

Three Realms 2011

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

Chapter 2011: A Small Display of Talen

Yao Guang snorted softly. "I thought you didn't want to bet?"

Jiang Chen burst into laughter. Women can be awfully petty sometimes. His life experience across two lifetimes helped him keep his cool.

Holy Girl Yao Guang was sulking rather than being malicious. Both holy girls were much more forthright than the poison consort had ever been, and understandably so. Their temperaments had kept them on the straight and narrow for the most part.

Si Tong smiled a little. "Sister Yao Guang, what subject would you like to bet on?"

Yao Guang raised the instrument in her hand. "The zither."

"I know a bit about music," Jiang Chen laughed, "but I might as well surrender now if that's the case. I can hardly claim expertise here."

He'd been a master of music theory in his previous life, but the hecticness of this one had prevented him from playing much. Music required extensive practice.

Having shirked for countless years, there was no way he could play better than Yao Guang. Jiang Chen had already observed earlier that she was quite skilled with her zither.

If Huang'er were here, perhaps she could rival the holy girl.

Si Tong suddenly smiled. "I've heard a rumor, Daoist Jiang Chen, that you won Miss Huang'er's heart with two musical pieces when you first met her. That's a beautiful story, isn't it? And a true one, I'm sure. Why be so humble about it?"

Jiang Chen blinked. Not many knew of that segment in his life. He grinned coolly in lieu of a direct response.

"Rumors are often larger than life. You think too highly of me, ladies," he declared modestly.

Yao Guang raised an eyebrow. "A man shouldn't be so indecisive. I don't intend to press the fact that you're not good at playing. I simply heard that the two pieces you played were rather excellent. I can lend you my zither, as long as you can show me that your fingers don't sully my instrument when performing them. If that's the case, you win. If not, you lose. How about it?"

Jiang Chen found everything utterly ludicrous. Was this kind of bet really alright?

Winning or losing hinged on the holy girl's subjective opinion. What if she refused to acknowledge him regardless of how well he played?

Si Tong giggled. "Daoist Jiang, my sister knows good music from bad. Why not play your pieces? We won't lie about the quality of your pieces just because we have a disagreement with your peer."

She was eliminating every possible excuse from him, and Jiang Chen knew it. If he didn't show off what meager skills he had, the holy girls wouldn't let things slide.

He didn't much care about all this, but the Eternal Sacred Land did. Being on good relations with the holy girls would be beneficial to the alliance later on. He was obligated to give it his all.

Wu You and Gan Ning were his witnesses, after all. If he didn't try his hardest, the first prime would surely criticize him for it later on. Not that Jiang Chen would be dismayed by outside criticism, per se. He felt it was his personal responsibility to make the best he could of this situation.

"If that is what you think, Holy Girls," he cupped a fist, "please excuse my incompetence. A moment, while I prepare a little."

To him, high art had a number of requisite rituals.

He found a water source in which to bathe and change, that he might wash away the vicious aura accumulated from his earlier fighting. He returned to the girls in fresh robes.

The two holy girls were mildly astonished how serious he was. Yao Guang curled her lips, as if to say something, but a somber Si Tong motioned to interrupt her.

"Take the zither." These were the only words that came out of Yao Guang's mouth. The instrument flew toward Jiang Chen in a flash of white light, who caught it with a wave of his hand and a cushion of air.

"A beautiful instrument," Jiang Chen remarked instinctively. The ancient aura of history upon it was simply exquisite.

"At least you know that much," muttered Yao Guang.

As soon as his fingers touched the zither, Jiang Chen's aura radically changed.

He tested and tuned the strings, familiarizing himself with the instrument's properties in the process. Expanding his consciousness, he melded his own presence with the instrument's in order to communicate with it.

All things had a unique spirit, and this zither was no different. If Jiang Chen treated it as a common musician might, the instrument wouldn't possibly respond well to him.

This particular zither was much harder to play than any of its more mundane fellows.

Jiang Chen's seriousness garnered the two holy girls' respect. He clearly understood music and the zither.

A less adept player might have tried to show off immediately after getting the instrument.

Jiang Chen, on the other hand, was in no rush. He chose to seek the zither's recognition in order to better play it. Only a real connoisseur would do that. Regardless of his actual musical skills, he was no incompetent lout.

Si Tong smiled expectantly.

After Jiang Chen finished tuning and trying out the zither, he made sure his clothes were neat before beginning to play.

The first note rang out in a harmonious fusion of man and instrument. Though Jiang Chen was a little unfamiliar at the start, he really got into the swing of things shortly after.

First, he played the Sacred Deliverance Mantra. It was a calming tune without many bells and whistles.

Nevertheless, its notes touched upon its listeners' souls, granting them rest and freedom from worries. As he played it, the entire valley seemed to quiet around them. Everything became still, the spirit creatures and insects and the wind...

Yao Guang's critical manner began to relax slowly as well. Her forehead was no longer wrinkled in annoyance. Her frustration was gradually washed away.

Though Wu You and Gan Ning were far from versed in music, they felt an inner peace after listening to the piece as well.

After the final note rang out, Jiang Chen delicately removed his fingers from the strings.

The two holy girls blinked, only realizing just then that the piece was over. The young man opposite them, perfectly composed, was already readying the next.

The Ethereal Soothing Melody was more spiritual and fancy than its predecessor. An enhanced version, perhaps, one that carried an intoxicating aura. Even the picky Yao Guang was drawn in by its notes.

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Chapter 2012: Two Stunned Holy Girls

Even the most beautiful of pieces had an end.

Though the strings slowly released their last reverberations, Jiang Chen's audience felt the music echo still in their hearts.

Si Tong and Yao Guang traded an astonished look. They had been completely unprepared for the possibility that Jiang Chen could play such moving pieces. They hadn't expected much of his musical prowess. The style of the pieces themselves were the only thing they had looked forward to.

Yes, the melodies were stunning, but his playing even more so. He'd started plucking the zither with an unpracticed hand – almost inept, in their eyes.

But it didn't take long for him to get markedly better. Not quite perfect technically, but excellent nonetheless.

They couldn't understand it. Jiang Chen had never been known for his musical skills, and indeed he seemed to be rather unfamiliar, skills-wise. Had he started learning in the womb?

Si Tong sighed softly. "You've hidden yourself well, Daoist Jiang. If I hadn't heard you play myself, you might've slipped it past me."

“Why do you say that?” Jiang Chen cracked a smile.

“Your pieces were nothing short of wonderful. Can you really play that while knowing only a little bit music? That’s a bit of a stretch, don’t you think?” Si Tong laughed. “Where would we put ourselves, if that is the case?”

Jiang Chen found it hard to answer. He had never considered his musical skills particularly remarkable.

