

## Three Realms 2171

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

#### Chapter 2171: Turning the Plot On the Creator

Their steely resolve and peerless fortitude were the demons' most fearsome traits. They were so fierce that they didn't fear death. Any race for which that was true was tough to take on.

Thankfully, Jiang Chen hadn't come out of the venture entirely fruitless. He'd obtained a few snippets of useful information in the short time he'd been inside Serratewind's mind.

"Forefather Evilshadow, Roguemist of the yin demons, Forefather Stonefiend..."

These names rose to the top of his mind. They had drifted through Serratewind's consciousness in a fragmented sort of way.

Alas, the demon had noticed before Jiang Chen could manage to connect these clues together. He had committed suicide on the spot.

Unfortunately, Jadeface was the only remaining angle of attack.

The demon glanced at Jiang Chen with some suspicion when he saw the human. Clearly, he found it strange that he would lose to someone as young as this. He still couldn't comprehend it.

"And what are you looking at?" Jiang Chen returned a cold look.

"They're all dead, huh?" Jadeface sighed. Regret and self-blame was written all over his face.

"They all died because of you. You were hoping for that, no doubt," mocked Jiang Chen.

Agitation entered Jadeface's eyes. He glared hatred at the young man opposite him. "Feeling proud of yourself, aren't you?"

"And why shouldn't I be? I'm perfectly happy that you walked into my trap. It was pretty fun to kill some demons, and I'm getting useful information out of it too."

Jadeface colored as he processed what Jiang Chen had said. He gazed at the human with considerable fixation, then cackled very suddenly. "Are you trying to trick me? Getting useful information? Do you take us demons to be soft enough to let you do that? Dream on! Jiang Chen, if you're trying to use me as your opening, don't waste your time."

Jiang Chen chuckled. "You mean to tell me to just kill you outright, hmm?"

"I'm glad you know it," Jadeface affirmed.

"A nice prospect for you, but I couldn't possibly bear to see that happen. I'm even going to take you to see Forefather Evilshadow, so that I can personally tell him that you helped me lure in Serratewind and his stupid cronies. I'd like to show Evilshadow how useless his worthless subordinates really are."

Jiang Chen's tone was perfectly even, but Jadeface grew deathly pale as he went on.

He gawked at Jiang Chen with astonishment and distrust. How could the young man know about Forefather Evilshadow? Had Serratewind and the others failed to withstand torture and given up the information?

If that was the case, the forefather was in definite danger!

If the forefather could break free of his seal, these humans and the sacred beasts wouldn't be able to touch him. Alas, he was still trapped within his prison. If these humans and their pets used all their strength to attack him...

Jiang Chen sneered as he tossed Jedeface a scornful look. "Don't bother thinking of committing suicide. Don't you want to say goodbye to Forefather Evilshadow? Hahaha!"

After delivering those final words, he left without hesitation.

Jedeface's mind was in utter disarray. He was more contrite than ever. If he hadn't made an error in judgment, this reckless attack wouldn't have happened.

Serratewind and the others wouldn't have died, nor would the forefather's existence have been found out.

In other words, he would be the one most responsible for Forefather Evilshadow's death.

Jiang Chen left the secret room. "Look alive," he called out, "make sure security is tight! Demons can get in through the smallest of gaps. Don't talk to him or be deceived, do you hear me?"

"Yes, sir!" The young man returned to his tent to find a grinning Xia Tianze waiting. "Hey, Old Brother Xia, you can't just come in or out without saying hi."

Xia Tianze rolled his eyes. "I came a long time ago, but you weren't here. I can't exactly stand around outside. What if someone sees me?"

"So what if someone does? It's not like you can't be seen." Jiang Chen curled his lips.

"Heh, I don't want to show myself just yet. I'm the trump card, so I can only appear last," Xia Tianze declared with some swagger.

Jiang Chen was a little repulsed by his narcissism. "Was how I handled the battle acceptable?" he smiled.

"I suppose it passed," Xia Tianze replied honestly. "They were only a few demon demigods. Nothing to be proud of."

"You look like you have another plan up your sleeve though," he followed up in close scrutiny.

"Why makes you say that?" chuckled Jiang Chen.

"There's no way you talked to Jedeface just to set him off," Xia Tianze smiled coolly.

"What are you getting at?"

"I observe that you're going to give Jedeface an opportunity to escape. After that, you're going to follow him to Forefather Evilshadow's lair. Is that correct?"

Jiang Chen gasped in surprise. "Amazing, Old Brother Xia," he gaped at Xia Tianze. "Your brain works just as well as it did two hundred thousand years ago!"

"Obviously," Xia Tianze puffed out his chest. "You think your little sleight of hand can deceive me? I was one of the wisest strategists under the Great Divine Veluriyam, once upon a time!"

Jiang Chen chuckled. "Alright. How likely do you think my plan'll work?"

"What's your own opinion on that?"

The young man shrugged. "I'm not sure myself. Maybe fifty percent? If Jadeface notices, I can just kill him."

"Brutal." Xia Tianze gave him a thumbs-up. "As you should be when it comes to fighting demons. There is no room for mercy with them."

Indeed, Jiang Chen had never felt a hint of compassion for any demon. He knew that it would be utterly wasted on them. Demons only knew murder and robbery!

"Young master Chen, if you want to increase the likelihood of your trick working, you need to fake a few more details to send Jadeface into a panic. If he can't think straight, he'll be more likely to fall for the fabrication." This was Xia Tianze's advice.

"Please, teach me what I should do," Jiang Chen replied humbly.

Chuckling, Xia Tianze whispered a few words in Jiang Chen's ear. The young man's eyes slowly lit up.

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Jadeface burned with anxiety. A strong desire to live prevented him from committing suicide. Instead, he devoted his efforts on breaking the restriction upon his consciousness.

If he could do that, he had hope of getting out to warn Forefather Evilshadow. That would be redemption enough for his mistakes, even if he was to die afterward.

He couldn't throw away his life before he redeemed himself.

In the first few days, his efforts were made in vain. The restriction on his consciousness remained fast no matter how hard he struck it.

On the fifth day, he was pleased to find that it had loosened ever so slightly.

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#### **Chapter 2172: Jadeface Escapes**

The astonishing discovery shocked Jadeface. For a time, he could hardly believe his own senses.

He tested the looseness in the restriction; it was indeed there. Not enough for him to escape from it, but it was a chance at life.

Late at night, when everyone else was asleep, Jadeface threw all of his efforts at the restriction. He used every last ounce of his strength.

“That Jiang Chen told me he was going to bring me to see Forefather Evilshadow,” he encouraged himself. “If he hasn’t come to get me yet, he hasn’t moved against the forefather yet. He’s twice as clever as he looks... that means he’s not done preparing. Maybe he lacks the manpower needed to do so.”

Jadeface had his own ideas.

Since Jiang Chen only had a certain amount of people on hand, defense of the three nodes meant that he couldn’t possibly send out a force worthy of attacking Forefather Evilshadow.

This gave Jadeface more motivation.

“I have to inform the forefather before Jiang Chen gets to him. Even if I die, I will die at the forefather’s side. I am no traitor!” he gritted his teeth.

As he grunted against his binds, his consciousness heard murmuring outside the secret room.

