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Book 17: Celestial Immortal Chapter 1: Ji Ning Is Still Alive!

The Black-White College had many mountain peaks, and the estates of the formal disciples were usually located atop one of them.

On the mountain path of a nameless mountain peak of the Black-White College.

The moon hung high in the sky, and the dreamy moonlight wafted down like gauze upon Ji Ning and Yu Wei. Ning and Yu Wei were currently holding hands together, strolling on the mountain path like mortals.

"This is nice," Yu Wei said softly.

"Eh?" Ning looked at Yu Wei.

Yu Wei smiled as she glanced at Ning. She had always been as beautiful as an Immortal fairy, a true peerless beauty. This smile of hers, which came from the bottom of her heart, caused Ning to instantly feel intoxicated. Yu Wei said, "In recent years, I haven't felt at ease for a single moment. I've always been worrying about this or that. I'm holding your hand, and I feel so calm right now...I don't feel worried about anything."

"It was my rashness." Ning felt guilt; last time, he had indeed been too arrogant in acting against the Youngflame clan.

"It's not your fault, junior apprentice-brother. Who would've thought that they would have a Protocosmic spirit-treasure like the Worldhold Pagoda? It is far too rare, after all, for Celestial Immortals to be in possession of such spirit-treasures. Even if they do have one...ones that can rip through reality and teleport you elsewhere are even rarer," Yu Wei said.

Ning laughed. "Enough about that. Senior apprentice-sister, I haven't congratulated you yet about becoming a Celestial Immortal! You were even faster than me."

"Even after I became a Celestial Immortal, I've still had headaches every day." Yu Wei gently kicked aside a little stone that was in her path. The stone struck a distant tree, causing a bit of snow to fall down from the trees branches.

"What's wrong?" Ning asked.

"You've been gone for more than eighteen years. Stillwater Commandery, however, has changed dramatically," Yu Wei said. "For example...the current Marquis of Stillwater is no longer Northmont Yin; it is Northmont Blacktiger."

"Eh?!" Ning was puzzled. "Northmont Blacktiger?"

In the past, Northmont Blacktiger and Northmont Yin had struggled for the position of Marquis, and in the end Northmont Yin had won.

Even after Ning had returned and joined into an alliance with Celestial Immortals Unity and Hunchmont, the Northmont clan of Stillwater hadn't changed Northmont Yin's position. Why was it that during Ning's disappearance of eighteen years, Northmont Blacktiger would end up having taken the position?

"Northmont Yin died," Yu Wei said.

"What?! Could it be that Stillwater Commandery was in such a state of chaos that even the Marquis was assassinated?" Ning was shocked.

"It's even worse than you think," Yu Wei said. "Northmont Yin wasn't assassinated. He was executed by Celestial Immortal Unity. The reason why he was executed was because more than half of the high-level members of the Northmont clan wanted to throw their support to the Seamless Gate. When they made this recommendation to Celestial Immortal Unity, all of these traitors, including the ones who had supported Northmont Yin secret, were wiped out. Not one was spared."

Ning was truly shocked now. "How could this have happened?!"

"It all started with Celestial Immortal Hunchmont being kidnapped." Yu Wei began to narrate the tale of how she and Celestial Immortal had been ambushed and trapped, and she even gave him a rough overview of the situation in the entire Grand Xia.

At the peak of the mountain.

Ning and Yu Wei were seated by a cliff, looking at the night sky.

"I didn't imagine that the Seamless Gate would have become this brash and bold." Ning frowned. "Prior to this, the Grand Xia Dynasty had been keeping them in check, but now...they actually have dared to assassinate this many Celestial Immortals? Are they really trying to start a war?"

"I don't know." Yu Wei shook her head.

Eighteen years ago, the Grand Xia Dynasty had been calm on the surface, at least; very, very few Celestial Immortals had perished.

But now, Celestial Immortals were dying right and left, one after the other! The Seamless Gate had even dared to carry out actions like kidnapping Hunchmont to force Unity to surrender; from this, one could see how bold they had become!

"Didn't they inform the Xia Emperor?" Ning asked. "Since the Seamless Gate cares about Celestial Immortal Unity this much...the Xia Emperor wouldn't just give up on him that easily, right?"

"Of course we did," Yu Wei said. "Just this very day, we received word from the Xia Emperor. He sent someone to notify us that many Celestial Immortals throughout the entire Grand Xia Dynasty are being threatened, and have received final diplomatic notes of warning. Too many are asking for his support; he's asking us Celestial Immortals to help each other out."

"The Xia Emperor is just going to let things happen, come what may?" Ning frowned.

"Senior Unity really is quite impressive, though; a while ago, the Seamless Gate sent thirty-six Celestial Immortals to assault him en-masse, but they were still defeated," Yu Wei said. "To kill Celestial Immortal

Unity won't be easy. By contrast, our Black-White College...well, we aren't as strong as senior Unity, so we've been suffering quite a bit for it."

Ning now understood what had been worrying Yu Wei.

The Black-White College was standing alongside Unity. When the Seamless Gate went to act against Unity, they'd probably throw the Black-White College into the mix as well; after all, the Black-White College had two Celestial Immortals within their ranks.

Killing Celestial Immortal Unity might be very difficult...but killing the Celestial Immortals of the Black-White College was much easier by comparison. Yu Wei and Immortal Diancai were quite ordinary; they had just recently overcome their tribulations, after all. They were far from being comparable to Celestial Immortal Unity.

"But I'm back now, right?" Ning smiled.

"Junior apprentice-brother, you haven't overcome your tribulation." Yu Wei actually shook her head. "The Seamless Gate is far too powerful. We have to be careful."

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That very night.

Within Immortal Diancai's estate.

"Master." Ning looked at Immortal Diancai.

"It's good that you are back. It's good that you are back." Immortal Diancai looked at Ning, letting out a long sigh, then smiled. "You unfilial disciple! When you came back, you didn't come see me; you went to go see your Dao-companion first!"

The nearby Yu Wei was laughing.

"Don't blame me, Master! I admit to my wrongdoings." Ning began to laugh as well.

"Sit, first! Later, senior Unity shall arrive," Immortal Diancai said.

A short time later.

A youth with loose hair and a gray robe came walking in. Ning, Immortal Diancai, and Yu Wei all rose to their feet.

"Ji Ning has returned." The gray-robed youth smiled and nodded. "I heard that you previously killed two mighty Celestial Immortals of the Youngflame clan. How valiant! You were able to overcome the karmic sinflames and to return to us; I imagine that anyone who hears about this would be filled with admiration for you."

"You praise me too much, senior. I was just a bit luckier than most; otherwise, I wouldn't have been able to come back at all," Ning said.

"Sit, all of you," Celestial Immortal Unity said.

The four immediately all sat down.

Unity looked at Ning. "I imagine you know everything now, Ji Ning."

"I just heard from them. I didn't imagine that in the past eighteen years, the Grand Xia Dynasty would've changed this much. The Seamless Gate has already begun to shed all pretenses of cordiality." Ning shook his head. "Celestial Immortal Hunchmont was captured. Alas..."

"When the storm comes, who can avoid it?" Unity looked towards Ning. "The Seamless Gate gave us their final warning, and I've naturally made my own preparations. This entire city of Stillwater has always been the base for my Northmont clan. One generation after another, we have set down countless formations in this place. I want to ask your Black-White College to help me control the formations of Stillwater City, so that I can focus whole-heartedly on fighting against the Seamless Gate. There's no need for the Black-White College to exit the formation."

"Today, the Xia Emperor sent me a messenger. Many are under threat right now, and he's unable to assist me, which is why I've made this decision. I wanted to tell Yu Wei and Diancai tomorrow, but since you came back today, Ji Ning, I came to speak to you all tonight," Unity said.

Ning, Yu Wei, and Diancai all exchanged a glance.

"Since you've made the request, senior Unity...our Black-White College will definitely strive to ensure you are not disappointed by us," Ning said.

Celestial Immortal Unity had realized something...

The Black-White College had three mighty experts. Yu Wei and Ji Ning were Dao-companions, while Immortal Diancai and Ji Ning were master and disciple! In fact, Ji Ning had once guarded his master during his master's tribulation and fought with utter ferocity, while Diancai, in turn, had been willing to face off against the Youngflame clan even when he had merely been at the Void-level; from this, one could see how close the two of them were. Clearly, Ji Ning was capable of influencing both Yu Wei and Immortal Diancai, which made him the true leader of the Black-White College.

After chatting for a bit longer, Celestial Immortal Unity departed.

Ning, Yu Wei, and Immortal Diancai, the three mighty experts of the Black-White College, were now discussing amongst themselves.

"Our Black-White College is the weakest side in this fight, regardless of whether we compare ourselves to Celestial Immortal Unity or the Seamless Gate," Immortal Diancai said. "Senior Unity knows that we are in a tough spot. This is for the best. We shall stay within the formation and provide support. If even the formation is unable to withstand their attacks, then we'll use Greater Teleportation to leave."

"Right."

Yu Wei and Ning both nodded.

Ning didn't say much. It was true that he had become far more powerful over the course of eighteen years of nonstop battles, and he was probably even superior to Celestial Immortal Unity in terms of power! However, given that the Seamless Gate was a major power that dared to act against the Grand Xia Dynasty in such a brash, arrogant fashion...they might suddenly produce a True Immortal or Emyrean God who would wipe Ning out.

“Ji Ning, the Heavenly Treasures Mountain has stationed someone in our Black-White College,” Immortal Diancai said. “They’ve been waiting for news of you. Now that you are back...should we let the Heavenly Treasures Mountain know?”

“What’s this?” Ning was surprised.

The Heavenly Treasures Mountain had actually permanently stationed someone here, waiting for news regarding him?

It seemed as though the Xia Emperor truly did care quite a bit about his status.

“Go ahead and tell them,” Ning said.

His own master, Patriarch Subhuti, was good friends with Daofather Crimsonbright. The Xia Emperor had treated him fairly well; there was no need to hide this from him.

“Alright.” Immortal Diancai nodded.

The imperial capital of the Grand Xia. The Skylight Palace.

The black-robed Xia Emperor was seated facing a white-haired elder. They were playing a game of stones.

Click! The Xia Emperor frowned.

“Xiamang, if you bare your fangs too openly, you’ll suffer for it,” the white-haired elder said with a laugh, then pressed his stone onto the board. “It’s better for you to take a step back and look at the bigger picture.”

The Xia Emperor, however, didn’t pay him any attention.

Click! Click! Click! The sound of chess stones being pressed onto the board rang out throughout the hall.

“You lose.” The white-haired elder rose to his feet. “Xiamang, spend a little time and think things over. But of course...you remain a descendant of our Primordial Imperial Clan. There’s no way you can let yourself be so casually abused by others. Whether you choose to retreat or to fight, you need to do it in a beautiful manner. If you do need help, come find me.”

“Thank you, Uncle.” The Xia Emperor rose to his feet.

The white-haired elder laughed, then soared into the skies and disappeared.

The Xia Emperor, however, continued to frown.

A short while later, a streak of light flew in; it was Skyfox.

“Master.” Immortal Skyfox strode in.

“What is it?” The Xia Emperor asked.

“Ji Ning has returned,” Immortal Skyfox said in a low voice.

The Xia Emperor was startled. “He came back? Alive?”

“Yes. He came back just last night; we received news just this morning,” Immortal Skyfox said.

“He managed to make it back alive? I even went so far as to speak to Venomfreak about this. Venomfreak said that he had exiled Ji Ning to the Nihilum Zone.” The Xia Emperor frowned. “The Nihilum Zone of the Primordial Ruinworld...that truly is a boundless, vast place. The voidwaves there are incredibly powerful; in order to leave that place while going against the voidwaves, one has to at least have the power of a True God or Daofather. It must have been that mysterious Daofather master of his who intervened. This Daofather seems to care about his disciples quite a bit; he actually went into the Nihilum Zone to search for him!”

“Then...with regards to Stillwater Commandery...” Immortal Skyfox said in a whispered voice.

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Book 17: Celestial Immortal Chapter 2: King Yan Comes to Visit

The Xia Emperor shook his head. “The entire Grand Xia Dynasty is being shaken by this storm. More than sixty percent of my 3600 commanderies are requesting assistance from me! No matter how formidable the Seamless Gate is, there’s no way they can possibly act against that many marquisdoms and clans at once. In addition, according to the intelligence I have, some of those requesting support have actually surrendered to the Seamless Gate long ago.”

The Seamless Gate was indeed formidable; for them to be able to convince more than half of the high-level members of the Northmont clan to join them was a testament to their might. Within the Grand Xia Dynasty, there were indeed quite a few clans who had already joined their side.

“They’ve already joined the Seamless Gate, but they still beg me for assistance.” The Xia Emperor frowned. “Right now...I don’t have a clear picture of the situation. More than sixty percent of the marquisdoms are asking for my assistance, but which ones actually need help, while which ones are faking it?”

“Although the Northmont clan of Stillwater claims Celestial Immortal Hunchmont was captured alive...that was a mere capture. Who knows if that is just part of a plot?” The Xia Emperor said.

“Understood.” Immortal Skyfox nodded.

“Right now, although there are some clashes, my control over the entire Grand Xia is still fairly stable.” The Xia Emperor said softly, “The true war has yet to start. We need to stand firm and not act about in a disorderly fashion. Even though the Seamless Gate has begun to move...let them. The more they move, the more of themselves they reveal to me. For now, let my blade remain in its sheath...because one it comes out, it will stab them in their weak points! The Seamless Gate wishes to take away my world of the Grand Xia? Hmph...let’s see if they can force me to accept it!”

Immortal Skyfox nodded.

“Still...Ji Ning’s potential truly is remarkable. Even before undergoing his Celestial Tribulation, he was able to kill two Celestial Immortals. Despite having trained for less than a century, he was capable of enduring karmic sinflames. I imagine that he will soon be undergoing his tribulation. He...is going to be an important chess piece,” the Xia Emperor said. “And, based on what my master said...Ji Ning is definitely on our side.”

The Xia Emperor viewed Ning with great importance.

After all...Ji Ning's accomplishments to date had all been simply too unearthly. At the Void-level, he had slaughtered two Celestial Immortals, then withstood karmic sinflames. Once a monster like this broke through to the Celestial Immortal level after overcoming the tribulation...he would most likely become one of the most supreme Celestial Immortals right away, perhaps even possessing the combat power of a Pure Yang True Immortal! Most importantly of all...Ji Ning had an incredible background. To befriend Ji Ning was equivalent to befriend a mysterious Daofather. How could the Xia Emperor not view this as being extremely important?

"Right. Go and tell King Yan that Ji Ning has returned," the Xia Emperor said.

"Alright," Immortal Skyfox said respectfully.

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The imperial capital. King Yan's Estate.

King Yan had arrived in a flower garden. He stared at Yuchi Xiyue, seated within a distant pavilion. He couldn't help but secretly shake his head. When Ji Ning had gone to act against the Youngflame clan, he had told Yuchi Xiyue in advance. Xiyue had been filled with both hope as well as worry for Ning...but in the end, Ning had been covered by karmic sinflames and driven out of the world of the Grand Xia. Xiyue had always paid close attention to information regarding Ning, but no matter how hard she tried, she couldn't find out anything regarding his return from that battle. She had gone to ask King Yan, and thus learned what had happened.

Ever since that day she had learned that Ning's chances of survival were slim...Xiyue had never smiled again.

"Little brother..." Xiyue always felt as though something was missing from her heart. She was incapable of smiling, now.

"Xiyue." A voice rang out.

Xiyue turned her head, then hurriedly rose her feet to greet the man. "Grandpa."

"Let me tell you some good news," King Yan said with a chuckle.

"Good news?" Xiyue was puzzled.

"Ji Ning...has returned." King Ya laughed.

