

Three Realms 2151

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

Chapter 2151: Emperor Coiling Dragon's Injuries

Hearing Jiang Chen's detailed plan put their minds at ease. Finally, the human domain had a strong leader who could rule with the big picture in mind!

Humans were prone to infighting.

Ages in which the human race were most prosperous were oftentimes when an expert with overwhelming power emerged to rule the domain.

It was human nature to fear and obey the strong. Without such leading figures, those who fancied themselves great cultivators would grow ambitious and plot for their own gains.

That was often the start of internal tension.

"I told you the news so that you may be at ease. Concentrate on cultivating and don't focus on the short term losses. Humans have survived many calamities, which is proof enough of our resilience. This may be a trying time, but it won't last."

Jiang Chen's gaze was confident and determined, which did wonders in convincing everyone.

"The young lord is right. The human race is known for our resilience and our ability to carry our bloodlines onwards. This little challenge isn't going to intimidate us!"

"What do we have to fear with the spirit veins coming back?"

Everyone had gained a newfound confidence. Previously, they'd been worried about the human domain. They'd only borne hope due to their blind admiration for Jiang Chen.

Now, Jiang Chen had bequeathed to them not only inspiration, but actual good news!

All signs showed that the human domain stood a chance against the demonic army. They could survive another calamity!

There would be great casualties, but the human race had begun to rise, revealing its actual strength. The reappearance of the spirit veins added to their confidence. So too did the gods and divine spirit creatures Jiang Chen brought with him.

"Alright, everyone, keep the information to yourselves at the moment. There have been thieves and petty villains stirring up trouble these days. They'll get what they deserve!" Jiang Chen's voice was grimly furious.

He'd only been in closed door cultivation for a year, yet there had been so many attacks. He took that as a personal offense.

He'd thought the human domain was under his control, that everyone had come together under his banner, but it seemed that threats still lurked about!

It was time for some housekeeping, with which they could prepare to activate the great formation.

Once everyone left, Jiang Chen asked Ji San to stay to ask after Emperor Coiling Dragon. It was clear from Ji San's tragic expression that things weren't looking good for the man.

Coiling Dragon had long ascended to empyrean realm. Ji San had then caught up with his patriarch and seemed vaguely poised to overtake Coiling Dragon, thanks to his potential and true dragon bloodline.

Ji San never intended to usurp Coiling Dragon, though. He didn't want to shoulder the mantle of the clan so soon, but the patriarch's injury changed things.

"Come, let us check on Emperor Coiling Dragon." Jiang Chen liked the man. Back when he was merely an unknown pill king, Coiling Dragon had taken him under his wing and supported him. Even after Jiang Chen became the young lord of Sacred Peafowl Mountain, Coiling Dragon continued to be his most loyal supporter.

He was Jiang Chen's most reliable subordinate.

Emperor Coiling Dragon's injury was very serious, so much so that it caught Jiang Chen off guard. He took a long time inspecting the injury. Then, he entered the man's mind with his consciousness.

Jiang Chen's grave expression worried Ji San. He rarely saw such solemnity on the young lord's face. Emperor Coiling Dragon's injury must be difficult to deal with.

After a long while, Jiang Chen opened his eyes and gave the unconscious man a conflicted look. He sighed. "The injury isn't a simple one. I can't quite figure out what to do, either. It seems that I still have much to learn."

Ji San's heart sank. Even the unconscious clan leader trembled, seemingly despairing at hearing Jiang Chen's words.

The senior executives of the Coiling Dragon Clan looked mournful as well. If even the young lord, who had created many miracles, was at a loss, was their clan leader really beyond hope?

They silently padded out of Coiling Dragon's room.

"Perhaps this is a tribulation the senior must face, young lord," Ji San said seriously. "You shouldn't feel guilty about it."

There would always be things people couldn't resolve.

Although Jiang Chen was known for creating miracles, he couldn't always do so. No one would blame him for that.

They'd sought out many pill masters who'd also failed to come up with a solution. It was evident that Coiling Dragon's injury was simply too serious.

Killing intent flashed through Jiang Chen's eyes. "Don't worry. I won't let this slide. I'll locate the perpetrator and avenge Emperor Coiling Dragon. Veluriyam Capital isn't what it was before. Anyone who dares make a move against us must prepare to die!"

"Thank you, young lord." All the senior executives cupped their hands in gratitude.

Jiang Chen waved a hand in the air. "This is on me as well. If I hadn't gone into closed door cultivation, perhaps things wouldn't have been as bad. Emperor Coiling Dragon is a good friend. My heart is uneasy with his injury."

"You have the world on your shoulders as the leader of the human domain, young lord," a senior executive spoke up. "It's important for you to improve yourself through closed door cultivation. You shouldn't feel guilty."

"That's right. You're the last person who should be blamed, young lord."

The senior executives were understanding, which only deepened the grief on Jiang Chen's face. He stayed in Coiling Dragon territory for a long time before departing.

Before he left, he turned to Ji San. "I acquired an item in Myriad Abyss that I'd like to give you, Brother Ji. I forgot to bring it with me in my hurry. You should come with me to fetch it."

"Thank you for the rich favor, young lord," blurted out Ji San.

Ji San gave some orders before accompanying Jiang Chen back to Sacred Peafowl Mountain.

Once they arrived, Jiang Chen brought Ji San to a secret room.

He'd gained countless items in the battles he fought in Myriad Abyss. He presented them to Ji San. "There are many empyrean weapons for you to pick from. Once you enter advanced empyrean, I'll give you a demigod weapon."

Ji San's eyes lit up in delight.

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Chapter 2152: Further Hidden Stories

Thinking that Jiang Chen would give him only a single treasure, Ji San was just wondering what it could possibly be. He hadn't expected so many to choose from!

Overwhelmed with abundance, he wasn't entirely sure which one to pick.

Chuckling, Jiang Chen pointed at a whip. "This whip is very high quality and synergizes well with your true dragon bloodline. Why don't you try it?"

"These gloves are good as well. They're suitable for closer combat."

Ji San chuckled. "The whip attacks from afar, and the gloves fight up close. It's hard for me to choose!"

"Then take them both," waved Jiang Chen.

He had countless treasures of this level on hand. Giving Ji San several was no issue at all. After all, his friend was a diehard supporter of Sacred Peafowl Mountain.

Ji San's eyes lit up. "May I?"

"What, you don't want them? Well, I can put them away then."

“Oh, I do, I do,” Ji San interjected hurriedly. “These two weapons are perfect for me.” It was impossible to find weapons like these in the human domain, no matter how badly he wanted to. His lack of treasures was a serious deficit for him.

The two heaven rank weapons would be a tremendous boon to his combat ability.

Smiling coolly, Jiang Chen nodded to indicate permission. Ji San was overjoyed with his new acquisitions, putting away the two weapons eagerly.

“Brother Ji, these two weapons represent the lesser of the two reasons I called you here. Know you of the other?”

Ji San’s expression sobered up to match Jiang Chen’s tone. “What is it?”

“About Coiling Dragon’s injuries.” The young lord’s face brimmed with seriousness, weighing down Ji San by proxy.

