

Desolate 681

[The Desolate Era](#)

Book 21: The Bloodlotus Blooms Chapter 15: To Battle

“Excellent. Using Daofather-level energy to command the Rahu Formation is indeed much easier. I’m able to control all of the natural energy which has been summoned by these 90,000 Celestial Immortals and 8 million Loose Immortals.” Ji Ning could sense the full power of the Rahu God.

The difference between his current Daofather-level energy and his former True Immortal-level energy was simply enormous. For a True Immortal to command this mighty formation was like forcing a child to lift up a large boulder. A Daofather doing the same was like letting a strongman do the same. With Ning’s fundamentals changed, the difficulty he faced in controlling formation naturally changed as well.

Given that his soul was now much more powerful as well...he was able to effortlessly command the full force of the Rahu Formation!

“Seamless Gate.” A hint of a murderous look flashed through the Rahu-Ning’s eyes.

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Within the levitating castle.

A black-robed Ning had appeared out of nowhere within Ning’s residence. The black-robed Ning raised his head, staring into the skies. Large plumes of snow had begun to drift downwards.

“It’s snowing,” Ning murmured softly to himself.

When he had met with the Godking in the Grand Xia, it was in the heart of winter as well, but back then Ning’s heart had been blazing with eagerness. But now...it had become nothing short of an iceberg.

“It is time to meet with senior Xuan Yuan.” The black-robed Ning walked out of his own residence and towards Yellow Emperor Xuan Yuan’s palace. While walking over, he noted that the mood was quite gloomy. The Seamless Gate had called for battle on numerous occasions, but the Nuwa Alliance had yet to respond at all. This caused all of the Immortals and Fiendgods on their side to worry...did they really have no response at all for the Envoy of All Things? Although Ning chatted a bit with the Empyrean Gods and True Immortals he met on the way, he could sense the tremendous pressure his friends were under.

This war was one in which the Empyrean Gods and True Immortals would risk their lives, after all.

A short while later, the black-robed Ning reached Yellow Emperor Xuan Yuan’s palace.

“Empyrean God Darknorth.” The golden-armored guard in front of the palace called out to him, stopping him.

“Please send the word to his Imperial Majesty, the Yellow Emperor. Simply say that Ji Ning is now prepared,” the black-robed Ning said.

“Alright.” The golden-armored guard nodded.

Ning turned and left.

Within the palace.

The three mighty Sovereigns of Mankind were seated, as were the incarnations of the leaders of Buddhism and Daoism and the true bodies of Xuan Yuan and Subhuti.

“Ji Ning is now prepared.” Xuan Yuan smiled as he looked towards Subhuti. “And...what a powerful desire to kill he is radiating!”

“Mm. It is quite intense.” Subhuti murmured softly, “Although he is keeping it suppressed deep in his heart...that’s what makes the intensity of it so shocking. That’s why I told you to make preparations for being defeated, just in case. Although I’ve always been very confident in this disciple of mine, and although he’s never allowed his personal emotions to get in the way of the big picture...we really cannot afford to lose this fight.”

“Yes. We cannot afford to lose.” Shennong let out a sigh. “We have no other options for dealing with the Envoy of All Things. We just don’t have enough power. We have to rely on raw numbers to overwhelm it.”

“This is our best chance.” Suiren, Lord Tathagata the Buddha, and the others all nodded.

“If Ji Ning is unsuccessful, we’ll carry out the plan we originally settled upon,” Xuan Yuan said softly. That plan was a calamitous one. Xuan Yuan stilled his emotions, then said, “I’ll assemble the army now.”

“Alright.” Everyone present nodded.

Xuan Yuan immediately instructed two of his disciples, “Give the order to assemble. Prepare to enter combat.”

The order was given. The entire castle instantly exploded into motion as a veritable ocean of Emphyrean Gods, True Immortals, Celestial Immortals, and Loose Immortals quickly began to gather together, assembling into great formations.

“The Seamless Gate isn’t even calling out for battle right now. For us to take the initiative to attack...can it be that the major powers have already come up with a way to deal with that ape-shaped monstrosity?”

“If we’re taking the initiative to attack...the major powers might really have a solution.”

“Right.”

“If we don’t deal with that ape-shaped aberration, it will be very hard to win. It’s utterly impenetrable to weapons. Not even fellow Daoist Jimin’s Pangu Genesis Formation was able to harm it in the slightest. If that ape-shaped monstrosity is allowed to go wild...we are going to suffer greatly for it.”

“They surely have a solution.”

The various Emphyrean Gods and True Immortals who were the commanders of the formation were all chatting amongst themselves.

Whoosh. Whoosh. Whoosh. Whoosh. Whoosh. Whoosh.

The Three Sovereigns, the leaders of Buddhism and Daoism, Subhuti, and Xuan Yuan all appeared. They flew through the air as Xuan Yuan called out in a commanding voice, "Exit the citadel!"

Rumble...

The vast, awe-inspiring army flew into the air as well, flying out of the floating citadel and towards the distant wilderness.

Xuan Yuan and the rest of the seven major powers stood atop the city walls, watching from afar. Their disciples, Ning included, quickly assembled behind them atop the walls.

"The disciples under my command do not know that you are going to join the battle. Just now, when I ordered the army to assemble, you weren't notified." Xuan Yuan turned to look at the black-robed Ning. "You can go now."

"Yes." Ning nodded.

Boom.

An enormous, thirty thousand meter tall Rahu God suddenly appeared out of nowhere. Its face was Ji Ning's face, and it held a pair of Darknorth swords in its hands, one of which was the one which had become a Chaos treasure.

The Rahu-Ning instantly soared into the skies, heading towards the main army.

"Rahu Formation?"

"Is Ji Ning simply going to use the Rahu Formation?" The faces of Xuan Yuan, Subhuti, the Three Sovereigns, and the leaders of Buddhism and Daoism all changed.

They knew exactly what the strengths and weaknesses of the Rahu Formation were, which made them all the more nervous.

"Ji Ning...has he really lost sight of the big picture?" The reason why Subhuti had previously advised the other major powers to prepare for defeat was simply because this battle was too important; they truly couldn't afford to lose this war. But upon seeing that Ning's 'special ability' seemingly just consisted of using the Rahu Formation, Subhuti's heart truly turned cold.

"The Rahu Formation..." Fuxi spoke out. "I created this formation. It is an extremely difficult one, and there aren't even many Daofathers who are capable of unleashing the full power of this formation. Only a Daofather who has extremely strong heartforce and a soul heartforce technique can truly unleash its power. Ji Ning has not become a Daofather yet. If his meditations into the Dao began to resonate with the Heavenly Daos, we would've sensed it long ago."

"Right." Everyone present nodded. Mastering a Heavenly Dao would cause a resonance with the Heavenly Daos. It was something that was extremely difficult to hide.

"Ji Ning is not a Daofather, and he's only capable of unleashing a small part of the full power of the Rahu Formation. Even if his sword-arts are extraordinary, he would at most be capable of matching an ordinary Daofather." Fuxi shook his head. "Even one of the Seamless Infinity Formations would be able to completely suppress him. As for the Envoy of All Things...that has the power of a top-tier Daofather."

“Is it possible that Ji Ning has something else planned?” Xuan Yuan couldn’t help but ask this question. He still held hope in the words which Ning had said a month ago.

“Let’s watch for now.” Suiren was frowning as well.

“Have the other Pangu Genesis Formation be prepared,” Daoist Three Purities advised.

“Yes.” Xuan Yuan nodded slowly.

Subhuti didn’t say anything else. He just watched from far away as the Rahu-Ning flew towards the great army of the Nuwa Alliance, his eyes filled with worry.

The walls of the Seamless Citadel. Daomother Devilhand and the black-robed Godking had both appeared.

“The Nuwa Alliance actually dares to call us out for battle?” The Godking laughed.

“We’ve called them out so many times, but they refused to join battle. For them to actively seek battle this time...they are simply trying to boost their own morale,” Daomother Devilhand said calmly.

The black-robed Godking nodded. “Master and I are fully aware of all their capabilities. They’ve sent yet another five hundred Empyrean Gods and are most likely prepared to form yet another Pangu Genesis Formation. Since they can’t defeat the Envoy one-on-one, they’ve decided to try a two-on-one. They should be planning to have the two Pangu Gods fight against our Envoy.”

“I guessed they would do this.” Daomother Devilhand nodded. “It is much like how we previously were using two Infinity Fiendgods to deal with the Jimin-Pangu. However, there’s a fatal flaw to this plan; simply put, they can’t fight for too long. No matter how well the two work together, as the battle progresses, they will eventually make a mistake.”

“Right.” The black-robed Godking nodded.

If the two Pangu Gods worked well together when fighting against the Envoy of All Things, they’d be able to withstand it. But if their teamwork was poor...they would be in a dangerous situation! The Envoy was utterly unbreakable; not even the leaders of Buddhism or Daoism were capable of actually destroying those terrifying golems.

“Look...” Daomother Devilhand suddenly pointed towards a distant corner. Amongst a group of many Seven Planets Gods, a six-armed Fiendgod had just appeared.

“Is that...?” The black-robed Godking was stunned for a moment...and then he began to laugh. “Ji Ning in a Fiendgod formation? Haha, that’s Ji Ning using his Rahu Formation. Haha! Years ago, he relied on the Rahu Formation to force me to bow my head and accede to his requests. He hasn’t taken part in any of the fights of the past six centuries, because he has been hoping that he would be able to rescue his senior apprentice-sister from my clutches. Now that he’s given up, he’s joining the fray. Right...the Grandmaster has instructed that if we have the chance, we are to get rid of Ji Ning.”

“Mm.” Daomother Devilhand nodded. “The big picture is what truly matters, but if we have the chance, I’ll have the army pay Ji Ning some special attention.”

Rumble...

The army of the Seamless Gate soared outwards, flying towards the distant wilderness as well.

Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom!

One formation after another began to assemble, and one golem after another began to land, causing the earth to shake. The army of the Seamless Gate was filled with extremely high morale, and in front of them led the ape-shaped Envoy of All Things, its body wreathed with dark-red flames. Behind him were two of the white-haired, red-eyed Infinity Fiendgods.

The grand armies of the Seamless Gate and the Nuwa Alliance faced each other.

The major powers on both sides watched nervously.

This was the first time the Nuwa Alliance had come out to fight after retreating into their citadel all those days ago! To both sides, this was a battle that they could not afford to lose.

“Darknorth, you have to be careful.”

“Darknorth, don’t fight against those formations head-on.”

“Darknorth, those two white-haired, red-eyed Infinity Fiendgods have close to a top-tier Daofather’s power. The Envoy of All Things is even more terrifying. No matter what, don’t go close to it.” The Seven Planets Gods near Ning all sent mental messages to him. Due to him rescuing the two hundred-plus Emphyrean Gods, there were many who were now much friendly towards him than before. Many Emphyrean Gods and True Immortals felt gratitude towards Ning for him saving their fellow disciples and lifelong friends.

Ning just nodded. “I won’t be rash.”

If he was to tell them that he was going to deal with the Envoy of All Things, it would probably cause a major disturbance. This was a critical battle; it was best for these Emphyrean Gods and True Immortals to be able to remain calm.

Rumble...

Suddenly, the entire Nuwa Alliance army began to charge forward.

Under the guidance of Yellow Emperor Xuan Yuan, all of them headed towards their respective targets.

“Ji Ning, you are free to act as you see fit.” Yellow Emperor Xuan Yuan’s orders came.

Boom.

The Rahu-Ning suddenly moved. He moved with extraordinary speed as he blazed through the vast wilderness, going far past all the surrounding Seven Planets Gods. The body of his Rahu God had the power of a top-tier Daofather, giving him terrifying speed and strength. As he bound forward, he actually became the vanguard of the entire army, charging in front of everyone else and moving far beyond his allies.

“He’s that fast?!” The seven major powers on the city walls were all surprised.

“Eh?!” The black-robed Godking stared in shock as the Rahu-Ning charged straight to the forefront.

The Desolate Era

Book 21: The Bloodlotus Blooms Chapter 16: The Number One Sword-Art of the Three Realms

As the black-robed Godking was standing on the city walls, staring as the Rahu-Ning charged forward at the very front of the army of the Nuwa Alliance, Ji Ning also raised his head to stare towards him.

Their gazes collided...and the black-robed Godking's heart clenched momentarily.

"Interesting. He seems to have improved a bit in power." The black-robed Godking laughed coldly.

"Unfortunately, hatred seems to have fogged up his mind. Doesn't he know that in a war, you need to rely on the power of your allies? To charge all by yourself towards the enemy is the same as throwing yourself into a deadly trap. Who do you think you are? An Envoy of All Things? Do you really think you can dominate all comers?"

By now, everyone on both armies had noticed that the Rahu-Ning had charged to the very forefront of battle.

"Has he gone mad?"

"That must be Ji Ning, right? In years past, he roamed the Three Realms and slaughtered quite a few Emphyrean Gods and True Immortals of our Seamless Gate. How dare he act so brashly on the field of battle as well? Let's surround him and kill him. Dealing with him will be effortless."

"He really is seeking out death."

When the great army of the Seamless Gate saw the Rahu-Ning charge towards them, they all believed that this quite well-known Emphyrean God Darknorth had gone mad. Every so often, there were some people who would go absolutely berserk on the battlefield; Emphyrean God Silvermoon, for example, had done just the same during the last fight.

