

Three Realms 2111

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

Chapter 2111: Stalemate

Demons were a significant threat to many heavenly planes. They were cruel, cunning, and unpredictable.

There had always been various rumors spread about them. What everyone agreed on was that demons were very difficult to kill. It was an extremely arduous task to rid the world of their kind.

Looking back on the continent's history, many ancient figureheads and sects had paid a great price to eliminate the invading demons, yet they'd killed only some and sealed away the rest.

Demons were unfathomably tenacious.

If Lightford was a demon, was he an ancient one from outside the continent, or was he a human cultivator who had been assimilated by the demonic bloodline?

It was difficult to tell from his appearance. It'd be easier to deal with if he was merely turned.

If he was a true offworld demon, it'd be difficult to take him down.

Jiang Chen knew many ways to kill a demon, but he didn't yet possess the power to kill a cultivator at Lightford's level.

There were some viable options, such as powerful magical items. Some of them were the demons' natural bane and could eliminate the enemy in the span of a breath.

Talismans that targeted demons were another. They could suppress the demonic bloodline and weaken the demons significantly, making them easier to kill.

Then there were formations. Formations were more effective than brute force in any battle. They tapped into the energy of heaven and earth and manipulated the heavenly law to their advantage.

However, there were also downsides. Formations were difficult to manipulate; they required planning in advance and costed a lot of resources.

Finally, there was the more primitive way - simple strength in numbers. Any being of any race, no matter how powerful, couldn't fend off an army on their own.

With enough people on their side, it wasn't impossible to kill a demon. A demon might be able to fight two human cultivators at the same level. However, the humans stood a chance of winning if they swarmed the demon in a group of three to five.

That was what Jiang Chen and the others were doing.

Unfortunately, none of them could rival Lightford as an individual, which made the fight much more challenging.

Fighting together required teamwork and mutual understanding. They'd never fought together before and there hadn't been any time for them to practice. That made them uncoordinated.

If they had had a few days or even a few months to practice before fighting Lightford, their chances would be much better.

As it was, the Vermilion Bird and the Black Tortoise were the only pair that was fighting as a team. The others were all acting as individuals.

Jiang Chen had been trying his best to organize them, but no one would be able to issue orders quickly enough for such a battle. Things could change in the blink of an eye.

He did have items that targeted demons, but he hadn't had a chance to refine them yet.

The pentecolor crystals he'd acquired in the Cloud Camel Mountain, for example, were a fine material against the demonic race. If he could refine them into a weapon or a magical item, it would be very effective.

However, he hadn't been able to do that yet.

The Vermilion Bird joined the fray again. Its target was clear: it had to take the demon down. Even if it couldn't kill him, it must trap him.

The Vermilion Bird and the Black Tortoise's bloodlines were no lesser than a demon's. They were able to occupy sixty percent of Lightford's attention.

Meanwhile, Lightford was in a state of disbelief. He knew he'd increased his power by fifty to sixty percent, yet he was still unable to create an opening.

Firstly, he realized that he was in a disorienting formation. He didn't have the effort to spare for locating the exit when busy fighting for his survival.

Secondly, there were too many gods attacking him, keeping him preoccupied.

A few hits might not have hurt him, but no wall was truly impenetrable facing a big enough group. His enemies would eventually break through his defenses, no matter how powerful he was.

If there were only the group of divine cultivators, he was confident that he'd be able to flee and even kill a couple of them along the way.

However, the two sacred beasts that stood in his way were his biggest obstacles. Moreover, An Kasyapa had been attacking his weak points, which forced him to pay attention.

Neither the two sacred beasts nor An Kasyapa were to be underestimated.

An Kasyapa was almost as powerful as he was. Moreover, unlike the other cultivators, he hadn't been pulling his punches.

The others seemed to be fighting with all they'd had, but in truth, they were holding back. Very few were willing to take the risk to fight him head-on.

If they'd all risked everything to attack him, the boost to his power wouldn't be enough.

Because he'd been left on his own that the cultivators assumed his defeat was only a matter of time. No one wanted to put themselves into danger under the circumstances.

An Kasyapa was different. He seemed to be ready to make his last stand every time he attacked, which infuriated Lightford.

“You fool, An Kasyapa! Do you really think I won’t kill you?”

An Kasyapa stared at him defiantly and cackled. “Kill me if you can, but you won’t be able to do so without paying the price.”

He was right. If Lightford could kill An Kasyapa without paying any price, he would’ve done so several times over. He wasn’t willing to take the gamble because he would suffer significant injury in the process.

The two sacred beasts would be able to land an all-out attack as he went after An Kasyapa. They were much more powerful than the other so-called gods.

Even Lightford wouldn’t want to take a hit from them.

Unfortunately, An Kasyapa had seen through him and attacked with abandon. Lightford burned with fury, but there was little he could do.

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Chapter 2112: The Ten Demon Tribes

“We have to find a solution, young lord Chen.” Eternal’s forefather hadn’t joined the fight, but he was growing very anxious.

As a martial dao master, he could tell that the cultivators’ attacks hadn’t done any real damage to Lightford despite the dramatic flourishes.

Jiang Chen also knew they had to find a solution, and his brain had been racing to do exactly that. However, ways of killing demons didn’t come by easily. They didn’t seem to have any options other than putting their backs into things.

“Have you noticed, Venerated Forefather?” Jiang Chen asked coolly.

“Notice what?” the forefather asked, befuddled.

“We’ve taken care of everyone else, leaving only Lightford, haven’t we?”

The forefather sighed. “Yes. That’s exactly why we need kill Lightford once and for all, returning Myriad Abyss to peace.”

“However, him being alone gives people the false sense of security that we’re bound to win. Have you noticed how the attackers act like they’re trying their best, but in truth haven’t been holding back for fear of dying? They’re not ready to give their lives for the cause. That’s the real reason why the fight is going on for so long.”

The cultivators hadn’t been really conserving their strength; their attacks were powerful enough. However, they weren’t ready to risk their lives, which was the problem.

It made sense that they’d be reluctant. No one wanted to die when they were so close to winning.

Despite the circumstances, Lightford was a mid divine cultivator. If someone charged ahead of the others, Lightford might kill them. Everyone believed the enemy was doomed, but no one wanted to accompany him to the underworld.

Eternal's forefather pondered Jiang Chen's words. He needed only a pointer to notice the same problem. He suggested, "How about we order Lightford's former subordinates to attack with everything they've got? They're controlled by our consciousness. They have no choice but to do their best."

