

## Three Realms 1961

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

#### Chapter 1961: Competition of Geniuses, Suggestion of Alliance

Jiang Chen was still reeling from the chance meeting with the divine cultivator after leaving.

Their conversation had seemed civil, but in truth, they had been one step away from erupting in a fight. Both had been testing the other's ability.

If the Vermilion Bird hadn't been with him, Long Xiaoxuan and the Astral White Tiger wouldn't have been enough for him to deter the divine cultivator. Thankfully, it'd just been an empty scare.

Jiang Chen sighed. It was certainly true that many powerful cultivators had escaped from the Boundless Prison, if he had run into one so easily. Nevertheless, he had been in high spirits since acquiring the pentacolor crystals.

The crystals were more valuable than the spirit stones he had received from Rejuvenation. The latter had been more important to him at the moment because he needed them for the Great Formation. In terms of cultivation, the crystals would serve him far better.

Once he returned to the Eternal Sacred Land, Jiang Chen gave some of the crystals to his three sacred beast companions. They were all thrilled by the offer. They wouldn't have to worry about resources for their cultivation for the next few decades!

Jiang Chen wanted to ask Divine Kasyapa about the divine cultivator he'd just encountered, but decided against doing so. He didn't want to waste any time when he couldn't afford the luxury.

"Young master Chen, the venerated forefather decided to return to the sacred land to see you after hearing that you've returned," said Ziju Min. "You should be prepared."

Jiang Chen paused. Could the elder have guessed right? Was the forefather going to take him to the offworld battlefield sooner than they'd agreed upon?

In truth, Jiang Chen wasn't ready to go. He had unfinished business in the human domain.

"Oh, young master, have you collected enough spirit stones?" asked Ziju Min.

"Not yet." Jiang Chen jokingly asked, "Are you going to chip in, Elder Ziju?"

Ziju Min laughed heartily. "If you're just going to use the stones to cultivate, I can help, but the amount of stones you need is too big. What I can give you is far from enough."

That was true. Ziju Min had some spirit stones in his possession, but not enough to make a difference.

Jiang Chen frowned, worried about how he should gather more stones.

"The ten divine nations is holding a genius competition this year, Young Master Chen," offered Ziju Min. "It's our tradition. The competition has been postponed due to the rebellions. At first, we were discouraged from holding the competition at all, but someone with foresight argued that the loss we suffered is exactly the reason why we must uncover new geniuses. We need new blood. Therefore, the genius competition..."

“You aren’t telling me to partake in the competition, are you?”

That didn’t appeal to Jiang Chen at all. He’d only participated in the sword competition because he had no other way to take care of House Xiahou. The genius competition held by the ten nations seemed like a pissing contest with no purpose.

He wasn’t the least bit interested.

He couldn’t be considered a young genius given his status and power. It didn’t make sense for him to go against a group of youths.

“The competition may be beneath you, but it’s an opportunity for you to get to know others in the ten nations and gain influence. It’s also a chance to build connections. There are many prosperous lands in the ten nations... I believe you’ll be able to collect the spirit stones you need then.”

Jiang Chen finally understand what Ziju Min was implying. “Is this the forefather’s idea, or the first prime’s?”

“Haha, neither. It’s my suggestion to you. Of course, both the forefather and the first prime will support you. The first prime has mentioned many times that you should get to know the geniuses from the other nations and become their unquestionable leader, establishing your position. It’ll be crucial for laying down the foundation of an alliance between the ten nations...”

Jiang Chen was puzzled. “An alliance? Aren’t the ten nations working together already?”

Ziju Min sighed. “That’s only when we’re facing outside threats, and being on the same side doesn’t make us allies. There aren’t really any true friends between the ten nations.”

Now, Jiang Chen understood. The ten nations had been established to eliminate the offworld invaders. However, it was every man for themselves on the offworld battlefields. Each nation focused only on protecting their homeland.

Under the circumstances, there was a lack of communication and coordination despite being on the same side.

“So you’re serious about forming an alliance this time?” Jiang Chen asked curiously.

“We should be.” Ziju Min sighed. “The ten nations are beginning to realize that a big threat is looming over Myriad Abyss Island. Things are becoming more and more delicate. If we don’t put aside our selfish needs and work together, Myriad Abyss and even the entirety of Divine Abyss may fall. Then it’ll truly be the doom of all races on the continent.”

Jiang Chen wasn’t sure what to say.

An alliance had to be formed, but would it be enough? If people couldn’t overcome their selfish desires, forming an alliance wouldn’t help.

Who should be the head of the alliance? Who should be in charge?

Those were the most basic of questions that needed answers. The ten nations were at equal footing in terms of foundation and their level of power. It was impossible to pick a leader to whom everyone deferred to.

Jiang Chen didn't voice his doubts. Perhaps the circumstances would be enough to change human nature. Even the most selfish of people might make compromises under the pressure of reality.

They had a few more drinks as they chatted about the Ten Divine Nations. Jiang Chen listened with great interest as Ziju Min was a great storyteller. He gave the young man a detailed and fascinating rundown of events, current and old.

That reminded Jiang Chen. "By the way, Elder Ziju, how's Shi Xuan from Flora Divine Nation doing?"

He hadn't had the time to take care of the man since he'd become Jiang Chen's pill slave. Ziju Min had been in charge of taming him.

Ziju Min chuckled. "The same old. We haven't brought him over to our side yet and he doesn't respect us yet. Since you're here, young master Chen, you should take some time to teach him a lesson."

They drank as they talked.

Suddenly, Jiang Chen's consciousness detected something. He shot to his feet. "Greetings to the venerated forefather."

Ziju Min jumped up and stood on the side respectfully.

"Elder Ziju is here as well?" The forefather grinned at Jiang Chen. "I've heard a lot of things about you these days, young man. Good, you've met my expectations."

Jiang Chen pursed his lips without a word. He worried that the forefather would order him to go to the offworld battlefield as soon as he opened his mouth.

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

#### **Chapter 1962: A Much Suffering Venerated Forefather**

The venerated forefather smiled wryly when he noted Jiang Chen's glum mood.

He knew the young man wasn't terribly happy. Jiang Chen had made great contributions to the Eternal Sacred Land, but in return, the sacred land hadn't offered much to him.

There were the resources in the vault, but the forefather had only let Jiang Chen take whatever he wanted because the most valuable hadn't been stored there. What had been available for selection was far from the best treasures.

Moreover, rewards had been promised to Jiang Chen for aiding the Martial Sacred Land, but the promised payout had yet to materialize. He'd been too busy to even meet with Jiang Chen until now.

"Jiang Chen," the forefather said with a smile. "It's not like you to be so quiet."

Jiang Chen shrugged and responded with a hint of displeasure, "You made a lot of promises before you sent me to the Martial Sacred Land, Forefather. You haven't fulfilled any of them."

Feeling guilty, the forefather smiled coyly. "It's all my fault. The sacred land is running a little low on resources. But... for those who have contributed to our cause, the sacred land won't be stingy. Tell me what you want. I'll make it happen."

"I don't want to make things difficult for the sacred land," Jiang Chen replied faintly. "I only want spirit stones."