Aside from his interactions with Huang’er, he had barely spent any time in this life on music at all. Considering this fact, he had done a pretty good job just now, if he did say so himself.

He was grateful for the zither for not messing him up, in fact.

“Sister, what say you?” Si Tong smiled at her companion, who was still dazed.

Having been biased against Jiang Chen before, Yao Guang was speechless. She gazed meaningfully at Jiang Chen for a while before speaking once more. “I guess he passes. Still, he can obviously play... what a liar!”

Jiang Chen laughed despite of his situation. He found it hard to argue this point. He hadn’t played much in this life, but his memories enriched him beyond imagining in a myriad of ways.

Si Tong smiled serenely. “As far as I know, Daoist Jiang isn’t in the habit of playing music by himself. Maybe he finds it an enjoyable hobby only with his partner, the pretty Miss Yan?”

She was open-minded enough to joke with him a little.

“The truth is, I haven’t spent much of my time on music,” Jiang Chen raised a fist salute. “What I showed to you is what I’ve seemed to know since birth. I didn’t learn it through tutelage or practice.”

Si Tong became serious. “There are rumors that you are a reincarnated god, Jiang Chen. So there’s more than a kernel of truth to that, huh? Some people are naturally talented in multiple areas. Like you, Daoist Jiang Chen?”

Though the reincarnation of gods was rare in well-developed martial dao worlds, it was nevertheless a real phenomenon. Jiang Chen’s characteristics certainly seemed to more than match up.

It was advantageous that the two girls believed his proficiency to stem from that.

Gan Ning and Wu You revered Jiang Chen’s ability to impress the two holy girls through his musical performance. They admired his proficiency in almost every pursuit.

The poison consort, these two holy girls, and Yu Ling from the Martial Sacred Land – senior brother Jiang Chen had won all of their hearts.

This was how a man should be!

“Honorable holy girls, senior brother Jiang Chen has played his music. You can release senior brother Sui Chen now, right?” Wei Yong, who had been silent until now, spoke up at this time.

Si Tong ignored him. Smiling, she glanced at Jiang Chen once more. “Daoist Jiang Chen, the previous test was my sister’s. I have one of my own. Would you be amenable to meeting my challenge?”

There's more?

Jiang Chen didn't know whether to laugh or cry. He could hardly turn down Si Tong though, now that he had already passed Yao Guang's test.

"Please, go ahead." He might as well feign generosity.

"Hehe, my test is pretty simple. I only have a few questions to ask," giggled Si Tong. "First, among Myriad Abyss's sixteen golden hairpins, what rank does Miss Yan occupy in your heart?" The holy girl flashed a mischievous grin.

Obviously, this question was asked with at least partial pointed trickery.

Jiang Chen chuckled. "There are plenty of fish in the sea, but only one of them is for me. Huang'er is number one, of course. No one can replace her."

Yao Guang thinned her lips, evidently dissatisfied with the answer, while Si Tong maintained her smile. "That question was just for fun, alright? It doesn't count."

Jiang Chen was positively amazed. Is this really acceptable?

"Next question, if the Eternal Sacred Land becomes the leader of the alliance, Daoist Jiang will come into the spotlight at the forefront of Myriad Abyss as well. What is your opinion on Myriad Abyss' future, or perhaps Divine Abyss Continent as a whole?"

This was suddenly a much more serious topic.

Jiang Chen reflected a long time before opening his mouth. "I don't know whether Myriad Abyss, or Divine Abyss as a larger whole, can wait for us to grow into our potential as leaders. Hypothetically speaking, if that came to pass, then Myriad Abyss and the mainland must discard our biases and unite as one. Only then can we possibly hope to save ourselves. The revelation of the plane's coordinates means that an offworld invasion from alien races threatens to enslave us all."

"Easy to say, but hard to do. According to what we know, many deserted during the ancient demon-sealing war. They waited for others to make the painful sacrifices necessary to preserve the world." Si Tong's question was very pointed.

"There are cowards in any time of turmoil, but also heroes who rise to the challenge. They will bear the burden of the age upon their shoulders in the grand struggle with fate. I hope that I can count on you two to accompany me in this quest. Anyone and everyone has the ability to do what is right. A little less selfishness could do us all a lot of good."

Jiang Chen didn't advertise his own daring and fearlessness. To do so would be self-aggrandizing and useless.

Reality necessitated the consideration of each faction's interests. Fighting for the greater good was important, but excessive self-sacrifice was impossible.

For example, he wouldn't abandon his friends and family even if doing so would be more beneficial to the continent as a whole. He was working so hard precisely because he was fighting to save them. This was his personal justice.

Si Tong brooded over Jiang Chen's reply.

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Chapter 2013: To Conquer

After a moment, the holy girl exhaled. "You make a strong point, Jiang Chen. It's not possible for all of us to become saints and martyrs, we all have our personal biases. Those who claim to be without them are hypocrites. However, present circumstances mean that a portion of our interests are rapidly converging. Only when more and more step up to do their part can the continent be saved."

"You're a pessimist then, Holy Girl Si Tong?" Jiang Chen asked with a smile.

"I've been to the offworld battlefield once before." Si Tong's reply had sad notes in it. "Only then will you understand how hard of a time Divine Abyss has had until now."

Jiang Chen hadn't expected this revelation. Even he hadn't been there! Newfound respect flickered for Sunrise's holy girl.

"You should go take a look yourself, Daoist Jiang, if you have a chance. You're above the level of this competition." Strangely, Si Tong didn't ask any more questions.

"Get that Sui Chen out here," she waved. "He can go."

After a moment, Sui Chen walked out with some embarrassment. His shame was intensified when seeing that Jiang Chen and his teammates were present. He wanted to dig a hole and bury himself in it rather than let anyone see his sorry state.

Wei Yong stepped up. "Senior brother Sui Chen," he called out.

Sui Chen gave Wei Yong a vicious shove. "You and your nosiness!" he rebuked. He strode off as rapidly as his words fell.

Everyone was shocked at his behavior. Even Wu You and Gan Ning felt tremendous second-hand humiliation.

Sui Chen was supposed to be the first of the Five Great Gentlemen. His shameful behavior dragged down the entirety of the Eternal Sacred Land with him.

Without senior brother Jiang Chen here to contrast him, they would've been too distressed to stick around much longer.

Yao Guang wasn't the type of woman to hide her emotions. Her eyes flashed with scorn, clearly disappointed with Sui Chen's character.

Wei Yong was mildly disconcerted as well, but he was Sui Chen's teammate and friend at the end of the day. He hesitated a moment, then approached Jiang Chen with an agonized expression. "Thank you for helping us out, senior brother Jiang Chen." He cupped a fist.

Jiang Chen waved dismissively.