Xiyue trembled, then revealed a look of wild joy and excitement. She hurriedly grabbed King Yan by the hand. "Grandpa, is this true? My little brother has really come back? He's returned from that danger zone? You aren't lying to me, are you?"

"Mm. It was the Xia Emperor who told me...and Ji Ning is currently in the Black-White College of Stillwater City right now," King Yan said.

"He's at the Black-White College?" Xiyue felt more alive than she had in a long time. She immediately said, "I'm going to Stillwater City right away!"

“Let’s go together. I want to see Ji Ning as well,” King Yan said.

“Alright. Let’s go right now!” Xiyue didn’t want to wait for even a single moment; she had to see Ning with her own eyes before she would believe it all.

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Even before the Xia Emperor had learned of Ji Ning’s return...the marvelously capable Seamless Gate had learned of it as well.

Whooooosh.

A cold wind blew. A golden-robed Celestial Immortal was standing at the top of a mountain peak. This golden-robed Celestial Immortal was quite bulky, and in fact was slightly chubby. He had a stubbly beard, and his eyes shone like copper. The golden robes he bore looked just like a set of golden armor. He simply waited there, bored and restless, at the top of that mountain peak.

Swoosh. A streak of light flew towards him from far away, alighting on the mountain peak; it was Celestial Immortal Arcanum.

“Arcanum,” the golden-robed envoy said calmly.

“Envoy.” Celestial Immortal immediately smiled, not showing any of his customary arrogance for fear of offending this envoy. “Might I ask why you wish to speak with our Youngflame clan, Envoy?”

“Our Seamless Gate has never shown your Youngflame clan any malice. We’ve always been helping you...and now, I’m going to help you again.” The golden-robed envoy laughed, but even when laughing, his savage, ferocious face remained terrifying to behold. “A while ago, you had a rather nasty battle with that Ji Ning, right? In fact, two of your Celestial Immortals died, and in the end, you used the Worldhold Pagoda to exile Ji Ning away into the Nihilum Zone of the Primordial Ruinworld, yes?”

“Right, right. That’s exactly right,” Celestial Immortal Arcanum said hurriedly.

Although he had a smile on his face, in his heart Arcanum was cursing loudly.

How had this secret slipped out?

Very, very few people knew that the Youngflame clan had used the Worldhold Pagoda to deal with Ji Ning. Only the Xia Emperor and Ji Ning’s friends knew. However, logically speaking, neither Ji Ning’s friends nor the Xia Emperor would go tell the Seamless Gate about this...and yet, somehow, the Seamless Gate had still found out. They had even come to ask the Youngflame clan about this, at which point the Youngflame clan had been forced to admit that they had indeed exiled Ji Ning to the Nihilum Zone of the Primordial Ruinworld.

In truth, the Youngflame clan wasn’t worried about this being made public knowledge. The Nihilum Zone was incredibly vast, after all; even a True God or Daofather who went there to investigate would have to spend countless years before completely searching the place. In addition, True Gods and Daofathers were generally unwilling to spend much time there; after all, as the saying went, if one often walked by the riverside, one’s shoes would eventually get wet. If they stayed in the Nihilum Zone too long, they might run into some powerful foes from the Primordial Ruinworld.

“The Seamless Gate truly seems to be able to penetrate through any seam,” Arcanum mused silently to himself. “Not even the Heavenly Treasures Mountain of the Xia Emperor comes close to the Seamless Gate in terms of intelligence reports.”

“I’ve come to notify your Youngflame clan...that your hated foe, Ji Ning, is still alive. And...he’s already back.” The golden-robed envoy smiled merrily as he looked at Celestial Immortal Arcanum.

Arcanum’s face instantly changed. “Impossible!!!” He couldn’t help but blurt out these words.

“Impossible?” The golden-robed envoy lifted an eyebrow.

“We sent him to the Nihilum Zone of the Primordial Ruinworld! Not even an Empyrean God could escape from that place; only a True God or Daofather has a chance! Even if an exalted True God or Daofather was to go search for him...how could they be so lucky as to find Ji Ning within the infinitely vast Nihilum Zone in just eighteen short years?” Arcanum shook his head. “Even if he was apprenticed to a True God or a Daofather...I refuse to believe a True God or a Daofather would be willing to commit himself to such a painstaking search, or be able to find him so quickly. There’s no way Ji Ning could be that lucky!”

“Yes, I didn’t believe it either.” The golden-robed envoy shook his head and sighed. “But alas, Ji Ning is within Stillwater City right now. At this very moment, he is flirting and cuddling with that Dao-companion of his, Yu Wei, within the Black-White College.”

“He’s at Stillwater City right now?” Arcanum was now truly stunned.

“Yes.” The golden-robed envoy nodded.

Arcanum had an extremely ugly look on his face right now, and his thoughts were jumbled.

If Ji Ning had returned alive...then things had completely changed.

First of all, for him to return meant that, without question, Ji Ning had a True God or Daofather standing behind him! When the Youngflame clan had fought against Ji Ning, they had been worried that Ji Ning had apprenticed himself to a Daofather, true, but they felt that given the exalted status of a Daofather, Ji Ning shouldn’t have been so lucky as to actually have been apprenticed to one. The chances of that having happened had to be low.

But now...it had indeed been proven to be the case! Ji Ning truly had become the disciple of a True God or a Daofather!

And secondly!

The Youngflame clan knew exactly how powerful Ji Ning was. A young fellow like him who hadn’t even undergone his tribulation had been able to slaughter two mighty Celestial Immortals. Even when battling the eight of them, he hadn’t been at a disadvantage at all. Given his terrifying power...once he overcame his tribulation and become a Celestial Immortal, he could become a calamity for the Youngflame clan.

And this monster...this utter monster had a True God or a Daofather backing him!

This was a nightmare!

“He...really does have a True God or a Daofather as his master. And...he’s back.” Arcanum was completely panicking right now. He knew very well that this would be a disaster for his Youngflame clan...a disaster which the Youngflame would not be able to avoid!

“If...the Youngflame clan was to join our Seamless Gate, then we would be willing to help you deal with Ji Ning,” the golden-robed envoy said with a laugh. “You might be afraid of the Daofather behind him, but we, the Seamless Gate, are not. Alright...you can go back now and spend some time thinking on this.”

Whoosh.

A series of spatial ripples appeared around the golden-robed envoy. Moments later, he disappeared into thin air.

Celestial Immortal Arcanum stood there on the mountain peak, an ugly look on his face. Moments later, he too used a spatial teleport to depart, having headed back to report this information to the Ancestor of the Youngflame clan, Immortal Venomfreak.

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Stillwater City. The Black-White College.

Ning didn’t realize that both the Seamless Gate and the Youngflame clan had found out right away about his return. However, even if he did realize that they knew...Ning wasn’t afraid. To deal with the current Ji Ning wouldn’t be easy as it was to deal with the Ji Ning of eighteen years ago.

“Ji Ning, King Yan and Princess Xiyue have come to visit,” Immortal Jadesea sent through his divine sense.

“Princess Xiyue? King Yan?” Ji Ning, who had been sipping wine alongside Yu Wei, hastily rose to his feet. Ning had spent the entire night with Yu Wei. The two had whispered sweet nothings to each other, and also had discussed many matters. Yu Wei now knew the real relationship between Ning and Xiyue.

“Come, let’s go greet them,” Ning said hurriedly. “Before I went to fight against the Youngflame clan, I told my cousin about it. I was completely confident in my chances; I thought that everything was under my control. And yet...man proposes, Heaven disposes. In the end, I was exiled for eighteen years. My cousin must have been worrying over me for all eighteen of these years.”

“She came to see you as soon as she learned that you were back. Clearly, she cares about you immensely,” Yu Wei said.

The two flew over, shoulder-to-shoulder, into the skies.

They immediately saw the distant Immortal Jadesea guiding King Yan and Yuchi Xiyue towards them. Xiyue stared towards Ning from far away, and upon seeing him her eyes lit up right away. It was true; her little brother truly had come back!

“Senior apprentice-brother Jadesea, allow me to take care of King Yan and the princess,” Ning said.

Immortal Jadesea knew that these two had come to see Ji Ning, and so he immediately nodded and departed.

Ning and Yu Wei led King Yan and Xiyue down into Yu Wei's residence. At present, Yu Wei's residence didn't have even a single servant in it; all of them had been sent to Darknorth Peak. Clearly, Ning and Yu Wei wanted to be alone and to not be disturbed by anyone.

As they landed together, Xiyue could no longer hold back. "Little brother, you scared me half to death! If you really died...then I really would be the only member of the Yuchi clan left."

"I'm not gonna die that easily," Ning said with a laugh.

The two immediately began to chat with each other. Yu Wei added in a few words on the side, but King Yan said almost nothing.

As the conversation began to wind down...finally, King Yan spoke out. "Ji Ning, do you remember the task you handed to me?"

Ning's face instantly turned slightly red. He hurriedly said, "You've found information regarding my parents and their reincarnations?"

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Book 17: Celestial Immortal Chapter 3: His Parent's Lives, Past and Present

Years ago, Ji Ning had asked King Yan to help him investigate what had happened to his father, Ji Yichuan, and his mother, Yuchi Snow, after they had been reincarnated. However, after he made the request Ning had gone off to battle the Youngflame clan, then been driven into the Nihilum Zone. Thus, King Yan had never had a chance to tell Ning about what he had discovered.

"I've found the information." King Yan nodded.

"Wonderful! This is...this is wonderful!" Ning couldn't disguise his excitement.

In Ning's heart...his father, Ji Yichuan, and his mother, Yuchi Snow, had the most important position of all. Not even his Dao-companion, Yu Wei, was as important to him as his parents! In fact, in Ning's heart, even his parents from his previous life on Earth were slightly inferior in status when compared to Ji Yichuan and Yuchi Snow. In his past life on Earth, his father had always been busy with his careers, after all; Ning was rarely able to see him. His mother, on the other hand, had always worked very hard to take care of him, and Ning had firmly engraved those memories into his heart.

But in this life...

For the sake of giving birth to him, his mother had been willing to sacrifice her own life-force. For the sake of letting him grow up safely, she hadn't even been willing to tell Ning about their feud with Snowdragon Mountain, or the truth regarding the enemy that had destroyed the Yuchi clan.

Although his father looked cold on the outside, the amount of care and love he had felt for Ji Ning was definitely every bit as much as Yuchi Snow had felt. He had personally taught Ning to use the sword, and had always worked to protect him. In fact, it wasn't until he was no longer capable of protecting Ning that he had perished to go reunite with Yuchi Snow.

Ning could never forget them!

Those youthful days...those had been the happiest days of his life.

“These are bamboo scrolls.” King Yan produced a pair of bamboo scrolls within his hands. “In the Netherworld, we record the information about the dead in them. All who are judged by the Judges of the Dead will have records regarding them. This bamboo scroll has a great deal of information, including information regarding your mother, Yuchi Snow. This one, in turn, has information regarding your father, Ji Yichuan.”

Ning took a deep breath before accepting the scrolls.

Ning sent his divine sense into the first scroll. Instantly, an enormous amount of information filled his mind. After Ning had strengthened his heartforce, his control over his divine sense had strengthened noticeably as well. Soon, he was able to sort through the sea of information to find the relevant parts regarding his father, Ji Yichuan.

“Ji Yichuan, of the world of the Grand Xia, Stillwater Commandery, Swallow Mountain. Zifu Disciple. No karmic sin, no karmic merits. Adjudicated to be reborn as a human and be reincarnated in the Wusky world, Flowermont Commandery, Willowriver clan. His name shall be Willowriver Chuan, and he shall live for 182 years.”

Ning was no longer a wide-eyed youth; at Mount Innerheart, he had read some books which had given a basic introduction to the Three Realms. He understood what this Judge’s intentions were. Generally speaking, decisions on where one would be sent to, what one would be named, and how long one would live for would be automatically made by the Dao of the Heavens. The Judges of the Dead had to intentionally intervene in order to change things. This sort of intervention would usually have a minor impact on one’s karmic merits, and so generally speaking only someone who had a sufficient degree of status was capable of causing the likes of the Ten Yama-Kings of Hell or the First Judge of the Dead to command their subordinates to make a change to one’s fate.

Long ago, Judge Cui had told Ning that changing one’s lifespan was quite a simple task for him.

But in truth, the ‘lifespan’ was only applicable to mortals. Once one became an Immortal cultivator, one would’ve embarked on a path that went against the will of the Heavens. The Heavens would send down the Three Calamities and Nine Tribulations, and it would become very difficult to predict how far one would make it down this path. If one remained a mere mortal, one might only live for a century or so, but if one became an Immortal cultivator and became a Zifu Disciple within twenty or so years...it was possible that one might be killed soon after becoming a Zifu Disciple, resulting in a lifespan that was even shorter than that of an ordinary mortal’s!

The decisions of the Judges of the Netherworld with regard to one’s lifespan were only meaningful for mortals.

“The Wusky world? Flowermont Commandery, Willowriver clan...Willowriver Chuan?” Ning quietly memorized this name.

He immediately picked up the other bamboo scroll, sweeping it with his divine sense.

A short while later, he found the information regarding his mother, Yuchi Snow.

“Yuchi Snow, of the world of the Grand Xia, Eastisle Commandery, Yuchi clan. Slightly positive karma. Adjudicated to be reborn as a human and be reincarnated to the Wusky world, Flowermont Commandery, Eastflow clan. Her name shall be Eastflow Snow, and she shall live for 200 years.”

Ning was delighted by what he just saw.

They had both been sent to the Flowermont Commandery of the Wusky world?

The nearby King Yan said, “The adjudications of the Judges are usually generated naturally in accordance with the Dao of the Heavens. Clearly, your mother and your father have been tied together by karmic love across many lifetimes, and so the Dao of the Heavens invisibly worked to place them together once more.”

“Karmic love across many lifetimes?” Ning nodded gently, then immediately said, “King Yan, senior, are you saying that my parents are together once more?”

“I went and helped you investigate what happened after they were reincarnated. I made a trip all the way to the Flowermont Commandery of the Wusky world to look into this matter, but...your parents have already died. The information I found is within this book.” King Yan gave Ning a glance, then a book appeared within his hands that he offered to Ning.

Ning was stunned. “Already dead? That means they should be reincarnated again. Why haven’t they...?” But then, Ning suddenly thought of a possibility. His face turned ashen, and he immediately accepted the book and swept it with his divine sense.

“No.”

“No...”

Ning clenched at the book, shaking his head, his eyes filled with shock, anger, and agony. He didn’t want to accept this result.

His parents had indeed been linked by karmic love; although they had experienced some problems in their new life, they had still ended up together. Together, they had embarked upon the path of Immortal cultivation...

“How could...how could this have happened?” Ning shook his head, mumbling as he did, “Why did these things have to happen to them? Why didn’t they happen to me instead? Although they embarked on the Immortal path once more, they were just minor figures. Why did things have to end so bitterly for them...why...”

“I don’t believe it...I don’t believe it!”

“This is all a lie. All a lie!”

Ning’s eyes began to turned crazed. The truth was beyond what his mind could accept; he instinctually refused to believe this, especially when this was nothing more than information record in a book!

“Little brother!”

“Junior apprentice-brother!” Yu Wwei and Princess Xiyue were both worried.

Ning immediately said, "I'm going to go to the miniature Netherworld Kingdom. I'm going right now! Senior apprentice-sister...although Stillwater City is in a dangerous situation right now, I have to go right away. If it really does encounter a crisis, shatter this talisman and I'll immediately come back through Greater Teleportation."

"Alright." Yu Wei immediately nodded. "Let me go with you." She could sense how frantic Ning was feeling right now.

"No need. I'll go alone." Ning turned to look at the nearby King Yan. "King Yan, senior, I'm going to go to the miniature Netherworld Kingdom. I need a temporal inversion to see the scene of the Judge adjudicating my parents' fates."

