

"What?"

"How can this be?!"

The Kingfreak, Timedream, Shaka, and Snowjoy were all supreme Daolords. None of them had viewed Ning as an opponent, and they had only thought to kill him as soon as possible so as to take the Voidsea Jadeseal. They were all wary of each other, as they viewed each other as competitors. As for Ning? He was nothing more than a dead man to them.

However... the aura Ning had just exploded with, along with the terrifying power of his Yin-Yang Chaosworld, was a sign that this Daolord Darknorth had just reached a shocking level of might.

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Book 32: Waveshift Realm Chapter 19: Crushed

BOOM! The Yin-Yang Chaosworld came crashing down, swallowing the Kingfreak and Daolord Shaka within it. These two had charged to the very front.

“What a powerful secret art.” The Kingfreak and Daolord Shaka both could feel the weighty pressure surrounding them, causing them both to drastically slow down.

“Timedream, hurry up and push this secret art aside!” Daolord Shaka barked mentally.

“My heartworld projection cannot stop it!” Sectlord Timedream was furiously trying to batter the secret art aside, but the nine novessence arts continuously smashed his heartworld projection aside. Although the difference between the nine novessence arts and his heartworld projection wasn’t that great, Timedream’s heartworld projection was still defeated time and time again.

“I’ll have to do this instead.” Sectlord Timedream willed it, and his heartworld projection instantly changed to become illusory and overlap with the nine novessence arts rather than fight them head-on.

Heartworld projections were a unique form of energy that were completely different from the energy which secret arts used! They were completely capable of perfectly overlapping with secret arts and causing their power to increase, but they could also be used to cause trouble from within.

“Tie it down.” Sectlord Timedream’s eyes flashed with cold light. As the energies completely overlapped, the heartworld projection began to furiously wrap its energies around the nine novessence arts, causing them to be weakened so dramatically as to be negligible against supreme Daolords.

“Oh?” Ji Ning could sense each of his nine novessence arts be dramatically weakened and constricted, causing their power to plummet. “The heartworld projection? Hmph. Once my heartworld fully expands to its maximum size, I’ll crush you head-on.” Ning was filled with murderous rage right now, and he attacked the Kingfreak with his six Northbow swords.

Close combat was his true forte! Secret arts were merely meant to assist and reinforce him.

“Hmph. Even if you’ve broken through to become a supreme Daolord, you are merely on par with us. How dare you act so arrogantly? You want to fight the four of us head-on? Even the Radiant King or Palace Lord Dawnstar would choose to retreat in the face of us four.” The Kingfreak smirked. He could tell that Daolord Darknorth seemed to have made some sort of breakthrough, but the four of them were supreme Daolords; why would they fear him?

“Die!” The Kingfreak gripped his scimitar tightly in both hands, then sent it howling through the air with a baleful aura surrounding it. The giant scimitar left a crescent streak of light in the skies as it chopped down furiously towards Ning. If it wasn’t for the Waveshift Realm itself suppressing spacetime effects, his attack would’ve been far more terrifying thanks to certain spacetime elements it normally contained.

Whoosh. Ning’s six arms suddenly moved to grip a single Northbow sword. He lifted it high into the air, then delivered a furious chop of his own, one which caused even spacetime to tremble.

BOOM!!!!

Ning's sword seemed to contain the ponderance and weight of an ancient god-mountain, and it struck head-on against the Kingfreak's enormous scimitar.

The Kingfreak felt a surge of terrifying power crash towards him. He couldn't help but be smashed downwards by this incredible power and be sent hurtling towards the snowy ground beneath him. He crashed into the ground, leaving behind an enormous crater as he landed in a kneeling position. The only reason he didn't fall down was because he used his hands to prop himself up.

"How can he be this powerful?" The Kingfreak was shocked. He sent mentally to Sectlord Timedream, "Be careful, Sectlord. This Daolord Darknorth's attacks are incredibly ferocious; my feeling is that he is on par with Daolord Skyaxe in raw strength. I'm at a complete disadvantage in a head-on clash."

