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Book 15: The Sword Eradicates Celestial Immortals Chapter 18: Leaving the Heavenly Treasures Mountain

The set of Pure Yang treasures which Ji Ning had just taken out, the Sole-Ki Nine Element Pearls, had been chosen by him from the Treasure Hall. They were the most valuable items which Ning could choose from the Pure Yang treasures available to him. None of the formidable Pure Yang treasures which Daoist Threelives had left behind in his Treasure Hall were weak; even the cheapest was at least as valuable as a high-grade Pure Yang treasure.

However...there were too few Pure Yang treasures, after all. Even Daoist Threelives wasn't able to collect too many of them. After overcoming the ninth level of the Wargod Hall, Ning had only been given a total of eighteen Pure Yang treasures to choose from.

And so...

He had chosen the most valuable item, the Sole-Ki Nine Element Pearls. Nine of these pearls were high-grade Pure Yang treasures, while the nuclear pearl that served as the core of the formation was a top-grade Pure Yang treasure! In addition, this was a treasure-set that belonged to the exceedingly expensive 'world-type' of magic treasures. One could smash them into foes with the force of a minor world, but could also use their power to suppress and bind a foe, causing them to feel as though they were mired in quicksand. They were far more powerful than the Primordial Nightriver contained within the Thousandbull Sword. This sort of world-type Pure Yang treasure was exceedingly rare and precious to begin with; this set alone was most likely comparable to four or five ordinary top-grade Pure Yang treasures!

"The Fuxi Staff Formation, the items on the first list, and the arrows are minor matters," Skyfox said helplessly. "Master can also provide you with the twenty top-grade Pure Yang spirit-pills that you have requested. But the bow...your request is too extravagant. Such bowstrings are not so easily procured."

"The treasures and Pure Yang spirit-pills that I have requested can most likely be procured by any True Immortal or Empyrean God who asks his friends for them. The most important item on the list is that bowstring. If it wasn't for that bowstring, I wouldn't even be willing to give up this set of Pure Yang treasures in exchange," Ning said. "The Xia Emperor is of the Primordial Imperial Clan; ordinary True Immortals and Empyrean Gods might not be able to produce such a bowstring, but I trust the Xia Emperor is."

After having stayed at Mount Innerheart for some time, Ning knew exactly how powerful the Primordial Imperial Clan was.

Pangu's World...

Back then, there was no such thing as the three thousand major worlds or trillion minor worlds! There was just a single world; Pangu's World! And back then, the Primordial Imperial Clan ruled over the entirety of the human race! They had quite a few major powers who were at the Daofather level. Although Pangu's World ended up shattering, and although the Primordial Imperial Clan was no longer as mighty as it once was, and although the Xia Emperor and the Xiamang clan were merely of a branch

of that lineage...the Xia Emperor's roots were far beyond the likes of an ordinary True Immortal or Empyrean God.

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Within a dark void.

The black-robed Xia Emperor was seated in the lotus position. He opened his eyes. "Sole-Ki Nine Element Pearls? They actually ended up in Ji Ning's hands! A young fellow like him, who hasn't even overcome his Celestial Tribulation; how is it that he is able to produce such a set of Pure Yang treasures? And such precious ones at that! Strange, truly strange..."

Strange things like this could be explained with a single, simple word. That word was...luck!

Only an extremely lucky person could have such results!

"The storm is about to descend. Pure Yang treasures like these Sole-Ki Nine Element Pearls...they will be greatly desired by many True Immortals and Empyrean Gods." The black-robed Xia Emperor pondered privately for a time. "A bow...it seems I'll have to go see Uncle."

The Xia Emperor had long ago left the Primordial Imperial Clan to set off on his own, establishing his own Xiamang lineage. Thus, he would rarely see the other members of the Primordial Imperial Clan.

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"Master has sent word." Skyfox looked towards Ning, who immediately listened carefully.

"He has agreed to all your other requests, save for that bowstring; that will take some time," Skyfox explained. "Master is currently thinking of a way to try and procure one. You should know that the bowstring you have requested is one of the most supreme bowstrings of the Three Realms."

Ning nodded lightly. "I'm not in a rush."

In an ordinary situation, it was hard to say whether he would be able to trade his Sole-Ki Nine Element Pearls for the treasures he had requested. However, since a storm was about to descend, and the pearls were items that could be used right away, whereas a bowstring...a bowstring had to be matched with a similarly superb bow! As for the truly supreme master archers of the Three Realms, they each already had their own favored bows. Thus, Ning felt comfortable that at a time like this, the Xia Emperor would be willing to help with this exchange.

"As a member of the Primordial Imperial Clan and as a disciple of Daofather Crimsonbright, and as a supposed life-long friend of Daofather Raindragon...although a bowstring like this is hard to find, the Xia Emperor should be able to succeed." Ning chose to wait.

Skyfox elected to temporarily withdraw.

Time flowed on.

Four entire hours passed. It was now nightfall. Skyfox once more appeared before him.

"From the look on your face, senior Skyfox, I can guess...that the bowstring has been found," Ning said with a laugh.

“Master spent up quite a bit of energy, but he finally managed to find a bowstring for you.” Skyfox smiled as he handed Ning a golden gourd. “All the items you desire are within this gourd. Take a close look.” They were within the imperial capital of the Grand Xia; he wasn’t worried that Ning would take the treasures and instantly flee.

Forget about Ji Ning; even the True Immortals and Empyrean Gods of the Seamless Gate and the Myriad Demons Cave wouldn’t dare to challenge the Xia Emperor within the imperial capital of the Grand Xia!

“Such generosity! This gourd is a top-grade Immortal-ranked magic treasure that holds a small dimension within it,” Ning said with a laugh.

“A gift,” Skyfox said in a very casual manner.

Ning held that golden gourd in his hands, carefully inspecting its contents. Within the golden gourd hovered spirit-pills with powerful auras, each of which contained an astonishing amount of extremely pure elemental ki. They were all Pure Yang-level spirit-pills. There were also a large number of precious objects floating within the gourd, the ones which Uncle White needed to set up his formations. There was also a set of Fuxi Staff Formation staffs which Uncle White needed! The more powerful a set of Fuxi Staff Formation staffs, the greater the power of the formations.

“Bowstring...arrows...” Ning was absolutely satisfied with what he saw.

A pitch-black bowstring hung in the air within the golden globe, and next to it were a total of a hundred fiery arrows. Naturally, these arrows were merely high-grade Immortal-ranked treasures.

Within the underwater estate.

“Ahaha, a bowstring comes!” The nearby black-robed youth was extremely excited. “Master, you truly are amazing. You aren’t even a Celestial Immortal, but were able to procure such a fine bowstring. Although it’s simply a bowstring...it’s even more precious than an ordinary top-grade Pure Yang spirit-treasure.”

Ning smiled, personally affixing the bowstring onto the body of the bow.

After connecting the two together...

Rumble...

The black greatblow instantly flew up to hover in the air. Light cascaded off of its body like a series of waves of black water. The body of the bow was clearly glowing with a black, watery light, but when the light reached the bowstring, it transformed into a fiery light.

“Ahahaha...with this bowstring, I’m now as strong as I was back during the Primordial Era.” The black-robed youth was absolutely excited.

Ning smiled and nodded.

The Rahu Bow was a high-grade Protocosmic spirit-treasure; logically speaking, such a treasure couldn’t possibly be damaged under normal situations! However, its bowstring had ended up snapping; this was because the body of the bow and the bowstring...actually had been qualitatively different in power. The bowstring was comparatively more fragile; in fact, there were some True Gods who could break apart

the bowstring of a godbow! If they suddenly released their strength and pulled the bowstring with full power, the bowstring might just snap! After doing that, they would replace the snapped bowstring with an even better one! This was why, even when its bowstring was destroyed, the Rahu Bow had been able to use the power of heaven and earth to attack Ning.

“I now have my godbow and my arrows, while my [Starseizing Hand] has reached the Fourth Cycle. Although I only have a basic level of skill in [Houyi’s Archery], it’s enough to unleash tremendous power.” Ning was filled with eagerness.

He was only at a basic level of skill in archery...but that was in comparison to the full [Houyi’s Archery]. Compared to others in the Three Realms, Ning could already be considered an expert archer; after all, he was even able to use heartforce.

Heartforce was mysterious and unfathomable!

Unlike other types of force, it was extremely difficult to sense and touch...but it truly was extraordinarily powerful. The ability to use heartforce was a dividing factor between those who were and were not able to successfully become divine archers of the Three Realms. Ning had clearly already passed through that doorway, and he had also learned some of the knacks of using divine power from [Houyi’s Archery].

Now, it was matched with a high-grade Protocosmic godbow...and his own strength with the [Starseizing Hand]!

“After I reach a more profound level in [Houyi’s Archery], I’ll be able to easily kill any foe within a million kilometers.” Ning was filled with eagerness.

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And so, Ning once more entered the underwater estate, preparing to train in the [Eight-Nine Arcane Art]. Previously, when fighting against the Fiendgod Redsnow, Ning had understood that although his body was seemingly impregnable, if he were to run into a True Immortal or Empyrean God, he would probably be destroyed with utter ease. Thus, he had to increase his power as soon as possible. After all, a storm was coming to shake the Three Realms; it was always a good idea to increase his strength when possible.

Since he was about to truly go all-out against the Youngflame clan...how could he not move to improve his odds of survival?

“Glug.” Ning began to swallow down one-spirit pill after another, as quickly as if he were eating peanuts. He began to dissolve them within his body.

To train in the Third Cycle of the [Eight-Nine Arcane Art], Ning had needed to use a total of a hundred top-grade Immortal-ranked spirit-pills.

To train in the Sixth Cycle of the [Eight-Nine Arcane Art], the cost would be a thousand times as great; a total of a hundred thousand top-grade Immortal-ranked spirit-pills would be needed! This was roughly comparable to a hundred top-grade Pure Yang spirit-pills! If he had to use treasures to trade for them, a single set of Sole-Ki Nine Element Pearls would be insufficient; this time, Ning had merely acquired the equivalent of twenty top-grade Pure Yang spirit-pills.

Rumble...

Ning's body began to rumble without pause. His bones felt as though mountains were smashing into them, and his flesh felt like they were being ground away by two colliding continents. His divine body was being repeatedly enhanced, and it was growing increasingly powerful.

The Fourth Cycle of the [Eight-Nine Arcane Art] – Success!

The Fifth Cycle of the [Eight-Nine Arcane Art] – Success!

“Whew.” Ning finally came to a halt.

“After using up half the spirit-pills, I've finally mastered the Fifth Cycle of the [Eight-Nine Arcane Art]. The remaining spirit-pills...I should keep them. In a life-and-death battle, elemental ki is used up far too fast; these spirit-pills can be used to replenish my energy. Mmm...my divine body is now comparable to a high-grade Immortal-ranked treasure.” Ning felt as though his kicks and punches now contained incomparably terrifying might.

His divine body was truly like a magic treasure! His speed had also been increased to a truly swift new level.

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Ning departed from the Heavenly Treasures Mountain. Although he had only stayed there for a total of two days, his power had skyrocketed in an astonishing manner! He had reached the Fourth Cycle of the [Starseizing Hand] and the Fifth Cycle of the [Eight-Nine Arcane Art], as well as fixed his Rahu Bow...and even Uncle White, a master of formations, had increased in power dramatically.

“King Yan's Estate.”

Ning reached the outside of King Yan's Estate. This time, he was planning to deal with the Youngflame clan; how could he forget the person who hated the Youngflame clan the most, the one who was willing to sacrifice everything to destroy them...his cousin, Yuchi Xiyue?

He didn't need to make any requests; he went straight into the King's estate, and he quickly found Yuchi Xiyue's.

“Cousin.” Ning and Xiyue were meeting privately within a veranda. With but a thought, Ning completely blocked off the surrounding space.

“What is it?” Xiyue, seeing how Ning was acting, couldn't help but ask this question.

“It is time for the Youngflame clan to pay their debt of blood,” Ning said softly.

Xiyue was completely shocked. She instantly jumped to her feet.

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Book 15: The Sword Eradicates Celestial Immortals Chapter 19: The Sword Pointed at Easthill Commandery

Of course Yuchi Xiyue wanted revenge; for the sake of revenge, she would be able to sacrifice everything, even her life! This was because her father, Yuchi Mount, had always dreamed of revenge.

She was going to fulfill her father's dream. For the sake of the Yuchi clan...she would ensure that their blood debt would be repaid!

But she also knew exactly how powerful the Youngflame clan was. Ji Ning had, after all, trained for less than a century; how could he be a match for the Youngflame clan?

"Little brother, don't go too crazy," Xiyue said worriedly.

"Cousin, don't worry; I already have a plan," Ning said confidently. "Although I'm not confident in being able to kill the Celestial Immortals of the Youngflame clan...I'll teach them a lesson they'll never forget."

Yuchi Xiyue was still very worried. "Are you truly confident?"

"Of course." Ning nodded.

He already had the power of a supreme Celestial Immortal; he no longer held Patriarch Goldclock and Patriarch Deadwood in any regard. Only Patriarch Infatuation still posed a bit of a threat to him, but despite that, he was now capable of simply standing there and letting Patriarch Infatuation attack as he pleased; his body, now protected by the Fifth Cycle of the [Eight-Nine Arcane Art], wouldn't care about the blows at all.

In addition, this time, he wouldn't be ambushed; instead, he was going to challenge them, after having made a plethora of preparations!

"Little brother...don't be in too much of a rush. We really don't need to rush it," Xiyue said hurriedly.

"We can wait for a while longer; let's wait until you grow more powerful. I've already waited for so many years; there's no rush. Little brother, I have no other family members left; I truly do not wish to lose you as well."

"Cousin, am I the rash, impetuous sort?" Ning asked.

Xiyue was startled.

She thought back through her memories...

Although Ning could be quite berserk at times, he handled every matter in quite a competent manner. For example, when he elected to participate in the Conclave of Immortal Destiny, many had believed that given he had only trained for thirty years, he should not attend. But in the end? He became the champion of the Conclave!

Last time, he had been ambushed by four mighty Celestial Immortals. He had been completely caught off-guard, which was why he had ended up in such a sorry state! And yet...he still didn't let the Youngflame clan get what they wanted!

Given that Ning was now making such meticulous plans and preparations, and given that his power had just increased dramatically...he naturally had a fairly high degree of confidence in his plans!

However, there was no such thing as an absolute. Ning wouldn't dare say that he was 100% confident in his plans. An ancient clan like the Youngflame clan might, for example, suddenly reveal a True Immortal or Empyrean God; at that point, Ning would just stare blankly. Still, based on what Ning knew...the Youngflame clan shouldn't have any Pure Yang True Immortals or Empyrean Gods.

“You’ve truly decided?” Xiyue looked at Ning.

“Yes.” Ning nodded. “I’ve just come to let you know, cousin, before I actually carry it all out.”

