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Book 24: The Starlord of Fogstone Chapter 41: The Death of Chaos Immortal Owlsoar

“H-he actually did leave the Three Realms.” The Mindlord’s heart was shaking, but he quickly came back to his senses. “Why should I fear him? I’m a member of a Minor Thousand Elder Gods Formation. Not even World-level experts can do anything to me right now. Me, fear him, an Elder God? It’s actually good that he’s here. I’ll find a chance to kill him.”

“Him! It’s him!” Ji Ning had been quite calm, but upon seeing the Mindlord Ning’s eyes instantly turned bloodshot.

Those memories began to play through his mind...

The death of Human Sovereign Suiren, whose body had transformed into those petals of kindlefire...

The self-detonations of Daoist Three Purities, Lord Tathagata the Buddha, Keeper Everwood, and Buddha Jueming...

Senior apprentice-brother Houyi, who had died right in front of Chang’e...

And those countless other Immortals and Fiendgods of the Three Realms who had sacrificed their lives in self-detonation...

Ning could hear the sounds of those detonations ringing within his memories. He could hear those furious roars, those frenzied screams.

Murderous rage began to swell in his heart, rage which he was unable to suppress. It quickly filled his entire being.

Countless comrades had died in the Endwar...all because of this man!

“Old Man Yuan! DIE!” Ning immediately charged straight towards the Mindlord.

“Eh?” When the Mindlord saw Ning transform into a streak of light and fly towards him, he let out a cold smirk. “He’s just an Elder God. How can he possibly shake our formation of a thousand Elder Gods?”

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“He’s too powerful.” Chaos Immortal Owlsoar had an ugly look on his face. He gritted his teeth, summoning the ritual tower closer towards himself. He was just barely able to set up a defensive perimeter of roughly thirty meters around himself. “How is the Starlord this powerful? Aren’t they only powerful because they can rely on the power of Fogstone itself? But the planet of Fogstone is outside the city! The Starlord is relying on just his sword-arts yet is still incredibly powerful!”

Thanks to this mighty sin-weapon, Chaos Immortal Owlsoar was a very formidable figure even amongst World-level experts, and the ritual tower was actually meant for defense.

And yet...even though he had a thousand Elder Gods helping him to divert his enemy’s attacks, he had still been beaten back to the point of only being able to keep a defensive perimeter of just thirty meters. If he didn’t have the thousand Elder Gods, he probably would’ve been slain in just one or two strokes.

“Second Uncle, this formation is a pain in the ass,” the Starlord sent frantically. He was using his seven formations to suppress the protective formations and defensive spells of the imperial capital, but now two such enemy formations were causing him problems as well.

“Yes, they are quite troublesome. I’m not able to breach their defenses either.” World God Blackmist had gone all out as well.

However, World God Blackmist was a bit weaker than the Starlord to begin with. He was roughly on par with Chaos Immortal Owlsoar.

“With this formation present, it’ll be very hard for us to kill Immortal Owlsoar.” The Starlord was growing frantic.

“This formation...” World God Blackmist was frantic as well. He had transformed to become a titanic figure who was thirty thousand kilometers tall, and he furiously launched attacks in every direction, but the thousand Elder Gods just absorbed his strikes as if they were made of soft taffy.

“Eh? Ji Ning?” The Starlord noticed Ji Ning suddenly charging towards them from afar.

Sword Immortal Darknorth, Ji Ning. The leaders of the Fogstone Dominion all knew who he truly was.

“Ji Ning, hurry up and go help World God Blackmist tie down the Minor Thousand Elder Gods Formation!” The Starlord ordered.

“Yes, Starlord.” Ning immediately flew towards World God Blackmist.

“Ugh, what’s the point of him coming here?” The Starlord couldn’t help but secretly sigh to himself. “Even though he has the formation strengthening him, and even though he is the core of the formation, he will still be at most comparable to an ordinary World God. He’s probably a bit weaker than even my second uncle! Even if he does help out, it’ll be hard for them to completely tie down that enemy formation.”

Ning was wielding Violetjewel in his hands. His gaze was ice cold, and the azuremist energy had quickly begun to flow out from the azureflower seal on his forehead, permeating his entire body.

The reason why Ning had come to the Badlands Territory...was to kill the Mindlord!

And now, the Mindlord stood right before him!

Kill!

The power of the azureflower mist energy was strengthening him!

The World energy generated by the formation of Elder Gods was strengthening him!

He had an Eternal weapon...Violetjewel!

“KILLSWORD STANCE!”

Ning raised Violetjewel up high, assuming a stance reminiscent of Pangu cleaving Heaven from Earth. In this instant, Ning was using the ‘Heavenbreaker stance’ of the [Brightmoon] sword-art to unleash the essence ‘Killsword stance’.

All the stances of the [Nameless] sword-art, be it the Heartsword stance or the Killsword stance, represented a certain realm of enlightenment regarding the Dao of the Sword. Ning's own [Brightmoon] sword-art was completely capable of unleashing the full extent of his insights into these realms.

Whenever the Minor Thousand Elder Gods Formation suffered an attack, it would first divert 99% of the energy of the attack into the World energy surrounding it, with the remaining 1% being spread across all thousand World Gods. This was why Ning had immediately used his most overpowering and dominating strike, the Heavenbreaker stance!

Rumble...

A strand of power was also extracted from the quintessence core within the Eternal sword and infused into the surface of the sword.

The enormous sword chopped straight towards Ning's most hated foe, the Mindlord.

"Ahahaha, it is useless! I'm now a member of an Elder God Formation. No matter how strong you are, you won't be able to do anything!" The Mindlord watched as that terrifying sword descended towards him. Although his heart shook a bit as he knew he wouldn't be able to survive it without the formation...the fact was that right now, he DID have the formation. What did he have to fear?

BOOM!!!

The blood-colored Violetjewel crashed down upon the Mindlord with absolute fury.

The concussive power of the blow was instantly dissipated into the surrounding region as well as across the bodies of all thousand Elder Gods. All of the Elder Gods trembled, their bodies coming to a brief halt.

"Eh?" World God Blackmist was both shocked and delighted by this.

To cause a thousand Elder Gods to come to a halt required an incredibly powerful attack. When World God Blackmist himself used his most powerful killer moves, this was the exact same result.

"What?!" The distant Starlord was also completely shocked and overjoyed by what he was seeing.

"Impossible. He's just an Elder God. There's no way he could've done this." Immortal Owlsoar's heart turned so cold that it was like a block of ice, and his eyes were filled with shock and rage.

"Ahahah...excellent, Darknorth, excellent! I didn't expect that with the formation strengthening you, you would actually be as powerful as I am!" World God Blackmist sent mentally, "Join with me and attack these Elder Gods. Let's make it impossible for them to help Immortal Owlsoar."

"Acknowledged," Ning said.

With the support of the azureflower mist energy and the formation, Ning was probably slightly more powerful than even World God Blackmist. He also had an Eternal weapon! And yet...Ning understood that his fatal weakness lay in his insights.

His sword-arts were still merely at the level of the Killsword stance, while World God Blackmist's sword-arts were at a far higher level. This was why the two of them remained on par with each other in strength. In addition to that, Ning was still unable to unleash his Eternal weapon's true power.

Eternal weapons were valuable because they had quintessence cores. It was the power that lay within their cores which was truly terrifying! If Ning was able to unleash just thirty or forty percent of that power, he would probably be able to chop apart the enemy formation with just a single blow! Alas, actually unleashing that much power from the quintessence core was far too difficult. Ning would probably have to reach the same level of sword-arts as World God Northrest in order to command such power.

In truth, Ning was already quite formidable. World God Blackmist was no ordinary World-level expert, after all.

Generally speaking, World Gods were more formidable than Chaos Immortals. This was because most World Gods also trained as Ki Refiner as well! World God Blackmist in particular was an expert of the Dao of the Sword and incredibly skilled in launching offensive attacks. For Ning to be comparable to him in might was absolutely incredible.

“Kill!”

“Kill!”

World God Blackmist and Ji Ning simultaneously launched their respective killer moves.

The way in which World God Blackmist was fighting was completely different from when he had been sparring with Ning. He had manifested a total of six arms and was striking with six swords in an endless windmill of attacks, sending six streaks of sword-light against his opponents in a constant barrage.

As for Ning, he wielded Violetjewel as he furiously struck out with the Heavenbreaker stance once more.

BOOM!

The simultaneous double attack from two experts of the Dao of the Sword caused all thousand Elder Gods to once more tremble and come to a halt. Although every single Elder God only had to endure a tiny part of their blows, the difference between them and the World-level experts was simply too great. Now that Ning and Blackmist had joined forces, the power of their blows made the Elder Gods feel absolutely miserable. They had been completely suppressed in power.

“These formations truly are incredible. Even when World God Blackmist and I join forces, we’re still merely able to just keep them suppressed.” Ning couldn’t help but sigh to himself.

Ning and Blackmist had joined together to completely shut down this Minor Thousand Elder Gods Formation, making it so that those thousand Elder Gods were completely unable to help protect Chaos Immortal Owlsoar.

“How can this be? How?!” The terrified Chaos Immortal Owlsoar immediately turned tail and transformed into a streak of black light, intent on fleeing.

“Do you think you can actually escape me?” The Starlord’s handsome face was now somewhat twisted by savagery. In fact, he could be described as looking rather crazed. “Owlsoar, I’ve waited for this day for far too long!”

BOOOM!!!!

The Starlord's entire body suddenly radiated with brilliant light. The astral light swept forward and caught Immortal Owlsoar within it, making it so that his movements became dramatically slower, almost as though he was moving through quicksand.

"N-no...spare me!" Chaos Immortal Owlsoar had learned quite some time ago that there was a huge gap in power between himself and the Starlord.

"Die."

The Starlord sent six streaks of sword-light straight towards him in a series of consecutive blows.

The terrified Immortal Owlsoar sought to use his ritual tower to defend, even summoning his other two Dao weapons as well...but alas, those two weapons were clearly inferior to the ritual tower.

Clang! Clang! He was able to just barely block the first two sword attacks.

Slash.

The third strike plunged deep into his forehead, and as it did so a terrifying sword-intent erupted forth into the Jindan chaos region inside his body. The Jindan chaos region began to break apart, and the Dao-tree inside of it was also beginning to be obliterated.

"No..." A look of resentment and disbelief was in Immortal Owlsoar's eyes as his life aura rapidly began to weaken.

The Starlord pulled his sword out of Owlsoar's forehead. As he stared at Owlsoar's corpse, he fell silent and said not a word.

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Book 24: The Starlord of Fogstone Chapter 42: Blacklotus

"Excellent!" World God Blackmist and Ji Ning were both delighted by what they saw.

The Starlord of Fogstone stared at Immortal Owlsoar's corpse, his heart filled with many complicated feelings. He murmured softly to himself, "Yi, I've finally slain Owlsoar."

"What? Owlsoar died?"

"Owlsoar died?"

The other four World-level vassals of God Emperor Blacklotus sensed Owlsoar's powerful aura vanish from the battlefield. The entire city only held a total of fifteen World-level experts! There was a tremendous difference in power between them and Elder Gods. For one such aura to suddenly be extinguished caused the Blacklotus Empire's forces to feel alarmed.

If one of them had died...then the Starlord and World God Blackmist would now be free to strike at the others.

The situation would just grow uglier and uglier.

"Don't panic." A voice suddenly rang out within the minds of the four World-level experts.

"Blacklotus, what should we do now?" The other four were all growing worried.

The enormous black lotus swiveled below God Emperor Blacklotus' feet while a thousand Elder Gods surrounded and protected him. Although Immortal Abyssus, Immortal Skyram, and World God Goldcloud had joined forces against him, they still found it hard to do anything to him.

God Emperor Blacklotus had an ugly look on his face.

He was in control of all the formations protecting this entire city and thus he knew better than anyone else what was happening in each part of the city. Immortal Owlsoar had simply died too quickly. As soon as Ji Ning had entered the fray, Immortal Owlsoar had been almost instantly slain by the Starlord.

