

## Three Realms 1711

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

#### Chapter 1711: Emerging from Closed Door Cultivation

After some consideration, Jiang Chen felt it was best to put off the Six Palaces of Heritage for now. He would think about returning after things settled down here. Whether his spacetime seal would even work here was a very good question as well. Was return to the Six Palaces even possible from here?

There was every reason for him not to want to test this at present, since the spacetime seal couldn't bring anyone else along. If he wanted to forcibly take Huang'er and Ling Bi'er along for the ride, the six palaces would reject them by killing them outright.

This was why he'd had to separate the stone golems' consciousnesses and bodies when bringing them back to Veluriyam. This could only be accomplished while they were inanimate.

Unfortunately, the secret method was effective only on stone golems. Humans couldn't try the same trick.

If he couldn't bring Huang'er and Ling Bi'er along, there was no point in even trying, even if the spacetime seal would work.

Going back was easy enough, but coming here again would be significantly harder. Where would the transportation formation send him next time?

Would it deliver him to Winterdraw again? That place was unbelievably distant from Eternal Divine Nation.

More importantly, Winterdraw was in the Rejuvenation Isles territory. Given the magnitude and seriousness of recent events there, it might be under heavy guard. He didn't have the energy or time to spare to find out more about these possibilities.

After breaking through to empyrean realm, Jiang Chen valued every additional moment upon the banks of the Eternal River.

This was the most sacred area within the Eternal Sacred Land. The atmosphere here was quite enigmatic. Despite Jiang Chen's wealth of past experiences, he liked the place very much.

The Eternal River's inscrutability was in constant flux. Each moment contained a new conundrum and illusion, a new inspiring idea. He greedily spent all the rest of his time in cultivation.

Rising to empyrean realm polished all of his martial dao methods and techniques impeccably. The Bewitching Lotus of Ice and Fire evolved with each step Jiang Chen took. Its vigor and resilience had improved noticeably this time as well.

More remarkably, its bewitching nature had been drastically enhanced after his breakthrough. Each stalk of the lotus could replicate a different form as desired.

As a plant valuable even in the heavenly planes, the lotus had an amazing preternatural advantage. Moreover, its own consciousness had seemingly awakened after his empyrean ascension.

Communication between man and plant was becoming increasingly perfect.

Jiang Chen liked this feeling a great deal. His newfound finesse of control allowed him to feel like a duck in water.

“Empyrean realm is something special, alright. Getting here means I’m on the path to the heavenly planes. It’s a long journey, but I’m making steady progress.”

He relished all the changes he could feel, both internal and external. He was filled with satisfaction and remained intensely curious about the seal in his consciousness.

The nine-droplet chain appeared even more active now. Each water drop was very plump. Though they varied in look and style, all seemed to contain infinite mystery.

Jiang Chen observed the seal for a time via his consciousness. The droplets glittered like nine flawless stars, swelling with sublimity. They were beautiful enough to induce visions.

“What mystery is this seal hiding, really?” He sat cross-legged, attempting to communicate with it. There was a bit of uncertainty and unease in his heart, overshadowed entirely by interest and apprehension.

He had a feeling that the seal was getting closer and closer to being unlocked. The connection between it and his fate across both lives was pre-eminent. But how were they precisely connected? How did all of this come about in the first place?

He desperately wanted to find the answer straightaway, but didn’t dare act rashly. The seal wouldn’t appear in his consciousness for no reason. If his father had left it there, he only needed to feel it out slowly and naturally. He had a few concerns about frenzied excavation.

He had no idea what had happened to his father after the calamity that had stricken the heavenly planes. Where was he now?

He also wasn’t sure if the seal was some sort of clue that had left behind. If it were, would his premature activation alert his father’s old enemies?

Though Jiang Chen had been well-loved in his previous life, he knew that he had also been a burden. His father had given everything and more for his sake, even his own fortunes to refine the Sun Moon Pill. Perhaps the calamity of the heavenly planes had been partially the result of that.

But before he could find any proof of this, all of this remained speculation.

He was sure of one thing, though. The seal contained tremendous energy that Divine Abyss Continent could not possibly produce. The only explanation was that it stemmed from his previous life.

Jiang Chen tried to make cautious contact with the chain seal using his consciousness, attempting to induce a response. Alas, the chain seal absorbed his message without any response. But he wasn’t discouraged by this.

“Maybe contacting the chain seal needs some luck. I’m trying too hard right now. I have a feeling that it can unlock anytime. It’s quite likely that if the energy within is unleashed, it can destroy the entirety of Divine Abyss.”

If the seal really was related to his previous father and contained his great will and power, then devastating Divine Abyss Continent was no empty claim.

The power and ability of a celestial emperor was overpowering to Divine Abyss's cultivators. Though the Eternal Sacred Land's venerated forefather was a divine expert, there was an excess of both empyrean cultivators and divine spirits in the heavenly planes.

No divine, weak or strong, dared boast before the celestial emperors. The weaker cultivators didn't even have a right to worship the latter.

Jiang Chen attempted to make contact with seal several times, but his efforts proved fruitless.

"Never mind. After breaking through to empyrean realm, my seal has become only more active. Maybe the only thing I'm missing is the right opportunity. I don't need to strain myself." The young man's mindset was very positive after recognizing that fact.

The half-year period was almost up.

During this time, Jiang Chen had comprehended the heavenly dao, received and refined his empyrean decree, and solidified his claim to the empyrean realm. His battle strength had received a correspondingly large increase.

If the current him were to duel with Gan Ning once more, he would easily crush his opponent's strength from that day.

Of course, Gan Ning surely hadn't shown all his cards either. Both parties had held back somewhat. However, he trusted that he could now take on just about any genius in Myriad Abyss Island. The fabled Xiahou Zong included, of course.

"That competition between the Eternal Sacred Land's geniuses is only a few more months away. I have to bolster and improve my cultivation as much as I humanely can. Xiahou Zong isn't some superhuman monster, but the fact he's closed his doors to cultivate for so long means that he is at least a mid empyrean expert. Plus, he has to have some kind of additional edge to have held on to the title of 'number one genius' here in Eternal Divine Nation for so long."

His current circumstances meant that Jiang Chen could no longer ignore Xiahou Zong entirely. Their meeting was only a matter of time. Enmity would undoubtedly peak when they came face-to-face.

Jiang Chen didn't want to lose in presence to his mortal enemy. He thirsted for any knowledge at all about Xiahou Zong. If the latter desired to attain greatness in the wider world, he wouldn't necessarily bring his full strength to bear in the national competition.

The grander competition between all Ten Divine Nations' geniuses in three years was the loftiest stage. Whoever was the best and most eye-catching there would decide the state of martial dao affairs for the next few centuries. It was impossible to hide one's skills in those circumstances.

Regardless of whether Xiahou Zong would use all his strength in the more impending competition, Jiang Chen needed to prepare with the utmost seriousness.

What if Xiahou Zong was to participate without hiding his ability?

It was difficult for him to guess his enemy's intentions. Since that was the case, he could only work on making himself stronger.

The six months concluded not long thereafter, and Jiang Chen could no longer stay once his time was up.

He was a bit reluctant to leave as he walked away from the riverbank. Ziju Min had awaited him for a while outside, and brightened when he saw the young man appear.

"Shao Yuan, marvelous phenomena occurred a while back near the bank of the Eternal River. Were you breaking through then?" The senior's eyes were filled with astonishment.

Jiang Chen didn't know how to respond. He had paid attention only to his own cultivation at the time, not his surroundings. What was he supposed to say?

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#### **Chapter 1712: Sovereign Missions**

"Nice going. You've broken through, haven't you?" Ziju Min immediately noticed the difference when he gave Jiang Chen a once-over.

Jiang Chen smiled slightly. "Thanks to your well wishes, everything went smoothly."

"You broke through a mere two months after arriving at the riverbank?" Ziju Min gasped with wonder. "Two months, and you grasped the heavenly law and earned the approval of the heavens, receiving an empyrean decree. Your... comprehension ability is tremendous."

Ziju Min had been through a lot and had seen many geniuses, but he'd never known anyone like Shao Yuan. Even the most genius cultivator had to overcome great difficulties to ascend from peak great emperor to empyrean realm. The process was a butterfly breaking out of its chrysalis.

Countless cultivators failed the process. After repeated failure, they fell into despair and their will slowly wilted. Only an extremely small portion of great emperors were able to break through.

Most would need several years to understand the heavenly law and finally ascend. Never had anyone achieved it in two months.

Jiang Chen's achievement would be easier to believe if he'd already sensed the heavenly law prior to visiting the river, but he hadn't even reached peak great emperor when entering the sacred land! He'd only attained it before the evaluation.

It'd taken less than a year for him to make such amazing progress. And after reaching peak great emperor, it only took him a few months to join the ranks of the other geniuses.

Ziju Min was in awe of Shao Yuan's achievement. No human language could describe the ridiculous speed at which he'd improved himself. The youth's potential was more than a little extraordinary.

Ziju Min slapped Jiang Chen on the shoulder excitedly, his face radiating joy. "You'll go down in our history as a legendary figure for your amazing speed in cultivation, Shao Yuan."

Jiang Chen smiled. "I'm honored. It's thanks to Elder Ziju's recommendation that I was able to reach this point."

"Oh, no, I just did what I should do. It'll be a great shame if a genius like you ends up unnoticed in the jianghu." Ziju Min was speaking from the very bottom of his heart.

"I will always remember what you did for me, Elder Ziju. The others may be unaware, but I know that you must have shouldered a lot of pressure when recommending me for the sacred land."

Ziju Min broke into laughter hearing his considerate words. "As an elder, it's my duty to shoulder some pressure for the sacred land and the nation. Alright, Shao Yuan. Let's not waste any more time. You've fulfilled the first requirement listed by the venerated forefather. Now let's focus on the second: You are to accumulate a hundred thousand points in a year."