“Little brother, I truly can no longer see through you. Ever since you returned to the world of the Grand Xia...I’ve been unable to see through you. However...Grandfather spoke truly; you are now very powerful.” Xiyue looked at Ning. Gritting her teeth, a hint of fierceness flashed through her eyes as she said, “When you go deal with the Youngflame clan, I shall go with you!”

“You’ll come with me?” Ning was surprised. She was merely a Primal Daoist!

“Little brother, you can go kill the more powerful Immortal cultivators. As for the weaker ones and the mortals...leave all of them to me. In the past, every member of my Yuchi clan, men and women, children and elders, cultivators and mortals...they were all slaughtered. Not a single one of them escaped the butchery.” Xiyue ground her teeth with hatred. “What they did to my Yuchi clan in the past...I’ll repay it unto them!”

“Killing mortals?” Ning shook his head. “No. You are an Immortal cultivator; killing mortals will incur enormous amounts of sin. In addition, the Youngflame clan has simply far too many clansmen. To kill that many mortals...karmic sinflames would instantly descend from the heavens. Given your level of power, the karmic sinflames would instantly roast you to death.”

Those with a low level of sin would be surrounded by a corrosive sin-aura. Those with a high level of sin would be surrounded by the bloody light of sin. For example, eleven of the Twelve Monster-Kings of the Eastern Flows were all surrounded by the bloody light of sin. If one had an even higher level of sin...karmic sinflames would descend! Ordinary Loose Immortals and Earth Immortals would be immediately roasted to death by the descent of karmic sinflames.

Only truly terrifying demons were capable of surviving within karmic sinflames. His cousin was definitely not strong enough to resist karmic sinflames!

“I have many subordinates. I’ll lead them; in fact, I’ll even command a large group of soldiers to come with me.” His cousin gritted her teeth and said, “You kill the strong ones, they can kill the mortals. This was what the Youngflame clan did!”

“Even so...as the commander, a degree of sin will gather around you as well. The Youngflame clan has millions of Immortal cultivators. As for mortals...they number in the hundreds of millions, at least. It’s hard to say exactly how many of them there are. Countless tiny strands of sin will accumulate upon you...and you’ll at least have the bloody light of sin covering your body,” Ning said.

His cousin’s eyes were completely red. “I’m not afraid. I’ve waited far, far too long for this day.”

“There’s no way I can agree.” Ning rose to his feet. “Wait for news from me.”

Swoosh!

Ning soared straight into the air, quickly vanishing from the skies above the imperial capital of the Grand Xia.

Xiyue was momentarily startled. She then let out a fierce, frustrated scream. She wanted to go kill!

Swallow Mountain.

Ning led Uncle White back to Swallow Mountain. He also summoned Little Qing to him, and together they went to Mu Northson's room.

"Senior apprentice-brother." Northson looked towards Ning, his body shaking, his eyes bloodshot. "Are we going to the Youngflame clan now?"

"Of course. Master has waited for this day for a long, long time," Little Qing said excitedly. "Master...I wish to go as well."

Ning frowned. "I thought I told you that you are to stay at Swallow Mountain and guard it."

"Master, look."

Little Qing's body flickered. Instantly, a second white-robed Little Qing appeared next to her. Both of them emanated the aura of a Void-level Earth Immortal.

"I know that you have a Primaltwin...eh? Your Primaltwin has become a Void-level Earth Immortal as well?" Ning said with some surprise. He had many treasures; naturally, he wouldn't be stingy with them with Little Qing and Uncle White. Uncle White hadn't created a Primaltwin, because the creation of a Primaltwin required the splitting of one's soul, causing the power of both souls to start off much lower.

Uncle White knew that Ning was going to deal with the Youngflame clan, and so he wasn't willing to lower his power. Little Qing, however, was adept at survival to begin with; naturally, she had prepared a Primaltwin long ago. By now, her Primaltwin had also become a Void-level Earth Immortal.

"My Primaltwin can stay here at Swallow Mountain; it's enough to control the grand formations," Little Qing said hurriedly. "Master, I'm your spirit-beast. You are going out to do battle; how can I not accompany you? In addition, you don't need to worry about my safety at all; I'm far faster than you when I use a Greater Spatial Teleportation. You have to use Dao-seals, whereas I can use the technique directly."

Ning nodded. "Fine! However, you must obey my orders."

"Of course. You are my master," Little Qing said with a chortle.

"Mm." Ning nodded, then looked towards Northson. "Junior apprentice-brother, I need to rest a bit. Tomorrow morning, we'll head to one of the three commanderies the Youngflame clan controls; Easthill Commandery."

The Youngflame clan was even more powerful than the Northmont clan; it had three full commanderies. Thus, their headquarters were divided into three parts as well; or at least, that was what the intelligence reports were able to discover. Every single one of the headquarters took up an enormous amount of land, and the number of clansmen numbered in the hundreds of millions! There were more than a million Immortal cultivators in total; this was definitely equivalent to some of the largest clans. Each of the headquarters was comparable in power to the Northmont clan's headquarters in Stillwater Commandery.

Three great headquarters; Ning was only able to choose one.

“Alright.” A savage light flashed through Northson’s eyes. “Tomorrow. Fine. Tomorrow, then.”

He looked with a bit of worry towards Ning.

“Senior apprentice-brother, if you aren’t confident in carrying it out, don’t go. Don’t go too crazy just because I want to take revenge.” Northson was worried that Ning was being rash.

“My differences with the Youngflame clan are as irreconcilable as water and fire. I was willing to bide my time and endure it, but the Youngflame clan refused to give me time,” Ning said. “In the eyes of the Youngflame clan, I’m a potential threat; they won’t permit me to continue to grow.” The longer Ning lived, the more the Youngflame clan would worry. After all, Ning’s rate of improvement was simply too fast.

“Right.” Northson nodded lightly.

“Take a rest.” Ning laughed, then gently patted Northson on the shoulder. “Get some rest tonight and recover some of your energy. Tomorrow, we’ll truly begin our war against the Youngflame clan. We’ll be facing an ancient clan that has existed for countless years, and all the tricks they have to muster. The number of Immortal cultivators alone is at least more than a million!”

Northson, upon imagining a million cultivators, couldn’t help but feel his heart tremble. Although most likely the vast majority of these cultivators were merely Zifu Disciples...quantity was a quality of its own as well. In addition, this was the headquarters of an entire tribe; it would be surrounded by layers of formations, and even Celestial Immortals who barged in would probably perish. Only Ning, by relying on the Fifth Cycle of the [Eight-Nine Arcane Art], would dare to charge straight in!

“Senior apprentice-brother, you have to be careful.” Northson looked at Ning, filled with worry. Although he was going to fight as well...he had already prepared himself mentally for death! In addition, there was an enormous difference in power between himself and those four Celestial Immortals; thus, the high-level fights would primarily depend on Ning’s power.

“Hahaha...” Ning laughed. “Don’t underestimate me, your senior apprentice-brother.”

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Night. It was as cool as water.

Ning was seated by himself atop the roof, staring downwards the bright moon in the sky.

“Tomorrow, I shall battle against the Youngflame clan.”

“Father. Mother. Just watch and see. One of the ten most powerful clans of the Grand Xia Dynasty, the Youngflame clan...I’ll rock them from top to bottom,” Ning said softly. He then took a big gulp out of the gourd of wine he was holding in his hands, letting the wine spill out and dribble across his chest. Alas...his father and his mother wouldn’t be able to see any of it.

In the past, his father and his mother hadn’t even wanted for him to go deal with Snowdragon Mountain! Snowdragon Mountain had been destroyed years ago. Nowadays, in Ning’s eyes...it was nothing more than a small local sect. Annihilation of such a sect was simplicity itself.

The Youngflame clan...now that was a truly tough nut to crack!

However, it was nothing more than a tough nut.

Four Celestial Immortals of the Youngflame clan had acted against him, but hadn't been able to successfully do anything to him back then...to say nothing of now!

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The next day. Dawn.

Ji Ning, Mu Northson, Uncle White, and Little Qing all soared into the skies of Swallow Mountain together.

Two youths, a large snowy-white hound, an azure serpent...this was a gathering that looked quite odd, and it was a gathering that was going to venture forth to deal with the ancient Youngflame clan! They were going to charge straight into the headquarters of the Youngflame clan!

"Let's go." Ning unleashed his elemental ki, covering everyone with it before performing a void blink.

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Easthill Commandery. This was an extremely distant commandery that had many mountains and rivers within it. In terms of raw size, it was significantly larger than Stillwater Commandery.

The Oldjade mountain range was the most important mountain range in Easthill Commandery, because this massive mountain range that stretched nearly a million kilometers was one of the three headquarters of the Youngflame clan. There were an unfathomable number of Youngflame clansmen who lived here, with the number of Immortal cultivators numbering over a million. As for the number of formations and restrictions laid down here over the course of countless eons, that was even more unfathomable.

Whoosh.

Four figures suddenly appeared in midair. Two youths, a large snowy-white hound, and an azure serpent.

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Book 15: The Sword Eradicates Celestial Immortals Chapter 20: Old Demon Windraiser

Ji Ning and the others stared far away at the distant mountain range, which stretched off as far as the eye could see. Although they had yet to enter, they each sensed the waves of power and might emanating from within the mountain range. This was the might of a grand formation that was continuously active, protecting the mountains.

"Senior apprentice-brother, how do we get in?" Mu Northson sent frantically.

Little Qing looked forward, then mumbled to herself, "Countless mortals, over a million Immortal cultivators...who knows how many formations have been set up to protect an ancient headquarters like this one, that has existed for countless eons. The successive generations of Celestial Immortals of the Youngflame clan have definitely strove to set down many formations. A place like this is like a steel wall. How are we supposed to get inside? What should we do?" Little Qing glanced at the nearby Ning.

“Senior apprentice-brother...” Northson looked towards Ning as well.

In the face of a place like this, they didn’t have any ideas on how to enter.

It was too tightly guarded!

This was a far more tightly guarded place than the Eastwoods mountain range; although this was just one of three bases for the Youngflame clan, it still surpassed the headquarters of the Northmont clan of Stillwater! The Youngflame clan had definitely given birth to a good number of Celestial Immortals, over the passage of countless years from the Fiendgod Era to the present day. The headquarters of such an ancient clan...entering it probably was as dangerous as entering Swallow Mountain, which was guarded by the grand formations of the Mount Innerheart League!

“Of course we can’t force our way in.” Ning shook his head. “It is layered with formations; once we force our way in, we’ll instantly become trapped within the formations.” When Bloodcloud Hall had attempted to assassinate him, Ning had been trapped within the formations of the Eastwoods mountain range; in the end, he had to use a Greater Teleportation Dao-seal in order to escape.

“Then what should we do?” Northson asked.

“Have you forgotten how I entered the forbidden region?” Ning glanced at Northson.

Northson was startled.

“I’ll use the same method to infiltrate the Oldjade mountain range,” Ning said with a smile. The practitioners of the [Eight-Nine Arcane Art] were the most mysterious and secretive figures of the entire Three Realms; they were able to use the art to easily slip into Immortal residences or even the Celestial Court.

Just two hours later.

Within Ning’s mobile Immortal estate.

“Spare me, senior. Spare me, senior! If I, Youngflame Blackburn, have offended you in some way, senior, please let me know!” A tall, thin, middle-aged man was staring in terror at the masked, black-robed man before him. He didn’t even think about fighting back...because this person was simply far too powerful.

He had clearly been within a commandery city earlier, but this person had suddenly appeared, completely paralyzing him through just a simple Dao Domain, then drawing him into a mobile Immortal estate.

For his Dao Domain to be so powerful...this person could probably kill him, Youngflame Blackburn, with a single thought.

“If I wanted to kill you, you’d already be dead,” the masked, black-robed man said in a gravelly voice.

Blackburn let out a secret sigh of relief. If this mysterious figure truly had killed him right away, that really would’ve been a miserable way to die. He hurriedly said, “Senior, if there’s anything you need, please let me know; this junior shall definitely do everything in my power to accomplish it for you.”

“Oh?” The masked, black-robed figure seemed to chuckle. “I wish to know a few things, so...I wish to examine your memories.”

“Examine my memories?” Blackburn was surprised. He said uneasily, “Senior...”

“I will soulscour you. If you don’t resist, the side effects probably won’t be that bad. If you do, however...I’ll have to use force,” the masked, black-robed man said. “Will you accept it willingly or not?”

Blackburn felt both miserable and helpless. Hesitating for just a fraction of a moment, he gritted his teeth then said, “This junior is willing.”

“Mm.” The masked, black-robed man immediately reached out, pressing his hand against Blackburn’s head, then using the Thousandstar soulscouring technique.

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In midair.

Ning was standing atop a cloud. He nodded slightly. “The first was a Primal Daoist. Primal Daoists have fairly high statuses within the Youngflame clan and know a decent amount of things. From what I saw...in Easthill Commandery, there is a clear stratification amongst its denizens, as well as many layers of formations. Even a Primal Daoist like Youngflame Blackburn was only permitted to go to some of the regions in the commandery, and he only knew the methods to bypass a few of the formations.”

This soulscouring had only resulted in him learning about part of the grand formations set up in this particular area.

“It seems I need to find more Primal Daoists and do a close investigation.”

Swoosh. Ning immediately used a void blink and disappeared.

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Ning began to act against a number of Primal Daoists of the Youngflame clan within the Easthill Commandery. Different Primal Daoists had different statuses; some knew many things about the formations protecting their headquarters, while some only knew a little bit! Slowly, Ning began to build a general picture of the formations within the Oldjade mountain range of Easthill Commandery. He conveyed what information he had to Uncle White.

Uncle White was a grandmaster of formations; he would definitely be able to come up with a superior method for breaking in!

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“Hahaha! You want to soulscour me?” An azure-robed man let out a wild laugh. “As I thought...you are the one the Patriarchs spoke of, yes? Ji Ning!”

“Not good.” The masked, black-robed Primaltwin Ning instantly felt that something was wrong. He immediately willed it...

Whoosh!

A sword-light appeared out of nowhere, piercing straight through the body of the azure-robed man, chopping it in half. The azure-robed man's Primal Turtle-Snake instantly flew out, but as the sword-light chopped towards it, the Primal Turtle-Snake was shattered as well. The human-shaped soul within began to attempt to leave for reincarnation.

"Do you think that just because you tried to self-detonate, that you would avoid my soulscouring?" Ning held a black jewel in his hand. The black jewel produced a powerful attractive power, drawing the man's soul inside.

When killing a Primal Daoist and destroying his Primal Turtle-Snake, one would generally destroy the soul as well. However, Ning's power vastly surpassed his foe's; he was able to destroy the Primal Turtle-Snake but keep the soul intact. His plan was to collect it then soulscour it.

"Soulscour? Hahaha..." The human-shaped soul of the azure-robed man let out an incomparably wild laugh. His soul began to crack apart...and then it completely shattered and dissipated.

"What?!" A moment later, Ning let out a sigh to himself.

Experts with sufficiently powerful souls were capable of splitting their souls. For example, long ago Ning himself had split his soul to create his Primaltwin...but what this person had just done was to split his soul into multiple pieces, causing it to shatter.

