

Three Realms 2051

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

Chapter 2051: Jiang Chen's Plans

Jiang Chen opened his eyes. A serious look entered them.

Everyone looked at him expectantly. The Eternal forefather was the first to approach. "Any leads?"

The young man inclined his head. "I have an idea of where to begin. This formation is named the Prismatic Convergence Formation. Functionally, it can gather up energy from elsewhere into a single point instantly. No matter how we attack, it's difficult to brute force our way through. We can't possibly strike quicker than the formation defends itself."

"We can attack two areas separately, can't we?" the Eternal forefather suggested. "It should break then."

"You mean feint in one direction first, then strike another?"

"Something like that," the forefather nodded. "If it uses spirit energy from elsewhere, we should be able to exploit its inability to understand our intent."

"If it was that simple, this formation wouldn't be famous in the heavenly planes. It's easy for us to split up, but it doesn't matter if we can't break the point at which it directs the flow of energy. Attacking everywhere else won't harm it."

The details of the formation became clearer to Jiang Chen as he recalled the relevant parts of his memories.

The Eternal forefather agreed after a little consideration. If the formation was this easy to break through, then it would be grievously flawed. Why would it have been used here in the first place?

"How shall we break through the formation then?"

There was no room for pride. The forefather found no shame in asking his junior.

Jiang Chen's response was direct and to the point. "We must find the node that serves as a nexus for the energy transfer. There should be several. If we can do that, I have a way of breaking out."

Given the level of the formation, smashing it should be no problem once its weaknesses were found. After all, regardless of how well it was set up, the haste with which its creator had done so meant that it was relatively fragile.

A truly perfect formation needed time and polish. This formation seemed impenetrable on the surface, but closer scrutiny was sure to reveal problems beneath.

Jiang Chen surmised that those who had set up the formation supposed that the divine forefathers of the sacred lands wouldn't know what it was, hence the boldness with which they'd brought it into being.

Finding the nodes was easier said than done. Thankfully, he had studied this formation – just as many others – long ago.

He stood up. "Venerated forefather," he turned toward the old man, "I need some help from you and the other forefathers to find the nodes."

The Eternal forefather glanced at his peers.

"Haha, the Martial Sacred Land has received young friend Jiang Chen's kindness in the past. I will lend whatever aid that's necessary to get us out of this situation." The forefather of the Martial Sacred Land was the first to step forward.

"I will come." The Radiance forefather volunteered.

"Then I as well," the Sunrise forefather followed, smiling.

The Eternal forefather nodded cheerfully. "Is the four of us enough?"

"More than enough!" Jiang Chen laughed.

The Eternal forefather nodded, then cupped a fist at the other forefathers. "Fellow daoists, we must help each other in this time of crisis. We will go find the nodes involved in this formation and rely on the rest of you to hold down the fort here."

"Don't worry. We'll keep the others safe."

"Good luck with your work. We will certainly give ours the utmost of attention."

After the duties were divvied up, Jiang Chen immediately set off with the four forefathers in tow. The node was impossible to find using physical eyes. Through one's consciousness, it was still extremely difficult to perceive.

However, that didn't mean this instance of the Prismatic Convergence Formation was impregnable.

Perhaps a more perfect one would be harder to exploit, but Jiang Chen firmly believed this one in particular was flawed. The temporary nature of its manifestation and existence was living proof of that.

"Forefathers, I will choose a few areas that you should attack on my orders. From the ensuing dissipation of spirit energy, I will attempt to find where exactly that node is."

Jiang Chen laid out his plans to the four forefathers, who tacitly nodded in agreement.

He scanned the surroundings for four reasonably important areas, then assigned each forefather to one of them.

"Get ready to attack on my orders," he transmitted to all of them, casting out his consciousness. "Three, two, one... attack!"

The four forefathers assaulted their respective areas in a simultaneous effort. Their godhood granted them incredible grasp over minutiae, allowing them to truly move in synchronicity.

All four areas of the veil of light rippled violently at the same time.

Though the veil seemed to hold and recover very quickly, Jiang Chen's consciousness could detect the differences in how the energy dissipated across the space.

He nodded to himself, having made a preliminary discovery.

Summoning the forefathers to his side, he assigned them new directions of attack. "This time, please attack these four areas in the same way you just did. All at the same time."

He experimented a full six times in a row before a grin spread across his face.

The forefathers were gladdened by his joyous expression.

Jiang Chen pointed out a specific patch of space as they approached him. "There's definitely a node around here."

How'd you find it?" the Radiance forefather couldn't help asking.

"Just trial and error. I used the aftershocks from your attacks to judge the distance from you to the node, and triangulated based on the strength of the defensive reaction. After six attempts, I've found roughly where it would be." Jiang Chen sounded very certain.

The forefathers exchanged excited looks. They found Jiang Chen's conclusion quite trustworthy.

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

Chapter 2052: Existence Of A Latent Threa

The area Jiang Chen designated wasn't large at all. It was comparatively much easier to find a node within the constraints.

"Is a joint attack enough to shatter the node?" inquired the Eternal forefather.

"The Prismatic Convergence Formation is a rather intricate work," Jiang Chen mused. "Each node is of crucial importance. If we can shatter one node, we'll be a third of the way to destroying the formation. Two nodes, and we're as good as done. Therefore, let us wait a little. We're in no hurry to destroy this one just yet."

"Why is that?" The Radiance forefather didn't understand.

"Finding a second node and striking both at the same time would give us a much greater chance at fully breaking free. What if the enemy has reinforcements on the other side of the veil, or other countermeasures against our jailbreaking attempt? It might be hard for us to get out if we only break one node."

"Ah, I see. You want to remove this particular obstacle so that we might be unhindered by it in any ensuing conflict."

"Precisely."

"Why can't we break this node first, then? We can break the second after we find it."

"I'm worried that we'll alert the enemy that way. Breaking this node now will only give them time to rally their forces and build additional defenses. This formation was probably made to delay rather than trap us here. I think there's a bigger conspiracy brewing."

The forefathers were just as concerned about this possibility as Jiang Chen.

“Well, what are we waiting for? Let’s find the second node,” declared the Sunrise forefather.

The second would be found much more quickly than the first, experience hastening things for all parties involved. However, the construction of the formation necessitated quite a bit of distance between the two.

