

Three Realms 2121

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

Chapter 2121: Remnants of the Demons

The enforcers' servants knew much more than anyone had imagined. The names listed were significantly more numerous than expected.

The ten forefathers were quite angry when they finally received it. The Flora forefather was the angriest of all.

Meanwhile Bluesmoke was in full panic mode. Several of its executives glanced around despairingly in hopes of finding a way out.

Alas, all of them were under heavy surveillance. None would get out alive.

Thump, thump!

The executives dropped to the ground as one, practically crawling toward the ten forefathers. "Forefathers, we have sinned. We confess! We confess!"

The ten forefathers glared at these newfound fugitives darkly, killing intent pouring from their eyes.

The list named five factions. Of these, four had only one or two isolated contacts.

Aside from the three who'd admitted guilt earlier, the contacts from two more factions had already died in the fighting earlier.

Whether they chose to die in lieu of being punished or had actually died in the chaos, that didn't matter. What did matter was the fact that the majority of the names on the list came from the Bluesmoke Isles. That place was riddled with holes!

Both executives and young geniuses alike had mutinied, marking a thorough treachery across multiple generations.

"Please, forefathers, have mercy on us. We are willing to commit suicide to preserve our isles."

"We were deceived and pressed into Lightford's service!"

"Clemency would be met with our eternal gratitude!"

None of the forefathers were soft. They wouldn't have attained their current heights otherwise. The begging from these executives was met with complete detachment, and near-death whimpering failed to move them.

"We gave you a chance before. You thought you'd slip by, eh? You thought we wouldn't find you out?" The Eternal forefather's tone was bone-chillingly cold.

"No, no! We wanted to admit our guilt, but we knew that Bluesmoke was too involved. Our faction might have been utterly crushed by the admission."

"Forefathers, we regret our actions. Please, give us a second chance!"

The ten forefathers remained impassive at the pleas, save a furious Radiance. “You didn’t take the chance you were offered, and now you’re asking for another? It’s too late! You’re worried about some deserved punishment, but not the destruction of your heritage. What a joke!”

The executives could only keep wailing. One of them even knelt at Jiang Chen’s feet. They knew that if the young man was willing to speak up, it would be their salvation.

“Young lord Jiang Chen, you are ever kind-hearted and charitable. Please intercede for us.”

“Out of the way!” Stepping forward, Long Xiaoxuan kicked aside the kneeler. His body exploded into a cloud of bloody mist.

The dragon’s ruthless strength caused his comrades to shudder in fear. They paled and kept their distance.

“Bluesmoke’s betrayal was premeditated,” Jiang Chen declared coolly. “Your guilt cannot be absolved. During my brief time at Bluesmoke, I heard that they wanted to build a divine nation of their own – one that could rival the ten. Their ambition was plain for all to see, no? I reckon some of them might have known that Lightford was a demon too.”

Everyone looked at him with great astonishment, but he returned their looks with forthright candor. After a moment, he turned to look at the Bluesmoke geniuses who’d been chosen back in the selection.

He’d found the champion, Lan Huang, particularly suspicious even back on Sandplain. There was a fey charisma about him that Jiang Chen despised.

Suddenly, he pointed at the genius in question. “Old Brother Vermilion, please capture him for me.”

Lan Huang had tried to lie low amid the crowd, looking for an opportunity to flee while attention was focused on the executives.

Unfortunately for him, the Vermilion Bird’s pressure focused on him in a single instant.

The bird’s claws closed over him, then dropped him in front of Jiang Chen.

“Apologies, Flora forefather,” Jiang Chen cupped a fist toward the leader. “He’s supposed to be a member of your sacred land in name, but I’ve distrusted him since the start. I think that him winning first place and joining the Flora Sacred Land was prearranged.”

The Flora forefather looked rather embarrassed, but now wasn’t the time for argument. “Has Lan Huang been bought by Lightford, too?” he asked calmly.

“Not just that. He’s probably more important than these old codgers from Bluesmoke put together. I surmise that Lightford guessed Flora would become the leader of the alliance and sent Lan Huang into the sacred land accordingly. More importantly, he very likely has had a transfusion of Lightford’s bloodline.”

Jiang Chen rarely took a clear-cut stance, so the one he did take now surprised everyone.

They looked at Lan Huang with wary eyes.

Lan Huang half-crumpled, a miserable smile curling at the corner of his mouth. "What kind of monster are you, Jiang Chen?" he shouted. "How could someone worthless like you overcome Forefather Lightford's amazing powers and planning? I can't accept this, I can't!"

"Examine his blood," Jiang Chen ordered.

Lan Huang could hardly resist at this juncture.

The results were out almost instantly. Lan Huang was richly filled with demon blood, of the same line as Lightford's.

Everyone paled at this revelation.

If Jiang Chen hadn't mentioned the matter of traitors once more, they would have let bygones be bygones. But if that had happened, Lan Huang would have remained in Flora as a demonic infiltrator! An inheritor of Lightford's heritage!

Flora was uniformly relieved and thankful. What little dissatisfaction they'd felt was entirely washed away.

Despite Flora and Eternal's past disagreements, neither was stupid enough to risk anything when it came to their mutual survival. The former knew very well that Jiang Chen had saved it yet again.

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Chapter 2122: Uprooting Once and For All

"What more do you have to say for yourself, Lan Huang?" Jiang Chen was emotionless. He had no interest in arguing.

It was best to justify an execution, but Lan Huang's extensive defection and injection of demon blood was enough for a death sentence ten times over.

Lan Huang glared at Jiang Chen with great hatred. "I lost. What am I supposed to say?" he snarled. "Jiang Chen, you were just born lucky. You had the ten sacred lands' resources at your disposal. That's all it is. We second and third rate folk are forced to be inferior from the moment we're born.

"We have to mind your whims and inclinations and give you undue respect – like that ancient jade festival, for example. We bowed and scraped to invite you to attend. But after you had your fun, did you show us any goodwill? What right do you have to spurn us so? Why are you the only ones allowed to be so overbearing?"

"And there's more. Eternal's very own House Yan ruined our martial tournament after the festival. Yan Qinghuang is your woman, right? Her unjustified interference stole away our imperial princess and we still don't know where she is. What kind of absurd wrongdoing is that, eh?"

"Why must all good things go to the ten sacred lands?"

"Why must we second and third rate geniuses live by your word?"

"I don't buy it. I want to surpass you and lord over you. I want to humiliate you ten times what you've done to Bluesmoke! I want to get stronger. Why can't I accept an opportunity to get stronger?"

“Would you hesitate yourselves if strength was offered to you? You say that we colluded with demons, but I ask you, who ever said that Divine Abyss and Myriad Abyss had to be ruled by humans? Why can’t it be ruled by demons? Survival of the fittest is a law of nature. Why shouldn’t I join the demon race, if they’re so incredibly strong?”