“Young master Chen... you don’t mind me calling you that, do you?”

Jiang Chen waved a hand. “You can call me whatever you like when no one’s around.”

The only reason he needed others to call him young lord was to establish authority before outsiders. He preferred a more relaxed approach for those closer to him.

Considering his present prominence though, it was difficult to expect Ji San and the others to be comfortable in calling him anything that resembled ‘brother’.

“Brother Ji, where was Coiling Dragon attacked? Was he alone, or were others with him?”

Ji San thought for a moment before cautiously replying. “He had three elders with him at the time. Two were fatalities in the attack, but one returned bearing the venerable Coiling Dragon on his back. The elder requested the death sentence for himself after coming back to us.”

“Why is that?”

“He claims he didn’t take good care of Coiling Dragon, which he believes to be a heinous crime,” sighed Ji San.

“What happened after that?”

“He was seriously wounded himself from the journey. Plus, the ambush was so sudden and unpredictable. Why would the clan punish him?”

“Where is he? Did I see him just now?” Jiang Chen pressed.

“He is still recovering. The house has granted him three years of rest and recovery, leaving the time of his return up to him.”

Jiang Chen nodded. “He deserves credit for rescuing Coiling Dragon. Isn’t his request a bit too duplicitous?”

Ji San’s face reddened. He looked at Jiang Chen, somewhat perplexed by the sudden opinion from his friend. In his view, the elder deserved approval rather than criticism.

Jiang Chen smiled at the fleeting displeasure upon Ji San's face. "Brother Ji, the world is an unpleasant place. I'm not quite certain of anything just yet, but please keep an eye on that elder for me. Don't make it too obvious – keep your intentions secret."

Ji San frowned. "Young master Chen, if I may ask, why do you want me to do that? I am sure that my house's executives are all fiercely loyal."

"I don't doubt his loyalty, but you shouldn't doubt my judgment, either," Jiang Chen replied coolly before chuckling. "Feel free to speak your mind."

"Young master Chen, the house is distressed and confused. We mourn Coiling Dragon's current condition, and many are worried whether I can shoulder the responsibility of leadership in my youth. I can't allow further mistrust to fester."

"First, I can cure Coiling Dragon's wounds. Second, I have no intention of sowing mistrust within your house."

"Wait, you can?" Ji San was astonished.

"Yes, though I don't plan to do so immediately."

"Why not?" Ji San couldn't understand.

"Because I strongly suspect the demons are responsible for hurting Coiling Dragon. This means that they've appeared in the human domain. I want to use Coiling Dragon as bait to lure them out. If I saved him now, it would only alert the mastermind behind his attack, making it harder to kill him later on."

"Demons?" Ji San was greatly taken aback.

He had no idea things would get this complicated. The mere mention of demons was cause enough for him to simmer down. After thinking for a moment, he gasped. "Young master Chen, that elder... could he..."

"I'm not sure whether the demons are using him to infiltrate us, but it's never bad to be careful. Demons are masters of trickery, so you should act prudently yourself. Since you lead Coiling Dragon right now, I'm worried that the demons will target you as well – or even try to control you directly."

Ji San looked rather pale.

The fearsome nature of demonkind was carved into every human's heart. He was no exception.

Taking one on in a fair fight was one thing, but underhanded devices and conspiracies were quite another. A sinister, unseen hand was something to be feared.

Gathering his wits after the stunning revelation, Ji San took a deep breath. "Are you just guessing, or certain about the demons?"

"It is almost certainly their work," Jiang Chen retorted.

There was no reason for Ji San to doubt the young lord's word. He had always maintained the principle of conservatism with his statements.

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Chapter 2153: Soothing the Four Sacred Beasts

Guilt flooded Ji San's heart. He'd been somewhat displeased, but when had Jiang Chen ever done anything the young lord wasn't sure of?

If it'd been demons who attacked Coiling Dragon, the entire clan would be in danger!

Perhaps he was their next target!

"There are only a handful of people I truly admire, young master Chen, and you are the one I admire the most." Ji San stopped agonizing over the issue once realization struck him. He turned to Jiang Chen for answers. "Please tell me, what should we do next?"

"Protect yourself and the clan. Beware of a demon plot. There must be a reason why Emperor Coiling Dragon was attacked, but his life spared. The elder's reaction is suspicious as well. I can't tell what they're planning just yet, but you must be on your guard."

Demons were an unpredictable bunch. Jiang Chen couldn't quite put a finger on what their strategy was.

Ji San pulled a long face. "I will be careful, but demons are almost impossible to stop. I worry that I may let a few slip in the end."

"Don't worry. They don't dare make any obvious moves within Veluriyam Capital. If they do, they would've come out and made trouble already."

That reassured Ji San somewhat.

"Go back. Be discreet and don't wake the sleeping lion!"

Ji San nodded. "Alright, let me see how powerful the demons can be. If they want to play, I'm game."

The new Coiling Dragon leader departed, leaving Jiang Chen brooding on his own.

The demons had finally risen again.

These demons might not be able to do more than targeting a few individuals, but they couldn't wait until the demonic army invaded to react. It'd be too late then.

They had to be prepared. Naturally, their top priority was to improve their strength. In addition, they had to embark on reactivating the Great Formation of Heavenly Soul Confinement.

Within a secret realm in the Sacred Peafowl Mountain, Jiang Chen summoned the four divine beasts. Among them, the Astral White Tiger was the only one who had yet to ascend to divinity.

The four divine beasts were rather curious why Jiang Chen would summon them for a private meeting.

They remembered what the young lord had said about their bloodlines. Was this about the ancient secret regarding the four divine beasts?

They were quite excited by the prospect.

Were their bloodlines truly that wondrous? With the four divine beasts gathered, could one really refine the five elements, recreate a world, and construct the heavenly law?

“There’s no need to be so formal. You’re all my companions. No matter how long we’ve known each other, we’re all comrades-in-arms here.”

Noticing their serious expressions, Jiang Chen sought to lighten the mood.

The Vermilion Bird smiled. “We aren’t being formal. We’re just excited.”

“Excited?” Jiang Chen blinked in confusion. “I haven’t said anything. What are you excited for?”

The bird looked at him in surprise. “Uh, didn’t you ask us to come for the secret behind the four divine beasts, young master Chen?”

Jiang Chen snorted. “I’ve told you about that already. Do you really think we’re ready for that? We’re far from it! Little White hasn’t ascended to divinity yet. Even once he does, there’s still a lot of work to do. It’s not something that can be achieved overnight.”

Everyone was slightly disappointed.

Jiang Chen chuckled. “It seems that you’re more eager than I am. That’s not going to happen anytime soon. I summoned you today for some other good news. I’m going to fulfill a promise I made to you.”

“What promise?”

Jiang Chen gave them a warm smile. “I’ve promised to make you continuously stronger if you followed me. I’m naturally going to honor that promise. I have something to give to you that can boost your power, and the benefit will last for a long while.”

The four divine beasts exchanged a glance, surprised.

Little White was the most impatient. “What are you giving us, young master Chen? Please tell us.”

