

Three Realms 1481

[Sovereign of the Three Realms \(WN\)](#)

Chapter 1481: Borrowing the Third Palace of Heritage

The golems had served Jiang Chen with unswerving loyalty since their reawakening. They never complained, no matter his plans. But this time, the prospect of separating soul from body again worried Big Stone.

“Savior, is it gonna be dangerous? This time, we don’t want to...”

“Don’t worry, it’ll be for less than a day at most. We simply need to get back to Veluriyam in a flash. We’d need a couple days at least otherwise and we don’t have such luxury.”

Convinced by the young lord’s sincerity, Big Stone glanced at his brothers, then tightened his jaw.

“Alright, let’s do this, Savior. You know best!”

The golems were as simple and straightforward as they came. Jiang Chen naturally wouldn’t deceive them. Without further ado, he took the four brothers’ souls from their bodies and sealed them inside the four stone carvings while their bodies turned back into giant statues.

Putting away the carvings, he silently vowed, “Big Stone, don’t worry. I’ll repay you tenfold for today’s debt. If I can, I’ll help you restore your tribe to its past glory. Even if I can’t, I’ll reunite you with your kin in the heavenly planes!”

Stone Golems were rare existences, but despite that, the Divine Abyss Continent wasn’t their only home. More of them existed on various planes.

Jiang Chen then summoned the allied leaders and told them he had to return immediately to handle trouble arising in Veluriyam. He exhorted them to continue forward as if nothing had changed.

The news gladdened the men. It was surprising the Ninesuns Sect wasn’t the enemy’s true target, but at least they no longer had to risk their lives. Only, they couldn’t make their relief too obvious.

“Young lord, wouldn’t it be too arduous to withstand the order all by yourself? Why don’t we go back as well and lend you a hand?”

“No need. They might have an ambush prepared just in case. Just charge towards the Ninesuns Sky Sect and make them believe I’m still with you. Let’s see who’ll have the last laugh!”

The young lord wasn’t looking down on them. It would simply be impossible for them to return in time, even without an ambush on the way. So they might as well play along and lull the enemy into a false sense of security while he returned in secret.

In a battle of this scale, numbers weren’t all that mattered. Strategy was also vital. Jiang Chen firmly believed there was a chance if he played his cards right!

Woosh! The spacetime seal vanished in the air, melting into nothingness. In the next moment, his figure reappeared inside Veluriyam’s Third Palace of Heritage.

“Hm? You came to challenge my palace sooner than expected.” A lazy voice rose languidly from the depths of the palace.

Pressed for time as he was, Jiang Chen went straight to the point. “Senior, I’m allowed two chances, correct? I’m merely borrowing the palace for quick transit this time. Please show me the exit, for I must return to Veluriyam posthaste. Otherwise, the city’s very foundations will be in peril!”

After a long, stupefied silence, the voice finally responded, a little sullen, “Kid, are you joking?”

“Senior, please be lenient. I wouldn’t be so impetuous if I had any other choice.” He was indeed in no mood to challenge the third palace at such a time.

And also, back in the second palace, the Crimson Heaven Palace, Venerated Skysoarer had told him it would be best to wait until advanced emperor realm before attempting the third. Otherwise, his odds of success would be almost nil.

Each palace only allowed for two attempts and here he was, recklessly squandering one of them. Naturally, he wouldn’t waste such a precious opportunity if not forced to.

“Hmph, peril? What peril could there be? Are the demons back to haunt us?” Indignation still colored the indolent voice.

“I’m not certain either. The enemy is extraordinary, but I don’t know if he’s a demon. What I do know is that he’s no less of a threat.” He could only confess the truth. Despite his sense of urgency, there was no exit to be found without guidance.

The voice humphed. “It doesn’t matter. Kid, remember this. Whatever the reason, you’re committing a grave offense against the third palace! I’ll think hard on whether I need to increase the difficulty for you next time!”

Jiang Chen complained silently, but he could only offer a cupped fist salute. “Senior, please punish me as you fit. You won’t hear a complaint from me. But right now, I would be grateful if you could show me the way.”

Even if still angry, the palace guardian didn’t continue making things difficult for him in the face of his earnestness. “Get lost then!”

As if by magic, a beam of light drew an exit in front of Jiang Chen.

“Many thanks for your help, senior!” Delighted, Jiang Chen immediately threw himself inside the gate. The exterior of the pagoda immediately appeared in his sight.

He took in a deep breath. There was a heavy weight on his chest, as if he’d lived through ten years in a flash, yet he was strangely exhilarated.

I’m back. He’d returned in less than an hour!

Even the Vermillion Bird stared in stupefaction when he reappeared inside the young lord residence.

“Kid, did you learn the art of travelling through spacetime?” That would be a shocking feat, out of reach even for all of the ancient powerhouses.

Many of them had a rudimentary understanding of such arts, but to directly cross space and time was beyond an empyrean powerhouse's ability. Even higher existences would find it beyond difficult.

Jiang Chen smiled. "Of course not. It's just some ancient art. Do you think I'm an existence above empyrean masters? Why would I worry about a trivial Order of Wind and Cloud if so? Senior, what is the enemy up to now?" he asked, changing the subject.

"Nothing for now. Perhaps they're waiting to hear about your arrival in the Ninesuns Sky Sect before launching a full-on assault. They're very slippery. You must be very careful this time."

Jiang Chen nodded gravely. The divine creature wasn't being overly cautious. The Order must have made ample preparations to dare attack Veluriyam, while he had little time to plan. This was a thorny problem indeed.

It was fortunate the Order hadn't attacked yet. There was time yet for everything.

"I'll get ready first." He immediately secluded himself.

The first order of business was to reawaken Big Stone and his brothers. It hadn't been long since he'd used the secret art on them. They weren't entirely asleep yet, making his task much easier.

The four stone golems quickly revived safe and sound. Inspecting himself from head to toe, Big Stone was relieved to see he hadn't lost what little strength he'd previously recovered.

"Savior, we back in Veluriyam yet?"

"We are. Big Stone, I had no choice but to use the secret art. I need you the four of you against the Order's overwhelming strength."

Big Stone thumped his chest in excitement. "Don't worry, what's a small Windy Order? Brave warriors of the Stone Golems fear no one!"

"Right, don't worry. We'll charge at the front and flatten everyone in our path!"

Jiang Chen didn't doubt their fighting spirit. They were born for war.

"Great, this young lord likes to see your enthusiasm. Don't worry, ample opportunities await you in the coming fight!"

There would be no steamrolling his enemy like he'd done against Pillzenith. A fierce, bitter battle would take place this time. His current opponent far exceeded the former Pillfire in strength and cunning, while he had fewer men than against the northern alliance.

In Bluesky, at least the Skysword Sect and the Celestial Cicada Court had been at his side. They hadn't fought, but their mere presence had been intimidating enough.

But he felt no fear. The worst would be for the Order to shy away from confrontation. On the contrary, he would welcome a head-on clash with open arms. He could understand his enemy's hidden aces then. To know thyself and know thine enemy, and thou shall win a hundred battles without a loss.

In Veluriyam, Jiang Chen wasn't without his own cards.

First, the advantage of terrain. This was his homeground.

Second, he was aware of the enemy's plans, but they were still in the dark about his. They were in for a rude awakening.

Third, with the golems and the Goldbiter Rats at his side, he wouldn't be hurting for manpower!

Even if he couldn't eradicate his enemies outright, he was confident he could teach them a profound lesson.

Of course, he had on clear goal above all else: to get rid of the so-called supreme lord. This man was the core reason why the Order had risen so high so fast.

To think he'd brainwashed so many human cultivators to his side in a mere few years, even titans like Sabledeep and Everviolet! The young lord couldn't but admire the man's skills. The supreme lord was a formidable adversary!

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Chapter 1482: Encirclement to Attack Reinforcements

Protector King Devourcloud was quite the snitch. He quickly reported that Scourcloud had obtained a spirit beast, despite how trivial it was.

Unhappiness clouded the supreme lord's paranoid mind at the news. He soon visited their area and found Peerless.

"Lord Scourcloud, I hear you've obtained a spirit creature?" Despite his calm tone, his manners radiated superiority.

Peerless had anticipated everything and instantly feigned astonishment.

"That's true, my lord. It's merely an impudent, common beast. I've already fused it with my consciousness and made it my contracted beast." He brought forth the Goldbiter Rat.

The supreme lord took a glance. "You shouldn't fool around with a creature of unknown origin. Be more careful next time."

"I will," Peerless replied with a bow.

"Then we're done here. Since you've already tamed it, keep a close eye on it. Don't let it run around and expose our whereabouts." There was little else the supreme lord could say, since nothing seemed untoward.

"Understood," Peerless agreed respectfully. A vulgar rat wasn't enough to raise the supreme lord's suspicions, no matter how distrustful he was.

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"Jiang Chen should have arrived in the Ninesuns Sky Sect by now. Ready yourselves, we'll attack in a day or two!"

"We hear and obey," the crowd replied deferentially, Devourcloud included.

Back in the camp, Elder Peng asked, “Seventh Master, what happened?”

“A spirit creature, nothing important. Devourcloud is too eager for petty achievement.” The supreme lord had his own opinion about the protector king’s enthusiasm. Among the eight lords, the man was prone to making a fuss out of nothing. He was also quick to flatter and take credit for himself.

Elder Peng smiled. “That’s precisely the type of men we can use. At least, he isn’t likely to stab us in the back.”

That was quite true. The supreme lord agreed with a sigh. “Sadly, what I need is genuine skill, not flattery. Devourcloud is too crafty for his own good. If only he had the strength to match!”

Elder Peng nodded. “Seventh Master, we should beware of Veluriyam’s defenses. I’ve learned of a Vermillion Bird defending the place.”

The supreme lord turned grave. “It was torpid and about to die the last time I saw it. Why is it still alive?”

“Ancient divine beasts have tenacious vitality. I’m afraid we won’t be rid of it so easily.” Elder Peng exclaimed.