“We have to be careful tonight. The young lord has ordered us to bring this person to the next node tomorrow. Let us not err in the final moments of our responsibility.”

“Heh, the repairs on this node are already complete. I don’t want to stay here any longer anyways. The young lord and the others have headed to the next one already. The only reason we’re here is so we can hand off to those who are coming here.”

“Indeed. I hear that Divines Lan and Yu are coming to take charge of this place.”

“The change of guard is tomorrow. We must remain vigilant tonight. Apparently the yin demons are on the prowl. Their mastery over evil spirits make them formidable foes.”

“Damn, I’d rather fight literally any other kind of demon than those yin demons and their walking corpses. The mere thought of it makes my hair stand on end.”

Jadeface managed to hear some snippets of the two men’s conversation.

He realized what had happened. No wonder the restriction on my consciousness loosened. If Jiang Chen left this place and went to another node, why wouldn’t it? That kid is clever, but he can overlook things too.

The demon was overjoyed by this discovery.

For Jiang Chen, repairing and reactivating the formation was his top priority. Jadeface was a mere prisoner who didn’t have much worth, so it was understandable that he didn’t occupy the young man’s thoughts.

“Ah, Jiang Chen, if I manage to escape and bring back Forefather Evilshadow, I will repay this humiliation tenfold!”

Jadeface gnashed his teeth. He’d never lost so completely before. The death of several of his shadow demon comrades was his fault.

The fires of hatred seared his mind, filling it with a heady desire for revenge. He’d thought his disguise as Elder Yuan Chi perfect, but it had all been part of that kid’s trap!

As a superb actor and disguiser, Jadeface was especially ashamed. He had lost completely in their duel of acting skills. More than anything, he wanted vengeance!

The thought motivated him to crash against the restriction with his all.

The second day, the change of guard happened just as predicted. Jadeface was locked into a prison cart, escorted by several demigods.

He looked around for a moment: no gods in sight.

This time however, he was more careful. He suspected the sacred beasts were waiting in the wings, such that he didn't dare cast out his consciousness to look for them.

His consciousness had gradually struggled free of the restriction to a certain extent already. He had some autonomy of his own.

He only needed another half-day before he could break free.

This remaining time was key. Jadeface was especially careful, feigning resignation to his fate by closing his eyes and making a glum face.

Now was the time where acting mattered.

In the afternoon, the demon finally struggled free of the last strand of the energies that imprisoned him. He was as free as a bird!

If he fled now, even if there were sacred beasts waiting in the wings, they wouldn't necessarily be able to catch him. Shadow demons specialized in concealment and escape among all their kind, after all.

However, choosing to do so would only unnecessarily alert the enemy. There would be countermeasures taken despite his success.

Jadeface decided to leave a decoy to avoid suspicion.

He deployed his abilities in secret. Shadow demons were geniuses in this department, and he managed to turn a piece of wood into the likeness of his body very quickly. His actual body flew through the air as an ungraspable shadow.

He could barely believe that he was free once more. In fact, a lingering, rather absurd thought popped into his head.

"That Jiang Chen couldn't be up to no good again, could he? Is someone following me?"

Given this doubt, he didn't leave the scene immediately. Instead, he stayed nearby for quite a while.

Absolute silence greeted him.

"Am I thinking too much?" Jadeface wondered.

He was so badly frightened that everything seemed dubious. He was happy to be alive, but what if Jiang Chen was letting him go for some ulterior motive?

Almost an hour later, he still couldn't sense any pursuers.

As a shadow demon, Jadeface was also an expert in countering any would-be trackers.

After repeatedly ascertaining that he was being followed by no one, the demon exhaled with relief. "It seems I've been unnecessarily suspicious. Having fallen for a trap once before, this is only understandable. The change of guard will take one or two days, and I'll be long gone when they discover my ruse. Hmm, they will need even more time to prepare a sortie against Forefather Evilshadow in their haste. I have at least a week available to me."

Jadeface began to get excited.

The shadow demons' natural wile prevented him from getting too uppity. He made several feints as he traveled to ensure that there was no tail behind him.

The lack of his discoveries relieved him as time went on.

Jiang Chen was supposed to be repairing the formation at one of the other nodes, anyway. What time did he have to play with a prisoner like this?

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

#### **Chapter 2173: Meeting Mang Qi for the Third Time**

Jiang Chen, Venerated Skysoarer, and the rest of the workers had arrived at the Myriad Domain node several days prior. Having completed the repairs on the one near the Ninesuns Sky Sect, they'd checked for all possible flaws before moving on.

After they garrisoned themselves at this node, Lan Tianhao and Yu Gong's men swapped places and headed towards the Ninesuns Sky Sect node.

Jiang Chen was no stranger to the node in Myriad Domain. In fact, he had first found the Great Formation of Heavenly Confinement back in the Eastern Kingdom, within the Boundless Catacombs. He had been ignorant of what the formation was exactly at the time.

The formation spanned the entirety of the Myriad Domain in the shape of a curved fan, cutting an invisible border between it and the desolate wildlands.

First, Jiang Chen visited the Eastern Kingdom.

The sixteen kingdom alliance was entirely different from before. The Precious Tree Sect had conquered it entirely, naming the new alliance after itself.

The man who led the sect was Old Man Ye Chonglou, as well as several of Jiang Chen's old acquaintances. Big man Tang Hong had received Jiang Chen's special care, growing to become the strongest among his peers. Even his old master couldn't rival him now.

Of course, the Precious Tree Sect still took orders from the Regal Pill Palace.

Regardless of that fact, the Myriad Domain had undergone a drastic change thanks to him. It had been utterly ruined after the Great Scarlet Mid Region's invasion, but the rebuilding in recent years had given it a new appearance.

The Myriad Domain of the present was every bit the equal of any Upper Eight Region.

When Jiang Chen appeared once more within the Boundless Catacombs, Mang Qi was utterly astonished.

“We meet again, Mang Qi.” Jiang Chen’s smile was filled with wisdom.

Mang Qi had been able to sense the human’s previous two visits, but this time, he’d come utterly undetected.

“You’re here, Jiang Chen.” Mang Qi’s tone was filled with wistfulness. His eyes lingered a long while upon the youth, moved with unabashed amazement.

“The first time you came here, you were only true qi realm – a weakling of weaklings. The second time, you reached sage realm after a handful years. I’d thought that miraculous enough, but all these years later... I can no longer see through your cultivation anymore.”

The beast sounded conflicted, but soon turned joyful. “Your third visit must herald some good news, yes?”

Jiang Chen smiled coolly. “The Great Formation of Heavenly Soul Confinement is within my grasp. I have readied all that’s needed to reactivate it once more.”

“Really?” Mang Qi’s eyes lit up. “Then...”

Jiang Chen waved a hand. “Hold on. Let me ask you, if you were to leave this formation...”

“I said last time that I would swear an oath to heaven and earth not to devastate the human domain ever again,” Mang Qi said. “Plus, we were only the demons’ puppets. The demons are our common enemy.”

“You might think that, but what of the others locked up by the formation? Do they all think this way?” snickered Jiang Chen.

“I don’t know,” Mang Qi sighed, “but they will surely swear the same oath when faced with the prospect of freedom.”

“An oath isn’t enough,” declared Jiang Chen. “I require your submission and obedience in the war effort against demonkind.”

