

Three Realms 2191

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

Chapter 2191: Clouds of Tribulation

Jiang Chen soon familiarized himself with the third item. He observed the traces of power radiating from the mirror. A few faint characters adorned the frame.

“The Scrutiny of Existence?”

The mirror was more heaven-defying than even the Great Veluriyam Torch. Its radiance could illuminate any existence in the planes. No matter what race the target belonged to, even the slightest trace left would expose them for what they were.

In addition, the light emitting from the mirror could destroy any physical defense. Such destructive power was awe-inspiring, to say the least.

Moreover, one thing that stood out about the mirror was its ability to expose an enemy’s weaknesses. Catching the enemy’s reflection in the mirror would reveal the flaws in their defense to the wielder.

Jiang Chen was stunned by what the mirror was capable of. Such tremendous treasures were rare even in the heavenly planes. It was absolutely worthy of being listed in the heavenly rankings!

He stared dumbly at the mirror.

He didn’t know what to think. His father had gone above and beyond in refining items of the heavenly rankings into mundane-looking objects, concealing their true nature very deeply.

There must have been a reason for someone like his father to be so cautious.

“Surely the cataclysm had been extremely serious and his enemies formidable to warrant such caution. The catastrophe from my past life must be grimmer than I imagined.”

Discovering the uses of the three items gave him a better understanding of the effort his father had gone to in preparing him for this life. On one hand, he was excited to discern his father’s intentions. On the other hand, he worried about the situation his father was in.

It hadn’t been long since he reincarnated after the shattering of the heavenly plane. However, there was no telling how long it’d been since the plane’s destruction and his reincarnation.

Reincarnation could take an aeon, or several aeons.

Countless thoughts circulated in Jiang Chen’s consciousness. He glanced at the mirror and started at the sight. There was some faint yin energy around the center of his forehead, and atop his head was a strange red mist.

This... was the divine tribulation cloud!

This meant he would encounter a heavenly tribulation!

Jiang Chen's heart raced, and his back and forehead broke out into a cold sweat. He'd been cautiously pacing himself as he progressed through the divine realm in order to avoid a tribulation, yet his efforts had been in vain.

The color of the cloud indicated that the tribulation was a done deal. He had to face it head-on.

Avoiding the problem wasn't an option.

There was more than one way to deal with a divine tribulation. The most common one was to fight to survive it.

Of course, it was also possible to resolve the tribulation passively with an opportune encounter. Such an occurrence strengthened a cultivator's fortunes, which would offset the coming divine tribulation, cancelling it entirely or decreasing its intensity.

Yet another solution was to accumulate good karma.

After accomplishing something that granted enough good karma, a cultivator's divine tribulation would often disappear, or at least weaken enough for them to easily survive.

There was a logic to the way the heavenly law operated.

Jiang Chen believed he'd accumulated a good amount of good karma with what he'd done for the Divine Abyss Continent, but that wasn't going to offset the coming tribulation.

Only karma accumulated after one sensed the tribulation could do that.

Demons encountered demonic tribulations as well. Their way of dealing with a tribulation was the opposite of that of a human cultivator. They didn't accumulate good karma. In fact, they continued to commit atrocities to increase the weight of their sins.

Demons became great evils, while cultivators pursuing the righteous dao became saints.

Their pursuits differed, but their paths converged in the end. When reaching the greatest heights, both humans and demons attained great perfection and become sovereigns of a world.

After a brief moment of surprise, Jiang Chen slowly calmed down. He'd thought about the possibility of a divine tribulation many times, so he wasn't all that panicked.

He would face every challenge proactively, no matter what it was.

Every divine cultivator might encounter a tribulation, but it wasn't an insurmountable obstacle.

The tribulation cloud was of a strange color, which told him the tribulation was likely to be a difficult one. However, Jiang Chen had confidence in his integrity and wealth of knowledge.

He stopped himself from thinking too much.

Putting away the three treasures, he decided to end closed door cultivation.

It'd been ten full years. He had a feeling that the human domain had undergone shocking changes.

Reality proved him right.

The order in the Upper Eight Regions had been almost toppled, and the mid and lower regions completely transformed as well. Major factions had divided and occupied parts of the human domain.

The Veluriyam Palace, on the other hand, remained the same. Its cultivators didn't stoop so low as to join the territorial war.

They stayed out of the battle no matter how fiercely the outside world fought. Their aloof reaction seemed to embolden the other factions, who fought more and more fiercely with no regard for consequences.

In total, there were only sixteen factions left in the human domain, which made it evident how intense the territorial war had been.

Jiang Chen listened to his people's briefings. He wasn't at all surprised by what had happened.

It was human nature to fight for lands and resources. In many instances, what they took wasn't actually useful to them, but that wasn't going to stop them.

They simply didn't want others to have it, whatever it was.

Mo Wushuang sighed. "Young lord, some factions have pulled quite a few dirty tricks to expand their territory over the past decade."

Jiang Chen chuckled. "Of course. Such is the nature of expansion."