"Fellow Daoist Darknorth, you must not advance so hastily!"

"Slow it down."

"Don't let yourself be surrounded by the enemies!"

The Emphyrean Gods and True Immortals of the Nuwa Alliance who were behind Ning all called out to him in worry...but alas, Ning was far too fast, and there was no way for them to catch up at all.

Whoosh.

Wind howled past his ear, and space itself was rippling before him. Twin swords in hands, the Rahu-Ning bound forward through the desolate wilderness.

"The two of you, go slow him down."

"Infinity Fiendgod, go and kill Ji Ning."

Daomother Devilhand almost instantly gave her orders. Ning had charged to the very forefront of the battle, and so Daomother Devilhand could easily arrange for her forces to intercept and kill him.

Boom! Boom!

Instantly, the two closest violet-light golems charged towards Ning, their heavy footsteps causing the ground to tremble. One of the golems bellowed furiously, "Darknorth, you are courting death!"

"Imbeciles." The Rahu-Ning howled through the air, meeting them in battle.

Sword-light flashed!

Both Darknorth swords struck out simultaneously. Once they did...the faces of the major powers on both sides of the battle completely changed. Daomother Devilhand, the black-robed Godking, Subhuti, Xuan Yuan, Daoist Three Purities, Shennong...the faces of each and every one of them changed. They were all incredibly experienced figures, and they naturally were able to tell at one glance how terrifying Ji Ning's sword-arts were.

"What a terrifying sword-art." The black-robed Godking was stunned.

"This sword-art..."

Rumble...

The two streaks of sword-light were like two bolts of endless lightning as they tore through spac, carrying an unstoppable amount of force.

The two controllers of the violet-light golems had previously been quite confident, as these golems were as tough as magic treasures and thus perfectly suited to tying down foes. Even if a Daofather attacked, it would be difficult for the Daofather to injure them. These golems had bodies that were just as tough as a body of one who had reached the Ninth Cycle of the [Eight-Nine Arcane Art].

But when those two streaks of sword-light lit up...the two True Immortals commanding the golems were completely stunned. Their hearts began to quiver.

"Good heav-"

BOOM! BOOM!

They sought to block, but the two streaks of sword-light landed on their bodies. The two violet-light golems were knocked flying backwards, almost instantly being sent back into the ranks of the Seamless Gate's armies. But they didn't stop there; they continued to flip backwards uncontrollably at high speed. Soon, they were far behind the main army.

Utter silence! Deathly stillness!

The entire battlefield instantly ground to halt.

Everyone else was stunned and silenced...but Ning acted as though he had simply kicked away two little pebbles. Showing no emotions at all, he continued to charge towards the Seamless Gate's army at a terrifying level of speed.

"Not good." Atop the city walls, Daomother Devilhand had an ugly look on her face. "He is very powerful. Extremely powerful. He's probably close to a top-tier Daofather in strength! The 'Life and Death Formations of the Twin Realm Calamity Dragons' are comparatively weak, defensively speaking. If

he's allowed to charge into the army and into those formations, he'll probably be able to break through them. As for the Infinity Fiendgod, it's still some distance away from him."

She had instructed those two golems to tie down Ning, so as to allow one of the white-haired, red-eyed Infinity Fiendgods enough time to get there.

The Infinity Fiendgods were located at the very center of the entire army, alongside the Envoy of All Things. Thus, they were fairly far away from Ning.

"Seamless Infinity Formation! Hurry up and stop Ji Ning. Tie him down and work with the Infinity Fiendgod to kill him!" Daomother Devilhand immediately gave the order.

"Yes." The Seamless Infinity Formation nearest Ning immediately flew towards him.

Boom!

The vast, awe-inspiring Seamless Infinity Formation was surrounded by a region of primordial chaos, and a layer of endless black clouds radiated from them as well. They all surged straight towards Ning. The Seamless Infinity Formation would be able to fight against even actual True Gods and Daofathers without fear.

Each Seamless Infinity Formation was formed from 289 Empyrean Gods and True Immortals. It was the 'king' of the Seamless Chaosworld who had created this technique, and he did so with the purpose of allowing Empyrean Gods and True Immortals to be able to fight back against True Gods and Daofathers. Its strength lay in trapping powerful foes!

"He really is crazy. He's actually charging straight for the formation." Atop the city walls, the black-robed Godking shook his head at what he was seeing.

The vast, awe-inspiring Seamless Infinity Formation came crashing towards Ning. Ning's six arms now each wielded a sword, and he ran forward like a streak of light, charging straight towards it.

The main army of the Nuwa Alliance was still far behind him, frantically trying to catch up. The main army of the Seamless Gate was watching from afar as well.

Both armies were staring at this sight. They were staring as the Rahu-Ning was about to collide with the Seamless Infinity Formation.

"You wish to block me?" The towering Rahu-Ning watched as the endless black clouds moved closer and closer to him. The outlines of the Empyrean Gods and True Immortals within the black cloud could be vaguely seen, and all of them were staring icily towards Ning.

Ning once more struck out with a sword.

Just one strike from a single sword.

The sword was the Chaos-level Darknorth sword.

Whoosh.

It was like a bolt of lightning had suddenly filled Heaven and Earth! No...it was even faster than a lightning bolt! The 'indestructible' Seamless Infinity Formation that was 'perfect for trapping foes'...in

the face of this strike, it was like a black air bubble that was instantly pierced straight through and popped! One of the Empyrean Gods struck by the sword-light was instantly disintegrated, and the entire Seamless Infinity Formation completely broke apart.

Boom! The black air bubble completely shattered.

This sword-art was the fastest, most penetrating sword technique Ning had...the Blood Drop stance of the [Brightmoon] sword-art!

“How can this be?!” Empyrean God Tongxun, the leader of the formation, was suffering a complete mental breakdown. “The Seamless Infinity Formation was broken apart with a single sword-strike? T-this is impossible..”

“Good heavens...”

“Save us! Save us!”

“Flee!”

The 288 Empyrean Gods and True Immortals were all mentally shattered by this attack. If even the Seamless Infinity Formation couldn't withstand that sword...now that the formation was gone, they would be like easily slaughtered ants. Right now, their greatest regret was the fact that the Rahu-Ning actually had six arms!

Those six arms swept out with a sword in each hand. Sword-light flashed everywhere, massacring them at an incredible speed. The Rahu-Ning slaughtered his way from one end of the formation to the other, and more than 180 Empyrean Gods and True Immortals perished on the spot! The only reason there were any survivors at all was because Ning wasn't trying to wipe them all out...because his attention was fully focused on the white-haired, red-eyed Infinity Fiendgod that was charging towards him.

“Good!”

Atop the city walls, Daofather Subhuti let out an exclamation as he saw that distant, utterly dazzling sword-strike that was far more terrifying than a mere thunderbolt. He was so excited that he actually pounded the stone railings in front of him.

“What a formidable sword-art. What a fast and terrifying sword-art!” Yellow Emperor Xuan Yuan's face had completely changed. “A sword that surpasses the limits of the Heavenly Daos. No; that's not all. His sword-art carried a strange vortex with it, making it move even faster and have even more penetrative power. Such a terrifying sword-art actually exists in the three Realms?”

“A fine sword-art.”

“Did he master the [Five Treasures]?”

“That sword-strike alone is proof that Ning has power comparable to that of a top-tier Daofather. He's absolutely capable of being a match for the Envoy of All Things.”

Ever since the battle had begun, the major powers of the Nuwa Alliance had been feeling quite nervous. Now, all of them began to let out surprised exclamations. Perhaps ordinary Empyrean Gods and True Immortals couldn't tell, but they could; Ji Ning's sword-arts hadn't 'simply' surpassed the limits of the

Heavenly Daos, they also innately contained profound mysteries that were incomparably exalted. A sword-art like this could absolutely be described as the number one sword-art of the Three Realms.

“The number one sword-art of the Three Realms.” Suiren’s voice was deep and gravelly, but his eyes contained a look of delight.

“Agreed.”

“This sword-art is indeed the best in the Three Realms.”

The Three Sovereigns all concurred on this. Even Lord Buddha and Daoist Three Purities nodded in agreement.

As for the nearby Daofather Subhuti, when he heard his old friends praise his disciple in such a way, he couldn’t help but reveal a grin.

At the same time, atop the walls of the Seamless Citadel, the black-robed Godking and Daomother Devilhand were just as astonished. When the black-robed Godking saw that dazzling, absolutely terrifying sword-stroke, his heart had instantly sunk. This was going to be trouble!”

“We’re in trouble.” The black-robed Godking began to panic.

Daomother Devilhand’s face was utterly ashen, but she quickly sent a mental message to the Infinity Fiendgod. “Fight him with care and focus on defense. Tie him down. The Envoy will reinforce you right away.”

The white-haired, red-eyed Infinity Fiendgod had close to the power of a top-tier Daofather as well. In the previous battles, two of them combined were able to resist the power of True Immortal Jimin’s Pangu God, which was a testament to their great power.

“Yes, Daomother.”

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The six-armed Rahu-Ning and the white-haired, re-eyed Infinity Fiendgod were both in front of their respective armies. They charged towards each other, and as they closed in, the Darknorth sword in Ning’s hand moved.

Slash!

A strange, unfathomable streak of sword-light suddenly flickered.

Swish!

A white-haired head went flying into the air.

This was the most unpredictable, the most unfathomable sword-stance Ning had...the Shadowless stance of the [Brightmoon] sword-art!

[The Desolate Era](#)

Book 21: The Bloodlotus Blooms Chapter 17: Battling the Envoy of All Things

The white-haired Infinity Fiendgod’s head went flying!

The headless body instantly began to break apart, revealing the many Emyrean Gods and True Immortals that had been inside of it in the Infinity Fiendgod Formation. These Emyrean Gods and True Immortals were completely terrified. They didn't even think of fighting back. All of them fled every which way, seeking to move as far as they could from the terrifying Rahu-Ning.

Whoooooooooosh. Streaks of sword-light flashed out with the power of a vortex, transforming into six gigantic black holes that devoured all of the Emyrean Gods and True Immortals.

[Brightmoon] sword-art, Soleheart stance!

This was a stance meant for defense, but Ji Ning was far, far more powerful than his opponents right now. The difference in power was so great the vortexes created by the Soleheart stance had the power to break apart his foes, and so this technique that was meant for continuous defense was actually converted into a tool of slaughter. It was a terrifying killer move, as these ordinary Emyrean Gods and True Immortals, compared to Ning, were simply far too weak. They were all swept into the black holes, and the ablative, swirling power that was meant to weaken enemy attacks were instead used to effortlessly grind them to dust.

"No!"

"How can this be happening?"

"How can he be so strong?!" The Emyrean Gods and True Immortals were gripped by despair. They did their utmost, but remained unable to break free and escape from the terrifying black holes. They were all drawn inside, and all were ground apart and slain.

In but an instant, more than five hundred Emyrean Gods and True Immortals perished! Not one was spared!

This scene caused the face of Daomother Devilhand, who was watching on the walls of the Seamless Citadel, to turn absolutely bone-white. The black-robed Godking's entire body was trembling slightly as well. It must be understood that the sudden appearance of the Envoy of All Things on the field of battle had only caused roughly five hundred casualties amongst the ranks of the Nuwa Alliance.

By comparison, Ji Ning's sudden explosion of power had resulted in the destruction of a Seamless Infinity Formation and an Infinity Fiendgod formation. The number of Emyrean Gods and True Immortals he had slain already exceeded seven hundred.

"How is his sword that bizarre and that powerful?" The black-robed Godking shook his head, unable to accept what he was seeing.

The Shadowless stance had always been the most unpredictable sword-stance Ning had. After spending centuries learning the many terrifying sword-arts left behind by World God Northrest, Ning had distilled their essence and infused it into his own [Brightmoon] sword-art, causing the Shadowless stance to become even more bizarre. If a sword-attack was both unpredictable and ridiculously fast, it would become terrifying to fight against. In fact, if it was sufficiently fast, it could be completely unblockable.

This was what had happened to the Infinity Fiendgod. It had been completely unable to block against this sword-stance! A single blow had severed its head!

“Even I wouldn’t be able to block that sword at all.” The black-robed Godking’s heart was quaking. Previously, Ning had displayed the terrifyingly fast and penetrating Blood Drop stance, but at least it wasn’t unpredictable; it was a sword that was straight and aboveboard. The Godking felt that he should at least be able to block it. But the Shadowless stance...even he didn’t feel any confidence in being able to block it.

Ji Ning had actually caused him, the exalted, nominal leader of the Seamless Gate...to feel a faint sense of fear?

He truly didn’t want to believe this.

“How could he be this powerful? It makes no sense. This simply isn’t possible at all.” The black-robed Godking shook his head. Prior to this, he had held Ji Ning in no regard at all. How could a single weak Empyrean God have an impact on the overall situation? But now, this Empyrean God had unleashed the power of a top-tier Daofather. “Although Ji Ning’s sword-art is formidable, judging from the light surrounding his sword, he should have only reached the fourth stage of swordforce. The reason why Houyi was so formidable was because he, as an Empyrean God, broke through to reach the fifth stage of heartforce. That was why he had such terrifying power.”