Jiang Chen had understood the rules at the Hall of Merit last time. Of the three requirements posed by the venerated forefather, he'd already achieved one. The forefather must have noticed as well.

He was going to focus on the second requirement now. It was to test his ability, but also to make sure the rest in the faction accepted him.

If he could make such great contribution to the sacred land in only a year, no one would question him, no matter how well he was treated and how much support he received.

Truth be told, he was getting amped up.

The venerated forefather had promised him unconditional support once he fulfilled the three conditions, which was precisely what he needed.

The sacred land's support would give him the leverage to turn things around for him and Huang'er. He'd be entitled to publicly take her away from House Yan, which was what he wished the most and also what was best for Huang'er.

If he snuck her away, hidden from everyone, it'd be considered a dishonorable act. It wouldn't be a satisfying end. And troubles would ensue.

It was better to take the moral high ground and made sure House Yan willingly parted with Huang'er. The problem would be solved once and for all, and it would be cathartic.

Motivation roared to life.

He and Ziju Min returned to the Hall of Merit half a year after their first visit. Elder Gu Yunjin was also surprised when his eyes landed on Jiang Chen.

"It seems that my well wishes have come true, young Shao Yuan. You've impressed me with your progress in the last six months.

"If I'm not mistaken, you've ascended to empyrean realm already, haven't you?" Gu Yunjin marveled, earnest with his compliments. "Brother Ziju, you've recruited a genius we wouldn't even dream of."

Ziju Min smiled, but didn't take pride in what his actions.

"Brother Gu, our young friend is eager to contribute to the sacred land after his breakthrough. What are the missions that award more than a hundred thousand points?"

Gu Yunjin paused. "Are you sure you want to start with a sovereign mission, young Shao Yuan?"

Those were the only ones that awarded over a hundred thousand points, but with high reward came high risk. If Jiang Chen failed a sovereign mission, his points would be deducted by one tenth of the awarded points. Such was the pitfall of picking a top mission from the get go.

If he started from the easier missions and made his way up, he'd be able to accumulate points steadily without the risk of deductions.

Very few people would be so bold as to go straight to the top, not even the most arrogant of geniuses. It wasn't that they didn't dare take the risk, but that they didn't have to.

However, Jiang Chen only had a year. He didn't have the patience to slowly climb his way up. That would take too much effort and time. The last thing he could afford to do now was waste time.

The sword competition was right on the horizon. It was likely that his fateful match with Xiahou Zong would come then. He had to seize every second of every day. Naturally, he wasn't willing to carve out too much time for the missions.

He smiled wryly. "Elder Gu, the sword competition's coming soon. I must get a hundred thousand points before that. I have to take the risk. I might get lucky, no?"

Gu Yunjin was a little disappointed. He didn't say anything because he didn't want to rain on Shao Yuan's parade when the young man was so driven and enthusiastic, but in truth, he didn't think Shao Yuan would succeed.

If it was so easy to complete a sovereign mission, everyone here would be challenging them. There wouldn't be so many left unfinished. It was telling that the missions had remained for decades, or even centuries.

Ziju Min could tell that Gu Yunjin was doubtful of Shao Yuan's decision. But the latter was being quite tactful and remaining silent in the face of Shao Yuan's resolution.

In truth, Ziju Min also found Shao Yuan reckless, but he understood why the young man was making the decision.

The sword competition was fast approaching. If Shao Yuan started from the most basic missions, how long was it going to take for him to get enough points? He might as well try his luck with a sovereign mission. Maybe there'd be a miracle.

In Ziju Min's eyes, Shao Yuan was skilled at creating miracles.

"Brother Ziju, young Shao Yuan, here's a list of the summaries for most of the sovereign missions. Of course, the summaries are only for your reference. They aren't representative of the missions themselves." Gu Yunjin dutifully presented them with the scroll.

Ziju Min smiled. "This is confidential, Shao Yuan. You're allowed to read it now, but nothing can leave this hall."

Gu Yunjin nodded and added on seriously, "Brother Ziju is right. Everything written on this scroll must be kept a secret. There are other people who have seen it, but they're all obligated to keep things to themselves as well. If any information gets leaked and the sacred land identifies the perpetrator, that person will become a public enemy."

In response to their grave attitude, Jiang Chen smiled. "I don't have a lot of strengths, but keeping a secret is my strong suit."

He didn't have a habit of gossiping. Besides, the missions didn't mean much to him. They meant even less for people outside the sacred land. He unfurled the scroll and browsed with great concentration.

They were indeed challenging. Some were bounties against a number of experts who'd been widely-known for a long time, some asked to locate rare treasure. Some were requests for clues regarding a mysterious secret realm, some directly asked for cultivations methods...

There were a great variety of missions, and all were extremely difficult. Now he knew why so few people took them on. The summaries were telling enough.

Some of the missions were as arduous as finding a needle in a haystack. Others were as dangerous as climbing a mountain made of blades. They weren't for regular people.

Jiang Chen contemplated his options. There were all manners of missions, but some he naturally gravitated to. He preferred missions about pill dao the most. He'd be more confident about completing such a mission, and it'd take less effort.

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#### **Chapter 1713: The Flames of Vengeance**

There were over a hundred sovereign missions, more than Jiang Chen had expected. Some had remained unresolved for over a thousand years. They'd long since faded from people's memory.

Nonetheless, every mission ever submitted remained in the Hall of Merit's record, and there were no expiration dates. All missions were still valid even after ten thousand years.

Jiang Chen took note of a few missions that caught his attention during his first pass and went over them again. He weighed his options and made up his mind.

"This, mission number 72." He pointed at the number on the scroll. "It rewards a hundred and twenty thousand points."

Gu Yunjin was surprised by how quickly the decision had been made. Ziju Min looked over the youth's shoulders curiously.

"The Flames of Vengeance!"

An interesting name for a mission. It was clearly a fierce matter of personal vengeance.

Gu Yunjin had known what mission it was as soon as Jiang Chen uttered the number. He looked at the youth in shock. "This mission was submitted only 63 short years ago, young Shao Yuan. However, the party involved has passed away already."

"Passed away? Does that mean the mission is invalid?"

"No, no. The mission's still valid. It was proposed by the senior executives. It involves a humiliation we once suffered. Brother Ziju should know about it too"

A surprised glint flashed through Ziju Min's eyes. He blurted out, "Is it about the tragedy that befell Elder Zimu sixty some years ago?"

"It is," Gu Yunjin said with a sigh. "You are the pill dao authority of the sacred land now, Brother Ziju, but back then, Elder Zimu was the unequivocal figurehead. That you agree with, right?"

Ziju Min's expression turned serious and reverent at the mention of the elder's name. He obviously held the elder in high regard. He nodded with a sigh.

"Elder Zimu's mastery of pill dao surpassed mine. He taught me a lot before his passing. He was far superior than I in age, experience, and prestige, and he spared no effort in guiding me, hoping that one day I'd take his place as the first in pill dao. I could go on for three days and I still wouldn't be done praising his character."

"It's a shame that he passed away," Gu Yunjin echoed sadly. "It was a serious blow to the sacred land as well. Under his guidance, we saw clear improvements in our knowledge of pill dao, but things went downhill after his death. We were furious about his death. That's why the mission came into existence, and it's titled the Flames of Vengeance."

So the mission was about avenging the elder. Gu Yunjin and Ziju Min gave Jiang Chen a basic understanding of what the elder had been through, and what the mission was about.

Elder Zimu used to travel around the world. One day, he received an invitation from Flora Divine Nation.

Among the Ten Divine Nations, Flora Divine Nation ranked first in pill dao. They regularly held pill dao exchanges within the nation, and Elder Zimu was a regular participant. Even Ziju Min had been to many of those events.

Once, Elder Zimu ran into a young pill dao genius from Flora Divine Nation. They had a disagreement about theory, and the arrogant genius insisted on winning the argument. Their verbal duel grew more heated and escalated into a pill dao match due to the crowd's provocation.

Elder Zimu's mentality had been compromised, and the young genius was on home turf, supported by Flora Divine Nation. Driven by his bloated confidence, he won the match against Elder Zimu by a small margin.

The match should have ended as a friendly exchange, but the genius aggressively hurled insults at the elder after winning, cornering the elder until he was thoroughly humiliated. Afterwards, the genius shot to fame while Elder Zimu's reputation suffered greatly. He became cannon fodder for the young man's overnight success.

The elder fell into depression after returning to the Eternal Sacred Land. He couldn't escape the memory of being humiliated by the young man and inner demons descended in the end.

News about the match became widespread in jianghu. The genius from Flora Divine Nation was highly praised, while Elder Zimu was mocked in every way one could imagine. He became the butt of jokes throughout Myriad Abyss after first being a stepping stone for the genius' success.

Afflicted with an inner demon, Elder Zimu wanted a chance at redemption, but the genius declared far and wide that having lost, the elder wasn't qualified to challenge him ever again.



As the leading figurehead of the sacred land, Elder Zimu was very proud. He lost control over his inner demon after repeated humiliations, and died of a cultivation deviation due to backlash through his meridians when cultivating.

It was an unremovable stain on the sacred land's record.

After the elder's death, Eternal Divine Nation's relationship with Flora Divine Nation deteriorated drastically. The bad blood between the two nations persisted ever since.

The Eternal Sacred Land felt the blow even more keenly. To educate newcomers of the shame they'd suffered, the senior executives created the mission. There was only one objective—to defeat the genius from Flora Divine Nation.

One victory would be enough to complete the mission, and the reward was a hundred and twenty thousand points. The one who completed the mission could also become one of the top ten elders in the sacred land.

It was evident how much emphasis the sacred land put on the mission. Everyone felt Elder Zimu's shame like it was their own. However, Flora Divine Nation was the top in pill dao. There wasn't much they could do.

The mission was there to make them feel better about themselves. They knew the possibility that anyone could clear the mission was slim. The pill dao geniuses here didn't have high enough potential. The faction didn't have a solid enough foundation in pill dao and enough room for its development either.