Jiang Chen smiled faintly. "That's not enough. If any of them make a misstep, we won't be able to kill Lightford."

Eternal's forefather sighed. "Are demons really that terrifying? He is but one man, yet we've failed to kill him with so many gods on our side. What are we going to do when demons invade in droves? I didn't realize until now how difficult it was for our ancestors to seal the demons in the ancient times."

He was being but truthful.

Jiang Chen glanced at Lightford. "We don't have to think we're lesser than our ancestors. If Lightford is an ancient demon, he couldn't have been a regular one. I believe he was at least a demon sovereign, which is similar to the divine realm forefathers of the human race."

There was a hierarchy in the demonic race as well.

Divine realm demons were often called demon sovereigns. Their number was limited. Below them were demon lords, who were empyrean realm beings. One example was the celestial demon lord he'd run into back in Agarwood.

However, that demon lord was as powerful as most regular demon sovereigns because of his bloodline.

Celestial demons were the purest of demon royalty. That was evident in the way the Primosanct Sect had had to put in everything they had into suppressing him.

Before the Vermilion Bird had ascended to divinity, it was only in charge of aiding the sect in keeping watch on the place where the demon lord had been sealed. This was despite it being able to rival a regular divine cultivator.

In other words, the bird was no match for the celestial demon lord. That was why it played only a supporting role. That meant this demon lord was no lesser than Lightford.

If there was a celestial demon sovereign in the fight, the damage they'd be capable of was unthinkable.

That led Jiang Chen to conclude that Lightford wasn't that big a threat in comparison, albeit he was powerful in his own right.

His mind continued to race.

There were ten major tribes among the demonic race. The celestial demons were the most superior of them all. They ruled over all other nine tribes like the royal family.

Although they might not make all of the calls, most demons wouldn't dare defy their orders and summons.

He mentally went through the characteristics of the ten tribes to identify a few tribes that Lightford might belong to.

“Lightford doesn’t possess the tremendous might of the celestial demons. He doesn’t intimidate and exert dominance with his mere presence the way they do. That’s one possibility eliminated. He isn’t of the blood demon tribe either. I’ve fought Demon Emperor Bloodmalva before. The two of them share no similarities.”

Two down, eight to go. Compared to the celestial demon lord and Lightford, Jiang Chen suddenly realized the demon emperor was nothing.

“Wood demons specialize in cultivating poisonous parasites. That I’ve seen myself. Lightford isn’t one of them.

“Titan demons are behemoths similar to the ancient golem tribe. Lightford obviously isn’t one.

“Fire demons are covered in blazing fire and burnt marks. Their fire element is so aggressive that no vegetation can live in their presence. That’s out too.

“Winged demons are born with a pair of wings. They’re as agile as a bird and can move without leaving a trace. Not that.

“Gold demons are fighting machines with almost unbreakable constitution. Their fighting style is straightforward. That’s not how Lightford is.

“Yin demons are adept at mind control, possession, and refining corpses into puppets. They’re easily identifiable by the sinister air about them. That doesn’t seem like Lightford.

“That leaves monster demons and shadow demons. Shadow demons have mastered the art of stealth and assassination. They’re as difficult to detect as shadows in the dark. If they get near their victim, the victim as good as dead.

“Monster demons are part monsters. They can demonize their blood to boost their power, and they’re adept at disguising themselves.”

All that led Jiang Chen to conclude that Lightford was very likely to be a monster demon. The old man must have activated his bloodline to boost his power.

The more he went through the characteristics of the tribe, the more Jiang Chen found similarities between Lightford and monster demons.

Had he come to the right conclusion?

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Chapter 2113: Reveal of the Original

Jiang Chen had gotten to know the demon race in his past life. All ten of the demonic tribes were considered serious threats in the heavenly planes. They’d left great destruction in their wake in many realms.

Lightford was a monster demon!

Jiang Chen searched through his memory. With his vast knowledge about the demons, he could list out specific ways to deal with each tribe.

Monster demons weren't among the top, but they had a clear advantage.

As master shapeshifters, they sometimes paraded as human cultivators or cultivators of other races. Their disguises were too convincing to see through.

There wasn't a special method to deal with such demons. The only option was to prevent them from tapping into their demonic bloodline, which would weaken them to some degree.

That, however, was no easy task.

Fortunately, it wasn't impossible, and there were options readily available to the ten sacred lands. The Vermilion Bird and the Black Tortoise, for example, were able to suppress the demon monster bloodline in Lightford, which was why the two were able to keep him busy.

Roughly seventy percent of Lightford's attention was on the two sacred beasts.

It was unfortunate that the sacred beasts were two to three levels below Lightford in cultivation. If they were at the same level as him, they could've easily taken him down.

Jiang Chen began to itch to take to the field himself. He, too, possessed bloodlines that could suppress Lightford's - the blood of true dragon and golden cicada.

Both were among the top bloodlines in the world.

The true dragon bloodline, especially, was one of the most superior bloodlines even in the heavenly planes. The bloodline's supreme energy was a serious threat to monster demons.

It was time to take on Lightford himself!

Jiang Chen summoned the golden bell and activated it with true dragon energy. The bell keened a low, ancient rumble. It was as if the sound had travelled from the primordial times, deafening and powerful.

The glyphs on the surface of the bell came to life like countless living spirits, hovering around the bell.

Jiang Chen had always been fascinated by the golden bell. He could tell the symbols and patterns were ancient, and there was a sacred air to them. He knew he hadn't tapped into its full potential, that he'd utilized only a small part of its power.

Under the influence of the true dragon energy, the surface of the bell emitted an increasingly blinding light. The restraining might of the symbols and patterns grew steadily stronger.

Like a caged primordial beast breaking out of its prison, the force within the bell seemed to be breaking through its seal. Jiang Chen looked on with wonder.

As he chanted, the golden bell grew bigger, radiating countless rays of aureate light, shooting at Lightford with tremendous momentum.

At the same time, two rays of light shot out of Jiang Chen's Evil Golden Eye, splitting the air to reach Lightford.

Jiang Chen had used the golden bell before, so it was far from the first time the Vermilion Bird witnessed its might. Nonetheless, the bird was surprised to feel its changes. The bell demonstrated exponentially stronger power with this particular deployment.

The ancient patterns on each grid of the bell leapt out and charged at Lightford like countless beasts brandishing their claws and fangs.

The attacks from the gods were a big enough threat to the prison escapee. Only with his increased power was he able to keep himself from the brink of desperation.

