

## Three Realms 2161

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

#### Chapter 2161: Life is But a Show. It's All In the Acting

As the executives chatted, Ji San emerged and walked up to them with large strides.

"It's a tragedy for our clan, Elder Yuan Li, but the clan rules are clan rules. Contributions and mistakes are to be rewarded and punished accordingly. You overcome many enemies to get our patriarch home. That's a great contribution. Clan rules dictate that you should be rewarded."

"That's right, Elder Yuan Li. You should accept the commendation."

"The young patriarch is right. These are the rules. If you decline the appointment, you'll be breaking the rules."

Everyone knew Ji San held Elder Yuan Li in high regard. Perhaps the elder would one day become Ji San's confidant. It wouldn't hurt to get on his good side now.

Talking up the elder wouldn't cost them anything. Everyone spoke up in support of Elder Yuan Li.

The elder was going to decline the offer still, but Ji San pulled a long face.

"If Elder Yuan Li refuses to accept the appointment, I'll turn over the position of patriarch to someone else then."

Everyone knew that was Ji San's stubbornness speaking and tried even harder to convince Yuan Li.

Finally, the elder accepted respectfully, "I wouldn't want to disrespect you when you value me so. I shall accept the appointment with a thick face."

Ji San's mock anger gave way to delight. "That's the spirit! Patriarch Coiling Dragon has yet to recover. The burden of the clan fell on me before I was mentally prepared. Truth be told, I'm feeling insecure. Therefore, I need your support and advice with regards to major clan businesses."

"You're too humble, young patriarch."

"That's right. The old patriarch's experience gives him an edge, but you're growing into an equally fine leader as his successor. It's no secret that you're close to young lord Jiang Chen, and that you've been gifted with two empyrean weapons. That makes us the most favored clan within Veluriyam Capital. With the young lord's support and a talented young patriarch, our clan will continue to prosper. Wouldn't everyone say so?"

"That's right. The young patriarch will bring a new energy into our clan!"

A change of leadership meant a shift in the political landscape.

Perhaps some of the more senior elders weren't entirely convinced with Ji San, considering him too young and inexperienced to be the patriarch, but everyone knew a coup wasn't an option despite their grievances.

Ji San was always going to be the patriarch after Emperor Coiling Dragon retired. There was no other candidate. The fact that Ji San was Jiang Chen's sworn brother was reason enough.

No one dared covet the position.

Therefore, the smartest decision was to support Ji San in becoming the patriarch in name as well as power, and to win over the new patriarch's approval so as to not be replaced. Everyone could tell that following Ji San would be the most beneficial path.

Ji San was so close to Jiang Chen that the young lord had gifted him two empyrean treasures without batting an eye. There would definitely be more in the future.

Truth be told, the young man might make an even better patriarch than Emperor Coiling Dragon.

After all, he'd surpassed the old patriarch in cultivation despite his youth, and he had a personal connection to Jiang Chen. Who else was a better candidate?

During this time, Ji San had gradually gotten used to being the patriarch. The compliments didn't cause even a ripple in his heart. Nevertheless, he put on a pleased smile, acting as if he greatly enjoyed the praise.

The world was a stage, and one had to be a good actor in order to survive.

Ji San had taken Jiang Chen's warning to heart. He had to play his role to avoid alerting their enemies.

He knocked on the arm of a chair. "We're all talking about young lord Jiang Chen. To be honest with you, becoming his brother may be the greatest achievement of my life. Now that my brother has encountered a problem, I can't possibly stand by and do nothing, can I now?"

"Of course not! The young patriarch should shoulder some of the young lord's burden in order to demonstrate the Coiling Dragon Clan's value. Only then will our clan's status in Veluriyam Capital continue to rise."

"That's right, young patriarch. It'll be best if we can help the young lord."

Ji San nodded. "I know that, but do any of you have any suggestion as to how we can help him? The human domain hasn't been peaceful lately. There are attacks taking place all around the domain. The Coiling Dragon Clan may be decent in our strength, but we aren't good enough to quell the unrest. Our very own patriarch was attacked when he travelled around outside."

The elders fell silent.

They weren't willing to respond to the attacks. It was too risky. They didn't have the strength for it.

"It's said that young lord Jiang Chen has been repairing the Great Formation of Heavenly Soul Confinement, young patriarch," an elder spoke up. "Perhaps we can supply him with some spirit stones."

"Agreed. That's one way to make some contribution. Suppressing the unrest is a high-risk but low-return task. If we succeed, it won't necessarily be considered a great achievement. If we fail, we'll be considered more trouble than we're worth."

“Yes, it’s better that we do something to help with the formation.”

Ji San frowned and pondered without a word.

Elder Yuan Li smiled and broke the silence. “This subordinate knows a thing or two about formations, young patriarch. If possible, I’m willing to take a delivery of spirit stones and a few of my formation experts to assist the young lord. We may be of some help.”

Ji San’s eyes lit up. “You’re a formation master, Elder Yuan Li?”

“I wouldn’t call myself a master,” Yuan Li said with a smile. “However, I do have some experience.”

Ji San didn’t immediately respond. After a moment of deliberation, he asked, “What do you think, everyone?”

“Elder Yuan Li is skilled in formations. This may be our clan’s chance to prove ourselves to the young lord!”

“Well said! Elder Yuan Li will be improving our clan’s outlook.”

“This subordinate volunteers to go with them, young patriarch. Although I can’t help with the formation, I can stand guard on the outskirts and ward off incoming harassment. That’s a way to contribute as well!”

“That’s the way to go.”

Ji San was delighted. “I’m delighted to see all of you eager to contribute to our clan. The clan and I myself owe the young lord a great deal of debt. It’s time for us to repay him. Elder Yuan Li, take your team and some spirit stones to young lord Jiang Chen and await his orders.

“Elder He Gang, take some people with you to guard the formation for the young lord.”

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#### **Chapter 2162: Traces of Demons**

Repairs of the formation node in Ninesuns Sky Sect territory had entered the latter phase. With the experience gained in the previous phase, things went very smoothly.

Jiang Chen was about to get to work for the day when he received the news that the Coiling Dragon Clan had sent a team, led by Venerated Elder Yuan Li, to deliver spirit stones. He masked his reaction and smiled. “Ji Ole Third knows just what I need.”

He took a group of men to meet them.

Elder Yuan Li had brought a team of Coiling Dragon cultivators with him. The spirit stones they carried were laid on the outskirts. The stones might be meager in the grand scheme of the activation process, but they were a great fortune for the clan.

“This subordinate is Yuan Li of the Coiling Dragon Clan. Greetings to young lord Jiang Chen.”

“Greetings to young lord Jiang Chen.”

Many of the Coiling Dragon Clan had seen Jiang Chen before. At the time, the young man hadn't risen in power and had been but a regular guest to the clan. They were thus familiar and felt a connection to him. Upon meeting him again, they found him to be personable. Moreover, Jiang Chen and their young patriarch were brothers.

Jiang Chen waved a hand casually. "No need for formalities. We're all well-acquainted with each other here. I've seen all of you before. It's not the first time we've met either, Elder Yuan Li, is it?"