Lan Huang was almost hoarse by the end of his frenzied tirade.

Jiang Chen cast him a pitiable glance. The other youth had been brainwashed by Lightford, so much so that he was now biased toward demonkind.

It was impossible to redeem someone like him, regardless of what anyone said.

“Lan Huang, your reasons make sense on the surface, but they’re all rather absurd. You say that I was born into prestige and enjoyed a sacred land’s resources. Is that a joke? Anyone who knows me knows where I come from. My birth is lower than every single one of you. Someone’s birth may decide many things, but the height that he rises to is not one of them.

“You claim that Huang’er stole your princess, but you should ask yourself, is that princess really of your imperial bloodline? She’s Huang’er’s dear sister and my erstwhile peer. Are we supposed to idly stand by and let her suffer? And did you treat her like a princess in the first place, or did you hawk her out as goods to be sold to the highest bidder?”

“You’re right about one thing. Survival of the fittest is a natural law on any plane. The demons you worship are very powerful, but they’re not invincible. They are like locusts that devour everything they touch, but they have no homes of their own. Do you know why that is? Demons are simply incapable of building and flourishing! They can only destroy!

“You won’t live to see it, Lan Huang, but Myriad Abyss and Divine Abyss will stand in solidarity against demonkind. Unchecked and unresisted, they bring only death and carnage!”

Lan Huang’s face was bloodless, but disdain was written all over his face still.

Evidently, Jiang Chen had failed to persuade him.

“Just you wait, Jiang Chen. The forefather said that a repeat demonic invasion is nigh. Divine Abyss will belong to demonkind in the end, and you wretched lot are only fit to be their slaves! Hahaha, I won’t be there to see it, but it’s inevitable!”

“Impudent cur!”

One of Flora’s primes couldn’t bear to hear his rambling any longer. He walked forward, slamming his palm down on Lan Huang, immediately reducing the lad to a bloody puddle.

“Sects and factions, listen up!” the Eternal forefather shouted. “All of your members and disciples must have your blood tested. Myriad Abyss cannot tolerate any remnant of the demons!”

After the traitors were dealt with, a little spring cleaning was in order. There was plenty of loot in the base: spirit herbs, treasures, and other assorted resources. The surrendered empyreans and demigods counted too, in a way. Jiang Chen didn’t touch any of it, leaving all to the sacred lands.

All the divine decrees he had obtained earlier made these things here a lot less attractive.

Finally, the disastrous rebellion was at an end. Despite what had been obtained moments ago, no one was in a good mood.

After all, all of the sacred lands had lost varying amounts of materiel and personnel. The sacred lands that had been occupied for a long time were especially hurt.

Rebuilding would take far more than a few days.

Each sacred land returned to their homes, and the second and third rate factions received their freedoms back.

At the unremitting invitation of the Eternal forefather, Jiang Chen returned to the sacred land along with him.

The Eternal Sacred Land was the only one among the ten that hadn't been occupied.

Divine Kasyapa had held the earliest wave of invaders at bay, with Jiang Chen stepping in to pick up the slack in the second round.

When Lightford came himself, the third battle had completely repelled him by offering significant resistance.

The Eternal forefather was very grateful to Jiang Chen for preserving the sacred land's safety. The first prime was beyond impressed.

The second prime was foolish enough to complain privately to the forefather about the fact that Jiang Chen wouldn't share the divine decrees with them, but the forefather cut him off before he could start.

"Let me ask you, did you offer any relevant help at all in repulsing the enemy or slaying their gods?" he asked coldly.

"No..." the second prime mumbled. He wanted to say otherwise, but the lie would have been too blatant.

"If not, why should he give you any of his spoils? Jiang Chen commanded the field for the entirety of our campaign against Lightford. No one in the sacred lands dared contest his collection of most of the divine decrees. Do you know why?" the Eternal forefather pressed.

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Chapter 2123: The Sacred Forefather's Attitude

The second prime fell silent. Jiang Chen didn't even need to bother with the ten sacred lands. Why would he care about someone like a mere prime?

"I'll enlighten you if you yet remain ignorant of the situation. Jiang Chen singlehandedly turned the tides of battle. Without him, the ten sacred lands would already lie in ruins! In this case, who dares object to him claiming what is rightfully his? Who has the right to do so?"

Eternal's forefather denounced coolly, "Do you think Jiang Chen is still the young man you can order around? You better change the way you treat him, or he can take your title from you with a few words. Do you understand?"

The second prime broke out in a cold sweat. He knew Jiang Chen was good, but he didn't expect the forefather's indulgent attitude toward the young genius. It didn't stem from only appreciation or respect for talent, but from wariness or even fear.

Realizing that he'd been too harsh, the forefather sighed softly. "I may have gone overboard, but that's for your own sake. Jiang Chen has fully spread his wings. Even I have to show him some respect. Given his power and the three sacred beasts under his command, even I can't stop him from anything he wants to do. An Kasyapa is also another one of his powerful helpers.

"A good number of divine cultivators also pledged their loyalty after the battle. The only thing stopping Jiang Chen from leaving us is our prior relationship. If you destroy what little attachment he has to the sacred land by starting a feud with him, he'll treat us as strangers."

The ten sacred lands had been lofty rulers for a long time. Senior executives like the second prime were used to being superior to everyone else. Although Jiang Chen had played an important role in the resolution of the rebellion, it was still difficult for him to recognize the fact that the young genius had become more influential than he.

He'd been displeased with Jiang Chen since the moment the young man was introduced into the sacred land by Ziju Min, blaming the newcomer for taking the spotlight from the other young geniuses.

Sui Chen, especially, had lost his place to Jiang Chen, and he belonged to the second prime's faction. That was why the second prime couldn't let go of his grievances for the young man.

Therefore, he kept butting heads with Jiang Chen.

The forefather's words were a club to the head. He suddenly realized how immature he'd been. If Jiang Chen had taken personal offense, the second prime would've long lost his title.

More importantly, it was the young genius who had made Eternal the head of the alliance.

If they had a falling out with Jiang Chen, Eternal would be nothing more than any other sacred lands. In other words, the lad's strategic importance exceeded even the forefather's.

They'd made an investment in Jiang Chen, but the young man's progress had far surpassed their imagination.

"Think hard on it." The forefather concluded by flinging down this parting shot. He wasn't interested in wasting further breath. If the second prime refused to see reason, the sacred land would happily get rid of the man. Jiang Chen was the irreplaceable one. There was no choice at all.

Jiang Chen didn't mind the second prime's attitude. He'd foreseen the man's reaction, but he no longer needed to care about other people's opinions.

He would do what he had to do.

Eternal's forefather sought Jiang Chen out. He wisely didn't mention a word about the divine decree or the second prime, but instead asked Jiang Chen for his opinion regarding Ziju Min.

"Elder Ziju has been helping you and making substantial contributions, Jiang Chen. I plan to make him the fourth prime. What do you think?"