“Elder Peng, what should we do? That’s not an easy foe to handle.” The supreme lord seemed to fear nothing in the world, yet he tensed at the mention of the ancient creature. Thankfully, it was already at death’s doorstep. Otherwise, what he knew of the divine bird was enough to make him turn tail and leave without a second thought.

Even with the two elders’ assistance, an ancient, divine beast was too difficult an adversary. They didn’t lack for strength, but ancient creatures were simply on an entirely other level. Even among them, Vermillion Birds, as one of the four divine beasts, were peerless existences. His forebearers would have had no choice but to retreat against a Vermillion Bird at full strength.

“In its condition, the bird’s fighting potential must be at less than ten percent. It failed to kill a mere human in Agarwood Valley, although it was one who’d borrowed the celestial demon lord’s arts and treasures,” Elder Peng advised.

Elder Mo nodded. “There’s nothing to fear. It’s a spent arrow at the end of its flight.”

“As to the golem warriors, they’re simple minded. They’re no threat to us without Jiang Chen by their side,” Elder Peng added with a smile. “Ultimately, everything depends on Jiang Chen. Seventh Master, I have an idea. Once he learns Veluriyam’s under attack, he’ll rush back no matter the cost. If we set up an ambush...”

A delighted grin appeared on the supreme lord’s face. “You must have read my mind. I was considering this very idea. Elders, do you think it’s feasible?”

“It should be, as long as we’re prepared.” As ever, Elder Mo stayed curt and concise.

Elder Peng stayed silent for a moment. “It won’t be so easy. Jiang Chen will definitely take the golems with him. Then again, what’s our House Xiahou good at, if not surprise attacks? Do you remember how we caught those men at Agarwood Valley with the Soulless Powder of Wind and Cloud?”

The Exultation Pill was a specialty of their house, used to control other cultivators, while the Soulless Powder was a medicine specifically in mental attacks. It was invisible once scattered in the air, tasteless and formless, but as soon as someone breathed it in, his consciousness would sink into a coma and be captive to its poison.

“Elder Peng, do you perhaps mean...?” The supreme lord’s eyes shone bright.

“In war, one ought to pit one’s strength against the enemy’s weakness. If Jiang Chen is willing to risk his golems’ lives and orders them to charge straight at us, we’ll be the ones to suffer!” Elder Peng’s opinioned.

They couldn’t afford casualties, while golems didn’t fear harm or injury.

The elders and protector kings were disposable. They were more than enough to cope with human sects and cultivators, but even if they were to swarm the golems, they’d stand little chance against the empyrean warriors.

The golems hadn’t recovered fully, but no matter how weakened, they would prove too tall an order. Only the supreme lord and his two retainers, Elder Mo and Elder Peng, could withstand them.

It seemed that the three descendants of Myriad Abyss Island would need personally go into action against the exotic creatures.

However, a dangerous frontal clash against the rugged stone warriors was definitely not in their best interest. Their strategy had always first and foremost to play dirty.

The supreme lord mumbled to himself for a long while, then cackled eerily. “Alright, let’s do so then. We’ll surround Veluriyam and bait out our real prey. What do you think?”

What did he mean by that?

Simply encircle Veluriyam, but rather than a no holds barred offensive, they would lie in ambush for their genuine prey: Jiang Chen.

“The seventh master is wise. All the other dominos will fall by themselves once we capture him!” Elder Peng snickered.

“Elder Mo, what do you think?” The supreme lord turned to the other elder.

The later stayed silent for a long moment. “It can work, but we need to arrange for everything properly. We can’t let word leak out.”

“Of course. Secrecy is key. Our plan would be for naught if exposed. Alright, it’s so decided. Tomorrow morning, I’ll order an assault on Veluriyam and have them surrounded!”

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Early the next morning, he summoned all of the elders and protector kings. “Gentlemen, our time has come. The army is to set off and besiege Veluriyam.”

“Simply besiege?” Someone immediately reacted.

“Encircle first, fight later! I have my own plans. Don’t be too anxious, just comply with my commands.” The supreme lord naturally wouldn’t expose his intentions at this stage, or it would be the death of his plan.

Be good tools and surround the city. You’re of no use against Jiang Chen himself in any case.

In fact, his distrustful nature wouldn’t let him use them either. A Jiang Chen admirer might be mixed in the crowd and disrupt the plan at a crucial time, thereby alerting the enemy.

“I trust I don’t need to state Veluriyam’s importance? With the city in our hands, we’d be in control of the entire human domain. Our Order will become the one true ruler of mankind!

“Before joining me, have any of you stood at such a height and looked down on the mass of all the heroes in the world? What authority did you have among your kind?

“None! Because Veluriyam and Pillfire have always been the ones to dictate everything. If not them, then the eight first rank sects! You are mere wandering cultivators, pawns, and second-rate characters in their eyes! But are they truly stronger than you? What right do they have to occupy such a lofty position and treat you with disdain? Don’t you want to stand above them? Don’t you want to look down at them and repay them in kind for all the humiliation you’ve suffered under their yoke?”

One had to say, the supreme lord was truly gifted when it came to riling up a crowd. Each of his men felt their blood boil. Whether a protector king or an elder, no one had ever attained the status of humanity’s top figures.

They had been either wandering cultivators or led mediocre lives in their sects. In brief, none of them had ever wielded absolute authority. No matter how high their cultivation, they had to defer to their superiors. But today would be the prelude to a new dawn. How could they not rejoice?

Even Peerless couldn’t but secretly praise the supreme lord’s eloquence. The man was indeed extraordinary to inflame the crowd in so few words.

“Jiang Chen, I hope you can come back in time. The supreme lord is much more fearsome an opponent than Pillzenith ever was.” He could only endure in silence for now. Before a critical opportunity presented itself, he couldn’t discard his current identity!

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Chapter 1483: Swaggering And Bravado

The Order’s army finally tore away the clothes they’d hiding in, baring their fangs and unleashing their lofty aura. The frightening momentum dimmed the celestial bodies and eclipsed the land, aweing Veluriyam into shock and trepidation.

The Order had launched its attack!

The dreadful news spread like wildfire throughout the city.

Perhaps this force’s numbers didn’t rival the former northern alliance, but the quality was far and beyond. Each soldier was an elite with absolute strength. Peak great emperors like Pillzenith had been the highest level in the northern alliance, but the empyrean rank supreme lord was personally leading the charge this time!

A genuine empyrean master had finally arrived. The dawn of a new era had arrived! After ten thousand years, great emperors no longer reigned supreme in the human domain!

With his cultivation, the supreme lord rivaled the entire northern alliance all by himself. Moreover, he'd brought along a pack of tigers and wolves. More importantly, Veluriyam was weaker than during the previous war, because events were all too sudden!

As everyone knew, the young lord was currently traveling to the distant Ninesuns Sky Sect. The city was currently without clear leadership. Jiang Chen was the city's backbone. Without him, who was to lead the resistance? Who could contend with the matchless supreme lord? Shock spread throughout Veluriyam.

In the young lord residence on Sacred Peafowl Mountain, many had yet to learn of Jiang Chen's return. He'd ordered a lockdown on the news to avoid letting the enemy get wind of his presence. The element of surprise was the key to victory in this war.

"Ole Gold, I haven't forgotten your clan's contribution in the previous battles. You'll be my surprise force this time. When all's said and done, I'll give you your just reward." Jiang Chen took care to summon the rat king and warn him ahead of time.

After so many years at the human's side, the rat king was keenly aware following the young lord had been the smartest choice of his life.

He'd enhanced the rat tribe's bloodline through various methods, increasing their strength at least tenfold. Thanks to resources provided by the young lord, the rat king's own power had soared to the point it could now easily match an advanced emperor cultivator.

But of course, personal strength had never been the tribe's forte. Rather, they relied on their fertility and numbers. This was a peerless asset in large-scale battles, whether offensive or defensive, and also the greatest reason why the young lord so valued the tribe.

Ole Gold was confident its tribe was even more useful in war than the true dragon clan or the white tiger clan, at least for now.

After all, Long Xiaoxuan and Little White were alone, while the Goldbiter Rats were legion. Before the two matured, they couldn't display their innate superiority in battle.

Now is the most crucial time for establishing our importance in the young lord's mind. When Long Xiaoxuan and Whitey mature, our tribe might have fewer opportunities to contribute.

Indeed, this was the best time window for his kin.

"Young master, don't worry. Just like with the northern alliance, our hard teeth will make quick work of the Order! It'll be a sumptuous meal!" The rat king made a bloodthirsty gesture, its face set in a fierce scowl.

Jiang Chen laughed in spite of himself. The rat tribe usually cowered inside its nest. It was rare to see Ole Gold strike such a ferocious pose. The string of victories and the tribe's continued growth must have increased the rat king's confidence.

But he still warned, "Ole Gold, don't take our enemies too lightly. They're nothing like the northern alliance, so stay sharp."

"Don't worry, young lord. They must be arrogant because they're backed by empyrean cultivators, but it means nothing to our numbers. We'll teach them the meaning of a rat tide!"

The formerly timid rat king had become surprisingly bold of late.

Jiang Chen smiled appreciatively at the change. "Ole Gold, have your descendants keep their eyes open and report anything suspicious!"

"Understood."

As the tribe matured, it had also become increasingly flexible. Many outstanding geniuses had emerged, growing into strong and skilled rat captains. They couldn't match Ole Gold yet in strength or seniority, but the speed and momentum of their growth was a delightful trend.

"Order our allies to take their men and retreat to the core area. There's no need for them to stick to an impossible defense." His command reached all the other factions.

Everyone believed him absent, but an order from Sacred Peafowl Mountain still represented his will. Many allies had been ready for a fight to the death, but immediately sounded the retreat once they received the word.

They were too weak to contend with the enemy. Any resistance, no matter how brave or unyielding, would be hurling an egg against a rock. So no matter how fiercely resolute they were, they naturally wouldn't choose suicide given the choice.

"Defend the inner city, protect the pagodas!"

The army quickly understood the intention behind the command. They were to gather and safeguard the city's most crucial assets. The pagodas, in particular, were Veluriyam's sacred totems. As long as they stood tall, Veluriyam's legacy forever survived!

