

Desolate 721

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Book 22: True God Chapter 18: Nineteen Years

Within that castle located deep inside the Primordial Ruinworld.

Godfiend Witherspike's eyes were flashing with dangerous light. The entire hall was completely silent, and none of his six subordinates dared to make a sound. Not even the powerful one-armed man dared to say a thing. Although Godfiend Witherspike rather respected him because they were on the same general level of power, the one-armed man knew just how what a terrifyingly demonic figure the Godfiend actually was.

"I was overconfident!" Godfiend Witherspike growled gutterally to himself. "I didn't expect this Ji Ning would actually be able to solve the riddle of Earthmoan Mountain. That place is a Wokejade Realm! Not even Ancestral Immortals or Elder Gods should be able to escape it so quickly. How did a bumpkin like him solve it? He's trained for less than a thousand years!"

"If I knew this would happen, I would've gone to Earthmoan Mountain in person and waited for them there."

Godfiend Witherspike was feeling rather frustrated right now. He had very nearly wiped out the entire squad of Fiendgods! If he had personally gone to Earthmoan Mountain and set up an ambush there, he probably would've been able to wipe out Kuafu's entire squad. However, his arrogance and pride was bred deep. Those figures were mere True Gods and third-tier Ancestral Immortals, while he was an exalted Elder God! He had also roamed the primordial chaos for many years and experienced many things. He held no respect for these locals whatsoever. Personally set up an ambush for them? He felt it was beneath him!

In all the Three Realms, there were only two things he was leery of. The first was whatever Mother Nuwa left behind to her successors before departing. The second was the Lord of All Fiends.

Mother Nuwa was a World God, after all. The ancestral homeland of a World God was never an easy place to invade, even if that World God had departed.

As for the Lord of All Fiends, he was an even more freakish figure who had actually been able to escape from a World God!

Aside from these two concerns, Godfiend Witherspike really wasn't worried about anything or anyone else. He had felt that Kuafu's squad would definitely die. He had not imagined that Ji Ning was this formidable.

Still, he couldn't be blamed for this oversight. Logically speaking, there was no way someone like Ji Ning should've been able to escape Earthmoan Mountain in such a short period of time. Alas, Ji Ning had the legacy of World God Northrest. The techniques he had were all far superior to the ones which Godfiend Witherspike knew!

"Very well, then. Your squads wish to ruin my territory, but it won't be that easy..."

"This was just the first trap. You were lucky enough to escape...but next time, I won't be so careless."

Godfiend Witherspike gently tightened the grip of his slender fingers around his right armrest. Crack! The armrest instantly disintegrated, but moments later its fragments automatically reformed.

Everyone was completely silent. Not even Celestial Immortal Blackheaven dared to say a thing. When Blackheaven had served the Lord of All Things, he had met Godfiend Witherspike quite a few times. Witherspike was definitely a figure who was just as terrifying as the Lord of All Things had been.

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The Thousand Mountains world.

Ji Ning's group was travelling alongside Lord Tathagata's group.

"Darknorth." Lord Tathagata the Buddha smiled as he looked at Ning. "Which of the four squads do you plan to accompany? You are a human. Technically, you should follow the squad which the human race sent."

"But he joined us a long time ago!" Kuafu immediately protested.

"We've been working together for quite some time now. We're used to each other," Xingtian rebutted as well.

Empress Xi, Luwu, and the others all immediately voiced their opposition as well.

Was this a joke? Given how powerful Ji Ning was, how could they possibly be willing to let him be taken away by another squad?

"I've always been on good terms with Kuafu, Xingtian, and the others. There's no need to go to the trouble of switching," Ning laughed.

"Exactly so!" Kuafu reached out with his big hand, loping it around Ning's shoulders.

"Fine." Lord Buddha nodded. "You might as well. Still, don't get overconfident. The trap you fell into was just one of many dangers we will encounter in our campaign against the Primordial Ruinworld. Even more and even greater dangers await us. You have to be careful. I can dimly sense that things in the Primordial Ruinworld aren't as simple as we thought them to be."

"We understand," Kuafu said hurriedly.

Lord Buddha glanced carefully at their surroundings, then said, "I imagine that Fuxi and Jade Cauldron will arrive here soon as well. This really was a close call. If it wasn't for Ji Ning, your entire squad probably would've been wiped out."

A short time later, all four squads had gathered together.

This close call had woken them all up to the reality of the situation. During their previous efforts, they had encountered some dangerous situations as well, but none of them were truly deadly! This situation, however, had descended out of nowhere and had been absolutely terrifying.

After gathering together, the four squads started to travel in closer proximity to each other. They advanced more slowly and more cautiously.

Time continued to flow on. In the blink of an eye, nineteen years went by.

Ning and the others had already covered nearly 90% of the territory of the Primordial Ruinworld, and they had caused utter devastation to it.

During the past nineteen years, Tathagata, Fuxi, Jade Cauldron, Ning, and the others had all been extremely cautious. Ning's display of his sword-arts had thoroughly convinced Kuafu's squad of his prowess. He had faster evasion techniques! More powerful group attacks! More powerful close combat techniques! A better sense for danger than Daofather Windfate!

They had encountered numerous dangerous situations during the past nineteen years, and Ning's dazzling displays of power had firmly cemented his status.

Because they were incredibly cautious, not a single member of the four squads had died during the past nineteen years.

"Darknorth, catch." Kuafu flung a wine gourd over.

Ning was seated atop a distant boulder. He reached out to catch the gourd, then raised his head and took a gulp.

"We've been advancing fairly quickly. Jade Cauldron and the others have been a bit slower than us. Let's take a rest and wait a while," Graceful Peacock said.

"Haha, we've already wrecked more than ninety percent of the Primordial Ruinworld." Luwu couldn't help but laugh. "Although the final places are rather dangerous, as long as we are careful we should be able to finish this campaign in another ten or so years."

The golden-robed Empress Xi stood with regal dignity. She said solemnly, "Both Fuxi and Tathagata have discussed this matter. On the way over, we've encountered multiple dangers. Although none of them were as terrifying as Earthmoan Mountain, they were still able to see a few hints of the truth. The Primordial Ruinworld's true power is nothing like that we expected."

"Darknorth, what do you think?" Xingtian looked towards Ning.

Seated on the boulder, Ning just smiled. "No matter what, we have to keep attacking and advancing. Let's just be more careful."

Nineteen years...

During these nineteen years, his Primaltwin had remained within the Crescent world, training inside the Heavengazer Tower of Radiance. The Heavengazer Tower had been set to internally advance time at a hundred times normal speed, which meant that he had actually been training for the equivalent of two thousand years. His sword-arts had become even more marvelous, and he was slowly becoming even more powerful.

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Within the castle deep inside the Primordial Ruinworld.

“They’ve had it too easy the past few years. None of the bumpkins ended up dying.” Godfiend Witherspike sat atop his throne, staring down coldly. “Very well, then. They’ve already entered the Goldriver world. This time, I shall slay Fuxi and Tathagata in that world!”

The six golden-armored figures beneath him were all startled.

Celestial Immortal Blackheaven said hurriedly, “Mighty Godfiend Witherspike, although the Goldriver world is a world which we spent tremendous amounts of effort over, the Human Emperor and the Lord Buddha are extraordinarily powerful figures. To slay even one of them will be very hard. To kill two? I think it might be better to focus on them one at a time.”

“I let Kuafu’s squad escape last time.” Godfiend Witherspike swept his cold gaze towards Celestial Immortal Blackheaven, causing Blackheaven’s heart to shudder. “I no longer have much faith in your so-called ‘formations’.”

“It will indeed be necessary to use them to kill Fuxi and Tathagata, but in the end...it will be up to me to personally deal with them.” A bloody light flickered deep within Godfiend Witherspike’s eyes.

“Personally?” Blackheaven was startled.

He had thought that the Godfiend would wait until the Endwar before fighting.

“Right. Personally.” Godfiend Witherspike swept his subordinates with his gaze. “Saber, when the time comes, I might need you to get involved as well.”

“Yes, Master.” The single-armed man bowed with respect.

Blackheaven felt his heart shudder. Good heavens. Both Godfiend Witherspike and Saber were going to strike? Given the formations they had set up around the Goldriver world...it really was possible that they might be able to slay Fuxi and Tathagata, a pair of overlord-class figures.

“You can inform the Seamless Gate.” Godfiend Witherspike glanced at Blackheaven. “However...ideally, the less they know the better. Don’t give the Nuwa Alliance any chance of finding out about this. This attack of mine should be able to catch them completely offguard, because they don’t even know that I exist. But if this attack ends in failure, it’ll be quite difficult to find another such chance.”

“How could you possibly fail, mighty Godfiend?” Celestial Immortal Blackheaven said hurriedly.

“They will be caught completely offguard, and they are also weaker than us. We’ve also made meticulous preparations around the Goldriver world.” The red-bearded elder hurriedly agreed. “We will definitely win.”

“If we are to make a move, we must ensure it kills them.” Godfiend Witherspike said calmly, “Head out.”

Whoosh.

The castle instantly flew into the air and began to move towards the Goldriver world at high speed.

The figures within the castle remained quite calm. Godfiend Witherspike and his six golden-armored generals had experienced many, many dangers in the past. Celestial Immortal Blackheaven, however, was quite excited. “If we are able to kill Fuxi and Tathagata...”

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Book 22: True God Chapter 19: Critical Danger

The leaders of the Seamless Gate were all excited upon hearing that Godfiend Witherspike was making his move. They were waiting eagerly for Witherspike to slay Fuxi and Tathagata.

The Goldriver world.

Ji Ning and the rest of the seven were resting at a beautifully scenic place. Their squad included the incredibly fast Kuafu and the shockingly fierce Ji Ning. They ended up being the squad that fought forward at the fastest pace.

“We have to wait a full day. I’m going to take a nap here.” Luwu chortled as he lay down onto the grassy ground.

“You lazy fellow.” The nearby Xingtian shook his head.

“With Kuafu and Darknorth in our squad, what have I to worry about?” Luwu felt quite relaxed.

Xingtian glanced at Kuafu, who was drinking some wine as well, as well as the distant Ji Ning. Ji Ning was seated in the lotus position atop his boulder, holding a gourd of wine in one hand while experimenting with a few sword-stances with his other. Ning’s fingers moved like a blur, but if one paid careful attention to them, one would sense a sword-intent that was absolutely terrifying. Even Xingtian couldn’t help but feel his heart shudder.

“I’ve been praised as being a ‘god of war’, but Ji Ning has the number one sword-arts of the Three Realms, and he improves so incredibly fast.” Xingtian was secretly amazed. “I really can’t compare to him.”

But of course, he had no idea that Ning’s Primaltwin was located in the Heavengazer Tower. A day in the outside world meant a hundred days had passed inside the tower. How could Ning’s sword-arts NOT improve quickly?

Actually, Ning spent more than seventy percent of his time in the Heavengazer Tower meditating on the Dao!

However, completely focusing on just one thing wouldn’t necessarily be ideal. Thus, Ning would occasionally train in his sword-arts as well as various divine abilities. He tried to balance his training regime, but even so his improvement in the sword remained quite astonishing.

“That nameless sword-art really is unfathomably profound.” Ning sighed mentally to himself.

World God Northrest stood at the very peak of power, even amongst World Gods. This was primarily thanks to the nameless sword-art! He had actually only acquired Violetjewel later on.

The nameless sword-art was truly unfathomable. After mastering it, World God Northrest had developed ninety-eight sword-arts which he had placed on those ninety-eight stone steles! Ning could now train in these techniques without any problems at all, but every time he tried to train in the nameless sword-art, he found it to be incredibly taxing and difficult to understand.

From this, Ning could tell that the sword-spirit of Violetjewel was correct; he had to master all ninety-eight sword-arts before he could truly begin to train in the nameless sword-art!

However, Ning still did gain a few minor insights over the course of nearly two thousand years in the tower as he occasionally meditated on the nameless sword-art. Those minor insights were enough to allow Ning's sword-arts to grow dramatically more powerful.

"Violetjewel is nothing more than a weapon," Ning mused to himself. "Compared to Violetjewel, the most important gifts left to me by World God Northrest were those ninety-eight stone sword-steles and the nameless sword-art within the jade shrine."

He continued to take a few gulps of wine while practicing his sword-stances.

The surrounding area was quite beautiful. The area around them was filled with lovely grass, but farther away there was only violently shaking regions of shattered space.