The forefather knew Ziju Min was the tie between the sacred land and Jiang Chen. They had to get on the elder's good side to stay in Jiang Chen's good graces.

Jiang Chen wasn't surprised. "What does Elder Ziju think?"

He wasn't particularly enthused. Ziju Min had sworn to take Jiang Chen's side. No matter how high a status he was given in the sacred land, he would be Jiang Chen's confidante first. Besides, Ziju Min had received a divine decree from Jiang Chen. He would ascend to divinity sooner or later. The title of the fourth prime would then be beneath him.

"Elder Ziju has never been one for fame. He doesn't fight for personal power. I'd like to make the decision myself." The forefather was trying to keep Jiang Chen happy through Ziju Min.

"You're in charge of the sacred land, but it's better to ask the elder himself."

"Sure, I'll ask him." The forefather was no fool. Jiang Chen had brought up Ziju Min's opinions a few times. He wasn't going to ignore that.

"Things are settled at the moment in Myriad Abyss, Venerated Forefather. I plan to return to the human domain tomorrow and reactivate the Great Formation of Heavenly Souls Confinement. I won't return anytime soon. Once I do, I'll go to the offworld battlefield."

They were facing both demons from the inside and invaders from the outside, but Jiang Chen believed they should prioritize the former. He at least wanted to prevent the human domain from being dragged into a war against demons.

That had always been his goal, and the forefather knew it as well. He had hoped Jiang Chen would go to the offworld battlefield as soon as possible, but he wasn't going to force the young man.

He nodded. "Then I wish you good luck."

To the forefather's surprise, Ziju Min turned down the offer to be the fourth prime, showing little interest. The greatly astonished forefather couldn't help but ask, "Would you explain your reasons, Elder Ziju?"

Ziju Min didn't try to find excuses. He explained, "Jiang Chen gave me something for my pursuit of martial dao some time ago, Venerated Forefather. I'll like to take the opportunity to ascend to the divine realm. Therefore... I'm unable to serve the sacred land well just yet. I hope you'll forgive me."

"The divine realm?" The forefather started. As if remembering something, his eyes widened in surprise. "Did Jiang Chen give you resources for the divine realm?"

"Yes, he gave me a divine decree. I've been refining it and making good progress." Ziju Min added earnestly, "I hope you'll keep the secret for me, Venerated Forefather."

The forefather still hadn't recovered from the shock. He hadn't expected Jiang Chen to do that.

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Chapter 2124: Returning to the Human Domain

Eternal's forefather couldn't be more surprised. He'd thought Jiang Chen wouldn't share the divine decrees, but in truth, the young man had been giving some out in private already. And not to any of the primes, but Ziju Min!

Ziju Min might be a figurehead in Eternal, but he was no match for the three primes in status. However, Jiang Chen had chosen to give a decree to him.

The implication was clear: the young genius trusted Ziju Min the most.

Eternal's forefather wasn't resentful or jealous, but slightly regretful.. He'd failed to show Jiang Chen enough honesty and respect.

He did hold Jiang Chen in high regard, but to some degree, he'd been using the young man. He'd failed to make Jiang Chen feel at home. Such was their mistake and loss.

The forefather mourned the lost opportunity.

Finally, he took a deep breath and looked at Ziju Min earnestly. "Perhaps I'll have to call you Brother Ziju in a year or two, Elder Ziju. I've seen what you've done for the sacred land. You're one of the few who truly have the sacred land's best interests at heart. You found us Jiang Chen, which is substantial enough on its own. It's a shame that the sacred land failed to make the most out of it."

"Hasn't the sacred land done good enough?" Ziju Min asked. "Jiang Chen played a crucial role in our fight against Lightford, and he helped us become the alliance head. What more does the sacred land expect from him?"

The forefather sighed. "That's not what I mean. I'm saying that we have failed to make Jiang Chen feel welcome. What he's done for us is all out of a sense of duty. It's different from what he's done for the Regal Pill Palace and the Veluriyam Capital. Those are his homes, and he protects them like he would his family."

Ziju Min didn't voice the complaints in his heart. He remembered how the others had criticized and denounced him when he'd first brought Jiang Chen into Eternal's fold.

Jiang Chen hadn't received the treatment that a top genius deserved. He'd had to undergo trials, suffer provocation, and dealt with limited resources. The sacred land had even tried to haggle with him. When Jiang Chen fought Xiahou Zong for Yan Qinghuang, the sacred land didn't immediately give its full support. It wasn't until his outstanding performance that the sacred land learned its lesson too late and raised high the banner of support.

It was thus unrealistic to expect Jiang Chen to consider the sacred land his home.

However, Ziju Min kept his thoughts to himself. There was no use in saying any of that as there was no changing the past. Jiang Chen could now fight even the ten sacred lands on his own. He had no reason to care about what Eternal wanted.

The fact that Jiang Chen had done so much for the sacred land was a testament to his character. It'd be greedy of them to ask for more.

Eternal's forefather was quick to admit his faults. "It's all because of the offworld battlefields. If I hadn't been preoccupied, I would've spent more time observing him and given him the attention he deserved. Perhaps then he'd be more attached to the sacred land. What we have now though, is good enough."

Ziju Min smiled faintly. "Yes, we're lucky compared to the other sacred lands."

"Jiang Chen's liking is a blessing. Focus on your cultivation. I look forward to seeing you become another divine cultivator in Eternal!"

That was the honest truth.

"Thank you for your kind words, forefather," expressed Ziju Min. "This subordinate will do my best."

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Jiang Chen spent some time taking care of some unfinished business in Eternal. At the same time, he summoned Shi Xuan and lifted the brand of a pill slave on him.

"You humiliated Eternal and caused the death of one of our elders, Shi Xuan. Your servitude was a way for you to atone for your crimes. Now that the ten sacred lands have formed an alliance, it isn't appropriate for you to remain here. I crossed paths with Shi Qinglu on Sandplain Island. Your family is indeed full of great talents. You are free to go now. Your fate is in your hands."

Life in the Eternal Sacred Land had been very mediocre. The greatest blow of all had been a psychological one.

Shi Xuan had ever lived a life free of challenges, fancying himself superior to anyone else. He'd only then realized that there were people better than he. Reflecting upon his previous ignorance and the knowledge that he would never again achieve fame in this life, his mentality changed again and again.

He was at a loss now when Jiang Chen set him free.

"What, don't you want to go?" Jiang Chen smiled faintly.

Shi Xuan gave him a pointed look and cupped his hands. "It's said that young lord Jiang Chen is a remarkable young man. I could certainly do worse than being defeated by you. Since you offer me freedom, I won't turn the opportunity down. Farewell!"

The lesson was going to stick. Shi Xuan was bound to be more reserved and self-contained now. Even if he wasn't, it didn't matter to Jiang Chen. Someone like him posed no threat.