The Order of Wind and Cloud pressed on, showing little interest for the factions they met on the way. It had its eyes set on the heart of the city. With inexorable impetus, they laid siege to the city's core less than half a day later.

"Supreme Lord, do you see these buildings so tall they pierce the clouds? These are the three Veluriyam Pagodas. The main pagoda is the tallest one, while the other two are the auxiliary martial and pill pagodas. Together, they are Veluriyam's sacred totems."

Many people scrambled to inform the supreme lord, eager to fawn upon him.

The supreme lord's serene gaze landed on the buildings. In truth, he was deeply stirred by their densely ancient atmosphere.

"Such an aura! Worthy of ancient constructions indeed. What an eyesore it is for lowly humans to occupy such a holy land!" His tone brimmed with an overweening sense of superiority.

The Pagodas constituted the ancient Veluriyam Sect's sacred land. He couldn't repress his greed when he thought of the ancient inheritances undoubtedly stored within.

"Supreme Lord, should we attack right now, or..." Devourcloud asked for instructions.

He and Scourcloud had spearheaded this war. Bluntly put, they were to open a bloody path for the rest of the army.

"We're in no hurry. Let's wait first." The supreme lord smiled leisurely. All of a sudden, his figure blurred as he shot in the sky. Standing on a ball of divine light, a mysterious cloak fluttered about him, making him seem even more mysterious and impenetrable.

"Listen to me, you of Veluriyam." His faint voice spread from the sky. "By the will of the heavens, this supreme lord shall take control of the human domain. Henceforth, your city is ours. Submit and prosper, or resist and die!"

What?

His indifferent voice had been far from a shout, yet it rumbled like thunder, reaching the ears of every cultivator in every corner of the city.

Devourcloud didn't miss the opportunity to flatter his liege. "Our supreme lord is an empyrean master! His advent is foreordained by the heavens. Why aren't you submitting yet?"

Veluriyam's great emperors hadn't evacuated yet with the rest of the men. They'd stayed on Sacred Peafowl Mountain instead. At this moment, all of them were gathered together.

The young lord's presence was still a secret. Even they weren't in the know, so as the city's young madam, Dan Fei, had become the de facto temporary leader.

"Young madam, with the enemy at our doorstep and the young lord still far away in the Ninesuns Sky Sect, we are in dire peril." Petalpluck sighed. "Did the young lord leave a master plan with you before leaving?"

Dan Fei calmly said, "Have the skies collapsed? Why are you so anxious?"

Her sharp eyes fell on the supreme lord standing high in the clouds outside the mountain. Surrounded by a crowd of strong sycophants, his majestic aura seemed unparalleled.

"Is that the Order's supreme lord?"

Coiling Dragon nodded. "No one's seen him before. But with his prestige, I assume no one would dare impersonate him."

Dan Fei narrowed her almond-shaped eyes, her voice clear as crystal, "If he's so secure in his victory, why is he parading about for us to see? Why hasn't he attacked yet? Can any of you tell me this?"

The great emperors looked at each other. The young madam's composure surprised many of them. They'd seen Huang'er before and had very much admired her self-possession and the broadness of her vision.

Emperor Peafowl's adopted daughter also seemed outstanding in that regard. At the very least, she was far steadier than the great emperors.

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Chapter 1484: Sudden Betrayals On The Brink Of Battle

Coiling Dragon ranked last among Veluriyam's great emperors, but on Sacred Peafowl Mountain, he was the most well-regarded one. "Young madam, could he have some hidden agenda?"

"If this supreme lord is as strong as he pretends to be, he should be more than willing to duke it out in the open. Why use small tricks to lure Jiang Chen away, then come here and strut around? That's the mindset of the weak. Allow me to be blunt. He's simply scared of the young lord!"

The great emperors nodded after some reflection. Would this supreme lord fear taking the young lord head-on if he possessed overwhelming strength?

Before Coiling Dragon could reply, Ji San had already charged outside the mountain's gates. There, he sneered. "Supreme Lord of the Order, why are you acting like a thief and hiding from our young lord? The entire world knows you're afraid of him. Who are you trying to impress here?"

"Why do you hide in a cloak and conceal your face if not for a guilty conscience? Are you ashamed of yourself?"

His taunts and barely repressed snickers triggered a sea of jeers from Veluriyam's cultivators. Collective boos and hisses halted the supreme lord's momentum.

The supreme lord clenched his teeth in anger. "Who's willing to lead the charge and capture this mealy-mouthed kid in my stead?"

"Your subordinate will!" For Devourcloud, the brat was an easy prey. His talent wasn't bad, but his cultivation was still lacking due to his young age.

"Very well. Devourcloud, you go," the supreme lord responded quietly. "Scourcloud, back him up."

"At your orders."

Devourcloud snickered as both of them set off. "Daoist Scourcloud, please bring up the rear and be mindful of ambushes."

"Don't worry, you're safe with me around," Peerless replied calmly.

With a cackle, Devourcloud turned into a blue blur and shot at Ji San like a bolt of lightning.

Laughing mischievously, Ji San took a few steps back, returning to the protective formation covering the young lord residence, fearless in the face of Devourcloud's fearsome rush.

"Kid, resign yourself to death!" Devourcloud had never failed when it came to crushing the weak. He was an absolute expert in that regard. With the gap in strength, the kid couldn't escape his clutches.

However, the Nine Sparks Petalstorm formation suddenly came alive when he approached its boundaries. An invisible ball of air, a blinding, rainbow light crashed into the great emperor and hammered him back!

His speed was too great to stop in time and the formation's power too stunning. Caught off-guard, he lost balance and suffered the full brunt of the backlash. He could only groan helplessly as he bounced backwards.

The supreme lord's face darkened at the scene. He swore quietly, "Trash!"

How could a protector king be so easily thwarted? The man was far too lacking in battle awareness. Even a child could have spotted such an obvious barrier. But fine, even if he'd missed it, how could he have been so defenseless?

Such a level of fighting prowess was sorely disappointing.

At that moment, Peerless' figure blurred and shot towards Devourcloud, presumably to rescue his companion.

The supreme lord thought little of it. Even Devourcloud himself believed Scourcloud was trying to slow him down and lessen the impact. But when the man reached him, a cold light swept across his neck before he could react, accompanied by an explosion of murderous intent.

Everything happened in the blink of an eye. Apart from the supreme lord, no one else could see clearly what had transpired.

In the next moment, Devourcloud's massive head flew in the air, separated from the rest of his body. His eyes remained open in death, full of shock and grievance.

His killer was naturally Emperor Peerless.

After dispatching the protector king in one blow, Peerless' figure fell towards Sacred Peafowl Mountain.

The scene struck everyone speechless. Even the supreme lord was stupefied. He fixed Peerless with a glare, murderous rage overflowing from his eyes.

"Scourcloud, you! How dare you betray me?!" To think such a scene would occur right before the start of hostilities!

He'd made a show of strength to boost his army's morale, but Peerless' move immediately reversed the tide. His vanguard had been killed or turned traitor. Wasn't this rolling up to his enemy and slapping his own face for their amusement?

Peerless tore off his mask, revealing his true, sinister-looking visage.

"Betray?" He smiled coldly. "I am Sacred Peafowl Mountain's venerated guest elder Mo Wushuang, and proud of it! I never surrendered to you in the first place, so how could I be a traitor?"

Emperor Peerless!

The sudden turn of events struck Sacred Peafowl Mountain with shock, especially his dao partner, Madame Yun. Trembling at the familiar voice, she recklessly charged down the mountain and threw herself in his arms.

"Brother Mo, you're back. You finally came back!" She patently suffered quite a lot during these years.

“Yu’er, I’ve made you suffer all these years.” Peerless sighed softly. “Do you blame me for doing this?”

She gently stroked his wounded face, crying with joy. “Brother Mo, I’m simply happy to have you back. Even if you turn into the devil, I’d follow you to the deepest abyss of hell. What are little wounds like these?”

Despite his endless scheming, the supreme lord was too young to have ever imagined the scene before his eyes.

“Mo Wushuang, Scourcloud... Good, very good! I’ll remember you! Once your city falls, I’ll teach you what it means to betray me. Is that your woman? You better pray I don’t get my hands on her.”

He gnashed his teeth, fuming at the loss of two right-hand men. Just then, two bloodcurdling shrieks rose from his camp.

Two Celestial Stars clad fell from the clouds without forewarning, closely followed by two figures that shot towards Sacred Peafowl Mountain at alarming speed.

These two were naturally the Jiao brothers.

They’d been angsty for their share of the action after seeing Peerless switch sides. They’d mounted a sneak attack on the Order’s ranks, killing two elders before slipping away.

Thankfully for the supreme lord, his face was concealed beneath his cloak. Otherwise, his expression would’ve surely been spectacular at the humiliation of this one-two punch.

“Finally! It was long in the making, but I’ve finally vented some!” Back on Sacred Peafowl Mountain, Jiao Yun removed his mask and revealed his true identity.

“Apologies, Supreme Lord of the Order, us brothers won’t be keeping you company any further. Hahaha, remember, our moniker is the Jiao Brothers of Mt. Huai!”

“Haha, bring it if you want revenge. Too bad you won’t have that opportunity to!” Jiao Feng gave free rein to his taunts.

The supreme seethed. “Fools! Two bit players! Do you think your loss and betrayal means anything to me?! Revenge? With the Exultation Pill’s poison coursing in your veins, you’ll be begging for a swift death in three months at most!”

Peerless remarked indifferently, “Three months? Even if I had only three days to live, I wouldn’t spend them as your subordinate.”

The supreme lord shouted, “Idiot! Am I any worse than a trivial young lord from Veluriyam?”

“Of course you are. Take a good look in the mirror. In what aspect can you rival the young lord?” Jiao Yun also steeled his heart and disregarded the threat of the Exultation Pill.

“Let’s see how you talk big once I raid your city and capture the brat alive.” The supreme lord’s anger abruptly morphed into cold resolve. He’d finally come back to his senses. Bickering with these men was beneath his noble self.

“Men, by my command, no one is allowed inside or outside Veluriyam from now on. Kill anyone who tries!”