The tiger was the youngest and also the weakest at the moment. It always felt as if it was dragging the others down, which made it especially eager to get stronger.

The Vermilion Bird’s eyes lit up. It hadn’t made a breakthrough for several years. The bird had joined Jiang Chen because it’d be wise to have a team in the coming chaotic times, and because Jiang Chen had made a promise to it.

His words filled its heart with anticipation.

Jiang Chen didn’t beat around the bush. He presented them with four Amaranthine Clouddew Fruit.

“This is the Amaranthine Clouddew Fruit, an item listed in the heavenly rankings. Do you know anything about it from your heritage memories?”

“The Amaranthine Clouddew Fruit?” The Vermilion Bird looked at the fruit in Jiang Chen’s hands and shook its head.

The Astral White Tiger shook its head as well, but its eyes shone with eagerness. It wanted nothing but to tackle Jiang Chen and devour the fruit.

The Black Tortoise muttered with a confused look. "I remember something about the rankings, but not the fruit."

The Vermilion Bird nodded. "Same. I remember a thing or two about the rankings from my heritage."

Long Xiaoxuan cackled. "Inexperience makes you ignorant. The fruit is a magical item formed by the power of creation in the heavenly planes. It shouldn't exist in a mundane plane such as the Divine Abyss Continent."

He was of the true dragon bloodline alright!

Jiang Chen gave him a thumbs up. "You're right. That's exactly what I'm most curious about. As you can see, the fruit does appear on this continent."

Long Xiaoxuan's eyes lit up. "It's said that the Amaranthine Clouddew Tree is a sight to behold, resembling a dancing celestial from a distance. It's also said that the tree blooms and bears fruit every hundred thousand years, yielding eighty one pieces of fruit every time, a number of utmost perfection."

Jiang Chen slapped his thigh. "Your knowledge is impressive, Brother Long."

Long Xiaoxuan cackled, his smile brimming with a reserved pride. It was obvious that he felt good about himself.

"What can the fruit do, young master Chen?" asked the Vermilion Bird.

"The Amaranthine Clouddew Fruit contains the force of creation. It can turn stone into gold and make a mundane man a god. Even an empyrean cultivator with atrocious potential will ascend to divinity after consuming the fruit. For divine cultivators, the fruit can greatly boost their potential and strength. After consuming the fruit, their cultivation will make a dramatic leap, and their potential improved. It can truly change one's fate."

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Chapter 2154: Full Capitulation

Aside from Long Xiaoxuan, the three other beasts had no idea what the Amaranthine Clouddew Fruit could do. However, their eyes instantly brightened with great eagerness – the Astral White Tiger especially.

A treasure as precious as this was attractive even to them.

"Are the treasures of the heavenly planes truly so miraculous?" the Black Tortoise muttered, half in disbelief.

Long Xiaoxuan snorted. "Old Brother Black, I know you're way older than us, but you aren't half as wise as your years might suggest. There's no way you haven't inherited bloodline memories about the fruit. You must not have awakened enough to be so ignorant."

The Black Tortoise chuckled, not particularly mindful of the dragon's ridicule. It cared far more about tangible benefit than empty bickering. Its several hundred thousand years of life had ensured that this would be the case.

The Vermilion Bird took a deep breath. "We scions of the four sacred beasts already possess formidable bloodline potential. If the Amaranthine Clouddew Fruit can augment that, then..."

"You may even attain the same level of strength of your ancient forebears," Jiang Chen laughed.

"That's great! Gimme, young master Chen, gimme." The Astral White Tiger stormed to the young man's fore in an instant.

Jiang Chen grinned and gave one of the fruits to the tiger. Since all four beasts had a fruit, there was no need to argue over them.

Long Xiaoxuan caressed the fruit in his hand, running his fingers over it like he would a lover's face.

The Vermilion Bird and the Black Tortoise played with their fruit like curios, immensely intrigued by its extraordinary properties.

The Astral White Tiger was the only one who gulped down the fruit in the same second that he got it.

"Oh no! Young master Chen, did I eat it wrong?" The tiger regretted it only afterwards. "It'll still work, right?"

Jiang Chen chuckled. "Don't worry. No matter how you eat it, it will have much the same effect on you – and an obvious one too. Since you've been so impatient, I recommend you find a place and get ready. You might break through to divine realm very soon."

"That fast?" The bird and turtle were both taken aback.

"Why would it be considered a miracle of creation otherwise? Something worthy of being ranked in the heavenly planes always has a reason for its fame," bragged Long Xiaoxuan.

The Vermilion Bird was elated. "I should make good use of this Amaranthine Clouddew Fruit then. I can fight demons better after I get stronger."

The Black Tortoise nodded in agreement. It looked toward Jiang Chen with rather different eyes. "Young master Chen, you've earned my real respect today. Since you've kept your promise, I will surely keep mine."

Rather than being flat-out unsociable, the tortoise had merely atrophied those skills from his seclusion near Sandplain.

Still, it was possible to earn the reptile's recognition in some way, and Jiang Chen had pulled it off.

"All sacred beasts are proud," the Vermilion Bird sighed, "but I have to admit that knowing you has changed my fate, young master Chen."

For once, Long Xiaoxuan strangely didn't disagree with the bird. He inclined his head somberly.

The Astral White Tiger, on the other hand, had transformed into a tiny cub who ferreted himself into Jiang Chen's arms. He played cute. "I grew up under young master Chen's eyes. He's my dearest big brother."

All three other beasts rolled their eyes.

The tiger wasn't wrong, technically. Without Jiang Chen's help, it wouldn't have been able to awaken to its current level after perhaps several centuries. Thus, Little White did see Jiang Chen as a parent.

Jiang Chen smiled. He rather liked seeing this kind of interaction.

The beasts spoke to each other without pretense. Despite their nobility of blood, they were friends with each other. A relationship like this warmed the heart in the best possible way.

"My friends, aside from the Amaranthine Clouddew Fruits, I have another piece of good news for you."

"What is it?"

"Old Brother Vermilion, you lived in the ancient era. You should know of the Veluriyam Palace, yes?"

Jiang Chen smiled.

"Of course. The Veluriyam Palace was stronger than even the Primosanct Sect. It was the unquestioned leader in the ancient demon-sealing war, and its head, Great Divine Veluriyam, was the foremost of humanity." The Vermilion Bird responded clearly and without hesitation.

"Very good, you're quite familiar with it then."

"Too bad that the current Veluriyam Capital has lost the ancient palace's heritage. Why would the human domain be doing so poorly otherwise?" remarked the Vermilion Bird.

"Indeed. Veluriyam Capital is only a facade. The city as we know it received nothing from Veluriyam Palace. The true heritage, however, has now resurfaced."

The Vermilion Bird's eyes lit up. "Is that true, young master Chen?"

"Of course. All four of you are sacred beasts, so you won't gain much by cultivating upon Sacred Peafowl Mountain. I will allow you to enter the ancient Veluriyam Palace to cultivate, but you must be ready to fight at any time. Is that alright?"

Jiang Chen looked at the sacred beasts with great sincerity.

