

Three Realms 2061

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

Chapter 2061: An Easy Battle Situation

The yellow-browed cultivator's instincts had always been sharp.

Before, he had predicted trouble at the smallest hint of it. As expected, the situation had devolved into something uncontrollably catastrophic.

The ten sacred lands' cultivators had inexplicably managed to leave Sandplain Island! They arrived at the exit within moments. This incredible turn of events defied all prior understanding he'd had of them.

If the sacred lands could solve a trap as intricate as this so trivially, their abilities had been grossly misjudged!

Fresh experience had proven this: mere moments of pitched battle had resulted in the death of two comrades, without them putting up any semblance of a fight.

The haste with which they'd been attacked showed that this was entirely premeditated.

There was no way the rest of them would be able to stop the ten sacred lands' departure from Sandplain. Any foolish attempts at defiance were futile!

The yellow-browed cultivator was quick and decisive. There was no need to waste time trying to rescue an impossible situation and put his life on the line in the process.

As soon as his words fell, he darted outward as a ray of light without hesitation or care for his former comrades.

The others regretted that they hadn't listened to their leader's opinions. If they had taken just half the amount of care they'd been advised, there was no way they would have been taken by such surprise.

Alas, there were no pills for regret in this world.

The other gods' resolutions were utterly crushed by the deaths of two of their peers. The ten forefathers' burning battle spirit and their destroyed formation added fuel to the fire. They knew that recovering or salvaging this battle was completely impossible.

"That old yellow-brow fled ahead of us, costing us the fight. No reason for us to stay here anymore. We retreat!"

There was no pushback from assigning blame upon the first to desert. Someone had to be responsible for the failure.

The yellow-browed cultivator had no ground to stand on in any future discussions of the subject, which made him a prime candidate for the scapegoat.

The other cultivators scattered in every direction like birds.

The divine forefathers were astonished. They hadn't expected the fight at the exit to be this easy. Just as Jiang Chen had anticipated, the first to run set off a chain reaction that disintegrated the enemy's resistance.

The last tinge of anxiety vanished from Jiang Chen's heart. He had been correct. They had been successful!

A wave of cheers boomed from the Black Tortoise's back.

The ten forefathers hunted down their scampering enemies like cowardly dogs, cutting each man down where he stood.

The battle ended up being a lot shorter than Jiang Chen had imagined.

It took barely thirty minutes for the fighting to conclude.

The Black Tortoise and its passengers exited the Sandplain secret realm in that time. They were already upon the open sea. Its azure waters were as calm and beautiful as ever.

A smile returned to the sacred lands' faces. They felt like they'd been reborn.

All of them broke into laughter.

"Haha, we're finally out! We really made it!"

They were uniformly filled with the joy of freedom. They had hesitated, faltered, and despaired before, but everything had been so much smoother than they imagined. No sacrifices at all had been required.

The man of the hour responsible for all this was Jiang Chen, of course.

"We must thank you once more, young Jiang Chen. You've definitely saved all our lives, as well as the ten sacred lands' futures."

"Reality has proven that Eternal is the best choice for the alliance's leadership. In the near future, young Jiang Chen will surely become a pillar of Myriad Abyss. I trust no one doubts this any longer?"

The others sang Jiang Chen's praises, but the youth himself didn't take it too seriously. He had no interest in empty words. He was truly relieved that the Sandplain crisis had passed.

But it wasn't time to relax yet.

"Friends," Jiang Chen loudly proclaimed, "we were able to escape today because we worked together. I was far from the only contributor. The trouble's not yet past, though."

"Oh? Why do you say that?"

"Yes, what else can there possibly be?"

"It's hard to say specifically," the young man replied. "Still, my instincts tell me that the mist and formation here on Sandplain were designed to limit our movement and wear away at our resources. I guarantee that the enemy's main force is elsewhere. That's also why we got out so easily."

The ten forefathers readily agreed.

“I thought there would be a hard fight,” the Radiance forefather chimed in. “Instead, we couldn’t have had an easier time. The formation they prepared was complex, but we destroyed it in mere instants. The enemies we fought were totally incompetent. If they’d paid a fraction of attention to controlling the formation, it would have taken us much longer.”

“The cultivators were incompetent, but the formation was excellent. The mist too. If we hadn’t swum out, we wouldn’t have been able to reach the exit so quickly or catch the enemy off-guard like that.”

“Exactly. The key to this fight was Jiang Chen. Without the initiative, it wouldn’t have been nearly as easy.”

These speakers seemed an honest lot. They’d won the battle, but offered their honest opinion on the contributions of others.

Everyone had turned a blind eye to the fact that the Vermilion Bird had snatched away one of the gods.

Since Jiang Chen was the chief contributor to the victory, he deserved that much as a reward.

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

Chapter 2062: Ferreting Out the Traitors

The cultivators sealed in the airboats were let out. When they noticed they were out of Sandplain, their expressions were incredulous.

They had been just as anxious and desperate as the sacred land members on the outside.

Many thought they were truly done for, but the doors of the airboats slid open to reveal perfect safety. They felt lucky to be alive.

“Fellow daoists,” the Eternal forefather said, “we had very valid reasons for asking you to enter these airboats earlier. Reality has shown that our decision to be correct.”

“Yes, yes, we were the blind ones. Please forgive us our indiscretion, oh great leader!”

“The ten sacred lands lead the way for us short-sighted ones. We shouldn’t have suspected you of stooping to our level.”

These people began to criticize themselves, but the Eternal forefather would have none of it.

“Enough. I don’t want to hear your hot air. I hope you’ve seen for yourselves Myriad Abyss’ current condition. What we need is unity and trust, and today was a learning experience for that. We not only need everyone to contribute, but for us all to contribute towards the same goal.”

“Yes, sir. We won’t say anything more. From this day onward, the Eternal Sacred Land will always have our support and loyalty!”

“Exactly, we...”

Before the sycophants could finish fawning over him, the Eternal forefather sobered his tone. "Unfortunately, some harmed rather than helped us back on Sandplain. To this end, they were willing to work with outside enemies. What do you all think should be the fate of these traitors?"

Now that they were no longer stuck on Sandplain, it was time to bring past wrongs to account.

The forefather quickly responded to the worry that some began to show.

"There's no need for concern. We aren't going to be indiscriminate in our punishment. We won't shed innocent blood without proof. However, any traitors found will have to either cooperate or be severely punished."