“Yes, my lord!”

“Mo Wushuang, do you think the mountain’s restriction can keep you safe? For me, this formation is completely useless! Today, I’ll have you realize how base and weak you people are!” The supreme lord’s anger had driven him to unleash his power.

The atmosphere became oppressive as the aura of an empyrean master suddenly flared. Like the calm before the storm, air currents around him grew restless as the very air seemed to boil, shrouding the entire world in his aura.

But at this time, a fiery shadow suddenly shot in the sky above Peafowl Mountain like a blazing meteor, soaring to the heavens. It was the Vermillion Bird!

Its body twisted and warped, growing larger and larger, soon covering the sky in radiant glory. Its divine aura clashed with the supreme lord’s presence, both crazily vying for control of the heavens and earth as they ignited the very air!

[Sovereign of the Three Realms \(WN\)](#)

Chapter 1485: Beating Someone At His Own Game

The supreme lord bit his tongue. The city’s Vermillion Bird guardian had been partly why he hadn’t ordered an immediate assault. He feared the golems even more, but the ancient bird had been the one to appear instead. The turn of events both startled and disquieted him.

Why was the Vermillion Bird so recklessly expending its energy when so close to death? Wasn’t this accelerating its own demise? This was highly startling.

The golems’ absence also disquieted him. Had they all followed Jiang Chen to the Ninesuns Sky Sect? If so, it didn’t bode well for Elder Peng and Elder Mo’s ambush. There were eight stone brothers after all.

They might not have recovered their full strength and couldn’t match the two elders in individual fighting prowess potential. But even with the advantage of surprise, two elders against eight golems was a tall order.

Hopefully they can capture Jiang Chen quickly with the Soulless Powder! The supreme master was now regretting his decision. With the two elders by his side, he wouldn’t be forced to personally take to the frontlines.

“Vermillion Bird, why do you serve lowly humans in your decrepitude, of all things? Don’t you think it’s the ultimate disgrace for one of such divine lineage?” The supreme lord attempted to appeal with both reason and emotions.

However, the ancient bird only spoke the ancient beast language. It could understand the human’s meaning, but didn’t take it to heart.

True, the human domain’s current strength didn’t warrant the protection of such a noble, divine existence. But an insistent voice deep in its heart told it the city was worth defending, even with its life, for no other reason than Jiang Chen!

It couldn't see through the young man, but it had a hunch that the young man could bring about an opportunity for rebirth! Such was its instinct as an ancient divine beast. For that reason, it turned a deaf ear to the supreme lord's arguments. It had vast experience and a firm will. How could a few simple sentences sway its resolve?

Its indifference unsettled the supreme lord. Even an empyrean expert would crumble from the first blow against an ancient Vermillion Bird at its peak. If it was willing to stake its life and ignite what little life essence it had left, he had no confidence he would emerge the victor.

"Senior, Veluriyam isn't worth sacrificing yourself for. Why not join me instead?" His voice took on a beguiling rhythm. "I can tell you're nearing the end of your life. You have less than a century left to live. You require a place suitable for your rebirth!"

Being from Myriad Abyss Island, he was knowledgeable about the Vermillion Birds' characteristics.

His words cut deep into the bird's greatest weakness, sending a ripple across its heart. However, it immediately realized this man was no upstanding or reliable partner. The human's words couldn't be trusted.

"Senior, the spirit veins in this domain are depleted, its lands barren. It can't sustain your rebirth. But I know of an infinitely better place! I can even take you there." His glib tongue didn't produce the desired effect. Rather than weakening, the divine beast's aura thickened even further.

The ancient bird knew well that it couldn't trust the man. Even if he was speaking the truth, he might still end up enslaving it, making it his contract beast. The fellow could scarcely conceal his intense desire to conquer and dominate. To partner with him would be to make a deal with the devil.

"Jiang Chen, I'm barely holding on here. I can intimidate him at most, but if you don't make it back soon, I don't have enough lifeforce left for an all-out fight..." Though its determination was too firm to be shaken, it could only deter and delay the enemy.

It could only deter and delay the enemy. No matter how firm its determination, its aged carcass wouldn't endure an intense fight.

...

"Young lord, just as you thought, there's a group hiding along a road we must pass. Two among them are especially terrifying. My descendants don't even dare go near them. No living creature comes out alive from an area ten miles around them!"

At the border between Veluriyam and the Ninesuns Sky Sect, the rat king kept Jiang Chen abreast of the situation as his descendants continually transmitted new information.

Traveling light, Jiang Chen and the eight golems had arrived quite a while ago and had been biding their time, waiting for the rat clan's intelligence.

What would he have done in the supreme lord's shoes? Given the man's craftiness, an ambush on the way back from the Ninesuns Sky Sect was certainly on the menu. So he'd decided to try his luck.

It'd only been pure conjecture, but if he had been wrong, he would've slipped back to Veluriyam and fought the Order head-on. However, it seemed he'd hit the mark. He could now spring his own surprise attack on the enemies and lay waste to their schemes.

"Young lord, there aren't many of them. We think they must have arranged a poison formation in that area. It must be why we haven't seen any animals come back out alive."

"A poison formation?" A sudden thought occurred to him.

He recalled the many cultivators that had been waiting outside Agarwood Valley. When he'd come out, all of them had vanished. Moreover, he hadn't found the beginning of a clue on site.

There had been a few marks left at most, but nothing that had indicated a fierce struggle. It now seemed clear they'd been captured by the Order. How had the Order accomplished such a task with nary a trace?

Lost in thought, Jiang Chen remained silent.

"It seems the Order relies on more than empyrean powerhouses. They're also experts in poison. Otherwise, it would have been impossible to capture so many men this easily!"

All the pieces of the puzzle finally fell into place.

"Why rely on poison? It means they aren't as overwhelmingly strong they'd like us to believe. Why use such slow methods otherwise?" Using cold logic, he hypothesized the enemy's strength.

"They must be afraid of something. Hm, now that I think of it, that supreme lord must have been hiding in the secret realm and seen everything. Otherwise, why would he have sent so many impostors to Upper Eight Regions' sects to rally the northern alliance against me? He must know I've obtained the Primosanct Sect's inheritance, and even about the golem brothers and Senior Vermillion!"

This must be why the Order had always been reluctant to face him outright.

It was strong without a doubt, but not strong enough to subdue eight primordial era golems. Given the supreme lord's ambition, he wouldn't have wasted time with such roundabout strategy.

The mention of poison suddenly gave the young lord an idea. Scenes of previous battles suddenly emerged in his mind, especially the battle at Cloudshatter Range in Great Scarlet.

Back then, the Veranda master had submitted to Demon Emperor Bloodmalva and deployed the demonic miasma. The Golden Cicada blood had rendered Jiang Chen immune to poison, but he'd feigned weakness to encourage a direct attack from the Veranda master, then instantly killed the latter with a sudden counterattack.

That plan was perfect, if I say so myself. Why not use it again?

"Use the Order's own plans against them..." He suddenly couldn't stop this train of thought. "Big Stone, I have a plan. Are you brothers willing to give it a try?"

The golem replied straightforwardly. "Savior, you saved us. Our lives are yours. We'll do whatever you tell us."

Jiang Chen explained his plan. The golems beamed with excitement, but Big Stone was soon crestfallen. "Savior, we golems are strong, but we aren't immune to poison."

Jiang Chen smiled. "But you don't need to worry about that."

He summoned the Thundercloud Cicada. After many years of evolution, the cicada's strength had greatly improved, reaching an entirely new level of existence. As a result, its bloodline had also been strengthened.

The Cicada howled at the prospect of giving away eight drops of blood. "Big brother Chen, aren't you too cruel? You're going to suck my little body dry at this rate."

Jiang Chen laughed. "Just how much have I asked of you over so many years?"

Indeed, he hadn't asked much of the critter until now. Hence, despite its wails and shrieks, the cicada still complied after playing coy for a while, obediently handing over eight drops of blood essence. "A drop a year. I'm playing dead for the next eight years. Big brother Chen, just forget about me in the meantime!"

[Sovereign of the Three Realms \(WN\)](#)

Chapter 1486: Nets Above and Snares Below

After receiving the Golden Cicada bloodline, Jiang Chen bestowed the eight drops upon the golem brothers.

When the Stone Golems had first seen the diminutive and cowardly Cicada, they'd first been dismissive. That prejudice was quickly discarded for wide smiles when their savior told them the blood would make them impervious to poison.

In the primordial age, apart from tremendous brute force in fights, Stone Golems hadn't been particularly strong in any other area. Opponents with specialized skills could run circles around the strong golem warriors. Poison, in particular, was something the tribe had been very wary of.

Back then, races adept at poison had littered the ground, bringing a world of hurt to the Stone Golems. They were naturally delighted when they heard that refining the Golden Cicada bloodline would put this weakness to rest, once and for all.

The process didn't take too long.

"Savior, do us brothers really not have to be afraid of poison in the future?" Big Stone was still a little uneasy at the prospect.

Jiang Chen chuckled. "Are you still worried?"

Big Stone scratched his head and smiled honestly. "If our savior says it's so, then it must be so."

"Don't worry, there's not that many poisons in the world that can overcome a Golden Cicada bloodline." Jiang Chen refrained from talking in absolutes. Though it was a strong bloodline, everything had its counter. Incidentally, the young lord also knew what the Golden Cicada's was.

The golem brothers had now received a boost to their fighting capabilities. They were used to simply brute forcing fights, so the cicada's bloodline would be highly useful protection in the future.

Jiang Chen then set his mind to the task of brainstorming battle strategies.

Over on Veluriyam's side, Elders Peng and Mo had set up nets above and snares below, waiting for the young lord to return from the Ninesuns Sky Sect. They didn't have many with them, but all were elites and deeply trusted men of the Order. These were all confidantes that the young master had brought from Myriad Abyss Island.

"Elder Peng, Elder Mo, we've arranged scouts at the appropriate locations. We'll have firsthand notification as soon as Jiang Chen shows up," a one-eyed man reported in respectfully.