The Vermilion Bird replied without hesitation. "Even ignoring the Veluriyam Palace, we would be ready to fight anytime. We're all in this together, young master Chen. There's no need to beat around the bush if there's ever the need."

"Yes, only in unity can we fight off the demons," the Black Tortoise chimed in for the occasion – a rarity for the reptile.

"Alright, then. I'll get straight to it. Before the spirit veins recover, you can cultivate in the ancient palace. Afterward, you can cultivate wherever you like," Jiang Chen motioned joyfully.

"The spirit veins? Recover? Whatever do you mean?"

The human burst into laughter. He finally remembered that he hadn't told the sacred beasts about that yet.

He explained everything he had heard in detail. The sacred beasts were once again overjoyed to hear the news.

The Vermilion Bird sounded wistful. “Great Divine Veluriyam was a real visionary. This is a wonderful thing! Am I to feel the air of that bygone era again? Hahaha!”

Its laughter was heartfelt.

The other three sacred beasts were exuberant as well. All three had thought that the human domain’s spirit veins had been destroyed, so it was amazing to hear that they were only sealed away.

This was more than enough to accommodate their future cultivation.

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Chapter 2155: A Selfless Huang’er

The four sacred beasts were happily sent into the Veluriyam Palace.

When they saw the Amaranthine Clouddew Tree for themselves, they were astounded to see the tree for themselves and take in its grand aura.

They also respected Jiang Chen all the more.

Now that they had consumed one fruit, they were connected to the tree in a way. A treasure of the heavenly planes allowed only a single such tie; further consumption would have no effect. The manifold fruits upon the tree’s boughs held no allure for them.

The four sacred beasts were uniformly pleased to cultivate within the palace’s secret realm, but Jiang Chen couldn’t do the same. The situation outside demanded his appearance and intervention.

Before he left, he picked three more fruits and set them aside. He had a purpose in mind for them.

He was needed everywhere, and countless tasks awaited him.

Reactivating the Great Formation of Heavenly Soul Confinement was his first priority.

Hunting down the troublesome factions was another.

Finding materials for the Divine Transcendence Pill was a third.

The pentacolor crystals from Eternal Divine Nation’s Cloud Camel Mountain would be very useful when forged into weapons. That was another thing he had to attend to.

Refining the Great Veluriyam Lamp was yet another.

With regards to his private life, he hadn’t yet heard from his brother. Though many people in many places had been tasked to help in the effort, Jiang Chen couldn’t just ignore it himself.

The demonic invasion was nigh. If he couldn’t find his younger brother before the land descended into outright chaos, he would have an even harder time after.

Alas, actually finding him was like looking for a needle in a haystack.

Thankfully, he had a good number of subordinates to call on. The new followers from Myriad Abyss Island were especially capable, having already rooted out several conspiratorial factions. Unfortunately, none had to do with the demons.

Of the three fruits he had picked from the palace, one was for Huang'er. Another was for his younger sister, Xu Qingxuan.

The last was for the king of the Goldbiter Rats.

The rat king had served him loyally over the years, making contribution after valuable contribution. In the current human domain, the rats were more useful than ever before.

Jiang Chen saw no reason to withhold anything from his furry friend. The Goldbiter Rats were different from the others.

They were timid and demure, loyally following any expert they attended.

These Goldbiter Rats had accompanied Jiang Chen for a long time, receiving from him innumerable prizes and dividends, which further enhanced their loyalty. Every rat had benefited in some way from their allegiance.

Though some rats died with each mission, survival of the fittest was a law of nature. The rat pack had always been this way, even without following Jiang Chen.

Conversely, the rats had grown in strength hundreds of times over since coming under Jiang Chen's wing. This was a much more exciting prospect compared to losing a few rats.

Hearing that the Amaranthine Clouddew Fruit would help it attain divinity, the rat king was overjoyed.

"Young master Chen, you know I'm not a good talker. If you need me for anything, just say the word. I'll happily oblige even if you want to kick my head around like a ball. I'll dive into any oceans of water or fire that you want me to."

Jiang Chen didn't know whether to laugh. "I thought you were bad with words? That's nice, but I think actions speak louder than words."

"No problem! We'll show you what we can do! We only got this far only because of your help, young master Chen. Without you, we'd just be trash tunneling around in the dirt!" The rat king grew a little emotional.

"Yes, I understand. No need to get too hysterical. Perhaps it was fate that brought us together. Make good use of the Amaranthine Clouddew Fruit, so you can ascend into godhood and demonstrate prowess equal to that of the ancient Goldbiter Kingrats."

The Goldbiter Rats were descended from Goldbiter Kingrats in blood. The latter was a species famous in the heavenly planes, boasting incredible breeding speed and the ability to eat absolutely everything. A plague of them was a fearsome calamity in its own right, and normal people steered clear of them.

These Goldbiter Rats didn't have particularly pure blood, and were considerably inferior in terms of strength and prestige.

Still, if they kept evolving, they would eventually be able to undergo bloodline reversion. The possibility of growing back into Goldbiter Kingrats wasn't too far off.

When that time came, these rats would be a force to be reckoned with.

Jiang Chen very much hoped that this would happen, but he wasn't going to be so blunt about it. For the time being, it was enough to encourage the rat king to keep doing a good job.

The rat king nodded and murmured assent.

It took the jobs that Jiang Chen gave it with even more gravity than before. Its master was hardly the miserly type, either. All of the corpses from a fight, including divine cultivators', were left as food to the rats to increase their strength.

Huang'er was very surprised to learn of the Amaranthine Clouddew Fruit.

"Brother Chen, have you given one to Sister Dan Fei?" she asked.

"Dan Fei's cultivation isn't at the point to need one yet. Nian'er as well. When they come to that point, I will give them their own fruit."

Jiang Chen hadn't meant to show any bias, but cultivation was a gradational thing. There was an order that everyone had to follow.

"What about Qingxuan?"

Jiang Chen chuckled. "If I say she doesn't have one, are you going to give yours to her?"

Huang'er blinked, then giggled. "I didn't want anyone to call you unfair, Brother Chen."

Her sincerity caused Jiang Chen to laugh. "You're the most selfless person I've met, Huang'er.

Don't worry, Qingxuan's cultivation is nearly there. I've set one aside for her already."

Huang'er let out a sigh of relief.

"Don't you worry about any of that. This Amaranthine Clouddew Fruit is for you, and that won't change even if you try to pass it off to someone else. I know what I'm doing, alright?" Jiang Chen felt that he had to take the initiative here. If Huang'er kept making suggestions, when would she get to herself?

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Chapter 2156: Venerated Skysoarer's Weighty Thoughts

Just like Huang'er, Xu Qingxuan was reluctant to accept Jiang Chen's offer. It took some convincing for his sister to finally take the piece of Amaranthine Clouddew Fruit.

Nevertheless, it was challenging for someone of Xu Qingxuan's level of cultivation to consume the fruit. Jiang Chen personally refined the forces of creation within for her and didn't relax until he was sure nothing would backlash onto her.