In Myriad Abyss, traitors typically met a fate worse than death. The particularly suspicious people were picked out from the crowds.

They didn't know what was about to happen to them and accordingly tried to protest their innocence.

The Eternal forefather leered fiercely. "You say you're innocent? Prove it. We will search your consciousnesses, which will serve as conclusive evidence that you are either legitimate or a scoundrel."

Some of the people felt their hearts sink immediately. There was no solution to having one's consciousness searched.

No torture was involved; the search began immediately.

The secret method was difficult to control and could result in utterly destroying the target's consciousness on the spot. Of course, there was nothing lost in the deaths of these traitors.

"Is this how you persecute your opposition?" Several of the prisoners shouted, paling. "Are the ten sacred lands too petty to allow differing voices?"

"Too petty?" the Eternal forefather chuckled. "If that was the case, the rest of you wouldn't be here right now. But our magnanimity isn't reserved for traitors. If you really are innocent, we will give you a commensurate apology. Before that, let us see the truth in your minds!

"We might not be able to root out every single one of you, but you can't hide your true colors forever."

Jiang Chen had picked out every single one of the cultivators who'd been arrested. These people had engaged in criminal activities without fail and were sure to reveal quite a bit upon closer examination.

All of the forefathers were capable of searching consciousnesses.

The arrested cultivators whose minds contained incriminating information were paralyzed with shock and fury, then fear and despair. They had ways of preventing their consciousnesses from being searched, but to do so would involve committing suicide in the process.

Otherwise, it was impossible for them to resist the searching of divine forefathers.

The results were shocking.

The Eternal forefather's face frosted over. He glared at the discovered traitors, sneering. "Weren't you defending yourselves just now? You're supposed to be innocent, are you? What else do you have to say for yourselves?"

The traitorous cultivators were ashen. None of them could deny their involvement any longer. Their guilt was plain as day.

"Kill them, kill them!" clamored the crowds.

The Eternal forefather pushed down with both hands to gesture for silence.

"Friends, it's as easy to kill them as to slaughter a few animals. How are we supposed to find new leads after that though? Who knows where the rest of the enemy's spies among us are?"

After he said this, the forefather glanced coldly at the known traitors. "I'm giving you a chance to partially redeem yourselves. If you inform us who the mastermind is, perhaps you will be allowed to live. Otherwise... I recommend you prepare to die."

Some faced death bravely, while others immediately became fearful. Not everyone was willing to sacrifice his life for the sake of this unknown master.

A few knelt and bawled, begging for forgiveness.

Others were totally emotionless, having already accepted whatever fate had in store for them.

Still more became strangely joyous. It was as if they'd done something sacred by betraying the ten sacred lands. This latter kind of people had obviously been completely brainwashed.

"All of you have just one chance. If you can point out a hidden perpetrator, you will be permitted to live."

This was both reasonable and cruelly effective.

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

Chapter 2063: A New Crisis

That was an idea that Jiang Chen had privately passed on to Eternal's forefather in private. He had a lot of such tricks in his disposal.

As he'd predicted, the traitors could no longer stay quiet. One by one, they raised their hands and volunteered to name one of their fellow spies in exchange for their lives.

It was human nature to prioritize one's own safety. And thus began a farce of finger-pointing.

A good number of people were exposed. Gradually, it became clear which faction was behind this ploy - the Bluesmoke Isles.

As Jiang Chen had previously pointed out, something was up with Bluesmoke.

Although many more traitors had been identified, they couldn't provide any other useful information. They didn't know who their master was or what their master was planning.

Their responsibility was to leak information from Sandplain to a specific recipient.

Before the Prismatic Convergence Formation was broken, the spies had sent the enemies a lot of useful information.

The traitors had no use now. Every cultivator from Bluesmoke was imprisoned, but nothing else was forthcoming.

The ten sacred lands were dejected. They'd wanted to get something useful out of the traitors so that they'd know what the enemies were planning.

"We should've pulled our punches and kept some of them alive," a forefather said remorsefully. "We got too into killing them and forget about sparing any of them."

"What a shame that we've killed all of them."

Jiang Chen smiled. "That's not true." He snapped his fingers. The Black Tortoise shot out a torrent of water and expelled the divine cultivator it had trapped.

The man was within an inch of his life. His pride and arrogance were long gone. After his fall from grace, even a divine cultivator was no better than a beaten dog.

The ten forefathers soon acquired the information they wanted through interrogation.

Their mood hit rock bottom as things didn't look good. The relief of surviving the ambush gave way to grave concerns.

As Jiang Chen had expected, the ambush was meant to delay them. It'd be even better if members of the ten sacred lands were trapped or killed.

The main enemy forces had already made their way to the ten sacred lands to attack their bases of operation.

The information sent a shockwave through the crowd.

No one could maintain their composure when their home bases were at stake. Even Jiang Chen grew agitated.

If the Eternal Sacred Land was attacked, the consequences would be unbearable. Right now, Huang'er was still in his abode. Many members of House Yan were also in the sacred land. Although Huang'er was Divine Kasyapa's granddaughter, he wasn't sure if Kasyapa was involved in this conspiracy.

If he was, what role did he play?

Jiang Chen demanded answers from the captive. The cultivator responded, "An Kasyapa doesn't submit to Master Lightford. Master Lightford recruited him many times, but he refused to come. Therefore, he isn't involved in this operation. After this though, Master Lightford will not let An Kasyapa off the hook."

"You keep talking about your Master Lightford. What's so impressive about him?"

"Hmph, Master Lightford was already the most powerful of us all when we were in the Boundless Prison. It's said that he's ascended to mid divine realm!"

Mid divine realm?

Everyone sucked in a breath. Even the ten forefathers exchanged a worried look. They were all at initial divine realm. None of them had ascended to fourth level divine realm yet.

In contrast, the Master Lightford the captive spoke of had reached mid divine realm! Half of the ten forefathers would have to work together to even rival Lightford.

What was worse, it was clear from the man's tone that there were more fugitives from the Boundless Prison than they had expected.

There was one silver lining to the situation: The divine cultivators weren't a close knit group. Some had been recruited by Lightford, but not all of them were loyal to him. Many kept up the appearance of listening to his orders, but deep down, they didn't actually consider Lightford their leader.