"I never would've thought that an Elder God would be able to force me to do this..." God Emperor Blacklotus murmured softly to himself.

Even with the formation strengthening him, Ning was still merely on par with World God Blackmist.

However, the Blacklotus Empire had been at a disadvantage this entire time. Ning's suddenly burst of power was the last straw that broke the camel's back!

"Have I been in retirement for too long?" God Emperor Blacklotus suddenly manifested a total of twenty-four arms, each of his arms coming together to form a mudra.

BOOM!!!!

A terrifying aura of power instantly burst forth from his body.

"What?!" Immortal Abyssus, Immortal Skyram, and World God Goldcloud had been unable to do anything against God Emperor Blacklotus this entire time...and now, their faces blanched.

"This aura. T-this..." Immortal Abyssus stared in astonishment at God Emperor Blacklotus. He had travelled through many territories and experienced many dangerous situations. Right now, God Emperor Blacklotus was giving him a sense of tremendous danger. "He's actually this powerful? Then why has he squirreled himself away within his Blacklotus Empire for all these years? We are in trouble now! No wonder he was able to so casually produce two of those Elder God Formations!"

As soon as the Starlord slew Immortal Owlsoar, the God Emperor's aura began to explode with power. This immediately snapped the Starlord out of his reverie and cleared his mind.

"What a terrifying aura." The Starlord was shocked.

He was tremendously talented and had great affinity for the Dao of the Sword. He was now also a master-class World God, which meant he was unquestionably one of the top-tier World Gods around. However, the Starlord also knew that his level of power wasn't THAT special; World Gods who had Eternal weapons or who had incredibly monstrous divine abilities would still be able to completely dwarf him in power. And now, it seemed as though God Emperor Blacklotus had just activated a secret art that was so powerful, its aura alone was enough to cause the Starlord to feel nervousness.

"Second Uncle, Ji Ning, hurry up and wipe out this formation," the Starlord immediately ordered. "God Emperor Blacklotus is unfathomably powerful. We need to wipe out his other supporters, then encircle and slay him!"

As soon as he had sensed the God Emperor's aura, the Starlord immediately understood that although he himself was also quite powerful, he probably wasn't a match for the God Emperor in single combat. The Starlord was rather stunned. How was this God Emperor Blacklotus so powerful?! Still, it was too late for regrets.

"Alright." World God Blackmist had turned solemn as well. "Ji Ning, let's attack."

"Right."

Violetjewel in hand, Ning had already turned his gaze towards those thousand Elder Gods, focusing in particular on the Mindlord.

"Kill them!" The Starlord bellowed as he flew through the air, moving far faster than even Ji Ning. Astral light radiated from every part of his body, those specks of light shooting out like countless tiny stars.

As the astral light spread out, they exerted their power upon the Elder Gods, constricting them.

"Flee!"

"We need to flee!"

"Separate and flee!"

The Mindlord and the others began to flee in every direction. They had realized long ago that this new Elder God who had joined the fray was merely on par with World God Blackmist, but the Starlord of Fogstone was far more powerful than either of them. If World God Blackmist and Ji Ning were already capable of suppressing them, then once the Starlord joined in they would definitely be shattered.

"No."

"Damn!"

"Imperial Majesty, save us!"

The Elder Gods scattered in every which way, but they still were merely able to watch as the Starlord, Blackmist, and Ji Ning chased after them. All three of them moved faster than the limits of the Heavenly Daos, while the thousand Elder Gods were much slower in comparison.

"Die!" The Starlord let out a cold shout as he struck out with his sword.

Whoosh! A dazzling river of stars appeared in midair, coming together to form a gigantic sword that cleaved down upon the back of a fleeing Elder God.

Boom! Boom! Ji Ning and World God Blackmist struck out at the same time as this blow landed.

The Mindlord was one of the captains of these thousand Elder Gods, and as such he was able to flee faster than most of the others. For the sake of ensuring that his blow would land at the same time as the Starlord's, Ning had no choice but to just attack the Elder God closest to him.

BOOM!!!!

The bodies of all thousand Elder Gods shook.

“Urgh.” More than ten of the Elder Gods spat out a mouthful of blood. Cracks appeared on their faces and blood began to pour out of them.

Every single one of the thousand Elder Gods had to endure the same amount of power from the attacks. At a time like this, the weakest would be the first to perish! The Mindlord and others who had powerful protective divine abilities would be able to hold on for much longer than the rest.

“Again!” The Starlord sent mentally.

“Ahhhh!”

“We’re doomed.”

“No.”

Some of the already heavily-wounded Elder Gods began to panic...but alas, there was nowhere to run.

Yet another dazzling stream of stars split the skies and chopped down towards an Elder God.

Ji Ning and Blackmist struck out with their full power as well.

At this moment, God Emperor Blacklotus’ twenty-four arms completed their mudras. His terrifying aura skyrocketed even further, covering virtually the entire city.]

“Everyone dies eventually.” God Emperor Blacklotus could sense the despair of his thousand Elder Gods. He let out a soft sigh. “I bid you farewell on your next journey. I’ll take revenge for you.” The Elder Gods were simply too far away, and he was still surrounded by those three World-level powers, with Chaos Immortal Abyssus being particularly tough. Thus, not even God Emperor Blacklotus would be able to save those thousand Elder Gods in time.

“Blacklotus, although you are powerful, you are taking us a little too lightly,” Immortal Abyssus said with a cold laugh.

God Emperor Blacklotus gently waved his hand.

Whoosh.

The black fog permeating every part of the entire city began to vanish, revealing all of the countless buildings in it. Of course, the majority of the buildings had already been wrecked by now.

“Eh?” Chaos Immortal Abyssus, Chaos Immortal Skyram, and World God Goldcloud were all secretly shocked.

The black fog covering the entirety of the imperial capital had made it impossible for them to get a good picture of their surroundings. Only the Starlord had been able to scan the entire area, thanks to his astral light permeating the entire area...but now, the God Emperor had actually dismissed the black fog. Clearly, he no longer wished to bother with using any minor tricks. This was a display of utmost confidence in his superiority.

“You are right. I really don’t treat the three of you seriously at all.” God Emperor Blacklotus frowned slightly. He could sense that six of the weakest Elder Gods had just been slain. Although the core and the nine captains were still present and were able to just barely keep the formation up, it would now be

even harder for them to withstand any attacks. All of the Elder Gods had already begun to panic and flee.

“The three of you...who do you think you are?”

“In years past...more than a few World-level experts died by my hand!” God Emperor Blacklotus said calmly, “I came to the Badlands Territory, set up a little empire for myself, and just wanted to reign here in peace. I never would’ve thought that trouble would come crashing down out of nowhere.”

“Fine, then. I’ll wipe out the entire Fogstone lineage and let the cultivators of the Badlands Territory know exactly how powerful I am.”

When Abyssus, Skyram, and Goldcloud heard these words, they couldn’t help but turn to look at each other.

These words were a bit too brash, weren’t they?

Wipe them all out?

What did he take the nine World-level experts of Fogstone to be?

“Prepare to receive a blow from me.” God Emperor Blacklotus’ aura began to surge outwards. Whooooosh. Instead, a series of black lotuses began to bloom in the area around him. Countless black lotuses emerged, causing an area of a million kilometers around him to transform into an enormous pool of lotuses. These black lotuses radiated a tremendous killing intent that surged towards the three World-level experts.

“This is the first stance of the Forbidden Black Lotus...Lotus Sea.” A calm look of supreme confidence could be seen in God Emperor Blacklotus’ eyes.

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Book 24: The Starlord of Fogstone Chapter 43: Slaying the Mindlord

The black lotuses bloomed throughout the area, carrying a unique sort of charm.

However, Immortal Abyssus, Immortal Skyram, and World God Goldcloud weren’t in the mood for enjoying their beauty. Immortal Abyssus hurriedly sent a mental message to the hundred Elder Gods surrounding him. “Hurry up and retreat. Don’t get involved in this.”

“Yes.” The hundred Elder Gods could sense that things were turning dangerous. They didn’t dare to push it too far.

“Go.” Immortal Abyssus waved his hand, causing a semi-translucent cloth banner to fly out. The cloth banner flew through the air, instantly covering the skies as an enormous number of divine runes began to flow through it. The semi-translucent cloth banner began to emanate streams of gloomy white light that completely suppressed the countless black lotuses. The lotuses tried to push them back, but the light of the cloth banner was extraordinarily tough.

"I've always heard that Immortal Abyssus of the Fogstone Dominion is unfathomable in his power, but I didn't think that you'd be able to withstand the first stance of my Forbidden Black Lotus." God Emperor Blacklotus spoke out calmly, but the murderous aura which had once pervaded him when he had roamed through the various territories was beginning to slowly reveal itself.

"He managed to block it." World God Goldcloud and Immortal Skyram were both overjoyed.

Both of them had started to panic just now. They could sense that if they were completely surrounded by those countless black lotuses, they would most likely die within them.

"Brother Skyram, Brother Goldcloud, this God Emperor Blacklotus is far too strong. He's already forced me to take out my most powerful treasure," Immortal Abyssus sent mentally. "I'm already at my limit. Listen to my instructions. As long as we can hang on for a bit longer, the Starlord will soon arrive. With him by our side, we will no longer need to fear God Emperor Blacklotus."

"Right." Immortal Skyram and World God Goldcloud both held great faith in Immortal Abyssus. In the past, they knew he was strong but were uncertain as to how strong he actually was. Now they realized that he was strong enough to block those countless black lotuses that had inspired such terror in them.

"Aha..." God Emperor Blacklotus let out a laugh. "Now, try out the second stance of my Forbidden Black Lotus. This stance is known as 'Lotus Hell'."

His voice echoed throughout the skies and by the ears of the three World-level experts.

Whoosh....

Suddenly, one black lotus after another began to descend from the skies. Countless black lotuses descended, and as they did so they were actually beginning to resonate with the countless black lotuses on the ground that had been suppressed by Immortal Abyssus.

"Starlord, hurry over here!" Immortal Abyssus blanched as he hurriedly commanded the cloth banner to send out light to both suppress the black lotuses on the ground as well as the black lotuses falling from the skies. For a moment, he was able to establish a defensive perimeter and block the lotuses from every direction.

The Starlord knew that time was of the essence, and so he struck out with two sword at maximum speed, slaying six of the weakest Elder Gods in the Elder God Formation.

"Second Uncle, Ji Ning, let's go. We need to get over there right now." After breaking through the formation, the Starlord immediately waved his hand, causing dozens of streaks of sword-light to chop out towards the Elder Gods closest to him.

"Alright," World God Blackmist said.

"Starlord, I'll go right away, but first I need to kill the Mindlord." Ning didn't immediately follow behind him, instead flying at maximum speed towards the terrified, fleeing Mindlord.

The Starlord glanced backwards at Ning. Ning had said long ago when he had first joined the Fogstone Army that his goal was to kill the Mindlord. "Fine. Hurry up and get rid of the Mindlord, then come join us right away." Ji Ning was now an important member of their force. The other six formation commanders were merely comparable to ordinary World Gods, while Ji Ning was comparable to World

God Blackmist, an expert of the Dao of the Sword. He could be considered an expert amongst World Gods.

“Alright,” Ning said.

Swoosh.

Ning moved faster than the limits of the Heavenly Daos, furiously chasing after the Mindlord.

“Why is this happening? Why?!” The Mindlord was frantically fleeing, but the Starlord’s astral light was slowing him down too much. Ning caught up to him almost instantly.

“Ji Ning, spare me! Ji Ning!”

The Mindlord began to beg for his life. Earlier, when the Starlord had broken apart the formation, he had slain quite a few Elder Gods before heading off towards the other World-level experts. The entire Minor Thousand Elder Gods Formation had collapsed, resulting the Mindlord becoming much weaker as well.