Xu Qingxuan was warmed by her brother's selfless love. Thinking back to how her sect was located in the northwest of the Upper Eight Regions, she realized how different her fate was compared to her peers.

Even the combined might of the three heads of Tilted Moon's Moon God Sect trailed far behind her now. If not for her brother, she wouldn't be who she was today.

"Brother..." Xu Qingxuan choked out.

“Alright, I know what you want to say, silly girl,” Jiang Chen said with a smile. “What happened to you is fate’s doing. You don’t have to thank me. If you want to thank anyone, thank our parents. They made us siblings.”

Xu Qingxuan punched Jiang Chen’s shoulder with mock anger, but her reddened eyes betrayed her true feelings.

“You’ve said that the heavenly law grants us immortality,” she said in a melancholy tone. “Will mother and father get to live an eternal life like we do?”

Jiang Chen sighed. “Don’t worry. I’ll try my best to make that happen.”

Jiang Feng and Xu Meng were both lacking in foundations and had missed the best window to cultivate. Xu Meng, especially, had missed the time to establish her foundations. Although she was born with good potential, it’d been wasted due to being imprisoned. As a result, her cultivation left much to be desired.

There was a chance that they could both ascend to great emperor, but whether they could gain the recognition of the heavenly law and ascend to empyrean would depend on fate. The divine realm was an even taller goal that not even Jiang Chen had a good grasp of.

However, nothing was absolute in this world. One simply had to bide their time.

In his past life, he’d been unable to cultivate, but his father had still managed to give him millions of years of life.

After giving away the three pieces of fruit, Jiang Chen received a report from Yu Gong, saying that someone was here to see him outside the mountain entrance.

Noting Yu Gong’s grim expression, Jiang Chen asked curiously, “Who is it that put that look on your face?”

Shamefaced, Yu Gong responded, “The man is powerful, young lord. This subordinate isn’t his match. Thankfully, he claims to be your friend rather than foe.”

Jiang Chen’s eyebrow quirked. A friend? Who can it be?

Regardless, he wasn’t too worried. This was his home turf. Even a demon sovereign would be asking for humiliation by attacking him here. He could summon the four divine beasts with a single thought. He really didn’t fear anyone.

“Show him in.”

Yu Gong started. “He may have nefarious intentions, young lord.”

“Worry not. Neither friend nor foe dares start anything here,” Jiang Chen responded firmly without any doubt. “They’d only be asking for trouble.”

Yu Gong wasn’t going to argue with that. He left the room to walk their guest in.

Once the man entered, Yu Gong and the other divine cultivators flanked their young lord. Wariness tightened their faces as they worried that the man would spring into a sudden attack.

Jiang Chen laughed when he saw the guest and dismissed them with a wave of his hand. "You may go. He's one of our own."

It was Venerated Skysoarer, who had left the Six Palaces of Heritage not long ago.

Noting his dejected and frustrated look, Jiang Chen speculated that Venerated Skysoarer had experienced life outside this place, and the experience hadn't been a pleasant one.

"Please have a seat, Senior Skysoarer," Jiang Chen said politely.

Venerated Skysoarer sighed. "You've become the head of the Ancient Crimson Heavens Sect, Jiang Chen. You shouldn't call me senior anymore."

The old man reminded Jiang Chen of that title for a reason. He wanted to prod Jiang Chen into not forgetting about the sect and his duty to it just because he'd gained the heritage of Veluriyam Capital.

Jiang Chen chuckled. He could read between the lines, but wasn't offended. He did indeed care about the Ancient Crimson Heavens Sect.

"Then I'll call you Venerated Skysoarer," he responded with a smile.

The old man nodded and sighed again.

"What have you gained from your travels, Venerated Skysoarer?" Jiang Chen made some conversation.

"Not much." Skysoarer pursed his lips. "I didn't expect the human domain's decline to be this dramatic. Heavens, how prosperous and mighty we were back in the ancient times!"

Jiang Chen shrugged. "It's already gotten better. We were at least ten times stronger than we were decades ago."

"Does that mean you've changed the human domain for the better?" Venerated Skysoarer's tone was conflicted. He'd asked around a bit during his travels. No one in the domain had a single bad thing to say about Jiang Chen. They had only praise for the young man.

That concerned him. Jiang Chen's supreme status in the human domain made him the leader of the human race. Under the circumstances, would he spare enough attention for the Ancient Crimson Heavens Sect?

That was why he'd lost his desire to travel and returned in such a hurry. He wanted a satisfactory answer from Jiang Chen.

Jiang Chen smiled, but didn't volunteer an answer.

"Alright, I've asked around. You certainly are an unrivaled leading figure in the human domain." Skysoarer's tone was somewhat antagonistic.

Jiang Chen smiled. "If you have something to say, Venerated Skysoarer, please just say it. Talking in riddles is tiring for you as the speaker and me as the listener."

The old man flushed red. After a moment of silence, he nodded. "Then I'll be frank with you. As the leader of the human race, will you keep the Ancient Crimson Heavens Sect in mind?"

Jiang Chen laughed. "I knew you'd ask me that. I admit I can't put all of my attention on the sect at present, but I've never forgotten about rebuilding it. Since you've been freed from the palace, Venerated Skysoarer, why don't you give me some help as well?"

Skysoarer hurried out, "I will. If there's anything you need, just tell me. As long as it's something I can do, I'll do it!"

He worried that Jiang Chen would forget about the sect. That was why he wanted nothing more than to stay by Jiang Chen's side and be a constant reminder.

"Our top priority now is to activate the Great Formation of Heavenly Soul Confinement. The clues you provided me before helped me greatly. I've collected all of the needed information. If you can be my second-in-command in this matter, your name will spread far and wide in the domain, which will make it easier for you to rebuild the sect."

What Jiang Chen said made sense upon reflection.

Skysoarer laughed heartily. "Alright, I'll help you with the formation."

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

Chapter 2157: Three Formation Nodes

Venerated Skysoarer's help was a great boon to Jiang Chen. He desperately needed a knowledgeable helper when it came to formations. Restarting it would take more than a day or two.

First, he needed to find where the three nodes were located. He knew their rough directions, but it had been too long since their last operation. It would take some time for them to be found and repaired, and the latter was a complex process.

Smaller details could be left to lesser cultivators, but bigger projects required expert know-how.

As an executive of the Ancient Crimson Heavens Sect, Venerated Skysoarer had been one of the best formation masters in ancient times. Moreover, his sect had participated as one of the three parties responsible for the creation of the Great Formation of Heavenly Soul Confinement in the first place.

"Over the next few days, we're going to do a selection for formational talent. Please, keep a close eye on the proceedings. These people may form the foundations for the Ancient Crimson Heavens Sect's future."

Venerated Skysoarer's eyes widened. "Do you mean, young master Chen...?"

"Rebuilding the sect isn't going to be done in a day. Just you or I cannot amount to an entire sect. Many generations of effort and fresh blood are needed for that."

The old master nodded. "Indeed. Your formation master selection is to prepare for the reestablishment of the Ancient Crimson Heavens Sect, then?"

"One of my two purposes, yes," Jiang Chen smiled. "Can you serve as the head judge?"