"In the early days, I often saw the young lord in the clan's manor," the elder said respectfully. "At that time, the young lord was still an aspiring young genius. After all these years, you've become the leader of the human race. I greatly admire you for your achievement."

"You're too kind. I simply encountered some opportunities and were able to seize them. You're all Ji Ole Third's men. That makes you my own people. I hear that you're not just here to deliver the stones, but also to help study the formation. Is that right?"

"This subordinate and a few other cultivators from the clan know a thing or two about formations," Elder Yuan Li hurried out. "Therefore, I daringly came to ask for an opportunity to study under the young lord, hoping to gain some more knowledge."

"Alright, I need all the talent I can get. Many things have to be considered in order to reactivate the Great Formation of Heavenly Soul Confinement. I can't possibly do it all myself. I need your help to facilitate the success and create a shield for the human race."

"I'll happily serve the young lord and the human race," the elder said with deference.

"Then I'll take you to a formation senior. Learn what you can under his command. It'll be an invaluable experience."

Elder Yuan Li nodded. He and his team followed a guide to Venerated Skysoarer.

Jiang Chen turned his attention to another group from the clan. Their leader, He Gang, was a man of few words. He'd been silent the whole time.

He Gang's face flushed red with excitement when Jiang Chen turned to him, but he only managed to say "Greetings, young lord Jiang Chen."

"He Gang, isn't it? I recognize you."

He Gang nodded earnestly. "I... I... the young patriarch sent me here to help."

"I've been informed. Take your people to patrol the parameters of the formation." Jiang Chen warned, "Remember not to stray too far."

It was good that they'd like to help, but if they drifted too far away and were targeted, it'd be troublesome.

Jiang Chen didn't actually expect them to offer substantial help. They could be his eyes on the ground, though. If anything happened, one more person was one more voice to sound the alert.

He Gang was a straightforward man. He followed Jiang Chen's instructions without thinking too much.

The young lord's expression turned grim when he returned to the tent.

He opened his hand to materialize the Great Veluriyam Torch. As Divine Veluriyam had said, the torch could detect demonic bloodlines and expose demons.

Jiang Chen had been keeping the torch hidden on him. He'd tried it earlier and indeed found many interesting things about Elder Yuan Li.

A thoughtful smile tugged at his lips.

"The demons are certainly getting bold. They dare pull a trick on me so openly? How reckless of them." After some consideration, Jiang Chen nodded to himself and walked out of the tent.

He contacted Xia Tianze in secret and told him to be on guard. At the same time, he sent a message to the four sacred beasts with a secret method, asking them to leave Veluriyam Palace discreetly and come to him.

Then, he sent a message to the other two formation nodes through the Goldbiter Rats and told the cultivators stationed there to keep an eye out. They weren't to be distracted no matter what happened. They had to protect the nodes.

He also warned them of the tricks that the demons might pull.

The demons' endless tricks were almost impossible to guard against. Honored Master P'eng, Mad Fiend, and their other two companions were from the ancient times. They'd had their share of encounters with demons and so knew a thing or two about the race.

Yu Gong, Lan Tianhao and their team, however, lacked the experience of fighting demons. It'd be asking too much for them to deal with the intruders should any demons attack.

The best way to go about this was for them to ignore whatever was happening and focus on defending the formation node.

The Goldbiter Rats enabled Jiang Chen to keep in contact with the two other nodes. That gave him a great edge.

Within a secret hideout between the Ninesuns Sky Sect and Veluriyam Capital, a few figures emerged in the dark. Among them was a specter-like figure, Roguemist. Another eerie looking shape was Serratewind from the shadow demon tribe.

There were a few more demon cultivators who were dressed similarly to Serratewind. It was clear that they were of his kind.

Serratewind cackled and flipped his hand. A message transmitted in a way only demons knew landed on his palm.

The others looked at him expectantly.

"Any updates, Brother Serratewind?"

Serratewind smiled knowingly. "Good. Everything is falling into place. Daoist Jadeface has infiltrated our enemies and gotten close to Jiang Chen. Our opportunity has come, everyone!"

A one-eyed demon asked cautiously, "We can't allow ourselves to be careless. Jiang Chen is surrounded by many powerful beings. How many divine cultivators are with him at the moment?"

"According to Daoist Jadenface, there's only one mysterious divine formation master," said Serratewind. "There's no other gods around."

"That can't be. Jiang Chen isn't that careless." The one-eyed demon wasn't convinced.

Roguemist scoffed. "I don't know this Daoist Jadenface, Daoist Serratewind. Is his information truly reliable? How did he get close to Jiang Chen? Don't underestimate the young human. He's a cunning one. We don't want to fall for his trickery."

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#### **Chapter 2163: Plan of Attack**

All demons shared the common characteristics of being egotistical and vain beings, intolerant of any outside doubt in themselves. This feeling was redoubled when it came to their demonic comrades.

Roguemist's words elicited a cackle from Serratewind. "Daoist Roguemist, why don't you know who Daoist Jadenface is?"

"Why do you ask me that?" Roguemist darkened.

Serratewind cackled. "You attacked that old leader of Coiling Dragon, but intentionally let one of his subordinate elders live. What did you mean by that? Didn't you intend to send him back so that he could act as your sleeper agent as a living dead?"

Roguemist wasn't particularly upset that his conspiracy came to light. Serratewind had followed him for quite a while, after all.

"What does that have to do with Jadenface?"

"A lot, actually! We took the opportunity to pull a little trick as well. Elder Yuan Chi is Daoist Jadenface in disguise." Serratewind's laughter pierced the ear, causing Roguemist to furrow his brow in displeasure.

He felt rather humiliated.

The initiative of the yin demons meant that the shadow demons shouldn't have interfered. At least, that was the case according to unspoken demonic rules.

The latter's brazen flaunting of their racial understandings was frankly insulting.

Alas, he had to continue in his miserable fellows' company. The only thing he could do to vent was snicker, "You shadow demons are certainly cunning."

Serratewind cackled once more, having obviously taken it as a compliment.

"Alright, why put so much stock in our kindred differences? We are allies."

Roguemist snickered. "Allies, I see. But as your ally, I must remind you not to underestimate Jiang Chen's own wits."

“Hmph! You may be afraid of human wits, but we shadow demons have never been. Don’t worry. We will achieve concrete results once we make a move.” Serratewind was supremely confident.

“Are you sure?” Roguemist questioned in a low voice. “Your activity may mean the exposure of all of us!”

“Why would we shadow demons be afraid of showing ourselves? We can disappear into nothingness under the midday sun. You yin demons aren’t too shabby, either. Aren’t you masters of assuming the dead’s identities?” Serratewind’s voice was harsh to the ear, but his words rang true.

Neither kind of demon had much problem with being found.

“Plus, as long as we can destroy this formation node, they won’t be able to restart the Great Formation of Heavenly Soul Confinement anymore. What can the humans do then? When our great armies break through the seal on the other side, we will be able to rejoin them. The human domain will be our oyster. What do we have to be afraid of?”

Serratewind’s goal was clear and practical.

