

Three Realms 2081

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

Chapter 2081: Proactively Preparing For Battle

Although crisis had been averted for the moment, none of them, including Jiang Chen, relaxed.

After Jiang Chen refined the two enforcers' life essence, there was no doubt that a truce wasn't a possibility between Eternal and Lightford.

"Jiang Chen, I hear that the two enforcers were Lightford's most trusted and powerful subordinates," remarked second prime worriedly. "By killing both of them, aren't we making it impossible to negotiate with him?"

The second prime was somewhat displeased, not because the genius had refined the two enforcers, but because he hadn't left anything for him or the sacred land.

That was why there was an edge to his voice despite his polite words.

Jiang Chen smiled faintly and gave the second prime a pointed look. "Do you really think there was even any room for negotiation to begin with, Second Prime?"

"Why wouldn't there be?" muttered the second prime, deterred by the genius' sharp gaze. "There's always room for negotiation."

Jiang Chen huffed and waved a dismissive hand. "Negotiation is only viable when we have the power to intimidate him. If Divine Kasyapa hadn't come when the sacred land was besieged, do you think they would've agreed to negotiate with you?"

It bothered him that the second prime was still wasting his breath. The man had done nothing to help, yet he wouldn't shut up after things were settled.

The second prime's face flushed red, displeasure flashing through his eyes.

Ziju Min spoke up to dispel the tension, "You weren't on the island, Second Prime. You don't know how difficult things were. A truce is impossible. As Jiang Chen has said, without power, Lightford isn't going to negotiate with us. But with enough power we don't need to worry about his attitude. The initiative will always be in our hands. The worst case scenario is for us to dream of reaching a truce without the power to back ourselves up."

It upset the second prime to hear Ziju Min speaking up for Jiang Chen, but he was smart enough to know he couldn't rival Jiang Chen in status in the sacred land. Despite his grievances, he had no choice but to accept reality.

Divine Kasyapa chuckled. "You do have to give Lightford some more thought, Jiang Chen. From what I know about him, he'll come to assign blame. Fortunately, he shouldn't have that many people left to help him."

Jiang Chen smiled faintly. "If that's the case, we have to get ready for him. We can't admit defeat before the battle even starts, can we now?"

“That’s right!” Divine Kasyapa laughed heartily. “I was going to leave with Huang’er, but it seems it’s not yet the time. I have a few things to settle with Lightford. Rather than waiting for him to come after me, it’s better to deal with him once and for all when I have help.”

He wasn’t a fool. He knew he would be helpless against Lightford on his own. However, with Jiang Chen and the two sacred spirits, they’d at least be able to rival Lightford if not defeat him.

If the two true creatures were more powerful than he’d expected, it wasn’t impossible for them to gain the upper hand.

“I hope Lightford will come, Divine Kasyapa. If he does, we’ll be able to keep him occupied, which means there will be one less powerful foe for the ten forefathers to deal with. They can then focus on Lightford’s minions.” Jiang Chen was very eager.

The two sacred beasts were powerful. Moreover, Jiang Chen had refined the life essence of several divine cultivators and acquired their divine decrees.

The latter wasn’t of use at the moment, but the life essence was a great help to him, Long Xiaoxuan and Little White in their cultivation.

Long Xiaoxuan had ascended to ninth level empyrean in the past couple days and would soon be at a critical juncture on his path to divinity.

Jiang Chen too had a feeling that he was going to ascend to eighth level empyrean any moment. The life essence of the divine cultivators had been very beneficial. If used well, it would eventually help him and the dragon break through from peak ninth level empyrean and ascend to divinity.

Little White would likely need more time, but the essence was invaluable to it as well.

Once Jiang Chen reached peak empyrean realm, he could very likely soon push for divinity with his predisposed advantages. The thought alone greatly motivated him.

He had a feeling that was going to lead to the truth of his past life. Once he became a god, the chain seal in his consciousness would break and the secrets hidden within be completely open to him.

He looked forward to that future.

Since Lightford was coming, he had to make preparations.

Eternal’s existing formation wasn’t going to withstand Lightford’s attack, so he didn’t place his faith in it. Putting his effort and resources to reinforce the formation would only be a waste of time. They had to fight Lightford head-on.

Nevertheless, preparations were in order. The timing, location, and human elements were all crucial to the impending battle. For a fight at this level, clever planning and an attention to detail could give them an unexpected edge.

Jiang Chen spent the next few days discussing strategies with Divine Kasyapa. Brute force alone wouldn’t be enough. They needed to plan and set up various traps and defenses.

No singular detail was going to strike a fatal blow on Lightford on its own, but even a slight delay or interference could end up tipping the scale, or even determining the result of the fight.

The Vermilion Bird and the Black Tortoise knew they were going to face a formidable enemy. However, they weren't too worried. Deep down, they didn't fear Lightford.

The four divine beasts had their pride and losing to Lightford wasn't a possibility. Their cultivation and power might have fallen short in comparison, but as descendants of the sacred beasts, their defense and resilience were unmatched.

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Chapter 2082: Lightford Attacks

Long Xiaoxuan wanted to join the fight, but Jiang Chen turned the dragon down.

"This battle isn't as difficult as you think, Brother Long. You should focus on seeking inspiration for your breakthrough instead. Ascending to divinity will be the most helpful thing you can do for me." Jiang Chen was being honest. Once a god, a true dragon's power would grow exponentially.

Together, the three sacred beasts' power would be substantially greater.

In fact, with the three sacred beasts having reached divinity, they stood an eighty percent chance of defeating Lightford, a fourth level divine realm cultivator. They could swing it through sheer force of a mob attack alone, even if they were all at the initial stage.

The bloodline of the four sacred beasts was unrivaled.

Once all four of them were gods, they could stand their ground against an advanced divine cultivator and even come out victorious.

Jiang Chen had gotten to know the four sacred beasts in his past life. That was why he'd been so eager to recruit all four of them. Stumbling upon the Black Tortoise was more than a pleasant surprise.

Long Xiaoxuan could only yield to Jiang Chen's determined attitude. The divine life essence he'd received from the earlier fight had sent him into ninth level empyrean. It was unlikely to continue for it to provide fuel for godhood, but it wasn't impossible.

The ancient sacred beasts' breakthroughs were unpredictable. A sudden recovery of his ancient memory or the awakening of part of a bloodline could push him to the next realm.

Spirit creatures with unmatched talent from the ancient times could ascend as easily as they breathed.

Before reaching empyrean realm, Long Xiaoxuan hadn't encountered any difficulty in breaking through. Even someone as talented and resourceful as Jiang Chen couldn't rival the dragon in its efficiency.