“Ji Ning’s swordforce is only at the fourth stage. It makes no sense for him to be so powerful.”

“It makes no sense...”

The black-robed Godking felt a mixture of urgency and anger. No matter what the result of this battle was...the painful losses they had just suffered was enough to cause his heart to feel as though it was being roasted by flames.

The black-robed Godking simply couldn’t accept this...but the countless Immortals and Fiendgods of the Nuwa Alliance who saw this all felt their blood boil with excitement. Some of the Seven Planets Gods actually let out excited, heroic roars! The last fight had been a miserable one, but this time Ji Ning showed far, far too much power! In the past, Ji Ning had been able to use the Rahu God to force the Seamless Gate to bow its head, but back then he had barely been at the Daofather level of power. He was probably a bit weaker than even a Seamless Infinity Formation! But now, he was able to slay with a single-sword strike an Infinity Fiendgod that was close to a top-tier Daofather in power.

“Formidable.” Xuan Yuan exclaimed with surprise, “Compared to the incredibly fast sword-strike he used at first, the strike he used to slay the Infinity Fiendgod was even more dazzling.”

“Strange and unfathomable. The profound mysteries within his sword-art have already reached the apex. Without question, this is the number-one sword-art of the Three Realms.” Fuxi smiled as he spoke out in praise.

“He truly is formidable.” Lord Tathagata the Buddha revealed a smile as well.

“We can win this war.” Daoist Three Purities was laughing as well.

Only now did the seven major powers all begin to laugh and smile in a joyful way. From Ning using a single sword-strike to slay an Infinity Fiendgod that was close to a top-tier Daofather in power, they were able to tell that he definitely had the power to stalemate the Envoy of All Things. Given how many Empyrean Gods and True Immortals he had slain, their side definitely held the upper hand once more.

“Subhuti, it seems you underestimated your disciple.” Suiren glanced at the nearby Subhuti, who was smiling as well.

“Wonderful. Wonderful. You didn’t let your hatred blind you. Although you were filled with rage and the desire to kill, you were able to remain calm.” Subhuti casually said a few words of praise for his disciple. In truth, he was the happiest of the seven.

“Stop putting on a show of being calm. All I have to do is look at your twitching beard and I can tell how happy you are right now,” Shennong teased.

“What, can’t I be happy?” Subhuti stroked his beard and smiled. “If you have a problem with it, go and produce a similarly talented disciple of your own.”

“Enough with the chit-chat. Look, the Envoy has charged out, and Ning’s charging towards it as well,” Suiren said.

The seven major powers began to watch closely once more.

After Ning had dealt with the Infinity Fiendgod, he had charged straight towards the army of the Seamless Gate.

Whoosh! The Rahu-Ning’s footsteps were simply too fast, causing Daomother Devilhand, atop the distant city walls of the Seamless Citadel, to begin to worry. Although she was extremely skilled in commanding armies, there was no solution she could use in the face of such an absolute superiority in speed and power. Even if she had her army immediately flee, there was no way that it would be able to escape from Ji Ning, given how quickly he ran.

As for blocking him? Even the Infinity Fiendgod, which had close to the power of a top-tier Daofather, had been slain in one blow, while the incredibly tough and resilient Seamless Infinity Formation had also been pierced through with one strike. No matter how many reinforcements she sent, they would simply be going to their deaths. Ji Ning was about to reach their army. Once he made it in, it would be an utter slaughter.

“Envoy, stop Ji Ning.” Daomother Devilhand immediately gave the order.

“The rest of the army, begin to withdraw.” Daomother Devilhand gave yet another order.

Although their side had yet to be completely defeated, the situation on the battlefield was quite apparent. Ji Ning was probably strong enough to withstand the Envoy. No matter what, retreating for now was the best option. If they let their army fight without being confident that they would win, it would be akin to sending them into a massacre.

But alas...

Quite a long period of time had passed between Ning’s two clashes, resulting in both armies now being quite close to each other.

“Darknorth!” The Envoy bellowed as it charged straight towards Ning, who moved to intercept.

The first was an ape-shaped Envoy of All Things, wreathed in dark-red flames. It had been invented by an alien Outsider, the Lord of All Things, and Grandmaster Blackheaven had been responsible for forging it.

The second was a Fiendgod that had been created based on the alien Outsider, Rahu, who had been used as the template.

Both of them were filled with unearthly amounts of power. They were evenly matched.

BOOM!

Sword-light flashed in an unpredictable, unfathomable manner, causing the heart of Emyrean God Bloodwave, the controller of the Envoy, to quiver. It was too bizarre and too fast! He hurriedly moved to block. The Envoy of All Things possessed absolutely astonishing power, and if a Daofather was in command of it, it would be able to unleash even greater levels of power. Three to five of them joining together would be a match for an overlord-level Daofather, like the leaders of Buddhism and Daoism. However, the current controller was 'merely' Emyrean God Bloodwave, and there was a limit to how strong an Emyrean God could be.

An enormous explosion rang out!

The Envoy stumbled two steps back before steadying itself...and then a hint of a smile appeared on its face.

"I really am a fool. I was scared silly by that terrifying sword-blow of his." Emyrean God Bloodwave regained his composure. "His sword-arts are the most terrifying sword-arts I have ever seen...but so what? Not even the leaders of Buddhism and Daoism would be able to damage the Envoy in the slightest. Ji Ning can't hurt me at all. There's no need for me to even defend against his sword-arts; all I need to do is continuously attack. If I can manage to grab him, I'll be able to tear that Rahu God body of his apart."

Whoosh.

The Envoy pounced forward in a savage manner, striking out with twin claws at lightning speed towards Ning.

Clang! Clang! Clang!

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Sword-light flew everywhere.

Ning's sword-arts were completely superior to his foe's techniques. Sword-arts that surpassed the limits of the Heavenly Daos...there was no way his foe could block his attacks. In an instant, Ning unleashed more than a hundred 'Shadowless' strikes, hacking down repeatedly upon his foe, but he wasn't even able to leave a tiny mark on the golem. Ning actually had to be more careful than before, as his own body was simply formed from the energy of Heaven and Earth. Once it was damaged, it would completely break apart. Fortunately, Ning's sword-arts were at such a high level that he was able to completely block every single strike of the Envoy.

“No wonder the Envoy of All Things had such a fearsome reputation during the war that ended the Primordial Era. If a Daofather was in command, even I probably wouldn’t be able to withstand it. Fortunately, the one before me is merely commanded by an Emyrean God,” Ning mused to himself.

The Desolate Era

Book 21: The Bloodlotus Blooms Chapter 18: Stay Your Hand Immediately!

As Ji Ning exchanged blows with the Envoy, the situation for the Seamless Gate’s forces on the battlefield had turned very grim.

In the instant that Ning had slain the Infinity Fiendgod, the military genius Yellow Emperor Xuan Yuan had immediately given an order: “Jimin, Wood Child, launch an all-out attack.” At the same time, Daomother Devilhand had commanded her troops, “All forces, withdraw!”

Clearly, both of the commanders were able to see how the situation on the battlefield had changed.

“Yes.”

“Yes.”

The Pangu-Jimin instantly exploded with speed, throwing the rest of the army far, far behind him.

At the same time, next to the Pangu-Jimin yet another Pangu God emerged. This one had a face that was quite young and fresh; it was Wood Child, the commander of the second Pangu Genesis Formation! Clearly, the Seamless Gate’s suspicions had been correct; Xuan Yuan and the others had been able to come up with no other ideas at all, and so were planning on compensating by increasing their total forces.

He had been preparing to use two Pangu Gods, having them join forces to fight against the Envoy of All Things. Wood Child was one of the five mighty Children that had once accompanied Mother Nuwa herself. The Pangu God he commanded was currently wielding the ‘Godsteel Staff of Aeons’, and it ran alongside the Jimin-Pangu at the same level of speed.

Whoosh! Whoosh!

The two Pangu Gods quickly charged into the Seamless Gate’s army. They were like tigers let loose amongst a flock of sheep. Most likely, the only thing within the Seamless Gate’s army that could match them for speed was the Envoy, with all the other formations and golems, including even the Infinity Fiendgods, being no match for them at all. What’s more, the Seamless Gate’s army had been greatly weakened.

Their most powerful asset, the Envoy of All Things, had been tied down by Ji Ning.

There was only one Infinity Fiendgod left! It must be understood that it had previously taken two of them to just barely be a match for a single Pangu God.

Even one of the Seamless Infinity Formations had been destroyed!

These two Pangu Gods could just barely be considered top-tier Daofathers. Naturally, they absolutely dominated and devastated their foes.

“Damn.” Daomother Devilhand ground her teeth upon seeing this. She hurriedly deployed golems and formations to try and tie down those two Pangu Gods.

The two Pangu Gods were simply far too powerful. If the many formations and golems on their side joined forces, they’d be able to tie down the Pangu Gods for a time...but as more time passed, the rest of the Nuwa Alliance’s army would arrive as well!

“It’s all because of that Darknorth.” Daomother Devilhand looked at the distant, battling forms of the Envoy and the Rahu-Ning. “He’s completely tied down the Envoy.”

“What are we to do?!” The black-robed Godking was even more frantic than her. For even Daomother Devilhand, who loved a good fight, to become panicked...the Godking felt as though this entire battlefield was crumbling before him.

“Ji Ning.” The black-robed Godking stared at the distant Rahu-Ning. “Ji Ning is the cause of all of this. He’s wrecked our battle lines and has even tied down the Envoy.”

As Ning fought against the Envoy, there was no one at all from either army who dared to approach the two of them.

Their arena was the most terrifying region in this entire battlefield.

“Mm. The Envoy does have some weaknesses.” As Ning fought, he also kept a careful eye on his opponent, searching for an opening that would allow him to seize victory. “Although the Envoy’s body is quite tough, as it is a golem, the person who commands it...well, that person is merely an Emyrean God and True Immortal. Thus, the attack speed and techniques used are comparatively low-level.”

Ning was a peerless Sword Immortal, after all. He was a master of technique, and his sword-art had been proclaimed by Fuxi, Sui ren, and the others as the number one sword-art of the entire Three Realms.

In his eyes, the close-combat techniques being used by the Envoy golem were indeed quite ordinary.

“The weakness of the Envoy lies with the Emyrean God controlling it. If I want to deal with it...I’ll need to put my techniques on full display.”

As their battle continued, multiple battle strategies quickly flashed through Ning’s mind. Any battle would entail using your strengths to attack the enemy’s weaknesses.

Suddenly...

“Ji Ning! Stay your hand immediately!” The black-robed Godking sent mentally to him.

“Godking?” Ning’s gaze turned towards the black-robed Godking standing atop the distant walls of the Seamless Citadel. Their gazes met...and Ning just smiled coldly.

“If you continue like this, I’ll immediately kill your senior apprentice-sister Yu Wei and shatter her soul. In fact, I’ll even destroy her truesoul.” The black-robed Godking’s mental voice was furious. Destroying a truesoul was extremely difficult, but a Daofather was indeed capable of it.

“Eh?” The Envoy battling against Ji Ning could sense that Ji Ning’s killing intent had suddenly skyrocketed for no apparent reason.

“I know that this is a battlefield, and that you are a member of the Nuwa Alliance. There’s no way you can just give up the fight, as those major powers of the Nuwa Alliance would definitely blame you. All I want you to do is to keep fighting for a while, then reveal an opening and allow the Envoy to injure you, forcing you to ‘unwillingly’ quit the battlefield,” the black-robed Godking sent mentally.

Have Ning reveal an opening?

Intentionally allow the Envoy to wound him?

That was no easy task. If he wasn’t careful, the Rahu Formation might completely crumble..

“Your sword-art vastly surpasses his in technique. You’ll definitely be able to control the degree to which he injures you.” The black-robed Godking sent mentally, “Hurry up. I want you to it right now. I don’t care what method you use, I want you to immediately leave this field of battle. Otherwise, Yu Wei will die immediately! Her soul will be shattered and her truesoul extinguished.”

“You...really are quite shameless.” For the first time, Ning replied to him.

“Shameless? For the sake of achieving victory, I don’t care if I’m forced to act in such a way. I walk the path of the demonheart to begin with. I’m a demon, Ji Ning. Your side already has a huge advantage in this battle because of you, and you’ve already slaughtered enough of our Emyrean Gods and True Immortals. You should be satisfied. So long as you retreat, I’ll immediately return your senior apprentice-sister to you. I absolutely guarantee that I’ll give her to you. But you need to leave this battlefield. Right now!” The black-robed Godking frantically urged him.

Every moment that was being wasted, the two Pangu Gods were massacring more and more members of the Seamless Gate. Although many formations and golems were being used to tie them down, the great army of the Nuwa Alliance was drawing closer and closer. Without the assistance of the Envoy of All Things, their losses would be utterly devastating.”

“Quick. Quick! Quick!!” The Godking was frantic. He watched with nervousness and eagerness from atop the walls of the Seamless Citadel. He was like a terminally ill man who, in his desperation, would consult with any doctor who claimed to have a cure. He knew that after he had toyed with Ji Ning last time, the chances of Ji Ning trusting him a second time were virtually nil. However...the Godking truly had no other options left to him. In addition, he could sense that Ji Ning truly did have extremely deep feelings for Yu Wei.