He intended to destroy the formation’s foundations, rendering the formation impossible to reactivate – or at least hinder the speed at which its repairers worked.

Effective and to the point.

That didn’t mean Roguemist wanted to risk his hide along with him though. In his opinion, the plan was a good one, but extremely difficult to execute.

“Do you not agree with me, Roguemist?” Serratewind declared angrily.

“Your idea is wonderful, but are you sure that you can actually destroy that formation? Aren’t you shadow demons masters of assassination and sneak attacks? Why are you focusing on destroying the formation instead of killing Jiang Chen?” Roguemist voiced his own question.

Serratewind laughed. “Jiang Chen? That kid is capable, but the human domain’s biggest obstacle is that formation. He comes in a distant second. If Jiang Chen has no formation up his sleeve, isn’t his head in the bag for us? If our operation is a success, we can just turn around and take him out too.”

Roguemist snickered. “You’re ignoring all the gods under his command, then?”

“Gods? How absurd. They’re all initial level greenhorns. Our brave warriors – yes, even demonic demigods like us – have nothing to be afraid of. Moreover, there are three nodes in the formation. He has deployed all his divine servants in the open to one of them, and hidden a few more near another. Those should be the sacred beasts! Therefore, he won’t have many more forces at his command.”

Serratewind knew much more about Jiang Chen than Roguemist did.

“Are you sure,” Roguemist mused, “that the guardians at the second node are the sacred beasts?”

“That’s an elementary deduction. If he put all the gods under his command at one node, he can’t possibly be leaving the other ones unprotected, can he? Where else is he going to get gods from? Does he have bean soldiers to call upon?”

Roguemist found that he had nothing to say in disagreement.

Neither demon was capable of taking the factor of the Six Palaces of Heritage into account - an important one which was coincidentally fully beyond their comprehension.

"Tell me, what do I have to do?" His mental obstacles cleared away, Roguemist found himself tempted by the prospect.

"Easy, very easy. Send as many ghouls and puppets to the two protected nodes to create a disturbance," chuckled Serratewind.

"So nothing at all, then?" Roguemist frowned with displeasure.

"We shadow demons will take care of it. We're adept at assassination and sneaking, are we not?"

Serratewind had a very thick skin. He could rattle off a shameless statement like that with ease.

Roguemist looked rather shifty. "You've certainly got everything plotted out. This place is largely unprotected against your opportunism, while you're sending me to die against a bunch of gods?"

"How can you say we're sending you to die? You're only controlling some ghouls and corpses, aren't you? I'm not asking you to charge in yourself. Really, we shadow demons have no talent for that, and we're really undermanned right now. Otherwise, we wouldn't trouble you with that either." For once, Serratewind was being honest.

Roguemist still wasn't very happy. "What will I get out of it? If you manage to take out that Jiang Chen, he's sure to have a lot of treasure. How would I know you haven't excluded me from a share in the spoils if I'm so far away?"

Demons were unscrupulous pragmatists to the last. They often schemed against each other in their machinations to get ahead.

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#### **Chapter 2164: Mobbed By Ghouls**

Roguemist deeply doubted whether Serratewind had any moral character to speak of.

The shadow demon harrumphed. "Fellow daoist, I have no reply to that. Where's the basic trust between demon and demon?"

Roguemist rolled his eyes until only the whites showed. He completely ignored the entreaty, because no such thing existed in the first place.

"Okay, alright. We will absolutely not split up the spoils until you come. All of us will get an equal share per head – you'll certainly get what you deserve."

Rogewind snickered. "No way! I'm not putting in any less work than you. Why should I get only a small sliver?"

"What do you want, then?" Serratewind sneered.

"Simple. Split it into two parts and I'll take one of them," Roguemist demanded.



“Sure,” Serratewind agreed with surprising readiness.

Roguemist’s eyes moved. “Don’t play word games with me,” he declared impassively. “Two equal parts.”

Serratewind instantly colored. “Your joke isn’t funny, Roguemist. Two equal parts? We shadow demons can only have half, while you get the other half all to yourself? Shouldn’t you consider your present situation before you say something so embarrassing?”

Roguemist chuckled. “Embarrassment? No demon possibly feels anything like that. I don’t understand your question.”

“Well, you should have basic morals, should you not? Even a demon shouldn’t be that shameless,” Serratewind retorted angrily.

“Okay, then you propose a different way.” Roguemist knew that it was quite improbable he would actually be able to get half. He had merely haggled aggressively in order to get a better deal.

“Twenty percent. That’s my bottom line,” Serratewind stated.

“No! A third. That’s mine.”

“A quarter, and that’s final. Enough prattle, Roguemist. I’ve half a mind to end your involvement already,” Serratewind declared with a ferocious aura.

Roguemist let out a sinister cackle. “Deal!”

Serratewind tossed his comrade a vicious glare. “You’re a good haggler. I hope you work just as hard as you barter.”

Roguemist shrugged. “Oh, you’ll see soon.”

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The past few days, Jiang Chen’s work on the node had proceeded with straightforward smoothness. No disturbances came in from the outside. All was peaceful and calm.

Everything was getting better, it seemed.

“There’s only another week before we’re done repairing this node. After that, we’ll head for the next one. When all three nodes are fixed, the process of reactivation will begin. I’m confident that we are on the path to success!”

Jiang Chen was in high spirits.

“Indeed,” smiled Skysoarer. “The foundations of the great formation remain, and reactivating the formation is no distant dream. Once the minutiae are repaired, I estimate that we’re nearly guaranteed to achieve our goal.”

There was mass cheering from the crowd. The joyous news excited and inspired all who heard it.

The pressure of the demonic invasion had bore down like a mountain upon everyone’s chest. The formation’s reactivation would mean the barbaric demons would be barred from entering the human domain by a natural barrier.

This was no guarantee of eternal peace, but their homeland would be spared from the brunt of the most vicious attacks in the war. There would be no repeat of the ancient calamity.

“For the next node, all of you will participate as well. I won’t assign too much work to each of you, but you must be part of the effort.”

Jiang Chen looked expectantly at the formation masters who had been chosen.

Under Venerated Skysoarer’s tutelage, these students had improved a great deal.

They were exhilarated to hear that they would be able to personally help with fixing the legendary formation. Elder Yuan Chi was especially delighted.

Jiang Chen didn’t pay the elder too much mind. He treated the elder as an ordinary formation master.

As they conversed, a panting cultivator approached. “Young lord,” he reported with a dark expression. “Fresh news from one of the other nodes. Many ghouls and corpses are congregating toward it.”

“Ghouls? What?” Jiang Chen demanded with a black face.

“Reportedly, they seem to have crawled out from their coffins. They’re walking corpses controlled by some sort of mystical art. These cultivators – casualties of the Myriad Domain’s various sects – have considerably more strength than they did in life.”

“What?” Jiang Chen was astonished. “Are you sure that they’re Myriad Domain casualties?”

“That’s what I was told, young lord. These people died when the Eternal Celestial Capital and the Great Scarlet Mid Region invaded. There are older dead, of course, but they were uniformly summoned forth.”