Daolord Skyaxe used a single greataxe and was legendary for his ferocious, overbearing power.

"Die." After delivering that furious chop, Ning immediately charged downwards, wanting to pursue the Kingfreak.

"Daolord Darknorth, you seem to have become quite strong." Daolord Shaka and Daolord Snowjoy hurriedly intervened, while Sectlord Timedream actually retreated slightly, becoming the most distant of the four Daolords. In truth, Daolord Shaka didn't really care that much about this; if he was able to seize the Voidsea Jadeseal, they'd immediately be able to escape.

Swish! Daolord Shaka produced a series of golden feathers in front of him. All six of them transformed into streaks of golden light that shot towards Ning. At the same time, he manifested a total of six awl-wielding arms and charged straight at Ning himself.

He was the fastest of the four Daolords, faster than even Daolord Snowjoy.

"Break!" Ning didn't care about Daolord Shaka at all. He manifested [Three Heads, Six Arms] and spun his six Northbow swords slightly, executing the Soleheart sword-intent with all six swords. An enormous black hole immediately appeared before him, devouring and destroying all in its path. When the six golden feathers touched the black hole, they were immediately knocked flying backwards.

"Die!" Daolord Shaka shot towards him, golden awls at the ready, moving faster than a hundred times the speed of light.

Whoosh. Suddenly, six dazzling streaks of sword-light lit up. Every single streak of sword-light looked quite ordinary, but just as they reached Daolord Shaka the tips of the swords began to rotate slightly. Instantly... boom! They tore through all obstacles, moving much faster as well. They actually surpassed a hundred times the speed of light, and their power vastly exceeded Daolord Shaka's as well.

Omega Sword Dao – Blood Drop!

After becoming a Daolord of the Third Step, Ning's Blood Drop stance, especially when executed via the highly suited Northbow swords, had reached an incredible level of power. Now, not even time could stand in front of this strike. Ning's sword-arts had now transcended both space and time! They were on par with the most powerful strike Emperor Mirrorsnow had ever devised.

However, the Waveshift Realm suppressed all techniques that transcended spacetime. Still, the Blood Drop stance destroyed all Daos before it, and thus it was still able to forcibly breach the normal Daolord limit of moving a hundred times the speed of light.

When actually flying via the Blood Drop evasion art, however, Ning was only able to move at a hundred times the speed of light. In the end, his own body wasn't nearly as formidable as his Northbow swords. The main reason he was able to strike faster than a hundred times the speed of light was primarily because of the Northbow swords themselves.

"Ahhh!" Daolord Shaka let out an agonized cry, staring in disbelief as three of the swords stabbed into his body. He then looked at Ning, his eyes filled with disbelief. "How can he be this fast?" He had absolute confidence in his speed, but he was defeated in speed. Daolord Shaka simply couldn't understand or accept this.

Moments later... whoosh! Daolord Shaka transformed into countless light shadows that reformed far off in the distance.

"What? He actually beat both Kingfreak and Shaka in succession?" The distant Sectlord Timedream turned pale. "And he only needed one blow in each case?"

"Darknorth, it seems you can now rank in the top five. Haha, very well then! I've come to the Waveshift Realm because I wanted to fight the strongest in the universe." Daolord Snowjoy actually charged forwards, and as he did so the starlight emanating from his body began to manifest into a pair of Stargod clones. All three of them surrounded and simultaneously attacked Ning.

"Fuck off." Ning's sword-light flared mightily. The battle between the two was absolutely shocking, with Ning clearly holding the upper hand but Daolord Snowjoy and his two Stargod clones managing to hold on.

In an actual battle, even Ninedust had been put on the defense by Daolord Snowjoy! Daolord Snowjoy's defenses could be described as flawless. Even the Radiant King or Palace Lord Dawnstar wouldn't necessarily be able to shake him.

"Of the four of us, Daolord Snowjoy is indeed the strongest in close combat." The Kingfreak, Shaka, and Timedream all admitted to this fact.