If he'd asked for anything else, the sacred land might've been able to weasel out of it, claiming that the times were too tight to give him what he wanted. However, spirit stones were something the sacred land must be able to afford.

"Spirit stones?" The forefather smiled. "How many? I know you want to reactivate the Great Formation, but that will consume a considerable amount of stones. Even we may not be able to afford to do so. You know, Jiang Chen, the sacred land can't even keep everyone fed now..."

Jiang Chen rolled his eyes. He hadn't even gotten started and the forefather was already claiming to be poor..

"I'm not asking for much," Jiang Chen said with a smile. "How about the sacred land contributing ten percent of the stones I need?"

The forefather considered the proposal, rubbing his chin. He slapped his thighs. "As long as you agree to partake in the genius competition, we'll try our best to get you the stones!"

"Try your best?" Jiang Chen's voice was tinged with annoyance.

"We... we will get you the stones," the forefather promised through gritted teeth.

He hadn't been lying when he said the sacred land was poor. If they hadn't raided a few families after putting down the rebellion, they'd have been even poorer. The offworld battlefield was an endless maw of consumption. No matter how wealthy one was, the wealth would be depleted sooner or later.

More importantly, the invaders had grown a lot more active these days. The sacred land was finding it very difficult to fight them off, which was why the forefather barely had any time to stay in the sacred land.

Noting Jiang Chen's disinterested mood, the forefather couldn't help but ask, "How many more stones do you need, Jiang Chen?"

"Many. The more the merrier." Jiang Chen had realized that he needed to keep some secrets from the forefather. If he admitted he only had to collect twenty percent of the total he needed, the forefather wouldn't take his request seriously and might even complain even more loudly about how poor he was.

The venerated forefather tried to bring Jiang Chen to his side. "The genius competition this year is different from what it was before. It's being jointly hosted by all ten sacred lands. Every genius, no matter where you come from or what cultivation level you're at, will be given priority.

“It’s going to be a very exciting event. Many rewards are being offered. It’ll be a great opportunity for you to make a fortune! Don’t you know how to refine the Taiyi Skymender Pill and the Crowning Empyrean Pill? At the competition, you can exchange the pills for a good amount of spirit stones.”

Jiang Chen smiled wryly. “Has the sacred land stooped so low that you need me to sell pills for money?”

“To be honest with you, the sacred land isn’t in decline. It’s just that we’re really very poor. The offworld battles are sucking up all of our resources. You don’t know how difficult it is to maintain the faction!” The venerated forefather was determined to play up his suffering.

Jiang Chen shrugged. “I can sell pills for the stones, but I’ll need the sacred land to provide the ingredients. How else am I going to find all the rare ingredients otherwise?”

The forefather pulled a reluctant face. He responded after a moment, “You’re our most promising young genius. Of course we’ll do our best to fulfill your request. Ah yes, the offworld battlefield is seeing a lot of action lately. Are you interested in checking it out?”

Jiang Chen shook his head without hesitation. “No, not for now.”

The forefather cackled but didn’t insist. He’d promised Jiang Chen that the young man wouldn’t have to go until the Great Formation of Heavenly Soul Confinement was activated, ensuring that the human domain was fully protected. The domain was their back door, and securing it was of utmost importance.

So seeing how resolute the young genius was, he didn’t try to convince otherwise.

The young man was no longer someone whom the sacred land could order around. Instead, they had to cater to the young man’s needs. For one, Jiang Chen had the Vermilion Bird on his side. In addition, his personality, ability, and potential alone warranted the sacred land’s special treatment.

If they failed to keep Jiang Chen happy, other factions would immediately make a move to steal him away.

Sensing the forefather’s single-minded focus on the offworld battlefield, Jiang Chen asked, “What do the ten sacred lands think about the inmates escaping from the Boundless Prison, Forefather?”

“The Boundless Prison? Quite a lot have escaped, but they haven’t gained a foothold in Myriad Abyss yet. I don’t think they’re going to cause that much trouble anytime soon.” But the forefather wasn’t entirely sure of his answer.

Jiang Chen frowned. “Forefather, the ten sacred lands will suffer greatly if you underestimate them.” This wasn’t him being an alarmist.

“What do you mean?” the forefather asked with a grave expression.

“My instinct tells me that those fugitives will try to topple the ten sacred lands’ rule over Myriad Abyss.”

Jiang Chen had already met two groups of fugitives: Divine Kasyapa and his men, and the group at Cloud Camel Mountain. Neither were easy prey. If allowed to settle down, they were bound to stir up trouble and plunge Myriad Abyss into chaos.

The forefather looked a little lost. He sighed. "If they have even a lick of conscience, they won't do anything now. Myriad Abyss can't afford another civil war. If conflict breaks out again and we run out of people and resources to sustain the war against the offworld invaders, Myriad Abyss will meet its doom..."

Everyone understood that logic.

Jiang Chen reminded him, "Forefather, don't forget that not all of the inmates are from Myriad Abyss."

### Sovereign of the Three Realms (WN)

#### **Chapter 1963: A Grand Competition of Geniuses**

Jiang Chen's focus was on the Great Formation. He did care about Myriad Abyss Island, but it didn't warrant as much of his attention at the moment.

After all, he hadn't been in Myriad Abyss for long and wasn't that attached to it. Moreover, although the sacred land had treated him well since he joined, it still didn't feel like home.

Therefore, this warning was all he was going to issue. The rest was up to the senior executives. He wasn't going to make it his own concern. Even if he chose to intervene, it'd be after he reactivated the Great Formation.

"By the way, when is this grand competition?" asked Jiang Chen.

"In less than four months."

Jiang Chen nodded. "Alright, I'll go."

The venerated forefather was overjoyed. "That's wonderful! You'll be able to take the top spot easily. It's an opportunity to make a name for yourself, Jiang Chen, and it'll be your first step in becoming a legend in Myriad Abyss. Remember not to be too arrogant or unapproachable. It'll do you good to seize the opportunity to befriend talented cultivators from different factions."

Elder Ziju had said the same thing.

To put it simply, there was an alliance forming, and the Eternal Sacred Land wanted to be its head. Jiang Chen's performance was a crucial part of that. It'd be ideal if he could help the sacred land become the alliance head.

That was why the sacred land kept urging Jiang Chen to participate in the competition. At the end of the day, it too harbored ambitious about the alliance.

Jiang Chen nodded after a bemused pause. "I'll do my best, but I hope the venerated forefather will think hard about the stones I need."

That was his priority. He couldn't possibly extort the stones from someone now, could he? If he could have, he would have, and he'd need the right target to boot.

The forefather pounded his chest. "Worry not, I'll get you your ten percent of stones and the ingredients for refining the Crowning Empyrean and Taiyi Skymender Pill."

The negotiation left the forefather in a good mood. He hadn't expected to convince Jiang Chen with only ten percent of the stones.

He'd been worried that the young man would ask the sacred land to gather all of the stones, which was why he'd started out wailing about their poverty and refusing to give a clear answer.

This outcome was a great relief.

Once he'd left, Ziju Min excused himself as well. He could tell Jiang Chen was unhappy, so he didn't stay to be a bother.