There were also some others Jiang Chen had to settle first..

He'd taken in a group of servants from the genius selection on Sandplain Island. They were reliable folks who had nothing to do with Lightford. Some of them he had high hopes for. Given enough time, they had the potential to be great.

Unfortunately, circumstances didn't give Jiang Chen that much time to cultivate them. Still, he wasn't going to just leave them to their own devices.

They wouldn't be of help in battle just yet as their cultivation prevented them from joining any crucial fights.

The divine cultivators who had surrendered to Jiang Chen, on the other hand, would be able to make substantial contribution. Yu Gong, Xu Yigu, Lan Tianhao, and the four divine cultivators who surrendered later would be fighting for Jiang Chen in the foreseeable future.

Jiang Chen formed them into a team, making Lan Tianhao the captain and Yu Gong and Xu Yigu the deputy captains.

The next day, Jiang Chen departed with his people via Starfate, heading toward the human domain. They reached Winterdraw in a day.

Lu Che and the others stationed on the island had done their jobs admirably. Territories around Winterdraw, including Rejuvenation and Tritalent, had been integrated into Winterdraw, forming a solid local faction.

Bluesmoke was farther from Winterdraw, and Jiang Chen didn't intend to extend his grasp that far. Besides, there was no future for Bluesmoke. It would be divided and claimed by the ten sacred lands sooner or later. He didn't want to get involved and be criticized for being greedy.

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Chapter 2125: Breaking Through Ninth Level Empyrean!

There wasn't much to distract Jiang Chen on the way. He was able to focus wholly on his cultivation. His goal was clear: He wanted to ascend to ninth level empyrean and seize the opportunity to push for divinity as soon as he could. That day couldn't come fast enough.

It wasn't difficult for him to do so. With the life essence of the divine cultivators he'd acquired, he was able to boost his cultivation without much difficulty.

As soon as he set foot into Veluriyam Capital, he had a feeling that he was going to make his breakthrough. He returned to the Sacred Peafowl Mountain in preparation.

News of his return spread through the human domain.

Everyone was shocked to hear that Jiang Chen was ascending to ninth level empyrean, which was something members of the human domain didn't even dare dream about.

That level had been a rare sight since the ancient times. Even the reclusive empyrean experts were mostly at initial or mid empyrean. None of them had even reached advanced empyrean!

In comparison, Jiang Chen had ascended to ninth level empyrean after two trips to Myriad Abyss. There was no denying that he had become the supreme leader of the human domain.

No one within the Upper Eight Regions, Mid Regions, and Lower Regions could question his status as the overlord of the human domain.

The human domain no longer had the need to put on great fanfare regarding their might. Even the first tier sects from Upper Eight Regions were no match for Veluriyam Capital.

There was now an abundance of talents in the capital other than Jiang Chen, including his old subordinates and the different factions within the capital.

The overall strength of the human domain continued to improve, but the progress was most dramatic in Veluriyam. Empyrean cultivators were no longer the minority in the domain.

Jiang Chen could see the changes for himself. Nonetheless, the domain fell short compared to Myriad Abyss in both foundation and strength.

Although his addition would give the human domain an edge over Myriad Abyss, the collective power of the domain was still inferior. That wouldn't change even though Jiang Chen could overpower the ten sacred lands.

Even Veluriyam Capital, the most powerful faction of the domain, was no match for any of the ten sacred lands.

Jiang Chen summoned his subordinates in the capital to introduce them to his new underlings. It shocked everyone in the capital to see gods serving Jiang Chen with their heads lowered.

They knew Jiang Chen was a remarkable young genius, but this was still beyond their imagination. Despite their growth, divine cultivators were still the thing of legends to them.

"Everyone, it's good that the human domain has become substantially stronger over the past few years. Given such a positive feedback cycle, we'd be sure to catch up with Myriad Abyss after a thousand years.

"However, these are trying times. We don't have a thousand years. We may not even have ten. According to my estimations, demons will invade in the near future. Fortunately, there's an ancient formation - the Great Formation of Heavenly Soul Confinement - protecting the human domain. I've found a way to reactivate it and have prepared the necessary spirit stones. I plan to do so this month.

"Once the formation is activated, it'll separate the barren land where the demons are sealed from the human domain. Demons will have to take a long detour around the continent to reach us, which offers us great protection. We will no longer be the demons' first target."

Everyone was thrilled by the news.

The human domain was a far cry from before. People didn't shy away from bringing up the subject of demons. Jiang Chen had long given orders for Veluriyam to spread the news about the coming demonic invasion. The constant reminder instilled in all minds a sense of urgency.

That was also why the human domain had improved so quickly. No one wanted to be helpless when the demons attacked.

"Young lord Chen, just how powerful are the demons?" asked Mo Wushuang, Jiang Chen's old friend. As someone close to reaching advanced empyrean, he was among the top cultivators in the human domain.

Jiang Chen sighed faintly. "To be honest, I can't really tell you. There's no evidence telling us how powerful the ancient demons were. However, we fought a demon sovereign in Myriad Abyss. He was a mid divine cultivator and a mighty fighter. It's a stroke of luck that we were able to kill him."

Mid divine realm!

Those three words greatly shocked all those assembled.

They couldn't even begin to imagine how powerful the demon must be. They didn't even know if there were any human cultivators who were that strong in the ancient human domain.

"Are the demons truly that formidable a race, young lord Chen?" Emperor Coiling Dragon asked with a rueful smile. He was no longer a great emperor cultivator, but an empyrean one.

"Perhaps they're even more formidable than we expect. Don't panic though. No matter how powerful the demons are, they've failed to conquer the continent in the ancient times. This time, they won't be any better than they were at their peak. We stand a chance of winning this war."

Jiang Chen offered them comfort. If he hadn't gone to Myriad Abyss, the human domain would be like an egg dashing against a stone when facing the demonic army.

Even in a weakened state, he speculated that the demons were at least several times more powerful than Myriad Abyss.

Without Jiang Chen, the human domain's power was at most a hundredth of the demonic race, or even less. It would be an arduous fight.

"Keep cultivating. Once the formation is activated, the human domain will be the safest place to be when the demons invade."

Solidarity wasn't a problem in the human domain, and the people respected Jiang Chen's authority. The only problem was how weak everyone other than he was.

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Chapter 2126: A Conversation Between Siblings

"Daddy!"

In the rear mountain of the Sacred Peafowl Mountain, a young, pretty girl threw herself at Jiang Chen. It was his and Dan Fei's daughter, Nian'er.

After so many years, she had grown up quite a bit more. She was now a charming young woman, prancing about like an exuberant fawn. Her doll-like face resembled his in several features.

Jiang Chen's usual heroism morphed to sentiment and affection as soon as he saw his daughter. He had always felt that he owed her a great deal.