Gu Yunjin sighed. "No one has attempted the mission since its inception, young Shao Yuan. We don't even dare think about it. You're bold for making this choice."

As the keeper of the Hall of Merit, Gu Yunjin knew the sovereign missions like the back of his hand. This was the first time the mission had been selected.

Ziju Min was doubtful as well. "Are you sure you want to take the mission, Shao Yuan? Elder Zimu's grasp of pill dao was much better than mine."

Jiang Chen smiled. "Of all the missions, this is the only one that catches my eye, and it seems more interesting."

He really did find the mission appealing, and it was in the realm of pill dao.

Gu Yunjin took a deep breath. "If you're sure, I'll approve your application. Once that's done, you cannot take back your decision. Have you really made up your mind, young Shao Yuan?"

"I have." Jiang Chen nodded without hesitation.

"Good, very good," praised Gu Yunjin. "It's been a long time since the mission was created. No one has ever taken it. Things are about to get very exciting."

Ziju Min sighed softly. "If you can complete the mission, Shao Yuan, your position among the younger generation will be indisputable."

“That’s right,” agreed Gu Yunjin. “The mission occupies a special place in the sacred land. It’s more meaningful than the others.”

“Then that’s the one.” Jiang Chen maintained a relaxed smile throughout. He was calmer than both Gu Yunjin and Ziju Min. For them, the mission was a faraway goal they’d only ever dreamed of reaching, but for him, it was just another pill dao mission.

“With that done, how does Elder Gu and Elder Ziju think I should go about the mission? Do I invite him to a challenge? Or should I go to Flora Divine Nation to challenge him?”

He only cared about how he could complete the mission in the most efficient way.

Ziju Min smiled wryly. “You’re being too hasty, Shao Yuan. You should know your opponent first. He defeated Elder Zimu. Over the past decades, he’s become even more well-known. He’s considered a top tier pill dao master within the Ten Divine Nations. It’s amazing for him to gain such prestige at such a young age. If you don’t get to know him before challenging him...”

“I’d like to know him beforehand as well, but I don’t have the time.” Jiang Chen smiled. “May the two elders please help me come up with a solution to make sure he accepts my challenge? I’m most worried that he will turn me down because he believes none of us are good enough to be his opponent.”

The pill dao genius had made a name for himself at a young age, and he’d defeated Elder Zimu in a manner that caused the elder’s death. He was bound to look down on every pill dao expert in the Eternal Sacred Land.

It was very possible that he’d refuse if the sacred land invited him to a match. He could see it as an insult to his status.

### **Sovereign of the Three Realms (WN)**

#### **Chapter 1714: Master Shi Xuan**

Ziju Min and Gu Yunjin exchanged a look. They read shock in each other’s eyes. They knew Shao Yuan meant his words.

Elder Zimu’s death had been the thorn in the sacred land’s side for the longest time. Both of the elders were old enough to have witnessed the tragic end of this great senior.

Of course they wanted one of their own to take a stand and give the arrogant Flora bastard a taste of his own medicine. To avenge Elder Zimu and the Eternal Sacred Land!

Before Jiang Chen though, no one in the sacred land had even dared think about taking on the responsibility. Everyone knew that the Eternal Sacred Land, with its limited foundation in pill dao, was unlikely to raise a pill dao genius proficient enough to complete the task.

Therefore, the Flames of Vengeance had remained largely ignored over the past decades.

Elder Ziju had thus been drawn to Jiang Chen when he first glimpsed the young man’s pill dao talent during the competition in House Xiahou. And he’d willingly stepped down from his pedestal as an elder to befriend the young man. After several offers, he was finally able to move Shao Yuan with his earnestness.

The young man had returned his trust and appreciation with real action.

In the match with the Jade Lake Sect regarding the Mirage Introspection Pill, Jiang Chen had fully defeated the sect and rendered its pill dao figureheads speechless. The pill dao masters, including Old Immortal Brightstar, had all wholeheartedly admitted defeat to him.

The incident further convinced Ziju Min that his decision had been the right one. The young man was a wondrous genius in pill dao.

After that, Jiang Chen proved himself again by going through all nine of the winding caves during the evaluation, a most pleasant surprise.

But for Ziju Min, Jiang Chen's talent in pill dao was the most valuable. He'd been worried that the young man would choose to focus on his prodigal potential in martial dao instead, but taking on this mission caused Ziju Min to reevaluate his assumptions.

Hope flared up in the elder's heart. If the sacred land was to send a young genius to take the mission, Shao Yuan was the one.

"It looks like you've made up your mind, Shao Yuan."

"Don't you think I can win, Elder Ziju?" Jiang Chen smiled.

"That's not it. But you should still get to know your opponent beforehand. You've already taken the mission, that we can't change. However, you still have a year's worth of time. We can still make some preparations."

Gu Yunjin had done all he could as the keeper of the Hall of Merit. He could provide nothing but emotional support from now on.

Not long after Jiang Chen and Ziju Min left the hall, news got out that the new addition, Shao Yuan, had accepted a sovereign mission, and one that had never been attempted before at that.

The sacred land erupted in enthusiasm, including even the oldest secluded ancestors and the older disciples.

The younger disciples were the exceptions. Elder Zimu's death had been before their time. They didn't have an emotional connection to the incident. Some of them might have heard about Elder Zimu from their seniors, but hearing about what had happened was entirely different from living through it themselves.

Despite the lukewarm reaction from the younger generation, the news continue to spread throughout the sacred land. Even those who rarely paid attention to the outside world started looking into Shao Yuan, trying to find out who exactly the young genius was.

The sacred land was vast. The senior executives, the middle management, and the regular disciples amounted to at least a couple million people in total. Most of them didn't know each other.

Of course they knew the three primes, the elders, and a number of outstanding geniuses, but none of the rest. Most were focused on their own responsibilities and didn't pay much attention to other affairs in the sacred land.

However, the mission to avenge Elder Zimu was something almost everyone in the sacred land knew. As soon as they heard the mission had been taken, the first question that came to their minds was: who?

The name Shao Yuan soon spread to every part of the sacred land.

Meanwhile, Jiang Chen kept an unusually low profile after taking the mission. He remained in Ziju Min's residence to study his opponent. He didn't actually need to know his opponent to win; getting the other to accept his challenge without reservations was the difficult part.

"Shao Yuan, when Elder Zimu died sixty some years ago, the pill dao genius was in his thirties. He's just reached a hundred now. He's still considered young for someone pursuing pill dao, but he's already a pill dao sovereign in Flora Divine Nation. He's among the top three sought after figures in that nation.

"He might be top ten or even top six in the whole of the Ten Divine Nations. Many think the world of him. They think that he may become the top pill dao master in the Ten Divine Nations before he reaches five hundred years of age." Ziju Min's tone was conflicted.

He didn't want to praise the man at all, but he had to admit that the man lived up to his name. It weighed heavily on him.

"What's his name?" asked Jiang Chen.

"Shi Xuan of Flora Divine Nation. In the pill dao community, he's called Master Shi Xuan."

"Shi Xuan?" Jiang Chen repeated thoughtfully.

"Here's some information on his rise in status. We've been collecting data ever since that incident and so know quite a lot about him. The man's resilient, but also very cruel. There isn't much he wouldn't do to further his goal. He's an anomaly in the pill dao world."

Different from martial dao cultivators, most pill dao experts veered on the mild-tempered side. Aggressiveness was integral to pursuing martial dao, but detrimental to pill dao.

Jiang Chen took the file and read it thoroughly. He had to admit that Shi Xuan was a genius in pill dao. There was a clear trajectory to his rise in power, and every major event he'd attended unfolded like a story in the legends.

Elder Zimu wasn't the only victim Shi Xuan claimed. He'd defeated many contemporaries in pill dao, including fellow geniuses, well-respected masters, and pill dao figureheads from powerful factions.

Several masters of Elder Zimu's level had also lost to Shi Xuan. Elder Zimu's death was what made him a special case. It was clear from Shi Xuan's personal history that he was a ruthless man who'd do everything to achieve his goal.

People like him didn't care much about morals. They made for formidable foes.

Jiang Chen didn't know just exactly how Elder Zimu died of rage. Only Elder Zimu and Shi Xuan were privy to the details. He put down the file and looked gravely at Ziju Min. "Elder Ziju, how do we arrange a match with him?"

Seeing his self-assured expression, Ziju Min couldn't help but inquire. "I appreciate your confidence, Shao Yuan, but this isn't a simple challenge. What are your odds of winning?"

Jiang Chen smiled. "My conservative estimate is at fifty percent. If I allow myself to be confident, I'll say seventy to eighty percent."

In truth, he was a hundred percent sure he'd win. After ascending to empyrean realm, the restrictions previously imposed on him had disappeared.

His progress in martial dao had considerable impact on his pill dao. He was absolutely confident that he'd now be able to defeat anyone on the Divine Abyss Continent when it came to pill dao.

"Seventy to eighty percent?" Ziju Min found it hard to believe. "This isn't a game. You're at the perfect standing in the sacred land at the moment. If you fail the mission, both your reputation and fame will be undermined, and even your status may suffer. Have you considered that risk?"

"I have, Elder Ziju. To be honest with you, failing the mission is not an option nor a possibility." Jiang Chen's confidence was contagious.

Ziju Min studied the genius for a while before sighing quietly. "Never has a young man earned so much of my trust like you have, Shao Yuan. Alright, I'll arrange the match for you."

"As soon as possible," Jiang Chen emphasized.

"Haha, that won't be easy. In the pill dao community of Myriad Abyss, you're only known for your innovation with the Mirage Introspection Pill. You haven't established yourself yet. It'll be difficult for you to challenge Shi Xuan. Regular methods won't work."

"Then we'll go unorthodox," Jiang Chen immediately responded.

"Then we need a good plan."

"Isn't it enough to say that I've inherited Elder Zimu's knowledge and want to avenge him?"