"Heartworld, descend!" Ning let out a furious roar. Boom! An incredibly vast heartworld projection suddenly came crashing down from the skies. This world had mountains, rivers, grasslands, deserts, vast oceans, and an incredibly vast sword-shaped mountain at the very center of the world. Its aura and might was now clearly far greater than in the past, and when it came crashing down it merged into a seamless whole with Ning's nine novessence arts.

BOOM! Sectlord Timedream's heartworld projection instantly crumbled, resulting in Daolord Snowjoy, Shaka, Kingfreak, and Timedream all being put under an immense amount of pressure.

Ning's nine novessence arts and heartworld projection were both terrifying, resulting in Daolord Snowjoy and the others being unable to exert more than 50% of their true power!

"How could his heartworld projection be this strong? Break! Break!" Sectlord Timedream repeatedly tried to cause his heartworld projection to descend, send it crashing against Ning's projection

repeatedly. This really did help relieve the pressure on the three of them! Timedream's heartworld projection was on par with Ning's after all; while Ning's projection was slightly larger, there wasn't that much of a difference in terms of power.

BOOM! Although the pressure had been somewhat relieved, Daolord Snowjoy was still only able to unleash roughly 70% of his true power. In just a few short clashes, he was smote by Ning's Heavenbreaker stance six times in a row and was sent flying!

When faced with a flawless defense, the best way to deal with it was to burst through it with raw power.

"Kill!" After knocking Daolord Snowjoy aside, Ning immediately turned to charge towards the Kingfreak. The Kingfreak was the weakest of the four, and Ning wanted to kill him more than any of the others.

"He's fighting us one-on-four and holds the upper hand?" Shaka, Snowjoy, Timedream, and Kingfreak were all rather stunned. They all felt a sense of a pressure, especially after Ning combined his nine novessence arts with his heartworld projection.

"If this continues, he's going to break us down one by one. We need to work together to attack him jointly," Sectlord Timedream sent mentally. "If the four of us join forces, even Winesage wouldn't have been able to withstand us prior to finding that Universe treasure."

"Fine." Daolord Shaka agreed.

"Agreed." Although Daolord Snowjoy was a very proud figure, he agreed as well.

Rumble... a strange ripple of power shot out of Ning's body and invaded the Kingfreak's body. This was the [Dreamstar] art! The [Dreamstar] art had reached a brand new level of power, as it was unleashed via the heartforce nurtured within Ning's heartworld. The Kingfreak had been holding his scimitar in a double-handed grip, seeking to defend against Ning's attack, but his movements now clearly slowed down.

Whoosh. Ning was in three-headed, six-armed form, and he sent his six Northbow swords in a series of furious strikes against the Kingfreak.

Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! Ning launched a total of nine attacks in the blink of an eye, every single attack using the Omega Sword Dao – Heavenbreaker. This was Ning's most savage and dominating attack! Although the Kingfreak did have a suit of Eternal armor protecting him, the power of Ning's attacks continued to hammer down upon him without him being able to defend at all. By Ning's fifth strike, his divine body had already completely disintegrated, and Ning didn't stop until his ninth strike.

The Kingfreak's corpse really had been reduced to dust, with only his armor and his scimitar left behind. A supreme Daolord, the 'Kingfreak'... had just perished!

"No..." Sectlord Timedream's eyes bulged out, and he let out an agonized, high-pitched scream.

"How is that possible?!" They were just about to join forces against Ning, but the Kingfreak was almost instantly killed. Both Daolord Shaka and Daolord Snowjoy were rather stunned by this.

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Book 32: Waveshift Realm Chapter 20: The Terrifying Darknorth

“Timedream!” Ji Ning turned his murderous gaze towards Sectlord Timedream. The more guilt he felt towards Ninedust, the more badly he wanted to kill the Kingfreak and Timedream. “Die!” He howled through the air as he shot towards Timedream.