Right now, Ning even doubted the information he had seen within the bamboo scrolls regarding the adjudication of his parents. He had to personally see a temporal inversion, personally see the Judge adjudicate his parents, before he would believe it.

"Alright." King Yan nodded. He still remembered the Xia Emperor's instructions to him. The Xia Emperor viewed quite a few people with favor and wanted to befriend them, but the most important amongst them was this Ji Ning, even though he hadn't even undergone his tribulation. King Yan naturally wouldn't refuse Ji Ning's requests.

"Let's go." Ning didn't want to wait at all.

"Let me lead the way." King Yan immediately led Ning out, flying away from the estate, then undergoing a spatial teleport in midair. Both men immediately vanished.

Yuchi Xiyue and Yu Wei raised their heads, watching as Ning and King Yan left.

"My grandpa actually didn't tell me any of this..." Xiyue had a somewhat frantic look on her face as well.

"I hope everything is fine," Yu Wei said softly.

.....

A gloomy, deathly aura pervaded this place.

This was an extremely large world. Within it, lines of white-robed figures could be seen walking forward, stretching forth as far as the eye could see. Next to them were many minotaur demon soldiers and other demon soldiers who were striking them with lashes.

Some of the white-robed figures glanced curiously out of the corner of their eyes, paying attention to the two figures who had just appeared in the sky.

The two figures that had appeared were Ji Ning and King Yan.

"This miniature Netherworld isn't that different from the real Netherworld Kingdom, to be honest. There are plenty of deceased spirits here as well," King Yan said. Daofather Crimsonbright controlled dozens of major worlds, after all, as well as countless minor worlds, all of which came under this miniature Netherworld's jurisdiction. It made up for roughly 1% of the entire territory of the Three Realms.

Ning didn't say a word. He wasn't in the mood for chit-chat.

King Yan, after saying a few more things, realized Ning wasn't in the mood. He led Ning directly to a giant city, within which were numerous buildings and many demonic soldiers. King Yan quickly arrived at a courtyard.

"This is the courtyard where your mother was sentenced." King Yan led Ning straight inside.

The demonic soldiers didn't dare restrict them from entering.

The judge on his judge's seat, upon seeing who had entered, was badly shocked. He was just one of countless judges; there was no way he could possibly compare with one of the exalted Yama-Kings.

"Your underling greets you, Yama-King." The judge hurriedly fell to his knees, and the surrounding demonic soldiers all knelt down as well. As for the ghost who was waiting to be sentenced, he was completely terrified.

"Hurry up and sentence this one," King Yan instructed.

"Yes, yes!" The judge hurriedly said, "Hurry up and send him to the eighteenth level of Hell."

Two demonic soldiers immediately dragged the ghost away. The ghost screamed in terror, but was still pulled out of the palace.

"You can leave now. Don't use this court for anything else today," King Yan instructed.

"Yes." Neither the judges nor the demonic soldiers dared say a thing. Although they had many tasks to accomplish, there were many other courts in operation; for one to be paused for a day didn't mean anything. They gave the youth behind King Yan a curious glance; they could sense that even King Yan wanted to ensure that this youth was taken care of.

This youth most likely had an incredible background! They all obediently retreated.

Soon, only Ning and King Yan were left in the court.

"King Yan, senior, I haven't overcome my tribulation to become a Celestial Immortal yet. I'll have to trouble you, senior, to use temporal inversion for me," Ning said.

"A minor matter," King Yan said. Although this sort of Immortal technique used up a considerable amount of his energy, in the long run it didn't matter.

King Yan immediately used the temporal inversion technique.

Whoosh.

The scene before them changed. The departed judges and demonic soldiers quickly returned to the hall, once more beginning to judge the souls of the dead, then the souls before them...

Time continued to flow backwards, faster and faster. In fact, everything turned into a blur. Ning and King Yan just stood there within the court, waiting silently.

The images of the temporal inversion were illusory ones. Even if the figures of the judges or demonic soldiers touched with them, it wouldn't make any difference at all.

One year. Two years. Three years...

Time continued to flow backwards at high speed.

"This is the day," King Yan said.

There had been an order to the procession of souls judged that had been recorded within the bamboo scroll. It included information on which judge did the adjudication, when the record was made, and in what order the decision was made. Thus, King Yan knew exactly which court and roughly which day the judgement was made.

The reversed flow of time began to slow down, and the ghosts could be seen clearly once more.

Ning looked carefully at the ghosts; one of them should've been his mother.

Suddenly...

King Yan controlled the temporal version, making it come to a sudden halt, because a white-robed woman had just been escorted in by the demonic soldiers...and it was Ning's mother, Yuchi Snow!

"Mother." Ning's eyes stung. He actually wanted to throw himself forward to hug her.

It had been far, far too long...

But Ning knew that these were merely the illusions rendered by a temporal inversion; these were events that had already happened in the past. These were nothing more than illusions; there was no way he could possibly touch his mother.

"Faster, faster!" The two demonic soldiers that brought Yuchi Snow in actually gave her a shove.

Yuchi Snow looked at her surroundings. Not panicking at all, she immediately knelt down. "My respects to you, judge."

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Book 17: Celestial Immortal Chapter 4: Eastflow Snow, Willowriver Chuan

An aura of light suddenly appeared within the court, and within the light appeared many images. There were images of a little girl playing with her elders, of a young maiden fleeing in terror, of the fully grown Yuchi Snow staring into Ji Yichuan's eyes, of her adventures in the Darknorth Sea, of her birth of Ji Ning, of her teaching Ji Ning footwork techniques...

One image after another.

"Her past life." Ning stared at the images.

Although a Protocosmic spirit-treasure had been left behind within this miniature cycle of reincarnation that allowed one to view the past lives of countless ghosts, there was no Book of Life and Death. The judge merely gave the images a glance, then wrote with his pen, "Yuchi Snow, of the world of the Grand Xia, Eastisle Commandery, Yuchi clan. Slightly positive karma. Adjudicated to be..." Some thoughts suddenly appeared in the judge's mind.

Adjudicated to be reborn as a human and be reincarnated to the Wusky world, Flowermont Commandery, Eastflow clan. Her name shall be Eastflow Snow, and she shall live for 200 years.

These thoughts had been naturally generated by the Dao of the Heavens.

Once one took on the position of judge and moved to support the normal functioning of the Six Paths, it could be said that one had become a part of the Dao of the Heavens. However, the judges were fully capable of changing these written decisions...but in doing so, their own karma would be affected. The more ridiculous the changes were, the more major the impact would be on their karmic standing. In fact, there were some judgements that simply couldn't be written. For example, if this minor judge was to try to forcibly write that Yuchi Snow's sentence was to suffer a thousand years of punishment in the eighteenth level of Hell, so much sin would accumulate around the judge that he would probably be immediately deposed from his position, even before he finished writing the sentence!

"...To be reborn as a human and be reincarnated to the Wusky world, Flowermont Commandery, Eastflow clan. Her name shall be Eastflow Snow, and she shall live for 200 years!" This judge naturally followed the will of the Dao of the Heavens. He wouldn't make any changes at all for an ordinary ghost like this.

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Watching as his mother was sent off, Ning murmured to himself, "It really was the Eastflow clan of the Flowermont Commandery of the Wusky world. I wasn't lied to."

"Do you wish to also see Ji Yichuan?" The nearby King Yan asked.

"Yes. Of course, yes." Ning nodded, then said, "King Yan, sorry for the trouble."

"No trouble at all. If I ran into something like this, I'd probably be frantic as well. Still...unless one becomes a Celestial Immortal, one shall forever struggle within the cycle of the Six Paths of Reincarnation. If one is lucky, one might eventually escape, but less than one in a trillion actually do so. The vast majority shall continue to drown within the cycle until the day comes when their soul is destroyed." King Yan looked at Ning. "You need to accept this."

Ning nodded gently.

"Come. Let's go to another court," King Yan said, leading the way.

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Yet another court. The court had been a ceaseless bustle of activity, but it all came to a sudden halt. The judge and the demonic soldiers were terrified into hurriedly departing, leaving behind only Ning and King Yan. King Yan once more used a temporal inversion technique, allowing them to view the scenes of the past. They watched as Ji Yichuan was sentenced by the judge.

"Father." Ning looked at the white-robed Ji Yichuan while listening to the words of the judge. "So he really was sent to the Flowermont Commandery of the Wusky world."

"I wish to make a trip to the Wusky world," Ning said.

“Alright. I’ll accompany you on this trip. I imagine that you will want the temporal inversion technique to be used again; I’ll have to do it for you.” King Yan nodded, then advised, “But Ji Ning, you have to be careful. The Wusky world is not like the Grand Xia; its foundations are not as stable or deep as ours. Thus, the Seamless Gate has been even more brazen in that world. We can go investigate matters pertaining to your parents’ reincarnation, but it’s best for you not to intervene in those struggles.”

Ning said softly, “I understand. King Yan, don’t worry; I’m no longer that stupid, hot-headed little kid.”

“Mm.” King Yan nodded.

The two immediately left this courtyard, then used a spatial teleport to head straight to the Wusky world.

The Wusky world was one of the dozens of major worlds under Daofather Crimsonbright’s control. In truth, of the worlds under Daofather Crimsonbright, the Grand Xia was actually in fairly good shape; there were many that were in far worse shape than the Grand Xia! For example, the Mount Steele major world was now almost completely controlled by the Seamless Gate.

The Wusky world had descended into the fires of war, filled with battles by Immortals and Fiends.

“This is where the Eastflow clan of the Flowermont Commandery is located.” King Yan looked down from the night sky towards a city, filled with countless Diremonsters.

“The Eastflow clan is gone?” Ning frowned.

“Perhaps a few remnants of them remain somewhere.” King Yan looked downwards. “Right now, the entire Wusky world is in a state of chaos. Major clans and sects might be able to fight back, but many smaller, backwater areas have been utterly massacred. The Seamless Gate doesn’t care too much about discipline; in fact, they delight in causing chaos, the more the merrier.”

Ning nodded.

He had noticed this as well.

When humans took control over a territory, they emphasized order.

But the Seamless Gate, however, encouraged battle and war. It instigated countless problems, hoping for more chaos!

“This city of the Eastflow clan was broken into by monsters. It is now occupied by monsters, while the remnants of the Eastflow clan have fled long ago,” King Yan said. “Let me use the temporal inversion now.”

“Alright.” Ning nodded.

Ning gave the city below a single glance. Instantly, invisible ripples of power swept out from his soul.

All of the many monsters within the commandery city, as well as a few humans who were still resisting and fight back against the monsters, all felt their bodies go soft before they collapsed to the ground. In this instant...all the humans and monsters within the city were trapped within a deep slumber.

“Temporal inversion.” King Yan looked downwards as he executed his technique.

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“Waaaaaaa!”

A cry rang out, and an infant was born.

“Haha, let’s call this daughter of mine...Eastflow Snow.” A tall man spoke out in a joyful manner.

Eastflow Snow slowly grew up. She was smart and obedient, learning from her father to become a Ki Refiner and loving to play around with the other children of the same age...

Ning just quietly watched.

“So similar. She looks so similar to mother,” Ning murmured silently to himself. In this life, Eastflow Snow lived a joyful, carefree life. She was filled with vigor and life, whereas in her past life as Yuchi Snow, she had always seemed slightly gloomy and quiet.

Eastflow Snow quickly grew up. After turning sixteen, she went out adventuring with her fellow clansmen.

While adventuring in the outside world...

She encountered another boy, a boy who saved her.

“Who are you?”

“My name is Willowriver Chuan.”

The sixteen year old Eastflow Snow had met with the still-boyish Willowriver Chuan.

“Mother. Father...” Ning and King Yan quietly watched.

The two went out adventuring together. Willowriver Chuan slowly grew taller; although he was a few years younger than Snow, he had a tall, muscular frame. Given that Chuan was also a Fiendgod Body Refiner, he soon grew even taller than Snow. After adventuring together for two years, the two naturally began to grow close together, perhaps because they felt an innate affinity for each other. Chuan and Snow both broke through to become Xiantian lifeforms while adventuring together! However, Chuan broke through as both a Fiendgod Body Refiner and a Ki Refiner, whereas Snow was merely a Ki Refiner.

“Little brother Chuan, Father has already sent people to summon me; I have to go back.”

“Big sister Snow, I’ll find you. I’ll make your father allow you to marry me.”

“I’ll wait for you.”

“I’ll definitely come.”

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“Hahaha, dear Snow, you have quite the eye. This Willowriver Chuan was able to become a Xiantian lifeform; this means that he can be considered a genius of the Willowriver clan. However...their clan is still a small one. It can’t compare with our Eastflow clan.”

“Daddy!” Snow grew worried.

“Ahaha, I’m just teasing you! If you like him, then go ahead and be with him; I won’t stop you.”

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Months later.

“Chuan, don’t be in such a rush. Father has actually agreed to us already; he’s just testing you.” Snow had stealthily crept over to the guest building where Chuan was residing to tell him this.

“So that’s the case. I was being too impatient.” Chuan rubbed his head. “Big sister Snow, since your father isn’t going to stop us...then I’m going to go back to prepare a betrothal gift. According to clan rules, I need to prepare a gift of nine ding-cauldrons.”

“Alright.” Snow nodded gently, but she blushed a bit with shyness.

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A betrothal gift of nine ding-cauldrons was quite a pricey one. However...since Chuan had long ago broken through to the Xiantian level, his status within his clan was quite high. He soon prepared the gift. Although the Eastflow clan was far more powerful, they didn’t move to stop this affair. The two sides soon came to agree on an auspicious day; next spring, the wedding would occur.

Within the Eastflow clan.

“Adept Icebreak, after these three kids join the Flowermont Immortal School, I’ll have to trouble you to take care of them. Here are our gifts for you for taking them on as your disciples; please accept them, Adept.”

“Teaching and guiding one’s disciples is only normal; there’s no need for this gift. I’ve spent quite some time with your Eastflow clan; it’s time for me to go back. Have those three kids come out; I’ll take them back to the Flowermont Immortal School.”

“Yes, Adept.”

The Eastflow clan leader was being very careful to take good care of this Adept Icebreak of the Flowermont Immortal School. The Flowermont Immortal School was the most supreme of the large schools of the Flowermont Commandery. Supposedly, they even had a Celestial Immortal amongst their ranks! In addition, the Flowermont Immortal School was very strict with its disciples; in fact, if any disciples had any sin around them, they would be expelled! From this, one could tell how strict their rules were.

There were naturally many people who wished to join such a mighty, righteous school.

“The Adept forgot this. Please hand this to the Adept.” The Eastflow clan leader secretly handed the gift to one of the Adept’s followers, who accepted it.

Soon, three youths appeared.

“After you go to the Immortal School, you’ll have to work hard.”

“You are the shining stars amongst the younger generation of our Eastflow clan. In the future, our clan will depend on you.”

“Little uncle, remember to come back to visit me.”

“Second brother, take care of yourself.”

The kinsmen of the three youths sent them off...and amongst them was Eastflow Snow.

The distant Adept Icebreak glanced over, his gaze suddenly falling upon Eastflow Snow. He immediately sent mentally, “Eastflow clan leader.”

“Adept,” the Eastflow clan leader hurriedly said.

“That white-robed girl looks nice.” Adept Icebreak sent mentally, “I am in need of a maidservant, and she looks quite obedient and clever; she’s a good fit. Help me speak to her; if she is willing to accompany me, then send her to me. But if she is not willing, then forget it.”

Adept Icebreak then led these three early-stage Zifu Disciple youths into his flying ship, then departed from the Eastflow clan.

The Eastflow clan leader hesitated a moment, then spoke to Snow’s father about this.

“Clan leader, you are going to give Snow to Adept Icebreak? We can’t do that; in another month, she’s going to get married. Can’t you refuse?”