Such was the power of natural talent. Even Jiang Chen envied him.

After refining the divine cultivators' life essence, Jiang Chen had some resources to spare. He gave quite a bit to the Goldbiter Rats.

The divine cultivators weren't the only ones they'd killed during the countless battles. He now possessed plenty of empyrean life essence, which he all gave to the Goldbiter Rats.

Their overall strength greatly leapt forward as a result.

The Goldbiter Rat King was now mid empyrean, staring down at advanced empyrean.

Jiang Chen speculated that it'd be difficult for the rat king to ascend to divinity without help. Its natural talent was limited. There existed a considerable gap between it and the ancient Kingrats.

Therefore, Jiang Chen rewarded the rat with a divine decree.

It was the first time he'd given out one. By refining the decree, the rat would have a chance to obtain godhood.

Of course, it'd take time for it to improve its cultivation to a high enough level, but with an endless supply of empyrean essence, it'd be able to refine the decree sooner or later.

The rewards further resolved the rat king's loyalty to Jiang Chen. It would work even harder for the human, and wouldn't hesitate to die for him.

In addition to devouring everything, the greatest function the Goldbiter Rats could serve was to act as an alert system. They lived underground, which gave them a natural edge.

Jiang Chen assigned the rats all around Eternal Divine Nation. As soon as Lightford crossed the border, they would notify the young lord.

If Lightford came alone, the rats might not be able to detect him. If he'd brought an army though, the rats would easily take notice.

Every hour of the day was precious to Jiang Chen. He hadn't forgotten about the human domain as he prepared for the fight.

It was fortunate that he still had time, or he'd have to choose between guarding the Eternal Sacred Land or reactivating the Great Formation of Heavenly Soul Confinement in the human domain.

That was a real dilemma!

He hoped they'd be able to deal with Lightford swiftly. However, that didn't seem likely at the moment.

"Young lord Chen, a large army has entered the nation with great ferocity. They're less than five thousand miles away from the sacred land."

"Young lord Chen, they're three thousand miles away."

"One thousand miles left between us and them."

Jiang Chen perked up and smiled lazily. He turned to Divine Kasyapa. "As you've predicted, venerated divine, Lightford got impatient."

"Oh, is he here?" Divine Kasyapa didn't ask how Jiang Chen knew Lightford was coming. The young man had his way of knowing things. If Jiang Chen didn't volunteer the information, he wasn't going to ask.

Jiang Chen blinked. It seemed that Kasyapa wasn't at all shocked or nervous. In fact, he seemed pleased. The Eternal young lord didn't know what there was to be pleased about that Lightford was coming to seek revenge.

Noting his confusion, Kasyapa chuckled. "You're the bane of that old bastard's existence, Jiang Chen."

"How so?" asked Jiang Chen.

"Lightford's been in closed door cultivation lately, trying to overcome a cultivation bottleneck. According to my estimations, it should've taken a long time. You killing his two enforcers must have alerted and disturbed his consciousness, which would then affect his breakthrough. That's why I call you the bane of his existence. You've foiled many of his plans. The fact that he's come to us in a fit of anger proves that he's running out of options."

Kasyapa's tone was casual. He clearly believed in his own interpretation of the situation.

Jiang Chen laughed as well.

"That can be good or bad. If furious, he's going to make a powerful first strike. We must be prepared for the coming storm."

"Don't worry," Divine Kasyapa said with conviction. "Lightford is strong, but with what we've set up, we can at least reach a draw, if not defeat him."

Flushing Lightford from his base of operations was a feat in and of its own. The old man had planned on staying behind the scenes, ordering his people to go around and cause chaos.

Now, he'd been forced to take matters into his own hands. On one hand, he was running out of talent to draw upon. On the other hand, he'd lost faith in his own people. That was good news for Jiang Chen and the others.

"Hah!" A yell pierced through the sky the sky, striking the Eternal Sacred Land from above like lightning. A swarm of airboats quickly emerged and loomed over the sacred land.

The opulent and majestic leading airboat opened up. Out shot a few figures like arrows. The leader was an old man with white hair and eyes as sharp as an eagle's.

It was Lightford, leading the charge himself.

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Chapter 2083: Engaging Old Man Lightford

"It's him." An Kasyapa looked up at the figure hovering in the sky some distance away, the look in his eyes deep. "That old bastard was always arrogant and prideful."

Whether in the Boundless Prison or Myriad Abyss, Lightford topped the list of people Kasyapa hated. The old man plagued An Kasyapa like a nightmare.

"You of the Eternal Sacred Land, listen up!" a voice boomed. "Master Lightford has come to you personally. You clowns should be coming out to greet him!"

Jiang Chen snorted. "Such hypocrisy. He's here to assign blame. Does he actually expect us to throw him a welcoming party?"

"That's just a suck-up's doing. Don't take it seriously. Be on your guard for a surprise attack from Lightford. We must maintain our calm and not let them affect us." Kasyapa was an experienced fighter. He remained calm and collected, unfazed by the commotion outside.

His composure inspired Jiang Chen.

The Eternal heir had had no experience in the battlefield in his past life. Although he'd gotten into his fair share of battles in this life, he was no match for someone who'd survived the Boundless Prison like Divine Kasyapa.

"Send someone to taunt Lightford," transmitted Kasyapa. "Remember, don't leave the circle of defense or we won't be able to ensure the person's safety."

The second prime wasn't interested in the task, while the third prime tapped Ziju Min to do the job. It should've been the primes' responsibility, and yet the two of them shirked their duties. Meanwhile, the elder didn't object.

Jiang Chen's contempt for the two primes intensified.

It was far from a serious clash, but from the little things, it was clear that the two primes were much inferior to the first prime.

"You should protect yourself when you provoke him, Elder Ziju. Beware of sudden retaliation. A divine cultivator will be able to destroy a lesser cultivator with a single strand of consciousness. Stay on guard."

"Don't worry. I'll be careful." Ziju Min nodded with a grave expression, then raised his voice. "Are you Old Man Lightford?"

"How dare a little junior like you talk to me this way!" responded Lightford. His voice hit Ziju Min's chest like a sledgehammer.

Fortunately, Ziju Min had kept Jiang Chen's warning in mind and dodged the sudden attack.

"Hmph! You just like the others, attacking without forewarning. So you're the Lightford they talk about huh? You don't seem like much!" Ziju Min wasn't one for aggression. Intimidation and insults weren't his strong suit.

Lightford cast his emotionless eyes down in an aloof assessment. "The Eternal Sacred Land has dared to kill my two enforcers. Do any of you have the guts to take responsibility? What is this weakling doing here? This a joke!"