Sectlord Timedream’s face instantly turned ashen. His forte lay in heartforce; in close combat, he was slightly weaker than even the Kingfreak. How could he be a match for Ning? He frantically retreated while sending mentally to Daolord Shaka and Daolord Snowjoy, “Brother Shaka, brother Snowjoy, come and help me! If I die, the next ones to fall shall be the two of you. Given the power of his heartworld projection and the suppressive force of his secret arts, neither of you will be able to fly faster than a hundred times the speed of light. There’s no way he won’t be able to chase you down!”

Daolord Snowjoy charged straight towards Ning, laughing loudly. “Daolord Darknorth, you were actually able to force me to retreat just now, but that was only because you caught me offguard. Let’s try again!”

“Brother Shaka!” Sectlord Timedream continued to urge Shaka onwards.

“Timedream, Ji Ning’s heartforce illusions are extremely terrifying,” Daolord Shaka sent mentally. “I’m afraid to go too close to him.”

“What’s there to be afraid of? Freak had a flawed Dao-heart, which was why he fell so easily. Look at Daolord Snowjoy; does he look the slightest bit worried?” Sectlord Timedream sent back.

The Kingfreak was the only one of the twenty supreme Daolords who was the servant of another. He was willing to serve Sectlord Timedream and was completely loyal to him, viewing the Sectlord’s life as being more important than his own life. This was precisely because Sectlord Timedream had spent countless years slowly guiding him and molding him, resulting in the Kingfreak’s unswerving loyalty. As a result, the Kingfreak’s Dao-heart did indeed have certain flaws... and it was Sectlord Timedream himself who had laid the seeds for that flaw.

“Timedream, don’t try to take me for a fool.” Daolord Shaka sent disdainfully, “I’m not a match for Darknorth. There’s no way I’m going to engage him in close combat... but don’t worry. I’ll help you from afar with my magic treasures.”

A total of six golden plumes appeared, one after the other, then transformed into six streaks of light that shot towards Ning.

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Ning and Daolord Snowjoy once more began to battle against each other. Rumble... Ning once more cast the [Dreamstar] art.

“It’s useless against me. I’ve tempered myself countless times in life-and-death situations. Your illusory arts aren’t even close to being able to shake me.” Daolord Snowjoy was filled with the urge to do battle, as he truly did love combat. He knew that Sectlord Timedream was making use of him, but he still charged forwards unwaveringly.

“Yes, my illusions still aren’t strong enough.” Ning did understand this. If he wanted to be able to sweep through all supreme Daolords with his illusions, he would have to reach the same level as Daolord Featherdress. Perhaps the strength of Ning’s heartforce was on par with Daolord Featherdress’, but his [Dreamstar] art was a far cry from being on par with the completed [Featherdress Soulthral Song].

“Even if I don’t use illusions, you still aren’t a match for me.” Ning was incomparably savage in battle, and his six Northbow swords were filled with incredible might as he blew through Daolord Snowjoy’s attacks like they were rotted wood. Although Ning’s Omega Sword Dao – Heavenbreaker was a brute-force attack, it was also ephemeral and unpredictable, making it impossible for Daolord Snowjoy to dodge and forcing him to take the attacks head-on each time.

Bang! Bang! Bang! After receiving several blows in a row, Daolord Snowjoy and his two Stargod clones were all knocked flying backwards.

“Timedream, hurry over here and help me out!” Daolord Snowjoy roared mentally. “I can’t stop him by myself!”

“Brother Snowjoy, at least he won’t be able to kill you. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to temper yourself!” Sectlord Timedream sent mentally.

“If you refuse to come help, I’m going to leave. The person Darknorth really wants to kill right now is you!” Daolord Snowjoy said coldly.

“Damn.” Seeing this, Sectlord Timedream had no choice but to grit his teeth and swallow his rage. “Haha, since you’ve asked for my help, brother Snowjoy... although I’m rather weak in close combat, I’ll still come help out!”

Moments later, both Daolord Snowjoy and Sectlord Timedream attacked Ning together, with Daolord Shaka’s six golden plumes striking towards Ning as well.

Boom! Boom! Boom! Ning’s heartworld projection and his nine novessence arts continued to apply pressure to the two of them, but Sectlord Timedream’s heartworld projection was able to alleviate some of the pressure as Timedream sent it crashing against Ning’s projection.

