

Desolate 561

[The Desolate Era](#)

Book 18: Pure Yang Chapter 44: The Moment Finally Arrives

“Human Sovereign Shennong?”

The Immortals and Fiendgods nearby, Ji Ning included, were shocked. Nuwa was the creator of mankind, and mankind had quickly multiplied. During the Primordial Era, however, mankind was still a very weak race amongst a myriad of races. However, the puny race had given birth to three dazzling, brilliant figures. They were Suiren, Fuxi, and Shennong.

Under their command, mankind rapidly and steadily began to grow more powerful, rising to prominence amongst the races. Mother Nuwa herself cared deeply about the three of them, and their accomplishments caused the entire Three Realms to feel stunned.

The most powerful figures of the Nuwa Alliance were, without a doubt, the leader of the Buddhist Sangha and the leader of the Daoist Path.

The three Human Sovereigns, however, were comparable to these two mighty leaders!

The likes of Old Man Yuan and Patriarch Subhuti were ranked below them. But of course, that didn't mean that Old Man Yuan and Patriarch Subhuti were necessarily weaker than them. After all, after countless ages of training, they might've made breakthroughs that allowed them to reach brand new levels of power. Without actually engaging in battle, it'd be hard to say...

But from the power that the three Human Sovereigns had already displayed, there was no question about their might at all.

It was precisely because the three of them existed that mankind became the masters of the Three Realms!

Although the Primordial Imperial Clan had successive generations of emperors, only the three of them were truly acknowledged as sovereigns by the entire Three Realms. Even major powers had to bow their heads in their presence. There was nothing for it; the Three Sovereigns were simply too strong.

“Shennong, one of the Three Sovereigns...he's actually made his move. He is someone who is a true ruler of the Three Realms.” Ning secretly sighed in amazement. “I wonder...now that one of the Three Sovereigns has made a move, what sort of a move will it be?”

.....

Upon hearing the youth before him say that he came on the orders of Human Sovereign Shennong, Daofather Crimsonbright was delighted. He deeply trusted and tremendously respected Shennong...but he couldn't help but ask in puzzlement, “Does the Human Sovereign know what dire straits my Crimsonbright Realm is in? Daofather Ink Bamboo's army now includes a Daofather golem within it.”

“The Human Sovereign already knows,” the youth said.

“Can we win?” Daofather Crimsonbright grew excited.

Both sides had truly fought viciously in this war. Daofather Crimsonbright truly wished to win as well.

"I'm confident we can." The youth nodded. "However, we still need to plan things out carefully, and I need to speak to you in private, Daofather. I have to keep this private and away from the other Immortals and Fiendgods for now."

Daofather Crimsonbright nodded. Sweeping his soldiers with his gaze, he laughed. "You can leave for now."

"Yes, Daofather."

Ji Ning and the others all assented respectfully, then departed.

.....

Outside the main palace. The Immortals and Fiendgods were all chatting animatedly.

"Shennong has actually intervened. He's one of the Three Sovereigns of Mankind!"

"We're definitely going to win."

"I wonder what sort of method Shennong is going to employ against that Daofather golem." Everyone was discussing this matter, and everyone was eager to know the answer.

Ning was walking by the side with Redsnow and the rest of the seven.

"Senior Redsnow, do you think we can win?" Ning asked.

"We should...but nothing is guaranteed," Redsnow said in a low voice. "Shennong is one of the Three Sovereigns of Mankind. He's unfathomably more powerful than even Master had been. For him to send people...he must have some degree of confidence. However, our foe is the Seamless Alliance, after all. They have terrifying major powers amongst their ranks as well. You can view it as them competing on a strategic level. It's hard to say who will win and who will lose."

Empyrean God Redsnow knew very well how powerful both sides were, because during that war that ended the Primordial Era...

It was so, so close.

Mother Nuwa had been finished. Their side had suffered countless casualties, and even the likes of Daoist Threelives fell during that final battle. Fortunately, Mother Nuwa made a sudden breakthrough and reached Pangu's level, which was why they had suddenly stormed to victory. Despite that, the 'king' of the Seamless Gate had managed to merge himself into the Dao of the Heavens to preserve his life. As for the Lord of All Fiends, he had managed to escape, preventing Mother Nuwa from being able to kill him.

"For now, let's just watch as the two sides compete strategically with each other," Redsnow said. "For this battle to have reached a state like this...this is crazier than I expected."

Ning nodded slowly.

It was indeed quite crazy. There had already been several Realmwars, but they had all occurred within fairly weak Realms. In truth, the Crimsonbright Realm could also be considered a fairly weak world; after all, Daofather Crimsonbright himself wasn't one of the most powerful figures of the Three Realms. None of the previous Realmwars, however, had reached such a crazy level as the Crimsonbright Realm's Realmwar had.

"All we have to do is wait for our orders. In the midst of this great storm...that's all we can do." Ning thought of his newborn daughter, his incomparably adorable and naughty daughter. A powerful desire to grow strong filled Ning's heart. "I have to become even more powerful. In the midst of this tribulation, only growing in power will allow me to have a chance to protect Brightmoon and senior apprentice-sister..."

What Ning didn't realize...

A major reason why this Realmwar had escalated to this degree was because of him, Ji Ning. First, Old Man Yuan had transmitted to Ning the [Heart Sutra], resulting in his Heaven Punisher gaining such extraordinary strength that even the Godking viewed him as a threat that had to be eliminated as early as possible. And secondly...Celestial Immortal Blackheaven wished to gain revenge for Violetgrass. Ning asking the Seven Planets God to help out was yet another new variable that changed this Realmwar yet again.

But of course, if the Seven Planets God hadn't appeared, the Crimsonbright Realm would've lost long ago.

.....

The vast world of darkness.

The towering throne levitated in the air at the very center of this world. The Godking sat on his throne, his right hand resting on the throne's armrest and gently tapping on it.

Tap. Tap. Tap.

The sound echoed throughout the entire world.

"Shennong is intervening as well." Lightning flashed through the black eyes of the Godking. "It seems our Seamless Gate has pushed too hard, incurring the wrath of the Three Sovereigns. They want to use this Realmwar as an opportunity to frighten and shake the Seamless Gate."

"What should I do?"

"What exactly should I do?"

The Godking began to worry.

"True Immortal Cloudust and Daofather Crimsonbright...what exactly are they planning? What is their scheme? Also, Shennong has sent over just one Pure Yang True Immortal...what does he have up his sleeves?" The Godking was extremely worried; these were things which he hadn't been able to find out yet.

"Master."

The Godking raised his head to stare at the dark sky. His voice was very low. "What exactly is Shennong doing? What is the Crimsonbright Realm planning? Please help me..."

The Dao of the Heavens was omnipresent in all places...and nothing within the purview of the Dao of the Heavens could be hidden from the 'king'.

Rumble...

A powerful yet incredibly arcane thought-ripple was sent directly to the Godking.

The Godking was momentarily startled. He instantly revealed a look of delight, then said respectfully, "Thank you, Master."

During the war that destroyed the Primordial Era, their king had suffered extremely serious injuries. Nuwa had been unwilling to let up on her pursuit of him, resulting in him being forced to merge himself into the Dao of the Heavens. Even now, the largest part of the king's consciousness remained asleep. But perhaps because he was part of the Dao of the Heavens, that tiny sliver of consciousness was enough to engage in some degree of communications with the Seamless Gate.

"It seems that if we are to win...our opportunity lies with 'Yu Wei'." The Godking nodded slightly.

He immediately began to summon Yu Wei.

A short while later.

A white-robed woman appeared on the ground within the vast world of darkness. It was indeed Yu Wei. Her aura had changed slightly; she was quite similar to Yuchi Snow, filled with a warm, motherly aura. After arriving, Yu Wei immediately knelt down. "Respectful greetings to you, Godking."

[The Desolate Era](#)

Book 18: Pure Yang Chapter 45: Shennong's Medicine

The Godking sat atop his throne, staring downwards towards her. "Yu Wei, how have I treated you?"

"The Godking's benevolence towards Yu Wei has been weightier than a mountain," Yu Wei responded respectfully from her kneeling position. These words sprang from the bottom of her heart. In her previous life, she had turned into a complete demon, had become as berserk as an Asura. It was the Godking who had guided her out from her berserk state and helped her recover from it, regaining her mind and her sanity. If it hadn't been for the Godking, she would've been lost long ago.

It had also been the Godking who had patiently taught them all, one by one. They were all filled with the utmost of veneration towards the Godking, and were all willing to die for him.

Yu Wei was nothing more than one of countless such individuals. When Yu Wei had become apprenticed to Patriarch Lu, her status amongst the countless spies under the control of the Seamless Gate had instantly skyrocketed. The vast majority of the spies were merely at the Earth Immortal or Loose Immortal level, after all. Less than one in ten thousand would be at the Celestial Immortal level, much less have a connection to an important figure like Patriarch Lu.

And now, Yu Wei was connected to not only Patriarch Lu, but also to Ji Ning. She had become the sole chance the Seamless Gate had at reversing their fortunes during this Realmwar?

“It is now time for you to sacrifice yourself,” the Godking said.

Yu Wei couldn't help but tremble...then she pressed her forehead to the ground and said respectfully, “Please give me your command, Godking.” Every single spy was waiting for the moment where they would be used. Things weren't so bad for the likes of Sword Immortal Evergreen; even after being exposed, he could flee back to the Seamless Gate. Yu Wei, however, was merely a Celestial Immortal. There was no way she could possibly escape at all. And, to the Seamless Gate, even though Yu Wei was a Celestial Immortal, once her status was exposed she would instantly become much less valuable to them.

“One of the Three Emperors of Mankind, Shennong, has sent True Immortal Cloudust to the Eight Dragons Cloudcity...” The Godking began to narrate things to order.

Yu Wei listened attentively.

In her heart, Ji Ning and her daughter were who mattered most to her...but the Godking was very important to her as well. This was partially because of gratitude, but was also also because the Godking had left behind his imprint upon her soul. The Godking was capable of influencing her inner heart without her even knowing about it, causing her to trust the him even more and make her feel even more indebted to him for his kindness, to the point where she was willing to give up life itself.

Within the Violetdawn Pearl's world.

Ji Ning, Yu Wei, and their daughter Brightmoon were living a blissful life together.

“Kneel!” Ning had a hint of anger on his face.

“Oh.”

His daughter Brightmoon meekly fell to her knees, her little mouth trembling as though she was about to cry.

Ning said angrily, “You need to understand the consequences of your actions. Not everyone is an Immortal cultivator. Your mother and I, as well as your Uncle Mu and your Grandpa White are very powerful, and we aren't afraid of the power of your flames. Most of the servants and attendants of Brightheart Island, however, are mortals. To you, you were just using flames to prank them, but to them, they were just a heartbeat away from death. If I hadn't noticed in time, you would've burned your maid to death!”

Brightmoon didn't dare to say a thing.

Her parents...Ji Ning had always been very gentle, whereas Yu Wei was fairly strict. This time, however...Ji Ning had been truly angered, and his anger had completely stunned and terrified Brightmoon.

Ning couldn't be blamed for his anger. Just two days ago, he had picked a pair of female maids for his daughter. Both were of the same age, roughly eleven or twelve years old. The two had naturally been extremely attentive in taking care of their young mistress, and Brightmoon had liked them very much

and had been very happy when playing with them. And then...she started to use her flames to tease and prank the maids, just as she often did with the Whitewater Hound.

That maid had instantly been burned beyond recognition. Fortunately, Ning had reacted very quickly, immediately casting spells on her and providing her with a spirit-pill, allowing her to make a complete recovery.

"I told you how important it was for you to remember that you live in a world of Immortal cultivators. I told you that you can be tremendously dangerous to ordinary commoners. Have you forgotten everything I told you?" Ning roared.

"I...I..." Brightmoon quavered.

"And you are still crying?!" Ning growled, "I want you to stay here on your knees today. You are not allowed to rise until I tell you to."

"Let's go." Ning led Yu Wei away, leaving behind Brightmoon by herself kneeling there pitifully on the ground inside the room.

A while later...

A giant, snowy-white hound padded past.

"Grandpa White!" Brightmoon hurriedly called out.

The snowy-white hound gave her a glance, then continued to pad forward.

After another period of time, an azure-robed woman walked past as well.

"Aunt Qing!" Brightmoon immediately called out.

The azure-robed woman revealed a resigned look on her face as she continued to walk forward.

"Are we being too severe to her?" Yu Wei said worriedly.

"If I don't give her some punishment this time...in the future, she'll cause utter chaos," Ning said angrily. He then looked towards Yu Wei with surprise. Laughing, he said, "Senior apprentice-sister, usually you are even stricter with her than I am. Why are you so soft-hearted today?"

"When I see that sad little look on the kid's face..." Yu Wei shook her head.

Ning said, "She's just acting. She knows very well that whenever she puts that look on her face, we'll feel sorry for her and ease up on her. That's why she's acting this way right now. This time, we really do need to teach her a lesson. She's clearly very talented and innately clever, but she was still born just a short while ago. She's like a blank sheet of paper. She doesn't know the consequences of her actions, doesn't know right from wrong. We have to teach her well."

"Yes, we do. It seems as though you are even better suited to teaching her than me," Yu Wei said.

"No, senior apprentice-sister, you are a better teacher." Ning shook his head. "Mothers are usually more careful and attentive when teaching children."

Yu Wei nodded blankly, not responding.

“What is it?” Ning could sense that something seemed a bit off. This was his Dao-companion, who had been by his side for many years, after all. He could naturally sense that her mood was off.

“Oh.” Yu Wei seemed to come back to her senses. Shaking her head, she said, “It’s nothing. I’m just thinking about the Realmwar going on outside. Now that my child is born...I’ll probably have to take part in the war soon.”

Ning was startled for a moment, but then he nodded slowly. “Right. All Celestial Immortals must take part in the war. Prior to this, you were pregnant and temporarily exempted...but now, you’ll probably have to participate as well. Still...there’s no rush. As long as the Daofather or the Xia Emperor don’t say anything, for you to delay a while is a minor matter.”

“It’s best not to make things difficult for the Xia Emperor,” Yu Wei said. “I’ll leave behind an incarnation to accompany our daughter. I had best return to the Eight Dragons Cloudcity and prepare to join the war.”

“Alright. That works as well. You can stay in my Darknorth army.” Ning smiled. “Go to war by my side.” Ning would only have peace of mind if she was within his own army.

Yu Wei nodded as well.

