

Three Realms 2091

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

Chapter 2091: Advancing Into Eighth Level Emyrean

Yan Wanjun and Ziju Min didn't expect Jiang Chen's sudden gift. They knew that he had gotten his hands on a number of divine decrees, but never imagined that they would be the recipients of such valuable things.

When Jiang Chen expressed his intention to give one to each of them, both men beamed with serendipitous joy.

Ziju Min was especially pleased. His position in the Eternal Sacred Land was far lower than the three primes. Before discovering Jiang Chen, he had only been an elder – not even a venerated one.

Jiang Chen's incredible deeds had increasingly elevated his prominence, to the degree that his word was as effective as the primes'.

The divine decree would allow him to surpass them in stature, directly rising to that of the venerated forefather.

Ziju Min never would have dreamed of such a thing before. He opened his mouth, but nothing came out except a hoarse choking. His eyes reddened with emotion.

Jiang Chen could understand what he was feeling.

“Elder Ziju, I would hardly call myself a perfect gentleman, but I have at least a basic understanding of how to repay others' kindness. Truthfully, you're the only one who's been my greatest benefactor through and through. I've only had a mutually beneficial agreement with the others – yes, even the venerated forefather. He's helped me many times, but each instance has had conditions attached as well. But you, Elder Ziju, you single handedly picked me out from House Yan purely because you appreciated my talent.”

“Your graciousness deserves compensation many times over. Don't be flustered about receiving this divine decree, Elder Ziju. Rest easy knowing that you fully deserve it.”

Jiang Chen's words made Ziju Min even more speechless. He had taken an interest in Jiang Chen and brought him to the Eternal Sacred Land entirely out of affectation for the young man's pill dao potential.

Back then, he couldn't possibly have known that Jiang Chen would do all the amazing things he had done to this day. It was clear now that his decision back then was the wisest he had made in all of his life.

“If I refuse your goodwill, Jiang Chen, I would do so with insincerity. I will accept your divine decree. If one day I may break through to divine realm, I will follow you wherever you lead.”

Ziju Min was insightful enough to see that though the Eternal Sacred Land seemed great now, especially after attaining the leadership of the other sacred lands, all of its status hinged on Jiang Chen's continued presence here. If one day he was to depart, exactly how long would Eternal remain worthy?

Myriad Abyss Island was about to undergo cataclysmic change. It was hard to predict how the ten sacred lands would change in the future. Eternal's forefather would definitely not be the one to lead the direction of the realm. Rather, it would be this incredible youth before him.

A young man like Jiang Chen was worth following.

Ziju Min knew better than anybody that he would never be able to break through to divine realm with his own strength alone. Refining a divine decree was his only path possible.

Not long before, this path had been entirely forbidden. Before the loosening of the Boundless Prison, no gods existed in Myriad Abyss besides the divine forefathers. There were no divine decrees for anyone to refine.

Any that did come to existence would only have done so as a part of some secret ritual of the sacred lands. And it was nothing that would possibly be awarded to an ordinary elder like him – there were three primes far above in the hierarchy!

“You're not quite a demigod yet, Elder Ziju. It will take some time for you to refine the divine decree. However, I will give you some divine life essence as well that can accelerate the time you need to get there. Once you do reach that level, you can start thinking about refining your divine decree. Perhaps I'll hear good news from you in only a year or two!”

The twofold gift was generous enough to make Ziju Min cry.

Yan Wanjun, on the other hand, was a lot calmer. As Huang'er's grandfather, he was quite aware of the possibility that he would be given a divine decree. It was a completely reasonable conclusion to make.

For the sake of Huang'er's happiness alone, it would be worthwhile for him to be given one.

Meanwhile, Jiang Chen believed that Yan Qianfan and An Yu'er weren't yet at the limit of their martial potential. Because of this, there was no need to give them divine decrees so soon.

Plus, Divine Kasyapa would be a big help in their natural attempts to break through to divinity.

What Yan Wanjun did have mixed feelings about was his current circumstances. He reminisced about House Yan's actions over the years, as well as its difficult history. The house was no more, but its heritage had rebounded and grown even greater.

If he broke through to divine realm, House Yan would have an eternal god. His son Yan Qianfan was sure to have a bright future in his own right, and his grandson Yan Qingsang had his friend Jiang Chen to help him. There was no need to even talk about Huang'er:

Divine Kasyapa had given her innumerable treasures and opportunities to increase her cultivation, such that she was mid empyrean realm now.

Advanced empyrean wasn't far off. Her talent meant that divinity would be no problem for her, and her grandfather had boasted as much.

An Kasyapa couldn't make that guarantee for his daughter and son-in-law, since the best time for advancing their cultivation was past. Huang'er, on the contrary, was in her prime.

Yan Wanjun's descendants were all flourishing.

He found it hard to judge whether the demise of House Yan was entirely bad after all. He was sad that his extended family was no more, but very proud that his children and grandchildren were growing stronger by the day.

In fact, he wished the rest of the house was still alive to see their incredible prosperity. Alas, the dead had no eyes with which to see. The most he could do was preserve his lineage and make an attempt at creating a new, thriving future for his surname.

Jiang Chen was hardly content to sit still himself. The life essence of divine cultivators was greatly beneficial for his cultivation as well. He planned to hit eighth level empyrean while he had the time to do so.

Doing so was much smoother than he'd imagined. The life essence removed all obstacles to his journey upwards.

The energy from it fueled a rapid surge, all the way to the peak of his current level. He was only inches away from the next, and had a pretty good shot if he brute forced it.

He didn't want to rush any step of his cultivation though. He held back in favor of stabilizing his foundations.

After Long Xiaoxuan broke through to ninth level empyrean and absorbed more and more life essence, he underwent the greatest change. The awakening remnants of his ancestral divine blood meant that he was increasingly closer to divinity.

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

Chapter 2092: A God's Warning

Although outside prognosis seemed to be getting grimmer and grimmer by the day, Jiang Chen and his companions worked steadily toward their goals. All seemed to be proceeding smoothly.

On this day, Divine Kasyapa sought out Jiang Chen.

"You're leaving?" Jiang Chen was rather surprised.

"Haha, Eternal isn't my home. Why should I stay here as their watchdog?" An Kasyapa was half joking. "They aren't paying me anything."

"But..." Jiang Chen trailed off. "Lightford must hold a grudge against you after his last defeat. If you leave and he finds your home base, what will you do then?"

Kasyapa laughed. "Oh, you don't know that old bastard. He does hold a grudge against me and wants to tear me to pieces, but I can assure you that he's not going to come after me anytime soon."

"Why not?" asked Jiang Chen.

"He's not a short-sighted man. The situation in Myriad Abyss isn't looking good for him. What he needs to do now is to gather his subordinates and attack the sacred lands again. He won't set his sights on me

before things are settled in Myriad Abyss. Besides, he won't necessarily know that I've left the sacred land. Even if he does, he may not be able to locate me. It'll also take time for him to break into my secret realm. It's not like I'll stay idle and do nothing during that time."