After all, divine cultivators had their pride. It would be humiliating for the unbridled cultivators to listen to everything Lightford said.

An Kasyapa was an example. Lightford might be powerful, more powerful than An Kasyapa, but it didn't mean An Kasyapa would throw away his pride and let Lightford order him around.

That was the backbone and pride of a master cultivator.

Jiang Chen felt the weight of concerns bear down on him. If the fugitives did want to attack the ten sacred lands, they must have done so already.

More than half of the ten sacred lands' elites had come to Sandplain. No divine cultivators had stayed behind for defense.

Eternal, for example, had only the demigod second prime and third prime to rely on. The only thing keeping them safe would be the sacred land's great formation, which, unfortunately, had been severely damaged during the rebellion and hadn't recovered fully yet.

The thought gnawed at Jiang Chen.

The ten forefathers were visibly concerned.

"The sacred lands are our roots, everyone. If they're taken from us, we'll have no place to call home. Therefore, we must take the sacred lands back no matter what!"

"Oh, don't be so pessimistic. Perhaps the ten sacred lands will be able to resist the attack for some time. It may not be too late for us to go back now!"

Eternal's forefather looked remotely at the cultivators from the second and third tier factions.

"Then my apologies, fellow daoists. Before we root out every traitor, you're all suspects. If we rush back to our respective sacred lands and the traitors leak the information, our enemies will be able to easily target us on the way!"

That was something they had to consider.

Sovereign of the Three Realms (WN)

Chapter 2064: Jiang Chen's Stunning Decision

It was rather unfair to the second and third tier factions, but the ten sacred lands had no other options.

Meanwhile, some had other concerns.

"My friends, there's something we haven't talked about. If these fugitives occupy our sacred lands, there's no guarantee that we'll be able to take them back with our strength divided like this.

"The cultivators from the Boundless Prison are more powerful than we expected. We previously thought they can't compare to the ten sacred lands, but it now seems that we may have been wrong."

Jiang Chen had held the same belief, but he agreed that he might have misjudged.

They'd assigned six divine cultivators to the exit of Sandplain alone. How many divine cultivators must've been sent to attack the ten sacred lands?

Even if they had only one god lead the attack on each sacred land, that would still be ten divine cultivators.

Added to that the sheer number of demigods they already had, it was reasonable that their collective power was no worse than that of the ten sacred lands. If the sacred lands fought among themselves, they were likely to be divided and conquered.

It'd be exactly what their enemy wanted, for them to return to their respective sacred lands.

As such, the group sank into a dilemma.

If they split up, they risked being picked off one by one.

If they were to prioritize saving a particular sacred land first though, it was difficult to be fair.

This was no game. No one wanted their home to be at the bottom of the list. Everyone wanted to be the group's first destination.

Even Eternal's forefather wasn't shameless enough to say that they had to go to the Eternal Sacred Land first just because they were the leader of the alliance.

That would be unjust.

"Let's weigh our options, everyone. If you have any ideas, speak freely." Eternal's forefather's gaze swept over the other forefathers.

"I believe it's better for us to stick together than to go separate ways," started off Radiance's forefather.

Martial's forefather nodded. "I agree. If we split up, it'll be easy for the enemies to defeat us one by one."

Jiang Chen was too anxious to join that train of thought.

"You have to lead the group as the alliance head, Venerated Forefather," he spoke up. "I'd like to return to the Eternal Sacred Land first before it's too late."

The forefather was surprised. "You? On your own?"

Jiang Chen nodded. "Yes, on my own. The others will be following you. Don't worry. I'll do my best."

The forefather perked up. He knew what Jiang Chen was capable of. And he knew the young man had a Vermilion Bird as his companion, which was a divine sacred beast.

Jiang Chen stood a good chance of winning.

However, as the sacred land's forefather, he was ashamed to not be able to return at its eleventh hour as its forefather. Instead, their top genius was forced to take the reins on his own.

Such was the reality of being the alliance head.

The others admired Jiang Chen for keeping the big picture in mind.

"Venerated Forefather, please allow this subordinate to return with Jiang Chen," Ziju Min piped up.

Wu You and Gan Ning followed suit. "We'd like to follow senior brother Jiang Chen as well."

Eternal's forefather threw Ziju Min a glance and nodded. "Alright. I feel better with you by his side, Elder Ziju. You can return first. I'll be here planning our next move with the others. I'm entrusting the sacred land to you."

He didn't dawdle needlessly. He knew he wouldn't necessarily do a better job than Jiang Chen. The Vermilion Bird was just as powerful as he, if not more.

By sticking with the alliance as the leader, he could win the other members' respect and forge a better image.

Although he was still worried, this was how things had to be. There was no perfect solution.

With that decided, Jiang Chen raised a cupped fist salute. "Seniors, our forefather has chosen the alliance over his own sacred land. It's undeniable that he's made a selfless decision. I hope you'll be able to consider the big picture as well and put aside your personal needs.

"I'm young and shouldn't be saying these things, but I've thought about the operation and feel that we must act smartly. It's best that you prioritize the lesser known sacred lands that the enemies are less likely to focus on. Catch them off guard and take back those first. If you go for the obvious targets immediately, there will be a difficult fight and you'll suffer great casualties."

He'd made himself clear. It was better for the alliance to pick the lower hanging fruit first.

Although he'd made a lot of contributions, it would be inappropriate for him to say too much as a junior. After making his case, he entered Starfate and departed with Ziju Min and the others.

He didn't take with him the guards he'd picked from the second and third tier factions. He hadn't done a background check on them himself. Their loyalty wasn't yet a guarantee. Jiang Chen decisively put them in one of the sealed airbots, temporarily taking away their freedom.

The ten forefathers watched Jiang Chen leave, impressed.

They were fortunate to have a young genius like Jiang Chen on their side. The young man was talented and independent. He could play the role of a divine forefather, and sometimes was even more useful than one.

“Don’t worry, Daoist Eternal. Jiang Chen was able to help us resolve the myriad of traps and formations and poisonous mist. Nothing will stop him.”

“That’s right. We envy the Eternal Sacred Land.”

Eternal’s forefather sighed faintly. “Please stop putting him on the pedestal. We’ve forced this responsibility on the young man because we have no other options in these difficult times. I don’t know if it’s the right thing to do to push him this far. I hope he can take it.”