Within the Eight Dragons Cloudcity.

Yu Wei returned to the residence they previously stayed in.

“Don’t be hasty. Right now, both sides are watching and waiting. The Seamless Gate has a Daofather golem, while we should be receiving assistance from Human Emperor Shennong. They should be planning things out now...it isn’t time for another battle just yet,” Ning said.

“This next battle will most likely be the final, decisive battle that will decide this Realmwar,” Yu Wei said with a sigh.

“Yes. Thus, it’s very dangerous. Later on, we’ll work together in the Heaven Punisher Formation. You’ll be right by my side,” Ning said. “If anything unexpected happens, I’ll still be able to protect you.”

Yu Wei looked towards Ning. She could see from Ning’s eyes how much he cared about her. This made her emotions only become even more complicated; she felt both warm and miserable.

“Alright.” Yu Wei nodded gently.

“Ji Ning, come to my place.” Daofather Crimsonbright’s voice rang out by Ning’s ears.

Ning was startled.

“I’m going to go meet with the Daofather.” Ning rose to his feet, then immediately flew outwards. As he left, Yu Wei quietly gazed at his departing figure, as though she didn’t want to miss any glimpse of him.

Within the main palace.

Upon entering, Ning realized to his amazement that the only figures within the entire main palace were Daofather Crimsonbright and True Immortal Cloudust.

“Respectful greetings to you, Daofather. Respectful greetings to you, True Immortal,” Ning said.

“Sit.” Daofather Crimsonbright smiled towards Ning, as did True Immortal Cloudust.

Ning sat down.

Daofather Crimsonbright said, “I’ve invited you here because I have an important mission to give you.”

“Oh?” Ning immediately began to listen attentively.

“This time, Cloudust has come on Human Emperor Shennong’s orders to bring me two treasures.”

Daofather Crimsonbright waved his hand, producing two jade bottles, one completely black and the other completely white. Both immediately caught Ning’s eye; could it be that the treasures within these two bottles were capable of deciding the fate of this Realmwar?

It must be understood that their foes had a Daofather golem. Were these things even more powerful than Daofather golems?

“Within the black jade bottle is a type of Immortal medicine which Shennong just finished creating, having spent enormous amounts of work on it.” Daofather Crimsonbright pointed towards the black bottle. “If you shatter this black bottle, then the medicine within it will quickly spread out and take effect within a field of ten thousand kilometers. All Immortals within the region, including Pure Yang True Immortals, will find their Immortal energy to be completely locked and unusable.” 1

“What?!” Ning called out in shock, “Even True Immortals are affected by this? If they can’t use their Immortal energy, won’t they be like ordinary mortals?”

“Yes.” Daofather Crimsonbright nodded. “This Immortal medicine is newly manufactured. Since the Seamless Gate has never even seen this sort of medicine, they naturally can’t manufacture an antidote for it. This concoction does, however, have a major flaw; it doesn’t differentiate between friends or foes! Within ten thousand kilometers, all Immortals, friendly or enemy, will be affected by it.”

Ning nodded.

This was normal and common for most poisons. Poison wasn’t sentient, after all; it couldn’t differentiate between friend or foe.

“Thus, the white jade bottle has the antidote within it.” Daofather Crimsonbright pointed towards the white jade bottle.

“When you go back, pour out the medicine into this wine gourd.” Daofather Crimsonbright next produced a calabash gourd. “Every single Loose Immortal only needs a single drop. Celestial Immortals need ten, while Pure Yang True Immortals need a hundred. The Darknorth army under your command has three thousand Celestial Immortals and three hundred thousand Loose Immortals. All of them need to drink the medicine.”

“When battle begins, the Seamless Gate will definitely continue to try to kill you; they’ll send their armies to surround and assault you. When the time comes, just shatter the black jade tablet...and instantly, all Immortals within ten thousand meters will collapse. Since your army will have consumed the medicine in advance, you won’t be affected at all...and the only thing you’ll have to do is massacre them,” Daofather Crimsonbright said with a smile.

Ning was overjoyed upon hearing this. How wonderful! The Seamless Gate currently had an absolute advantage in terms of Immortal power, as their many Empyrean God golems were all controlled by Celestial Immortals.

“Is it useless against Empyrean Gods?” Ning asked.

“The influence on the divine power of Empyrean Gods is negligible.” Daofather Crimsonbright nodded.

“Given the Seamless Gate’s intelligence capabilities...I imagine that they will soon know that this thing is in my hands.”

“This concoction of Shennong’s is incredibly valuable. The Emperor of Mankind just recently finished manufacturing it at an extremely high cost. Although we only have a small amount, we have given it to another person as well, in addition to you..” Daofather Crimsonbright laughed, “When the time comes, both of your armies are to simultaneously use the medicine. Even though the Seamless Gate knows about it, there’s nothing they can do.”

“You are very powerful, and the Seamless Gate has a deep urge to kill you. If they surround and assault you, you’ll use Shennong’s concoction. If they don’t surround and assault you, break them down and destroy them one-by-one,” Daofather Crimsonbright said. “This is an obvious ploy, but there’s nothing they can do about it.”

Ning’s eyes lit up when he heard this.

They were definitely going to win!

“Don’t disappoint me.” Daofather Crimsonbright looked towards Ning.

“Don’t worry at all, Daofather.” Ning was filled with confidence.

1. Remember, as noted previously in footnotes, in Chinese mythology, Shennong the Divine Farmer is the demigod who taught agriculture and medicine to the Chinese people.

[The Desolate Era](#)

Book 18: Pure Yang Chapter 46: No Regrets

Ji Ning reverently accepted the black jade bottle, the white jade bottle, and the calabash gourd!

“You can go now.” Daofather Crimsonbright smiled and nodded.

Ning left the main hall, now in an absolutely wonderful mood. He returned to the Darknorth army camp, going back to his own residence.

“Back so soon?” Yu Wei was there to welcome Ning back.

“Haha...” Ning just couldn’t stop chortling. “Bring me some wine.”

Yu Wei immediately produced a bottle of Immortal nectar. Even as she was just beginning to bring out the winecups and other drinking implements, Ning immediately grabbed the bottle, raised his head up high, then began to guzzle it down happily. He felt a smooth feeling fill his entire body, surging straight to his head. He couldn’t help but exclaim, “How wonderful!”

"It seems you are in quite a good mood, junior apprentice-brother." Yu Wei sat down next to him.

"How can I not be?" Ning laughed. "I'll have you by my side on the battlefield, senior apprentice-sister, and we now have a daughter. In addition, we are going to achieve a grand victory in this Realmwar. Everything will be just perfect. The heavens are truly kind to me."

Yu Wei smiled as well. She reached out with her left hand to take Ning's hand as well.

Ning laughed again.

"Let me mix up the medicine first." Ning waved his hand, producing the white jade bottle and a gourd. He pulled the stoppers out from the gourd and the jade bottle. The gourd was a magic treasure meant for the express purpose of holding wine. It wasn't that precious, merely an Immortal-ranked magic treasure; Daofathers were capable of casually manufacturing such items. A suctioning power appeared within the mouth of the gourd, pulling all of the medicine within the jade bottle into it.

"Mix up the medicine?" Yu Wei was puzzled.

"Right. Later, we'll give this antidote to our three thousand Celestial Immortals and three hundred thousand Loose Immortals to ingest," Ning said with a laugh. "You need to ingest it as well."

"Ingest this antidote? Why?" Yu Wei asked.

Ning said, "Can't you guess? Senior apprentice-sister, Human Emperor Shennong is a master of medicine. In terms of creating Immortal medicines, no one in the entire Three Realms can compare to him. Once this medicine is released, all Immortals within ten thousand kilometers will have their energy completely frozen and unusable. They'll be like ordinary mortals. Tell me...if this is suddenly used on the battlefield, what will happen to the Seamless Gate?"

"It's that amazing?" Yu Wei nodded slowly in amazement. "If that happens, the Seamless Gate will lose disastrously. But junior apprentice-brother...the Seamless Gate supposedly has formidable intelligence networks at their fingers. Can it be that they don't know and aren't prepared?"

"Given their intelligence networks, they probably already know." Ning shook his head. "But this is an open scheme, not a hidden one. If they assault me en masse, I'll release the Immortal medicine and wipe them all out. If they don't...given the power of my Darknorth army, I can break them down one at a time."

Yu Wei nodded gently. "This truly is an open scheme. They know you have the Immortal poison, but without the antidote, there's nothing the Seamless Gate can do."

"The Human Emperor truly is incredible." Ning let out a sigh. "He's actually able to manufacturing such an incredible Immortal medicine as this."

Slosh, slosh.

Ning picked up the wine-gourd and gave it a good shake, listening to the sound of the wine sloshing around within it.

"The medicine's been mixed in." Ning smiled as he looked at Yu Wei. "Want to be the first one to use it?"

“No rush.” Yu Wei said with curiosity, “What does this Immortal medicine look like?”

Ning chuckled. “The antidote? It was in this white jade bottle, while the poison is in this black jade bottle.” Waving his hand, Ning produced the black jade bottle as well.

“Oh?” Yu Wei reached out for it. “Let me take a look.”

Ning was startled. For a brief moment, he wanted to refuse...but it was just a brief moment and a brief thought. He didn't actually refuse or stop her.

“Careful with it, senior apprentice-sister,” Ning instructed.

“Of course.” Yu Wei held the black jade bottle in her hands.

.....

Within the world of the Violetdawn Pearl.

Yu Wei's incarnation was here, alongside Brightmoon.

“Mother.” Her daughter, Brightmoon, continued to kneel there. She stared wide-eyed at Yu Wei. “I know I was wrong. Can you plead with Father on my behalf? Ask him not to be angry with me. I really know I was wrong.”

Yu Wei's incarnation walked over to her daughter's side, kneeling down next to her and gently embracing her.

Brightmoon was startled...and then she happily inhaled deeply, smelling of her mother's scent. “Mother, you smell so nice. Brightmoon loves it!”

“Brightmoon...”

“Huh?”

“You need to be a good girl. In the future, don't make your father angry, understood?”

“Oh. I really know that I made a mistake this time!”

“Mm. I know you are a good girl, Brightmoon. The best girl.”

Yu Wei's incarnation held Brightmoon in her arms. Suddenly...her tears began to fall.

“I'm sorry. I'm so sorry.” Yu Wei's incarnation held Brightmoon in her arms, while the confused Brightmoon raised her head to look at her mother puzzledly. Yu Wei just looked back at her, as though wanting to firmly engrave the memory of her daughter into her heart.

And then...

She dissipated like a mist.

“Mother?” Brightmoon hurriedly called out.

.....

The world of the Grand Xia. Whitepole Commandery. Within the Eight Dragons Cloudcity, hovering in midair. Ning's residence.

Yu Wei's slender, pale fingers held the black jade bottle as she looked towards Ning.

She still remembered the first time she had met this junior apprentice-brother of hers...it was back when Ning had first entered the Black-White College. During the Dao Debates at the Black-White College, Ning had repeatedly overcome all challengers in an absolutely dazzling fashion, causing Yu Wei to become intrigued. She thus personally challenged Ning to a duel. Perhaps...even as far as back then, she had subconsciously wanted to leave Ning with an impression of her.

That trip to the Witchriver Immortal Estate...she had watched as Ning and Ninelotus had parted ways, watched as Ning had left all by himself...

In the Brightmoon Diagram of the Mountains and Rivers...she had experienced life and death by his side. She had protected him, and he had protected her. Their hearts had grown closer, and when she suddenly was faced with life-threatening danger, he had finally charged forward and taken her into his arms. Faced with his embrace, she could no longer hold back. Even though she was a member of the Seamless Alliance, she swore an oath to herself to never, ever hurt him.

Later on, she had returned from her tutelage under Patriarch Lu, and Ning had come back as well.

Finally, they were together.

Be it her past life or her present life...these days were the happiest days she had ever experienced. They had viewed flowers together, watched the moon together, and their two hearts were like one...

She would stroke her belly, watching as her junior apprentice-brother practiced with the sword...

She would prepare delicacies as she waited for her junior apprentice-brother to return...

And finally...finally! Their daughter was safely born into the world. Although the Godking had issued the order soon afterwards, at least the two of them had been given some time together, and at least they now had a child together...

It was enough. These happy days had been the most blissful, joyful days she had ever experienced, in this life or the previous one.

Only...she truly felt sorry towards her junior apprentice-brother, towards their daughter...

Thousands of thoughts, countless emotions...they all flashed through her mind.

Right at this moment, within the Violetdawn Pearl's world, Yu Wei's incarnation was tightly holding her daughter in her arms as tears began to cascade from her eyes.

CRACK!

The slender, white, dainty fingers...shattered the black jade bottle.

Ning had been in a superb mood. The sound of the shattering jade bottle was like an explosion that rang out against his very soul. He stared at the already-shattered black jade bottle in disbelief. How...how could...

Whoooooosh.

Silently and soundlessly, Shennong's medicine that had been contained within the black jade bottle began to immediately spread outwards in every direction.

Ning and Yu Wei were the first to be affected by it. The Immortal energy within their bodies was instantly congealed, giving them no way to activate it at all.

"What just happened?"

"This..."

"Heavens..."

Almost instantly, all of the Loose Immortals and Celestial Immortals within the Darknorth army camp felt their bodies turn soft. Their Immortal energy became completely unusable, and the light, airy feeling of grace they usually felt was gone as well. They were like completely ordinary mortals.

Shennong's medicine quickly began to spread out in every direction.

It spread out to cover an area of ten thousand kilometers...and in truth, the entire Eight Dragons Cloudcity was only ten thousand kilometers in size.

"SHIT!!!"

A furious roar rang out, echoing throughout the entire Eight Dragons Cloudcity.

This was Daofather Crimsonbright's voice.

Instantly, a surge of powerful energy swept out and encompassed the city, immediately curtailing the spread of Shennong's medicine and causing it to remain where it was. However...although Daofather Crimsonbright had reacted quite quickly, a terrifying number of Celestial Immortals and Loose Immortals had been afflicted. The poison had spread far, far beyond the confines of the Darknorth army camp.

Ning just stared disbelievingly at his senior apprentice-sister.

His soul was shaking.

His heart was trembling.

His Dao-heart was strong...but no matter how strong it was, Ning was still thrust into a state of terror and absolute disbelief.

Not even the most terrifying of demonheart tribulations would have been capable of throwing Ning into a state of despair like he currently felt. When the black jade bottle had been shattered, Ning had instantly realized, but...his realization only caused him utter terror.