Mang Qi fell silent. He couldn’t make that promise on his comrades’ behalf.

“What, do you lack the courage to fight them?” Jiang Chen sneered.

“No, we’re simply tired of being enslaved. Honestly, Jiang Chen, it’s true that the demons enslaved us to invade the human domain, but now you want to enslave us to fight the demons? We’re always stuck in the middle of a war that we don’t want to be a part of. When will these terrible days end?” Mang Qi voiced his concerns.

Jiang Chen nodded slowly.

“You have a point. Enslaving you to fight the demons is a despairing prospect for your kind. However, I guarantee that I will not treat you like cannon fodder. If you are to fight, my men and I will be right by your side. How does that sound?”

“Are you capable of making such a promise?” Mang Qi intoned in a low voice.

“You have little choice otherwise,” smiled Jiang Chen. “You’ve been trapped by this formation so long that your passions have long been worn away. Why not try a pact with me? Isn’t your greatest wish to return to your home?”

Mang Qi peered carefully at the young man.

“From what I know of you so far, you’re a trustworthy human. I will try my best to convince the others. Give me three months to do so.”

“Alright, three months it is. When that’s up, I should be done repairing all three of the formation’s nodes.”

“I’ve always placed my trust in you, Jiang Chen. I hope you won’t let me down,” Mang Qi stated seriously.

The young lord chuckled. “I’ve always been perfectly fair to everyone. I give respect to those who respect me. If you don’t trust my word alone, I can swear an oath as well. However, if you try to play any tricks, I have a hundred ways to reduce you to smithereens. I will open up an escape route in the formation for you, only for a short while.

“When the formation is completely restored, you will only be trapped once more – with no hope of escape entirely this time. The formation is being reactivated to defend against the demons. We are making some alterations to grant it the ability to attack and defend actively as well, that they might be repelled back into the desolate wildlands.”

“Well, I will certainly strive to give you a satisfactory answer!” Mang Qi was galvanized by the prospect of freedom.

He had waited for two hundred thousand years since the ancient era. And yet, three months seemed too long when the outside world beckoned.

Spending so much time in this subterranean world had taught him that nothing was more invaluable than his personal liberty.

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After making the agreement with Mang Qi, Jiang Chen returned to the second node and continued conducting the repairs there. The deterioration here was somewhat more serious than the last node he’d worked at, but the experience he had accumulated there hastened his efforts here.

After a while, Xia Tianze came to find Jiang Chen. “Jadeface has been on the run for more than a day now.” He grinned slyly. “Aren’t you going to do something about it?”

“Let him run,” Jiang Chen smiled serenely.

“Hmph! I’m not so ignorant not to know about the Great Veluriyam Lamp’s light, kid! You can track his location anytime after you’ve implanted its seal upon him.” As the Great Divine Veluriyam’s ancient lieutenant, Xia Tianze was no stranger to his old master’s treasures.



## Sovereign of the Three Realms (WN)

### **Chapter 2174: Return to Regal Pill Palace**

Jiang Chen snorted and rolled his eyes. “Why bother asking if you know my plan already?”

Xia Tianze pursed his lips. “You may not be impatient, but I am. I knew Forefather Evilshadow back in the ancient times. He isn’t a top level demon forefather, but he’s a second-tier one. If we don’t kill him while he’s still sealed, it’ll be much more challenging to take him down after he’s broken free. Moreover, if he stays hidden, it’ll be extremely difficult to go after him.”

Shadow demons weren’t the best fighters, but their masterful stealth and assassination skills had stumped many of an ancient cultivator. They rarely won open battles, but their contribution to the ancient war was undeniable.

They’d helped the demonic army by completing missions that necessitated stealth, such as assassinations and ambushes that were no less impactful than open assaults.

Countless human cultivators had fallen victim to shadow demons in the ancient war. Some had even been killed with none the wiser.

“Forefather Evilshadow killed at least six or seven of our gods in the ancient times. He didn’t often get his hands dirty, but when he did, someone would be in for it. One of Veluriyam Capital’s senior executives was targeted and ambushed by Evilshadow when he left for an outside, and he died at the demon’s hands. That was when the major factions organized a joint attack and finally sealed the demonic forefather.”

“Where was he sealed?” asked Jiang Chen.

Xia Tianze spread his palms out and admitted, “I don’t know.”

“Then why are you wasting time bringing that up?” grumbled Jiang Chen.

“Don’t you plan to locate Forefather Evilshadow through Jadedface?”

“If you know my plan already, why are you in such a hurry?” Jiang Chen chuckled. “You’re several hundred thousand years old. Don’t be impatient!”

Xia Tianze raised his hands in resignation. “Alright, I can’t win this argument. However, you have to hurry up. Once Evilshadow breaks free, he’ll be a great threat. The Great Veluriyam Torch is powerful, but you’ve yet to refine it completely, which prevents you from tapping into its full power.”

Jiang Chen didn’t argue this time. He nodded. “Don’t worry, I know what I’m doing. I can guarantee you that Jadedface won’t dare return to his forefather just yet. He’d be worried about doing more harm than good.”

“When do you plan on making a move?” asked Xia Tianze.

“If possible, after the formation is reactivated,” responded Jiang Chen.

Xia Tianze grew agitated. “Can we wait for so long? Do you really think demons will let you just reactivate the formation?”

“They don’t want me to reactivate the formation at all, which was why Serratewind and his friends came on a suicide mission.” Jiang Chen smiled. “Nonetheless, the formation can be reactivated in three months. Do you think they’ll be able to break out of their seals by then?”

“That’s a gamble,” Xia Tianze said unhappily. “What if they do?”

“Don’t fret. I know what I’m doing. As soon as I sense where Forefather Evilshadow is, I’ll deliver a most wonderful surprise. We don’t have any manpower to spare at the moment, though. The three formation nodes mustn’t be damaged.”

Xia Tianze thumped his chest. “Worry not, I’ll take care of Evilshadow. I can take down an old demon weakened by his seal.”

He wouldn’t turn down the opportunity to kick their enemy in the face when they were down.

“It’s nice of you to offer, Old Brother Xia. Just you wait. Your chance will come. We don’t want your power to go to waste, do we?”

Xia Tianze was rather pleased by the compliment.

The restoration of the formation node in the Myriad Domain wasn’t a tough task to Jiang Chen. Venerated Skysoarer had completed many of the steps for him. The young lord was only hands on with some of the more complicated details.

During the downtime, he’d visited the Regal Pill Palace a few times. After rebuilding, the sect had soared to new heights. Many new faces could be seen among the familiar ones.

They were the Regal Pill Palace’s future.

Those who’d survived the disaster that befell the palace now occupied positions of great status.

Mu Gaoqi, especially, was now the totemic figure of the palace. His natural talent rivaled that of Ji San’s. His progress had been the fastest over the years, and his innate wood constitution began to reach its potential.

It was surreal to see the palace prosper when it’d once been lay in ruins after the invasion.

The Ling sisters were delighted by Jiang Chen’s arrival and welcomed him in person.

Ling Hui’er was as friendly as ever. She hooked her arm around Jiang Chen’s and chattered ceaselessly. She’d never been one for the boundaries between men and women. She’d never understood the need to keep her distance from men.

Ling Bi’er had gotten slimmer since her return, but also become much more elegant. She was now the only one who could rival Mu Gaoqi in the Regal Pill Palace.