Only after that did the Vermilion Bird and the other divine beasts emerged from the shadows.

The bird shook its head. "Aren't the ten sacred lands the rulers of Myriad Abyss Island? How can the forefather be so stingy? You've fallen for his tricks, Jiang Chen."

"Tricks?" asked Jiang Chen.

"He appealed to your sympathy on purpose so that he could give you the least amount of reward in exchange for your cooperation. I believe the sacred land can afford to give you a lot more spirit stones. He simply doesn't want to offer more to aid the human domain."

As an ancient divine beast, the bird had seen it all. It was thus more insightful in many cases.

Jiang Chen laughed wryly. Upon consideration, he had to admit the bird was right. The Eternal Sacred Land had deep foundations to begin with, and they had gained quite a lot of wealth after resolving the rebellion. They couldn't be that poor. The offworld battles took a lot to sustain, true, but more in terms of human resources. Material costs might be high as well, but not so high that the sacred land couldn't keep its members fed.

Nevertheless, Jiang Chen didn't have too many complaints.

The sacred land had its own set of problems. From its standpoint, it was only natural that it would be reluctant to shoulder too big a part of the spirit stones needed for the great formation.

However, Jiang Chen couldn't help but feel bitter towards the sacred land for their manipulation. The place felt a lot less like home now. If they considered him part of the family, they wouldn't have gone that far in manipulating him.

"We'll focus on cultivating for now. A chaotic world is inevitable. Only strength can ensure our safety when it comes." Jiang Chen never forgot the importance of strength.

"You're right." The Vermilion Bird nodded. "Strength ensures that you have a voice. The forefather is a good example. He can no longer order you around and instead has to buy your cooperation."

There were still roughly four months until the competition arrived.

Jiang Chen planned to gather the rest of the stones before the end of the competition. After that, he'd set out for the human domain immediately and do all he could to reactivate the Great Formation.

As for House Yan, they had been putting a lot of effort into rebuilding. Jiang Chen couldn't possibly rain on their parade. They were free to put their efforts into the wrong thing.

If the world did fall into chaos, House Yan's reconstruction wouldn't mean much.

The family only had a few talented members left, which wasn't enough for them to achieve much. While Yan Qianfan was under Divine Kasyapa's protection, the divine master wasn't necessarily going to provide House Yan with much help.

After all, he was the one who'd destroyed House Yan. It'd be slapping his own face to help rebuild it. Besides, what if House Yan decided to take revenge against him after its rise? He'd have dug his own grave.

Given Jiang Chen's understanding of Divine Kasyapa, he wasn't someone who would do such a thing.

Nevertheless, Jiang Chen wasn't interested in interrupting when the Yan family was in such high spirits. Whatever they did, it wouldn't matter all that much.

Huang'er was observant enough to guess his thoughts. Noticing that Jiang Chen didn't offer much opinions about House Yan's rebuilding, she realized that he wasn't that optimistic about it.

"Brother Chen, grandfather and the others are focusing solely on rebuilding House Yan. Do you not approve?" Huang'er asked gently. "Don't worry. I won't tell them."

Jiang Chen sighed faintly. "Troubled times of chaos are upon us, Huang'er. Even the sacred land may fall. How is House Yan going to recover its peak? Survival is key in an age of conflict. One can only rebuild when the world is stable. If not, a single incident will be enough to destroy what you've worked for no matter how many times you've started over."

Huang'er nodded thoughtfully. "You're right, Brother Chen. I'll try to persuade them."

"Tell Qingsang to focus on cultivating. Let your grandfather, father, and uncle do what they're doing. They're in the heat of the moment. They may not listen to reason."

Huang'er shook her head. "I have to try. You know as well how painful it is fall when you feel the most hope. The sudden change is difficult to accept."

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

### **Chapter 1964: Secrets of the Four Sacred Beasts**

The venerated forefather was efficient this time. In less than half a month, he delivered to Jiang Chen the ten percent of spirit stones. "I swallowed all of my pride this time and begged for the spirit stones everywhere, Jiang Chen. I hope you won't dismiss it as too little."

Jiang Chen smiled. "Thank you for your efforts, Forefather."

"Well, you're our most valued genius, and it's very likely that you'll become the new leader of the sacred land. We must show you the level of respect you deserve! Oh, as for the ingredients for refining pills, we've collected most of them. They'll be delivered to you in a few days."

Although the forefather had been manipulative, he had truly gone to some efforts for Jiang Chen. The young man could feel the sincerity shining through.



I suppose at the end of the day, it makes sense from the Eternal Sacred Land's perspective that they're reluctant to give away too much for the human domain.

Jiang Chen received the pill ingredients a few days later.

He went into closed door cultivation and refined them into the Crowning Emyrean and Taiyi Skymender Pills. He knew how rare the ingredients were, so he was particularly careful during this process.

The sacred land had been more generous in this regard, giving him ingredients for free so that he could exchange the pills for spirit stones.

Of course, Jiang Chen knew the sacred land had something to gain as well. If he sold the pills for spirit stones, he'd naturally befriend many people and leave them with a good impression for the sacred land.

They might even end up asking favors from the sacred land. Then when it came to rallying behind candidates for alliance head, they would be more inclined to pick the Eternal Sacred Land.

Jiang Chen didn't want to waste too much time dwelling on politics. The pills would earn him the spirit stones he needed. That was what mattered to him.

There was quite a lot of ingredients. It took him close to a month to refine them all into pills. He thus had a considerable number of Taiyi Skymender Pills and Crowning Emyrean Pills in his possession, which left him in high spirits.

Both Long Xiaoxuan and the Astral White Tiger were given a Crowning Emyrean Pill. The tiger was especially excited. It'd heard about how effective the pill was in boosting cultivation.

"Haha, I'll use it once I reach sixth level emyrean in order to ascend to seventh." The tiger's intelligence had continued to develop, which allowed it to make better decisions.

Long Xiaoxuan had gotten a pill before. He played with the one Jiang Chen gave him now and put it in his inventory.

As for the Vermilion Bird, the Crowning Emyrean Pill was of no use to it. Glumly, it asked, "Young master Chen, it would be an amazing achievement if you could refine a pill to help divine cultivators advance a level. Is there such a pill in the world?"

"There is!" admitted Jiang Chen.

The Vermilion Bird's eyes lit up. "Really?"

"However, I don't know how to refine it, and it's impossible to collect the ingredients needed. There's no chance anyone would be able to refine it on Divine Abyss Continent." Jiang Chen shook his head. It was a task too difficult even for him.

Even in the heavenly planes, there might be at most one or two pill dao masters who could refine the pills.

"There is a pill like that?" The bird's voice was tinted with complicated emotions. "You're so knowledgeable, young master. I wonder whose memory you've inherited."

They all knew that Jiang Chen was a god incarnate, but given his wealth of knowledge and experience, he couldn't have been a regular god. He might not even have been a god on this plane.

Jiang Chen smiled and changed the subject instead of giving an answer. "If the opportunity presents itself, I'll refine a pill like that for each of you."

"Wonderful!" The Vermilion Bird was ecstatic.