A summoning of the dead?

Yin demons flickered into Jiang Chen’s mind.

One of the ten varieties of demons, yin demons specialized in summoning and reanimating the dead as well as refining and controlling various puppets. They were a force to be reckoned with through their minions.

Yin demons weren’t particularly fearsome in a brawl. Their bloodlines didn’t provide them with supernatural power. However, their sinister abilities made them fearsome in their own right.

Most people preferred encountering demons who were fierce brawlers rather than ominous ritualists like these.

“Send out my orders,” Jiang Chen called out. “Tell the cultivators defending the node not to panic. Organize their men and clean up these evil spirits. If they can’t, they must hold the node fast, or else I’ll go there and cut off their heads myself.”

“Yes, sir!”

After issuing his command, Jiang Chen remained seriously worried.

“Why not send some reinforcements, young lord?” Venerated Skysoarer couldn’t resist asking.

“We don’t have many experts here,” frowned Jiang Chen. “If we send some from here to there, what will we defend this node with?”

Venerated Skysoarer sighed. “I suppose you’re right, young lord. Why not send out a call to the Upper Eight Regions’ sects? Gather up all available empyrean cultivators and send them in.”

The human domain had some empyrean cultivators of its own, but Jiang Chen hadn’t bothered to make use of them.

“No. A single god is better than ten empyrean cultivators. They have so many gods there! They’ll be fine. Some evil spirits and undead won’t be able to do much harm. They were only Myriad Domain cultivators in life, so they won’t be high level.” Jiang Chen seemed to be reassuring himself.

“But they’ll be made a lot stronger by their conversion!” Venerated Skysoarer reminded, apparently happy to rub salt in the wound.

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#### **Chapter 2165: A Dire Situation**

The formation node within the Myriad Domain was under Lan Tianhao and Yu Gong’s charge. They were both dependable men. That was why Jiang Chen had entrusted them to keep everything under control.

Of course, he’d also ordered the cultivators there to work with Lan Tianhao and Yu Gong.

The Myriad Domain’s strength had grown dramatically over the years. The most impressive faction among all was the Regal Pill Palace. As Jiang Chen’s home faction, it’d grown to the point that it could rival the Upper Eight Regions.

With Jiang Chen’s help, Palace Head Dan Chi had soared into empyrean realm. Elder Yun Nie and Mu Gaoqi had improved substantially as well.

Mu Gaoqi, especially, had tapped into the full potential of his innate wood constitution and made astounding progress in his cultivation. He’d almost caught up with their palace head.

The Regal Pill Palace would not be at others’ mercy like it’d been before.

The army of ghouls spanned the vast land, many of whom were familiar faces from the Myriad Domain. No one had expected to see them again in such a way.

Myriad’s cultivators were furious. Whoever was controlling the spirits and corpses had desecrated their domain!

However, they were equally reluctant to eliminate the enemy.

Lan Tianhao and Yu Gong knew the head of the Regal Pill Palace was close to Jiang Chen. They therefore invited him to the meeting.

“This must be demons’ doing, Palace Head Dan Chi. Do we stay to defend our post, or do we take the initiative to strike? I want to hear from someone of the domain.”

Dan Chi cared about their old bonds, but he cared more about the greater good. He cast his eyes at the ghouls and boomed, "If these spirits are going to damage the foundation of the formation, they must be eliminated."

"I admire your clarity, Palace Head. We won't pull back once the young gives the order to attack the spirits. My apologies for hurting the feelings of your people then."

Dan Chi sighed. "You can't be blamed. The one responsible is the demon controlling them."

Their conversation was interrupted by a giant golden rat emerging from underground.

A Goldbiter Rat! It wasn't the first time Lan Tian Hao and Yu Gong had seen one. They smiled at it. "Wonderful, the young lord has instructions for us."

Dan Chi had known about the Goldbiter Rats even earlier, so he wasn't surprised by its appearance.

"Listen up, this is the yin demons' doing," the rat relayed bluntly. "It's a foul trick to manipulate dead spirits and corpses. The ghouls will be much more powerful than they were when they were alive. Do not underestimate them. No matter if you move out to strike them down or not, the formation node must be protected, or the young lord will have your heads."

Lan Tianhao smacked his own head with a wry smile. "It seems that the young lord worries we won't be able to protect the formation. Do you have the confidence to keep it safe, my brothers?"

"There are so many divine cultivators on our side," said Xu Yigu. "It'll be much too humiliating if we can't even protect a formation. We mustn't embarrass the young lord."

"That's right. These are just ghouls. We'll send any random two divine cultivators and kill them all. There's nothing to fear."

"Don't underestimate our enemies, everyone. It isn't difficult for gods to take out the ghouls, but who knows if the one manipulating the spirits is a demon forefather? If it is, then possibly two gods won't be enough."

That sent a chill down everyone's spine. They were still reeling from their last encounter with a demon forefather.

They'd put in great forces to deal with Lightford. But in the end, it'd been the divine sacred beasts and Jiang Chen's golden bell that finally took Lightford down.

Their contribution had been pitiful.

If a demon at Lightford's level did come, the smart thing for them to do was to defend their post rather than attacking recklessly.

"I believe it's better to be cautious," said Lan Tianhao. "Let's get into position. The demigods on the fringes will lead the empyrean cultivators to eliminate ghouls that get near us. Stay within the circle of defense. Don't stray far."

"That's how we'll do it!" agreed Yu Gong.

He'd chosen to be conservative as well. It was better to not achieve anything substantial here than to make a mistake.

The situation at the other formation node was similar. Honored Master P'eng and the other seniors though, had much more experience in dealing with demons.

The ghouls posed no threat to them. They didn't even pay much attention to the spirits. They kept Jiang Chen's instructions in mind and focused on defending the formation node.

They only took out the ghouls that came close.

Their numbers were few compared to the other node, but the task was much less challenging to them, both mentally and physically.

Roguemist roamed between the two nodes, commanding countless ghouls. His mental energy quickly depleted. If he hadn't coerced Serratewind into giving him some pills to replenish his energy, he wouldn't have been able to hang on.

However, he became more confident after testing the waters.

"It seems that that bastard was right. There are fewer divine beings here, but their defensive power and skills are greater than the cultivators at the other node. These must be the sacred beasts. The human cultivators are like scaredy cats in comparison. It's obvious that they haven't been through a proper battle."

Roguemist's judgement was quite exact. It gave him a great sense of achievement to play the gods like a fiddle, given he was a demigod.

"Serratewind, I've done what I can," muttered Roguemist. "If you fail, the the shadow demon reputation is quite undeserved."

He was worried since he'd gone behind Forefather Stonefiend's back. What if the forefather knew? Would he be punished?

He couldn't be certain. He hoped he'd done the right thing. Only then might he avoid the forefather's punishment.

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At the formation node within the Ninesuns Sky Sect, Jiang Chen and the others were entering the last phase of repairing this section formation. It seems that the harassment against the two other nodes affected their mood. Even the young lord looked agitated. Although he spent more time repairing the node every day, his efficiency seemed to be dropping.