Elder Peng smiled. "Very good. By my estimation, Jiang Chen's group should be here no later than three days. He'll come back with everything he has to reinforce his city."

Elder Mo nodded as well. "The child values relationships. This is his weakness."

"It doesn't matter. He's just a mundane brat who's exhausted most of his luck to get to this point. The future of the Divine Abyss Continent falls to Myriad Abyss Island after all."

The one-eyed man suddenly interjected, "Elder Peng, what if that Jiang Chen doesn't take this road?"

"He has to, this is the fastest way to Veluriyam. He'll have to take a long detour if he doesn't come this way. The value of an army lies in its speed. He won't waste needless effort like that. He probably wishes that he could instantly transport all of his men back home!" Elder Peng had a deeper understanding of Jiang Chen since he'd collected a great deal of intelligence about the young lord during this time.

Elder Mo however, added in, "We still need to be mentally prepared for the possibility."

"Elder Mo, you too think that Jiang Chen won't take this route?" The other elder smiled merrily. "How about we make a bet? Jiang Chen will certainly rush back at top speed when he hears the news and will certainly come down this road. There's no doubt about it." Elder Peng was highly confident.

Elder Mo shook his head. "No. I too think there's a 90% chance that he will pass by here. However, we must be prepared for exceptions."

"There won't be." Elder Peng gave further orders to his men. "Make your preparations, it's harvest time! Remember, capture them alive. Our supreme lord needs more manpower, and while these cretins of the human domain aren't worth much, they're the strongest the region can offer at the moment. It'd be a waste to kill them.

"Especially Jiang Chen! Keep him alive at all costs! He possesses many secrets and we need him to resolve them!"

Taking the young lord alive was absolutely not because the Order treasured talent. They just wanted the treasures that Jiang Chen possessed. There was no fear about the valuables getting away if they had control over their owner, but miraculous pill recipes like the Emperor Supremacy Pill and Pinecrane Pill needed the boy to give them up himself. If he was killed out of hand, it was highly likely that the recipes would be lost.

Such wanton waste was something the Order never wanted to see.

“Stop worrying, Elder Mo. Nothing will go wrong.” Elder Peng could tell that his counterpart was still preoccupied.

The elder sighed softly. “I’m not worried, I just feel that something’s amiss.”

“What’s amiss?” Elder Peng laugh heartily. “With our plans, the human domain would be far too scary if anything still crops up after our plans. And be honest, is this domain really that frightening? Look at the Heavenly Dragon Sect, the Ninesuns Sky Sect, and the so-called behemoth Pillfire City. This is no longer the human domain of the ancient times, there’s no need to scare ourselves like this. These worthless trash have utterly embarrassed all of our ancestors!”

Whether it was the inhabitants of Myriad Abyss Island or the human domain, all shared ancestors from the ancient age.

Elder Mo had much he still wanted to say, but he wasn’t at liberty to say much else under the circumstances. There had to be an extent to the amount of cold water one poured out. Too much and it would impact troop morale, leading to grave consequences.

He changed the topic instead. “Elder Peng, will the supreme lord be able to handle his side?”

Elder Peng pondered for a moment. “That Vermillion Bird is at the end of its tether. The supreme lord can absolutely contend with it and not come off worse in the fight. The question now is that we don’t know how many Stone Golems were left in Veluriyam Capital.”

“With Jiang Chen’s cautiousness, he certainly left a couple.”

As they spoke, the one-eyed underling hurried back to them. “Elder Peng, Elder Mo. Four giants are coming from Veluriyam at an exceptionally fast speed.”

“Four giants?” The elders looked at each other and recalled something at the same time.

“Can it be the Stone Golems?” Elder Peng wondered in a solemn tone. “Anything else? Any specifics?”

“Not yet. The four giants move at a terrifying speed and momentum. They seem like they want to challenge the heavens themselves.”

“It must be the Stone Golems.” Elder Peng concluded with certainty. “Are you sure there’s only four?”

“Just four, that I’m sure of.”

Elder Peng fell silent for a moment and abruptly chuckled after a light flashed through his eyes.

“Elder Peng, why are you laughing?” The other elder found this development strange.

“Elder Mo, this is a good thing. Don’t you think it’s strange that the Stone Golems are coming from Veluriyam?” Elder Peng couldn’t stop chuckling.

“Not at all. They must be guarding Veluriyam, so why is it odd they’re coming from there? I rather worry about our master instead.”

“Stop worrying over nothing, our master will be fine. It’s even better that the Stone Golems have left. If my guess is correct, these four must be worried that Jiang Chen will meet with an accident along the way, so have come out to meet their young lord. This means that Jiang Chen only has four of them by his side, and these four approaching are here to meet him! It looks like Veluriyam has already deduced that our master is just surrounding them and plan on attacking their reinforcements instead!”

Elder Peng’s speculation did indeed make sense.

Elder Mo also nodded after some thought. “Yes, that makes sense. It looks like Veluriyam isn’t the average mediocrity after all.”

“Hmph, of course not. Why else would our master go to such trouble and care in his plans? This faction is his only concern!” Though Elder Peng disliked Jiang Chen and Veluriyam Capital, he had a very high opinion of the faction. “Alright, everyone take your positions. We’re going to run into Stone Golems from Veluriyam before we see Jiang Chen from the Ninesuns Sky Sect. This is a warm up!”

Elder Peng cackled darkly. “This is possibly an opportunity for us! If the Stone Golems end up in our hands, House Xiahou’s position on Myriad Abyss Island will climb even further! This will give us even more resources when challenging the rest of the world in the future!”

Stone Golems were a strong race from the primordial times. Inhabitants of Myriad Abyss Island knew about this to a certain extent. Elder Peng had quite an appetite.

Elder Mo’s expression shifted slightly as well, plainly infected by his colleague’s enthusiasm. Taking the Stone Golems for themselves and returning them to their peak power would make them a frightening existence in Myriad Abyss Island! Just how frightening would House Xiahou be then?

“Everyone get ready, haul in the nets and get ready for four fat fish first!” Elder Peng called out excitedly. This was one hell of an appetizer!

The four Stone Golems were barefoot and had strapped heavy weapons to their back. They were charging forward like they were back on a primordial battlefield. Each one of their strides matched several of a human’s and were powered by extreme speed. They charged forward like four currents of vicious tidewater.

“Hook, line, and sinker!” Joy dawned in the elder’s eyes.

[Sovereign of the Three Realms \(WN\)](#)

Chapter 1487: Who’s Smarter Than Who?

A hundred miles, fifty, thirty, ten...

The four stone golem braves expanded from small dots to big blots before Elder Peng’s eyes. It took only a few moments before they arrived on the ambush site. Though the golems were still on the outskirts, they were nevertheless already enclosed in the trap.

“Keep your calm. Don’t move before I give the word!” Elder Peng was a Myriad Abyss Island expert through and through. His calmness in the face of overwhelming joy bore testament to his status as an elder of House Xiahou. The closer the goal was, the more rational he became.

He knew very well the frenzied strength the stone golems possessed. If they were discovered now, that would be no benefit to the Order.

As the golems had only just entered the area of the ambush, the Soulless Powder of Wind and Cloud hadn't taken full effect yet. Given their incredible combat prowess, it was unwise to fight the golems before they were put out of commission.

Someone backed into a corner often entered a maddened state of mind. In particular, self-destruction for common ruin was frequent. An explosive finale before death was certainly something to be wary about. There was no need to make things harder for oneself.

Elder Peng waited for the four stone golems to notice that things were awry.

Soulless Powder wasn't a fast-acting poison, but an imperceptible and invasive kind. Anyone afflicted by it would lose the ability to resist without even noticing. When they did, it would be too late.

This was also why they had been able to capture so many cultivators at Agarwood Valley's entrance. Not that they didn't have the raw strength to do so – instead, the goal had been to reel them in without a fight. That was unlikely without the poison.

The Soulless Powder had been extremely efficient to that end.

Poisons were unique in that anyone could be susceptible to them, regardless of whether the victim was spirit or empyrean realm. An unwary cultivator was also a dead one.

In ancient times, countless capable men were slain by strange and curious toxins. Because of their wide applicability, poison use was a perennially popular discipline spanning from time immemorial all the way to the present. Moreover, poison-related heritages were also popular.

Everyone held their breaths. No one dared make a peep, that they might unwittingly startle the four stone golems and alert them ahead of time. The ambush site was very large and the poison dispersed over an immense area. The Goldbiter Rats had steered clear of it ten miles out because of this precise reason. No living thing could survive it.

Time passed little by little.

Elder Peng's joy mounted with each ticking second. He could see the four stone golems gradually slowing down. That meant the poison was already beginning to affect them. When signs of their intoxication became clear, it meant the poison had progressed very far along.

Elder Mo glanced at his colleague. Elder Peng inclined his head a little, signalling that his fellow should wait a little more.

It was at this time that the stone golem brave running at the forefront slowed his step. A distressing shriek came out of his mouth. He seemed to utter something to his fellows, who responded with the same kind of unintelligible language. They were evidently roused over something.

Elder Peng was utterly jubilant. He knew that the four golems had finally realized they were poisoned. It was time for the trap's jaws to snap shut.

“Go!” With a wave of the elder’s hand, the Order’s men shot out from the darkness one by one. They formed a circle a hundred meters or so out from the four stone golems.

The ambush party wasn’t large in size. There were only a few dozen here. However, Elders Peng and Mo were clearly a cut above the rest given their empyrean expertise. The remaining were uniformly great emperors. Their average ability far surpassed their human domain brethren.

Myriad Abyss Island produced remarkable people indeed. These were the core forces of the Order of Wind and Cloud, the supreme lord’s hidden trump card.

The human domain experts he’d gathered into the Order of Wind and Cloud – the eight Protector Kings, thirty-six Celestial Stars, and seventy-two Earthly Fiends – they were only a portion of the Order’s full strength. These men present today were the real elites he’d brought from Myriad Abyss Island, the men that gave him a backbone in this wide world.

The four stone golem brothers affixed these people with angry, wide-eyed glares. All sorts of weird noises came from their mouths.

Elder Peng snickered. “Stop shouting. Speak normally.”