Jiang Chen told Ling Bi’er about the Bluesmoke Isles. She sighed.

“Bluesmoke’s imperial family was too shortsighted and greedy, which ended up being their downfall. They have no one to blame but themselves. Nevertheless, they treated me decently when I was there.”

“You’re right. From now on, the imperial family will cease to exist in Myriad Abyss, and even the Bluesmoke Isles is likely to be carved up by the ten sacred lands.”

Ling Bi’er nodded. That had been a lifetime ago. She didn’t want to look back into the past. She’d gained momentary respite after returning to the Regal Pill Palace.

“How is Huang’er, Jiang Chen?” Ling Bi’er asked faintly.

“She’s well,” Jiang Chen said with a smile. “She asks about you from time to time. You’re like a sister to her, senior sister Bi’er. You should visit her sometimes.”

Ling Bi’er nodded. “I will visit Sacred Peafowl Mountain when I’m free.”

Noting her depressed tone and lack of enthusiasm, Jiang Chen smiled and said a few words to her before leaving to seek out Mu Gaoqi.

Ling Hui’er watched Jiang Chen go and pouted when she saw how upset her sister seemed. “That was a great opportunity for you to confess to him, sister. Why didn’t you? You like him so much, but you never say anything. I don’t get you people.”

Ling Bi’er managed a smile. “Stop the nonsense, Hui’er. I...”

“Yeah yeah, there’s nothing between the two of you. If I had a stone for every time you said that, I’d be rich. You always seem so lost when you see him. This isn’t how you are usually.”

Ling Hui’er puffed out her ample chest while she scolded her sister.

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

#### **Chapter 2175: Nefarious Intentions**

Jadeface had been dithering around outside, wondering if he should go to Forefather Evilshadow. He wanted to, but he still had his doubts. What if all of this was part of Jiang Chen’s plan?

Perhaps Jiang Chen himself didn’t know where the forefather was. Otherwise, why hadn’t the human done anything yet?

Perhaps the human leader was waiting for him to reveal the forefather’s location!

However, he was the only active shadow demon at the moment. The others had gone silent in the ancient times. Jadeface had no one to turn to other than Forefather Evilshadow. He couldn’t very well turn to yin demons for help, could he?

“Wait, the yin demons!”

A bold idea flourished in his mind. He could let yin demons take the fall for him!

The malicious idea took root and flourish. The more he thought about it, the more he found the plan to be a solid one.

He’d direct Jiang Chen’s attention to Forefather Stonefiend of the yin demons. Then Stonefiend would be the one targeted!

Demons were prohibited from fighting and selling out one another, but it wasn't rare for demons to plot against their peers.

Jadeface soon found a reason to justify his behavior. He was simply going to find Roguemist. He wasn't selling anyone out.

Shadow demons were talented trackers. Jadeface found Roguemist in two days.

Roguemist had believed Serratewind's word and summoned a great number of ghouls to attack two of the formation nodes. But not only had the plan failed to be effective, more than half of his puppets had been taken out!

The resulting backlash damaged him greatly, and when he'd recovered enough to investigate what had happened, he found out that the entire shadow demon force had been wiped out!

The terrifying realization gripped him in a claw of fright.

He was fortunate to have been in charge of keeping the other two formation nodes occupied. If he'd attacked Jiang Chen with Serratewind, he would've stepped right into the human's trap.

Lingering fear deepened his dread of the human leader.

As soon as he saw Jadeface, his immediate reaction was that this was an imposter!

"Hear me out, Daoist Roguemist, I swear on the supreme god of demons that I'm not an imposter." Jadeface worried that Roguemist would just leave.

Roguemist considered Jadeface carefully and the two sensed the other's bloodline. Only after making sure that this was the real Jadeface did Roguemist relax.

However, he maintained an impassive expression. He didn't want to get too involved with shadow demons again.

"Why the cold treatment, Daoist Roguemist? We may be from different tribes, but we're all demons, aren't we?" Jadeface wore an innocent look while he spoke in a dejected tone.

Roguemist scoffed. "I warned Serratewind that your plan was too risky, but he didn't listen. Look at what happened to him. He's dead, isn't he?"

Jadeface sighed. "Stop rubbing it in. We have a chance to turn the tides, Daoist Roguemist. Don't you agree?"

Roguemist sneered. "You turn the tides yourself. Don't drag me down with you. I'm not playing this game again."

"What's this about, Daoist Roguemist? I'm not the only one who should help our race. You yin demons should make your contributions as well. Once the young man reactivates the formation, we aren't the only ones who will suffer now, are we?"

Roguemist exercised the highest degree of caution now when it came to shadow demons, like he would with humans. No matter what the shadow demon said and how he said it, Roguemist didn't believe him.

He'd made up his mind to ignore the demon and stay far, far away.

"The human domain is not to be underestimated. We shadow demons have risked and given our lives to gain insight into the domain's strength. If we let humans activate the formation, those of us left here will be trapped. You don't need me to tell you what will happen next, do you?"

Roguemist picked at his ear lazily. "Are you done? If you're done, scram!"

He wouldn't fall for any shadow demon trick again. The previous operation's failure was a stain on his record. If the forefather later found out that he'd been suckered in again, he'd pay with his life several times over!

Jadeface pouted. "Why are you being so stubborn?"

Roguemist huffed. "You shadow demons are going to bring me misfortunes of ten lifetimes. You wanna stick around? Fine, then I'll go!"

He vanished in a puff of smoke.

Jadeface sneered. He wouldn't let the yin demon go just like this. He shadowed Roguemist closely.

Noticing his tail, Roguemist had had enough with the harassment. He stopped Jadeface with a fierce expression. "Are you haunting me now? Should I send you to the underworld?"

Jadeface smiled fawningly. "We demons aren't allowed to fight each other. My companions are dead now, Daoist Roguemist. I have no one to turn to. Of course I'm going to go with you. There's strength in numbers. It's better for us to stick together than fight on our own."

"Cut that crap," Roguemist snapped. "I told you to bounce and you better do so. Don't anger me further, or I'll refine you like a ghou!"

Jadeface continued shamelessly, "You wouldn't do something so reckless. Neither of us can take the punishment for fighting each other."

Roguemist would love to squash the shadow demon. Unfortunately, even infighting was strictly prohibited, let alone killing a peer.

He tamped down his rage with effort. "You're Forefather Evilshadow's man. Your companions are dead, but you can go to your forefather. What are you following me around for?"

"I made a mistake," responded Jadeface. "I'm worried that the forefather will punish me."

Roguemist scoffed with disbelief. Suddenly, realization dawned on him. His face tightened into a scowl and his eyes blazed with fury.

"You conniving bastard, Jadeface! You just escaped from the humans. You didn't return to your forefather for fear of exposing him. But you came to me. You..."

It suddenly came to him what Jadeface was planning.

He could no longer contain his rage. He could take a little harassment, but he wasn't going to tolerate such a despicable plan!

The bastard dared let yin demons take the fall?! If humans had been watching Jadeface, Roguemist must have been spotted as well!

If he then returned to Forefather Stonefiend, he'd be unknowingly revealing his forefather's location!

Roguemist burned with fury.