The Primordial Ruinworld had many regions of distorted spacetime and shattered space, or strange seas of blood. These things were extremely rare in the Three Realms, but extremely common here in the Ruinworld. Not even the creatures who lived here dared to move too close to those regions. If they were drawn into them, they would quickly die unless they were strong enough.

"Not good." Graceful Peacock suddenly called out.

Swish! Swish! Swish! All of them turned to look. True God Luwu, who had appeared asleep, instantly rose to his feet as well.

"What's wrong?" Kuafu immediately asked.

Graceful Peacock said hurriedly, "This Goldriver world is fairly dangerous. The squad led by Lord Buddha has been trapped into a danger zone."

"Oh?" Kuafu let out a sigh of relief, then laughed. "Given how powerful Lord Buddha is, I trust he'll be able to handle it himself."

Daofather Windfate smiled as well, twirling his fan. "Lord Buddha is incredibly powerful. He's generally able to easily deal with any dangerous situations he might encounter. If even he cannot resolve the situation, the rest of us would be of no use either."

"Lord Buddha said that he can deal with it, but he'll need some time." Graceful Peacock nodded. "Lord Buddha's been trapped in a complicated formation. There's no way to destroy it through raw power; the only option is to slowly solve the formation and deconstruct it. Fuxi's squad is moving towards him at high speed to assist him."

"Fuxi's heading there as well?" Empress Xi nodded.

Everyone felt relaxed.

Tathagata was the leader of the Buddhist Sangha and incredibly skilled in defense. Even if three or four other overlord-class figures were to simultaneously assault him, he would be able to hold on for a period of time.

As for Fuxi, he was the number one formations expert of the Three Realms. He was the ideal candidate for helping Tathagata solve the formation.

“Let’s head over there as well and take a look at what the formation is all about,” Ning said with a laugh.

“Yes, let’s go take a look.”

“Although we won’t be of much help, we can still take a good look. It’s boring and pointless just to sit here and wait.”

Ning and the rest of the seven True Gods were quite relaxed. They immediately soared onto a cloud and flew towards Tathagata.

No one felt much concern over the fact that Tathagata’s squad was trapped!

Not even the major powers located inside the Allclans Palace of the Nuwa Alliance were concerned. Lord Tathagata himself wasn’t too worried either. In the past twenty years, they had encountered numerous dangerous situations in the Primordial Ruinworld. On multiple different occasions, they had been trapped within a dangerous region for a brief period of time. In each case, they were able to resolve the situation quite quickly.

After being trapped, Tathagata had put it this way: “The formation is just a bit complicated. Once Fuxi arrives, he’ll soon be able to defeat it.”

They had experienced so many situations like this that they no longer considered it a big deal.

Graceful Peacock laughed. “Fuxi’s already arrived.”

“How long does the Human Sovereign need in order to break the formation?” Kuafu asked.

“Fuxi is still inspecting the formation. Umm...the formation’s a bit complex, but Fuxi said that he should be able to break it in under an hour.” Graceful Peacock smiled.

“An hour? We might as well slow down a bit. By the time we get there, the Human Sovereign and Lord Buddha will probably have just escaped the formation.” Daofather Windfate laughed. “There’s no point in getting there early and just waiting.”

“Let’s keep flying at our normal speed,” Ning said.

Graceful Peacock’s face suddenly changed. This immediately captured the attention of Ji Ning, Windfate, Kuafu, Empress Xi, Luwu, and Xingtian.

“What’s wrong?” Ning immediately asked quietly.

“There’s a bit of a problem.” Graceful Peacock frowned. “Something’s wrong.”

Two of her clones were accompanying Lord Buddha’s squad and Fuxi’s squad, and so she knew exactly what was happening in each squad.

“Not good!” Graceful Peacock called out in shock. “The formation’s completely changed! Another formation has also appeared outside of the first formation, and it’s completely trapped Fuxi’s squad

inside of it. Three golden-armored major powers just appeared! We've never encountered these three before."

"Three major powers we've never encountered before? Are they the Four Thearchs?" Xingtian asked frantically.

"No, they aren't the Four Thearchs." Graceful Peacock's face turned even uglier. "Tathagata's squad is under attack as well, and other alien Outsiders have also appeared. A large group of alien Daofathers have appeared...dozens of them! All of the Daofathers of the Primordial Ruinworld have appeared and are assaulting them! Fuxi's been locked down by those three golden-armored Outsiders. Those three are incredibly powerful; they've completely tied him down."

"Let's move!" Kuafu immediately bellowed.

"The rest of you should enter my estate-treasure. Let me lead the way," Ning barked right away.

"Alright." None of them hesitated at all. Ning waved his hand, collecting all six of the True Gods into his estate-treasure. Ning then transformed into a black lightning serpent, moving at maximum speed towards the place where Tathagata had been trapped.

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Daoist Jade Cauldron's squad, which had similarly been relaxing, was notified as well.

"What? Almost all of the alien True Gods and Daofathers of the Primordial Ruinworld have appeared? They are surrounding and attacking Tathagata? The Human Sovereign's actually been tied down and won't be able to reinforce him?" Daoist Jade Cauldron immediately understood how ugly the situation had turned.

"Right." Graceful Peacock's face was covered with worry.

"Let's go!" Daoist Jade Cauldron immediately bellowed.

The seven major powers of the Daoist Path immediately boarded a boat-type Chaos treasure and moved at high speed towards the place where Tathagata was trapped.

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Although both Ning's squad and Jade Cauldron's squad were worried, the most worried figures of all were within the Allclans Palace in the Three Realms.

Upon hearing this news, the major powers there immediately knew that things were dire.

"All of the True Gods and Daofathers of the Primordial Ruinworld have appeared...and three golden-armored figures that we've never seen before have appeared and are capable of tying down Fuxi."

Daoist Three Purities hurriedly shouted, "The Primordial Ruinworld really was hiding its true power, but its true power is far more terrifying than what we expected! Houyi, Suiren, immediately lead squads of True Gods and Daofathers to go rescue Fuxi and Tathagata!"

"Alright." Houyi and Suiren both nodded.

Suiren was believed by many to be the most powerful figure in the Nuwa Alliance, while Houyi's true power unknown and unfathomable. The two immediately took command over a group of thirty-six True Gods and Daofathers, then departed from the Allclans Palace at high speed.

"Graceful Peacock, after Houyi and Suiren reach the Primordial Ruinworld, it'll take them some time to fly over to Tathagata's location. Have Jade Cauldron, Kuafu, and Darknorth do their best to try and help Fuxi defeat those three golden-armored figures," Daoist Three Purities hurriedly instructed.

"Yes," Graceful Peacock immediately acknowledged.

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Book 22: True God Chapter 20: Reinforcements

The Allclans Palace. Everyone was in a state of panic.

"These three golden-armored Outsiders that we've never seen before have actually managed to stop Fuxi in his tracks." Daofather Subhuti frowned. "Where did such powerful enemies come from?"

Fuxi was a Human Sovereign, and he had True Gods and Daofathers in his squad. And yet, they had all been completely stymied by these three alien Outsiders.

"Such powerful individuals shouldn't be completely unknown figures." Tathagata laughed calmly. "No need to panic. Although I'm being attacked by many, my true body is present; although these alien Outsiders are formidable, they won't be able to do anything to me."

"Right." Daoist Three Purities nodded. "I feel slightly better that you are the one trapped there."

"Hm?" Tathagata's face suddenly changed.

"What's wrong?" All the major powers in the hall looked towards Tathagata.

"My Great Sun Buddha body has been injured." Tathagata said in a low voice, and his customary smile was no longer on his face. Instead, he looked as calm and tranquil as the deep seas. "I sensed long ago that things in the Primordial Ruinworld wouldn't be as simple as we thought them to be, but...the one-armed golden-armored figure who injured me just now is definitely no weaker than I am."

"No weaker than you?" All the major powers in the hall were stunned.

Tathagata had reached the overlord level of power back in the Primordial Era, and his defensive prowess was number one in all the Three Realms.

"Yes. He's extremely powerful," Tathagata said softly. "He's definitely an overlord. My only option is to focus entirely on defense for now."

"Hold on as long as you can," Daoist Three Purities said hurriedly. "Houyi and Suiren are on the way. Once they get there, this crisis will be resolved."

"Buddha Leafswirl's true body has just been destroyed." Tathagata's face suddenly changed yet again.

"Buddha Leafswirl's true body has been destroyed?"

Everyone cried out in shock as they turned to look at a woman located in the corner.

Buddha Leafswirl was an incredible figure of the Buddhist Sangha. She was born a True God, and when Tathagata became an overlord-class figure and established the Buddhist Sangha during the Primordial Era, she had joined him! When she had seen how much suffering there was amongst the common people of the Primordial World of Pangu, she had decided to truly become a mortal herself and join them. She would start as a mortal and train to become a Buddha from scratch so that she might truly experience and understand the sufferings of mortals. That way, she would also be able to better understand the profound mysteries of Buddhism.

She had shattered her own soul and sent her truesoul to be reincarnated. She had experienced countless tribulations, but her truesoul was that of a True God, after all; she had incredibly high talent, and she actually ended up establishing her own Buddhist school, the 'Leafswirl Sect'. She now had the power of an elite Daofather, and she had both a true body and a Primaltwin. It was her true body that had ventured into the Primordial Ruinworld for this campaign.

"Our foe is very powerful. With a single claw-strike, he was able to break through our protective formation and slay me," Buddha Leafswirl said.

The atmosphere in the palace instantly grew heavy.

Lord Tathagata said slowly, "Two terrifyingly powerful Outsiders have appeared. Both are overlord-class experts. I've already stowed Maitreya and the others into my [Buddha-Realm Within the Palm], and I'm now fighting off all of these fiends by myself. Given how strong my golden body is, they won't be able to do anything to me within a short period of time.

Lord Tathagata's golden body was so formidable that it could be said to be number one in all the Three Realms.

"Be careful," Daoist Three Purities urged nonetheless. The two of them were the leaders of Buddhism and Daoism. Upon seeing Tathagata fall into such dire straits, Daoist Three Purities couldn't help but feel frantic as well.

However, he had already sent out Suiren and Houyi. The remaining forces they could use to protect the Three Realms were now clearly weaker than before. No matter what, they had to conserve enough power so that they could deal with the Seamless Gate. If all of them left the Three Realms, the Seamless Gate would probably seize the opportunity to completely destroy the Nuwa Alliance's foundation and truly take over the Three Realms.

When that happened, the war for karmic luck would definitely be completely lost.

"We've done what we can. I hope Houyi and Suiren will be able to make it in time." Daoist Three Lives let out a soft sigh.

"As long as they can make it, there won't be any problems at all," Shennong agreed quietly.

"Two overlord-class experts. The Primordial Ruinworld actually has a pair of overlord-class experts..." Daofather Subhuti shook his head. "And extremely powerful ones at that."

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The Primordial Ruinworld.

The Sakyamuni body of Lord Buddha was seated in the lotus position, golden light radiating from his body. He had actually manifested a total of eighteen arms, and those eighteen dazzling golden arms were striking out in every single direction.

For now, the many alien Outsiders assaulting him were unable to do anything to him.

“This weak little aboriginal has actually managed to train a protective divine ability to such a level.” The distant Godfiend Witherspike was watching from afar, his tail slowly swaying in the air.

“His protective divine ability is extremely formidable, and his divine body is definitely comparable to a top-grade Protocosmic spirit treasure.” The one-armed man next to him spoke out in agreement. “And his palm-arts are also quite formidable. They fill the skies and leave no openings whatsoever! I’m able to occasionally land a saber-blow on him, but it’s still very hard to injure him. If he completely focuses on defense...all we can do is exhaust his store of divine power. Once he is out of divine power, he’ll die.”

“I really hate those with strong protective divine abilities like this.” Godfiend Witherspike frowned.

“Are the T’ya brothers able to hold on?” Godfiend Witherspike suddenly asked.

“They are skilled in defense, and the three of them fight as if they were one. When they join together in their formation, they are easily capable of holding down Fuxi’s group. Fuxi’s skill mainly lies in formations; he’s a bit weaker in actual combat,” the one-armed man said calmly.

“Master, Daoist Jade Cauldron is about to arrive.” The red-nose elder flew over and bowed respectfully as he spoke.

“Oh?” Godfiend Witherspike nodded. “I almost forgot about Jade Cauldron’s squad and Darknorth’s squad. Let the Four Thearchs take control over twelve True Gods and bar their path! Stop Jade Cauldron and Darknorth’s squads.”