"You're so tall, Nian'er," he remarked warmly. He had missed almost every stage in her development. She was so close to adulthood already.

Though the world of martial daoists was incomparable to those who didn't cultivate, he regretted his absence in her childhood nevertheless.

The tenderness in Jiang Chen's eyes was almost tangible. Nian'er held her father's face in her hands, murmuring. "Daddy, mom says you've been working very hard. You're the most hardworking and greatest dad in the world. Is that true?"

Jiang Chen's heartstrings twanged. Was he great?

As a dad, that wasn't necessarily true.

“Nian’er, you’ve grown so much in the blink of an eye. Do you hate me for not being able to keep you company all this time?”

Nian’er’s eyes reddened, but she held back her tears. “No.” She shook her head. “I know that mom right. You work hard for the rest of the world, daddy... if you spend too much time with our little family, then the greater family that is this world wouldn’t exist...”

Jiang Chen was astonished. How was his daughter aware of all this?

“Hehe, mommy taught me to say that. Personally, I’d really like you to spend some more time with me, if you can...”

Jiang Chen’s heart hurt again. He was about to answer when a set of familiar footsteps sounded behind him. Despite how long he’d heard them last, he recognized them as his sister’s.

“Come on out, Qingxuan.”

Nian’er’s starry eyes lit up with joy. “Auntie, is that you?”

The girl had grown very close to Xu Qingxuan over the years. Aunt and niece were almost inseparable in Sacred Peafowl Mountain. Their ages were close enough that in the world of martial dao, they might as well be sisters.

“I knew you’d be here clinging to your daddy, little girl.” Qingxuan answered with a mock rebuke that was full of doting love.

“Daddy, auntie has kept me company every day since you’ve been gone. I’ve learned a lot from her!” Nian’er chattered excitedly to her beloved aunt, pulling on her arm like a devoted lark.

Jiang Chen smiled a little. “Thank you for doing so much on my behalf, Qingxuan.”

“I grew up without a dad, too. I know how Nian’er feels. You should carve some time out to spend with her. That would also encompass my wishes as her aunt.” Xu Qingxuan caressed Nian’er’s head delicately.

“Any news about your second brother?” asked Jiang Chen.

Xu Qingxuan shook her head sadly. “We’ve sent out posters of him to every faction. They’ve all been contacted that we’re looking for him. The human domain is too big though. I’ve heard nothing back.”

“I’ve heard nothing in Myriad Abyss Island either, and I’ve traveled far and wide there.” Jiang Chen sighed softly, then turned more optimistic. “Still, I believe that the three of us will be reunited someday. Your second brother will come back safe and sound, even though we don’t know where he is right now.”

He didn’t know the reason he felt this way. He had never seen this brother of his, but his instincts told him that he would come back to them despite a troubled journey.

He had been born under the same star as Qingxuan, after all. He could rely on blessings of his own.

“Brother, there are no outsiders here. Do you think the human domain can really fend off the demonic invasion?” Xu Qingxuan asked worriedly.

Jiang Chen answered definitely, without hesitation. “Of course. Qingxuan, that’s exactly what my travels to Myriad Abyss have been for: to reactivate the formation to serve as a barrier for the human domain.”

“How sure are you about being able to pull it off?” Xu Qingxuan spoke very directly to her brother.

“I’m all but certain.” Jiang Chen wasn’t in the habit of lying. This was the conclusion he had come to after simulating the outcome multiple times.

“Alright, fine. Can the demons not break through at all once it’s in place then?” Xu Qingxuan asked again.

“The formation is very strong, but it’s obviously not unbreakable. However, I have several reasons to believe that the demons won’t choose to attempt it. First, the cost of trying something like that is exorbitant in its own right in terms of both time and resources. Second, no single tribe of demonkind can break the formation on its own, and it’s unrealistic to expect wholehearted cooperation between multiple tribes. They’ll attack other domains instead, giving the human domain plenty of time to prepare. I can’t guarantee our absolute safety, but I can say that we won’t bear the brunt of their assault. The main battlefield will be elsewhere!”

If a domain served as the site of a battlefield, that would be a terrible thing for its inhabitants.

It was precisely for this reason that the human domain had suffered so much in the ancient times. Countless factions and sects had been utterly decimated in the process of the antiquated struggle, unable to pass on their heritages at all.

Xu Qingxuan looked rather cheered up by this answer.

“Brother, I know I wasn’t too accepting of you in the past. Now though, I can say that you’re the person I respect most in all the world. I’m proud I have you as my brother.”

“Nian’er is proud of daddy, too,” the younger girl interjected from the side.

Jiang Chen chuckled. “Impressing Holy Girl Qingxuan isn’t easy!”

Xu Qingxuan examined him rather seriously. “You’ve always been creating miracles, brother. I hope you can produce another in the leadership of the human domain, an unprecedented one that’s never been seen before—and won’t be since!”

There was no need for Jiang Chen to answer. His eyes and actions told all.

The young man looked at his daughter, then at his sister. His mind wandered to his family—first his parents, then his other relatives. His resolution became ever firmer: he would erect the barrier for the human domain to exclude the demons from his homeland. The Great Formation of Heavenly Soul Confinement needed to be activated as soon as possible!

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

Chapter 2127: Inheriting the Six Palaces!

There was one last important task to attend to before he activated the Great Formation of Heavenly Soul Confinement.

Veluriyam Capital's fate hinged upon it. In fact, the entire human domain's did as well.

Jiang Chen's rule of the city had begun with the Pagoda's Six Palaces of Heritage. Each foray in had rewarded him handsomely in all manner of things.

Only one of these six palaces remained before he was at the grand secret. The truth of the ancient Veluriyam Pagoda would be laid bare to him, including potential records of the ancient demon-sealing war.

Thus, passing the sixth palace's examination was a priority.

Veluriyam's young lord had proceeded through the first five palaces with marginal difficulty, if any at all. He had been tried and tested, yes, but his talents had been more than enough to overcome all of them with ease.

It could be said that Jiang Chen had accomplished a feat unmatched since antiquity.

He had surpassed that ancient era. He recalled all the guardian seniors. Master P'eng, Venerated Skysoarer, the Grand Marquis, the Mad Fiend, and Old Pill Rune.

Each one of them was distinct in personality, but all had been reliable and sincere.

Who, or what, would he find in the sixth palace?

What did the Veluriyam Pagoda have left to tell him?

Jiang Chen looked forward to the conclusion very much. He hoped that the pagoda's master had left clues and artifacts from back then, that he might learn and gain what was needed to triumph over the demonic horde. Otherwise, the human domain currently lacked anything remotely of note.

"I hope the Six Palaces of Heritage won't let me down this time either."

This was the prevailing thought in his mind as he embarked.

The fourth palace had required initial empyrean, while the fifth, mid. Jiang Chen had passed through both with buttery smoothness. The sixth palace called for advanced empyrean realm. The higher the level, the better.

