

## Niu: Corrupted Sky One-shot

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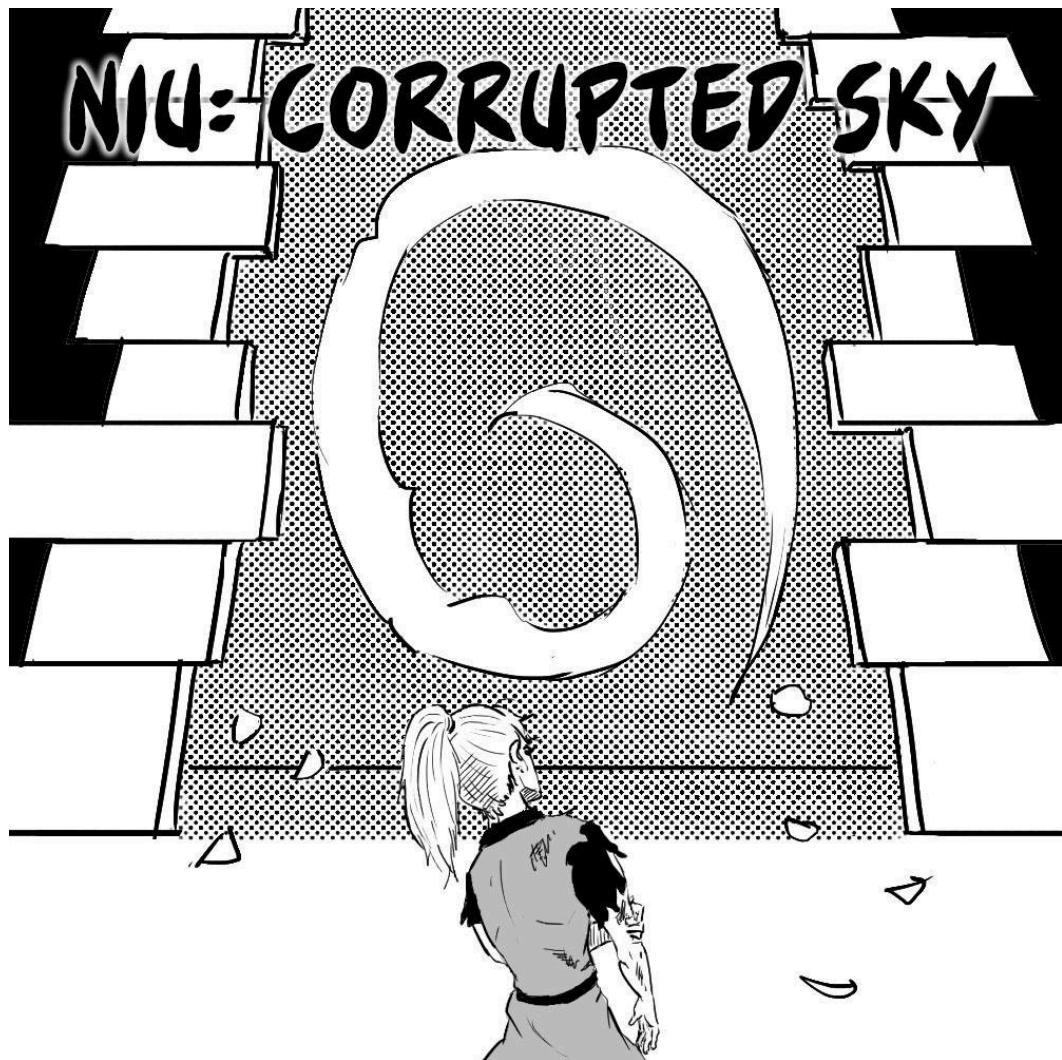
Genre: Xianxia / Cultivation, Battle Shonen, Drama.

Page Count: 50

### Synopsis:

The talentless cultivator Niu is desperate to become stronger. Through dangerous cultivation techniques they begin to close the gap with her classmates, but soon the real costs become clear.

Now in mortal danger and losing control of themselves, what will Niu do in order to protect her people?



Characters:

Niu So – Main Character: V-Female version of this-V

Soul Indication: Fire, Demonic.





Secondary form – Berserk / Flame Demon:

Whole body covered with flames, increasing size and resembling a flame elemental. The flames form into a more demonic shape. Large claw hands and feet, two long flame horns. The flame body is covered with glowing red rune type symbols, spread across the entirety of it, sitting right atop the surface.

Third Form:



Ju-long – Rival:

Soul Indication: Water, Divine.



IS - Instructor:

Soul Indication: Rock



Handler:

Soul Indication: Shadow

Ji-Fan - Villain: Head of the Sacred Sky family.

Soul Indication: Wind, Void.



Sacred Sky Family, translates to Shèng tiān which can mean “Human wisdom can prevail over nature.”



## One-shot Script:

Page 1:

Layer 1 Wide Panel 1:

IS (Instructor) talking in front of board, with ranks on it. Ranks 1-3.

Porcelain-Bronze-Silver-Gold-Diamond-Obsidian-Legend.

IS: So, those are the ranks and generally what is expected from them.

Niu: Teacher, question!

IS: Yes, what is it Niu?

Layer 2 Wide Panel 2: MC (Niu) (child) raising hand enthusiastically, while Ju-long slinks back in his seat next to them.

Niu: Why is it you don't have the divine and god ranks on the board?!

IS: That's a bit out of the scope of our class.

Niu: It shouldn't be.

IS: Why is that?

Layer 3 Panel 3: Niu giving confident grin.

Niu: Because I'm going to reach those ranks for sure!

Layer 3 Panel 4: Niu giving same expression, but roughed up, yelling out.

Niu : Yeah, you better run!

Page 2:

Panel 1: Behind/side shot of Niu, with non-descript kids running off.

Niu : That'll teach you, don't mess with us!

Panel 2: Ju-long lying on ground, beat up as well, zoned out expression.

Ju-long : You know, they are just going to come back, as long as you keep going around talking yourself up?

Niu: Whatever, that doesn't give them an excuse to go after you.

Panel 3: Ju-long background sitting up rubbing head. Niu foreground looking down at him annoyed.

Ju-long : That's just because, they are too scared to go after you directly.

Niu: And that's why they won't ever beat me.

Panel 4: Them walking towards camera. Ju-long left, reading a book. Niu right, giving a irritated expression.

Niu: What's their problem with me anyways? I didn't do anything to them.

Ju-long : It's not entirely their fault. Their families probably drilled it into them, that people who come from nothing, won't amount to anything.

Niu: That kind of pisses me off.