When the golden bell fell from above with tremendous presence, he felt as if his heart had been seized in a tight grip. He broke out in a cold sweat and looked up at the bell in shock.

The old man zigzagged in the air. Violet waves of mist shot out of his broad sleeves and soared through the sky. It was obvious that the waves were meant to block the bell's might.

Jiang Chen emitted a dragon howl and brandished his Holy Dragon Bow, circulating his true dragon bloodline to the utmost. "Are you going to hide your true form still, Lightford?"

Whoosh whoosh whoosh!

One after another, arrows shot out of the Holy Dragon Bow.

The bow had been a sect's signature treasure to begin with, a divine weapon in its own right. Jiang Chen had turned it into a powerful killing tool, and he was able to boost its power even more.

Arrow upon arrow flew toward Lightford in a flash of golden light, their might terrifying. It was as if the arrows would break through their current plane and reach for others.

The torrent of golden arrows descended upon Lightford.

Even someone as powerful as him had been struggling to keep up with the attacks. If his defenses hadn't been as solid as they were, he would've died several times over.

He reacted to the arrows with lightning reflexes. Even so, he didn't manage to dodge all of them.

A golden arrow whipped past the space next to his rib.

It didn't cause any physical injury, but it'd taken a bite out of the violet mist enveloping him. It was plainly no ordinary arrow!

The missing chunk exposed Lightford's true form and odd physical traits for all to see. Everyone stared at him in shock.

He now looked vastly different from before. He was taller, his limbs stronger, and his feet bigger. They resembled the giant feet of the ancient beasts. His torso was covered in strange, inhuman scales.

"What is that?" Those not in the know were taken aback by Lightford's physical transformation. His face was now distinctly inhuman as well.

A long, pointy nose obscured his nostrils; his sunken eyes were as red as lanterns. Brows merged into his face, and fangs protruded from his cavernous mouth. He looked absolutely monstrous.

Jiang Chen's lips twitched, not at all surprised. He'd anticipated the change. Now he could say for sure that Lightford was a monster demon. He showed all the appropriate traits.

What surprised Jiang Chen was that the golden bell seemed to be a natural bane to monster demons. Its golden light dispersed Lightford's violet mist as soon as they came into contact.

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Chapter 2114: Struggles of Desperation

Lightford noticed that the violet mist concealing him was dispersing, revealing his demonic appearance to his enemies.

Anxiety overtook him. He knew his true form would incite an attitude change in the human cultivators. Hatred and wariness of demons was deeply rooted in their very being.

"Open your eyes and take a good look at what a fiend Lightford is, everyone!" exclaimed Eternal's forefather. "You must do your best to kill him, or this demon will gather his kind and return to destroy us!"

A demon!

The word invoked an instinctual fear and concern in the assembled gods.

Demons had ravaged the world in the ancient times, and that fear plagued the human race even now. If Lightford was a demon, did that mean the long-lasting peace of the Divine Abyss Continent would soon be shattered by a demonic invasion?

Cultivators who'd been nursing various schemes underwent significant attitude changes. If they kept playing passive and allowed the demon to get away, the continent would never be truly safe. Myriad Abyss would fall into demons' grasp sooner or later!

"Are you sure he's a demon, Daoist Eternal?" someone couldn't help asked.

"Of course! Why would I say anything if I wasn't?" In truth, the forefather didn't know for sure, but it didn't matter. He knew Jiang Chen was certain, which was good enough for him.

The young man was always right.

Jiang Chen roared with the dragon howl again. "Lightford is not only a demon, but of the monster bloodline! His kind is adept at changing forms. They use their energy to disguise themselves as human cultivators. It's very difficult to spot them. Only powerful demon detection treasures can expose them for what they are. If Lightford hadn't tapped into his bloodline to defend against our attacks, we would've never discovered his true nature."

That was enough to convince most divine cultivators. They had no reasons to doubt Jiang Chen.

The series of events that had happened in Myriad Abyss had more than proven the young man's competence.

For the first time in his life, Lightford felt afraid. Jiang Chen exposing his true identity and background wasn't the only reason. His fear was more attributed to the golden bell, which reminded him of events in the ancient times.

He still remembered sneaking into Myriad Abyss back in the day and being trapped by the owner of the golden bell. That was how he'd been shipped off to the Boundless Prison.

The owner might not have even been aware that Lightford was a demon sovereign, the supreme leader of the monster demons invading the continent.

Fate had a funny sense of humor sometimes.

And so, the golden bell was Lightford's worst nightmare. He'd seen Jiang Chen use the bell back in Eternal, but at the time, the young man didn't fight him, so the golden bell's true power hadn't been activated. That was why Lightford had overlooked the treasure.

Now, the familiar energy and might radiating from the bell brought up his worst memories.

"I didn't know there are so many types of demons, Jiang Chen. What's the difference between monster demons and the other ones?"

Even back in the ancient times, inhabitants of the Divine Abyss Continent didn't know much about the demons. Despite a long history of fighting against these invaders, they'd managed to identify only a few traits and habits. Their knowledge was very limited.

Not even the ancient cultivators knew about the ten demonic tribes, thus the later generations had never inherited such knowledge.

"Demons can be divided into ten different categories. Monster demons are one of the ten, but they aren't the strongest tribe. That's the celestial demons. Celestial demons are considered demonic royalty. Their bloodline is the most superior, and their power the strongest. They command the other nine! Remember, Lightford mustn't be allowed to escape. I believe he's the sovereign of the monster demons. Once we kill him, it's possible that his tribe won't be able to cause trouble in the continent!"

Lightford's heart sank. The young man had peeled away his disguises layer by layer, rendering all pretense obsolete.

"Tsk, Jiang Chen... I've underestimated you. Even the ancient sects know nothing about our secrets, yet you speak of them like you're one of us. Tell me, young man, are you a demon as well?"

He knew it was next to impossible for him to flee.

He'd planned to make one last attempt, giving it his all to break out. However, the golden bell firmly quashed his last hopes.

The bell was his natural bane. It'd continue to weaken him and suppress his monster bloodline until he reverted to his regular self.

Without the battle frenzy that boosted his power, he would never be able to fight so many cultivators on his own. Not even an advanced divine cultivator could be able to do so.

That was why he opted to disseminate doubt amongst his enemies, trying to create a divide. Only when his enemies were separated by paranoia would he have a chance to escape.

Unfortunately, his trick had some effect.

Some of the forefathers turned to Jiang Chen questioningly. It was curious that the young man would be so familiar with the demonic race.