Yu Wei looked at Ji Ning.

Ji Ning looked at Yu Wei.

Their gazes met in midair.

This moment...

It became a moment eternal, a memory eternal.

Ning could sense the endless love and affection contained within his senior apprentice-sister's eyes, could sense how absolutely unwilling she was to part from him. He could sense that her love for him in this moment was so deep, it was etched into her very bones, into her very soul. He could also sense something else in her gaze...

Regret.

"I'm sorry." Yu Wei said these words softly. She just looked at Ning, as though she wanted to completely memorize his appearance and imprint it into the deepest parts of her soul.

Whoosh...

The wind blows...the sand flies...

Yu Wei's immediately body began to break apart and collapse, as though it was being transformed into tiny granules of sand. It was like a tiny flame being extinguished. In the instant that she had shattered the black jade bottle, she had unhesitatingly chosen to end her life as well. Her Celestial Immortal Jindan had already completely collapsed.

It was like a wind blew past...and she was like smoke being blown away by the wind, completely vanishing from the world.

Ning reached out with his hands, wanting to catch something...but there was nothing to catch.

He stood there stupidly, arms stretched out.

His inability to use his Immortal energy?

The fact that the destruction of Shennong's medicine would influence the entire Realmwar?

The fact that they might lose this Realmwar?

None of these thoughts entered Ning's mind at all...

He just stared blankly at the spot where his senior apprentice-sister had been sitting. Just now, a moment ago, she had been sitting there. She had prepared Immortal wine for him, had smiled merrily at him, just as she had always done whenever he had returned from those many battles.

But...

It was all gone now!

There was no one seated on that chair. It was empty...as though Yu Wei had never been there, had never existed.

"Her soul's gone?"

"It's all gone..."

Ning mumbled to himself, "Gone...she's gone...gone forever..."

"Why is it..."

“Why did it have to be like this...”

“Father and Mother are gone. Now, she’s gone as well.” Ning just sat there woodenly. It was though he had lost his soul. He just stared blankly at the place where she had sat. Just moments ago, she had sat there. She had smiled at him, a smile that had made Ning feel so warm, so blissful.

BOOM!

A figure appeared out of nowhere. It was the utterly enraged Daofather Crimsonbright.

Ning, however, just continued to sit there, staring at the place where she had sat. Staring at the place where she had been...

[The Desolate Era](#)

Book 18: Pure Yang Chapter 47: Shennong and Subhuti

Daofather Crimsonbright stared at the Immortal wine, drinking instruments, and shattered pieces of black jade that were on the table. He then looked towards the numb, unmoving Ji Ning. The look in Ning’s eyes caused Daofather Crimsonbright to shake his head.

“Ugh!” He flourished his sleeves and left.

“Master.”

Just as Daofather Crimsonbright was leaving the room, the Xia Emperor came in.

The Eight Dragons Cloudcity was the Xia Emperor’s treasure. Thus, he was the second to find out about what had happened.

“Master!” The Xia Emperor called out repeatedly.

“We lost...we lost.” Daofather Crimsonbright shook his head and sighed. “Our Crimsonbright Realm has already suffered heavy casualties during this Realmwar. I had thought that with Human Emperor Shennong’s help, we would be able to win, but...who would’ve thought that Ji Ning’s Dao-companion, Yu Wei, a disciple of Lu Dongbin...was actually a spy for the Seamless Gate as well. All our plans have come to nothing!”

“Don’t we have another bottle of Shennong’s medicine?” The Xia Emperor asked frantically.

“It’s useless.” Daofather Crimsonbright sighed. “Those Empyrean God golems of the Seamless Gate require a hundred Celestial Immortals, but the Daofather golem only requires a single Pure Yang True Immortal. This is because the core formation-diagrams of the Daofather golem can be powered by essence chaostones. The power of the essence chaostones can be converted directly into the power of primordial chaos, giving the Daofather golem endless amounts of power. The Daofather golem, however, is protected by layers of defenses. Even if I were to personally intervene, I wouldn’t be able to penetrate it. Not with a coresense attack, not with any other attacks. Shennong’s medicine is unable to penetrate the Daofather golem as well.”

“Now that Ji Ning’s portion of the medicine is gone, leaving only one portion behind...the Daofather golem of the Seamless Gate will completely focus on the holder of that portion. When it strikes, the rest of us will be completely unable to keep that portion safe.”

Daofather Crimsonbright felt quite resigned.

“Can’t we split up that portion into two smaller portions?” The Xia Emperor asked.

“What do you take it for? It’s a perfect, complete concoction; you can’t just split it up. Its power comes from its perfection and its completeness.” Daofather Crimsonbright shook his head. “If it could be split apart, I would’ve split it into a hundred parts long ago.”

“Is there really nothing left to us?” The Xia Emperor simply couldn’t accept this. He truly could not. The world of the Grand Xia which he had commanded and toiled over for countless years...the homeland of his Xiamang clan...it was now gone, just like that?

“There’s nothing left.” Daofather Crimsonbright shook his head. “Our only choice is to seek out Human Emperor Shennong once more and see if he has any ideas. However, the Human Emperor has already done much for us. Alas...”

“The antidote is with Ji Ning. Go and spread it out to the others. Rescue the Pure Yang True Immortals and Celestial Immortals first.”

“Yes.” The Xia Emperor nodded, then hurriedly said, “Master, don’t take your anger out on Ji Ning. I saw him through the door just now. He’s completely dazed by this blow. His Dao-companion was actually a spy that had been inserted by the Seamless Gate. This has been a tremendous mental blow to him. His most beloved Dao-companion was a spy, an enemy...” The Xia Emperor sighed.

“Of course I won’t take it out on him. Yu Wei was a spy, but Ji Ning is one of our warriors.” Daofather Crimsonbright turned his head to stare through the doorway as well, looking at Ji Ning. “I hope that this won’t do too much lasting damage to him. Snowdance was killed by the person she loved. While Ji Ning didn’t die...I imagine the amount of pain he feels right now isn’t much less than the amount which Snowdance felt. Help out and ensure that others don’t come here to berate him either. He’s only trained for a short period of time, after all.”

“Yes,” the Xia Emperor acknowledged respectfully.

.....

“What? Yu Wei was a traitor?”

“She actually harmed so many fellow Immortals.”

“Pity our fellow Daoist Darknorth...his most beloved Dao-companion was actually an enemy spy.”

“This Ji Ning character really is an idiot. This was a critical moment, and Shennong’s medicine was so absolutely precious to us...how could he be so careless?”

Soon, all the Empyrean Gods and True Immortals within the Eight Dragons Cloudcity learned of this matter. They all found it hard to accept this outcome, and some even were furious with Ning. Most of them, however, felt pity for him.

“Everyone, it’s best if you don’t bother Ji Ning.” The Xia Emperor prevented many from going in to speak to Ning. Only those who had extremely close relationships with Ning were allowed to go in.

True Immortal Dongyan came as well. He just stood outside the door, looking at Ning.

“For something like this to happen to him...” True Immortal Dongyan let out a soft sigh.

“However...based on what I know, generally speaking when the spies of the Seamless Gate reveal themselves, they will go berserk and show no mercy at all. Yu Wei actually didn't kill Ji Ning...”

“It doesn't matter. Yu Wei's dead now.” The Xia Emperor nodded. “Ji Ning is definitely going to hate the Seamless Gate even more now. The Seamless Gate...they truly are willing to make use of anything and anyone. They truly will stoop to nothing at all. They all deserve to die.”

.....

Within the skies of the Grand Xia.

An azure-robed figure with an Immortal sword on his back stood there, gazing at the distant Eight Dragons Cloudcity, his eyes filled with grief and pain. He let out a soft sigh. “Foolish child.”

“She always kept everything hidden away. Although I could tell that she was hiding something, I didn't imagine that she was actually a spy for the Seamless Gate. But...she's not a bad person by nature.” Grief and pain were apparent in Lu Dongbin's eyes. “Given how much trust Ning placed in her over the years, she could've slain him long ago. And in the end...she only destroyed the black jade bottle. She didn't hurt Ji Ning at all.”

“She shattered her own soul?”

“She would rather shatter her own soul than let it return to the Seamless Gate?” Lu Dongbin shook his head.

The Godking of the Seamless Gate was capable of forcibly carrying off the souls of those he had imprinted...but Yu Wei had instead chosen to shatter her own soul than to let that happen.

“The reason why she decided to shatter that black jade bottle was probably to repay the Godking for his 'benevolence'.”

“I heard long ago that the Seamless Gate has many spies, all of whom are extremely devoted to their Godking and willing to die for him if needed. He truly lives up to his reputation as the disciple of the Lord of the Demonheart...his ability to manipulate the hearts of men is indeed impressive. That foolish child shattered the jade black bottle to repay the Godking. As for suicide...she didn't want to cause Ji Ning any more problems in the future?”

Lu Dongbin loved to roam the mortal worlds, and had seen many scenes of grief, joy, parting, and gathering. He naturally understood what Yu Wei was thinking.

She...was simply a silly girl.

She had truly believed that the Godking had been extremely kind and benevolent towards her.

“To the Godking, she was nothing more than a slave, a weapon.” Lu Dongbin shook his head. “But Ji Ning...alas...”

Lu Dongbin felt helpless as well.

Ji Ning was indeed a peerless talent. The storm had just barely begun, but he had already started shine and dazzle...but now, the person he cared about the most had died and left him. This blow...there was nothing Lu Dongbin could do to soften it. The only person who could help Ji Ning right now was Ji Ning himself.

.....

Outside the Three Realms. At the end of the vast Void, there was the even-vaster primordial chaos.

Within the primordial chaos, all things were possible.

It was the primordial chaos that had given birth to many powerful Fiendgods, to Panlong, to Nuwa, to the Ancestor Dragon, to the Phoenix, to the Torch Dragon, to Daoist Threelives, to Subhuti, to Crimsonbright...to all of them. The most powerful Fiendgod, Pangu, had established Heaven and Earth, creating the utterly massive Pangu's Primordial World and perishing after his labors.

If yet another Pangu-like presence was born, he would absolutely be capable of establishing yet another world within the primordial chaos.

The primordial chaos was truly infinite and limitless, after all...after Mother Nuwa had entered the primordial chaos, she had never returned from it.

Within an area in the primordial chaos that was very close to the Three Realms.

There was a medicine field within the primordial chaos, and next to it was a thatched cottage. Two people were seated by the side of the cottage. One was the white-bearded Patriarch Subhuti, while the other was dressed in plain clothes and had unkempt hair and a tousled beard. He looked like an old farmer...but his eyes contained eternity within them, an ancientness that brought peace to the hearts of those who saw him.

He...was one of the Three Emperors of Mankind. Shennong!

Of the Three Emperors, Suiren was the most ancient, while Fuxi was always dressed in his Eight Trigram robes. Both had extraordinary appearances. Only Shennong dressed very simply, as though he was naught but an old farmer toiling away in his fields.

"This event is most likely going to cast a shadow over your disciple's heart." Shennong personally poured Subhuti a cup of tea. The tea bubbled and hissed, but it emanated a soothing, intoxicating fragrance.

"The Seamless Gate's subterfuge abilities are indeed unparalleled. There's no way to investigate them at all." Subhuti shook his head. "I've been thinking carefully about Yu Wei's past life and present life. I think it must be due to the fact that she suffered too much in her past life. She transformed into a demon and massacred countless people. In the midst of her massacres, she was probably influenced by Demonheart. She was naturally guided towards their side, and in the end became a chess piece for their 'Godking'."

"Yes." Shennong nodded.

Now that they knew for a fact that Yu Wei was a spy, it wasn't too hard for them to spot the reason as to why she had joined the Seamless Gate.

However, if they didn't already know this, there was no way to find out. There were far, far too many Immortal cultivators who descended into madness and slaughter, after all. Some might have become truly filled with bloodlust and the desire to kill, while others had been driven crazy by the Three Calamities and Nine Tribulations. There was no way to tell on the surface, no way at all.

"This time...Crimsonbright is going to lose." Shennong shook his head. "I just finished creating those two portions of Immortal medicine. Both were created using some unique herbs that I located in the primordial chaos that are incredibly rare. I can grow more of those herbs in my farm...but even if I change the flow of time to make them grow faster, I'll still need at least another century before I can finish another batch."

"If Crimsonbright loses, he'll naturally lead his army away from the Grand Xia. This disciple of yours...what are you planning to do about him?" Shennong asked.

Neither side had reached the point of entering a truly life-and-death struggle against the other yet. Both sides could easily retreat if they chose to. They could simply tear a hole through space and easily leave.

"Ji Ning has the [Starseizing Hand] of Threelives, and he's quite talented in heartforce as well. I feel, however, that his talent with the sword is even higher." Subhuti sighed. "He absolutely has the potential to become yet another 'Houyi'."

"Houyi?" Shennong gently nodded.

Houyi was someone who, as an Empyrean God, had slain a Daofather! He was an absolute legend.

"But this truly was a heavy blow for him. Still...fortune and disaster ride together. Perhaps this will serve to help him temper his heart." Patriarch Subhuti shook his head. "Emotional matters like this...he'll have to rely on himself to overcome it. There's nothing I can do."

.....

The Eight Dragons Cloudcity. Ji Ning's residence.

Ning was finally on his feet. He began to collect the table, the Immortal wine, and the drinking utensils in an extremely careful manner. He even picked up all the shattered pieces of black jade.

"Ji Ning."

"Eighth brother."

Celestial Immortals Unity, Allbeasts, Whacko, and the others had all arrived.

"Don't let yourself hurt too much." Celestial Immortal Allbeasts patted Ning on the shoulder and said, "Something like this is completely unpredictable. Since Yu Wei was a spy...then you should just forget about her, eighth brother. Don't let this misery and unhappiness fester away in your heart."

"Forget her," Celestial Immortal Whacko exhorted softly as well. "When Thousand Needles died, I felt so much pain that I wanted to die...but what can you do? We have to look forward, move forward. Forget her. It'll make things easier for you."

Ning raised his head to look at Whacko. His voice was slightly hoarse. "Seventh brother...have you been able to forget her?"

The Desolate Era

Book 18: Pure Yang Chapter 48: Ji Ning and the Godking

Whacko was stunned. For a moment, he couldn't say a word.

"All of you can go back now. Let me be by myself for a while," Ning said, then began to walk towards a nearby private room. This was the private room which Yu Wei had designed for him back when they had first arrived here.