Panel 5:

Niu: Though, I'll just have to get stronger and prove them wrong.

Ju-long : Uh-huh.

Page 3:

Layer 1 Wide Panel 1:

Niu: Besides, I can't keep protecting you all the time. You'll have to get stronger too.

Ju-long : I know...

Layer Panel 2: Close up: Niu confidently looking at Ju-long (off screen).

Niu: And when you do, maybe then, you'll even be a bit of a match for me.

Layer 2 Panel 3: Same close up shot: This time, we've cut to the present with the Niu older.

Their eyes are now cold and their expression angrier.

Layer 3 Big Panel 4: Ju-long foreground, standing tall and confidently. Background, class sitting in bleacher type stacked seats. Niu noticeably giving look to Ju-long .

IS: Congratulations on reaching Silver rank, Ju-long !

Page 4:

Panel 1:

IS dismissing class.

Panel 2: Niu noticing something as they stand up.

Panel 3: IS pointing at Niu with left hand, while motioning for them to come over with the index finger of their other hand. They have a generally series look.

Panel 4: Foreground: Ju-long back as he is walking towards Niu. Background: Niu walking towards camera, agitated. (Large height difference).

Panel 5: Side shot: The two pass each other. Niu with cold eyes from before. Ju-long not paying them any mind.

Page 5:

Top Long Panel 1: Lower-to-upper shot: IS with neutral, series stare, looking down.

IS: You already know why I called you over.

Top Long Panel 2: Upper-to-lower shot: Niu looking down as well, avoiding eye contact, discouraged.

Niu: Because I am officially the only left in the Porcelain rank.

IS: No, because you're still Porcelain rank 1.

IS: You've just fallen to far behind everyone else. You're going to have to do something to catch up, or you might end up failing out.

Middle Wide Panel 3: 2/3rds shot: IS letting sigh out.

IS: Listen, I understand what it means to have a weaker cultivation level, but that just means you have to work a lot harder.

IS: You've got a perfect grasp on martial arts and Soul Indication usage. However, if you're rank doesn't rise...

Bottom Panel 4: Niu looking up, consumed with frustration.

Niu: I...

Bottom Panel 5: Niu scrunching up face, eyes closed, looking away.

Niu: Yes sir, I'll work harder...

IS: Good, I know you have a lot of potential, we just have to get it out.

Page 6:

Panel 1: Niu standing, cultivating with an aura around them. Clearly struggling.

Panel 2: Niu's aura stops as they drop to the ground, exhausted and sweating. They are breathing heavily.

Panel 3: Niu's fist hits floor.

Niu  GAH!

Panel 4: Behind the back shot of Niu repeatedly slamming fist into floor.

Panel 5: Lower-to-upper shot: Niu looking down, holding fist next to face (having stopped mid punch). Blood dripping off of the scraped-up fist. Tears streaming down Niu's face.

Niu: Damn it...

Page 7:

Layer 1 Wide Panel 1: An open scroll with a list of crossed off names, leading up to Niu So's name.

Layer 2 Long Panel 2: Handler looking up from scroll, spotting Niu on bench wrapping hand on a bench.

Layer 2 Upper Panel 3: Side Shot: Niu leaning forward giving side eye glare.

Handler: You're Niu, am I right?

Niu: Who wants to know?

Layer 3 Lower Panel 4: Handler with fake smile and hand over their chest, giving their introduction.

Handler: I'm Handler, member of the Sacred Sky Family.

Handler: Our family is currently on a mission seeking out participants for a special training program.

Layer 4 Wide Panel 5: Niu giving a questioning look.

Niu: A training program? Why would a family of your caliber be interested in such a thing?

Handler: We are stimulating growth within our great city, while also being able to experiment with some new cultivation techniques.

Niu Though bubble: Cultivation techniques?

Niu: Why ask someone like me? A peasant with bad grades.

Handler: It's precisely that reason, we would like you to join us. If our cultivation can foster results with you, that would prove its ability.

Page 8: While feeling desperate to catch up, the main character is talked to by another family's high-ranking member.

Layer 1 Small Panel 1: Niu looking frustrated.

Niu  (Thought Bubble): If it works on someone like me?!

Layer 1 Wide Panel 2: Fuming Niu walking past Handler, who gives a dissatisfied questioning look.

Niu: It seems like, you're simply looking down on me, with your act of charity.

Handler: Well, if you change your mind-

Layer 2 Panel 3: Behind the back shot: Niu standing still.

Niu: However, I'm not in a position to let my pride to add yet another road block.

Layer 2 Panel 4: Handler smiling with evil intent.

Handler: Then I take it, you accept?

Layer 2 Panel 5: Niu turning back, with hungry eyes.

Niu: You've got that right.

Layer 3 Wide thin panel 6: Transition shot of new location, light shimmering through old elevator shaft.

Layer 4 Panel 7: The two standing in elevator. Niu (on the right) looking up and over.

Handler looking dead ahead.

SFX: Elevator movement noise.

Handler: We've made a state-of-the-art facility for this experiment; no expense was spared.

Layer 4 Panel 8: Niu looking surprised, as the door opens.

SFX: Door sliding open.

Page 9: Niu starts the experiments.

Panel 1: A Training facility room full of equipment, with others training.

Panel 2: Niu in awe, as Handler walks by.

Handler: Come on.

Panel 3: Niu hooked up to examination tubes / wires. Handler with clip board

Handler: What are your Soul Indications?

Niu: Fire and Demonic.

Panel 4: An evil smile spreads across the man's face.

Handler: Interesting.

Panel 5: Niu giving cautious, but determined look.

Handler: Then everything looks in order, it's time for the training to begin.

Page 10:

Layer 1 Long Panel 1: Niu cultivating inside glass tube filled with a strange liquid, with an air tube.

Porcelain I Text Box.

Layer 1 Panel 2: Niu with hand over mouth, swallowing something.

Layer 2 Panel 3: Niu sparring against a classmate.

Porcelain II Text Box.

Layer 3 Wide Panel 4: Niu gritting her teeth in pain, sticking arm out, wires attached to arm zapping it. (The ends of her fingers are beginning to shift into demon form).

Porcelain III Text Box.

Layer 4 Panel 5: Niu cultivating on her own.

Bronze I Text Box

Layer 4 Panel 6: Niu looking up with a cocky expression.

Niu: How do you like that?

Page 11:

Layer 1 Panel 1: IS looking impressed.

IS: I'll admit, your results have been staggering.

IS: Like I said, all it would take was a little extra hard work.