Once one’s truesoul was extinguished, there would no longer even be a way for one to recover it from the River of Destiny. He believed that Ji Ning absolutely would not be willing to allow Yu Wei’s truesoul to be extinguished.

Whoosh.

“He’s moving.” The black-robed Godking’s eyes lit up. The distant Ji Ning had suddenly exploded with power, his six arms wielding six divine swords in a wild, frenetic assault upon the Envoy of All Things.

The Envoy had just a set of two claws, while Ning had six arms. Ning's sword-arts were far too terrifying, and so for a time the Envoy was covered, surrounded, and completely suppressed by countless sword-shadows.

"Why have his attacks only grown more berserk?" At first, the Godking was angered, but he then turned calm, as though he had thought of something.

"This Ji Ning really is clever." The Godking's eyes lit up again. "He's using his six arms to furiously attack, which means his defense is naturally weaker now. No matter how powerful his attacks are, there is no way he can wound the Envoy...but his lowered defense means that there is a chance that the Envoy might wound him. So long as he is wounded, Ji Ning would naturally have an excuse to quit the field of battle. He would be able to excuse his failure to the rest of the Nuwa Alliance as caused by his desire to gain a quick victory, which was why the Envoy had a chance to wound him.

"He really is clever." The black-robed Godking waited eagerly.

"Still...his attacks are a bit too berserk. He's completely suppressed the Envoy. Even the Envoy's attacks are being shut down." The Godking frowned, then immediately sent another mental message. "Ji Ning, you have to give the Envoy a chance."

And right at this moment...

A sudden boom could be heard from the Envoy of All Things, which had been completely surrounded and bombarded by those countless sword-shadows. Ning was wielding six Darknorth swords, and the one that had reached the Chaos treasure level had just unleashed a sword-stance that was filled with seemingly infinite power. This could be described as the most fierce and most dominating attack he possessed, and it was the stance that he had originally used to send those two violet-light golems flying far backwards, past the entire army of the Seamless Gate.

[Brightmoon] sword-art, Heavenbreaker stance!

BOOM!!!!

An incomparably savage stroke. The sword smashed down upon the back of the right knee of the Envoy. Its power was like that of the divine axe which Pangu had used to cleave apart Heaven from Earth. A thunderous boom could be heard as the Envoy was knocked off balance and fell to the ground.

To knock down the Envoy was actually extremely difficult, because its two legs were extremely powerful and stable. Even if it was knocked flying, it would be very hard to make it actually fall down onto the ground. Experts at this level of skill all were extremely good at keeping their balance and remaining stable. To cause someone to lose his balance was far, far too hard. The many sword-strikes which Ning had blanketed the Envoy in seemed useless, but in truth they were meant to keep the Envoy off its balance.

By relying on his absolute advantage in technique, he had managed to destabilize the Envoy...and then he had sent the Heavenbreaker stance to smash at the back of the knee. And with a boom! The Envoy had fallen to the ground.

"No!" The Envoy's controller began to panic...but what greeted his protestation was a fierce, sharp streak of sword-light that smashed away at the Envoy's twin claws, giving them no chance to resist.

Whoooooosh! Four of the six arms of the Rahu-Ning were currently wielding swords. The other two arms were holding onto a rope that glowed with black light. The rope quickly wrapped itself around the Envoy's body. The Envoy had been knocked to the ground and its arms had been completely suppressed by Ning's nonstop attacks. The rope instantly and completely wrapped itself in circles around the Envoy.

Any golem, no matter powerful, would be able to do nothing once it had been completely bound. Although the Envoy roared furiously and tried to struggle, it still wasn't able to break free from the Protocosmic spirit-rope.

Everyone across the entire battlefield turned silent.

Even the two battling Pangu Gods. Even the seven smiling major powers of the Nuwa Alliance. Even the panicking black-robed Godking. Even the ashen-faced Daomother Devilhand. All of them fell silent. All of them were stunned.

They just stared blankly at what had just happened.

The Envoy of All Things...had been tightly bound by a Protocosmic spirit-rope. It was like a zongzi 1 that had fallen to the ground. It was completely unable to break free whatsoever.

The Rahu-Ning raised his head, staring towards the Seamless Citadel. Staring towards the black-robed Godking standing atop the citadel walls.

"Y-you..." The black-robed Godking was dazed.

Daomother Devilhand was rather dazed as well.

All the Immortals and Fiendgods on the entire battlefield were dazed.

Even the seven major powers of the Nuwa Alliance were dazed.

Captured?

The Envoy of All Things...had been captured?

This was an incredibly valuable and precious military asset. If a Daofather was in command of it, it would instantly possess utterly earth-shaking levels of power. The Seamless Gate had paid an incalculably vast price to create each of the Envoys. The only reason they had even sent one of them to take part in this Realmwar was because this one was an incredibly important one!

Right at this moment...

An azure-skinned gourd suddenly appeared in the Rahu-Ning's hands. The stopper was pulled open.

"Come in."

Ning gently murmured these words...and with a whoosh, the tightly bound Envoy that lay on the ground was transformed to a tiny size, then sucked straight into the mouth of the gourd.

Then...

Ning gently plugged the gourd with the stopper once more.

1. This is a type of Chinese sticky rice cake that is usually wrapped up in banana leaves, then tied with string.

The Desolate Era

Book 21: The Bloodlotus Blooms Chapter 19: Defeated In Battle

The Allfiend world.

At the peak of a solitary mountain.

The red-robed, azure-haired Lord of All Fiends was seated in the lotus position. He stared through the infinite Void, his gaze focused on the battle that was occurring within the Deerchaser major world.

“Ji Ning?” The Lord of All Fiends murmured softly to himself. For the first time, he paid close attention to this minor figure who he had never cared about before.

“We lost.”

“This critical battle...has been lost. We even lost an Envoy of All Things.” The Lord of All Fiends shook his head.

Suddenly, a figure appeared next to his side. It was Grandmaster Blackheaven, and he had an absolutely frantic look on his face.

“Master,” Blackheaven said frantically, “We have to take the Envoy back! We spend enormous amounts of effort to create them, and now one of them has been stolen! We now have one less, while the Nuwa Alliance has one more. This is going to have a huge impact on the war.”

“Take it back...how?” The Lord of All Fiends stared at Blackheaven.

Blackheaven was stunned.

“There’s no way to take it back. We lost it in battle during a Realmwar...and everyone in the Three Realms is watching this battle. All of the major powers, on our side or in the Nuwa Alliance, are watching this battle. If I make a move, most likely all of the other major powers will make a move as well. There’s no way the Nuwa Alliance will give us any chance whatsoever.” The Lord of All Fiends was quite calm.

“But...but...” Blackheaven was absolutely besides himself.

“If we lost, we lost...and we should admit that they won cleanly.” The Lord of All Fiends shook his head.

“During the Primordial Era, the Nuwa Alliance was able to produce Houyi. Now, it has given birth to Darknorth. This is destiny.”

“Doesn’t the Godking have the soul of Ji Ning’s Dao-companion, Yu Wei? Can’t we use it to trade with Ji Ning for the Envoy?” Blackheaven immediately asked.

“Impossible.” The Lord of All Fiends shook his head. “The ownership of the Envoy is something that has a significant impact on the war as a whole. It isn’t something which Ji Ning can decide on his own. Even if Ji Ning was willing to give it to us, his master Subhuti, Suren, Shennong, Daoist Three Purities, and the rest absolutely would not permit it. The loss and gain of an Envoy of All Things is something of enormous impact.”

“Right.” Blackheaven nodded helplessly.

He had to admit it. All personal feelings and emotions would have to be discarded when the stakes impacted one side’s chances of winning the war. There really was no way the Nuwa Alliance would permit Ji Ning to give it up.

“Windfiend...” Suddenly, a dreamy, ghostly voice rang out.

The Lord of All Fiends was startled.

The mist around him began to coalesce, slowly forming into a human-shaped figure that was dressed in a simple gray robe.

“You remain as distant and detached as always.” The gray-robed figure’s voice was insubstantial and ephemeral. “Fighting a war...the key lies in the word ‘fight’. Fight for every scrap of opportunity. Only then will you have a chance to be the final victor.”

The Lord of All Fiends stared at the figure before him...at the king who had once unified the entire Seamless Chaosworld. The one who had been a match for Mother Nuwa in power, and who had only been just one step away from becoming a World God himself.

“Long time no see...Demonheart,” the Lord of All Fiends said softly.

.....

The Deerchaser world.

After Ning took out the gourd and sucked away the Envoy of All Things, the entire battlefield became deathly still. The Seamless Gate’s forces no longer had any desire to fight whatsoever!

“We lost.” Daomother Devilhand had a look of regret in her eyes.

“How could this have happened? How could...this Ji Ning...” The black-robed Godking ground his teeth. “This was the critical battle...and we actually lost it because of Ji Ning.”

The black-robed Godking truly couldn’t accept this outcome. He was the one to plan out all the wars, and he was also the titular head of the entire Seamless Gate! Ji Ning was nothing more than a pawn that he had never truly cared about.

“Withdraw.”

“Withdraw immediately.”

“Don’t try to keep fighting.”

Daomother Devilhand immediately sent mental orders to all of her forces, ordering the remnants of her army to immediately retreat.

The outcome of this battle had clearly been determined.

The Envoy of All Things had been captured by Ji Ning. Even if Ji Ning no longer participated in this battle, those two Pangu Gods alone, when reinforced by the great army of the Nuwa Alliance, would be powerful enough to utterly decimate the surviving soldiers of the Seamless Gate.

"We lost." The black-robed Godking closed his eyes, murmuring to himself.

Suddenly, he opened his eyes. His eyes were as cold as ice as he stared downwards at the Rahu-Ning...and Ji Ning just so happened to be staring back at him.

"Hmph." The black-robed Godking let out a cold laugh, then waved his hand, causing a semi-translucent figure appeared within it. It was Yu Wei's soul. The black-robed maiden, Yu Wei, stared at her surroundings in puzzlement.

Ning's body trembled. He stared blankly at the semi-translucent figure atop the walls of the Seamless Citadel. This was the person he had been thinking about, day and night.

"Senior apprentice-sister." The towering, valiant Fiendgod just stood there, murmuring to himself.

Yu Wei saw Ning as well. She opened her mouth to speak towards him, and although no sounds came out, Ning was able to read her lips.

Junior apprentice-brother. Yu Wei was looking at Ning.

"I told you that if you disobeyed me, I would kill her. I told you that I would shatter her soul and extinguish her truesoul." The black-robed Godking clenched his enormous hand around the semi-translucent Yu Wei, and his voice echoed within the heavens. "Didn't you say...that she's already dead, and that you killed her? Haha...then, let me let her truly die."

"No-"

Ning stretched his hand out, as though he was about to say something...but the black-robed Godking tightly clenched his fist. As he did so, the semi-translucent shadow of Yu Wei stared at Ning, her lips moving one final time. Take care of...Brightmoon..."

BOOM!

Her soul vanished...and her truesoul flickered with one final gleam of light before it too was disintegrated, melting away into nothingness.

Ning stood there blankly, his hand outstretched.

Pain.

Heart-rending pain instantly filled his entire body. It was as though an endless wave had instantly swallowed him, drowning him within its tide.

His wife.

She was dead. She was truly dead.

"You've hidden your daughter quite well. You keep her within the Crescent major world. If she was in any other place, I would've killed your daughter as well. Ahaha...it seems that I am destined to forever be the demon that lurks in your heart, the demon that haunts your nightmares. Ahahaha...our war has just begun! Are you truly prepared for it? Your daughter will die in the future as well. She'll also die...ahahaha..." The black-robed Godking cackled with utter madness.

Ning just stood there, not moving at all.

The army of the Nuwa Alliance pursued their foes, but everyone was also paying attention to Ning. He stood there, surrounded by an aura of power that seemed to fill the entirety of the heavens...and yet, he also seemed to have become a bit fragile and frail.

Atop the walls of the Nuwa Alliance's citadel.

Subhuti, Shennong, Xuan Yuan, and the rest of the seven major powers all had ugly looks on their faces as they witnessed this. However...there was nothing they could do. Even if they did try to intervene, there was no way for them to rescue Yu Wei, because Yu Wei's fragile, weak soul had been effortlessly wiped out by the Godking in an instant.

"Ji Ning." Subhuti turned his head, staring towards the other, black-robed Ning who stood behind him. He said softly, "This is war. On the field of battle, many Emphyrean Gods and True Immortals, many disciples of True Gods and Daofathers, many family members and loved ones, will perish. And this is just the start. In the future...if our side loses the war, all of us 'major powers' will be wiped out, to say nothing of the rest."

"This is the nature of war." Xuan Yuan spoke in a consoling voice as well.

There was nothing else they could say.

This truly was the nature of war. An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth. Blood for blood. Neither side would show any mercy or care about their former friendships; they would use any tools they could to weaken their foes. Ji Ning deeply cared about love, and so to shatter Yu Wei's soul and destroy her truesoul was an act that would forever plant a thorn into his heart. It was entirely possible that in the future, the thorn would result in a devastating, breathtaking outcome.

The black-robed Ning just stood there, his eyes bloodshot. Tears flowed down his face from his bloodshot eyes.