Very little about demons had been passed down from the ancient times. Why would a young genius be so knowledgeable about them?

Jiang Chen scoffed. "It's laughable of you to resort to such crude trickery, Lightford. Everyone knows that demons forbid infighting. If I were one, why would I try so hard to kill you?"

"Haha, are you worried that I'll expose you for what you are?" countered Lightford.

It wasn't the first time Jiang Chen had encountered such slander. Back when he was a member of Regal Pill Palace, the six sects had accused him of being a demon in Mount Rippling Mirage.

At the time, Jiang Chen had allowed his blood to be tested in order to prove his innocence.

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Chapter 2115: Long Xiaoxuan Enters Divinity

Unfazed by the scrutiny, Jiang Chen smiled faintly. "You should know his motives, everyone, but I understand your concern. If you still have doubt, I'll have my blood tested to prove my innocence after we kill this fiend. At this moment though, we must stay focused. Don't give Lightford any chance to escape, or we'll live eternally in regret!"

He wasn't going to let the demon get his way. The attempt was clumsy, but the timing perfect.

The ten sacred lands had never been a close-knit group. Although they wouldn't readily believe Lightford's claim, the seeds of doubt had been planted.

Eternal's forefather laughed. "If Jiang Chen were a demon, we would've detected it back when he underwent the trial to join the sacred land. This is a critical time, everyone. We mustn't fall for this fiend's trickery."

"That's right, we can't fall for that!" Radiance's forefather called out in agreement.

Several forefathers immediately took a stand to support Jiang Chen.

Jiang Chen howled. "Your trickery isn't going to save you today, Lightford!"

"Let's take him down together!" The Vermilion Bird's red eyes blazed with intense flame, not unlike two volcanoes about to erupt.

The Black Tortoise made its move as well, its terrifying gravity vortex rushed toward Lightford.

The tortoise wasn't afraid of Lightford. Its remarkable defenses were enough to shield it from most of Lightford's attacks.

It made a perfect team with the Vermilion Bird, almost as if they were born to fight together.

Behind the Void Sacred Land, a ray of blinding light split through the sky. The very air trembled. Clouds converged to an unknown location as if they were under some command. Waves of clouds rolled and writhed with great intensity.

A howl rumbled through the clouds. Another dragon howl! It was purer and mightier than Jiang Chen's.

Out of the thundering cacophony came a true dragon. The figure faded in and out of existence among the flickering rosy clouds.

Long Xiaoxuan!

Delighted, Jiang Chen answered with a dragon howl of his own. "You broke through, Brother Long!"

At the eleventh hour, Long Xiaoxuan broke through the threshold of empyrean and ascended to godhood. He'd joined the rank of divine sacred beasts!

The Vermilion Bird and the Black Tortoise were thrilled as well. The magnificent image of the dragon affecting the weather with its mere presence shook them to the core.

The true dragon was indeed the most superior bloodline among the sacred beasts. Even though they were both sacred beasts as well, they had to admit the dragon had some advantage over them.

The sheer natural phenomena of Long Xiaoxuan's breakthrough covered the entire sky, shaking both heaven and earth.

The dragon himself had been through a significant transformation as well. The sheen of his body was more vibrant, and there was a perfect shine to his scales. Everything about him embodied perfection. More importantly, his might turned many cultivators' mouth dry.

"A true dragon!" muttered Radiance's forefather. "Can that be a real sacred beast?"

Long Xiaoxuan came up to Jiang Chen in a flash.

"Congratulations, Brother Long!" Jiang Chen greeted him. "Let's kill this demon together!"

The look in Long Xiaoxuan's eyes was deep as he nodded. "Together!"

The dragon was overwhelmed with a myriad of emotions. His gaze resting on Jiang Chen was both grateful and full of longing. His fate had changed entirely because of the human's appearance.

He was only able to ascend to divinity in such a short period of time because of Jiang Chen. If not for his human brother's resources and support, it would've been almost impossible for him to even ascend to empyrean, given his age.

As it was, he'd ascended to divinity, awakening the bloodline of the ancient true dragons.

He was on his way to the top of the martial dao world!

Lightford grimaced. Every pore of his body screamed in discomfort when the true dragon's aura locked onto him. Another powerful sacred beast had joined the fight! He was one step closer to defeat and his demise.

The four divine beasts had a natural suppression effect over his bloodline. The effect was even more pronounced with the true dragon.

“This fiend is a monster demon, Brother Long,” Jiang Chen transmitted. “The four divine beasts are his natural bane. Your aura is especially threatening to him. Trap him with your dragon domain and attack him with your strongest move, alongside Brother Vermilion and the Black Tortoise.”

Long Xiaoxuan wasn’t an experienced fighter, so he wasn’t opposed to executing Jiang Chen’s instructions. He coalesced a powerful domain with his dragon aura. Blow upon blow from it crashed down onto Lightford’s head.

Agitation threatened to overwhelm the demon’s mind. There was a heavy weight on his chest, weighing him down.

The three sacred beasts were more than enough to occupy his attention. He had no effort to spare for the other cultivators. What was worse, Jiang Chen’s magical golden bell continued to suppress his bloodline.

It felt as if he was stuck in a meat grinder. Pressure came at him from all directions.

He made several attempts to activate his bloodline, intending to enter another battle frenzy. However, he failed continuously thanks to the auras of the sacred beasts.

The Black Tortoise used the opening to approach him. Waves of gravity swarmed toward Lightford, latching onto him down like shackles.

“Damn it!” In a fit of rage, Lightford dove down and hit the tortoise’s head with an enormous hand.

The desperate attack would’ve crushed the tortoise’s skull if it landed.

However, the tortoise managed to tuck its head back into its shell, the defense of which was its strongest suit.

Bam!

The enormous hand slammed into the tortoise’s back, leaving a web of fine cracks on the shell.

Black Tortoises were born with an almost impenetrable shell. Even Lightford’s furious attack failed to break through the defense.

Although the demon had managed to crack the shell, it wasn’t a serious injury for the tortoise. Meanwhile, he’d exposed his back to Long Xiaoxuan and the Vermilion Bird.

Claws of Crushed Mountains and Rivers split through the air, targeting Lightford’s back. The bird’s skyfire roiled toward him as well. The two attacks hit Lightford at almost the same time.

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Chapter 2116: The Advent of Death!

Regular gods would only be able to superficially hurt Lightford, even if they joined forces and worked together.

Two sacred beasts, on the other hand, equaled at least five ordinary gods. Moreover, they wielded abilities that embodied the profound mysteries of their own bloodlines.