On the contrary, Long Xiaoxuan and the white tiger didn't react that strongly. They were at empyrean realm still and didn't have a deep understanding about the divine realm. Thus, they weren't as eager as the bird was.

Jiang Chen nodded. "I hope that day will come."

An idea struck him suddenly. He asked, "As descendents of the divine beasts, have you heard of the black tortoise bloodline?"

"The black tortoise bloodline? Of course. It's one of the four divine beasts." The Vermilion Bird nodded. "In the ancient times, there were rumors about a black tortoise."

"Truly?" Jiang Chen's eyes lit up.

"I've heard of one. However, none of the four divine beasts ran into each other in the ancient times. Moreover..." With some embarrassment, the bird continued, "Usually when we meet, it means war. We tend to fight to our deaths."

"True." Long Xiaoxuan tilted his head and threw the white tiger a glance.

The tiger huffed. "Brother Long, don't bully me because I'm young. I'll fight you once I grow up. We astral white tigers are known for our fighting ability in the heavenly planes!"

"Hmph, I'll wait for you to grow up! I hope you won't run to young master Chen crying like a baby."

Dragons and tigers were natural rivals. Although Long Xiaoxuan and the white tiger had become brothers, it was inevitable for them to get into fights now and then.

Jiang Chen chuckled. "You've gone off topic again. I asked about the black tortoise for a reason."

The three divine beasts paused. "What is it?"

"It's a secret from the ancient times. It's said that once the four divine beasts come together, one would be able to enact the heavenly law, refine the five elements, and eventually create a heavenly plane."

"Oh? That's unbelievable!"

"Yes! All heavenly planes are refined from items that embody fate. Thus, every world needs such an item, which always dates back to the genesis of all, and can only be stumbled upon rather than sought out."

The three spirits blinked at Jiang Chen, impressed despite their lack of understanding. They couldn't grasp his words fully. However, mentions of heavenly planes, items that embodied fate, and the genesis of all sounded very impressive.

The Vermilion Bird sucked in a breath. "Do you mean that we'll be able to refine a heavenly plane after gathering all four divine beasts?"

"It's possible, but it requires a secret method." Jiang Chen sighed. "Very few know about it."

"Do you know how to do it, young master?" asked the bird curiously.

There was no need for Jiang Chen to hide anything from his three divine beast friends. "I remember reading about the method in my past life, but I haven't tried it myself. I don't know if it'll work."

It had been difficult enough to gather all four divine beasts in his past life. They were considered the top most nobles even in a heavenly plane. Not even the Celestial Emperor would approach them without good reason.

Moreover, Jiang Chen hadn't been able to use the method in his past life. He hadn't been able to cultivate martial dao, without which he couldn't enact the heavenly law and refine a heavenly plane. All he knew was the theory. It was a castle in the air that he'd built only in his head!

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

#### **Chapter 1965: The Grand Competition Arrives**

Jiang Chen had nursed the idea of gathering all four sacred beasts ever since first meeting Long Xiaoxuan. At the time, he didn't think he would have the opportunity to find them all on Divine Abyss, much less specimens that were also willing to cooperate with him.

However, many years later, he'd already managed to collect three among the four. He was only missing a black tortoise.

It was too early to say anything conclusive about all of it yet. To use the four sacred beasts to enact the heavenly dao required all four of them to be at least peak empyrean. Moreover, their strengths had to be very close to equal. Too much of a difference between them meant there would be an imbalance.

And of course, the sacred beasts had other uses aside from simulating heavenly dao. They could be assembled in a fighting formation. Their blood was valuable as well; it could be used to refine pills or injected into regular cultivators.

Jiang Chen had read a vast amount of material on that topic. His father, the Celestial Emperor, had been very interested as well, often researching the subject with him.

In his previous life, Jiang Chen had been the son of the ruler of a set of heavenly planes. As such, he hadn't considered any realistic application of using the four sacred beasts to develop another set of planes.

However, his father's interest had been uncommonly intense.

He hadn't thought much of it back then. Perhaps his father had been particularly willing to spoil him by wasting time with him studying esoteric topics.

Now though, he had different ideas. Was there a reason behind the time his father had spent with him?

Divine Abyss was a rather ordinary world. Why did it possess the four sacred beasts' incredible bloodlines?

Typically, it was quite rare for a mortal plane to host just one of the four. It was nearly impossible for all of them to appear in tandem. There had never been a recorded instance of this in anything Jiang Chen had read.

The young man's seriousness caused his three bestial friends to sink into silence as well.

Nevertheless, they were quite shaken up. Jiang Chen's words contained information that their ancestral memories didn't.

"What are you thinking about, young master Chen?" the Vermilion Bird couldn't help but ask.

Jiang Chen recovered himself, smiling a little. "I was just imagining that if we could find a black tortoise, all four of the sacred beasts would be gathered. Wouldn't that be a marvelous sight?"

The sacred fowl chuckled. "I suppose that would be fascinating to see."

"Young master Chen, we'll do whatever we can to find a black tortoise for you. Hmph, if he doesn't want to listen to you, then we'll beat him up for you!" the Astral White Tiger was as combative as ever. Its strength having increased, it was much more confident.

Jiang Chen nodded. "We'll look for a black tortoise at some point. However, our first priority right now is to cultivate hard. Especially you, Little White! You started the latest, so you have to work hard to catch up, alright?"

"Heheh, of course. I don't want to lag behind! I want to do all White Tigers proud." Little White licked his lips.

After refining the pills, Jiang Chen and his friends continued to cultivate.

The venerated forefather didn't seek out Jiang Chen again. Clearly, the old man was very busy. Jiang Chen was happy with the peace and quiet; he was a little worried about any future meetings in any case.

There was rarely anything good to hear about from those meetings. And right now, he absolutely didn't want to go to some offworld battlefield.

Elder Ziju Min occasionally came to visit, but always departed considerably after seeing that Jiang Chen was mid-cultivation.

The elder was the one who'd discovered Jiang Chen, and perhaps the most familiar with him in the entirety of the sacred land. If he hadn't inducted the young man into the Eternal Sacred Land, it would have been unrealistic for Jiang Chen to topple House Xiahou so quickly.

Therefore, though Jiang Chen didn't like the way that the venerated forefather bargained, he couldn't deny that he was indebted to the sacred land. Especially on the matter of House Xiahou, things wouldn't have gone nearly as smoothly without it.

Three months flew by in no time. One day, the first prime and Elder Ziju came to visit him together.

“You’ve been working hard recently, Jiang Chen. For the great competition of geniuses, I hope?” the female prime inquired kindly.

Ziju Min’s eyes were full of anticipation as he looked at Jiang Chen.

“Is it time for us to be off?” the young man smiled.

“Indeed. The date for the competition has been set: it will commence in half a month’s time. The specific location has just been decided. Because of the trouble with the Boundless Prison, the Ten Divine Nations are employing additional caution. We’re trying to be as impromptu as possible.”

Jiang Chen inclined his head. That wasn’t a bad idea. News getting out wouldn’t be much of a concern with that in mind.