"Ahahaha..." The black-robed Ning raised his head and laughed loudly, the tears in his eyes instantly vanishing.

"Ahahaha..." The distant, towering figure of the Rahu-Ning also raised his head to laugh.

His laughter shook the heavens. His laughter caused the earth to tremble.

His laughter caused one's heart to freeze.

Everyone could hear the agony and the frenzied hatred contained within his laughter...the limitless, infinite amount of hate. But the black-robed Godking, standing atop the distant walls of the Seamless Citadel, didn't care at all. He just smiled coldly. "The more you hate, the better. The more you hate, the more it will affect your Dao-heart...and if the effect is strong enough, it'll make it hard for you to make any more breakthroughs."

The laughter continued to ring out...and then it suddenly stopped.

The Rahu-Ning lowered his head. He clenched the swords in his hands, then murmured to himself in a low voice. "Senior apprentice-sister...I'm sorry. Brightmoon...I'll take care of her..."

The Rahu-Ning raised his head to stare at the walls of the Seamless Citadel and the Godking. He murmured to himself, "And that Godking...I'll kill him personally and sacrifice his soul to you..."

Every member of the Nuwa Alliance on the battlefield, especially the Emyrean Gods and True Immortals who were close to Ning and viewed him as a brother, was staring at him with worry. Subhuti was staring at him with worry as well.

The Rahu-Ning's laughter had come to a halt...and then, he moved.

"KILL!!!" A black serpent of lightning suddenly flashed, streaking towards the fleeing army of the Seamless Gate.

The Seamless Gate's forces had been engaged in a tactical retreat, staving off the two Pangu Gods while continuing to flee. And now...a black lightning serpent had suddenly entered their midst.

Whoooooosh.

Sword-light flashed.

Blood sprayed.

Immortals and Fiendgods died in countless numbers.

"What?! His Rahu God can also use the [Ninehorn Lightning Serpent] evasion technique?" The black-robed Godking's face completely changed. To be able to use the Rahu God in performing the [Ninehorn Lightning Serpent] technique meant that Ji Ning was in complete control of the Rahu God's power, not allowing any of it at all to leak out. This meant that Ji Ning was able to control all of the Rahu God's potential power.

Daomother Devilhand's face changed as well, and she immediately issued a frantic mental order. "Retreat at will!"

Retreat at will.

What this meant was...no need to worry about anything else or about others. Everyone was to flee for their own lives, using any methods and means available to them. There was no need to cooperate, no need to work with others.

There was no way at all that they would be able to sustain an organized retreat in the face of Rahu-Ning, who was massacring them at light-speed with his [Ninehorn Lightning Serpent] technique.

[The Desolate Era](#)

Book 21: The Bloodlotus Blooms Chapter 20: The Curtain Falls

"Flee."

"Let's go. Flee, quick!"

"Separate and flee in different directions."

As Daomother Devilhand gave the order, the entire army of the Seamless Gate completely broke apart into countless individual figures. Even the Infinity God, the Seamless Infinity Formations, and the 'Life

and Death Formations of the Twin Realm Calamity Dragons' all voluntarily dispersed into their component individuals. The Emyrean Gods and True Immortals drew the other Celestial Immortals and Loose Immortals into their personal estate-treasures, then frantically began to flee in every possible direction.

The entire battlefield was filled with countless dense clusters of Immortals and Fiendgods. There were far, far too many fleeing Immortals and Fiendgods, and so the Nuwa Alliance didn't dare to voluntarily disperse their own formations as well.

"Haha...the damnable Seamless Gate has been utterly terrified. Feiyou, let's have a little competition and see which of us can kill more Emyrean Gods and True Immortals."

"Fine, let's!"

The many Seven Planets Gods charged in every direction, and they slaughtered all who stood before them. As for the distant Myriad Immortals Armageddon Formations, they began to launch a constant stream of long-distance attacks. They originally had been meant to play a supporting role on the battlefield, but when used against Emyrean Gods and True Immortals, they were veritable engines of slaughter.

Every single blow from them had the power of a Daofather, after all!

Boom! Bang! The entire battlefield was filled with the sound of explosions. The army of the Nuwa Alliance began a frenzied massacre, going all out to kill as many as they could. The more they killed today, the fewer they would face in the future, after all.

And without question, the most terrifying figure on this field of question was the Rahu-Ning, who moved about in the form of a black serpent of lightning.

The Rahu-Ning's sword had expanded to become more than three million meters long. His six massive swords swept outwards in every direction, and every single region he passed through resulted in an utter wipeout of the enemy forces there, causing utter terror to race through the hearts of the Seamless Gate's soldiers.

"Haha, Darknorth, your Dao-companion is sharing the same death-site as us. Worth it!"

"Darknorth, we'll embark on the next step of our journey...and you won't live for much longer either."

The slaughtered Emyrean Gods and True Immortals all cursed furiously as they were slaughtered. The Rahu-Ning, however, just killed them in icy cold silence.

He didn't feel much hatred towards these ordinary Emyrean Gods and True Immortals of the Seamless Gate. However...this was war, and they were on the wrong side. If he didn't wipe them out, they would wipe out the Nuwa Alliance. There were no other choices for him to choose! If he wanted more people on his side to live, his only option was to kill as many as he could, to massacre as many as possible.

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When the army of the Seamless Gate had completely split apart into its component soldiers, there were so many of them on the battlefield that invariably some of them were able to escape and reach the Seamless Citadel.

Atop the walls of the Seamless Citadel.

The black-robed Godking and Daomother Devilhand both had ugly looks on their faces as they watched a few Empyrean Gods and True Immortals flee into the citadel, the vast majority of the others being slaughtered in the desolate wilderness.

Disastrous!

This defeat was utterly disastrous!

This was an utter massacre!

When the Envoy had appeared for the first time, its attacks had caused Xuan Yuan to order his army to retreat as well, but it was still an orderly, organized retreat. But this time, the Seamless Gate's entire army had completely collapsed, forcing Daomother Devilhand to issue an order for them to retreat at will.

"It's all because of Ji Ning," Daomother Devilhand said hoarsely.

It was Ji Ning who had instantly shattered the Seamless Infinity Formation, slain an Infinity God, and then captured the Seamless Gate's 'killer weapon', the Envoy of All Things. And then, the Rahu-Ning had actually been able to use the [Ninehorn Lightning Serpent] technique while in Rahu form. Given the power of this technique, the speed at which he pursued and killed his foes was simply too terrifying.

"Damn." The black-robed Godking's eyes flashed with cold light.

Time seemed to flow as slowly as sand in an hourglass, one grain falling down at a time.

Large numbers of Empyrean Gods and True Immortals were massacred on the battlefield, with only the occasional fleeing straggler making it back into the Seamless Citadel.

Then, finally...the battlefield turned quiet once more.

There were no longer any surviving Empyrean Gods or True Immortals of the Seamless Gate on the battlefield at all.

Below the walls of the Seamless Citadel, the towering, bloodlusted Rahu-Ning stared upwards towards the black-robed Godking. His eyes were filled with a bone-chilling murderous intent. Ji Ning truly wanted to attack the Seamless Citadel and battle the Godking...but he saw that Daomother Devilhand was next to the Godking's side. Daomother Devilhand was a terrifying figure who had actually been able to battle Mother Nuwa herself for a period of time during the war that ended the Primordial Era. If he truly was to attack, Daomother Devilhand would probably have enough of an excuse to attack and most likely kill him with a single palm blow.

He still didn't have enough power to fight against the most truly supreme figures of the Three Realms yet.

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The forces of the Seamless Citadel were filled with agony and rage...but the Nuwa Alliance's castle was filled with the sound of rejoicing.

The seven major powers atop the walls were all laughing.

“We won.” For once, Daoist Three Purities had a broad smile on his face as he stroked his beard.

“When Darknorth said to give him a month, he really did have the power to back up what he said. He wasn’t just spouting rubbish.” Lord Tathagata the Buddha chortled, “He was actually able to unleash such astounding power through the Rahu Formation. I saw that he was able to command his Rahu God while using the [Ninehorn Lightning Formation]. It seems that he must have mastered all of its power, preventing any of it from leaking outwards.”

“Yes.” Fuxi nodded, then chuckled curiously. “I really wonder how Ji Ning accomplished it. Perhaps it really does have something to do with Undermoon Lake.”

“Undermoon Lake?” Lord Tathagata nodded as well. “After Jueming returned from Undermoon Lake, he’s been almost perpetually in secluded, solitary meditation. He rarely comes out, but is so powerful that even I am uncertain of his true strength. Like him, Ji Ning left from Undermoon Lake under his own power. He must have gained some special rewards.”

“Most likely.”

“Must be it.”

The major powers chatted amongst themselves for a time. Undermoon Lake was quite a mysterious place in their heart, and they had once tried everything they could to enter, only to fail.

Because the black-robed Ning was next to them, not too far away, he was able to clearly hear the conversation going on amongst the major powers. In fact, some of the major powers actually sneaked peeks at Ning’s face. Clearly, however, Ji Ning was not in the mood to discuss anything. He was finding it extremely difficult to recover from the state of frenzied agony and rage that he had fallen into upon Yu Wei’s death.

“Withdraw our troops.” Yellow Emperor Xuan Yuan gave the order.

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The Seamless Citadel.

“It’s over.” Daomother Devilhand’s face was rather pallid and wan. This was the first time in her life that she had suffered such a disastrous defeat. “More than two thousand Emyrean Gods and True Immortals...in the end, less than two hundred survived.”

The black-robed Godking was silent for a long moment. He then couldn’t help but ask, “Aunt-master, how could Ji Ning be this powerful? I simply don’t understand. Is it possible that he’s actually already a Daofather, but has been keeping his aura hidden and thus has been pretending to be an Emyrean God? If he is a Daofather, he shouldn’t even be allowed to take part in the war for karmic luck.”

“If he’s a Daofather, he would have to have already mastered a Heavenly Dao.” Daomother Devilhand said softly, “But I saw quite clearly that although Darknorth’s sword-arts were incomparably transcendent, perhaps the best in all the Three Realms, that was simply because he has trained in and mastered the [Five Treasures]. His sword can surpass the limits of the Heavenly Daos, and he’s reached a

wondrous level of technique, which is why he is so powerful. However, I can't find any traces of the Heavenly Daos in his sword-arts."

"His movement techniques, his combat methods...I can find no trace of the mysteries of the Heavenly Daos in them at all."

"In addition..."

"If he truly had gained insight into a Heavenly Dao, then Demonheart definitely would've found out. He is part of the Heavenly Daos, after all." Daomother Devilhand looked towards the Godking.

"Demonheart is your master."

The black-robed Godking was stunned. Slowly, reluctantly, he nodded his head. It was true. If Ji Ning had mastered a Heavenly Dao and caused a resonance with the Heavenly Daos, how could it have escaped the notice of the Lord of the Demonheart?

"Then is it possible that he became a True God?" The black-robed Godking couldn't help but ask.

Daomother Devilhand frowned as she glanced at the black-robed Godking. "The Rahu Formation uses Immortal energy to control countless Celestial Immortals and Loose Immortals, using their power to summon and control the vast nature energy of Heaven and Earth. Even if he was a True God, if all he had was his powerful divine power, it would be useless in the formation. Not even a True God would be capable of unleashing such power from the Rahu Formation. Don't you even understand something as basic as this?"

Rebuked, the black-robed Godking lowered his head. He just couldn't accept this. He really couldn't.

A pawn that he had held in no regard had ended up ruining their entire plan for the war!

"Then what should we do?" The black-robed Godking said, "The Envoy has been seized. Ji Ning has a true body and a Primaltwin; he can have his true body command the Rahu Formation while having his Primaltwin command the Envoy. If his terrifying sword-arts are paired up with the power of an Envoy, the power of his Primaltwin in the Envoy would probably be comparable to yet another Rahu God."

The Godking's guess was wrong.

He didn't know that in truth. Ji Ning had the Immortal energy of a Daofather. If he was to use his Daofather-level energy to command an Envoy of All Things and use it to unleash his terrifying sword-arts...he would be able to unleash the full power of the Envoy, a level of power comparable to that of the Envoys under the control of the Lord of All Things all those years ago. Those Envoys were close to the overlord-level, and if three to five of them joined forces, they were absolutely a match for the leaders of Daoism and Buddhism.

Clearly, Ning's energy and sword-arts were all at a high enough level for him to command the Envoy effectively, allowing it to unleash a level of power close to that of the overlord-level Daofathers! His power would vastly outstrip the power of a Rahu God; he would essentially be equal in power to figures like Subhuti and Old Man Yuan.

“A true body and a Primaltwin...” Daomother Devilhand frowned as well. “Troublesome. Very troublesome. Very well...we need to go back and think on how we are going to deal with this new issue. Ask your master and the others to ponder on this as well. What should we do with this Ji Ning?”

Prior to this, the Nuwa Alliance had a headache over the question of how to deal with the Envoy.

Now, it was the Seamless Gate’s turn to have a headache, this one over Ji Ning.

“It is now time for us to leave the Deerchaser world,” Daomother Devilhand said in a low voice.

This war had been lost. It was time to leave.

[The Desolate Era](#)

Book 21: The Bloodlotus Blooms Chapter 21: Secret Discussions

They had won.