Layer 1 Panel 2: Background: IS calling class for the day. Foreground: Niu walking off.

IS: That's it for today, be careful on your way home everyone, we still are on high alert because of the random demon sightings.

Layer 2-3 Long Panel 3: Niu looking over at Ju-long , with a challenging look. Ju-long looking slightly surprised.

Layer 2 Panel 4: Foreground: Ju-long with grin. Background: Niu rushing off.

Layer 3 Panel 5: Niu looking out ready.

Niu  : Just a little bit more and I'll have caught up.

Page 12:

Layer 1 Panel 1: Niu cultivating, opening one eye looking off screen.

Handler: Niu, straighten up, you've got a guest.

Layer 2-3 Panel 2: Villain walking in, with Handler behind them (mostly out of the shot).

Ji: I am Ji-Fan, head of the Sacred Sky family.

Ji: Good to meet another participant.

Layer 2 Panel 3: Background: Niu quickly getting up. Foreground: Villain's shoulder.

Niu: Oh, uh, sir, thank you so much for doing this for all of us.

Ji: Don't mention it, this is generating vital data for my family.

Niu: Is that really the reason behind it?

Layer 3 Panel 4: Ji staring down intently.

Ji: Is that hard to believe?

Niu: Um, no, sorry.

Ji: Don't be, obviously that isn't the whole reason.

Layer 4 Panel 5: Side shot: Ji looking out wistfully. BG: A large explosion (shot from his back story).

Ji: I'm sure you're familiar with the fact that the Heavenly Realm has been closed off to our people for some time now.

Ji: Well, there was an incident before it was closed, that resulted in a large group of my family ending up over there, before the path was closed.

Page 13:

Layer 1 Panel 1: Ji smiling.

Ji: In sort, I'm simply trying to reopen the Heavenly Realm.

Layer 1 Panel 2: Niu nodding their head.

Niu: I see, that is indeed a good reason.

Ji: Hehe, I'm flattered you feel that way.

Layer 1 Panel 3: Ji pulling something out of their pocket.

Ji: Anyways, I was here for a reason. I hear your Soul Indication is demonic.

Ji: Must be hard to have such an underdeveloped Indication.

Layer 2 Panel 4: Ji's hand held out, with a demon(y) gem inside of it.

Ji: You're in luck however, that Soul Indication happens to be a focus for our research.

Layer 2 Panel 5: Niu holding gem in front of their face.

Niu: What's this?

Ji: A gem for you to cultivate with. It should allow you to achieve much better results. Even more so, then the training you have done up till this point.

Layer 3 Wide Panel 6: Niu Popping forward excitedly.

Niu: Really?!

Ji: Yes, indeed. Though, the bulk of the results, will still be on your own personal training.

Niu: I understand, thank you.

Layer 4 Wide Panel 7: Ji, walking off, looking back with a mischievous grin.

Ji: I expect good things from you, Niu.

Niu: I'll try not to let you down!

Page 14:

Niu seeing burnt corpse of demon, with more rumors circulating. (Signifier of it being one of the experiments)

Layer 1 Small Panel 1: Ceiling Shot of Niu's home.

Layer 2 Panel 2: Niu holding their hands up, looking at them excitedly.

Niu: Bronze 2 already. This is surreal...

Layer 2 Panel 3: Niu busting out of their front door.

Niu: I wish I had more time for morning cultivation before class.

Niu: Oh well, it'll have to wait for the facilities cultivation session.

Layer 2 Panel 4: Niu running along path, noticing something out of the corner of her eye.

Layer 2 (miniature panel overlayed onto panel 4) Panel 5: Niu's shocked eye.

Layer 3 Wide Panel 5: A burnt corpse on the ground, with some non-descript onlookers looking down at it. The corpse has a broken dew stone on their forehead.

Layer 4 Panel 6: Niu giving a puzzled look.

BG1: Another demon got into the town.

BG2: At least this one was dealt with quickly.

Layer 4 Panel 7: Same shot (as panel 6): Niu turning away from the camera, beginning to walk off.

Page 15:

Layer 1 Wide Panel 1: Niu leaning back onto elevator wall, with foot resting up against wall as well. Deep in contemplation. SFX: Elevator.

Layer 2 Panel 2: Foreground: Niu walking out into main room. Mid-ground: Handler going over list. BG: People hooked up to new equipment.

Niu: What's going on?

Handler: The start of a new experiment for group C-2.

Handler: We'll get you hooked up momentarily.

Layer 2 Panel 3: Niu hooked up to scary/slightly unnerving equipment.

Handler: Alright, we will be starting in three, two, one.

Layer 3 Wide Panel 4: Shot of Handler looking on, with a blank stare.

Four or five starburst speech bubbles with screaming dotted around the panel.

Layer 4 Panel 5: Niu's blank eyes looking up, lying in bed (hair undone / messy).

Layer 4 Panel 6: Niu sitting up in bed.

Layer 4 Panel 7: Niu looking at her shaking hand.

Niu: Did that... Happen?

Page 16:

Layer 1 Panel 1: Niu sitting alone against wall (at facility), staring out.

Niu  : Less people again today...

Niu  : Are they dropping out because of the increase in difficulty, or being moved to a different group?

Layer 1 Panel 2: Foreground: Back of Niu's head. Mid-ground: Handler watching training.

Niu  : It's clear that the people in this group where all weak... Including myself.

Niu  : If they were looking for data, especially to get to the Heavenly Realm, wouldn't they want a variety of people at different ranks?

Layer 1 Panel 3: Niu getting up.

Niu  : Unless of course, they had a reason to choose the ones they did.

Niu  : Sure, it could be that different ranks are put into different groups, but wouldn't there be some interaction with each other?

Niu  : It's almost like, they are avoiding us getting exposure to others, while also hiding themselves.

Layer 2 Wide Panel 4: Left: Niu staring out with an angry / ready expression. Right - Side shot: Handler. BG: Black, with a glow around the characters' heads.

Niu  : Almost like, they chose people who could go missing, without anyone noticing.

Layer 3 Panel 5: Niu looking over to opening door, with a kid with bangs walking out with Ji behind them.

Layer 3 Panel 6: Niu shocked.

Layer 4 Small Panel 7: Shot of forehead, with gem visible.

Layer 5 Panel 8: Door closing on Ji's smiling face, that is giving off a dreadful/malicious vibe.

Page 17: Niu tries to get kids out, but Niu along with others are trapped.

Layer 1 Small Panel 1: Shot of the sun in sky.

Layer 1 Panel 2: A small group whispering in the streets.