The same methodology revealed the area another node was located not long after.

Based on the distance between them, Jiang Chen had a good guess of what level the formation was at.

“This Prismatic Convergence Formation isn’t particularly high level. It should have five nodes in total. If we break two, that should more than suffice.”

“Why not find a third?” the Eternal forefather suggested conservatively.

Jiang Chen thought for a moment, then disagreed. “We’d have to split up into three teams then. I’m not sure if we have enough people for that.”

He had thought carefully about the choice of two nodes.

If the forefathers were all mid divine realm, they’d be able to handle attacking even five nodes at the same time.

However, the forefathers were collectively only initial divine realm. None were fourth level or higher. It was, thus, considerably more difficult for them to destroy three nodes simultaneously.

Even the aid of the Vermilion Bird and Black Tortoise wouldn’t be enough.

Plus, there was no need to attack the third if two destroyed nodes would be enough to shatter the formation.

Jiang Chen’s certainty silenced any further doubting voices. The forefathers were laymen when it came to this formation, having not even heard of it in the first place.

The ten sacred lands’ forefathers gathered once more. This time though, no one else was in attendance.

“Everyone,” Jiang Chen spoke, “we have a method of breaking out from the formation. However, I have something important I think I should mention at this juncture. The gravity of the situation is not to be understated.”

Everyone steeled their hearts and listened carefully. They knew that Jiang Chen wasn’t in the habit of making things up.

“First, we’ve found two of the Prismatic Convergence Formation’s energy transfer nodes. If we destroy them, the formation will crumble by itself.

“Second, we must be prepared to face an outside foe once the formation disappears. Who knows what enemies await us and how strong they are? We can’t get complacent just because we have a way out. We must be ready to fight a bloody battle, possibly to the death. If we let our guard down here, we’ll be in for a world of pain.”

“The third matter is the most important. It’s only a hunch at the moment, but please do listen.”

“What is it?” the others asked curiously.

“I think that some of the factions that have come here to Sandplain have been bought and paid for. Or rather, they’ve been conscripted by another.”

“Oh? How so?”

“Many more experts than imaginable have broken out from the Boundless Prison. According to my information, some factions have already fallen under other gods’ thrall. Many of the second and third rate factions here in attendance have dubious origins. I suspect that there are traitors among us who’re passing messages to the outside. How would they have found a place as well-hidden as Sandplain otherwise? How would they have set up a formation in so short a period of time?”

The forefathers sank into thought at this.

“The ten sacred lands have always followed a strict standard for selecting disciples. I don’t think our own would be converted so easily, eh?”

“These traitors are surely not our own.”

“Do you have any concrete information, Jiang Chen?”

“I can’t speak too much on the subject,” Jiang Chen remarked. “The Eternal Sacred Land is the leader of the alliance, so our words must be founded in fact. Still, I have a few suspects lined up.”

“Go ahead and say the names,” the Eternal forefather stated. “I will take on whatever ire you draw.”

Jiang Chen nodded. “According to rumor, the Bluesmoke Isles were recruited by a mysterious expert from the Boundless Prison long ago. It was his place of origin, in fact. Because of that, Bluesmoke is a very likely candidate for where any spies might’ve come from. Plus, they hawked their geniuses with rather excessive eagerness. Three of their geniuses ranked among the top ten.”

Everyone blinked, then realized the truth of the youth’s words. Many couldn’t help glancing at the Flora forefather.

Flora had taken almost all of Bluesmoke’s geniuses under its wing.

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

Chapter 2053: Breaking the Nodes

The Flora forefather was a little upset at the attention. If not for Jiang Chen’s prior performance, he almost wondered whether the young man was intentionally targeting Flora with the statement.

The forefather drew a deep breath. “I will keep an eye out. If the boys from Bluesmoke are at all fishy, I’ll be the first one to hold them accountable.”

The decisiveness behind his declaration was abundantly distinct.

Jiang Chen nodded. "I was only using Bluesmoke as an example. Obviously, they're not the only suspicious ones. I simply wanted to note the possibility of traitors in our midst. If some of these second and third rate factions start acting up, we'd suffer an equally devastating blow."

This gentle reminder soothed the Flora forefather's heart. After all, the young man was speaking from a holistic perspective, for the collective interest of all.

The Radiance forefather nodded. "Daoist Flora, I trust young Jiang Chen's heart. He doesn't mean to point any fingers."

"Indeed, I trust young Jiang Chen as well. It's because we've focused on the offworld battlefield for too long that we've neglected issues within our own borders. Last time it was the civil wars, this time, the escaped inmates from the Boundless Prison. It seems that internal strife is at a tipping point."

"Thank you for the kind words, my fellow daoists. I am hardly so narrow-minded as to believe something so absurd. I have this much insight, at least," the Flora forefather replied mildly.

"Good. We shouldn't delay any further. Let us gather the others and ready ourselves to break the formation," the Eternal forefather concluded.

"Before we do that, I recommend organizing our personnel. We can put the most suspicious factions together and separate them from the others. Even if they wanted to sow discord in our ranks, they won't have the opportunity to. If they step out of line, their intent to betray us would be obvious."

"Good advice," remarked the Radiance forefather.

"Plus, we won't necessarily be able to isolate all the suspects like this. Therefore, each of us should arrange for some of our best to oversee the crowd in secret. As long as we don't give ourselves away, any miscreants will expose themselves in due time. We must choose only the most loyal sacred land members for this, of course." Jiang Chen fleshed out his strategy more and more.

The Eternal forefather's eyes lit up. All of the young man's ideas were very applicable to their situation.

"It's settled, then. Preparation will guarantee our victory!"

The ten forefathers traded furtive looks. They saw only approval in each other's eyes, in addition to appreciation for the youth's talent.

Everyone who had come to Sandplain was summoned together.

The ten forefathers didn't announce their intention to attack the two discovered nodes. As per Jiang Chen's words earlier, the presence of traitors was a very real concern.

The factions were separated into a number of discrete groups, overseen by select elite members of the sacred lands.

After this was done, Jiang Chen split up the ten forefathers into two groups, aimed at the two nodes.

Shattering the nodes was hardly an easy task, but five divine forefathers had a very good chance of pulling it off.