When Wei Yong left as well, Si Tong sighed. "Daoist Jiang, do you know how much the other sacred lands envy Eternal right now?"

"Oh? Why's that?"

"Consider this: if you had joined any of the other sacred lands, what business would Eternal have on this stage?" Si Tong grinned.

The Eternal Sacred Land wasn't particularly excellent in any respect compared to its peers.

Jiang Chen's appearance had swiftly elevated it out of mediocrity. Its fame had spread so rapidly that the public now believed that Eternal was one of the top sacred lands.

No one wanted to get on its bad side, at least.

This was entirely due to Jiang Chen's contribution. The Taiyi Skymender and Crowning Empyrean Pills offered tremendously valuable opportunities. If they could be mass produced, they would represent a tremendous increase in overall strength for a sacred land.

In light of that, who'd want to be Eternal's enemy?

Thus, Si Tong's words were quite sincere. If Sunrise had obtained him...

What a wonderful future that would have been.

Jiang Chen was hardly arrogant enough to bask in his own praise. Smiling, he changed the subject.

"Thank you for your graciousness, holy girls. I'm glad everything has been resolved satisfactorily. I must now take my leave."

Si Tong blinked as he turned around. "You won, Daoist Jiang. Don't you want to take our orbs?"

Jiang Chen blinked in turn. That hadn't crossed his mind at all.

"I'm a principled man. I don't take orbs from just about anybody. You've been the image of courtesy and good manners to me, and that makes you the last people I would want to take anything from. Plus, you didn't take Sui Chen's orbs either, right?"

"How do you know that?" Si Tong replied with a half-smile.

"If you had, he would've mentioned it before leaving. Since he didn't, well..."

Jiang Chen knew Sui Chen well. He wasn't the kind of guy that would eat a loss lying down.

Si Tong smiled faintly, but inwardly approved of Jiang Chen's sound judgment.

"What if we voluntarily gave up our orbs to you? If we want you to win, what then?"

Jiang Chen chuckled. "As long as you don't give up your orbs to anyone else, I'm pretty confident that I'll end up winning."

He raised a cupped fist salute once more before departing with his own teammates.

Si Tong sank into a reverie for a while before sighing. "He's on an entirely different level than the rest of us," she murmured, half to herself. "It must be lonely at the top."

Yao Guang stubbornly disagreed. "Is he really as good as you say, Sister Si Tong? He just got lucky by being a reincarnated god. Once he's done tapping into that potential, he'll come to a halt. We can catch up, eventually."

"I'd like that day to never come," Si Tong remarked seriously.

"Why're you taking his side so much, sister? Have you taken an interest in him?" Yao Guang suddenly took on a playful grin. "I see how it is! You've never looked at anyone that way before. Hehe, Holy Girl Si Tong's started thinking about something different, huh?"

"What am I thinking about?" Si Tong asked, still smiling.

"Love." Yao Guang stuck out her tongue impishly.

"You're making jokes at my expense now, are you? I daresay you were so icy in order to attract his attention, hmm?" Si Tong retorted.

"Not at all! I just didn't like how proud he was. Sister, have you heard how lecherous he is? I heard someone say that he smacked Shi Qinglu's bottom!" Yao Guang puffed up her cheeks in indignation.

"Can you think of a better way to deal with Shi Qinglu? Trying to scare her with words or cultivation strength won't work. Jiang Chen just gave her a taste of her own unreasonable medicine." Holy Girl Si Tong rather disliked the poison consort.

She was a very proper and upright girl. Shi Qinglu, on the other hand, was as crooked as could be – at least in her outward actions. Therefore, they harbored a natural detestation of each other.

"See? I was right, you are interested in him! Why else are you trying to justify his lewd behavior? Sister Si Tong, why didn't you take that opportunity to confess just now? How good can that Yan girl be? Her only advantage is that she got to him before everyone else. If you met him first, he may be yours now. All that stuff about fish in the sea... is he going to ignore the advances of one of the sixteen hairpins? I don't believe it!" Yao Guang was a little miffed.

"Why don't you make a pass at him, if that's the case?" Si Tong snickered.

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Chapter 2014: Packing Up Successfully

Bidding farewell to the holy girls, Jiang Chen walked out of the valley with his teammates and bumped into Wei Yong standing outside, his shoulders slumped.

Embarrassed, Wei Yong turned his back on them. He didn't want them to see him like this.

Wu You was on friendly terms with Wei Yong. He approached the young man. "The competition isn't over yet, Wei Yong. It's dangerous for you to wander around without your teammates."

Wei Yong shrugged and smiled wryly. "I don't have any orbs on me. People would be blind to rob me."

"You don't have any orbs on you? How come?" Wu You was confused.

"I mentioned before that senior brother Sui Chen has all my orbs, right? He's not talking to me now. He disappeared when he left the valley. Moreover, he may not have his own orbs either. He's probably avoiding us because he thinks he's failed us." Wei Yong had been following Sui Chen for a long time, so the two were close.

Being abandoned by Sui Chen put him off balance.

Jiang Chen and the others exchanged a glance.

Wu You couldn't help but speak up, "I'm not trying to drive a wedge between you, Wei Yong, but the two holy girls didn't take senior brother Sui Chen's orbs. Your explanation doesn't make sense."

Wei Yong paused. "Really? Why... why didn't they take his orbs?"

He found that hard to believe. It didn't make sense for the holy girls to not take something from their captive.

"That's what we're told. It's up to you whether to believe me or not." Wu You wasn't going to push the issue. Wei Yong and Sui Chen had always been close. He'd be trying to break the brotherhood between the two if he insisted on convincing Wei Yong.

Jiang Chen smiled. "How many orbs did you get, Wei Yong?"

"Seven, if I remember right."

"How many does your team have in total?" Jiang Chen asked curiously.

"About thirty."

There were three members in every team. On average, a team should have thirty orbs. However, most teams would end up getting less than that.

Sui Chen's team, at least, had failed to reach the average. But they were close enough.

Jiang Chen smiled wryly. "The two holy girls spared his orbs out of principle. It'll be hilarious if he gets reckless and loses his orbs to others over the remaining days."

Given Sui Chen's intelligence and strength - or the lack thereof, it was very likely to happen. Jiang Chen would rather Sui Chen's orbs to fall into the hands of the two holy girls than other contestants. At least the two holy girls didn't stand a chance in overtaking his team.

The next few days, Jiang Chen and his team didn't take any risks or make any more moves. They settled down at a relatively quiet location and leisurely waited for the competition to end.

They were the exceptions though. The rivalry between the other teams reached its peak at the end of the fifteen days. Violence broke out whenever teams encountered one another.

Jiang Chen and his companions set up camp in a formation that he set up, which perfectly concealed their presence. They were free to enjoy the scenery and stay on the sidelines as other teams clashed violently.

the orbs were further concentrated in of selected few in the last three days. Many teams acquired a great many orbs through targeting other teams.