As a divine cultivator, An Kasyapa had his ways of surviving.

Given what his grandfather-in-law had said, Jiang Chen wasn't going to keep arguing. Otherwise, it'd seem like he didn't trust the god. Kasyapa was a divine cultivator, not a child who needed his protection.

"I won't be taking Huang'er with me this time. I don't think she'll be willing, and I don't want her to be in danger. Perhaps I even have to admit that being with you is safer for her."

Divine Kasyapa was more open-minded than Jiang Chen had anticipated. He was even more so when facing the man his granddaughter loved and was generous with his compliments.

Jiang Chen didn't take that for granted and humbly shook his head.

"You've been staying in the sacred land for the past few days, Jiang Chen. It may be a safe choice, but not the best choice." Divine Kasyapa spoke up. There were certain things he had to point out to the young man before he left.

Jiang Chen paused thoughtfully.

"I know we should be more proactive, but if I leave the sacred land, it'll be at the mercy of our enemies. The two primes aren't enough to deter them. If Lightford comes back, Eternal will fall into his hands." There was a reason why Jiang Chen couldn't just leave.

He knew the smart thing to do was to meet up with the ten forefathers and eliminate the fugitives from the Boundless Prison together, but he was worried about the Eternal Sacred Land in that development.

"Sometimes, sacrifice is inevitable," Divine Kasyapa remarked faintly. "Which is more important, the Eternal Sacred Land or the big picture? Besides, are you worried about the foundations of the sacred land, or just some of its members?"

That, Jiang Chen had a clear answer to. He didn't care that much about the sacred land itself. He stayed only because there were people he had to protect.

"If you're just worried about some of the members, you can always take them with you via airboats. With your current strength, you're powerful enough to fight Lightford head-on. I can tell that the true dragon is about to ascend to divinity as well. With three sacred beasts by your side, even Lightford won't be able to defeat you. Therefore, you don't need to play safe. It's not a bad thing to want to protect everyone, but you've let it cloud your judgement."

As Jiang Chen's senior, Kasyapa hadn't sugarcoated his words.

The young genius didn't get defensive. Instead, he ruminated on the senior's words.

He had to admit the god had a point. His eyes lit up. "Divine Kasyapa, if I'm going after Lightford, will you join me in this madness?"

Divine Kasyapa laughed like he'd been waiting for the offer.

"I was always a risk-taker in the Boundless Prison, but very few have been able to make me want to do so. Jiang Chen, I've decided to take this leap of faith with you!"

It was more than apparent that the god was indulging in a bit of youthful recklessness in his old age.

Jiang Chen encountered quite a bit of challenges with his decision. Firstly, the two primes were vehemently against the idea.

The second prime was especially vocal. "The venerated forefather sent you back to protect the sacred land, Jiang Chen. If you take the risk and leave now and we come under enemy attack, you'll be blamed by generations to come."

This man's words had always bothered Jiang Chen. He smiled coolly. "Lightford's subordinates have all either been captured or killed. They don't have enough people to attack the sacred land."

"Lightford himself still lives. Given his level of power, no one in the sacred land will be able to stop him if he returns." The second prime was insistent.

"Lightford is ambitious. His goal is to destroy all ten of the sacred lands. He's not going to waste time on Eternal." Jiang Chen shook his head. "If I dawdle around while the elites of the ten sacred lands are losing the battle or if they fall when I'm not there, then Myriad Abyss is doomed!"

He wasn't being an alarmist.

If the elites of the ten sacred lands were killed, the ten sacred lands were as good as destroyed. Without the ten forefathers and the elites, they would be left with only thirty percent of their forces. What were they going to do then? How were they going to fight Lightford? How were they going to deter the offworld invaders?

Ziju Min was of one mind with Jiang Chen. Even from his consideration of the big picture, he felt Jiang Chen was right.

The Eternal Sacred Land had become Lightford's worst nightmare. He wasn't going to attack it without gathering enough manpower.

Besides, his priority wasn't to defeat the Eternal Sacred Land, but to gather an army for a rematch. Under the circumstances, it didn't make sense for someone as powerful as Jiang Chen to remain in Eternal.

"Jiang Chen's analysis makes sense, Second Prime, Third Prime. Lightford must be after the ten sacred lands' elites. Eternal is no longer his priority."

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

Chapter 2093: To Where Do We Go

What the two primes thought didn't matter to him. Jiang Chen wasn't going to change his mind once he'd made it up. Besides, he had Ziju Min's support.

In fact, even the venerated forefather wouldn't be able to change Jiang Chen's decisions now. Neither could he order Jiang Chen around.

The young genius didn't need the sacred land to survive. Quite the contrary, he was the reason why the Eternal Sacred Land still stood.

Starfate now housed all of the Yan family, Eternal's members who were close to Jiang Chen, and An Kasyapa and his four servants.

Yan Wanjun sighed faintly. "Jiang Chen, your attitude may prompt the second prime to twist the truth before the venerated forefather."

Jiang Chen smiled carelessly. "Then he'll be asking for humiliation."

Ziju Min chuckled. "Don't worry, Daoist Wanjun. Jiang Chen is the venerated forefather's go-to consultant on many issues. The second prime isn't going to convince the forefather with his petty lies. The forefather may even reprimand him."

Yan Wanjun fell silent. He wasn't a member of the sacred land and thus had no place to say anything. However, it was clear from the way Jiang Chen held himself that he had the power to back his confidence up. Not even the venerated forefather was likely able to influence his decisions anymore.

Yan Wanjun was proud to call the remarkable young man his grandson-in-law. The whole world may mock the Yan family for its members' demise, but one day, people would look at House Yan with envy for having Jiang Chen!

An Kasyapa had been looking over the airboat and clucked his tongue. "This is a very nice airboat, Jiang Chen! It doesn't seem like modern workmanship."

"It's an ancient legacy. Many formations are hidden in it, integrating both offensive and defensive measures. It may look just like a regular airboat, but Starfate shines in actual battles."

"I can tell. The airboat will be able to withstand even the full-strength attack from a god. What a remarkable construct!" An Kasyapa's appreciation for Starfate was evident.

Jiang Chen smiled and changed the subject. "Where should we go next, Divine Kasyapa? Where do you think old Lightford will go?"

"He'll be wherever your elites are." Of that, Kasyapa was very certain of. Some deliberation was enough for him to conclude that Lightford's current priority was to eliminate the sacred lands' elites.

"You killed a few divine cultivators in the Eternal Sacred Land, Jiang Chen. You may think you've turned the tide. However, the ten sacred lands only stand a fifty percent chance of defeating Lightford. To be honest, you might lose anytime."

His sheer candor were a bucket of cold water to the face, snapping one back to alertness.