“I gifted you my [Heart Sutra] long ago!” The Mindlord sent frantically. When he was in the guise of Old Man Yuan in the Three Realms, he had put on a truly flawless act! He had helped train juniors, ‘risked his life’ for his friends, and acted exactly as the true Old Man Yuan had. This was why the Nuwa Alliance had never suspected a thing or seen any flaws in his masquerade.

In fact, Patriarch Subhuti’s friendship with Old Man Yuan had only deepened!

He had casually bestowed the [Heart Sutra] to Ji Ning, but that was merely a manual with some extremely crude bits of information pertaining to heartforce. This was part of his usual act of pretending to be a kind old man!

“Die.”

Ning had already arrived, and his eyes flashed with murderous malice.

The Mindlord grew frantic.

“I’ve already informed one of my slaves about the Three Realms. Once I die, my slave’s lifeblood oath will compel him to immediately spread this information regarding the Three Realms. By then, quite a few adventurers of the Badlands Territory will probably set off towards it.” The Mindlord sent threateningly, “Eventually, an endless stream of adventurers will go from the Badlands to the Three Realms. It’ll be finished!”

Boom!

Sword-light flashed. Although the Mindlord was wearing armor, it was a very weak set of Chaos armor. There was no way it could withstand Ning’s full-force strike! Ning’s sword-light struck the Mindlord at the waist, chopping straight through the Chaos armor. The terrifying power of Violetjewel swept through the Mindlord’s entire body, wiping out all of his divine power as well as his truesoul.

Even when Ning was back in the Three Realms, his full-force blows were capable of piercing through top-grade Chaos treasures.

He now was strengthened by the azureflower mist energy, the World energy of his formation, and was wielding a fully repaired Eternal weapon. Even his sword-arts had improved! His full-force strikes were now completely capable of shattering ordinary Chaos treasures. If the Mindlord was wearing a suit of top-grade Chaos armor, Ning wouldn't be able to chop through it, but the kinetic force of Ning's blows would still be enough to reduce the Mindlord's body to dust.

"I..." A look of true despair appeared in the Mindlord's eyes.

Whoosh.

The two severed halves of his body suddenly broke apart and crumbled. Violetjewel's power was more than enough to cause his entire body to break apart.

"The Mindlord...is finally dead."

After slaying the Mindlord, Ning was momentarily dazed.

He could almost see his senior apprentice-brother Houyi in the moment of his truesoul's dissipation. He could almost see the other major powers of the Three Realms who had all transformed themselves into enormous suns.

"This troublemaker has finally been dealt with. My fellow Daoists...seniors...rest in peace."

Ning's heart was filled with many complicated feelings.

Was he happy?

Ning didn't feel even the slightest bit of happiness right now.

He felt disappointment and frustration.

He also felt a sense of release.

The Mindlord's death represented the true, final end to the great Endwar.

"He even dared to threaten me as he died." Ning glanced at the Mindlord's completely shattered corpse. The truesoul within the corpse had been wiped out, and there wasn't any hint of life in his body. "Even if you really did tell your servant about the Three Realms, so what? How many adventurers would dare to brave the spatial vortex tunnel between it and the Badlands Territory?"

"And even if they do brave it...so what?"

"My Primaltwin has also mastered and unified the Nine Chaos Seals. It is capable of using the azureflower mist energy and has the power of a World-level expert as well. It doesn't matter how many adventurers make it there; I'll kill them all," Ning murmured to himself. He didn't believe that any World-level experts would go adventuring in the Three Realms.

In addition...

Ning himself would eventually become a World-level expert as well, and the azureflower mist energy would guarantee that he was far stronger than most World-level experts.

"I really wonder how Daoist Three Purities managed to acquire those Nine Chaos Seals." This thought briefly flitted through Ning's mind.

Rumble...

Ripples of incredible power spread out from off in the distance.

Ning turned his head to look. The black fog had long ago dissipated, and so he was now able to see everything quite clearly. The astral light from the planet of Fogstone continued to shine down upon the city, revealing the scene of Immortal Abyssus, Immortal Skyram, World God Goldcloud, the Starlord of Fogstone, and World God Blackmist all fighting against God Emperor Blacklotus.

The most dazzling figures were the Starlord and the God Emperor.

"Attack!" Each blow of his sword struck out like a stream of stars, leaving a trail of shattered black lotuses behind them. The Starlord was able to destroy more than half of the black lotuses by himself. He was so powerful that he was roughly comparable to the other four allied World-level experts combined.

As for God Emperor Blacklotus, he stood in the center, the enormous nine-petal black lotus below his feet still slowly swiveling. Even now, it was the God Emperor who was attacking while the other five were defending.

"Ji Ning, hurry over here and help protect Abyssus." As soon as Ning slew the Mindlord, the Starlord of Fogstone immediately urged him to come.

"Acknowledged." Ning transformed into a streak of light, moving faster than the limits of the Heavenly Daos as he charged straight towards the most terrifying place on the battlefield.

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As Ji Ning moved closer to the battlefield, he saw those countless black lotuses bloom and then be smashed apart. He couldn't help but feel a hint of fear.

"Senior Abyssus." Ning immediately flew towards Immortal Abyssus.

"Sorry for the trouble, my young friend."

Immortal Abyssus smiled towards Ning, then once more turned his full attention towards controlling his swirling cloth banner. The cloth banner looked quite ordinary, but it made it so that the black lotuses weren't able to move past it in the slightest. Of course, this was primarily because the Starlord of Fogstone had charged to the very forefront of the battle, destroying the majority of the black lotuses before they were even able to get close to him.

"Should I just stand here and watch?" Once Ning arrived next to Immortal Abyssus, he felt rather puzzled. The others were all launching furious counter-attacks against the black lotuses.

"Yes, just stand here and watch for now," Immortal Abyssus sent mentally. "Don't be deceived by the fact that I'm able to block these attacks. I'm almost at my absolute limit. If God Emperor Blacklotus was just a bit more powerful, I wouldn't be able to hold them back any longer...and as a Chaos Immortal, I'm much weaker in close combat."

Ning nodded.

Pure Chaos Immortals were innately weaker than World Gods. Most World Gods were dual refiners, giving them an overall advantage.

“Ji Ning, all you need to do is help protect Abyssus.” The Starlord’s voice rang out within Ning’s mind.

“Acknowledged.” Ning understood.

Ning began to simply watch the battle, while all the others such as Immortal Abyssus went all out.

As for God Emperor Blacklotus, his eyes were filled with a murderous intent. He showed no mercy in his attacks at all.

“It seems as though God Emperor Blacklotus is extremely strong,” Ning mused to himself. “The Starlord seems to be slightly weaker than him. Immortal Abyssus is right behind the Starlord! After him should be World God Blackmist. World God Goldcloud and Immortal Skyram are both significantly weaker.”

Ning could clearly see the difference in power between the various World-level experts.

Just as Ning was watching...

The stalemate had clearly angered God Emperor Blacklotus, who suddenly let out a furious roar: “Forbidden Black Lotus, third stance...Blacklotus World!”

Whoosh. Whoosh. Whoosh. Whoosh. Whoosh. Whoosh. The countless black lotuses had been falling from the skies and rising from the ground. Now, however, every single inch of space on the ground or in the air within a million kilometers began to manifest the black lotuses. The black lotuses even began to appear next to Immortal Abyssus and Ji Ning.

“Not good.”

“Careful.”

Everyone’s faces changed.

Immortal Abyssus immediately acted, willing an enormous black shadow to swirl around him and cover Ji Ning as well. The black shadow covered an area of roughly three hundred meters, and all the black lotuses in the area covered by the black shadow were immediately shattered.

Things weren’t so bad for World God Blackmist and World God Goldcloud. They were World Gods, after all; even though a few attacks made it through their defenses, they were able to hold on.

“Careful!” The Starlord was forced to divert some of his energy to protecting Immortal Skyram.

“All of you will die.”

God Emperor Blacklotus had a sinister look on his face as he stood there atop the enormous, slowly swiveling nine-petal lotus. The area around him had become completely filled with the trillions on trillions of small black lotuses, all of which were furiously striking out towards his World-level enemies.

Immortal Abyssus continued to use his illusory shadow, blocking out all lotuses within its range.

Boom! Boom! Boom! Countless black lotuses smashed towards the illusory shadow in an endless stream, exploding as they struck it.

“Darknorth, my young friend.” Immortal Abyssus’ face tightened. “I’ll use my magic treasures to block these lotuses as best I can, but if any slip through I need you to help me stop them. Try to minimize the number that end up striking against my Shadow Idol.”

While speaking mentally with Ning, Immortal Abyssus immediately took control over the cloth banner once more.

Part of the cloth banner separated from the rest of it, then coiled around Immortal Abyssus, blocking more than 90% of the black lotuses that had been striking towards him. Alas, some of the black lotuses materialized inside its defenses, and so the closest black lotuses continued to stream towards the enormous illusory shadow.

“Leave it to me.” Ning’s body momentarily blurred as he transformed to become three hundred meters tall. He struck out with Violetjewel, which pierced out beyond the protection of the illusory shadow and set up a protective barrier of sword-light that covered more than half of the empty space.

The sword-light transformed into a black hole, continuously weakening the power of the assaulting black lotuses.

The true, terrifying power of the Heartsword stance was now on full display. Ning had absolutely perfect control over his sword, especially the ‘Soleheart stance’ of the [Brightmoon] sword-art, which was a technique which focused on defense. As a result, when the black lotuses struck him, they did so after 90% of their power had been ablated. The remaining 10% was then mostly absorbed by the World energy that protected him, with the tiny remaining amount of energy being spread across a thousand Elder Gods. By then, there was only a tiny bit of power remaining.

“Whew.” Immortal Abyssus relaxed slightly.

With Ning helping him defend against the majority of the black lotuses, things were now much easier for him as well.

Things weren’t so bad for Ning and Immortal Abyssus, but this was primarily due to Immortal Abyssus’ usage of the cloth banner and the Shadow Idol. All Ning had to do was provide a bit of help in order to ensure that they would survive the danger.

“God Emperor Blacklotus is far too powerful. He’s able to fight against multiple World-level experts by himself and actually have the upper hand.” Ning stared past the swiveling cloth banner and stared at the distant God Emperor Blacklotus.

“Blacklotus!” The Starlord suddenly let out an angry roar.

His handsome face actually began to turn a grayish-white color, as did his hands. His entire body seemed to become almost statue-like as his aura suddenly exploded with might. His six arms wielded six swords, and he sent them forth as utterly dazzling streams of stars. He was using the same sword-arts as before, but the power of his attacks had increased tenfold!

Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom!

Countless black lotuses were blasted apart as the sword-light easily chopped through them. The sword-light slashed all the way to God Emperor Blacklotus' side and struck directly at the enormous nine-petal black lotus.

Boom! Boom! Boom! When the slowly swiveling black lotus was struck by the terrifying sword-light, it began to shudder slightly.

"So this is the [Fogstone Apocalypse] of the Fogstone Dominion, eh?" God Emperor Blacklotus was startled as well.

"Attack!" The Starlord's skin had now completely turned the color of stone. His aura grew even more savage, and his blows even began to cause cracks to appear on the nine-petal black lotus.

"The [Fogstone Apocalypse]." Ning was secretly surprised by what he saw. "And he's using the third stage of it."

The third stage of the [Fogstone Apocalypse] involved transforming the entire body into stone. It would allow the user to become tremendously more powerful, with the body becoming comparable to a Dao weapon in toughness. However, this sort of explosive technique resulted in a rapid consumption of divine power. Once the divine power was used up, one would transform into a true statue forever. Thus, this divine ability generally wouldn't be used until things were truly dire.

The Starlord had clearly grown nervous upon seeing that the five of them were at such a disadvantage.

"He truly has reached full mastery of his skills." Immortal Abyssus sighed in amazement and nodded.

"The Starlord hasn't trained for very long, but this divine ability alone ensures that he is a master-class World God."

"Master-class?" Ning was puzzled.