"Of course," Venerated Skysoarer replied instantly. "I guarantee I'll choose the ones with real talent and true potential."

“You’ve seen the way the human domain is right now,” reminded Jiang Chen. “You can’t use the same standards as back then, or you won’t be able to find a single one to your liking.”

“Don’t worry. I may be old, but I’m not stubborn or foolish just yet,” promised Venerated Skysoarer.

“Good, good,” Jiang Chen laughed as well. “I trust your judgment and insight. Ah, that aside, what about the others? How are they doing in the outside world?”

Venerated Skysoarer’s face reddened. “We split up once we left the six palaces. The others? Haha... I doubt they’ll be able to last much longer than me out there. You’re a real tricky one, eh, young master Chen? You pretended to be generous in giving us back our freedom, but you knew we wouldn’t be able to stay long.”

Jiang Chen could hardly admit such a thing, even if it was absolutely true. Cackling, he tried to keep a straight face. “Do I look like that kind of person, sir? You wound me.”

Venerated Skysoarer harrumphed, but said nothing more.

In the span of time that followed, the human domain continued to experience turmoil. Attacks and incidents popped up everywhere.

Though the teams Jiang Chen had sent out resolved some of the issues, they couldn’t stop them at their root.

Jiang Chen was upset, but didn’t lose his head over it.

Instead, he calmly continued to work on reactivating the Great Formation of Heavenly Confinement. It took three months for him to locate and dig up all three nodes.

Since the formation structure remained intact, reactivating the formation wouldn’t be too much harder than fixing the nodes. A partially shattered network could be repaired ad hoc as long as the three nodes were in place.

Venerated Skysoarer was tremendously busy during that time. Several thousand formation masters had signed up for the selection, from among which he chose three hundred.

He wasn’t entirely happy with the candidates he had picked out, but it was the best he could do considering the human domain’s present condition.

Thankfully, none of them lacked understanding. Studying under the ancient master improved their ability by leaps and bounds.

Jiang Chen occasionally dropped in on their classes, but he minimized actual interference.

Once the three nodes were found, he had to station heavy security near them. He was worried that the secret troublemakers would attack the nodes after hearing what he was doing.

Since the nodes’ locations were exposed now, someone with ulterior motives would easily be able to find them. Their destruction meant abandoning any prospects of reactivating the great formation.

Jiang Chen didn’t want a last-minute cancellation when he’d done so much work already. Defending the three important locations cost him a considerable amount of mental energy.

He had many subordinates, but he couldn't rest easy about any of the nodes regardless.

Thankfully, Master P'eng and the others slowly trickled back in out of boredom with the world outside. This mitigated Jiang Chen's urgent need.

Master P'eng, the Mad Fiend, the Grand Marquis, and Old Pill Rune had all been famous masters in the ancient era. They were far more capable than the less distinguished gods under Jiang Chen's command.

Jiang Chen didn't mince his words, instead taking an honest and forthright approach.

In turn, these ancient masters stuck to their promises and cooperated with the young lord. The four of them were assigned as a single group to protect one of the nodes.

Lan Tianhao, Yu Gong, and the rest of the gods were assembled into another team, in charge of defending a different node.

Jiang Chen was accompanied only by Venerated Skysoarer, though Xia Tianze hid himself nearby in secret as backup.

Xia Tianze was actually the strongest of the six, but he wasn't used enough to the outside world to feel comfortable with revealing himself overmuch.

Jiang Chen saw no reason to force him.

The four sacred beasts were allowed to sit in cultivation within the Veluriyam Palace.

The Goldbiter Rats tunneled in the earth between the three nodes' locations, charged with delivering messages and maintaining communications, as well as providing auxiliary support should it be necessary.

In truth, there wasn't much more that Jiang Chen could do. He still fell short on manpower, nor could he pay much attention to the fighting in the Upper Eight Regions; reactivating the formation also took precedence over that for sure.

One of the nodes was located within Ninesuns Sky Sect territory in the Upper Eight Regions, not far from Veluriyam Capital.

The other two nodes were within Myriad Domain and an unnamed Mid Region respectively.

These three nodes formed a geographical triangle.

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

Chapter 2158: Forefather Stonefiend

Jiang Chen decided to prioritize the node closest to him, the one in Ninesuns territory. The wandering master Pei Xing had been responsible for it long ago.

The Ancient Crimson Heavens Sect had deployed the node in the Myriad Domain.

The mid region's node had belonged to the Earth Bodhisattva Sect.

These three linked the formation together into a reinforced, coherent whole, protecting the majority of the human domain's territory within.

The person who had come up with the design was certainly a genius. Moreover, a formation of such proportions would have cost immeasurable amounts of time, energy, and resources.

Though Jiang Chen was aware of how to handle everything in abstract, the details demanded a lot of effort from him. The actual repair wasn't an easy job.

Since Pei Xing had been responsible for this node, Venerated Skysoarer wasn't able to give much advice. He could only execute the young lord's orders.

The young man would be solely responsible for everything that was to be done. He knew the formation the best, after all. Venerated Skysoarer didn't even entirely understand the Ancient Crimson Heavens Sect's portion, so he wasn't going to be able to offer much constructive advice.

Jiang Chen meditated near the node he had chosen for five days before a clear path came to light. Having come up with a course of action, he set it into motion.

The countless years that had passed since the formation's last operation meant that much of its systems and pathways had rotted away. These fundamentals needed to be attended to in order to reactivate it.

Jiang Chen scrutinized the formation's every nook and cranny with great detail. Even the slightest deformity and decay was painstakingly repaired.

Because of this, the process was destined to be a long and arduous one.

Jiang Chen managed to complete about half of it in about a month. Venerated Skysoarer felt a bit embarrassed when he saw how hard the young man was working, but his offers to help were turned down each time.

"Let me fix this node myself," Jiang Chen said to him. "I will gladly accept your assistance with the other two, providing the necessary blueprints."

Repair and reactivation were two separate matters.

The latter would need all three nodes' simultaneous operation. Spirit energy would be sent from the three points down the formation's pathways, creating a powerful resonance that instantly brought the defensive matrix into being.

Despite the significant effort required to do so, reactivating the formation would provide the human domain with a huge advantage. It would be a natural barrier against outside invasion that stood to benefit its inhabitants for generations to come.

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While Jiang Chen diligently worked to repair the formation, several undercurrents moved in the underbelly of the human domain.

In a certain cave somewhere on the outskirts of Veluriyam Capital, a tombstone suddenly tunneled out of the ground. The tombstone shook to emit a strange blue smoke, from which a shadowy figure materialized.

The figure appeared humanoid at first, but was too indistinct to capture. In some ways, it was also like a ghost. It floated deeper into the cave.

As it did so, a number of green phosphoric flames lit up the entire cavern. A face appeared on one of the stony walls. The visage looked extremely peculiar, as if it had been squeezed from the rock itself.

The shadowy figure instantly approached to salute. "Hail, Forefather Stonefiend."

An old, sinister voice emanated from the face that was one with the stone.

"Roguemist, did I not tell you to leave me alone unless there was something of particular import?"