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Soon, a number of True Gods and Daofathers who had been assaulting Tathagata retreated, the Four Thearchs amongst them. They headed off to stop Daoist Jade Cauldron and Ji Ning.

“The Nuwa Alliance sent out two overlord-class experts. One is Tathagata, and his defensive skills are formidable. The other is Fuxi, who is even more formidable in the art of formations. Both are extremely skilled in dealing with large groups of attackers.” Godfiend Witherspike gritted his teeth. If it had been Daoist Three Purities or Suijen, things would actually have been much easier. Experts skilled in defense caused quite the headache.

“Saber, come up with a method to defeat his palm-arts.” Godfiend Witherspike looked at the one-armed man. “Let’s join forces to suppress him, then deal with him.”

“Alright.” The one-armed man nodded.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Godfiend Witherspike and the one-armed man instantly charged towards Lord Buddha. Lord Buddha continued to sit there calmly, his eighteen golden arms blocking attacks from every direction. He completely focused on defense. His goal was not to win; it was only to avoid making any mistakes.

As for Ji Ning, he was advancing at high speed through the [Ninehorn Lightning Serpent] technique. However, his squad had been the farthest up ahead; the entire reason why they had been planning to wait for a day was to give the other three squads enough time to catch up.

Thus, Daoist Jade Cauldron and his Chaos boat was the first to arrive at Tathagata's location.

"Jade Cauldron's squad has already arrived." Graceful Peacock spoke out to Ning from with his estate-treasure.

"Not good. The Four Thearchs have all appeared, as well as twelve other alien True Gods. They are able to easily block Jade Cauldron's path. In fact, they are actually suppressing him."

Ning frowned upon hearing this, but there was nothing he could do aside from continuing to advance at high speed while using the [Ninehorn Lightning Serpent].

The Four Thearchs were all elite Daofathers. They also had twelve other alien True Gods supporting them, while Daoist Jade Cauldron's team consisted of just seven individuals! The Four Thearchs would indeed have the power needed to suppress Daoist Jade Cauldron's squad.

"Darknorth, the Four Thearchs have a total of sixteen in their squad! Jade Cauldron only has seven, while we only have seven as well. The Four Thearchs have more than enough power to completely tie our two squads down," Xingtian sent mentally. "I think we should move to avoid the Four Thearchs and instead go assist Fuxi."

"No. Jade Cauldron's been surrounded as well; if too much time passes, his squad will also be in danger of losing their lives."

Kuafu and the others had become rather frantic as well. The Primordial Ruinworld's forces now held the absolute upper hand. Tathagata was in danger, Fuxi had been tied down, and Jade Cauldron had been surrounded!

"They hid their true power quite well. They forebore from striking for a long time, but as soon as they did they immediately knocked us off-balance." Ning mused to himself, "Fortunately, Three Purities and the others were worried about something like this happening, which is why they sent Fuxi and Tathagata. Those two are very skilled in defense."

Tathagata relied on his powerful body to defend.

Fuxi relied on his formations to defend.

Both were very skilled in delaying and buying time for themselves.

"According to what Graceful Peacock is telling us, two new overlord-class figures have appeared in the Primordial Ruinworld?" Ning's eyes flashed with sharp light. "Weren't the most powerful figures here supposed to be those Four Thearchs? Where did these two overlords come from? Such powerful figures can't possibly be nameless and unknown...but no one has any idea as to who they are. They must have come from the primordial chaos, then."

Alien Outsiders from the primordial chaos...

Multiple such figures had invaded during the Primordial Era, but the Three Realms era had been much more peaceful. Although there had been a few invasions, those figures had all possessed low levels of strength. They weren't as terrifying as Rahu or the Lord of All Things had been. So in truth, powerful alien Outsiders had arrived long ago! They had simply chosen to hide within the Primordial Ruinworld instead.

"It seems this divine sword of mine is going to see blood soon."

Swoosh!

The black lightning serpent streaked through the skies, moving towards the direction of a major battle. It was a battle between Daoist Jade Cauldron's group and the alien Outsiders commanded by the Four Thearchs.

"It is Darknorth. Darknorth has arrived. The six of you, follow me. We'll stop Darknorth!" Instantly, two of the Thearchs and six True Gods turned to charge towards Ning.

[The Desolate Era](#)

Book 22: True God Chapter 21: Overlord

Thearch Fusha had handsome features, a large frame, and a natural aura of dominance. Thearch Vileye, by contrast, was incomparably ugly. His body was covered with a layer of thick jade skin, and his body was filled with countless bulges and bumps. On his forehead, there was a particularly large bump that had an eye inside of it, and that eye was filled with endless malevolence. Weaker Emphyrean Gods and True Immortals would probably be instantly dominated by a single glance of that eye.

"Come with me, but be wary of Darknorth and Kuafu. Be wary of Darknorth in particular; his sword-arts are extremely powerful," Thearch Fusha instructed.

"Yes." The six figures immediately followed directly behind them.

Ji Ning was flying through the air, surrounded by his black lightning serpent. He swept the battlefield with his gaze. In his heart, he was most worried about Lord Tathagata the Buddha. Based on what Graceful Peacock had told him, Tathagata was currently being assaulted by two overlord-class figures! Even worse, these were figures that no one had ever encountered before.

Two overlord-class figures...it was entirely possible that the two of them were both Elder Gods! If they truly did come from the vast primordial chaos, there was no way for Ji Ning to predict how powerful they might be. If things went on for too long, Lord Buddha might very well be slain!

The Seamless Gate's alliance with the Primordial Ruinworld meant that they had gained two more overlord-class figures on their side. Ning's side, the Nuwa Alliance, could not afford any more losses!

"F*ck off." Ning pointed from afar.

Instantly, rainbow-colored sword-light began to descend upon the world around him in an utterly dazzling fashion. Next, the countless rays of sword-light began to spin together, condensing into a total of nine rainbow swords. They struck down towards Thearch Fusha and six of the True Gods like nine rainbow lightning bolts! This scene stunned all of the major powers present.

[Sword-Heaven-Earth], third of seven stances: Heavenly Swords Descend!

BOOM! Layers of black light appeared around Thearch Fusha and the rest of the eight. The layers of black light whittled away at the power of the rainbow-colored swords, in the end forcibly halting Ning's strike.

"Darknorth, these aliens of the Primordial Ruinworld have learned some powerful combination formations. Be careful!" The distant Daoist Jade Cauldron sent a hurried mental message.

"Everyone, be careful. All we need to do is keep Darknorth tied down." Thearch Fusha and the rest of the eight were all badly frightened as well. They hadn't even engaged Ji Ning in close combat yet. They never would've imagined that those nine long-distance strikes would contain such incredible power! Fortunately, they had been taught certain things by the Godfiend, and so were able to jointly resist those attacks.

"Sword Immortal Darknorth is too arrogant. He actually dares to fight against us by himself. If he had worked together with Kuafu just now, we might've been in a bit of trouble." Thearch Vileye snickered coldly. "Now that we have this formation which Master taught us...hmph. Sword Immortal Darknorth won't be able to do anything to us."

Whoosh.

Ning came to a halt in midair, frowning as he glanced at the alien Outsiders in front of him.

Time was very precious right now!

They were in a hurry to go reinforce Fuxi and rescue Tathagata! But now, Daoist Jade Cauldron had been trapped here. Thanks to the [Ninehorn Lightning Serpent], Ning would indeed be able to move at high speed and circle around this region, but that would mean Daoist Jade Cauldron's squad would be in serious trouble. If more time passed, they might very well die here. Thus...Ning decided that he might as well spend a bit more effort here.

"Die!" Ning transformed into a streak of light and charged forward.

"He still isn't having Kuafu and the others come out?" Thearch Vileye and Thearch Fusha were both startled. "Ji Ning is underestimating us a bit too much. The only reason he is formidable is because of his swordforce. It's not as though he is an Elder God."

Whoosh! Whoosh! Ning's two arms dramatically increased in size, expanding to become more than three thousand meters long as the tips of his fingers shone with rainbow-colored sword-light.

"Fall down!" The vile-looking vertical pupil in Thearch Vileye's forehead was staring fixedly at Ning, and an invisible wave of force struck out towards him.

Ning, however, just stared back coldly at these alien Outsiders. He was completely unaffected. His soul had been nurtured by the power of his half-step Elder God body. His soul was so powerful that it would probably rank within the top three of the entire Three Realms! His heartforce was at the fourth stage as well! In fact, Ning had also learned a heartforce soul-locking technique from World God Northrest. How could an innate domination technique like this possibly shake his soul? Even if it was a hundred times more powerful, it wouldn't be able to do anything to Ning.

Those two elongated arms were like a pair of extremely long spears!

Bang! Bang!

Ning's palms pierced straight through the layers of black light surrounding the two Thearchs and the other six! The Thearchs had felt as though Ning's palms were quite far away, but in the next instant the two palms had already pierced through the protective black light. The attack was simply too fast; it had completely surpassed the speed of light.

Ning had distilled the best aspects of many different sword-arts to create the most penetrative stance of the [Brightmoon] sword-art: Blood Drop Stance!

Given Ning's power as a half-step Elder God and his terrifying sword-arts, the power of this blow was so great that it arguably had reached the apex of power in the Three Realms! Although Ning's palms had merely been trained to the Fifth Cycle of the [Starseizing Hand], it was still more than enough when dealing with these alien Outsiders of the Primordial Ruinworld!

"How can this be?!"

"No!"

The two Thearchs and the six True Gods were completely scared silly. Their first reaction...was to flee!

This was an instinctive desire, separate from all conscious thought!

Whoosh!

The two massive palms that had pierced through their formation were like a pair of metal hammers smashing together! They were like a pair of enormous stormclouds that were joining together in a tremendous clap, capturing the terrified Thearchs and the True Gods between them. Agonized, terrified cries rang out as the ten tried to flee...but alas, how could they possibly move as fast as Ning's palms?

BOOM!!!!

The two massive palms clapped together violently in midair.

The True Gods and Daofathers were completely destroyed, their bodies transformed into dust and their truesouls destroyed.

"B-b-but..." The distant Daoist Jade Cauldron and his squad were dazed by what they had just seen.

They had battled against these alien Outsiders for quite some time now, and they knew exactly how tough and durable that formation was. They had yet to find a way to penetrate the formation, but Ji Ning had managed to shatter it through just his hands? In fact, he had clapped to death those eight True Gods in an instant! Thearch Fusha and Thearch Vileye, two incredibly tough foes, were amongst their ranks as well!

"Flee!"

"Flee right away!"

"He's an overlord!"

"He's an Elder God!"

“Quick, flee!”

The other alien True Gods and Daofathers who had been battling Daoist Jade Cauldron were completely scared senseless. Thearch Darkstill and the other Thearch no longer had their usual composure; their only thing on their face was utter terror.

“Flee?” Ning, who had just wiped out those eight True Gods, turned his head to look towards them. Swoosh! He transformed into a black lightning serpent and charged towards them.

“Flee in different directions.”

“Split up!”

They didn’t hesitate at all. They didn’t even dare to think of using their formation to defend against Ji Ning’s attacks. They immediately split apart, fleeing in different directions. Their formation naturally dissipated as well.

Swoosh!

Ning came to a halt. He stood there in midair, staring at the eight True Gods that were fleeing in every which way.

“Arise.” Ning pointed his finger towards the heavens.

The skies turned dark, and streams of rainbow-colored sword-light began to appear in the area around them. The entire region became a world of rainbow sword-light. This caused the fleeing Thearchs and True Gods to reveal looks of horror on their faces, especially Thearch Darkstill. He had sent his nine bugbeasts against Ning, and they had all been wiped out by this technique.

The dazzling rainbow sword-light unfolded like the blooming of a flower, shooting out in every direction.

It was beautiful and dazzling.

Slash! Slash! Slash! Slash!

Sword Peacock, a stance meant for slaughter. Six of the eight alien Daofathers were instantly slain. The two Thearchs managed to resist for a brief moment, but in the end even they found it difficult to resist the consecutive strikes of rainbow sword-light from Sword Peacock. One was disintegrated, while the other, Thearch Darkstill, was able to survive thanks to his defensive skills. However, he was still heavily injured.

Slash! The black lightning serpent flashed past him, and as it did his head went flying, eyes still filled with a look of celebration at having ‘survived’ Sword Peacock.