Once Lightford found the ten sacred lands' elites, a difficult fight would break out. If Lightford had brought with him a good number of divine cultivators, things would get worse and worse for the ten sacred lands as time went by.

Moreover, the ten sacred lands weren't a united front. Even after forming an alliance, there was still tension between the members. If infighting broke out at a key moment, the consequences would be grim and unthinkable.

Now wasn't the time to be optimistic.

"Where would the ten sacred lands' elites be?" Jiang Chen frowned. Myriad Abyss was huge. Finding them would be akin to finding a needle in a haystack.

The sacred lands relied on formations to keep in contact, but he hadn't received any news when in the Eternal Sacred Land.

That meant the ten sacred lands couldn't spare the effort. They might be fighting a difficult battle and hadn't had a chance to set up the formation to contact the Eternal Sacred Land.

Which part of the vast ocean should they go to in order to meet up with the ten sacred lands' elites? Everyone, including Jiang Chen, was at a loss.

"Give me a map," said Jiang Chen with a sigh.

A variety of maps were soon presented to him, illustrating the landscape of Myriad Abyss from different angles and points of view.

"Perhaps we can figure something out," suggested Jiang Chen. "If we were the ten forefathers, what choice would we make after leaving Sandplain?"

Divine Kasyapa huffed. "You can only make logical guesses, Jiang Chen, but everyone has their own agenda. What if they didn't make the most logical decision for the greater good of the ten sacred lands? Then we'll end up picking the wrong destination. Moreover, days will have passed. If they've recovered one sacred land, they'd go to another. There's no telling where they are now."

"When I departed, the ten sacred lands were arguing about that. They agreed to make decisions that would be best for the greater good. No selfish desires were allowed on the table."

"They might have reached an agreement, and they might be able to stick to the plan if things are going well. Once they encounter frustrations or unexpected incidents though, they're likely to change their tune." Kasyapa didn't expect much from the alliance.

With heavy hearts, they kept trying to guess with the maps as their references.

No matter what the ten sacred lands had decided, Jiang Chen and the others could only follow down the path of the most reasonable speculations.

Human elements and the possibility of accidents happening came second.

He remembered that he'd given the ten forefathers some advice before he left. He told them to pick the most remote and unassuming sacred land first. From the maps, there were two sacred lands that matched the criteria: the Abyssal Sacred Land and the Nirvana Sacred Land.

Jiang Chen shifted his gaze between the two, trying to map out some possible routes. A rough picture emerged in his head.

“Everyone, it hasn’t been long yet and the elites of the ten sacred lands couldn’t have made that much progress. Their destination was either Abyssal or Nirvana. After running from the Eternal Sacred Land, Lightford will need time to gather his people, and it takes time for him to travel to either of the two sacred lands. I believe Lightford hasn’t located the ten sacred lands’ elites yet!”

Sovereign of the Three Realms (WN)

Chapter 2094: Three Strategies

Jiang Chen’s speculations made sense.

Ziju Min frowned. “So if we rush to those two sacred lands at full speed, we may be able to get there before Lightford does, right?”

“We may.” Jiang Chen nodded. “Take a look at the map. There’s a large distance between each of the sacred lands. He can’t go visit all of the other nine in a short period of time. Even though he’s powerful, he needs time to conquer a sacred land. At most, he would’ve taken over two to three during this time.”

“That’s right. It hasn’t been long. He couldn’t have done more than that.”

“It’s said that Lightford’s assigned two divines to each of the sacred lands, which means that he’s sent twenty gods in total. After we killed and captured the ones sent to attack Eternal, there should be eighteen left. If nothing goes wrong, the ten sacred lands’ elites should be able to deal with the ones sent to attack Abyssal and Nirvana. Ten forefathers are more than enough to take down two divine cultivators. They wouldn’t be able to flee unless some of the forefathers aren’t doing their job.”

That left about a dozen gods under Lightford’s command.

Perhaps some of those who’d fled from Sandplain would return to Lightford. Perhaps those who hadn’t taken Lightford’s side would be talked into helping him.

That, however, were unlikely to happen.

So at the end of the day, Lightford had less than twenty divines on his side.

Jiang Chen sighed. “Lightford’s thought himself into a corner. The fugitives he recruited are a disparate group. There’s no place for strategies and plans. He should’ve brought all of them to sweep the ten sacred lands in raids and looting. Separating them makes them vulnerable, which gives us a chance to catch our breath.”

Jiang Chen was right. If Lightford had launched a full frontal attack in the beginning, things wouldn’t have ended well for the ten sacred lands given the pitiful number of divines they had on their side.

Lightford had once had a clear advantage. Unfortunately, he’d failed to make the best of his cards and ended up suffering for it. He couldn’t be blamed, not really. He hadn’t made the wrong call, per se. He just hadn’t expected a wildcard like Jiang Chen.

If not for Jiang Chen, Lightford would’ve dealt with the ten sacred lands back in Sandplain. There wouldn’t be this much trouble for him to take care of afterwards.

Divine Kasyapa watched Jiang Chen with a smile. The young man was thorough and confident enough to make even a group of seniors listen to him with rapt attention. He asked in an amused tone, "So what do you plan to do, Jiang Chen?"

Jiang Chen smiled. He could tell that Kasyapa was testing him.

"There are many options available to us. The safer approach is to rush to the two sacred lands to meet up with the ten forefathers. The riskier way is to locate Lightford and launch a surprise attack, killing as many divines as we can. If we fail, at least our enemies will be kept on their toes.

"However, the two options are either too conservative or too risky. I don't plan to pick either." He concluded with a serene smile.

He wasn't picking either?

That was a distinct surprise. They believed the conservative option was the way to go. Once meeting up with the ten sacred lands' elites, the rest would fall into place. They couldn't lose.

Plainly, Jiang Chen disagreed.

"That means you have a better idea?" Divine Kasyapa smiled knowingly.

"I believe the best thing to do is to race Lightford. Act faster and more efficiently than he does. We should rush to the sacred lands before he can gather his people and kill or turn them, weakening his forces as quickly as possible. Those divine cultivators are separated in each sacred land. They're easy to deal with when divided. Once Lightford gathers them, they'll be much more powerful and destructive."

Divine Kasyapa clapped and laughed. "Good! Exactly what I'm thinking."

"You have the same idea, Divine Kasyapa?"

"That's right!" Kasyapa nodded. "This is the smartest and most appropriate plan. We'll become stronger in comparison if we weaken Lightford, and we may gain more strength during the process. If we recover three sacred lands along the way, Lightford will have six less divine cultivators on his side."

There were nine other sacred lands. It wasn't impossible for them to take on three sacred lands before Lightford attacked, if they were quick. In addition, the sacred land alliance would be dealing with the two other sacred lands.

In the end, Lightford might be left with only men returning from four sacred lands.

That would be the most ideal scenario.