"Elder Yuan Li" noted the changes.

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

#### **Chapter 2166: The Arrow Is Fit to the String**

Not far from there, Serratewind and several of his comrades were gathered together.

“Brothers,” the demon declared in a low voice. “Daoist Jadeface has been keeping me updated on the goings-on. Clearly, the attacks on the other two nodes have affected the human’s judgment. He’s become impatient and irritable. He’s trying to speed up the repairs, but he is much less effective than before. Our chance has come!”

“Tell us what to do, Brother Serratewind. Let’s do him in!”

“Hehe, of course we will. Before that though, we need to carefully analyze the situation. There’s a divine realm formation master under Jiang Chen’s service who’s probably a capable combatant. But since he’s a formation master, he’s not going to be that strong.

“We demons can take on a human god as demigods alone. Since there are five of us here, two will be responsible for that formation master. Two more will be their backup, in case more gods are hidden in the wings. The final one will launch a surprise attack in concert with Daoist Jadeface. It is imperative that we succeed on our first attempt. Are you confident in doing your jobs?” Ferocity filled Serratewind’s eyes.

There were only five demons outside. Even if one added Jadeface to their number, that was only six. And yet, that handful was daring enough to face the humans’ leader head on, creating mischief deep within human territory. This was the perfect illustration of how much more ruthless demons were as a group.

The four other demons traded a look. Their demonic eyes glowed with bloodlust.

“F\*ck this, doing this’ll be a big accomplishment for us. If we can kill that twerp Jiang Chen in the process, we’ll strike it rich too.”

“Daoist Serratewind, let’s get to it. Give us our orders.”

As the obvious leader, Serratewind cackled. “Good. We shadow demons didn’t earn much credit back in the ancient war and we’ve been endlessly berated for it. If we manage this heist, the honor will reflect upon our forefather as well. He will surely reward us handsomely when he breaks free.”

“Yes. We lay down our lives in service of the forefather!”

“Hurry up, Daoist Serratewind. Time waits for no demon.”

“Alright, then. Serratemorus, Serrateblood, you two deal with that divine realm formation master. No need to kill him, just hold him up.”

“Yes,” acknowledged the two shadow demons named.

“Serratemoon, Serratecloud, you two stay in the wings. If any other gods appear, cut them off.”

The other two demons nodded and grunted as well.

“Daoist Jadeface and I will perform a two-pronged attack. With some luck, we should be able to succeed instantly.” Serratewind grinned, clearly unwilling to pass up this most vital role to the others.

The rest of the demons weren’t going to disagree. Serratewind was indeed the strongest among them, which meant he had the best chance.

Furthermore, he was their leader as well. They had no reason to disobey.

"It's settled, then. Get ready and we'll sneak in. Remember, we're shadow demons. Don't lose face for our tribe!"

Shadow demons were mysterious and clandestine. It was difficult to see them even in broad daylight. They were so adept at hiding themselves that no other kind of demons compared when it came to assassination and sneak attacks.

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Jiang Chen and his subordinates were embroiled in repairing the formation still. They toiled in utmost earnest, apparently intent on finishing all their work as soon as they could.

'Elder Yuan Chi' was a hard worker. He diligently helped Jiang Chen wherever needed.

"Young lord, are demons really responsible for the other two attacks?" the elder seemed to be looking for something to talk about in an attempt to earn the young lord's favor.

Jiang Chen laughed. "That should be the case, but I trust Lan Tianhao and the others. Don't worry, Yuan Chi. We'll be fine here."

"Of course, of course," Yuan Chi laughed as well. "With you here, young lord, what demonic remnants would dare make trouble?"

Jiang Chen smiled. "You're certainly a good talker. Demons aren't as weak as you think. If they knew I had no one here, they very well might come."

Yuan Chi paled. "We have so many people here, young lord. What makes you say that?"

"Ah, you don't understand. Our numbers mean nothing in a fight with them. It depends entirely on how many gods there are on either side. The two other nodes have many gods stationed there, so they're much safer."

"Venerated Skysoarer is a god, is he not? And so are you, young lord. I hear that sacred beasts accompany you as well. I'm confident that the demons won't try to provoke you."

"Ah, the sacred beasts have their own jobs. Where else would I get enough people to defend the other two nodes otherwise?" Jiang Chen sighed. "But I won't let any demons who make a pass at this place leave so easily."

Yuan Chi's emotions flickered, but he continued with his flattery. "Indeed, young lord. Your righteousness reigns above any evil."

Jiang Chen burst into laughter once more. "Your words resemble Ji Ole Third's in their sweetness."

Yuan Chi offered a simpering smile. "I'm only telling the truth. Look at how many changes there've been in the human domain since the young lord has appeared. Isn't it your great work that has brought this place to its current state? Fortune has decreed it so, and no amount of envy will make things otherwise."

The disguised elder was happier and happier as he went on. He could feel his comrades slowly infiltrating the base. They were fewer than ten miles from the edge of the node.

When Daoist Serratewind gave the other, the battle would begin. He would only need to attack the formation in tandem with his comrades to destroy the formation utterly.

They were on the cusp of success – in fact, he could already taste it. His flattery hadn't been in vain, since he had been able to confirm that the sacred beasts were indeed elsewhere.

That meant there were only two gods here. There was no way they would be able to stop the incoming shadow demon warriors.

An especially malevolent thought flashed across Yuan Chi's mind. If he attacked Jiang Chen from where he was now, he had at least a fifty percent chance of success.

This was very tempting, since slaying Jiang Chen was more effective than destroying any formation. The human domain had no one else who understood it.

If he was dead, the formation was as good as useless. Even if anyone else tried to study it, they would need several decades before they would be able to complete their studies on the subject.

The demons would long have arrived then.

Yuan Chi's heart was incredibly conflicted.

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

#### **Chapter 2167: Turning the Tables**

Jiang Chen sighed softly. "Elder Yuan Chi." His voice was so low that he seemed to be talking to himself. "Do you really think righteousness can overcome all evil?"

The elder blinked. "Of course," he remarked offhandedly. "Heaven and earth distinguish right from wrong. Evil never triumphs. Why wouldn't the former triumph over the latter?"

The young man nodded. "I suppose you're right. Why then, do evildoers come like moths to a flame?"

Elder Yuan Chi blinked. It felt like something was in his throat. "Young lord," he choked out. "Are you talking about those evil spirits attacking the nodes?"

"Those evil spirits are only demonic puppets," exhaled Jiang Chen. "They are not the evildoers I am talking about. Actual demons, Elder Yuan Chi... but shouldn't you know that better than me?"

The elder's entire body shook. His body was paralyzed by utter fear, a feeling that also showed in his eyes.

A single thought filled his mind. He had been found out!

This wasn't good!

He wanted to spring into an attack, but his reflexes were too slow.

When his body finally reacted, a golden bell had already appeared at his back. It slammed down upon him, enveloping him squarely within.



Yuan Chi felt the weight of several mountains bear down upon him. He was entirely immobile no matter how much he struggled.

“What crime have I committed, young lord Jiang Chen, that you should treat me thus?” he shouted.