Six Northbow swords in hand, Ning faced off against all his foes: Daolord Snowjoy, his two Stargod clones, Sectlord Timedream, and the six incredibly fast golden plumes that moved more than a hundred times the speed of light.

“I refuse to believe that you can hold on forever against the attacks of three supreme Daolords!” The distant Daolord Shaka truly didn’t wish to accept such an outcome. These six golden plumes he was controlling from afar were amongst the most valuable treasures this Aberrant form of his was in control of, and he had already bound them into lifeblood treasures. Generally speaking, when he encountered tough foes he would use them to attack from afar. The plumes were unpredictable and incredibly sharp, allowing him to chop through his foes with howling strikes.

“Damn.” Sectlord Timedream manifested six arms as well, with each arm holding onto a pitch-black claw-weapon. This was a very special type of weapon, and the tips of the claws were covered with spots of white light. When he brandished his claws, they danced out in a dreamlike manner that made Ning feel as though he was daydreaming; in fact, Ning even felt as though he was growing drowsy. However, as one of the most supreme Heartforce Cultivator Daolords, Ning was able to easily endure this special attack.

This fight laid bare the differences between Ning and Sectlord Timedream! Ning simply hadn’t been training long enough; the only heartforce abilities he had were his [Heartforce Eradicator] and his

[Dreamstart] art. These were indeed killer techniques, but Ning hadn't yet spent any time in coming up with ordinary heartforce-infused combat techniques or techniques which could infect the foe with heartforce. He just hadn't had the time.

"Die, die, die!" Sectlord Timedream's lips continuously mumbled this word, sending them echoing with Ning's mind like a demonic chant as he repeatedly used his claws to lash out towards Ning.

"Timedream, my heartworld is even faster than yours! For you to use such puny tricks against me is an absolute joke." Ning was filled with the desire to kill this man. He used just a portion of his sword-light to defend against Daolord Shaka's treasures and Sectlord Timedream's attacks; the only one bringing Ning some real pressure was Daolord Snowjoy.

Daolord Snowjoy, in defenses alone, was ranked amongst the top three Daolords. Even though Ning had the advantage of his nine novessence arts and his heartworld projection, he was only able to knock Daolord Snowjoy back rather than truly defeat him. As for right now, when Ning was surrounded by three opponents? He wasn't even able to knock Daolord Snowjoy back.

"Wonderful, wonderful!" Daolord Snowjoy and his two Stargod clones continued to furiously assault Ning.

"Daolord Snowjoy, hurry up and depart!" Ning was growing impatient as well. His six Northbow swords flowed outwards in dominating strikes, allowing him to hold a slight advantage even though it was a three-on-one fight! However, if this continued he would have no chance of actually winning this fight. And in truth, Ning didn't even really want to fight Daolord Snowjoy. Daolord Snowjoy was a worthy foe, but what Ning really wanted to do was to kill Timedream.

Ninedust was still suffering terrifying pain within Ning's estate-world. He was a supreme Daolord, but he had begged for Ning to kill him! How horrifying was the pain he was in? Ning swore to himself that he would kill Sectlord Timedream, but Daolord Snowjoy was barring his path. "Why won't you fuck off?"

"Haha, Daolord Darknorth, I'm impressed at your strength. You are able to fight us, one against three! However, with brother Snowjoy here, you won't be able to harm us at all," Sectlord Timedream laughed coldly.

"The first one I'm going to kill is you." Ning didn't even try to disguise his murderous intent.

"If this continues, even more supreme Daolords will arrive here. In the end, you'll be the one to die!" Sectlord Timedream didn't attempt to hide his murderous feelings either. If you raised a dog long enough, you'd eventually grow attached to it. The Kingfreak had been his most devoted retainer and had followed him for countless years. Whenever Timedream found a second copy of a good treasure he already wanted, he was willing to give it to the Kingfreak. This was a testament to how deep their relationship was.