That was the shadow's name.

"O forefather, I did not wish to intrude. I know you are a crucial time in the breaking of your seal, but..."

"What?" Forefather Stonefiend harrumphed. "Don't tell me you failed in your task?"

"No, no, not at all. I am entirely devoted to your cause, milord. I've meticulously done everything you asked me to." Roguemist was obviously very afraid of the face on the wall.

"Then why are you disturbing my peace?" Stonefiend retorted with displeasure. "Don't you know that increased frequency of your trips here will only cast more doubt upon this place?"

Roguemist sighed softly. "I didn't want to bother you, forefather, but that human domain kid let wind out that he was going to reactivate the Great Formation of Heavenly Soul Confinement."

"Hmph, his boasting has no substance to it. The current human domain doesn't have even a hundredth of its former glory. Where's he going to get the wealth and manpower he needs, eh?" Stonefiend seemed rather dismissive of this.

"But he really has been working on something in secret. I tried to get close – apparently, he's at one of the nodes of that formation. He's working on fixing the first one! And he's almost done, too." Roguemist felt much better after he got all the words out, but Forefather Stonefiend remained unconvinced.

"Roguemist, you've been a trustworthy lieutenant since ancient times. Why are you startled at mere showboating? Our second awakening means that the humans' end is nigh. Didn't you tell me? Their spirit veins are utterly destroyed, and their strength is less than a fraction of what it used to be. What is there worth worrying about in a human domain like that?"

These words made enough logical sense, but Roguemist was beginning to doubt their absolute truth these days.

"Forefather, the human domain is indeed weak, but that Jiang Chen kid is beyond comprehension. He brought back a bunch of gods from Myriad Abyss Island, and moreover commands several sacred beasts. The strength of his forces is formidable!"

"You told me that last time, too. Those gods are only initial divine realm, are they not? When I recover my strength and break free of this seal, they will be mere clowns before my might!"

Roguemist sighed softly again. "I hear that they already slew a mid divine realm cultivator back in Myriad Abyss. According to them, it was one of our demonic forefathers."

“The monster demons, yes? You’re repeating yourself. Worthless! We demons have many gods among us. If he can kill one or two, so what? Of we yin demons alone, four forefathers came to Divine Abyss Continent. The monster demon forefather’s death is nothing to be worried about. He may not have been in peak condition, and was ganged up on to boot. Unlucky, that’s all he was!”

Sovereign of the Three Realms (WN)

Chapter 2159: Yin and Shadow Demons

Forefather Stonefiend wasn’t happy with Roguemist’s words. His minion had relayed the same thing already. There was no need to repeat the same intelligence.

In the ancient times, the ten tribes of demons invading the Divine Abyss Continent had been exceptionally powerful. Almost every tribe had sent their best, bringing at least three to four divine realm forefathers to the continent.

Those who entered the human domain were but a small part of the army. What was more, every demon forefather was a formidable fighter.

In Forefather Stonefiend’s eyes, if the humans hadn’t occupied homeground advantage, if the demons hadn’t fallen for human trickery, the demonic army wouldn’t have ended up killed or sealed.

The Divine Abyss Continent was bound to be much worse than how it’d been in the ancient times. The demonic army would be unstoppable once it made its comeback!

There was absolutely nothing to worry about.

He didn’t care the slightest about “young lord Jiang Chen”, the so-called human genius.

Stonefiend believed that as soon as he ended closed door cultivation and recovered his peak, he would be unrivaled in the human domain. He would head straight to the Sacred Peafowl Mountain and take Jiang Chen’s head.

However, he was just beginning to break free of the seal. He mustn’t attract any attention to himself. If Jiang Chen threw all the forces available to him to attack the demon forefather, Stonefiend could very well die.

He had to keep a low profile until his recovery.

Nonetheless, he was displeased with the way Roguemist talked up their enemies at the expense of themselves.

The subordinate was also concerned by the forefather’s reaction.

Although he might be scolded for it, he insistently emphasized, “I’ve reported the matter before, forefather, but the Great Formation of Heavenly Soul Confinement can disrupt our grand plan. Once it’s activated, we’ll be separated from the main demonic army. Although a good number of demons have been sealed in the human domain, we’re scattered with no means of communication. If we allow the formation to divide us, we’ll be...”

Stonefiend scoffed. “What?”

“Sitting ducks,” Roguemist gritted out.

“Nonsense!” raged Stonefiend. “Even if the formation can be activated again, that’s not necessarily a bad thing. Without the demonic army here, this seat will be able to claim the entire domain as my own. Hmph, the ancient human domain was abundant in resources. It can’t have become so barren in such a short time. There’s something fishy going on here. It may be an opportunity for great gains.”

“It may feel good to claim everything for yourself, forefather, but it’s unwise to allow ourselves to be trapped on our own,” Roguemist plead. “Once the human domain becomes an inescapable trap with us in it and no allies to call upon, it’ll be our doom.”

“Shut up!” Stonefiend snapped. “I’ve heard enough. Not another word about this. Once I recover my strength, I’ll be able to destroy Sacred Peafowl Mountain as easily as wringing a chicken’s neck. What’s there to worry about?”

Roguemist sighed. He knew his forefather had failed to take his words to heart. Resignation rose in his heart. He concluded desolately, “This subordinate will take my leave, forefather.”

Forefather Stonefiend huffed. “Remember, Roguemist, there’s no need for you to worry. Don’t make any reckless moves. If you expose this seat’s location, you’ll never be able to redeem yourself for the mistake.”

Roguemist responded in a trembling voice, “This subordinate wouldn’t dare.”

Stonefiend scoffed. The wall collapsed into itself and the face disappeared.

Roguemist didn’t stay. He drifted disconsolately out of the cave. Not long after, a figure flashed through the sky. He growled, “Who’s there?!”

A peal of clear laughter broke the silence, exceedingly eerie in the middle of nowhere. Even Roguemist shuddered.

While he was a yin demon - the most spine-chilling tribe of all demons, no beings were immune to fear. After all, this was the human domain, not a territory of the demonic race.

He was but a demigod yin demon. If a divine realm human cultivator attacked him, he’d be exposed, if not killed outright. If there were a few divine cultivators, he was as good as dead.

“It’s been a while since we parted in the ancient times, Roguemist,” sounded a chilling voice. “You’re still as cowardly as ever. You yin demons work better with corpses.”

Roguemist’s lips twisted into a meaningful smile. “So it’s you. I didn’t expect you to survive the ancient war as well.”

“You’re still alive. I wouldn’t want to die before you.” The voice retorted.

Roguemist frowned. “Fine, I don’t have time for chit-chat. Treasure your life well. Don’t follow me around. Our two tribes aren’t so close that we should stick together.”

The voice snickered. “You were frustrated by Forefather Stonefiend, Roguemist. You shouldn’t take that out on me.”

Roguemist's frown deepened. He didn't expect the other to know about that as well. This was indeed a powerful shadow demon.

The shadow demon was a demigod as well, yet he'd managed to eavesdrop on them without Stonefiend noticing.