"That's not necessarily true," Mo Wushuang said seriously. "Some factions have stayed within the lines of propriety. Although their territories continued to expand, most of the time the expansion was a result of small factions volunteering to join them. There's a difference there."

"Oh? Do tell." That piqued Jiang Chen's interest.

He wasn't surprised that factions would be engaged in a territorial war, but it made him curious that there were factions who fought fairly.

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

Chapter 2192: Discussion of Rebuilding the Ancient Crimson Heavens Sec

"One example is the Regal Pill Palace," said Mo Wushuang. "Palace Head Dan Chi forbade any members from getting involved in the internal conflict. He said that given their deep relationship with Veluriyam Capital, they mustn't do anything that would embarrass us."

Jiang Chen smiled. That was the Dan Chi he knew. The palace head had always been a man of integrity. Bearing some of the intellectual fastidiousness of a scholar, he held a pride that not everyone understood.

"Is the Regal Pill Palace falling behind the others, then?" asked Jiang Chen. He'd been offering great support to the Regal Pill Palace, treating them as well as he did the clans in the Sacred Peafowl Mountain.

"Not necessarily. Even without our involvement, our subordinate clans have stayed out of the fight under Daoist Peafowl's order. That made the Regal Pill Palace the only hope for many ordinary factions.

Out of self-preservation, many of the palace's neighboring factions threw themselves under her banner in exchange for sanctuary. In fact, the palace has expanded by a decent amount."

Jiang Chen chuckled. "By not competing, he meets no competition. The palace head knows what he's doing."

Mo Wushuang smiled. "Perhaps that's his nature. Palace Head Dan Chi is able to achieve what he has, despite hailing from the lower regions, not only because of your support, but also because of his own wisdom and character."

"That's right. Both Halace head Dan Chi and Emperor Peafowl are leaders I have a lot of respect for." Jiang Chen nodded. "What about the other factions? What's happened with them? Tell me."

"The Moon God Sect and the Ninesuns Sect are two factions that have been expanding aggressively. The Ninesuns Sect, especially, has clashed with the Skysword Sect many times."

"The Moon God Sect has conquered a large area in the north, including regions that belonged to Pillfire City and the Sublime Chord Temple. The Empyrean River Palace was forced to a small territory in the northeast. They've come off very worse for the wear in the turf wars."

"What about the Celestial Cicada Court?"

"They've been rather calm as they aren't much interested in expanding their territory. While their territory hasn't grown much in size, neither have they been invaded. The court is obsessed with formations at the moment. Every part of their land is protected by formations. Average factions don't dare attack them."

Jiang Chen cackled. He was no stranger to that faction. He believed that part of the court's heritage was from the Ancient Crimson Heavens Sect.

Although they hadn't gained the ancient sect's full heritage, they retained some of its methods and formations.

The court's recent behavior suddenly won Jiang Chen over. In such a chaotic time, it wasn't easy to stay within one's territory and refrain from conquering others.

An idea took root in his mind.

"Please invite Venerated Skysoarer for a meeting, Brother Wushuang," ordered Jiang Chen.

Skysoarer soon arrived. His expression wasn't a friendly one. "You've sure been enjoying your peace and quiet, Sect Head. It's been ten years. Look at how much of a mess the human domain has become!"

Jiang Chen smirked and said faintly, "How would we know everyone's true nature without giving them a chance to act up? How would we get a clear idea about the nature of the human domain?"

Venerated Skysoarer stopped short. There was great wisdom in Jiang Chen's words.

"Alright, let's put that aside first," remarked Jiang Chen with a smile. "I asked you here to discuss the heritage of the Ancient Crimson Heavens Sect."

That piqued the old man's interest. His eyes lit up. "Good, you're finally getting to that!"

Jiang Chen gestured at the old man to calm him down.

"I have the ancient sect's heritage item in my possession. However, the biggest issue facing the sect is a lack of manpower."

Venerated Skysoarer nodded earnestly. "That's right. We should start recruiting members. Where should we reestablish the sect? When are we going to start rebuilding?"

Jiang Chen chuckled. "Actually, based on my years of observation, not all of the sect's heritage has been lost. One faction in the human domain is closely related to the Ancient Crimson Heavens Sect. One can say they share the same lineage."

"What?" hurried out the old man. "Why didn't you tell me earlier?"

"The time wasn't right." Jiang Chen shrugged. "I told you we needed this mess in the human domain to show us the true nature of each faction. Now, it's clear to us which factions have the big picture in mind, and which are selfish opportunists. We've also gained insight into whether a faction is trustworthy, haven't we?"

Venerated Skysoarer blinked again, halted by Jiang Chen's foresight.

"Alright, you're now done with your observations. Is that particular faction trustworthy?" That was what he cared about the most.

"Congratulations, the faction has performed to my satisfaction." The young man looked at Skysoarer solemnly. "To tell you the truth, Venerated Skysoarer, I'm planning to rebuild the Ancient Crimson Heavens Sect upon that faction. What do you think?"