Celestial Immortals Allbeasts, Rainsoar, Unity, and the others all watched as Ning walked away, then exchanged glances with each other. There was nothing they could do. They left the house.

.....

The private room was very simple, as were the prayer mats and the incense burners...but Yu Wei had personally laid out this room.

Ning swept the room with his gaze. He felt as though he could see Yu Wei decorating the room.

"Senior apprentice-sister," Ning murmured softly.

He then sat down in the lotus position by himself, closing his eyes.

His thoughts were a complete mess. The countless scenes of him being together with Yu Wei flooded his mind, and he couldn't help but repeatedly grimace.

Rumble...

A profound, arcane sort of ripple that came from another level of existence brushed past Ning. Not even Daofather Crimsonbright could detect this ripple. As it brushed past Ning, a powerful desire to sleep quickly filled him.

"Eh?!" Ning was shocked. He was a Pure Yang True Immortal; he wouldn't be so easily mesmerized.

"I am the Godking of the Seamless Gate. You should know of me." A voice rang out in Ning's mind.

"You?" Ning's mind was filled with boundless hate.

After having fought for so long, Ning had naturally engaged the Xia Emperor and the others in conversation. He knew, of course, that the true supreme commander of the Seamless Gate was the Godking. The Nuwa Alliance had learned long ago that the Godking was able to control the world of dreams, was capable of meeting others in their dreams. The Nuwa Alliance, however, was unable to counter this ability of his; they were completely unable to penetrate the dreamworlds which the Godking created.

"I'm going to guide a strand of your thoughts into my world. Let us converse," the Godking said.

"Fine." Ning didn't refuse. He was within the Eight Dragons Cloudcity; he wouldn't be in much danger at all. Just a strand of his thoughts...even if that strand was severed, it wouldn't be much of a loss.

Ning allowed a strand of his mind to be guided downwards, downwards into the abyss...

.....

Within a vast world of darkness.

A gigantic throne that was thirty thousand meters high was levitating in midair. The Godking was seated on his throne, and before him appeared the figure of Ji Ning.

Ning raised his head to glance coldly at the black-robed figure in midair. The aura around the black robes caused the Godking to seem exceptionally inscrutable and mysterious. Ning said coldly, "Why has an exalted Daofather such as yourself come to seek me out?" Although his heart was filled with boundless hatred, enough hatred to cause an ordinary mortal to go insane...Ning knew very well that the difference in power between himself and the supreme commander of the Seamless Alliance was too great.

"No need to feel such hatred for me." The Godking sat up high on his throne as he spoke calmly to Ji Ning. "We are enemies, after all; the actions I took, I took to guarantee that the Seamless Gate would win. I've come to you...because I wish for you to join the Seamless Gate."

"Idiocy." This was the only word Ning said. He couldn't even be bothered to say more.

"Do you think...that Yu Wei is dead?" The Godking asked.

Ning was stunned.

"What?" Ning stared at the Godking. "I personally watched as my senior apprentice-sister's soul was shattered. How could she not be?"

"Yes, her soul was shattered...but she didn't die." Amusement could be heard within the Godking's voice. "After her soul was shattered, her truesoul would've headed straight towards the River of Destiny, yes?"

Ning didn't say anything. This was indeed true. Even if Yu Wei's soul was shattered...if one could locate Yu Wei's truesoul within the River of Destiny, the truesoul could be used to bring her back to life once more! However, to find a truesoul within the River of Destiny...based on what Ning knew, the only one in the entire Three Realms capable of this was Mother Nuwa. Mother Nuwa, however, had long ago entered the infinite primordial chaos...

"Yu Wei was one of the many spies I sent to infiltrate the Nuwa Alliance," the Godking said. "Of the many spies, some were absolutely and unwaveringly loyal to me. They obey all my orders and commands, and are willing to die for me. These true believers...I long ago left behind my imprint upon their souls."

Ning's pupils contracted.

"Yu Wei committed suicide, shattering her soul...but thanks to the imprint I left behind on it, I knew right away what she had done," the Godking said. "Thus, as her soul was shattering, I immediately reached out to latch onto her truesoul, taking it away. Her truesoul isn't in the River of Destiny at all."

Ning's heart began to quiver.

“After taking away her truesoul, I sent it to be reincarnated within a lesser cycle of reincarnation which I set up,” the Godking said. Ning knew that most Daofathers were capable of setting up a lesser cycle of reincarnation; Daofather Crimsonbright himself had done such a thing.

Once a truesoul entered the cycle of reincarnation, it would naturally be reborn.

When Celestial Immortals and True Immortals were reborn, it was generally their truesouls which were reborn.

“After she was reborn, I immediately awakened her memories and captured her young soul. Take...a close look.” The Godking pointed with one finger.

Instantly, roughly a hundred meters to the right of Ji Ning, a black-robed maiden appeared out of thin air. Her appearance...her aura...her eyes...

“Senior apprentice-sister?” Ning couldn’t believe it...but he knew it to be true.

Some things could be imitated, but the look in one’s eyes could not.

“Ji Ning, she cannot hear you or see you. Just stand there and watch,” the Godking’s voice rang out.

“Respectful greetings to you, Godking.” Yu Wei had a somewhat stunned look her face as she fell to her knees.

“Yu Wei...did you think that if you committed suicide, your soul would be destroyed?” The Godking’s voice held a hint of wrath within it. “I told you that once you were prepared to destroy Shennong’s medicine, you were to first touch the imprint I left upon your soul, and I would rescue it right away. Why did you choose to commit suicide? If I was just slightly slower, your truesoul would’ve entered the River of Destiny, never to be found again.”

Yu Wei remained there on her knees. “Godking, please grant me death.”

“Grant you death?” The Godking said coldly, “What, are you afraid that if you remain alive, you’ll bring Ji Ning more trouble?”

The kneeling Yu Wei didn’t move at all.

“You truly are quite loyal to this Ji Ning of yours. Long ago, when I ordered you to take him to the Fifth World, you refused. And now, you would rather die than become a chess piece our Seamless Gate can use to influence him. You truly disappoint me.” The Godking was rather angry now.

Yu Wei remained on her knees, her tears cascading downwards.

She truly was very devoted to the Godking. She couldn’t help but feel miserable upon hearing that the Godking was disappointed in her...but she truly didn’t wish to become a burden to Ji Ning or her daughter.

Whoosh. The Godking blew towards her, and a wind arose that swept her away, causing her to disappear.

“Senior apprentice-sister.” Ning was shocked. That definitely had been his senior apprentice-sister; there was no mistaking it at all. That look in her eyes...there was definitely no mistaking it!

“Don’t panic.” The Godking looked towards Ning. “Your Dao-companion’s soul is fine. Only a sliver of her mind was within this dreamworld of mine. Now that her truesoul has been reborn, her new soul is incredibly weak. She isn’t even capable of committing suicide. Her fate...is now completely in your hands.”

“My hands?” Ning’s face changed.

“Right!” The Godking’s dark, misty eyes seemed to flash with lightning. “Your hands. If you join our Seamless Gate, then I can let you once more reunite with your beloved Dao-companion and live together in bliss. Under the Seamless Gate’s protection...not even your master, Daofather Subhuti, would be able to kill you. In addition, your master most likely wouldn’t be willing to violate our unspoken accord and personally act to kill you. He is a Daofather, after all.”

“Thus...”

“If you join our Seamless Gate, then you, your Dao-companion Yu Wei, and your child...all of you will be able to live together in bliss. You will also receive our protection!”

“But if you do not join us...the soul of your Dao-companion Yu Wei shall suffer endless, inescapable torment within my Infinity Hells. As for you and your child...you shall remain enemies of the Seamless Gate, forever suffering our assaults.”

The Godking looked at Ning. “I trust you know which choice you should make.”

“Take another look.” The Godking pointed sideways.

Whoosh.

A painting appeared out of nowhere.

This was the painting of a vast world, a world of flames, of mountains of blades, of lakes of burning oil, of forests of swords, of implements of torture. Many souls were here, undergoing countless torments and punishments. A black-robed maiden had been teleported here as well. Upon seeing the Infinity Hells, upon seeing the despair and misery of those countless souls...the look on her face couldn’t help but change.

But moments later, Yu Wei calmed down. She had guessed long ago that she would probably be sent to the Godking’s Infinity Hells.

“These are the Infinity Hells, a place I created. It’s an even more painful place than the eighteen layer of Hell of the Netherworld Kingdom.” The Godking looked at Ning. “If you are the enemy of the Seamless Gate...then Yu Wei will no longer be of use to me. Thus, she should prepare herself to suffer endless, infinite torture within the Infinity Hells.”

“She was so loyal to you!” Ning couldn’t help but snap.

“Loyal?” The Godking shook his head. “No. If she was loyal to me...you would’ve died long ago.”

Ning was stunned.

Right.

He himself could sense how badly the Seamless Gate wished to kill him. The three Diremonster Gods of Mount Dragoneater, for example, had always been hovering around him. Before that, the Seamless Gate had actually sent out a squad to assassinate him. Fortunately, Old Man Yuan had intervened. If Yu Wei had wanted him dead...given his absolute faith in her, he would've died long ago.

"She violated my orders," the Godking said. "Given my temper...I should've cast her into the Infinity Hells long ago, letting her suffer endless torment. However, she was the disciple of Lu Dongbin and your Dao-companion. It is hard to find someone like her, and so I showed her clemency."

In truth, when Yu Wei had refused the Godking's commands all those years ago, she had already mentally prepared herself for death.

That time, the Godking had shown clemency...which was why Yu Wei had wanted to give Ning a child.

"Thus, she should have started to suffer this sort of torture long ago. To violate my orders? The only result can be death." The Godking looked towards Ning. "But Ji Ning, your talent is truly remarkable; you are qualified to me to reconsider. The Seamless Gate views you as being very important...and so if you can join us, Yu Wei will immediately be spared her eternal torment. She'll even be allowed to accompany you and your child. The three of you will be able to live together with each other forever."

The Godking truly wished to be able to pull Ji Ning to his side.

Ji Ning was a tremendous threat, true. But if they could recruit him...the Seamless Gate would've gained yet another helper, while the Nuwa Alliance would've lost one of their peerless talents. This was a result that was much better than merely killing Ji Ning. As for Yu Wei...she was the tool which the Seamless Gate was relying on to make this happen.

"Join our Seamless Gate. We have treasures, divine abilities, golems...everything. You, your child, and your Dao-companion will be able to join together once more." The Godking pointed towards the midair images. "I trust you won't consign the woman you love into the Infinity Hells."

Ning was silent.

He just stood there, looking at the image of his senior apprentice-sister, Yu Wei. He just silently stood there.

[The Desolate Era](#)

Book 18: Pure Yang Chapter 49: The Choice

Ji Ning had never doubted Yu Wei's love for him. When the two had been together, he had been able to truly sense her heart. His parents had passed away, but she had let him once more feel warmth in his heart. It was something which surpassed simple love; only when love reached a truly deep level would it bring this sort of warmth.

But...

There were others that Ning could never forget.

If it hadn't been for Daoist Threelives' legacy, he probably would've died long ago when he was weak!

If it wasn't for the seven mighty Empyrean Gods, he would've perished long ago!

If it wasn't for his master Subhuti, he would've lost his life in the Nihilum Zone!

His master, Immortal Diancai...his fellow disciple, Mu Northson...they were filled with endless hatred towards the Seamless Gate.

His father...his mother...their situation was probably even worse than Yu Wei's. Their truesouls had already entered the River of Destiny...and with Mother Nuwa having disappeared into the primordial chaos, the fact that their souls had been shattered meant that they were essentially dead and gone.

To bring Mother Nuwa back?

To reach Mother Nuwa's level?

It would be very hard! Even harder than defeating the Seamless Alliance!

.....

Fog continued to billow around the Godking's black robes. He stared downwards at Ji Ning, awaiting his response. He knew very well that this was perhaps his best chance of making Ji Ning join the Seamless Gate...because Yu Wei could be described as the most important person in Ji Ning's life. Their souls were tied together...and as the Godking had said, Yu Wei had chosen to die rather than be a burden to Ji Ning.

As the disciple of a Daofather, Ji Ning himself wouldn't be blamed or directly affected by a defeat in this Realmwar.

The entire vast world of darkness was deathly still, terrifyingly still.

Ning just stood there quietly, staring at the image of his senior apprentice-sister. It seemed as though he wanted to permanently engrave her appearance in his mind.

"Make your choice," the Godking said. "Don't try to deceive me. You won't be able to."

Ning trembled.

He was silent for a moment. Then, Ning broke his silence and said in a soft voice, "Let me look at her for a bit longer."

The Godking was instantly enraged!

Even the fog that was billowing around the black robes and the massive throne began to roil about. Visible crackles of lightning could be seen within the fog, utterly dazzling to behold. The Godking forced down his rage, then growled, "You have decided to remain enemies with my Seamless Gate? Your most beloved Dao-companion is about to be exiled into the Infinity Hells. You have the power to keep her safe and let her be by your side and your child's side...but you are now choosing to send her into Hell, never to be reborn!"

The Godking's every word stabbed like knives against Ning's heart.

"The choice is yours!" The entire vast world of darkness was shaking. Clearly, the Godking was almost unable to repress his anger.

Deep, boundless pain could be seen within Ning's eyes...but he just stood there and quietly stared at his senior apprentice-sister.

Suddenly...

Ning turned, looked at the Godking, then with a thudding sound respectfully fell to his knees.

The Godking was instantly delighted. He even left his vast throne and walked downwards towards Ning. "Hahaha, Ji Ning...this is a wise decision you have just..." But Ning suddenly spoke out, interrupting the Godking's words.

"Godking, you are an exalted Daofather." Ning remained on his knees. "I know that my senior apprentice-sister experienced great hardship in her past life, and I imagine you must have been benevolent towards her. In turn, she was completely loyal to you, going so far as to destroy Shennong's medicine. It can be said that she rendered a major contribution to the Seamless Gate. I'd like to ask you, Godking, not to bicker with a poor little girl like her. I wouldn't dare beg that you send my senior apprentice-sister back to my side, Godking; all I hope is that she can live a simple, peaceful life. If you can do this, I will be endlessly grateful."

The kneeling Ji Ning's voice was filled with supplication.