"He actually shattered his own soul." Ning sighed to himself. "It seems the Youngflame clan does have some extremely loyal clansmen."

"He was able to guess that I am Ji Ning? He was quite smart."

Ning didn't actually feel surprised; this was because he had already soulscoured quite a few Primal Daoists, through which he discovered that the Celestial Immortals of the Youngflame clan had already sent out an order for all members of the Youngflame clan to be extremely careful. They had to keep an eye out for Ji Ning secretly infiltrating their clan!

"Last time, four Celestial Immortals worked together to attack me. Although they failed, they were able to learn that I most likely train in the [Eight-Nine Arcane Art]," Ning mused to himself. "Practitioners of the [Eight-Nine Arcane Art] are highly skilled in transformations and subterfuge; it would be strange if the Youngflame clan didn't take precautions."

"But so what if they do take precautions? In the Three Realms...practitioners of the [Eight-Nine Arcane Art] can enter and depart from even places as tightly guarded as the Celestial Court as they so please."

This was the Dao of a King!

Even though they knew that Ning trained in the [Eight-Nine Arcane Art], there was no way they could prevent him from entering the Oldjade mountain range.

But despite that...

Given that the enemy was prepared, it would be harder for him to reach his target.

"The Youngflame is probably already aware of this Primal Daoist's death. However...he's just a single person. It shouldn't be too bad," Ning mused to himself. The Youngflame clan was an enormous

organization; given that this was an era of dangerous undercurrents, the death of a single Primal Daoist shouldn't be viewed as a major matter. But if two died in a row...this would probably draw attention.

"I'll leave it at this for now."

"Uncle white." The black-robed Ning walked to a hall within his mobile Immortal estate. Within the hall were Uncle White, Mu Northson, and Little Qing.

"How'd it go?" Uncle White looked over.

"Although I carefully compared every person I seized to figures I saw in the intelligence reports of the Heavenly Treasures Mountain...unexpectedly, in the end, I still ran into one that wasn't afraid of death." The black-robed Ning shook his head. "That Youngflame Xun committed suicide; I wasn't even able to forcibly soulscour him."

"In any large clan, there will always be some who are willing to sacrifice themselves for their clan." Uncle White nodded.

"In total, I soulscoured eight Primal Daoists. I've already acquired quite a bit of information regarding the Easthill Commandery headquarters of the Youngflame clan." The black-robed Ning said, "As to how we should deal with those formations...that'll be up to you, Uncle White."

"Let me think it over." Uncle White nodded.

The memories of each of the eight Primal Daoists included parts of the formations protecting their clan's headquarters. Ning recorded everything down onto a jade strip, then handed it to Uncle White.

Uncle White, ruminating through these findings, was able to come to a rough conclusion regarding the formations around the Oldjade mountain range.

.....

Within the Oldjade mountain range of the Easthill Commandery.

This mountain range of more than a million kilometers was simply too vast; the mountain range even had some plains, lakes, and a large number of commandery cities within them. There were very, very many commandery cities that took up a hundred or a thousand kilometers, and a large number of ordinary mortals resided within them. Every single city was able to support over ten million people.

Lakes, plains, rivers, mountains...the commandery cities were located everywhere. The Oldjade mountain range was definitely the undisputed terrain of the Youngflame clan!

"Patriarch! Patriarch!" A youth came running towards a palace at high speed. This palace was completely composed of white jade, and it was surrounded by a large number of beautiful maidservants. Each of these maidservants could be described as peerless beauties. Some were so scantily clad, they might as well be naked; one could see their bare bodies through their gauze-like clothes. Some, however, looked like rich noblewomen, while others looked like young maidens...

The youth cleared his throat.

These maids were beauties which the Patriarch had found from throughout the world, then gathered here to serve him and him alone.

This Patriarch...he was a Loose Immortal with a very special status, here in the Oldjade mountain range. He was a Loose Immortal who had lived for more than a million years; Immortal Windraiser. However, outsiders rarely referred to him as 'Immortal'; most referred to him as that 'old demon, Windraiser'. He truly was an evil figure.

"What is it?" A black-haired, black-bearded old man was currently cuddling with two beautiful woman, seeming quite pleased and relaxed.

"Patriarch, Third Uncle-Master, Third Uncle-Master, he...he..." The youth hurriedly fell to his knees. He cried out, "Third Uncle-Master died!"

"What?!"

Old Demon Windraiser's face instantly changed tremendously.

Amongst the Primal Daoists who currently resided within the Youngflame clan's Easthill Commandery, the apprentice-nephew which Windraiser favored the most was Youngflame Xun. Although Xun wasn't his disciple, he still viewed him with great favor! In fact, he felt that Youngflame Xun was like a carbon copy of himself when he was young; he stooped to all sorts of vile deeds, but was absolutely and ardently loyal to the Youngflame clan.

In addition, he was also very talented. Thus, Old Demon Windraiser often arranged for Youngflame Xun to handle tasks for him in the outside world; only by experiencing dangers and trials in the outside world could one truly grow, after all. But he didn't expect that Xun would actually die! As one of the important younger disciples of the clan, he had naturally been given protective treasures...but he had still died...

"Damn. Damn!" Old Demon Windraiser was so angry, he gnashed his teeth.

"Investigate. Investigate!" Old Demon Windraiser bellowed with rage, "Investigate and find out exactly how Youngflame Xun died!"

[The Desolate Era](#)

Book 15: The Sword Eradicates Celestial Immortals Chapter 21: Kill!

With the mobile Immortal estate.

Ji Ning, Mu Northson, Uncle White, and Little Qing were gathered together.

"That should more or less be it." Uncle White nodded lightly after looking once more through at the enormous map placed before him.

"And?" Ning, Northson, and Little Qing were all staring at the enormous map before them, but weren't able to understand it.

"Their defenses are airtight. There's no flaws at all." Uncle White sighed.

"No flaws at all?" Ning was shocked.

“Based on what you found when you did the soulscouring...the Youngflame clan has a total of three headquarters, each of which has more than a hundred Loose Immortals or Earth Immortals.” Uncle White nodded. “This Easthill Commandery alone has more than a hundred Loose Immortals or Earth Immortals scattered around the Oldjade mountain range. They definitely aren’t gathered in one place, where you can destroy them with one blow. They are scattered far apart in different locations, where they protect the countless formations that are present. Thus...it’s extremely difficult to completely destroy the entire Oldjade mountain range!”

Ning frowned. “There’s nothing we can do?”

“No, but...the Easthill mountain range is too big. So, there is something of a weak point,” Uncle White said confidently. “But in truth, it isn’t really much of a weak point.”

Little Qing said impatiently, “Uncle White, what’s the weakness? What have you discovered?”

“The Oldjade mountain range is nearly a million kilometers long. For a giant formation to cover a million kilometers...there’s no way for Loose Immortals or Earth Immortals to activate and sustain a formation of such size,” Uncle White said with a laugh.

Ning’s eyes instantly lit up.

“Are you saying...” Ning revealed a pleased look.

“There’s a limit to the reach of an Immortal’s elemental ki. If they are too far away from the formation-base, they will be completely unable to control it. For example, when we are a million kilometers away from our magic treasures, we are similarly unable to control them,” Uncle White said. “Loose Immortals and Earth Immortals, when controlling formations, generally have to be within a hundred thousand kilometers or so; that’s their limit.”

“The Oldjade mountains are so enormous...”

“There’s no way Celestial Immortals can be constantly maintaining a formation; naturally, they would have Loose Immortals or Earth Immortals do it for them! From this, it is very easy to guess that they must have divided the entire Oldjade mountain range into ten or so regions, each of which has around ten or so Immortals that are maintaining the formations,” Uncle White said.

The Oldjade mountains were nearly a million kilometers long, but merely around a hundred thousand kilometers in width.

“There are over a hundred Loose Immortals and Earth Immortals in the Oldjade mountain range, but only a few of them are controlling the formations,” Uncle White said. “What we need to do is find out who is controlling the formations. Once we kill one...for a short period of time, the hundred thousand kilometer region under his control will be temporarily unprotected.”

“However...we’ll need to be fast.”

“That’s because the Celestial Immortals will quickly arrive. I am certain that there are even more powerful formations within the Oldjade mountain range which are controlled by the Celestial Immortals,” Uncle White said. “Loose Immortals and Earth Immortals are only able to cover a fairly small amount of territory, but Celestial Immortals are able to control and protect the entire mountain range!”

Ning, Northson, and Little Qing all nodded.

“According to our intelligence report, the Celestial Immortals of the Youngflame clan generally don’t reside within the headquarters; they are hidden within an unknown area. Once the clan encounters danger, they’ll definitely hurry out to meet it,” Uncle White said. “Thus...as I see it...we should do this...”

Uncle White explained his plan in detail.

Ning originally had a rough plan in mind, but now, based on what they actually faced, it had to change.

Their new plan took form!

“It’ll definitely succeed.” The nearby Little Qing was incomparably excited upon hearing it.

“Let’s make the Youngflame clan feel regret.” Northson’s eyes were filled with savagery.

As for Ning, he laughed and said softly, “Our first target will be the number one figure amongst the Loose Immortals and Earth Immortals stationed here in the Oldjade mountain range...that old bastard who has lived for more than a million years...Old Demon Windraiser!”

Dusk.

Ning executed the Seventy-Two Transformations, transforming into a short, pudgy cultivator. This short, pudgy cultivator flew atop a cloud towards the Oldjade mountain range. He carried a talisman on him, causing the formations around the Oldjade mountain range to leave him completely unharmed.

“Unfortunately, I’m not going to be able to stealthily and silently kill Loose Immortals or Earth Immortals within the Oldjade mountain range,” Ning mused to himself. “Otherwise...I could ambush them one by one, wiping them all out. Without any Loose Immortals, the entire Oldjade mountain range would be completely defenseless for a period of time.”

“Brother Voidgrace.” As the short, pudgy cultivator flew forward on his cloud, a voice suddenly called to him from afar.

The short, pudgy cultivator turned to look towards the distant. A white-haired elder was flying towards him aboard an Immortal crane. The white-haired elder laughed and said, “Brother voidgrace, long time no see! This old man has wanted to see you quite dearly!”

“You actually want to see my treasure, right?” The short, pudgy cultivator laughed oddly. “Don’t be impatient. This time, I came back on important business. Next time, I’ll definitely bring the treasure.”

“Don’t forget it.” The white-haired elder laughed merrily, then flew away atop his Immortal crane.

The short, pudgy cultivator watched as the white-haired elder departed, then pursed his lips. “Old bastard. I’ll let you live a bit longer...but next time, I’ll wipe you out.”

The short, pudgy cultivator Ning had just transformed into was known as Daoist Voidgrace. He had a belly full of bad designs, and was a sinister, vicious man. Because he was often stationed in the outside world, he was able to procure things that were completely forbidden to be traded in here, such as beautiful women and children, for the cultivators here that wanted them. Daoist Voidgrace would often

deliver beauties to his master, Old Demon Windraiser. It was precisely because he was Windraiser's disciple that Ning chose him to transform into.

Whoosh.

Because he was Old Demon Windraiser's apprentice, Adept Voidgrace naturally found his path unencumbered and unchallenged as he flew forward.

He soon arrived at that towering palace.

"Adept Voidgrace."

"Milord."

The palace was filled with all sorts of peerless beauties. Human beauties, Diremonster beauties...all sorts of beauties. There were barbarian maidens, and there were even noblewomen from the imperial clan...in short, this was an absolute paradise of women! Old Demon Windraiser's number one vice was lust...and he was extremely long-lived! He had an exceptional status in the entire clan; even the Celestial Immortal Patriarchs viewed him as being extremely important.

"Heh heh...nice...niiiiice..." While walking over, Daoist Voidgrace chortled merrily.

"Where's Master?"

"Master is in the Palace of the Spring Sun."

Although the women all called out to him as he walked past them, after Daoist Voidgrace left, they all revealed looks of disgust.

They all hated this Daoist Voidgrace!

Old Demon Windraiser, at least, could be said to be a towering, dominating figure. This Daoist Voidgrace was nothing more than a petty man! However...Old Demon Windraiser liked this disciple very much.

The Palace of the Spring Sun.

This was a palace that was decorated in an exceedingly lavish manner. Its ceiling was covered with pearls that had been found in the depths of the northern seas. Its corners were decorated with violet bamboo from the southern seas. Well water from the major world of Icesnow flowed throughout the palace, and all sorts of precious treasures could be seen. It was like spring had come, causing all things to bloom. The grass was growing here, next to gurgling creeks.

"Master," Daoist Voidgrace called out from afar.

"Voidgrace?" At the front of the hall, there was a throne that was so large, it could in truth be described as a giant bed. Old Demon Windraiser was seated atop this bed, with two maids next to him feeding him fruit. When he grew excited, he would pull one of them straight onto the bed and make love to them. He glanced at Daoist Voidgrace, who walked in from afar, then laughed and said, "My dear disciple, why have you come to see your master today?"

Old Demon Windraiser liked this disciple very much. He knew, of course, that Daoist Voidgrace was a petty man...but petty men were easily manipulated and used.

“Your disciple has a major matter to report to you, Master,” Daoist Voidgrace said.

“A major matter?” Old Demon Windraiser laughed. “What major matter?”

Whoosh!

Daoist Voidgrace was standing before the throne. His hands suddenly swelled to more than thirty meters long. A pair of giant palms that were large enough to block out the sun, covered with golden light, slammed straight towards Old Demon Windraiser.

“You...” Old Demon Windraiser was shocked. His body instantly retreated backwards at high speed. At the same time, a series of needles appeared around him. Hundreds of needles appeared, transforming into an enormous circular shield that moved to block. As he retreated backwards...his billowing elemental ki caused both of the beautiful, terrified women to be transformed into meat past.

BOOM!!!!

The two giant golden palms, carrying an aura of unstoppable might, moved as fast as lightning. One of them blasted apart the shield of needles and even shattering many of the actual needles themselves. As for the other giant golden palm, it instantly reached the body of the fleeing Windraiser.

“NO!” Old Demon Windraiser didn’t even have enough time to finish using his Greater Teleportation Dao-seal. A black light had appeared before him, but the golden palm had already reached him.

BOOM.

Everything disintegrated. Even Old Demon Windraiser’s body was instantly reduced to dust. He was deader than dead!

Old Demon Windraiser...had perished!

“Ah?!”

“Flee, quick!”

“Good heavens!”

The other maids in the palace were all completely stunned and terrified. They had never imagined that this Daoist Voidgrace, whom they had always viewed with disdain, would suddenly strike and easily defeat the awe-inspiring famous legend, Old Demon Windraiser, and slay him.

“Arise!” After instantly killing Old Demon Windraiser, Ning immediately soared into the skies. BOOM! His powerful body was as mighty as a magic treasure; he smashed straight through the ceiling of the Palace of the Spring Sun, reaching the skies.

“DESTROY!”

Ning instantly pulled out an Immortal sword. It was the Thousandbull Sword. “NIGHTRIVER, EMERGE!”

Rumble...