Of course, things wouldn't necessarily go that way. In truth, Jiang Chen believed it'd be good enough for them to dispel the attacks on two sacred lands.

Meeting up with the ten forefathers might be the safest approach, but at the same time, Lightford would be able to gather his people as well. That meant the enemy would be as strong as ever.

Casualties would be unimaginable when fights broke out. Whether they ended up winning or not, the battle would take a great toll on them since neither side was greater than the other.

Attacking Lightford directly, on the other hand, was too risky. If the fugitive leader had gathered more than four gods already, it'd be unlikely for the sacred land defenders to catch Lightford by surprise. They might even end up losing.

After all, they were barely enough to defeat Lightford when he was alone. If he had help, things would be very difficult.

Realization dawned on them as they listened to Jiang Chen's analysis. It was true that this strategy was the most appropriate one for the current situation.

They would be taking out the hidden threats and tipping the scales between them and Lightford.

Meeting up with the ten sacred lands and bringing them the news that Lightford had spearheaded the attacks himself might actually be bad for morale.

If they could eliminate the attackers at two sacred lands before meeting up with the main group, at least there would be some good news along with the bad ones. The alliance's spirits wouldn't suffer as much.

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

Chapter 2095: The First Targe

Once Jiang Chen made up his mind, he immediately bent his mind to planning out moves on the map. Nothing should be decided without the utmost deliberation.

Every sacred land was critically important. The decision to choose one over another couldn't be taken lightly.

After their collective brainstorming, they concluded that the three sacred lands that were most likely to have fallen under Lightford's attack were Martial, Polylore, and Flora. They were closest to the Eternal Sacred Land.

The ones farthest away were Radiance and Sunrise.

Jiang Chen decided to pick those two as their destinations. They were in the northern part of Myriad Abyss. The others had no objections.

After deploying Starfate, Jiang Chen used part of his spirit stones to activate the accelerating formation on the airboat, increasing its speed by a good margin. As a result, they reached Radiance in less than a day.

Long Xiaoxuan was one step away from ascending to divinity. He couldn't bear waiting in the airboat and volunteered to scout out the sacred land.

As Jiang Chen had expected, Lightford wasn't in the Radiance Sacred Land, but the sacred land had been taken over.

There were two gods, a few demigods, and a group of deathsworn who had escaped from the Boundless Prison. They weren't particularly powerful, but it'd be difficult to deal with them if they holed up within the sacred land.

Once he received the intelligence, Jiang Chen convened a meeting.

“The Radiance Sacred Land’s defenses can’t be underestimated. If they use the territory to their advantage, it’ll be difficult for us to take them down. Every minute counts. Wasting too much time here will undermine the next step of our plan.”

He was worried. Radiance wasn’t their only target as they had to reclaim Sunrise as well. And the more sacred lands they took back, the better.

Simply put, they were in a race with Lightford. Lightford and his people must be doing all they could as well. Perhaps he’d even anticipated Jiang Chen’s intervention. There was absolutely no time to waste.

“Young lord Chen, shouldn’t we be powerful enough to take them down head-on?” commented the Vermilion Bird with a laugh.

“If we do that and they bunker down in the sacred land, using its defenses to keep us out, it’ll take us too much time. Spending three to five days here is detrimental to our overall plan.”

“Well...” The bird’s eyes lit up. “I remember you often disguised yourself to infiltrate your enemy’s ranks back in the human domain. Why don’t you...”

Delighted inspiration struck Jiang Chen. “That’s right!”

Divine Kasyapa shook his head. “No matter how good your disguise is, it might fail. Who do you plan to disguise as?”

“Yuan Zijing and the cultivator with warts?” suggested Jiang Chen.

“That won’t do!” Divine Kasyapa disagreed. “Lightford is cautious. Once he takes over a sacred land, he’ll inform his men at the other sacred lands with a transmitting formation. If the divine cultivators here at Radiance received information from Lightford, they’ll be on their guard. Disguising yourself as Yuan Zijing and his companion may do you more harm than good. What are you going to do if they lure you into a trap?”

Days had passed. If Lightford had taken over a sacred land, he would’ve sent the information to his people. Their original plan really wouldn’t work then. It would take only a reminder from Lightford for the cultivators to look out for possible infiltration.

“It seems that we’ll have to rely on brawn rather than brain.”

“Assuming others’ identity may work,” remarked Divine Kasyapa. “Just not Yuan Zijing and his companion.”

“Who else can we disguise as?” Jiang Chen asked curiously.

“Six cultivators have attacked you on Sandplain. Two were killed. Yuan Zijing and the cultivator with warts were another. The last two still haven’t shown up. Perhaps we can take on their identity.”

“Oh?” Jiang Chen perked up, but then questioned, “I’ve never seen them. I don’t know what they look like or what their names are. How are we going to assume their identities?”

“You don’t know them, but Yu Gong does.” Kasyapa chuckled and looked at the bald cultivator.

After yielding to Jiang Chen, Yu Gong could be nothing but Lightford's enemy. He knew he didn't have another choice. He nodded. "I know them. I just worry that they've gone back to Lightford. Then we'll be exposed if we pose as them."

"Haha, if they wanted to return to Lightford, they would've done that already. They wouldn't have waited until now. I believe they've gone into hiding."

Kasyapa had escaped from the Boundless Prison as well. He knew how the minds of his fellow inmates worked.

Those who had taken Lightford's side had been forced into doing so. After suffering a defeat, it was only natural that they would be too intimidated to return.

"That's decided then. We have to try no matter what. As long as we can lure the divine cultivators out, it'll be easy for all of us to kill them."

The two divine cultivators might be strong, but Jiang Chen and his companions were twice as powerful as they were. Caught off guard, the divine cultivators wouldn't pose that big of a challenge.

"Alright, that's the plan," Jiang Chen said with a smile. "Divine Kasyapa, Yu Gong, allow me to disguise you."

Time stopped for no one. Jiang Chen and the others started their preparations immediately.

After fifteen minutes, the disguise was complete. They used the identity of the two missing cultivators to request a meeting.

The Radiance Sacred Land was heavily guarded.

Although there weren't a lot of Lightford's people, they were able to keep the sacred land under tight control, leaving no openings.

The two divines occupying the place were both devoted to Lightford. They were Divine Yuxian and Divine Panyuan.

They weren't the most powerful among Lightford's men, but their loyalty to him wouldn't waver.

A few days ago, they'd received a message from Lightford illustrating how difficult the situation currently was. They were to defend the sacred land as best as they could. If the ten sacred lands' elites attacked, they were told to not engage and wait for Lightford to come.

Lightford also told them that some of their divine companions had been killed by the sacred lands. They had to exercise utmost caution.

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

Chapter 2096: Probing

The duo's best quality was obedience. They blindly worshiped old Lightford and bent to his every whim.