The vacuum created between the other nodes by the disappearance of one weakened any subsequent attempts by the formation to form a defense, which the gods' next attack could shred like paper.

Therefore, destroying these two nodes was key to breaking through the Prismatic Convergence Formation.

Jiang Chen was as cautious as could be. He summoned and hid all four of the sacred beasts, maintaining the ability to call on them in time of potential need.

"Get ready, everyone," the young man transmitted to the two teams of forefathers nearby the nodes. "On your marks... attack!"

The gods used their strongest attacks without hesitation. A dazzling display of scintillating might lit up the horizon.

It had been at least two thousand years since ten forefathers fought under the same sky. The clamor and tumult threatened to flip Sandplain upside down.

The earth underfoot trembled. Even the sacred land cultivators became nervous. They weren't quite sure whether the Prismatic Convergence Formation was breakable.

The brilliant display overhead though, filled their hearts with anticipation.

Boom, boom, boom!

Under Jiang Chen's incessant pressing, wave after wave of attacks were launched at the nodes' locations.

Jiang Chen's consciousness was cast entirely outward in order to observe the ripples and fluctuations in spirit energy around him. After a few moments, elation crept onto his face. "Everyone," he urged, "the nodes are weakening. A bit more effort, and they're done for!"

The ten forefathers were bolstered by his encouragement. No one held any strength back; all their methods and treasures were brought into the open.

A rainbow of color and an earth-rending stream of power blasted upon the two nodes.

Boooooom!

Two painfully bright points appeared suddenly where the attacks landed. The two nodes were destroyed almost simultaneously.

Excited, Jiang Chen instructed, "the nodes are broken, and so is the formation. Take care—ready yourselves for any follow-up measures from the enemy. The formation can't be repaired right away, so don't rush out just yet. Scout and observe if possible."

He didn't let glee get to his head.

The ten forefathers noticed the dampening of the veil upon the appearance of the two points as well. In fact, the barrier was slowly crumbling.

They were unable to hide their enthusiasm. Despite Jiang Chen's dogmatism earlier, some forefathers were hesitant to fully give credence to his words. And yet, they had managed to break the formation under the youth's guidance! A thoroughly respectable accomplishment, at least knowledge-wise.

Jiang Chen's God's Eye watched the two destroyed nodes like a hawk. The veil was melting away, yes, but – there seemed to be a huge bank of mist and fog rolling in in its place.

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

Chapter 2054: A Difficult Choice

The mist was very odd indeed. Jiang Chen silently transmitted to the ten forefathers immediately.

"Everyone, hold your breaths. If you have any treasures to ward off poison, use them now. Don't touch the mist or charge out unprepared. Anyone who tries to incite chaos or spur others to run for it is gravely suspect."

Myriad Abyss Island was situated within an endless sea. It was extremely difficult to find the exit in dense fog. The unwary traveler who didn't mind his way would only meet misfortune.

Any enemies lying in ambush would be able to slaughter a fleeing throng.

The ten forefathers' consciousnesses could barely make out a few hazy shapes beyond the fog. Nothing else was visible or perceptible.

They had a decent chance of escaping themselves, but it was unrealistic to bring along the thousands of people stranded on Sandplain.

The Prismatic Convergence Formation might be broken, but their way out was still barred.

"Jiang Chen, is the mist toxic?" messaged the Eternal forefather.

Jiang Chen nodded. "The mist is composed of a complex mixture. I can't analyze it right now, but it is most certainly artificial. There's nothing wrong with being careful."

He couldn't actually judge whether the mist was poisonous in so short a time, but was there any need to?

The young man used his God's Eye to gaze outward, but his line of sight didn't manage to get very far. It was the first time in his career that his God's Eye failed to give him a clear view. He was extremely astonished.

His ability had increased along with him. If even it was limited here, the mist was terrifying beyond comprehension. There was almost zero chance he would be able to find his way in this mist.

If the mist was allowed to spread, it would hurt the cultivators all the same. It wasn't possible that it was a mere smokescreen.

The poison might not be a fast-acting one, and be countered by antidotes to boot, but lingering on Sandplain would allow its toxins to slowly and surely spread.

Jiang Chen was immune to poisons, but the others couldn't say the same.

The young man was quite conflicted. He didn't want the others to simply wade into danger and death, but waiting around would only render them sitting ducks.

"Forefathers," he messaged, "can you make out where Sandplain's exit is?"

Since Sandplain Island was a secret realm, it had only one entrance and exit. It was impossible to depart otherwise.

The enemy had exploited this fact to hem them in using a single Prismatic Convergence Formation.

Though they had shattered that particular obstacle, the mist before them was a superb backup measure. As long as the exit was tightly blocked shut, they would have nowhere to go.

This was nothing short of a death trap!

If the ten sacred lands hadn't been plotting other things, they wouldn't have been taken so unawares.

The forefathers were capable, yes, but even they couldn't see too far into the fog. How were they supposed to find the exit?

"Jiang Chen, this mist is very thick and potent. It's hard to find the exit. The enemy was well prepared for us." The Eternal forefather sounded mildly perturbed.

Clearly, he felt his skin prickle with anxiety. The trouble they were in here was much more difficult than any situation in the ofworld battlefield.

There, they had always had the prerogative to choose their next course of action. That same was not true here. They were forced to react rather than act; a terrible feeling indeed.

"We have only two choices in front of us," Jiang Chen mused. "Either take the risk of attempting a breakthrough, or stay here on Sandplain. If the mist creeps in, no one can guarantee immunity from its poisons. Sooner or later, we'll perish on our own without being attacked."

"Is there no third option?" the Eternal forefather was rather upset.

"Sure. If the enemy decides to show himself for some reason, we can parley with him. Maybe that will be enough to resolve things." This was naturally an empty suggestion.

Jiang Chen knew, as did the others, that an enemy who employed so many methods wouldn't simply sit down and bargain for a truce. Why should they give away their existing advantage?

The Eternal forefather engaged in somber discussion with the other divine forefathers. They were embroiled in a life-and-death matter. The only way out was to face the crisis head on.

The forefathers perfectly understood that no selfishness or prejudice was tolerated here.

Either they all lived, or they all died.