Of course the golems were only acting. Acting was their natural weak point because of the tribe’s penchant for honesty, which meant that the brothers couldn’t exactly do a stellar job.

Pretending to be poisoned, angry, and fearful in the absence of any actual poison was a tremendously tough job.

Jiang Chen had kept their limited acting skills in mind during the planning for this particular play. The only thing he’d asked of them was to shout loudly at the right time. Eschewing speech in favor of incomprehensible shouting made things much easier and much more plausible.

Elder Peng smirked when he saw the four golems’ fury.

Thump, thump, thump, thump!

Their gigantic bodies toppled to the earth amid incensed shouting.

The elder could no longer hold back his brazen laughter. “Elder Mo, we’ve landed four big catches today. The Order’s fortunes are unrivaled, no?”

Elder Mo nodded, but he did utter a word of caution. “Elder Peng, the shouting from those four just now sounded pretty strange.”

“Anyone would do strange things upon finding himself poisoned.” Elder Peng didn’t seem to mind all that much. “Come,” he waved, “let’s get a closer look.”

The four stone golem braves were splayed on the ground, groaning.

Elder Peng approached them, coming to a stop before one of them with a kick. “How does the Soulless Powder taste, you big oaf?”

“Coward!” The stone golem in question cursed.

“What a shame. The Primordial Stone Golem Tribe, fallen in servitude to some petty brat. Hilarious, truly!” As the victor today, Elder Peng found it easy to gloat. “Now you see. Neither Veluriyam Capital nor Jiang Chen can give your tribe a bright future. You only have one way forward, and that is with the Order of Wind and Cloud!”

“What is Order? I’m not joining!” The golem called out.

“Tsk, tsk. The Order of Wind and Cloud is destined to rule the human domain in the future. The supreme lord is a high-born aristocrat from Myriad Abyss Island. How can these dogs of the human domain compare?”

The giant furrowed his brow, seemingly hesitant about something.

“You four are just the appetizer,” Elder Peng said coolly. “When Jiang Chen comes back from the Ninesuns Sky Sect, he will become my prisoner too. Remember, no one in the human domain can stand against the supreme lord. Not Jiang Chen or anyone else!”

Elder Mo moved his mouth when he heard his fellow elder’s words. However, he didn’t say anything in the end. Still, he felt that something wasn’t quite right about this. But what? He couldn’t say exactly.

The burly man sighed. “Ok, we give up. Antidote.”

Elder Peng chuckled. “The antidote? Sure, that’s easy enough. However, you must swear your loyalty first. I can’t trust you otherwise.”

“We swear.” The golem nodded. “I, Third Stone, do swear...”

The elder was glowed with pleasure. Once an oath was given, the four stone golems could never betray them.

It was at this moment that something extremely unexpected happened.

The wheezing giant bounced up from the ground like he had been injected with adrenaline. He threw his titanic body at Elder Peng with lightning speed.

This rapid shift in circumstances caused made the color drain from the elder’s face and his heart to sink. His reflexes were quick enough to allow him to dodge out of the way in the nick of time. Unfortunately, the other three chose to strike in the next second.

Thump! Thump!

Elder Peng was able to dodge the first attack, but not the second or third. The stone golems had just executed one of their secret techniques, the ‘Flying Boulder Leap’. It was a remarkably potent attack that treated the user’s body as a meteoric object, combining strength and speed into a single blow.

Indeed, the impact might as well have been a meteor from outer space. Even an empyrean expert like Elder Peng suffered tremendous internal injury after being smashed several times over. He coughed up an excessive amount of blood.

“This isn’t good!” Elder Mo understood the gravity of the situation when he saw his colleague being hit. He was upright enough to attempt to escape alongside his wounded comrade as a cloud of light.

A few more forces surged towards his back from outside, cutting his plans short. The sheer threat behind them was enough to apply a heavy weight to the elder's entire body. The possibility of fatality was almost certain.

Given the danger they were in, Elder Mo could no longer rescue his colleague. He veered instinctively, choosing another direction to hurtle away in. Getting Elder Peng out of there was impossible. Escaping with his life was the top priority.

He felt more than slight regret at what had happened; the strangeness of it all hadn't escaped him, but Elder Peng had been too insistent on his own strategy, so much so that there hadn't been an opportunity to interrupt.

It seemed that his instincts were correct after all. Elder Peng's optimism had been false!

"I must escape to inform the supreme lord!" Elder Mo had only one thought on his mind now. He had no energy to take care of his fellow elder.

The disabled Elder Peng was happy to see Elder Mo shooting towards him. The other elder was more than likely on his way to bring him out of this bind. Uninjured, Elder Mo was more than capable enough of bringing a rider along on a one-way trip out of this place.

He hadn't quite expected the other elder to suddenly swerve and leave.

In the midst of his shock, a powerful aura blasted into being behind him. A cleaver of an axe slammed down into the earth. There was a scattering of light. Both the elder's body and soul were sliced into two, blood and guts spilling everywhere!

[Sovereign of the Three Realms \(WN\)](#)

Chapter 1488: The Slaughter Begins

Lingering slivers of fragmented thoughts flickered into Elder Peng's brain before his body broke into a million pieces.

The stone golem brothers who'd looked like they were on death's door were full of vigor again. Their gargantuan forms prowled all over the place, reaping the lives of those around like them like sheaves of wheat. These men were elite experts from Myriad Abyss Island, but the golems were at a decisive advantage.

The maddened slaughter cut down great emperors left and right.

Though Elder Mo had escaped in a relatively safe direction, the pressure behind him hadn't abated. Suddenly, the hurtling elder froze in his tracks. Panic flashed through his eyes. A giant like the ones he'd just fled from had leaped right into his way, an oversized weapon in his hefty hands. The golem smashed his weapon down with intimidating, world-shaking force.

"An ambush!" Elder Mo drew a sharp breath, making to turn once more. In his brief moment of hesitation, however, several more figures came from every direction.

"Where are you going, old man?" A mocking voice came from the side.

Whoosh whoosh whoosh whoosh!

Four shadows appeared in midair. It was the four other stone golem brothers, Big Stone leading the charge. Elder Mo was trapped!

The four brothers had thoroughly locked down the area. The elder felt four veritable mountains bearing down on him, blocking exit through any means. Blanching, he tried to dash away. Unfortunately for him, it was far too late.

The four brothers left no openings. They were walls of tough solid stone, and there was no crack for him to escape through.

“How can this be?” Elder Mo was thoroughly shocked. How were all eight stone golem brothers be at Veluriyam Capital. None of them had gone to the Ninesuns Sky Sect with Jiang Chen?

Was Jiang Chen so arrogant as to not bring both the Vermilion Bird and the eight stone golem brothers? Wasn't he afraid of a confrontation with the supreme lord?

Or had he predicted that the Order's main force wasn't at Ninesuns in the first place? But, if that was really the case, why had he gone to Ninesuns at all?

Elder Mo felt pain shoot through his heart when he thought of this. A terrifying thought flickered through his mind. “Did Jiang Chen calculate all this? Is he not at the Ninesuns Sky Sect at all, maybe? Was his expedition there a smokescreen? A smoke bomb to deceive us with?”

A chill ran down Elder Mo's spine. If that was the case, then Jiang Chen was a fearsome foe indeed. The Order had distracted from their actual goal in order to launch a sneak attack on Veluriyam Capital, but its opponent had guessed everything beforehand! Jiang Chen had been lying in wait for them all along!

The elder's heartbeat raced with unspeakable horror.

It was at this time that the four stone golem brothers approached. “Where are you going, old man?” Big Stone cackled.

Elder Mo's face colored again. He pushed his consciousness to its limits in order to find a ray of hope.

“Don't bother, there's no way out.” It wasn't one of the golem brothers, but a different voice from afar.

The elder's pupils contracted violently once more. He glanced toward the source of the sound to see a perfectly relaxed Jiang Chen sitting atop a slope not far from here.

“You... you're Jiang Chen?” Elder Mo suddenly recalled something.

“You're a keen one. I heard that other old fart boast earlier that you were from Myriad Abyss Island, hmm?” Jiang Chen looked back at the old man with a half-smile.

Elder Mo was utterly exasperated. He'd already felt Elder Peng self-reporting their origin was unwise. He simply hadn't considered it too much, given that victory seemed to be within their grasp.

But exposing that information was much more likely to draw trouble now. After all, there was a taboo over the entire island that its cultivators weren't supposed to arbitrarily enter the human domain without permission.

This time, more than a handful of people had trespassed illegally. The sheer number of experts who'd come amounted to essentially a personal army. If Myriad Abyss Island got wind of this, House Xiahou was sure to be censured, or worse.

Though he was unnerved, Elder Mo outwardly harrumphed. "What Myriad Abyss Island? You're talking nonsense! I'm a hermit of the Upper Eight Regions. Jiang Chen, if you want to lead the human race, you must give us older cultivators sufficient respect!"

Jiang Chen burst out into laughter. The old man was lying through his teeth.

"If you really were seniors of the human domain, I would respect you. Unfortunately, you aren't, and neither is anyone in the Order of Wind and Cloud. Tell me, which faction are you from?" His tone was even-handed.

Elder Mo was unwilling to admit to anything. "Jiang Chen, your disrespect to us hermit seniors alone is enough. What is with the 'Myriad Abyss Island' excuse? Who doesn't know about the lack of communication between Myriad Abyss and the human domain?" He appeared to be defiant unto death.

Jiang Chen smiled faintly. "I was planning to give you a chance to live if you admitted to it. Given that you refuse to talk even when your life is on the line, you can go to hell with the other old fart!"

"Kill him!" Jiang Chen's command was cold and cruel. He had been provoked to the point of no return. The actions of the Order of Wind and Cloud had put one foot too many over the line. Without information from Emperor Peerless and the Veluriyam Pagoda as a relay point, both he and his city would've suffered a catastrophic loss.

If he really had rushed back from Ninesuns and fallen into the midst of this ambush, the eight stone golem brothers and his other subordinates would have all succumbed to the trap.