God Emperor Blacklotus was now being completely suppressed by the Starlord's attacks. No more black lotuses were appearing around Ning and Abyssus. Clearly, the God Emperor was now focused on his own defenses.

"Yes." Immortal Abyssus nodded and smiled. "There are differences in power amongst World-level experts, and they can be divided into several rough categories."

"The first level is the level of brand new World-level experts. They are young, inexperienced, and quite weak. They can be described as having just barely reached the World-level threshold."

"The second level is the ordinary level which most World-level experts are at! This is a level which every single World-level expert can reach after they spend a bit of time in training."

"The third level can be described as the elite level! Blackmist, for example, is at this level, thanks to the fact that he has the body of a World God and is skilled in the offensive Dao of the Sword. I'm actually at this level as well, but I have a few more tricks up my sleeve than he does, which is why I'm a bit stronger than him."

"The fourth level is the level of full mastery! Both the Starlord and God Emperor Blacklotus can be described as master-class World Gods."

Ning nodded. "Are there any higher levels?"

"There are. If either of them had an Eternal weapon, they could be described as supreme World Gods," Immortal Abyssus said. "This is a fairly widespread classification system used in these Endless Territories. As for why they are classified in this manner...once you reach the World level, you will understand."

Ning nodded.

He wasn't a World God yet. He naturally didn't understand the cultivation mysteries of World-level experts.

Based on Immortal Abyssus' classifications...World God Northrest was most likely a supreme World God! As for the deceased slave he had seen in that house by the lake inside the Windsource Ruins, he was probably a supreme World God as well.

"Are there any who are more powerful than even 'supreme' World-level experts?" Ning was curious.

"There are." Immortal Abyssus nodded. "But you won't possibly be able to understand why those World Gods are as powerful as they are. Some are World Gods who have unleashed the full power of their Eternal weapons, while some have cultivation paths that we can't fathom. Perhaps they might have gained some particularly incredible legacies! However, those figures are nothing more than legends. I've wandered through many territories, but I've only seen just one of those terrifying figures. In our Badlands Territory, not a single one of them exists. Thus, to be a supreme World God is already quite incredible."

Ning nodded secretly to himself. No wonder World God Northrest was such an incredible figure! Alas, in the end he had still fallen.

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Book 24: The Starlord of Fogstone Chapter 45: Eternal Weapon

The morale of the Fogstone Dominion was soaring.

"Break for me!" His entire body a grayish-white color, the Starlord of Fogstone waved his hand, unleashing streams of astral sword-light against the enormous black lotus, causing it to begin to crack apart and crumble. God Emperor Blacklotus continued to stand atop the black lotus, allowing this to happen. He murmured softly, "I heard that the [Fogstone Apocalypse] is just something derived from fragmentary records of an ancient technique. And yet, it is this powerful? I wonder how powerful the true, complete technique was."

Quite a number of Fogstone's supreme techniques were incomplete.

[Dust of the Mortal World] was one.

[Fogstone Apocalypse] was another.

Ning's own [Nameless] sword-art was just a fragment of the true, complete technique as well.

The reason why so many techniques only existed in fragmentary parts was because they were simply too profound. There was no way to completely memorize them! Daoist Three Purities had an incredibly high level of insight into the Dao, but it still took him countless years before he was able to completely memorize the Nine Chaos Seals, which Ning had already merged together into one.

However, techniques like [Dust of the Mortal World] and the [Nameless] sword-art were ancient techniques which even Daolords would sigh with amazement upon seeing. There was no way a World God could possibly have the ability to completely memorize such a technique; he could at most just memorize part of it.

Thanks to a stroke of tremendous luck, World God Northrest had been able to view the [Nameless] sword-art, but he was only at a level where he could memorize its first seven stances. He wasn't able to memorize any of the rest of it at all.

"Against you? It'll be enough." The Starlord surged with a killing intent.

"You overestimate yourself." The God Emperor looked at the Starlord coldly. "I didn't want to use this treasure. I thought I could defeat you just by using a few secret arts...but it seems I'll still be forced to activate it. It's been a long, long time since I've truly fought someone."

God Emperor Blacklotus stretched out his right hand. Whoosh. A crystalline scimitar that seemed to have been carved out from a block of ice suddenly appeared in his hand. The scimitar was roughly three feet long.

Whoosh!

An unspeakable aura instantly filled the entire city. In fact, the aura spread out past the city and covered an enormous region beyond it as well.

The entire battlefield fell silent.

Cold!

Every single cultivator, be it the Elder Gods, the World Gods, or the Chaos Immortals, felt an icy cold feeling in their hearts.

"Is that..." All the cultivators turned their heads to stare at the origin of this feeling of icy terror. They saw that frozen crystal scimitar in God Emperor Blacklotus' hand, as well as the glimmer of azure light flowing over its surface. Every single cultivator felt their hearts shudder when they merely looked at the scimitar.

"What is that?" Ning's heart was shaking as well.

"That is an Eternal weapon." The nearby Immortal Abyssus had turned completely pale. "That's an Eternal weapon. I've seen the power of an Eternal weapon before, and this gives me exactly the same feeling. When you see an Eternal weapon, you'll immediately lose all your courage."

"An Eternal weapon." The faces of World God Blackmist, Immortal Skyram, and the others all changed as well.

"How could he have an Eternal weapon?"

“How could God Emperor Blacklotus be this powerful?”

Everyone was dazed.

Eternal weapons were just legends to most World-level experts! The number of World-level experts in the entire Badlands Territory who possessed Eternal weapons could be counted on one hand. They either had incredible luck or had been bestowed it by a Daolord! It must be understood that most Daolords used Eternal weapons, and so for them to bestow one on a World-level expert was incredibly rare.

Whoooooosh. An invisible, freezing intent filled the hearts of every single cultivator present.

“I’m also wielding an Eternal weapon, but none of the World-level experts paid it any attention. But now that God Emperor Blacklotus has taken one out, he has stunned the entire battlefield.” Ning couldn’t help but sigh. This was all because his attainments in the sword were simply too low. He was only able to unleash just a tiny fraction of the power within Violetjewel’s quintessence core, so little that no one even paid attention to it.

If he was as powerful as World God Northrest, who was able to unleash thirty to forty percent of Violetjewel’s quintessence core, he’d be able to inspire terror in other World-level experts just by standing there with the sword in his hands.

“A supreme World God. I never would’ve thought that God Emperor Blacklotus is this powerful.” A frantic look was in Immortal Abyssus’ eyes.

“Blacklotus.”

The Starlord withdrew, slowly stepping backwards as he looked at God Emperor Blacklotus.

“Why are you retreating?” God Emperor Blacklotus asked calmly.

“I admit defeat,” the Starlord said in a low voice. “I’m willing to pay a high price to stay your hand and quell your rage, God Emperor Blacklotus.”

As a cultivator, one had to know when to advance and when to retreat. To continue the battle when there was such a large disparity in power was just suicide.

“Hahaha...” God Emperor Blacklotus laughed. “A high price? As far as I’m concerned, the Fogstone lineage is worth nothing! Oh, wait. I actually rather like the planet of Fogstone itself. Hand over the planet and I’ll let you leave.”

“Impossible. God Emperor Blacklotus, you should know that the planet of Fogstone is a legacy treasure of the Fogstone lineage. Someone who is not of our lineage cannot bind or control it,” the Starlord said.

This was the truth.

In the past, the Fogstone lineage had actually been completely wiped out by enemies before. However, once the major powers of the Fogstone lineage who were out exploring in other territories returned, they would generally take revenge and retake their legacy treasure, resulting in the lineage continuing to be passed down. Starchild’s own father, the previous Starlord, was someone who had gone out exploring as well.

This was the custom of the Fogstone lineage. Once they reached a certain level of power, they would leave and go out adventuring in the primordial chaos. After a few dozen chaos cycles passed, they might eventually return to Fogstone, ensuring that its lineage would remain unbroken.

Their most important legacy treasure was the planet itself, and one had to have mastered certain core techniques in order to bind the planet. These core techniques were never taught to outsiders.

"I'm willing to offer treasure that is worth three thousand cubes of primordial chaos," the Starlord said hurriedly.

"Do you think I care?" God Emperor Blacklotus lifted the scimitar up.

The Starlord's face turned even uglier.

"When I journeyed through the primordial chaos, I passed through many territories and took on many masters. And yet, in the end I remained unable to take that final step to the next level. I no longer hold any hope of becoming a Samsara Daolord." God Emperor Blacklotus said softly, "And so I returned to the Badlands Territory. It had changed significantly since my departure from it. In fact, when I was born here, it wasn't even called the Badlands Territory..."

"I simply chose a random location and set up a little empire for myself, intending to rule over it in peace...and yet, trouble chose to come knocking on my door."

"It seems that I've been too...benevolent."

"To tell you the truth, I had a nickname when I roamed the primordial chaos. 'Daoist Blacklotus'," the God Emperor said.

"Daoist Blacklotus?" Immortal Abyssus sent mentally, "Careful, I know who he is now! He's a true fiend, a demon who delights in slaughter and who walks the path of evil. Don't put too much faith in his promises. He's an extremely temperamental person who has killed many World-level experts. It's been a long time since anyone has heard any news regarding him. I never would've thought that he had actually come to the Badlands Territory and set up an empire for himself to rule over."

"Daoist Blacklotus?" None of the other World-level experts, including the Starlord, knew what this name and title represented.

However, the Starlord and the others knew what they had to do.

God Emperor Blacklotus shook his head. "Still, I'm willing to be benevolent one final time. I'll give you two choices."

"The first choice is for all of you to hand over all of your treasures, including the planet of Fogstone and the treasures and techniques it contains," God Emperor Blacklotus said. "I'll spare your lives."

"The other choice is death." God Emperor Blacklotus had a very calm look in his eyes. The lineage of Fogstone truly was an ancient one. Perhaps it held certain techniques that might be of use to him. Although he didn't really feel that he would be able to make any more breakthroughs, he was still willing to give it a try.

“The planet of Fogstone? All of the treasures and techniques it holds?” The Starlord’s skin once more transformed to become grayish-white. He couldn’t possibly hand those things over, because he had sworn a lifeblood oath upon joining the lineage. If he violated it, the lifeblood oath would immediately take his life. It was impossible.

“Attack!” The Starlord’s entire body had turned grayish-white, and his eyes were filled with a murderous frenzy.

“I’ve already taken revenge for Yi, so let’s have a good fight. I want to see just how powerful an Eternal weapon is!” The Starlord charged forwards in a frenzy.

As he did so...

“Run!”

“All of you, run!”

“I’ll hold him down. The rest of you, go hide within the planet of Fogstone. He won’t be able to do anything to you once you go inside!” The Starlord’s voice simultaneously rang out within the minds of Ji Ning, Immortal Abyssus, World God Blackmist, the other World-level experts, and the minds of the many Elder Gods as well.

Rumble...

The enormous planet which had been hanging in the sky suddenly came crashing downwards.

Ning and the others all understood that the planet of Fogstone was definitely filled with formations and protective spells that were far more powerful than the ones which had been protecting the imperial capital of the Blacklotus Empire. If they could make it inside, they would be safe! The Starlord of Fogstone was the most powerful person on their side; he was the only one who had a chance of stopping God Emperor Blacklotus.

“He wishes to stop me? To hold me down?” God Emperor Blacklotus held that enormous crystal scimitar in his hands as he strode forward, his voice echoing in the ears of every single cultivator present. “You really do have a fine Starlord. A pity, though...he won’t succeed. All of you will die.”

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Book 24: The Starlord of Fogstone Chapter 46: Shield You From the Wind and the Rain

God Emperor Blacklotus showed no mercy at all as he struck out with the giant crystal scimitar. Whoosh! A streak of icy saber-light shot out through the air, carrying an aura of extreme coldness as it flew towards the Starlord. The Starlord’s body was now completely grayish-white, and he hurriedly shot out streaks of astral sword-light to defend.

Boom!!!