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Jiang Chen didn’t care what the ten sacred lands were going to do. That was out of his hands. His sole focus was on the Eternal Sacred Land.

According to his speculation of the timeline, he believed all this was premeditated. The escapees must’ve attacked the sacred land at the same time when they quarantined the Sandplain Island.

The sacred land’s defenses would be able to withstand regular or even fiercer attacks. What worried Jiang Chen was the possibility that powerful gods might have been assigned to assault the sacred land. Worse, that Master Lightford could take matters into his own hands.

If Lightford knew Eternal had become the alliance head, he might pick it as his prime target.

If that was the case, Jiang Chen couldn’t be sure how long it would be until Eternal’s defenses failed.

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

Chapter 2065: Divine Kasyapa Takes the Field

Starfate was flying as fast as it could go.

Aside from the Black Tortoise, the sacred beasts knew Jiang Chen’s situation well. They understood his rush back to the Eternal Sacred Land; he was worried about Huang’er.

After some conversation with the Vermilion Bird, the Black Tortoise caught up to speed with its new young master’s circumstances. At the same time, it became curious as to Jiang Chen’s path to ascension.

It conversed with the crimson fowl the rest of the way. The stories about Jiang Chen’s rapid rise astonished it.

It was rare for a young human to get so strong so quickly, especially considering his race’s history.

“Brother Black, you haven’t been with young master Chen long, so you haven’t experienced his charisma in action. When you spend a bit more time with him, you’ll appreciate him a lot. He’s always been sincere in his dealings with us. Though we are strong, we can’t guarantee we’ll stay safe in this chaotic world. It’s safer to have him by our side.”

The Vermilion Bird's words were heartfelt.

The Black Tortoise was touched. "Old Brother Vermilion," it sighed, "you're a bit older than me when it comes to age. I should call you my older brother. I can see that all three of you are very loyal to Jiang Chen. He must have something to draw and bind you to him. Don't worry. Since I've agreed to join your team in earnest, I will slowly become one of you as well. Like you said, I can't possibly evade disaster just by tucking my head under the water."

"Indeed. We'll fight with our combined strengths from now on. All for one, and one for all. Jiang Chen won't let us down or give us anything but the best," the Vermilion Bird replied seriously.

"I can see that. Young master Chen is a responsible youth. There are ten divine forefathers leading Myriad Abyss currently, but he will obviously become the leader sooner or later. Even these old gods will bow down to him after a short while." The Black Tortoise spoke something amazing.

"Oh? Why do you say that?" the Vermilion Bird asked, smiling.

"Take a look at how we left Sandplain Island. The others were helpless before a problem that Jiang Chen solved with ease. Aside from raw strength, what part of him is inferior to the divine forefathers? He has more than enough experience and accolades to match."

This was the tortoise's judgment.

"You're exactly right. Jiang Chen isn't the leader of humanity in name yet, but he's on his way there." The bird nodded, smiling. "Let us usher in a new glorious era. What can the four sacred beasts gathered under one banner accomplish? That depends on what young master Chen can dig up!"

Jiang Chen didn't pay attention to the conversation between the two more senior sacred beasts. He was analyzing possible situations at the Eternal Sacred Land with Ziju Min.

Either the sacred land was successfully resisting, or the enemy had occupied it, killing half and imprisoning the remainder.

Aside from these, it was possible that Divine Kasyapa would interfere on Huang'er's behalf.

In fact, this third option seemed the most likely.

Given what Huang'er's grandfather had done so far for his family, he cared a lot about his relationships. Since the divine hadn't joined Master Lightford's forces, there was no reason he should stand idly by while his granddaughter was besieged.

"Don't be worried. Even if they are brigands who've escaped from the Boundless Prison, and even if they've occupied the Eternal Sacred Land already, they won't kill everyone there. At the end of the day, recruitment is important for them. How are they supposed to gather any popularity by indiscriminately slaughtering everyone in their path?"

Ziju Min tried to comfort Jiang Chen in spite of his own anxiety.

Jiang Chen sighed softly. "Never mind. We'll see what's happened as soon as we return. I think the sacred land can hold for a while yet." He instinctively believed that Divine Kasyapa would naturally defend Huang'er's home.

Given the divine's clout, even Master Lightford would afford him some degree of respect. Though the latter might hate the former, he would only seek revenge in secret. Before his plans came to fruition, he could not risk openly breaking with Kasyapa.

The road from Sandplain to Eternal was a very long one.

Jiang Chen accelerated Starfate again and again, burning away an incredible amount of spirit stones in the process.

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Right now, the Eternal Sacred Land was a lot more active than Jiang Chen expected.

There were a fair few cultivators sieging the place, led by two divine cultivators – though they were notably rather upset right now.

They'd just been frustrated in their attack on the sacred land. At first, the defensive formation around it had deterred them from launching a frontal assault.

Just as they were about to break through it after studying it sufficiently, an unwelcome guest arrived on their doorstep. It was Divine Kasyapa, Huang'er's maternal grandfather.

His advent thwarted Lightford's plans. The two gods attempted to use their superior numbers to take on Kasyapa, but the two of them together could only tie with their stubborn opponent.

The two sides were locked into a temporary standstill.

The two gods on Lightford's side had disliked Divine Kasyapa from the outset. His unwanted presence made them furious.

Alas, they couldn't defeat him no matter how hard they tried.

The Eternal Sacred Land was given a reprieve to set up better defenses after the divine's appearance. Since the forefather and first prime were both absent, the second and third primes were in charge.

They knew that Divine Kasyapa was the maternal grandfather of Huang'er, who was Jiang Chen's dao partner.

Therefore, they treated the man with utmost reverence. Without his abrupt arrival, the fall of the Eternal Sacred Land was inevitable.

The old divine wasn't much interested in their attitude, however. He had come only to protect his granddaughter.

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

Chapter 2066: In Dire Straits

"Daoist Kasyapa, why are you helping the Eternal Sacred Land? To not respond to Master Lightford's summons is one thing, but who do you think you are helping?" A sallow god with a rather patchy beard demanded.

"I do what I want. It's none of your business." Divine Kasyapa was hardly the most cordial of people. He treated the question with scorn.

"Alright. If you've resolved to oppose Master Lightford, you deserve our contempt!" The response he got incensed the sallow god.

He traded a look with his companion. That the two gods couldn't take down Divine Kasyapa for so long made them anxious.