"If death is the only thing staying has in store, we must break through at whatever cost." The Radiance forefather was firm.

“Yes. The enemy’s plan is quite crafty, and we are ensnared in its interlocking links. The Prismatic Convergence Formation was designed to hold us in place while the mist slowly seeped in. We would’ve been none the wiser until it was too late.”

“We can’t squander the opportunity to escape that Jiang Chen has given us.”

There was largely a consensus about the course of action to take.

The Flora forefather became hesitant. He wasn’t sure whether breaking through was feasible. What if the mist was harmless after all? He couldn’t afford to take a gamble though.

If the poison seeped in enough to incapacitate mid-travel, that would have deleterious effects on their group.

The forefathers of Polylore and Void, allies of Flora, couldn’t sit still.

“Daoist Flora,” they expressed, “we’ll die a slow death if we stay. Breaking out might incur a few sacrifices, but as long as our elites get out safely, we’ll get back the upper hand sooner or later.”

“Yes. Time waits for no man. Each additional second here means heightened danger!”

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

Chapter 2055: The Most Unexpected Plan

Flora’s forefather did want to break out, but he was worried that Eternal might assign Flora to take point. They’d suffer the most casualties then.

Given the circumstances, Flora wouldn’t be able to oppose Eternal’s decision, or others would fault them for failing to consider the big picture.

Normally, the other sacred lands might not target Flora, but no one wanted to be cannon fodder. It was human nature to want others to take on the most dangerous task.

Flora’s forefather deeply worried that they would be sacrificed.

Jiang Chen could read the forefather like an open book. He smiled faintly. “If we stay, we’ll be sitting ducks. It’ll be up to our enemies to decide when they’re going to kill us. If we break out together, we stand a chance of surviving.”

Jiang Chen did have an idea. However, he had to consider how viable it was.

Most importantly, he needed everyone to be on board with it. If they couldn’t put aside their differences, no amount of planning would save them.

He had confidence in his plan, but he worried that the traitors would stir up trouble. The hidden threats introduced an unpredictable element to the situation.

Nonetheless, as long as the ten sacred lands remained true to their goal, a little turbulence from the second and third tier factions wouldn’t have that much of an impact.

Jiang Chen estimated that the group behind the Prismatic Convergence Formation and the mist wouldn't have assigned their main forces here. They'd trapped members of the ten sacred lands for a reason.

Although it would be risky to break out and their enemy might have set up an ambush, the risks should be manageable.

Flora's forefather's eyebrows furrowed. "I agree that we should take the initiative, fellow daoists. However, we need to assign the tasks fairly. Since we've formed an alliance, no sacred land should end up bearing the brunt, correct?"

Eternal's forefather smiled faintly. "So this is what you're worried about."

Flora's forefather didn't deny it. "What do you plan to do?"

"Hmph, of course we have to be fair, and everyone has to play a part," Eternal's forefather responded, displeased. "Do you think I'll order Flora to take point and sacrifice you?"

"As long as the arrangement is fair, Flora will do our best! We won't be deadweight!" Flora's forefather made his promise.

"Alright, then we'll work together to overcome this challenge!" Eternal's forefather shook his fist, his eyes determined. "With our foundation and strength, we're not going to be intimidated!"

"We'll stand together until the end of the line!"

"Fight to our deaths without fear!" The forefathers declared solemnly, concisely announcing their attitude.

Jiang Chen spoke up, "Seniors, I have a plan. If we do it right, we can avoid a lot of casualties. If it's perfectly executed, we may even break out of the island at almost no cost!"

That caught everyone by surprise. They turned to Jiang Chen questioningly, waiting for him to explain his idea.

Instead of giving them an answer, Jiang Chen asked, "Seniors, if you were our enemy, how do you think the cultivators on Sandplain Island would escape?"

It was a good idea to think from the enemy's perspective.

Everyone put some thought into the question. Taking the enemy's perspective allowed them to form a clearer picture of the situation.

"I'd bet on airboats. They're quick and they provide cover for the cultivators, which would prevent immediate casualties!"

"Flying without airboats is another option. It's more flexible. Cultivators will be able to react quickly when something happens. However, there will be no cover. An attack will easily kill them."

"Or other flying items might be used, such as flying swords. Compared to physical flying, the items may be a distraction."

The forefathers proposed many possible scenarios.

Jiang Chen thought for a moment and nodded. "Our enemy must have thought of those possibilities as well, but none of you mentioned another option. Perhaps our enemy has overlooked that, as well."

"What is it?" Everyone was curious. What had they not thought of?

Jiang Chen gave them a mysterious, leisurely smile. "It's a simple method, but most people will dismiss it immediately."

"Which is?" They were even more befuddled. Jiang Chen seemed serious, but they couldn't think of another option.

"Traveling by water! Sandplain is surrounded by sea. Traversing it is the most primitive and straightforward way to escape."

"By the sea..."

The ten forefathers smiled wryly, disappointed. The most basic method did come to them easily, so much so that they didn't give it any thought. It was common sense in Myriad Abyss to avoid traveling by sea as much as one could!

There were too many unpredictable elements about the ocean that could lead to a cultivator's death. Traveling by water was the slowest and most dangerous method of transportation.

There were many strange creatures lurking within the water. They could strike any moment and were impossible to avoid!

That was why no one thought of it as an option. The odds that it'd work were close to zero. They couldn't possibly cross the vast ocean to their freedom.

The mist would affect their vision, and the enemies would be able to attack them. With the water preventing them from moving fast, the enemies would have more opportunities to attack.

Jiang Chen wasn't surprised by their reaction. He knew people wouldn't take his idea seriously. However, the calm smile on his face never faltered.

"Your reactions further convince me that my idea will work!" Jiang Chen boldly declared.

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

Chapter 2056: Secret Method of Travel

The forefathers looked askance at each other. They didn't understand exactly why Jiang Chen was insisting on swimming. Gods could be certain of their survival, but anyone below could not.

More importantly, swimming wasn't going to do them any good. Their enemy wouldn't predict it, true, but it would take a very long time at a very slow speed. It was easy to notice a crowd of swimmers, and easier still to organize an impromptu ambush.

Given enough time to react, swimming would become exponentially more dangerous. Because of this, no one understood what there was to gain by swimming.