"Of course not." Ziju Min shook his head. "Based on my understanding of Shi Xuan, he'll proudly say that since Elder Zimu lost to him, a mere disciple has even less of a right to challenge him."

Jiang Chen burst out chuckling. "That'll be a problem. Alright, how about I insult him?"

"Insult him? Like what?"

"In the harshest way possible until he accepts my challenge." Jiang Chen smirked. "Isn't he one of the pill dao figureheads in Flora Divine Nation? He's bound to be angry if a nobody calls him names and undermines his reputation. In the end, he'll be left with no choice but to take the stage."

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

#### **Chapter 1715: Three Kinds of Pills**

Ziju Min was a relatively aboveboard man, a traditional and genteel pill dao master. His personal philosophy contained little scheming and trickery. He hadn't much experience when it came to more unorthodox methods.

The bluntness of Jiang Chen's proposition was met with initial doubt. Was this doable?

"Will your idea really work, Shao Yuan?"

Jiang Chen shrugged. "I'm not sure, but I feel that we should try it. If I curse, insult, and belittle him to the depths of uselessness, he wouldn't be able to sit still."

"He's very proud indeed. If you challenge him through more normal means, he'd just ignore you to crush your will with cold aloofness. But his arrogance will also be his downfall. If you can incite him to real anger by insulting him, he might very well fall for it."

Ziju Min analyzed the situation seriously. The more he thought about it, the more he agreed with Shao Yuan's simple and violent idea.

"Well then, let's give it an attempt," Jiang Chen laughed. "Are there any pill dao competitions to take place soon? Any other exciting events are fine too. Myriad Abyss is a huge place—surely there's something like that?"

Ziju Min considered it for a moment. "Exciting events, sure, but none are sufficiently high-level. I can't be sure Shi Xuan will attend any of them."

The current Shi Xuan was very different from the man who'd driven Elder Zimu to a maddened death. He styled himself a pill dao giant now, not an up-and-coming junior who could use candidness as a bludgeon. He had come to care more about style and status.

Because of this, Shi Xuan wouldn't necessarily attend an average event.

"So there's no especially high profile pill dao gatherings in the near future?"

Ziju Min considered it a bit more before shaking his head. "According to what I know, there won't be any in the next one or two years."

"How about we host one then?"

"Us? Host one?" Ziju Min blinked. He'd never considered such a thing. Ever since Elder Zimu's passing, the Eternal Sacred Land's level of pill dao had only deteriorated over time. It occupied an increasingly low position within the Ten Divine Nations.

A pill dao convention held by the Eternal Sacred Land wouldn't be particularly exciting. More precisely, there wouldn't necessarily be enough outside interest from any pill dao heavyweights.

Ziju Min smiled wryly. "It's not easy to host a pill dao convention. If we commanded such respect within the Ten Divine Nations' realm of pill dao, we could pull that off trivially. But we didn't have that much authority even when Elder Zimu was still alive, and we certainly lack it now. Even if we're not last place, we're definitely in the bottom three."

“Authority is based upon strength and foundations. However, it’s not the only thing that can be the catalyst for such a convening. Even with tremendous authority, no one would attend our meeting with any enthusiasm if it were unattractive.”

“On the flip side, the right kind of attraction means that even a smaller faction’s meeting will be welcomed with surprising enthusiasm. Elder Ziju, do you remember the ancient jade festival held in the Bluesmoke Isles?”

The attraction of that second-rate faction had nevertheless been astonishingly effective. Bluesmoke Jade had been dear enough to draw countless large factions from all ten of the divine nations. Ziju Min fell into stunned thought.

He drew a sharp breath after quite a while. “Shao Yuan,” he said with some difficulty, “I can’t lie to you about this. The Eternal Sacred Land doesn’t have much that other factions would be interested in, pill dao-wise.”

“What if I can come up with the requisite bait, Elder Ziju? Does the sacred land feel adequate enough to host the meeting?” Jiang Chen’s gaze burned feverishly into Ziju Min.

The senior was beyond shocked. He looked back, amazed at the young man’s declaration. The certainty he saw in the genius’ eyes moved him.

“What kind of bait do you have, Shao Yuan? You’ve piqued my curiosity.”

“What kind of bait do you think would be most attractive, Elder Ziju?”

“In the world of pill dao? Pill recipes lost to time, or maybe pills will marvelous effects. Pills that have never been seen before by mortal eyes...? And other such curios,” Ziju Min mused. “Do you have some kind of legendary pill or recipe, Shao Yuan?”

Jiang Chen smiled gently. “None of that would be difficult for me. My ancestral heritage contain several precious pill recipes, as well as a plethora of lost ones.”

His pill dao skills being an inheritance from a long lineage was his explanation to the outside world. Supposedly, his ancestors had a bloodline passed down as well, and more memories than usual had simply happened to awaken within him. This was a plausible way of putting it.

Ziju Min’s eyes lit up. He knew well that the young man’s pill dao knowledge ran impenetrably deep. The matter of the Mirage Introspection Pill had proven that rather pointedly.

“If you can offer an empyrean rank ancient pill recipe, that will be more than sufficient bait. The pill itself will be fine too. The effect will be further amplified if the pill has an effect not currently seen in the market,” Ziju Min affirmed excitedly.

“Give me a day or two to think about it,” Jiang Chen said with a smile, “and I’ll give you the answer after.”

Truthfully, he had plenty of bait in his memories. A nigh infinite supplies of pill recipes and excessive technique for turning them into physical pills, but finding the optimal piece of bait needed a bit more consideration.

It obviously couldn't be too showy, but it needed to draw widespread attention from as many eyes as possible.

He returned to his residence to ponder the subject.

He had countless recipes for empyrean rank pills in his memories, with even a smattering of variety of similar effects. Like indelible seals, they were imprinted upon Jiang Chen's consciousness. The differences of time and space hadn't diminished them a single bit.

"At the end of the day, Myriad Abyss Island is part of Divine Abyss' outer reaches. In terms of inherited knowledge and resources, this place is even worse than the other races' ancient homelands. It doesn't have much pill dao heritage to speak of. According to what I know, Myriad Abyss doesn't have a pill to help great emperors break through to empyrean. Even if it did, it wouldn't be particularly effective, or it would be available in the market. Maybe I can proceed in this direction.

"Another possibility is a pill for empyrean cultivators to unconditionally ascend one level. There's no way I'd have any competition there."

Jiang Chen was almost certain of this. Before he'd come along, the human domain hadn't had the emperor and great emperor pill equivalents. Since Myriad Abyss's heritage was derived from Divine Abyss Continent, it definitely lacked the same.

But that kind of pill did exist in the heavenly planes, even for empyrean cultivators. It was painstakingly demanding in terms of both labor and materials, but it did exist.

Empyrean cultivators found another kind of pill extremely popular as well. In the heavenly planes of Jiang Chen's past life, pills that could safeguard a cultivator against cultivation tribulations had been widely in demand.

An expert's lifespan was drastically lengthened in the empyrean realm. However, they would meet with their fair share of heavenly disasters and trials whenever their inner demons acted up, or they offended the heavenly dao when cultivating.

In other words, empyrean experts risked vastly more calamitous trials compared to all the realms before.

Everyone beneath empyrean realm possessed a mortal body. The greatest of great emperors could only claim to have achieved the mundane pinnacle of martial dao. Empyrean and above meant eligibility to enter the heavenly planes as well as being ruled by the heavenly dao.

Empyrean experts' cultivation required a much higher volume of absorbing spirit energy and making use of the heavenly dao. The increased frequency of associated disasters was perfectly understandable.

All trials had premonitions and forewarning, which provided the cultivator they were visited upon with ample time to prepare. Pills were a good way to do so.

Thus, these were the three ideas Jiang Chen came up with:

One, a pill to help peak great emperors reach empyrean realm.

Two, a pill for a free level within empyrean realm.



Three, a pill to help empyrean experts weather their natural trials.

Currently, Myriad Abyss drew blanks in all three categories. Jiang Chen could produce more efficient pills when it came to healing injuries and recovering energy, but they weren't nearly explosive enough in terms of impact.

Exceptionalism tended to draw many more eyes.

He was confident in the feasibility in any of his three ideas, but wasn't going to make use of all of them. Two out of the three ideas should be enough. That wasn't exactly something difficult to pull off.

He came up with a more detailed plan shortly thereafter.

One pill to help peak great emperors break through to empyrean realm was the Taiyi Skymender Pill. The name of the pill gave away its purpose: to help geniuses with insufficient talent to reach empyrean realm—or at the very least, increase their success rate.

Only a broken sky needed to be mended artificially. When a cultivator lacked the essential talent and strength to break through himself, the pill could serve as a capable stopgap to bridge the difference. That was where the name came from.

Another pill, this one for a free level within empyrean, was called the Crowning Empyrean Pill. Its name gave away its effect in this case as well; the pill would serve to 'crown' an empyrean cultivator by bestowing him an extra level.

In the third category was a pill to defend empyrean experts against their tribulations. This pill was the most miraculous of all three, with a smattering of requisite rare materials and a finicky process to match. Its name—the Clearweather Pill.

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

#### **Chapter 1716: Stunning Ziju Min**

None of the three pills' recipes were a problem for Jiang Chen. Their details were all fresh on his mind, as clear as the day they'd first been imprinted there. Refining them wouldn't be much trouble either, since he had an excess of experience and know-how.

His most difficult problem lay in an embarrassing question. Was it possible to collect all the materials in Myriad Abyss Island?

The three he'd chosen were relatively easy to source compared to their more arcane fellows. Anything much harder had been entirely out of Jiang Chen's consideration.

Of those, he firmly believed that it was flat-out impossible to get their materials in Myriad Abyss Island. He wrote out all three pill recipes, simulating them several times before he was sure they were issue-free.

"If I can't get materials for even these three pills, then I won't bother with anything more ingenious." Jiang Chen had hand-picked them for their appropriateness to his situation.