Jiang Chen didn't actively seek anyone out, but he didn't let those who made a move against him go.

It wasn't much, but he did get a few more orbs. In the end, the total number of orbs his team had amounted to close to three hundred.

"Our team will surely take the first spot, senior brother. It's likely that we'll rank above the second team by a terrifying margin!"

The thought greatly excited Wu You and Gan Ning. If they hadn't been on Jiang Chen's team, they would've had to work hard to not rank among the bottom, let alone get anywhere near the top.

The majority of the contestants couldn't spend the three days in peace even if they wanted to. During the last stretch of the competition, they spent day and night avoiding powerful competitors in order to keep their orbs.

Very few could be as relaxed and idle as Jiang Chen's team was.

Additionally, Gan Ning and Wu You had gained quite a lot from the competition.

The fifteen day competition finally came to an end. Jiang Chen and his team left the island like they were returning from a vacation.

Even the holy girls hadn't managed to avoid getting into fights in the last three days. Both Holy Girl Si Tong and Yao Guang were tired and battered, looking like they'd gone through some tough times.

Poison Consort Shi Qinglu, on the other hand, had lost most of her enthusiasm after being defeated by Jiang Chen. She kept an unusually low profile.

The other top geniuses whose goal was to take first place seemed either dejected or confident. There were more who hid their emotions behind blank expressions.

And yet, the rules of the competition were effective enough. Many were severely injured. Some had even lost a limb or two. However, sixty contestants had entered the island and sixty had returned.

Their scores however, were a much different story.

Jiang Chen and his team returned to the Eternal Sacred Land camp. The first prime and Ziju Min were waiting for them.

"How did it go?" Ziju Min asked with a smile. Based on his understanding of Jiang Chen, he knew the young man's score would only be good.

Jiang Chen smiled and nodded. "Things went well. Wu You suffered a little, but fortunately everything got safely resolved."

"How many orbs do you have?" Ziju Min asked bluntly. That was the simplest way to determine if a team did well. Whether they could take the first place depended on the end result, not the journey.

“We’ll take the first place unless a miracle happens!” Gan Ning declared excitedly. He projected his voice on purpose, attracting the attention of many around him. They cast doubtful gazes at him. Who was this young man and why was he being so boastful?

Taking the first place was so much easier said than done!

Sui Chen happened to come Gan Ning’s way. Wei Yong and their other team member followed behind, their expression timid and concerned.

Sui Chen couldn’t help but mock, “You sure are confident with the way you talk. How many orbs do you have? More than a hundred?”

His mocking tone bothered Gan Ning. Sui Chen was the last person who should say that. If not for Jiang Chen, he’d still be kept captive by the holy girls!

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Chapter 2015: Utter Humiliation

Gan Ning scoffed and purposefully didn’t say anything in response. What a fool! He doesn’t deserve to be the top of the Five Great Gentleman with his small-mindedness!

A hundred orbs was nothing. That wasn’t enough to slot anyone in for the championship.

Sui Chen interpreted their silence as having less than a hundred orbs. He sneered, “You dare talk about getting first place when you don’t even have a hundred? Do you think it’s enough to have sixty or seventy orbs?”

Annoyed, Gan Ning retorted, “You’re the top of the Five Great Gentleman, senior brother Sui Chen. In theory, you should be Eternal’s role model. Tell me, how many orbs do you have?”

Sui Chen froze. That hit him where it hurt the most. His voice descended.

“Hmph, I had a good enough number, and I got every one of them through legitimate means! Unlike a certain someone, who robbed innocent people and tarnished Eternal’s reputation.”

Sui Chen cast the first stone to cover up his mortification.

Wu You frowned. “You shouldn’t be spreading rumors, senior brother Sui Chen. If you have something to say, say it outright. Don’t make insinuations. We all know who embarrassed Eternal and damaged its reputation in the competition. Do you need me to set the record straight?”

Sui Chen had always been jealous of Jiang Chen. He scoffed when Wu You and Gan Ning jumped to defend Jiang Chen without being told, like good little slaves.

“You rank second among the Five Great Gentlemen, Wu You. Have you stooped so low that you have to wag your tail at Jiang Chen like a little dog?” Sui Chen’s tone dripped with venom.

Wu You’s face clouded. “You’re just asking for humiliation, Sui Chen. Need I remind you how you tried to flirt with the holy girls but ended up captured for your rudeness? Should I advertise how senior brother

Jiang Chen accepted their challenges and won your release? How you claim that the holy girls took all the orbs so that you can take all of your teammates' orbs?"

His words were cutting. Sui Chen's face turned a dark red.

"Bullshit! I didn't need your help! They wouldn't have hurt me even if you had done nothing! Murder is explicitly prohibited. They could at most ground me by ganging up on me. They couldn't have killed me. I didn't need saving!" Sui Chen blatantly twisted the truth.

Wei Yong lowered his head, shamefaced. He couldn't believe the person in front of him was the senior brother he'd always admired.

Sui Chen had been the one telling him to seek out Jiang Chen for help. How could he deny the facts and even cast the blame on Jiang Chen? That just crossed a line!

Jiang Chen had saved Sui Chen and helped him regain freedom. Otherwise, the two holy girls could've made him suffer greatly.

The first prime looked at Jiang Chen, then at Sui Chen. "Members of the same faction should support each other, Sui Chen. Only a petty man mocks his peers. Besides, you should be grateful if it was Jiang Chen who saved you. It's unbecoming of you to twist the truth."

She was still a fair and just leader, and she was clever enough to piece together what had happened thanks to the expressions of Wei Yong and the others.

"How many orbs do you have, Sui Chen?" she asked. "Be honest."

"None. The two holy girls took all of them." Sui Chen seemed determined to stick to his story.

Jiang Chen paused. Is it true that Sui Chen doesn't have any orbs? Had the two holy girls lied to him?

His instincts told him that this wasn't the case. Sui Chen wasn't giving a false statement.

Nonetheless, Sui Chen wouldn't have said he had no orbs if he had any. After all, that would determine the team's score and his personal score.

Perhaps Jiang Chen's original speculations were right. Sui Chen had lost his orbs in the last three days. They had been taken by someone other than the two holy girls after he left the valley.

Wei Yong couldn't believe his ears. "Many of the orbs were ours, senior brother Sui Chen!" he blurted out. "How did you lose them? Please tell us so that I know how I lost."

He didn't know what to believe, but he was beginning to suspect Sui Chen.

The two holy girls really didn't seem like liars. If they'd wanted the orbs, they could've kept Sui Chen captive until the end of the competition. Then his orbs would automatically be theirs.