The Starlord was knocked flying backwards as the saber-light slashed past his chest. Fortunately, his body was as tough as a Dao weapon and so he was able to endure the blow.

“You can’t stop me. In a head-on fight, you have no chance of stopping me at all.” God Emperor Blacklotus smiled coldly.

The Starlord was beginning to panic.

He truly was a blessed child of the heavens! His father had been the previous Starlord, while World God Blackmist had supported him and guided him. Even though he hadn't been particularly diligent in cultivating, he had still been able to easily overcome his tribulations. After his beloved Yi had perished, he had begun to work hard and improved at an even more astonishing speed, becoming a World God. He then continued until he reached his certain stage, resulting in his divine body reaching the stage of full perfection! He was now the most powerful expert of the Fogstone lineage.

His path had always been a path that led straight upwards! Thus, his most powerful sword-arts were all focused on offensive attacks, making him somewhat weaker in defensive skills. The Starlord had always believed the old maxim that the best defense was a good offense! When he used the [Fogstone Apocalypse] his body was rendered comparable to a Dao weapon. Why, then, should he waste his time and effort on mastering defensive sword-arts? Only when he focused his efforts in the right area would he be able to more quickly reach a higher level of power.

But now...

He had encountered someone who was so superior to him that his vaunted attacks were useless! At a time like this, only someone tremendously talented in defensive sword arts would be capable of dealing with such a difficult foe.

Boom! The airborne Starlord was smashed downwards towards the ground.

"Let's go."

"Let's get out of here."

Quite a few Elder Gods immediately began to flee, not hesitating in the slightest. They all soared towards the skies, obeying the Starlord's orders to flee.

However...the Starlord had misjudged one of them.

"Starchild." World God Blackmist looked at the Starlord, a gentle look in his eyes. "You want me to flee?"

There was no way he would flee.

The previous Starlord had shown him great benevolence, which was why he had chosen to help take care of Starchild! At first, World God Blackmist had only done so in order to repay the old Starlord's kindness, and so Starchild had called him 'Second Uncle'. He had watched as the child slowly grew up, while the old Starlord himself had actually spent very little time with his son.

In the end...

It was World God Blackmist who spent virtually all of his time by Starchild's side. He had watched as Starchild grew up, had shielded him from the wind and the rain, ensuring that he would live a carefree life! As for the death of Starchild's Dao-companion, there was nothing that World God Blackmist could do about that. All he could do was silently support his young ward, hoping that this tragedy would encourage him to grow up even faster.

It had been so many years.

Although he was nominally the child's 'second uncle', in reality Blackmist had spent far more time and effort on Starchild than the old Starlord ever had. He had been there when Starchild was a crying and screaming newborn, and he had watched as Starchild grew up. By now, Blackmist truly viewed Starchild as he would his own son.

At a time like this...the Starlord was going to defend them?

Was ordering him to flee?

How could he possibly flee?

However, World God Blackmist still felt a warm feeling in his heart.

Whoosh. World God Blackmist's body suddenly began to blaze with white light, and all of his skin instantly transformed to become a rocky-gray color as well.

"Starchild, retreat!" World God Blackmist let out a loud roar as he charged forwards.

Although Starchild was the Starlord, he had always obeyed his second uncle's instructions. Eventually, however, he had become a World God and become more powerful than his second uncle. It had been a long time since his second uncle had given him any orders.

The fact that he was doing so now caused Starchild to grow blank for a moment...and then he saw World God Blackmist charging forward, his entire body glowing with white light.

The look in Starchild's eyes instantly changed.

"Second Uncle!" Starchild's eyes instantly reddened. He was the current Starlord of Fogstone. He knew exactly what his second uncle had just done.

"Not even your Starlord is a match for me. You think you are?" God Emperor Blacklotus once more chopped downwards with his enormous crystal scimitar.

Sssshrk. Whoosh!

Sword-light and saber-light clashed against each other.

World God Blackmist was different from Starchild. He had relied entirely on himself as he had grown up, with no one there to provide him with any protection. His sword-arts were unpredictable and savage, but also quite suited for defense. Still, even the most defensive of stances would be useless if the disparity in power was too great.

"Eh?" God Emperor Blacklotus was astonished to see that World God Blackmist was merely knocked a few steps back. "H-how is it that you..."

"Starchild, leave right now!" World God Blackmist sent mentally to the Starlord, who was standing there blankly.

The Starlord gritted his teeth, his eyes glistening with tears.

Second Uncle...

Thanks to his second uncle, he had never worried about anything as a child. His second uncle had always been by his side, and the Starlord had grown used to his presence. Upon seeing his second uncle's body be wreathed in white light, he immediately understood that his second uncle had just used the forbidden fourth stage of the [Fogstone Apocalypse]!

Right. The [Fogstone Apocalypse] actually had a fourth stage!

However, their [Fogstone Apocalypse] was a fragmented technique. Only the first three stages were complete, which was why using the first three stages posed no risks. Even when one used the third stage, so long as that person stopped before completely using up his divine power, he wouldn't turn into fogstone and die. However, their records of the fourth stage were incomplete. Although it was still usable...once it was used, the body would begin an uncontrollable transformation into fogstone!

In other words...once a cultivator used the fourth stage, he was doomed to die! This was why the Starlord had been so agonized and grief-struck upon seeing the white light wreathing World God Blackmist's body. There was no way to reverse this process at all.

"This is my choice, and there is no turning back. If you don't wish for my death to have been for nothing, leave. Leave right now!" World God Blackmist roared furiously, "If you don't run, I'll have died for nothing! NOTHING!"

"Aaaaaaaaargh!" The Starlord let out an agonized howl, but he still turned and fled at high speed, charging into the skies.

He felt hatred and regret.

Why. Why!

Only now did he truly understand how important his second uncle was to him. His second uncle was his most beloved family member and just as important to him as Yi had been! Why? Why did it have to end up this way?

"Stay alive and forget about revenge. Only when you become a Daolord should you come and seek your revenge. Otherwise, I'll never forgive you. Never!" World God Blackmist's voice echoed in the Starlord's mind.

The Starlord lowered his head to stare downwards, tears cascading down his face.

"Second Uncle..."

Boom!

Whoosh!

World God Blackmist continued to battle against God Emperor Blacklotus.

"What type of divine ability did you use just now?" God Emperor Blacklotus was now quite intrigued. He sent mentally, "You clearly are quite weak, but this divine ability actually allows you to be on par with your Starlord. For a divine ability to be capable of strengthening you this much...Fogstone really does have quite a few nice things."

God Emperor Blacklotus did know that in the Endless Territories, there were a number of monstrously powerful forbidden divine abilities.

“Hand this divine ability over to me and I’ll spare your life,” God Emperor Blacklotus sent mentally.

“Don’t even think about it!” World God Blackmist roared back.

To be honest, it wasn’t just that he didn’t want to hand it over. People like Ji Ning were only capable of acquiring the first and second stage, while the third stage came with many strict requirements. As for the fourth stage...only the most core members of the Fogstone lineage would have access to it. Although the fourth stage was fragmentary and incomplete, every generation of Starlords had done their best to repair it.

The fourth stage was simply too powerful. If they were capable of restoring it to the point where they could use it safely, it would be wonderful!

“You are now as strong as the Starlord, and your sword-arts are quite strange, but...do you think that’s enough to stop me?” God Emperor Blacklotus let out a furious roar as the giant scimitar in his hands suddenly unleashed hundreds of streaks of crescent saber-light, sending them swirling around World God Blackmist. Every single strike contained the power of his scimitar’s quintessence core.

“I have to be able to block them all. For the sake of Starchild, I have to block them all.” World God Blackmist was wielding six swords in his hands.

He had long ago stopped caring about whether or not he would survive.

In this moment, he felt a greater desire than he had ever felt in his entire life.

His six swords transformed into six streaks of utterly dazzling sword-light, criss-crossing in the area around him and forming an enormous sphere of black mist.

Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! The hundreds of streaks of saber-light struck down upon the sphere of black mist. Although they carried tremendous power, World God Blackmist was completely capable of withstanding them.

“Y-you...” God Emperor Blacklotus stared in astonishment at World God Blackmist. “You actually made a breakthrough?” Before this, World God Blackmist’s sword-arts were very unpredictable, but they weren’t as resilient and tenacious as they were now. His sword-arts had clearly improved to a brand new level, capable of enduring offensive blows as though they truly were made of mist.

This was a terrifyingly strong defensive sword-art. Although God Emperor Blacklotus was stronger than his opponent, he remained unable to break through his defenses.

“Yes. My sword-arts reached a bottleneck a long, long time ago...but fortunately, I was able to make a breakthrough today.” World God Blackmist revealed a relaxed, carefree smile. He was able to stop God Emperor Blacklotus’ attack. Starchild would be able to stay alive. It was enough.

[The Desolate Era](#)

Book 24: The Starlord of Fogstone Chapter 47: None Shall Escape

At present, World God Blackmist was every bit the Starlord's equal in the Dao of the Sword. However, the Starlord focused on offensive attacks, whereas World God Blackmist specialized in defense.

His sword-light was like a web of black mist that filled the entire region. Although God Emperor Blacklotus held an absolute advantage, he was still unable to breach it!

"Damn."

"Do you really think...that you can stop me?!"

"I, Blacklotus, spent countless years roaming across many territories. You think you can stop me with just a defensive technique like this? You underestimate me too much!" God Emperor Blacklotus turned his gaze towards the fleeing cultivators of the Fogstone Dominion, then let out a cold smile. "I trained as both a Fiendgod Body Refiner and a Ki Refiner!"

Rumble...

The entire imperial capital below them began to shudder, then slowly began to swivel. The city itself was in the shape of a nine-petal black lotus that covered an area of ten million kilometers. As the enormous black lotus swiveled, the entire Blacklotus Chaosworld began to shake. Countless black lotuses began to appear, and they covered the heavens and the earth as they furiously shot out towards the cultivators of the Fogstone Dominion.

"What's going on?!"

"This is even more terrifying than the secret arts he used earlier."

"Why are there so many black lotuses?"

Ning and the others were all dazed as they stared downwards.

As the gigantic nine-petal black lotus below them swiveled, it emanated an aura of terrifying power that quickly spread over the entire chaosworld.

"My Daoist name was Blacklotus. My true skills do not lie in close combat, nor was my reputation established because of this Eternal weapon. It was all because of my Dao, the Dao of the Black Lotus!" God Emperor Blacklotus smiled as every inch of the entire chaosworld began to shake. "The imperial capital of the Blacklotus Empire is actually a magic treasure which I used when I roamed through the Endless Territories. I poured all of my blood, sweat, and effort into it, and it contains my Dao."

"What?"

"It's a Dao weapon."

"His Dao?"

The fleeing cultivators all started to panic.

Usually, only Samsara Daolords were capable of forging Dao weapons! It was incredibly difficult for a World-level expert to forge a Dao weapon, but if a World-level expert successfully in doing so and infusing his own Dao into his creation he would have a weapon that was perfectly suited to him, allowing him to unleash tremendous power from it.

The deceased Immortal Owlsoar, for example, had murdered countless living beings to create that ritual tower of great sin. He had personally forged that ritual tower, and the mysteries of the Dao within it belonged to him and him alone, which was why he was quite powerful when using it. His insights into the Dao were quite average, but with that ritual tower in hand, he was actually on par with someone like World God Blackmist.

Some World-level experts who found themselves unable to make any more breakthroughs would generally focus most of their time, energy, and effort on forging a Dao weapon for themselves.

The same was true for God Emperor Blacklotus!

He had personally refined and forged this gigantic black lotus, infusing it with all of his insights into the Dao of the Black Lotus. When he used this new Dao weapon to execute his Forbidden Black Lotus technique, the power of the technique would increase dramatically.

However, after he acquired an Eternal weapon, he rarely saw the need to use his original Dao weapon. In fact, after arriving at the Badlands Territory, he had actually transformed it to make it a hundred thousand kilometers in size and treated it as a city.