Jiang Chen was ninth level empyrean now and one step away from breaking into ultimate divinity. In theory, the sixth palace wouldn't pose a challenge to him.

After brisk preparations, he quietly entered the Veluriyam Pagoda.

Activating the sixth palace's spacetime seal, he felt himself transported into a different space. His heart was as calm as a pool of undisturbed water.

He was quite familiar with how the palaces moved him about. There was no cause for alarm.

As the energies that had brought him here slowly dissipated, Jiang Chen stepped onto solid ground once more. His vision clearing, he saw that he had entered into a different world.

Something startled him. His eyes widened! He stretched out both hands to touch what he saw drifting down in the air.

It was a soft drizzle of rain.

He really could feel a thin curtain of liquid precipitation!

“How can there be rain here? Aren’t the six palaces supposed to be enclosed in their own spaces? Why would there be weather?” Jiang Chen found the revelation incredible.

A misty haze permeated his field of view as far as the eye could see. Turning his gaze downward, he saw a grassy path underfoot.

The trees all around were sprouting, a sign of early spring.

This couldn’t be, right?

Jiang Chen was even more astonished. It hadn’t been spring when he’d entered the palace. Had the season itself changed, or had so much time passed during the process of his transportation? No, the latter seemed impossible. It’d taken him a blink of an eye to get here.

He almost wondered whether he was dreaming, but careful examination of his senses told him that it wasn’t so.

For a time, he couldn’t comprehend what he was perceiving.

Jiang Chen headed forward along the small path. There was a magic that drew him deeper in, a silent note calling for his presence.

There was no end or destination in sight. He walked for about two hours when a large pond suddenly blocked his way. It was populated with lotus plants, both lush leaves and vibrant flowers.

Several frogs leaped to and fro between leaf and water, causing ripples whenever they touched the pond’s surface.

Jiang Chen felt his heart skip a beat. He’d walked from spring into the height of midsummer!

Had he come to the wrong place? But the spacetime seal in his hand wasn’t showing any anomalies.

Yes, he was within the sixth Palace of Heritage.

The young man sighed softly. This place had managed to intensely pique his curiosity. What mysteries did this place hide? How could the seasons pass as one passed through space?

As expected, rays of autumn sunlight struck a hillock even further ahead. The abundant harvest in a nearby field betrayed the autumnal nature of the scene.

Jiang Chen felt a bit numb at this point.

The seasonal images weren’t anything special, but the fact that they seemingly coexisted and flowed into each other here was markedly so.

The sixth palace was a lot more complicated than he had first imagined. Jiang Chen sobered up; he had thought before coming here that the sixth palace would be a continuation from the previous five, though with an increased difficulty.

That didn't seem to be the case.

Past the hillock, the terrain gave way to hills and mountains that climbed ever higher. The peaks in the distance were decorated with wintry snow.

Jiang Chen scaled the mountain, basking in the cutting arctic winds that blustered all about him. He closed his eyes in meditative contemplation. In this moment, he was one with the wondrous power of nature. It was as if the pristine snow all around him was imparting a lesson of profound wisdom.

"Hahaha, I understand!" Suddenly, inspiration struck. "This is the sixth palace. A secret realm, controlled by the whims of its master alone. Sun and moon, spring and fall. Life and death and the essence of creation itself – aren't these the things at the heart of a world? Is the sixth palace a microcosm unto itself?"

Jiang Chen opened his eyes once more, striding into the icy expanse before him.

He had a strong feeling he was close to the truth of this palace.

Gradually, the snow all about him began to sublimate into white mist. In fact, nothing existed save a bleary haze.

The world had returned to a primordial chaos, eliciting an experiential change in Jiang Chen's heart as he experienced the sublimity of existence.

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

Chapter 2128: A Myriad of Changes

Fierce gusts of wind suddenly cleared away the mist before Jiang Chen. The clash of weaponry and shrill whinnying of battle horses sounded in his ears.

He seemed to be abruptly approaching an ancient battlefield. The cacophony of slaughter and struggles to the death painted a vivid picture.

He scaled the mountain and looked over at the valley below. Countless troops were engaged in battle. Figures leapt and fell, horses reared and struck, limbs flew haphazardly.

It was a battle between humans and demons.

The human cultivators relied on formations and each other to defend themselves, whereas demons charged at the humans in the most primitive way possible, using brute force to eliminate their enemies.

Humans outnumbered the demons by roughly four times. Although demons were more powerful individually, humans gave as good as they got.

Nonetheless, humans suffered greater casualties, exchanging four to five of their own in order to kill one or two demons. Even with formations, the human cultivators were struggling to keep up. The army was on the verge of falling apart.

Jiang Chen blinked in disbelief. Was this an illusion? How could there be a pitched battle between humans and demons within the Six Palaces of Heritage?

The scene before him changed in another blink of an eye. The armies were gone. In their places were two pitifully smaller groups locked in a fight. They didn't number more than fifteen.

On one side were five demon heavyweights. The other side were a number of human figureheads.

The two sides were caught in a gridlock. Both were astoundingly powerful. Everyone was at least mid divine realm. The strongest among them was close to reaching advanced divine realm.

A battle at this level could shatter the earth, obscure the sky, and dim the celestial bodies.

Everytime the two groups collided, Jiang Chen found his eyes drawn to them. He'd only seen such fights back in the heavenly planes of his past life.

Although these cultivators wouldn't number among the most powerful in the heavenly planes, a fight at this intensity was still rare.

Jiang Chen kept a close eye on the battle, afraid to miss the slightest detail. He wasn't good enough to take part, but instinct told him that there was a reason to be shown this images. Something about the battles would serve as an important lesson to him.

He imprinted everything onto his heart.

The scene continued to change. Battles upon battles were presented to Jiang Chen.

A lifetime seemed to pass, or just a single second. The space before him suddenly turned into the reflection of a mirror, then shattered just as abruptly. The environment surrounding him changed completely.

Blinding light forced him to shut his eyes. When he finally regained his vision, he found himself in an extravagant, luxurious palace.

The walls of the palace were lined with statues of different features, so lifelike that they seemed they would come to life any moment.

One was scowling. Another flashed a mysterious smile. One was contemplative, and its neighbor fiercely ferocious...

Realization dawned on Jiang Chen. Was this the real sixth palace?

"Junior Jiang Chen has come to pay respects to the sixth palace of heritage," he spoke up. "Who is the senior who holds charge of this palace?"

"Jiang Chen..." A reply rolled forth slowly, the owner of which seemed to have just woken up from his slumber. There were traces of sleepiness in the manner of his speech.

"It's been so many years. Someone has finally reached the sixth palace. You said you're Jiang Chen, didn't you? Which race do you belong to, young one?"

Jiang Chen paused. What else could he be within the human domain?

"I'm a human cultivator," he replied with respect but also dignity.