“How can I refuse? Don’t you know what sort of a person this Adept Icebreak is? Although he looks like an upright gentleman, in secret he’s very greedy and very lecherous! It’s precisely because he is greedy that our Eastflow clan was able to send three of our own into the Flowermont Immortal School. If we don’t give him Snow...he’ll probably be embarrassed and angered, which will have a negative impact on Fuqiang and the others. They are the future of our Eastflow clan; for the sake of the clan, if we have to sacrifice a little girl like Snow, then we will do it!”

“But the Willowriver clan...?”

“The Willowriver clan merely has two Zifu Disciples; how would a clan like that dare to offend our Eastflow clan? Ignore them. For the sake of the tribe, even I myself can be sacrificed, much less Snow! I’m just letting you know in advance; later, I’ll go speak to Snow myself. I trust that she knows what truly matters. In addition...from this day forth, you are not to meet with Snow any longer. I’ll handle everything myself, to ensure that there are no slip-ups.”

.....

“Clan leader, you...you are telling me...no...no! I want to see Father, I want to see Father!”

“You should know what truly matters. Come, men, go and lock her up! Tomorrow, I’ll send her off myself.”

.....

Within a vast wilderness.

“Big sister Snow, why did you break the message-talisman? What has happened?”

“I used a Lesser Teleportation Dao-seal to flee. There’s no time! I want you to give up everything and leave this place by my side. In fact, we’re going to leave the entire Flowermont Commandery, but we will be together. Alright?”

Romantic love and familial love warred with each other. In the end...

Willowriver Chuan had knelt down, kowtowing towards the direction of his clan. “Father. Mother. Elder brother and second brother will have to be filial in my stead. Forgive me for being unfilial! In the future, if I have the chance, I will return.”

“Let’s go.”

That very night, Willowriver Chuan and Eastflow Snow had left their homeland, eloping.

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Book 17: Celestial Immortal Chapter 5: Truesoul

Ji Ning stood there in the wilderness, watching the scene of Willowriver Chuan and Eastflow Snow fleeing that had been created by the temporal inversion. His heart felt heavy...because up until now, everything which had transpired was identical to events as portrayed within the book King Yan had given him.

“Let’s go to the Ninesongs Sword Sect,” Ning said.

“Alright.”

King Yan knew that until Ning saw everything in person, he wouldn’t give up hope. The two immediately teleported forward to the Ninesongs Sword Sect, located in another commandery.

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That year, Chuan and Snow had carefully, slowly departed in a drifting manner. They spent a total of eight years before passing out of the vast Flowermont Commandery and arriving at the Ninesongs Sword Sect. Chuan was very skilled in the sword to begin with, and because they had encountered many dangers over the past eight years, he had improved significantly. His had reached the Zifu Disciple level as a Fiendgod Body refiner, and so he was able to easily enter the Ninesongs Sword Sect as a disciple. As for Eastflow Snow, she had entered by his side as his ‘maidservant’.

The second year after their entry into the Ninesongs Sword Sect. Snow, by relying on a spirit-pill which Chuan had acquired from the sect, was able to break through to the Zifu Disciple level. She, too, was accepted as formal disciple of the Ninesongs Sword Sect.

“This is the place where the Ninesongs Sword Sect used to be.” From his position high up in the air, King Yan pointed downwards towards a giant pile of rubble.

Ning stared at the rubble, his heart sinking.

The rubble spanned tens of thousands of kilometers, and there were quite a few monsters in this area.

“Eastflow Snow...Willowriver Chuan. According to the intelligence reports that I collected, they lived here at Waterflow Peak, which should be right over there.” King Yan quickly flew to a part of the destroyed city. Waving his hand, he caused the many monsters and Diremonsters there to all collapse.

“Temporal inversion.” King Yan once more caused a temporal inversion.

The scene here quickly began to reverse. Several decades of time were reversed.

The scenery here was now incomparably beautiful. There were beautiful mountains and rivers. There was dense spiritual energy here, and Immortal cultivators could be seen everywhere.

“Chuan, you always let me win.” Snow and Chuan were competing in swordplay, but in the end, Chuan always ‘lost’ every match.

“No, it’s that your sword-arts have improved yet again, Snow,” Chuan said with a laugh.

Seeing this, Ning felt a warm feeling in his heart.

“There are three more years before that calamity,” the nearby King Yan told Ning. He controlled the flow of time, speeding it up. Snow and Chuan lived happy lives here at the Ninesongs Sword Sect; they had just joined the school, after all, and it wasn’t yet time for them to go out and adventure. Their life here was like life in paradise.

Soon...three years of time passed within the temporal inversion.

This was a bright, sunny day. The scenery was as beautiful as ever. In truth, the Seamless Gate had already infiltrated the Wusky world several years ago, and the outside world was in a state of chaos. Life within the Ninesongs Sword Sect, however, remained as peaceful and calm as ever.

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

Black sword-light suddenly began to flash.

Willowriver Chuan, wielding twin swords, was currently training in swordplay while comprehending the Dao. Because he was a Fiendgod Body Refiner, he now looked even more handsome and valiant than he had in his past life.

The nearby Eastflow Snow was seated close to him, smiling as she watched. She knew that in her heart, her man continued to long for his homeland, long for his Willowriver clan. However...he had always been worried about Adept Icebreak of the Flowermont Immortal School, and so he continued to wait and endure. He was extremely hard on himself in training sword-arts, becoming one of the best amongst the Zifu Disciples of the Ninesongs Sword Sect. He had long ago reached the level of seeing a hint into the ‘true meaning of the Dao’.

“Chuan, we’ll definitely be able to go back together.” Eastflow Snow missed her father as well.

Suddenly...

A group of black-robed figures appeared in the sky. There were a total of twenty-seven of them, and they almost instantly transformed into three giant black serpents. These three giant black serpents were

more than a thousand kilometers long. Their auras filled the skies, and the entire grand formation that protected the Ninesongs Sword Sect was instantly activated, causing light to flare everywhere.

Rumble...

The world seemed to have collapsed. The formation was only able to stay alive for a few moments, and then it crumbled.

“What’s going on?”

“What happened?”

Many of the weaker, ordinary disciples were completely stunned.

Chuan, however, instantly flew to Snow’s side. He hurriedly said, “Snow, let’s...”

Halfway through their words, a ripple of energy swept past this entire mountain. Some of the Zifu Disciples who were struck head-on by the ripple were instantly reduced to dust, completely unable to fight back. And then, with a booming sound, the entire mountain peak began to collapse. Countless rocks began to fall down, and both Chuan and Snow hurriedly flew away in an attempt to hide.

“Seamless Gate, our Ninesongs Sword Sect has never offended you. Why do you have to annihilate our school?” Several figures had streaked into the skies; it was the Loose Immortals, Earth Immortals, and Primal Daoists of the Ninesongs Sword Sect. They formed together into a grand formation, each of them furious and frantic.

“Just die in peace!”

One of the three massive black serpents spoke out in the human tongue...and then, not bothering to say anything else, they began to fight brashly.

The surrounding space had been completely locked; there was no way to teleport out of it.

“Kill.”

“Kill!”

Unable to escape, the Loose Immortals and Earth Immortals of the Ninesongs Sword Sect led the Primal Daoists to join into a formation. They transformed into a dazzling, titanic sword that did battle against those three giant serpents. However, after clashing just a few times, the titanic sword was completely shattered. More than half of the Loose Immortals, Earth Immortals, and Primal Daoists of the Ninesongs Sword Sect were instantly killed, while the others were all heavily wounded.

“No...”

“Damn!”

The heavily injured Ninesongs Sword Sect experts were all wiped out. The giant black serpents swam about in the skies, utterly destroying the base of the sect, which stretched out more than tens of thousands of kilometers. As for the weaker disciples of the Ninesongs Sword Sect, they were unable to escape and so many of them were butchered without being able to fight back at all.

“Snow...” Willowriver Chuan held Eastflow Snow in his arms, no longer running.

“Chuan...do you regret having left with me?” Tears fell down Eastflow Snow’s face.

“These past twelve years...I’ve truly been very happy. If I had the chance to choose again, I would still choose to come here with you, Snow.” Chuan laughed. “We’ll meet again on the road to the Yellow Springs.”

“Right.” Tears falling down her face, Snow nodded.

Rumble...

A ripple swept out, and the embracing couple of Willowriver Chuan and Eastflow Snow was reduced to dust. Their souls, however, were drawn upwards at high speed by some invisible force. In midair, there was a black gourd that was frantically drawing in all the nearby souls of the slaughtered, including the souls of Chuan and Snow.

Ning just stood there, watching silently.

The nearby King Yan said softly, “The Seamless Gate wanted to tame this commandery, but since they had just arrived, not many joined them. Thus, the Seamless Gate decided to annihilate some smaller schools, so as to frighten the others. While killing countless cultivators, they collected the souls of the slain for usage in forming some evil techniques. If one had millions, ideally hundreds of millions of cultivator souls, one could refine a truly powerful and truly terrifying evil magic treasure, or develop a truly vile divine ability.”

Ning knew this quite well, of course.

“What a pity.” King Yan sighed. “The Seamless Gate is spread throughout the Three Realms, and the power behind them is unfathomably mighty. Even though you have a Daofather as your master...you still probably won’t be able to do anything to them.”

“I’m very calm right now,” Ning said softly.

Although he looked calm...in truth, Ning felt an overpowering desire to kill, one greater than he had ever felt. It was only because he had reached the third level of heartforce, ‘ruler’, that Ning was able to remain calm. However...in his heart, Ning now viewed the Seamless Gate as his most hated of foes. Even the hatred he felt for the Youngflame clan was less than a hundredth of a hundredth of the hatred he felt for the Seamless Gate!

“The. Seamless. Gate.” Ning spoke out three words, enunciating each one.

The nearby King Yan suddenly felt his heart shudder for no reason. He could vaguely sense the killing intent within Ning’s heart...and all he could do was sigh. The Seamless Gate...it was a power that had swept through the entire Three Realms. How could it be so easily dealt with?

“Don’t act foolishly,” King Yan said.

Ning murmured softly to himself, “Even though Father and Mother’s souls have been shattered...in the future, I’m going to train until I become a True God or a Daofather. I’ll find their truesouls in the River of Destiny and bring them back to life.”

King Yan didn't say anything.

Both of them knew that the true essence of all living creatures came from their truesoul. Even if one's soul was shattered, their truesouls would return to the mysterious River of Destiny...but it was far too hard to find a truesoul within it. According to the legends, only Maiden Nuwa, who had reached Pangu's level of power, was capable of this. However...if one became a True God or Daofather then located Maiden Nuwa, they could ask Maiden Nuwa to intervene.

"I wish to make a trip to the Flowermont Immortal School," Ning said calmly. "I want to pay a visit to that Adept Icebreak."

"I'll go with you. I've already collected a report regarding this 'Icebreak'," King Yan said. "He is now a Primal Daoist. Because the Flowermont Immortal School has a Celestial Immortal protecting it, it still exists. That Celestial Immortal is under Daofather Crimsonbright's command, and it can be said that the two of us are on friendly terms. All we have to do is seek out Patriarch Flowermont; he won't care about the life of a puny little Primal Daoist. Patriarch Flowermont can be said to be quite a noble man, righteous and unyielding, which is why the rules of his school are so strict. However, no matter how strict the rules are, it's hard to avoid a few pests from invading."

"I understand. I won't fight with Patriarch Flowermont." Ning nodded.

For every grievance, there is someone responsible for it; for every debt, there is a debtor.

Ning understood this principle. The reason why King Yan had said those words was because he was worried that Ning was going to go fight with the entire Flowermont Immortal School. It must be understood that Ning had once fought all of the Celestial Immortals of the Youngflame clan by himself, eventually killing two of them. Given his power...there was no way the Flowermont Immortal School would be able to resist him.

.....

The Flowermont Immortal School.

This was the number one school of the Flowermont Commandery of the Wusky world. The founding patriarch was Patriarch Flowermont, who remained alive to this very day. It was due to him that the fame of the Flowermont Immortal School was spread far and wide.

"Master."

"Master."

"Master."

A series of maids called out respectfully as the confident, extraordinarily handsome Adept Icebreak walked past them with a smile. Everyone within the Flowermont Immortal School knew that Daoist Icebreak was a gentleman; his only flaw was that he loved beauties! However, he neither stole them nor seized them from others. For a person to have many maids by his side wasn't too major a flaw.

"Autumn Water, you and the rest of the seven, attend me," Daoist Icebreak said.

"Yes."

Seven of the maids immediately assented respectfully. Their hearts, however, were filled with terror and unease. Outsiders were ignorant of this, but they knew exactly how savage and cruel Daoist Icebreak was. Some of the maids that he tortured and ravaged actually died from it! However, Daoist Icebreak would often send the older maids who were no longer beautiful back to their own clans and arrange for them to live good lives. This caused many of the disciples of the Flowermont Immortal School to praise Adept Icebreak for being a passionate, kind man.

Boom! A figure suddenly descended from the skies.

Daoist Icebreak frowned. Who dared to trespass within his territory? But then...

“Headmaster!” Daoist Icebreak was badly shocked. He hurriedly fell to his knees with respect.

“Follow me.” The Headmaster of the Flowermont Immortal School had a cold look on his face. He grabbed Daoist Icebreak, then dragged him into the skies.

Daoist Icebreak was utterly terrified on the way over...because the Headmaster was actually dragging him to the legendary residence of the Patriarch. Patriarch Flowermont was the founding patriarch of the school, a Celestial Immortal! Daoist Icebreak had never even seen him a single time. Why did the Patriarch wish to see him? He had never offended the Patriarch...could it be that he had just been singled out for his talent and was about to be made a personal disciple of the Patriarch?

Upon arriving, Daoist Icebreak saw a yellow-robed man on his knees, quivering.

“Father!” Daoist Icebreak was shocked to see his father, an Earth Immortal. He had always relied on his father to support him within the sect.

“Why haven’t you knelt yet?!” The yellow-robed man roared.

Adept Icebreak sank to his knees with a thud.

Moments later, the courtyard door in front of them creaked open, and three figures emerged.

“My two fellow Daoists...” A black-bearded man spoke with incomparable warmth.

Only now did the kneeling Daoist Icebreak give these three a glance. Although he had never seen the Patriarch before, there were portraits of the Patriarch within the school, and so he recognized right away that this black-bearded elder was Patriarch Flowermont. However...right now, even their founding Patriarch was treating these two guests with incomparable respect.

“Who are those two? Why is the Patriarch behaving so humbly and modestly towards them?” Daoist Icebreak couldn’t understand it.

Patriarch Flowermont, however, just gave the kneeling Daoist Icebreak a sideways glance. A cold look flashed through his eyes; that damned Daoist Icebreak had actually offended Ji Ning! The Wusky major world was one of Daofather Crimsonbright’s worlds, which meant Patriarch Flowermont was one of Daofather Crimsonbright’s Celestial Immortals. Word had long since spread amongst this group of Celestial Immortals that Ji Ning, all by himself, had fought against nine Celestial Immortals of the Youngflame clan, with one of them being Immortal Venomfreak. In the end, Ji Ning had managed to kill two of them, but he had been exiled after a plot caused him to be burned by karmic sinflames.

This news had instantly swept the various worlds, causing the many Celestial Immortals and True Immortals under Daofather Crimsonbright's command to all feel admiration for Ji Ning.

He had trained for less than a century, and he was a Void-level in power...but he had fought against nine Celestial Immortals and killed two of them?!

"He even managed to come back after being exiled into a danger zone while being surrounded by karmic sinflames. A monster like this...his personal power is far greater than mine, while his background and his potential is even more astonishing." Patriarch Flowermont naturally was enraged that Daoist Icebreak had caused his school to become enemies with this man.