They had been ordered to defend Radiance to the last and saw no reason to deviate. Despite their inclination to return to their master, they were content to rest with this new command. Furthermore, they patrolled and examined the defenses personally every day.

After conquering the Radiance Sacred Land, they immediately repaired and reinforced the defensive formation. Each person they brought was employed to their maximum.

Some of the defenders were killed, but most were imprisoned within the sacred land. There had been no gods to offer any resistance, which meant the captives were utterly helpless.

Yuxian was a burly divine and the clear leader of the two. Panyuan was short and deft, serving as his assistant.

Right now, they were patrolling just as Lightford had instructed them to. They carried out his words to the letter.

“Daoist Yuxian, Master Lightford told us that the gold and silver enforcers are both dead. The Eternal Sacred Land is just one of the ten, isn’t it? I haven’t heard of it being too remarkable other than that. Why are all our fellow daoists breaking their backs upon it? Even old Lightford seems to have suffered a minor defeat.”

“How do you know Master Lightford suffered any defeat at all?” Yuxian raised an eyebrow.

“Master Lightford didn’t say it outright, but the way he put things made it sound like that. Why would he remind us to be especially careful of enemies from Eternal otherwise? Plus, the two enforcers both died, right? They were the closest to Master Lightford. Would he not care about them at all?” Panyuan sighed softly.

The shorter cultivator was clearly the more thoughtful of the two and thought about things much more than his partner.

Yuxian waved a hand with some annoyance. “That’s none of our business. We just need to do our job. We all know what the ten sacred lands are really worth. As long as we stick together, Myriad Abyss will be ours sooner or later.”

“Yes, of course,” Panyuan smiled and agreed. Still, a hint of perplexity remained in his expression. “The Eternal Sacred Land is pretty weird though. I hear there’s a young man there who has a divine spirit creature with him – a Vermilion Bird, one of the four sacred beasts. It’s supposed to be quite fearsome.”

“Hmph! When Master Lightford has the time to attend to it personally, its meager reputation will mean nothing.” Yuxian was obviously a fanatical devotee to old Lightford.

“Yes, yes. I hope Master Lightford returns soon so we can all gather together. We’ll all feel safer that way.”

“Don’t worry. Master Lightford told us already. It’ll take anywhere from three days or so to a week. As long as we’re meticulous during that time, we’ll be fine.”

One of their empyrean subordinates rushed toward them mid-conversation.

“Honorable divines, there are two more divine seniors outside, claiming to be your old acquaintances. They would like an audience with you.”

“Old acquaintances?” Yuxian traded a confused look with Panyuan.

What old acquaintances could there be, here at Radiance?

Those worthy of being called their acquaintances were uniformly gods. The gods that they did know though, were all tasked with Lightford’s various missions. Who would have the time to come find them like this? It couldn’t be someone trying to slack off, could it?

“Sir, they have an identifying jade slip as well.” The empyrean cultivator deferentially handed over the item in question.

Yuxian and Panyuan were stunned. They did indeed know the name written upon the slip.

“Fellow daoist, weren’t these two sent to Sandplain awhile back? The battle there is over already. Why are they here, exactly?”

“Hmph, they must have hidden rather than return out of the fear of being punished. Maybe they’ve heard something that drew them out into the open.” Yuxian was much less suspicious.

“We have to be careful nonetheless. Who knows whether they’ve defected to the sacred lands?” The nimble Panyuan maintained caution.

“I suppose you’re right. Shall we ignore them then and wait for them to find Master Lightford?” Yuxian didn’t force the point.

“We’re in no hurry. Let’s discuss this awhile longer.” Panyuan stroked his chin with one hand, evidently conflicted.

If the two gods outside were still their allies, they would be welcome help indeed. Right now, manpower was a scarce resource.

Obviously, four gods would be a big step up from two. Even if the sacred lands’ main force came to their doorstep, they would have a better chance at surviving as a united group, whether in all-out combat or stalwart defense.

But what if the missing gods had actually sided with the sacred lands? Wouldn’t they be inviting disaster into their midst?

“Maybe we should test them verbally first?” Panyuan suggested.

“Sure. Let’s go,” Yuxian acquiesced readily.

The two soon reached the edge of the formation. Two airborne figures, hazy and insubstantial, awaited them outside. Their forms did indeed resemble the cultivators mentioned upon the jade slip.

“Fellow daoists, if I remember correctly, weren’t you part of the group tasked with sniping off the sacred lands’ main force? What are you doing here?” Panyuan declared.

"I'm going to be direct with you, Daoist Pan. There's no way you haven't gotten the newest news if you've captured Radiance. We ate a pretty devastating loss at Sandplain and our fellow gods either died or fled. We've been on the run from the sacred lands' main force, which is how we got here in the first place. There's no need to mock us, is there?" spoke the disguised Divine Kasyapa.

"Fellow daoists," Panyuan mused, "I regret to say that we've lost contact for quite a long time. How do we know that you haven't been bought by the ten sacred lands, or worse, joined them outright?"

"Join the sacred lands? Are you crazy? They're hunting us everywhere. Are we supposed to make a gift to them of our own heads? Besides, Master Lightford has wondrous ability and charisma. Myriad Abyss will be his entirely sooner or later. The ten sacred lands might be animated now, but they won't get to live much longer."

Sovereign of the Three Realms (WN)

Chapter 2097: Each With Their Own Calculations

A few words weren't going to convince Panyuan and Yuxian.

The former smiled coolly. "We can't accept your claims as evidence alone. If you'd like to win us over, shouldn't you give us a token of your sincerity?"

"Hmph!" Divine Kasyapa harrumphed. "Don't try to put on airs before me, Panyuan. We both know how strong each other is. My friend and I have been a bit down on our luck as of late, but not so much that we need to beg. We shook off the sacred lands' main force this far, haven't we? There's no question that we can survive until we meet Master Lightford again. You, on the other hand, heh... the sacred lands' main force is about to arrive on Radiance's doorstep. I wish you the best of luck!"

This was part of Jiang Chen's strategy. They couldn't stoop too low, because to do so would reveal flaws.

According to Yu Gong, the gods sent to Sandplain were slightly stronger than the gods sent to the sacred lands. Because that was the case, there was no reason for them to bow and scrape before their peers.

Yu Gong pretended to be offended. "Let's go. Why waste our words here? We can go just about anywhere. Deal with the sacred lands' attack yourself. They'll be here soon."

Kasyapa and Yu Gong put on a quite convincing show.

Panyuan laughed. "There's no reason to be angry, my fellow daoists! We all work in service to Master Lightford. That we're cautious in this sensitive time should come as no surprise. Forgive our bluntness."

"Hmph! Are you mocking our failure?" Divine Kasyapa flared up, his tone instantly becoming hostile.

"Hehe, not at all, not at all. Don't be so paranoid! I hear that the sacred lands had some extraordinary help. It's not your fault."