Where did Jiang Chen's confidence come from?

The young man didn't seem like a blindly confident person – or a thoughtlessly ignorant one, for that matter. Would he make such a trivial mistake?

That didn't seem to be the case either!

Everyone looked at Jiang Chen and waited.

He cut straight to the chase.

"I don't mean physically swimming across with our own bodies. There's a better way than that. However, we must carefully maintain control over the other cultivators during the process. Aside from the best of the sacred lands, the others must be sealed away tightly in airboats to prevent them from communicating with the outside world.

"If any wind of what we're doing is let out, the risk of our maneuver will be significantly increased. My objective is to swim to the exit before the enemy has time to react. Even if there's an ambush there, we can be the ones to launch a preemptive strike."

"A better way?" His captive audience was totally lost. What better way was there to swim? They'd never heard of such a thing.

"Tell us, Jiang Chen, what better way do you have than to swim?"

Jiang Chen shook his head. "I can't divulge it at present. I merely ask whether you seniors have the ability to make the others all go into airboats and cut off their communications. As long as you can do that, I am confident I'll be able to bring us all safely to the exit. As for how far we get after that, that will depend on your fighting abilities."

He didn't easily make promises he couldn't keep. Obviously, he wasn't strong enough to decide whether they could ultimately escape.

Actually taking on the ambushers would be up to the ten forefathers.

The forefathers looked somewhat doubtful and began to consider whether the idea was actually feasible. It certainly sounded rather attractive, but...

What 'better way' did he have up his sleeve?

"Don't worry about the method I'm going to employ, seniors. I can only say that it will involve no physical effort on your part," Jiang Chen reminded once more.

"Young Jiang Chen has never let anyone down in the past," ventured the Martial forefather. "I trust him this time too."

"Heh, I feel much the same way about any of his proposals." The Radiance forefather smiled.

"Sunrise has always staunchly supported young Jiang Chen."

"We don't exactly have much choice, do we? Why not put our faith in the little miracle-worker we have here?"

“Quite so. If Jiang Chen can get us out of this bind, he’ll undoubtedly be one of the future leaders of Myriad Abyss!”

The forefathers said their pieces one by one. They were decisive enough to instantly take the only avenue available to them.

The way Jiang Chen had broken through the Prismatic Convergence Formation had been visible to all. Even the ten forefathers had been helpless before it, yet the youth had prevailed.

There was no reason he shouldn’t put up a repeat showing of that.

The Eternal forefather’s eyes became steely. He looked all around his circle of peers. “Gentlemen, since we’ve decided to commit our success to Jiang Chen, I hope we all do our utmost to prevent any missteps due to oversights. The details will decide our victory and survival; there is no room for leniency. The second and third rate factions that refuse to cooperate must be put down.”

As Eternal was the leader of the alliance, he was unafraid of speaking harsh truths. This was one of his responsibilities.

Everyone else nodded apprehensively. “Yes. The ten sacred lands lead Myriad Abyss. In this crucial time, we must use our clout to ensure our collective survival. Either they cooperate, or they stay on Sandplain.”

“Don’t worry, they’ll do everything they can to cooperate. They should know as well as we that they’re only a detriment otherwise.”

“Let’s organize immediately. We’ll have them all packed into airboats in no time with zero exceptions. Anyone who causes chaos must be crushed instantly!”

The forefathers were all ambitious men of action. They weren’t wont to exhibit unwarranted tenderness. The discussions complete, they reappeared in front of the others.

The Eternal forefather, expression somber, led the dialogue. “My friends, I regret to inform you that these mists are toxic. After extended consideration, we have found a way to get us all to safety – but the method to do so will need your cooperation.

“In particular, we will need you all to get into airboats. We will then seal the vessels away, not to trap you, but to prevent any of you from contacting the outside world. Our attempt at escaping is a matter of life and death. We must ensure no traitors have the opportunity to pass information to the enemy!”

The old man got straight to the point. Nothing he said was unclear about his intent.

Some second and third rate faction members began to clamor immediately.

They hadn’t minded the part about getting into the airboats, but sealing them away? Wasn’t that caging them in?

What if they were being used as cannon fodder to attract attention while the sacred lands fled? That would be supremely wrong!

Many became indignant in their protests.

The Eternal forefather snickered, then called out, "All of you, shut up!"

His divine aura stifled the noisy din.

"I am not forcing you to do anything. Anyone who doesn't want to get into the airboat is free to stay here on Sandplain."

"What right do you have to say that?! The ten sacred lands are leaders. If you can't protect us in times of trouble, why should we support you?"

Sovereign of the Three Realms (WN)

Chapter 2057: The Mighty Appearance of the Black Tortoise

Suspicion was infectious.

Jiang Chen had hidden himself in order to observe the reactions of those beneath. His especially powerful consciousness allowed him to perceive more than most with his God's Eye.

He found the loudest instigators that tried to lie low after doing all they could to stoke the flames.

After committing their appearances to memory, he informed the ten forefathers of this. They immediately picked out the troublemakers from the crowd.

Seeing the ten forefathers act personally, the atmosphere grew even more panicked. Many were pale and shaking.

"The sacred lands are going to kill us all!"

There were more agitators among the crowd. Jiang Chen sent out the Vermilion Bird, who darted into the throng of people and plucked out the bastards responsible.

The Eternal forefather was positively icy. "Think with your brains for once. Do the ten sacred lands need cannon fodder of your caliber?"

"Even if we did, we would merely drive you to scatter in every direction to attract attention. Wouldn't that be more convenient for us?"

His words shook everyone's ears and hearts like a thunderclap. This explanation made much more sense than whatever they'd been imagining.

"To tell the truth, we've long suspected that there are a number of participating factions here today who have defected to outside enemies. We simply haven't revealed this until it was necessary. Now, to avoid hysteria, we are going to keep exactly who the traitors are a secret. These people that we've already captured though, are extremely dubious. We will imprison them separately and investigate more fully after all of us are safe. Any real traitors will be summarily executed! No one innocent will be punished!

"All of you need to make one decision. Do you want to get into the airboats and cooperate, or stay here on Sandplain and fend for yourselves?"

The Eternal forefather was rather less vehement than before, but in this situation, staying meant certain death.