The Godking had already left his throne and landed on the ground. He was momentarily stunned...and then he grew even further enraged. He roared furiously, "Ji Ning!!!! You will be 'grateful'? 'Poor little girl'? This is a WAR!!! You only have two options! If you refuse me, then she will definitely be sent to suffer endless torment."

"Go! Send Yu Wei to her justly deserved torments for all eternity. Let her never be reborn!" The Godking's furious roar rang out, reverberating within the Infinity Hells.

"Yes."

Instantly, two black-robed envoys took hold of Yu Wei and sent her to a fiery abyss...

Ning continued to kneel there.

"Godking." Ning looked towards the Godking.

"You only have two options. Stand by my side...or be my enemy!" The entire world of darkness was filled with wrath and fury.

Ning rose to his feet, quietly staring at the painting and at the images of his senior apprentice-sister suffering fiery torment within it.

And then...

Ning turned around.

Whoosh!

He vanished from this dreamworld.

“Damn!” The Godking roared with fury, causing the entire world of darkness to shake. “Damn, damn, DAMN!!!”

“Your lover will suffer torment...and you, you will soon die as well! You will DIE!” The Godking was truly enraged. He truly had wanted to recruit Ji Ning to his side...but he had actually be refused. He was humiliated, enraged, and filled with a desire to kill. But the Nuwa Alliance was very powerful; to kill Ji Ning would be no easy task.

.....

“You are the one who personally consigned her to endless torment within the Infinity Hells! It was you! You personally!!!” The Godking’s furious roars reverberated with Ning’s mind.

BOOM!

Ning’s powerful coresense struck out against that thought-strand, blasting it apart. This undetectable method which the Godking was using...although not even Daofathers could sense it, it didn’t contain much power.

Within the world of the Violetdawn Pearl.

Creaaak. Ning’s true body walked out from his study. Soon, he arrived at the room where his daughter Brightmoon was being punished.

His daughter Brightmoon was still on her knees, her eyes filled with puzzlement and confusion.

“Father.” When Brightmoon saw Ning, she immediately revealed a look of joy. “I was wrong. I really understand that I was wrong. Don’t be angry, Father. I’ll never dare to use fire to play with mortals in the future.”

Ning walked to his daughter’s side, then fell to his knees, quietly taking her into his arms.

Brightmoon couldn’t help but reveal a look of joy as her father took her into his arms. She comfortably snuggled into Ning’s chest. “Father, don’t be angry anymore. Ahaha, Mother came a short while ago to hug me as well...but then she said ‘sorry’. Sorry? I don’t really understand...but then, Mother disappeared. Father, didn’t you say that Mother left her incarnation here? Why did her incarnation suddenly leave?”

Ning trembled.

So...

So she hadn’t just said ‘sorry’ to him. She had said ‘sorry’ to their daughter as well.

“Father?” Brightmoon could sense that something was wrong with Ning.

Ning continued to hold his daughter in his arms. He said in a soft voice, “I’m the one who should be sorry to your mother.” Ning shut his eyes, his tears coming out.

It was true!

He felt so sorry!

Although the Godking had forced him to make a decision...in the end, he had decided to let her be sent to the Infinity Hells. Ning felt as though countless ants were constantly gnawing upon his heart.

He felt utter agony in his heart.

Guilt.

Misery.

Prior to this, Ning hadn't shed any tears, not even when he had seen her soul be shattered. He had been delighted to discover that she wasn't dead, then instantly had to face a choice that brought despair. He had to watch as she began to be tortured within the Infinity Hells...but despite all that, Ning hadn't shed any tears.

Now, however, as he held his daughter in his arms, Ning could no longer resist. Finally, he began to cry.

Hot tears came cascading down his face, landing on Brightmoon's body. Brightmoon was stunned.

Raising her head, she looked towards Ning. She saw that her father...was actually crying.

"What happened? Where's Mother?" Brightmoon was very clever. She immediately asked this question.

"She died." Ning held his daughter in his arms as he responded in a soft voice.

"Died?" Brightmoon was stunned. Although she was precocious and intelligent, she was truly stunned. The only thing she could do was just stupidly stand there and hug her father.

"Brightmoon...in the future, it'll just be you and me."

Ning continued to hold his daughter in his arms. She had just been born...but her mother had already left.

"Senior apprentice-sister...I'm sorry. I swear...I'll take good care of our child. I definitely will." The only thing and the most important thing Ning could do for his senior apprentice-sister, for himself, was to take good care of and protect their daughter.

"And the Seamless Gate..."

His tears continued to fall, but deep within his eyes, a desire to kill that was even deeper than the Abyss could be seen.

.....

The Eight Dragons Cloudcity.

Ji Ning emerged from his room.

"He came out?" The Xia Emperor looked towards Ning.

"Your Imperial Majesty, you've been here this entire time?" Ning was stunned.

"If I wasn't here...do you think you would've had such a peaceful time of it? Countless people have come to speak to you. Some came to console you, but some came to curse you and berate you." The Xia Emperor shook his head. "I can't blame them. We were on the cusp of winning this Realmwar, after all,

but now...alas. Once this Realmwar is lost, the worlds and the foundations that these Emyrean Gods and True Immortals spent countless years cultivating will be taken away by the Seamless Gate. How can they not be enraged? Still, don't be angry with them. After some time passes, they'll slowly begin to accept this outcome."

Ning looked towards the Xia Emperor.

He could sense that these words of the Xia Emperor held a hint of frustration and disappointment within them.

With the war lost, the Xia Emperor would lose his Grand Xia world. That was the foundation of his Xiamang clan, a vast world which he had spent his blood and sweat to build up, ever since he had taken it over during the Fiendgod Era. How could he not be heartbroken? But the Xia Emperor didn't blame Ji Ning; instead, he had stayed outside and prevented many people from coming in, ensuring that Ji Ning wouldn't be disturbed. Ning knew very well that the fact that they had snatched defeat from the jaws of victory would be very difficult for many of the Emyrean Gods and True Immortals to accept. They would be utterly enraged and heartbroken.

"Are we really going to lose?" Ning asked.

"We really are." The Xia Emperor sighed, then nodded his head.

[The Desolate Era](#)

Book 18: Pure Yang Chapter 50: Though I Come From the Mortal Dust, My Heart Still Soars Towards the Heavens

"Although there are many people who are unwilling to accept this, the difference in power is too great." The Xia Emperor shook his head. "The Seamless Gate has a Daofather golem on their side, while we were going to rely on Shennong's medicine to win the battle, but...well, now we shall simply wait for the Daofather to give us our final orders."

Ji Ning nodded gently.

"It's my fault," Ning said calmly.

"This isn't your fault. You couldn't have imagined that Yu Wei belongs to the Seamless Gate. There's no need for you to overthink things. I've been outside and have prevented quite a few from coming in to bother you; this was on the Daofather's personal instructions. The Daofather still views you as being extremely important." The Xia Emperor looked towards Ji Ning.

The Xia Emperor suddenly remembered something. He immediately said, "Right, you should be unable to use your Immortal energy right now, right? I'll give you ten drops of the antidote."

"Give me a hundred," Ning said.

"A hundred?" The Xia Emperor looked towards Ning with surprise. "You..."

Ning didn't explain. What would be the point of explaining that he had become a Pure Yang True Immortal? His Heaven Punisher was still at the same level of power that it always was; it wouldn't be able to change the outcome of the battle at all. It was best not to give them any false hopes.

"Fine. Take it." The Xia Emperor took out a jade bottle and a large gourd. Drops of liquid flew out from the gourd and into the jade bottle. After a hundred drops were absorbed, he handed it to Ning.

Ning accepted it, then began to go towards the outside.

"Isn't that Commander Ji Ning?"

"That's Immortal Darknorth, Ji Ning!"

"I heard that his Dao-companion was a spy for the Seamless Gate!"

"Yes, I heard the same. We were at the cusp of victory, but this Ji Ning guy placed too much faith in his Dao-companion, giving her the chance to destroy Shennong's medicine, and our hopes for victory along with it. We've fought for so long...so many of us have died...and it was all for nothing. Immortal Darknorth was far too careless...and he was far too trusting of his Dao-companion!"

"Fellow Daoist Wangxiu, you go too far! A Dao-companion is the most important companion anyone will have on their Immortal path. Both Dao-companions will support each other and assist each other. How many would be suspicious of their Dao-companions? If they were, they wouldn't have become Dao-companions to begin with!"

"Poor Immortal Darknorth, to be betrayed by his Dao-companion like that."

"Yeah, poor bastard."

As Ning walked through the Eight Dragons Cloudcity and passed by the various military camps, the various Immortals within those camps all looked at Ning and whispered amongst themselves. With the story being told and retold, the truth had long since become rather blurred...but the countless Immortals and Fiendgods continued to discuss it, as this was what had caused them to lose this entire Realmwar."

"I heard that Yu Wei took advantage of Immortal Darknorth's trust to destroy Shennong's medicine. Immortal Darknorth was so enraged and heartbroken that he personally wiped out Yu Wei, shattering her very soul."

"Right, I heard the same, that Immortal Darknorth personally killed that traitor."

"It's all that damned traitor's fault."

As Ning continued to walk through the city, his ears began to twitch and a hint of grief appeared in his eyes. He knew that once the story began to spread, this would become a popular version. He hadn't killed his senior apprentice-sister; she had shattered her own soul, because she no longer wanted to be under the control of the Seamless Gate. But now, she was suffering endless torment and torture within the Infinity Hells. Although it was the Godking who was doing this...it was true that Ning had decided to leave her there.

After walking for a long time...

Ning arrived at the city walls of the Eight Dragons Cloudcity. He sat down atop the city walls, all by his lonesome as he quietly stared at the utterly devastated battlefield beyond the walls. He also saw the vast, dark citadel of the Seamless City, hovering in the sky in the distance.

The Seamless City. The Eight Dragons Cloudcity. They continued to face each other. Clearly...this great war hadn't truly ended yet.

"Ji Ning?" As soon as True Immortal Dongyan walked out from his palace, he could see that that solitary figure seated atop the city walls. He could sense how withered, how haggard Ji Ning was right now. He didn't have the boundless vitality that he had in the past. In the past, Ji Ning always had a smile on his face, and his eyes were always bright. Right now, however...Ji Ning was like a mountain glacier that had been built up over thousands of years, filled with an infinitely cold and desolate aura.

"Ji Ning is man of deep emotions, and he cares deeply about love." Someone else walked to Dongyan's side; it was True Immortal Cloudust, who let out a sigh. "This word, 'love'...it is absolutely ravaging."

"Yes." True Immortal Dongyan nodded. "To be betrayed by his most beloved Dao-companion...a blow like this...ugh, there's nothing we can do to help him. Right, fellow Daoist Cloudust...is there any chance left for our Crimsonbright Realm to win?"

True Immortal Cloudust was the follower of Human Emperor Shennong; he should have access to detailed intelligence.

True Immortal Cloudust shook his head. "There's almost no hope. Given the current state of the battle...the only chance we have is if we summon some of the most famous and powerful Empyrean Gods and True Immortals of the Three Realms. But these figures are needed everywhere, either to cow certain enemies or to deal with major threats. If we send them here, it'll have an impact on our force disposition across the entire Three Realms. In the end, the Crimsonbright Realm is just one of the weaker Realms, after all."

"It is a bit weak...but we've been fighting for years and have suffered countless casualties." True Immortal Dongyan didn't want to accept this.

All of the Empyrean Gods and True Immortals of the Crimsonbright Realm naturally felt strong ties towards their homeland. Nobody wanted for their homeland to be occupied by the Seamless Gate.

"For now, just wait. The Daofather has already gone to speak with the Human Emperor." True Immortal Cloudust continued, "Let's see if the Human Emperor has any ideas...but my feeling is that if the Human Emperor had any ideas, he would've reached out long ago."

True Immortal Dongyan nodded.

"Alas...if Shennong's medicine hadn't been destroyed...if Ji Ning hadn't given it to Yu Wei..." True Immortal Cloudust sighed.

True Immortal Dongyan sighed and shook his head. "Ji Ning trusted his Dao-companion too much."

Given the current state of the war, almost all of the Empyrean Gods and True Immortals of the Grand Xia had lost their hope. Quite a few of them had been so furious with Ji Ning as to curse him aloud, but

slowly they all began to calm down. They no longer blamed Ji Ning...because they knew that Ji Ning himself certainly hadn't hoped for this to happen!

"Where's Ji Ning?"

"He's still there atop the walls."

"It's been days. He hasn't even moved from the walls at all. I wonder what he's looking at?"

The Empyrean Gods and True Immortals were chatting amongst themselves.

"The Human Emperor has already sent word. There's nothing he can do. That medicine is too difficult to create; even the Human Emperor was only able to send some more of the antidote over to allow our Immortals to recover."

"The Human Emperor has given up?"

"He's actually given up..."

"My brothers all died in battle...was it all for nothing?"

"My Skysong clan's Heaven Punisher was destroyed. We had twelve Celestial Immortals in our ranks, but I was the only one lucky enough to survive. I had thought that after our grand victory, I would spend some time having our clan rest and rebuild. But now..."

Pain. Heartbreak.

The Crimsonbright Realm was their home. Their foundation. The place where countless generations of their clan members had toiled over, shedding blood and sweat. They were willing to die for their homeland; they were even willing to accept the deaths of their brothers, masters, and disciples if it meant winning this battle. It would all be worth it! But...they weren't going to be able to win. They were going to lose!

.....

Ning was by himself atop the city walls.

"Ji Ning." The red-haired Empyrean God Redsnow had arrived. He gently patted Ning on the shoulders.

"Bestir yourself. This is nothing more than one of many pitfalls you shall encounter on your Immortal path."

"I understand." Ning nodded.

"Once you move past it...you will see that the seas and the skies remain as vast as they ever were." Empyrean God Redsnow looked at Ning, hope in his eyes.

"Just give me a little more time to think things over," Ning said softly.

"Alright." Empyrean God Redsnow didn't try to force things. He knew very well what sort of a person Ji Ning was. That was why he liked Ji Ning so much, supporting him and believing him to be the most suitable successor to the Starseizing Manor! Only a man who cared deeply about relationships would

win the trust of his comrades. Selfish individuals like Sword Immortal Evergreen...how many would truly be willing to trust and befriend him?

However, people who cared deeply about relationships would also be deeply wounded by them.

In fact, even some of the major powers of the Three Realms had been deeply wounded in their relationships...and despite the passage of countless eras, they remained unable to truly heal from those wounds.

Empyrean God Redsnow left.

“Move past it?” Ning murmured to himself, “How can I move past it?”