Although there were some cultivators who had a strange feeling about the city, as though the entire thing was just one giant treasure, none of them knew that this city actually contained all of the insights into the Dao of God Emperor Blacklotus.

“Now this...this is the true Blacklotus World.”

“Long ago, I set down restrictive spells on every part of this chaosworld. The chaosworld itself can become one with my magic treasure, creating a Blacklotus World of enormous proportions.” God Emperor Blacklotus smiled, but his eyes were filled with madness. “This...is a world of lotuses...”

The entire chaosworld was shaking. The earth had cracked apart in many places, revealing enormous formation leylines. The seas had parted, revealing divine runes that glowed with black light. The mountains had collapsed and the cities had crumbled. The entire chaosworld was like an enormous painting that had been filled with spells...and now, all of the formations that God Emperor Blacklotus had secretly set down long ago suddenly exploded in power.

Countless black lotuses began to take shape.

The activation of this formation alone resulted in trillions of living beings on this chaosworld dying. God Emperor Blacklotus didn't kill them on purpose, but he also wasn't willing to weaken the power of his mightiest attack, the 'Blacklotus World', just to keep them safe.

The black lotuses filled every inch of the entire chaosworld, and they furiously flew through the air towards the fleeing Elder Gods and other cultivators.

The planet of Fogstone had been rocketing downwards towards the cultivators, but it was now completely surrounded by the endless black lotuses and unable to move any further.

“Be careful.”

“Seven formations, join forces together and do your best to hold!” The Starlord sent frantically.

“Hold!”

The seven thousand Elder Gods had transformed into an enormous protective circle, with Immortal Abyssus and Immortal Skycram having hidden themselves inside the circle. However, the valiant Starlord of Fogstone remained outside the circle, lashing out with his sword repeatedly as he attempted to chop apart as many black lotuses as he could.

However, there were simply too many lotuses.

“We won’t be able to escape. Once God Emperor Blacklotus returns, we’ll be doomed.”

“What should we do next?”

“How could the God Emperor be this powerful?”

All of them were frantic, Ning included. They weren’t capable of breaching past those black lotuses; there was no way they could make it back inside the planet of Fogstone.

“Second Uncle.” The Starlord was still wracked by grief and agony.

“If this continues, all of us are definitely going to die.” Ning was pondering his next steps. “Right now, we’re able to block the black lotuses because all seven formations are sharing the load together, but once God Emperor Blacklotus arrives and strikes out with his Eternal weapon, we won’t even be able to dodge. If his attack lands on me, my Minor Thousand Elder Gods Formation will collapse.”

The seven formations weren’t truly as one. Given how strong the God Emperor was, it would be easy for him to break through the defenses of the formations one by one.

“I have no other options.” Ning frowned. Violetjewel was his most important possession, and treasures were incredibly important for any cultivator. Ning truly didn’t wish to loan Violetjewel out to someone else! It was entirely possible that the Starlord would become greedy and not return it. As the leader of the entire Fogstone lineage, the lifeblood oath he had sworn was a very lax one.

As the leader of their organization, he had tremendous authority. He could find excuses to issue punishments to his subordinates, and so it was entirely possible for the Starlord to find a way to put Ning to death without running afoul of his lifeblood oath!

“I’ll have him swear another lifeblood oath of my choosing, then I’ll secretly lend him Violetjewel,” Ning mused. “That’s the only way to survive this.”

“But...there’s just one problem.”

“Spirit of the sword.” Ning immediately reached out to commune with the sword-spirit residing within Violetjewel.

“Master,” the sword-spirit said.

“If I was to allow the Starlord to bind Violetjewel for his own use, how long would it take?” Ning asked. Ning didn’t know much about Eternal weapons, but he had heard that binding them was actually quite difficult.

“According to what the old master told me all those years ago, Eternal weapons are quite hard to bind,” the sword-spirit said. “Normally speaking, anyone below the World level of power will not be able to bind Eternal weapons at all. The only reason why you were able to do so after a few centuries was because of the secret ‘Heartseep technique’ which Vastheaven Palace had access to.

“The Starlord is a World God. He can bind it. But...the quintessence core of an Eternal weapon contains some of the insights into the quintessence of a Dao from the original creator of that weapon. Thus, if you wish to fully master an Eternal weapon, you have to be approved of by the sword’s quintessence core itself,” the sword-spirit said.

Ning nodded.

Creating Chaos weapons and Dao weapons, by contrast, was much simpler. They didn’t have quintessence cores, just a few divine runes and tattoos.

“For a World-level...it’ll take anywhere from four or five days to forever,” the sword-spirit said.

“Forever? You mean, he might never be able to bind it?” Ning was stunned.

“Right. The quintessence cores have their own personalities and will try to seek out masters that suit them. If a core is completely opposed to the person trying to bind it, there’ll be no way to succeed in binding it. However, both you and the Starlord are quite talented in the Dao of the Sword. He should be able to bind it,” the sword-spirit said. “And it should be fairly fast for the Starlord. He should be able to succeed in just a few days.”

Ning began to panic.

A few days?

That was far too much time. Given how furiously World God Blackmist was fighting, he would probably run out of energy in the time needed to boil a kettle of tea. A few days?

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“Let’s see how much longer you can hang on for.” God Emperor Blacklotus was quite relaxed as he used the giant crystal scimitar in his hands to chop towards World God Blackmist again and again.

World God Blackmist’s entire body had turned a stony gray color and emanated a dazzling white light. Clearly, he had gone all out.

“What should I do? What should I do?!” World God Blackmist was beginning to panic.

He had managed to stop God Emperor Blacklotus, yes. But God Emperor Blacklotus was also an incredibly talented Ki Refiner. This entire chaosworld had become completely filled with black lotuses, all of which were surrounding and suppressing the cultivators of the Fogstone Dominion, making it so that there was no way they could escape.

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“Eh?”

A crack suddenly appeared in the membrane protecting the chaosworld, and a barefoot, sloppy-looking old man dressed in tattered robes walked out from the crack, staring downwards with curiosity.

“What’s with all these black lotuses? Oho! An Eternal weapon? Isn’t that interesting.” The raggedy old man’s forehead creased as he smiled.

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Book 24: The Starlord of Fogstone Chapter 48: You Dared Attack One of Mine?

“I wasn’t too late. That young brother of mine hasn’t been killed yet.” The raggedy old man’s gaze pierced through all obstructions as he stared at the great battle being fought.

“Let’s go take a look.”

He sauntered forward through the air. Although his body touched some of the lotus flowers, they slid right through him as though his body was illusory, having no effect on him at all.

He looked as though he was walking quite slowly, but with each step he moved millions of kilometers.

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The battle was still continuing.

Ji Ning, the Starlord of Fogstone, Immortal Abyssus, and the others had been completely surrounded by the endless black lotuses. There was no way out whatsoever.

“I never would’ve thought that I’d end up dying here.” Immortal Abyssus let out a soft sigh. “For me to die is one thing, but my disciples...” Although some of the disciples remained behind on the planet of Fogstone, once the World-level experts died the planet of Fogstone would fall into the hands of God Emperor Blackstone. Not a single living being would be able to escape.

“How could this God Emperor Blacklotus be so strong?”

“My luck is horrid. I’ve been in seclusion for so many years, and the very first time I leave it to take part in a fight, I end up running into someone as frightening as him.”

“I know. His insights into the Dao are profound, his forbidden secret arts are incredibly powerful, and he even has an Eternal weapon! Even when I roamed about the primordial chaos, I almost never encountered people as terrifying as him.”

The various World-level experts could do nothing but sigh. Their hearts were filled with resentment and an unwillingness to give up, but they could read the situation. Whether they lived or died was now completely up to God Emperor Blacklotus.

“Second Uncle.” The Starlord lowered his head and saw World God Blackmist continuing to furiously fight back against World God Blackmist. Tears appeared in the Starlord’s eyes. “Second Uncle, forget it. Forget it. We’ve lost.”

The fourth stage of the [Fogstone Apocalypse] was indeed terrifyingly powerful, but it used up divine power at an even more terrifying rate. Soon, the very last bit of Blackmist’s divine power would be used up.

“Ahahaha...Blackmist, I have to say that even I admire your tenacity. To show my respect for you, I’ll allow all of these World Gods and Chaos Immortals to join you in death.” The God Emperor’s mocking voice rang out in the skies. “After all of you die, I’ll come up with some other ideas for acquiring your divine abilities and techniques from within the planet of Fogstone.”

“There’s no way you’ll succeed,” World God Blackmist growled, his eyes filled with savagery and pain. He wasn’t afraid of death.

What he feared was dying while failing to protect the Starlord.

“If I succeed, I’ll be happy. If I don’t, it won’t make much of a difference. Blackmist, I’m curious as to how long your divine power will be able to hold out.” God Emperor Blacklotus was quite relaxed. He held the absolute upper hand and was launching attacks with impunity. “You can fight for as long as you wish, but in the end the result will still be death.”

World God Blackmist’s eyes were filled with resentment.

He was continuing to fight, only because he truly wasn’t willing to give up.

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

Suddenly, a series of echoing booms began to ring out in the heavens.

Serpent-shaped streaks of lightning began to cascade down from the heavens. It looked as though trillions of lightning chains had manifested, wantonly crashing downwards against the earth. The countless black lotuses were all wiped out, and even some of the black lotuses that weren’t directly struck by the lightning bolts saw sparks of lightning crackle around them, wiping them out.

One moment ago, the entire world was filled with countless black lotuses. Now...they had all vanished. The mountains, the skies, the seas...the mighty divine runes that filled this world had all been shattered as well.

“What...”

“What just happened?”

The seven thousand Elder Gods that had been struggling to defend were all stunned. The Starlord, Immortal Abyssus...all of them were stunned.

Vanished?

The countless black lotuses which they had been struggling to push back had all just...vanished?

“Impossible. That’s impossible.” God Emperor Blacklotus blanched. He no longer paid any attention to World God Blackmist as he frantically scanned the world around him. He knew exactly how strong this forbidden art of his was, because he had to prepare it in advance by filling the entire chaosworld with many formations.

When all of the formations were unleashed, they were almost comparable to his full power when he used his Eternal weapon.

A forbidden art of such power had been instantly defeated? By lightning? Who could do such a thing?!

“Uh...so did you guys think the lightning looked really pretty?” A voice suddenly rang out by the ears of the Ji Ning, the Starlord, God Emperor Blacklotus, and all the other cultivators.

A barefoot old man dressed in tattered robes walked towards through the air from afar, the trillions of lightning bolts parting before his path.

“I really like lightning, you know.”

“Unfortunately, I don’t have much talent for it. I lived in the Grand Lightning Sea for ages, but in the end I was still able to master just one stage of its lightning. It is pretty weak, but its not bad when you just want to mess around.” The raggedy old man beamed as he spoke, then waved his hand, causing the trillions of lightning bolts to vanish from the heavens.

The battle between the two sides had come to a complete halt.

The Fogstone Dominion’s major powers were filled with excitement, believing that perhaps they might be able to survive after all.

God Emperor Blacklotus began to worry.

“Greetings, senior.” Immortal Abyssus was the first to react.

“Greetings, senior.” All of the cultivators of the Fogstone Dominion bowed respectfully, including World God Blackmist.

“Greetings, senior.” God Emperor Blacklotus and the World-level experts on his side, as well as all of the Elder Gods, also bowed respectfully.

None of them were fools. What they had witnessed just now spoke volumes. This person had easily, casually wiped out God Emperor Blacklotus’ terrifying forbidden art. Most likely, only someone on a completely different level of power could accomplish this...a Samsara Daolord!

According to the stories, Samsara Daolords walked at the borders between life and death. Each time they traversed this samsara cycle of life and death, they would grow dramatically more powerful. If they failed...then they would die.

Every single one of them was inconceivably powerful.