If the cultivators who’d escaped from the Boundless Prison wanted to target the Ten Divine Nations, the grand competition of geniuses would be a good place to start. A location that was decided on spontaneously meant that these hidden enemies wouldn’t have time to plan an attack.

“If I may ask, how many factions are participating in the competition?” Jiang Chen asked.

“The various sacred lands will all have executives present, including their senior divines. The offworld battlefield urgently needs manpower, but the first order of business is to form a formal alliance...”

The competition itself wasn’t particularly important. In actuality, the ten sacred lands wanted to take this opportunity to draft and codify an accord. Once they were united, it would be easier to defend against their enemies – both domestic and extraplanar.

The sacred lands had never announced the existence of enemies from other worlds because they were worried that would unduly plunge Myriad Abyss into chaos.

This brief respite after civil strife also highlighted that the offworld battlefield could no longer be hidden.

Therefore, it was better to announce it at this juncture and reorganize Myriad Abyss accordingly. The impure elements could be removed, and the rest strengthened.

Several geniuses from the Eternal Sacred Land were slated to participate in the competition. Aside from Jiang Chen, the others had also been candidates in the tournament of geniuses in Eternal.

In other words, they were the Five Great Gentlemen, or at least on that level. Wu You, Gan Ning, and the others. Yan Qingsang had improved greatly, true, but he still lacked somewhat when it came to serious contention.

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

### **Chapter 1966: Sandplain Island**

The Eternal Sacred Land had the Five Great Gentlemen among its younger generation. Of these five, the title of foremost genius had once belonged to Sui Chen. Ever since Jiang Chen’s appearance, the former champion had been perpetually annoyed by this new rival’s existence.

When Sui Chen had encountered Xiahou Zong in the tournament of geniuses, he had immediately surrendered without resistance.

The sacred land had allowed them to do so. In fact, that had been part of the predetermined strategy.

The option had been perfectly fine for him to take.

However, when Jiang Chen met Xiahou Zong head-on in battle, he gave an excellent performance by slaying Xiahou Zong on the spot.

The difference between them had caused Sui Chen's title of strongest to pass onto Jiang Chen. Now the latter was the best and brightest among the Eternal Sacred Land's younger generation, and unmistakably its heir.

This grand competition between the ten sacred lands' geniuses would be a new stage for them.

The Eternal Sacred Land knew very well that if it sent only the Five Great Gentlemen, it had no chance of excelling. Only Jiang Chen could decisively win an overwhelming victory.

Among the other gentlemen, numbers two and five – Wu You and Gan Ning – had fought against Jiang Chen before and thus respected his strength. They were on reasonably good terms.

The venerated forefather didn't travel with them. Instead, the first prime and Elder Ziju led their team alongside a few other elders. The second and third primes stayed back at headquarters.

The fact that the first prime was personally attending showed Jiang Chen how important this competition was to the Eternal Sacred Land. Any one of the three primes would have been important enough to go otherwise. If the venerated forefather wasn't unavailable because of business, he likely would've gone as well.

Even so, he would still make the time to show up when the competition actually began. It was obvious that the upcoming competition was a momentous occasion.

Within the Eternal Sacred Land's airboat, Wu You and Gan Ning squeezed as much time as they could out of their schedules to ask Jiang Chen about martial and pill dao.

Sui Chen and the other two got along with Jiang Chen a lot worse. Sui Chen especially couldn't accept Jiang Chen's takeover of his old title. He knew that Jiang Chen was stronger than him in every area, but that didn't mean he wasn't jealous.

He became all the more infuriated when he saw Wu You and Gan Ning consorting with Jiang Chen. Where was their pride? Hadn't they lost to Jiang Chen? Why were they giving him the time of the day?

Jiang Chen didn't bother trying to guess at what Sui Chen was thinking. Because Wu You and Gan Ning were incredibly amiable toward him, he also couldn't just brush them off. The two young men appreciated this opportunity. Every question they asked was valuable to their cultivation.

Jiang Chen was very patient when it came to answering questions. A few hints and suggestions from his wealth of knowledge yielded a tremendous amount of benefit.

The Eternal Sacred Land was happy to see this happen. They wanted Jiang Chen to improve the other geniuses with his presence and help them progress. Perhaps he could also fuel their footsteps through inspiration.

Thus, when Sui Chen and the other two youths gave Jiang Chen the cold shoulder, the first prime didn't exactly approve. People who had such petty personalities were hard-pressed to succeed even with the talent. For starters, they couldn't objectively examine the difference between others and themselves.

Wu You and Gan Ning's humble curiosity on the other hand, was quite appropriate.

When the airboat neared its destination, the first prime suddenly issued a command for it to turn and set course in a different direction.

Surprised, the others asked the reason why. "Myriad Abyss has been restless recently," the first prime smiled, "and our initial location was a smokescreen. The real location is Sandplain Island."

"Huh?" Everyone else was shocked.

Jiang Chen nodded to himself. The ten sacred lands were being reasonably cautious. They must have felt the threat from the escaped experts.

Sandplain Island was a very remote place. The airboat headed north for another day or two before reaching its locality.

Sky and sea seemed to meet here in a curtain of endless mist. It would have been very risky to sail through.

Just like the island Divine Kasyapa had chosen, Sandplain Island contained a secret realm as well. It was obvious that the Ten Divine Nations cared a great deal about this competition.

In fact, preparations had probably been in the works for a long time.

After they passed through the entrance to the secret realm, the airboat landed upon Sandplain proper. The island clearly hadn't seen human life for a very long time with its primordial aura. Jiang Chen marveled at the scenery around him.

As expected of a secret realm. I didn't expect Myriad Abyss to have so many islands hidden away like this. No wonder it was able to rise above the human domain with the passage of time. Resources are abundant here.

The cultivators of Myriad Abyss came from the various domains of Divine Abyss. There probably hadn't been many native cultivators, if any at all. Only after two or three hundred thousand years of flourishing had Myriad Abyss achieved its current state.

The Eternal Sacred Land's airboat attracted a lot of attention the moment it appeared.

Within the vessel, Jiang Chen gasped at the sizable crowd below. So many had arrived already?

"Haha, it seems we're one of the final arrivals," the first prime smiled. She didn't appear to mind this fact. Instead, she was rather proud of it. The late arrivals were often the stars of the show.

It was positively bustling below the airboat. The ten nations' factions and various second- and third-rate factions had all sent representatives.

Jiang Chen was secretly astonished at the volume of people. He smiled wryly to himself. "With so many participants, the location will get out anyway even with the trick of swapping locations."

Still, it was probably better to put any troublemakers on short notice. It would require exponentially larger amounts of effort to attempt to disrupt the proceedings here than.

Many factions came forward to greet the Eternal Sacred Land's arrivals.

### Sovereign of the Three Realms (WN)

#### **Chapter 1967: Meeting Acquainted Beauties Again**

The Eternal Sacred Land's first prime was practically radiant at the slew of earnest greetings. She responded to them with a practiced hand.

Jiang Chen had no intention of being the spotlight. In fact, he didn't really want to be here in the first place. His heart was no longer set on winning against his peers.

Unfortunately, the Eternal Sacred Land had strongly requested his presence.