Ning had felt tremendous despair when he saw Yu Wei die.

But now that he knew that Yu Wei wasn't dead...he was momentarily overjoyed, then forced to make a choice. He had chosen to personally consign Yu Wei to the Infinity Hells. This caused Ning to feel even greater heartbreak.

Although his body remained in the mortal world, his heart had already entered Hell.

Guilt.

Pain.

Ning wanted to force them all down, to suppress them, to move past it all...but how could he possibly suppress them all?

“I confidently viewed myself as a favored son of heaven, as a formidably talented figure. But I was wrong. I was wrong. She's now suffering endless torment in the Infinity Hells, but there's nothing I can do. Not a damn thing.” Ning stared at the desolate landscape, which had long ago become utterly ruined and ravaged by the wars between the Immortals and Fiendgods. “I'm just like this landscape here. Like the grass atop the ground. In the face of the Immortals and Fiendgods who do battle...the only thing the grass can do is be trampled upon and destroyed, because it can't fight back at all.”

“Weak.”

“I'm still puny and weak.”

“Formidably talented? No matter how talented I am, it will be a long, long time before I can possibly be a match for the Godking. In the here and now...I remain very weak. Faced with the Godking's power, all I could do was to let it all happen. I wasn't able to stop him, to push back at all.”

The utter despair he felt...what he witnessed first-hand was what caused it to be etched into his bones and imprinted into his soul.

The Godking made Ji Ning choose.

Ji Ning had no choice but to choose!

He could only watch as the Godking sent Yu Wei into the Infinity Hells! The only thing he could do was to kneel down and hope that he could move the Godking with his words...but alas, it was useless.

He was powerless!

Everything was under the Godking's control. The only thing Ning could do was accept it all.

Ning stared at the wild grass atop the ravaged landscape. He felt like he was the grass; there was nothing he could do but be trampled upon, be broken, be attacked, be destroyed...the only thing he could do was to accept it!

As Ning was staring at the grass vacantly...

Ning's heart suddenly became completely calm, empty, and ephemeral.

The countless strands of grass...the dust...it seemed to spread into Ning's very heart, and Ning's heart itself was expanding as well to accommodate them. In fact, even the skies themselves seemed to extend into Ning's heart. Slowly, the entirety of Whitepole Commandery was contained within Ning's heart, which continued to grow and grow...

His heart was endlessly vast. As vast as Heaven and Earth, all of which was contained within his heart.

Ning's heart had reached out to encompass all 3600 commanderies. In fact, it reached out to cover even the vast and massive seas. The entire world of the Grand Xia, protected by the planar membrane, was like a giant oval spheroid...and the entire vast spheroid had already become one with Ning's heart.

In fact, his heart was still trying to continue to expand, to stretch out to the vast, vacant Void itself.

It was a powerful, innate desire of his heart.

Ning sat there atop the city walls. He said softly to himself, "Though I come from the mortal dust, my heart still soars towards the heavens."

[The Desolate Era](#)

Book 18: Pure Yang Chapter 51: Heartforce, Stage Four

Ji Ning wiped the tears from his eyes. He understood that these were tears of joy, an uncontrollable joy that had come out upon his heart becoming one with Heaven in Earth.

"So...in the past, I was wrong, ridiculously wrong."

"No wonder the truly supreme divine archers of the Three Realms are all so low-key."

Ning finally understood the true nature of the fourth stage of heartforce, 'mortal dust'.

It was like the grass upon the desolate battlefield...

It had to struggle to emerge from the dirt and grow up. It fought for every ray of sunshine, every drop of rain, because it wanted to grow higher and higher. It might be very low-key and unremarkable...but not even the most exalted major powers of the Three Realms could stop the will and the heart of the grass. The heart was infinite and unlimited; even a beggar could have the heart and ambitions of an emperor.

The power of the heart was invisible and formless...but it was incomparably marvelous.

Even mortals who had sufficiently powerful hearts and wills could create miracles. They would become heroes!

As for Immortal cultivators...

The number in the Three Realms who were able to reach the fourth stage of heartforce, 'mortal dust', was incredibly low! The number who managed to reach this fourth stage when at the Empyrean God or True Immortal level could be counted on one hand. Even amongst the exalted True Gods and Daofathers, the fourth stage essentially represented an absolute limit. Only one person had ever broken past this limit...Houyi!

Houyi was the only person to ever reach the fifth stage of heartforce, and he even left behind a systemized technique for training in it. His power was acclaimed at all, but he had long ago disappeared.

From this, one could tell how incredibly difficult it was for one to reach the fourth stage of heartforce.

"I'm like the wild grass. I'm nothing more than an unremarkable blade of grass. In the face of the Godking, in the face of the major powers...I'm unbelievably weak." Ning had been seated atop the city walls, but he now rose to his feet and stared towards the skies. "But I want to walk further along my path, to make it to greater heights, to become even more powerful than the Godking. In fact, I want to reach Pangu and Nuwa's level...and then surpass them!"

"No matter how lowly a person might be, his heart is limitless." Ning felt very moved.

Prajna-states of enlightenment were profound, arcane, and unpredictable.

After experiencing so many setbacks and that agonizing choice...Ning's heart had indeed been greatly impacted. But only when he felt as downtrodden as he did right now did he truly understand what it meant to be as insignificant as a speck of mortal dust. And so, he slowly began to understand and gain insights into this stage.

Everyone knew the principles of this stage, but to truly understand it and to thoroughly comprehend it was far, far more difficult.

'Knowing' what to do is easy; it's the 'doing' that is tricky!

As Ning's heart had expanded, his heartforce had risen in power as well. When Ning's heart had reached the point of becoming one with the entire world of the Grand Xia and begun to reach out towards the infinite Void...his heartforce had truly reached an absolutely terrifying level, a level which represented an absolute limit for even True Gods and Daofathers, many of whom had not been able to reach it.

The fourth stage of heartforce!

Ning had broken through!

Aside from the missing Houyi...Ning's heartforce could be ranked as the highest within the entire Three Realms!

"Always consider yourself as an unremarkable speck of mortal dust. Always reach for greater heights. Not even reaching Pangu's level is the end of your ambitions." Ning didn't know whether or not Pangu's level represented the endpoint for Immortal cultivation, but there was no endpoint for the heart. His heart could become infinitely vast, infinitely great.

"The difference between the fourth stage and the third stage is simply far too vast."

Reaching the third stage of heartforce allowed one to have the power of a supreme Celestial Immortal.

The fourth stage of heartforce, however, gave one the power of a supreme Empyrean God or True Immortal!

Every single Empyrean God and True Immortal who had reached the fourth stage of heartforce stood at the very peak of power amongst their peers. The divine archer Eastbreak, for example...after using Daofruits of primordial chaos, he was able to suppress an entire battlefield all by himself! Although the Daofruits were very powerful...if it hadn't been for Eastbreak's archery and coreforce, how could the other Empyrean Gods and True Immortals have all been completely shut down?

"Although I've only reached the expert level in my soul heartforce technique...even reaching the level of perfect mastery would probably increase my power by a mere tenfold, by a single level of so."

"With my heartforce having increased from the third level to the fourth level...my power has increased by multiple levels."

Ning himself knew how much he had improved.

"It is time to see the Daofather." Ning rose to his feet. He felt guilt towards Daofather Crimsonbright. It had been the Daofather who had personally handed him Shennong's medicine in a show of tremendous faith. Although it was Yu Wei who had turned traitor...in the end, it was his fault!

Ning stared at the vast, desolate wilderness. He also stared at the enormous black levitating citadel, the Seamless City. He quietly murmured to himself, "This battle isn't over yet."

Prior to this, his Heaven Punisher was already very powerful. With his heartforce having increased by an entire major level...how powerful would his Heaven Punisher become? Not even Ning himself knew.

This was because only a few Empyrean Gods or True Immortals had ever reached the fourth level of heartforce. Of them, Ning was the only one who had developed a soul heartforce technique! In other words...in the entire Three Realms, there was no Empyrean God or True Immortal whose Heaven Punisher was stronger than Ning's. His was the most powerful of them all!

"Godking." Boundless hatred could be seen within Ning's eyes.

Whoosh.

Ning walked down from the city walls, then towards the distant main palace of the Eight Dragons Cloudcity.

If the Godking knew that his decision to force Ji Ning to make such an agonizing decision had resulted in Ning's heartforce advancing from the third stage to the fourth stage...it's hard to imagine how much regret he would feel. This was an advancement that was even more terrifying than perfecting the soul heartforce technique! And now...he had personally created a freak who knew the soul heartforce technique and had fourth stage heartforce.

The Godking's original goal had merely been to make Ji Ning join the Seamless Gate.

Ji Ning was walking towards the main palace of the Eight Dragons Cloudcity.

“It’s Ji Ning.”

“Why is Ji Ning going towards the main hall?”

“He spent a few days sitting blankly atop the city walls. I wonder what he was thinking about? This must have been an enormous blow to him, and he also caused us to lose this Realmwar...I hope he’s not blaming himself so much that his thoughts are in a complete mess, causing him to go seek out the Daofather.

“Alas...he truly is a peerless monster, the likes of which are rarely seen. I hope he hasn’t been ruined by his Dao-companion...”

The Immortals who saw Ning walking towards the main hall all chatted amongst themselves.

Love...it was a single word, but because of this word, countless lives had been destroyed and countless paths had been severed. This happened far, far too often within the Three Realms. However...those who were able to persevere after suffering such blows, who were able to continue to advance...they all became awe-inspiring figures of the Three Realms. They were no longer referred to as ‘monstrous geniuses’; they were known as the true experts of the Three Realms!

“Ji Ning?” The Xia Emperor walked out from the main palace. He said in surprise, “Why have you come?”

“I wish to see the Daofather,” Ning said.

“The Daofather is not in a good mood. It’s best if you don’t go,” the Xia Emperor said hurriedly.

“Not in a good mood?” Ning was startled.

“Right.” The Xia Emperor nodded. “Human Emperor Shennong is out of ideas, but the Daofather is still unwilling to give up. He’s spent countless years building his Crimsonbright Realm up, after all. Thus, the Daofather went out to meet with other major powers, including the leaders of the Daoist Path and the Buddhist Sangha, as well as others, but...alas...”

Ning nodded. “I understand.”

The Xia Emperor looked towards Ning. “Do you still wish to see the Daofather, then?”

Ning nodded.

Whoosh.

Ning’s aura suddenly transformed from that of a Celestial Immortal to that of a Pure Yang True Immortal.

“Pure...Pure Yang?!” The Xia Emperor’s eyes instantly turned round and huge. Overjoyed, he said, “Ji Ning, you made a breakthrough?”

“Yes.” Ning nodded.

Since he’d already decided that he was going to win this Realmwar...he had remain careful of the Seamless Gate’s intelligence network. Thus, Ning only revealed the fact that he had the power of a Pure Yang True Immortal, intending to force the Seamless Gate into a series of miscalculations. As for

reaching the fourth level of heartforce...for now, he had to hide this. He would only reveal his power at a critical moment, allowing them to win this war in one blow.

But if he wanted to hide it from them...

He had to hide it from everyone! Only when he alone knew this secret would it truly be a secret. If he told anyone else at all, the Seamless Gate would have a chance to find out.

“Fantastic. This...this is absolutely fantastic.” The Xia Emperor was extremely excited. “Your breakthrough to the Pure Yang level means that your Heaven Punisher will increase dramatically in power. If you join forces with the Seven Planets Empyrean God, you might be able to completely tie down the Daofather golem. During the last battle, the Seamless Gate managed to escape with some of its forces, preventing us from wiping them out. They still suffered catastrophic losses, however. If you and the Seven Planets Empyrean God can tie down the Daofather golem...leave the others, including the Three-Eyed Demon, to us.”

“Let’s go! Let’s go see the Daofather.” The Xia Emperor was incomparably excited.

“Alright.” Ning followed the Xia Emperor into the main palace.

“The Daofather’s in a side hall.” The Xia Emperor led Ning forward in a very familiar manner. Soon, Ning saw a quiet, secluded side hall with Daofather Crimsonbright seated in the lotus position within it.

However...as soon as Ning saw the Daofather, he could sense the deathly, melancholy aura surrounding him.

This was a sort of melancholic aura which would naturally emerge once one felt completely powerless.

“Master.” The Xia Emperor spoke out.

“Daofather.” Ning called out respectfully as well.

Daofather Crimsonbright opened his eyes. Upon seeing Ning, he nodded gently. “It seems you’ve managed to bestir yourself a bit, Ji Ning. Our loss in this Realmwar cannot be blamed upon you. You couldn’t have imagined any of those things happening. If we lose, we lose. There’s always a victor and a loser in any war. Later, I shall summon the other Empyrean Gods, True Immortals, and army commanders and issue an order to retreat. You should roam the Three Realms a bit and relax. Both your master and myself have great expectations of you. Our war with the Seamless Gate shall continue. Although we’ve lost here, we’ll still need you to go fight in other places in the future.”

The Daofather was a Daofather, after all. Although he felt grief at completely losing his territory and his foundation, his gaze was still focused on the Three Realms as a whole. He naturally didn’t wish to see Ji Ning sink into endless despair; in fact, he didn’t even want to blame Ji Ning at all.

“Master...Ji Ning broke through to the Pure Yang True Immortal level,” the Xia Emperor said hurriedly.

Daofather Crimsonbright was briefly stunned...and then his eyes lit up!

His melancholic aura completely vanished. He once more became full of vigor and energy. He stared at Ning, then said with a laugh, “I really have grown old. I was so dispirited by this Realmwar that I’ve become as blind as a bat. I didn’t realize you made a breakthrough, even though you are standing right

in front of me. Haha...Pure Yang True Immortal...you've broke through to become a Pure Yang True Immortal...then doesn't that mean your Heaven Punisher shall dramatically increase in power? If you join forces with the Seven Planets Empyrean God commanded by Redsnow, you should be able to tie down the Daofather golem, right?"

"Daofather, please give me 9000 Celestial Immortals and 810,000 Loose Immortals so that I may create a maximum-power Heaven Punisher," Ning said respectfully.

"Superb."

Upon seeing how confident Ji Ning was, Daofather Crimsonbright couldn't help but call out the word 'superb'. Ji Ning had previously already commanded 3000 Celestial Immortals; all they had to do now was merge six more Heaven Punisher armies into his army. Six ordinary Heaven Punishers wouldn't make much of a difference in the grand scheme of things.