"Be careful, Jiang Chen. Lightford must be planning something. Watch out for any sudden moves." Kasyapa always expected the worst from Lightford. He'd never let his guard down.

"I know you're here, An Kasyapa. You're from the Boundless Prison as well. You were at the mercy of the ten sacred lands, yet you shamelessly bow to Eternal. You're an embarrassment to your fellow inmates!" Lightford's voice dripped with sarcasm.

An Kasyapa flushed red. Lightford had hit a nerve.

“He’s provoking you on purpose, senior,” Jiang Chen hurriedly messaged. “He’s up to no good.”

An Kasyapa did his best to control his emotions and returned to his calm self. “Don’t worry. That’s not enough to make me lose it.”

Lightford surveyed the area.

There was a great formation guarding the mountain under the sacred land. Yet, he was confident he’d be able to break defense of that level.

However, there was also a strange disturbance in the air around the formation. Further observation imparted that a spatial method had been used to disrupt the space. That was the source of the oddity.

“The Eternal Sacred Land does have some tricks up its sleeves. My two enforcers must have suffered a defeat because of that. It’s laughable that they think the same trick will work on me!”

Lightford dived boldly toward the formation in a flash of white, giving his orders. “You two can redeem yourselves by accomplishing something in this fight. Attack the sacred land from both flanks. See if you can seize the opportunity to break their ultimate defense formation!”

Lightford hadn’t punished the two divine cultivators for escaping from Sandplain. This was their chance to make up for their failings.

Therefore, the two cultivators didn’t spare any effort. They followed Lightford’s momentum and shot towards the sides.

Jiang Chen cursed under his breath seeing the two divine cultivators Lightford had brought. Just how many had broken out from the Boundless Prison?

Quite a few had been sent to attack the ten sacred lands. A good number had been split out for Sandplain Island. And now, there were yet another two.

Jiang Chen hadn’t seen the two men back on Sandplain, so he didn’t know they had fled from the island.

“Don’t worry about them. Focus on Lightford,” Kasyapa told everyone silently.

Rays of black light rose from behind the Black Tortoise’s back, bringing with them an endless stream of strange, ancient patterns. The Vermilion Bird flapped its wings, sending incredibly hot clouds of flame toward Lightford.

Kasyapa cackled and pointed in the air. From his hand flew two crystal-clear, green leaves.

They were obviously two treasures rather than regular leaves.

They expanded in the wind and formed a shield like shellfish under attack, taking a defensive stance.

Lightford had planned to break through the defense with one hit, but things didn’t turn out as simple as he expected. First came the waves of heat from the Vermilion Bird, which slowed him down and made his breathing belabored.

With a twist of his body, his white robe brought up a wave of snowflakes, freezing the heat waves. They dissipated into thin air as a result.

However, the Black Tortoise's defensive circle rippled outwards by this time.

Jiang Chen also had the golden bell ready, waiting for the right moment. Lightford's reaction had made him even more wary. The old man was indeed powerful.

Jiang Chen knew the Vermilion Bird's power well. None of their previous enemies had been able to resist the heat waves. Lightford, however, had impressively resolved the attack with a simple flourish of his robe.

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Chapter 2084: Lightford Rages

The Vermilion Bird wasn't putting up a defense all by its lonesome. The Black Tortoise had made its move as well, and Divine Kasyapa had deployed the two mysterious leaves.

Once the bird's waves of heat dissipated, the Black Tortoise' defensive shock wave churned toward Lightford. On the defensive side alone, the tortoise was undeniably the better of the two.

The rippling shock wave brought with it a great force of gravity. Once Lightford was caught, his body would become heavier, reducing his mobility.

Gravity manipulation wasn't easy to deal with.

Lightford huffed and whipped the long sleeves of his white robe, ready to knock the shock wave aside like he'd done with the heat wave. As soon as he made contact though, he knew something was wrong.

The arm he used grew slightly rigid.

He was experienced and knowledgeable enough to realize he'd made a mistake. He backed away at lightning speed, trying to dodge the spreading ripples of gravity.

Suddenly, Kasyapa's green leaves charged at Lightford like a gaping mouth.

Lightford punched them furiously. The hit created a black hole in the air, crashing into the leaves with tremendous force.

However, the leaves were flexible. They snapped together and flew away unscathed.

Lightford immediately recognized the leaves as Kasyapa's personal treasure.

"You've chosen hell over an easy way out, An Kasyapa! I spared you back in the Boundless Prison because I appreciated your talent, but now it seems you don't deserve my mercy!"

An Kasyapa scoffed, "Does your mercy mean a chance to be your lapdog?"

"Hmph, and is that honestly beneath you?" Lightford continued to back away and finally moved out of the gravity wave's range of effect.

His striking eyes lit up with a deep glow as he looked into the distance. The gravity manipulation had deeply shocked him. He knew he'd met his match.

Lightford hadn't met the Vermilion Bird himself, but according to the intelligence he'd received, he speculated that the bird was responsible for the heat waves.

He also recognized the two leaves as An Kasyapa's doing.

The gravity manipulation, however, was an unknown quantity. Whoever the deployer was, their defensive power had exceeded even the Vermilion Bird and An Kasyapa.

Since when had Eternal boasted such a powerful member? Could it be the forefather?

It couldn't be. Eternal's forefather hadn't returned to the sacred land yet and didn't specialize in defense. Lightford had gathered enough information to come to that conclusion.

Had he not been stopped, he wouldn't have doubted himself. However, the strong resistance left him with no choice but to calm down.

Recalling that his two enforcers had died here made him wary. A being powerful enough to kill his two enforcers wouldn't be that much inferior to him, even if it couldn't rival him.

"Hmph, so I've underestimated the Eternal Sacred Land. Three divine beings. How impressive." Lightford remarked in a distant tone. "Who is your other helper in addition to the Vermilion Bird, An Kasyapa? Why the secrecy?"

An Kasyapa laughed heartily. "Aren't you the fearless Lightford? What, do you know fear now?"

"Fear?" Lightford huffed derisively. "Do you think the combined power of three divine beings is enough to intimidate me? How naive of you!"

"If you aren't intimidated, then what's with all the questions? Don't you want to leave something to the imagination?" An Kasyapa wasn't going to let Lightford direct the conversation.

The more he kept Lightford on his toes and doubting himself, the more reservations he would have. That would prevent Lightford from deploying his full battle strength.

After some consideration, Lightford transmitted to his two divine helpers, "Continue to attack from the sides, I'll take the center. As long as you attract some of their attention, I'll be able to break their defenses."

It was too difficult for him to fight three divine beings all at once. Even if he could do it, it'd take too long.