Layer 2 Wide Panel 3: Left and right are two bodies, Niu is standing in the background, hands in pockets.

Niu  : Good, it seems everyone understood and are taking my letters somewhat seriously.

Niu  : Now I can talk to them about getting out of this situation.

Layer 3-4 Long Panel 4: Lower-to-upper shot: Handler behind standing over Niu. Niu looking fearful, Handler looking down with a calm killing intent.

Handler: Did you think we didn't have eyes on you at all times?

Layer 3 Thin Panel 5: Karate chop to back of the neck.

Layer 4 Panel 6: Niu falling forward eyes closing, the panel having blackness fading in from all around (to show consciousness fading).

Page 18: People start dying off from training, but the main character manages to survive.

Layer 1 Thin Small Panel 1: Niu's eyes opening.

Layer 2 Wide Panel 2: Niu chained up attached to machinery, a rune circle under them. Niu struggling against it, to no results. With others in the same situation.

Layer 3 Panel 3: Handler talking with Ji.

Layer 3 Panel 4: Ji looking forward with a devilish look.

Layer 3 Panel 5: Ji raising hand.

Layer 4 Wide Panel 6: Niu jolting to the side in pain, markings being burned into their flesh spreading out, their teeth having a sharp edge to them. Rune glowing.

Layer 5 Panel 7: Line of three people, two of the three runes having lost their glow, with those two having died.

Layer Panel 8: Overhead shot of runes, most have gone out.

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Layer 1 Wide Panel 1: Upper-to-lower shot: Background: Niu looking out with rage in their eyes. Foreground, behind the back shot: Ji standing there looking down at Niu.

Layer 2 Panel 2: Ji kneels down, staring out with wide eyes.

Ji: You're doing very well. Even far beyond being well suited for this experiment, your results are staggering.

Ji: Honestly, I need to thank you. It seems taking it slowly wasn't needed after all, since it's clear you are ready for the next step.

Layer 2 Panel 3: Ji looking over and away from Niu.

Ji: Shame that none of them seem to be reacting as well. Perhaps, if their cultivation made it further?

Ji: Though, don't put their deaths on yourself, the odds of anyone surviving was unlikely to begin with.

Layer 2 Panel 4: Ji's attention being grabbed by Niu talking.

Niu: I'm...

**Ji no bubble:** Hm?

Layer 3 Panel 5: Niu looking up with wrath emanating off of them, death in her eyes, having already partially transformed deep into demon form, with one eye having completely shifted over.

Layer 4 Panel 6: Ji with unsettling expression and wide smile.

Ji: I'm sorry to say, but that is most impossible. This experiment ensures that all you will be good for, is being a tool of mass destruction.

Ji: By the time it's over, your free will shall be completely under our control.

Page 20:

Panel 1: A couple of the class mates talking.

CM1: The demon sightings are out of control.

CM2: You don't think, that they are actually intelligent, like some of the families are saying?

CM1: Why else would they be stealing things?

CM2: That's just so scary.

Panel 2: A third classmate interjects into the conversation and points away from them, having them look in that direction.

CM3: If you want to get more information on the demon, then go no further than our own classmate.

Panel 3: Niu sitting alone (looking empty on the inside), as a couple people look at them.

CM3: Niu So has been at a bunch of the spotting. Probably, just trying to catch a glimpse of action, right?

CM3: Unless of course, you are the one summoning these demons?

Panel 4: Niu's eyes lazily move over to look at the group. CM2 tenses up, while CM3 laughs.

Ju-long : Knock it off.

Panel 5: Ju-long cultivating while talking.

Ju-long : Even as a joke, that isn't very funny.

CM3: Sorry, sorry, like you said, I was joking.

Page 21:

Layer 1 Panel 1: Niu walking away. CM3 still talking.

CM3: Hey, I said I was sorry, don't head off mad.

Layer 1 Panel 2: Ju-long looking out with a curious gaze.

Layer 2 Panel 3: Niu walking down hallway, eyes unseen.

Ju-long : Hey, hold up.

Layer 2 Panel 4: Ju-long standing there, asking their questions.

Ju-long : They did bring up a couple good points. You've been at a few too many sightings.

Ju-long : What reason do you have to be at them? You do realize this is a dangerous situation, right?

Niu: Don't worry about it.

Ju-long : I can't do that

Layer 2 Panel 5: Ju-long reaching hand out to Niu's shoulder.

Ju-long : Come on, you can at least talk to me about it.

Layer 3 Panel 6: Niu slams Ju-long into the wall, cracking it.

Page 22:

Layer 1 Panel 1: Niu looking up with a deathly serious glare.

Niu: Drop it.

Layer 2 Panel 2: Left side: Niu with painful expression, grasping arm like it's seriously hurt.

Right Side: Ju-long watching Niu as they walk away, blood dripping down side of mouth.

Layer 2 Panel 3: Ju-long wipes blood off.

Layer 3 Panel 4: Niu walking down street, looking like they are in really bad shape.

Layer 3 Panel 5: Niu falling over in some woods, grasping their stomach.

Layer 3 Panel 6: Foreground: Niu with scared/surprised look. Background: Ju-long slightly worried.

Ju-long : Are you alright? What's wrong?

Page 23:

Layer 1 Wide Panel 1: Head shot: Niu, head turned towards camera, giving a regretful / Sad expression, while a tear rolls down their cheek.

Niu: Run...

Layer 2 Panel 2: Explosive transformation blows the currently blocking Ju-long back.

Layer 2 Panel 3: Ju-long slammed into tree and has slid down, is looking out shocked.

Layer 3-4 Long Panel 4: Establishing Shot: Demon form.

Layer 3 Panel 5: Ju-long from shock talks to himself out loud. A shadow of Niu's hand (which is coming at him) is casted over him.

Ju-long : You're the intelligent demon...

Layer 4 Panel 6: Niu's hand slams through the tree, destroying it. Ju-long rolls out of the way, avoiding the blow, but getting a deep cut on his cheek.

Page 24:

Layer 1 Panel 1: Ju-long slides water covered hand across panel, leaving trail of water behind it.

Layer 1 Panel 2: A water blade is thrown out from Ju-long hitting Niu.

Layer 2 Panel 3: Water evaporates off of Niu.

Layer 2 Panel 4: Ju-long in same pose from the attack, realizing the severity of the situation.

Ju-long  : That didn't affect them at all, even with the type advantage.

Ju-long  : They have to be at least Gold rank.

Layer 2 Panel 5: Ju-long hits a spot on the ground in the center of the panel (leaving an impact point), then bounces to the left beginning to run. Niu staring out in BG.