The entire world turned silent.

The sixteen alien True Gods had all been slain! The distant Daoist Jade Cauldron, Chijingzi, Holy Mother Turtlesoul, and others all stared blankly. Sixteen True Gods and Daofathers...they had all been wiped out in such a short period of time, and in such a completely overwhelming fashion. This sort of power...there was only one explanation.

“He’s an overlord?” Old man Chijingzi murmured to himself.

The six Daofathers by his side all shivered.

Overlord?

They stared at the distant white-robed youth, the ordinary-looking kid. He was an overlord?

“Sword Immortal Darknorth? He’s reached the overlord level?” Daoist Jade Cauldron still couldn’t believe it. None of the seven really could.

In their hearts...Ji Ning was just a lovesick man who was exceedingly talented. In truth, they felt quite a bit of pity towards Ji Ning. They knew of his history, and they also knew that his wife ‘Yu Wei’ had been a spy for the Seamless Gate. In fact, Yu Wei’s betrayal during the Crimsonbright Realmwar had very nearly caused them to lose that Realmwar.

Almost everyone in the Three Realms knew that during the battle in the Deerchaser world, the black-robed Godking had personally crushed Yu Wei’s truesoul! None of them could forget the agonized howl of rage which Ji Ning had unleashed...

In their hearts, whenever they thought of Ji Ning, they would at most sigh to themselves and say, “What a pitiable man. He is a genius, but alas the war arrived too soon for him.”

This was what many believed, including many of the major powers.

In fact, even Ning’s own master, Subhtui, often mused to himself that it truly was a pity that Ji Ning had been born so late. If he had been born just a few years earlier, he might’ve stood a good chance of reaching Houyi’s level.

A pitiable man with a pitiable life!

These feelings of commiseration and pity were what most major powers felt when they faced Ning.

[The Desolate Era](#)

Book 22: True God Chapter 22: The Apex of the Three Realms

None of them ever would have imagined that this poor youth who had suffered so many setbacks would have climbed up to the apex of the Three Realms.

Right.

The peak of power amongst all the cultivators of the entire Three Realms!

A position which only the likes of Lord Tathagata the Buddha, Daoist Three Purities, Human Sovereign Suiren, Human Sovereign Fuxi, Human Sovereign Shennong, and the inconceivably talented Houyi had reached. But now, yet another figure had appeared by their side...this ordinary-looking white-robed youth who stood before them!

Sword Immortal Darknorth! Ji Ning!

“The world just changed,” Holy Mother Turtlesoul said softly.

“Yes, it has changed. Yet another overlord-class figure has appeared in the Three Realms.” Daoist Jade Cauldron said softly, “And he’s trained for less than a thousand years. He’s an absolute legend, a legend which surpasses even that of Houyi’s.”

The seven Daofathers present all felt a bit dizzy.

They had just watched a legend be born.

A youth had trained for less than a thousand years to journey from the ranks of mortals to the very apex of the Three Realms! He ranked above all other cultivators and stood side-by-side with Daoist Three Purities, Lord Buddha, and the Three Sovereigns of Mankind.

“Let’s go.” Ning looked at them and said quickly, “Lord Tathagata is in a perilous situation right now. We have to go reinforce Fuxi right away and come up with a way to rescue Lord Tathagata. Let me draw you into my estate-treasure for now...”

“Alright.” Daoist Jade Cauldron and the others couldn’t help but comply. When facing an overlord, they unconsciously assumed the role of followers.

Ning nodded. With a wave of his hand, he drew Daoist Jade Cauldron and the others into his estate-treasure, then transformed into a black lightning serpent and flew at high speed towards Fuxi.

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Inside the formation trapping Tathagata.

The incomparably ugly, green-skinned Thearch Vileye was sending frantic mental message. “Master, almighty Master, we’re in trouble! In trouble!”

“Eh?” Godfiend Witherspike was currently working alongside Saber to deal with Lord Buddha. Upon hearing these words, he immediately turned his head to glance backwards.

“Dead! All dead!” Thearch Vileye said frantically, “I’m the only one who survived because I was born with two bodies. I lost one of my lives! Darkstill and the others, all of them are dead!”

“What? How? Fuxi has been tied down by the T’ya brothers, while Tathagata is in front of us. Who killed them?!” Godfiend Witherspike was quite unhappy.

He had trapped Tathagata in one of the most dangerous parts of the Goldriver world. Anyone from outside the Primordial Ruinworld would need to spend a considerable amount of time flying before arriving at this place! The reinforcements from the Nuwa Alliance wouldn’t be arriving any time soon. The only possible reinforcements would be the squads of Darknorth and Daoist Jade Cauldron, but the strongest members of those squads were merely close to the overlord level. There was no way they could possibly kill the group of True Gods commanded by the Four Thearchs.

“It was Darknorth.” Thearch Vileye said hurriedly, “It was Sword Immortal Darknorth. He’s terrifyingly powerful. In the face of his power, our combination formation was far too weak. His hands easily pierced through our formation, then slaughtered all eight of us. The eight led by Darkstill are all dead as well. They must’ve died to Ji Ning as well.”

“WHAT?!” Godfiend Witherspike’s face instantly changed. He was no fool. He immediately knew what this meant.

“Yet another individual with the power of an Elder God has appeared?” Godfiend Witherspike frowned deeply. “These aboriginals don’t have any good cultivation techniques. This Ji Ning should merely have trained to the True God level! He’s merely a True God, yet he is able to unleash the power of an Elder God, and he’s trained for less than a thousand years...even in the endless primordial chaos, it’s hard to find a genius like this. This is trouble. Yet another problematic figure has arisen.”

“Alright, understood!” Godfiend Witherspike barked.

“Y-y-yes!” Thearch Vileye hurriedly slunk back.

Godfiend Witherspike waved his hand, causing Celestial Immortal Blackheaven to appear next to him.

“Mighty Godfiend, have you slain Tathagata?” Celestial Immortal Blackheaven asked eagerly.

“I have some very bad news for you,” Godfiend Witherspike said. “Sword Immortal Darknorth, Ji Ning...he already has the power of an Elder God.”

“W-what did you just say?” Celestial Immortal Blackheaven’s mind went blank.

“Did I stutter?” Godfiend Witherspike said angrily, “Ji Ning. The Ji Ning your people kept on toying with? He already has the power of an Elder God. Or, to put it in words you people might understand, he has the power of an overlord! Those idiots in your Seamless Gate...don’t they know that there are some geniuses that you can’t simply beat down? You need to avoid causing trouble for them! Yes, some will end up being destroyed, but others...the more you beat them down, the more terrifyingly powerful they will become. You utter imbeciles! You absolute imbeciles!”

“This Ji Ning has trained for less than a thousand years. If you had completely ignored him and paid him no mind, if you had simply let him live a happy life with his wife, how could he possibly have become so powerful so soon? He’s now on the same level of power as I am! Another enemy of such power...I don’t give a damn about who wins this war between you and the Nuwa Alliance, but you are causing problems for me now! This bone is getting harder and harder to chew by the day. The Seamless Gate is a pack of fools. Idiots. Imbeciles! MORONS!”

Celestial Immortal Blackheaven was still mumbling to himself in a daze. “Ji Ning? Overlord?”

“You aren’t lying to me, right?” Celestial Immortal Blackheaven suddenly asked.

When things were in perfect balance, a tiny change could have an enormous impact, like the proverbial last straw that broke the camel’s back!

For a new overlord to suddenly appear at a time like this...the impact this would have on the war would be simply enormous. It was ten times more important than the outcome of the battle for the Deerchaser world!

“You think I’d lie to you?” Godfiend Witherspike laughed coldly. “All four of the Thearchs under my command, aside from Thearch Vileye who was born with two bodies, have been wiped out. It was Ji Ning who killed them.”

“Have the Seamless Gate hurry up and come up with an idea!” Godfiend Witherspike waved his hand and put away the still-dazed Celestial Immortal Blackheaven. After doing so, he once more turned his attention to Lord Tathagata the Buddha.

Lord Buddha was using all his power to defend against the one-armed man. The two seemed to be on equal footing; the one-armed man’s saber-light carried utterly ruinous power, while Lord Buddha’s defense was completely airtight and seamless.

“Darknorth has become an overlord?” Lord Tathagata the Buddha began to laugh. “Ahahaha...the Heavens truly favor our side!”

“Heavens my ass. A chaosworld is nothing more than the manifestations of the Worldheart that lies in its center. ‘Heavens’? Heavens my ass. Stupid bumpkins.” Godfiend Witherspike sneered coldly. “It doesn’t mater. A new overlord might have appeared, but he is definitely inexperienced and new to this level of power. If I can wipe out your Sakyamuni body, it’ll be enough to make up for the danger which Ji Ning poses.”

After speaking, Godfiend Witherspike once more attacked.

Lord Buddha had been able to fight on fairly even footing against the one-armed man, but now Witherspike joined in once more. The fight instantly became uneven, and Lord Buddha had to use all of the divine abilities and techniques he had in order to defend against the assaults of these two alien Outsiders.

“I have to fight at full power in order to withstand these two, but in doing so my divine power is going to be depleted far too quickly. Almost half of it is already gone. It seems that I really am going to die here. Still, for Ji Ning to actually make a breakthrough is cause for celebration.” Lord Tathagata remained quite calm.

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As Godfiend Witherspike was cursing at Blackheaven, Ji Ning had already reached Fuxi’s location while riding his black lightning serpent.

“Eh?” Ning came to a halt and stared downwards.

Off in the distance, he could see an enormous hemispherical formation that covered an area of several million kilometers. Within the sealed area, one could see Fuxi’s group battling against three muscular golden-armored figures.

Ning stretched out his hand. A Darknorth sword appeared within it.

Swoosh!

He immediately charged downwards, transforming into a streak of light as he attacked the sealing formation. His sword stabbed straight through it. Boom! The entire sealing formation was immediately pierced through, allowing Ning to charge inside. As he did so, the hole he had just created closed up behind him.

Within the formation.

Fuxi was commanding three human experts in a wild battle against the three muscular golden-armored figures. However, the three were protected by layers of watery light that were actually capable of repulsing all attacks. Even though they were occasionally wounded, the wounds would quickly close.

“Darknorth?” When Fuxi’s group of four saw Ji Ning appear, they couldn’t help but reveal looks of excitement.

“Careful,” Fuxi instructed. “These three alien Outsiders have a special combination formation. There are three of them, but it is as though they are a single unit! And they are simply unkillable.”

Ning took a look, then instantly understood.

“The Waterian race?” Ning murmured to himself. World God Northrest had transmitted a great deal of information regarding the primordial chaos to Ning. He immediately recognized that these three alien Outsiders belonged to the Waterian race. Waterians were notoriously difficult to deal with, and in fact they were often described as having indestructible bodies! They were clearly just a trio of True Gods, but they still managed to completely tie down Fuxi’s group.

“Have Kuafu and the others arrived as well?” Fuxi said hurriedly, “Have your squad help out right away. Help me tie down these three alien Outsiders so that I can focus on solving this formation. Tathagata’s situation is quite grim; if too much time passes, he probably won’t be able to hold on for much longer. Remember, all you need to do is tie them down; they are very tough to kill.”

“Yes, they came. Leave these three to me.” Ning waved his hand and a group of figures appeared next to him. Aside from Kuafu’s squad, there was also Daoist Jade Cauldron’s squad.

“Jade Cauldron arrived as well?” Fuxi instantly smiled. “Wonderful. If the two of you join forces, you’ll be more than strong enough to deal with those three alien Outsiders.”

[The Desolate Era](#)

Book 22: True God Chapter 23: Fire

“Human Sovereign,” Ji Ning sent mentally, “I know where these three alien Outsiders come from.”

“Oh?” Fuxi looked towards Ning.

“Aren’t you skilled in using fire, Human Sovereign?” Ning sent mentally, “So long as you use your Eternal Kindfire against them, they will immediately retreat.”

Ning’s words were correct. The Waterians were creatures formed from water. They had incredibly durable bodies; even if you cut them apart, they would just reform like water without using up my divine power. This was why they were described as having ‘indestructible bodies’. However, this sort of innate ability came with its own drawbacks as well. There were three ways by which one could deal with Waterians.

The first was to use overwhelming power. A World God could easily blast them apart and grind them into dust, leaving nothing behind at all! However, Ji Ning and the others clearly couldn’t use this method right now.