"Enough talk. Are you going to let us in or not? If not, we can leave right now. Master Lightford has exited from closed door cultivation, hasn't he? He's marshaling his forces right now. We'll just go join him instead."

Yuxian, who'd been silent until now, spoke up. "Friends, as long as you swear that you haven't joined the ten sacred lands, we'll let you in. It'll be good to have your help in the war effort against them."

"Swear?" Divine Kasyapa roared with laughter. "What right do you have to ask us that? Make no mistake, we're not beggars asking for a home."

"Please don't misunderstand. We only seek to avoid any unfortunate mishaps. It's not at all our intention to mean that you're asking for a place to stay. Master Lightford is the only one who can accept any of us," Panyuan hurriedly explained.

Kasyapa harrumphed, then pretended to think for a moment.

"For the sake of Master Lightford, I'll swear it. If I, Han, have joined the ten sacred lands, let heaven smite me with thunderbolts!" The cultivator Kasyapa was disguised and had the surname Han.

In truth, even An Kasyapa himself hadn't joined the sacred lands. He was merely Jiang Chen's grandfather-in-law and customary ally. Moreover, he was using an identity not his own to swear. An oath like this wouldn't have any effect.

Yuxian and Panyuan were reasonably assured by the severity of the oath. Cultivators, and gods especially, forbore breaking oaths to heavenly forces.

If such an oath was broken, heaven itself would rain judgment down upon the fool in question.

There was no reason for them to suspect that anything was awry. Their eyes moved toward Yu Gong.

Yu Gong glared angrily back. "What? Isn't one oath enough? You want the both of us to swear, when we've come together all this way? The sacred lands' main force is right behind, yet you're wasting time here. Do you think we're easy to bully?"

Panyuan and Yuxian traded a look.

Yes, the disguised Yu Gong had a point. They saw affirmation in each other's eyes and nodded in consensus.

"Come on in, fellow daoists." The formation opened, allowing Panyuan and Yuxian to emerge to greet their comrades. However, they expressed wariness by keeping a certain distance.

Divine Kasyapa snorted. "If we're not welcome here or you're afraid we'll supplant you, just say so. There's no need to be like this."

"Ah, no, that's not what we mean. We simply don't want to let Master Lightford down, especially after his message for us to secure the premises here," Panyuan explained.

"Please, after you!" Yuxian signaled for them to head in first.

The gesture implied the two gods' unwillingness to turn their backs on these two supposed reinforcements.

However, Kasyapa and Yu Gong were actually quite happy about this outcome. When they approached the edge of the formation, the two suddenly stopped.

“Hmm? Why aren’t you going in?” Panyuan’s voice was humorless.

Divine Kasyapa turned around with a sinister snicker. “You know, now that I think about it... you two were repeatedly questioning our loyalty earlier, and now you want to stay at our backs. How are we supposed to know that you haven’t joined the ten sacred lands? Maybe you’re looking to ambush us, eh?”

The guilty was accusing the innocent.

Yuxian laughed angrily. “You two are a bit confused after being chased for so long, hmm? We came to conquer Radiance on the master’s orders. After taking a few days to do so, we’ve stayed here ever since. The ten sacred lands’ people have never come here. You think the ants left to guard this place have anything to offer that could win us over?”

“Not necessarily,” Kasyapa chuckled. “Who knows how loyal you are to Master Lightford?”

“Do you intend to be so contentious, fellow daoist?” Panyuan grew cold.

“Absurd! You were the ones who wanted us to swear an oath, so you should do that yourself too.” Divine Kasyapa intentionally pursued that point.

He was delaying for Jiang Chen and the others to arrive, that they might perform a two-pronged attack.

He and Yu Gong were blocking the two gods’ way back into the defensive formation. If Jiang Chen and his two divine sacred beasts attacked from the other side, these two were dead for sure!

Panyuan frowned, opening his mouth to refute this when his eyes suddenly focused. “Not good, Daoist Yuxian!” he blurted out. “Something’s up with these two!”

“Why do you say that?” Yuxian’s heart sank. He knew his companion’s penchant for being cautious. There had to be a reason behind the statement.

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

Chapter 2098: Successful Capture

“There’s something wrong with the looks in their eyes! This man definitely isn’t Daoist Han. I felt it when he swept his consciousness over us. It’s much more powerful than Han’s!”

The gods sent to Sandplain were stronger than they were, but this man was even stronger than Daoist Han. This was a formidable foe. Despite their caution, they’d been tricked!

“Charge in! Back into the formation!” Panyuan transmitted to his companion.

Divine Kasyapa laughed and manifested his trident with a twist of his wrist. A point in the air sent a strong torrent of air over the two cultivators.

“Shit, it’s An Kasyapa!” Panyuan wasn’t that strong compared to the others, but he was one of the most knowledgeable among Lightford’s people. He knew a lot about the other gods. A few clues were enough for him to identify someone.

As soon as he saw the trident, he knew it was An Kasyapa.

Both he and Divine Yuxian shuddered at the realization. An Kasyapa didn't submit to even Lightford, and he was never afraid to defy their master. Someone like Kasyapa would have no trouble taking on the two of them on his own.

The man next to An Kasyapa might not be as powerful, but he couldn't be that weak, either. He must be a divine cultivator as well. Their enemies were much stronger than they were, and the way back to the formation was blocked by An Kasyapa.

Regret washed over them. What had they been thinking? Why would they let these two men take the lead? They'd left themselves with no way out!

"We'll try it anyways!" Yuxian gritted his teeth, readying to charge.

"No, we have to escape! We must meet up with Master Lightford. An Kasyapa isn't someone we can take on." Panyuan was nervous, but not panicked to the point that he couldn't think.

As they spoke, the trident locked on them, forcing them to respond.

The two cultivators didn't dare underestimate the attack. They made their moves at the same time and just barely blocked the weapon. Meanwhile, Yu Gong also joined in.

He was at about the same level as Panyuan and Yuxian, but with An Kasyapa keeping them occupied, his attacks felt especially fierce.

Panyuan and Yuxian had to deal with An Kasyapa's powerful hits while keeping an eye out for Yu Gong's lethal attacks.

After a few rounds, they were at a clear disadvantage. There was no hope for them to win.

"Daoist Yuxian, we can't win. Let's go!" Tremendously agitated, Panyuan couldn't be more regretful after realizing they'd been fooled. It was futile to keep fighting. Defeat was inevitable.

Yuxian knew very well how good An Kasyapa was. They blocked his relentless attacks together and made for the fringes of the sacred land in a flash.

However, their enemies had come prepared. As soon as they tried to flee, they realized that all possible escape routes, be it in the air or underground, had been sealed off.

A sea of red clouds loomed over them, obscuring half of the sky.

The Black Tortoise had quarantined the space with powerful gravity, preventing them from flashing anywhere else.

Meanwhile, Jiang Chen flung the golden bell at the two divine cultivators.