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

#### **Chapter 2176: Completion of Repairs**

"Bastard! Just die! You're trying to direct the danger to me? You... even if I break our race's rules today, I will give you a good thrashing!" Roguemist was truly furious.

Despite the other demon having pointed out his intent, Jadeface tried his best to play innocent. "You wound me, fellow daoist. We shadow demons have always been masters of tracking others. Why wouldn't I know if I was being tracked?"

"What the hell do you know? If you knew anything, would you have led Serratewind and those idiots to their death? Would you be running around now like a homeless stray?" Roguemist was no fool. After seeing through Jadeface's sinister ruse, he wasn't going to trust anything else the demon said.

"How can you blemish my innocence so..."

Roguemist cut Jadeface off instantly. "Enough of that prattle," he cursed. "Either you get out of here yourself, or I'll risk punishment by cutting you down right here, right now."

The two had broken with each other entirely. The yin demon was no longer concerned with keeping up appearances.

Plus, who would know if he killed Jadeface here, far away from the rest of civilization? Most of the other demons were still in hiding, so the act couldn't possibly be exposed.

Among the shadow demons, Serratewind and his comrades had already died. This Jadeface was alone. There would be no one to persecute him for killing a lone demon.

Forefather Evilshadow was still sealed away. What could he do so far from here?

The two demons really did start fighting.

Neither shadow nor yin demons were particularly adept at brawling in person. The latter were puppeteers, while the former, assassins.

Trading blows face to face wasn't their forte.

However, Roguemist held the mental advantage. Furthermore, his ability to summon ghouls to his aid shifted the situation from a one-versus-one very quickly.

Jadeface protested when Roguemist's tactics began to tend to the more shameless side. "Roguemist, how can you ignore our race's taboo and strike at your comrade? Are you not scared of heavenly punishment?"

“That isn’t a defense a criminal should make!” Roguemist cursed. “You’re the one with ulterior motives. You wanted to draw disaster upon us yin demons. To put it nicely, you’re trying to dump your misfortune on us. To put it bluntly, you are leading our enemy right to us. Your case has no strength even before the celestial demons!”

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The node’s repairs were going quite swimmingly. It took about a month for the Myriad Domain’s work to complete. Only the final node remained. Once repairs on that were done, the reactivation could formally begin.

Jiang Chen was rather excited.

He checked up on Jadedface from time to time. As expected, the wily demon never went to where Forefather Evilshadow was.

One day, he was astonished to notice that Jadedface had found another demon. From the looks of things, it was a yin demon. This confirmed for the young lord that there was more than one kind of demon rampaging in the human domain.

He didn’t quite have time for them right now, though. As long as the demons didn’t bother him, he would rather spend his time on the formation.

Upon arriving at the third node, Jiang Chen poured himself into his work once more. Time was of the essence, and every second counted.

Another piece of good news came to him during this period. The Astral White Tiger had attained a crucial breakthrough in the Veluriyam Palace, miraculously reaching divinity after consuming the Amaranthine Clouddew Fruit.

The young man was delighted to hear that his feline companion had ascended so quickly.

Now, all four of the sacred beasts were divine realm. The four gathered bloodlines no longer had a specific weakness in combat.

Though they were far from being able to embody the heavenly dao yet, they were at least upon the right path.

After yet another month, repairs on the third node were completed.

Venerated Skysoarer felt a wave of accomplishment. “The Great Formation of Heavenly Soul Confinement has finally been restored. What a wonderful occasion... and I had much more of a part to play in it than I did back then!”

“Now that the formation has been fixed up, we’re only missing the last step.” Jiang Chen’s heart brimmed with pleasure and anticipation.

He knew that this was also the most vital step. Everything was ready, and no further error was permitted.

As such, he had to apply the utmost of caution.

Jiang Chen sent out all the Goldbiter Rats under his command into the underground around the three nodes, having them stay on the alert for any unpredicted accidents.

The rats would report back on even the smallest of movements.

The good news spread out throughout the entire human domain nearly instantly. Every sect and faction was notified, and being so, was astonished.

They all sent out their representatives to attend the inevitably grand ceremony that was to ensue. No one wanted to miss out on such a momentous event.

The time was set – it would occur the very next month, not more than a fortnight from now. The two weeks remaining to him were the final hours left to prepare.

Jiang Chen needed to sort out his thoughts as well.

Though not much more had to be done aside from a tremendous expenditure of spirit stones, there was a certain process that had to be observed.

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Jadeface and Roguemist fought for several days, a bout that ended with the flustered flight of the former.

However, Jadeface was firm on his resolution not to go to Forefather Evilshadow. Instead, he stalked after Roguemist in secret.

Roguemist knew that the other demon was following him around, but what could he do? He was a hair stronger in fighting, but Jadeface was too much of an expert at movement and concealment.

It was hard for either demon to kill the other.

When Jiang Chen's announcement that he had finished repairing the three nodes came out, the two demons heard that very day. Roguemist swore at the air.

"Old Jadeface, are you happy now? Are you proud of yourself? The humans' reactivation of the formation is what you wanted, isn't it?"

Jadeface was furious. "How is it my fault? It's clearly yours! I've been wanting to work with you, but you're the mad dog nipping at my heels!"

"Bullshit! Your ill-will is obvious, and yet you're trying to defend yourself! If you really wanted to stop the humans, you would go find Forefather Evilshadow right now. Only a forefather can stop the reactivation!"

"Hmph, my forefather hasn't freed himself from his seal yet. Why don't you go find Forefather Stonefiend, eh?" Jadeface snorted.

For a moment, neither demon was much interested in arguing any more. The prospect of the formation's return meant that they would be cut off from the demons' main force. They would be in much more trouble then.



## Sovereign of the Three Realms (WN)

### **Chapter 2177: Making Good on a Promise**

The agreed-upon hour with Mang Qi had come.

Jiang Chen arrived at the Boundless Catacombs once more, the four sacred beasts by his side.

Several thousand members of foreign races had congregated at Mang Qi's side. Jiang Chen gasped to himself as he swept his eyes across them. The demons were impressive indeed; even the cannon fodder they enslaved was incredibly numerous. They weren't weak in terms of cultivation either.

Just as Mang Qi had said all those years ago, there were at least a hundred empyrean cultivators. In fact, by his count, there were more than two hundred. More importantly, there were gods here as well!

That divine realm cultivators had been enslaved by the demons just the same was the most remarkable.

However, all the cultivators he saw had soulless eyes set in blank faces. Countless years had nearly completely worn away their wills. Only freedom could revive them now.

"Is everyone here?" asked Jiang Chen coolly.

Mang Qi looked a little embarrassed. "Not necessarily everyone." He stepped forward. "Some didn't believe me, so they didn't come out here. Everyone who's willing though, is here."

Jiang Chen's face darkened. "Alright. I'm not going to force anyone to do anything, but I see no reason to be responsible for the lives of all. You lot, register yourselves. I will issue individual identifications to all of you, without which you will not be permitted passage through the exit. Anyone violating this will be summarily cut down!"

His murderous tone showed that he was deadly serious.

There was a flurry of murmuring and motion within the crowd.

"Quiet!" Long Xiaoxuan roared. His potent draconic presence took the breath from everyone in the crowd. They were already weakened by the formation, and had no strength left to stand against a divine dragon's voice.