“Just human?” the voice pressed coolly. “You cannot hide your bloodlines once you enter the sixth palace. I can see them as clear as day.”

“I am human, but I’ve experienced some unusual circumstances which have allowed me to incorporate the bloodlines of many different races.”

“Tsk, that explains it... You seem to have the blood of true dragons. Yes, and the Vermilion Birds. And something else...”

Jiang Chen started. He didn’t expect the man to be able to figure out his bloodlines simply by looking! Even in his past life, he’d known very few in the heavenly planes who were capable of doing that.

The Six Palaces of Heritage were more than he’d expected. Nonetheless, he didn’t think there was a need to hide his bloodlines. He obediently waited for the man to speak up.

A faint sigh. The owner of the voice sounded melancholy.

“What’s happening in the outside world? Do the boundary steles still stand?”

“It does, but they’re damaged,” Jiang Chen admitted. “Most of them are in danger of collapsing.”

“Does the seal on the demons remain?” asked the voice.

“It does, but that’s no better than nothing.” Jiang Chen gave his calm responses with ease. “According to my estimations, the demons are going to break out in one or two decades, or even sooner.”

“Ah, it’s as Great Divine Veluriyam predicted. Is this fate? Are demons destined to make a comeback?”

Jiang Chen widened his eyes. Great Divine Veluriyam? Did this mean the ancient lord of the Veluriyam Capital had been one of the human leaders at the time? Was he also the owner of the Pagoda?

The voice grew ponderous. Seemingly having made a discovery, he clucked his tongue in surprise.

“Young man, you’ve reached ninth level empyrean, haven’t you?”

It amused Jiang Chen to be called a young man. In the mundane world, he’d long reached past the age to be one. Still, he was relatively young in the martial dao world.

“That’s right. I’m fortunate to have a few encounters that allowed me to reach this point.”

The man was curious. “What a strange young man you are. The sixth palace only requires the challenger to be at advanced empyrean. Most will come once they reach seventh level. Why did you wait until you’re ninth level empyrean? Are you overly cautious, or do you have other reasons?”

Jiang Chen didn’t intend to lie. “I’m not that cautious. However, I was otherwise occupied and hadn’t had the time to spare. The sixth palace isn’t to be underestimated. Therefore, I wanted to come fully prepared in order to show my respect.”

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

Chapter 2129: The Mysterious Expert Xia Tianze

Jiang Chen’s answer was very much by the books. He displayed neither swagger nor timidity, which the voice found rather remarkable.

“Strange, strange! You are so young, yet you carry the poise of a true master. This characteristic was rare even in the ancient greats. Is this the heavenly ordainment that Great Divine Veluriyam spoke of?” The voice sounded thoroughly curious. “You were busy in the outside world. What for, may I ask?”

“Internally, a demonic menace. Externally, offworld invaders. These two matters are more than enough for me to tire myself over.”

“Oh? Do elaborate.”

Jiang Chen knew that the Six Palaces of Heritage were sure to hold many clues about the ancient demon-sealing war. He had to get in the good graces of the sixth guardian. He patiently recounted what had happened throughout his life and tenure.

“Myriad Abyss Island! You went there, child?”

“More than once, yes.”

“How did you pull that off with the boundary steles around?” marveled the voice.

“The ancients went to Myriad Abyss Island. I don’t see why I couldn’t have gone. Old transportation formations remain between the two lands still.”

“You found an ancient transportation formation?”

“With a bit of work, yes,” Jiang Chen answered truthfully.

“Not bad, not bad. Very interesting. It’s not inaccurate to call you an unparalleled genius, then.” The voice sighed softly. “Allow me to introduce myself. I am Xia... Xia Tianze.”

“Senior Xia.”

“No need to call me senior,” Xia Tianze sighed.

“You are an ancient expert, senior. Of course you deserve the title.” Jiang Chen smiled faintly.

“Ancient? I suppose, but I’m hardly an expert. If I was, why would I have allowed the demons to rampage in my homeland?” Xia Tianze sounded somewhat sad.

Evidently, the ancient demonic invasion had hurt him deeply on a personal level. If he couldn’t protect his home despite his strength, that itself was a profoundly sorrowful thing.

Jiang Chen sympathized with him on a visceral level.

In his previous life, his father had probably felt much the same way. A divine emperor with a single son who couldn’t cultivate at all! And the shattering of the heavenly planes had taken even that from him.

“What are you sad about, young man?” Xia Tianze blinked when he detected the resonance.

Jiang Chen was astonished. “How did you know I was, senior?”

Xia Tianze laughed softly. “The sixth palace is named the Veluriyam Palace. All sentiment, all emotion, is laid bare here.”

Ah, so that was it.

The Veluriyam Palace was a wondrous thing, able to detect changes in people's emotions. It couldn't read their hearts more accurately than that, but what it could do was already remarkable enough.

"Are you able to answer now, child?"

Jiang Chen sighed quietly. "I remembered a few things pertaining to my birth and origin. A wistful history, all that."

"Indeed. I can see that you are a young man with a sincere heart. Perhaps you are the next master that Great Divine Veluriyam predicted."

"Is Great Divine Veluriyam the master of Veluriyam Capital?" Jiang Chen asked with some curiosity.

"Yes. Does Veluriyam Capital still remain as a heritage unto its own?" Xia Tianze replied inquisitively.

"It does. But the current human domain is rather weak. It can't compare to even Myriad Abyss Island, much less the demons," Jiang Chen observed.

Xia Tianze was entirely unsurprised. "That's nothing out of the ordinary. Know you the reason?"

Jiang Chen nodded. "If I had to guess, it'd be because of the ancient demon-sealing war. The human domain served as the main field of battle then, and was destroyed too severely in the process. Its spirit veins were destroyed, causing the cultivation resources here to dwindle. Generation after generation of decline brought us to this point."

This was the most plausible explanation.

Xia Tianze chuckled. Rather than continue with Jiang Chen's line of reasoning, he struck out in radical disagreement. "Not a bad guess, but you couldn't be further from the truth. The ancient demon-sealing war was calamitous, yes, but why did the human domain descend into weakness so instantaneously afterward? Haven't you wondered whether there was some cause for that?"

"Oh?" Jiang Chen's eyes lit up.

"Think about it. There were so many great factions and sects back then. Even if their people died, their heritages should've remained, no? But how much has actually been dug up over the long period since then?"

The young man was rendered speechless. The ancient human domain had ten leading factions in the war effort against demonkind.

Of these, Veluriyam Capital nominally remained, but the city was drastically different from what an ancient leading faction should've looked like. Even the Pagoda was said to only contain an empty decree... not exactly something representative of even a fraction of ancient glory.

Though Jiang Chen didn't know much about the ancient demon-sealing war, stray clues here and there showed that its participants were definitely more than empty.

Old Lightford, of the monster demon lineage, was proof enough. There had been more to that war than what had survived in the records of history.