The second method was to repeatedly attack and injure them. If you injured them heavily enough and often enough, they would still eventually use up all of their energy. At some point, the three Waterians

would no longer be able to hold on. However, this method required a very long period of time, and time was exactly what Ning and the others did not have. Lord Tathagata the Buddha wouldn't be able to hold out for much longer.

Thus...the only method remaining was the third method.

Waterians were completely water-aligned lifeforms. One could use fire to counter them! They were terrified of fire. However, the more powerful a Waterian, the more resistant the Waterian would be to fire. True God Waterians were generally immune to ordinary skyfire or truefire; one would have to use something on the level of Golden Solarfire. Suiren's 'Eternal Kindlefire' was another type of fire that would work.

"Eternal Kindlefire is useful against them?" Fuxi wasn't that skilled in using this type of fire. His 'Waterflame Apocalypse Formation' used 'Eternal Kindlefire' alongside 'Arcane Moonwater'. Suiren provided the Eternal Kindlefire while Fuxi was able to harvest Arcane Moonwater himself. Thanks to his mastery over the Heavenly Daos of Yin and Yang, he was able to control both the Kindlefire and the Moonwater, but this formation was mainly used for extremely wide-area attacks; it wasn't that useful against individual opponents, which was why he hadn't used it yet.

Although puzzled, Fuxi trusted Ning.

"Come out."

Fuxi and his Daofathers actually held the upper hand in this fight; the issue was just that they couldn't force the three golden-armored Outsiders into submission. Fuxi suddenly let out a low growl, and as he did a massive formation suddenly appeared that was hundreds of kilometers across. The Arcane Moonwater was placed off one side and the Eternal Kindlefire was placed directly before their foes. The flames looked warm and inviting, almost like ordinary flames; they didn't look as dominating or savage as Golden Solarfire. They were flames that brought warmth to one's heart.

As soon as the flames appeared, the faces of the three alien Outsiders instantly changed. When the flames touched one of them, he let out a shocked cry. "Elderfire! Quick, flee."

"Flee."

The three golden-armored Outsiders no longer dared to tarry. Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh! They immediately transformed into three streaks of watery light that disappeared into the distance. Fuxi and the others wished to stop them, but the watery streams were formless, shapeless, and moved at incredible speed. They instantly scurried back into large formation off in the distance.

"If I knew how afraid of fire they were, I would've used Eternal Kindlefire long ago." Fuxi willed the Waterflame Apocalypse Formation to disperse. This was a formation which he had prepared for the war; he would use it to attack large groups of opponents. When activated, it would blanket an entire major world with enough power to cause even elite Daofathers to feel grave danger. But of course, against overlord Daofathers it would just prove to be a bit troublesome.

"They aren't afraid of ordinary flames," Ning said.

In the primordial chaos, flames were divided into three levels of power: Skyfire, truefire, and elderfire.

Elderfire consisted of some of the most ancient types of fire! Golden Solarfire and Eternal Kindfire were both on this level. The term 'elderfire' didn't really exist in the Three Realms as practitioners in the Three Realms only knew of three types of fire on that level; Eternal Kindfire, Golden Solarfire, and Zhurong Godfire.

In truth, since there were many ways to cultivate and understand the Dao, there were many different ways to produce elderfire. If every person gave their own elderfire a special name, there would be an endless number of them. In the Three Realms, these three types of elderfire all had unique names, but in the endless primordial chaos they were all simply referred to as 'elderfire'!

Advancing beyond elderfire meant making a truly fundamental change. The flames would return to their original, purest form: chaosfire. Generally speaking, only World Gods and Chaos Immortals were capable of controlling chaosfire. A few incredibly talented Elder Gods or Ancestral Immortals would be capable of controlling it, but by far the vast majority were not. To find such a monstrous genius would be a thousand times more difficult than finding Vastheaven Palace.

"You..." Fuxi suddenly stared.

Ning looked back at him.

"You've reached the overlord level of power?" Fuxi stared at Ning in shock and delight.

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The Allclans Palace of the Three Realms.

The Nuwa Alliance had become a hubbub of commotion.

"Graceful Peacock, don't make jokes like that!" The seated Patriarch Subhuti was badly shocked.

"Right, Graceful Peacock. That's not something you can just randomly claim. To be 'close to the overlord level' and to be 'at the overlord level' are two completely different concepts. Ji Ning is extraordinarily powerful, but don't mistake that for him actually being an overlord-level figure." Exalted Celestial Carefree no longer looked as laidback and carefree as usual. Instead, he looked excited as he nagged at Graceful Peacock.

All of the major powers in the Allclans Palace were staring at Graceful Peacock.

"Graceful Peacock's words are correct." Close to her was Daofather Chijingzi. "I, Jade Cauldron, and the rest of our group all saw it for ourselves. Ji Ning is definitely much more powerful than all seven of us combined. Two Thearchs and six True Gods joined together into a formation, and the seven of us were unable to break the formation apart. Darknorth, however, was able to pierce it with his bare hands and kill all eight of them."

"He killed eight True Gods?" All the major powers were stunned.

"Not just that. When the other eight True Gods who were attacking us saw what had happened, they immediately tried to flee...but Darknorth still killed them all." Chijingzi shook his head. "Sixteen True Gods, with the Four Thearchs amongst their ranks. In a brief period of time, Darknorth slaughtered them all with ease. From this day forth...the Four Thearchs of the Primordial Ruinworld will be nothing more than an old legend. Oh, wait; I heard that Thearch Vileye has a second body."

The entire palace was silent for a moment as the major powers all exchanged glances. Then, yet another storm of noise erupted as quite a few major powers spoke out to ask more questions.

“Enough.” A voice rang out, and all the major powers turned to look. It was Lord Tathagata the Buddha, who sat at the very highest position.

“Ji Ning is indeed at the overlord level of power.” Lord Buddha nodded. “I can still hear that alien Outsider leader screaming and raving about it!”

“Congratulations.” Lord Buddha looked towards Subhuti. “You’ve gained yet another overlord-class figure under your tutelage.”

“Hahaha...”

Subhuti laughed delightedly.

Houyi had already been extremely powerful when he had joined Subhuti. Although they framed it as him taking on Subhuti as his master, in truth he was just hiding himself within Mount Innerheart.

It was Ji Ning who had been truly trained by Subhuti. Subhuti had always held Ji Ning’s talent for the sword in high regard. Although Ji Ning had advanced considerably in heartforce, Subhuti had always felt that Ji Ning was still more talented in the sword. And indeed...Ji Ning had reached the fifth stage of swordforce, then became an overlord-level figure.

“If he was able to tear apart that formation with his bare hands, he’s probably become a True God.” Daoist Three Purities laughed.

“Right. If he’s become a Daofather, there would’ve been a resonance with the Heavenly Daos. He must have become a True God.” Subhuti laughed as well.

“He trained less than a thousand years, advancing from being an ordinary mortal to become an overlord. Incredible, simply incredible.” Shennong sighed in amazement as well.

All the major powers seated below them revealed looks of amazement and joy. Their side had just gained yet another overlord; how could they not be delighted?

But they were stunned as well.

Only a few figures had ever stood at the very peak of power in the Three Realms. In the Nuwa Alliance, the only figures had been the two leaders of Daoism and Buddhism, the Three Sovereigns of Mankind, and great divinity Houyi. But now, yet another person had arisen to stand by their side...a Sword Immortal!

Ever since Pangu had established Heaven and Earth, there had never been a Sword Immortal who could reach such heights.

Daofather Fujū was very famous and was once acknowledged as the number one Sword Immortal of the Three Realms, but he only held the same level of status as Subhuti. World God Northrest had been focused on keeping himself alive, after all, and he truly was quite weak compared to his true level of power; he wouldn’t even dare to fight against Mother Nuwa.

Swordfather Darklight, Daofather Holyflame, and the other Sword Immortals were even weaker than Daofather Fujū!

The Pangu Chaosworld, the Seamless Chaosworld, the Three Realms...none of them had ever produced a Sword Immortal which stood at the very apex of power!

But now!

A Sword Immortal had risen up to stand at the very peak of the Three Realms!

Sword Immortal Darknorth! Ji Ning!

“Sword Immortal Darknorth.”

“Sword Immortal Darknorth.” Many of the major powers in the palace were all murmuring softly to themselves. A sense of dread and respect arose in their hearts, a natural dread that one would feel towards those that were more powerful than one’s self!

Many of the major powers would casually refer to Ning as ‘Ji Ning’. Now, however, they no longer dared to do so. They would now respectfully refer to him by his Daoist title of ‘Darknorth’. Only those who were very close to Ning, such as Subhuti, or those who were extremely powerful, such as Daoist Three Purities and Tathagata, would continue to address Ning by his given name.

From this day forth!

Ji Ning stood at the same lofty heights as Three Purities, Sui ren, Tathagata, and the other overlords!

[The Desolate Era](#)

Book 22: True God Chapter 24: Ripping Open the Formation

The Allfiends World.

“What?! Overlord level?” The black-robed Godking couldn’t believe it at all.

“Didn’t you say last time that he was just ‘close’ to the overlord level, thanks to his fifth-stage swordforce? It’s only been a few years. How did he suddenly reach the overlord level?” The black-robed Godking felt as though a ball of fire was raging in his stomach, making him feel quite miserable. He barked, “Blackheaven, are you sure about this? Are you sure you weren’t just seeing things?”

Celestial Immortal Blackheaven couldn’t even be bothered to look at the black-robed Godking. Instead, he said solemnly and respectfully towards the Lord of All Fiends, “Master, Godfiend Witherspike is quite angry. Ji Ning is indisputably at the overlord level of power already. Master, what should we do?”

“Indisputably?” The black-robed Godking ground his teeth when he heard this.

Damn.

How...how...how did this kid who had trained for less than a thousand years suddenly rise to the very apex of the Three Realms? Even he, the exalted disciple of the Lord of the Demonheart and the nominal leader of the Seamless Gate, had yet to reach that level!

“You imbecile.” Daomother Devilhand glanced sideways at the black-robed Godking, smiling coldly.

Upon hearing the words ‘you imbecile’, the black-robed Godking snapped out of his daze. He had always played with the hearts of others, but this time he had played himself. He had watched as Ji Ning grew powerful, and he had personally acted to deliver one setback after another to Ji Ning. Now, Ji Ning had advanced to the very apex of the Three Realms...and indeed, the Godking’s role in this could not be overstated. How could the Godking not feel miserable and stifled? However, he was an extraordinary figure as well. He quickly recovered from his momentary fugue state.

“Fiendlord, Darknorth has already become an overlord-class power. He trains much too quickly. We have to get rid of him right away,” the black-robed Godking said.

“I know.” The Lord of All Fiends frowned. “I heard that Houyi, Sui ren, and a group of True Gods and Daofathers have already headed out. Even if we want to intervene, we would have to first travel to the Goldriver world, then slowly fly to the battle site. We probably won’t be able to catch up to Houyi’s group. We won’t be able to help. Blackheaven...tell Godfiend Witherspike that we won’t be able to make it in time. There’s nothing we can do. It will all be up to him.”

“Alright.” Blackheaven nodded.

“Tell him this as well,” the Lord of All Fiends instructed, “Kill as many as he can. He should still do his best to kill Tathagata as soon as possible.”

“Alright,” Blackheaven said respectfully.

The Lord of All Fiends was silent for a moment, then said softly, “The roots of the Nuwa Alliance truly are deep...we haven’t been able to force them to reveal their full power, but we ended up creating a Ji Ning for them. Godfiend Witherspike...hmp. This alien Outsider has a belly full of bad plans. Let him fight it out with the Nuwa Alliance.”

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The Goldriver world. Outside the grand formation.

Fuxi stared at Ning in delight. He immediately said, “No time to chat about that for now. For you to make your breakthrough at a time like this is proof that Heaven is on our side. Tathagata’s used up too much of his divine power; he won’t be able to hold on for much longer. We have to immediately break into the formation and rescue him.”

“This formation is quite complicated.” Ning stared at the formation before him.

“Yes.” Fuxi nodded. “If we slowly take our time to analyze it and deconstruct it, we’ll need roughly an hour. By then, Tathagata would be long dead.” Fuxi continued, “Tathagata is an extremely important member of our alliance. If his true body is destroyed, we’re going to be in trouble during the Endwar. No matter what, we have to save him.”

“What do you need me to do?” Ning immediately asked. Although he knew a bit regarding formations, compared to Fuxi he was like a completely ignorant child.