"Fellow Daoist Ji Ning, I truly feel ashamed that my school has given birth to such a vile miscreant! I've already summoned Daoist Icebreak. You choose what to do with him! Whether it is to simply kill him or to torture his soul for millions of years...fellow Daoist Ji Ning, do as you please!" Patriarch Flowermont said.

[The Desolate Era](#)

Book 17: Celestial Immortal Chapter 6: The Curtains Are Raised

Daoist Icebreak knelt there. He felt as though freezing icewater had just been poured across his entire body. He felt extremely cold, and his face had turned white. Kill him? Torture him? Torment his soul? Daoist Icebreak repeatedly kowtowed, smashing his forehead against the ground until blood began to pour from it. He screamed frantically, "Patriarch, Patriarch! Two seniors! Spare me, spare me! I've definitely never offended this senior, Ji Ning. Someone must have framed me. Framed me!"

Ji Ning just stood there, staring at the terrified, kneeling Daoist Icebreak. He was very calm.

The nearby King Yan, however, did speak out. "If I say you deserve to die, then you deserve to die!"

Daoist Icebreak's heart trembled.

Right.

Even a Celestial Immortal like Patriarch Flowermont was so respectful of these two. If they wanted to kill him...did they even really need to give a good excuse?

The yellow-robed man knelt there by his side. He loved his son, but he didn't dare to say a single word. He knew what sort of terrifying situation they were currently facing.

"Even if I have to die...senior, please tell me what I've done, exactly!" Daoist Icebreak was still frantically trying to find a way to survive. He suppressed his terror as he raised his head to look towards Ning. He had to find out what this was all about. Only when he understood the reason behind this could he explain and argue back. Otherwise, there was no way for him to even argue about it!

"In recent years...you've harmed quite a few mortals, haven't you." Ning's voice was very calm. His eyes were very calm as well.

Daoist Icebreak's body shook. He immediately collapsed supinely to the ground, a look of utter despair on his face.

Mortals?

Even he himself didn't know how many woman had fallen into his hands, then been ravaged to death by him. Forget about mortals; even quite a few female cultivators had fallen into his hands. However...he had never left behind any traces.

"Who...who is this youth, that even the Patriarch must be wary of? Which mortal was he connected to? Little Sparrow? Nuan'er? Dongyou?" One figure after another flashed through Daoist Icebreak's mind. These were images of the woman who had suffered under him that he remembered the most keenly.

"You harmed so many that you can't even guess?" Ning said softly, "Then think it over, slowly, in Purgatory."

A strange ripple suddenly reached Daoist Icebreak's body. Daoist Icebreak's body trembled. A look of despair and terror appeared in his eyes...and he stopped moving. His soul instantly flew out from his body. What Ning had just done was to hypnotize him, then forcibly rip his soul out of his body. A black bottle appeared in Ning's hand which instantly sucked Daoist Icebreak's soul into it. Green flames could vaguely be seen blazing within the bottle.

The kneeling, yellow-robed man stared at the flames in the bottle. His heart instantly shuddered. "Son...your father didn't discipline you well enough." He understood what his son's flaws were, and he often urged his son to do better. Daoist Icebreak was always quite obedient in front of him...but as soon as he turned his head, Icebreak would go back to his old ways. All he did was hide it even better.

In the end, he felt that since his son focused on mortals, it shouldn't make much of a difference, and so he didn't reprimand his son too strongly.

"If one often walks by the riverside, one's shoes will eventually get wet. He did too many evil deeds...one might be able to avoid retribution for a time, but no one can avoid retribution forever." Only now did the yellow-robed man truly understand this saying. The righteous laws of Heaven applied to all men, and the wheel of karma turned without end; both had their own ways of punishing the wicked.

"Fellow Daoist Ji Ning, this Daoist Icebreak has committed countless vile deeds. The only reason why this vile miscreant was able to live so long was because I didn't maintain a firm enough grip over my disciples. Daoist Icebreak's father, 'Yangfish', is right here as well. Without his father's protection, how would this vile miscreant have dared to act so boldly? Fellow Daoist Ji Ning, punish him as you see fit; there's no need to worry about me!" Patriarch Flowermont said.

A mere Void-level Earth Immortal truly meant very little to a Celestial Immortal.

Ning gave the yellow-robed man a glance.

King Yan had collected intelligence reports regarding both Daoist Icebreak and his father, and Ning had read them all. Daoist Icebreak was a hypocrite and a false gentleman who had done many vile deeds in secret, harming many people. His father, however, could be considered a righteous man. He didn't do evil deeds and was quite an admirable person, and was also quite talented, which was why he had become a Void-level Earth Immortal. His only personality flaw was that he doted on his son too much.

"Let's go," Ning said to King Yan, then turned to look at Patriarch Flowermont. "Fellow Daoist Flowermont, we've disturbed you long enough. We'll go back to the Grand Xia now."

“Sure, sure.” Patriarch Flowermont smiled. “If you have free time, come and visit our Wusky world again.”

King Yan expressed his thanks as well, then he and Ning flew away on a cloud. They left the Flowermont Immortal School, then used a spatial teleport to leave.

After they left, Patriarch Flowermont’s face sank down as he looked at the yellow-robed man. “Yangfish, you failed as a father. Your son nearly caused our school a huge disaster. As the person who shielded him this entire time, you have to be punished. End your own life and go reincarnate.”

The yellow-robed man trembled. He didn’t dare to argue back; he immediately kowtowed, then his body imploded. Even his goldlotus primal soul dissipated. A wind blew past his body...and it completely dissipated, leaving behind no traces. His soul, escorted by the Dao of the Heavens, was sent to the minor Netherworld right away.

“Patriarch.” Only now did the nearby Flowermont Immortal School’s leader speak out. “Why did you order Yangfish to die? Didn’t senior Ji Ning decide to spare him?”

“The reason why fellow Daoist Ji Ning didn’t act against him was because he didn’t want to act against someone who wasn’t directly responsible.” Patriarch Flowermont shook his head. “However...what if Yangfish was to harbor hatred in his heart and, overestimating his abilities, tried to exact revenge in some form against Ji Ning? That would cause an utter disaster for our Flowermont Immortal School. In addition...although fellow Daoist Ji Ning seemed to have left, who knows if he secretly felt hatred for Yangfish or not? If I didn’t kill him...fellow Daoist Ji Ning might harbor a grudge! Thus, it is better to kill him....that way, fellow Daoist Ji Ning wouldn’t hold a grudge against me.”

The Headmaster now understood how carefully the Patriarch was behaving. He immediately asked, “Patriarch, who in the world is this Ji Ning, that you act so carefully around him? I took a careful look at him earlier, but I didn’t find any Immortal spirit-qi around him; he shouldn’t be a Celestial Immortal.”

The Patriarch gave him a glance. “He is not a Celestial Immortal; he is merely a Void-level Fiendgod. However, he was able to fight against nine mighty Celestial Immortals of the Youngflame clan in the world of the Grand Xia, and he even killed two of them. In addition...he was able to survive even the descent of karmic sinflames! Despite being merely at the Void-level, it wouldn’t be hard for him to wipe out our entire Flowermont Immortal School...and he is the disciple of a Daofather!”

“The disciple of a Daofather?!” The Headmaster had been feeling stunned by Ning’s power, but upon hearing this, he was truly terrified.

“Now do you understand?” Patriarch Flowermont said calmly, “Be it due to his power, his potential, or his background...I have to be careful around him.”

.....

The two had teleported back to the world of the Grand Xia.

The world of the Grand Xia. Stillwater Commandery. The Black-White College. Ji Ning and King Yan both appeared in the skies above the College. They then flew towards Yu Wei’s residence.

It was late in the afternoon, almost nightfall.

“Junior apprentice-brother.”

“Little brother.”

Yu Wei and Yuchi Xiyue were waiting for them in the courtyard.

Ning nodded lightly. He didn't feel the slightest bit of joy for having killed Daoist Icebreak. All he felt in his heart was pain...and an endless amount of hatred towards the Seamless Gate!

“Senior apprentice-sister...prepare some food. I'm going to eat a bit, then take a rest,” Ning said. “The Seamless Gate already sent their final diplomatic note; their attacks will come very soon. We need to make as many preparations as we can.”

“Alright.” Yu Wei could tell that Ning was in a terrible mood, and so she acceded to his request.

That night, during dinner. Xiyue did her best to bring up interesting topics so as to help improve Ning's mood. Yu Wei did her best to help out as well. Ning forced out a smile, but his smile caused Xiyue and Yu Wei to both sigh inside. “The only thing we can do is wait for time to heal all wounds.”

Only later that night did Ning say a few things to Yu Wei, a few words from the bottom of his heart.

“This world is filled with injustices, and I'm unable to address them all. The countless cultivators and mortals of the world are all unable to address them all. The only ones who can change the world...are the likes of my master, and the other major powers who stand at the very top of the universe,” Ning said. “Right now, I, Ji Ning, am helpless to change this world...but after I become a True God or a Daofather, I'll have a chance to change things.”

“I want to stand at the peak, to change everything. I want to protect you...protect our future children....protect the ones I love.” Ning sat there on a dais, Yu Wei in his arms. “I want to stand at the peak!”

“I want to change everything!”

“But first...I have to be strong enough.”

Ning raised his head to stare at the crescent moon in the skies.

Yu Wei looked at Ning. She could sense a terrifying determination within this youth's heart.

“The more ambitions you have, the more accomplishments you will have.” This was something that she had once heard. It was within a dark region, where countless figures had been prostrating themselves, Yu Wei one of them. The ruler of that black region had spoken these words.

In this moment, as she lay next to Ning, Yu Wei understood the true meaning of those words that had been spoken by that terrifying figure.

A powerful heart...would have the power to change destiny itself.

“Perhaps...junior apprentice-brother truly will become a True God or a Daofather,” Yu Wei said quietly to herself. “By then...will I still be by his side? Will I still be accompanying him?”

.....

In the coming days, Celestial Immortal Unity of Stillwater City, Immortal Diancai, Yu Wei, and Ji Ning all began to make their preparations. They familiarized themselves with the formations protecting Stillwater City. Ning's Primaltwin completely focused on meditating on the Dao, searching for the way to apply heartforce to Immortal swords! Previously, in the Nihilum Zone, Ning had only developed a way to apply heartforce to his sword-fingers.

There were a few differences between using sword-fingers and actual swords. Still...since both involved sword-arts, Ning was able to grasp the essence of it right away. However, he needed some time to reach a perfect level of mastery in it.

Ning felt eager...because once his Primaltwin completely mastered the art of applying heartforce to swords, he would undergo his Celestial Tribulation!

.....

The Fifth World. The enormous, castle-like city, filled with countless towering edifices. The most towering edifice was the one where only Empyrean Gods or True Immortals could enter.

Within an enormous palace.

Scorching flames blazed in the very center of the palace. Surrounding the center, there were three massive thrones, with an azure-robed, white-skinned woman seated in the central throne. To her left sat a fire-robed man, while to her right sat a skinny, monkey-like elder.

"The Mount Stele major world has already been occupied. Only a few scattered pockets of resistance remain." The azure-robed woman's voice had a magnetic, soul-penetrating quality to it. "We can begin to transfer our forces over and truly begin to act against the world of the Grand Xia."

"The power of the world of the Grand Xia...Mount Stele can't begin to compare to it." The skinny elder said in a low voice, "Our Bloodcloud Hall has infiltrated the Grand Xia, and I've even personally investigated it several times. The power of the Grand Xia Dynasty caused even me to feel shocked! Don't forget that behind him stands Daofather Crimsonbright and Daofather Raindragon, as well as the Primordial Imperial Clan!"

"The human Imperial Clan...would they truly initiate a final battle against us for the sake of one of their branches?" The azure-robed woman shook her head. "They will not."

"But the human Imperial Clan of the Primordial Era will send reinforcements," the skinny elder warned. "Although we'll be able to send over our forces from the Mount Stele world and many other places, I keep on having this feeling...that it is going to be dangerous, very dangerous. The world of the Grand Xia...this is probably the most powerful major world under the command of Daofather Crimsonbright."

The azure-robed woman looked at the fire-robed man.

The fire-robed man laughed. "Don't look at me. My Myriad Demons Cave is only responsible for manufacturing golems. The question of how to attack the world of the Grand Xia is the primary responsibility of your Seamless Gate."

"Do you think I'm unaware of how hard it will be for us to deal with the Grand Xia world?" The azure-robed woman looked sideways at the skinny elder. "This time...we'll act against more than half of the

commandery cities of the Grand Xia as a test. This will be our first test, our first initial clash that comes before the true war. After the test, after we've gathered enough information...the final battle between our sides will begin."

"Mm. And when do you plan to move?" The skinny elder asked.

"Ten days from now! We'll send out two thousand units to attack in unison!" A cold light flashed through the azure-robed woman's eyes.

The Hallmaster of Bloodcloud Hall and the Cavemaster of the Myriad Demons Cave both turned solemn. They had a feeling of tremendous pressure.

Finally...

They were finally going to act against the world of the Grand Xia, the toughest nut to crack of them all!

[The Desolate Era](#)

Book 17: Celestial Immortal Chapter 7: The Grand Army Mobilizes

It was a blazing summer day. The world seemed to have turned into a gigantic furnace; only late at night did things cool down a bit.

Ji Ning and Yu Wei were standing at the top of a tower within their mountain peak estate. From this location, they could see nearly half of the entire Stillwater City.

"It's been half a year since the Seamless Gate sent out that final note, but they still have yet to move. We have to wait carefully every day...I wonder how long they'll keep us waiting?" Ning said.

"Right now, Stillwater City doesn't just have Sword Immortal Unity; it also has you, junior apprentice-brother. You were able to fight back against nine mighty Celestial Immortals and slay two of them. Now that eighteen years have gone past, they probably have guessed that your power has risen yet again. How could the Seamless Gate behave rashly? They naturally need to make many preparations. To spend half a year in preparations to fight a Celestial Immortal who nearly has the power of a Pure Yang True Immortal, and who is supported by a peerlessly talented monster...it makes sense." Yu Wei continued, "In addition, the more time passes...the more powerful their strike shall most likely be."

Ning nodded. "I understand."

"Junior apprentice-brother." Yu Wei looked at Ning, then said solemnly, "You absolutely must not underestimate the Seamless Gate."

"Haha. Senior apprentice-sister, don't worry. Last time, I ended up suffering mightily at the hands of the Youngflame clan. I've learned from that. This time...I definitely won't be overconfident again." Ning smiled. In recent days, Yu Wei had often reminded him to be careful, to be cautious. It seemed as though the Youngflame clan's exile of him to the Void had caused her to fear something similar would reoccur.

Ning felt warmed and comforted by this sort of concern.

During the past half year, Ning had more than half-mastered the art of applying heartforce to his Immortal swords. Given a bit more time, he would have fully mastered it. Given that he was experienced

in applying heartforce to his sword-fingers, his rate of improvement was quite quick. In addition, Ning also noticed that his rate of improvement in comprehending the Dao of the Sword had been incredibly fast during this past half year. Clearly, his comprehension of the first level of swordforce, which had allowed him to touch upon the innate essence of the sword, had given him a straight path towards fully understanding the Dao of the Sword.

Rumble...

Suddenly, a streak of coresense shot out.

Yu Wei's face changed slightly.

Seeing this, Ning glanced at the skies. "Is it your turn to stand guard, senior apprentice-sister?"

"Yes." Yu Wei nodded.

"Sword Immortal Unity truly is cautious; at every moment of every day, he's using his coresense to cover the entire Stillwater City. Every day, our three Celestial Immortals will rotate in this duty, ensuring there is always perfect coverage." Ning sighed. "As long as the Seamless Gate dares to draw close...there will be no way they can hide it from us at all."