Fortunately, he'd brought two divine cultivators with him. Having just fled from Sandplain, they were eager to redeem themselves. This was where they could be useful.

As soon as Lightford gave the order, the two men attacked relentlessly from the flanks.

Although Eternal's defensive formation had been through many battles, its foundations remained intact. It could withstand the attacks of regular divine cultivators like them for some time.

If they were allowed to continue, however, the foundations would be eventually damaged and the formation might collapse.

Jiang Chen summoned all of the demigods in the sacred land, including Kasyapa's four servants and the two primes.

"We have to work together as a team, everyone. Our three gods must focus on fighting Lightford. We have to take care of his two lackeys."

The servant nicknamed First Wind had fought Jiang Chen before. He knew the young lord was powerful enough to rival a first level divine.

"Give your orders, young lord Chen. It's our honor to fight the divines alongside you."

"That's right. Our master holds you in high regard. The four of us are fortunate to fight with you."

Jiang Chen's expression turned serious. "Lightford is running out of manpower, or he wouldn't have brought only two divine cultivators with him. As soon as we take care of one of them, the other will lose his will to fight. We may not even need to do anything to him then."

"Haha, then let's do it!" First Wind shook his fist, his eyes blazing with fighting spirit.

"I'll set up some traps to lure them in," said Jiang Chen. "Our best strategy is to divide and conquer. Your responsibility is to keep one of them occupied, giving me a chance to catch them off guard."

Jiang Chen knew the servants and the primes were enough to overpower one divine cultivator.

If they failed to separate the two divines, the best case scenario would be a draw.

The two cultivators were oblivious to the impending danger.

In their eyes, since their master had attracted the attention of Eternal's divine realm members, their job was to destroy the sacred land quickly, slaughtering everyone and taking everything.

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Chapter 2085: To Rout on All Sides I

Jiang Chen and the others were hidden by various illusions within the defensive formation. There was no need to be worried about being seen before this first layer broke.

He observed the two gods from afar. The duo was already coming at them in a pincer move from the left and right.

Both men were obviously feckless, believing they were here to stamp out nothing more than ants.

Either one wasn't too far from his partner, but they were still separated. Jiang Chen very much liked this arrangement. If he opened the formation up to let one of them in, the Eternal defenders had a very good shot at eliminating them one by one.

His eyes darted between the two before coming to a decision. "That cultivator with a wart on his chin, the one to the right. He looks more brash than his companion. We'll start with him."

Ideally, the enemy's numbers would be reduced to make the assault more manageable. To accomplish this, they had to start with the easiest target.

The wart-faced cultivator wielded a fierce-looking spiked club. He delivered every smash of his weapon with tremendous force, boom after boom resounding upon the formation. The noise was painfully loud to listen to.

"Prepare yourselves. I will cut the formation open and give him some room to come in. Then, I'll ensnare him with a number of abilities. Your job is to use your strongest attacks against him while he's trapped. Whether you think you can hurt him or not, you should do your best. Do you understand?"

"Alright!"

The second prime wasn't very happy with how things were developing, but he knew he was fighting for the Eternal Sacred Land. If Jiang Chen noticed that he wasn't putting in work and abandoned them, the prime would be in big trouble— and Eternal, even bigger.

There were naturally no other dissenting voices.

Jiang Chen shifted the formation about. Cracks began to appear on the part that the wart-faced cultivator was attacking.

The cultivator grinned as soon as he saw the damage.

"Just break already!" Another smash of the club. The cracks immediately widened into a huge fissure. The cultivator roared with laughter. "I'm through. I'll see you later, Daoist Zijing!"

He was clearly a hasty man. He entered without a moment of hesitation as soon as the path was clear, brandishing his spiked club all around him in a defensive tempest.

Though he was reckless, he wasn't exactly stupid. This kind of blind offense was also useful as protection to a certain degree.

However, he was surprised to find no attack or ambush waiting for him whatsoever. Only emptiness was around him, as if he had entered a strange void.

With a flurry of hand seals, Jiang Chen pushed his Nine Labyrinth Formation to its limits.

His past uses of it hadn't pushed it to its fullest potential. Now that his cultivation was leaps and bounds ahead, he had gained access to more of the treasure's power in turn.

The Nine Labyrinth Formation was designed as something that could disorient even gods.

This wart-faced cultivator was clearly extremely tough in both physical attacks and defense. He wouldn't fear a flat-out brawl in the slightest. Finer techniques, however, were not his forte.

Jiang Chen saw no reason to meet his enemy's strengths head on.

As soon as the formation was broken, he sprang his Nine Labyrinth Formation onto the unsuspecting god. In the moment of his entrapment, Jiang Chen called out, "Everyone, get ready. Attack!"

Kasyapa's four demigod servants and the primes were already prepared. As soon as the order was given, they fired off their attacks at the wart-faced cultivator.

The Nine Labyrinth Formation had the potent advantage of cloaking those outside and attacks originating outside the diagrams. Anyone trapped was an easy target for the user and other observers.

The fight was a lopsided one from the start.

However, the wart-faced cultivator was quick to react. When these powerful attacks hurtled towards him, he whipped his club rapidly over his head to conjure a safeguarding vortex, stopping the attacks cold in their tracks.

Jiang Chen marveled at this. As expected of a god! A united attack from six demigods absolutely equaled one from an initial divine realm cultivator. And yet, the ambush hadn't managed to penetrate the enemy's defense.

"Again," he commanded.

As he did so, his Evil Golden Eye shot two rays of piercing light toward the wart-faced cultivator's own eyes.

This ocular ability of his was supremely domineering now. He wasn't afraid of taking on an initial divine realm cultivator like the man in front of him.

The Evil Golden Eye's strength came from one's consciousness. Right now, Jiang Chen's was unbelievably strong, certainly more so than the wart-faced cultivator. There was no risk whatsoever of being countered.

The wart-faced god was still in the process of warding off the six attacks.

"Foolish rats!" he bellowed. "No number of demigods can possibly touch me! I'll crush all your puny tricks, then pound your bodies into minced meat."

He had no idea that danger was staring him down the barrel. All of his attention was focused upon protecting himself from the attacks and examining the Nine Labyrinth Formation. It thus came as a great surprise when twin bursts of gold light entered his eyes.

As soon as they did, his very soul was paralyzed by an enormous freezing force. His movements immediately became sluggish.

As this occurred in the blink of an eye. The results were that in the next instant, his club didn't spin quite as fast as it had a moment prior.

The six attacks crept through this gap, smashing themselves viciously onto his body.

Thankfully, the wart-faced cultivator's skin was thick enough to protect him from serious harm. His face reddened at the impact, but he was able to refrain from spewing out a mouthful of blood.