Ju-long  : I can't handle this myself... But who can help?

Layer 3 Wide Panel 6: Foreground left, headshot: Ju-long glancing to the side. Background right: Niu giving chase.

Ju-long  : They are probably my best option.

Page 25:

Layer 1 tiny Panel 1: Establishing new scene panel.

Layer 2 Wide Panel 2: Background: IS looking over clipboard in training field. Foreground:

A figure walks into frame.

Ju-long : Instructor...

Layer 3-4 Long Panel 3: A blood covered, injured Ju-long , grasping his arm, leans onto something while panting.

IS: Ju-long , what happened to you!?

Ju-long : We have barely any time. A demon is on its way here.

IS\*: A demon? Tell me where, I have to stop it before anyone else gets hurt!?

Ju-long : You can't...

IS: Why not?

Layer 3 Panel 4: IS shook to his core.

Ju-long : It's Niu, something seems to have taken over them.

Ju-long : We have to figure out how to help them...

Layer 4 Panel 5: Foreground Knee up shot: IS walking forward, eyes unseen. Background: Ju-long turning around, with worried look.

IS: I don't get the full picture, but I think I know enough.

Ju-long : What are you going to do?

IS: Isn't that obvious?

Layer 5 Wide Panel 6: IS turning back with calming smile.

IS: I'm going to help my student.

Page 26:

Layer 1 Layer 1 Panel 1: Niu rushing forward.

Layer 1 Panel 2: Niu stopping as a valley of stones crash into the ground in front of them.

Layer 2 Panel 3: IS standing off against Niu.

IS: Woah, hold up their kiddo. I know kids are always in a rush, but don't you think this is a bit much?

Niu  : GHRAAHAAAA!!!

IS: Uh-huh, even less of a conversationalist then before.

Layer 4 Panel 4: Foreground: Niu striking forward. Background: Instructor dodging away from hit and camera.

IS: Listen, I don't know what you've been through, but you don't have to do this.

Layer 4 Panel 5: Niu slashing again, while Instructor ducks down.

IS: You can regain control, but you have to fight this!

IS: Remember your training.

Layer 4 Panel 6: Niu blasts a beam of fire from there horn(s). Blowing IS back.

Layer 5 Panel 7: IS stumbling back to their feet.

IS  : Hehe, seems I can't quite keep up, while not fighting back.

IS: ...Perhaps, you can't fight this, because of your training.

IS: Because I couldn't train you good enough.

Page 27:

Layer 1 Panel 1: Niu rushing forwards, ready to strike.

Layer 1 Panel 2: IS looking up to the sky, reminiscing.

IS: You know, I didn't have any talent for cultivation at all.

IS: I wasn't able to do a thing about it, besides just toil away at it endlessly.

Layer 1 Panel 3: Niu stops.

Layer 2 Wide Panel 4: Head shot: Instructor looks forward, with a caring gaze.

IS: I tried to make up for my own shortcomings when I looked at you.

IS: I saw myself and thought what I did would work for you, but I should have known better than anyone, the path I took was a painful one.

Layer 3 Wide Panel 5: Head Shot: Niu staying stationary.

Layer 4 Panel 6: Instructor with eyes closed giving a chuckle at the situation.

IS: Really though, I just wanted to help out a passionate kid. Maybe, I should have shown a little more compassion while doing so?

IS: Though, I promise to make it up to you!

Layer 4 Panel 6: Fire leaving Niu's face, showing a strained, but hopeful expression.

Niu: Okay...

Page 28:

Layer 1 Panel 1: IS has their side sliced open and sent flying by Handler and their shadow blade.

Panel 2: Niu has slight bit of blood splatter on there face, as they look out stunned.

Panel 3: Handler gives evil grin, with cold eyes.

Handler: Very close, almost too close. We almost had a major problem and lost our primary experiment.

Handler: I would have been in hot water indeed.

Panel 4: IS shoots a projectile at Handler who blocks it.

Panel 5: Niu jumps at Handler, who is raising their hand up, which has a rune on it.

Handler: **Stop.**

Panel 6: Niu grabs glowing head and buckles over in pain, while red electricity surges around them.

Handler: Not so fast, you're still just a tool for our family, thusly you should know your place.

Page 29:

Layer 1 Panel 1: IS yelling out desperately.

IS : Niu if you can get out of here, then run! Don't look back, just escape!

Layer 1 Panel 2: Handler strolling over to IS. While Niu suffers in the BG.

Handler: That won't do, they belong to the Sacred Sky family now.

Handler: And of course, you know what it means, for me to tell you such information?

Layer 2 Panel 3: IS looking confident, in fighting pose.

IS: Hehe, I'm not scared of a young gun like you.

IS : My side is killing me. I won't last long in a fight, but I have to last long enough for my student to escape.

Layer 3 Panel 4: Handler turning around curiously.

Niu: Hey. Maybe, I could call things even for me.

Layer 4-5 Long Panel 5: Niu standing tall, in regular partial demonic form, with their demonic hand out fingers clenched.

Niu: But I can't forgive you for hurting those other kids, or my teacher.

Layer 4 Panel 6: Handler shrugging at the threat, unaware of the can of whoop ass they just opened. Having leaped through the air at stunning/blazing speeds, Niu is above the unaware Handler and has loaded up a punch, ready to deliver it.

Handler: Oh yeah and how do you plan-?

Layer 4 Panel 7: Niu slamming fist into unexpecting Handler's face.

Page 30:

Layer 1 Panel 1: Niu finishes follow through. Handler is punched into the ground forming a crater.

Layer 2 Panel 2: Niu lands onto their feet, exhaustion setting in and demon form beginning to undo itself.

Panel 3: Handler is knocked out cold.

Panel 4: Niu's eyes begin to close, as they fall to the side, getting their shoulder caught by IS.

IS: Woah there, I got you.

Panel 5: Niu begins to wake back up, while IS happily ruffles their hair.

IS: Good job!

IS: Like I said, you just had to work a little harder.

Panel 6: Niu looking up happily.

Niu: It's because I had a good teacher.

IS: Well, I can't deny that!

Page 31:

Layer 1 Small Panel 1: Establishing shot: School infirmary symbol.

Panel 2: IS stitching himself up, while Niu sits up on edge of bed, tired.

IS: Alright, I've got the full picture now.

IS: It seems the Sacred Sky family have betrayed our city and its people.

Panel 3: Niu looking over with worried look.

Niu: Can we stop them?

IS: Not recklessly, no.