"I'll give the orders right away. Prepare for a final battle against the Seamless Gate!" Daofather Crimsonbright's eyes gleamed with light. His aura filled the heavens, and his voice boomed forth.

[The Desolate Era](#)

Book 18: Pure Yang Chapter 52: The Confident Evergreen

Just a short while later.

Per Daofather Crimsonbright's orders, all the Empyrean Gods, True Immortals, and army commanders assembled at the main hall.

"What?"

"We're going to go fight?"

"The Seamless Gate now has a Daofather golem. How are we supposed to beat that?" Once Daofather Crimsonbright said that he was going to launch a true, final battle against the Seamless Gate, everyone was completely speechless. They weren't afraid of death, but no one would be willing to throw their lives away in a situation where they had no chance of winning at all.

Daofather Crimsonbright looked down at his subordinates, then turned his head to look towards a side door. "Ji Ning, come out."

The Empyrean Gods, True Immortals, and army commanders all felt puzzled.

Ji Ning?

"Let Ji Ning come out? After experiencing his Dao-companion's betrayal...I imagine that he couldn't have fully recovered yet."

"I don't understand what the Daofather is planning."

"Are we supposed to entrust everything to Ji Ning, who is at the brink of absolute collapse?"

"He can't be joking with us, can he?"

Some felt anger towards Ning, while others felt sympathy and pity. All of them, however, felt certain that this peerless genius must have been delivered a blow from which he would need time to recover.

Footsteps rang out.

“Eh?” Upon seeing Ji Ning walk out, virtually everyone was stunned.

“He...he...”

“Pure Yang?”

“Impossible!”

Almost all of the Immortals and Fiendgods within the main hall were stupefied. They knew exactly how heavy a blow Ji Ning had just suffered. In their private conversations, most of them secretly opined that Ji Ning would probably wallow in his misery as a result of this blow. None of them had imagined that Ji Ning would actually break through to become a Pure Yang True Immortal at such a critical point in time!

To break through into the Pure Yang level was no easy feat. To completely and thoroughly master a Grand Dao was no easy task. Given the blow he had suffered and the mental anguish he was in...it would have been incredibly, incredibly difficult for him to make a breakthrough in the Dao of the Sword.

But...

The truth was right before them. The dense Pure Yang aura surrounding Ji Ning was unmistakably real!

“Ji Ning has broken through to become a Pure Yang True Immortal. His Heaven Punisher can now command much greater power.” Daofather Crimsonbright’s voice boomed down from his high throne. “I will put 9000 Celestial Immortals and 810,000 Loose Immortals under his command, allowing him to form and command a perfect Heaven Punisher! Ji Ning’s Heaven Punisher, when working in concert with Redsnow’s Seven Planets Empyrean God, will handle the Daofather golem.”

Daofather Crimsonbright continued, “All of you are to immediately summon your soldiers and prepare for the final battle! In this final battle, our goal is to completely shatter the forces of the Seamless Gate and to protect our Realm!”

“Yes!” All of the Immortals and Fiendgods awoke from their stupor. They were all incomparably delighted, and their eyes glowed with excitement.

Prior to this, they all seemed to have lost their souls. They had no morale to speak of...and even Daofather Crimsonbright himself had been surrounded by a melancholic aura. But now, upon seeing a chance to gain victory, all of them became filled with a desire to do battle. They were so excited that their hearts once more began to boil with hot blood.

“Formidable.”

“He was actually able to make a breakthrough to the Pure Yang level after suffering such a blow.”

“Incredible.”

“This Ji Ning truly is incredible!”

Previously, quite a few of them had felt resentment towards Ji Ning, but all of that dissipated like smoke. All they felt towards him was amazement and admiration! To be able to make a breakthrough and completely change the course of the war at such a critical moment...how could they not feel admiration?

The grand army began to mobilize.

Sinuous Raindragons and towering Pangu War-Formations once more took form, along with many Heaven Punishers.

The most astonishingly powerful aura, however, came from Ji Ning's 'Darknorth Army'.

At present, the Darknorth Army had a total of 9000 Celestial Immortals and 810,000 Loose Immortals! This was the most perfect form possible for the [Heaven Punisher Formation]. The amount of natural energy which this sea of Immortals could summon...it was at an absolutely incomprehensible level. However, even Xingtian himself had only created a 'perfect' version of his formation just for the sake of completeness; he himself felt that it was a waste for an Empyrean God or True Immortal to use it, as there was simply no way for them to use all that energy.

"Assemble the formation." Ning gave the order.

The 9000 Celestial Immortals were spread out around Ning, protecting him like a hive of hornets protecting their queen.

As for the 810,000 Loose Immortals, they were like countless stars or grains of sand that were spread out throughout the formation. As the incomparably marvelous formation began to be activated, an absolutely shocking whirlpool of energy was formed around the Eight Dragons Cloudcity. This was the very first time the Crimsonbright Realm had truly, completely unleashed the full power of a Heaven Punisher. Once the number of Immortals had reached the target number, the amount of natural energy they could command was similarly astonishing.

Rumble...

The natural energy had become completely solidified, seeming to have transformed into enormous pillars of water that surged towards Ning.

The massive water pillars, many tens of thousands of meters in length, swirled around Ning's army before rapidly condensing around it. Slowly...the bones, the flesh, and the skin began to take form as an unprecedentedly enormous Heaven Punisher appeared.

"What a powerful aura."

"This is too powerful."

"I feel as though...he's roughly on the same level as True Gods or Daofathers."

When the perfect Heaven Punisher appeared, all of the Immortals and Fiendgods of the Crimsonbright Realm were stunned. However...they also all knew that if the commander of the formation was unable to command and control all of that massive power, the power would completely go to waste! Even amongst Empyrean Gods and True Immortals, there were many who couldn't fully control 100% of the power of the simplest types of Heaven Punishers, much less the perfect ones!

“Whew.” Ning felt absolutely inconceivable power coming from the perfect Heaven Punisher he commanded.

“Arise.” Ning began to take control over the power of the Heaven Punisher. He applied heartforce to his soul, then used his Pure Yang energy to go all-out in taking control over the energy within the formation! More and more power began to enter the Heaven Punisher through the formation. Ten percent. Twenty percent. Thirty percent. An absolutely unbelievable amount of energy was coming under Ning’s command.

Only the energy that he could control was ‘his’; anything he could not control would be just wasted energy.

Finally, Ning reached his limit.

“Ninety percent! I can vaguely sense that I’m controlling ninety percent of the power of this perfect Heaven Punisher.” Ning felt stunned as well...because he could sense that just ten percent of the power of the perfect Heaven Punisher was already vastly more powerful than the full power of his old Heaven Punisher, which had merely been powered by three thousand Celestial Immortals and three hundred thousand Loose Immortals.

Fortunately, his heartforce had reached the fourth stage. Otherwise...with just third-stage heartforce, even if he used his soul heartforce technique he would probably only be able to just barely command a tenth of the power of this perfect Heaven Punisher.

No one could tell from the surface as to how much control Ning had over the Heaven Punisher Formation. Not even the primordial wargod who created this great formation, Xingtian, would dare to believe that a mere Empyrean God or True Immortal would be able to take almost complete control over a perfect Heaven Punisher.

“Excellent.” Daofather Crimsonbright’s voice boomed out, his eyes filled with a desire to battle. “It’s time for the final battle. Let’s completely wipe out the Seamless Gate!”

“Kill!”

“Kill!”

“Kill!”

The countless Immortals and Fiendgods turned frenzied with their desire to kill.

“Head out!” Daofather Crimsonbright pointed towards the distant Seamless City.

Instantly, a series of booms could be heard as the entire grand army charged towards the distant Seamless City, blotting out the very skies themselves as they moved.

.....

Within the vast world of darkness.

“What?!”

The Godking, seated upon his massive throne, was stunned and enraged. "He actually broke through? Broke through to become a Pure Yang True Immortal?"

"He suffered such a mental blow, then actually made a breakthrough?"

"His soul heartforce technique had already reached the stage of mastery. Now that he's become a Pure Yang True Immortal and has a perfect Heaven Punisher under his command...I imagine that his Heaven Punisher, all by itself, is comparable to the three Diremonster Gods of Mount Dragoneater. I predicted that he would be would become a threat, but I was always just one step too slow. One step!" The Godking felt furious, stunned, and regretful.

.....

The Seamless City. Daofather Ink Bamboo convened all the Empyrean Gods, True Immortals, and army commanders to meet with him.

Daofather Ink Bamboo stared down at his soldiers, his voice low. "I trust you can see that the Crimsonbright Realm's army is calling us out to do battle! The reason why they have dared to emerge is because their 'Ji Ning' ...has already broken through to become a Pure Yang True Immortal."

"Pure Yang True Immortal?"

"He's reached the Pure Yang level? Wasn't his Dao-companion Yu Wei one of us? He was betrayed by his Dao-companion...but was actually able to break through to become a True Immortal?"

The Immortals and Fiendgods of the Seamless Gate were all stunned and baffled.

The Great Sage Who Swallows the Mountains narrowed his eyes, then said, "Ji Ning is extremely skilled in commanding Heaven Punishers. Even before this, he was extraordinarily powerful. Now that he's broken through, I'm afraid that his Heaven Punisher, just by itself...will be on par with our Three-Eyed Demon."

"Right." The seventh fairy of the Nine Cloudmist Fairies frowned. "Last time, our army collapsed and fled due to the appearance of that Seven Planets Empyrean God. Quite a few of us were slaughtered. If it wasn't for the Daofather golem, we would be at a decided disadvantage against them in forces. If Ji Ning and Redsnow use their Heaven Punisher and Seven Planets Empyrean God to tie down our Daofather golem...we are probably going to lose!"

"Right."

Daofather Ink Bamboo, seated above them, nodded. "Yes. The main issue in this battle revolves around the question of whether or not Ji Ning and Redsnow, when fighting together, can tie down our Daofather golem."

"If they can tie it down...they also have another portion of Shennong's medicine! They outnumber us as well. Although we have the three Diremonster Gods of Mount Dragoneater...we will probably still lose." Daofather Ink Bamboo looked towards Sword Immortal Evergreen. "Evergreen, we'll be counting on you in this battle."

"Don't worry, Daofather." Sword Immortal Evergreen's eyes flashed with fierce light, and his voice was icy but confident. "The Daofather golem possesses inconceivable power. Even if a true Daofather comes,

it will still probably remain undamaged. Under my command, the Daofather golem will be exceptionally nimble and agile. The two probably won't be able to join forces against me; instead, I'll break them down one by one."

"Right. The Daofather golem won't be so easily dealt with."

"They definitely won't be able to stop it."

The Seamless Alliance wouldn't easily admit defeat either.

The Daofather golem...

Ji Ning's Heaven Punisher and Redsnow's Seven Planets Empyrean God...

Which would be more powerful?

Neither side could be completely certain.

"Evergreen, your mission in this upcoming battle will be the most important one." Daofather Ink Bamboo looked towards Sword Immortal Evergreen. "No matter what, don't disappoint me or the Godking."

"Daofather, don't worry at all. I'll definitely bring back the heads of Ji Ning and Redsnow and offer them to you and the Godking." A sharp, sword-like aura could be seen within Evergreen's eyes. He was completely confident in himself.

"Alright."

Daofather Ink Bamboo swept the main hall with his gaze. He growled, "Then...let us go out and fight! This will be the final battle. Break apart the Crimsonbright Realm's forces and sweep them out like trash!"

"Yes!" The Immortals and Fiendgods all acknowledged to the order.

Soon, the air above the Seamless City became filled with White-Faced Flood Dragons, Bifang Cranes, Zhuyan Apes, and other Terrorbeasts, as well as many Empyrean God golems and other powerful figures such as the Three-Eyed Demon. The most dazzling of all figures...was the titanic, crimson-gold figure that hovered in the skies. It looked just like an enormous spider...and it emanated an aura that was no weaker than the aura of a True God or Daofather!

The two massive armies stared against each other from afar.

"KILL!" Following an earth-shattering roar, the army of the Seamless Gate charged through the skies, blotting out the sun as they swept towards the Crimsonbright Realm's forces.

[The Desolate Era](#)

Book 18: Pure Yang Chapter 53: Cleaving Heaven and Earth

"Hmph." Sword Immortal Evergreen could sense that he had become one with the Daofather golem...and the tremendous power which the Daofather golem contained.

“The aura of that perfect Heaven Punisher is quite strong as well. It lives up to its reputation as a grand formation formed from 9000 Celestial Immortals and 810,000 Loose Immortals. The aura alone is no weaker than the aura of my Daofather golem.” Sword Immortal Evergreen, however, wasn’t worried in the slightest. In fact, he was rather disdainful. “It’s all show and no substance. What’s the use of just having an aura of power? Although it is very strong, taking control over all that power is harder than ascending to the heavens! Even the simplest version of the Heaven Punisher is difficult for many Empyrean Gods and True Immortals to command, much less the perfect version.”

The Heaven Punishers could be divided into three tiers.

The simplest version had 1000 Celestial Immortals and 100,000 Loose Immortals.

The expert version had 3000 Celestial Immortals and 300,000 Loose Immortals.

Only when 9000 Celestial Immortals and 810,000 Loose Immortals were used, however, was the Heaven Punisher ‘perfect’, allowing it to reach an inconceivable level of power. If Ning, as a Pure Yang True Immortal, merely had third-stage heartforce and mastery over the soul heartforce technique...he’d be able to command at most a tenth of the Heaven Punisher’s full power. From this, one could imagine how truly difficult it was for one to take command over the perfect Heaven Punisher’s power.

“I’m different from him!”

“I have a Daofather golem, and I have complete control over all of its power. Ji Ning isn’t much of a threat; to the contrary, it’s the Seven Planets Empyrean God, which seems to have a weaker aura than mine, which is dangerous. It is formed from seven Empyrean Gods, and Redsnow has complete control over all of its power as well.”

Under Evergreen’s control, the Daofather golem was extremely fast.

Swish! Swish! Swish!

Distorted light could be seen in the skies. The Daofather golem looked like a spider crawling upon the vast web of heaven as it charged forward, the first to attack the Crimsonbright Realm’s forces.

This battle wasn’t just being watched by Daofather Crimsonbright, the Godking, and Daofather Ink Bamboo. In truth, more than 90% of the Daofathers of the Three Realms were watching this battle.

.....

The Celestial Realm.

Mount Ling, in the western region.