His offensive power had progressed enough to threaten even gods, and the mighty golden bell made his attack even more powerful.

Panyuan and Yuxian realized belatedly that they'd been surrounded. Their attackers were twice or even thrice stronger than they were. They were doomed!

They fell into unfathomable despair. No matter how they struggled, they couldn't find a way out. Every attempt pushed them further into the abyss of despair.

Their injuries grew increasingly worse as their enemies' attacks landed on them.

"Divine Kasyapa, we have no qualms with you. It's fine that you don't want to take Master Lightford's commands. Why must you help these villains terrorize us? Why are you helping the ten sacred lands attack us?" Panyuan wasn't ready to give up.

"Old Lightford is a tyrant. You are the ones helping a villain terrorize the world." An Kasyapa didn't want to waste his breath. His trident grew increasingly ferocious.

The two cultivators could barely stand upright. They could taste the blood in their throat.

The Vermilion Bird and the Black Tortoise then joined in the fray. As soon as the two sacred beasts exerted their terrifying might, the pressure on the two cultivators became even more unbearable.

Jiang Chen and Long Xiaoxuan could both rival a divine cultivator. Yu Gong had been harassing them as a distraction too. The two men were caught in the middle, at the mercy of their enemies.

It was clear how the battle would end.

An Kasyapa's trident slammed Panyuan down to the ground. The Vermilion Bird cornered Yuxian, who ended up trapped by the golden bell.

The tides at the Radiance Sacred Land had been turned. With the two divine cultivators out of the picture, there were only a few demigods and a group of empyrean cultivators left. They posed no threat.

They didn't dare resist before Jiang Chen's group and surrendered one after another. Without hesitation, he turned them into puppets of his consciousness. He would now be able to kill them with a single thought.

His manipulation might not work on divine cultivators, but demigods were of no challenge to him.

Divine Kasyapa had benefited from the fight as well by taking Panyuan. With the yellow-faced cultivator he captured in the Eternal Sacred Land, he now had two divine cultivators under his control.

Even if they refused to yield, Kasyapa could turn them into punching bags. If things came down to that, he could also refine their life essence and take their divine decrees.

He had four loyal servants under his command. He always had some use for the divine decrees.

"Haha, things went more smoothly than we anticipated. We reclaimed the sacred land in less than two hours. How wonderful!" Divine Kasyapa was in high spirits.

All of the Radiance Sacred Land members were released. They were surprised and ecstatic that it was Eternal's young lord who had come to their rescue.

Finally, their allies had arrived! Survival after certain death seemed like a sort of rebirth, of which delight felt particularly sweet.

Jiang Chen went to check on the transmitting formation immediately.

There was one in the sacred land, and a high-level one at that. Upon inspection, he could tell the formation hadn't been activated during the fight.

He relaxed.

"This hasn't been used. They weren't able to contact the other sacred lands. We can use the same trick again." Jiang Chen's lips curved into a conspiratorial smile.

Sovereign of the Three Realms (WN)

Chapter 2099: The Next One

Like Jiang Chen said, as long as news hadn't travelled out of the Radiance Sacred Land, neither Lightford or his people in the other sacred lands would know what had happened. They could use the same trick when visiting neighboring Sunrise Sacred Land.

Divine Kasyapa smirked. "What bad luck Lightford has suffered. If not for you being the unexpected wildcard you are, he might have a chance to conquer Myriad Abyss. As things are, his ambition is bound to fail."

Jiang Chen cackled. Kasyapa's words were a compliment to him, no matter what the original intent was.

He convened every member of the Radiance Sacred Land. "We've won this battle, everyone, but Lightford is regrouping and may arrive here at anytime. If news about his two divine cultivators gets out, Lightford will slaughter every last one of you in a fit of fury. My advice is to pack up everything that's valuable in the sacred land and get out of here. It's best if you can rejoin the alliance's main force."

Radiance's members were no fools. They knew Jiang Chen was telling the truth.

"Young lord Jiang Chen, where will we find the alliance?"

Jiang Chen thought for a moment. "We speculate that they're in either Abyssal or Nirvana. You should pack light. As long as you don't encounter Lightford, you'll be fine. You can interrogate the captives to find out where Lightford and his main force are. The captives have been in contact with the other sacred lands through a transmitting formation. They should know where Lightford is."

"Thank you for the advice, young lord. You're the savior of the Radiance Sacred Land. When we meet up with our elites, we'll tell our forefather how you've saved us and your kindness."

"Haha, there's no need for that. Radiance's forefather helped me back in Sandplain, and I know Holy Girl Yaoguang. We're friends of a sort." Jiang Chen didn't take the credit. Once things were settled, he decided to leave immediately for the Sunrise Sacred Land.

It was on the way and wasn't far. The two sacred lands had always been close allies. They could rush to Sunrise and reclaim it with the same trick.

The victory imbued everyone with confidence. Even Ziju Min was uncharacteristically eager. He declared with a laugh, "At this rate, young lord Chen, we'll be able to quickly reach our goal and reclaim three sacred lands!"

Jiang Chen didn't let the success get to his head. "We'll see how things go with Sunrise."

"Why don't we disguise ourselves as the two divine cultivators at Radiance when we hit Sunrise? We can make use of the transmitting formation and put on a good show! What do you think?" Ziju Min boldly proposed his idea.

Divine Kasyapa's eyes lit up. "That'll work! The same trick might come off as insincere if we use it again. It'll be good to change things around. Disguising ourselves as Yuxian and Panyuan will win us their trust more easily. The transmitting formation will help..."

Jiang Chen agreed vocally. "Good. We'll tell them that Radiance is under attack, which forced us to flee. We'll ask them to meet us outside Sunrise."

"That's a plan!"

They came up with a detailed strategy in no time.

Assuming Panyuan's and Yuxian's identities would be much less challenging as the two were their captives. Jiang Chen had easy access to real life references.

Things went as smoothly as they'd predicted.

Outside Sunrise, two divine cultivators awaited their arrival with a group of subordinates, ready to receive Yuxian and Panyuan.

They were quickly surrounded by Jiang Chen and the others in short order. Like Yuxian and Panyuan, they became Jiang Chen and Kasyapa's captives.

Sunrise was easily reclaimed as well.

Jiang Chen and the others had taken back two sacred lands in less than two days.

They convened in Sunrise, discussing their next move. By their calculations, they were running out of time. Lightford should've finished gathering his people.

They wondered if they should go for another sacred land.

"Why don't we take the initiative to contact Lightford and get information from him?" Jiang Chen proposed a radical idea.

As soon as he said so, Divine Kasyapa slapped his thigh in agreement. "Wonderful idea! That's decided then. Lightford is going to have a heart attack induced by sheer fury when he realizes we've tricked him twice! Hahaha!"

Kasyapa would never pass up an opportunity to piss Lightford off.