Critical wars like this would generally continue for many years before ending, but an unexpected variable had appeared in the form of Ji Ning.

In truth, both sides essentially knew what the other had up their sleeves. The Nuwa Alliance knew that their foes had an Envoy of All Things, and so they were still prepared to continue battling against it. At most, they would be at a disadvantage and the war would become difficult to win. However, Ning’s sudden appearance out of nowhere had caught the Seamless Gate completely offguard.

His sudden appearance and his explosion of terrifying power had instantly smacked the army of the Seamless Gate senseless. They had completely and irrevocably collapsed, and so the result was that this battle, the most critical battle in the Three Realms in the war for karmic luck, had ended after just a few short months.

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The Deerchaser major world. Within the imperial palace.

Yellow Emperor Xuan Yuan had hosted a huge celebratory feast, and had invited many major powers and the Empyrean Gods and True Immortals who had fought in the battle to take part. Although Ning took part in the banquet as well, he left very early on.

He was seated within a gazebo.

Flakes of snow drifted about around him. Ning sat there by himself, a flagon of wine and a wineglass in front of him.

He quietly sipped his wine. As it flowed into his throat, it brought a stream of warmth with it.

“Senior apprentice-sister...according to what World God Northrest told me, all things are possible within the endless primordial chaos.” A distant gaze was in Ning’s eyes. “Even Vastheaven Palace itself has figures that were far more powerful than World God Northrest. In the primordial chaos, there are figures that vastly, vastly outstrip World Gods like him in might...”

“The World God stage isn’t the end.”

“Once one reaches the World God stage, one can find a truesoul within the River of Destiny.”

“Your truesoul has been destroyed. Not even World Gods can save you. But if in the future, I can surpass the World God stage and reach an even higher level, perhaps I will be able to save you.” This was what Ning was quietly saying to himself.

World God Northrest had accepted Ning as his successor. He had thus left behind many techniques, as well as many records on some of the nearby powers and much knowledge regarding the primordial chaos.

This was why Ning knew very well that the most precious item which World God Northrest had, the divine sword ‘Violetjewel’, was something that was far beyond the capabilities of World Gods and Chaos Immortals to create. Ning knew for a fact that in the primordial chaos, there existed figures more powerful than even World Gods and Chaos Immortals.

Prior to this, Ning didn’t have much ambition; he had felt that being able to survive this tribulation and live a peaceful life afterwards in the Three Realms would be enough. Even though in the future, his lifeblood oath would force him to go search for Vastheaven Palace, that would be something that would only happen in the distant future.

But now...

Ning was filled with ambition.

He wanted to walk further down the path!

“After the war ends, I’ll leave behind my Primaltwin to take care of my daughter, then go do what my lifeblood oath requires me to do. I’ll enter the primordial chaos and search for Vastheaven Palace. I’ll climb up ever-higher mountains and move higher and higher...because so long as the path of Immortal cultivation is truly endless, there will come the day that I will rescue you,” Ning silently promised.

“Junior apprentice-brother.” A voice rang out.

Ning turned his head. Someone had just entered the courtyard. It was senior apprentice-brother Silvermoon.

Silvermoon looked at Ning. He could sense Ning’s hidden loneliness, and he couldn’t help but sigh to himself. When Silvermoon’s Dao-companion had just perished, he had been just as Ning was now. Much time had to pass before he was able to control his emotions and laugh gaily once more....but in truth, he was doing nothing more than suppressing those feelings in his heart. He had never forgotten them, and when the chance to give vent to them had come, he had let them explode forth.

When he looked at Ning, he felt as though he was looking at his past self.

“Senior apprentice-brother,” Ning said.

Silvermoon walked over, then seated himself in front of Ning. He stared at the winecup on the table.

“Just one cup?”

“Since you’ve come, there will naturally be one more.” Ning waved his hand, and yet another winecup appeared on the table. Ning picked up the flagon of wine and poured a cup for his senior apprentice-brother.

Gurgle gurgle. Silvermoon tasted the wine, then raised his head and downed it all.

“The wine’s pretty strong.” Silvermoon chuckled. “I came to see you because I was worried that you’d let yourself grow depressed and dispirited, or that you’d be completely consumed by your hatred. But now, it seems, you are quite calm.”

“Of course I’m calm. I still have my daughter, Brightmoon. I also have Uncle White, Little Qing, and the others, along with my mother and father,” Ning said calmly. Although his parents had perished, if he was able to become a World God he would be able to locate their souls in the River of Destiny.

“Yes. There are many things left in the world for us to cherish.” Silvermoon nodded, but his eyes were filled with a murderous look. “But the Seamless Gate really will stoop to anything. They actually launched assassinations on a massive scale against the family members and loved ones of many Emphyrean Gods, True Immortals, and Daofathers. So many have perished!”

“Yes.” Ning couldn’t hide the murderous look in his own eyes either.

When he thought of how the Godking had stood there atop the walls of the Seamless Citadel, crushing the soul of his wife in his fingers and disintegrating her truesoul...Ning’s hatred began to rise.

Ning had to kill him.

He had to kill this ‘Godking’!

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The Allfiend world.

At the top of that solitary mountain peak, the Lord of All Fiends was meeting with the Lord of the Demonheart. Blackheaven stood respectfully to one side, not saying a word.

“That was quite a miserable loss,” the gray-robed figure said softly, a hint of amusement in his words. “A pity. A pity.”

“Aren’t you the one who forced this great tribulation upon us?” The Lord of All Fiends said calmly.

“Windfiend, your words are in error. It wasn’t that I forced this tribulation to occur; rather, if I didn’t take action, we would be completely wiped out.” The gray-robed figure chuckled, “Thus, our only choice is to fight. Only if the Nuwa Alliance is completely annihilated shall we be able to survive.”

“Then what is the true source of this calamitous war?” The Lord of All Fiends frowned.

“Even I do not know. I am part of the Heavenly Daos, but they are not all mine.” The gray-robed figure shook his head. “No matter what...I still hope that the Seamless Gate will be the one to win. Although I have become part of the Heavenly Daos...in the past, I was the king of the Seamless Chaosworld, after all. I truly don’t wish to see the Seamless Gate be completely wiped out, or perhaps see you lead a tiny band of survivors in fleeing from the Three Realms. In the end, my hope is simply that the living beings

who shall prosper and thrive within the Three Realms shall be the living beings of the Seamless Chaosworld.”

The Lord of All Fiends stared at him.

The gray-robed figure continued, “As for the war for karmic luck...the battle for the Deerchaser major world was the critical battle. Unfortunately, we lost. We lost due to a completely unexpected variable. He is neither a Daofather nor a True God, and he hasn’t even reached the fifth stage of heartforce or swordforce. However...he was still able to unleash the full, complete power of the Rahu Formation. Now that he has acquired the Envoy, he has become the greatest impediment to our side winning the war for karmic luck.”

“He has indeed.” The Lord of All Fiends nodded. “Do you have any ideas for dealing with him? Given his power, he can have his true body control the Rahu Formation while his Primaltwin controls the Envoy. Even if I sent four or five Envoys against him, they wouldn’t really be able to do anything to him. Don’t forget that the army of the Nuwa Alliance is incredibly powerful as well. Without the Envoys, there’s no way that we can possibly overcome them.”

“Ji Ning has become the sharpest fang of all in the maws of the Nuwa Alliance.” The gray-robed figure chuckled calmly. “The best way to deal with such a fang...is to pull it out.”

“Pull it out?” The Lord of All Fiends was stunned.

“Yes.” The gray-robed figure nodded.

“How?” The Lord of All Fiends’ face changed. He could vaguely sense at what Lord Demonheart was proposing.

“Have True Gods and Daofathers act. Attack and kill Ji Ning.” This was the gray-robed figure’s response.

The Lord of All Fiends instantly frowned. It was exactly as he has suspected. He immediately said unhappily, “There is reason why neither we nor the Nuwa Alliance have been willing to allow True Gods or Daofathers to get involved and launch the Endwar, and are instead competing to win the war for karmic luck first. That reason is because both of our sides are very close to each other in power. If we really were to launch the Endwar, our casualties would be catastrophic. If we were to have a True God or Daofather strike, the Nuwa Alliance would be enraged and probably send their major powers to intervene. If this happens, it’s very possible that the Endwar will immediately begin as a result.”

“Perhaps it will. But perhaps it won’t.” The gray-robed figure said calmly, “With this new variable, Ji Ning, entering into the mix, our chances for winning the war for karmic luck have become very low. If that’s the case...we might as well start the Endwar right away.”

“What’s more...”

“These so-called ‘unspoken rules’ were meant to be broken. True Gods and Daofathers are forbidden from intervening? When things really come to a head, why care about such foolish rules? The only thing that matters is killing Ji Ning! If the Nuwa Alliance goes crazy, then let’s fight! They’ll be caught completely unprepared...and given that they are currently winning the war for karmic luck, they probably wouldn’t be willing to launch the Endwar just yet.”

“Thus, even if we actually kill Ji Ning and cause the Endwar, we would be the side with the upper hand as we would already be prepared for it. If the Endwar doesn’t begin? That’s even better. In short...no matter what the result is, it won’t be that bad for us,” the gray-robed figure said calmly.

The Lord of All Fiends seemed to be intrigued by his words.

“But if we just let things develop...we are on track to lose the war for karmic luck for certain,” the gray-robed figure said calmly.

The Lord of All Fiends was silent for a long moment.

The gray-robed figure just watched him. He had become part of the Heavenly Daos, after all; the one who truly was in control of the Seamless Gate and made the decisions for it was now the Lord of All Fiends! To violate the unspoken accords of the major powers and to have True Gods and Daofathers act to assassinate Ji Ning...this was a decision which only the Lord of All Fiends could make.

“True. No matter what the end result is, it won’t be that bad for us. I’ve never wanted to actually see the Endwar descend upon us...but it is no longer avoidable.” The Lord of All Fiends shook his head. “Since that’s the case...then let us anoint our war-banner with Ji Ning’s blood.”

The gray-robed figure laughed.

[The Desolate Era](#)

Book 21: The Bloodlotus Blooms Chapter 22: A Deadly Crisis

The remnants of the Seamless Gate’s army departed from the Deerchaser world, the scene of the Seamless Gate’s most catastrophic defeat.

“Eh?”

As they were leading their shattered forces away, their hearts filled with misery, the black-robed Godking and Daomother Devilhand were both stunned.

“The Fiendlord is summoning us?” The Godking was puzzled.

“Why is Windfiend summoning us? He never gets involved in these things.” Daomother Devilhand was puzzled as well. Neither of them, however, hesitated at all. They immediately sent their coresense to the Allfiend world, using it to manifest an incarnation that descended upon it.

The Allfiend world. Windfiend Palace. At the very tip of the palace, clouds and mist could be seen swirling about four figures who had gathered here. These four could be considered the true leaders of the Seamless Gate.

They were the Lord of All Fiends, the Keeper of the Everwood, Daomother Devilhand, and the black-robed Godking.

“Uncle-master, why have you summoned all of us here?” The black-robed Godking had the lowest status of the four, and so he spoke in an extremely respectful manner.

Keeper Everwood and Daomother Devilhand looked towards him as well.

The Lord of All Fiends said solemnly, “Just now, Demonheart showed himself. He had a chat with me.”

Instantly, everyone's hearts clenched.

Demonheart...

The undisputed king of the Seamless Chaosworld. Everywhere he went, he brought warfare with him. There were no enemies that could stand against him, and no one could surpass him in his mastery of strategy and in his mastery of the heart. He had led the Seamless Chaosworld in its war against the Pangu Chaosworld, and had inflicted repeated, disastrous defeats upon the Pangu Chaosworld.

But at the critical moment, the alien Outsider known as the Lord of All Things who had been manipulating the conflict behind the scenes made his appearance. Then, Mother Nuwa had suddenly made a breakthrough to become a Pangu-level God as well, allowing her to absolutely dominate all her enemies. Only then did Demonheart suffer such a humiliating defeat. However, no one doubted Demonheart's power.

"He appeared?" Keeper Everwood frowned. "He's already merged himself into the Heavenly Daos. Even if he did appear, it would've been nothing more than a clone that was manifested from the natural energy of Heaven and Earth. He was the one who started the first war. What is he scheming now?" Keeper Everwood was the most peace-loving member of the Seamless Gate. He was extremely unhappy with how Demonheart had caused this new war.

However, the secret whispers of fate had also indicated to him that if they didn't fight, the only result would be utter annihilation. Thus, there was no way for him to oppose it.

"Everwood." The Lord of All Fiends looked towards him. "I know what type of a person you are...but you need to understand that at a time like this, we simply cannot be merciful and soft-hearted. To be merciful to them is the same as being merciless to our brothers, elders, and younglings of the Seamless Chaosworld! Now that things have reached the life-and-death stage, we need to be even more merciless than before!"

Keeper Everwood nodded, his aura becoming a bit more vicious. "Don't worry. When the time comes...I won't show mercy."

"We have already lost the war for the Deerchaser world." The Lord of All Fiends continued, "This was because a major new variable appeared. Ji Ning."