The first prime evidently had different designs, however. Whenever anyone expressed the slightest of interest in him, she used that opportunity to introduce him with great enthusiasm. Sometimes, she did so even when no one asked.

"You know, Jiang Chen," she prodded, "the geniuses who came here today are the cream of Myriad Abyss's crop. You should familiarize yourself with them. Myriad Abyss Island will belong to you lot someday."

Jiang Chen could barely laugh internally, but he had to cooperate anyway. The Eternal Sacred Land had paid dearly in order for him to participate. It would be wholly ungrateful for him to not take the event with as much gravity as possible.

All ten sacred lands viewed the competition with the utmost solemnity. All of their geniuses were present in order to show their abilities off upon this stage.

Therefore, not everyone he met was friendly. Many young geniuses were rather frosty.

He understood the reason for their indifference. They thought his reputation overblown, given their own propensity for vanity and self-importance. It was like this anywhere, in any plane.

Jiang Chen didn't mind this kind of reception. His life rule regarding this was simple: he was perfectly civil toward anyone who showed him that civility.

As a whole, the ten sacred lands were rather close-knit. The older generation didn't share in the younger geniuses' competitive spirits.

The only faction lukewarm to Eternal was Flora. The enmity between the two divine nations had been exacerbated because of the Shi Xuan affair.



The Martial Sacred Land was the most intimate. Prime Puresmoke was in attendance today, as was her true disciple, Holy Girl Yu Ling.

The prime approached him warmly when she saw him. "Young master Chen, it hasn't been long since our last meeting. Your cultivation has increased considerably since, has it not?"

Having seen him in action, she knew exactly the kind of strength he possessed. He was definitely one of the top candidates for the crown.

Therefore, the Martial Sacred Land had overall chosen a low-key strategy. If any of theirs encountered Jiang Chen in the competition's rounds, there was no shame in concession. He was probably going to win first place regardless.

As for the ten sacred lands' alliance, Martial didn't believe it had the ability to take charge here.

To the contrary, if the Eternal Sacred Land intended on taking command, Martial would offer its full support. It was already on good terms with Eternal, which meant that it would benefit from having its friend in the leadership position over anyone else.

Jiang Chen laughed. "I appreciate such high praise, Prime Puresmoke. You and your student look sharper and prettier than ever."

Holy Girl Yu Ling hid behind her master. She blushed when she heard the compliment, but inclined her head in acknowledgment. "Hello, senior brother Jiang Chen."

When the sacred lands' geniuses were on good terms, it was normal for them to call each other 'senior brother' and 'junior brother'.

Still smiling, the prime gazed inquisitively at Jiang Chen. "So, do you have anything you want to accomplish at this competition? I'm rooting for you."

"My thanks for your gracious support. It's a good chance for me to face off against the best in Myriad Abyss, I think." Jiang Chen's reply was gracious and measured.

Puresmoke appreciated his humility. "Very good. Your composure and coolness are rare in light of your strength and renown. Yu Ling, you have much to learn from senior brother Jiang Chen, understood?"

"Yes, master," the holy girl quietly agreed.

She had been somewhat suspicious of Jiang Chen at their first meeting. When she'd first heard that the Eternal Sacred Land had only sent a single young genius to help, she had been doubtful whether he would be of any use at all.

His subsequent performances quickly put their worries to rest, which had left her with a very strong impression of him.

"That's right, Jiang Chen. What about the formation you were studying last time? Any progress on that?" Prime Puresmoke asked with some concern.

"I understand it for the most part," Jiang Chen sighed. "Alas, I'm still short some resources."

The prime was immediately in awe. “You managed to figure something as difficult as that so quickly? Truly prodigious!”

She quickly followed up with, “How many spirit stones are you missing? I have a few spirit stones tucked away here. Not much, but consider it as a token of my gratitude.” Saying this, she took out a storage ring and handed it to him. “Don’t think it too meager. Take it!”

Jiang Chen was initially a little embarrassed. After all, the Martial Sacred Land had rewarded him plenty already. Taking an additional gift was a bit much.

Prime Puresmoke’s refusal to be denied won him over. He knew that she really meant this contribution to count. Far be it from him to refuse such generosity!

He respectfully took the ring with both hands. “Thank you very much, Prime Puresmoke.”

Holy Girl Yu Ling suddenly spoke up as well. “Senior brother Jiang Chen, I heard about your urgent need for spirit stones as well. I’m too young to be particularly wealthy, but I have a few that I’d like you to take.”

Jiang Chen was astonished that she had something to give him as well. Similar to her master, he couldn’t refuse her serious look.

Instead, he cupped his fist to salute her. “I cannot turn away the assistance of my seniors, but neither should I spurn the kindness of my junior sister. I do have something as a return present. I’d really like you to have it.”

He wasn’t the kind of guy that took gifts for granted. It was a spectacular show of faith for someone to offer their help freely in the first place.

He gave generously in return with a Crowning Emyrean Pill. “I refined this myself. I hope you don’t mind its simplicity.”

It would be boorish of him to check exactly how many spirit stones he’d gotten, but the fact that both master and student had given them separately meant that the sum was far from paltry. Whether a Crowning Emyrean Pill was a fair trade or not, it served to strengthen their relationship in a beneficial way. Even if he lost money on it, that wouldn’t be a big deal.

The holy girl hadn’t given the spirit stones in order to receive anything back. Her face reddened at the proffered pill, unsure of whether to take it or not.

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

### **Chapter 1968: An Uproar Over the Crowning Emyrean Pill**

Prime Puresmoke was surprised that Jiang Chen was so cognizant of societal niceties. She and Holy Girl Yu Ling had gifted the spirit stones out of their appreciation and gratitude to him for helping the Martial Sacred Land. They really hadn’t been looking for anything in return.

But Jiang Chen had generously offered them a pill he’d refined himself, which further increased Prime Puresmoke’s opinion of him.

She smiled. "Ling'er, your senior brother is a genius in pill dao. His pills are opportunities that many yearn for. Since he's kindly made the offer, you should take it. We who pursue the martial dao should be straightforward and decisive."

Thanks to her master's encouragement, Holy Girl Yu Ling set aside her reservations and took the pill. "Thank you, senior brother Jiang Chen."

"Haha, you're welcome. That's the Crowning Empyrean Pill. There's an eighty to ninety percent chance that it will unconditionally help you ascend a level without any cost. Given your talent, I believe the pill will work on you."

Prime Puresmoke was surprised by the revelation. "I've heard about the Taiyi Skymender Pill and Crowning Empyrean Pill from the Eternal Sacred Land, but isn't the latter still in development? You've already successfully refined it?"

In truth, Jiang Chen had refined the pill a long time ago, but hadn't refined that many due to constraint of ingredients.

Some of the pills were already in circulation within the Eternal Sacred Land, yet to enter mainstream market in large numbers. Many around Jiang Chen had already acquired one.

It pained the first prime of the Eternal Sacred Land to see Jiang Chen give away the pill just like that, but they belonged to him. The sacred land was in no position to dictate what he would do with the pills.

They couldn't stop him if he wanted to give them away. Besides, Jiang Chen had already refined a batch for them.