A river that was ten thousand kilometers long instantly covered this wide region, carrying infinite power as it wildly surged forth. It must be understood that under Ning’s control...this Nightriver had even been

able to somewhat bind and restrict the Ba-Serpent which Bloodcloud Hall had used to try to assassinate Ning. From this, one could see how powerful it was. Even the slightest bit of power from it could kill an ordinary Loose Immortal or Earth Immortal!

And right now...Ning was activating it and unleashing its full power.

Most importantly of all! The formations around this area had previously been under the control of Old Demon Windraiser; no one had ever dared to cause trouble here, as the area within thousands of kilometers was all part of his territory. Even beyond that range, only Primal Daoists lived in the area. No commoners were qualified to live in this region.

“SWEEP IT ALL AWAY!”

Rumble...

The Nightriver was like a watery dragon, rolling over and over, smashing apart all of the giant mountains and breaking apart the local palaces. In fact, even some of the formation-bases that were hidden deep within the mountains were destroyed.

“BURROW!”

The massive Nightriver dug deep into the ground, causing the earth itself to shudder and tremble. In almost the blink of an eye, the Nightriver had completely overturned the earth within tens of thousands of kilometers around them. All mountains were destroyed, while all plains were rent apart. Every single formation-base here was annihilated...

“I have to do as much damage as I can, in as little time as possible. The Youngflame clan’s counter-attack will arrive soon.” Ning understood this very well. He immediately controlled the massive Nightriver to do more damage. The Nightriver was simply too enormous; it was able to instantly destroy and sweep through a region of ten thousand kilometers, and so it was extremely suited for large-scale destruction.

[The Desolate Era](#)

Book 15: The Sword Eradicates Celestial Immortals Chapter 22: Karmic Virtue, Karmic Sin

The Oldjade mountain range was extremely vast, nearly a million kilometers in length; this was comparable to an entire series of minor worlds. For example, the minor world of ‘Earth’ merely had a circumference of around forty thousand kilometers.

Deep within a mountain.

There were three young individuals walking together. One held a longstaff, the second held an greataxe, while the third was carrying a bow.

“During this trial, we definitely must make it into the top ten of Greatape City.” The greataxe-wielding muscular youth was filled with vigor and energy. “Only if we make it into the top ten will we be able to participate in the main competition that spans the entire clan. If we perform well within the main competition, we’ll be able to receive tutelage and assistance from the clan.”

“If we miss a chance like this, we’d have to wait another ten years. We can’t afford to wait.” The skinny youth who was carrying the bow on his back agreed.

“Although we are at the Xiantian level, we are still mortals...only by establishing our Zifu can we be considered true Immortal cultivators.” The black-robed maiden nodded as well.

The Youngflame clan was far too powerful. Its population was simply enormous, and so the internal struggles within the clan were extremely fierce.

“Look, what’s that?” The burly greataxe-wielding youth suddenly raised his head and stared towards the distance with utter astonishment.

“This is...”

“A huge wave...” The skinny youth and the black-robed maiden both stared in astonishment as well.

An enormous wave that seemed to stretch off to infinity was crashing forward. This wave was ten thousand kilometers long; Xiantian lifeforms naturally wouldn’t be able to see its end. Upon seeing this massive wave that was even higher than the entire mountain come crashing towards them, they were completely stupefied!

In the face of such world-breaking power, these three young Xiantian individuals weren’t able to fight back at all.

Boom boom boom boom...

The towering mountain peaks were completely shattered and blown apart by the giant wave.

“No.”

“I can’t accept this. I haven’t even become famous yet.”

“I haven’t avenged my mother yet. I haven’t killed the governor of Greatape City!”

The three of them all had their own dreams and desires.

They had never even left the Oldjade mountain range. For Xiantian lifeforms like them...the furthest they could travel was within a few tens of thousands of kilometers of Greatape City. Naturally...this meant that the ones they had grudges against were also members of the Youngflame clan! Although the top-level Youngflame clansmen, such as the Loose Immortals and Earth Immortals, were all quite unified, at the low-level there were many internal feuds and grudges.

This was just like China, back during Ning’s previous life on Earth. China was clearly one country, but within that one country, there were countless grudges and debts, loves and hatreds. Thus, once a clan expanded to a certain level, the number of feuds within it would become tremendous.

If a peerless genius was truly produced...then when the peerless genius went to kill his own clansmen for the sake of revenge, the high-level Earth Immortals and Loose Immortals of the clan, and perhaps even the Celestial Immortal Patriarchs, would help that peerless genius become famous! This would ensure the genius’ loyalty.

The Youngflame clan had quite a few evildoers within their ranks, but on the surface, at least, the rules of the entire Youngflame clan were that the members of their clan had to be treated kindly. Every single clansmen, including even the most impoverished of them, would receive at least some basic assistance

to help them survive. This was to ensure that the clansmen would understand that the clan was good to them; it was only a few enemy clansmen within the clan who treated them poorly!

“No....”

The three youngsters were unwilling to accept this.

Rumble...

The infinitely mighty torrent of water from the Primordial Nightriver swept forward, roaring past them...but a strand of river water actually snaked out in front of it, completely surrounding the three youngsters.

“We...” The three youngsters were completely amazed.

They stared blankly at their surroundings. They were now completely surrounded by that strand of river water; it was as though they were in a little bubble! This bubble of water was protecting the three of them, but outside of it...the infinite Nightriver was wildly smashing and destroying everything, causing mountains to crumble and the earth to shake.

“What sort of power is this? This is our Youngflame clan’s territory. Who? Who is acting against our Youngflame clan?” The three of them knew very well that the headquarters of their clan was an extremely safe place; there was no way a disaster like this could happen. This sort of disaster...perhaps only the terrifying figures spoken of in legends could cause something like this.

“That’s...” The three of them suddenly saw a short, pudgy man who was standing high up in midair. The figure was standing at the very center of the infinite waves, with the aura of a Fiendgod.

The three of them had the feeling that it was this short, pudgy man who was controlling this infinite river.

“If I had this sort of power...” The three of them stared at the surrounding area, where the mountains were crumbling and the earth was breaking apart. This terrifying scene of utter annihilation...although they felt terror in their hearts, they also felt desire.

.....

Greatape City. One of the many cities within the Oldjade mountain range.

This was a place where mortals lived. The Youngflame clan was a tightly stratified place; some places were meant for mortals to live in, while other places only Immortal cultivators could venture to. The entire Greatape City had a population of over ten million, including many Xiantian lifeforms, as well as a few dozen Zifu Disciples and a Wanxiang Adept who managed the city.

“Good heavens...”

“Who is doing this?”

“Who dares do this to our Youngflame clan?” On the streets and in the residences of Greatape City, the numerous denizens were staring in utter terror at the enormous wave that was sweeping towards them

from the outside. The wave seemed to be as high as the heavens themselves. All of the mountain ranges outside the city were instantly breaking apart, and the earth itself was shuddering and shaking.

The wave instantly swept over this city.

But...a strand of the water of the Nightriver moved to completely cover it, causing the entire city to be protected with a 'water globe'.

.....

If one viewed things from Ning's standpoint, a city like Greatape City was as unimportant as a toy. Protected by the bubble, it began to sink down into the Nightriver.

Ever since he was young, Ji Ning had been trained by his father to go and kill others. In his youth, he had adventured in the world and engaged in many battles. He naturally wouldn't show any mercy or soft-heartedness to his enemies in the Youngflame clan. However...those people before him were merely ordinary mortals. When Immortal cultivators killed mortals, they would incur an enormous amount of sin. His Celestial Tribulation would most likely be quite difficult; if he was to kill so many mortals at a time like this, the amount of sin that would swirl around him would most likely reach and utterly terrifying level.

In addition...no matter how much hatred Ning felt, he had his limits.

For example, when he took revenge for Spring Grass all those years ago, Ning had slaughtered River He, but had spared his son.

It was the same principle.

Ning's pride forbade him slaughtering the countless ordinary mortals of the Youngflame clan.

Will these mortals eventually become Immortal cultivators? Would they become powerful experts, one day?

Let them come! They can come as they please!

If they are able to kill me, Ji Ning, then I have no one to blame but myself! However...once they act against me, I definitely will show no mercy!

.....

"A Fiendgod."

"An Immortal?"

"Good heavens."

The countless ordinary mortals of the Youngflame clan had escaped this disaster unscathed. They kept their heads raised, watching everything unfold. Upon seeing the short, pudgy man who was commanding the waters of the river, they were filled with the utmost of terror.

After killing Old Demon Windraiser, Ning had immediately begun to destroy the surrounding area, shattering all of the foundation-bases. When he made his move, he had Uncle White, Little Qing, and

Mu Northson go to Old Demon Windraiser's palace. Although the palace had been badly damaged, Uncle White immediately began to lay down formations here. The first thing he did was instantly set up a trapping formation that was ten thousand kilometers in length...and next, he began to add layers of even more formidable formations!

Ning had spared no expense on this trip. He had bought quite a few unique treasures from the Heavenly Treasures Mountain, and the expense was no less than the amount he had spent to set up formations for Swallow Mountain.

However, because Uncle White wouldn't have enough time to set up the formation...Uncle White had chosen formations that could be established in a very short period of time.

Although these formations were inferior to those three supremely savage formations of Swallow Mountain, Uncle White's scheme still involved setting up ninety-two mighty formations, all of which were within the ten thousand kilometer area. If one didn't include the three supremely savage formations, not even the formations layout of Swallow Mountain was this insane!

"Quick, flee."

"Quick!"

Ning didn't kill the mortals.

However...Ning showed no mercy to the Immortal cultivators. After destroying many of the formation-bases, their side was now able to use void blinks to engage in spatial teleportations! Some Immortal cultivators were fleeing in panic, but most were swept up by the Nightriver. Ning certainly didn't have the inclination to go and protect those Immortal cultivators.

"Kill, kill, KILL!" Mu Northson was the most savage of all. He was actually the first to charge out of Uncle White's formations. Commanding the Winged Immortal golem, he unleashed the Seven Ruinous Thunderwinds to wildly kill all before him.

Primal Daoists? Wanxiang Adepts? Zifu Disciples?

All members of the Youngflame clan were to die!

Seeing this, Ning couldn't help but secretly sigh to himself...but he didn't move to stop him. "If Cousin was here, she would also probably act in such a crazed manner. Still...I can't let junior apprentice-brother kill too many. Sin is already beginning to accumulate around him." Ning's divine sense had previously seen that the amount of karmic sin and karmic virtue around Northson was ordinary, but now...a corrosive aura of sin was slowly beginning to manifest.

It must be understood that very, very little sin would accrue from the killing of Immortal cultivators.

However, Northson was simply far too powerful. What he was engaging in was sheer butchery, and so there would still be the accrual of some sin. In addition, given that he was killing so many...the amount of sin surrounding him had increased by quite a bit.

"Junior apprentice-brother is weak. If he accrues too much sin..." Ning willed it, and the waters of the Nightriver became even more ferocious. In fact, they began to intentionally sweep towards the groups

of fleeing Immortal cultivators, causing many of them to perish. Ning had always been surrounded by the golden light of karmic virtue, albeit just a little bit. Still, he clearly had reached that level.

Now that Ning was controlling the Nightriver to attack, however...the aura of golden karmic virtue around Ning began to slowly weaken...before eventually transforming into a mere fresh aura of virtue!

The density and range of that fresh aura of virtue was beginning to drop as well.

“Kill, kill, kill...”

Hatred.

Death.

The baleful auras of the slain Immortal cultivators began to swirl around Ning, causing the three Darknorth swords in Ning’s body to absorb them and transform them. When Ning had slaughtered many Earth Immortals and Loose Immortals during his battle at the Eastwoods mountain range, the Darknorth swords had reached a level of power that was comparable to that of top-grade Immortal-ranked flying swords. This time, he killed even more Immortal cultivators! However, they were all very weak, and so the amount of baleful aura Ning absorbed from them was even less than the amount he had absorbed from the bronze-armored Fiendguards.

Still...there was a significant drop in Ning’s karmic virtue as he continued to butcher so many Immortal cultivators.

“Where are they? Where’d they go?!” Northson suddenly discovered that there were no more targets near him. Suddenly...he saw a commandery city in the distance, a city which Ning had protected and spared with the Nightriver. A city with many ordinary mortals.

Northson’s eyes were completely bloodshot. He was in a completely berserk mode; he couldn’t even differentiate between mortals and Immortal cultivators right now.

He immediately flew out, planning to continue the slaughter.

“Junior apprentice-brother, those are mortals! Mortals!”

“So what if they are?! Every member of the Youngflame clan deserves to die!” Northson was utterly berserk.

Ning roared back angrily, “If you kill them, karmic sinflames will descend and you will die as well!”

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When Ning killed Old Demon Windraiser and destroyed the local formation-bases, the many Loose Immortals and Earth Immortals in the surrounding areas of the Oldjade mountains had noticed it. They had all activated their own formations, at least ensuring that they could protect their parts of the Oldjade mountain range. The hundred thousand kilometer region that had been controlled by Old Demon Windraiser, however, was completely unprotected. They didn’t have a chance to do anything; the formation-bases had all been destroyed, after all.

The Loose Immortals and Earth Immortals were all hovering in midair within the range of their formations, staring at the distant short, pudgy man who was controlling the Nightriver to destroy the world.

“To act with such madness...it must be Ji Ning. As for that person who is releasing the Seven Ruinous Thunderwinds, it must be that ‘Mu Northson’.”

“Attack. Let’s attack!”

“Are we just going to sit here and wait?”

Some of the Loose Immortals were enraged.

“The Patriarchs have already instructed that if Ji Ning comes, we are forbidden from engaging him. We need to protect the clan as best as we can, while everything else will be left to them. I’ve already shattered the talisman; I trust that the Celestial Immortal Patriarchs will soon arrive,” a green-haired Immortal said in a low voice.

[The Desolate Era](#)

Book 15: The Sword Eradicates Celestial Immortals Chapter 23: The Underground Copper Pillar

The western sea. The Seamless Gate’s gathering spot.

Within the grand palace.

The barefoot, loose-haired Celestial Immortal Blackheaven and Celestial Immortal Violetgrass were seated shoulder-to-shoulder at the front of the palace. Many other Celestial Immortals were also seated before them. They were all staring at an enormous mirror within the palace; this mirror was currently reflecting the scenes from the Oldjade mountain range of Easthill Commandery.

“We’ve been searching for a chance to capture this Ji Ning, but who would’ve imagined that he’d go gallivanting off into the Youngflame clan’s base?” Celestial Immortal Blackheaven sat there, scratching his foot as he chortled, “It seems as though I won’t be forced to personally handle this puny little Ji Ning after all; the Youngflame clan will be more than enough to deal with him.”

“Will the Youngflame clan be able to get it done? Last time, they were intent on handling him but ended up failing,” the nearby Violetgrass said with a frown.