It didn't make any sense for them to let him go and then take his orbs.

Sui Chen shot Wei Yong a glare. "You don't believe me?"

Wei Yong pursed his lips. "This isn't right, senior brother. I put in a lot of effort to get the orbs too. I bled and sweat for them. If someone took them from you, you should tell me the truth. As far as I know, the two holy girls didn't take any of our orbs. Who did you lose them to?"

"It's them!" Sui Chen lied blatantly. "The two girls lied to you! They're ambitious and want first place!"

Their conversation was interrupted by a burst of laughter from the Flora's group. "It's Sui Chen, isn't it? Thank you for the generous offer of thirty orbs in the last two days. I'll remember your contribution if I manage to get first place."

It was Lu Mingye.

After Shi Qinglu suffered her defeat and gave up on winning the competition, Lu Mingye rose to the top and became Flora's strongest contestant.

Over the past few days, he'd accumulated a good number of orbs through coercion and every trick one could think of. He too wanted first place.

In his opinion, Shi Qinglu was no longer a threat. If he became the champion, he would lead Flora in the future.

That was why he stepped in when he noticed Sui Chen arguing with his peers at Eternal. This was too good an opportunity to pass up. He mocked and provoked Sui Chen, thus humiliating Eternal and escalating its infighting.

Sui Chen's face flushed red with mortification.

After all the accusations he'd levied at the two holy girls, Lu Mingye had exposed his lies with a simple sentence. It was a stab to his chest and a slap to his face.

He couldn't be more humiliated.

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Chapter 2016: A Stunning Sum

Lu Mingye hadn't intended to help Jiang Chen against Sui Chen. He'd only uttered the insult because of his petty nature and dislike of Eternal.

He didn't expect his statement to bail Jiang Chen out of trouble so cleanly. There was no more need to argue. An opponent's impassioned words were typically the most credible.

The first prime's expression froze. She stared at Sui Chen darkly, who wanted more than anything to dive into the ground right this instant.

He hadn't expected Lu Mingye to mock him when passing by. In fact, he hadn't expected Lu Mingye to be nearby at all.

Wei Yong was quite upset. "Senior brother Sui Chen!" He glared with some exasperation at his friend. "You told me the two holy girls took your orbs. I took you at your word! But it looks like you just didn't want to return them to us, huh? You wanted to hog them all for yourself."

Flustered and embarrassed, Sui Chen tried to defend himself. "Lu Mingye took only the orbs I got later on!"

The implication was that his team had been robbed once already before Lu Mingye. However, his defense was paper-thin to even himself.

Ziju Min sighed softly. He was disappointed in Sui Chen as well.

Truthfully, Sui Chen was pretty talented. Unfortunately, he was greatly flawed when it came to tolerance and character. These flaws would prevent him from ever reaching the ranks of the very best.

There was a reason why Eternal had low expectations of him. Jiang Chen's appearance and acquisition had been timely indeed.

The Five Great Gentlemen alone wouldn't have been able to compete in this competition.

Overall, the gentlemen were only middling geniuses among the sacred lands' younger generation. Only Jiang Chen was fit to be Eternal's crowning pearl, raising it up amid its fellows by proxy.

The first prime scrutinized Sui Chen coldly for a long while before pressing with equal frost. "Sui Chen, I'm asking you one last time: who took your orbs?"

Faced with the prime's sharp gaze, Sui Chen was unable to blurt out any of his planned lies. He knew that if he practiced any further deception, he would probably lose any hope of peacefulness after they returned home.

However, he couldn't bear the humiliation of admitting responsibility. He kept his head down and his mouth shut instead.

His silence was answer enough.

The first prime was extremely disappointed. Sui Chen was the same as always, utterly incompetent and resistant to change. If he had confessed his wrongdoing and used it as motivation for changing himself, she would have been willing to grant him another chance.

Alas, Sui Chen didn't even have the courage left to do that. This frustrated her the most. A genius who was continually irresponsible could not be trusted, no matter his talent.

How could someone like that bear the sacred land's future upon his shoulders?

"Alright, First Prime. Let's lay the matter to rest. They received scores of zero, which should be punishment enough. If you prefer, shall we discuss it further after we return home?" the second prime tried to smooth things over.

"I suppose that's the best course for now. Think over your actions, Sui Chen, and reflect on what you should do. A genius needs more than talent: honor and grace are just as important." The first prime's comments were steeped in displeasure.

Sui Chen compressed his lips. He looked pretty harmless on the surface, but Jiang Chen could see that he hadn't accepted a word of the rebuke.

That was none of his business though. Sui Chen had always been like this. He had surrendered instantly when he'd encountered Xiahou Zong during Eternal's internal tournament of geniuses.

What kind of person the genius was had been more than apparent at the time.

Thus, Jiang Chen had always been on lukewarm terms with Sui Chen over the years.

Still, he could see that the first prime was quite upset. If she had yielded to Sui Chen's venomous whispers, Eternal's judgment of the overall situation would be affected.

To abandon Radiance and Sunrise as potential allies when there was only a faint possibility of their hostility would really hamper Eternal's chances.

Not wanting this oversight, Jiang Chen related the circumstances and events at the time to the first prime, who was much relieved by his transparency.

"The two holy girls have a good impression of you? Good, very good! You did very well in this competition. If Sunrise and Radiance can take our side, then our plans are all the more likely to come to fruition."

The first prime was very excited, as was Ziju Min on Jiang Chen's behalf.

"You know, young master Chen," he noted, "Holy Girl Si Tong has quite a bit of influence among the younglings. And, though that Yao Guang argued with you quite a bit, she's naturally detached and forbidding. If your performance was good enough to win her over – and I think it probably was – then her opinion of you is very different from what she says."

Jiang Chen laughed. Yao Guang was actually quite nice. Dealing with her was at least much easier than maneuvering around the likes of Shi Qinglu.

With Yao Guang, one simply had to be capable enough to win her favor. Shi Qinglu, on the other hand, had to be brought to the brink of despair. A single lapse of concentration before that would lead to incapacitation via a sneak attack.

"Oh, that's right. How many orbs has your team gotten?" Ziju Min asked curiously.

Gan Ning's declaration of certain victory had been interrupted earlier. The elder knew that Jiang Chen and his fellows had done quite well, but wasn't sure of the precise numbers.

Jiang Chen smiled. "Just a bit shy of three hundred. A dozen or so?"

"What did you say? Three hundred??" Ziju Min thought he'd misheard.

The first prime was positively astonished. Her eyes focused on Jiang Chen in an instant, unable to comprehend what the youth had reported.

"Yes. Two hundred and eighty-six, to be precise." Jiang Chen had counted this number before coming back out.