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Chapter 2086: To Rout on All Sides II

However, just because his body wasn't badly injured didn't mean he was fine. The damage he'd sustained was far more serious than he thought.

The Evil Golden Eye consumed a cultivator from within. The wart-faced cultivator wasn't stupid enough to ignore the confining power over his consciousness.

Cold sweat broke out on his back. He tried to gather his consciousness and push out the force that was rampaging about within his mind. Alas, he noticed too late that this devious force was far stronger than he.

His consciousness couldn't expel the offending culprit, which spread out as briskly as wintry frost.

"What... what is all this?"

In the midst of his hesitation, a second wave of attacks from the six demigods landed upon him, searing his body with pain.

"Not good!"

No amount of audacity was enough to prevent the wart-faced cultivator from panicking. "Daoist Zijing," he called out as loudly as he could, "I need help right now. There's a trick here!"

The space wasn't entirely sealed off. His voice, coupled with some divine energy, allowed his message to pass into his comrade's ear.

Unfortunately, the other god wasn't having a good time himself. On the other side, he was locked in combat by a different god; a familiar cultivator, in fact, one that they'd met often in the Boundless Prison. The bald cultivator, Yu Gong, who had astutely surrendered to Jiang Chen when he'd been given the opportunity to.

"Are you crazy, Yu Gong? Why are you turning your weapons on me? Don't you know Master Lightford is right outside?"

The other god that Lightford had brought was named Yuan Zijing. Genteel and graceful, he looked rather wise at a glance. In actuality, he had a terrible reputation back in the Boundless Prison.

He was a hopelessly perverted philanderer who much 'enjoyed' female cultivators.

In fact, he'd even almost succeeded in abducting Huang'er's mother, An Yu'er— though the timely appearance of Divine Kasyapa had foiled him.

Thus, this Yuan Zijing was very much an animal wearing an urbane skin.

He wasn't capable of doing many dastardly deeds right now, however. Yu Gong was every bit his equal in battle, with a blazing fighting spirit to boot.

Yuan Zijing knew the strength differential between his opponent and himself quite well. Thus, he could hardly spare much attention to his cornered partner.

When waiting didn't yield help from Yuan Zijing, the wart-faced cultivator began to wail. "Master Lightford, please help me!"

More and more of his body was freezing. He felt his flesh harden and almost congeal, but to stone rather than ice.

When Jiang Chen's Evil Golden Eye succeeded in taking effect, its power only amplified with the passage of time. A stricken foe's defenses against it would gradually weaken as it invaded his body.

Astonishingly enough, the young lord's coordinated ambush had worked!

The young man wasn't going to let his prey simply turn into metal though. When the god had lost the bulk of his strength as well as the motion in his limbs, Jiang Chen stepped forward and seized the man.

A divine realm cultivator that couldn't be won over was still good material for refining life essence from. His divine decree would also be useful.

Although transforming him into a statue wouldn't affect the latter, his life essence would be irrevocably lost. What life was there to glean from cold metal?

The incapacitation of one of the gods was like cutting off one of Lightford's arms. Jiang Chen was more confident in their victory now.

"Come, let's go help over there."

Yu Gong was still holding off the genteel cultivator Yuan Zijing by himself.

The latter swore as they fought. "Yu Gong, you've always been the quiet type, but to think you would betray Master Lightford! Why didn't you try this hard when you were on our side, eh?"

Though Yu Gong was outwardly brutish, he had a discerning heart. He completely ignored Yuan Zijing's insults, only grinning in response when the cursing got particularly colorful.

"Master Lightford is right behind me. Are you still blind to the light?" Yuan Zijing tried in a last-ditch attempt to entice Yu Gong back to his side, but he might as well have been talking to a rock.

It was at this time that Jiang Chen and the others returned to the area that Yu Gong defended. The latter was quite pleased at the sight of them.

"How'd it go?" Yu Gong asked without turning his head.

"We took him down." Jiang Chen laughed.

Yu Gong was positively gleeful. "This Yuan Zijing is a bit stronger, but I'm not scared of him. One on one, we're evenly matched."

"How loyal is he to old Lightford?"

"Just like that cultivator with a wart. Steadfast and diehard." Yu Gong sighed. "Don't bother trying to convert these two. If I remember correctly, they were supposed to have been sent to the competition of geniuses. What are they doing here?"

"They probably managed to escape from Sandplain." Jiang Chen shrugged. "Still, if Lightford has to resort to using these defeated dogs, he doesn't have much left at his disposal. Shall we take that Yuan Zijing down as well?" His eyes glimmered with interest.

Old Lightford had heard the wart-faced cultivator's call for help. As much as he'd wanted to answer it, being attacked by three other gods simultaneously greatly taxed his attention.

A moment later, the man who'd cried out became silent. This cast a momentary shadow upon the old man's heart.

"Zijing, go see what's with him." Since Lightford was himself occupied, he ordered his flunky to do it.

Yuan Zijing wanted to cry. "Sir, I'm surrounded by a bunch of cultivators myself. He... he's probably dead!"

Being held up by Yu Gong was one thing, but a mysterious surge of suspended runes was preventing him from going much of anywhere. This kind of lockdown wouldn't confine him forever, but it did serve to annoy and hinder him.

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

Chapter 2087: The Myriad Transformations of Spirits

The suspended runes caused Yuan Zijing considerable annoyance. Alas, once he redoubled his efforts to break them apart, he found that a sadder fate awaited him.

He was completely lost.

It was as if he had been dropped into a labyrinth with strange dimensions of space leading in every direction.

As an experienced god, Yuan Zijing knew he was trapped by a formation.

Amid his confusion, he suddenly noticed a golden bell overhead. When the instrument pressed downward, he felt a tremendous pressure. A beam of light enveloping him drained his strength.

A resulting storm of attacks of every kind landed upon him.

Yu Gong was astonished. He hadn't even warmed up yet, but Yuan Zijing was already splayed like a dead dog upon the immaterial ground of the Nine Labyrinth Formation. Their target could no longer put up any resistance.

The sight of his old acquaintance being dragged out made him rather grateful. He'd been in the first wave of raiders upon the Eternal Sacred Land.

The sallow cultivator who'd come with him had been captured and handed over to Divine Kasyapa.

The two enforcers, on the other hand, had been outright refined into life essence. Their lives had been extinguished in the process.

He was the lone survivor. Rather than dying, he'd barely suffered at all. The choice to change sides had clearly been a wise one.

Just like the wart-faced cultivator before him, Yuan Zijing was now Jiang Chen's prisoner.

Old Lightford's two divine helpers had both been stripped from him. The old man was without anyone to command.