“The top ten clans of the Grand Xia Dynasty are all extremely powerful.” Blackheaven nodded. “If the Youngflame clan truly was willing to use their full power, going so far as to spare no expenses and even take out their trump card that is meant to only be used when the entire clan is at a critical juncture between life and death...they would definitely be able to suppress a young fellow like him, who isn’t even a Celestial Immortal, despite the fact that he has trained in the [Eight-Nine Arcane Art].”

“Oh?” Violetgrass was surprised.

“Just watch and see.” Blackheaven was extremely confident.

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Within an ancient tower.

Celestial Immortals Arcanum, Goldclock, Deadwood, Sunfish, and Infatuation were all gathered here.

“There’s something happening at the Easthill Commandery. They’ve asked us for help.” The five Celestial Immortals all sensed it right away.

“At a time like this, the Kindwater clan and the other clans wouldn’t be so foolish as to start a war against us. In addition, the foundation of any clan is their force of Celestial Immortals; killing Immortal cultivators and mortals of our clan makes no difference at all in that regard. Only Ji Ning, who has suffered our assaults and pursuit, would explode forth to take vengeance in this manner.”

“It must be Ji Ning.”

“There’s no question about it.”

Patriarch Arcanum and the others guessed it right away.

Because they had gone to act against Ji Ning, with the intention of not letting him continue to live...Ji Ning himself would definitely reveal his own fangs and launch his own counter-attack.

“We’ve been waiting for him to make his move. For him to attack our territory is equivalent to throwing himself into our hands.”

“Brother Flamefish.”

“Brother Flamefish.”

Celestial Immortal Goldclock and Celestial Immortal Infatuation both called out.

Their voices transmitted to a completely different space. Moments later, a black foggy door appeared next to them, from which flew out a man. It was a man with unkempt red hair and who had some fish scales on his face.

“Brother Flamefish,” Celestial Immortal Infatuation said with a smile, “This time, we’ll have to ask you to maintain control over the grand formation to take care of Ji Ning. The rest of us will coordinate with you.”

“The Three Realms are currently in a state of turmoil, and so Master is busy with important matters,” Celestial Immortal Flamefish said in a low voice. “A puny little Ji Ning has already set back our Youngflame clan multiple times; this is an insult to our Youngflame clan! This time, we must succeed.”

“Right.”

“Of course.”

“We are all aware.”

Each of the others hastened to assent.

Celestial Immortal Flamefish nodded. “Fine. Per our previous discussions...myself, Infatuation, Deadwood, Goldclock, and Sunfish shall join forces. We shall activate and execute the ‘Lesser-Yin Fiendtamer Formation’ to trap Ji Ning. Then, we shall capture him into the divine greatclock and keep him suppressed within it.” 1

“With you taking charge, Brother Flamefish, we shall naturally succeed.”

“Let’s go.”

“Arcanum, you stand guard here.”

Soon, Celestial Immortals Flamefish, Infatuation, Deadwood, Goldclock, and Sunfish all departed via a void blink as they headed towards Easthill Commandery’s Oldjade mountain range.

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“I’m back.”

In the air above the eastern seas, a spatial rift appeared, followed by the emergence of a white-haired, white-bearded elder.

“I didn’t expect that my true body would be destroyed in a single exchange.” The white-haired, white-bearded elder thought back to what he had seen, to that terrifying palm that had slammed him to death with one blow. “It seems he transformed into Daoist Voidgrace’s appearance to deceive me...it must be that Ji Ning which the Celestial Immortal Patriarchs spoke of.”

This person was Old Demon Windraiser’s Primaltwin!

Old Demon Windraiser was extremely powerful; his true body stood guard over his part of the Oldjade mountain range, enjoying luxury, while his Primaltwin roamed the Three Realms, causing his power to grow even greater.

He had lived for over a million years, yet was still alive. In fact, the Three Calamities and Nine Tribulations which he had faced didn’t pose too much of a threat to him.

“Ji Ning, eh?” A fierce light flashed through Old Demon Windraiser’s eyes. “You destroyed my true body...do you think I’ll just let you off?”

Swoosh. Old Demon Windraiser immediately used a void teleport to once more go to the Oldjade mountain range. He was naturally very familiar with the area, and he quickly passed through the layers of formations, arriving at a place where the other Loose Immortals and Earth Immortals were congregating.

“Brother Windraiser.”

“Brother Windraiser.”

The other Immortals all addressed him with great courtesy.

Old Demon Windraiser said hurriedly, “I’m ashamed. Ashamed! Ji Ning suddenly attacked, causing my true body to be destroyed in a single clash.”

“It isn’t your fault, brother Windraiser. Ji Ning is extremely powerful; even the Celestial Immortal Patriarchs gave us strict orders against engaging him. For him to be able to kill even someone as strong as you in a single clash...most likely, even if all of us joined forces against him, we would still end up dying. I really wonder what the hell this Ji Ning’s training method is,” a green-haired Immortal said.

“Let him be smug for now. When the Patriarchs arrive...that will be the moment of his demise.”

“The Patriarchs just appeared!”

The Loose Immortals and Earth Immortals could all sense the spatial ripples. Raising their heads to look, they saw five figures appear in the distance.

“Five Celestial Immortal Patriarchs?”

“Our Youngflame clan actually has five Celestial Immortal Patriarchs?” These Loose Immortals and Earth Immortals were incomparably excited. The exact number of Celestial Immortals a clan had was a tightly guarded secret! Prior to this, even the current Godplume Duke, the leader of their clan, only knew of three of them...

“A full five Celestial Immortal Patriarchs are making their move. This Ji Ning is dead for sure.”

All of them waited eagerly.

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The Loose Immortals and Earth Immortals only dared to remain in hiding behind the formations. As far as Ning was concerned, they were nothing more than dancing, prancing clowns; he wasn't worried about them at all. Controlling his massive Nightriver, he continued to cause destruction everywhere. If he was using a magic treasure, he would most likely only be able to destroy around a hundred kilometers or so of land at once, but with the ten thousand kilometer Nightriver at his disposal, he was able to cause devastation on a much wider scale.

“Thankfully, I have the Thousandbull Sword...otherwise, this plan wouldn't be feasible.” Ning was causing havoc at an extremely fast speed.

Rumble...

Mountains continued to shatter, and the earth continued to break apart.

In addition, some lesser mountain peaks that had been fashioned into formation-bases were pushed away by the Nightriver but did not break apart. The Nightriver was able to discover many formation-bases, all of which Ning retrieved and collected. A grand formation could be destroyed for the lack of a single formation-base. Ning didn't even know how many formation-bases he collected; most likely, it would be extremely hard for the grand formations to be set up within this hundred thousand kilometer region.

“BOOM!” After a stone disc that was more than three hundred meters long was pulled up...

“Eh? This is...” Ning's face changed.

Previously, his divine sense had only been able to discover some ordinary rocks and dirt underground. Everything seemed normal. But after that stone disc was pulled away...the scene below the ground completely changed! Clearly, there was a permanent formation stationed underground that could deceive both divine sense and coresense.

Ning's divine sense could clearly see...

That there was an enormous, fiery red copper pillar buried deep within the earth, nearly three hundred meters thick and much more than a thousand kilometers in length. Because this fiery copper pillar was buried far too deep, Ning's divine sense was only able to discover a portion of this pillar. The portion that he was able to discover, however, was already more than a thousand kilometers in length!

The fiery copper pillar was covered with an enormous number of runes.

"Now...what's this?" Ning could sense that this was definitely an extraordinary object. When his divine sense touched it, he couldn't help but feel his heart clench.

"Eh?" Ning suddenly raised his head.

Five figures suddenly appeared in the air far away.

Ning could no longer spare any time on analyzing the fiery copper pillar. "This fiery copper pillar has been buried underground this entire time, without being taken away. There's most likely no way to actually take it away! It's been buried here for who knows how long. There's no rush for me to investigate it...after I kill these bastards of the Youngflame clan, I'll come back and secretly investigate the secrets of this fiery copper pillar."

Whoosh!

As the five Celestial Immortals appeared, Ning immediately ceased causing havoc. He immediately used a void blink to instantly teleport to the location where Old Demon Windraiser's Palace of the Spring Sun was.

Northson returned to that location as well. The Immortal cultivators were all dead by now. As for the mortals? With Ning blocking him, he finally relented. Next to him was Uncle White and Little Qing.

"Uncle White, how is it?" Ning lowered his head, looking at Uncle White, who was in the shape of a large, snowy-white dog.

"I've already finished setting up seventy-one formations," Uncle White sent spiritually. "Although I haven't managed to finish setting up all the formations, these seventy-one...should be more than enough."

"Good." Ning sent mentally, "Wait for the five Celestial Immortals to enter the formation, then activate it."

Ning had already transformed into his usual appearance.

The appearance of the Winged Immortal golem guaranteed that there would be no way for him to hide himself this time. In addition, he had already accomplished his goal; he had completely wiped out the entire 'safe region' within a hundred thousand kilometers. There was no need at all for him to hide himself anymore.

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Within the shattered rubble, Ning stood alone. Behind him was the Winged Immortal golem, a large snowy-white hound, and an Azure Skysnake.

“Dogshit Celestial Immortals of the Youngflame clan!” Ning raised his head, laughing loudly. “Don’t you want to kill me? First you invited Bloodcloud Hall to assassinate me, and then you had four of your Celestial Immortals ambush me. Alas...you are completely useless!”

“What?”

“Four mighty Celestial Immortals ambushed Ji Ning?”

The Loose Immortals and Earth Immortals who were hidden within the distant formations were all extremely shocked. In their hearts, they viewed their Celestial Immortal Patriarchs as lofty, exalted figures; four of them had ambushed Ji Ning, but had been unable to kill him?

Standing amidst the other Loose Immortals and Earth Immortals, Old Demon Windraiser just narrowed his eyes, watching silently.

“Since you desire to kill me so badly...I thought I’d satisfy your desire. I’ve come here, to the territory of your Youngflame clan.” Ning’s voice boomed out, filled with elemental ki as it spread in every direction. Even the countless mortals in the area could hear his voice. “I, Ji Ning, am right now. Dogshit Celestial Immortals of the Youngflame clan, come and kill me if you can! Ahaha, but you’d best be careful. You want to kill me, but I want to kill you too. Be wary, lest I end up slaughtering all five of you. Ahaha...”

Ning’s laughter rang out, booming in every direction.

“Did he just say, ‘dogshit Celestial Immortals of the Youngflame clan?’” Countless mortals were completely stunned by what they had just heard.

“Who would dare speak of Celestial Immortals in such a way?”

To mortals, Celestial Immortals were truly unfathomably exalted figures.

It was rare for the entire Grand Xia Dynasty to see the birth of even just a single new Celestial Immortals over the course of a million years. How exalted they were! But this person actually held Celestial Immortals in complete disregard...and even dared to challenge five Celestial Immortals by himself?

‘Be wary, lest I end up slaughtering all five of you!’ These words were far too dominating!

Countless ordinary mortals who heard this felt stunned...and they also felt awe and admiration.

“Will there ever be the day when I, too, would dare speak to Celestial Immortals in such a manner?” The many young men and women of the Youngflame clan knew that this ‘Ji Ning’ was their enemy, their foe...but they still couldn’t help but feel envy.

.....

Ning stood there atop the rubble, calling out and cursing with abandon. He was waiting. Waiting for his foes to attack! Ordinary attacks using magic treasures couldn’t possibly be launched from so many thousands of kilometers away. If they wanted to kill him, they’d have to move closer to him! And once they moved into attack range...they would definitely be within the formation region which Uncle White had set up.

The formation region spanned ten thousand kilometers; once it was activated, the entire area within ten thousand kilometers would fall under his control!

Although this was the Youngflame clan's headquarters...it would also be as if this was Ning's own fiefdom!

"Come! Come! Attack, you dogshit Celestial Immortals! What, are you afraid of death?" Ning laughed wildly with abandon. And indeed...Fiendgods had extremely loud voices.

The Desolate Era

Book 15: The Sword Eradicates Celestial Immortals Chapter 24: The Shaoyin Fiendtamer Formation

High in the air were Celestial Immortals Flamefish, Infatuation, Sunfish, Deadwood, and Goldclock. They stared downwards at the distant youth atop the rubble, each of them filled with rage. This was the headquarters of the Youngflame clan...but now, a region of a hundred thousand kilometers had been completely reduced to rubble.

"The kid is quite brash." Celestial Immortal Sunfish was so angry, he actually started to laugh.

"Ji Ning...the Netherworld's gates were barred, but you insisted on barging in!" Celestial Immortal Infatuation's voice was utterly freezing.

"Kill."

The five mighty Celestial Immortals were filled with murderous intent. All of them wanted to kill Ning right away! Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh! Their five figures joined together, transforming into a five-colored mountain peak that left behind a scar in the skies as they charged straight for Ning.

Ning, seeing this, felt a surge of joy in his heart.

They really had entered!

Actually, this was something of an obvious ploy, one they were forced to 'fall' for.. Ning was standing there in the middle of the ruins of Youngflame clan's headquarters, calling them out. Were the Celestial Immortals of the Youngflame clan just supposed to stand there and watch? They would probably become the laughingstocks of the entire Grand Xia Dynasty! In addition...if they wanted to attack Ning, they had to draw closer to him, into the range of their magical artifact attacks. That meant they had to go within ten thousand kilometers.

"Uncle White, activate the grand formation," Ning sent mentally.

"Alright." Uncle White had been waiting this entire time. The five Celestial Immortals, in the form of the five-colored mountain peak, were already less than a thousand kilometers away from Ning.

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

At the borders of the region within ten thousand kilometers of Ning, three pillars of light suddenly soared into the heavens. Many other formation-bases began to fire off as well, but they were comparatively smaller in terms of the disturbance caused. In the blink of an eye, the entire region around Ning became completely trapped within a series of giant blurry formations.

“What’s going on?”

“I can’t see anything over there.”

The distant Loose Immortals and Earth Immortals hiding within their formations were startled. Old Demon Windraiser, however, said: “No need to worry. Given the abilities of the five Patriarchs, how can they possibly be concerned with these sorts of puny formations?”

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Within the formation.

The five Celestial Immortals weren’t worried at all. They had expected all along that Ji Ning had most likely set up formations within the area. Despite that, however...they had still charged in! They didn’t have a choice; there was no way they could continue to let Ji Ning act so wantonly within their headquarters. In addition...they felt certain that any formations he was able to set up within such a short period of time couldn’t be too frightening.

It made sense.

Even though Uncle White was a grandmaster in formations, there was no way he would be able to set up the likes of the three great killing formations of Swallow Mountain within a very short period of time. He had to rely on the fact that they had prepared an enormous amount of precious materials in order to set up many formations that were able to threaten Celestial Immortals. They would win through quantity.

“Coresense is unable to investigate this area.” Celestial Immortal Goldclock swept the area with his gaze while trying to use his coresense to investigate, but still was unable to discover anything.

“It seems that Ji Ning has an extremely formidable formations expert as his assistant.” Celestial Immortal Infatuation was quite calm. “However, all formations have their weak spots. I trust that the formations he was able to set up within such a short period of time couldn’t possibly be too profound. No rush; let’s take it slow, step by step. Let’s just ensure that Ji Ning doesn’t have any chance at all.”