“In order for a formation to remain intact, it has to remain stable,” Fuxi said. “If a formation is destabilized, it can easily collapse. It is reliant on outside power, after all.”

Ning nodded. He understood this principle.

“Over there.” Fuxi pointed towards the distance. Instantly, a strand of divine power flew out towards that part of the formation. “That’s one of the critical parts of the formation. I need you to do your best to tear the formation open at that point. Tear it open as widely as you can, using your full power. This will place an enormous amount of stress on the formation, making it much easier for me to deconstruct it.”

“Alright.” Ning understood.

Ning immediately flew towards that location.

Whoosh!

His body instantly expanded in size, transforming from an ordinary white-robed youth to a massive giant that was thirty thousand meters tall. At the same time, Ning manifested his [Three Heads, Six Arms] technique. His six arms simultaneously stretched out, causing six sharp swords to appear within them. He then stabbed forward violently, using the ‘Blood Drop Stance’ of the [Brightmoon] sword-art. His swords stabbed out towards the formation faster than the speed of light.

The formation was incredibly tough. When Ning’s six arms struck out, he could sense a powerful repulsive force pushing him back. This was a formation which Godfiend Witherspike had designed to trap Tathagata and kill him. To forcibly break it open...there was no one in the Three Realms capable of it.

Fortunately, Fuxi didn’t ask for Ning to do that. All he asked Ning to do was disturb and disrupt it! Once the formation grew unstable, it would be much easier for Fuxi to deconstruct it...but despite that, only an overlord-level figure would be capable of ‘merely’ disrupting the formation.

“All of you, go assist Darknorth,” Fuxi hurriedly barked. “Attack the same part of the formation which Darknorth is attacking.”

“Yes.” “Alright.” “Attack!”

Kuafu’s squad and Daoist Jade Cauldron’s squad immediately joined together into their respective formations and began to launch waves of attacks against the formation. The three humans under Fuxi’s command also began to help out with attacks as well. However, they remained close to Fuxi, protecting him as he focused his complete attention on the formation.

“Eh?” Ning suddenly felt that things had become a bit easier. Gritting his teeth, he let out a low snarl.

Whoooooosh.

His six swords tore at the formation, ripping a small tear into the formation.

The tear was large enough for a person to enter, but there was no point in doing so. The formation was filled with many layers of dangers; one had to destroy the entire thing before entering.

Fuxi ignored all else and completely focused on breaking the formation.

Inside the formation.

Tathagata was on the verge of collapse, with less than a tenth of his divine power left.

“Where did these two Outsider overlords come from? They are incredibly powerful. This truly is a tribulation...and the true face of the tribulation is gradually beginning to show itself. I expect that we’ll only understand the cause of it at the very end,” Tathagata mused to himself, sighing silently. Only at the end of the war which ended the Primordial Era had they learned that it was the Lord of All Things who had instigated everything.

This time...things were still early, but two alien Outsiders who were overlord-class figures had already appeared. This caused Tathagata to feel truly worried.

His defensive skills were formidable. In the Three Realms, he was capable of withstanding attacks from three overlords at the same time! Right now, he was currently facing just two Outsider overlords, but he was at the verge of being defeated. Clearly, these two alien Outsiders had incredibly powerful attacks, far more so than the overlords of the Three Realms.

“Eh?” Godfiend Witherspike suddenly frowned. “Why is the formation beginning to fail...?” He was in control of the formation. He could clearly sense that one of the critical parts of the formation was rapidly beginning to fail. If this continued, it would soon completely collapse.

“Master! Master!” The three golden-armored Waterians suddenly appeared. One of them said hurriedly, “That human, ‘Darknorth’, has transformed to become thirty thousand meters tall. He’s tearing at the formation to help Fuxi deconstruct our formation.”

“Tearing at the formation?” Godfiend Witherspike instantly understood. It was much easier to deconstruct a destabilized formation. He immediately said, “Saber, hurry up and go stop Ji Ning from disrupting the formation. Without Ji Ning helping him out, it’ll take Fuxi a long period of time before he can solve the formation. Leave Tathagata to me; given how fast his divine power is being used up, I imagine he should run dry soon.”

“Alright.” The one-armed man didn’t hesitate. He merely nodded.

Swoosh! He immediately flew away at high speed, charging towards Ji Ning.

Godfiend Witherspike turned his head to stare at Tathagata, still seated in the lotus position. He let out a cold laugh. “Tathagata, your human race has gained a new overlord, ‘Darknorth’, but it is useless. Saber has gone to deal with Ji Ning. Without Ji Ning’s help, Fuxi won’t be able to break the formation in time. By the time he does, you will be long dead.”

Lord Buddha continued to use all of his divine abilities, striving to resist Godfiend Witherspike’s attacks.

Godfiend Witherspike and Saber were both extremely powerful. Both were Elder Gods, after all! Lord Buddha was only a True God; he was only able to resist them when using many divine abilities, secret arts, and ultimate attacks. Now that Saber had left, things were a bit easier for Tathagata. Still...with only a tenth of his divine power left, he was still going to die soon.

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“Haaargh!” The titanic Ji Ning once more struck out with his six arms, his hands covered with rainbow light as he furiously tore at the opening he had created.

“Careful, Darknorth. Tathagata said that a saber-wielding Outsider is heading your way,” Graceful Peacock sent hurriedly.

Just moments after Graceful Peacock’s message, Ning saw a one-armed golden-armored figure appear. The one-armed man quickly grew in size, also becoming thirty thousand meters tall. This was a grim-looking man that looked just like a human. He held a saber in his hand as he stared at Ning. Taking a single step forward, he appeared in front of Ning then chopped down with the saber in his hand. His saber flashed fiercely, carrying an aura of irresistible power as it hacked down towards Ning.

Ning had two choices.

The first was to continue tearing at the formation. The second was to give up on that and instead focus on blocking the saber.

“Darknorth!” Kuafu, Graceful Peacock, Jade Cauldron, and the others who were helping out from afar all called out in shock. This was because when the saber-light reached Ning’s body, he continued to focus on tearing at the formation, completely ignoring the saber.

CLANG!

When the sharp blade chopped down upon his Ning’s divine body, it tore his white robes apart. Sparks flew from the surface of Ning’s skin, and a hint of a white impression could be seen...but the saber hadn’t even been able to penetrate Ning’s skin.

All Ning did was to give the one-armed man a cold look.

[The Desolate Era](#)

Book 22: True God Chapter 25: Golden Statue

The saber was merely able to leave a white mark on Ji Ning’s chest, but the amount of power it contained was quite shocking. It caused Ji Ning to be knocked backwards, but because he was holding onto the tear in the formation, he was able to borrow from the power of the blow. Riiiiip. The tear in the formation actually grew larger!

“H-h-how is this even possible?” The one-armed man was dazed. “Didn’t they say that he’s been training for less than a thousand years? Didn’t he just recently break through to become a True God? How could his divine body be comparable to a top-grade Protocosmic spirit-treasure?”

A body that was comparable to a top-grade Protocosmic treasure...there no was no way the Ninth Cycle of the [Eight-Nine Arcane Art] could accomplish this.

In all the Three Realms...the only person to ever accomplish this was Lord Tathagata the Buddha. Tathagata’s golden body was comparable to a top-grade Protocosmic treasure, which was why when Saber and Godfiend Witherspike occasionally managed to land a blow on him, they weren’t able to injure him at all! This was why their plan had been to suppress him, then seal him away!

But now, Ji Ning’s divine body had also reached the same level?

“He’s just a local aboriginal. He actually...actually...” The one-armed man’s heart was quivering.

Kuafu, Jade Cauldron, Fuxi, and the others watching from afar were all shocked as well. “When that Outsider overlord landed a saber-blow against Darknorth, he only managed to leave a small white mark on his body?” All of the spectators had incredible vision. When they saw the one-armed man attack, they could sense how terrifyingly powerful the strike was.

Tathagata himself had said long ago that the Primordial Ruinworld had two overlords in it. One was a one-armed saber wielder, while the other had a tail.

Ning himself was quite calm.

If he had just recently broken through to become a True God, of course he would not have been able to withstand that blow. However...for him, nearly two thousand years had gone past!

World God Northrest himself was a Fiendgod Body Refiner. He was also a member of the incredibly powerful Vastheaven Palace. In terms of personal strength, he stood at the very peak of power amongst World Gods as well! There was an enormous difference in power between the weakest World Gods and the most powerful World Gods, much like how there was an enormous difference in power between third-tier True Immortals and first-tier True Immortals. As an ancient expert who had received many teachings from his powerful sect, and as a figure who was capable of acquiring things like Violetjewel and terrifying sword-arts such as the nameless sword-art, World God Northrest naturally had left behind many incredible techniques for Ning. Although some of the techniques he gave Ning weren't as good as the ones he himself used, they were still techniques that not even most ordinary World Gods would not have access to.

Protective divine abilities!

Evasion divine abilities!

Forbidden skills!

He had passed down many such abilities. Ning had long ago mastered the heartforce scrying technique and the heartforce soul-lock technique, but he had also mastered a protective divine ability. World God Northrest had transmitted to Ji Ning a divine ability known as the [Golden Statue].

The [Golden Statue] divine ability was an ability which World God Northrest himself trained in!

It wasn't a technique which he had acquired from Vastheaven Palace. Although he had learned some techniques from Vastheaven Palace, while adventuring through the endless primordial chaos he had undergone many trials before finally acquiring the upper section and middle section of the [Golden Statue] divine ability!

After acquiring this divine ability, World God Northrest hadn't hesitated at all; he had immediately given up his previous protective divine ability to completely focus on this one.

The [Golden Statue] divine ability had an extraordinary history to it.

In the endless primordial chaos there was an extremely large world, a world far vaster than the entire Three Realms. It was a world that could last forever, unlike the ephemeral chaosworlds. Ten, a hundred, a thousand chaos cycles could go past, but this world would continue to remain. At the center of this

vast world there was an enormous levitating island, and hovering directly above the island was a towering golden statue.

The golden statue was 54,000 meters tall, and it emanated an aura of boundless might and majesty. This aura made it so that not even World Gods would be able to step foot onto that levitating island.

Then one day, an absolute genius who had viewed the golden statue for countless years finally managed to gain insight into it and devised the [Golden Statue] divine ability. This instantly became one of the most top-notch divine abilities in existence! It was divided into three sections; the upper section, the middle section, and the lower section.

The upper section of the [Golden Statue] was the introductory section. When one mastered it, one's body would become comparable to a top-grade Protocosmic treasure. True Gods could train in this section.

The middle section of the [Golden Statue] could be used to train one's body to become comparable to a top-grade Chaos treasure. Elder Gods could train in it.

World God Northrest had only acquired the upper section and middle section to this divine ability, but it was so profound and high-class that he had still chosen to use it. It was also comparatively easy to train in and so he quickly mastered these two sections, upgrading his body to become comparable to a top-grade Chaos treasure.

Although he wasn't able to acquire the lower section, it didn't make much of a difference; even if he did acquire it, actually mastering it would be incredibly difficult.

"Fortunately, I had a foundation via the [Eight-Nine Arcane Art]." When Ning had begun to train in this divine ability, he couldn't help but sigh.

The [Golden Statue] divine ability didn't require any special items; it only required energy.

Divine power, Immortal energy, chaos energy, spirit-pills...all sorts of energy could be converted and absorbed! This was what made this such a formidable, high-class technique. Because Ning himself had already reached the Ninth Cycle of the [Eight-Nine Arcane Art], when he trained in the [Golden Statue] he was able to start by using up the pre-existing energy in his body. Thus, it only took him twelve years before his body became equivalent to a top-grade Protocosmic treasure.

The [Golden Statue] was a divine ability that had to be slowly cultivated.

The cycles of the [Eight-Nine Arcane Art] could be mastered right away, but this came at the cost of enormous energy requirements as well as a heavy burden being placed on the body. This was why it was completely impossible to continue to devise a way to make the [Eight-Nine Arcane Art] usable for True Gods. To upgrade the body of a True God in such a way would result in such tremendous stress being placed on the body that there was simply no way it could endure it. The only option was to slowly work on the body, and that was exactly what the [Golden Statue] did. Since Ning had a solid foundation thanks to the [Eight-Nine Arcane Art], he only needed roughly ten or so years to master the [Golden Statue], and it hadn't even been necessary for him to use any Great Firmament pills.