"Lightford, you old dog," Jiang Chen's voice echoed from the void. "Your two lackeys are already in my hands. When do you intend to resist until?"

This statement was more effective than any actual attack. Lightford's heart sank instantly. Had Yuan Zijing and his comrade failed?

How was that possible? The Eternal Sacred Land's gods were all fighting him! The only ones left should've been demigods at best. Even accounting for the sacred land's defensive formation, they would've capitulated in time. How had his men lost in the end?

Did the Eternal Sacred Land have other powerful fighters in reserve?

It was extremely unlikely that the enemy was lying. Unmasking a lie like this would be instantaneous.

"Can it be..." A terrible premonition washed over Lightford's consciousness.

His two subordinates should've spoken up instantly to refute the claim, but Yuan Zijing and the other god were both still silent.

A lingering sense of malaise unsettled Lightford. How unknowably strong was the Eternal Sacred Land, really?

Did it have more gods beyond the three before him? Or were the ten sacred lands' forefathers all hidden here, awaiting his arrival perhaps?

Impossible!

A cursory examination revealed the foolishness of his daring supposition.

The fighting would've intensified long ago if that was the case. The ten forefathers would've rushed him, given their incredible numerical advantage.

The fact that that hadn't occurred meant that the enemy didn't have that many forces to spare. The forefathers weren't here. What that implied though, was more terrifying still.

Old Lightford had naturally investigated the ten sacred lands beforehand in his ambition. He knew what level they were at.

He had always thought that the ten divine forefathers were the sacred lands' greatest assurance. In his opinion, they weren't worth much. He believed that he had plenty of methods to strike them all down.

Alas, the battle of Sandplain had proven that the sacred lands weren't as easy to deal with as he'd first thought. This feeling was growing exponentially stronger with his time here.

Deep down, he wanted very much to ask whether the sacred lands had been hiding their strength all along.

"Haha, are you still brave enough to say you're not afraid, Lightford?" The grating voice of Kasyapa sounded once more.

Lightford flashed an incensed snarl.

“Very good, very good. I see that I’ve underestimated the Eternal Sacred Land. I’d like to see how much more you’re hiding!” The old man roared. Blue light surged all around him as his voice grew louder, culminating in the appearance of two horns on his head.

The horns were as peculiar as could be and runes flitted about him like fireflies, even more peculiar still.

“What is that?” Jiang Chen was flabbergasted by Lightford’s transformation.

An Jiashe whitened. “I heard a rumor that Old Lightford received a primordial heritage in the Boundless Prison. It seems that the rumor is true.”

“What heritage?” Jiang Chen frowned. Several primordial methods flashed across his mind that resembled the change Lightford was undergoing.

“It’s supposed to be called ‘the Myriad Transformations of Spirits or something like that. A master of it can mimic various kinds of primordial creatures’ form as well as access some of their abilities. Back in the prison, no one ever saw him use anything like it... but it turns out that the rumor wasn’t baseless after all,” remarked An Jiashe soberly.

Evidently, he was quite wary of Lightford in his current state.

‘The Myriad Transformations of Spirits?’

These words lit up Jiang Chen’s mind.

Though it sounded somewhat similar to ‘The Nine Transformations of Demons and Gods’ Jiang Chen had cultivated in the past, they were drastically different methods.

The latter was also called ‘The Nine Variations of Buddha’s Warrior Attendants’, and was intended to temper and protect one’s body. At its upper limit, it granted a certain degree of invincibility to the cultivator.

This ‘Myriad Transformations of Celestials’, on the other hand, simulated the shape of all kinds of primordial creatures. Its ability to resonate with the bygone spirits’ bloodline powers was heaven-defying.

“What is he transforming into? A primordial Skysplitter Ox, is it?” Jiang Chen furrowed his brow thoughtfully, intent on the flickering image of the creature in the distance.

Divine Kasyapa was totally lost. He barely knew anything about the primordial era. But what he did know was that Old Lightford would be much harder to beat now.

He wasn’t quite sure whether their three-god band would hold against their new and improved opponent.

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

Chapter 2088: Going Head-to-Head

The Myriad Transformations of Spirits was a robust ability. Jiang Chen was quite familiar with its potency.

The knowledge he had of it from his previous life marked it as rather troublesome. However, it was only mimicry at the end of the day. Compared to a genuine survivor of the ancient era, it lacked the terrifying might of the chosen spirit's bloodline.

Jiang Chen considered Lightford for a few moments with a pensive stare before smiling deliberately. "Other than this... transformation of his, does he have any other trump cards up his sleeve?"

Divine Kasyapa blinked. What did the young man mean? Was this ability not strong enough to present a threat?

"Jiang Chen, do you have a way to disable his method?"

Jiang Chen grinned with perfect ease. "There's nothing under the sun that can't be countered. It's all relative to the strength of the countering force."

"Oh? But Old Lightford is far stronger than any one of us." Kasyapa sounded perplexed.

"Yes, but his grasp of that method is rudimentary at best," Jiang Chen declared with confidence. "Even if that weren't the case, we have nothing to fear. No matter how hard he tries to imitate a primordial creature, how can he possibly rival our four genuine sacred beasts? To put it bluntly, he's at a disadvantage in this field."

Saying this, the young man looked with interest at the Vermilion Bird and the Black Tortoise. "Old Man Lightford is attempting to show off the strength of a primordial beast. As sacred beasts in the flesh, are you interested in taking him on?"

The Vermilion Bird chuckled. "A primordial beast is nothing before us four of the sacred beasts. Daoist Black, dare you take part in this combat?"

The Black Tortoise was more of a passive beast. It was difficult to get it to actively demand a fight, but the Vermilion Bird's invitation was one it couldn't refuse. Its young master wanted the same thing, after all.

It couldn't seem too cowardly after joining its current team. Otherwise, how was it ever going to mix in with the others? Yes, the tortoise had already expressed its loyalty, but it also desired the approval of its companions.

"Since Daoist Vermilion is in the mood, I shall deign to take to the field. With the combined strength of us two sacred beasts, what can a puny primordial image do to us?"

Amid this conversation, both bird and reptile were already out of the formation on wings of light.

Old Lightford was still charging his aura. He wanted to use the primordial creature's dominance at its zenith to outright crush the Eternal Sacred Land's defensive formation.

Surprisingly, his opposition was making the first pass.

The two sacred beasts were hardly going to hold back since they'd decided to take the field. They reverted to their true forms.

The Vermilion Bird glowed pure crimson, seething like a volcano on the brink of eruption. It glared and blazed with the energy of the midday sun.

The Black Tortoise resembled a cross between a turtle and a serpent. It moved on robust, forceful limbs that were as durable as the hardest metal. The oval shell upon its back radiated an explosive vigor.