Sovereign of the Three Realms (WN)

Chapter 2017: Tabulating the Results

"That..." Ziju Min traded a look with the first prime. They were stunned by the sheer magnitude of the number. Of the six hundred orbs in the trial, Jiang Chen's team had nearly half of them!

"First Prime, Elder Ziju. That's the number we tallied up before we came out. We counted a couple of times, just to make sure." Wu You confirmed of his own volition.

The prime and the elder both knew that Wu You was a conscientious youth. He almost never made anything up.

"How in the world did you get so many?" Ziju Min found it incredible still. He wasn't imaginative enough to figure out exactly how Jiang Chen had managed such a feat.

"We didn't get any of them unfairly. Still, Gan Ning and I only helped a little with some errands, and we sometimes caused trouble of our own for senior brother Jiang Chen. Senior brother deserves most of the credit." Wu You was quite honest about his involvement.

"You didn't get the orbs unfairly?" Ziju Min was baffled. "If you got all of the orbs fairly, how did you get so many? Plus, the rules don't ban you from using foul means as well as fair. As long as you don't kill anyone, you can do whatever you like."

Wu You sighed. "About that... senior brother deserves a lot of respect. He never looked for anyone to rob. He only took care of a bunch of would-be robbers that wanted to take our orbs and returned their favors. A couple teams from Flora and Polylore were beaten up that way..."

"Senior brother did a lot of work in this competition," Gan Ning added with enthusiasm. "Poison Consort Shi Qinglu is pretty famous, isn't she? But she's like a beginner in front of the senior brother when it comes to her area of expertise. She couldn't do anything. Lu Mingye was pretty rude just now, but he too only dared peek from a distance rather than approach. Senior brother Jiang Chen has scared the living daylights out of him..."

Since Gan Ning was a good storyteller, Jiang Chen left him to his devices.

The first prime and Ziju Min greatly approved of how Jiang Chen had conducted himself.

He'd taken a hardline stance against those from Flora and Polylore because he wasn't afraid of upsetting them. The more neutral and swayable factions' geniuses, on the other hand, were gently chastised in order to maintain good relations.

"Well done," Ziju Min praised. "There should be no question about Jiang Chen's victory then, First Prime."

If he had nearly half of all the orbs there were, it would be very strange for him to place anywhere else.

It was finally time for the sacred lands' executives to gather together and determine the scores.

It was obvious that Lu Mingye was really fired up. Enormous pride in success flashed across his eyes. He had it in the bag even before the results were revealed.

From a distance, Gan Ning muttered disdainfully, "That Lu Mingye! He thinks he's some hotshot because he got a few orbs in the last couple of days. When he finds out about how well our team did, I'd like to see him keep his smile."

"Heh, unless he has every remaining orb, he's not going to win." Wu You was confident about Lu Mingye's failure.

The Flora genius was skilled. Perhaps he'd done a lot in the final few days. However, he had robbed everyone who was weaker than him at most. The geniuses that were his equals or betters would have a fair few orbs themselves.

"All of the teams should be ready by now. Submit your orbs according to the designated order. Remember, this concerns your competition results as well as being important in the future. Please hold on to the orbs you really have rather than attempting petty trickery."

Jiang Chen and his teammates lined up to wait their turn.

Many inquired at Gan Ning's irrepressible smile. "Hey, Gan Ning, you look rather happy. Did you do well for yourself?"

Gan Ning loved hearing remarks like that. He had never fared too well among the best geniuses. In fact, he had often been ignored in the past.

The fact that so many people were actively talking to him, some in a deferential manner, was immensely satisfying. He was benefiting from his association with his senior brother, but that didn't matter.

On the other side, Lu Mingye's team was lined up as well. His sinister gaze swept Jiang Chen and his two companions like a viper's. Right now, they were the only ones he felt threatened by.

He didn't have much time to fill his mind with idle thoughts before it came to his team's turn to submit their orbs.

Lu Mingye's team had gathered a tremendous number of orbs. The two junior members had twenty or so each, while Lu Mingye himself took out six times that much. Added together, the entire team had more than a hundred and sixty orbs.

A large number of the other teams were in an uproar over what they'd just witnessed.

No wonder a lot of the teams had come out with a pitiable number of orbs. Two, in fact, had submitted zero altogether. They'd apparently been robbed blind just before exiting.

"Good heavens, this Lu Mingye really is something. His team got a hundred sixty orbs by itself! Surely they're the champions!"

"I always thought the poison consort was the Flora Sacred Land's best genius. Perhaps that was a misunderstanding. Lu Mingye is clearly better!"

"He'll be number one across all ten sacred lands soon, won't he?"

Lu Mingye had a surprising number of supporters, some of them freshly gathered on the spot.

Lu Mingye's team had more than five times the average number of orbs. It was a truly shocking revelation.

An imperceptible smile curled at the corner of Gan Ning's mouth. If Jiang Chen hadn't instructed him to keep things close to the ground and civil, he would have begun to boast on the spot.

Even so, he was bursting with joy. Lu Mingye's beaming face only made him all the more excited.

"It's our turn, senior brother," he announced delightedly.

The executive judges smiled at Jiang Chen and his teammates as they approached. "Take out your orbs and tell us how many you have. We will record your numbers."

"I am Gan Ning of the Eternal Sacred Land. I have twenty-eight orbs." Gan Ning intentionally spoke as loudly as he could muster.

As soon as he said these words, Lu Mingye's team collectively trembled, whipping around to look at him.

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

Chapter 2018: Champion Without a Doub

Gan Ning had given an intimidatingly large number.

There was an unspoken rule about the reporting process. The least-contributing member reported first, followed by second place. The captain generally had the best result, and so typically went last.

If Gan Ning – the worst-performing one out of the three – had twenty-eight, then...

The number had caught more than Lu Mingye's attention. The teams after them suddenly stopped whispering among one another, directing their gazes to the front of the line.

Gan Ning's loudness had captured everyone's ear, succeeding very well in his objective.

"Good, very good." After examining Gan Ning's orbs for authenticity, the judges nodded one after another.

The participating geniuses were even more taken aback. Among these sixty geniuses, Gan Ning was completely unremarkable. He was at most around the lower-middle part of a hypothetical ranking.

However, this unremarkable genius had submitted a whopping twenty-eight orbs! That was more than what entire other teams had gotten!

Many couldn't believe what they'd just heard. Considering what kind of person Gan Ning was, he didn't deserve that many orbs at all. Did heaven know what it was doing?

The world of martial dao fanaticized strength.

Gan Ning didn't possess sufficient strength to win others' adulation. Because he had more orbs than so many who were his betters, these very same people were upset and envious.

“That kid really lucked out in his choice of captain. Wasn’t there a rumor early on that Hu Lei caught him? Jiang Chen had to come to rescue him. I can’t believe he got so many orbs by himself.”