The other divine cultivator of the duo, a bald, large-eyed man, glared at Kasyapa. "Old Brother An, I actually admire you quite a bit. Your lack of cooperation and outright hostility to Master Lightford is a bit too much though. I recommend you turn back while you still can. I will intercede on your behalf for this offense."

"Enough wasted words," Divine Kasyapa laughed. "I've no interest whatsoever in the Master Lightford you serve. Even if he came himself, do you think I'd be afraid of him?"

The sallow cultivator barked out a sinister snicker. "You should be careful how you puff yourself up. Would you be so sure of that if he was here in person?"

Kasyapa smiled coolly. "Why hasn't he come, eh?"

"Don't be so full of yourself! Master Lightford has work elsewhere, but he'll deal with you himself one day. Though he hasn't come, his two enforcers have received our request for aid and are on their way as we speak. An Kasyapa, I hope you can stay as intractable as you are after they arrive!"

Divine Kasyapa was shaken at this revelation. Back in the Boundless Prison, Master Lightford had commanded a considerable amount of influence.

Not because of any virtues he might have had, but force of arms and methods instead.

His two enforcers served as his loyal lapdogs, performing a great number of evil deeds in their master's will.

Lightford had become famous far and wide because of his servants' cruelty and viciousness. This kind of reputation garnered him fear rather than respect.

An Kasyapa could win one on one against either enforcer, but he'd have a hard time facing both of them alone. If the two of them were joined by these two gods in front of him, he would find it best to retreat as quickly as possible.

Unless he could reach mid divine realm, he couldn't possibly fight as one against four.

The subtle change in An Kasyapa's expression didn't escape the sallow cultivator, who grinned evilly. "If you've the balls, An Kasyapa, then stay and die alongside the Eternal Sacred Land."

An Kasyapa wasn't in the mood to squabble anymore. Sneering in response, he vanished into thin air. Eternal's great defensive formation still remained, and would hold awhile longer yet.

The divine summoned Huang'er and her family, relating the circumstances outside to them.

“Huang’er, I’m not scared of taking them on by myself. However, I’m not sure if I’ll still be able to protect all of you when those two enforcers arrive. You need to come with me now,” An Kasyapa stated gravely.

Huang’er was an astute young woman. She understood the gravity of the situation instantly. However, she couldn’t just abandon the Eternal Sacred Land.

“Grandfather, I’m not a disciple of the sacred land, but this place is Brother Chen’s home. As his dao partner, it’s mine too. It’s very difficult for me to just abandon it.”

“Foolish girl. If that kid really loves you, he would support your departure himself. He wouldn’t want you to go down pointlessly alongside the sacred land. Wouldn’t he regret it for the rest of his life if you came to harm? Is your future together more important, or your stubbornness?” An Kasyapa knew an appeal to emotion wouldn’t work.

Huang’er cared more about Jiang Chen than anybody else. After all, her parents hadn’t overseen her growth from childhood, while Jiang Chen had been alongside her through thick and thin.

“Your grandfather is right, Huang’er. For the sake of you and Jiang Chen’s future, you must leave this place. I’ll stay,” Yan Wanjun declared.

“I’ll stay as well,” Yan Qingsang volunteered.

“Us brothers will stay with you as well, father.” Yan Qingsang and Huang’er’s fathers both chimed in.

“All the rest of you will leave. Our family is hardly beholden to the Eternal Sacred Land. My presence here should make our gratitude clear.” Yan Wanjun waved a hand, silencing the others.

“How could I leave?!” Yan Qingsang flared up. “I’m a disciple of the sacred land. I can’t possibly flee to save my own hide now.”

“Hmph, I’m not a disciple of the sacred land, am I? I’m doing your part for you. How much can you possibly do by staying here? At least I can help a little.” Yan Wanjun cared about the survival of Yan Qingsang the most among the people here.

He had spent the majority of his efforts over many of the past years on him, as much or more than he had on his two sons. He wouldn’t allow Yan Qingsang to stay.

As they conversed, a sacred land disciple hurried in.

“Good sirs, the second and third prime request your presence. The enemy’s attack is fierce, and we must discuss how to fend them off.”

In truth, the Yan family had little to do with the decision-making process in the sacred land. The two primes merely wished for Divine Kasyapa to help.

The divine in question harrumphed. “What’s there to talk about? Get your two primes to start organizing a breakout. We can’t possibly defend this place for too much longer. Collect any important treasures. Bring as much as you can with you. The enemy means to steal your foundation here!”

He knew Lightford's ambitions better than anyone. Lightford wanted to take the foundations of the sacred lands for his own, and thereby become the ruler of Myriad Abyss.

If he could take the sacred lands' bases, all their riches would be his.

Alas, Eternal currently had little recourse to prevent this from happening—at least from Kasyapa's perspective.

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

Chapter 2067: Two Great Enforcers Arrive

The attack on the Eternal Sacred Land grew increasingly fiercer.

Compared to the rebellion, the group attacking the sacred land this time was much smaller, but every one of them was a top-level escapee from the Boundless Prison. They were experienced and mighty fighters.

Thus, the pressure on the sacred land was greater than last time. More importantly, neither the first prime nor the venerated forefather was here.

Divine Kasyapa's words were a wake-up call. The air grew heavy.

Yan Qingsang was the only one who voiced his defiance, mumbling, "The sacred land's elites will make it back in time. Then the crisis will be resolved."

"Haha, make it back in time? Firstly, the 'elites' who are away for the grand competition aren't that much compared to two divine cultivators. Secondly, that old bastard Lightford planned this attack beforehand. Do you think he hasn't thought of keeping your elites from returning?"

"This seat isn't being purposefully pessimistic, but the ten sacred lands are in great trouble. I don't know where the grand competition was held, but as long as that old jerk knows, he has many ways to trap those people and even keep them there forever!"

Lightford was a powerful cultivator. That, even Divine Kashyapa had to admire him for. That was why he didn't think the ten sacred lands could turn things around.

"I don't know about the other sacred lands, but Jiang Chen will come back," Yan Qingsang argued. "He's never let us down."

"Brother Chen will return safely," Huang'er agreed.

Divine Kasyapa didn't disagree and smiled faintly instead.

"That young man is extraordinary. Given enough time to grow, he may intimidate even Lightford. Although he's too talented, so I hope Lightford doesn't notice him too soon. Otherwise I'm not sure if he will let Jiang Chen live long enough to grow stronger."