There were legends of monstrous Elder Gods who could slay World-level experts! However, even the most monstrous of World-level experts would only at most be capable of dealing with newly ascended Samsara Daolords. Any Samsara Daolord who had been alive for just a bit of time had the power to utterly crush any World-level expert, and the longer they stayed alive the more powerful they became. According to the legends, an enraged Samsara Daolord who was about to die might wipe out entire territories in their death throes!

And those legends were true!

Only those who had actually encountered a Daolord would understand how terrifying they were.

“Mm.” The raggedy old man swept the Fogstone Dominion’s experts with his gaze, revealing a smile.

The experts of Fogstone all felt a surge of joy.

The experts of the Blacklotus Empire all felt their hearts tremble.

“You actually dared to attack one of mine.” The raggedy old man looked towards God Emperor Blacklotus, a smile still on his face. “You really are quite bold.”

God Emperor Blacklotus quivered, his body turning soft.

He had experienced many things while roaming through foreign territories, and he had encountered quite a few Samsara Daolords. He knew exactly how terrifying a Samsara Daolord could be.

“Great!”

“It looks like he’s on our side.”

“Didn’t you hear the Daolord say ‘one of mine’ just now? Does he belong to us? Starlord, could he possibly be one of the ancient seniors of the Fogstone lineage?” Every member of Fogstone was jubilant, and Ning let out a sigh of relief as well.

The Starlord was also puzzled. He sent back, “I don’t know. Fogstone does have quite a few ancient cultivators who are roaming the outside world. It is possible that one of them broke through to become a Samsara Daolord, I suppose...but I don’t recognize this man.”

“Blackmist, do you recognize him?”

“I don’t recognize this senior either.” World God Blackmist flew towards them, his skin still that grayish-white color. “If he’s a Samsara Daolord, he must have been training for an extremely long period of time. He probably left Fogstone long before I even started to cultivate. It’s also possible that he’s completely unrelated to Fogstone.”

Fogstone’s experts were musing over who this Daolord was, while the experts of the Blacklotus Empire were filled with terror upon realizing that he was an enemy.

“You attacked one of mine, so...I have to kill you.” The raggedy old man continued to smile in a jolly fashion, but his words were utterly terrifying. He waved his finger, causing an enormous illusory finger of lightning to shoot out towards God Emperor Blacklotus.

“My master is Daolord Seven Sovereigns!” God Emperor Blacklotus had a look on his face as he screamed, “Daolord Seven Sovereigns is my master!”

God Emperor Blacklotus wanted to flee, but spacetime was sealed off in this area. He had nowhere to run or hide.

The finger of lightning tapped him on his body.

Whoosh! One moment, a look of terror was on God Emperor Blacklotus’ face. The next moment, he had been completely transformed into dust.

The entire world was silent.

Ning and the others hadn't even had the chance to digest the fact that Blacklotus was a disciple of this 'Daolord Seven Sovereigns' before Blacklotus died.

"Seven Sovereigns?" The raggedy old man spat. "Seven SOVEREIGNS? More like seven bugs! He hides from me like a bug. This old man wanted to kill him before my Daomerge, but he actually abandoned his home and went scurrying off to some godforsaken place."

[The Desolate Era](#)

Book 24: The Starlord of Fogstone Chapter 49: The Daolord's Brother

After killing God Emperor Blacklotus the raggedy old man waved his hand, collecting the treasures which Blacklotus had left behind. He singled out the giant crystal scimitar in particular, picking it up and giving it a close look. He mumbled to himself, "Huh, this Eternal weapon isn't bad." Watched by all of the cultivators, the old man put the scimitar away.

The raggedy old man wasn't the slightest bit self-conscious about looting Blacklotus' items.

"He's crazy powerful."

"He squashed God Emperor Blacklotus like a bug."

"Didn't you hear? This senior even wishes to kill that 'Daolord Seven Sovereigns'." The cultivators of Fogstone felt their hearts shudder as they contemplated this. Samsara Daolords were figures that vastly surpassed them in power. However, their innate fear didn't prevent them from also feeling gratitude and veneration towards this raggedy old man who they had just met for the first time. They all hoped that one day they might also reach his level.

The entire purpose of cultivation was to go out and see more things and experience greater things, to possess more formidable techniques and divine abilities.

"Let's go down," the Starlord sent.

Whoosh. Whoosh. Whoosh.

Thousands of figures descended from the skies. Now that nothing was around to interfere with their movements, they moved quite quickly as they descended upon the enormous nine-petal black lotus which was now bereft of all buildings. A day ago, this black lotus was a city. After being activated as a treasure, some of the buildings that lay atop it had been put away while the rest had been crushed into dust.

"Greetings, senior." The Starlord stepped forward and bowed. "Thank you for saving us, senior."

"Thank you for saving us, senior." The thousands of cultivators behind him all bowed as well.

As for the surviving Elder Gods and World-level cultivators of the Blacklotus Empire, all of them were feeling rather uneasy. They didn't even dare to try and flee, nor did they dare to go forward and speak to the Daolord. They were afraid that he'd wave his finger at them and kill them all.

“Senior.” The man dressed in white floral robes gritted his teeth, then said respectfully, “We have nothing to do with this matter. The Starlord came here to take revenge on Chaos Immortal Owlsoar, who is now already dead. We were just defending ourselves and were the weaker side until the God Emperor revealed his true power in an attempt to wipe out the Fogstone lineage...but that was him, not us. We just staid on the sidelines and didn’t get involved at all.”

“Right right right! We didn’t get involved at all, nor were we strong enough to get involved.”

“Please show mercy, senior.”

The four remaining World-level experts and the Elder Gods all waited nervously.

The raggedy old man waved his hand dismissively. “Beat it, beat it! All of you, beat it.”

The survivors of the Blacklotus Empire were stunned for a moment, then revealed looks of joy.

“Thank you, senior.”

First, they bowed respectfully. And then...swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh! All of them flew into the skies and departed. The Starlord didn’t dare to stop them; he even withdrew the astral light that had been emanating from the planet of Fogstone. If the Daolord had granted them permission to leave, how could he possibly dare to stop them?

After waving the survivors off, the raggedy old man turned to smile at the cultivators of the Fogstone Dominion who were standing closest to him.

“He’s looking at us.”

“He’s staring at us.”

“He’s smiling!”

“So what if he’s smiling? He smiled when he wiped out God Emperor Blacklotus with a finger, didn’t he?”

“What are you talking about? The Daolord already said that he was on our side.”

“We have no idea who he is. He might be an ancient member of Fogstone who left long ago but made a breakthrough to become a Daolord.” Everyone present was secretly speculating, but they all knew that actually breaking through from the World level to become a Samsara Daolord was incredibly difficult. The Fogstone lineage was an ancient one, but it had only produced a fairly small number of World-level experts. For it to give birth to a Samsara Daolord was extremely unlikely, unless one of them had a stroke of absolutely tremendous luck.

The raggedy old man walked towards them.

The Starlord and the others all bowed respectfully while secretly feeling eager to find out exactly who this old man was.

“Mm.” The raggedy old man glanced at them, then turned his gaze to...Ji Ning.

“The Fogstone lineage, eh?” The raggedy old man nodded slowly, turning his gaze back to the Starlord. “Fogstone deserves to be thanked for its efforts in taking care of this young brother of mine.”

“Young brother?” The Starlord and the others were all stunned.

Ning was also stunned.

Brother?

The raggedy old man winked at Ning, then sent mentally, “What is your name? Who gave you the talisman of welcome?”

Ning immediately understood.

Talisman of welcome?

The Vastheaven Palace’s talisman of welcome? This was a talisman which World God Northrest had prepared for his heir before he died. Every single formal member of Vastheaven Palace was given a single opportunity to welcome and recruit a new member into their ranks. Anyone welcomed in such a manner would be allowed to enter Vastheaven Palace with no need for any testing. Thus, the formal members of Vastheaven Palace wouldn’t casually bestow their talisman of welcome to others. They were generally extremely exacting in their standards, and some of them would never use the talisman a single time in their entire lives.

“My Daoist title is Darknorth, while my personal name is Ji Ning. This talisman of welcome was given to me by World God Northrest,” Ning sent mentally.

“Northrest?” The raggedy old man blinked, then the look in his eye changed. “Do you know how he died?” Vastheaven Palace had known of Northrest’s passing in the moment of his death. It had investigated the cause of his death but had been unable to discover anything.

“Yes.” Ning nodded.

“Let’s chat about that in a bit. Also, there’s no need for you to stay here on Fogstone any longer. Return to Vastheaven Palace with me,” the raggedy old man said. “Vastheaven Palace is much more powerful.”

“Understood,” Ning said.

The lifeblood oath he had sworn to Fogstone had been a fairly loose one, as Ning was planning all along to spend the next chaos cycle searching for Vastheaven Palace. In addition, since this raggedy old man was able to immediately recognize that Ning had a talisman of welcome, he was most likely a member of Vastheaven Palace as well. In fact, it was entirely possible that he was one of their highest ranking members! Only a fool would refuse to join such a powerful organization.

World God Northrest himself had claimed that countless cultivators dreamed of having the chance to join Vastheaven Palace.

“Who is Darknorth to you, senior?” The Starlord and the others were all stunned.

“He’s my friend and brother.” The raggedy old man nodded. “I’m going to take him back with me now. You won’t stop me, right?”

“Of course not!” The Starlord hurriedly nodded. “Darknorth just joined us a short while ago. He was quite powerful when he joined us, and so the lifeblood oath he had to swear was a fairly lax one. He’s absolutely permitted to leave.”

Immortal Abyssus and the others all looked towards Ning as well, a look of envy in their eyes.

Good heavens.

A Samsara Daolord was addressing him as ‘brother’? Who wouldn’t want to be in his place?! They’d even be willing to be the Daolord’s retainer, to say nothing of being his brother. However, Samsara Daolords had extremely high standards. They wouldn’t just casually accept anyone as their retainer.

“There IS one thing.” The Starlord gritted his teeth. “I’d like to ask you to help me, senior.” Although he was afraid of angering this Daolord, he still forced the words out.

“What is it?” The raggedy old man smiled cheerily at him.

“Childstar!” The nearby World God Blackmist sent a furious mental message, terrified that Starlord was going to anger this powerful old man.

The Starlord lowered his head, then said respectfully, “My second uncle used an incomplete divine technique which is causing his entire body to transform into fogstone. We aren’t able to stop or reverse the process. I hope that you can intervene to rescue my second uncle, senior.”

“Oh?” The raggedy old man walked forward towards Blackmist. “This is your second uncle? Yes, he really is completely transforming into fogstone. Hmm. Don’t resist. Let me take a look.”

The raggedy old man extended a hand, pressing it against World God Blackmist’s shoulders and carefully extending his senses.

“Uh...what the hell type of divine ability is this? How unique. It is actually causing even his truesoul to transform into fogstone. If this continues, he’s going to transform into a hunk of rock.” As the raggedy old man extended his senses, he continued to mumble to himself. “But this divine ability really is quite powerful. It actually allows for one’s divine power to explode to such a level of might...quite impressive.”

“Unfortunately, you are using an incomplete version of this divine ability, resulting in your truesoul being petrified. There’s no way to reverse it. Even if you were to suddenly gain the complete, correct version right now, you still wouldn’t be able to stop it.” The raggedy old man let out a sigh. “His truesoul is undergoing an irreversible transformation. When the process is completed, he’ll lose all life and become a hunk of rock.”

“Is there nothing you can do?” The Starlord revealed a look of desperation.

“He won’t be able to hold for much longer. Less than the time needed to boil a kettle of tea.” The raggedy old man shook his head.

“Second Uncle.” The Starlord gripped World God Blackmist’s hands, his eyes reddening.

“Don’t be sad, Childstar. Quite a few of the elders and ancients of the Fogstone lineage have been forced to use the fourth stage, and all of them died in the grips of despair...” World God Blackmist

looked fondly at the Starlord, almost as if he was looking at his own son. "I, however, will be dying happily. You are alive! I've lived for long enough. Eternity isn't for everyone."