Having completed his selection, he found Ziju Min the next morning. The senior was taken aback by the young man's early visit.

"You came up with an idea already, Shao Yuan? A bit too efficient, aren't we?"

"Time waits for no man," Jiang Chen laughed. "I need the sacred land's full support as soon as possible, so I need to get the mission done with the same urgency."

"If you can complete 'the Flames of Vengeance', then we will back you up in every endeavor. Even if you make a request of the first prime or the venerated forefather, they will consider it seriously. If your talent is known across the land, we will make every effort to retain you."

Jiang Chen was overjoyed when he heard this.

He had suggested the Eternal Sacred Land host a pill dao convention aimed at various heavyweights in order to prepare for the campaign against Shi Xuan, but part of it had also been for the sake of bolstering his own reputation. He wanted the faction to recognize his potential and expertise.

He wanted to build up his own chips in a possible negotiation, to ask for their full backing of his quest for Huang'er's hand. He wanted them to know he had the right and worth for the sacred land to oppose House Xiahou on his behalf.

Roused by the prospect of promotion, he relayed his findings to his superior. "Elder Ziju, I did manage to come up with what we needed. However, the pills are an incredibly precious part of my ancient heritage. I hope that the sacred land can respect that fact, and won't force me to make any public contributions."

"Whether you contribute your heritage or not is up to you," Ziju Min affirmed hastily. "The sacred land will definitely not force your hand."

Courtesy was of the essence at this juncture. Even if the sacred land had such ambitions, it wouldn't coerce anyone unless absolutely necessary. It could afford that bit of magnanimity, at least.

"So what did you come up with, Shao Yuan?" Ziju Min waxed inquisitive.

"A pill to help peak great emperors break through to empyrean realm. Mine boasts a thirty percent improvement. Does a pill like that exist in the market?"

"Thirty percent improved chance to break through to empyrean realm?" Ziju Min gasped. "Pills that are touted to help the process do exist in the market, but their results are the furthest thing from convincing. Do you have any concrete proof to help your case?"

"Concrete proof? I'm not so sure that's possible initially. However, I guarantee that geniuses who have a twenty to thirty percent chance at breaking through will hit over fifty with the pill. Put differently, if among ten geniuses, one or two can break through. If they all take this pill, that number will increase to at least four—maybe as many as six!"

Ziju Min was floored. "Is this pill really as miraculous as you say?"

"Yes. I'm not sure if the Eternal Sacred Land can get together the materials I need though. I haven't seen any of these, otherwise I would've refined the pill already."

“Tell me, what materials do you need?”

Jiang Chen unceremoniously handed over a shopping list of what he needed to Ziju Min.

“Please take a look, Elder Ziju.”

Ziju Min was overjoyed after perusing the paper. “The Eternal Sacred Land can get together these materials. The Taiyi Dragonscale Fruit is the main component, yes? Aside from this, the others are easy enough to come by.”

“Very astute, Elder Ziju.” Jiang Chen hadn’t marked the materials’ relative importance down on the list. Ziju Min’s pill dao mastery was evident in the sharpness of his off-handed remark.

“The Taiyi Dragonscale Fruit is difficult to obtain. If I recall correctly, the sacred land has three such within our vaults. Elder Zimu had picked them near some lava floes in the deep blue. Because of the fruits’ rarity, we’ve kept them among our other treasures all this time. No one has had the right to make use of them since then.”

“Elder Zimu picked those?” Jiang Chen sighed. “Perhaps this is the will of heaven then.”

“Perhaps.” Ziju Min found it as curious as Jiang Chen did. He wasn’t entirely convinced of the pill’s veracity. “Chance is not something that’s easy to quantify, you know. Thirty percent... please excuse my saying so, but I’m not sure if the general public will believe you.”

“What do you mean by that, Elder Ziju?” Jiang Chen asked.

“Nothing in particular that’s between us. I’m just worried that the pill won’t be attractive enough by itself, since outsiders may not trust you so easily.” Ziju Min raised his primary concern.

“Haha, any kind of new pill would be met with distrust initially, right? That’s completely understandable.” Jiang Chen nodded in acknowledgment. “Time and actual results will prove who’s right in the end.”

“Hmm.” Ziju Min inclined his head in thoughtful agreement.

“Elder Ziju. If you don’t think the Taiyi Skymender Pill isn’t enough, how about a pill that lets an empyrean realm cultivator ascend one level for free?”

“For free? No strings attached?” Ziju Min was baffled once more. His body recoiled like a spring; he affixed his eyes on Jiang Chen with an alien look. “You... you’re not joking, are you? Is there a pill as wondrous as that? A free level, even in empyrean realm?”

“Well, to call it an entirely free level would be an exaggeration. Nonetheless, consuming the pill will allow someone whose limit is at fourth level empyrean realm to push up to fifth level... most likely. An initial empyrean cultivator will see pretty much instant results. A mid empyrean cultivator needs a few months to a handful of years, and a higher rank one, even longer. But it’s definitely entirely a matter of time—the level will be there in the end.”

Ziju Min remained incredulous. “I’ve heard of pills like that for sage and emperor realms. Not so for great emperor, and definitely not for empyrean. Forgive me, but it sounds just a tad farfetched...”

Jiang Chen grinned. He knew what he'd said was too far beyond the realm of ordinary imagination. Pills of this kind were much beyond Myriad Abyss Island's native level.

"Elder Ziju, the name of the pill is the Crowning Empyrean Pill. It really is that wondrous, at least according to my ancestral memories. Apparently, it was first created by primordial divine cultivators, so it has an even more esoteric list of materials. That's why I didn't mention it at first."

Ziju Min was dazed by a rush of emotion. He glanced at Jiang Chen with great uncertainty.

He was truly curious about exactly how amazing the young man's inherited bloodline was. Was something like that really possible for a wandering cultivator's family?

What he was hearing befitted the lineage of a primordial aristocratic house much more.

There was no other explanation for this though. Ziju Min sighed. "Shao Yuan, I don't know how your family ended up as wandering cultivators. What you've inherited alone is enough to begin your own sect or faction. How did it all come to pass?"

Jiang Chen sighed as well. "There was nothing particularly remarkable in my father, grandfather, and great grandfather. But the bloodline has awakened with stunning completeness in me, and more memories came rushing back. Even my forefathers would struggle to explain this. Maybe... I'm just lucky?"

Obviously, he couldn't say that he had been the son of the Celestial Emperor in his previous life.

He could only weave a white lie to gain Ziju Min's trust. Whether the other man found it credible or not was not something he could affect.

For his part, Ziju Min implicitly trusted what Jiang Chen had said in regard to his heritage.

"Maybe you were blessed by fortune indeed. You've regained everything your bloodline contains in your particular generation. I think this can be called a kind of ancestral reversion, right?"

"There might be a different reason as well, I suppose. It may not be your bloodline heritage at all, but the fact that you are a reincarnated divine spirit yourself. Your memories may not come from your heritage, but your previous life. You might not know that yourself at this point, but it's quite possible." Ziju Min was an experienced and world-wise man.

He knew that many masters in the world of martial dao chose to embrace the cycle of life and death when encountered with an irresistible danger. They would then be reborn as another.

Though this was an acutely risky choice fraught with danger, it had a pretty good chance of working. If the person the god reincarnated as was reasonably talented, his past memories might very well awaken.

Ziju Min found the second explanation increasingly more convincing.

It didn't matter which case it was, however. At the end of the day, did the pills and their recipes that Shao Yuan had mentioned really exist?

Jiang Chen presented the material list for the Crowning Empyrean Pill to Ziju Min too.

“Elder Ziju, this is what I need for the Crowning Empyrean Pill. If you can gather the materials, I am a hundred percent certain I can refine the actual pill.”

He needed something more tangible to back him up. The refinement of the pill would convince Ziju Min of everything he had said. Otherwise, there wasn't much point arguing over the finer points.

### Sovereign of the Three Realms (WN)

#### **Chapter 1717: Requesting Support**

Ziju Min grew quite grave after reviewing the list.

He exhaled softly after a long while. “Shao Yuan, the Crowning Empyrean Pill's materials are indeed rare. But so far as I know, they can still be found on Myriad Abyss, and the Eternal Sacred Land is capable of shouldering the costs.”

“Please put out requests for them then. The more complete the materials, the better. As long as I have the materials, I'll be able to refine flawless pills.”

What Jiang Chen least wanted to waste now was time. He didn't want to jump through so many hoops to get to his objective. The sooner everything was resolved, the better. Only then could he fully devote himself to his clash with Xiahou Zong.

They were fated to meet in battle. Jiang Chen didn't want to be distracted by the issue of how to garner the sacred land's support after Xiahou Zong exited closed door cultivation. He wanted to spend all his energy on preparation.

Ziju Min didn't think for too long. He nodded gravely. “Alright. I have more than enough authority when it comes to pill dao-related things, so I can make the request for these materials. My connections in Myriad Abyss should ensure the success of that. However, hosting a pill dao convention is something I must inquire the three primes about. It can only happen with their acquiescence. It will be very hard for me to pull it off without full-fledged support.”

Jiang Chen smiled faintly. “There is nothing to lose and everything to gain. I don't think the three honorable primes will refuse.”

He was confident in the decision makers' wisdom here. If they didn't support him, he would then suspect exactly how much ability they had in the first place.

“Alright. I will ask the three primes right away.”

Jiang Chen nodded. “The quicker the better.”

“You're not coming with me?” Ziju Min blinked.

“I'll pass.” Jiang Chen felt that his presence would make things too conspicuous. He wanted to see whether the three primes had the courage to approve his plan.

The three primes didn't brush off Ziju Min's request for audience. His current position within the sacred land was untouchable. He was one of the ten great elders, a pillar of pill dao. However, he was as courteous as ever and approached the primes with appropriate decorum.

The first prime smiled, pleased that the elder hadn't changed with recent events.