At minimum, both belligerent sides had been significantly stronger than was currently imagined.

Jiang Chen felt his heart surge with eagerness and hope. “Is there an answer to this enigma, senior?”

Xia Tianze didn’t tackle the question directly. “Have any cultivators from Myriad Abyss returned to the human domain recently?”

Jiang Chen blinked. “There’s a rule in Myriad Abyss Island that forbids any faction from traveling to the human domain. This has limited most, but a few have snuck over regardless. As of right now, guests from there haven’t made their way over on any large scale.”

“How is Myriad Abyss Island doing these days?” Xia Tianze was taken aback. “Do the ten factions’ remnants remain in power still? Why else would that rule exist?”

“Yes, senior. Myriad Abyss’s ten sacred lands were offshoot descendants sent there by the ten leading factions of the demon-sealing war. They rule that place still, but there was a rebellion only a few years back. They were very close to being toppled.”

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

Chapter 2130: Great Divine Veluriyam

Xia Tianze laughed upon realizing what had transpired. “That makes more sense. The ten offshoots remain the rightful rulers of Myriad Abyss then. Heaven has preserved their fates.”

“You’re speaking in riddles, senior.” Jiang Chen smiled wryly.

“No need to call me senior, young man. If you pass this trial, you will be the new lord of Veluriyam Capital. All that perplexes you about this realm will be made plain then. When that time comes, I will be your subordinate as well. Why then, should you call me senior?”

Jiang Chen blinked. “Were you Great Divine Veluriyam’s servant, senior?”

“Quite so. Among the six palaces, I am the only guardian who was the great divine’s loyal servant from the beginning. The others were... ‘invited’... through various methods.” Xia Tianze couldn’t help chuckling when he said the word ‘invited’. Clearly, the great divine hadn’t done so with courtesy in every case.

Any underhanded methods though, were understandable at the time. Desperate times called for desperate measures.

Jiang Chen knew some of this. He had fostered good rapport with all five of the previous guardians, and had been informed obliquely of how they had come to reside in their respective demesnes.

Honored Master P’eng, for example, had been ‘swindled’. Lured into a competition with the great divine for some inexplicable reason, he had lost utterly and been subjected to the task of eternally overseeing his palace.

It was hard to say how the guardians felt now about all of that, though. From how Jiang Chen had heard them talk about their experiences, they bore only the slightest grudges against Great Divine Veluriyam – and more due to the fact that they had been fooled than anything else.

However, the great divine had also used an unknown power to preserve their lives, sealing them away agelessly within the six palaces.

No matter how much time passed in the outside world, they were immortally unchanging. Time did not ravage their forms.

“Well, then. If you can’t guess yourself, let me elucidate you. I feel a vague aura from you, something that leads me to believe you may just be the future leader the great divine himself foresaw.” Xia Tianze’s firmness was hard to argue with.

Not that Jiang Chen wanted to either. Wasn’t this the reason he had come to the Six Palaces of Heritage in the first place? For the Veluriyam Pagoda’s secrets?

The Xia senior’s words confirmed Jiang Chen’s suspicions. There was a great mystery here, as was there in the human domain at large.

“Please enlighten me, senior,” said Jiang Chen.

“Ah, I told you not to call me that. It doesn’t befit my station,” complained Xia Tianze.

“Seniority still applies. As of right now, I’m not yet the future lord of the Veluriyam Pagoda.” Jiang Chen was quite stubborn in his own right.

“Fine. I wouldn’t have guessed you were so obstinate. Perhaps that is part of the reason you were able to reach this place,” sighed Xia Tianze. “To speak of the Veluriyam Pagoda necessitates beginning with the ancient Veluriyam Capital. In that time, it was the site of Great Divine Veluriyam’s heritage and one of the three leaders of the human race. In fact, it served largely as the supreme leader.”

Xia Tianze’s tone was filled with respect as he mentioned Great Divine Veluriyam. Evidently, the servant blindly respected his late master.

“In the ancient demon-sealing war, Great Divine Veluriyam strategized and participated in almost every battle against demonkind. As a result, Veluriyam Capital bore the brunt of their return firepower. The strongest of the demons, the celestial demons’ sovereign, was sealed by the great divine himself—just barely so, sadly at the cost of his own life.” Xia Tianze grew very mournful.

“One moment please, senior,” Jiang Chen interrupted with some astonishment.

“What?” Xia Tianze paused.

“Do you speak of one of their lords? Or are you certain it was the demons’ sovereign?” asked Jiang Chen.

“The sovereign, of course! The celestial demons had many lords, but an especially strong one among them served as heir designate to the celestial demon sovereign. Even he was nothing before Great Divine Veluriyam. The sovereign himself, on the other hand, was a nightmarish opponent to deal with. Several other powerful human cultivators participated in the sealing as well: six in total, including the great divine. Five died, while the lone survivor was grievously injured.”

What?

Jiang Chen was shaken to his core. If Great Divine Veluriyam had been the foremost leader of mankind, he would've been at the peak of his generation.

He'd needed five helpers, four of whom had perished in the attempt, to seal the celestial demon sovereign away...? To simply seal him away...?

He felt his throat tighten. The demonic invasion had been tremendously fearsome beyond all imagining. No wonder the ancient demon-sealing war had been so disastrous.

This was ten times more dreadful than the surviving modern of accounts depicted it as.

"The ancient seniors' noble spirits are profoundly admirable," he praised from the bottom of his heart. To walk straight into danger while being completely aware of it...

In any time, in any world, there existed a small group of people who possessed dignified and virtuous souls that their mundane peers could not understand. They sacrificed themselves, knowing full well the ultimate cost.

Not out of indifference to their own lives, but a desire to protect what they saw as more important.

Most mortals were weak and pathetic existences.

These rose above out of that frailty, burning with their own brand of magnificence and grandeur.

Great Divine Veluriyam had been such a man. The ancient demon-sealing war had relied on such men and women to preserve the human domain's continued existence and heritage.

Without their extraordinary sacrifices, the humans of Divine Abyss might have fallen into eternal slavery to the demons, their own heritages extinguished entirely.

Truly, they had undertaken and succeeded at a historic endeavor!

Xia Tianze was greatly moved. "The great divine had great foresight. He planned long and hard for that battle, foreseeing his own death in the process. Because of this, he built the Veluriyam Pagoda and the Six Palaces of Heritage ahead of time, making these and other arrangements on mankind's and his own heritage's behalf. Young man, the Veluriyam Capital you see right now is completely different from the city of yore."

Jiang Chen accepted this statement. For the current Veluriyam Capital, the pagoda was only a symbol. Its real ruler was Sacred Peafowl Mountain.

Aside from the lone pagoda, nothing remained of its ancient predecessor.

He surmised that the latter's heritage and ultimate secret was contained in these Six Palaces of Heritage.