"I understand." The Starlord nodded, but he was still filled with pain.

Slowly, World God Blackmist's skin turned grayer and grayer. Earlier, there was at least a tinge of pinkish flesh to his coloration, but now his aura grew dimmer and dimmer. And yet, a smile remained on his face.

Finally...

His aura was completely extinguished.

World God Blackmist had completely transformed into a statue. However, his gaze remained gentle and calm, as though he was forever looking at a beloved child.

"Second Uncle." The Starlord shuddered, wracked by agony.

"Brother Blackmist." Immortal Abyssus and the others all sighed and bowed slightly.

Ning bowed respectfully as well. He felt great gratitude towards World God Blackmist, who had treated him better than anyone else on Fogstone. Blackmist had even taught him sword-arts with care. Although Blackmist's sword-arts weren't particularly formidable, he had truly been very diligent in guiding Ning, going so far as to allow Ning to inspect the sword-arts he himself had come up with.

Thud. Thud. Thud. The Starlord fell to his knees, kowtowing heavily as his tears stained the ground before him.

The statue didn't move. It just stood there, continuing to stare at him with gentle warmth.

"Let's go, let's go. I hate seeing stuff like this happen. Ugh." The raggedy old man shook his head and sighed. "There's nothing I can do. His truesoul was transformed into fogstone. Let's go, Ji Ning. Let's go."

"Right." Ning nodded.

"Everyone..." Ning looked at the World-level experts and Elder Gods.

Everyone nodded.

Since the Starlord was still kneeling before the statue in grief, it wasn't appropriate for them to chat too much with Ning. Their gazes said everything that needed saying.

"Let's go." The raggedy elder stood shoulder-to-shoulder with Ning as they both soared into the skies and disappeared.

As Ning flew away, he turned his head to look backwards, once.

He saw the Starlord on his knees, as well as the gently smiling statue of World God Blackmist.

"Fogstone..." Ning knew that he would never, ever be able to forget this place, his first home in the Badlands Territory.

The Desolate Era

Book 25: Novessence Thunder Chapter 1: Daolord Solesky

Atop a large ship that was advancing through the emptiness of space.

“Sit.” The raggedy old man sat down in the lotus position, a table in front of him. The table was covered with fruit and wine, and Ji Ning sat down in front of the old man.

“Oh, right. I haven’t introduced myself yet.” The raggedy old man smiled. “I’m one of the three Palace Lords of Vastheaven Palace, ‘Daolord Solesky’.”

“Three Palace Lords?” Ning was surprised.

The information which World God Northrest had left behind indicated that Vastheaven Palace only had two Palace Lords.

“All members of Vastheaven Palace address each other as ‘brother’. There’s no difference in status amongst us,” the raggedy old man explained. “Anyone who can become a Samsara Daolord will be honored with the title of ‘Palace Lord’. A short while ago, Vastheaven Palace gave birth to a new Samsara Daolord.”

Ning was secretly amazed.

This was truly incredible. Their organization had a total of three Daolords! Vastheaven Palace truly was a thriving, powerful place.

“Earlier, you said that it was Northrest who gave you the talisman of welcome. How exactly did Northrest die?” A hint of a baleful aura began to gather around the raggedy old Daolord Solesky. The members of Vastheaven Palace showed extreme solidarity, especially since it was extremely hard to join Vastheaven Palace in the first place. Every single member of the Palace was extremely talented. World God Northrest was on the same level of power as God Emperor Blacklotus, and strictly speaking he was actually a bit more powerful. This was because World God Northrest had trained in the [Nameless] sword-art. When using it alongside Violetjewel, he was somewhat stronger than even Blacklotus had been.

“He was slain by the three Wujiao Godbeasts,” Ning said.

“Them?” A cold light flashed through Daolord Solesky’s eyes, then he closed them and began to spread out his senses.

Daolord Solesky looked just like an ordinary old beggar, but when he closed his eyes, a wave of invisible power swept out from him that caused even Ning to feel a sense of uncontrollable veneration towards the man. Prior to this, Daolord Solesky had kept his aura completely suppressed, so as to ensure that Ning wouldn’t feel any pressure from his presence at all. Now, however...Ning felt the pressure.

A short while later, Daolord Solesky opened his eyes and nodded. “I’ve already sent word to Vastheaven Palace. Both Battlemaster and I engaged in a bit of Numerancy. Those three Wujiao Godbeasts truly were the slayers of Northrest.”

Ning couldn’t help but secretly sigh in amazement.

Numerancy?

Ning himself had some insights into the workings of fate, and was capable of seeing the destinies of ordinary mortals and weak cultivators. Thus, he knew exactly what Daolord Solesky meant! To use the power of Numerancy to calculate and identify the killer of Northrest was extremely difficult, because there were many different streams of variables which interfered with the workings of fate.

However, once they knew that the killers were the three Wujiao Godbeasts, things were different. They were able to use Numerancy to calculate the actions of both Northrest and the three Wujiao Godbeasts, making it millions of times easier to come to the correct conclusion. Still, few World-level experts would be capable of such a thing.

“Those three vile creatures truly were audacious. How dare they scheme against one of our brothers?” Daolord Solesky’s eyes flashed with cold light. “I really wonder where the hell they got their courage from. Six of our brothers from Vastheaven Palace have already set out after them. Soon, those three vile creatures will die.”

Ning couldn’t help but secretly sigh for the three Wujiao Godbeasts.

To plot against a member of Vastheaven Palace was no easy feat. The slightest misstep would spell certain doom.

All those years ago, the three Wujiao Godbeasts had successfully ambushed World God Northrest, acquiring the treasures they wanted and forcing him to flee while heavily injured. Despite their ‘success’, they risked their own lives as they furiously chased after him, diving deep into many dangerous areas! They did this precisely because they actually were filled with tremendous terror regarding the possibility of Vastheaven Palace finding out what they had done. If that happened...given how powerful Vastheaven Palace was, they would be easily wiped out.

In the Vastheaven Territory, Vastheaven Palace was the undisputed hegemon.

All of its members were extremely formidable, and some of their most powerful members transcended even supreme World Gods in might. They were even stronger than Northrest had been! Just one of those figures would be able to easily slay all three of them. Even ‘ordinary’ members of Vastheaven Palace would be more powerful than the three Godbeasts; if several ‘ordinary’ members were sent out, they would have no chance at all of surviving.

In the end, World God Northrest was forced to flee into such a lethal death trap that even his Eternal weapon was half-shattered! Only then was he able to throw the three Wujiao Godbeasts off his trail. Thankfully, the quintessence core of his Eternal weapon was extremely powerful, allowing the remnants of his truesoul to hide within it. Alas, in the end, he was unable to reverse or stop the process of his truesoul breaking apart.

“Eh? Why is my lifeblood oath still active?” Ning frowned slightly.

He had sworn a lifeblood oath to go to Vastheaven Palace and inform its Welcomer of Northrest’s death within a chaos cycle.

He had now notified Daolord Solesky, which meant that word had surely been spread to all the members of Vastheaven Palace. In fact, several of the brothers had already struck out for revenge. By all rights, the Welcomer should have been informed as well.

“Gah!”

“Right.” Ning immediately understood what was going on.

The exact wording of his lifeblood oath had been: “I swear on my very life itself that within a thousand years of becoming an Elder God, I must leave the Three Realms. I must reach ‘Vastheaven Palace’ within a chaos cycle and inform a Welcomer of Vastheaven Palace that World God Northrest was slain by the three Wujiao Godbeasts.”

The wording of his lifeblood oath specified that he had to physically reach Vastheaven Palace within a chaos cycle. This was part of his oath.

“It seems that the lifeblood oath will only dissipate after I actually reach Vastheaven Palace,” Ning mused to himself. “Eh. I’m going there anyways. No rush.”

“Ji Ning.” Daolord Solesky suddenly spoke out.

“Palace Lord,” Ning said.

“Just call me big brother Solesky,” Daolord Solesky said with a laugh. “In Vastheaven Palace, people on the same level simply refer to each other as ‘brother’. If someone is a level higher than you, you should just refer to them as ‘big brother’.”

“Big brother Solesky.” Ning nodded.

“Ji Ning, I spent quite a bit of time rushing all the way from the Vastheaven Territory to the Badlands Territory because there are two places in the Badlands Territory I must visit,” Daolord Solesky said.

“Two places in the Badlands Territory?” Ning listened attentively.

“The first place is the Windsource Ruins,” Daolord Solesky said. “I was headed over there, but halfway there I sensed your talisman of welcome. However, I could also sense fate whispering to me that you weren’t in too much danger, so I took my time and wasn’t in a rush to go find you. Alas...if I had known what was happening, I would’ve travelled to you at maximum speed. Perhaps I might’ve been able to save that ‘World God Blackmist’ fellow.”

Ning couldn’t help but sigh as well.

He couldn’t really blame Daolord Solesky. Daolord Solesky had only really been focused on Ning’s survival, after all; when he sensed that his brother Ning wasn’t in too much danger, he naturally didn’t feel the need to rush over.

“This ship is heading straight for the Windsource Ruins.” Daolord Solesky looked at Ning. “The Windsource Ruins were established by Daolord Windsource. Daolord Windsource was an absolutely incredible figure. He was every bit my equal and he very nearly succeeded in his Daomerge. The protective spells and formations he left behind to guard his estate are quite troublesome. I really don’t want to risk them, but I have to.”

Ning could tell that apparently Daolord Solesky was just as strong as Daolord Windsource had been.

“Before he died, he laid out all of his insights into the ‘Hundred Streams of the Windsource’,” Daolord Solesky said. “Once that formation is activated, it’ll cause the entire Windsource Chaosworld to completely blow apart. It will be as strong as a full-strength desperation blow from Daolord Windsource!”

“Fortunately, I don’t need to actually break his formation on this trip. All I need to do is enter the core region and acquire a certain treasure,” Daolord Solesky said. “Despite that, it’ll still be dangerous. If you are going with me...I recommend you either stay in my estate-world or wait for me outside the Windsource Ruins.”

Ning said hurriedly, “Big brother Solesky, is there a relatively safe location inside the Ruins that you can take me to?”

He had dared to adventure through the Ruins by himself. Now that he had a Daolord by his side, what did he have to fear?

“I knew it.” Daolord Solesky rather admired Ning’s adventurous spirit. “That place is divided into an outer region, an inner region, and a core region. I’m headed to the core region. If you come with me, I’ll find a relatively safe place inside the core region for you and set up a perimeter for you. No matter what, you are not permitted to leave that area!”

“Understood.” Ning nodded.

No kidding. The core region was the most terrifying place in the entire Windsource Ruins. If he ran about randomly within it, he would essentially be treating his own life as a joke.

“Good.” Daolord Solesky nodded.

Just two hours later, Daolord Solesky and Ning arrived at the Windsource Chaosworld.

Ning couldn’t help but sigh. Samsara Daolords travelled much more quickly than Ning himself could...and this was supposedly a slow, leisurely pace for Daolord Solesky. He would probably move much faster when time really mattered.

“The Windsource Ruins are right over there. I actually went there before, once. Ning pointed at a wide region covered by fogs.

“The Ruins...” Daolord Solesky stood there in the sky, staring downwards at the vast Windsource Ruins. A rather complicated look was on his face. He sighed, “He made it to the very last step. All he needed to do was complete his final step and merge his Hundred Streams into the Dao...but in the end, he failed. Knowing that he was about to die and his Dao was about to vanish, he decided to leave these Ruins behind to let people in the future know that a person named Windsource once existed.”

“Big brother?” Ning looked towards Daolord Solesky.

“Ahahah! My Daomerge is coming. Recently, I’ve developed a habit of thinking about all sorts of random things.” Daolord Solesky shook his head and laughed. “I’m much luckier than Windsource was, and my Dao is stronger than his was as well. Ahaha! Come, come! Follow me inside.”

Whoosh.

Daolord Solesky immediately led Ning to charge downwards into the clouds below.