"Elder Ziju, you must have a reason for coming to see us in such a hurry. I hear that Shao Yuan has requested a sovereign mission. 'The Flames of Vengeance', was it? Do you support him in this?"

The second and third primes looked at Ziju with smiles as well. The matter had captured the universal attention of the sacred land's leadership. Their relative importance made overt enthusiasm inappropriate, so Ziju Min's visit was the perfect chance to sate their curiosity.

"That's why I'm here, yes," Ziju Min nodded.

"Hahaha, so you are supporting him in this." The first prime roared with laughter. Her eyes glinted shrewdly. "Elder Ziju," she inquired in a low voice, "how sure is Shao Yuan of being able to complete this mission? According to my intel, Shi Xuan is already a grandmaster within Flora Divine Nation. He is sixth in skill within all ten of the divine nations... a tough nut to crack."

"Tough is an understatement." Ziju Min grew serious. "That's what I told Shao Yuan as well. Alas, his opinion remained firm."

"Oh? So you weren't the one who told him to take this mission?"

"No." Ziju Min shook his head with a wry smile. "Actually, I hoped he would go slow and steady by taking things one step at a time. He's in a bit of a hurry though."

The first prime was perplexed. "Shao Yuan's already proved himself enough, hasn't he? Why is he in such a hurry?"

Ziju Min hesitated a moment, then sighed. "He has his reasons. He thirsts for our unequivocal support."

"Haha, he is more than talented enough to receive it in time. I think his challenge is too careless and abrupt. If he fails, it would be a very serious blow to his reputation and character." This was the first prime's foremost concern.

A genius like Shao Yuan needed to be well cultivated and popularized through every positive embellishment. Failing a mission would be precisely the opposite of that. As a new disciple, he had plenty of time to demonstrate his skill. He didn't need to risk so much.

"I've said that already to him, first prime. Unfortunately, he's too stubborn to be persuaded."

"It certainly seems like it. He has guaranteed to me that he has a sixty to seventy percent chance of succeeding—provided Shi Xuan accepts his challenge, of course. We've discussed the finer details for how to make this happen..."

Ziju Min related the finer points of his conversation with Jiang Chen. The three primes looked at each other when he finished.

The third prime coughed out a laugh. "Isn't this somewhat too laborious, Elder Ziju?"

“Somewhat, yes,” Ziju Min nodded.

“We can do all that,” the first prime interceded. “However, we must be certain that he wins his challenge against Shi Xuan at this convention. As long as that’s the case, it will all be completely worthwhile. But...”

“Exactly. What if he fails? If he loses terribly, we’ll have brought down a stone on our own foot.” The second prime voiced his concerns.

Ziju Min remained silent. He had informed the three primes of all the particulars. They would be responsible for the final decision.

The first prime mused a long while, then gazed somberly at Ziju Min. “Elder Ziju, from your understanding of Shao Yuan, do you suspect that he’s being hot-headed and overconfident?”

“I don’t see any of that. From my observation, he is clever, quick-witted, and apparently supremely assured of his success in this endeavour. There is no blindness in his behavior.” Ziju Min spoke only the truth.

Because Jiang Chen was completely certain of his victory in this case, he had been perfectly relaxed in all of his interactions.

The first prime was at an impasse.

“What do you think, my friends?” She found it hard to come to a decision by herself. This was a thorny issue. Hosting a convention was easy, but losing face at one’s own event would be catastrophic for the Eternal Sacred Land. They couldn’t afford becoming the butt of jokes for the rest of the world.

The third prime smiled wryly. “Personally, I don’t really want to host a convention. We can’t afford to lose so close to home.”

“Maybe we can find another opportunity for Shao Yuan to challenge Shi Xuan?” The second prime couldn’t help suggesting. “Everything’s fine as long as we don’t lose on home turf. He’s still young, after all!”

Ziju Min had a different opinion. “I rather think there’s nothing wrong with Shao Yuan losing at all. Just as you said, Second Prime, he is still young. As long as he doesn’t lose too badly, I see no issue with it. If the match is an even one, it would be an honor for him. A tie would be a small victory for the Sacred Land, and a win, an unrivaled triumph.”

It was exactly as the elder had said. As long as the loss wasn’t too pathetic, the sacred land wouldn’t mind at all.

A potential victory, on the other hand, came with fabulous benefits. It would be perfect vengeance as well as air out the depression that had clouded the sacred land for many a year. More importantly, the faction would gain some authority in terms of pill dao. It would become equals with the other divine nations’ ruling factions in this regard.

When Shao Yuan did grow up, the Eternal Sacred Land’s pill dao future would be bright indeed.

Ziju Min was sure that the young man's pill dao potential needed only time to blossom. Given sufficient space to grow, he would surpass every other pill dao giant before long. But would the battle he desired actually come to pass in the near future?

Were the three primes daring enough to make the decision?

The first prime mused for quite a while, unable to make up her mind.

"Elder Ziju, what would your decision be?" The leader of the sacred land suddenly asked, her eyes intent upon the elder's face.

"I would agree without any hesitation. I trust Shao Yuan completely. I feel that he has come for the sole purpose of creating miracles for us." Ziju Min was a diehard supporter now. "Plus, Myriad Abyss has never seen the two kinds of pills he's proposed. One increases the likelihood of breaking through from great emperor to empyrean, and the other grants a free level to an empyrean expert."

"What? You're sure he has these two kinds of pills?"

"He hasn't refined them yet, but he guarantees that he is entirely able to."

"That..." The first prime's expression grew conflicted. "Elder Ziju, do... do you believe that, too? If these two kinds of pills can be actualized, the entire pill dao world in Myriad Abyss will be turned upside down."

"My observations reveal the truth in his words. Moreover, I hazard that his expansive heritage doesn't entirely come from an ancestral bloodline. He may very well be a reincarnated divine!"

"What?" The news stunned the three primes like a thunderclap.

"What did you say? A reincarnated divine spirit?"

Ziju Min nodded seriously. "Indeed. His talent can't be explained solely through an inherited bloodline. Only the residual memories from a past life can fully provide him with such a wealth of knowledge."

The three primes traded looks with each other, amazement writ all over their faces.

### **Sovereign of the Three Realms (WN)**

#### **Chapter 1718: All In Readiness**

The speculation completely subverted how the three primes perceived Shao Yuan.

God incarnates were uncommon. Over the past couple of hundred thousand years in Myriad Abyss history, very few geniuses had been recognized as true incarnations of divine spirits.

Most were merely imposters who couldn't prove their claims, while many of the real incarnations' awakenings were incomplete, recovering only part of their memory from their past lives.

There were also those who'd recovered a majority of their memory, but they'd reincarnated into a host with limited potential. Despite their awakening, the limitations prevented them from becoming as strong as other geniuses.

Thus, the martial dao world was sometimes fair.



Without the right body and the appropriate natural talents, even a god incarnate couldn't achieve greatness. What was more, those whose memories awakened too late in life would miss the best age for cultivation, hindering their future progress.

In Myriad Abyss history, very few people possessed both extraordinary talent and awakened when they were still young. Most of the time, they became leading figures of the generation.

It took a long while for the three primes to finally recover from their shock.

"How confident are you about your speculation, Elder Ziju?" the first prime asked in a low voice.

"Seventy to eighty percent," admitted Ziju Min.

"What did Shao Yuan himself say?" the first prime added.

"I don't think he's aware of the possibility himself. Since his memory hasn't fully awakened, he still believes that his knowledge comes from his ancestral heritage. No matter what, his memories are a treasure trove of information. The two pills he presented exceed the peak of Myriad Abyss Island as we know it."

The first prime's eyes shone brightly. "If the two pills work as he says, we will have a once in ten millennia opportunity. We will greatly increase our power and benefit generations to come."

Ziju Min hesitantly said, "First Prime, Shao Yuan has implied that he wishes that we won't force him to surrender the recipes for the pills."

The first prime paused. "He isn't willing?" A wry smile tugged at her lips as she added, "It's natural that he'd like to keep his personal knowledge his. He's just joined us. It's unreasonable to expect him to contribute the recipes for free."

It'd be inappropriate for Ziju Min to vocally affirm her reasoning. "That'd be a little unreasonable, but Shao Yuan is a loyal man. I believe that as long as we don't betray his trust, he'll come to see us as his home. Even if he doesn't give us the two pills, it's better to work with him than to have him turn to other factions."

"Other factions?" The first prime stilled. "No, that mustn't happen. Even if Shao Yuan isn't going to give the pills to us, he can't give them to the others."

Ziju Min smiled wryly. "This subordinate has to admit it's not entirely impossible."

"What do you mean?" the first prime asked nervously. They couldn't afford to lose the two pills to others. It'd be a serious blow in more ways than one.

Ziju Min was quiet for a long moment, agonizing over if he should stay silent. Finally, he sighed and said, "Do you know why Shao Yuan's so eager to gain our support, First Prime?"

"Why?"

"Because his target is Xiahou Zong."

"What? Is there any bad blood between them?"

“Not exactly,” said Ziju Min. “But Xiahou Zong’s going to take the woman he loves—Yan Qinghuang from House Yan.”

Three pairs of eyes widened in collective shock. They struggled to come to terms with the revelation.

After a long stretch of silence, the first prime smiled with a tinge of resignation. “Do you mean to say that Shao Yuan joined us for a... girl?”

“That’s right.” Ziju Min sighed. “When I first invited him to join us, he turned me down without hesitation. The second time, it still took me a lot of time and effort to change his mind. I was able to succeed only because House Yan treated him with too little respect and disappointed him.”

“Yan Qinghuang, Xiahou Zong...” muttered the first prime. She chuckled. “How interesting.”

The second prime laughed brightly. “I didn’t expect a love story to be involved. Shao Yuan sure is a ladies’ man.”

Their mood lightened once they understood Jiang Chen’s motivation.

“First Prime, it makes sense for Shao Yuan to seek us for support. He can’t possibly go against House Xiahou on his own.”