Without the Stone Golems, Jiang Chen would've had only one choice under the encirclement of two empyrean experts and a couple dozen great emperors: to use his spacetime seal to flee into the Veluriyam Pagoda.

But even if he had managed to escape with his life intact, the others wouldn't have had that kind of luck. What chance of victory did he have against a powerful Order by himself, even if he'd managed to return to Veluriyam Capital?

He was thoroughly alarmed by the extent of the sect's conspiracy. Moreover, he had a natural hostility towards Myriad Abyss Island. Huang'er's suffering at being taken away and Elder Xi's pride had frustrated him to no end. Especially against those hostile to him in the first place, Jiang Chen had no compassion to spare for anyone from the island whatsoever.

Elder Mo knew well that his only choice today was to fight to the death.

Jiang Chen's execution order was countered by the elder's wholehearted effort to match the four golem brothers in frenzied battle. His objective wasn't to win, but find an opportunity to flee.

However, Jiang Chen had already settled on the battle plan. He knew that Big Stone and his brothers were recovering comparatively slowly. They weren't even a fifth of their peak strength yet.

In one on one combat, no single brother was Elder Mo's equal. Things became more even when it was two on one.

Four on one? Clear advantage for the numbered side. This was the kind of tactic Jiang Chen enjoyed.

Of course, Elder Mo was able to hang on to a reasonable degree. Elder Peng had died so quickly because of an ambush. The suddenness of the strikes had grievously wounded him.

Elder Mo was perfectly healthy and at his prime. Even four golems united would have some trouble taking him down quickly.

Thankfully, the four other golems were able to shift some of their attention over after mowing down a group of the great emperors.

In no time at all, six stone golems were involved in the assault on Elder Mo. The remaining two continued their pursuit of the scattered great emperors under Jiang Chen's orders.

Jiang Chen's Holy Dragon Bow didn't lie idle, either. His closed door cultivation had yielded a significant increase in cultivation level, but he'd also developed the crowning treasure of the Primosanct Sect a fair bit.

Currently, he was pairing the power of the bow with his Evil Golden Eye's lock-on ability to snipe great emperors who were being hunted down by the stone golem brothers. The experts in question fled every which way in impotent panic.

Each person Jiang Chen confirmed in his sights meant that someone died to an arrow from the Holy Dragon Bow. As the most prized treasure of the ancient Primosanct Sect, the bow was powerful indeed!

He didn't need to take any breaks in his firing. Eight elites from Myriad Abyss Island were dead in no time at all. Of course, Jiang Chen had enough self-awareness to know that he would have very little success in facing these experts head on.

He was having such an easy time because of the immense pressure the stone golem braves were exerting. The great emperors were too preoccupied with running to perceive the other threats to their lives. This gave Jiang Chen plenty of opportunities to take pot shots.

Under the scope of the Holy Dragon Bow, the great emperors fell one by one. He was revitalized upon each kill. It was the first time he was able to kill so many great emperors so quickly and easily.

The surrounding area was filled with corpses in the blink of an eye.

If any cultivator from the human domain had borne witness to this, they would've been chilled to the bone. After all, the people that had died were all great emperors!

Experts like that in the human domain were fearsome anywhere, guaranteed to be at the top of their class.

"Third Stone, don't overdo it. Leave a couple alive!" Jiang Chen was perfectly happy to kill indiscriminately, but he didn't forget himself. The old man was evidently of no use when it came to information. He could only hope to capture a couple alive in order to extract it from them instead. He wasn't interested in being targeted without knowing who the mastermind was.

Sovereign of the Three Realms (WN)

Chapter 1489: House Xiahou

As a rule, the Primordial Stone Golem Tribe didn't understand how to leave survivors. Their favorite pastime in combat was to crush their opponents with violent force. This was especially true when they had the upper hand. They relished demolishing each and every enemy in their path.

As such, they couldn't quite come to grips with Jiang Chen's order to capture some prisoners. Still, they had to try their best to comply.

Two great emperors ended up being the lucky ones. The hammer and mace hurtling towards their heads a moment earlier suddenly swerved, the weapons' butts sweeping into them instead. The amount of trauma delivered was immensely different from a no-holds-barred overhead smash.

The only possible consequence of the latter was a head smashed like a watermelon. A hard tap with the handle involved incapacitation and maiming at worst.

Thump, thump. The two elite cultivators fell to the ground, relieved of further fighting ability.

"Savior, here you go." Third Stone was evidently dissatisfied with having to spare two of his prey. He tossed the incapacitated cultivators before Jiang Chen in a heap before taking off with a roar in renewed pursuit.

Jiang Chen grabbed both incapacitated cultivators, dumping them into a corner.

"Alright, speak up. Are we doing this the easy way or the hard way?" He had no interest in wasting words. He didn't find torture particularly palatable, but he would resort to it if he had to.

"Pah, kill me already. How could warriors from Myriad Abyss Island beg for mercy from a lowly human domain cultivator like you?" A short-haired man who looked thoroughly moody had spoken. He didn't appear to be a well-tempered individual, and retained arrogance even as a prisoner.

Jiang Chen burst out into laughter. What a fool. Did he not realize his place as a prisoner? What was he trying to prove?

Jiang Chen didn't want to waste time talking. This kind of foolhardy person was sure to have an equally stubborn personality. It was a pipe dream to expect cooperation from someone like that.

Without further ceremony, he summoned both Long Xiaoxuan and the Astral White Tiger. "Here you go, some food."

The two spirit creatures were tremendously excited to get some fresh air. They set upon the hard-headed cultivator ravenously. And though vitality was escaping from the corpses strewn everywhere, it wasn't doing so briskly. Even carrion was superb nourishment for Long Xiaoxuan and the White Tiger.

The ferocity of Jiang Chen's pets caused the remaining prisoner to blanch in terror.

"Do you want to be like him? Or are you going to cooperate?" Jiang Chen's tone was frigid.

This prisoner was different from his dead comrade. The lack of color in his face was proof enough that this man didn't have nearly the same sort of resolve.

"If you do, I may let you live."

"Really?" This was instantly attractive to the prisoner, who asked after some hesitation.

"Do you think I like telling jokes to worthless strangers?" Jiang Chen smiled coolly.

The prisoner thought about it. "I can tell you everything I know, but... I'll need an oath."

"You won't get an oath, but I never break my promises. I'll let you live, but you must still suffer through some kind of punishment."

"Pun... punishment?" The prisoner stuttered.

"Okay, you know about my offer already. It's up to you whether you divulge your information, but my patience is limited." Jiang Chen looked serenely in the other directions. "There are more still alive right now. Maybe they'll be more interested."

Those afraid of death tended to be characterized by that fear.

The prisoner shuddered and nodded. "Alright, I'll talk! I hope you keep your promise and let me live, though. I guarantee that I will cast off my current identity and never return to Myriad Abyss Island ever again!"

Jiang Chen shrugged. He didn't much care about the prisoner's futures, to be honest.

"Yes, we do come from Myriad Abyss Island." The prisoner inclined his head with quite a bit of certainty.

"Is that it?" Jiang Chen's tone took a turn for the chillier. "Do you think that the fact you come from Myriad Abyss Island is at all useful to me?"

Terror flashed through the prisoner's eyes. "W-we..." he muttered, "we come from House Xiahou on Myriad Abyss Island."

"House Xiahou?" Jiang Chen's face darkened when he heard that name. Some less than pleasant memories resurfaced in his mind. He could not and would not forget them. Huang'er had told him very clearly that this was the house of her mortal enemy.

It was quite a bit stronger than the House Yan that Huang'er belonged to.

The prisoner nodded. "Yes, House Xiahou."

"So, the so-called supreme lord of the Order of Wind and Cloud is someone from House Xiahou?"

"Yes, he's the seventh master of the house. Among the younger generation, he's the third-best genius! Still, the most promising is definitely the third master."

"Third Master? What's his name?" Jiang Chen inquired emotionlessly. The mention of a 'most promising' genius reminded him of Huang'er and the bastard that wanted to use her as a cultivation vessel.

If his estimations were correct, said bastard was none other than the foremost genius among House Xiahou's younger generation... this third master, in other words.

"He... his name is Xiahou Zong. On Myriad Abyss Island, he is also often called Third Master Zong."

Third Master Zong?

Jiang Chen committed the name to memory. This was an enemy he was fated to face, possibly in the near future.

“The supreme lord of the Order is the seventh master? What’s his name?” He asked upon taking another deep breath.

“Xiahou Jing. He is quite prominent within House Xiahou too. Without Xiahou Zong’s absurd talent, he would be one of the best contenders for the house’s inheritance.”

“So Xiahou Zong isn’t doing well within his house?” Jiang Chen followed the prisoner’s line of thought with a half-smile.

“Well, not quite that. House Xiahou is very rich and powerful, enough to raise several geniuses in tandem. Because Xiahou Jing is slightly inferior to his brother, he knows he doesn’t have much hope of becoming the heir. That’s why he decided to make this dangerous maneuver of sneaking into the human domain to seek his fortune.”

“Seek his fortune?” Jiang Chen frowned. Wasn’t the human domain significantly worse off than Myriad Abyss Island at present? What fortune was there to seek? Did Xiahou Jing have brain damage? Things were likely more complicated than he had first thought.

The prisoner nodded, then went into more detail to placate Jiang Chen. “I’m not very high up in the hierarchy, so I don’t know many secrets, but I did hear that this trip was made to find something very precious. Getting hands on it is supposed to be more valuable than inheriting the whole of House Xiahou. That was why Xiahou Jing took this risk.”

“Risk? If he came to the human domain covertly, who could threaten him?” Jiang Chen was stating only the plain truth. He had no intentions of putting down the human domain.

If those from House Xiahou hadn’t done anything too exciting or explosive, no one really would have been able to threaten them.

“The real threat comes from the others on Myriad Abyss Island,” the prisoner smiled wryly. “Since ancient times, there’s been a rule that the island’s descendants aren’t permitted to enter the human domain. Although the two hundred thousand years time limit is almost up, the restriction hasn’t been explicitly lifted. Because of this, it’s forbidden to head to the human domain without permission. If no one presses charges, it’s fine, but many people would be quite happy to take advantage of this lapse in protocol. If all of them band together, even a faction as big as House Xiahou would be in trouble!”