If he had, he probably would've been able to complete the process in three years. However, his Primaltwin was already using up an enormous amount of Great Firmament pills due to training in the Heavengazer Tower. Ten years wasn't that long, and so Ning had been willing to take it slow.

"I didn't expect that this war against the Primordial Ruinworld would end up forcing me to reveal my [Golden Statue] ability." Ning couldn't help but sigh to himself.

Cultivation techniques, protective divine abilities, heartforce scanning techniques...these were all techniques Ning possessed which didn't exist in the Three Realms.

"Sword Immortal Darknorth. It seems everyone in the Three realms completely underestimated you." The one-armed man said coldly, "You actually managed to train a protective divine ability to such an incredibly high level without anyone being the wiser." He had no idea that this particular divine ability was something which even World Gods would go wild over. World God Northrest himself had trained in this divine ability!

As his voice echoed in Ning's ears, he waved his hand and sent a rope flying towards Ning.

"Damn." Ning frowned. Those with powerful bodies would mainly be worried about being bound or being contained inside an item! The one-armed man could launch as many saber-blows as he liked without it affecting Ning, and indeed it would even hasten the formation-tearing process. This rope, however, was another issue.

Whoosh! Whoosh!

Ning immediately released the rip with two of his hands. His other four hands continued to strive to widen the rip, but the two now-freed hands now gripped a pair of Darknorth swords.

Sword-light flashed, spinning into black holes that drew the rope towards them.

"Hmph." The one-armed man charged forward, continuing to manipulate the rope while launching another blow with his saber.

Ning completely focused on defense.

The one-armed man actually had his own techniques that were similar to the [Three Heads, Six Arms] ability, but he chose to keep just one arm. His saber, however, truly was powerful! By comparison, even Ning's swords were a level lower in raw power.

Still, when Ning used two swords to defend at the same time, he was actually still able to defend against Saber's rope and saber combination.

"Darknorth, just hold on for a while longer. I've almost solved the formation," Fuxi sent hurriedly towards Ning.

"Right." Ning's titanic body continued to tear at the formation with four arms while defending himself with two.

"Why is it that I feel like this Darknorth fellow is even tougher to deal with than Tathagata? He's just a local bumpkin; he should at most be a True God." After battling for a short period of time, Saber began to feel as though Ning was unreasonably tough. But of course, he had no idea that Ning was actually a

half-step Elder God! Ning also had a sword-art that surpassed the heavenly Daos, and he had spent nearly two thousand years training within the Heavengazer Tower. This made it so that his sword-arts had become even more well-rounded than before.

“Saber, why is the formation still breaking apart?” Godfiend Witherspike sent mentally.

“Master, Darknorth has a formidable protective divine ability that is as good as Tathagata’s! His sword-arts are incredible as well. I can’t stop him!” Saber sent mentally.

“Are you seeing things?!” Godfiend Witherspike grew frantic.

“When I landed a saber-blow on him, I was only able to leave behind a white mark,” Saber replied.

Godfiend Witherspike continued to launch a furious barrage of attacks against Tathagata, but he felt tremendous frustration in his heart.

“What the hell is going on in the Three Realms? I, an exalted Elder God, had to work incredibly hard in order to toughen my body and make it equivalent to a top-grade Protocosmic spirit-treasure. But these natives...they clearly are mere True Gods. For Tathagata to be able to accomplish this is one thing, but Darknorth’s trained for less than a thousand years. How it is that his body is this powerful as well?!” Godfiend Witherspike felt incredibly unhappy right now.

Protective divine abilities were extremely rare and difficult to train in. This was why World God Northrest had immediately discarded his previous technique and instead trained solely in the [Golden Statue] once he acquired it.

“Those with protective divine abilities are always a pain to deal with. Bind him? Tathagata’s palm-arts are too powerful as well. There’s no way I’ll be able to succeed in doing so. My only option is to continue exhausting his store of divine power.” Godfiend Witherspike felt helpless.

Only after exhausting Tathagata would he be able to capture him!

[The Desolate Era](#)

Book 22: True God Chapter 26: Battling Godfiend Witherspike

“Can this all be due to Nuwa? Are these techniques that she left behind?” Godfiend Witherspike muttered to himself, “This all came out of nowhere. Now that another troublesome individual like Darknorth has appeared...it seems that taking over the Three Realms and taking away its Worldheart will be even harder than I thought.”

The thing which Godfiend Witherspike desired the most was the Worldheart.

In fact, the Three Realms was formed from the collision of the Pangu Chaosworld and the Seamless Chaosworld. That meant that its Worldheart was most likely the combined Worldhearts of those two chaosworlds. If so, would be even more valuable!

“Those who bar my path shall die.” A savage light flickered in Godfiend Witherspike’s eyes as he suppressed all extraneous thoughts.

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“Keep holding on for just a little while longer,” Fuxi sent hurriedly. “I’m about to break the formation apart!”

“Alright.” The towering Ji Ning continued to tear at the formation with four arms while defending against Saber with his other two.

“Hmph.” Saber frowned. Seeing that he couldn’t stop Ning, Saber suddenly turned and walked away, disappearing from Ning’s field of vision.

“He actually retreated?” Ning couldn’t be bothered to over-analyze the matter. He immediately used all six of his hands to tear at the great formation.

Rumble...

Ji Ning suddenly sensed the strength of the formation begin to dramatically weaken, then vanish entirely. He had been pulling at the rip with all his power; now, all of a sudden, he ripped it completely apart by accident. BOOM! The surrounding area completely exploded, causing many spatial cracks and tears that quickly healed.

“The formation has been breached!” Fuxi said hurriedly.

“Quick, go save Lord Buddha,” Ning barked back. As the formation broke apart, the surrounding area returned to its normal appearance. Ning could now actually see the golden figure of Lord Buddha seated in the lotus position off in the distance. A Fiendgod with a long tail, loose hair, and an aura of incomparable savagery was furiously assaulting the seated figure, with many of the alien Outsiders of the Primordial Chaosworld helping him out.

“Hurry.” Instantly, Fuxi, Kuafu, Daoist Jade Cauldron, and the others all transformed into streaks of light and flew forward.

“So that’s the other Outsider overlord?” Ning immediately noticed the jade-tailed alien Outsider. The man was completely bald and looked rather handsome. He had completely suppressed Lord Buddha in power. In the face of his assaults, Lord Buddha was only able to completely focus on defense.

“Outsiders!” Upon seeing his old friend in such dire straits, Fuxi immediately let out an angry roar. “Die!”

BOOM!

Instantly, the Waterflame Apocalypse Formation descended. The surrounding area for a million kilometers became filled with Arcane Moonwater and Eternal Kindfire.

There were dozens of major powers from the Primordial Ruinworld. For a situation like this, a large formation that could launch area attacks was the ideal tool.

“Careful.” None of the alien True Gods or Daofathers dared to continue with their attacks against Tathagata. Instead, they focused completely on protecting themselves.

“This elderfire...” The three Waterians frowned as well as they hid themselves within the formation.

Once this formation appeared, the power of the Primordial Ruinworld arrayed against Lord Buddha instantly lessened.

Swoosh!

A black lightning serpent flashed through the skies, launching an initial strike against the alien Outsiders.

Ning gripped a sword in each of his six arms. Five were Darknorth swords while the sixth was Violetjewel. Things were quite critical and Ning could tell that Lord Buddha wouldn't be able to hold on for much longer; he could very well perish any moment now. At a time like this, he had to fight with full power.

"Master, I'll stop him." The red-bearded elder let out a low growl, his red beard instantly expanding dramatically in size as it struck out towards Ning.

Of the six retainers who followed Godfiend Witherspike, Saber was the most powerful. Next in power was the red-bearded elder! As for the three Waterians, they could just barely reach the Elder God level of power after joining together in a formation, but they were only really skilled in defense.

"Hmph." Ning struck out with his six swords.

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

Six dazzling streaks of sword-light instantly sliced across the skies. The skies had been completely covered by the endless strands of red beard, but all the strands were instantly shattered apart. The red-bearded elder's face turned pale with shock, and he hurriedly retreated to hide behind the formation that had been set up by those dozens of alien True Gods. He sent mentally in panic, "Master, Sword Immortal Darknorth is shockingly strong. I'm unable to stop him."

After shattering the old man's red beard, Ning charged straight towards Lord Tathagata in an attempt to rescue him.

"Saber, you go deal with Fuxi. Leave Ji Ning to me." Godfiend Witherspike knew that, given how Saber and Ji Ning specialized in attacks and how tough Ji Ning's body was, it was unlikely that Saber would be able to succeed in doing anything to Ji Ning. Fuxi wasn't that offensively powerful; it would actually be a bit tougher for him to face Saber."

"Alright." Saber nodded.

Swoosh! Godfiend Witherspike flew towards Ji Ning.

Rumble...

A streak of light suddenly curved towards Ning without any warning at all. Ning was badly startled, but fortunately he had been using his heartforce to constantly scan the area.

"Fast! So this Outsider overlord's tail has actually surpassed the limits of the Heavenly Daos!" Ning was truly surprised.

Godfiend Witherspike was able to attack with his tail at incredible speed. Ning immediately chopped out with his sword.

Clang! Sparks appeared as the sword clashed with the tail. Godfiend Witherspike's body was tremendously durable as well.

“He actually managed to block with ease?” Godfiend Witherspike frowned as he manifested a total of six arms, continuing his attacks against Ning.

The two instantly began to battle against each other in midair, six arms against six arms.

As the battle began, Ning realized that although Godfiend Witherspike was very strong, only his tail had surpassed the limits of the Heavenly Daos; his arms had not!

“Go!”

Suddenly, Ning unleashed Violetjewel. Prior to this, he had been hiding Violetjewel’s full power, keeping it weak and in line with the other five Darknorth swords. Now, however, Ning suddenly slammed Violetjewel down as he used the ‘Heavenbreaker stance’ of th [Brightmoon] sword-art.

BOOOM!

Violetjewel crashed down like the thunder, slamming down against Godfiend Witherspike’s pale white arm. Godfiend Witherspike’s face instantly changed dramatically as he was knocked backwards.

“What?!” All the major powers of the Primordial Ruinworld were shocked. It had seemed as though the Godfiend had held the upper hand in his fight against Sword Immortal Darknorth. How was it that he was suddenly sent flying backwards?

“You were actually hiding your true power?” Godfiend Witherspike let out a bellow, then charged forward once more.

“Even when I use Violetjewel, I don’t have much of an advantage over him.” Ning also frowned as he charged forward as well.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

The two exchanged lightning-fast attacks as they battled furiously.

Ning had the advantage of Violetjewel.

Witherspike had the advantage of being a true Elder God.

The two actually battled to a complete standstill! This sight caused both the powers of the Nuwa Alliance and the powers of the Primordial Ruinworld to feel shocked.

“The alien Outsider is actually this powerful?”

“Sword Immortal Darknorth is actually this powerful?”

Both sides were stunned.

The Nuwa Alliance was stunned at Witherspike’s power. The Primordial Ruinworld was stunned at Ji Ning’s power! Even though Ji Ning was an overlord-class figure, they had thought that since Ji Ning had trained for less than a thousand years, he was still inexperienced. Moments ago, Ji Ning had revealed a truly shockingly powerful protective divine ability...and now, he had revealed that his attacks were every bit as powerful as those of this Outsider overlord!

More than half a chaos cycle had gone past since the war that ended the Primordial Era. There were some major powers who were hiding their improvements; it was entirely possible, for example, that Daoist Three Purities' 'Immortal Slaying Formation' was even more powerful than Ji Ning's attacks.

But...

In terms of speed, Ji Ning had the [Ninehorn Lightning Serpent] technique.

In terms of defense, he had the [Golden Statue] technique.

In terms of attack, he stood at the very peak of the Three Realms.

Ji Ning had no apparent weaknesses at all. This made him even more dangerous, as he could deal with all types of situations. Any major power, Godfiend Witherspike included, would feel a headache coming when they had to fight against Ji Ning.

"Inexperienced? Inexperience my ass! Those Seamless Gate idiots! They kept on toying and toying and toying with him...and now, those imbeciles have ended up creating a freak of an enemy." Godfiend Witherspike ground his teeth. "There's no point to fighting against him like this. He's too powerful; there's no way I can kill him. I should focus on killing Tathagata instead."

"Hmph. Sword Immortal Darknorth...I paid quite the price to acquire this formation. I wouldn't be willing to use it against just anybody," Godfiend Witherspike mused to himself.