“Agreed. Other than us, no factions in Eternal Divine Nation dare make an enemy out of House Xiahou.”

The three primes had first been worried that the young genius had joined the sacred land for ulterior motives or personal agenda. Their concerns were rendered unwarranted with this explanation. The young genius’ motivation was shockingly simple—love.

But then again, Shao Yuan was young. It was understandable that he’d be driven by his feelings. Such was the way everyone acted in their youth.

“Elder Ziju, how is this related to the possibility that he’ll give the two pills to other factions?” asked the first prime.

Ziju Min hurriedly explained, “Of course it’s related. Shao Yuan won’t give up on Yan Qinghuang. If she ends up becoming Xiahou Zong’s cultivation vessel, he’ll blame us for not supporting him. Joining us will have turned out to be all for nothing. He won’t be loyal then, will he? It’s possible that he may leave and even turn against all of Eternal Divine Nation.”

It was common for love to beget hatred in the martial dao world. In Myriad Abyss, it wasn’t unprecedented for someone to destroy a faction, a country, or even an isle for a woman.

The three primes exchanged a look. They had to admit that Ziju Min had a point. Young people were often decisive. They loved and hated easily. If the sacred land disappointed Shao Yuan, there’d be no reason for him to stay.

The first prime thought for a long moment. “If Shao Yuan can complete the Flames of Vengeance, I promise that we will support him in a fair fight with Xiahou Zong. House Yan may be afraid of offending House Xiahou, but we aren’t! I believe the venerated forefather will agree with me. We aren’t going to let go of any real geniuses!”

The first prime was finally demonstrating the strength of a superior position.

Seeing her determination, the second prime nodded in agreement. "Well said. If he can complete the mission, there's no reason for us not to support him!"

"Agreed," the third prime added concisely.

"About the convention..." prompted Ziju Min.

"Elder Ziju," the first prime spoke up. "Tell Shao Yuan that if he can produce the two pills and meet our inspection, the three of us will spare no effort in holding the event."

"Right, I'll tell him immediately," Ziju Min said excitedly. "It's on him if he can't produce the pills. Then he'll have no one else to blame!"

In truth, he was firmly convinced that the young genius would be able to refine the two pills, or he wouldn't have made the proposal with such confidence. He went off to make the necessary arrangements without wasting any time.

He first relayed the good news to Jiang Chen, then started collecting the ingredients for the pills. Those used in refining Taiyi Skymender Pill could all be found in the sacred land. He'd have to purchase those for the Crowning Empyrean Pill elsewhere.

"I can give you all the ingredients for the Taiyi Skymender Pill tomorrow, Shao Yuan. Those for the Crowning Empyrean Pill will take at least half a month to collect. Will that be alright?"

"Half a month? That should work." Jiang Chen nodded after a pause. "I'll finish refining the two pills in a month. Then we'll spend two months preparing for the exchange and promoting the pills. We must make sure that Shi Xuan comes in person."

Three months would be enough for all that. The sword competition was about six months away. He would have ample time remaining to prepare for that.

Although he had to prepare the two pills, he still spent most of his energy on cultivation.

Ever since he'd ascended to empyrean realm, he'd been improving himself continuously. That was the only thing he could do before his fight with Xiahou Zong. He had to reach his full potential before their fated battle.

Ziju Min didn't disappoint. He brought Jiang Chen all the ingredients for Taiyi Skymending Pill the next day.

"There are three Taiyi Dragonscale Fruits in our inventory, Shao Yuan. I could only bring you one. There's no room for failure."

Every fruit can only be used to refine one cauldron of pills. If Jiang Chen failed, the fruit would have been wasted. That was why Ziju Min said that he mustn't fail.

Jiang Chen smiled. "The process of refining the Taiyi Skymending Pill is complicated, Elder Ziju, but I'm confident that I'll succeed."

"How many pills can you yield in a cauldron?" Ziju Min couldn't hold in his curiosity.

“Hard to say. About seven to a dozen. It all depends on if the refining process goes smoothly.”

Ziju Min was excited to hear the impressive figure. He clapped Jiang Chen on the shoulder. “The first prime has made you a promise, Shao Yuan. Rest assured, if you can produce the two pills, the three primes will devote everything to hold the convention. Even if you fail to defeat Shi Xuan, as long as you show them what you’ve got, we will support you in your fight against Xiahou Zong!”

### Sovereign of the Three Realms (WN)

#### **Chapter 1719: Xiahou Zong Exits Closed Door Cultivation**

Refining the Taiyi Skymender Pill was a first for Jiang Chen in his current life. It was a higher level pill, approaching heavenly rank. If not for his millions of years of prior experience, he wouldn’t have been able to guarantee success.

Pills like these had an extremely complex refinement process. There was no room for error in any step. The smallest of mistakes would mean deleterious effects upon the final product, causing outright failure.

Jiang Chen wasn’t in a hurry to start right away, even though he had all the materials. Instead, he sat down cross-legged after he finished the preparations, meditating in front of his pill cauldron.

This was a good habit for refining pills. Because this was a pill he hadn’t refined before, he was being especially cautious.

He used his time in meditation to mentally work out the entire process of refinement. Paying attention to the details would help him improve his practical control later on.

Four iterations later, he was ready psychologically and practically to start refining the Taiyi Skymender Pill.

Ever since breaking through to empyrean realm, Jiang Chen had seen splendid improvement in every respect. Pill refinement had been no different.

Being at empyrean level had perfected his fine motor control over the minutiae. As a great emperor, Jiang Chen wouldn’t have much luck in refining the Taiyi Skymender Pill. Even if he wanted to push himself, the results wouldn’t have been the best.

Though he had a pretty good chance at success, one hundred percent was categorically out of the question. Even a successful refinement would not yield a large number of pills.

After reaching empyrean realm, both of the above were no longer problems.

Pill dao and martial dao were interconnected in a way. A pill dao master didn’t necessarily need supreme martial prowess, but he did need appropriate cultivation to support his skills. It was unrealistic for a great emperor or emperor cultivator to be able to unconditionally refine empyrean rank pills.

Jiang Chen’s control over his emotions had also improved since ascension.

He remained absolutely calm even when refining such an important pill. It didn’t matter that his future plans were entirely contingent upon his success here; in that moment, he was unaffected.

He kindled the flame, warmed the cauldron, and added in the materials, carrying out all the actions in fluid motions.

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Within the secret room, Jiang Chen was absolutely calm. Outside, Ziju Min was the picture of anxiety. He was much more apprehensive because he knew intimately what it meant for both the young man and the sacred land.

The refinement had no room for failure. Failure meant that all the young man's subsequent plans would be nipped in the bud. In fact, everything might very well spiral downward instead.

Ziju Min desperately hoped the young man would succeed.

The successful production of the pill would send an earthquake rippling through Myriad Abyss's pill dao world.

"Shao Yuan, you've performed many miracles in the sacred land already. You just need to keep doing what you've been doing!" the senior prayed silently.

Twiddling his thumbs wasn't the only thing he could do. He used his connections to collect the Crowning Empyrean Pill's materials from all over Myriad Abyss.

Thankfully, Ziju Min knew enough of the right people around Myriad Abyss. Not as many as the late Elder Zimu, but not far off either. More importantly, he knew how to deal with people. This distinguished himself from the proud Elder Zimu.

It had built him a pretty good reputation and network within the pill dao field in Myriad Abyss, making the search for the pill's materials possible in the first place.

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The outside world knew nothing of what was transpiring within the Eternal Sacred Land.

Within a secret realm under House Xiahou's jurisdiction, a young man rested inside a hot spring. Indistinct vapor and mist coiled up all around him, adding to the mystique of the scene. It was none other than the foremost genius of the house, Xiahou Zong.

He had cultivated for several years in the vicinity of these springs. In that moment, he suddenly opened his eyes, revealing profound eyes as bright as the stars in a night sky.

"How many years has it been?" Stretching out both arms, he basked in the pleasurable sensations of the world. The colors he saw anew appeared more vivid than ever before.

"I wanted to break through to mid empyrean realm when I first closed my doors. The heavens haven't let me down. I'm fifth level empyrean now. It seems that I am truly blessed." Unbridled joy was apparent upon Xiahou Zong's face.

Everything in nature and creation had obviously been made for him. Whenever his emotions changed, the world should change alongside them.

He slowly rose from the waters of the spring, his skin as smooth and translucent as jade, creamier than a newborn baby's.

Splash!

The pool was disturbed by his motion, its surface rippling to reveal his perfect body. He stepped out of the mists onto dry land, laughing uncontrollably with his arms extended. "Just as heaven and earth are eternal, I too will become so one day!"

He narcissistically admired his own muscles, considering himself to be a marvel of creation.

"What a wonderful body," Xiahou Zong chuckled slightly. "Wearing any garment would be defiling it, no matter the kind. Alas, humans are different from animals. We cannot go naked."

If he could choose, he would rather have gone without clothes. He was the epitome of perfection.

The secret realm opened, introducing a well-dressed and vigorous Xiahou Zong back to the world. Since closing his doors several years ago, he had become a less popular subject of conversation in the capital.

"I'm back." Xiahou Zong asserted his return as forcefully as possible to the rest of the world.

The news propagated to every other faction in Eternal Divine Nation in almost the next instant, spreading through the capital like wildfire.

Xiahou Zong, the foremost young genius in the nation, had resurfaced!

His reappearance meant that there was no longer any doubt as to who would win the young geniuses' tournament. Countless geniuses would be trodden underfoot once more. It was the beginning of a different era.

Though Xiahou Zong was of the younger generation, he enjoyed greater status than the typical elder. His authority was inferior only to the most important members of the house, whom he enjoyed the meticulous affections from.

Clearly, all of House Xiahou knew what he meant for the rest. This was a genius who could potentially lead the house to much greater success.

"You're finally out, brother!" Xiahou Ying was the happiest to see him emerge.