"We are in the light, while they are in the dark; we naturally must be cautious," Yu Wei said. "We are also the weaker side to begin with; if we are overconfident, we'll be in true danger."

Ning nodded. "They've been preparing for so long. I really wonder what sorts of methods the Seamless Gate is preparing."

"When they come, they will strike as swiftly as the thunder," Yu Wei said solemnly.

Ning gave Yu Wei a glance. Of the three Celestial Immortals, Yu Wei was the most pessimistic of the lot. Her attitude had an impact on Ning and the others, causing them to become even more careful. For example, the usage of coresense to keep continual oversight over the city; in truth, this was an extremely tiring thing! Fortunately, their three Celestial Immortals rotated through this duty, which was why they were able to maintain this policy.

While Ji Ning and the forces of Stillwater City were waiting carefully, keeping their coresense spread over the city at all times...on this summer night, the grand army of the Seamless Gate finally began to make their move.

With that black, foggy cave.

Whoosh!

A group of masked, golden-robed figures flew out from the cave, then immediately dispersed into many small squads. They executed a void blink technique and disappeared.

.....

A mysterious teleportation array within a gorge...suddenly flashed.

A large group of masked, golden-robed men immediately appeared within the array. They, too, separated into many small squads, then quickly teleported away to various locations.

.....

Deep within a region of rippling fog, two golden-robed figures appeared.

.....

In almost the same instant, two thousand squads had silently arrived at the world of the Grand Xia. They all dispersed towards their respective targets.

Within a desolate, wild region.

Two golden-robed figures were standing amidst the grass, message talismans in their hands.

“Big brother, thank goodness we joined the Seamless Gate rather than stay with the Xia Emperor. The Seamless Gate really is far too powerful. Their headquarters in the Fifth World...good heavens! We’ve seen over a million Celestial Immortals gathered together in an amazing display of power, but that represented almost all of the Celestial Immortals which Daofather Crimsonbright commands. But the Fifth World...heh heh, it definitely has at least as many Celestial Immortals as Daofather Crimsonbright does! In fact, when we went to go pay our respects to the Gatemaster of the Seamless Gate, a True Immortal, he told us that those largest, most towering of edifices were meant for Empyrean Gods and True Immortals to reside in. How many Empyrean Gods and True Immortals does that represent?!”

“Haha, third brother, don’t be frightened by the words of the Gatemaster. Yes, the power of the Fifth World is inconceivable...but there were more than a thousand of those towering edifices. I refuse to believe they have more than a thousand Empyrean Gods or True Immortals! In addition, I imagine that the Fifth World has most likely prepared multiple palaces for everyone at the level of the Gatemaster. Some are used for resting, some are used for training and meditation, some are used for receiving guests...and so if you calculate it that way, the number isn’t that terrifying.” The more heavysset golden-robed figure said, “However...that Fifth World truly is one of their headquarters with awesome power. They actually dared to gather so many forces there...that means they are at least capable of withstanding a Daofather. Otherwise, the Daofathers would’ve wiped them out long ago.”

“Right.” The other golden-robed man nodded.

“If the Fifth World used its full power against the world of the Grand Xia, they would probably be able to annihilate it in just a few days. But the Fifth World needs to assault many major worlds; it is the principal responsibility of that Gatemaster of the Seamless Gate to assault our Grand Xia,” the heavysset golden-robed man said.

“Only after we completely surrendered were we trusted enough to be allowed to go to the Fifth World,” the skinnier golden-robed figure said. “Now...this time, the Gatemaster assigned us to deal with the Flamedoor Commandery, and instructed us to fight with that female Immortal of the Flamedoor Commandery. However...it’s only meant to be an act, a mock-fight.”

“No need to even think about it; she’s probably joined the Seamless Gate as well. That’s why we are only going to put on a show of fighting her,” the heavysset golden-robed man said. “What’s true is false; what’s false is true. Only when the waters are muddied can one fish from them in secret. So long as Flamedoor Commandery comes under attack, the Xia Emperor will probably feel much less suspicion towards that female Immortal of the commandery.”

“Right. This time, we’ve been told that two thousand squads numbering more than ten thousand people have been sent out. I wonder how many are Celestial Immortals and how many are Loose Immortals? And how many are joinees like us, while how many were members of the Seamless Gate to begin with?”

“Who cares? That’s not for us to know or worry about.”

“Right. Still...why haven’t the talismans shattered yet?”

Both of them were holding a message talisman. Once the talisman shattered, it meant that the time had come for them to make their move!

They were waiting a few tens of thousands of kilometers outside of Flamedoor City; they’d be able to arrive there with a single void blink. They just needed the order.

Crack!

The talismans shattered.

The faces of both figures instantly changed. No longer in the mood to chat, they immediately void blinked towards Flamedoor City.

Deep within a foggy region outside Flamedoor City. A total of eighteen figures had appeared atop the clouds, each of whom were dressed in golden robes. However, their golden robes were slightly different from ordinary golden robes. Their golden robes were all covered with various decorations such as flowers, Godbeasts, clouds, mountains, and other things.

All of their auras were extraordinary.

“Everyone, per the orders of the Gatemaster, I shall lead you all today,” Celestial Immortal Violetgrass said. “I know that I am lacking in experience, and so I’d like to ask everyone to be patient with me.”

“Little sister Violetgrass, although you haven’t trained for very long, your talent is exceptional. You are now amongst the top-tier Celestial Immortals, comparable to the rest of us; I imagine that in the future, we’ll be asking you to take care of us!”

This was the response from the other Celestial Immortals.

They all knew quite well that Celestial Immortal Violetgrass was heavily doted upon by the Gatemaster, and she was also protected by Celestial Immortal Blackheaven and many other powerful figures. It was guaranteed that in the future, her status would be higher than theirs.

“This time, the Gatemaster has sent out two thousand squads; this shall be the final time we test the enemy’s strength in detail, with the true war against the Grand Xia to begin right afterwards. The purpose of all this is to get a good sense of any powers or abilities the Grand Xia is hiding. The mission of almost every squad is to probe the our foes, with a few squads meant for putting on a show; only very, very few squads are meant to wipe out the foes!” Celestial Immortal Violetgrass swept them with her gaze as she said solemnly, “And our squad...is one of those meant to wipe out our foes!”

“Celestial Immortal Unity is too stubborn; there’s no way he’ll bend the neck for us,” Violetgrass said.

“He is incredibly powerful, and he might break through to the Pure Yang True Immortal level at any moment. His ability to wait and endure is also incredible; if we just let him do as he pleases, he’ll most

likely become a major impediment to the Seamless Gate's subjugation of the Grand Xia. Since we can't recruit him...then we have to eliminate him!"

The Xia Emperor wasn't sure about the loyalties of many Celestial Immortals; for example, he couldn't be sure if even the capture of Celestial Immortal Hunchmont was part of an act or not. The Seamless Gate, however, knew everything! They knew that they truly had captured Hunchmont and had used everything they could think of to force Unity to capitulate...but alas, all their efforts had failed.

"At present, Stillwater City has Celestial Immortal Unity, Immortal Diancai, the Rainbowflame Fairy, and Sword Immortal Darknorth, also known as Ji Ning." Violetgrass said seriously, "Immortal Diancai and the Rainbowflame Fairy are fairly weak; they aren't worth mentioning. Celestial Immortal Unity and Sword Immortal Darknorth, however, are no ordinary figures. If Celestial Immortal Unity was by himself, there would be no need at all for the eighteen of us to join forces...but now, Sword Immortal Darknorth has emerged."

The other seventeen all nodded.

They had all received reports regarding Sword Immortal Darknorth, Ji Ning. Prior to this, they had been battling across other major worlds. Only after being gathered here had they received Ji Ning's intelligence report...and after reading it, they had been badly shocked.

Sword Immortal Darknorth...Ji Ning!

The champion of the Conclave of Immortal Destiny, a disciple of one of the most supreme Daofathers of the Three Realms, a practitioner of the [Eight-Nine Arcane Art], a wielder of astonishing sword-arts, a possessor of incredible divine abilities, and who had been able to fight nine Celestial Immortals of the Youngflame clan as a Void-level Earth Immortal...and kill two of them! Although he had trained for less than a century, he was able to survive even the descent of karmic sinflames; he truly was an incomparably astonishing talent.

"Everyone present is a supreme Celestial Immortal, and you are all skilled in using the formation which the Godking created. The eighteen of us are able to somewhat unleash the power of this formation; it should be enough to dominate anyone below the Empyrean God or True Immortal level." Violetgrass said solemnly, "Everyone already has a copy of the plan; we must act in accordance with it. We have to be careful, to tread lightly. If we are overconfident...then Celestial Immortal Unity and Sword Immortal Darknorth will be able to escape!"

"Of course."

"If the eighteen of us fail even when fighting together...once word spreads, we would have no face at all."

They had all reached Celestial Immortal Infatuation's level of power; in fact, some were even slightly stronger.

The eighteen of them joining forces was a more terrifying prospect than a hundred ordinary Celestial Immortals joining forces! These were the true elites of the Seamless Gate; only when the Seamless Gate encountered a truly thorny foe would it send out these elites.

The eighteen Celestial Immortals waited there within the fog, waited for the final order to come. The two thousand squads had to strike at the same time!

A short while later...

Crack!

The message talismans in the hands of the eighteen Celestial Immortals simultaneously shattered!

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Book 17: Celestial Immortal Chapter 8: Celestial Immortal Unity

“Let’s go.” Upon seeing the message talisman shatter, a cold light flashed through Celestial Immortal Violetgrass’ eyes. She immediately gave the order.

Whoosh!

Eighteen figures flew towards Stillwater City at high speed, riding the clouds. They were hidden fairly close to Stillwater City to begin with. Once they reached a distance of three thousand kilometers away from Stillwater City, their faces all changed.

“Coresense!”

“A Celestial Immortal from Stillwater City is keeping watch with coresense.”

“We’ve been discovered!”

The eighteen Celestial Immortals all had a bad feeling. They had guessed that Celestial Immortal Unity would be very cautious, but they had never expected this! It had been more than half a year since the final note had been sent...could it be that Celestial Immortal Unity had been maintaining his coresense watch for all that time?

In truth, even though Immortal Diancai, the Rainbowflame Fairy, and Celestial Immortal Unity rotated through this duty, it was still exhausting. Thus, they didn’t cover too much area with their coresense, just the entirety of Stillwater City and three thousand kilometers around it!

It must be understood that given how strong Celestial Immortals were, even the weakest of them would be able to easily stretch their coresense out to a hundred thousand kilometers. But of course, that could only be maintained for a short period of time.

“Although Celestial Immortal Unity is being quite cautious...that is as we expected,” Violetgrass sent mentally.

“Right.” The other Celestial Immortals weren’t worried.

“Let’s attack from here. No need to advance any further.” Violetgrass gave the order, and the eighteen Celestial Immortals descended from the skies into the desolate wilderness.

Violetgrass released her own coresense, reaching out to touch the coresense of the Celestial Immortal within Stillwater City. Since they had been discovered, there was no need to hide themselves any further. “Unity, our Seamless Gate has arrived. Hurry up and surrender!”

.....

Night.

Stillwater City.

“The Seamless Gate has arrived!” Yu Wei sent this mental message through coresense. Instantly, two other figures flew into the skies and towards her at high speed. One was Celestial Immortal Unity, who flew out from the Marquis Estate; the other was Immortal Diancai. As for Ji Ning...he had been with Yu Wei this entire time.

The entire Stillwater City was merely nine thousand kilometers long, and the Marquis Estate was fairly close to the Black-White College; they were able to instantly assemble.

“They came?” Celestial Immortal Unity landed, his eyes filled with a shocking desire for battle.

“Right. They are three thousand kilometers away from the east gate of Stillwater City,” Yu Wei said.

“Once they saw my coresense, they immediately landed. They haven’t advanced any further.”

Celestial Immortal Unity laughed, his laughter filled with a savage killing intent. “Three thousand kilometers? That’s enough! They’ve already entered the range of our formations.”

“Fellow Daoist Unity,” Immortal Diancai said hurriedly, “The actual city of Stillwater City was created by the Grand Xia Dynasty; it innately contains tremendous power, and is also filled with many formations. If they don’t enter the city proper, there’s no way for us to use the innate formations that are built into the city; we can only use the formations which the Northmont clan have laid down. Those formations are significantly weaker; at most, we’ll be able to slow them down a bit.”

“That’s already enough,” Celestial Immortal Unity said with a laugh. “The Seamless Gate is very cautious; there’s no way they’d be so stupid as to rush straight into the city proper. Activate the formations right now and take control over them.”

“Alright.” Yu Wei and Immortal Diancai both nodded.

Both of them were Celestial Immortals; when one used Celestial Immortal-level power to activate a formation, the strength of the formation would increase markedly.

.....

Celestial Immortal Violetgrass and the other seventeen Celestial Immortals stood there within the wilderness, quietly staring at that massive city. Although they were three thousand kilometers away, they could still see it with the naked eye.

Rumble...

Suddenly, the world itself seemed to change.

Although it was night...an enormous cloud of fire suddenly appeared in the air above the entire city of Stillwater. Immediately afterwards, the world itself shook. First, an enormous barrier of light appeared, covering the entirety of Stillwater City as well as a region of nearly nine thousand kilometers around it! This grand sealing formation had a diameter of eighteen thousand kilometers!

“A sealing formation?” Celestial Immortal Violetgrass swept it with a glance; this grand formation had trapped the nearby mountains, forests, and wilderness as well. Since they were three thousand kilometers away from the city, they were naturally included within the formation.

Whoosh.

Fog began to billow out.

Space began to distort.

The eighteen Celestial Immortals, however, remained quite calm. Violetgrass had seen many things and had an extraordinary status, while the other seventeen had engaged in wars of conquest across other major worlds; they had plenty of experience in these things. They could immediately tell that this sort of grand formation would at most be able to slow them down a bit, but wouldn't be able to have much of an impact. In truth, it wasn't too likely that clans like the Northmont clan of Stillwater could have excessively powerful formations!

“There's no need for us to take things head-on for now,” Violetgrass sent mentally. “Given how proud Celestial Immortal Unity is...once he's trapped us here, he'll definitely take the initiative to attack us. If he truly is so cowardly as to refuse to come out...then we'll use our formation to break through his formation with overpowering force.”

“Right.”

“Don't worry.”

These Celestial Immortals were neither overconfident nor in a rush.

For the sake of killing Celestial Immortal Unity, they had made very detailed preparations. However, at their level...in the end, what mattered the most was power! Thus, the eighteen which the Seamless Gate had gathered here today had more than enough power to slay Celestial Immortal Unity and give him no way to escape.

.....

The walls of Stillwater City.

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh! Four figures descended upon them; Celestial Immortal Unity, Immortal Diancai, Ji Ning, and Yu Wei. Through their control over the formation, Ji Ning and the others were able to see through the bewildering fog and find those eighteen distant Celestial Immortals, even though those eighteen themselves couldn't even tell north from south.

“There's actually eighteen of them?” Immortal Diancai was startled. He gave Unity a glance. “Fellow Daoist Unity, last time you defeated a combined team of thirty-six Celestial Immortals. This time, even though they know that my disciple Ji Ning has returned, they actually have only sent eighteen? It seems as though these eighteen are definitely extraordinary Celestial Immortals.”

Ning said, “Fellow Daoist Unity, the Seamless Gate has come with ill intentions. The two of us should fight together; I'll fight in close combat, while you attack from far away. If we join forces...”

“No need.” Unity shook his head.

Years ago, when Ning had first met Unity, he had referred to him as 'senior'. However, now that Ning was famous for having fought nine Celestial Immortals head-on and killing two of them, Ning clearly had power comparable to that of a supreme Celestial Immortal. When also factoring in the fact that the Black-White College was his principle source of assistance in dealing with this assault from the Seamless Gate...Unity was naturally no longer willing to allow Ning and the others to refer to him as 'senior'.