Boom!

In the same instant that the two exchanged blows yet again, Godfiend Witherspike suddenly waved his hand.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

Six utterly enormous stone pillars suddenly appeared out of nowhere, descending from the heavens to cover an area of tens of thousands of kilometers. The stone pillars instantly began to radiate with blurry light, completely sealing off the outside world and causing space itself to turn blurry.

"Darknorth!" Fuxi and the others were shocked as they saw this enormous blurry formation descend and trap Darknorth within it.

"Fuxi, correct?" Godfiend Witherspike turned his head to smile coldly at Fuxi. "I heard that your skill in formations is the best amongst the locals. Go ahead and try to break this one if you can, ahaha..."

Fuxi's heart had turned cold as he soon as he saw those six stone pillars. The stone pillars were covered with extremely arcane runes. These runes contained incredibly profound mysteries of space within them, and Fuxi's head turned dizzy as soon as he looked at them. He instantly understood that this was definitely a formation that vastly, vastly outstripped any formation he had ever made. There was no way he would ever be able to possibly break it.

His guess was correct. This was a formation that had been created by a Chaos Immortal who was skilled in the art of formations. It was one of the trump cards which Godfiend Witherspike used when he adventured in the primordial chaos to trap tough foes.

If you wanted to survive adventuring through the primordial chaos, you needed to have some trump cards up your sleeve.

The Waterians under his command were another set of trump cards; when he encountered great danger, he would force those three servants of his to go block for him. However, they were only one of his 'ordinary' trump cards. This formation was one of his most important ones. Once unleashed, any foe trapped within would need to spend a long period of time before being able to overcome it. By then, he would've fled long ago.

I might not be able to kill you, but I can trap you!

Godfiend Witherspike had paid quite a heavy price to acquire this item. If it wasn't for the fact that Ji Ning was incredibly powerful, he wouldn't have been willing to use this treasure at all. If a foe spent enough time figuring out how the formation worked, he would be able to break through it and render it completely useless in the future. This sort of formation was generally a single-use item; Witherspike certainly didn't have the ability to remake it or repair it!

"First, I'll kill Tathagata. Then, if I have enough time, I'll kill Fuxi as well," Godfiend Witherspike mused to himself.

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Ning had started to battle against Godfiend Witherspike again. Just as he had been knocked backwards a few steps, he saw six stone pillars descend out of nowhere. Immediately afterwards, the area around him turned blurry.

Neither heartforce nor coresense could see past the haze, and he was only able to physically see to a distance of three hundred meters.

"A formation?" Ning stared at the blurry area around him. "I've been trapped in a formation?"

[The Desolate Era](#)

Book 22: True God Chapter 27: Fighting Back

Ji Ning brandished Violetjewel, causing it to explosively increase in size to become many tens of thousands of meters long.

"Break!" Faced with this blurry region, Ning let out a roar as he raised the enormous sword high into the air, then chopped downwards.

Whoosh!

He struck out with the 'Heavenbreaker stance'. In terms of intent and will, it wasn't too far from the will which Pangu had possessed when he had cleaved Heaven from Earth and established the world. Pangu had been born with mastery over the Heavenly Dao of Primordial Chaos, but his establishment of the world was part of his innate purpose for existing; he was the weakest type of World God possible. For those who had actually trained to become a World God, the establishment of a chaosworld would not result in their deaths.

Rumble...

The sword struck out, causing thunder to boom out around it.

“Eh?” Ning frowned. “Although there were some vibrations, the formation is still quite stable. In fact, it is far more stable than the formation we dealt with earlier.”

It would not be possible for him to break through this formation with raw force. What should he do?

Whoosh. Ning began to move, quickly flying forward through the formation. The situation outside was most assuredly quite grim, and Lord Tathagata was in grave danger, but Ning put away all his other considerations as he completely focused on how to break through this formation as soon as he could.

After flying for just a second, Ning came to a halt.

“There is no danger here whatsoever...”

“I flew a few hundred thousand kilometers in that second, but I encountered no danger whatsoever, nor where there any illusions. All I see is this perpetual blur and haze.” Ning was stunned. “Can it be...is this an ‘Endless Road’?”

“Those six stone pillars...right. Damn! This is an ‘Endless Road’ formation!” Ning’s face instantly turned unsightly to behold.

World God Northrest had transmitted much information to Ning, including a great deal of knowledge regarding common yet troublesome formations. One such formation was known as the ‘Endless Road’.

In the endless primordial chaos, there were worlds that were far larger than the Three Realms which held many major powers. All of them needed to train, and so it was quite common for them to exchange techniques and items with each other! One particularly powerful type of formation which many Elder Gods and Ancestral Immortals were quite willing to purchase was this, the ‘Endless Road’.

The principles behind the ‘Endless Road’ were quite simple. It made use of the principles of the Dao of Space to transform a region that was originally just ten thousand kilometers in size to become a hundred million kilometers in size! The target would be trapped at the very center of the formation. If you wanted to escape it, the only option you had would be to physically fly out of it.

There was no way to teleport from within the formation. Thus, you had to spend a considerable amount of time flying from the center of the formation to the outside. That period of time would be more than enough for the formation-user to either flee or do something else! This made this particular formation a very popular item in the endless primordial chaos, and each time someone offered one for sale it would be immediately snapped up.

Of course, it was also theoretically possible to break the formation through raw force! The problem was that although the formation was seemingly simple, the arcane mysteries of the Dao of Space inside it were unfathomably profound. Even World Gods or Chaos Immortals would need a bit of time to break the formation. As for Elder Gods and Ancestral Immortals? There was no chance of it at all.

“All I can do is keep flying!” Although Ning felt incredibly frantic, there was nothing else he could do.

Swish! Ning transformed into a black lightning serpent, chose a direction, then immediately began to flee at high speed.

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“Save Tathagata!”

Outside the formation, the battle had reached a crescendo.

Fuxi was leading Kuafu and Jade Cauldron’s squads in a furious assault against the one-armed man, ‘Saber’. Saber had transformed to become thirty thousand meters tall, and he sent his saber flashing out in streaks of cold, savage light, preventing Fuxi and the others from moving past him. Fuxi was still just a True God, after all; although he had extremely profound insights into the Dao, he had primarily focused on the art of formations. While using formations he was able to just barely be a match for Saber, but he was still at a significant disadvantage.

Only someone like Ji Ning, a half-step Elder God who had a powerful divine body and a sword like Violetjewel, could truly cause Saber trouble. Even Godfiend Witherspike had been unable to do anything to Ning and had been forced to use his precious Endless Roads formation to trap Ning.

“Damn.”

“Attack.”

“Attack!”

Kuafu, Jade Cauldron, and the others had all joined together into formations and were launching attacks from far away, but Saber was able to easily block the attacks.

As for the other golden-armored retainers of Godfiend Witherspike, they were in command of the True Gods and Daofathers of the Primordial Chaosworld, having organized them into formations to resist the Waterflame Apocalypse Formation. Every so often, they’d launch a few attacks as well.

For now, Fuxi’s entire squad had been completely blocked off by Saber and the enemy major powers.

“This one-armed Outsider is far too powerful.” Fuxi gritted his teeth. Per the plans of the Nuwa Alliance, Fuxi’s role was generally to focus on using formations to control and influence the overall battlefield, not fight against powerful ones in one-on-one combat!

“Tathagata, you have to hold.” Fuxi willed it, and instantly the Arcane Moonwater and Eternal Kindfire close to Godfiend Witherspike transformed into a pair of enormous dragons, one of water and one of fire. The two dragons furiously coiled around the mighty Godfiend!

This was the ‘true’ way to use the Waterflame Apocalypse Formation. Because Fuxi had to spend much of his attention on dealing with Saber, he was only able to activate the Waterflame Apocalypse Formation within that fairly small region. Clearly, he was planning to use it to tie down Godfiend Witherspike.

Clang! Clang! The dragons of fire and water coiled around Godfiend Witherspike, but his body was so durable that he was able to completely ignore them.

“A technique that joins elderfire and elderwater together? This technique is so profound that it can actually slow down my movements.” Godfiend Witherspike quickly realized how tough this formation was to deal with, but he still let out a sneer. “A pity for them that Tathagata is almost done for.”

Although he was being constricted by the dragons of water and fire, he continued to furiously rain down attacks against Lord Buddha.

After the formation had been broken apart, Lord Buddha had risen to his feet, intending to flee. But...

Godfiend Witherspike moved even more quickly than he did. No matter how he tried, Tathagata was unable to escape.

“My divine power is almost exhausted.” Lord Buddha let out a soft sigh.

Whoosh.

A kind-looking Buddha dressed in a kasaya frock suddenly emerged from Lord Tathagata’s body. Light blazed around his body as he struck out with full power, assaulting Godfiend Witherspike.

“Ahaha, is this your final attempt to fight back? You are going to sacrifice your dharma-bodies now?” Godfiend Witherspike laughed wildly. Boom! Boom! Boom! After three brief clashes, the blazing figure completely broke apart and vanished.

“That was his Medicine Buddha body.” The distant Fuxi felt pain in his heart upon seeing this.

The Sakyamuni body was Lord Buddha’s true body, and he had four mighty dharma-bodies as well. This time, Lord Buddha had brought his Sakyamuni body along with two of his dharma-bodies, but over the course of this battle they had exhausted all of their energy. Lord Buddha’s only choice was to try and preserve his Sakyamuni body while sending out his dharma-bodies to die in the hopes of buying some more time.

These dharma-bodies had all been painstakingly cultivated...and today, in a single day, they would be destroyed.

Still, the true body was what mattered the most. So long as the true body remained alive, the dharma-bodies could slowly be remade once more.

“Go.” Lord Buddha continued to flee as he sent yet another dharma-body flying out from inside of him. This dharma-body blazed with blinding fire, as though it was the sun itself. This was the Great Sun Buddha body, and its attacks were even more powerful than the attacks of the Medicine Buddha body.

But...

In terms of technique and power, it was still a bit weaker than the true body. If even the true body was unable to withstand Witherspike’s attacks, how could the Great Sun Buddha possibly do so?

“Still struggling?” Godfiend Witherspike felt quite irritated. He continued his furious assaults, and a few short clashes later the Great Sun Buddha body also dissipated into specks of light.

Swoosh! Godfiend Witherspike continued to chase after Lord Buddha.

“You want to join together with Fuxi?” Godfiend Witherspike’s tail suddenly lashed out. Whoosh! It struck out faster than the speed of light towards Lord Buddha. Lord Buddha immediately moved to block. Boom! Lord Buddha was sent staggering backwards.

Lord Buddha's eyes were dim but peaceful. He folded his hands together in prayer, looking calmly at the approaching Godfiend Witherspike.

"TATHAGATA!" Fuxi cried out in agony.

"Killing you really wasn't easy." Godfiend Witherspike finally relaxed slightly. 'Lord Buddha' apparently no longer had any divine power left. He had long ago converted all of flesh and blood inside of him into divine power, leaving behind only the outside layer of his golden body. His golden body technique was quite special; he became incredibly powerful after mastering it, but there was no way to reconvert his golden body into divine power. After he died, he would only leave his golden body behind.

There were many Bodhisattvas and Buddhas who would leave behind golden bodies after dying. But of course, Tathagata had trained his golden body technique to the highest possible level.

"So I have become the first to fall before the great tribulation." Lord Buddha looked at Godfiend Witherspike calmly.

"It seems he's preparing to give me one final blow before he dies?" Godfiend Witherspike didn't dare to be over-confident. Killing Tathagata was no easy feat, and he had paid quite a heavy price to accomplish it. He had lost all four of his Thearchs, and he had even been forced to take out his 'Endless Roads' formation to trap Sword Immortal Darknorth. He certainly didn't want to mess up at the very end!

BOOM!!!

An sudden explosion could be heard. Off in the distance, the six stone pillars surrounding the blurry formation were suddenly revealed, along with another figure...that of the sword-wielding Ji Ning.

"Sword Immortal Darknorth?" Godfiend Witherspike's face immediately changed, but his expressions then turned savage as he charged unhesitatingly towards Tathagata. "DIE!" His sharp claws struck directly towards Tathagata, giving the distant Ji Ning no time to intervene at all.

When Lord Buddha saw Ji Ning emerge, a smile appeared on his formerly calm face. He let out a low growl, then struck out with both his palms. Boom! His giant hands struck out towards Godfiend Witherspike like a pair of massive worlds.