Xiahou Zong cared for his sister very much. He touched her face lightly. "We haven't seen each other for a couple of years, Ying'er. You've gotten prettier."

Xiahou Ying had been indulged by her brother since she was a child. She pouted, her eyes reddening tearfully. "While your doors were closed, brother, I was bullied by others. You didn't care about me at all."

"Oh?" Xiahou Zong's eyes roved. "Who dares bully you? Don't lie to me, Ying'er. I remember all the geniuses in the capital fussing over you even before I was gone."

"Hmph, you don't care about me anymore." Xiahou Ying sulked.

Xiahou Zong had endless patience with a temper-tantrum throwing sister. “Enough with that, Ying’er,” he laughed. “I can deal with whatever trouble you had now that I’m out, alright?”

“Really?”

“Of course. Since when have I under-delivered on a promise?” Xiahou Zong spoiled his sister a lot. Anyone who dared cross or upset her would answer to him. He had beaten up innumerable other young geniuses to this end ever since his childhood.

“Tell me, what buffoon was blind enough to annoy you?” Xiahou Zong’s relaxed confidence turned his sister’s tears into a smile.

“Is that your promise, brother? I’m annoyed with a guy from House Yan.”

“House Yan?” Xiahou Zong paused, disdain plain upon his face. “Mayflies in June, without much time to live. Who is it? Yan Zhenhuai?”

In his opinion, the only young person worth considering within House Yan was Yan Zhenhuai. He didn’t even think about the others.

“No, an outsider with a different surname. He came to Eternal Divine Nation when your doors were still closed. He was just some unknown wandering cultivator before that. He’s joined the Eternal Sacred Land now though.”

“Joined the Eternal Sacred Land?” Xiahou Zong smiled coolly, his expression unchanged. “I’ve beaten up geniuses from there before.” He was used to lording it over everyone else. “Tell me. What’s his name, and how did he upset you?”

Xiahou Ying loved her brother’s dominance the most. She related how Jiang Chen had earned her ire with a great deal of embellishment and fabrication.

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

#### **Chapter 1720: The Xiahou Siblings**

Xiahou Ying had always been a bit of a spoiled princess. Jiang Chen had first drawn her attention at her birthday banquet with his astonishing performance.

Girls’ hearts could be strange things. She was long used to the fact that every man near her wanted to fawn on her, so she found them uninteresting. But when a man different from her admirers appeared before her, she felt rather different.

Curiosity and inquisitiveness were positively alien emotions to her. When they roared to life, they were the source of incredible motivation. She had held out one olive branch after another, testing, inviting, and messaging Jiang Chen on House Xiahou’s behalf.

Sadly, every single attempt had been ignored. In fact, Jiang Chen never bothered to hide his dislike for her whenever they met. At their last meeting at the Eternal Sacred Land, he had also openly mocked her. Her curiosity and inquisitiveness had morphed entirely into hatred because of this.

Since childhood, Xiahou Ying had always been chased after by others. This was the fundamental reason for her haughty personality. Thus, the animosity that rose at her suffered indignity was easy to imagine.

How could she not embellish and exaggerate when Xiahou Zong asked her about what made her angry? She'd wanted her brother to emerge as soon as possible to teach Jiang Chen a lesson. It would be best if her brother could smash him irrecoverably into the ground, so she could step on and shame him too.

Xiahou Zong frowned a little after she finished.

"Shao Yuan?" He was slightly confused. He'd closed his doors for several years, but thought himself reasonably well-informed on the Ten Divine Nations' affairs regardless. He hadn't heard of anyone among the divine nations' factions with the surname Shao. As a name, 'Shao Yuan' was foreign to him.

But he found Xiahou Ying's declaration that he was a wandering cultivator even odder. Wandering cultivators had always been a bunch of underdogs in Myriad Abyss. Geniuses did exist among them, but the chances were slim. Similarly, their quality couldn't compare to geniuses from the larger factions.

Xiahou Zong found all of this rather odd. However, his personality was such that he considered himself number one in the world without question. No matter what kind of genius or his background, he didn't care.

"Don't be upset, Ying'er. If the kid participates in this year's tournament, I promise he'll regret having come to Eternal Divine Nation."

"Don't underestimate him, brother. He's not easy to deal with. There's never been anyone who has passed the Eternal Sacred Land's Nine Winding Caves before him. That kid passed the entire exam in a single attempt, so he's wildly popular. I hear the sacred land is focusing on raising him—maybe he'll be a serious opponent for you someday." Xiahou Ying's provocation was a bit more indirect this time.

Xiahou Zong chuckled. "I already have opponents, but they're not here in Eternal Divine Nation. My goal is to win the Ten Divine Nations' young genius tournament in three years. I want all of them to tremble before me. I will become a nightmare that persists for the rest of their lives!"

The young linchpin of House Xiahou was irritatingly haughty. However, he had good reason to be confident.

Xiahou Ying giggled. "I knew my brother was the best in the world! Brother, you need to really teach that cocky kid a lesson. Otherwise, people will think that you can't compare to the Eternal Sacred Land's geniuses at the end of the day."

"Hmph. The Eternal Sacred Land? Their so-called geniuses wouldn't dare boast before me." Xiahou Zong knew of the 'Five Great Gentlemen' from the Eternal Sacred Land. But were they really that great if none of them was brave enough to face him?

Their self-styled title was nothing more than self-consolation. He and they were not on the same level at all. This year's competition between Eternal Divine Nation's geniuses would provide an opportunity for them to compete. Xiahou Zong could barely wait.

He had closed his doors to cultivate all these years in order to prepare for precisely this. Regardless of who his opponents were and where they came from, Xiahou Zong was going to sweep the floor with them. They would tremble beneath his feet!



His road to stardom would be littered with the bodies of other geniuses. This was his ambition, his most faithful belief on his martial path. He had always felt that the rise of a real genius needed to use others as stepping stones. Therefore, his goal was to crush every genius he saw.

This Shao Yuan would be no different.

Mid-conversation, a secret letter was delivered into Xiahou Ying's hands. She took and opened it, then was stunned by its contents. Her slender eyebrows grew sharply angled in indignation.

"What is it?" Xiahou Zong asked with mild surprise. His sister's reaction was unusual.

Xiahou Ying gritted her teeth. "That Shao Yuan has been causing a real ruckus," she huffed angrily. "This secret letter came from the Eternal Sacred Land. Apparently, that kid has requested one of their sovereign missions."

"A sovereign mission of the Sacred Land?" Xiahou Zong was taken aback. He knew the Sacred Land's customs, and understood very well what a sovereign mission represented. Sovereign missions were typically meant for the oldest generation within that faction.

Each such mission possessed an astronomical reward in contribution points, but were so commensurately difficult that younger members couldn't pay the penalty. Even the most senior members weren't all capable of taking on sovereign missions. Each request was only made after serious and lengthy consideration.

Requesting them willy-nilly would only lead to ruin.

"That's so annoying, brother. How long has it been since that Shao Yuan got into the Eternal Sacred Land? Not even a year, right? What gives him the guts to take on a sovereign mission?"

"This is very strange." Xiahou Zong nodded. If he hadn't cared about the name 'Shao Yuan' before, he certainly felt it dig into his throat like a thorn now. It felt slightly uncomfortable.

"Right? He's just a kid. I think he's gone crazy for the sake of making himself famous. A sovereign mission? Really?!" Xiahou Ying was furious.

"I don't think he did it to make himself famous, Ying'er. As long as his brain hasn't fried, he would only take on the mission if he thought he had a decent chance at success. What would give him the courage otherwise? If he fails the mission, he'll lose a tenth of the reward contribution points. He's just a newcomer, so I doubt he has many in the first place. He wouldn't want to go into the negatives." Xiahou Zong's reasoning was more detailed. He didn't think that Shao Yuan had requested a sovereign mission out of stupidity.

Even if Shao Yuan was being reckless, had the senior mentoring him gone mad as well? According to his sister, Ziju Min had taken the young man under his wing. Where was the senior's opposition to the foolishness?

"Give me the letter, Ying'er." Xiahou Zong wanted to investigate in a bit more detail. He needed to get to the bottom of this.

Xiahou Ying handed the paper over to her brother.

Looking over the letter, Xiahou Zong was mildly impressed. "Shao Yuan aside, Ying'er, you've done well in creating informants within the Eternal Sacred Land. Remember, use your advantages to the best of your ability. Wrap all these young geniuses around your little finger."

"Hehe, I know that! I can control pretty much sixty to seventy percent of the geniuses in the sacred land. Not quite all of them, but it's a start." Xiahou Ying looked particularly enthusiastic and confident when she mentioned this.

"From what you and the letter have said, this Shao Yuan isn't just a martial dao genius. His pill dao talent is even more shocking. His mission is called 'the Flames of Vengeance', and rumor has it that it's related to a pill dao giant who died several decades ago."

"Oh? Do you know about the mission, brother?" Xiahou Ying was a bit surprised. She was too young to have known about something so old.

Xiahou Zong nodded. "I've heard about it, but I'm not clear on the details. I am sure about one thing though. This is a pill dao mission that requires tremendous talent and knowledge to complete."

"Looks like the kid is ignorant and incompetent after all," Xiahou Ying remarked scornfully. "Putting his pill dao skills on display like this means he'll delay his cultivation. Maybe he'll end up getting nothing done at all."

Xiahou Zong shook his head. "Ying'er, his data doesn't look like he'll be a fleeting genius. Perhaps he's the real deal, capable of achieving great things in both pill and martial dao."

"How genius can he be, really? He won't ever match even a tenth of my brother, hmph!" Xiahou Ying continued to put her enemy down, flattering Xiahou Zong in the process.

"So you've learned to sweet-talk me, eh?" Xiahou Zong roared with laughter. "Though I don't mind. I like it, hahaha! Ah, that's right. Ying'er, has that House Yan girl been good lately?"

"Hmph, she wouldn't dare be anything but. House Yan will iron her out either way!" Derision dripped from Xiahou Ying's tone.