"Ji Ning is clearly just an Empyrean God and True Immortal, but he was able to wield his Rahu Formation to great effect, unleashing a level of power that was comparable to that of a top-tier Daofather's. In fact, he was able to completely suppress the Envoy of All Things in might. Now that Ji Ning also has the Envoy in his hands...he is like a tiger that has gained wings. If Ji Ning is to appear on any battlefield during the rest of the war for karmic luck, the advantage we have from our Envoys would be completely nullified."

Everyone present nodded.

"Right. He's too formidable." The black-robed Godking couldn't help but agree.

"We have always left the decision of how to handle Ji Ning up to you." Daomother Devilhand said coldly, "And now, that young fellow has grown up to become such a dangerous threat. Hmph."

The black-robed Godking's face changed slightly, but he forced down the rage he felt in his heart. Daomother Devilhand was the easily agitated sort. In the past, there were times when she wouldn't even give Demonheart any face, to say nothing of a junior like him.

"I was wrong." The black-robed Godking lowered his head.

"Enough." The Lord of All Fiends continued, "In the war for karmic luck, the Nuwa Alliance has its three major formations while we have our Envoys. We're able to give them a good run for their money. But now that Ji Ning has appeared, and now that we've lost the most critical battle...our chances of winning the war for karmic luck are quite slim."

All of them felt heaviness in their hearts.

"Thus, Demonheart suggested to me...that we should simply go kill Ji Ning," the Lord of All Fiends said solemnly.

"Go kill him?"

"But..."

"This could very well cause the Endwar."

All three of the others were shocked.

The Lord of All Fiends said, "At first, I didn't agree with him either. However, when I thought it over carefully, I realized that Demonheart was right. If we kill Ji Ning, we'll be able to take back the Envoy. Even if the Endwar begins, we'll be prepared for it while they won't be. And of course, if the Nuwa Alliance isn't willing to start the Endwar, that'll be even better."

The Lord of All Fiends swept the other three with his gaze. "To tell the truth, we can all subconsciously sense the enormous danger that hangs over our heads. This danger is the danger of annihilation, and it has made all of us nervous. However, there's no way to escape the Endwar. Sooner or later, it will come. When it does come, I want the three of you to stay close to me. If the situation turns grim, or if an unexpected variable appears like another alien Outsider, I'll immediately lead you all in fleeing from the Three Realms. As long as we are able to survive, hope remains."

"Agreed." Everyone present nodded.

Before planning for victory, first plan for defeat. With the Lord of All Fiends on their side, the Seamless Gate's chances of escape would clearly be quite good.

"Make your preparations for the Endwar," the Lord of All Fiends said. "Although I predict that the chances of the Nuwa Alliance actually launching it are quite low, we still need to prepare for it. Inform that ally of ours as well. As soon as we make our move, his entire army has to move as well."

"Of course. There's no way we can let him just sit there and mop up the survivors," Keeper Everwood said calmly.

"Agreed." They all nodded.

“Our strike against Ji Ning has to be successful,” the Lord of All Fiends said. “The Nuwa Alliance has just won a great victory, and their army is currently celebrating. Ji Ning is currently within Xuan Yuan’s imperial palace. If we are going to attack, let’s attack Xuan Yuan’s palace and slay Ji Ning on the spot.”

“Attack him inside the imperial palace?”

“Aren’t we going to wait for Ji Ning to come out? If he comes out by himself, things will be much easier for us.”

“Windfiend is correct. Right now, the Nuwa Alliance is probably feeling fairly confident and relaxed, as Ji Ning is inside the imperial palace. But once he leaves, it’s possible that Daofather Subhuti will travel alongside him. Even if we were to attack, Subhuti would be able to instantly protect Ji Ning or collect him into a treasure, giving us no chance to attack at all.” Keeper Everwood agreed with the Lord of All Fiends.

The Lord of All Fiends nodded. “Although the palace is a dangerous place, at least he is by himself. When we make our move, there won’t be enough time for Subhuti and Xuan Yuan to intervene. But of course, striking within the palace will be quite difficult, as Xuan Yuan’s surrounded his home with many formations.” As he spoke, he turned to look at Keeper Everwood.

“Everwood, you have many tricks up your sleeve. You should be able to temporarily tie down the Three Sovereigns by yourself for a short period of time, so you have to be involved in this. Help us tie down the major powers of the Nuwa Alliance,” the Lord of All Fiends instructed.

Keeper Everwood nodded and sighed. “Don’t worry. I’ve sparred against those old friends of mine countless times. Even if all three of them come against me at the same time, I’ll be able to hold them off for a short period of time.”

“We’ll also have to invite Darklight and Shadowless,” the Lord of All Fiends said.

The supreme figures of the Seamless Gate began to make their plans against Ji Ning, carefully plotting his death in detail.

They even came up with two contingency plans. If the first plan failed, they would use the contingency plan. If the contingency plan failed, they’d use the second contingency plan. In short, they were determined to make this mission a success. They also had to take back the Envoy of All Things! However, slaying Ji Ning was the most important part of this mission, with taking back the Envoy being a secondary goal.

The Nuwa Alliance, however, knew nothing of the Seamless Gate’s secret plotting. This was because very few members of the Seamless Gate were involved in it; less than fifteen in total! The vast majority of the major powers of the Seamless Gate were kept in the dark, with only their most supreme leaders and some of the most loyal, top-tier Daofathers knowing that they were to make their preparations for the Endwar. Each of these figures had multiple Daofathers under their command; once the Endwar actually began, they would be able to give the order and ensure that all of the major powers of the Seamless Gate would respond in an orderly fashion.

So long as the major powers weren’t caught off-guard, the Emyrean Gods and True Immortals under them wouldn’t be caught off-guard either.

The imperial palace of the Deerchaser world.

Ji Ning's residence.

The white-robed Ning was seated silently in the lotus position, training in the [Solitary World God] technique. If he was able to break through and become a True God prior to the Endwar erupting, he would become much more powerful than he was now. The [Taowu Eighteen Fiendgods] technique and the [One True Body] technique had given him the power of a half-step True God already. If he was able to make a true breakthrough, he would be equivalent to a half-step Elder God.

Still, he was very far away from becoming a Daofather of the Great Firmament, because he had to first master a Heavenly Dao. In contrast, it was possible for one to become a True God after mastering one of the Heavenly Daos.

However, it was merely 'possible'; more than eighty percent of Emphyrean Gods had mastered a Grand Dao, but how many of them were able to become True Gods?

Ji Ning had already mastered a Grand Dao as well! The Grand Dao of Lightning!

When he had left Undermoon Lake, Ning had quickly mastered the Dao of Rainwater and the Dao of the Thunderclap. During the month that he had spent training in the [Icefire Jindan Smelting] technique, he had silently and soundlessly mastered the Grand Dao of Lightning! Surprisingly, it was actually the Grand Dao of the Waterdrop, which he had once mastered in the past, which remained incomplete. He would most likely need another ten days or so to re-master it.

His foundation was simply far too profound. His sword-arts were at such a high level that he was able to understand these Daos at an absolutely astonishing level of speed.

[The Desolate Era](#)

Book 21: The Bloodlotus Blooms Chapter 23: Binding the Envoy of All Things

After he had mastered the [Five Treasures] sword-art, comprehending other Daos became a much faster process. However, if a major power was to train the [Five Treasures] but be unable to master it and instead be trapped at a bottleneck while being unable to master any other Daos...that would be utterly disastrous. The only reason why Ji Ning was willing to risk it was because he hadn't possessed that high a level of attainment in other Daos to begin with.

Within Ning's estate-treasure.

The black-robed Ji Ning waved his hand and a gourd appeared by his side. Staring at the gourd, Ning said to himself in a soft voice, "It's time to bind the Envoy."

Pop. He pulled the stopper out of the gourd, then pulled out the flame-wreathed, ape-shaped Envoy of All Things. It collapsed to the ground, still bound up by that Protocosmic spirit-rope.

The Envoy opened its eyes, glaring angrily at Ning. "You captured me...but you can forget about getting the Envoy."

"Is that so?" The black-robed Ning replied coldly.

“So what if you have me all tied up? You have no way of coming in.” The Envoy growled, “Nor can you deal any damage at all to this golem. Forget about you; even the most powerful figures of the Three Realms wouldn’t be able to damage it!”

Ning shook his head. “I simply can forcibly bind the Envoy, right?”

“Forcibly bind it? A Daofather, maybe. You?” The Envoy’s controller snorted angrily. “Come and try!”

In truth, the Envoy was essentially a magic treasure, and the owner of this magic treasure was Emyrean God Bloodwave, located in the heart of it! Bloodwave believed that since Ji Ning was also just an Emyrean God/True Immortal, their divine power and Immortal energy should be on the same level. There was no way Ji Ning would be able to bind the Envoy by force, because he would be constantly using his own energy to resist and counter Ji Ning’s binding efforts.

“Let’s try and see.” The black-robed Ning waved a finger. Instantly, a torrid flood of energy flowed into the Envoy. As soon as this happened, Ning could instantly sense the control which Bloodwave had over the Envoy. Bloodwave was already the master of the Envoy, and so he had the advantage of incumbency. There was no way that someone on a similar level of power to Bloodwave could possibly seize the golem from under his control. However...Daofather-level energy was clearly vastly beyond the ability of Bloodwave to counteract, and it began to seep into the golem.

Crackle, crackle, crackle. The energy continued to flow into the golem, taking over more and more parts of it.

“How can this be?” Bloodwave was stunned. “How could this Immortal energy be this powerful? How could...” He could clearly sense how powerful and pure the invading energy was. It was vastly beyond the Pure Yang True Immortal level.

“Y-y-you’ve become a Daofather?” Bloodwave didn’t dare believe it. “Impossible. If you became a Daofather, you would’ve had to first master a Heavenly Dao. If that had happened, there would’ve been no way to hide it at all.”

Ning just chuckled calmly.

Indeed, there was no way to hide gaining mastery over a Heavenly Dao. The resonance effect this would create with the Heavenly Daos would instantly be discovered by the Lord of the Demonheart, who was himself a part of the Heavenly Daos. However, Ning was ‘only’ a True Immortal who had a Jindan that was comparable to a first-tier Jindan. If his Jindan had actually been a real first-tier Jindan, then when he used the [Taowu Eighteen Fiendgods] and [One True Body] techniques, he would’ve become even more powerful than actual first-tier True Immortals.

Alas, the only way to gain such a Jindan was to manifest it during the Celestial Tribulation.

“Impossible. You must be a Daofather. How could you have become a Daofather?” Bloodwave simply couldn’t understand it, no matter how hard he tried. Suddenly, he thought of the fact that not even the major powers on his side knew that Ji Ning had become a Daofather. This definitely had to be an important secret.

Rumble...

Suddenly, a surge of coresense burst forth from the Envoy's body, charging outwards and seeking to escape the estate-treasure.

"You wish to reveal my secret?" Ning laughed calmly. "Don't even try it. There's no way your coresense can make it out of this estate-treasure."

Not even the coresenses of Elder Gods and Ancestral Immortals would be able to penetrate and scan this estate-treasure, to say nothing of Empyrean God Bloodwave's coresense. So long as Ning did not permit it, there was no way his coresense would be able to escape to the outside world.

Ning wasn't worried about Bloodwave revealing his secret.

Empyrean God Bloodwave...didn't have a Primaltwin! And if did have incarnations in the outside world, it wouldn't matter.

What was an 'incarnation'? Even Void-level Fiendgods were capable of transforming a plucked bit of hair or a single drop of blood into an incarnation. At the Daofather level, incarnations could be manifested with but a thought. However, incarnations were only capable of surviving so long as the true body was alive. In fact, for Void-level Fiendgods, incarnations had to stay within a certain distance of the true body, as they would otherwise automatically dissipate.

Even Daofathers had to maintain a continuous connection to their incarnations to maintain them. This was because it was this hidden connection to and support from the true body that gave the incarnation a mind, a will, and the ability to speak and chat with others.

It must be understood that when one lost a large part of one's soul, roughly seventy or eighty percent, the surviving portion would eventually crumble apart and die. If the loss was even more significant, one could die on the spot. The incarnation of a Daofather didn't have any part of the Daofather's soul within it at all. Why, then, was it able to 'live'? Precisely because it relied on the true body for its survival.

And now, Bloodwave was trapped within the estate-world. This estate-world treasure was one which Ning had specially chosen out of the many estate-world treasures he had acquired from the prisoners of Pangaea. It was the most mysterious of all estate-worlds, capable of refusing even the senses of Elder Gods and Ancestral Immortals. It was capable of severing all contact between its insides and the outside world!

Once the connection was severed, any incarnations that Bloodwave might've had in the outside world would dissipate due to its inability to connect to the true body.

No matter how angry and resentful Bloodwave was, all he could do was stare as Ning continued the binding process. And after spending roughly an hour, Ning finally succeeded.

"Come out." This was the only thing Ning commanded.

Whoosh.

Bloodwave was forcibly teleported out. Eyes completely bloodshot, he charged towards Ji Ning in a berserk manner.

“Hmph.” The black-robed Ning’s gaze turned cold. The Thirty-Six Heavens instantly appeared around him in the form of flags, and they linked together to instantly and completely surround Bloodwave. Slash! Slash! Slash! Bloodwave cried out miserably and furiously as he was ground to death.

The difference between a Daofather and an Emyrean God was simply far too great. Unless there were some incredibly special circumstances involved, it would be extremely hard to overcome such a vast gulf in power.