IS: We currently don't have enough information to challenge their status head on. There's also no way that member of their family will talk.

Niu: I... Understand.

Panel 4: IS having finished patching himself up, gives a big confident smile.

IS: Hold off on that reaction. I never said there was nothing for to be done.

IS: We have time and information on our side, the smart thing to do is use it.

Panel 5: Niu looking up surprised, while IS points at them while giving an encouraging expression.

Niu: Then what do we do?

IS: We use their own weapon against them!

IS: I'll use this time to train you to be able to use your power to the full extent of its abilities.

IS: Then we will break into the Sacred Sky family's facility and get irrefutable proof of their crimes.

Page 32:

Layer 1 Wide Panel 1: Niu and IS looking over towards camera (Ju-long off screen).

Niu: Alright, let's do it!

Ju-long : Sounds like a plan to us.

Layer 2-3 Long Panel 2: Ju-long leaning up against door way, with class behind him.

Ju-long : You can't leave us out of this, we are all a part of the same class, after all.

IS: You kids, what are you all doing here?

Layer 2 Panel 3: BG1 looking excited, with a couple kids behind them.

BG1: Ju-long got us together after the incident and started to explain things.

Layer 3 Panel 4: BG2 giving determined smile.

BG2: With what we've overheard, we understand the mission at hand.

BG3: Yeah! Someone has to stop the Sacred Sky family!

Layer 4 Wide Panel 5: Niu giving surprised, slightly fortunate look.

Niu: Everyone... You would all help me?

Layer 5 Wide Panel 6: Shot of everyone, Ju-long up front.

Crowd (minus Ju-long ) : Of course!

Page 33:

Layer 1 Panel 1: IS, with a satisfied expression, raises hands in defeat.

IS: Very well, I can't say no to that.

IS: I'll train you all up and get everyone ready for this important mission.

Layer 1 Panel 2: IS giving serious look.

IS: Just know, this training won't be easy and the mission itself will be dangerous.

IS: Even knowing that, are you still all in?

Wide Panel 3: Whole class (including Niu) raising fist up and shouting out.

Group\*: Yeah!

BG1\*: Of course!

Niu\*: Let's do it!

Layer 3 Panel 4: Pulled back shot of everyone cultivating.

Layer 3 Panel 5: Shot focused on Niu and Ju-long sparring, with a couple other spars visible.

Layer 3 Panel 6: Foreground: One group sneaking through forest brush. Background: Another group looking around (for them).

Page 34:

Layer 1 Panel 1: Ju-long standing ready. Text box: Silver Rank II

Layer 2 Panel 2: Row of kids standing ready. Text box: Bronze Rank III

Layer 1-2 Panel 3: IS giving speech. Text box: Gold Rank I

IS: I've training you as well as I could in this short time.

IS: Today, we shall take down the corrupted Sacred Sky family and help protect our city.

IS: You all know the plan, all that's left is to execute it.

Layer 1 Panel 4: Niu standing ready, looking determined. Text box: Gold Rank III

Layer 2 Panel 5: Row of kids standing ready. Text box: Bronze Rank II

Layer 3 Panel 6: Transition shot.

Layer 4 Panel 7: Kid positioned at top right corner.

Layer 4 Panel 8: Kid positioned at top left corner.

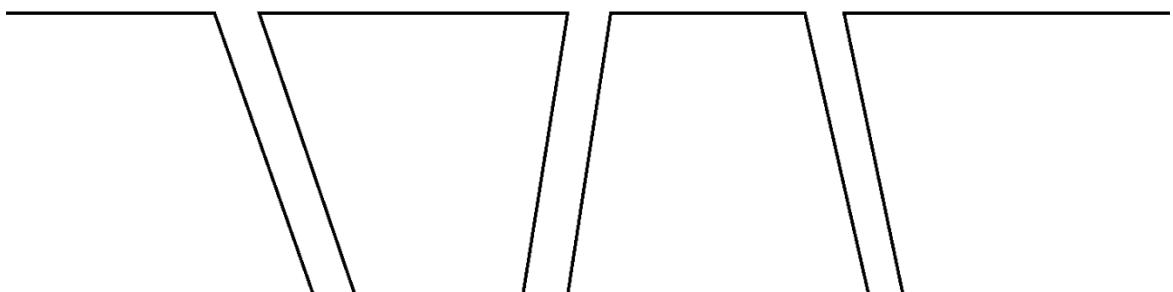
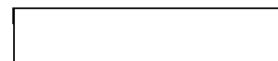
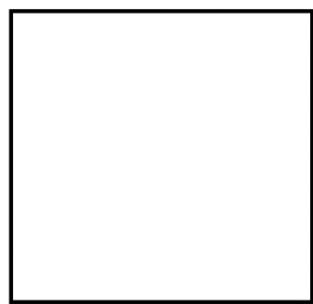
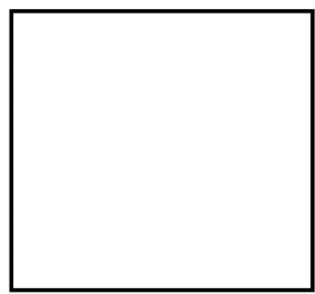
Layer 4 Panel 9: Kid positioned at bottom right corner.

Layer 4 Panel 10: Kid positioned at bottom left corner.

Layer 5 Panel 11: Explosions go off.

Layer 5 Panel 12: Background: Niu, Ju-long , IS, rushing into building. Foreground: Guards rushing off in other direction.

~Page 34 panel layout~



Page 35:

Layer 1 Wide Panel 1: The trio leaning up against wall, IS peaking over. BG: Guards huddled together in front of door.

IS: It seems they have special orders to stay guard here, no matter what happens.

Ju-long : What now?

Niu: Can't we just take them out quickly and head on?

Layer 2 Panel 2: IS thinking to himself, hand on chin, glancing over to the other two.

IS: Because of the nature of the experiments, its unlikely that many people would be beyond this point.

IS: We don't have much time though...

Layer 2 Panel 3: The two looking up at the camera.

IS: With that said, we only need to obtain proof.

IS: Keeping that in mind, don't follow my lead.

Niu: Wha-?

Layer 2 Panel 4: IS leaps out slamming into the ground, with a bit of it beginning to raise up.

Layer 3 Panel 5: IS with a big cocky smile shouts out. A wall of ground shoots up at the guards and curves behind them blocking off sight of the door. The guards leap out of the way.

IS: There's just enough of you to get a solid warm up in.

They break in and try to make their way to the facilities to get proof of what they were doing.