"Are you the animal responsible for all this?!" Lightford's lantern eyes glared at the Black Tortoise.

A sacred beast being called a mere animal! The tortoise was furious. It stomped its feet, then called out, "Daoist Vermilion, get him!"

When a Black Tortoise's temper flared up, it was a force to be reckoned with. It smashed its forearms into empty air, causing the fabric of space to fissure and ripple toward Old Man Lightford.

The Vermilion Bird chuckled. It spun faster and faster, conjuring a storm of fiery meteors that rained down upon its enemy.

A simultaneous assault of two sacred beasts shook heaven and earth in its sublimity.

Even Lightford dared not underestimate it. He roared at the sky, ramming his gigantic horns toward the Black Tortoise's spatial ripples.

Boom!

The tortoise's attack bounced outward from the impact in a flurry of chaotic currents. However, the Vermilion Bird's flames were already upon Lightford.

The spirit Lightford had transformed into was instantly covered by a layer of red. Devouring embers piled up upon his skin.

Old Lightford roared strangely into the air once more. His spirit form's own radiance was forced closer and closer into himself, condensed by the Vermilion Bird's carmine wind.

"Daoist Black, keep him still. His transformation won't last in my blistering flames!" messaged the Vermilion Bird.

Yes, Lightford did seem to be losing – though he wasn't the type of person that would surrender to fate. His ox form began to lengthen into an ancient serpent.

The reptilian spirit shrieked, coiling and spinning to produce a warding vortex that shunted the Vermilion Bird's flames aside. The assailing embers were forced to recede for a time.

In the next moment, the serpent made a vicious swipe at the Black Tortoise. Its claw was at the tortoise's face in a single instant.

The Black Tortoise reacted with perfect poise. It drew its head back and turned its shell toward the attack.

Clang!

Ochre ripples and runes radiated from the tortoise's back, signaling the absence of any damage aside from the slightest of scratches.

Old Lightford had thought his last attack was assured to be effective. Despite the intensity with which he'd struck – his bones hurt like they were about to break – he hadn't managed to injure his target a bit.

This accursed monster has an unbelievably strong defense!

Suddenly, a particular kind of ancient creature flickered across Lightford's mind. His heart skipped a beat in spite of himself.

He gazed at the Black Tortoise with renewed bewilderment, clearly having guessed its identity. At the same time, he cursed internally to himself. What kind of luck did the Eternal Sacred Land have?

The Vermilion Bird and the true dragon were one thing, but where had this Black Tortoise come from?

Was it also a helper that Jiang Chen had invited? Or perhaps the young lord's partner?

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

Chapter 2089: Old Man Lightford Retreats With Shock

It was clear from the Black Tortoise's stance that it wasn't merely Jiang Chen's helper. The four sacred beasts were of noble bloodlines. What was so special about Jiang Chen that he was able to win over the loyalty of the four beasts?!

Lightford was undeniably frustrated with how things had developed. Given his level of strength, his prestige would suffer a great blow if news got out that he'd failed to take down the Eternal Sacred Land, despite having taken matters into his own hands.

What was worse, the inmates he'd recruited from the Boundless Prison had fallen victim again and again to the Eternal Sacred Land. He'd already lost three groups of his people.

This sacred land was a bottomless pit.

If nothing was done about it, Eternal would become the biggest obstacle to his plan to dominate Myriad Abyss.

The thought prompted Lightford to morph into a furious serpent. However, the Black Tortoise's defense was too impenetrable.

Moreover, the Vermilion Bird's attacks had been keeping Lightford at bay, despite its defense being lesser than that of the tortoise. The sacred bird was as quick and agile as Lightford himself.

The two sacred beasts made a perfect team. One of them harassed Lightford with attacks while the other put up an unbreakable defense. The longer the fight went on, the more worried Lightford became.

He'd always been proud of his transfiguration method. It'd served him well in previous fights against other human cultivators.

Today however, he was faced with enemies he least wanted to fight—ancient true spirits, and ones of the four sacred beast bloodlines at that!

Once ascended to divinity, the sacred beasts would be more powerful than cultivators of the same level.

Lightford had been so unfortunate today as to run into not one, but two such sacred beasts!

To make things worse, the two beasts fought together with great ease, which made up for the gap between their cultivation and Lightford's.

His transformation art was of no help, either.

Even if he could imitate an ancient spirit's presence and the power of its bloodline, that didn't mean anything when facing the sacred beasts.

He began to doubt himself.

If he was fighting only one sacred beast, he was confident that he'd be able to defeat it in a thousand different ways. At least, he could do so with the current gap between their cultivation levels.

With the two sacred beasts working in concert, it was a different story. They were greater than the sum of their parts.

Lightford had been the unchallenged ruler in the Boundless Prison, and his ambitions reached new heights after breaking out. Execution of his plan had gone smoothly but today, he finally knew what failure was. Helplessness reared its unwanted head.

If he couldn't separate the two sacred beasts, it'd be impossible for him to conquer the Eternal Sacred Land.

He quite regretted his decision.

If he hadn't been so self-assured and hadn't ordered the two divine cultivators to split up, the two of them could help him separate the sacred beasts. That much, he was confident of.

Now though, he was fighting a lonely fight. There was nothing to be gained with today's operation.

Besides, An Kasyapa was still lurking in the dark with whatever conspiracy he was quietly brewing. If he made a move, not even Lightford was sure that he'd be able to retreat unscathed.

What caused greater concern than the formidable An Kasyapa was Jiang Chen, the young genius who had recruited two sacred beasts.

Lightford hadn't yet met Jiang Chen in person, but the young man had spoken up earlier. Lightford knew he must be hidden somewhere as well. The young man was an unknown quantity.

Lightford's two divine subordinates had been caught by Jiang Chen in a way they themselves didn't even understand. How powerful must the young man be?

Lightford didn't even want to follow that train of thought. If even Jiang Chen could rival a divine cultivator, the Eternal Sacred Land had at least the power of five to six gods on its side.

Lightford's resolve finally wavered.

After numerous vicious clashes with the Vermilion Bird and the Black Tortoise, he realized that his superior cultivation wasn't enough for him to defeat them. The two sacred beasts' bloodlines made them stronger when faced with powerful foes. They could give as good as they got.

Lightford wouldn't win here, not today.

"Fine. I've lost my momentum. Although the two sacred beasts can't hurt me, I can't defeat them either. I'm not going to break into the Eternal Sacred Land today. I mustn't let my emotions get the better of me if I'm going to achieve anything great."