“Infatuation speaks truly.”

The area around the five of them had become transformed into an enormous, five-colored mountain peak. The mountain peak forced the fog away from them, allowing their field of vision to expand to many hundreds of meters.

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“They are within the formation.” Ning, Northson, Uncle White, and Little Qing were all standing together. Ning had a smile on his face.

“These five Celestial Immortals are currently using the Five Elements Mountainhold Formation,” Uncle White said. “This is a protective formation that is fairly widespread in the Three Realms; five individuals join together, increasing their defensive power by a tremendous amount. If we only rely on the power of this formation...it will be very difficult to do anything to them.”

Ning laughed. "I have no intentions of relying on the formation to kill them. The formation is just meant to help support us! Now that they are trapped inside, they'll be unable to use their coresense to investigate, while they can only rely on their eyes to see to a distance of hundreds of meters! I can attack when I please and retreat when I please; everything will be under my control. This has already increased my odds of success by quite a few percentage points."

"Do you need my help?" Northson couldn't help but ask. He was unable to disguise his desire to kill, and the murderous look in his eyes. It had been Celestial Immortals Infatuation, Goldclock, Arcanum, and Deadwood who had destroyed the soul of his beloved...and three of those four mighty Celestial Immortals were currently present.

"Hide inside the formations; you are not to draw near us. However, you can release the Seven Ruinous Thunderwinds," Ning said with a laugh. "No need to worry about hitting me; the Thunderwinds are completely incapable of damaging me. They will, however, pose some degree of danger to those five."

"Alright." Northson began to wait eagerly.

Ning laughed, then looked towards the five distant Celestial Immortals. "Celestial Immortals, to the Youngflame clan, are their real foundation and source of power, right? If I were to kill a few...the Youngflame clan would definitely feel heartache and regret!"

Whoosh. Ning instantly transformed into a streak of light, charging forward.

The five Celestial Immortals remained quite calm. They continued to maintain their Five Elements Mountainhold Formation while carefully investigating the nearby formations.

"This formation is quite extraordinary." Celestial Immortal Infatuation began to frown after doing a cursory inspection of the surrounding area. "To defeat it...it isn't something that we can do in just a day or two."

"Then what should we do?" Celestial Immortal Goldclock asked impatiently, "The more we delay, the more powers within the Grand Xia Dynasty will know of this matter. Our Youngflame clan will have truly lost face, then!"

"No time to worry about face right now; if we can kill Ji Ning, it will all have been worth it," Celestial Immortal Infatuation said.

"Don't be impatient." Celestial Immortal Flamefish chortled, stroking his long beard. "Ji Ning set down these formations, then acted so brashly towards us, all because he wanted us to enter this region. After we do so...he'll naturally come to attack us. If not, we could all simply leave by using Greater Teleportation Dao-seals. All we need to do is wait. Ji Ning will quickly come to attack us. By then, we can use our Shaoyin Fiendtamer Formation to capture him and suppress him. That's all there is to it."

"That makes sense." Celestial Immortal Sunfish laughed coldly. "The moment he attacks is the moment of his capture. After we capture him, we'll use Greater Teleportation Dao-seals to leave."

The five mighty Celestial Immortals continued to fly forward, investigating the surrounding area while waiting for Ji Ning's arrival.

Suddenly...

A golden hand, fingers formed into the shape of a sword, came chopping out through the mist up ahead. It moved as fast as lightning, instantly arriving before the five Celestial Immortals. The golden sword-fingers were at least three hundred meters long, like the fingers of a true divinity. They carried an unstoppable fierce sword-aura, and with a booming sound stabbed straight into the five-colored mountain peak.

The five-colored mountain peak trembled violently, almost at the point of shattering.

“Careful.”

“Such power.”

“Let’s do it!”

The five mighty Celestial Immortals were all shocked. They didn’t expect that Ning’s very first attack would nearly collapse their defensive formation. All of them immediately began to activate their Immortal energy, quickly stabilizing the five-colored mountain peak.

“You WILL break for me!” A youth suddenly appeared, with three heads and six arms. His six arms chopped through the air, his enormous palms all formed into sword-fingers and being used like swords! These sword-fingers were so powerful, they definitely were not any weaker than the Thousandbull Sword and other Immortal swords of its class.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Six powerful sword-fingers struck towards the five Celestial Immortals in a frenzy.

“Formation!” The scale-faced Celestial Immortal Flamefish let out a loud roar. A black set of chains instantly appeared within his hands. The black chains rapidly grew longer, stretching out to more than three thousand meters. Moments later, the other Celestial Immortals also manifested sets of black chains within their hands as well. There were a total of five black chains, each of which looked absolutely identical...but in truth, the aura of each was completely different.

“FIENDTAMER!” Celestial Immortal Flamefish roared angrily.

Clang clang clang...

The five enormous black chains were like five tentacles that stretched out from some abomination. They covered the skies as they flew forward to entangle Ning. In fact, the five chains even had circles of water that swirled around them.

“What’s this?” Ning was startled. He didn’t dare to be rash, and so he immediately swept out with a palm. The palm rapidly expanded in size to become more than three hundred meters long as it smashed against the thick black chains.

Rumble...

The golden palm collided head-on with the black chains. The powerful collision caused even Ning to be forced three steps back, and each step he took caused the earth beneath him to break apart.

“Capture him!” Celestial Immortals Infatuation, Flamefish, Goldclock, Deadwood, and Sunfish’s eyes were filled with eagerness. The other chains came sweeping towards Ning as well. The chains

themselves were magic treasures, and when joined together their power would become even more formidable. In addition, they could twist and turn on themselves, changing their appearance and form. Once one was captured by them, it would be extremely difficult to break free.

During the Fiendgod Era, the Youngflame clan would often use this Shaoyin Fiendtamer Formation to capture some particularly powerful Void-level Fiendgods.

Void-level Fiendgods varied in power; some had very high levels of comprehension and were completely comparable to the likes of Celestial Immortal Goldclock or Celestial Immortal Deadwood in power. To capture them, one would have to use an extremely powerful method...and it was this very method that the Youngflame clan was now bringing out once more. This time, to capture Ji Ning! To suppress Ji Ning!

Rumble...

Ning swung his palms, hurriedly knocking back the black chains in succession. His face changed. "What queer chains. When I strike them, they sometimes actually attempt to slip past my hands to try and entangle me. They are magic treasures...but they are quite fast when dodging. If I'm not careful, I'll end up bound by them."

"It seems I'll still have to rely on the power of my magic treasures."

The Thousandbull Sword suddenly appeared above Ning's head. Ning let out a loud shout. "NIGHTRIVER, COME FORTH!"

Under Ning's control, the ten thousand kilometer Nightriver shrank to a size of merely ten kilometers. This ten kilometer Nightriver was like an enormous snake that swirled around him, entangling all things in the surrounding area. Those five black chains naturally were completely entangled by the Nightriver's waters as well. As the saying goes, when a blade cuts through water, the water will continue to flow; something like the Nightriver was extremely troublesome to deal with.

When Bloodcloud Hall had used the Ba-Serpent Formation in their assassination attempt, they had found the Nightriver's entanglement to be quite irritating. Although these five chains were somewhat more powerful, they were still entangled and affected, causing their agility and speed to lessen dramatically.

"Ahahaha!" Ning, however, was as unencumbered as a fish in water. The five chains, with their lessened agility, were no match for him at all.

His palms would strike out!

His sword-fingers would blast forth!

The five chains were knocked all over the place, and even the five-colored mountain peak began to tremble. The faces of all of the Celestial Immortals inside began to change.

"Hold." The five mighty Celestial Immortals instantly began to release an even-greater torrent of their Immortal energy. They began to spend more of their efforts on defense, and a large number of runes began to appear on the surface of the five-colored mountain.

“Why is this Ji Ning so much more powerful than you originally described?” Celestial Immortal Flamefish said with surprise and anger. “How is it that he’s able to so easily resist the Shaoyin Fiendtamer Formation? Infatuation, didn’t you say that he was a bit weaker than Goldclock and Deadwood?!”

The Desolate Era

Book 15: The Sword Eradicates Celestial Immortals Chapter 25: The Power to Uproot Mountains and Rivers

“How should I know?!” Celestial Immortal Infatuation was frantic as well. “The last time we fought with him was just half a month ago. How could I have imagined that his power would suddenly rise by so much?!”

“Last time, he wasn’t even as strong as me.” Celestial Immortal Deadwood nodded. “But this time, he’s able to completely shut down even the Shaoyin Fiendtamer Formation. His power has already completely eclipsed that of myself and Goldclock.”

“Yes.” Although Celestial Immortal Goldclock didn’t wish to admit it, the reality of the matter was laid bare before them.

Although their clash had been brief, the five mighty Celestial Immortals had all discovered that Ji Ning’s power was much greater than they had anticipated.

The Shaoyin Fiendtamer Formation was indeed very well-suited for capturing foes! Back during the Fiendgod Era, it had been specially designed for capturing Fiendgods; it was indeed quite well-suited for dealing with Ji Ning. But to actually ‘capture’ him...that required the capturing party be able to completely suppress the target in terms of power.

Last time, if these five Celestial Immortals had known that Ji Ning trained in the [Eight-Nine Arcane Art], they would’ve invited Celestial Immortal Flamefish to come on that attempt as well. They would’ve succeeded long ago through their usage of the Shaoyin Fiendtamer Formation.

But this time...Ning had reached the Fifth Cycle of the [Eight-Nine Arcane Art] and the Fourth Cycle of the [Starseizing Hand]. His power was clearly on a significantly higher level! He had vaulted from being weaker than Celestial Immortals Deadwood and Goldclock to being more powerful than them! This sudden surge in strength made it so that the Shaoyin Fiendtamer Formation was completely unable to capture Ning.

“Break for me!” Ning was wildly assaulting the five-colored mountain peak. In turn, the five mighty Celestial Immortals were striving to maintain their defensive formation.

“We’re actually being completely held down and beaten upon by him.” Celestial Immortal Goldclock ground his teeth.

“He’s become even more powerful, and he has the [Eight-Nine Arcane Art] protecting him; he doesn’t even need to defend. All of us are merely Ki Refiners; once he strikes us with his body, we’ll transform into dust,” Celestial Immortal Deadwood said.

“Ugh.” Celestial Immortal Sunfish was enraged as well.

The [Eight-Nine Arcane Art] was truly a pain in the neck.

Generally speaking, Fiendgods didn't dare to accept blows from magic treasures head-on. But those who trained in the [Eight-Nine Arcane Art] were absolutely able to do so!

"What should we do?" Celestial Immortal Flamefish looked at the other four. "What should we do? Just wait here?"

"How about...let's leave for now, using a Greater Teleportation Dao-seal to depart," Celestial Immortal Goldclock said. Although they were at a disadvantage, through working together, the five of them were indeed able to flee when they pleased.

"Flee?"

Celestial Immortal Infatuation snorted coldly, "Ji Ning is currently hiding within this great formation; if we want to deal with him, we'll have to enter it. Since we've already entered it...why should we be in a rush to leave it? This time, Ji Ning has attacked the headquarters of our Youngflame clan...and so, the Youngflame clan absolutely must capture Ji Ning. This time, either our Youngflame clan lowers our heads to admit defeat, or Ji Ning admits defeat! From the moment that Ji Ning came to our headquarters, both our sides lost all other options; one side has to admit defeat!"

"We can't admit defeat," Celestial Immortal Sunfish said in a low voice. "There is no way our Youngflame clan can admit defeat to Ji Ning."

"Thus...I am preparing to notify the Ancestor. I will let the Ancestor make the decision," Celestial Immortal Infatuation sent mentally.

"You are notifying Master?" Celestial Immortal Flamefish was startled...but then he nodded lightly. "Given the current situation, the only option we have is to ask Master to decide."

"Right."

"Notify the Ancestor."

"I concur."

Celestial Immortals Goldclock, Sunfish, and Deadwood all nodded.

"I've already instructed my spirit-beast to go find Arcanum. Arcanum will immediately notify the Ancestor," Celestial Immortal Infatuation said. Although they were very far away from each other, since he was a Celestial Immortal, he was similarly able to communicate spiritually with his spirit-beast at a tremendous distance.

Ning continued to attack wildly, but was unable to break through the defenses of the five Celestial Immortals. The Seven Ruinous Thunderwinds were wildly attacking as well, and Uncle White even summoned the power of the formation to generate rays of magnetic lances of light to attack...but they were still unable to break the defenses.

"It's like a turtle-shell." Ning was forced to temporarily give up, unwilling though he was.

Swoosh.

Ning returned to Uncle White, Little Qing, and Northson's sides.

“Master, the defenses of these five Celestial Immortals are far too powerful. There’s no way to break through at all. What should we do next?” Little Qing asked with worry.

“What can we do? Wait.” Ning shook his head and sighed. “Celestial Immortals are Celestial Immortals, after all; last time, when they attacked me en masse, I was at a disadvantage. This time, I’ve grown stronger and have the upper hand...but when faced with all five of them, I still find it extremely hard to actually defeat them. To kill a Celestial Immortal is no easy task.”

Ning then laughed. “However, I never believed that I had the power to simply dominate Celestial Immortals.”

“Senior apprentice-brother, you...?” Northson was puzzled.

“Junior apprentice-brother.” Ning laughed. “The situation for us, compared to the situation for the Youngflame clan, is completely different. We’ve attacked their headquarters, and have even erected a massive, mighty formation within their headquarters. We’re resting and relaxing here, completely carefree! Given how widespread the intelligence networks of the world of the Grand Xia are, the various major powers will quickly learn of this matter.”

“Every day we spend here is a day where the Youngflame clan will be losing face.”

“If we can spend half a year or a year relaxing here, with the Youngflame clan completely unable to do anything to us, and being forced to just watch us leave at our leisure eventually...the Youngflame clan will turn into a huge joke for the rest of the world!” Ning said, “The Youngflame clan definitely won’t permit this to happen. They’ll definitely come up with a method to deal with me.”

“If they want to continue hiding like a turtle in its shell, there’s nothing I can do about that, of course.”

“But if they want to kill me...they’ll have to take some risks. They’ll have to enter the formation and actively attack me.”

“By attacking me, they’ll be taking risks...and if I can seize the right opportunity, I can kill one of their Celestial Immortals,” Ning said with a laugh. “Once I kill the first one, I’ll have an even better chance of killing the second one.”

“This time...I intend to drag this out with the Youngflame clan as long as I can.”

Battles at the Celestial Immortal level could drag on for many, many years.

Ning had that intention as well; to drag this out as long as possible. If he could drag this out for a year, he would cause the clansmen of the Youngflame clan to all feel nervous and restless. So long as the Youngflame clan made a single misstep, or so long as a single Celestial Immortal overextended himself...then Ning’s chance would come.

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“Uncle White, every so often, use the formation to assault them. Keep them nervous and force them to keep their formations activated,” Ning suddenly said.

“Ji Ning, you are...?” Uncle White was startled. “Are you planning to take a rest?”