He voiced his concerns for Jiang Chen as he knew what kind of a person Lightford was.

Lightford was an ambitious, ruthless man who wouldn't allow a potential rival to become a real threat.

A mountain couldn't house two tigers.

Although Jiang Chen was still a cub, Lightford might not give him the chance to come into his own.

Personally, Divine Kasyapa wanted Jiang Chen to have the chance. After all, this was his grandson-in-law! He had high hopes for the boy.

"Enough, it doesn't matter if Jiang Chen will return and when. You have to come with me, Huang'er. You, too Yan Qianfan. I don't want to lose my granddaughter. Neither do I want my daughter to lose the man she loves. The rest of you are free to stay."

He'd never liked the Yan family, or he wouldn't have slaughtered its members. He'd only spared Yan Wanjun because he was Yan Qianfan's father, his in-law.

Noting Huang'er's reluctance, Divine Kasyapa was about to forcefully take her away, but then a howl cut through the silence like a lightning splitting the air.

"An Kasyapa, I hear you've been causing trouble," a deep voice boomed. "My master has sent my brother and I to meet you. Why don't you come out and show us how bold you are?"

Divine Kasyapa's face clouded over. He said in a low voice, "It's the old bastard's left and right hand men. This will be tricky."

"Left and right hand men?" asked Yan Qianfan. "Are they powerful?"

"Neither is good enough to defeat me in a duel, but the two of them together will be a challenge to take on. Moreover, there are two other divine cultivators as well. I can't take on all four of them at once. Even if we're only thinking about escaping, the odds that we'll succeed have dropped to about forty percent."

His tone was grave. It was clear that the situation was growing out of control.

"You should leave now, grandfather," urged Huang'er. "Eternal has little to do with you. If you leave now, they will let you off the hook."

Kasyapa smiled faintly. "I wouldn't have come if I were the kind of person to abandon you. Silly girl, I spent countless years in the Boundless Prison. The only thing I care about is my family, which is what sets me apart from Lightford.

"For his ambition, he's willing to sacrifice his wife and children, abandon his parents, kill his friends, and disregard morality. I'm different. Even to this day, I haven't forgotten that I'm human." There was a mocking edge to his tone, and his eyes glinted with conviction.

"Since they've come, a fight is inevitable. Do you hear me, my four personal guards?"

He was calling for his demigod servants.

The four servants approached him. "We will fight to the death for you, master."

Divine Kasyapa waved a dismissive hand. "There's no need. Not even you are good enough to fight this battle. I'm going to attack them and catch them by surprise. Hopefully I'll be able to severely injure a couple of them. Then there's still some hope. If I'm trapped by the four of them, only the heavens if I

can survive. Remember, once I make a move, their attention will be on me. Seize the opportunity to take Huang'er away. Do not hesitate!"

The four servants froze, too hesitant to take the order.

"Oh? Are you going to disobey this seat?"

"The two primes can break her out of the sacred land," the four servants said in concert. "We live and die with you, master!"

"Silence!" snapped Kasyapa. "This seat's words are your orders. I tell you to get out of here with my family, and you must! Live to fight another day!"

"Master!"

"Enough, it's so decided," Kasyapa said faintly. "You'll only be cannon fodder if you become embroiled into a battle between gods. I'm by myself. I can improvise. If things aren't looking good, I'll run away. It's four of them against one of me. No one will judge me for fleeing."

The four servants refused to listen. They knew their master was ready to sacrifice himself for his family. He was going to face four opponents on his own. Even if he wanted to retreat, there was only a forty percent chance that he'd succeed.

As servants, it was their duty to assist their master and even die for him when the time came. They'd never abandon their master and run away.

However, Divine Kasyapa was determined. It was clear that nothing they said would change his mind.

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

Chapter 2068: Divine Kasyapa's Observations

No matter how insistent the four servants were, Divine Kasyapa didn't give an inch. There was no room for negotiation.

Huang'er was going to protest further, but then Kasyapa knocked her unconscious with a single stroke. He ordered his four servants, "Your duty is to protect Huang'er. She is my one and only hope. As long as she's safe and sound, I'll return in one piece."

He loved Huang'er very much, even more than he did his daughter An Yu'er.

An Yu'er wasn't jealous of her daughter. She knew Huang'er had much more talent in martial dao than her. Besides, she'd missed the best age for cultivation.

She was happy that her daughter had the opportunity to grow stronger. She harbored a lot of guilt toward her girl.

She and Yan Qianfan hadn't been able to show their daughter any love since her birth. Worse, she'd suffered greatly because of them, shouldering burdens that shouldn't have been hers.

If fate hadn't been merciful, they wouldn't even have seen their daughter after leaving the Boundless Prison. She would've long become a pile of bones.

Eternal's second prime and third prime learned of Divine Kasyapa's assessment of the situation. They knew they had no choice but to attempt an escape.

They were very conflicted.

Their attempt to break through enemy lines might fail, but if they didn't even try, it was only a matter of time before their enemies broke in. Then, they'd all die.

What was worse, the sacred land's heritage, foundation, and all the treasure they'd accumulated would fall into enemy hands. If that happened, they would be vilified by generations to come.

No matter how slim their chance of escape was, it wasn't impossible. But if they stayed, their doom was assured.

If even someone as powerful as Divine Kasyapa had given up on winning, that made it clearer than anything that the enemies were too formidable.

And now they were facing four divine cultivators! That turned the two primes' knowledge of the world completely upside down. Was the Eternal Sacred Land worth the attention of four gods?

How powerful must their enemies be for them to send so many divine cultivators to attack the sacred land? Four gods were a lot in Myriad Abyss, even by the ten sacred lands' standards.

"You have one hour. Pack up! Take the most valuable items with you. Get ready to break through enemy lines!"

They were breaking out!

Every member of the sacred land had received the order. They could no longer keep the sacred land's foundation intact.

Their only chance was to force an escape.

As soon as the two enforcers showed, the sacred land's defense wavered even more. If Jiang Chen and the forefather hadn't improved the defense system several times, the four divine cultivators would've broken in in less than fifteen minutes.

It was a race against time.

Eternal needed time to gather their members and pack up their personal items and valuables.

Meanwhile, the attackers were trying to break through the defenses as quickly as possible so that they could fully loot everything from the sacred land.