However, in their hearts, Ning and Immortal Diancai continued to feel great reverence for this senior of theirs, Unity.

"No need?" Ning was surprised.

"This battle today is primarily the culmination of my feud with the Seamless Gate," Unity said. "Your Black-White College has already helped me by maintaining a coresense watch for half a year, and you are helping me right now by maintaining this formation. I already feel very grateful for all of this. In this battle with the Seamless Gate...there's no need for you to intervene! The Seamless Gate has definitely prepared many techniques to deal with me, and they must feel confident in their chances. Then if you were to go...I don't want to sound rude, but if you go, your chances of death are very high."

Immortal Diancai and Yu Wei both nodded slowly.

Right.

They knew exactly how formidable Celestial Immortal Unity was; he was almost as strong as a Pure Yang True Immortal! To kill someone like this...the Seamless Gate had to prepare an even more powerful force. If the two of them went, they truly might die if they weren't careful.

"But isn't that going to make things even more dangerous for you, fellow Daoist?" Immortal Diancai asked hurriedly.

"Hahaha, they have their tricks...but so do I!" Unity said confidently, "They've never forced me to the point of going all out before."

Immortal Diancai nodded slowly. Right. Unity had hidden himself away for countless eons, and almost everyone in the Three Realms had thought him to be dead. How strong, exactly, had he become over the course of so many years? Aside from Unity himself, most likely no one else knew.

"Fellow Daoist Unity, even a lion fighting against a rabbit should use all his might," Ning said hurriedly. "The two of them are Ki Refiners, but I am a Fiendgod Body Refiner..."

"No need." Unity frowned. Upon seeing Ning persevere, he added, "If you go, you'll actually slow me down."

Ning blinked.

"Friends of the Black-White College, just watch me butcher them." Unity immediately transformed into a streak of white light as he flew far away.

"Ji Ning, the reason why senior Unity spoke so rudely was because he doesn't want you to go," Immortal Diancai said. "He's a proud, solitary figure by nature; we've already helped him a lot, and he doesn't want to accept our help any further."

"I understand. I'm not angry at all." Ning stared off into the distance. "Let's watch senior Unity battle the Seamless Gate first. If he really does fall into a dangerous situation, I can intervene then."

"Junior apprentice-brother, don't be rash. Watch first." Yu Wei stared off into the distance as well. "Get a sense for exactly how strong they are. If the Seamless Gate is too powerful...there's no need for us to throw our lives away."

"I understand." Ning nodded.

.....

Violetgrass and the other seventeen Celestial Immortals completely ignored the surrounding fog, as well as the illusory images that appeared around them. Suddenly...Violetgrass frowned slightly.

"Assemble into formation," Violetgrass sent mentally. "Baxia."

Instantly, the eighteen Celestial Immortals moved into formation. Six floated in the air while the other twelve remained standing on the ground. At the same time, they began to use their Immortal energy to manifest black tattoo lines. The lines quickly intersected, causing black runes to levitate into the air. Instantly, a blurry light began to cover the eighteen, slowly solidifying into the form of an enormous black Dragonturtle. The Dragonturtle lay there on the ground, raising its head upwards and letting out a ferocious howl.

Roaaaaaar!

The draconic roar echoed throughout the world, causing even the surrounding mist to somewhat disperse.

"Baxia the Dragonturtle, one of the Nine Sons of the Dragon?" A clear voice rang out as the mist part in front of them. Space solidified, and a long-haired man appeared standing in the air. He no longer looked as ordinary and low-key as he usually did; rather, he looked like a sharp, unsheathed sword that had revealed its fierceness. The long-haired man roared with laughter, "The Baxia Dragonturtle Formation, a formation that manifests one of the Primordial Godbeasts...quite a formidable formation, and one that is suited for defense. This is the perfect counter for me."

"Unity, you still have a chance to join our Seamless Gate," Violetgrass said coldly.

"Oh?" Unity shook his head. "As a person...I really hate it when others try to force me to do something. I'd rather die standing than live kneeling. Come, then...receive a blow from my sword!"

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh

Six streaks of sword-light shot out from Celestial Immortal Unity's head. As they flew through the air, the six streaks began to merge together. Countless runes of light sparkled and flashed as the six Immortal swords completely fused into a single massive broadsword. The broadsword flashed with a white light that caused the hearts of those who saw it to turn cold; this was was the legendary 'Supreme Immortal Sword'.

"Arise." Unity had an icy look on his face as he unleashed a sword-art that he had never before used in battle.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

Suddenly, within a hundred kilometers of this area, five pillars of light appeared and soared into the skies. These five pillars of light were gold, green, blue, crimson, and yellow, while above the enormous Supreme Immortal Sword appeared two enormous clouds, one white and one black. These two clouds circled and swirled around each other, looking like an enormous Taiji symbol.

The power of this stance was so great that the faces of Violetgrass and the eighteen Celestial Immortals all changed.

“The intelligence report never mentioned such a powerful sword-art!” One of the Celestial Immortals couldn’t help but sent a frantic mental message to the others.

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Book 17: Celestial Immortal Chapter 9: Ji Ning! Ji Ning!

“Our Baxia Dragonturtle Formation can definitely defend against it,” Celestial Immortal Violetgrass sent frantically. “Let’s make our move as well. Fight back! Kill him!”

As Celestial Immortal Unity used his sword-art, the eighteen enemy Celestial Immortals all activated their own magic treasures as well. They had used the Baxia Dragonturtle Formation and had pooled their Immortal energy together, causing their strength to increase. Now, every single one of them was capable of exploding forth with power comparable to Ji Ning’s, back before Ji Ning suffered the descent of karmic sinflames.

All sorts of colors began to flash in the skies as many magic treasures and spells shot out like a meteor shower, slicing through the air and striking towards Unity.

“The Five Elements are the foundation, the Taiji serves as the guide...this is my Supreme Immortal Swordland.” Light flashed in Unity’s eyes, so dense as to seem almost material. His voice rang out loudly, and the enormous Supreme Immortal Sword within the skies began to come crashing downwards. As it pressed downwards...the enormous Taiji cloud above it, as well as the five pillars of light around it, all instantly connected to it.

An enormous sword-world that was a hundred kilometers in size had been created!

The Supreme Immortal Sword pressed downwards at high speed, and the size of the sword-world was rapidly shrinking as well, from a hundred kilometers to ten kilometers, as it clashed against the magic treasures and spells of those eighteen Celestial Immortals.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

A series of explosions could be heard. The Supreme Immortal Swordland trembled, seemingly growing weaker.

However, the distant Unity just pushed a little bit more of his Immortal energy into it. At the same time, those five roving Five Elements light pillars and the Taiji clouds once more filled the Supreme Immortal Swordland with energy, causing its power to once more be restored.

“Even joining forces, we still can’t break it? This supreme ability of Celestial Immortal Unity is actually a sword-world attack on this level. One can’t even flee from it; it truly is enough to cause one to feel

despair. No wonder he is known as the Supreme Sword Immortal.” The faces of the eighteen Celestial Immortals changed. Although the power of each of their magic treasures and spells had increased dramatically, their attacks were scattered and not unified; there was no way to merge their attacks together, and so they were all blocked by the Supreme Immortal Swordland.

The Supreme Immortal Sword continued to press downwards!

The entire sword-world continued to rapidly shrink, quickly compressing down to the size of the enormous Baxia Turtledragon beneath it.

The eighteen Celestial Immortals frantically poured in more of their own Immortal energy to further stabilize the Baxia formation; this formation was extremely suited for defense, and the eighteen entrusted all of their hopes to it.

BOOM! An enormous explosion.

The Supreme Immortal Sword had stabbed straight into the shell of the Baxia Turtledragon, while runes flowed across the shell, striving to defend against the sword.

“...Eh?” Unity’s face changed slightly.

“Blocked it. Blocked it!”

“Haha, he’s just a single Celestial Immortal, after all; no matter how formidable his abilities are, he’s just ‘close to’ the power of a Pure Yang True Immortal.”

“Did you really think it would be so easy to break this Baxia Formation?”

The eighteen Celestial Immortals instantly felt complete confidence.

“Descend.” Unity waved his finger, once more executing the Supreme Immortal Swordland. He wanted to launch multiple attacks to break through the enemy’s defensive formation.

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The other three watched the battle from far. By using his Supreme Immortal Swordland, Unity had completely crushed the Seamless Gate’s forces; although the Seamless Gate’s forces had a strong defensive formation, their attacks were completely useless against Unity.

“Senior Unity is controlling the entire battle,” Immortal Diancai said with a laugh. “He truly is far too powerful. His sword not only includes the Grand Dao of Taiji, it also includes many of the profound mysteries of the Five Elements. He’s perfectly merged them all together into this sword-stroke...most likely, not even a real Pure Yang True Immortal would necessarily have such a powerful technique.”

Ning nodded.

For a Celestial Immortal to have close to a Pure Yang True Immortal’s power required the Celestial Immortal to be at a very high level of insight into the Dao, and have techniques that were even more powerful than a True Immortal’s. This Supreme Immortal Swordland was most likely the result of a fusion of multiple Grand Daos. Although none of these Grand Daos were fully mastered, this sort of perfect fusion was no weaker than a sword-art derived from the complete mastery of a full Grand Dao.

“Quick, look!” The nearby Yu Wei’s face suddenly changed.

“Eh?” Ning’s face changed as well.

The eighteen distant Celestial Immortals who originally formed into the Baxia Dragonturtle Formation had all retrieved their various magic treasures. The area around them began to manifest multiple azure runes. The eighteen Celestial Immortals gritted their teeth, using their full power as they generated countless strings of power to cover the entire Baxia Formation. Soon...from the shell of the Baxia Dragonturtle appeared the head of an enormous azure serpent. A Turtle-Snake had just been formed, and its power was clearly tremendous.

“A Turtle-Snake?”

“Xuanwu!”

The faces of Ji Ning, Yu Wei, Immortal Diancai, and even Celestial Immortal Unity changed.

The Turtle-Snake had an extremely unique status within the Three Realms. Every single Ki Refiner, upon reaching the Primal-level, would manifest a Primal Turtle-Snake soul. As for Xuanwu the Turtle-Snake...he was a truly powerful figure who had lived since the days of the primordial Pangu’s World, and who was honored by everyone with the awe-inspiring title of Grand Emperor. This Turtle-Snake Formation was unfathomably more profound and complicated than the previous Baxia Formation.

“The Baxia Formation was extremely strong defensively to begin with, while this Turtle-Snake Formation was built atop the Baxia Formation, using it as a base and further perfecting it.” Upon seeing the enormous Turtle-Snake appear, Unity immediately knew what was happening. “This Turtle-Snake formation...it has the defensive power of the Baxia Dragonturtle Formation, but also has an incredibly strong attack.”

Suddenly...

Whoosh!

The titanic azure serpent, previously coiled, suddenly opened its giant, bloody maw. The body of the azure serpent suddenly increased explosively in size as its head transformed to become a hundred kilometers long, seemingly capable of swallowing the universe itself. Unity hurriedly used his Supreme Immortal Sword to block, but the serpent head seemed to be illusory, biting down and swallowing Unity within it. Unity hurriedly controlled the Supreme Immortal Sword to transform back into six streaks of sword-light that returned to his side, protecting him.

“What?!”

“But, but...” Immortal Diancai and Yu Wei were both stunned.

“Heaven Swallower?” Ning frowned. This was an ability which Grand Emperor Xuanwu was born with...and this Turtle-Snake Formation was actually capable of replicating it? Clearly, the creator of this formation had perfected this formation to a level where it was nearly identical to an actual Turtle-Snake.

“In our Turtle-Snake Formation, the turtle focuses on defense while the snake focuses on attack.” Violetgrass and the rest of her Celestial Immortals were quite delighted; this Turtle-Snake Formation had just as strong a defense as the earlier Baxia Formation had. This was indeed quite a flawless formation

with astonishing power. However, it was extremely hard to execute; these eighteen supreme Celestial Immortals were only able to just barely set it up with tremendous effort.

“Kill!”

Unity was completely trapped within the body of the azure serpent. He once more executed his Supreme Immortal Swordland from inside the body, but as he did yet another serpent head appeared, beginning to wildly assault him. The serpent head would appear and disappear at random in an unpredictable manner, causing Unity to be in an extremely difficult situation. From the looks of it, he wouldn't be able to hold on for too long.

“Once the Turtle-Snake Formation appears, it dominates anyone below the Empyrean God or True Immortal level.” Violetgrass and the others were all completely confident.

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“It's over.”

“Not even Celestial Immortal Unity can break this Turtle-Snake Formation, and the attacks of that azure serpent are unpredictable and unfathomable.” Immortal Diancai, standing at the walls of Stillwater City, revealed a look of despair. Yu Wei's face was ashen as well. Neither of them were in a position to help. In the face of the power of the Turtle-Snake Formation...they both knew that they were far too weak.

Most likely, only a true Empyrean God or True Immortal would be able to break this formation.

“Damn.” Ning's face changed when he saw this. He could tell that Unity wasn't going to be able to hold on for much longer.

Swoosh!

Ning immediately executed the [Obscuring Wind of the Nine Heavens] and charged out.

“Ji Ning!” Immortal Diancai's face instantly changed dramatically. “Ji Ning, don't go! STOP!”

“JUNIOR APPRENTICE-BROTHER!” Yu Wei began to panic as well. She hurriedly moved to use the formation to impact Ning and prevent him from going out.

However...all three of them, Ji Ning, Yu Wei, and Immortal Diancai, were very familiar with this formation. In fact, each of them had left their own runic imprints upon the core of the formation; any of the four were capable of taking control over it! The formation might be able to block others, but there was no way it could block Ji Ning.

“Junior apprentice-brother, that formation is too powerful. Not even Celestial Immortal Unity is a match for it. Don't be a fool!” Yu Wei sent frantically with her coresense.

“Disciple, as your master, I order you to come back RIGHT NOW!” Immortal Diancai grew even more frantic.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

The two were so frantic that they flew out from the city walls, chasing after Ning.

Although they had faith in Ning's power...they had just personally witnessed the utterly terrifying might of the Turtle-Snake Formation. In terms of defensive strength, not even the most powerful sword attack of Celestial Immortal Unity could break it. In terms of offensive strength, that azure serpent was unfathomable and mysterious in its movements, and it could even seemingly swallow the heavens themselves. Even Unity was at the brink of death! If Ji Ning became trapped in the azure serpent as well...that would mean he, too, would be doomed!

Swoosh! Ning didn't slow down at all.

"Ji Ning, that Turtle-Snake Formation's azure serpent is clearly perfect for binding and restricting the movements of foes. Although your body is unbreakable as a magic treasure, this formation is a perfect counter for you. If you go, you'll die!" Yu Wei frantically flew towards Ning's direction, but Ning had the [Obscuring Wind of the Nine Heavens] divine ability; given his speed, how could Yu Wei possibly catch up to him?

And...by now, Ning had already reached the Turtle-Snake Formation.

The eighteen Celestial Immortals of the Seamless Gate were using their full power to have the Turtle-Snake Formation kill Unity. Now, however, they saw Ji Ning flying towards them.

"Ji Ning?"

"He actually dares to come after seeing the power of our Turtle-Snake Formation?" The eighteen Celestial Immortals were shocked.

"Perfect. We'll first use our full power to have the formation kill Unity, and after Unity dies we will kill Ji Ning! We'll break them apart one by one, then kill them all! As for Ji Ning...just let the turtle part of the formation block his attacks," Violetgrass sent mentally.

"Right." The other seventeen agreed with here.

After all...if they had to simultaneously deal with both Ji Ning and Unity, it would be quite taxing, even for them. Thus, it was better to first ignore Ji Ning and focus on killing Unity, then dealing with Ji Ning next. The defense of the Turtle-Snake Formation was comparable to the Baxia Formation, so he wouldn't be an issue anyways.