Since the Martial Sacred Land had accepted the gift, they would now have to support the Eternal Sacred Land to be the head of the alliance, wouldn't they?

That made the first prime feel a lot better. It was a good thing that Jiang Chen's personal investment would get them public support in return.

"The pill wasn't fully developed before, but now the technique has matured," Jiang Chen responded with a smile.

Prime Puresmoke smiled wryly. "The pill is too valuable. It's us taking advantage of you then."

"Don't be so stand-offish. Given the relationship between the two sacred lands, there's no need for such formalities." Jiang Chen's response was generous.

That pleased the first prime. Jiang Chen was indeed a good diplomat. Once he brought up the relationship between the two sects, the Martial Sacred Land would have no choice but to support the Eternal Sacred Land.

Unwanted ears were always listening in.

Many had heard mentions of the Crowning Empyrean Pill. A crowd gathered after Jiang Chen spoke of its successful development.

Those from Polylore Divine Nation approached Jiang Chen first since they'd been standing close to him. Jiang Chen snorted silently, thinking back to his initial clash with the aristocratic families from Polylore on Winterdraw Island.

Many of those houses had vanished by now. They must have been involved in the rebellion and been razed in punishment.

There were a few familiar faces among them that Jiang Chen had seen back in Bluesmoke. When he'd been in Miracle City trying to approach House Yan, he had met a group of young Polylore geniuses in the brothel, the Jade Revel Lodge.

The one named Ye Zhou had left a bit of an impression on him. It had been from their conversation that Jiang Chen learned about the sixteen golden hairpins of Myriad Abyss.

Ye Zhou still numbered among the Polylore group. From Jiang Chen's conversation with Prime Puresmoke, he had figured out the young man's identity.

Something about the young man reminded Ye Zhou of the time at Jade Revel Lodge. Although Jiang Chen had disguised himself at the time, considering his relationship with House Yan and what had happened afterwards, Ye Zhou had a feeling that Jiang Chen had been there as well.

The feeling of déjà vu that surfaced when looking at Jiang Chen further confirmed his speculations, but he kept it to himself.

A demigod prime from Polylore smiled. "Daoist Qi, you shouldn't play favorites. The Crowning Empyrean Pill is too valuable to not be shared."

"It is," the first prime said with a smile. "However, the pill belongs to Jiang Chen. Not even I have any say in what he does with it."

The Polylore prime chuckled. "Ah, we've known each other for years. You can cut to the chase! We're not asking for the pills for free. You won't say no if we want to buy some pills with spirit stones, will you? Everything has a price. Polylore would like to order a hundred. What say you?"

A hundred pills?

The first prime frowned. "Do you think you're buying radishes from a farmer? A hundred pills? I'd like that as well. Who's going to make you that many?"

"How about fifty?"

Jiang Chen chuckled. "The ingredients for the pill are difficult to gather, senior. There may not even be fifty refined in a year."

"That can't be. Little brother, you aren't trying to increase the price by artificially lowering the supply, are you?"

Jiang Chen shrugged. "Take my words however you want, senior. That's all I can say to you. The Crowning Empyrean Pill is no regular pill. You can't buy it in batches. Even a couple will cost you an arm and a leg."

The man's attitude bothered Jiang Chen immensely. What did he take the pill for, asking for a hundred right off the bat?

If Jiang Chen sold the pills in large quantity, he wouldn't be able to gain much. Besides, he'd planned on earning the rest of the Great Formation spirit stones with the pills. The Crowning Emyrean Pill was a top level pill in Divine Abyss. That should be reflected in its price!

Although Jiang Chen had exaggerated a little, it was true he couldn't easily produce a hundred pills right then and there.

Prime Puresmoke spoke up, "Daoist Zhao, you're being obstinate. To my knowledge, there aren't any pills in Myriad Abyss that rank higher than the Crowning Emyrean Pill. The ingredients required are very rare. In demanding fifty or a hundred of them, you're gravely underestimating the difficulty of this pill."

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

#### **Chapter 1969: The Scene Heats Up**

More and more gathered to watch the spectacle.

The Polylore prime slightly regretted his previous words. He had wanted to win the confrontation through imposition and momentum alone. Alas, that wrong move had angered those from the Eternal Sacred Land.

"Alright, perhaps I misspoke. Little brother, you can at least spare five or ten for Polylore though, can't you?"

Jiang Chen disliked the man's greedy attitude. Was everyone from Polylore this grating? Did they not know how to talk like normal people?

"The Crowning Emyrean Pill is hard to produce. I have no plans to sell it to the public," he retorted coldly.

The Polylore prime didn't expect such an inhospitable response. He could accept being chastised by Puresmoke, but it was mortifying to be blatantly refused by Jiang Chen.

His expression darkened. "Daoist Qi, the Eternal Sacred Land's young men certainly have personality."

The first prime was stony. "Is it not common for the talented to hold themselves to a separate standard, Daoist Zhao? Why don't we talk about how what you said was incredibly rude to a pill dao genius? The Crowning Emyrean Pill was invented by Jiang Chen. Any other emyrean pill sovereign would've lose their temper on the spot at what you said."

This was absolutely true.

In the world of pill dao, many of the ancient pill sovereigns had difficult temperaments. One wrong word could lead to a huge disagreement. Which one of them didn't have a short fuse? But rather than nature, it had been nurtured by those around them.

Pill sovereigns were rare to find, and those who were especially skilled in a unique field were even more sought after. As time went on, a demanding disposition naturally formed.

Therefore, every martial cultivator knew of the unspoken rule: never get on a good pill master's bad side.

It was very unwise to upset such people, much less induce them to form a grudge. Once they did, there were countless methods of getting their enemy into trouble.

After all, too many people needed the services they could provide.

Someone from another sacred land smiled when they saw Polylore being met with a face full of dust.

"Daoist Qi, we've heard of the Crowning Emyrean Pill's potency for a long time. We have no hard requirement for a specific number – we'd just like a chance to buy it. Myriad Abyss Island is made a better place by the existence of this pill."

"Indeed, the Eternal Sacred Land's research has benefited all of us. Please, offer a way to allow us to purchase the pill."

"Young friend Jiang Chen has such remarkable pill dao talent despite his youth. He will surely become one of Myriad Abyss's leaders one day. I have no doubt that someone as magnanimous as him wouldn't hoard the pills for himself."

While some flattered the Eternal Sacred Land, others focused their attentions on Jiang Chen.

The first prime was quite pleased to see this. "The pills were refined to be shared," she laughed.

"However, you understand that we have to recuperate the costs of the materials and manpower. The pill's price must reflect this."

"Of course, of course. There is no such thing as a free lunch! As long as the price is reasonable, we'll buy as many as we can."

"Quite so. A pill as amazing as the Crowning Emyrean Pill must have a price to match it!"

Because of their need, the crowd was uniformly well-behaved.

Jiang Chen had already planned to auction the Crowning Emyrean Pill before coming here. He cleared his throat upon seeing the passionate atmosphere.