Jiang Chen and the others immediately tried to contact old man. They didn't know where he was now, but eventually, they got a hold of him on their fourth try.

Lightford told them that he'd gathered the cultivators at four sacred lands and formed an army. The four unlucky ones were Martial, Flora, Polylore, and Immortal. His next target was the Sunrise Sacred Land. He would arrive tomorrow.

Jiang Chen decided to test the waters. He relayed that Radiance seemed to have been attacked and asked if the group at Sunrise should aid them.

Lightford shot the idea down and ordered the group to stay put, defending the sacred land they were at and conserving their strength.

It was obvious that he was still reeling from his last failure at Jiang Chen's hands. He didn't want to sacrifice any more divine cultivators. They were his most valuable assets and he wouldn't allow anything to go wrong again.

Once he cut the connection, Jiang Chen grinned. "Lightford and his army will arrive at Sunrise tomorrow. However, after I've told him that Radiance has been attacked, he's likely to make his way to Radiance first, which leaves Abyssal, Nirvana, and Void."

Martial, Flora, Polylore, and Immortal had been fully conquered by Lightford.

Jiang Chen had reclaimed Radiance and Sunrise before the enemy could strike. Abyssal and Nirvana were where he speculated the alliance should be. Leaving Eternal out, in the end the Void Sacred Land was the only sacred land no one had been to.

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

Chapter 2100: Taking Another Risk

The group was now faced with a difficult decision—strike out against the Void Sacred Land, or meet up with the sacred land alliance.

"Young lord Chen, you decide!" Ziju Min's attitude was quite clear.

Those of House Yan nodded in agreement. "That's right, you decide."

Jiang Chen looked to An Kasyapa.

The god chuckled. "Don't look at me, I'm fine with anything. Even if you decide to directly butt heads with that old fart, I won't back down in the slightest."

Jiang Chen nodded. "Alright, then we'll take another risk. Use the transmission formation to contact the alliance and have them convene at the Void Sacred Land!"

Sunrise possessed a similar formation, and reality was just as the young lord surmised. The alliance was indeed at the Abyssal and Nirvana Sacred Lands.

By now, the alliance had finished cleaning out the invaders at those two sacred lands. They were readying to charge into the Radiance Sacred Land.

After receiving Jiang Chen's communication, some rejoiced while others despaired.

Radiance and Sunrise were delighted that Jiang Chen had taken care of the enemy and regained safety for their factions.

Martial, Flora, Polylore, and Immortal were heavy-hearted. Having been fully consolidated by Old Man Lightford, it was sure to be utter devastation in their sacred lands.

But there was nothing to be said when faced with the greater picture. Their sacred lands were all too far from Sandplain Island. There was nothing to be done even though they wanted to rescue their people.

In the end, they decided to meet up with Jiang Chen at the Void Sacred Land first, as well as the group coming from Radiance. They would look to merge forces and prepare for a final battle with Lightford's contingent.

After settling on things, Jiang Chen had the remaining Sunrise members follow him to Void. He deployed Starfate and set course for Void at the fastest speed possible.

He too knew that time was of the essence. They were in a race with Lightford. If the enemy visited Radiance first and then Sunrise, then Jiang Chen would absolutely have an opening to take back Void before the enemy arrived.

When it came down to things, Void didn't have the strongest relationship with Eternal. In fact, they even were on unfriendly terms. After all, Void and Polylore had supported Flora before.

But with the current situation, factional divisions were no longer as evident. The most important thing now was that there was still a chance to fight for Void.

Starfate sped through day and night at the fastest speed possible. They arrived within Void territory on the afternoon of the second day.

Jiang Chen's first inclination was his usual trick of disguising himself to lure out the defenders and then mob them. It was a trick he'd never get tired of.

However, new worries were emerging at this point for this sort of plan. Lightford should almost be at Radiance by now. If he discovered that Radiance had fallen, he would certainly immediately contact Sunrise and Void.

Once he spoke with Void, the sacred land would be even more cautious and prudent. If that was the case, the good ole trick wouldn't necessarily work.

Therefore, they were in a contest of both time and acting skills.

The gods stationed at Void were roughly on the same level as the two at Radiance. The flip side was that they weren't as close to Lightford. They'd thrown themselves under his banner solely due to pressure. Therefore, there wasn't as strong a sense of belonging as had been elicited in Yuxian and Panyuan.

With the momentum of the times pushing them forward however, they were taking things a day at a time.

Though they had set up camp in Void Sacred Land at the moment, an anxious fire burned in their hearts. According to their calculations, the sacred land alliance would arrive on their doorstep any day now.

If Lightford didn't show up with reinforcements, they would have to consider forfeiting Void. With their strength and a handful of demigods, they hadn't a chance in hell of fighting the alliance.

They surely had no desire to fight to the death.

Therefore, when a disguised An Kasyapa and Yu Gong showed up and sent in their name cards, the defenders' paranoia was far less than Yuxian and Panyuan's. Only momentary consideration was needed before a passageway opened in the formation and the defenders came out to welcome their compatriots.

"Fellow daoists, we heard that you were attacked in turn by the sacred lands on Sandplain. How might you two be appearing here now?"

An Kasyapa chuckled confidently. "We attracted the attention of the main force and had them follow us on a wild goose chase. Otherwise, they would've swept through all of the sacred lands long ago. Who knows how many of our brethren would fall to them? They're hot on our heels today, which is why we've come here for some shelter."

The leader on the side of the Void contingent was a blue-haired, middle-aged man. He smiled. "It's wonderful that you two have come. We've been fretting that our numbers are few. If we have your help and we act in concert, we'll be able to fend off their main forces for a while. I only hope that Master Lightford arrives soon. Otherwise, we'll be unable to put up a decisive fight even with the four of us."

An Kasyapa and Yu Gong looked at each other, perturbed by the development. These two weren't on their guard, nor did they refuse to show their backs to their visitors. According to Yu Gong's knowledge, they weren't close to Lightford at all.

That meant they were prime recruitment targets.

"Don't mention Master Lightford," posited Kasyapa. "We were hunted and chased down along the way, but he didn't send any help to us even though he's come out of closed door cultivation."

The blue-haired man chuckled, but didn't continue that line of conversation.

"Have you heard? Master Lightford seems to have eaten a devastating loss in the Eternal Sacred Land. Even his two enforcers died at their hands. Of us two dozen gods, there have been high casualties. In fact, more than half are dead already!"

"What?!" The blue-haired man didn't say a word, but his companion reacted with shock. "Where is your news from, fellow daoist?"

An Kasyapa followed up his act and lowered his voice. "It's absolutely true. Of the six gods that went to Sandplain, we're the only ones left. The two enforcers and two gods sent to Eternal don't walk among the living anymore. Abyssal and Nirvana have been seized back by the sacred land alliance, so I'm guessing the four assigned there are probably dead too. Apparently another group of Eternal experts headed for Radiance and Sunrise..."