Layer 4 Panel 6: Ju-long rushes ahead, Niu was caught up in the showing and is surprised by this.

Niu: h-Hey, wait up!

Layer 4 Panel 7: Headshot: IS smiling, while watching Niu and Ju-long duck behind his stone wall.

Page 36:

Layer 1 Wide Panel 1: Niu and Ju-long running in from right side of panel. BG: Two guards with Glaives spotting them.

Layer 2 Panel 2: Ju-long drops, placing both hands onto the ground, erecting a wall of water. Guard-1 stops short of it.

Layer 2 Panel 3: Niu (demon form starting) leaps through the water, punching Guard-1 in the head, with left hand, knocking them out.

Layer 3 Wide Panel 4: Guard-2 bringing glaive down on Niu, who looks up ready for their own next action. Ju-long having darted past the glaive, using water hand to cut the wooden pole, causing the blade to pop off. BG: Guard knocked out against the wall.

Layer 4-5 Long Panel 5: Niu jumping up and uppercutting guard.

Layer 4 Panel 6: The two standing in front of elevator.

Ju-long : Head down, I'll destroy the elevator once you reach the bottom.

Niu: But what about-

Ju-long : I can handle at least this much.

Layer 5 Panel 7: Foreground: Ju-long (turned towards camera) stands ready, as the noise of others steadily comes closer. Background: Niu looking out tentatively, as the elevator door is closing on them.

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Layer 1 Tiny Panel 1: Light moving up across wall, as elevator moves down.

Panel 2: Niu standing in elevator ready, as it opens.

Panel 3: Villain (Ji-fan) standing in center of training facility.

Ji: To think, you would bite the hand that feeds you.

Ji: All this will accomplish, will be the deaths of yourself and your classmates. Is that really what you want?

Panel 4: Niu taking fighting pose.

Niu: You've caused unknown amounts of suffering. It's the duty of any martial artist, to help those who need it.

Panel 5: Ji throwing off his robes/shirt, getting ready to fight.

Ji: The Sacred Sky family follows its own dogma. That is-

Ji: Human wisdom can prevail over nature.

Page 38:

Layer 1 Wide Panel 1: Niu darts forward.

Layer 2 Wide Panel 2: Lower-to-upper shot: Right: Niu having thrown a caught punch, is shocked. Left: Ji has caught Niu's fist and has transformed into his own demonic form.

Layer 3 Panel 3: Ji pulls Niu in and slams a fist into their stomach. Niu spits out and their eyes lose their life.

Layer 3 Panel 4: Foreground: Ji reaching his fist out. Niu having slid back across the floor.

Ji: Did you not think, I as a leader, would be the one to tackle the experiments head on?

Ji: I suppose, it matters not what you believed at this point.

Ji: Just take pride, you managed to take a full power hit from an Obsidian rank III.

Layer 4 Panel 5: Niu staggering up, head drooped down.

Layer 4 Panel 6: Close up shot: Niu looking up, fire in her eyes.

Layer 4 Panel 7: Ji giving an unimpressed look back.

Page 39:

Layer 1 Wide Panel 1: Shot of the ceiling, with various impact points/SFX of combat going on.

Layer 2 Panel 2: Niu delivers a kick into Ji's raised forearm. Niu looks desperate, while Ji is perfectly calm, if not bored.

Layer 2 Panel 3: Ji punches Niu down into the ground, causing them to bounce up off it.

Layer 2 Panel 4: Ji tries to deliver another hit, but Niu flips back out of the way. Ji smashes a hole into the ground.

Layer 3 Wide Panel 5: Rush down shot: Ji has been pushed back to the left side of the panel by Niu. Ji is easily blocking the hits, but looks to be deep in concentration. Niu is looking almost feral in their assault, like they are barely in control of their wide movements. They have left a trail of impact points and speed lines. Have a couple after-image strikes (low opacity/less detailed punches from the past) from the Niu.

Layer 4 Panel 6: Ji delivers a concise punch into Niu's chin.

Layer 4 Panel 6: Ji stomps down onto Niu sending them crashing into the ground, pinned under Ji's foot. Making a small crater. (For pulled back shots, the whole floor is damaged after this point).

Page 40:

Layer 1 Panel 1: Niu struggling to get free, but is unable.

Ji: Your strength is far from lacking, but your inexperience is suffocating you like an ocean.

Ji: I had high hopes that I could take another step closer with you. However, it seems I'll have to start over once again.

Panel 2: Niu shouting out angrily.

Niu : Why are you doing this?!

Ji: I already told you why before, or did you forget?

Panel 3: Ji looking down, with thick shading and a hyper focused stare.

Ji: My family is trapped in the Heavenly Realm. I'm willing to go to any lengths to see them again.

Panel 4: Niu still angered, there demonic form spreading slightly.

Niu : Even sacrifice innocent children?!

Ji: Sacrifice? Surely you jest?

Ji: Thouhg, I can see you don't.

Panel 5: Ji throws his arms out in declaration.

Ji: I took in all different types of children like you, some far worse off. Those with no income and no help. Not just lacking in talent, but having such severe disability that they would never be able to accomplish what they could with my help.

Ji: I gave them a chance to the less fortunate to be able to rise up in the world! They joined of there own free will and died from their own weakness.

Ji: At least I gave them a chance to turn out like you. To be able to actually gain the power they desperately sought.

Ji\*: Sacrificing those with no future, for the sake of those that have one, of course that's the right thing to do!

Page 41:

Layer 1 Wide Panel 1: Ji raising finger, starting to form a black spherical energy ball.

The ball is positioned in such a way, that the blackness takes up the panel and transitions into the flashback on the other side of it.

Flashback shot: A large explosion (shot from page 12).

Ji: My family... They didn't deserve what happened to them.

Ji: They were caught up in my own hubris. My own demands to push our limitations further.

Panel 2: Flashback shot: Slightly younger Ji looking out horrified, face illuminated from the distant blast.

Ji: Not a day goes by, that I don't wish that it was me who was caught up in that rift. At the very least, that I was with them

Panel 3: Same shot of Ji, but in the present: With his face looking far sadder.

Ji: I don't know what I did during that experiment that caused the Heavenly Realm to be closed to us, but I will make up for it.

Ji: I have to make up for my past sins and it doesn't matter how many more I have to stack on top of them to do so.

Panel 4: Niu desperately struggling with everything they have, as their demonic form spreads.

Ji: Including killing you.

Panel 5: Ji jumps up and tosses the massive black sphere down at Niu.

Panel 6: Niu's eyes go wide.

Page 42:

Layer 1 Big Panel 1: Sphere expands out, tearing apart the room.