The Claw of Crushed Mountains and Rivers could alter terrain with casual sweeps. There was a tremendous amount of strength there to contend with.

One claw was enough to break Lightford's left elbow, rendering his arm falling limply down to his side.

Heavenly flames from the Vermilion Bird coagulated into a small glob of fiery essence that tunneled into Lightford's arm injury. It exploded in the next moment, unleashing infernal energy within the old demon's body.

Old Lightford shook uncontrollably; large beads of sweat rolled off his forehead.

Jiang Chen was very pleased. "The old demon is gravely injured already, my friends. Be careful of his death throes! Is your back alright, Ole Brother Black?"

The Black Tortoise was a cautious beast, but its bloodthirst had been ignited by the fighting that had transpired so far.

"Don't worry," it cackled. "My back can regenerate itself. Unless he destroys it instantly, I can heal cracks in a mere moment."

Each sacred beast had its own uniquely marvelous characteristics. The Black Tortoise's lay in sheer defensive bulk and fast healing.

"You two, get behind me. I'll cover you!" The Black Tortoise was eager to distinguish himself.

The Vermilion Bird listened readily. It knew that it was better than the tortoise on the offense, but that was definitely not true when it came to defense.

Long Xiaoxuan chuckled, clearly not thinking too much of it. True dragons were hardly slouches in their own right. He wasn't necessarily quite as tough, but he had a different talent: hiding his body within the gaps of space. If he wanted to, he could shrink to a mote of dust and drift away, regardless of how he was attacked.

Even if he was accidentally broken out of his current transformation, he was resilient enough to withstand the hit.

A true dragon was said to heal faster than even a Black Tortoise. As long as a dragon's soul wasn't shattered, he could slowly marshal enough energies to forge himself anew.

This was the defining characteristic of true dragonkind.

Vermilion Birds, on the other hand, were long-lived and capable of endless rebirth. Each time one did so, it increased in vigor.

Sacred beats were uniformly wondrous creatures, embodiments of the greatest and most arcane tenets of the heavenly planes.

Now missing an arm, Lightford actually looked all the fiercer for it.

He glared madly at the three sacred beasts. “You three idiots, what do the humans have to do with you?! Why are you fighting on its behalf to the point of killing me? Aren’t you worried that I’ll take one or all of you with me?”

“Enough of that,” Long Xiaoxuan harrumphed. “Humans are flawed in many ways, but their reputation is ten times better than that of the demons’.”

“Exactly. We’re not fighting for humankind, we’re fighting for survival. A demonic reign means enslavement for everything else!” shouted the Vermilion Bird.

“Hahaha, aren’t you slaves to a human right now? Why hide it? Dare you say that you’re not that human kid’s servants? You do whatever he tells you. I don’t know how he’s managed to seduce you, but I guarantee I can give you double of what he’s promised you! If you turn on him, I will lead you to attain the height of power on Divine Abyss!”

The three sacred beasts roared with laughter in unison. They were utterly bewildered by Lightford’s baseless boasting.

“Forget it! What are you demons good for, other than killing and destroying? Your empty promises may work on the stupid and ignorant, but you can forget trying to convince ancient existences like us!” The Vermilion Bird replied with disdain.

All three of the sacred beasts knew full well that Jiang Chen gave them not only promises, but his genuine sincerity. Both the Vermilion Bird and Long Xiaoxuan intimately knew what the young man was capable of, and had already received great benefit from him.

The old demon couldn’t give them nearly the same things that Jiang Chen could.

Moreover, serving as a demon’s servants only brought danger and humiliation upon oneself. Demons were known for being two-faced, after all.

Jiang Chen was a world above that.

Their relationship with the human wasn’t built upon profit alone. They trusted and were friends with each other. Perhaps they could even be called family.

Jiang Chen didn’t interrupt because he trusted the three spirit creatures as well. He wasn’t afraid of Lightford’s provocation.

At his wits’ end, the demon glared viciously. “Fools, the lot of you! If you continue in your ignorance, then I will make you suffer – even unto my own death!”

Jiang Chen chuckled. “Are you finally admitting that you’re a divine forefather of the demon race, old Lightford? Do you think you have any room left to struggle?”

The golden bell rang loudly again. Its invincible light rushed toward the enemy with blinding speed.

The runes and images upon it were vivid to the point of becoming alive. They seemed to float off of the bell along with the light, gathering together like a demonic curse that bound itself endlessly tighter around Lightford.

The old demon finally showed fear at the sign of the inexorable bell. His funeral bell was tolling.

“If you dare kill me, Jiang Chen,” he shrieked in his final throes, “the demon armies won’t let you live!”

Jiang Chen was completely emotionless as he pushed the bell to greater heights of power. Its energy ascended, rising tenfold in radiating a blaze that naturally restrained Lightford’s demonic form.

The three sacred beasts knew that it was their time to strike and launched their strongest attacks.

“What are you waiting around for? Use all your strength to attack!” Jiang Chen’s roar sounded in the consciousnesses of every other god present.

The others were snapped awake, joining the fray themselves as well.

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

Chapter 2117: Slaying an Old Demon

Under the influence of the bell, old Lightford felt his entire body tremble. He couldn’t mount the tiniest bit of resistance.

Ray after ray of luminous offense blasted upon him.

Despite the demon’s incredible abilities, he knew he couldn’t turn the fight around anymore.

Jiang Chen was completely calm as he watched this take place.

They’d succeeded!

A mid divine ancient demon had been cornered by their unified assault. His life was ticking down by the minute!

This was rather dreamlike, so incredulous was the result.

In fact, all that had happened in Myriad Abyss recently was already too far-fetched to believe. It was as if mountains had toppled, earth had cracked, and the skies had fallen in.

As much as he wished otherwise, Lightford couldn’t endure the deathtrap. The sacred lands’ cultivators had dealt very little damage to him – certainly not enough for a grievous injury.

The three sacred beasts were his most feared opponents.

If they’d been alone, they would have only had a fifty percent chance at killing him. They were too individually weak to claim absolute triumph. In fact, he might have had the opportunity to launch a suicidal attack; if the beasts were unwilling to exhibit the same kind of recklessness, that could have offered him an avenue of escape.

Alas, the golden bell was his worst enemy, the nemesis of his fate. Under its oppressive energies, his will and vitality were both crushed.

The fighting was finally over. Blood and guts were strewn about the scene.

A number of gods had been seriously hurt, but no injuries were life-threatening. Lightford's final struggle had affected them as collateral damage. Thankfully, the three sacred beasts' spearheaded attack had also disintegrated their greatest foe.