“What crime have you committed? Is there any need to ask? You were the one who told me that my righteousness would triumph over evil. Why weren’t you on alert then?” Jiang Chen’s tone was cool. “I don’t care who you are, but I do have to thank you for bringing your comrades. I’m going to go play with them for a bit.”

Elder Yuan Chi – or rather, Jadeface – felt his heart sink. This was very bad indeed. His shadow demon allies had infiltrated nearly to where the node was located.

But Jiang Chen had been clearly aware of their actions from the start. It could be said that they had walked into a trap. How laughable their previous confidence in victory had been! They had thought the leader of humanity a fool.

It was more than clear by now that they were the fools.

Anxious and frantic, Jadeface desperately wanted to contact his allies, but the golden bell upon him prevented him from moving at all.

It was at this time that Jiang Chen leapt into the sky, tossing something aloft. The heavens were illuminated with virtuous brilliance, spreading a blinding radiance into every corner down beneath. It was the Great Veluriyam Torch!

Its light revealed all evil within its range of influence.

Under the light of the torch, Serratewind and the others were forced to appear in their true forms.

The sacred beasts appeared from thin air, locking down the space in every direction. Xia Tianze didn’t even have to involve himself; Serratewind and the other demons were already cornered rats.

Serratewind instantly noticed the problem when the Great Veluriyam Torch’s light appeared. “Not good,” he yelped. “We’ve been had!”

He remembered Roguemist’s warning not to underestimate Jiang Chen.

How unfortunate that that demon had spoken true. A demon that he didn’t think much of normally had been right for once.

Shadow demons excelled at concealment and sneak attacks. They had a reputation for being an inexorable threat because of that.

When their natural talents were hindered, their strength was already effectively halved. There were no shadows for them to hide in under the light of the torch.

The five demigod demons felt the how dire of a situation they were in. They gathered together, keeping their backs upon each other’s as they scanned their surroundings. Their eyes were fierce and their stances resolute.

The one-eyed demon, Serrateblood, spat angrily. “Daoist Serratewind, did that Jadeface get found out?”

Serratewind was extremely confused. He didn't know what was happening. "It's useless saying that now. Our enemy already knew we were going to come, and he set up his forces in wait for us."

"This is a trap!"

"Daoist Serratewind, didn't Daoist Jadeface tell us that the sacred beasts were elsewhere? What crap has he fed us?"

The shadow demon demigods were uniformly furious. They felt they been sorely wronged by their comrade.

If Jadeface hadn't sworn up and down that Jiang Chen only had a divine realm formation master nearby, they wouldn't have been nearly so reckless.

Serratewind cursed to himself. Though Jadeface had provided incorrect information, he had been the one who'd decided on the strategy. He had thought nothing of its foolhardiness at the time, but the trouble he was in finally tipped him off to the venture's risk.

Wildness flashed across his eyes. "Are you lot afraid?" he called out. "Even if there's an obstacle in front of us, do we shadow demons not have the courage to fight to the death?"

The other demons respected Serratewind a great deal. Their blood rose up at his words. "We'll give it all we've got!"

"Yes! Why should we brave demons be scared of a few beasts?"

"Hmph, how could these so-called sacred beasts be stronger than us demons?"

"Kill them all!"

Having decided to fight to the last, fighting spirit erupted from their bones. They darted at the sacred beasts in streams of shadow.

The Vermilion Bird chuckled. "A few old demigod demons dare flaunt their strength before us?" it called out to its allies. "Friends, shall we show them the meaning of pain?"

Sweeping its wings as it finished, the Vermilion Bird painted the air all about them with a crimson inferno. The very clouds seemed to be burning up.

The four sacred beasts were far stronger than shadow demons in terms of bloodline strength. Only the celestial demons could remotely compare. Shadow demons were far inferior.

Aside from their natural ferocity, these shadow demons had no advantage whatsoever.

Before they could even approach the sea of fire, they were already nearly melted away by the burning vermilion flames.

Panicked, they attempted an emergency landing that was interrupted by a draconic roar.

A flash of lightning heralded the arrival of a terrifying claw that grabbed a shadow demon right out of the air.

A ripping sound was heard; the hapless victim was torn to bloody shreds in the next instant.

## Sovereign of the Three Realms (WN)

### **Chapter 2168: Struggles of a Trapped Beas**

Shadow demons didn't have the strongest physical bodies among the ten demon tribes. Compared to other races though, their bodies were still superior.

However, the claw still easily tore the shadow demon apart like he was made of paper.

"Serratecloud!"

The other four demons cried out in reaction, shellshocked and eyes widened to the point that they bulged out of their skulls. Although demons were a ruthless bunch, they cared greatly about their peers in the same tribe.

Their companion's death tore into their hearts. Eyes bloodshot and hearts filled with grief, they immediately reached an understanding and charged at the giant claw as one.

Revenge was of utmost priority!

The claw belonged to Long Xiaoxuan. After ascending to divinity and consuming a piece of Amaranthine Clouddew Fruit, the dragon had been making progress at an amazing speed, gaining new insights every day.

His had soared to the point where he could rival the Vermilion Bird.

In terms of offensive power, even the Black Tortoise, who had earned its fame long ago, paled in comparison.

If the shadow demons had been gods, they might have been able to take on the dragon, but sadly, they were mere demigods.

A demigod demon was comparable to a divine human cultivator, but they had the misfortune to be faced with the sacred beasts, whose bloodlines were even more powerful.

A demigod sacred beast could rival a divine human cultivator as well.

As a result, the divine beasts' higher cultivation allowed them to dominate the shadow demons. The demons' advantage over humans meant nothing.

Long Xiaoxuan wasn't intimidated by the four demigod enemies. In fact, he manifested his scaled body and soared through the sky, making circles in the air at tremendous speed.

As he moved, shadows emerged to isolate the area.

The Vermilion Bird cackled and exclaimed in the ancient beast language, "Leave some of them for us, Brother Long!"

However, Long Xiaoxuan wasn't going to pull his punches once he activated his domain. The terrifying force continued to compress the space.

The four shadow demons were also exceedingly fast. They rushed away from the domain and tried to attack the dragon.

While their speed could rival the dragon's, their overall strength fell short. It was impossible for them to hurt the dragon within his domain.

The Black Tortoise was feeling left out. It emerged from the side, bringing with it strands of rising mist that chilled the bones as if they'd blasted straight from hell.

The tortoise had deployed its killing move, the Black Tortoise Festering Gas.

Dealing with the dragon was already difficult enough for the four shadow demons. The tortoise made things even worse. The cold mist was a thorn in their backs. Though it was broad daylight, an unexplainable chill travelled down their spines.

At this moment, a blast of Vermilion Bird skyfire roiled over and swept one of the demons away.

The fire was intensely powerful. The demon shrieked with pain as he burned. He couldn't put out the fire no matter how hard he struggled.

In the span of a breath, the fire burst into countless fire balls. The demon had exploded!

Another dead.

The deaths of their companions terrified the remaining three shadow demons. They'd fought in countless battles. They'd always been the ones slaughtering their enemies.