Layer 2 Panel 2: Ji stands there wistfully.

Layer 2 Panel 3: Ji turns around and starts to walk off.

Layer 3 Wide Panel 4: Foreground: Ji turns back shocked. Background: Pillar of smoke, with three points illuminating out (eyes).

Page 43:

Layer 1-2 Long Panel 1: Niu standing there, clothes torn up, looking ragged and bloody, with hair undone. Niu is about 85% fully demonic at this point.

Layer 1 Panel 2: Ji shocked, with a hint of fear.

Layer 2 Panel 3: Ji jumps forward, fist held back, ready to punch.

Layer 3 Thin/Wide Panel 4: Close up shot: Niu catching Ji's fist.

Layer 4 Panel 5: FL even more shocked, eyes with faint shading, as if he just saw a ghost.

Layer 4 Panel 6: Niu looking up smirking, fire in eyes.

Layer 5 Panel 7: Niu slamming fist into FL's torso, bending his whole body into a U-shape, sending him flying back.

Page 44:

Layer 1 Panel 1: FL gets out of crater in the wall, some hair draped over his bleeding face.

Ji  : I can't believe they've pushed the corruption this far...

Ji  : Is it they can't feel the enormous pain and draw backs?

Ji  : ...No, she's simply risking her own life and cultivation ability, in order to beat me.

Layer 1 Panel 2: Fish eye shot: Niu leaping forward at camera.

Layer 2 Panel 3: Ji holding rune hand out, while Niu stops mid-air and is electrocuted.

Ji: **Stop.**

Niu  : AHHHH!

Layer 3-4 Panel 4: Niu on hands and knees on ground, screaming in pain. With Ji standing over them.

Ji: I always make sure to have at least one trick up my sleeve.

Ji: But to think, you made it this far. I wonder, if you would have been able to open the Heavenly Realm?

Layer 3 Panel 5: Ji raising up flat hand, with sharp black energy flowing out of it.

Ji: But I can't take that chance.

Layer 4 Panel 6: Niu (still on the ground) gritting teeth looking straight at camera, eyes squinting. Panel/page transitions into flashback.

Page 45:

Layer 1 Panel 1: Flashback shot: Young Niu pulling a prank on the teacher with their classmates.

Layer 1 Panel 2: Flashback shot: Niu in trouble with bump on head, from grumpy teacher.

Layer 2 Panel 3: Flashback shot: Niu and Ju-long walking together happily.

Layer 3 Panel 4: Niu has energy erupt out of them with a scream (90% demonic) and pushes Ji back.

Layer 4 Panel 5: Ji guards against the energy, but is looking out with amazement / excitement.

Ji: That energy, it's almost Legend rank... You're almost there.

Ji: Give me just a little more!

Layer 4 Panel 5: Niu reaching 100% demonic form, fully powered up, with energy reaching its peak. A shadowy figure/speed lines erupt behind Niu (of unseen door).

Page 46:

Layer 1 Big Panel 1: Background: Massive heavenly door has appeared. Midground: Niu slouched over back in human form, steam coming off of them. Foreground: Ji looking out with pure ecstasy.

Layer 2 Panel 2: Ji tosses Niu out of the way, walking up to the door.

Ji: It's almost to good to be true. Simply unbelievable.

Layer 2 Panel 3: Niu barely hanging onto consciences, flat on the ground, is looking up with a defeated look.

Layer 3 Wide Panel 4: Ji with arms spread out wide, shouting out from excitement.

Ji: I can ascend... to the Heavenly Realm. Finally, I can be reunited with them!

Page 47:

Layer 1 Big Panel 1: A massive thin demonic hand bursts through the door, grabbing him

Layer 2 Panel 2: Arm pulling him in, terror expressed on his face.

Layer 2 Panel 3: Door shut silently.

Layer 3 Panel 4: Niu watches this, not able to even begin to make out what just happened.

Layer 3 Panel 5: Niu stands up, clenching arm, as the door falls downwards.

Layer 3 Panel 6: Niu is left alone.

Page 48:

Layer 1 Panel 1: Transition shot.

Panel 2: Pulled back shot: City guards/police arresting people and talking with some of the classmates.

Panel 3: Niu resting on bench outside, patched up. IS coming over with a jolly tone.

IS: Haha, it seems everything's managed to work out.

IS: This managed to clear your name and unveil the Sacred Sky family's corruption.

Panel 4: IS holding up hand stopping Niu from talking.

Niu: What about-

IS: Don't worry about any of that yet.

IS: Yeah, from what you said, probably something major is going on.

IS: However, this is the time to rest and celebrate a hard-fought victory.

Panel 5: Niu looking down, unenthused.

Niu: ...But...

Ju-long: I think teacher is right.

Page 49:

Layer 1-2 long Panel 1: Ju-long standing there, explaining.

Niu: Ju-long?

Ju-long: What we did today is enough for today. Tomorrow we can worry about what's to come.

Layer 1 Panel 2: Niu perking up.

Niu: Yeah, alright.

Niu: We won after all!

Layer 2 Panel 3: IS happily rubbing both of his students heads. Ju-long giving blank stare, Niu cheerful.

IS: That's the way!

IS: You both did good, just let me handle things with the guardsmen from here.

Layer 3 Panel 4: Foreground: Ju-long looking down silently at Niu. BG: IS waving back while walking away.

Layer 4 Panel 5: Ju-long tentatively asking his question.

Ju-long: ...Is it true?

Layer 4 Panel 6: Niu looking out at nothing in particular, with a distant smile.

Niu: Yeah, I lost the entirety of my cultivation.

Page 50:

Layer 1 Panel 1: Ju-long looking down disheartened.

Niu: But I won't let that stop me.

Layer 1 Panel 2: Niu bouncing up with fist clenched.

Niu: I'm going to start over from scratch and strive to reach even greater heights!

Niu: This time, with my own power.

Layer 2 Wide Panel 3: Ju-long and Niu fist bump.

Niu: You might have gotten a little ahead of me, but I'll catch up in a flash!

Ju-long: I would expect nothing less, from the rival I've been chasing after.

Layer 3 Panel 4: Niu looks solemnly down at her fist.

Niu: And when I do catch up, I'll figure out the secrets of the Heavenly Realm

Layer 3 Panel 5: First-person Shot: Niu's hand raising into sky.

Niu: And re-open the pathway myself!

Layer 3 Panel 6: Overhead shot: Niu with fist raised to the sky looking determined.

Niu: Because I'm a martial artist, who will reach the highest ranks!