Divine Kasyapa and House Yan stayed on their guard. As soon as Kasyapa made a move against the divine cultivators, the others would force their way out with every last trick in their arsenal.

Divine Kasyapa was in a dark mood as well. Even if he managed to attract all four of the divine cultivators, it didn't guarantee that the others would be able to escape.

If the four cultivators reacted quickly, some of them would be able to go after his family. Would his four servants be enough to take them on? Could they persist under divines' attacks?

He didn't have an answer.

He finally understood the problem of having no allies. Although he was a divine cultivator, there was little he could do as one man.

"Remember, you must keep running no matter what happens on my side," An Kasyapa stated. "Keep going and don't look back. Don't worry about me. Don't even think about coming back for me. You won't be of any help in a battle at this level."

With that, he hid himself with the sacred land's defense as his cover and watched the four divine cultivators. The four men had each picked an area and brimmed with supreme confidence.

Truth be told, the four of them would be enough to destroy the Eternal Sacred Land twice or three times over.

An Kasyapa stayed in the dark, waiting for an opportunity to strike. He was in the dark while his enemies were out in the open. That was his only advantage and only hope.

Only by exploiting that advantage did he have a chance of turning the tide.

After all those years in the Boundless Prison, he'd learned to wait for the right moment. Like a wolf hunting for prey, he wouldn't expose himself before he was sure he could take down his enemies.

However, the only thing keeping him hidden was Eternal's defense system that yet stood, but could fall at any second.

One it did, he'd lose his cover and be completely exposed to his enemies. Then, he would have no choice but to fight them head on.

"I have to make this attack count. I have to hit at least a few of them and injure them. I won't survive a fight against all four of them."

An Kasyapa remained level-headed, a crucial mentality for the underdog.

The different ways the four cultivators held themselves were telling. The sallow man seemed to harbor hatred for the sacred land as he looked the most eager.

Lightford's personal guards had arrived later. They stayed at the back like they were the last line of defense. They weren't in a rush to attack the sacred land, but instead kept an eye on the battlefield, seemingly looking for An Kasyapa.

The remaining bald cultivator took the other side as his defense post.

The four of them had sealed off the escape route.

Divine Kasyapa kept calculating his chances.

The sallow cultivator was the only one he could target. The bald man was on the other side and wasn't a main attacker.

Meanwhile, the two enforcers looked untouchable. It didn't seem like they planned to intervene, which either meant that they considered themselves much more superior, or the teamwork between the four divine cultivators wasn't as good as they'd expected.

Sovereign of the Three Realms (WN)

Chapter 2069: Hearken the Battle

As the sacred land's defense systems crumbled, Divine Kasyapa's heart sank further and further. He could sense that he didn't have a lot of time.

If he didn't make a move now, the defenses would collapse and he'd be exposed. Catching his enemies by surprise would be impossible then.

"It's now or never!"

Divine Kasyapa had made up his mind. He grit his teeth and, a flash of his form later, manifested an ancient trident with a simple design. He then flipped his left wrist to materialize an ancient golden glyph in his hand.

Either I take him down with this one hit or I'll be trapped by them. There was no other possibility.

No cultivators could ascend to divinity without a strong heart and an iron will.

With his mind made up, Kasyapa threw out the golden glyph without hesitation. Blinding golden lightning burst out as a multitude of snakes.

The strands instantly converged into a golden ocean and barreled into the sallow cultivator.

The man had been attacking the sacred land's defense system with a single-minded focus. He huffed when he spotted the lightning. His robe expanded to radiate strange green rays, intercepting the golden light.

Suddenly, Kasyapa charged out from the golden light, stabbing his trident into sallow's lower ribs at lightning speed.

This was the most difficult angle to defend against.

The sallow cultivator had known this was a surprise attack when he dodged the lightning. Reflexively, he tried to parry the second attack.

Guided by the instinct of a powerful cultivator, he managed to react in time, blocking the trident with a backhand slash.

Nonetheless, Kasyapa's stab was mighty. The block wasn't enough to stop the trident. It broke through the green light and cut into the man's robe. Blood gushed out of the wound, dyeing half of robe red.

Damn it.

The other three divine cultivators immediately came to their companion's aid.

Three attacks came for Kasyapa from his right, left, and back, showing no mercy.

Kasyapa cursed under his breath. His two moves had managed to hurt the man, but weren't seriously enough to be fatal.

The other divine cultivators' intervention gave sallow man a chance to disengage. He shot backward in a flash of green, shock and fear lingering in his expression.

Although blood had colored his robe, the injury wasn't severe.

"You had an easy way out, An Kasyapa, but you chose the hard way. Fine then. We'll grant you your wish and hunt you down!"

The sallow cultivator flourished his robe and raised his longsword, glaring at Kasyapa with hatred shining in his eyes.

The bald cultivator sighed. "You brought this onto yourself, Daoist An. Don't blame us for being merciless."

He had been pulling his punches for An Kasyapa's sake, but he couldn't after Kasyapa attacked his companion.

The two enforcers were even more powerful than the sallow and the bald cultivators. They looked perfectly calm even though sallow was injured.

However, seeing An Kasyapa stoked their desires to fight.

The enforcer on the left was dressed in a golden robe and gave voice to a long howl.

"I hear you've offended Master Lighford on several occasions, An Kasyapa, and you refused to accept his multiple invitations issued out of his appreciation for your talent. Today, my brother and I are going to make you pay for that. Let us see how strong the rebellious An Kasyapa is!"

An Kasyapa scoffed. "We can fight if you want a fight. Why waste your breath with that tripe?"

As he spoke, he dashed toward the fringes at full speed. He wanted to take the fight elsewhere so that Huang'er and the others could escape safely.

The two enforcers huffed. They turned into golden and silver light respectively and chased after Kasyapa.

The sallow cultivator cursed angrily, "You're not running away after hurting me! This is the last day of your life, An Kasyapa!"

The two enforcers exclaimed, "Don't give chase, Daoist Yu. Stay here and supervise the battlefield. Look out for people trying to break out from the sacred land."

They didn't stop sallow from following. They just needed someone to stay at the exit of the sacred land. It'd be bad if Kasyapa was trying to lure them away, and they fell for it.

Sallow was thrilled that they had allowed him to go after An Kasyapa with them, interpreting that as a sign of their trust.