“The Envoy of All Things.” The black-robed Ning first willed the Thirty-Six Heavens to disappear, and then he blinked inside of the ‘body’ of the Envoy.

“What a marvelous, intricate golem.” As Ning entered, he continued to explore the Envoy with his senses. Even he, the controller, was not capable of discovering a way to damage the golem in the slightest.

“Fortunately, this golem is in perfect shape.” Ning secretly rejoiced to himself.

During the war that ended the Primordial Era, the Lord of All Things had commanded an entire host of Envoys. When he had died, the critical mechanisms inside the Envoys had actually initiated self-destruct sequences. Although Mother Nuwa had defeated him and won his Envoys, they were in reality nothing more than completely useless, shattered bits of metal.

What Ning didn’t understand was that the Envoys which the Lord of All Things used were completely different from the Envoys which Grandmaster Blackheaven had created.

The Lord of All Things had used cruel, brutal methods to capture souls of Daofathers, then smelt them into the Envoys, ensuring that every single Envoy was absolutely loyal to him. An unwaveringly loyal army was what the Lord of All Things required, and as soon as he died his loyal Envoys self-destructed, ensuring that their enemies would never have a chance to acquire them. Grandmaster Blackheaven certainly didn’t have the ability to capture a Daofather’s soul or smelt it into an Envoy; all he was able to do was have a living Daofather command it.

“What a powerful golem...and is this part here the core? These five chaos jewels?” Ning discovered the energy source of the Envoy.

Emyrean Gods were able to use the Envoy to unleash the power of an elite Daofather. The energy source of an Envoy, however, was of course not the Emyrean God himself. Its power came from these five chaos jewels, which each contained unique attributes stemming from the elements of metal, wood, water, fire, and earth. Joined together, they were able to unleash absolutely shocking amounts of power. There was simply no way for an Emyrean God to completely control such power. A Daofather, however, would be able to do so, and a Daofather in control would result in the Envoy having even more power.

“I feel powerful, even more powerful than when I am in control of a Rahu God. No wonder it is capable of unleashing a level of power close to that of the leaders of Buddhism and Daoism.” Ning was truly stunned. Mostly likely, ten of his Rahu Gods would be needed to match up with this Envoy.

The difference in power between an Emyrean God controlling it and a Daofather controlling it was simply enormous.

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The enormous imperial palace. Ji Ning's residence.

"Brother Darknorth."

"Only now did I have a chance to meet with you, Darknorth. I'm quite embarrassed." Empyrean God Owldragon and a host of other Empyrean Gods and True Immortals had come to visit.

The white-robed Ning received them with a smile on his face. He could sense the gratitude, respect, and excitement these visiting Empyrean Gods and True Immortals felt. All of them understood that Ning had been the greatest contributor to their victory in the battle for the Deerchaser world! The greatest hero of them all! In addition, given the power which Ning had put on display today, he would definitely be able to unleash utterly astonishing levels of power during the upcoming final battles in the war for karmic luck.

Ji Ning's formidableness meant that their side would have a better chance of winning.

Of course these Empyrean Gods and True Immortals would feel excited and grateful!

"They've entrusted me with their hopes...but in truth, it doesn't change anything. Seamless Gate...no matter what, I will use all my strength to fight against it." After sending these Empyrean Gods and True Immortals away, Ning walked by himself along the railing, staring at the endless, starry skies. "And the Godking."

"I'm definitely going to kill him."

[The Desolate Era](#)

Book 21: The Bloodlotus Blooms Chapter 24: Killing Ji Ning

The distant Allfiend world.

"Everything needs to be carried out according to the plan." The Lord of All Fiends sat by himself at the peak of the mountain, staring into the endless Void. His voice passed through the Void, reaching the minds of the major powers spread throughout the other worlds. "In this mission to kill Ji Ning and take back the Envoy, as long as we move quickly enough we should be able to succeed fairly easily. However, there is a chance that the Endwar will begin as a result. Everyone, make your preparations."

"Yes, Fiendlord."

"Don't worry, Windfiend."

"We've all made our preparations."

The ten-plus most powerful figures of the entire Seamless Gate all understood that this night was likely to be the most important night they had experienced in countless eons. This was a night where the major powers of both alliances would battle, a night which could well cause the Endwar to erupt. The last Endwar had caused the destruction of two chaosworlds; from this, one could tell how devastating a battle between major powers could be.

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“So we are about to fight soon...” A violet-robed woman was seated in the lotus position atop a jade bed. Her arms were sparkling white and crystalline, while a faint hint of eagerness could be seen within her eyes.

Of the supreme powers of the Seamless Gate, she was the one who loved battle the most.

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“We absolutely cannot afford to lose this battle.” A man dressed in similar violet robes who had a wooden ruler on his back was seated within an ordinary wooden room. He waved his hand, and the wooden ruler on his back fell into his grasp. The Keeper of the Everwood gently stroked the wooden ruler with his hand as he stared at it. He said in a soft voice, “Old friend, we are going to go into battle together once more. The last time we fought together was during the war that ended the Primordial Era.”

Thrum...the wooden ruler vibrated slightly.

Keeper Everwood’s face turned solemn and his eyes turned cold. Although he disliked battle, when the time came for them to fight he absolutely would not show mercy.

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“The Fiendlord is a bit too cautious. He prepared a total of three plans for us, and we’re attacking from ambush. There’s no way Ji Ning will even be able to assemble the Rahu Formation in time. Killing him will be as easy as killing a chicken. The primary plan is more than enough. In fact, there’s no need for us to even involve Shadowless in this. I by myself am more than enough.”

An icy look flashed through the eyes of this skinny old man who had a hideous, centipede-like scar across his face. This man was Swordfather Darklight.

He had reached the fifth stage of swordforce, and he could be considered the Seamless Gate’s number one expert in the art of assassinations. His sword was known as the Darklight Sword, and it was named that because enemies were unable to see his sword.

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The first plan the Seamless Gate initiated only involved a tiny number of major powers. It was kept extraordinarily secret, and so no one in the Nuwa Alliance noticed anything at all.

The Deerchaser world. The imperial palace.

The white-robed Ning was seated facing Silvermoon. Both were staring at the countless stars in the skies.

“Peaceful days are the best.” Silvermoon stared at the starry skies, then said softly, “But I wonder how long this peace will last.”

“Once the war is over, everything will be right again.” Ning stared at the stars as well. “The tree wishes to be still, but the wind continues to blow. Although we wish to live peaceful lives, there’s a reason for

this war. Only when we sever the hand that is manipulating things behind the scenes and slay the major powers who are focused on causing trouble and chaos throughout the Three Realms will peace return.”

“Haha.” Silvermoon chuckled. “Fortunately, we have you on our side. I really wonder what you experienced in Undermoon Lake, junior apprentice-brother. You are merely an Emyrean God, but you are able to unleash such incredible levels of power.”

Ning smiled but didn’t reply.

Everyone who had emerged from Undermoon Lake, including all of the two hundred-plus Emyrean Gods, had been completely silent about their experiences there. Everyone including Silvermoon knew that it wasn’t that they were unwilling to speak, it had to be that they were unable to speak, and so no one tried to force the story out of them.

“Eh? We’ve finished the wine.” Silvermoon lifted up the canteen, giving it a few shakes before laughing and rising to his feet. “Alright. Now that the wine’s all gone, it’s time for me to leave. No need to send me off.” As he spoke, he took a step forward and flew downwards, then lazily sauntered off into the distance. As he left, he called out in a loud voice, “Just make sure you help me kill a few more of those Seamless Gate bastards.”

“No problem,” Ning called back.

In the previous battle, Silvermoon’s capabilities had been tremendously degraded. He had lost more than half of his soul, resulting in him now being extremely weak. There was no way he could take part in battle at all. In truth, Ning could’ve let him quickly recover his soul by giving him just a tiny bit of chaos nectar, but Ning knew that given Silvermoon’s temperament, he would immediately choose to rejoin the war once more upon being healed.

It was best to let him stay in the back safely for now.

“And these Nine Chaos Seals are truly unspeakably marvelous.” Ning waved his hand, producing one of the Goldstar Beads of the Heavens. The more insight he gained into the Nine Chaos Seals which each goldstar bead contained, the more marvelous he felt them to be. Meditating on them allowed Ning to more easily understand and master the sword-arts left behind by World God Northrest, and it even made it a bit easier for him to comprehend the Dao.

Ning had originally thought them to be fairly ordinary chaos seals that had been found in the primordial chaos, but after learning the many techniques transmitted to him by World God Northrest, Ning felt all the more convinced of how extraordinary these Nine Chaos Seals were.

“Perhaps in the future, when I find Vastheaven Palace in the primordial chaos, I’ll be able to learn the history behind the creation of the Nine Chaos Seals.”

He continued to hold the goldstar beads in his hands, meditating on them.

After spending two hours in meditation, it was now very late at night.

“Eh?” Ning suddenly, inexplicably felt his heartrate quicken, and a shiver flashed through his soul. In fact, his subconscious was now screaming that an utterly terrifying danger was descending upon him, so unfathomably vast and deadly that Ning’s heart was naturally filled with an aura of despair.

“Not good.” Ning was shocked. Ever since he had mastered the second of the Nine Chaos Seals and became capable of transforming the goldstar beads in the Mirrors of the Heavens, Ning’s subconscious connection to the whispers of fate had become much stronger than before. But this time, things had happened without any warning whatsoever. Only when the danger had already descended upon him did the warning come, filling him with utter terror. Clearly, his foe’s mastery over fate and destiny was far superior to Ning’s, allowing him to even muffle the whispers of fate, which was why Ning didn’t sense anything until the very end.

And by now...it was too late.

“Flee.” Faced with such danger, Ning’s only thought was of flight.

Suddenly...

Rumble...

Like a peacock spreading his tail feathers, streaks of black light instantly swished towards Ning in a fan-like manner.

They were completely silent but incredibly fast.

By the time Ning noticed the fan-shaped streaks of black light, they had already reached him. The only thing that Ning could do was use the [Starseizing Hand] to block.

Whooooooosh. The fan-shaped streaks of black light instantly and completely penetrated through Ning’s body. Although Ning’s body was protected by the [Eight-Nine Arcane Art], it was still unable to defend against the black streaks of light. The [Eight-Nine Arcane Art] was completely shattered, and even his divine body was unable to withstand this attack. The golden pellet Jindan in his body, along with his soul, wasn’t able to withstand it either...and both were instantly annihilated.

The white-robed youth that had been sitting there was instantly reduced to nothingness.

“Hmph. So what if he is powerful? So what if he has the [Ninehorn Lightning Serpent]? So what if he has the [Eight-Nine Arcane Art]?” A skinny old man appeared in the air above the palace. It was Swordfather Darklight of the Seamless Gate.

This mission was extremely critical, and Ning possessed the [Ninehorn Lightning Serpent] evasion technique. If he was given any time to escape, he would definitely be able to do so. Thus, the Seamless Gate had invited their most skilled assassin, Swordfather Darklight, to engage. His sword was both secretive enough and powerful enough to instantly wipe out Ji Ning!

If Swordfather Darklight had failed, allowing Ji Ning to flee with his [Ninehorn Lightning Serpent], then the next to strike would be the Lord of All Fiends, who had the most terrifyingly fast movement technique in all of the Three Realms. The Lord of All Fiends would personally strike! His evasion technique was far superior to Ji Ning’s; not even the Golden Crow ‘King of Monsters’ of the ancient days could match up to the Lord of All Fiends in speed.

However...

Ning had been too relaxed and unguarded here in the imperial palace of Yellow Emperor Xuan Yuan. He had placed too much faith in Subhuti and Xuan Yuan, and had too much confidence in himself. And

so...he had instantly been killed. He didn't even have the chance to use the [Ninehorn Lightning Serpent] to escape, and so there was no need for the Lord of All Fiends to intervene.

Two powerful aura instantly burst forth from within the imperial palace.

“DARKLIGHT!!!”

An enraged roar instantly shook the entire world. This white-bearded, robed old man normally always had a calm, merry smile on his face...but now, he was filled with a towering desire to kill. His senses were quite acute and quite quick, but by the time he sensed what was happening, Ji Ning's true body had already been slain, completely unable to fight back whatsoever.

“Subhuti, don't be hasty.” A second, calm voice rang out within the imperial palace.

A violet-robed man appeared in the air above the imperial palace. He held a wooden ruler in his hands, and he pointed it at the distant Patriarch Subhuti. Instantly, a blurry violet light instantly sprang up to surround Patriarch Subhuti. Even the stunned and enraged Yellow Emperor Xuan Yuan was completely surrounded by the blurry violet light. Upon being trapped by it, Patriarch Subhuti and Yellow Emperor Xuan Yuan actually found that they were temporarily unable to break free from it.

“Shatter!” Patriarch Subhuti waved his finger. Whoosh...the spacetime around him began to splinter apart.

“It's useless.” The violet-robed figure stood there calmly in the air. Although spacetime around him was shattering apart in layers, the boundless violet light was able to once more forcibly recompress and seal those layers together. In terms of pure defensive capabilities, Keeper Everwood was the most formidable individual in the Seamless Gate. Even if all three of the Three Sovereigns came, he would still be able to hold them off by himself, much less a mere Subhuti and Xuan Yuan.