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### If the Dark One wins...

Submitted by [loyal\\_ashaman](#)  
Posted on 1/18/2006 1:41:40 AM

It's intuitively obvious that if the Dark One were victorious at Tarmon Gai'don, what he would do to the world would be pretty ugly. Wouldn't at least Darkfriends would be happy, though? They would supposedly get immortality and lots of power, and finally have the chance they've been waiting for to rule over everyone else.

Robert Jordan, however, has dropped plenty of hints that the Friends of the Dark might be deceived. It seems likely that if the Dark One escaped from his prison, what he would do to the world would disturb even his most dedicated human supporters. For one thing, the DO has always displayed a rather callous attitude toward his servants, and has never shied away from sacrificing them or cruelly punishing them when they failed to serve him adequately. If he achieved complete control over the world, why should he change his ways? Wouldn't he be able to enforce even more brutal discipline on everyone, Darkfriends and Forsaken included? It seems entirely likely that he would take away Graendal's palace and servants, Aran'gar's sensual pleasures, and anything else that would distract from the task of serving and worshipping himself.

There is evidence that channeling the One Power, in particular, would be impossible in a world ruled by the DO. Why has he made the True Power available to his most trusted servants, if not to replace saidar and saidin? The DO probably hates the One Power because it drives the Wheel, which he wants to wreck, and because unlike the True Power, saidar and saidin do not come from him. As long as they are able to channel the One Power, the Forsaken have a certain degree of independence from the DO's control. If they are captured, like Asmodean, or turn back to the Light (which doesn't seem like a likely possibility, but it still must worry the DO at times) they might use their channeling abilities against the Dark. This is probably why trying to channel at Shayol Ghul is such a bad idea (as Demandred reminds himself in LoC). It is probably also the reason that channeling is impossible in the vicinity of Shaidar Haran. The DO wants complete control over his servants. The True Power fulfills this condition because it can only be used with the DO's permission, something that is not true of the One Power.

So, in a world where the Dark One has broken free, it is likely that channeling the One Power would be outlawed or made physically

#### Quote of the Moment

Blood and bloody ashes!  
-Mazrim Taim

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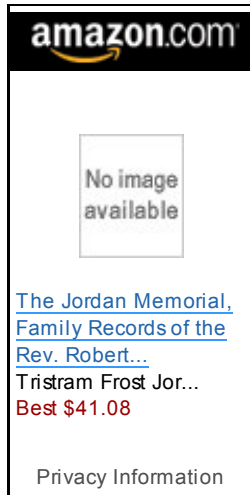
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impossible (as around Shaidar Haran). Wouldn't this be a terrible outcome for the Forsaken? They wouldn't be able to touch the One Power, and they would lose the unique ability that gives them power over other humans, the one thing they all seem to want. It is true that they might still be able to use the True Power as a substitute, but only Moridin seems to be satisfied with this solution. None of the other Forsaken want saa crawling across their eyes all the time, and using the True Power might have other undesirable effects that we don't know about yet.

An even worse outcome from the Forsaken's point of view might be their death at the hands of the DO. If the DO broke free, he would undoubtedly want to make his control over the world as complete as possible. They would probably be the most powerful channelers left alive, and so would pose a threat to his rule. Even worse, they would remember a time when the DO was unable to touch the world, and thus severely limited in his power. For that reason he might view them as suspect, unlike humans who never knew a world not under the control of the Shadow. We know that human dictators often have their former supporters executed for very similar reasons. Stalin and Mao both had many of their original supporters purged from the Party and eventually killed, precisely because the older Communist revolutionaries could remember a time when Stalin and Mao were not in control, and could remember that the dictators originally came to power with the help of others. The DO might well conduct a similar purge if he ever had the chance. The Forsaken would remember that the DO only broke free with their aid, and so their awe of him might not be as complete as he would like.

The DO might even have all humans eliminated, because they are inherently unpredictable and potentially disobedient. Who is to say that he wouldn't prefer a world populated entirely with Trollocs, Myrddral, and Drakhar? He has placed Shaidar Haran in a position of power over many of the Forsaken probably because he doesn't entirely trust his human allies, and would rather have completely obedient Shadowspawn keeping an eye on them. If he could dispense with the need for human servants altogether, he might well do so. That's if the DO decides to keep any of the current world intact, instead of destroying everything and starting over with a clean slate in order to remake the world in his own dark image.

All of these possibilities get at a more basic question: what is motivating the Forsaken and other high-ranking Darkfriends? Clearly they want power, and revenge on LTT, and all sorts of other things. But they still must recognize that their place in a world ruled by the DO would not necessarily be very secure. He is a very harsh master who disposes of his servants as soon as they are no longer useful, and who wants to turn the world into a place that even the Forsaken would probably think was pretty horrifying (even they are a little bit disturbed by what he's done to Shayol Ghul already). What guarantee do any

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Darkfriends have that the DO would honor his pledges and actually give them immortality and power once he broke free? I've wondered about this question for a while, and I'd be curious to hear anyone's comments on this subject.

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