Ning had killed the Kingfreak. Sectlord Timedream was filled with the desire to kill Ning as well!

Boom! Boom! Boom! Ning repeatedly clashed against Snowjoy and Timedream in midair. Whoosh! Ning suddenly retreated, flying backwards at a hundred times the speed of light.

"Why is he fleeing?" Sectlord Timedream immediately shouted, "Chase him down! Don't let him escape! Slow him down as much as we can. Once the other Daolords arrive, he won't be able to hold us off."

“Chase him down.” Daolord Snowjoy and Timedream all chased after Ning, but they were much slower than him and were quickly shaken off.

Whoosh. The distant, escaping Ning suddenly vanished into thin air.

“How did he suddenly vanish?” Sectlord Timedream’s face turned pale. He couldn’t help but begin to slow down, due to his habitual caution.

“Eh?” Daolord Snowjoy continued the pursuit, studying the area carefully with his godsense.

“Why did he suddenly vanish?” The distant Daolord Shaka was puzzled as well.

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Sectlord Timedream vigilantly scanned the area. “Eh?” He suddenly sensed a premonition of incredible, life-threatening danger approaching him. His face instantly turned pale.

Slash! An incredibly soft blade struck out, wrapping itself around his waist like a rope and tying him up almost instantly. A heartbeat later, someone appeared in front of Sectlord Timedream.

It was a white-robed youth with three heads, six arms, and murderous eyes.

“Ji Ning!” Sectlord Timedream revealed a look of shock and terror. “How is this possible? Y-you... your evasion arts can avoid even godsense?”

Omega Sword Dao, Shadowless sword-intent!

After becoming a Daolord of the Third Step, Ning’s Blood Drop stance was able to surpass both space and time! As for the Shadowless stance, it had also reached incredible heights and was now able to perfectly avoid even godsense, allowing Ning to catch his enemies completely offguard and then capture them! This was a terrifying killer move. Over the course of countless chaos cycles, every so often one of the elite Daolords would be able to come up with this type of killer move, and in each case they would instantly be ranked amongst the top three Daolords of that era.

This killer move was even more terrifying than the three killer moves of the Radiant King!

[The Desolate Era](#)

Book 32: Waveshift Realm Chapter 21: The Shadowless Evasion Art

“Die!” Ji Ning’s sword wrapped itself around Sectlord Timedream’s waist, binding him in a soft grasp as his other five swords simultaneously shot towards the Sectlord.

Whoosh. Sectlord Timedream’s entire body transformed to become almost translucent as he became a crystalline shadow, quickly escaping his bonds and fleeing far away.

Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! Ning’s five swords carried all-encompassing destructive force. This was his Omega Sword Dao – Blood Drop, and it destroyed all in its path! The five streaks of light pursued after the humanoid streak of light and stabbed it head-on.

Swish! The humanoid streak of light reformed far off in the distance into Sectlord Timedream. His face was ashen, and he clutched at his chest, a few specks of blood appearing at his lips.

Although he had his dreamform technique, it clearly wasn't as formidable as the likes of the abilities which the Ninedust Sectlord or Daolord Shaka possessed. The Ninedust Sectlord's invulnerable aquaform was truly formidable, while Daolord Shaka's was also superior, allowing the latter to transform into endless streams of light. The strength of a protective ability was in large part dependent on the cultivator's specific Dao.

For example, Ning's path was that of the Omega Sword Dao. Although it gave him incredible strength in battle, he didn't have a special ability like aquaform, lightform, dreamform, the ability to transform into darkness incarnate, etc.

Sectlord Timedream's dreamform was a bit weak, but it was still enough to allow him to escape from Ning's hands.

"This evasion art...?" The distant Daolord Snowjoy and Daolord Shaka both turned pale.

"Run, immediately!" Daolord Shaka bellowed mentally, "Snowjoy, we need to flee right now."

"Is this one of the legendary assassination arts?" Daolord Snowjoy was still gripped by shock and terror. He immediately followed Daolord Shaka in immediately fleeing off into the distance.