“No.” Ning shook his head and smiled. “I just thought of a big rod.”

“A rod?” They were all puzzled.

“I’m going to leave the formation to take a look. I’ll be back soon,” Ning said with a laugh. “Uncle White, you must be careful.”

“Don’t worry.” Uncle White nodded.

“Master, what sort of a rod are you going to go look at?” Little Qing asked.

“A copper one.” After speaking, Ning quickly departed. He stealthily slipped out of the grand formation, then used a void blink to go deep underground.

Ning knew very well that this battle with the Youngflame clan would most likely be an extremely long one. Since he wouldn’t be able to kill those five Celestial Immortals for now...he might as well make a trip to check out that mysterious underground copper ‘rod’! That enormous copper pillar...immediately after Ning had discovered it, the five mighty Celestial Immortals had arrived, preventing him from investigating it in detail.

Now that the five Celestial Immortals were trapped, there was no one else who could disturb him.

Crackle crackle crackle...

Ning’s divine power agitated the surrounding land, pushing aside the nearby mud and rocks. He stared at the enormous, fiery copper pillar before him. This copper pillar had been here for who-knows how long...but it hadn’t rusted in the slightest. It was covered with runes, and ripples of power were emanating from it.

“Doesn’t seem to be a magic treasure.” Ning came to this private conclusion after investigating it a bit. “Let me try divine sense.”

Ning immediately released his divine sense, attempting to carefully ascertain what the real face of this fiery copper pillar was.

Last time, his divine sense had been unleashed from midair, and so he had only been able to scan a small part of the copper pillar. This time, he was right next to it, deep underground.

“This is...” Ning took a deep breath.

Good heavens!

This fiery copper pillar was nearly three hundred meters wide, but it stretched extremely deep down underground...and at the very bottom of it was an unfathomably massive fire-red stone wall! This fiery stone wall stretched out over ten thousand kilometers in the deep subterranean. There was a limit to how far Ning’s divine sense could stretch. He was only able to scan a portion of this fiery stone wall. As to how large it was exactly...there was no way Ning could find out as well.

As for the giant copper pillar, it was planted firmly into the fiery stone wall!

More than three thousand kilometers of the giant copper pillar jutted out from above the stone wall! As for how deep it was beyond the wall...there was no way to know! This was because Ning's divine sense was completely unable to penetrate through the fiery stone wall at all.

"This stone wall..." Ning immediately used yet another void blink, teleporting three thousand kilometers downwards. He quickly arrived next to the fiery stone wall.

Ning used his divine power to force aside all the nearby mud, creating an empty region deep underground.

Beneath Ning's feet was the fiery stone wall. Next to him was the fiery copper pillar.

"What is this thing? Divine sense is unable to see through this fiery stone wall, and elemental ki is unable to bind it." Ning was completely puzzled. He immediately gave it a hard stomp.

BOOM...

How powerful were Ning's feet by now? It must be understood that Ning's hands were comparable to supreme Pure Yang treasures. As for the rest of his body, every other part was comparable to at least a high-grade Immortal-ranked magic treasure. The power of his kicks would be able to effortlessly cause mountains to crumble. The enormous, fiery stone wall beneath him, however, just let out a booming sound...and was completely undamaged.

"Weird." Ning suddenly struck down with a palm as well.

The power of the activated [Star-seizing Hand] was incredibly terrifying...but the only result was yet another, deeper booming sound.

"Still nothing?" Ning was truly confused now. "Even Heaven-ranked magic treasures would be completely shattered by my palm blows, yet this fiery stone wall is completely undamaged?"

Ning walked to the enormous copper pillar that was planted firmly into the fiery stone wall.

"So the copper pillar is planted into the stone wall?" Ning carefully made a circle around the giant copper pillar, inspecting it. He pushed aside all of the mud surrounding the three hundred meter thick pillar, only to discover...that this fiery stone wall really did seem to have a three hundred meter opening here. The copper pillar was stuck into the opening and tightly locked to it!

Ning's divine sense was unable to find the tiniest of seams to penetrate into!

"The copper pillar was planted here...I wonder if it can be pulled out?" Ning mumbled to himself for a moment as he pondered. Screw it. The Youngflame clan hid it here. Ning wasn't afraid of anything. His body flickered, and with a whoosh, he instantly transformed into a nine hundred meter tall giant.

As a Fiendgod Body Refiner at the Void level, upon using the Heavenly Transformation divine ability, Ning's maximum size was actually three thousand meters.

As a nine hundred meter tall giant, his two hands were able to effortlessly clasp around the enormous copper pillar.

"Come OUT!" Ning pulled, hard.

How much power did this pull have, coming from a nine hundred meter tall giant?

Alas...it didn't budge at all!

"[Starseizing Hand]!" Ning stared for a moment, then the divine tattoos of the [Starseizing Hand] began to flow across his hands. His power exploded dramatically, and his pulling strength increased greatly as well. He now had what felt like limitless strength, capable of uprooting mountains and rivers...

Rumble...

Accompanied by a thunderous sound, the enormous copper pillar actually began to rise slightly. When it did, all sorts of grinding sounds could be heard from deep below the stone wall, at the points where the stone wall and the copper pillar were joined together. In fact, a rumbling sound that sounded like the heavens were breaking apart could be heard as well.

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In a very distant world.

A man-shaped creature with scales on his face, a single horn on his forehead, and a body covered by azure flames suddenly opened his eyes. Boundless rage could be seen in his gaze.

"Who?"

"Who dares...WHO DARES TOUCH MY INFINITY FURNACE?!"

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Book 15: The Sword Eradicates Celestial Immortals Chapter 26: The Deep Gorge

In front of the horned, human-shaped creature lay a massive aberration that was like a mountain-island...an armored insect-type aberration.. This bug had a triangular head which glowed with with a bronze light, making it look as though it was metallic. Its sharp fangs were clearly visible within its savage-looking mouth, and it also had sixteen knife-like legs.

This insect aberration had an aura of tremendous power, and surges of a gray aura were constantly wafting off of its body. It was simply too enormous; its body alone was nearly thirty thousand meters in length.

"Good boy." The horned humanoid immediately opened his mouth.

Whoosh!

The utterly massive, terrifying insect actually began to shrink at a rapid pace, becoming a tiny little dot that flew straight into the mouth of the horned humanoid.

"Ancestor."

"Master."

Two figures instantly flew over; one a bald, black-robed man, the other a woman with dazzling golden hair. These two Celestial Immortals were acting extraordinarily subservient; they knew exactly how terrifyingly powerful this horned humanoid before them was! This was the true ancestor and patriarch

of the entire Youngflame clan. The reason why the Youngflame clan had refused to bow their heads towards the Kindwater clan and instead fought with them for so many years, despite the fact that the Kindwater clan had an Empyrean God, was precisely because the Youngflame clan had the Ancestor behind them!

“Come. Accompany me on a trip to the Oldjade mountain range.” The horned humanoid had an ugly look on his face. “I want to see who it is that dares touch my things.”

“Yes,” the two Celestial Immortals said respectfully.

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As Ji Ning was pulling up the fiery copper pillar, Patriarch Arcanum was quietly standing guard within a distant tower. He had been seated in the lotus position, but his face suddenly changed. He opened his eyes wide in terror and shock. “The Infinity Furnace...who dares disturb the Infinity Furnace? Can it be Ji Ning? But, but...”

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Within the Oldjade mountain range. Within the massive, ten thousand kilometer formation which Uncle White had set up.

The five mighty Celestial Immortals trapped within were originally quite patient, but upon Ning beginning to uproot the fiery copper pillar...

“Not good!”

“The Infinity Furnace!”

“It must be Ji Ning!”

Celestial Immortals Infatuation, Goldclock, Sunfish, Deadwood, and Flamefish all had completely different looks on their faces now.

The copper Infinity Furnace was simply far too important to them. If Celestial Immortals were one of the pillars of the Youngflame clan, the Infinity Furnace would be one of the other pillars! The secrets of the Infinity Furnace...not even Loose Immortals or Earth Immortals knew about them. However, all of the Celestial Immortals within the clan did know, and all of them had left behind their own seals and runes upon it.

So long as anyone began to open the Infinity Furnace, they would immediately know!

“No wonder Ji Ning stopped attacking us. He discovered the Infinity Furnace! He must have found it when he was destroying that earlier area.”

“Quick, let’s go stop him.”

“We can’t let him open the Infinity Furnace.”

The five mighty Celestial Immortals didn’t hesitate at all; Celestial Immortal Infatuation waved his hand, and he instantly collected the other four Celestial Immortals. And then, he disappeared as well, leaving behind only a mobile Immortal estate in midair.

Although Uncle White's formation-based attacks and Mu Northson's Seven Ruinous Thunderwinds were all quite formidable, they weren't able to destroy this mobile Immortal estate.

Rumble...

After the storm of attacks passed...the five mighty Celestial Immortals were gone. The mobile Immortal estate landed on the ground.

"Hmph." Little Qing blinked forward, appearing before the mobile Immortal estate. Stretching out her hand, she grabbed it and immediately began to forcibly bind it to herself. She called out, "Those five Celestial Immortals slipped away...what should we do?"

"If they slipped away, they slipped away. We are here in the headquarters of the Youngflame clan; they won't just sit and watch as we relax here. They'll definitely come again." Uncle White was quite calm.

Little Qing and Uncle White both immediately sent spiritual messages to Ning, alerting him of this.

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Deep underground.

The enormous nine hundred meter tall Ji Ning was standing atop the fiery stone cliff while tugging out the giant copper pillar at rapid speed. Rumble...with each pull, the copper tube was lifted up nearly six hundred meters! Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh! Ning continued to pull upwards rapidly, while more and more of the copper pillar began to emerge. "I want to see how damn long this copper pillar is, and what's behind this fiery stone wall."

As Ning saw it, once he pulled out the copper pillar, he would be able to use his divine sense to investigate the enormous hole that would be left behind.

"Eh?" Ning suddenly frowned. He could sense a spatial ripple, an extremely powerful spatial ripple.

"Greater Teleportation." Ning immediately recognized it.

Just a few dozen kilometers away from Ning, amidst the earth and rubble, Celestial Immortals Infatuation, Deadwood, Flamefish, and the other two all simultaneously appeared. They were all utterly enraged. Around them circled that enormous five-colored mountain peak, and with a boom, they quickly began to charge towards Ning, the five-colored mountain peak crushing through all obstacles before them.

Just as they got close to Ning...

"Attack!" Celestial Immortal Infatuation gave the order. Whoosh whoosh whoosh...instantly, the five enormous chains shot out like Flood Dragons, tearing through all obstacles as they swept towards Ji Ning, who was still pulling at the fiery copper pillar.

"Hmph." Ning just smirked. "Three Heads, Six Arms! Thousandbull Sword, let the Nightriver emerge!"

Instantly, two more arms grew out from Ning's body, to join the two arms that were being used to pull at the copper pillar. The Thousandbull Sword appeared above his head as well, and the awe-inspiring Nightriver also emerged. The Nightriver instantly and completely submerged everything nearby, causing

the five dragon-like chains to seem to have become mired in quicksand. At the same time, Ning's four arms demonstrated tremendous power as he completely suppressed the assaults of the chains.

"Kill him!"

"Stop him!"

The five Celestial Immortals, upon seeing that the Shaoyin Demontamer Formation wasn't powerful enough, temporarily gave up that idea for now. After all, their current goal wasn't to trap him; it was to prevent him from pulling out the pillar! Thus, they all used various spells, magic treasures, and other abilities to that effect.

One tendril after another appeared, slithering towards Ning like giant serpents!

An enormous fiery phoenix appeared, charging towards Ning.

A golden greatclock appeared in midair, ringing out and sending waves of power towards Ning.

"Is that all you have?"

Ning completely ignored these attacks; in fact, he actually grew even more excited. "As soon as I started tugging at this copper pillar, those five Celestial Immortals immediately teleported over here. They were clearly trapped within the formation; how did they know that I was here pulling the pillar? This pillar must be covered with various seals, runes, and restrictive spells, causing them to immediately know about this."

"For them to attack me in such a berserk manner shows that they are truly unwilling for the copper pillar to be uprooted," Ning guessed to himself.

The more his enemies feared an action, the more insistent he could be on carrying it out!

Many magic spells and treasures flew towards Ning, but Ning allowed all of the attacks to land on his body.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

The surrounding earth and rocks were all blasted apart as a wave of power spread out towards every direction. Everything within a thousand kilometers was instantly transformed into ash, while the ground within ten thousand kilometers began to crack and shatter. In fact, the cracks spread all the way from the underground area to the surface, forming an enormously deep gorge that was nearly ten thousand kilometers deep! The earth and rocks here were quite ordinary, after all; how could they withstand the frenzied attacks of five mighty Celestial Immortals?

This was the power of Celestial Immortals!

Just the collateral damage from a battle between the five Celestial Immortals and Ji Ning would generate a gorge that was ten thousand kilometers deep!

Ning, however, just let the attacks land; he even allowed those vines to coil around his body. Ning felt nothing but disdain for it all!

His body now had the power of the Fifth Cycle of the [Eight-Nine Arcane Art]; these attacks did nothing but tickle him! If he wasn't currently holding onto that copper pillar, then he'd have to spend some of his energy in dealing with the vines and ripping them apart. Even before Ning made his breakthrough, he was capable of breaking apart those vines, to say nothing of now, when his strength had vastly increased.

And since he actually WAS holding onto the copper pillar...if they wanted to pull them away, they'd have to pull the copper pillar away along with him!

"Get in here!" Patriarch Goldclock let out an angry roar. The golden greatclock was giving birth to unearthly ripples of attractive power, attempting to draw Ning inside it.

Ning, however, just tightly clutched the copper pillar, continuing to pull it upwards!

You want to pull me away? Then you'll have to pull out the copper pillar along with me! The attractive power of the golden clock actually just slightly hastened the rate at which the copper pillar was being pulled out.

"I can't stop him."

"He's completely ignoring our attacks. He's even able to ignore the vines! All of his attention is focused on pulling out the copper pillar." Celestial Immortal Goldclock sent frantically, "What should we do?!"

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh! The copper pillar was still being pulled up at a fast, rhythmic pace. With each pull, another six hundred meters of it was pulled out. Ning's pulling speed was incredibly fast; in just this short exchange of attacks, Ning had already pulled out another thirty thousand meters. But this pillar was simply too enormously long!

"Don't attack him," Celestial Immortal hurriedly ordered mentally. "Let's bind the pillar. Let's attack the pillar and use all our might to prevent it from going up any further."

"Alright."

"Right, we only need to stop the copper pillar from being pulled out."

Earlier, the Celestial Immortals had been in a panic; upon seeing Ning rapidly pull out the copper pillar, they had only thought to attack him. They had forgotten that preventing the pillar from coming out would serve the same effect.

The five Celestial Immortals now completely ignored Ning as they hurriedly flew towards the top of the copper pillar. They wanted to use a spatial teleportation to go there faster, but the surrounding area, within the range of Ning's divine sense, had long ago been completely spacelocked. They had no choice but to fly upwards, but flying didn't take significantly more time than using a Greater Teleportation.