For the rest of the factions, the sacred lands' statement that they weren't needed as bait was quite reassuring.

There was no reason for these reputable leaders to lie publicly and cast aside their pride for the sake of earning a bunch of second and third rate factions' temporary trust.

The factions that'd been long-time supporters of the sacred lands were the first to volunteer.

"We will enter the airboats."

"The ten sacred lands have always led us. I believe in them to guide us out of these dire straits."

"If we must doubt even the sacred lands, who can we trust in Myriad Abyss?"

A number of factions got into their respective airboats one by one. Only a few remained hesitant, but the disappearing throng around them pressured them into largely making the same choice.

At last, only a few dozen stragglers were left in place.

The Eternal forefather looked at them coldly. Even if these people weren't traitors, they lacked any loyalty to the sacred lands.

The other forefathers instantly understood what he wanted.

The airboats were sealed one by one, until only the most loyal elites from the sacred lands were left.

"Alright. Since you lot have chosen to stay, we won't strongarm you into leaving. However, before we leave ourselves, you will have to bear with some temporary measures."

The forefathers flew up one by one, creating a divine barrier that isolated these stragglers from the outside world.

"Hmph. This barrier will last for two hours. You will be safe from the mist for that time, but you cannot leave. After that, you can either contact your masters or do whatever else you like!"

Not everyone who stayed was necessarily a traitor, but the forefathers had no reason to show them compassion. They should have all been cut down on the spot, so what the forefathers were doing was already merciful.

"Jiang Chen, the airboats are gathered. What do we do next?"

Jiang Chen cast out his consciousness to ensure there were no concealed spies.

"Come with me!"

He rushed to the beach, then pointed into the distance. "Do you see that island? If we put the airboats on top of it, the island will carry us out of here."

The island was none other than the body of the Black Tortoise. It was one of the race's abilities to transform into an island indistinguishable from any other.

Parking the airboats required a negligible amount of space upon the tortoise's back.

"Where did this island come from?" the others remarked in astonishment.

"Don't think too hard about it," Jiang Chen smiled mysteriously. "This island can move by itself. It swims incredibly fast, as fast as we fly."

That too was surprising.

The airboats all landed upon the 'island', just like Jiang Chen had ordered.

"Ready yourselves. All sacred land forces, stay on high alert and prepare for a fight. The enemy might not expect us to swim, but we should anticipate an engagement nevertheless," the young man uttered a serious reminder.

There wasn't much of a need for him to do so. Those who remained outside the airboats were experienced fighters in their own rights.

After a few more necessary preparations, Jiang Chen gave the order for the Black Tortoise to start moving. Within moments, it began to skate over the ocean surface.

The Black Tortoise was capable of creating great waves around it as it swam, preventing others from seeing its true form.

Any scouts would have their vision obscured by the cresting waters, and would remain none the wiser as to what was actually happening. The most they would suspect would be that some powerful sea creature was on the move.

Human cultivators typically avoided confronting such organisms and lifeforms.

Some marine creatures were extremely weak, but others were horrendously strong. The ambushing enemy wouldn't possibly want to incur extra risk by introducing a volatile factor like an unknown creature.

This was the reason for Jiang Chen's confidence.

The ten sacred lands' people were in high spirits. The tortoise cut a path through the sea, causing a swelling wall of brine to splash up all around it. They traveled outward at a quick, steady pace.

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

Chapter 2058: Nearing the Exi

Everyone's heart settled back down. They could sense the rolling waves shielding them from most of the mist, which saved them the trouble of dealing with the poison. They could refocus on responding to potential threats.

And just as Jiang Chen had predicted, the mist prevented the enemy from being alerted, despite the dramatic fashion with which the Black Tortoise traversed the sea.

Other than a few encounters with some underwater creatures, the journey was uneventful.

More importantly, this was the tortoise's territory. It knew the terrain like the back of its claw.

The heavy mist didn't hinder it at all. The tortoise was able to navigate the area even with its eyes closed. It swam as fast as a cultivator flew.

The "island" that was the tortoise moved swiftly but steadily. Everyone was shocked by how smooth the ride was. How was this possible when it was moving so quickly?

Even the ten divine forefathers were shocked. They wondered how the island could move on its own, and at such an amazing speed. Understanding descended after a short while.

Only marine creatures were able to swim so quickly. They didn't know what the creature was, or how Jiang Chen knew it, but one thing was for certain - the Eternal genius must be on friendly terms with it, or it wouldn't spare no effort to help him.

The ten forefathers exchanged a look and saw in each other's eyes a newfound appreciation for the young man. This was beyond their expectations. There seemed to be nothing that Jiang Chen couldn't do.

The ten forefathers might be some of the most powerful cultivators in this area, but they couldn't command marine creatures.

They were naturally untameable. Even the mighty ten forefathers would have trouble exerting authority.

If the creatures were angered, they were likely to retaliate and launch an attack. The coming swarm would be a catastrophe for the islands in the region.

The other forefathers couldn't ask Jiang Chen for an explanation, but Eternal's forefather could. "What is this 'island,' Jiang Chen? It's a powerful marine creature, isn't it?"

Jiang Chen didn't want to expose the Black Tortoise. He nodded. "It is. The island is its other form. Don't worry. Even if we're detected by powerful foe in this area, they won't pose a threat to us. Besides, I believe that the enemy is waiting in mid air. They'll never foresee that we're brave enough to travel by water."

Eternal's forefather was thoroughly impressed.

Martial's forefather sighed. "We've lived for a long time, Jiang Chen, and we've seen many young geniuses, but none of them are as remarkable as you. These creatures have always been hostile to human cultivators. Even we never dream of taming one of them. How did you do it?"

That was a universal question. There were countless creatures within the vast ocean around Myriad Abyss. If they could tame a few of them, it'd be a significant boost to the ten sacred lands' power.

Unfortunately, no one from the ten sacred lands had ever succeeded in doing so.

"I know some ancient beast language, so I can talk to them," Jiang Chen responded faintly, smiling. "We've made a few transactions. I haven't really tamed this creature."

He didn't want to expose his relationship with the Black Tortoise.

The others were stunned. It was shocking that Jiang Chen knew the ancient beast language!