Lord Buddha was seated up high on his honored throne, radiating a boundless aura of light. The light surrounding him was dazzling to behold, and if one looked at it carefully, one would be able to vaguely make out the colors of the Five Elements. Beneath him was seated Amitabha, Kshitigarbha, Maitreya, and other major powers of the Buddhist Sangha. 1

Lord Buddha, also known as Tathagata, was the highest-level Buddhist leader of the Three Realms. His power was inconceivable, and the divine abilities he had devised, such as the [Vairocana Guardian Halo]

and the [Buddha-Realm Within the Palm] were some of the most supreme divine abilities of the Three Realms. Only Mother Nuwa was more powerful than him.

The Buddhas seated below him were all extraordinarily formidable as well.

Amitabha, for example, had created ten million clones of himself. In both the Primordial Era and the modern day, his many clones were constantly spreading the teachings of Buddhism. It could be said that many of the most formidable figures of Buddhism had received some degree of tutelage from Amitabha. There was a widespread saying; more than half of the arhats and bodhisattvas of the Three Realms had been taught by Amitabha and thus succeeded in their cultivation. 2

The countless bodhisattvas and arhats thus naturally felt tremendous gratitude towards the Buddha Amitabha. Thus, Buddha Amitabha had a very special status amongst the ranks of the Buddhist Sangha. He was often referred to the 'Teacher Buddha', or as the 'Welcomer Buddha', which referred to his actions in welcoming his many adherents to his pure land of Sukhavati, the Western Paradise. 3 The holy light radiating from Buddha Amitabha was a light of infinite kindness and gentleness. Anyone who saw it would feel inner peace, and they would uncontrollably wish to kneel down and listen to his teachings.

"Multiple Realmwars have occurred within the Three Realms. All the major powers are tiring themselves out for the sake of this great war." The gaze of Lord Tathagata pierced through the vast Void, allowing him to see the battle within the Crimsonbright Realm. "For the sake of his Realm, Crimsonbright has done everything he can. This Realmwar is a far greater one than the ones which have come before. Welcomer, do you think they can win?"

Buddha Amitabha's gaze was kind and benevolent. Clapping his hands together, he said, "The key issue in this battle revolves around the battle between the Daofather golem, which shall battle Ji Ning's Heaven Punisher and Redsnow's Seven Planets Empyrean God."

The other major Buddhist powers were watching as well.

It was only natural that they cared.

It was a minor matter for a Celestial Emperor to be changed, but a Realmwar would have a major impact on karmic luck! The two sides were currently engaged in a war for karmic luck, with the Endwar only coming once both sides were convinced that no further gains could be made. That was when all of the major Buddhist powers would have to go all out as well.

"I wonder how many of us shall be at Mount Ling, after the great storm passes." Lord Tathagata stared downwards, sighing to himself. He could never forget how much blood had been shed when the Primordial Era was brought to an end. Even he had very nearly perished before the might of the Lord of All Creatures. Fortunately, by relying on his [Golden Nirmana Body], he was able to survive and keep the Lord of All Creatures tied down.

That had been a calamitous war.

The majority of the Buddhas of the Buddhist Sangha had died in battle. Fortunately, Mother Nuwa had made a breakthrough in the end, allowing for a reversal in the war!

.....

The Celestial Realm.

The Dao Palace, in the eastern regions.

Daoist Three Purities was seated high up upon his throne. Unlike Lord Buddha, Daoist Three Purities had a much more reserved aura. And yet, when one looked at Daoist Three Purities...one would occasionally feel as though one was seeing a terrifying illusion of the destruction of the entire Three Realms.

Beneath him were seated the major powers of the Daoist Path.

“We are about to see a result to this Realmwar,” Daoist Three Purities said softly. “Zixiu, who do you think will win?”

An old man with a long beard who was dressed in loose robes said softly, “Fifty-fifty.”

This old man was Daofather Carefree. He was also known as Zhuang Zhou...Zhuang Zixiu! 4

Long ago, two True Gods were born from the primordial chaos and became extremely good friends.

One was Yuanshi Tianzun, the Exalted Celestial of Genesis. The second was Xiaoyao Tianzun, the Carefree Exalted Celestial.

The two had trained painstakingly, with Yuanshi Tianzun having mastered the Heavenly Dao of Yang and the Heavenly Dao of Destruction. Of the ten Heavenly Daos, however, the Heavenly Dao of Primordial Chaos was the most exalted of Daos. The Heavenly Dao of Life was mated with the Heavenly Dao of Destruction, while the Heavenly Dao of Yin was mated with the Heavenly Dao of Yang. Last came the Five Elements of metal, wood, water, fire, and earth. If one wanted to make a qualitative breakthrough, one would have to gain insights into matching sets of Heavenly Daos...which was incredibly hard. For example, if you gained insights into the Heavenly Dao of Life, then the Heavenly Dao of Life itself would interfere with your efforts to gain insights into the Heavenly Dao of Destruction, preventing you from calmly training in it.

Or, for example, the Five Elements.

If one managed to master metal, wood, water, and fire...then when one began to work on water, one would suffer many interferences. Thus, it was incredibly difficult to master the full set of Five Elements, the duality of Life and Destruction, or the duality of Yin and Yang.

Lord Tathagatha had managed to master the entire Five Elements of the Heavenly Daos, which was why he was able to become the leader of the Buddhist Sangha!

Yuanshi Tianzun had tremendous willpower and determination. During the Primordial Era, he placed a seal on his own truesoul, one which locked away his memories and prevented him from reawakening them unless he fully mastered the Heavenly Dao of Yin. He then sent himself into the Six Paths of Reincarnation and committed suicide, sending his truesoul into the cycle of reincarnation.

He was reborn multiple times. On his ninth life, he was reborn as Laozi 5! In this life, he finally embarked on a path of nonstop breakthroughs, culminating in him mastering the Heavenly Dao of Yin and becoming a Daofather. At this moment, his memories were completely reawakened...and with Yin and Yang joined together, his power instantly skyrocketed, resulting in him standing at the very pinnacle of the Three Realms! Back then, of course, Mother Nuwa hadn't reached the Pangu level yet.

He devised a technique which allowed him to transform in the Three Pure Ones; Shangqing the Supreme Pure One, Yuqing the Jade Pure One, and Taiqing the Grand Pure One. His three incarnations all had their separate strengths, and they were each very suited to their respective Heavenly Daos.

Daoist Yuqing was his former, true body; known as Yuanshi Tianzun, it controlled the Heavenly Dao of Yang.

Daoist Shangqing was known as Lingbao Tianzun, the Exalted Celestial of the Holy Treasure. He controlled the Heavenly Dao of Destruction.

Daoist Taiqing was the reincarnated Laozi, the master of the Heavenly Dao of Yin.

When Daoist Three Purities had devised this technique to create the Three Pure Ones, his three incarnations were capable of joining together to reach an unfathomable level of power. He had even been able to battle the 'king' of the Seamless Gate for a long period of time.

Committing suicide and sending the truesoul to be reincarnated was incredibly dangerous. For example, if in a reincarnated life he had become a Celestial Immortal, then suddenly was killed and had his soul shattered, his truesoul would've been sent into the River of Destiny. He would've truly been dead, then! What he did was a dangerous gamble...but Yuanshi Tianzun possessed astonishing willpower and determination, which was why he dared to act in such a way.

The Carefree Exalted Celestial, however, didn't possess that sort of determination. He did, however, create an incarnation which he sent to be reborn and experience new lives. In this new lives, however, he was naturally unable to gain any insights into the corresponding Heavenly Dao. Still, he didn't care about this at all, because his power was still considered one of the top five of the Daoist Path.

Lu Dongbin had taken on two true teachers. One was Daoist Three Purities, while the other was the Carefree Exalted Celestial.

.....

The imperial palace of the Primordial Imperial Clan, and other regions within the primordial chaos, such as Shennong's residence or the residence of the ancient Suren. These ancient figures, some of whom were legendary recluses of the Three Realms, were all watching this battle. Perhaps they might've been reclusive in the past, but now that the storm had come, there was no way for them to avoid it. They would have to fight as well.

Similarly...

Some of the ancient, major powers of the Seamless Alliance, scattered throughout the Three Realms, were watching as well. This was the time for the war for karmic luck, which was why they permitted the Godking to be in charge of the Seamless Gate! When the end came, however...these ancient figures would emerge. Long ago, they had followed behind their king...and compared to them, this 'Godking' was actually one of their juniors.

"This battle hinges on the performance of those three." All the major powers understood this.

.....

On the battlefield.

The Daofather golem was the fastest on its side, while the Seven Planets Empyrean God and perfect Heaven Punisher were the fastest on the Crimsonbright Realm's side.

The three of them were like the tips of the spear for their respective armies, and they headed straight towards each other.

Whoosh!

As the titanic spider flew forward, it suddenly lashed out with two of its slender, knife-legs, sending two blurry streaks of light flying towards the Crimsonbright Realm's army.

"Block it! Careful!"

The distant units immediately pooled its power to defend against the strike.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Although three Heaven Punishers and a Raindragon joined forces to block the strike, one of the Heaven Punishers was completely shattered. Fortunately, the Daofather golem had launched an attack from very far away, and so very few Immortals within the Heaven Punisher were slain.

"What incredible power. Ji Ning, let me test him first," Empyrean God Redsnow sent mentally.

Swish!

The Seven Planets Empyrean God brandished its spear. Snow began to fall in the area around it as spacetime began to twist and distort. Its power increased dramatically as it charged straight towards the Daofather golem.

If Ji Ning was to explode forth with the full power of the perfect Heaven Punisher, his speed wouldn't be slower than that of the Seven Planets Empyrean God at all. However...Ning understood that once he unleashed his full power, the controller of the Daofather golem would become cautious! Thus, the best plan was to wait for them to actually clash. If he could catch his foe offguard at the point of collision, it would result in a major advantage for him.

"Redsnow, you dare to take my Daofather golem head-on with that little bit of power you have? Die!" Sword Immortal Evergreen's voice rang out from within the Daofather golem, echoing throughout the battlefield.

"Damn that Evergreen."

"It's Evergreen."

The Xia Emperor and the others ground their teeth as they watched carefully.

"Break!" The Seven Planets Empyrean God flung its longspear forward with such incredible power that even the shaft of the longspear began to twist in mid-flight.

The Daofather golem immediately swept out with two of its front spider-legs, blocking the oncoming spear.

BOOM!!!!

A terrifying shockwave blasted outwards, forcing the Seven Planets Empyrean God backwards. Time began to twist and distort around it, allowing it to instantly retreat by several hundred kilometers, thus dodging the four retaliatory leg-strikes of the pursuing Daofather golem.

“Don’t be so cocky!” As the Seven Planets Empyrean God retreated, Ji Ning advanced.

“You’re the one I really want to kill!” Sword Immortal Evergreen’s morale soared. He had been able to easily beat back even the Seven Planets Empyrean God; was he going to be worried about Ji Ning’s Heaven Punisher? Yes, the perfect Heaven Punisher had an incredible aura, but how much power would Ji Ning actually control?

Ning’s Heaven Punisher ran forward on its bare feet, wielding a pair of enormous Ananda World-Swords in its hands.

“CHOP!”

An Ananda World-Sword was raised high into the air in a stance reminiscent of Pangu splitting apart Heaven and Earth to establish the universe. It chopped straight downwards! This was a stance which Ning had created after he thoroughly mastered the Grand Dao of the Sword...the twelfth stance of the [Three-Foot Sword]. However, because he had been hiding his status as a Pure Yang True Immortal in the past, he had never used this technique before. Now...it was finally time for him to unleash it!

[Three-Foot Sword], twelfth stance – Cleaving Heaven and Earth!

With this stance, the entire [Three-Foot Sword] was finally perfected. These twelve stances covered the entirety of the Grand Dao of the Sword, from the basics to full mastery of it. The reason why Ning had chosen such a mighty name, ‘Cleaving Heaven and Earth’, was because he had been in an excellent mood and because his heartforce had been at the dominating ‘ruler’ stage.

“F*ck off.” Sword Immortal Evergreen’s Daofather golem laughed wickedly, once more using its two front spider-legs to block with the intention of sending Ning flying back as well.

BOOM!

The longsword slammed down upon the two spider-legs.

“Don’t take it head-on!”

“Careful!”

Although this took time to describe, it actually all happened as fast as lightning. Just after the Seven Planets Empyrean God retreated, Ji Ning’s swords came chopping down. This greatly shocked Empyrean God Redsnow and the others. He knew that Ji Ning had to have seen the astonishing power of the Daofather golem from its clash against the Seven Planets Empyrean God; how could Ji Ning be so foolish as to fight it head-on?

“Time to go d-...what the hell!!!”

Just as Sword Immortal Evergreen’s morale was soaring, he suddenly sensed a surge of inconceivable power pass into the golem from the longsword. The power of the blow was so great...that even his Daofather golem felt somewhat unable to withstand it.

It was powerful.

Far too powerful!

BOOM! As Ning's barefoot Heaven Punisher leapt forward, its angry sword-blow smote the Daofather golem down into the ground, causing the earth beneath it to cave in!

"What?!"

"The Daofather golem is actually weaker?"

"This...this isn't possible."

Everyone on the battlefield was stunned. The Seamless Gate's forces had been very confident in the power of the Daofather golem; Evergreen was able to fully unleash all of its power, after all. Although the perfect Heaven Punisher possessed an aura of tremendous might which was comparable to that of an actual True God or Daofather...how much of that power could Ji Ning control? How could he possibly be able to suppress the Daofather golem?

"Impossible!!!" Sword Immortal Evergreen was utterly enraged. He used all his power to push upwards while sending two more of his spider-legs upwards to block Ning's longsword. Four legs supporting it on the ground, four legs pressing upwards to defend; he was already using as much power as he could from the Daofather golem.

"You shall KNEEL before me!" Ning's other longsword came slamming down as well.

The same stance; Cleaving Heaven and Earth! When staring at it, one could almost see Pangu within the primordial chaos, brandishing his greataxe to chop downwards.

BOOM!!!!

The Daofather golem was using four of its spider-legs to block, giving it only four other spider-legs to stand on. In the face of this mountain of pressure that slammed down upon it...the four spider-legs it was standing on went limp as it was pressed down onto its knee-joints.

Silence.

The two armies had been charging towards each other, but had yet to actually join battle. Both instantly fell completely silent. The Crimsonbright Realm's forces, the Seamless Gate's forces...they all just stared