"Help me out, the two of you!" After having just barely escaped the last attack, Sectlord Timedream sent mentally to the two of them, "If you work with me, we might be able to withstand Darknorth. If you are willing to help me, I'm willing to split all of the treasures I own with you two!"

"Sectlord Timedream, please pardon us for being unable to assist you."

"Brother Timedream, you need to come up with something on your own."

Daolord Shaka and Daolord Snowjoy couldn't even be bothered to pay any attention to Timedream. They moved in unison, Daolord Shaka 'carrying' Daolord Snowjoy in fleeing more than a hundred times the speed of light and quickly disappearing.

Ning glanced sideways at them, not bothering to chase after them. Of the three, Daolord Shaka was the toughest to kill as he was able to move more than a hundred times the speed of light and was also able to transform into light itself; to kill him was extremely troublesome. This was much like how Sectlord Timedream, Shaka, Kingfreak, and Snowjoy had worked together to kill Ninedust, but Ninedust had been able to rely on his invulnerable aquaform to render them helpless. In the end, they had to rely on the redscatter venom to deal with him.

Any and every supreme Daolord was extremely difficult to kill. Generally speaking, they all had extremely powerful life-preserving abilities! Fortunately, the Waveshift Realm served to suppress many spacetime effects, making it difficult for the supreme Daolords to flee. This was the only reason why there was a chance for some of them to perish.

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As Daolord Shaka flew away, he continued to be surrounded by those six enormous golden plumes. Every single plume was extremely large, roughly thirty or so meters in size. When the six joined together, they curled together into a ball that completely protected him as he fled.

“With this magic treasure surrounding me, Daolord Darknorth won’t be able to breach my defenses and appear right next to me.” Daolord Shaka had an ugly look on his face as he continued to fly at high speed, Snowjoy in tow.

“He actually has an assassination art.” Daolord Snowjoy was still in a state of disbelief. “This type of terrifying evasion art has once more appeared in the Endless Territories.”

The term ‘assassination arts’ referred to arts akin to Ning’s Shadowless evasion art. Many generations ago, there was a supreme Daolord who had come up with this type of evasion art. His evasion arts allowed him to stealthily move close to his foes, and not even godsense was able to detect him. By the time his opponents did detect him, it was far too late! This was quite terrifying, and as a result quite a few supreme Daolords died by this assassin’s hands.

Each time he went out on an assassination mission, his target perished. As a result, the existence of his assassination art had remained a secret. Only much later on did he fail in an assassination attempt, resulting in the existence of his special evasion art being leaked out. As a result, all the other supreme Daolords began to maintain maximum vigilance at all times, making it much harder for him to assassinate any others.

“Starting today, when we’re roaming the outside world we should hide within a flying vessel,” Daolord Snowjoy said. “The flying vessel is protected by wards; even if he wishes to ambush us, he needs to first break the wards apart. There won’t be a way for him to silently sneak up on us.”

“Using secret arts to cover a wide area and assault everything within it is another way to prevent him from drawing too close to us. Unfortunately, Darknorth’s heartworld projection and secret arts are all quite formidable. Even Sectlord Timedream’s heartworld projection was crushed by them.” Daolord Shaka shook his head. “Ugh. This Darknorth fellow is far too terrifying. I’m using my magic treasures to protect us from all sides, but he can stealthily appear right outside them without me being the wiser.”

“Right.” Daolord Snowjoy felt nervous as well. Now that the two of them knew that Ning had an assassination art, both of them felt quite vexed. Anyone who Ning targeted would live in a perpetual nightmare, because by the time they saw Ning, Ning would already be right next to them.

“Timedream is so screwed,” Shaka said.

“Thankfully, his focus is on Timedream and not us,” Snowjoy said.

“If he was to come after us... although we’d stand a good chance of surviving, we’d definitely suffer some serious injuries,” Shaka said.

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Sectlord Timedream continued to furiously flee as countless strands of silk seemed to swirl around him. Clearly, he wanted to ensure that Ning wouldn’t be able to ambush him again. As he fled, he sent frantic mental please to Ning: “Brother Darknorth, I beg that you spare me. I’m willing to give you all of my treasures.”