The more they thought about it though, it wasn't that surprising. He had two powerful sacred beasts as companions, the Vermilion Bird and the True Dragon.

Therefore, it made sense that he knew the ancient beast language. That must be how he'd befriended his companions.

Eternal's forefather was delighted by the revelation.

If Jiang Chen could teach the language to his fellow members of the sacred land, Eternal would gain another advantage over the others. The ability to communicate with spirit creatures was invaluable. It was something others couldn't even dream of.

The forefather was thrilled and was already plotting how to convince Jiang Chen to pass on the knowledge. Of course, he wasn't going to say anything in front of everyone.

"It's clear from the creature's speed that it knows the area well," said the forefather. "Have you told it where we're going?"

Jiang Chen smiled. "Don't worry. It knows what it's doing."

This was the Black Tortoise's home territory. It was only natural that it knew where to go.

"Good! Wonderful!" Eternal's forefather was pleased. Jiang Chen had saved the ten sacred lands yet again.

Eternal had cemented its role as the leader. Flora wouldn't think of fighting for the position at current. Even Flora's two most loyal allies had to admit he'd done an impressive job. Jiang Chen and Flora's Lu Mingye was night and day.

Jiang Chen sat down cross-legged and closed his eyes in meditation. They hadn't escaped the danger yet. He didn't want to waste his time answering questions.

Another fifteen minutes later, the Black Tortoise messaged Jiang Chen.

"We're getting close to the exit, young master. I sense an ambush there. Tell your companions to get ready for a fight."

With that reminder, Jiang Chen opened his eyes and got to his feet. "Get ready, everyone, we're reaching the exit soon. However, there may be a difficult fight waiting for us. Be prepared. We have to exert our dominance. Given our foundation and strength, the ten sacred lands will be able to gain the upper hand by catching them off guard!"

That much, Jiang Chen was sure of.

The ten sacred lands were the ruling factions in Myriad Abyss, after all. Although many cultivators had escaped the Boundless Prison, they shouldn't be able to defeat the ten sacred lands.

If they were more powerful than the sacred lands, they would've attacked openly before. Why else spring a trap on Sandplain Island?

Moreover, even though the fugitives had banded together, they might not be a close-knit group.

What kept them together was a shared interest. They weren't comrades in arms who would go through hell together. A major defeat could break them apart.

Therefore, it was crucial for the ten sacred lands to dominate the first battle.

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

Chapter 2059: Who is the Enemy?

The ten forefathers tensed and exchanged a glance, reaching an understanding. Jiang Chen had gone above and beyond, doing what they should've done and resolving concerns that should've been their responsibilities.

It was only right for them to display their might for the coming battle.

Eternal's forefather boomed, "Jiang Chen is right, fellow daoists. Battles like these are won by the bold! We must exert our dominance over them. I believe that the ten sacred lands are able to defeat any foe on this continent. As long as they aren't bandits from outside this world, we are guaranteed to win. Once we do, their confidence will suffer a serious blow."

"You're right. Cultivators escaped from the Boundless Prison may be ambitious, but they're but a disparate group. Although they've banded together in the short term, they aren't going to work together as well as we do. As long as we catch them off guard and kill a couple of their strongest fighters, the group will disperse."

It was a rare occasion in which the forefathers reach a consensus.

Their eagerness to fight reassured Jiang Chen. If the forefathers were willing to do their best in the fight, they had a ninety percent chance of winning.

After all, even though the enemies had set up an ambush at the exit, they wouldn't expect the sacred lands to travel by sea and come from below them.

If the sacred lands launched a surprise attack when the enemies were prepared, their odds would be even better.

The Black Tortoise contacted Jiang Chen through consciousness again. "Young master Chen, the exit is less than a hundred miles away, close enough for my consciousness to scan. There seems to be a formation there and seven divine cultivators awaiting us. There are also a good number of demigods. That's not a lot, but with the formation, they should have the power to defeat you."

Jiang Chen responded, "If we rush out blindly from the mist, we'll be easily defeated in the chaos. Now they are the ones in the dark. I believe we'll be able to catch them by surprise."

"Alright, but don't underestimate the enemies. I agreed to transport them to the exit, young master Chen, but I didn't agree to fight for them." The Black Tortoise emphasized its point.

Jiang Chen smiled. "Don't worry. I don't plan to ask you to do anything. The forefathers of the ten sacred lands should be able to win this battle themselves. If they lose even after we take them to the exit, I'll be gravely disappointed by the so-called greatest of Myriad Abyss."

They were getting closer and closer to the exit.

The Black Tortoise traveled the last tens of miles at full speed, its enormous body bringing up long tails of white waves. It continued to accelerate faster and faster.

Meanwhile, a group of cultivators were gathered at the mouth of the Sandplain secret realm. They were beginning to have doubts.

According to their estimation, the ten sacred lands should've made a move already. However, none of the scouts and ambushes at the front had noticed anything.

They'd remained at the back defending the last post and hadn't received any warnings either.

"Are they really that patient? Are they staying in the mist, refusing to come out?"

"Hmph, that's good news for us. They'll slowly die on the island. Isn't that what we want the most?"

"It is. However, if they muster the courage to make a break for it, they may have a chance to succeed. Even though we'll be waiting for them, we'll suffer great casualties as well."

"Haha, what a shame that the ten sacred lands consist of a bunch of cowards!" These were the optimists of the group.

Among them was a yellow-browed cultivator with a strange, green lightning mark on his forehead. He seemed to be a leading figure of the cultivators. His expression was grave. Clearly he wasn't as optimistic.

"Why the sour face, fellow daoist? We've set up a series of traps, catching them by surprise. Even if they're the ten sacred lands, what can they do?"

"That's right. There's infighting among the ten sacred lands. Their lack of solidarity is their biggest weakness."

"They suspect each other and can't work together. No one can make decisions for everyone. At a critical moment, they'll be averse to any conflicts. Don't worry too much, fellow daoist."

The yellow-browed cultivator said coolly, "You sure are optimistic. However, our spies had been supplying us with information until half an hour ago. Now, they've gone silent. Don't you find that suspicious?"

"What's suspicious about that? The ten sacred lands are no fools. They may have tightened their control in case there are any traitors. It'll be more difficult for our spies to send us messages."