Lightford's divine decree fell into his killers' hands.

The three sacred beasts didn't care for it. Their own bloodlines and divinities meant that it was useless to them. They handed it over to Jiang Chen by default, who summarily stashed it away.

The other gods were envious, but couldn't disagree with the arrangement. None of them were foolish enough not to see that Jiang Chen had commanded the battle.

Lightford's divine decree was added to the handful that Jiang Chen had gotten earlier from the demon's dead followers.

Meanwhile, the survivors trembled with fear.

No god dared to break the silence before Jiang Chen. Even the Eternal forefather could feel the tremendous pressure that the young man exerted upon the scene.

The young genius saw no reason to explain himself.

This power was what he had always sought. He didn't want to relinquish his authority or become another's pawn. No, he had always much preferred playing the game himself.

The evasive, sometimes fearful looks he saw in the other sacred lands' eyes told him that he had accomplished his objective.

The captives were becoming more anxious by the moment. Their dread escalated with each step that Jiang Chen took towards them. They finally understood that this youth – like a god himself, despite his empyrean cultivation – was the one who would decide their fate.

The support of his three sacred beasts gave him an added aura of mystique.

"We... we... we surrender." They kneeled as one, stammering.

"Young lord Jiang Chen, your reputation precedes you. Now that we've seen every bit of it is deserved, we don't dare compete with your radiance. Please, give us a chance to surrender!"

"We are willing to swear our allegiance upon heaven and earth, young lord. We will not renege on our word."

"Indeed. We were deluded and coerced into Lightford's service without knowing that he was an ancient demon. If we had been aware of the latter, we would have died rather than rebel with him."

"Young lord Jiang Chen, heaven is our witness to our ignorance. Yes, we largely deserved our sentences in the Boundless Prison, but we'd never sought to ally with a demon!"

These people didn't initially believe that they would be in much danger after surrendering. Their comrades had safely surrendered before and were doing just fine. The ten sacred lands weren't exactly a bloodthirsty lot.

After they found out that old Lightford was an ancient demon though, things took a different turn. If they were labeled as demonic remnants, the sacred lands would be fully justified in executing them all.

Since the ancient times, association with demonkind was an irredeemable crime against Divine Abyss as a continent. There was no turning back for individuals that betrayed the land of their birth.

Their only chance at life was to claim ignorance regarding Lightford's demonic identity.

Jiang Chen dragged a thoughtful gaze across these cultivators' faces.

"You say that you weren't aware he was an ancient demon, but you have no impartial evidence to back you up. Demons have always been proficient at trickery and concealment. How am I supposed to know that none of you have accepted demon blood into your veins? Or perhaps you're demons yourself?"

"We are willing to accept an examination of our blood. If anything is found awry, we willingly go to our deaths."

"Yes, we as well."

Yu Gong, Xu Yigu, and Lan Tianhao came forward. "Young lord Jiang Chen," they bowed. "Though we came to the light earlier than these others, we would be happy to have our blood examined as well. Demons are a deceptive bunch, and we're not sure whether Lightford did anything to us without our knowledge."

Jiang Chen smiled. "Very good. That old demon said I was a demon earlier as well, so I shall take this opportunity to prove my innocence."

"There's no need for that, is there?" One of the sacred lands' forefathers immediately cut in. "You come from honest origins. That, we know all too well."

"Yes, yes. If you were a demon, there would be no one reliable beneath the heavens."

Asking an examination of Jiang Chen's blood was the safest move, but upsetting him would plunge Myriad Abyss into serious trouble. They couldn't risk the young man's departure.

Jiang Chen waved a hand. "No need to disagree. Testing my blood isn't any trouble. Plus, demonic bloodlines are invasive, yes, but they can't exactly consume anybody undetected. There's no need to be suspicious of yourselves."

His words were intended to calm both the captives and the sacred lands' people.

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

Chapter 2118: Surrender

It wasn't difficult to test Jiang Chen's blood, but he needed the forefathers to be his witnesses. And so he invited all of them to watch the test.

The results were as they'd expected. Although the composition of his blood was complex, there wasn't any trace of demonic blood.

The captives, known cultivators in Myriad Abyss, didn't have any demon blood in them either.

That was an immense relief. At least they were unlikely to be executed.

“You didn’t know that Lightford was a demon sovereign. It was a mistake for you to serve him, but an unintended one. You may live. However, you were forced into surrendering, so you must yet prove your innocence,” Jiang Chen continued. “You’re required to not only swear an oath, but also accept control over your consciousness and serve as divine servants for some time. The probation period may be hundreds or even thousands of years. If you behave well, you may regain your freedom in three to five years.”

The cultivators knew they had surrendered under much uglier circumstances compared to Yu Gong and the others. They immediately made their oaths.

Jiang Chen smiled. “Brother Long, Old Brother Vermilion, Ole Brother Black, these divine cultivators are all yours.”

The three sacred beasts didn’t turn the gift down. Throughout history, it’d been the spirit creatures submitting to human cultivators as rides or contracted beasts. It was a novel experience to command human beings as their servants.

No one dared object, whether publicly or privately.

Jiang Chen turned to Xu Yigu and Lan Tianhao. “I promised earlier to set you free, gentlemen. Eternal’s forefather has lifted his control over you. You’re free to go now. Before that though, a word of advice for you: a challenging time is coming. You better behave yourselves and don’t pick the wrong side of history again. If you pledge yourselves to offworld invaders or even demons, you won’t be given another chance to surrender on the battlefields.”

Lan Tianhao and Xu Yigu exchanged a glance and cupped their hands. “Young lord Chen, we’d like to pledge our loyalty to you and serve you.”

They’d witnessed how Jiang Chen commanded the bell and the flow of the battle until Lightford was finally killed. The young man was impressive enough as he was. Once he ascended to divinity, he’d be unrivaled in this world.

No one on the continent could afford to fight on their own. It was no longer a time for lone wolves. To survive, everyone had to come together. No one would be a better leader than Jiang Chen.

The ten forefathers were conflicted when they saw the two men choosing to join Jiang Chen’s banner. On paper, they were Jiang Chen’s allies. In reality, it was clear that they paled in comparison to him.

The ten sacred lands might still be the rulers of Myriad Abyss, but the one making the calls and standing above everyone wasn’t the forefathers, but the newly risen young genius, Jiang Chen.

The realization evoked different reactions from the forefathers. Appreciation, disappointment, regret, bemusement...