Jiang Chen instantly understood.

No wonder Elder Shun had been punished so severely and unable to leave the island again. There must have been others who’d hounded him over it.

Jiang Chen felt indescribable worry whenever he thought of Huang’er’s plight.

“Let me ask you this, how much do you know of the conflict between House Xiahou and House Yan?”

“Oh, I know all about it, I do,” the captive answered hurriedly. “House Yan’s Miss Huang’er has returned to Myriad Abyss Island. I heard that she has a tough attitude. She would prefer to die rather than become a cultivation vessel for Third Master Zong.”

“How is she doing?” Jiang Chen asked with concern.

“We subordinates only hear about the masters and misses through hearsay. I don’t quite know for certain. I’d assume though, that she wouldn’t be able to defy the third master on account of her parents still being imprisoned. Third Master Zong isn’t planning on using her yet, because his cultivation isn’t quite there. When it is, I don’t fancy her chances...”

This person clearly didn’t know about Huang’er’s foray into the human domain or Jiang Chen’s relationship with her. He was completely unrestrained in his discussion.

After all, Huang’er’s affair was limited to high-ranking members of the house only. It was reasonable for Xiahou Jing to have known, but it would be a stretch to expect the same of a grunt like the captive.

Jiang Chen’s face was purple. He was most worried about Huang’er. She was far away on Myriad Abyss Island, so he couldn’t help her even if she wanted to. From what this guy was saying, Xiahou Zong was stronger than Xiahou Jing.

If Xiahou Jing was empyrean realm, Xiahou Zong was sure to be higher than that. Even if they were similar in cultivation level, the latter was surely more talented than the former. An opponent like that was very hard for the current him to deal with.

“How strong is House Xiahou on Myriad Abyss Island as a whole?” Jiang Chen asked again.

“Myriad Abyss Island is a huge place. I’m pretty unimportant, so I don’t actually know its extent. From what I know through rumors, Myriad Abyss Island is said to be limitless, with countless islands, factions, and kingdoms. There are ten divine kingdoms on Myriad Abyss and House Xiahou is located in Eternal Divine Kingdom. In that divine kingdom, the house is among the top ten factions there!”

Ten divine nations? Countless kingdoms and islands?

The Eternal Divine Nation?

For Jiang Chen, all this information was new. However, it did give him a cursory preview about how Myriad Abyss Island functioned. He’d heard a few tidbits many years ago from Huang’er as well – though she hadn’t gone into much detail at the time. Jiang Chen committed all of what he’d heard to memory.

[Sovereign of the Three Realms \(WN\)](#)

Chapter 1490: An Unparalleled Sho

Jiang Chen wrung quite a bit more information about House Xiahou. The man wasn’t able to go into details, but he had quite a good overview of the clan.

The young lord struck the man in the dantian with his palm after he was done.

“Half of your cultivation in return for your life. I believe that’s fair.” After knocking the man out, Jiang Chen threw him aside, and left him to fend for himself.

Losing half of one's cultivation was still better than death.

Jiang Chen was in a better mood now that he'd finally gathered intelligence on his enemy. However, he still couldn't help but scowl when he was reminded of House Xiahou.

On the bright side, the people behind the Order of Wind and Cloud had finally been exposed.

The Order had ever been in the shadows while he was in the light. He'd no choice but to watch from the sidelines as the sect cast its shadow upon the entire domain. Grasping their background had boosted his confidence by a long mile.

House Xiahou! I don't care how prominent you are in Myriad Abyss Island! If you harm a single hair on Huang'er's head, I'll bury all of you myself!

Jiang Chen wasn't a ruthless tyrant, but neither was he a pushover. He would never show mercy to those who crossed his bottom line.

If Huang'er was harmed in any way, he would destroy this blasted clan and wipe them off the face of the Divine Abyss Continent!

Meanwhile, Elder Mo could barely hang on against the combined attacks of six golems.

Third Stone and Forth Stone were almost done with the stragglers as well. The dozen or so elites stood no chance against the two brothers.

"It's time to end this." Jiang Chen picked up his bow with a cold glint in his eyes. This time, his sights were set on Elder Mo.

With his current abilities, he shouldn't be able to fatally wound the elder. In fact, Jiang Chen wouldn't even be able to fend for himself in a direct face-off.

However, the old man was hanging by a thread, while the young lord burned with rage and killing after learning about the Order's background. His emotions affected the Holy Dragon Bow as well. Unknowingly, his affinity for the bow had developed to the next level.

Without a doubt, this was a fantastic development. Only by increasing his affinity with the bow could he uncover its true potential and might.

His mind was calm as still water as he nocked an arrow to the bow. The Evil Golden Eye and his consciousness also harmonized into the same rhythm.

The bow burst into a deafening dragon roar when the arrow was let loose. Jiang Chen was so inspired and emitted a dragon howl as well.

For a brief moment, the bow seemed to have released all of its hidden potential. The arrow was a meteoric beam of light that could pierce through the sky, sun, and moon!

It arrived in front of Elder Mo in the blink of an eye.

Horror ran down the elder's spine when he noted approaching doom. Unfortunately, he was pinned down by Stone Golems and didn't have any leftover strength to deal with the arrow.

Horror and terror flashed but for an instant as the arrow pierced through his head, leaving a gaping hole in its wake!

His body instantly petrified as though a spell had been casted on him. Even his soul was destroyed before it could attempt escape.

The shot was so frighteningly powerful that Jiang Chen was rendered speechless by it. It was the most powerful shot he'd ever made in his life and wholly unintentional! That he'd actually managed to pierce a hole in an empyrean expert's head was entirely inconceivable!

He was merely sixth level emperor, a hair away from seventh realm. A cultivator of his level could never deal this kind of damage to an empyrean expert, even if said expert was standing stock still. But not only had he caused an injury, he'd taken the elder's life!

He also keenly recalled that, in that moment, a deep rage had rampaged inside his sea of consciousness. His arrow was made even more powerful because of it, but he was succinctly aware that this strength very likely came from the seal inside his mind.

The seal had always been present and protected his mind from outside harm. It'd thwarted multiple attacks on his consciousness, saving his life over and over again, but this was the first time it'd ever reinforced his attacks.

It hadn't done so in a direct manner, but Jiang Chen was certain that it had everything to do with his unnatural, sudden burst of strength.

The stone golem brothers exchanged glances. They were clearly flabbergasted by what had just occurred. They'd joined Jiang Chen's side and addressed him as their savior, but they were well aware that he was only emperor realm.

Logically speaking, such a cultivator could never pose a threat to someone like Elder Mo. After a long battle, the brothers also knew full well that the elder wasn't an easy target.

And yet, their savior had miraculously pierced a hole in the enemy's head!

Even simple-minded creatures like the stone golems could understand the significance of this. This was clearly far beyond the boundaries of common sense.

Thud! Elder Mo's body kicked up a plume of dust as it crashed onto the ground.

"Brother Long, Xiao Bai, don't let empyrean life essence go to waste!" Jiang Chen yelled.

Long Xiaoxuan and Xiao Bai were already furiously absorbing Elder Peng's life essence. They jumped for joy and dug in when another fresh dish was served.

"S-savior! That was an incredible shot!" Big Stone finally came back to his senses and led his brothers back to Jiang Chen.

Jiang Chen smiled playfully. "It was just an accident. I don't think I can pull off such an incredible shot again."

He wasn't being humble. There were many unexpected factors and coincidences that not even he had foreseen in that shot. It might not be possible to be in the same zone again. However, it did leave a lot of inspiration that surged through his mind. *I... I feel that I might break through!*

"Big Stone, keep a look out! I'm about to break through!"

"..." Big Stone and the others were completely speechless. As one of the great primordial tribes, they'd seen and experienced all kinds of things. However, they couldn't help but gape at the speed of their savior's growth. How could he be having another breakthrough already?

Guided by inspiration, this ascension was relatively quick and effortless, taking only a few hours.

Advanced emperor realm! Jiang Chen was absolutely delighted and utterly surprised. This was the most effortless and comfortable breakthrough he'd achieved so far in the emperor realm! Most previous progress had come as the fruit of tireless labor, But this time, it'd showed up at his door by itself!

Like an unannounced visit from a long-anticipated friend, happiness had come too suddenly and was so very pleasant.

Advanced emperor realm is such a wondrous leap! My body has become much stronger than before. As expected, a battle of this caliber is most beneficial!

Jiang Chen didn't dilly-dally after his breakthrough.

Cleanup was mostly done at this point. Long Xiaoxuan and Little White ended up gaining the most out of the fight. As if they were competing, the two spirit creatures were making breakthrough after breakthrough.

The Stone Golems couldn't help were equally impressed with the divine creatures. In their era, true dragons and white tigers were equally as strong, if not stronger than Stone Golems. Yet somehow, the two beasts had also become Jiang Chen's companions.

Well, not strictly companions, but more like followers.

"Big Stone, you and your brothers have achieved a great merit. Your achievements today will not be forgotten." Jiang Chen praised them greatly.

Big Stone laughed guilelessly. "It's all thanks to you, young lord. The battle was over before I could even break a sweat! The folks from Myriad Abyss Island are too weak!"

"That's because they fell for our plans and were ambushed. The battle would be a lot more arduous otherwise." Jiang Chen answered solemnly

Jiang Chen wasn't looking down on his own forces. In a direct face-off, Elder Mo, Elder Peng, and their team of elites would definitely put up a strong fight.

Unfortunately, they'd fallen for the young man's tricks and had been completely wiped out!

The golem brothers chuckled. They stood by their opinion that the enemy was too weak.

"Alright, we mustn't delay matters any further. Our departure from Veluriyam Capital is still riddled with risk. The situation at the capital might sour if we continue to linger here. Let's return." Jiang Chen's plan

had been extremely successful, but it also put Veluriyam in danger. Having the Vermilion Bird protect the city by itself was extremely risky. But thankfully, in eliminating Elder Mo and Elder Peng, he'd wiped out nearly half of the Order!