"That's for certain. However, we planted so many spies. They couldn't have all failed to send us anything, could they?"

"What are you suggesting, fellow daoist?"

“Could the ten sacred lands have identified all the spies in such a short time? That’s impossible.”

It wasn’t possible to pick out all the spies from tens of thousands of people. Many of them were under deep cover. They wouldn’t be suspected.

The yellow-browed cultivator didn’t have an explanation either. As a powerful cultivator, he had strong instincts. He had a feeling that something fishy was going on.

As for what had gone wrong, he couldn’t figure that out despite his cleverness.

“Focus and don’t underestimate our enemies,” he emphasized. “The ten sacred lands have been able to rule over Myriad Abyss for so long because of their foundations. If we underestimate them, we may fail no matter how good our plan is.”

“Haha, don’t worry, fellow daoist. We’ve divided into two groups to earn our glory. If Master Lightford occupies the ten sacred lands and we strike a blow against them at the same time, Myriad Abyss will be ours.”

The yellow-browed cultivator countered coldly, “It’s easy for you to say, but if we underestimate them because of that, we may be the ones paying the price.”

“Haha, you’ve been talking our enemies up and raining on our parade, fellow daoist,” someone jeered sarcastically. “One might suspect you of wanting to switch to the ten sacred lands’ side.”

The yellow-browed cultivator’s face clouded as he shot the person a glare. “Since you’re all so optimistic, I’ll leave you to it. However, don’t blame me for not warning you when you suffer defeat.”

Suddenly, he looked into the distant sea.

Sovereign of the Three Realms (WN)

Chapter 2060: Battle of the Exi

Within the mists, the yellow-browed cultivator and his allies’ vision were just as limited.

However, he was a cut above the rest of his comrades in level. His eyes were fixated on the waters, looking for any sign of unrest with his consciousness.

Everyone else found his sudden change of expression rather odd. They followed his gaze into the distance. Aside from the hazy tendrils that obscured their view, they could just barely make out a roiling wave upon the sea.

“What’s that?” someone asked curiously.

“A wave of some sort, but a rather strange one. There’s no wind around to whip it up, and it seems to be moving all by itself.”

The yellow-browed cultivator fell silent. After some more observation, he suddenly intoned in a low voice, “Look alive, everyone. There may be something more to this than meets the eye.”

His comrades bore a natural antipathy toward the yellow-browed cultivator. They didn't seem to care much about what he had to say.

"It's just a wave," someone openly disagreed. "What more could it be? At the most it's some sea-bound creature making its way about its domain."

The yellow-browed cultivator wasn't so optimistic. "The way that wave is moving, it can't possibly be a normal sea creature. At minimum, it would be a god in its own right. No empyrean realm existence can possibly cause such a ruckus."

"Heh, so what? We have six gods here, plus a large array of demigods. What can a sea monster do?"

"Exactly, fellow daoist. Why the overreaction?"

The yellow-browed cultivator's lips trembled. His yellow brows pressed together.

His eyes were much better than a normal cultivator's. When the wave cut nearer and nearer, he yelped. "Not good! There's something strange going on. Ready yourselves for a fight!"

Hardly anyone took him seriously. They believed him to be doomsaying.

"Yellow-browed daoist," one man laughed, "aren't you a bit overstressed recently? You think a sea creature can take on all of us gods at once?"

"Bullshit!"

The yellow-browed cultivator swore. "Who told you that was only a sea creature? Are you all blind? Can't you see what it looks like? The airboats parked upon its back? Can't you see the cultivators hovering over it?"

That got everyone's attention.

Alas, when these described views came into focus for the others, they began to panic. The ten forefathers were already mobilized in flight as streaks of light.

Jiang Chen remained atop the Black Tortoise's back as the commander of the remaining experts. The hardest fighting would be left up to the divine forefathers.

Defense was more a priority for the rest of them. Who knew exactly how many forces had been mobilized?

At the same time, he keenly observed every detail around the exit.

As expected, there was a formation here – though the people who were supposed to be controlling it were lackadaisically slacking. This was a golden opportunity to launch a surprise attack.

"Seniors, attack according to what we decided. We break the formation first, then slay the enemies!"

Only by breaking the formation could they successfully escape. Neutralizing the enemy came second.

The formation barely had time to whirl to life before being smashed to smithereens by the ten forefathers in the fullness of their strength.

When a gap opened up, the formation's protectors finally snapped awake and scrambled to repair it.

Unfortunately for them, the forefathers' fighting spirits ran at their highest. The defenders were undermanned and unprepared.

A bloody battle began near the exit.

As veterans of the offworld battlefield, the forefathers fought with nearly perfect teamwork and synergy. They had an obvious battle plan without verbally communicating.

As soon as the formation was broken, they focused fire upon two of the enemy gods.

These two had been especially careless earlier. They were woefully off-guard, and were targeted because of it.

At the exit, the ten sacred lands had a clear edge in manpower. Ten gods was decisively greater than six. Plus, their targeted assault yielded dividends very quickly.

The ten gods crushed the defenses of enemy two.

The other gods wanted to rush forward and help, but found they couldn't.

The two targeted cultivators were quite capable, but they were barely able to use a tenth of their powers before being cornered.

It was at this time that a white light suddenly surged upward from the waters. A waterspout swallowed up one of the divine cultivators.

A clear shriek rang from the heavens, heralding a streak of dive-bombing crimson. A humongous claw captured the remaining god, then crushed him into a storm of flesh and blood amid a howl of pain.

The Black Tortoise and Vermilion Bird had launched this joint attack in order to steal the divine brands of these two cultivators. Each god obtained their own brand when attaining divine realm.

It was difficult to guarantee where these two particular brands would end up if the field fell into chaos.

Jiang Chen mitigated this by being the quickest to land the final blow. The sacred beasts had taken advantage of a fleeting window.

The sudden demise of a third of the enemies' gods was astonishing, to say the least. The yellow-browed cultivator became the de facto leader of the rest in this spontaneous crisis.

The three other gods looked sadly toward their sharper-eyed fellow, no longer in doubt about his perception any longer. They hoped to find confidence from his expression.

Alas, their leader only snickered in response. "I warned you earlier, but none of you took me seriously. Now that things have come to this... best of luck!"