"Whether it was the demons or yourselves who willed it, your invasion of the human domain and crimes here are undeniable fact," Jiang Chen declared coldly. "It was already fortunate that you were simply imprisoned here rather than annihilated. Are you going to expect me, a human, to just welcome you out with a smile?"

This was certainly true. These foreigners were invaders through and through, and the humans had no reason to show them courtesy.

"Mang Qi, it seems that the three months that I gave you haven't been too productive." Jiang Chen was positively frigid by this point. "Forget about the others. We have a pact. I will release you alone."

Mang Qi paled. "No, no, Jiang Chen," he interjected hurriedly. "Everyone here is sincere about their wish to join you."

Jiang Chen smiled smoothly. "Is that so? I don't see any of that in their expressions."

Mang Qi anxiously turned around. "Friends, Jiang Chen is one of the few humans worthy of trust. If you can't put your faith in even him, then we will only be able to live out the rest of our days here. There will be no hope of you returning to your homes."

The mention of home brought some life back to the crowd's lifeless eyes.

"Jiang Chen, there were some great men among humanity in the ancient times," an elder asked with a dry voice. "Are you like them?"

Jiang Chen frowned. "I've said everything I needed to Mang Qi already. I give as much respect as I receive. If you don't try to trick me, I have no reason to let you down. Otherwise... even if I let you out, I have many ways to end you."

"Don't be stuck in your old ways, my friends," Mang Qi proclaimed loudly. "If the formation is restored and we don't take the exit, we will be stuck here for eternity."

"Don't you want your freedom back? Don't you want to go back to your homeland to see how it's doing now?" Freedom and home were the only two prospects that could elicit the remotest amount of excitement in these people.

They dared not venture any thoughts of family. After all these years, how could any relation of theirs still be alive?

Jiang Chen handed over a pile of prepared jade slips to Mang Qi.

"When the formation comes back alive, you must raise up your jade slip in hand. Anyone without one will be killed on sight! Remember this well." He had little interest in saying anything more. As soon as he left the jade slips, he departed.

Long Xiaoxuan harrumphed. "If you don't grasp your only chance at life," he glanced at the crowd with disdain. "Then you can really get ready to meet your eternal rest here."

The Vermilion Bird and the Black Tortoise shook their heads, saying nothing.

The Astral White Tiger pulled a funny face, revealing a maw of white, pointed teeth.

The departure of Jiang Chen and the four sacred beasts left Mang Qi in utter silence. He pulled on the storage ring in his hand in a daze.

"What are you standing around for, Mang Qi? Hand out the jade slips!"

Mang Qi nodded and began to do so. "Let me emphasize this. Don't think of trying to deceive this Jiang Chen. He is a genius that only comes about every hundred thousand years. Only a few years ago, he was still a cultivator of little repute, but look at him now! A god in his own right. If we behave in a two-faced way with him, simply leaving this place will mean the death of us."

"Don't worry. What's a few orders if he gives us what he wants? Better than living out the rest of our days here, no? Plus, the demons destroyed our homes and enslaved us. Even if we die in the process of fighting them, it'll have been worthwhile."

"Exactly. I wouldn't back out from a fight with the demons!"

Everyone here was indignant when it came to the demons. They had all been captured, their homes destroyed, and their families eradicated. They had been deprived of their wills and turned into puppets.

Their hatred of demonkind far exceeded any biases they had against humans. The latter were victims of the former too. They had been sealed only out of self-preservation, and if the roles were switched, would have done the same themselves. The only party at fault was the demons.

“The roaring beast near Jiang Chen just now... Was that a true dragon?”

“I think so. That roar was quite scary.”

“Not just a true dragon. The four sacred beasts were all divine realm, I think. The four sacred beasts, famous in the heavenly planes!”

“All four sacred beasts? How could that be?”

“Why, does that sound so impossible? This Jiang Chen is beyond our comprehension!”

Confronted with a very real hope at a second life, these aliens were somewhat rejuvenated. When the four sacred beasts were mentioned, they felt rather conflicted.

“If they really were the four sacred beasts, why would they be content following Jiang Chen? Is he from greater origins than they?”

“No way. The four sacred beasts are some of the noblest bloodlines in the heavenly planes. They don’t pale even when compared to demons. How could they be inferior to a human?”

“Perhaps Jiang Chen is too prominent for them to ignore? They’ve submitted to his service, maybe?”

“Not just that, I think. The four sacred beasts looked like they truly respected him.”

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

#### **Chapter 2178: The Formation Reactivates!**

All preparations were complete. Those who arrived to bear witness were instructed to stay outside. The surroundings were heavily guarded.

Jiang Chen stood high above the crowd and declared, “The formation will be reactivated today. Remember, all of you may spectate, but crossing the warning lines will be considered an attempt of sabotage no matter who you are. The consequences will be yours to bear.”

His tone was severe, making it clear that he wasn’t joking.

Everyone fell silent, as did the world around them. It was as if even the insects could sense the young lord’s solemn killing intent.

Those assigned by Jiang Chen flooded in to set up the spirit stones.

Once he activated the first mechanism, it would set off a chain reaction percolating throughout the entire formation. At that point, the rest would fall into place naturally.

He had set up an impenetrable defense at each of the formation nodes. At this critical juncture, not even the supreme god of all beings could disrupt his plan.

Whoever came stirring up trouble, Jiang Chen's vengeance would be swift and mighty.

"The time has come. Reactivate!"

Jiang Chen infused his divine power into the first mechanism. Once come back to life, the energy pulsed through the other formation veins, building upon itself like waves upon waves at a speed faster than the eye could follow. One after another, an increasing number of veins lit up, akin to lanterns in the dark.

The tremendous scene inspired thunderous applause from the crowd.

Unfazed, Jiang Chen swept his God's Eye over the area like an eagle.

At this time, an escape route opened at the center of the formation node. It would last roughly eight minutes, after which the doorway would close again, permanently.

Mang Qi at the fore, alien cultivators swarmed out of the opening. Bedraggled and dressed in tattered clothes, they raised jade slips over their heads like shields from death.

Those waving a jade slip over their heads were let out by the four sacred beasts.

Those who weren't met with their ends in a swift and uncompromising fashion. The brutal executions sent chills down many a spectator's spines.

Eight minutes wasn't long at all, but it was long enough to admit a thousand cultivators. They all looked unkempt and battered. Being sealed for two hundred thousand years had humiliatingly turned them into savages.

Fortunately, they still retained their senses. Once out, they shrank into a corner and obediently listened to instructions without protest.

"Take them to where they should be, Mang Qi," exclaimed Jiang Chen. "And don't move after you get there."

Mang Qi obediently took the cultivators to the designated location.

The reactivation of the Great Formation of Heavenly Soul Confinement threatened to move the earth and shatter the skies.

Strange phenomena cascaded, one after another.

If even the reactivation of the formation created such magnificent reactions, it was easy enough to imagine how awe-inspiring the sights must have been when it was set up for the very first time!

After a long while, the reactivation was completed!

Jiang Chen breathed out a long sigh of relief. Finally, it was done! The reactivation had gone unusually smoothly. The veins flared brightly with vigor as they came together to form a complete formation.

The formation integrated offense and defense into one system. It'd be next to impossible for the demons to destroy it.

Any two points of the formation held the same level of offensive and defensive power. Anyone without an understanding of the essence of the formation would be killed if they so much as touched it.