Whoosh!

As Ning appeared, the fingers of his right hand suddenly formed into sword-fingers. Swish! His sword-fingers instantly expanded to become more than three thousand meters long. They were like an enormous sword that filled the entire sky, and at the tip of the sword-fingers there was a silvery-white aura. In this instant, Ning activated the Fourth Cycle of the [Starseizing Hand], and also poured his heartforce into his sword-fingers.

The [Starseizing Hand]...swordforce...and heartforce. All together!

"Junior apprentice-brother!"

"Ji Ning!" Yu Wei and Immortal Diancai, paying attention to nothing else, flew over towards Ning, panicking as they watched this all happen.

Whoooooosh.

The utterly enormous sword-fingers descended with unfathomable power.

Only when the sword-fingers actually slammed against the Turtle-Snake Formation did the faces of the eighteen Celestial Immortals suddenly change, and change dramatically at that. However...it was too late. SLASH! The Turtle-Snake Formation was completely unable to withstand this terrifying sword-finger attack of Ning's. It was instantly ripped apart!

As the three thousand meter long sword-fingers broke through the Turtle-Snake Formation, it sliced sideways as well. The Celestial Immortals all felt as though mountains were slamming against them...and in an instant, six Celestial Immortals died!

"But..." Violetgrass and the other surviving Celestial Immortals were stunned. "Impossible. This Turtle-Snake Formation is invincible against anyone below the Empyrean God or True Immortal level."

Yes. Normally speaking, this Turtle-Snake Formation they used truly was invincible against anyone below the Empyrean God or True Immortal level.

But Ji Ning...was different.

When he fought against the Youngflame clan, he was already very close to being at the very peak of power possible for a Celestial Immortal. Afterwards, in the Nihilum Zone, had had broken through to the seventeenth stage of the [Crimsonbright Diagram of the Nine Heavens]; this breakthrough in divine power alone had put him very close to a Pure Yang True Immortal in terms of combat power, comparable to Celestial Immortal Unity!

In addition to that...Ning's heartforce had reached the third stage, and he had gained swordforce as well.

He was now able to instantly use up a fifteenth of his third-stage heartforce in a single blow. This represented an utterly astonishing amount of power! And now, swordforce was added into the mix as well! Ji Ning, who had already been close to a Pure Yang True Immortal in power, had instantly leapt past that gap. In terms of attack power, he already had truly reached the level of an Empyrean God or True Immortal!

"Can it be that he's actually an Empyrean God or a True Immortal?!" Violetgrass and the others stared in terror at the distant Ji Ning. All of them began to move to flee, no longer even thinking about fighting back...but Ning let out a savage roar:

"THREE HEADS, SIX ARMS!"

Whooooooosh.

That single set of sword-fingers...had suddenly transformed into six sets of sword-fingers, slashing through the skies towards them.

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The Desolate Era

Book 17: Celestial Immortal Chapter 10: Great Danger

“Impossible. There’s no way he can be an Empyrean God or True Immortal. If he had already overcome his tribulation...there’s no way he could’ve hidden it past us, the Seamless Gate!” Violetgrass and the rest of the twelve surviving Celestial Immortals began to flee in terror. Ji Ning’s tremendous power was great enough for them to feel that he was an Empyrean God or a True Immortal...but that didn’t make sense!

It wasn’t possible!

Ji Ning had the [Eight-Nine Arcane Art] and was capable of masking an Immortal aura, but he still had to undergo the Celestial Tribulation; there was no way something like that could’ve escaped the eyes of the Seamless Gate! In fact...no tribulation of any living creature in the Three Realms could escape the eyes of the Seamless Gate!

“Ahhh!” A fleeing Celestial Immortal with a big bushy beard attempted to use a large gourd to block, but Ning’s sword-finger knocked it flying away, then executed him. He perished and his Dao came to an end.

“How could Ji Ning be this powerful?!” The various Celestial Immortals all let out agonized cries of grief and rage. Sword-fingers criss-crossed the skies with annihilating, slaying power.

“The intelligence reports were wrong. WRONG!”

“What the hell?!”

“I can’t believe this!”

These Celestial Immortals were all elites of the Seamless Gate. They normally only acted after they were given very accurate intelligence reports; as the saying went, only when one knew one’s self and one’s foes could one be the victor in every battle. A major error like this...it had truly never happened before! At their level, once one made a single error of this magnitude, the penalty would be one’s life!

Ning executed [Three Heads, Six Arms]. His six sword-fingers assaulted six different Celestial Immortals...but these six strikes only used the [Starseizing Hand] and swordforce. His seventeenth stage [Crimsonbright Diagram of the Nine Heavens] power, combined with the Fourth Cycle of the [Starseizing Hand], was already comparable to that of supreme Celestial Immortals. If he added swordforce to it as well...his power was definitely no longer than that of Celestial Immortal Unity’s.

In other words...Ning’s six sword-fingers were like six Celestial Immortal Unity’s.

Right now, the enemy formation had already been shattered. They were all fleeing; there was no need for him to add his heartforce into the mix. Heartforce was far too tiring, and each full-strength blow from his sword used up a fifteenth of it. He could only use it for fifteen strikes; naturally, Ning was going to save it for the most critical moments.

“Hmph.” A cold light flashed through through Ning’s eyes. He showed no mercy at all with his killing blows.

His six sword-fingers instantly slaughtered five of the Celestial Immortals. One of them had been aimed towards the woman...and this one failed.

“Eh?” Ning glanced towards the woman in surprise. A thick layer of azure light had appeared around her body. This azure light was protecting her, having blocked Ning’s earlier sword-finger.

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“Too powerful. Our intelligence reports were completely wrong.” Violetgrass was still terrified. A pair of talismans appeared in her hands, as well as a Dao-seal. The Dao-seal was a Greater Teleportation Dao-seal...however, using it would require time. Given Ning’s attack speed, that period of time would be more than enough for him to launch more than ten attacks.

Crack! Crack!

Shattering the talismans could be done near-instantly. Violetgrass immediately shattered the two talismans belonging to the two powerful experts capable of saving her.

Her status in the Seamless Gate was extremely special, and she was protected by several major figures. Aside from the supreme Celestial Immortals such as Celestial Immortal Blackheaven, there were two True Immortals as well; the Gatemaster of the Seamless Gate and her brother-in-law, True Immortal Gaudy.

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The distant Fifth World.

Within one of the towering edifices, the Gatemaster of the Seamless Gate, the Cavemaster of the Myriad Demons Cave, and the Hallmaster of Bloodcloud Hall were staring at many mirrors that were hanging in midair. The mirrors had many different images within them; these were their various gathering spots within the world of the Grand Xia. They were using Pure Yang treasures to keep watch over the battles in those areas and also transmit the images back.

Many of the images would often flicker through various locations. There were ten-plus water mirrors, however, which had stable images within them. This was because these ten-plus water mirrors were keeping watch over missions where the goal was to kill the foes.

“Not good.”

“Something unexpected has just happened at Stillwater city.”

“It’s Ji Ning!”

The faces of three leaders changed dramatically as they turned to focus on one of the water mirrors. The water mirror displayed the image of a youth soaring into the heavens. His sword-finger chopped through the heavens and broke apart the Turtle-Snake Formation. The cold look on the youth’s face, that heart-stoppingly sharp aura and pose, and the sharp silvery-white light at the tip of the sword-fingers all caused them to shudder in amazement.

“This Ji Ning’s aura is far more terrifying than it was eighteen years ago.”

“Is that...swordforce coming from his sword-fingers?”

“Can it be that he’s mastered the Dao of the Sword?”

The three leaders were truly rather stunned. They had guessed long ago that Ji Ning, having survived the descent of the karmic sinflames, would have grown somewhat more powerful but...in the Nihilum Zone, there was no way to sense any of the Grand Daos! Logically speaking, Ji Ning shouldn't have improved much with regards to the Daos. Given that he had yet to overcome his tribulation...there should've been a limit to how much he could've grown stronger. However, Ji Ning had just slapped their expectations in the face!

They could never have guessed that Ji Ning would've been able to come up with a way to apply heartforce, all on his own!

"Azurefox, what should we do?" The Cavemaster of the Myriad Demon Caves and the Hallmaster of Bloodcloud Hall both looked towards the Gatemaster of the Seamless Gate.

The azure-robed woman said softly, "The results of that battle have already been determined. There's no way to change things. Still...Violetgrass has True Immortal Gaudy standing behind her. If she's in any life-threatening danger, she'll definitely break the talisman which Gaudy gave her. I trust that Gaudy will definitely intervene to save her. If Gaudy goes, that'll be enough. Right now, the question in my mind is...what are we supposed to do about this Ji Ning?"

"Ji Ning..." The fire-robed man and the skinny elder both began to frown.

"I guessed long ago that he would eventually become an impediment to our subjugation of the Grand Xia, but I didn't expect that he would become so powerful even prior to overcoming his tribulation. If we wait and let him overcome his tribulation and become an Empyrean God...that's not acceptable!" The azure-robed woman shook her head. "I really wonder who the hell his master is, for him to produce a monster like this..."

For a peerless monster like this to be forged, not only did the 'raw materials' have to be superb, the master had to be good as well. They had no idea...that behind Ji Ning stood the most mysterious Daofather of the Three Realms, Patriarch Subhuti, as well as the already-deceased Daoist Threelives, the creator of the [Starseizing Hand], the supreme divine ability that had shaken the Three Realms.

As the saying went, the master could show the way but the student had to walk the path. Still...the master showing the way came first! Ning was indeed born to be a peerless Sword Immortal, but if he didn't have the [Starseizing Hand] divine ability, there's no way he could've become as monstrous as this. If he hadn't learned [Houyi's Archery], he probably wouldn't have been able to come up with a way to apply heartforce. He would only be a 'normal' but powerful Sword Immortal. But of course...a good master and a good student made for a good pair; both were necessary! Several people had the chance to learn the [Starseizing Hand], and quite a few had learned [Houyi's Archery], but how many of them had ever reached Ning's level?

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"Inconceivable."

Celestial Immortal Unity, having dodged a disaster, was stunned by Ji Ning. For a moment, he had many complicated, strange feelings in his heart.

“Where do you think you are going?” Unity quickly came back to his senses. Letting out an angry roar, he immediately controlled his Supreme Immortal Sword to go slaughter the fleeing Celestial Immortals.

Yu Wei and Immortal Diancai, who had been chasing after Ning from behind, were both stunned as well.

They felt both shock and joy.

Shock...because Ji Ning was this powerful! Too powerful!

Joy...because the more powerful Ji Ning was, the better!

The entire situation had been completely changed. Those eighteen Celestial Immortals had been dominating Unity, but now they were being chased and slaughtered.

“KILL!” Ning showed no mercy whatsoever. Moments ago, he had used a single full-force sword-finger to wipe out six Celestial Immortals. Just now, he had killed five more...leaving only seven survivors.

[Three Heads, Six Arms]! [Star-seizing Hand]!

Six sword-fingers once more streaked through the heavens in every direction.

“Die!” Unity also controlled his Supreme Immortal Sword to chase after and slaughter the remaining foes.

“The storm has come. Yesterday, I killed others; today, others shall kill me.” As a skinny Celestial Immortal’s magic treasure was knocked flying away, he shut his eyes. The only thing that had been in his eyes was tranquility. A calamitous storm had swept the entire Three Realms, and even the likes of Ji Ning, Celestial Immortal Unity, Yu Wei, and the others had all mentally prepared themselves for death.

Thus...they had to seize every opportunity that appeared before them. When slaughtering weak foes, no mercy was to be shown.

Kill! Kill! KILL!

One Celestial Immortal after another died. One of Ning’s six sword-fingers once more struck towards the fleeing Celestial Immortal Violetgrass.

BOOM! The azure light around Violetgrass was actually able to endure the blows, but it was now clearly shuddering.

However...this time, Ning’s six sword-fingers only managed to slay three Celestial Immortals. Aside from Violetgrass, two others had managed to survive as well.

“I have to survive. I have to!” A Celestial Immortal with triangular pupils had a twisted look on his face and a terrifying look in his eyes. He manifested an Immortal estate out of nowhere, then disappeared into it.

The other Celestial Immortal had also hidden into an Immortal estate.

“Kill!”

The Supreme Immortal Sword slaughtered another Celestial Immortal.

By now...

Only three of the original eighteen Celestial Immortals were left. They were Celestial Immortal Violetgrass and the two who had hidden themselves within their Immortal estates.

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"Idiots!" Violetgrass, seeing this, couldn't help but curse to herself. Their intelligence reports had stated that one of the two Celestial Immortals of the Youngflame clan which Ji Ning had slain was Celestial Immortal Goldclock. As a result, his divine greatclock had fallen into Ji Ning's hands. Given that Stillwater City was in a dangerous situation...as long as Ji Ning wasn't stupid, he would have given it to his Dao-companion or his master. That divine greatclock was capable of suppressing and binding!

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"Senior apprentice-sister," Ning roared mentally towards her.

"Get in here." Yu Wei waved her hand, and the divine greatclock flew out. It quickly expanded in size until it became the size of a small mountain. It hung there in the skies, and the space at the base of the greatclock began to twist and distort. The two Immortal estates were immediately sucked into the greatclock without being able to resist at all...then the divine greatclock once more shrank down and flew back to Yu Wei's hands.

Ning laughed.

This divine greatclock was one of the most important, clan-protecting treasures of the Youngflame clan. Aside from the Worldhold Pagoda, it was the most important treasure the entire clan had. However, only Celestial Immortals were capable of wielding a Pure Yang treasure. Given that Stillwater City was facing a crisis and that a storm was approaching the Three Realms, how could Ning have been so selfish as to only think of himself? He naturally wanted to come up with ways to help the people he cared about grow more powerful, and so he had given the divine greatclock to Yu Wei.

Those two Celestial Immortals had hidden themselves within their Immortal estates in the hopes of buying themselves some time to use Greater Teleportation Dao-seals. If Ning's group didn't have the divine greatclock, they actually might've managed to escape; after all, there was no way for them to destroy those Immortal estates. Those Immortal estates were meant to save the lives of those two Celestial Immortals and were quite sturdy.

However, Ning's group DID have that divine greatclock. The Immortal estates themselves were not capable of resisting such an effect, and so as soon as those two Celestial Immortals had hidden themselves within their estates, their estates had been effortlessly sucked into the divine greatclock. The divine greatclock possessed a completely independent dimension within it; once one was suppressed inside it, there was no way to escape at all.

This was why Violetgrass had called them fools.

However...how could the two not have realized this? They were already faced with certain death, and so they had no choice but to make this gamble. Their gamble was that Ning was a very selfish person who hadn't been willing to give the divine greatclock to others.

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“You are the last one left.” Ning’s gaze turned towards Celestial Immortal Violetgrass. All six of his sword-fingers stabbed through the skies towards Violetgrass. Although all of this had taken time to describe, the exchange of attacks had actually happened very quickly, as fast as lightning.

“You can’t kill me!!!” Violetgrass was utterly terrified...but how could she possibly flee faster than the speed of those sword-fingers?

Those six sword-fingers flew through the skies, piercing through space and converging upon the same point.

“STAY YOUR HAND!”

A roar rang out, filled with the power of Pure Yang-level energy.

BOOM!!!!

The grand sealing formation outside was blasted apart, and the enraged roar echoed within the ears of Ning and the others.

BOOM BOOM BOOM BOOM BOOM BOOM!!!!!!

The six sword-fingers simultaneously struck Celestial Immortal Violetgrass. The azure barrier was no longer able to endure any longer. It blew apart into tiny pieces...and under the blows of the six massive sword-fingers, Violetgrass’s body was instantly reduced to dust. She perished, her Dao coming to an end!