"I did refine a number of Crowning Emyrean Pills before coming out here. I don't have many of them, but I should be able to satisfy some of you. Because of the drastic difference in supply and demand, I may need to sell them through auction. If I didn't desperately need a large amount of spirit stones, I would be loath to sell them in the first place. I have many friends and family who need these as well, and it's very hard to gather the materials for them."

Everyone grew excited when the young man affirmed his intent to sell the pills. The news that he was going to offer them at auction however, alarmed them.

The pills would definitely become much more expensive.

Those from the Flora Sacred Land looked on at Jiang Chen's popularity with great distress.

Their enmity with the Eternal Sacred Land spanned across generations. With Shi Xuan losing the bet to Jiang Chen and becoming his pill slave, the Flora Sacred Land had been shamed by association.

Once upon a time, they had been foremost among the ten for pill dao. In fact, its attendees had prepared many varieties of pills in order to show them off at this event.

But now, their hopes had just gone up in smoke. The Crowning Empyrean Pill far surpassed whatever pills they had in store.

“Young friend Jiang Chen, I think now is a good time. Why not auction them off right away?”

“Exactly. We’re all fired up for them already!”

“Ah, hold on,” the first prime cut in hurriedly. “We’re gathered here for the competition of geniuses. We can’t let the Crowning Empyrean Pill lead us astray on such a big tangent. Let’s do what we came here to do first. If you’re all still interested after that, we have plenty of time for an auction later. The pills aren’t going anywhere.”

She wasn’t going to allow the Crowning Empyrean Pill to be sold now. The Eternal Sacred Land wanted to be the leader of the alliance.

The pill would be a big motivator in winning the other sacred lands’ support. If they played their hand too early, who else would support them then? The auction had to be delayed until after the vote.

Jiang Chen knew what the first prime was thinking of. “I am, of course, obligated to listen to my first prime,” he laughed. “Don’t worry. I said I would auction the pills. I won’t go back on that.”

That set the tone for what was about to come. It was unrealistic to expect the pills to be auctioned right at this moment.

“Ah, Holy Girl Yu Ling is truly blessed to have one gifted to her.”

“Haha, are the Eternal and Martial Sacred Lands planning to intermarry?” joked many.

Some of the sacred lands came up with a new idea. Why not have their best female geniuses interact more with Jiang Chen?

The holy girl was one of the sixteen golden hairpins, but the other sacred lands had girls who were among that number as well. For a young, virile man like Jiang Chen, perhaps seduction was the best way forward?

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

#### **Chapter 1970: An Open Selection**

Feminine wiles weren’t likely to work on Jiang Chen. Moreover, the holy girls and young ladies among the sixteen gold hairpins had their own reputations to uphold. Aside from the naturally lascivious ones, they generally couldn’t stoop so low as to approach him themselves.

Two or three tried to use their natural and supernatural charms to get closer to Jiang Chen, but he dealt with them distantly. Nothing they did worked remotely well on him. They tried very hard, but couldn't find an opening.

Jiang Chen kept his agreement with the sacred land in mind. He remained affable throughout the opening segment. No one was turned away.

He greeted everyone with warmth and civility. This garnered him a certain amount of goodwill, since no peer of his was more renowned than he.

Jiang Chen's martial dao talent was a mystery to the world at large. Some said he was only initial empyrean realm, while others claimed he was mid.

Because he was reserved rather than commanding, his cultivation remained largely a secret.

However, the ten sacred lands never lacked for top geniuses.

Several of the best didn't recognize Jiang Chen's strength. According to their sources, Jiang Chen had helped the Eternal and Martial Sacred Lands through various strategies and his helper, a sacred beast.

Because he couldn't employ the latter in combat during the competition, they believed that they would be more than a match for him.

Common sense dictated that since Jiang Chen had only risen to prominence in recent years, his strength was limited. Given how he had traded blows with Xiahou Zong a while back, he was probably only mid empyrean. What could two more years of progress give him? Fifth, maybe sixth level?

Quite a few made this kind of assumption.

Yes, the rumors about him were intimidating, but most chose to believe that the gossip had been spread in order to exaggerate his exploits in the eyes of the world. The grand competition of geniuses would serve to test his true mettle against his fellows.

Though the various factions had largely arrived, the competition was in no hurry to begin.

In the first few days, their leaders gathered together to figure out a set of rules for the event. They wanted to reach a consensus as best as possible.

The younger geniuses took this time to connect with and test each other. Some formed groups and cliques.

The ten sacred lands were the driving forces behind the rest, flags that showed which way the wind blew. Considering Jiang Chen had assisted the Martial Sacred Land in the past, its young people favored him.

Aside from Martial, Abyssal Divine Nation was on good terms with Eternal as well. These three sacred lands formed a bloc, of which there were a total of four blocs.

After gathering some information, Jiang Chen understood the gist of the undercurrents. Some of the sacred lands didn't have high hopes of winning in the competition, but others were set upon the crown.



Those in the latter category were hostile toward him. Their young geniuses occasionally chatted with him, but only in order to assess what kind of person he was.

The second and third-rate factions had come largely to partake in the festivities and make themselves better known to their superiors. Catching the eye of the sacred lands was in itself a success.

Accordingly, a segment before the actual competition was the selection of geniuses from the weaker factions. If they were particularly excellent, they had the chance of being chosen by the sacred lands and becoming their disciples.

This was a show of sincerity from the latter. The ten sacred lands wanted to take the first steps toward publicizing the offworld battlefields.

Jiang Chen knew that they hadn't done so before out of worries that it would cause rampant chaos.

However, not doing so had already led to rather disastrous consequences, and the sacred lands felt quite strained in any case. It was necessary to find new recruits and a wider field of participants to bolster their numbers.

For the second and third-rate factions, this was an opportunity. If even one of their geniuses was chosen, they might very well rise to the top too. Thus, each genius from every faction was diligent and involved.

Though Jiang Chen didn't have much work to do, Ziju Min drafted him to strategize.

"Young master Chen, I think highly of your keen eye. The Eternal Sacred Land would like to obtain every genius available to us, even if that means choosing a few in error. Your very presence could help attract other promising talents toward us."

Jiang Chen wasn't going to oppose the sacred land's plans. He was happy to see it take in new blood. "Don't worry, I'll do my best to help."

The first prime and Ziju Min were both very pleased with his attitude.

"That's right, Jiang Chen. When the competition begins, the forefathers from all the sacred lands will be in attendance. The prizes are particularly abundant here, as is the renown from the final ranking. In fact, it may very well influence your position in Myriad Abyss in the days to come. Be sure to do your best. Don't hold anything back." Ziju Min uttered some additional advice in a low voice.

Jiang Chen knew that the rules had likely been decided on. "I'm here already, so I might as well give it my all."

"Alright. I'm counting on you." The elder was gratified to hear it.

There were several hundred second and third-rate factions in attendance at the competition. Even Rejuvenation and Trivalent had participants present.

The factions that Jiang Chen had recent run-ins with, like Heavenlight and Bluesmoke, were here as well.

The people from Bluesmoke seemed to know that he had been responsible for slaughtering a large contingent of Blue Eagle Guards. They looked at him with muted hostility and a complicated swirl of other emotions.