“Have you made up your minds?” Jiang Chen didn’t immediately accept the two men. He considered them carefully, the look in his eyes inquisitive.

“We have,” the pair insisted resolutely. “We’re willing to let you control us with your consciousness to prove our innocence.”

That was an offer Jiang Chen couldn't turn down.

"Good. Desperate time calls for desperate measures. This control is necessary to ensure there will be no unwanted surprises. I hope you'll regain my trust sooner rather than later. I want our relationship to be one of mutual trust, not wariness." His tone was serious and matter-of-fact.

"We greet young lord Jiang Chen." The two men went up to him and saluted him as his subordinates.

An Kasyapa chuckled. "Good kid. You've proven yourself in the fight. People are falling to their knees to serve you. I'll opt out of this though. I'm a man who values his freedom and detests restraints. But again, if there's anything that will threaten the continent, count me in."

An Kasyapa was at a much higher level than the divine cultivators. He'd been second only to Lightford.

Jiang Chen smiled faintly. "Divine Kasyapa has never worked with Lightford. You don't have anything to prove. I hope that one day, we'll have a chance to fight together again."

"Of course. As long as you stay on the right path, I'm willing to follow you for the sake of the greater good." An Kasyapa laughed heartily. Remembering something, he added, "There are more cultivators who refused to help Lightford after escaping from the Boundless Prison. They are scattered all over Myriad Abyss. You can try to recruit them."

Many divine cultivators had escaped the prison, and a small portion of them had turned Lightford's offer down. They were proud individuals the likes of Divine Kasyapa.

Jiang Chen smiled. "I will if I get the chance."

"Since I have the time, I'll talk to them for you and try to recruit them. Even if they don't join you, it's better to have them be in the same boat. When the continent faces real threats, we may all fight together as comrades."

Jiang Chen responded seriously, "Then I'll leave the matter in your capable hands."

That would be of infinite help. Every divine cultivator was invaluable. That was why he had done his best to spare as many of them as possible.

One god killed was one less ally on their side.

Although killing a divine cultivator could yield them a divine decree, it would take a long time for someone to ascend to divinity with the decree.

Besides, there was no guarantee that whoever was given the decree could ascend to divinity; it'd take more time for the new divine cultivator to grow strong enough to fight in the coming war.

Under the circumstances, every god was an important asset.

The battle had come to an end. The captives had surrendered. Everything was going smoothly.

However, there remained one more thing. Jiang Chen turned to the ten forefathers with a smile. "You remember the fight on Sandplain, venerated forefathers. I mentioned then that some of the cultivators in Myriad Abyss are in cahoots with Lightford. We must identify these people."

They could recruit the captives, but the traitors had to be fished out and dealt with.

Sovereign of the Three Realms (WN)

Chapter 2119: Who Is The Traitor?

The ten forefathers hadn't let anyone go since departing from Sandplain. The original group was still gathered together.

After a series of battles and such a long journey, the safety of their respective sacred land had been their primary concern. Exhausted from the fight with Lightford, they'd almost forgotten about the traitors. It wasn't until Jiang Chen's reminder that they recalled this outstanding task.

"That's right, the traitors must be identified."

"If the moles hadn't leaked our information back in Sandplain, our enemy wouldn't have read us so thoroughly and planned accordingly."

"The spies must've told their master everything. That was how we fell for the traps so easily."

The ten forefathers were no pushovers. It was an awful feeling to be tricked. The reminder that there were traitors among their ranks ignited fury in their hearts.

If not for them, the ten sacred lands wouldn't have suffered so much, and Lightford wouldn't have become as big a threat as he'd been.

"We must find them! Every single one of them!"

"Do you have any suggestions, young friend Jiang Chen?"

Jiang Chen smiled. "Given Lightford's lack of foundation, they couldn't have recruited too many spies. To avoid detection, they wouldn't have spread their efforts too wide either. I believe there are only a few treacherous factions. At most three to four of them."

That was a solid speculation. Lightford had risked exposing himself if he recruited too many factions.

One of the divine cultivators who'd surrendered earlier took a step forward and offered a cupped fist salute. "There are factions in Myriad Abyss who were working for Lightford, young lord. However, he always sent the two enforcers to do the legwork."

"Do you mean only the two enforcers know who the traitors are?" Jiang Chen rumbled.

"Not necessarily!" The man shook his head. "There are some remaining in Lightford's base of operations, and the two enforcers had a few demigod confidantes. If they're still there, the survivors must know something. After all, the two enforcers didn't do everything themselves. They delegated some work to their underlings. Demigods make for some decent helpers."

They might not have been of much help when facing the ten sacred lands, but they were more than enough to handle the second and third tier factions.

The information was highly valuable to Jiang Chen.

He threw the ten forefathers a glance and transmitted, "Venerated forefathers, the ten sacred lands must continue to rule Myriad Abyss together. We have to identify the traitors without creating a panic. Do you have any ideas?"

After some discussion, the ten forefathers agreed that there was no need to make the issue bigger than it needed to be.

Eternal's forefather spoke up. "Lightford is dead. Those among you who worked with him know what you've done. We're giving you a chance to confess. No matter who you are, we promise to punish only the main culprit and spare the rest of your factions. If you insist on being stubborn, you'll be to blame for the consequences of angering us."

It was a call to action, an attempt to persuade and to intimidate.

Those who confessed their crimes would be killed, but their peers would live. Those who remained silent would end up getting their entire faction executed.

Members of the second and third tier factions grew agitated. They couldn't guarantee that their senior executives hadn't flirted with Lightford and done something untowards.

What if a couple executives had struck a deal with the devil? Their entire faction would suffer as a result. The air was thick with tension, expressions were full of doubt and suspicion.

"You have fifteen minutes, everyone. After that, you're considered to be stubborn to the bitter end." Eternal's forefather's voice was frigid.

Time crawled onwards excruciatingly slowly. Finally, someone broke under the heavy atmosphere. An empyrean cultivator stumbled out of the crowd. "I confess."

He was a senior executive of a second tier faction.

"Half a year ago, a man came to my sect..." He spilled everything about his experience. "He made me a lot of promises and offered many material rewards. In a moment of weakness, I fell for his trickery. But I didn't know he had anything to do with demons. If I'd known, I wouldn't have made the deal!"

"Good!" Eternal's forefather settled his cold gaze on the man. "Who else in your faction has done the same?"

"I'm the only one," the man hurried out. "No one else has."

"Are you sure? If we find another traitor among you, you'll all pay with your lives."