Even his injuries felt worth the pain now.

While he was distracted, the air around him suddenly rose in temperature. Waves of heat circled and enveloped him, which caused his injury to relapse ten-fold!

“What’s going on?” As a divine cultivator, he’d seen many things and met many powerful beings.

At this moment however, he didn’t know what to do.

Screech!

A sound pierced through the air; the clouds and the sky seemed to be spontaneously dyed red all of a sudden. A spirit large enough to eclipse the sun emerged from thin air.

It slashed at the sallow cultivator with an enormous claw, the force powerful enough to destroy mountains and bring down the stars.

The sallow man’s heart spasmed and sank under the terrifying might.

His instinct commanded his body to dodge, but when he tried to move, he realized with shock that his body seemed to have grown ten times heavier. His movements were extremely slow and stiff.

That caught him off-guard. A terror he’d never felt before overwhelmed him. Something wasn’t right!

“Save me, master enforcers!” Putting his pride aside, he called out for help, his voice desperately panicked.

He had a feeling that if he made a wrong move, he’d die. He knew it like an instinctual fact.

The two enforcers had locked in on An Kasyapa some distance away. Hearing their companion’s cry for help, they started and looked back at him.

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

Chapter 2070: Jiang Chen Appears

The two enforcers turned their heads to see the sacred beast blotting out the sky. They were thoroughly astonished, but recovered very quickly. Disbelief poured forth from their eyes.

“The Vermilion Bird?” Both enforcers instantly blurted out. They knew the Eternal Sacred Land well, including any difficult opponents to be found there.

The Vermilion Bird was at the top of that list. In fact, they considered it more dangerous than the sacred land’s forefather.

The bird’s aura and appearance left no doubt in their minds—this was that sacred bird in the flesh.

“How is the Vermilion Bird here?”

“Didn’t it follow Jiang Chen to Sandplain? Could it have stayed to hold down the fort? That...” The two enforcers traded another perplexed glance.

However, they had no time to hesitate whatsoever. The sallow cultivator was shrieking in pain.

The enforcers couldn't understand why their underling couldn't move. The bird hadn't touched him yet, right?

"Master enforcers, please come help me. This spirit creature is weird! It seems to have controlled my body's movements. My limbs feel heavier than lead."

It made them only more and more curious. The Vermilion Bird was a fire attribute creature. It was very adept at manipulating and attacking with flames.

Did the bird have an ability that could weigh someone down too? That was rather unheard of!

The enforcers slowed in their steps toward the sallow cultivator. Not that they wanted to abandon him to his fate, but they weren't quite sure what would happen if they got close.

What if the Vermilion Bird could, inexplicably, weigh people down? They couldn't deal with that possibility. They'd suffer a crushing defeat if that was the case!

"Masters, I have always been completely loyal to Master Lightford. You can't leave me to die!" The sallow cultivator panicked when the enforcers didn't come for him. He moaned and groaned in protest.

The bald cultivator ran over at the sound.

"What are you doing here?" the enforcer in gold robes called out. "Don't forget your responsibility. If you let the Eternal Sacred Land's people escape, you will have committed a grave sin!"

The bald cultivator glanced at the Vermilion Bird's humongous form with apprehension and fear. He drew in a sharp breath. A bird as scary-looking as this was definitely stronger than them!

He felt a visceral dread that his companion was in this bird's grasp, but was unable to do anything.

The Eternal Sacred Land was an eerie place indeed.

Suddenly, a pillar of light blasted up from the ground. The sallow cultivator vanished into thin air, caught up in its path.

Rather than be upset, the Vermilion Bird swept toward the two enforcers without missing a beat. Its eyes were as wide as dinner plates, glowering provocatively toward its enemies.

"Er..." the two enforcers were even more taken aback. They could see that the light hadn't come from the Vermilion Bird.

Why didn't the bird mind someone else interfering in its fight? Was it really the proud beast it was famed to be?

The duo didn't understand anything that was happening at this point.

Still, they couldn't just ignore the Vermilion Bird's challenge. The enforcer in gold harrumphed, then called out, "Daoist Vermilion, Master Lightford has heard of your name. What right does Eternal have to use you like a guard beast?"

The man was clearly no stranger to sowing discord.

“Our master has far greater strength and wealth than this Eternal Sacred Land. Why not come to the light and serve our master instead? He will surely grant you amazing opportunities in the future that you can’t imagine. Isn’t that better than working for Eternal?”

The Vermilion Bird typically spoke ancient beast language. It understood the human tongue, but didn’t care to speak it. However, it broke force of habit out of displeasure for the two men in front of it.

Snickering, it retorted in heavily-accented human, “Who do you think your master is? Is he stronger than the ancient leaders of humanity? Has he fought demons?”

As a survivor of that bygone era, its horizons were far broader than those of the cultivators in the present era. It was totally uninterested in this so-called ‘Master Lightford’.

Jiang Chen alone satisfied its vision for a man of quality.

“Heh, no one knows how strong the ancient human leaders were. However, our master is fourth level divine realm without a doubt.”

“Cultivators of all stripes strive to be of service to our master, both human and other alike. For them, it is an honor to be useful at all.”

Mocking laughter suddenly echoed forth from thin air.

“Your master has quite the reputation. As a human cultivator, I personally don’t see what honor there is in working for your master.”

The speaker was Jiang Chen, of course.

He had finally made it in the nick of time, arriving specifically when Divine Kasyapa had attacked the sallow cultivator.

Taking the opportunity open to him, he sent out the Vermilion Bird and Black Tortoise in a sneak attack.

Two sacred beasts against an injured initial divine realm cultivator was a trivial victory. Now, the enemy only had three gods left.

As soon as Jiang Chen’s voice was audible in the air, everyone in the sacred land began to cheer. Huang’er was especially overjoyed.

Brother Chen hadn’t let anyone down after all. A deliverer out of the blue, he had emerged at this crucial moment once again to save the day.

Despite Jiang Chen’s imperfect strength, the others nevertheless felt purpose return to their lives. They were inexplicably sure that the crisis would quickly pass with him here.

In fact, the sight of the young man was as reassuring as the venerated forefather himself!

Jiang Chen’s voice reached Divine Kasyapa in the distance as well. The divine had intended to run a few circles around the four gods after him, choosing a wise strategy of skirmishing and drawing attention rather than taking any serious engagements.