“What can anyone do about it? Even Poison Consort Shi Qinglu couldn’t beat his team. They’re too strong.”

“What do you mean, too strong? Jiang Chen is their one-man army. I know who this Gan Ning is, he’s average at best. If I were on his team, I wouldn’t possibly do badly, either.”

“I suppose so. Without Jiang Chen, he amounts to nothing whatsoever.”

Gan Ning had placed enough to make anybody jealous, but most believed that Jiang Chen had helped him without question. However, it was a team based exercise in the end.

“Wu You from the Eternal Sacred Land. I have thirty-two orbs.” Wu You reported. Considering his strength and possibility, it was quite normal for him to carry a few more than Gan Ning.

As soon as Wu You revealed his results, everyone around him was astonished. The two geniuses announced so far had sixty orbs between them!

This was remarkably frightful for the audience.

Before Jiang Chen’s team, every other had performed terribly. Only Lu Mingye’s had shown any competitive ability. But Gan Ning and Wu You’s orb numbers were greater than that of Lu Mingye’s two assistants.

Only one question remained: how many orbs did Jiang Chen have? Did he exceed the number Lu Mingye carried?

The Flora genius’s eyes were trained hatefully on his adversary. He felt a tangible threat from Jiang Chen and his teammates.

“Impossible... impossible...” Lu Mingye repeated in stubborn frustration to himself. “Can this Jiang Chen have over a hundred orbs?”

Jiang Chen didn’t care about how others felt. He stepped up with a smile. “I’m Jiang Chen. I obtained two hundred twenty-six orbs in the trial.”

Two hundred twenty-six?!

No one could believe their ears. How could this be??

“How many did you say??” One of the quicker judges blinked.

Jiang Chen laughed. “Two hundred twenty-six. Please examine them.” He was demure rather than full of it from heady success.

Everyone drew a sharp breath when seeing the orbs strewn all over the place. The incredible number on display far surpassed every member of Lu Mingye and his team.

When Jiang Chen’s whole team was counted up, it had two hundred eighty-six orbs!

In other words, only a contest for the later places waged on. The winner had already been decided. Factoring out team Lu Mingye's one hundred sixty orbs, there were only more than a hundred of the rest at most. Not even two hundred!

Many sighed in exclamation when the results came out. There was a flurry of movement and a storm of whispers.

Lu Mingye's expression was as black as snake venom. His eyes sparked with hatred. His dreams of winning had been shattered completely.

There was nothing surprising about what came next.

Holy girls Si Tong and Yao Guang didn't report many orbs. The few that they did have seemed perfunctory.

The most surprising thing of all was that Shi Qinglu submitted exactly zero orbs.

After Jiang Chen's robbery, she had lost all hope of victory. At the time, it had been painfully obvious that no one could stop him.

The results were finally tallied. Jiang Chen's team led by a mile, with Lu Mingye's team trailing behind as a distant second.

Third place was a long way from second as well.

The differences after that weren't nearly as pronounced, since barely anyone had any orbs at that point.

"Not everyone is able to match up to his own reputation. Young Jiang Chen's sudden rise has made the competition between the sacred lands' young people much more interesting. Today, he seems to be a cut above the rest."

"Haha, congratulations, Daoist Qi. This genius of yours will guarantee you at least ten thousand years of fortune."

"Eternal's leadership is as good as in the bag, huh?"

"Daoist Qi, is it possible to yield young Jiang Chen to us here at Void?"

"Haha, we here at Everlasting would pay anything for that privilege."

Jiang Chen didn't like the comments being made about him. He was a person, not some piece of merchandise. It was ridiculous for anyone to talk about 'yielding' him.

Thankfully, the first prime decisively refused. "My friends, your words bring shame to Jiang Chen's name. He's a genius that comes along every hundred thousand years. How can you possibly hope to match him with material things? The Eternal Sacred Land is truly blessed with twenty thousand years of fortune to have him. You can forget about us giving him up!"

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

Chapter 2019: The Second Round of the Grand Competition

Jiang Chen's team took first place by an undeniable margin.

According to the rules, Jiang Chen would receive an additional fifty points as the team captain, and Wu You and Gan Ning thirty and twenty points respectively.

In addition, every orb counted as a point. Jiang Chen had 226 orbs. When the fifty bonus points were added to it, his score after the first round was a staggering 276 points.

That was vastly more than what the organizers had expected. Never in their wildest dreams had they anticipated that the orbs would be so concentrated. Jiang Chen had acquired more than a third of the total orbs available!

Meanwhile, Lu Mingye had gotten more than a hundred himself. With the bonus for the captain of the second-place team ranked, Lu Mingye's total score was 150, which put him at second place in individual ranking.

But his score was only roughly half of Jiang Chen's.

The rest of the contestants were much more clustered together. The black horses were Wu You and Gan Ning. They weren't one of the best geniuses by far, but their score was among the top.

The first round ended with Jiang Chen possessing an absolute advantage and overwhelming lead.

Those who considered Jiang Chen their main competition were vastly behind him in points. Most incredulously, Shi Qinglu, the mysterious genius every youth idolized, ended the first round with an eye-popping poor performance.

Nevertheless, it was only the first round. Nothing more than a warm-up, so to speak.

The next round began without giving the candidates any time to rest. The main part of the grand competition was to commence.

"Sandplain Island has always been the most highly restricted location under the ten sacred lands' rule. Around Sandplain are ten forbidden islands. The second part of the grand competition will be held on the ten islands.

"There is a mission on every island. Completing the mission on the first island gives you ten points. The second island gives you twenty. The third island gives you thirty. Following that pattern, the ten island gives you a hundred points. The points will accumulate. In other words, if you complete the missions on all ten islands, you'll get five hundred and fifty points in total.

"This is a test of individual strength. We again offer additional rewards for the top three contestants. First place nets an additional a hundred points. Second place gains fifty. Third place receives twenty.

"The sum of your points from the two rounds of the competition is your total score, which will determine your ranking."

The second round gave many more points in comparison. Those who hadn't done well during the first round perked up. This was their opportunity to turn the tide!

If they stood out in the second round, they could make up for their low score from the first.

“What if many geniuses pass the trials of all ten islands?” someone asked. “How will the ranking be decided then?”

“Simple enough. If more than one contestant passes the same number of islands, they’ll be ranked according to the time it takes them to complete the missions.”

No one had any objections to the ranking method. Lu Mingye was itching to spring into action. His goal had been to nab first place in the first round, but that damned Jiang Chen had overtaken him instead! Thankfully, he had a very good chance of coming back in the second round as long as he did well.

Personal strength was all that mattered in this part of the competition. It was no longer about teamwork, which would pose a challenge to Wu You and Gan Ning.