Even when their numbers were lower, the demons usually had the upper hand and were the ones on the offense.

Very rarely had they been so completely suppressed and ended up at the mercy of others.

Besides, shadow demons were experts in stealth and sneak attacks. They were assassins who relied on the surprise factor. Frontal assault wasn't their forte.

Serrateblood, the one-eyed cultivator, and Serratemorus, a scowling demon with an impassive expression, exchanged a mutual glance and yelled, "Brother Serratewind, we'll cover you! Flee and find the forefather!"

The unkempt Serratewind growled, "Do you take me as someone who would abandon my comrades?"

Serrateblood exclaimed, "One of us has to escape. If we all die here, who's going to welcome the forefather when he breaks through the seal? Who's going to tell him about what's happened to us?"

"You're our leader, Serratewind. Cut the crap and go! Stop wasting time!"

They were speaking in the demons' tongue. Assuming that no one would understand, they talked candidly.

Noting that Serratewind still hadn't moved, Serrateblood cursed, "I consider you our boss, Serratewind. Stop being a chicken now!"

"I'll occupy the true dragon. You take on the old tortoise, Serratemorus. Whether you can break out of the bird's defense is on you, Serratewind. Your brothers can only do so much for you!"

Serrateblood bawled out his commands. His body glowed a terrifying crimson red as he used a demon's forbidden method.

A voice interjected, "Be on guard, Brother Long and the rest of you. The one-eyed demon and the expressionless demon are going to use their forbidden methods. They may be looking to take you down at the cost of their own lives. Be careful. Brother Vermilion, their leader is going to escape in your direction. Keep an eye out."

It was naturally Jiang Chen.

After overcoming Jadeface, he had been observing the battle without joining in. He trusted that the three true spirits would be able to defeat the demigod demons.

He knew shadow demons weren't adept at open brawls. They would pose no threat to the three sacred beasts.

Knowing that the demons were going to use their secret methods though, he felt the need to warn his companions. Although the methods might not be able to kill them, they could be hurt if they weren't careful.

Long Xiaoxuan took the warning to heart. He continued to strengthen his domain and drew seals with his five claws, summoning countless bolts of lightning of different colors.

It was the Five Thunders Dragon Seal, a technique of the true dragons.

Dragons knew a great variety of techniques, making it impossible to predict their moves.

The one-eyed demon's body was an eerie red after using the forbidden method. He charged at Long Xiaoxuan like a ticking bomb.

The dragon scoffed and created an invisible wall by manipulating his dragon domain, trapping the demon.

No matter how much Serrateblood struggled, he couldn't break free.

Long Xiaoxuan didn't want to waste his time on the demon. He commanded the countless bolts of lightning to hit the demon at the same time.

Boom!

Serrateblood's body exploded and was torn to pieces!

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

#### **Chapter 2169: End of the Fighting**

At the same time, Serratemorus was trying to launch a suicide attack on the Black Tortoise with his forbidden method.

However, even Lightford hadn't been able to break through the tortoise's defense, so how would a demigod shadow demon be able to do so? Serratemorus was enveloped by the Black Tortoise Festering Gas as soon as he deployed the forbidden method.

Meanwhile, Serratewind had spotted an opening. In a flash, he soared to a high vantage point in the sky.

The Vermilion Bird had long been waiting for him. It stared at the demon with a smirk.

Serratewind matched its expression and, with a turn of his body, shook out countless strange dots from his body like lice. They turned into an infinite amount of shadows that scattered in all directions.

It was a shadow demon technique, shadow clones!

Even the Vermilion Bird was caught by surprise.

Jiang Chen sprang to action.

“Do you still want to run?” he exclaimed as he activated the Great Veluriyam Torch. Although he had yet to fully finish refining the torch, the item’s power was impressive enough.

The torch blazed harshly like a blinding sun. No matter how fast Serratewind was, he couldn’t outrun the torch’s radiance, the light of which hit him in a single second.

Serratewind was immediately exposed, standing out like a sore thumb in the sky. He would transform himself into a small particle if he could, but he couldn’t.

Enraged that it’d been disoriented by the shadow clones, the Vermilion Bird shrieked and cast its skyfire at the shadow demon. Waves of flame blocked the demon’s escape route.

“Let’s see where you’ll run to now!”

Serratewind panicked and attempted to scramble in another direction. And yet, the skyfire was no regular technique. It could be manipulated with tremendous flexibility.

As soon as the demon changed direction, the skyfire followed.

Like a caged animal, he charged around looking for a way out. No matter how he tried, he couldn’t outrun the skyfire.

From above Serratewind, Jiang Chen cast his Evil Golden Eye and paralyzed the demon in an instant.

Jiang Chen’s cultivation was higher than Serratewind’s, and his consciousness mighty. The shadow demon screeched to a halt. His mind shuddered as a mysterious power restrained it.

Another sacred beast emerged from the sky at this point. It was the Astral White Tiger. He was still one step away from ascending to divinity, and therefore wasn’t powerful enough to stop shadow demons from running away. In an open fight, however, the tiger was no lesser than the demons.

He roared fearsomely as he charged at Serratewind.

“Behave, Little White,” snapped Jiang Chen. “He’s mine.”

If it’d been the Vermilion Bird or the other divine beasts who’d given the command, the white tiger wouldn’t have listened. He would’ve continued its momentum and taken down the shadow demon.

However, neither him nor the other sacred beasts would ignore Jiang Chen’s words.

Embarrassed, the white tiger slowed to a halt and mumbled unhappily, "They've all got some kills, young master Chen. I'm the only one who's left out. This is unfair."

Jiang Chen chuckled. "Don't be impatient. This is just an appetizer before the main course that is the demonic war. Why the hurry?"

With a scowl, the white tiger yawned lazily and curled up his tail, dropping his fierce expression. Like a lazy cat, he curled up in a corner like he wanted to take a nap.

The Vermilion Bird shook its head and smiled wryly.

It'd gained its fame as a sacred beast since the ancient times, whereas Little White had yet to ascend to divinity. The tiger was a young cub in its eyes. It wouldn't get angry at the tiger.

The bird was surprised when it saw Jiang Chen trapping Serratewind with his Evil Golden Eye. The young lord was a human cultivator, yet able to dominate a demon with his mind! Such things happened only once in a blue moon even back in the ancient times!

The bird had no words to describe the young man.

As the human strengthened his consciousness, conviction drained from Serratewind's face. In its place was confusion and obliviousness.

The demon had been thoroughly suppressed by Jiang Chen's consciousness.

"Down you go!"

The battle concluded with one demon torn to bits by Long Xiaoxuan's claws, one turned to ashes by the Vermilion Bird, one killed by the Black Tortoise Festering Gas, one decimated by the dragon's Five Thunders Dragon Seal, and Serratewind taken captive.

Little White hadn't done much of anything other than making an appearance. However, Jiang Chen didn't expect much from the tiger to when he had yet to ascend to divinity.

In addition, Jadeface had already become a captive before the fighting.

Xia Tianze had been watching the battle play out from the dark. There were a couple reasons why he'd refrained from making a move.