Success!

Venerated Skysoarer was visibly pleased. He hadn't contributed much when the formation was first set up, but he'd been deeply involved this time.

Satisfaction from seeing his work come into fruition delighted him.

Even the prideful Xia Tianze sighed in relief when he saw the formation come fully back to life. Of course, he didn't let it show. He never wanted anyone to see him when he wasn't at his dashing best.

"The reactivation is complete! I hereby announce that the human domain will no longer be the first target once the demonic army invades," Jiang Chen declared. "If demons are to enter the human domain, they'll have to traverse the entire Divine Abyss Continent to get to us. From now on, the human race is to work hard to make the final preparations for the coming war!"

"All hail the mighty young lord Jiang Chen!"

"Heavens bless the human domain!"

Thunderous cheers clearly denoted everyone's sense of relief. The formation had been around since the ancient times. Everyone knew what it meant to the domain.

The human domain was finally protected!

Cultivators from all sects and factions cried tears of joy. Even the less emotional ones had reddened eyes.

A graceful figure looked on some distance away from the crowd. A gratified smile tugged at the corner of his lips. The man had a handsome face and kind eyes. Those who knew him would've recognized him immediately. He was Emperor Peafowl, marked by his long absence.

He'd long ascended to empyrean realm, and was close to reaching advanced empyrean. He was very satisfied with the accomplishments that the Veluriam Capital of today could boast of.

He'd stayed hidden out of support for Jiang Chen's rule and authority. He didn't want to put the young man in an awkward position.

What the young man had achieved was all he could hope for.

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Further away from the formation node were Roguemist and Jadeface. They lurked in the dark, highly displeased, but also resigned and remorseful.

The formation was operational again. They couldn't do anything now. They'd wanted to disrupt the process, but they knew they'd be moths to the flame given their limited power.

Xia Tianze's voice sounded from beside Jiang Chen. "Those demons linger on the fringe, Jiang Chen. Shall we bring them here as sacrifice?"

Jiang Chen cackled and responded through transmission, "Don't be impatient. We'll have them sooner or later. I'm still waiting for them to take us to Forefather Stonefiend and Evilshadow. We need to know where those two are."

With the formation reactivated, the human domain could finally have some peace, which boosted morale greatly.

Overnight, the human domain sank into a frenzy of celebration.

Jiang Chen remained unusually calm. He knew this was but the start of their fight with demons. The Great Formation of Heavenly Soul Confinement wasn't enough to win them the coming war.

They still had a long ways to go.

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

#### **Chapter 2179: The Veluriyam Palace Establishes A Sec**

The Veluriyam Capital of today was well-manned and well-equipped.

On the second day of the formation's reactivation, Jiang Chen announced to the public his discovery of the ancient Veluriyam Palace. He would formally move into it and fully grasp its heritage.

The shocking piece of news made great waves in the human domain.

Everyone knew that the ancient Veluriyam Palace had led the human domain in the ancient past. It was the precursor to the current Veluriyam Capital.

If Jiang Chen received its heritage, would the human domain herald yet another major breakthrough?

As expected, the human leader gave out gifts to his subordinates in the city the very next day. Considering the ancient palace's stores, the items he gave out were an absolute negligible fraction.

However, they meant much more to their recipients' fortunes.

The whole city was jubilant at the occasion. The other factions in the Upper Eight Regions were green with envy; many cultivators wanted to leave their own factions and join Veluriyam Capital.

"Many factions stood at the helm of humanity in ancient times. The appearance of Veluriyam Palace only heralds its peers," came Jiang Chen's announcement.

This settled down the various inhabitants of the Upper Regions. An ancient heritage of their own was something their mouths watered about. The prospect of obtaining them was a sorely needed boost that every faction could use.

However, Jiang Chen did declare that due to the current chaos in the human domain, he would take over any ancient heritage that did arise, then choose a reasonably proximate and suitable inheritor for it.

This was mildly tyrannical, but the young man who ruled the entirety of the human domain had sufficient authority to make such a proclamation.

Moreover, Jiang Chen was very clear that he wasn't going to keep the heritage for himself. His sole objective was to ensure that the heritage wouldn't fall into wicked hands. His point of departure was the opposite of selfishness.

This was completely understandable and believable. Considering what Jiang Chen currently had access to, an ordinary heritage wouldn't be worth anything to him.

Veluriyam Palace's heritage alone was enough for him to digest for a very long time.

Moreover, the other factions in the human domain lacked the ability to hold an ancient heritage on their own. Therefore, the appearance of these heritages would potentially herald a new wave of disasters.

If Jiang Chen was responsible for doling them out, that would keep both the heritage and the people safe.

Now that the ancient Veluriyam Palace was out in the open, Jiang Chen began to restructure Veluriyam Capital. The pagoda in the city's center turned into the entrance to the palace, and every faction that had formerly belonged to Veluriyam Capital was brought beneath the banner of Veluriyam Palace – Sacred Peafowl Mountain included.

The latter had nothing to complain about.

Jiang Chen had told them already that he would take especial care of them. If Emperor Peafowl returned, he would instantly return the faction to his old friend. He prepared a large portion of gifts from Veluriyam Palace for the missing emperor as well, including a number of cultivation resources.

The young man was certainly more than considerate enough.

No faction could complain about the way he had handled the affair. Their new association with the ancient Veluriyam Palace increased their own prestige.

The pinnacle of ancient power would have been something unreachable for their entire lives otherwise. What was wrong with becoming a subsidiary faction for something so great?

Belonging to the ancient palace brought a number of benefits. Protection and resources were only part of it.

Mo Wushuang and the others immediately joined Veluriyam Palace, becoming the first generation of cultivators to do so after its reestablishment.

Jingzhong Hui, Mo Zhe, Lin Yanyu, Gouyu, Xue Tong...

Jiang Chen's old friends, students, and subordinates asked to join the palace as well. Understandably so, given their connection to its lord.

Xia Tianze was elevated to venerated elder, commanding a standing and dignity that was second only to Jiang Chen's own.

As for the gods under his command like Lan Tianhao and Yu Gong, Jiang Chen preferred to ask their opinion.

“Your time as my followers will eventually come to an end. When the circumstances are ripe, I will return your freedom to you. Still, you are my attendants at this point in time. I’d like to give you the choice to join the new Veluriyam Palace. Are you interested?”

Veluriyam Palace’s reputation of superlative strength was known far and wide by anyone who had even a passing knowledge of ancient affairs.

“Of course, milord,” Yu Gong answered instantly. “I am willing to contribute my strength to you and to the palace.”

“The same is true for us, milord.”

Who wouldn’t want to belong to the greatest sect under the heavens, given the option? Who would want to be a wandering cultivator who roamed about in beggarly homelessness?

These cultivators had never had a particularly good time in Myriad Abyss Island. None of them came from the ten sacred lands. Of course, they had eventually been imprisoned for various reasons in the Boundless Prison.

They were no stranger to inferiority.

And yet, a chance to change their fate was put right in front of them. They could join the ancient faction which had led all of mankind. Wouldn’t that give them loftier status than any member of the ten sacred lands?

What were the sacred lands? Small splinters of the ancient factions that had come from the human domain. They didn’t have a full claim on being the rightful heirs of their ancient predecessors.