“Timedream.” Ning wielded all six Northbow swords in his three-headed, six-armed form as he continued the pursuit. “I was willing to reveal my Shadowless evasion art in front of Daolord Shaka and Daolord Snowjoy, precisely because I wish to kill you! There’s no one who can rescue you!”

Keeping the Shadowless evasion art secret was incredibly important to him, as only when it was a secret would it be fully effective. Once word of it spread, all the Daolords would be on their guard. Although it would still be dangerous, it would no longer be lethally effective.

However, Ning felt confident in his chances nonetheless. He not only had heartforce techniques, he also had tremendously strong close combat abilities! The Shadowless evasion art was a killer move of his, but if it had to be revealed it had to be revealed. If he was strong enough, he didn't have to worry about his techniques being revealed to all. Even if they knew about his techniques, he'd still be able to crush them in a frontal battle.

"Darknorth, I have many life-preserving abilities. It won't be easy for you to kill me either." When Timedream saw Ning draw closer and closer to him, he barked mentally, "Don't push me too far."

"I'll be pushing you to your wit's end!" Ning actually sped up the pursuit.

"Then go die!" Timedream's face turned savage as he produced a black stone which was covered with countless golden spots that came together to form a strange diagram. Sectlord Timedream crushed the black stone, causing an overwhelming torrent of power to instantly flood out and form a dazzling halo of golden light around him.

"Eh?" Ning frowned. Swish! He disappeared without a trace.

"Where is he? Where is he?!" Sectlord Timedream was anxious and angry. His heartworld projection was weaker than Ning's, and Ning was using his own heartworld projection and nine novessence arts to prevent the Sectlord from scanning the area. As a result, he naturally wasn't able to find Ning's true location.

"Die!" Sectlord Timedream let out an enraged roar as he caused the dazzling halo of golden light around him to explode outwards in every direction, striking all within their path.

BOOM! Roughly a hundred thousand kilometers away, some of the energy struck an obstacle. Moments later Ning appeared, Northbow swords at the ready. Sword-light gleamed in front of him, transforming into a black hole that allowed him to easily defend against the attack.

"Sectlord Timedream, even if the full power of that strike was concentrated on me, it would only be able to cause me a few injuries at most," Ning smirked. "As for when its spread out like this? It poses no threat at all!"

The power contained within that treasure was roughly on par with 60% - 70% of a full-power strike from one of the eight lords of the Sacred Cities. Ning was now a supreme Daolord and just one stage away from their level. Even if one of the eight lords personally intervened, they wouldn't be able to kill Ning with one blow, given the fact that he was protected by the Hegemon armor! An area attack? Completely out of the question.

"Damn." Sectlord Timedream gritted his teeth, then turned and continued to flee at high speed.

"His evasion art is impossible to deal with. Whenever I take out a treasure, he'll use this 'Shadowless' evasion art and I won't even be able to hit him!" Sectlord Timelord was turning frantic. "Even if I had a Hegemon-level treasure, I still probably wouldn't be able to kill him."

Even the most powerful of treasures needed a target. When Ning used his Shadowless evasion art, he was able to completely and totally vanish. Given that he was able to move at a hundred times the speed of light, he would be able to easily move a million kilometers away in the blink of an eye. There was simply no way for him to aim at or hit Ning. When he unleashed the power in a dispersed area attack, it would quickly become a hundred times weaker than normal.

Whoosh. Ning once more flew straight towards him.

“He’s faster than me, and his heartworld projection is stronger than mine. How am I supposed to escape?” Sectlord Timedream was about to go crazy. He was both slower and weaker than his opponent. His strength lay in heartforce, but Ning was also a powerful Heartforce Cultivator.

“Emperor Waveshift. Damn you, Emperor Waveshift!” Sectlord Timedream felt hatred in his heart. “If we were in the outside world, I would’ve torn a hole through spacetime and fled long ago.” He had plenty of treasures that would allow him to flee through spacetime, and more than one at that!