In that tiny bit of extra time, however...Ning was able to pull out another thirty thousand meters of the pillar. This copper pillar was simply too massive; before he had started to pull, Ning had already seen three thousand kilometers of it!

"STOP!" Celestial Immortal Deadwood unleashed his many vines, which rapidly began to wrap around the copper pillar, generating an astonishing repulsive force.

“STOP!” Celestial Immortal Goldclock controlled his divine greatclock, sending waves of power smashing downwards on the very top of the copper pillar.

“STOP!” Celestial Immortals Flamefish, Infatuation, and Sunfish all wildly launched attacks against the top of the tower, seeking to press it downwards.

“Hahaha...” Although Ning could sense the waves of pressure slamming down from above, he began to laugh even more happily. This was because, now that the five Celestial Immortals were no longer attacking him, all six of Ning’s arms were temporarily freed up to focus on uprooting the copper pillar.

Ning’s physical strength was simply too enormous. With six arms pulling together at the same time...not even the combined efforts of the five Celestial Immortals were able to keep the pillar down.

In the blink of an eye, Ning had pulled out yet another thirty thousand meters.

Thud! Thud! Thud! The fiery stone wall beneath Ning’s feet actually began to rumble and shudder, as though something was slamming against it. At the same time, the countless runes that were covering the fiery stone wall began to flicker and flash.

“Not good. Ji Ning has pulled out too much of the copper pillar; the suppressive runes are beginning to destabilize.” Celestial Immortal Infatuation and the other four Celestial Immortals began to grow frantic.

“This Ji Ning’s strength is too great; the five of us are actually unable to suppress him.”

In terms of raw strength...once the Fourth Cycle of the [Starseizing Hand] was completely unleashed, Ning’s raw physical strength vastly outstretched the strength of the five Celestial Immortals.

In terms of comparing magic treasures...Ning’s six hands were comparable to supreme Pure Yang treasures.

How could the five of them possibly suppress the pillar?

“What should we do? If this continues, there will be a huge problem.” Celestial Immortal Goldclock was beginning to panic.

“Hahaha, I knew something was strange here. The more afraid you are, the more I want to pull this thing out.” Upon seeing the countless runes flashing and flickering atop the enormous fiery stone wall beneath his feet, and upon hearing the series of thudding sounds, Ning grew even more eager to see what would happen.

“Eh?” Suddenly, all five of the Celestial Immortals, as well as the pillar-uprooting Ji Ning, could sense a spatial ripple come from up above them.

It was Greater Teleportation!

“The Ancestor has arrived.” The five Celestial Immortals revealed looks of delight and joy.

[The Desolate Era](#)

Book 15: The Sword Eradicates Celestial Immortals Chapter 27: The Youngflame Clan’s Founder

Four figures appeared in the air above the deep gorge within the Oldjade mountain range. The leader was a golden-robed man with a single horn, whose gaze was as cold as icy water. Behind him stood

three other figures; a bald, black-robed man named Celestial Immortal Blackrain, a golden-haired woman named Celestial Immortal Goldcloud, and Celestial Immortal Arcanum.

The three mighty Celestial Immortals were all obediently following behind this individual.

“Who is that horned man?”

“Isn’t that Patriarch Arcanum? Why is Patriarch Arcanum following behind that man so respectfully? The two who are standing next to Patriarch Arcanum are also acting with great respect, and their auras seem to be very great as well; they should also be at the Celestial Immortal level.”

The Loose Immortals of the Youngflame clan, hidden away and watching from within their distant formations, were all rather dazed.

They had just seen five Celestial Immortals appear. And now...they saw four more!

They recognized Patriarch Arcanum; he had an extremely exalted status within the Youngflame clan, and generally speaking they would be able to occasionally interact with him in some manner. Right now, however, Patriarch Arcanum was obediently standing behind the horned man, and the two other Celestial Immortals with him were doing the same. This caused all sorts of speculations to run rampant through their minds.

“Can it be that this horned man is the true, actual supreme power of our Youngflame clan?”

“There were five Celestial Immortals earlier; now, four more have appeared. Can it be that our Youngflame clan actually has nine Celestial Immortals? We’re actually this powerful!? Or perhaps the horned man isn’t a Celestial Immortal; is he one of those legendary Empyrean Gods or True Immortals?”

All sorts of thoughts and speculations flashed through their minds, causing these Loose Immortals and Earth Immortals of the Youngflame clan who were watching to feel extremely nervous.

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The horned, golden-robed man and the three Celestial Immortals with him stared downwards. They were able to see that fiery copper pillar located at the bottom of the deep gorge. Next to the pillar were five Celestial Immortals who were assaulting it, trying to slow it down. At the very bottom of the pillar...there was a nine hundred meter tall Ji Ning who was using six arms to tug at the pillar, wildly trying to uproot it.

“Damn him, he’s moving my furnace.” The horned, golden-robed man’s face was sinister. “All of you, attack to suppress and press down the copper pillar.”

“Yes.”

The three Celestial Immortals under his command, Goldcloud, Blackrain, and Arcanum, simultaneously assented and began to fly downwards.

As for the horned, golden-robed man, he opened his mouth.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Three tiny black dots flew out, and as they did, they immediately expanded. Instantly, they transformed into a trio of terrifying aberrations that were more than thirty thousand meters long. One of them was the armored insect aberration that had sixteen knife-like legs. A second looked like a gigantic rhinoceros that had unbelievably thick skin...but on its back it had a total of twelve pairs of wings. The final creature was a viper whose body was covered with circles of black tattoos. The tattoos were extremely beautiful, and at the head of the viper, they actually came together to form the tattoo of a crown.

The horned, golden-robed man was seated atop the back of the winged rhinoceros, and he directed the three massive aberrations to move downwards, as fast as lightning.

THUD! THUD! THUD! A series of massive thudding sounds could be heard from deep within the fiery stone wall.

Ning continued to focus all his efforts on pulling up that giant copper pillar. The giant copper pillar rose up rapidly, and the more of it Ning pulled out, the more brilliant became the glow of the countless runes that had appeared on the fiery stone wall beneath Ning's feet. However, they were also beginning to flicker...and the thudding sounds began to speed up as well.

"Eh?" As Ning pulled upwards, Ning suddenly had the feeling as though deep below this enormous copper pillar, on the other side of the massive fiery stone wall, a power was beginning to awaken and grow stronger. It was as though some sort of terrifying behemoth was struggling to push up the pillar, attempting to shove it higher!

The more Ning pulled out, the more power began to gather in the deepest depths, helping push the pillar upwards nonstop. This made it easier and easier for Ning to pull it out.

"Don't act against Ji Ning. It's useless." Celestial Immortal Infatuation, upon seeing Celestial Immortal Arcanum and the other two arrive, instantly sent a frantic mental message to them. "Ji Ning has the [Eight-Nine Arcane Art] protecting him; we're completely unable to wound him. He also has a deathgrip around the copper pillar; we're completely unable to dislodge him. What we need to do right now is to stop that copper pillar from rising up."

"Right." The three Celestial Immortals who had arrived all understood this right away. They all each began to use their own techniques to push downwards at the massive copper pillar.

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"Eh?" The enormous six-armed Ning, nine hundred meters tall and located more than three thousand kilometers away from those eight Celestial Immortals, raised his head to give them a glance. Ning's twin eyes were blazing with torch-light, and he was able to see everything with perfect clarity. He saw Celestial Immortal Arcanum and the other two join the fray as well, and also saw those three terrifying aberrations fly downwards, as well as that horned, golden-robed individual seated atop the back of the flying rhinoceros.

"More and more are coming." Ning cracked his lips wide with a grin. "This Youngflame clan really is quite powerful. An ancient clan that ranks as one of the top ten of the Grand Xia Dynasty...it really is quite extraordinary. It seems I've really kicked over the hornet's nest this time. The Youngflame clan is starting to panic."

Indeed; to the Youngflame clan, ordinary clansmen would die out and be replaced every few centuries just through aging! To the clan, ordinary clansmen and ordinary cultivators weren't that important; even if all of the people within the Oldjade mountain range perished, it would at most represent a loss of face for the clan. It wouldn't actually affect their total power much; after all, they had two other headquarters! They could let the people in those two other headquarters replenish their losses and once more occupy the entire Oldjade mountain range.

In addition, aside from their three main headquarters, the Youngflame clan also was in command of many minor worlds. Their bloodline and their clan was spread extremely wide; there was no need for them to worry about their clan being wiped out.

In truth...the Ancestor probably wouldn't even be willing to come here, if it was simply a matter of the Oldjade mountain range being destroyed.

But Ji Ning had made a move on the Infinity Furnace! This threatened one of the foundations of the Youngflame clan, and so even the Ancestor could no longer ignore it.

"So what if there are eight Celestial Immortals here? They still can't stop me." Ning continued to quickly pull out the copper pillar. In truth, the suppressive power unleashed by the eight Celestial Immortals was extremely strong, but each time Ning pulled out more of the copper pillar, the power pushing upwards from below the pillar grew increasingly strong. In fact, the pushing power was almost comparable to Ning's pulling power by now!

Thus, Ning actually found it even easier now than he had before, despite the fact that eight Celestial Immortals had just joined forces.

BOOM!

The first of the three aberrations to fly downwards was that enormous armored insect. It completely wrapped its sixteen knife-legs around the fiery copper pillar! To this massive armored insect that was more than thirty thousand meters long, the fiery copper pillar, which was merely three hundred meters thick, was actually quite slender and thin. The terrifying strength of the armored insect caused Ning to actually sense the copper pillar sink down slightly!

"This aberration has tremendous power; if I didn't use [Three Heads, Six Arms], I would probably actually be weaker than it in terms of strength." Ning couldn't help but feel surprised as he looked at the armored insect.

Whoosh!

Next came the thirty thousand meter black serpent. It looped and coiled itself around the fiery copper pillar. Instantly, a second surge of power that was no weaker than that of the power of the armored insect came pressing down, causing Ning to feel that the pillar had grown even heavier.

THUD! THUD! THUD! Ning could sense the thudding sounds coming from deep below the fiery stone wall beneath his feet were beginning to increase even more in pace. The power below the copper pillar was still gaining in power...and by now, its power had completely eclipsed Ji Ning's. With the aid of this power...Ning was still able to continue pulling the copper pillar up!

ROAAAAR! One of the massive hooves of the winged rhinoceros slammed down directly against the very top of the copper pillar, instantly causing the entire copper pillar to grow even heavier.

“That flying rhinoceros aberration...its strength is actually even greater than that of the black snake and the strange insect?” Ning was shocked. “Even when I use the [Starseizing Hand] with six arms, my power would most likely only be on par with that rhinoceros aberration.”

Ning tightly clutched the copper pillar. He could sense the power below the copper pillar growing increasingly savage; in fact, it was almost equal to and achieved a balance with the pressuring force from above that was seeking to push the pillar down. As for Ning...he was the tiebreaker that broke the balance between these two powers.

“Come out!” Ning’s six arms exerted their full power; by himself, he was already comparable to the eight Celestial Immortals above him in strength, and was comparable to the flying rhinoceros, the most physically strong creature on the other side.

“What?!”

The face of the horned, golden-robed man seated on the back of the flying rhinoceros completely changed. The Celestial Immortals under his command were all Ki Refiners; in this sort of competition of raw strength, they were innately at a disadvantage! But the three aberrations he controlled were far more powerful in raw strength; he had thought that with their appearance, the pillar would be effortlessly pushed down.

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The western sea of the world of the Grand Xia. The headquarters of the Seamless Gate.

“Ahahaha, Immortal Venomfreak is in for some trouble now!” Celestial Immortal Blackheaven roared with laughter, waving his hands and feet about in delight.

“So this is the founding father of the Youngflame clan?” The nearby Violetgrass stared curiously towards the horned, golden-robed man. Although she had heard of the founder before, she knew very little about him.

Celestial Immortal Blackheaven laughed, then nodded. “Right. This is the founder of the Youngflame clan. Back in the era of Pangu’s World...there was an extremely powerful clan known as the ‘Godfire’ clan. This was a clan that was protected by a Daofather; this clan was one of the most supreme clans amongst the many clans of the world. A woman of this clan was raped by a Fiendgod, and she gave birth to a child that had the bloodline and lineage of that Fiendgod. This child was born looking like a hideous freak, more monster than man. Thus, he was ostracized by his clan. As a result, he never felt as though he was a member of the Godfire clan. He long ago departed from the clan, establishing his own Youngflame clan!”

“This ugly child was the founder of the Youngflame clan...Youngflame Freak. An eccentric, cautious, sinister, and truly crafty freak.” Celestial Immortal Blackheaven said in a low voice, “Although he is ‘only’ a Celestial Immortal...even I am unwilling to make an enemy of him.”

Violetgrass nodded lightly.

Naturally, she had heard of some of the legends of Immortal Venomfreak.

Within the Three Realms, there were fairly few Pure Yang True Immortals and Empyrean Gods, after all; the likes of Patriarch Lu, also known as Lu Dongbin, and other similarly formidable members of the Three Realms were people that even Celestial Immortals had to receive with tremendous respect. True Immortals and Empyrean Gods were simply far, far too few in number. By comparison, there were many more Celestial Immortals, and amongst them were some truly monstrous freaks. Although it was extremely hard for a Celestial Immortal to break through to the True Immortal level, these Celestial Immortals had reputations that were not one whit inferior to the reputation of most True Immortals or Empyrean Gods.

Celestial Immortal Blackheaven was one such figure!

Immortal Venomfreak was another!

“This Venomfreak has many clones. Although every single clone has fairly average power...” Celestial Immortal Blackheaven sighed. “Because of how many clones he has, it is almost completely impossible to kill him. For example, this ‘Venomfreak’ before us...he’s nothing more than a single one of the clones.”

“Venomfreak’s power in battle is ordinary, but his venomous insects are far too dangerous. His abilities in raising venomous insects can be considered amongst the best in the Three Realms. I really wonder where he found this sort of a legacy.” Celestial Immortal Blackheaven sighed. “These three insects that we are seeing...each of them has combat power comparable to a supreme Celestial Immortal. In addition, these insects have no fear of death, and so they are even more terrifying than actual Celestial Immortals. Thus...even back during the era of Pangu’s World, Immortal Venomfreak was famous for being extremely difficult to deal with. Killing him would be very difficult, unless a Daofather or comparable power was to seek out and destroy every single one of his clones. A few of his insects have died, but with the passage of time, he’s been able to produce other terrifyingly strong insects as well.”

“Thus...we should ideally try to split Immortal Venomfreak from the Xia Emperor’s side and pull him over to ours,” Celestial Immortal Blackheaven said. “He will prove of tremendous use to us.”

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This eccentric, cautious, sinister, and truly crafty golden-robed figure stared downwards. Upon seeing that his three insects were unable to prevent the copper pillar from being pulled upwards, he began to grow frantic. He immediately sent a message with his coresense: “Ji Ning, brat, if you don’t want to die, then stop right now!”