Firstly, the battle didn't warrant his involvement. Secondly, he worried that a demon forefather was lurking somewhere. Thus, he remained hidden in case a demon forefather attacked.

Not it seemed that his worries were unfounded. He was stunned by the way the battle panned out.

The young lord and his companions exceeded his expectations. He'd thought that as a young man who'd just received Veluriyam's heritage, Jiang Chen's cultivation and strength must be greatly lacking.

Surprisingly, it turned out that not only was Jiang Chen tremendously powerful, so were the divine sacred beasts.

With some reluctance, Xia Tianze had to admit that Jiang Chen and his companions would be able to handle a regular demon forefather even without him.

Only a top level demon forefather would pose a threat to them.

Knowing that Elder Yuan Li was a demon, members of the Coiling Dragon faction dropped to their knees in terror and plead for mercy from Jiang Chen.

Elder He Gang came in a hurry as well. His face paled when he received the message, fearing for their clan's future.

The Coiling Dragon faction should've been the young lord's most steadfast support, yet there was a demon in their ranks. It had managed to get to a formation node and almost wreaked havoc!

Their crime was serious if Jiang Chen was to hold them responsible.

"He Gang and the rest of you, do get up. I'm not going to blame those who aren't responsible. Elder Yuan Li must have been killed in the previous attack. The shadow demon was one who infiltrated your clan. Your young patriarch and I foresaw everything. We were simply trying to lure the demons out. What should you be blamed for?"

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

#### **Chapter 2170: Raising Morale**

He Gang and the others relaxed when they realized what Jiang Chen was saying. The young lord had planned for all of this to happen!

Exhaling in relief, he bowed to Jiang Chen respectfully. "Your stratagems were perfect, young lord. You've led the demons to their own demise - a feat worthy of great admiration!"

Though He Gang was a generally straightforward man, he couldn't resist praising the youth who led humanity. Moreover, all of his words were genuinely from the heart.

Jiang Chen chuckled. "He Gang, have you been infected by the fake Elder Yuan Chi? Why are you flattering me too?"

He Gang chuckled with some embarrassment.

Towering above his subjects, Jiang Chen remained impassive. His calmness soothed those under his leadership as well.

"My friends, if the demons weren't afraid of us, why would they be sneaking around like this? There's no need to worry. The demons' main forces are sealed away in the desolate wildlands. They can't break their seals just yet, and the ones that linger in the human domain are lone fugitives and minor threats that were sealed away in the ancient past. As long as our formation is successfully restarted, the majority of the demons will be shut out from our homeland. Their stranded comrades will be sitting ducks then!"

Propaganda was necessary after a victory.

Jiang Chen knew that the human domain feared demons as a whole still. It was a natural instinct for its inhabitants.



This battle was a perfect example to showcase to everyone that demons were far from invincible. They had their own weaknesses, and could be defeated and slain.

Killing the shadow demons was secondary to the morale boost the achievement granted. The whole human domain would soon know that demons were beatable. And in fact, the young lord of the domain had a plethora of methods with which to beat them.

Why did Jiang Chen himself strike down Serratewind at the end? The Vermilion Bird had been guaranteed the victory already. He hadn't done so in order to steal the bird's glory, but rather to show the other cultivators that he could take out demons trivially just as well.

Bolstering the human domain's confidence was just as important as raw strength in the war against demonkind.

The strategy had been a wise one. The cultivators present were uniformly exuberant. They had witnessed a fight against demons with their own eyes.

Though the demons had been fierce, they'd hardly been invincible!

Venerated Skysoarer hadn't fought either. As a formation master, he instinctively leaned toward protecting the node. Regardless of the excitement outside, the formation mattered more to him. However, he did nod to himself approvingly when he saw Jiang Chen's goals realized.

Humanity's new leader lived up to his name and title in methodology and charisma.

Given time, the young man would become remarkable indeed. It wasn't impossible for him to catch up to his ancient forebears!

In fact, Jiang Chen possessed a few characteristics the ancients had lacked. The scene where he'd used his Evil Golden Eye to incapacitate Serratewind had been especially amazing.

Both Venerated Skysoarer and Xia Tianze had marveled at the sight.

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Jadeface and Serratewind were imprisoned in different areas.

Jiang Chen perpetually kept up pressure on Serratewind's consciousness, but the demon fiercely maintained resistance despite the haze in his mind. He wouldn't let the young man control his consciousness.

The young man was in no rush. He was a god now, and his consciousness stronger than ever before. Controlling Serratewind would be trivial.

He had merely refrained from doing so out of a worry that the demon would commit suicide.

Otherwise, he would have searched the consciousness long ago.

"You shadow demons are daring indeed. That a few demon demigods would dare transgress here... do you think we humans are worthless?" Jiang Chen sighed.

"Hmph. Human weakness is common knowledge in the heavenly planes. Without those sacred beasts on your side, you would already be our prisoner!"

Evidently, Serratewind wasn't impressed with how he had lost.

Jiang Chen chuckled rather than grow angry. "I really like your idiocy, you know that?" he smiled coolly.

"No doubt you're proud that you won the day. Say what you like, but we demons will never acknowledge humans."

Jiang Chen shrugged. "Don't misunderstand," he curled his lips. "I would rather demons perpetually look down on humans than anything else."

Serratewind blinked. He gazed at Jiang Chen with some confusion, intent on seeing whether there was some hidden conspiracy.

Jiang Chen smiled smoothly. "So long as you continue to underestimate humanity, you'll keep making stupid mistakes and leap to your death. If you overestimated us - not that we'd lose either way - wouldn't we have a harder time of things?"

Serratewind reddened, then paled with concern. Closer examination revealed this to be the case. The demons had never assigned any worth to humans, but had also lost to them time after time.

For example, they'd been supremely confident in their plans before carrying it out. Now, they were the humans' prisoners.

Serratewind grew a little perplexed. Was underestimating the humans really the right thing to do? Even if humans were a pile of shit, wouldn't stepping upon them be noisome?

They were hardly as base as that. Had the demons' misjudgment already cost them in terms of macro strategy?

Alas, no amount of reflection would help now.

"Tell me what other conspiracies you demons are brewing up. If you do, I'll give you a quick death." Darkening, Jiang Chen attempted interrogation.

"Hahaha, are you trying to extract information from a demon warrior? Are you sure you're not joking?" Serratewind stuck out his head, his disregard for his own life obvious.

"Are you going to resist me to the last?" retorted Jiang Chen with a sneer.

Serratewind responded with a disdainful cackle. He didn't want to dignify the question with a proper response, instead choosing to taunt the human.

Jiang Chen laughed viciously. "Fine, you asked for it. I'd like to see whether demons really are as fearless as they say in the face of death."

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After about two hours, the young lord walked out from the secret room.

A hint of fatigue colored his face. There was a tinge of respect there, too. Admittedly, demons were firm beyond belief.

No matter what he did, Serratewind's mouth wouldn't budge. He tried to search the demon's consciousness as a last resort, but Serratewind immediately committed suicide upon noticing that this was the case. He would rather die than sell out his kind!