The man stared dumbly at his peers. "Did any of you work with Lightford's people?"

He knew only of his own crimes.

His peers looked back at him with derision and hatred in their eyes. There was nothing they wanted to do more than to disown him and cut their losses.

The man paled and mumbled, "Ah, it's good that no one else has done the same. I've been seduced by the devil and made a grave mistake. I deserve my punishment. I'll go on ahead. I hope the sacred lands will honor your promise and spare the others."

The man smacked himself ruthlessly on the forehead without restraint and collapsed to the ground, dead.

Most people didn't even react. Only a few of his closer peers showed some pain and heartache.

Eternal's forefather waved a hand in the air. "You may take care of his corpse. I hope there really isn't another traitor among you, or you'll get what you deserve."

He scoffed and swept his sharp gaze over everyone present. "Is it that he was the only one to work with Lightford?"

The venerated leader's disbelief was clear.

An awkward silence permeated the air.

The ten forefathers kept their eyes open. None of them believed that there was only one traitor. The other ones were simply hoping to get lucky.

Eternal's forefather scoffed. "Some of you aren't going to tell until death is staring you in the face, are you?"

Jiang Chen shook his head. He had a few suspects. Those who had been especially proactive in the genius selection in Sandplain were suspicious. The Bluesmoke Isles were a good example.

Their members were now wearing highly innocent looks, which only served to cement Jiang Chen's suspicion. He'd simply refrained from commenting because the time wasn't right.

After about seven minutes, someone else broke under the ten forefathers' intimidation.

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

Chapter 2120: Attacking the Base

The cultivators who yielded were different this time. Two empyrean realm cultivators from another second rate faction, and executives just the same.

They held nothing back, relating every detail they could recall. Their contacts had promised them that once Lightford conquered Myriad Abyss, they would be given divine opportunities to increase their strength.

That had been a very attractive offer.

The only thing they'd needed to do was keep in touch with the outside world, that Lightford and his minions could be updated with what the sacred lands were up to as soon as possible.

Moreover, they'd agreed to stand forth in support of Lightford after the ten sacred lands were no more to help him win popularity.

More and more of the late Lightford's meticulous plan increasingly came to light. He had very carefully charted what to do at every step in his conquest. Alas, his ideas had failed to materialize due to unforeseen circumstances.

His failure at Sandplain meant that his subsequent moves were diminished. In the end, Jiang Chen had managed to turn the tables. The death of Lightford meant the end of his faction, and these traitors as well.

The two confessors were graceful enough to off themselves without hesitation after giving their accounts.

Jiang Chen didn't particularly enjoy their deaths, but didn't oppose it either. Wrongdoing had to be punished.

Whether they knew Lightford was a demon or not, their betrayal of Myriad Abyss was very real. There was no reason to show much compassion to turncoats.

"Those three were deceived for a time, but they proved their worth by paying for their mistakes in blood. Fifteen minutes are almost up. Are there already no more traitors amongst us?" The Eternal forefather declared coolly, sweeping his eyes across everyone's faces.

The second and third rate factions' cultivators became apprehensive, even those who hadn't done anything wrong.

Who knew whether their own sect hid backstabbers that yet lingered?

What if they were still holding on in hopes that they'd scrape by? Wouldn't they implicate innocents by doing so?

No more stepped forward before time was up.

Having already secretly communicated with Jiang Chen, the Eternal forefather's face darkened. "If those three have no conspirators among their peers, then their individual choices have been accounted for. However, I see that some are determined to resist to the last. Very good. We'll have to impose on everyone then.

"All of you will head to Lightford's headquarters and attack his remaining forces there. No one is allowed to leave on their own, or he will be branded a turncoat with ulterior motives!"

This was the common opinion of the forefathers of all ten sacred lands.

Finding a few conspirators was easy enough, but they weren't out of the woods yet.

Under the sacred lands' oversight, all of the second and third rate factions' cultivators were carefully surveilled for suspicious activity.

Lightford's base was well hidden, but guides made reaching it reasonably quick. Now that things were settled for the most part, a few days extra made no difference.

The base was located within a secret realm. A day and a half of travel brought the sacred lands' forces to the locale, after which they surrounded the entire island.

Not a single god remained on the premises. There were only a number of demigods and empyrean cultivators left.

There was no question as to the outcome of the battle. The base was quickly taken over, and all who offered resistance were ruthlessly quashed. Those who surrendered had their blood examined, and any found to possess the slightest degree of taint were slain.

Thankfully, Lightford hadn't infected their blood en masse. This wasn't surprising to Jiang Chen. Yes, it was beneficial to do so, but not everyone was qualified to receive such an infusion. Demons had to choose cultivators with superior talent and potential to propagate their strength with. Lightford's blood was especially precious, and he wouldn't give it away so casually.

For the old demon, his blood had represented a blessing that not all deserved.

After some heated back-and-forth accusations, the late enforcers' confidantes were identified and ratted out.

There were four loyal in total, who uniformly whitened in terror. Obviously, they thought that the sacred lands planned to individually judge them.

"Were you four the two enforcers' trusted servants?" Jiang Chen's Evil Golden Eye pierced their consciousnesses with a spray of sharp arrows.

The four being questioned hastily nodded.

"Yes, yes, honorable sirs. We were the two enforcers' servants, but we didn't commit many crimes or hurt Myriad Abyss overmuch. Please, have mercy on us."

"Silence!" the Eternal forefather called out coldly. "If you don't want to die, then cooperate."

"Yes, we will cooperate! Absolutely cooperate!"

"What would you like us to do, sirs?"

Servants without their masters no longer commanded respect, either from others or from themselves. Certainly, the latter had been a luxury back in the Boundless Prison at best.

Survival there had necessitated discarding dignity for most. Life hinged on becoming lackeys and sycophants for the strongest, which wasn't anything to be proud of.

This explained these people's behavior very well.

"Remember, you should think carefully about each and every one of our questions. Don't spew nonsense for the sake of it," Jiang Chen warned.

"Yes, yes. We guarantee that we'll respond honestly and truthfully." Hearing that they were to answer a few questions relaxed the four.

"Lightford's attempt at conquering Myriad Abyss means that he must've contacted many would-be traitors. The two enforcers were responsible for this. As their former lieutenants, you must have played a part in that as well. Now, you must list everyone you've ever contacted. Don't leave a single one out, but don't try to foist guilt upon the innocent, either!"

For these four servants, this was an opportunity to earn back their right to live. Their eyes burned with the desire of survival.