Gan Ning, especially, would have a difficult time. Nonetheless, he wasn’t too concerned. He knew he was one of the weakest among the sixty geniuses. He didn’t have anything to lose even if he did terribly in the next round.

“Alright, make your preparations, candidates. Tomorrow morning will be the start of the second round. You’ll enter the first island at different times and locations. Remember, every island has a time limit. If you fail to complete the mission within the time limit, it counts as a failure and your elimination. You’ll all be given a jade slip for keeping time, which will also display the mission on every island.”

After an explanation of the rules, some geniuses were excited, while others had a grave look on their face. Many of them still wanted to win.

Jiang Chen wasn’t too concerned. Even if he hadn’t done that well in the first part of the competition, it wouldn’t have affected his mindset at all.

“All of you, look sharp!” encouraged Ziju Min. “We aren’t demanding you to get a good score, but at least do your best. Show us your true ability.”

In contrast, the first prime turned to Jiang Chen expectantly. “This seat has high hopes for you. You must take the crown. Don’t let anyone from Flora win.”

Jiang Chen smiled. “I’ll try my best.”

That reassured the first prime. She believed not even the two top geniuses of Flora would be able to threaten Jiang Chen, given his superior abilities.

Obviously, Lu Mingye didn’t agree yet. He was wholeheartedly focused on winning and using this opportunity to rise up in the world. This would have an incalculable effect on his future.

It’d be so perfect if he could defeat Jiang Chen and rise to the top.

The next morning, all the geniuses were ready to face the second round in their best condition.

They each received a jade slip; Jiang Chen considered his curiously.

“Ready yourselves! You’re entering the first forbidden island. Now, a word of advice. The islands are dangerous and each is more dangerous than the previous. Take on the challenges at your own discretion.”

In other words, they might get hurt, or even worse.

Jiang Chen smiled. He didn't ignore the warning, but he wasn't going to overthink it. There was a confidence in his calm composure.

He was soon deployed to the first forbidden island - the Island of Fog, according to the jade slip.

As the name suggested, the island was enveloped in thick, boundless fog. Jiang Chen was to find the Door of Silver Chains. Once he did, he'd have completed the first challenge.

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

Chapter 2020: The Gray Wolves' Alpha

The first mission was simple enough. The key challenge of the island was the fog. It obscured one's view and clouded their judgement. Reaction times would also be longer when danger struck.

Thankfully, none of these were a problem to Jiang Chen.

His senses had been perfected through training. His God's Eye could see in the night as clearly as he could in the day. He focused his God's Eye and expanded his consciousness to the utmost, looking for the Door of Silver Chains.

The door should be hidden somewhere obscure, or it wouldn't be picked as the mission of the first forbidden island.

Jiang Chen didn't utilize the Goldbiter Rats. Neither did he ask for help from the Vermilion Bird or Long Xiaoxuan. He wanted to find the door on his own.

He had a clear advantage in this aspect. His sight and consciousness were several times more sensitive than the other cultivators.

He spotted a silver glow after roughly an hour. It was too faint to be clearly visible in the fog, but with the God's Eye, he tracked the flash of silver without trouble.

"Judging from its name, the Door of Silver Chains must reflect a silver light."

Jiang Chen decided to check it out. Even if it wasn't the door, it'd be at least worth his attention.

With Kunpeng Meteoric Escape, he moved toward the silver glow at great speed.

As he flew, creatures such as goshawks and eagles attempted to attack him, but were all swatted away by a swift wave of his hand. Creatures at their level wouldn't survive a simple slap from him.

He soon reached his destination.

The rays of silver light were obvious from a distance, connecting the two sides of the valley like bridges. The silver lines zigzagged and seemed to form rows of teeth, appearing quite eerie.

Jiang Chen considered the door from a distance and wasn't in a rush to enter it. After a pause, he smiled with comprehension. The door had some sort of restriction around it.

Without further ado, he made for the door.

Activated by his attempted entrance, two rows of silver light gnashed down like teeth. The frequency of the bites was astounding.

However, Jiang Chen was even faster. Without breaking a sweat, he seized an opening and entered the door.

This first mission was easier than expected. Granted, it was just the first island. It made sense that it wouldn't be too challenging.

As soon as he passed through the door, the jade slip displayed the symbol of success. He'd conquered the first island and received ten points.

Past the door was a bridge. A blinding light swallowed him and carried him away.

Moments later, he was teleported to another bridge. The jade slip informed him that he'd entered the second island. The mission was also imparted as well.

"Pass through the Valley of Grey Wolves and acquired three hairs from the alpha wolf?" Jiang Chen wasn't sure how to react. The mission was rather ridiculous.

Six hours was the time allotted. If he failed to complete the mission by then, that would be a failure to pass the second island.

The countdown started the moment he set foot on the island.

"Damn, I don't have a lot of time. Six hours!" Jiang Chen smiled wryly. "That alpha is in for a world of pain. Everyone is looking to yank its fur! That'll hurt."

He pitied the alpha wolf, but not for long.

He quickly found the Valley of Grey Wolves and discovered a mind-boggling number of wolves occupying the place. A regular person would've shuddered at the sight. The valley was absolutely overrun with wolves.

"It's not going to be that easy to identify the alpha." Jiang Chen occupied high ground and cast his God Eye's into the distance, observing the wolf pack.

Every wolf pack had an alpha. The alpha might be better hidden since this pack was particularly large, but it must be somewhere. He focused his gaze and scanned the valley.

He could feel within his consciousness an enormous wolf suddenly looking about coldly, giving voice to desolate howl into the sky. All of the other grey wolves followed suit.

Jiang Chen took a careful look and realized that the giant wolf was coming his way, which meant that he'd been exposed.

He paused. He hadn't put in that much effort in keeping himself hidden, which was why the wolf had spotted him so easily.

He took a good look at the giant wolf. There were seven white spots on its grey coat. Each was the size of a human fist. They formed an orderly pattern like they'd been carefully painted on the canvas of the wolf's body.

The alpha wolf howled, sending several hundred of grey wolves charging at Jiang Chen in frenzy. He sniffed and roared back with a dragon howl. In a flash, he rushed toward the wolf pack rather than retreat.

In fact, Jiang Chen had exposed himself on purpose. The wolf that had detected him first and given the order must be the alpha.

The Eternal genius was fast, much faster than even the wolves. He'd made his way through the pack with a dazzling flash of an eye.

Traumatic memories surfaced in the alpha's mind when it saw Jiang Chen flying its way.

It had to flee!

Crooning with a bizarre whine, the wolves surrounding it threw themselves at Jiang Chen like they'd gone mad. It was obvious that the alpha recognized Jiang Chen as a threat.

The young human's speed and power made it fear for its life when it realized how formidable the human was.