The present Veluriyam Palace was another matter. Its ancient resources and heritage had been so well-preserved that it was like the faction’s second coming.

Moreover, there was no worry whatsoever about being oppressed by experts stronger than they. Aside from the head of the palace and a mysterious venerated elder, they would be the strongest ones in the faction!

If they joined now, they could very well become elders in their own right.

Veluriyam Palace would be a new home for them. A place that granted them equal standing with even the ten sacred lands’ forefathers.

All the gods that Jiang Chen had brought from Myriad Abyss knelt in unison.

The young man nodded coolly and refrained from showing excessive emotion. “Everyone deserves one chance at redemption. You followed Old Lightford because you were deceived. Now that you are members of Veluriyam Palace, you should know better than to make the same mistake. Do you understand what I’m saying?”

Each man braced himself. They all knew what the young lord was implying.

Once they joined Veluriyam Palace, betrayal would be a much more serious matter. In fact, betraying one’s sect meant death.



“As members of Veluriyam Palace, we will defend our faction’s honor to the death. May you be our witness, sect head!”

### Sovereign of the Three Realms (WN)

#### **Chapter 2180: Return of Emperor Peafowl**

The Veluriyam Palace may be established anew, but it didn't take in new disciples right away. Conditions for acceptance into the palace were exceedingly strict. Anyone unfamiliar to Jiang Chen was completely barred.

Even those he knew had to be well-tested in order to be admitted.

Of course, he was much more lenient to those who'd followed him for a long time. Old acquaintances like Pill King Lu Feng, for example, were given carte blanche.

As a new sect, the Veluriyam Palace naturally had a need for manpower.

Despite that, Jiang Chen didn't lower his standards. He preferred quality over quantity.

The men of House Yan – the three generations from Yan Wanjun to Yan Qingsang – decided to join Veluriyam Palace as well. They'd tried to rebuild House Yan in Myriad Abyss Island, but that place was too volatile for them to have an easy time.

Veluriyam Palace was a new opportunity for them, one that they were loath to miss out on. Huang'er very much agreed with their decision; Myriad Abyss would surely face further war in the future. The ten sacred lands wouldn't be able to keep their hands upon its reins for much longer.

There was no point trying to build anything in a land soon to be engulfed by war.

Elder Shun and Chu Xinghan came to Veluriyam Palace as well, of course.

There wasn't much for Jiang Chen to think about when it came to hierarchy.

All divine realm cultivators were made elders.

Demigods and advanced empyrean cultivators were reserve elders.

Any empyrean cultivator below that were enforcers, occupying the palace's middle level of management.

Below that were ordinary disciples.

This kind of grouping demanded a lot from its constituents. As an ancient sect, the Veluriyam Palace needed a high threshold. Otherwise, how was it supposed to live up to its ancient reputation?

After only a few days, everyone realized that the human domain was finally changing in a fundamental way. Present circumstances, with the so-called Upper Eight Regions at the land's forefront, was about to be demolished.

Perhaps the layout of the ancient world would be gradually restored once more!

One day, several old subordinates from Veluriyam Capital found Jiang Chen. He was astonished after hearing the reason for their coming. “Are you sure?”

“We’re not quite sure, young lord, but reports and the occasional eyewitness account match him perfectly.”

“Young lord, we’ve never found out where Emperor Peafowl went. Maybe he’s actually fine! It’s just that he’s occupied with something else, perhaps.”

“I’m not surprised if he is staying away,” Jiang Chen mused. “He’s always put others before himself.”

Others might not have understood why Emperor Peafowl didn't return, but Jiang Chen instantly understood the reason why. The older man must have wanted to keep the young genius in this position of leadership, that he would ascend ever higher.

If Peafowl returned, Sacred Peafowl Mountain’s legitimate rulership would inevitably come into dispute.

Jiang Chen knew of the emperor’s good intentions, but this was obviously no longer an issue. He had grown far faster than Emperor Peafowl could have predicted.

Therefore, there was no problem whatsoever with Peafowl’s return right now. In fact, Jiang Chen had never had a problem with it at all.

He didn’t mind at all returning Sacred Peafowl Mountain to his noble mentor and friend.

Jiang Chen smiled when he saw the others looking expectantly at him. “As long as His Majesty Peafowl still lives, I’m sure we can bring him back home. There are few worthy of respect in the human domain, and he is easily at the top of that list. I won’t forget his contributions to Sacred Peafowl Mountain or his efforts to stop the demons. Among the selfless people in this realm, he is the first!”

Everyone let out an internal breath of relief.

Young lord Jiang Chen really didn’t seem to be against Emperor Peafowl. Considering his strength and potential, that probably had never been the case.

Jiang Chen knew their hearts. Emperor Peafowl’s noble character had no doubt won their eternal respect many times over.

“As I command,” he smiled, “Sacred Peafowl Mountain’s place of rulership will remain empty until Emperor Peafowl returns.”

The group heaped praise upon him.

“Very good, milord. Emperor Peafowl has a strong connection to Sacred Peafowl Mountain. If it is so clearly missing a leader, his conscience would bring him out of hiding very quickly.”

Jiang Chen nodded. He was banking on such a mentality from his old friend.

After obtaining the young lord’s permission, these people spread the news as instructed. In fact, they embellished the details. According to them, Jiang Chen had already discovered that Emperor Peafowl still lived, and longed for his return to Sacred Peafowl Mountain to be advisory on Veluriyam Palace’s behalf.

In particular, the bearers of these news made it sound like Veluriyam Palace absolutely required Sacred Peafowl Mountain and its rightful lord to continue daily operations.

It turned out to be effective indeed.

Three days later, Jiang Chen stood upon the path to Sacred Peafowl Mountain to greet the figure who had descended near him. It was Emperor Peafowl, whom he had not seen for many years.

“You look better than ever, Your Majesty,” he smiled serenely.

Peafowl sighed softly. “Jiang Chen, I knew you were a real trickster even back then. I’m sure you were the one who came up with the idea this time, too, eh?”

Jiang Chen chuckled. “I had to try all that I could to get you to come back, sir. Sacred Peafowl Mountain is very important. I wouldn’t sleep soundly if anyone else was at its helm.”

Though there were a number of loyalists who resided in the faction, none could command nearly the same degree of authority that Peafowl could. Jiang Chen didn’t want to fail his old friend, which left him with few other options.

“Ah, never mind. I’ve been away for a very long time indeed. It’s about time for me to come back and see how you’re doing. If you haven’t forgotten about this old man after all these years, why shouldn’t I want to return?” Emperor Peafowl was full of emotion for his old faction still.

“Then I respectfully welcome you to your rightful throne, Your Majesty.”

“There is no need to call me that old honorific, Jiang Chen. You are the leader of humanity now, the lord of the Veluriyam Palace. Sacred Peafowl Mountain is only one of the Palace’s many associates, and yet is much better off for it. This is the state that Veluriyam Capital should be in. You have much surpassed me in your rule!”

Peafowl was quite sincere, but Jiang Chen couldn’t take his friend’s courtesy for granted. He brought out the enormous gift he had prepared for the emperor.

It included both items from the Veluriyam Palace and more personal presents from Jiang Chen. A Crowning Emyrean Pill, for example, as well as demigod treasures.

Jiang Chen was more than generous to any senior that he greatly respected, and Emperor Peafowl was no different.