Lightford was smart enough to know when to cut his losses. He would never stubbornly proceed on a path that would lead to nowhere. In fact, he was already formulating a different plan in his mind.

Since he couldn't take the Eternal Sacred Land, he would target the other sacred lands instead.

The group contingent must be gathered together now.

"Compared to the two sacred beasts, Jiang Chen, and An Kasyapa, the ten sacred lands are the easier targets!"

It finally dawned on him that he'd been too confident. If he'd put all he had into attacking the sacred land elites on Sandplain, he would've killed a good number of the ten forefathers.

He wouldn't have ended up with so few options.

If he'd taken out the ten forefathers, he would've been able to assign fewer divine cultivators to attack the ten sacred lands and bring to more Eternal. They'd be able to handily defeat the two sacred beasts, An Kasyapa, and members of the sacred land. Not even five more An Kasyapas would've been able to stop them.

Lightford had sent at least two divine cultivators to each sacred land. In other words, that meant more than twenty divines had escaped from the Boundless Prison.

Who knew how many gods had been imprisoned since the ancient times? Although many had been killed, some survived. All of the survivors were elites.

Lightford had recruited them in pursuit of conquering Myriad Abyss. He'd now made up his mind to target the ten forefathers. He would be able to pick them off himself!

Once he decided to retreat, not even the two sacred beasts could stop him. He charged in the air and ripped open a fissure. The fissure seemed to cut a passage across the sky and vanished in a flash of light in the next instant!

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

Chapter 2090: Rich Spoils

Old Lightford, retreated!

Almost everyone present was incredulous at this turnabout.

Even Divine Kasyapa was speechless for a time, gazing into the distance at the direction that Lightford had fled toward. He would've never imagined that the tremendously conceited old man would actually flee!

Jiang Chen was the only one who remained as calm as ever. The outcome hadn't disturbed him in the slightest. Perhaps everything was already under control for him.

"Good job, kid! You're really something, huh," Kasyapa remarked in praise.

The other cultivators who'd participated in the battle approached Jiang Chen now as well. They were evidently still reeling from the aftershock of their confrontation.

They had uniformly believed that the battle was to be their last stand. Incredibly enough, their side had won the day after all! What they were experiencing now seemed almost like a dream.

The four demigods who served Kasyapa quite respected Jiang Chen's astounding achievement. They regarded the young man in a completely different way from before.

The strength he'd exhibited today was considerably greater than what he'd shown in their sparring. They were both astonished and impressed.

The two captive gods were delivered to Jiang Chen. The wart-faced cultivator and Yuan Zijing were both ghastly pale, very much aware of the situation they were in.

The wart-faced cultivator raised his head to see Divine Kasyapa and Yu Gong.

"Daoist An, Daoist Yu," his eyes lit up. "I didn't expect former comrades-in-suffering to come to blows like this! Is this really necessary?"

Divine Kasyapa sneered wordlessly. He could hear the cultivator's insinuations; their captive wanted to stay alive.

Yu Gong was a bit more thin-skinned. He turned his head, pretending not to know the man.

Yuan Zijing was displeased at the simpering show. "Fellow daoist, we should be content with our lot as the losers. What need is there to spew hot air everywhere? Do you think brownnosing now will convince them to let you off?"

The wart-faced cultivator blinked, then muttered, "We're all gods here! Why should our lives be thrown away for the sake of petty disputes?"

Divine Kasyapa laughed angrily. "Do you think you'll be allowed to live?"

The wart-faced cultivator colored. "Brother An, I've respected you since our days in the Boundless Prison. We were in the wrong today – our greed got the better of us. Please, intercede for me so that I may join the right side that is the Eternal Sacred Land."

Kasyapa chuckled. "You joined Lightford in much the same way as you're trying to join Eternal now. If there's the chance to do so in the future, you'll definitely leave us as well. Do you think we have any use for someone like you?"

The wart-faced cultivator blanched immediately; his intentions had been pointed out too plainly for comfort.

Yuan Zijing harrumphed. "If you're going to kill us, just do it already. It was enough for us to see the light of day again after escaping from the Boundless Prison. Master Lightford will avenge us another day."

"Avenge you?" Jiang Chen burst into laughter. "You're certainly confident in that old man. If he was capable of such a thing, why did he run away today?"

Though Old Lightford had retreated of his own accord, saying that he had ran away was a reasonable statement.

"You only got us because you ambushed us with trickery," Yuan Zijing snorted. "When Master Lightford raises an army of gods, the Eternal Sacred Land will be done for!"

Jiang Chen smiled coolly. "That may possibly come to pass, but you won't be around to see it. The enforcers aren't that far ahead of you on the road to hell, so you'll be able to catch up if you try. At least you won't be lonely, eh?"

He didn't want to waste any more time. These two were different from Yu Gong. The former had actively assisted Lightford, while the latter had been pressed into service.

Their attitudes had been quite evident in their fighting. Jiang Chen wasn't interested in attempting to recruit them either. Refining their life essences and taking their divine decrees was fine enough.

In no time at all, the two gods followed in the late enforcers' footsteps.

The second and third primes were greatly tempted by the sight of each divine decree's materialization upon the death of the holder. For them, a divine decree was a very desirable thing.

They knew well enough that they probably wouldn't be able to break through to divine realm via their own strengths. A divine decree, however, was a game changer.

Refining a divine decree was a nearly guaranteed opportunity to attain divine realm in one's own right. Yes, one's achievements would be limited after that, but getting there was more than good enough.

Unfortunately for them, Jiang Chen clearly had no plans to give something so precious to someone like the second prime. Though he had joined the Eternal Sacred Land, he wasn't exactly close to the second prime.

At this point in time, he was the proud owner of a smattering of divine decrees. He had gained one during the quelling of the rebellion, and the battle at Sandplain Island's exit had added two more to that number.

Killing the two enforcers after returning to Eternal had yielded two more. When added to the wart-faced cultivator's and Yuan Zijing's, that made for seven in all.

If he hadn't given away the sallow cultivator's divine decree to Divine Kasyapa, he would own eight right now.

Jiang Chen was very pleased with his collection as well as the process. Each divine decree represented a divine realm cultivator. Used as gifts, they represented an enormous debt that needed to be repaid.

He completely ignored whatever yearning the second prime had for one.

If he was going to give these treasures away, he would certainly prioritize those close to him.

Right now, he wanted to give one to Elder Ziju Min and another to Yan Wanjun.

Both men were ninth level empyrean realm, which meant they weren't far from the edge of divinity.

However, their current level represented nearly the maximum their natural potential could achieve. Only a divine decree and life essence from another divine cultivator could help them break through.

Moreover, they were very trustworthy, having weathered numerous trials loyally by his side.