Though the forefather remained sealed, his senses remained keen. That was further proof that shadow demons' mastery in stealth couldn't be underestimated.

"Out with it, what do you want?" Roguemist asked with a scowl.

"Haha, don't be impatient. I have important matters to discuss with you." The voice remained unfazed and impish.

"Hmph! There's nothing for us to discuss. We serve different masters and we belong to different factions." Roguemist wanted nothing to do with the newcomer.

"Listen to yourself. We're both demons, are we not? You've seen how obstinate Forefather Stonefiend is. If you continue to follow him, you're bound to meet an untimely demise. I was ordered by my forefather to contact our fellow demons. It's time for us to set aside our differences and work together. That human youth isn't to be underestimated."

The voice was earnest.

Roguemist's voice raised an octave. "Are you trying to create tension within the yin demons? Do you think I won't alert Forefather Stonefiend to your presence now and have him take your life?"

"Haha, don't try to scare me," the voice responded lazily. "That's not going to work, anyway. Firstly, you won't say so if you're going to do that. Secondly, Forefather Stonefiend hasn't broken out of the seal yet. It'll take too much effort to kill me. It's just not worth it. Thirdly, I have feet. Even if I can't win in a fight with him, I can always run."

Seemingly resigned, Roguemist growled, "Don't even think about turning me against Forefather Stonefiend. Yin demons don't betray our own kind!"

He didn't waver at all.

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

Chapter 2160: Collusion Between Tribes

The voice seemed to have anticipated Roguemist's reaction. He clucked his tongue. "Tsk, I'm not telling you to be a traitor. I'm just saying we should work together. Forefather Stonefiend doesn't know how difficult the situation in human domain is for us, but mine does.

"The Great Formation of Heavenly Soul Confinement must never be activated. Otherwise, we'll be trapped as easy prey. The humans may not be able to kill us just yet, but they're getting stronger at an impressive speed. As we make our comeback, there's no telling if their ancient heritage will reappear as well."

Roguemist fell silent.

He had to admit the shadow demon's judgement was more objective than that of Forefather Stonefiend's. The forefather had been continuously trapped in the seal, preventing him from detecting the changes happening in the human domain.

Moreover, Stonefiend was on the arrogant side. He didn't take the human race seriously.

Deep down, he'd never recognized their defeat as a loss to the human race, but as a loss due to their unfamiliarity with the Divine Abyss Continent, leading them to employ the wrong strategy and falling for human trickery.

Therefore, Stonefiend had always considered the humans with contempt. He believed that demons would be able to sweep through the human domain once they recovered to their peak.

However, since Roguemist's awakening and breaking free of his seal, he'd witnessed the rise in power of the overall domain.

Humans were progressing at an abnormal speed.

That told him that the heavenly law was still keeping a careful balance between things. Demons weren't the only ones making a comeback. The Divine Abyss Continent was changing as well.

Although the shadow demon was more objective, Roguemist was a member of the yin demon tribe. He couldn't possibly get involved with shadow demons behind Stonefiend's back.

He didn't dare take liberties without the forefather's permission.

He sighed. "I'll pretend I never saw you, Daoist Serratedwind. No matter what you say, I will not do anything behind Master Stonefiend's back."

"Are you going to wait for your doom?" the voice asked coolly.

"Hmph, Master Stonefiend is going to break free of his seal soon and make his return. With a divine realm forefather leading the yin demon tribe, we'll become stronger in no time. We're not waiting for our doom. What foolish things you mouth!" Roguemist scoffed, displeased with Serratedwind's remark.

Serratedwind cackled. "Perhaps the Great Formation of Heavenly Soul Confinement will have already been reactivated by then."

"So what? Yin demons can survive on our own. Don't forget that we're masters of turning the living into the living dead, and the dead, the living."

Yin demons were experts in manipulating souls, corpses, and puppets, from which their reputation was established upon. They were the most sinister of the demon tribes.

"Haha, if yin demons are indeed as powerful as you claim, why are you so agitated because of Stonefiend's rejection? Why would you fail to notice me following you for so long until I made a sound on purpose?" Serratedwind's casually disproved Roguemist's claim.

Humiliation at being caught out turned Roguemist irate. "We walk different paths, Serratedwind. The fact that I'm being civil with you doesn't mean I'm afraid of you. You better stay away."

Serratedwind gave a bark of laughter. "You may be an elite yin demon, Roguemist, but you're growing impatient. Isn't it unwise for you to attack the young lord of Veluriyam Capital in this state?"

Roguemist's eyes turned cold as they settled on Serratedwind. "And who told you that?"

"Tsk, didn't you attack the old man from the Coiling Dragon Clan?" Serratedwind remained unfazed.

Roguemist's heart sank. He'd kept that a secret, yet the shadow demon knew of his deed. Were shadow demons truly impossible to hide from?

"Feeling guilty, aren't you?" Serratedwind snickered. "Truth be told, you may think you're being discreet, but nothing you did has escaped our notice. Consider my offer, Roguemist. I'm not asking you to betray Forefather Stonefiend. Our two tribes, though, should work together."

Roguemist felt as if there was a thorn in his side.

"What do you mean exactly?" he croaked. "If shadow demons are truly so great, why would you come to me?"

"We want to cooperate because we have a need for you, naturally. Otherwise, why else would I be here? I'm not that bored." Serratedwind knew he'd gotten his fellow demon.

"Fine, what do you need?" Roguemist spat out. "But remember, I may be working with you, but I'll never defect to your tribe. I'll never betray Forefather Stonefiend."

"Hahaha, don't worry. We're all demons here. We're on the same side. There's no such thing as betraying anyone. That's such an ugly word. Rest assured, my forefather isn't going to make you a traitor."

Serratedwind continued in an assured tone, "Like you, we shadow demons believe Veluriyam Capital is a considerable threat. Once the young lord activates the formation, we'll be separated from the main demonic army in the barren land. We'll be sheep to the slaughter then."

That hit home with Roguemist. It was what he'd been worried about. Unfortunately, he hadn't been able to convince his forefather.

He remained wary, however. "Cut the nonsense," he responded coldly. "What do you need me to do? What do I get in return?"

If there was to be a collaboration, conditions had to be decided upon.

"Come with me to meet my forefather first."

After some hesitation, Roguemist followed Serratedwind.

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Coiling Dragon Clan, Veluriyam Capital.

Ji San had gathered all the senior executives within the clan.

The patriarch's condition hadn't changed. He wasn't dead, but he hadn't come to, either. The elder who had risked his life taking Coiling Dragon back, on the other hand, had fully recovered and emerged from closed door cultivation.

Yuan Li was made a venerated elder within the family due to his contributions, granting him exceedingly high status.

Ji San had summoned everyone to officially announce Yuan Li's promotion.

Before Ji San appeared, the other senior executives went up to congratulate Elder Yuan Li. The elder, however, downplayed things in a grim tone. "What is there to congratulate? I risked my life to bring Emperor Coiling Dragon back, but he's yet to recover from his injury. It's a tragedy for our clan. There's nothing to celebrate. I'm asking for our new leader to retract his order."