"I have no objections. However, who's going to be the sect head?" Skysoarer got right to the point.

Jiang Chen sighed. "I can assume that role temporarily, or maybe you can do the honors?"

Venerated Skysoarer shook his head aggressively and waved his hand in denial. "No, I can't. I'm an old man who's been trapped for two hundred thousand years. My brain isn't what it used to be. I'll make a poor sect head. You do it."

"I can. However, the Ancient Crimson Heavens Sect must cultivate a successor. You won't object to that, are you?"

Skysoarer sighed. "You were the one who gained the heritage first, Jiang Chen. Have you lost interest in the sect because you've become the master of Veluriyam Palace?"

Jiang Chen's expression turned solemn. "I'll one day pass down that mantle to someone else too. I'm simply one candidate for any of the human domain heritage. I won't stay on the same position forever. I became the leader of Veluriyam Capital simply because of its leading role in the ancient times gave it more influence. You must have noticed that as well, Venerated Skysoarer."

The young man was telling the truth. Skysoarer wasn't going to deny that.

“Fine, you’re right. I have one request though: As long as you remain as the head of Veluriyam Palace, you must also remain as the sect head of the Ancient Crimson Heavens Sect. Once you resign as the head of the palace, you’re then free to pass down the title of sect head as well.”

Jiang Chen grinned. “Deal.”

Venerated Skysoarer relaxed at Jiang Chen’s ready agreement. “Alright, let’s go check on the faction you brought up, shall we?”

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

Chapter 2193: The Current Situation of the Celestial Cicada Cour

The discussion between Jiang Chen and Venerated Skysoarer proceeded very smoothly. The latter’s impatience prompted the former to smile.

“Venerated Skysoarer, this faction is one of the best in the Upper Eight Regions. After the past few years of development, they have no doubt progressed considerably as well. Using them as the foundation for the new Ancient Crimson Heavens Sect is a win-win proposal. Ah yes, what of the formation masters you trained from when we repaired the Great Formation? How many are left?”

“I dismissed most of them. The ones who are exceptionally gifted and morally strong were allowed to stay and are very loyal to me now.”

“Very good. Quality over quantity is the correct stance to take. We were in a bit too much haste when we gathered them up in the first place, and your selection afterwards means that the ones who’ve stayed can be seriously trained. However, folding them into the sect will require a balance for you to grasp.”

Venerated Skysoarer nodded after a few moments of serious consideration. “Indeed, a balance must be struck.”

“I know a formation master named Wang Xuetong, with whom I was on pretty good terms. I’d like to ask you to take care of him – he’s someone worth teaching.”

Jiang Chen had made Wang Xuetong’s acquaintance in Pillfire City. The man had joined him afterwards due to a mix of reasons.

He was a deft hand at pill dao as well as a friend of Su Huanzhen. If he was put in a position of importance, he might be able to serve as lubricant between the two divergent groups.

.....

The restoration of the spirit veins had transformed the human domain fundamentally. Every sect had benefited from the event.

The situation in the human domain had correspondingly undergone an unexpected shift. Factions roughly on par with each other before grew at disparate speeds.

Some factions grew exponentially in resources, strength, and ambition.

Others were more conservative. They remained quiet and avoided conflict, which meant they reaped fewer benefits accordingly.

The Celestial Cicada Court was in the latter.

Over the past decade, it had diligently defended its own territory rather than expanding. It hadn't attempted to conquer or oppress any others.

In fact, Sect Head Su Huanzhen had commanded that its members were not permitted to leave its lands without permission, especially not to gouge or rob innocent outsiders. She would personally expel anyone who disobeyed this command.

A decisive leader in her own right, she carried out her regulation to the letter. Two elders who subjugated a small faction each for their own secretly were immediately dismissed when she found out.

It had caused a significant commotion within the sect at the time. Some supported her while others complained privately, but no one dared question her decisions.

In this, her authority was plain.

Moreover, Su Huanzhen poured all her time into setting up formations as well as searching for and repairing ancient ones. Apparent drudgery on the surface, but she pursued it tirelessly nonetheless.

Though no great gains were made after a decade, everyone had to admit that the Celestial Cicada Court was definitely the most well-defended of the first-rate factions.

One day, she sensed something within her meditations. When she opened her eyes, she heard the song of a magpie outside her residence.

What blessing awaits the Celestial Cicada Court, I wonder?

"Sect Head," a subordinate reported from the outside, "Court Head Xia and a few elders are asking for an audience. It seems there's an emergency."

Hearing this, Su Huanzhen exited to meet them.

"Greetings to the sect leader." One of the freshest executives in the Celestial Cicada Court, Court Head Xia had associated with Jiang Chen in the past.

The elders present were pillars of the sect, one and all.

"You haven't come to see me for several months," Su Huanzhen smiled. "There must be something momentous to draw you here today, yes?"

Court Head Xia sighed softly. "Sect Head, the Great Yu Skysword Sect has delivered a request for alliance for the third time. Sect Head Han Qianzhan pleads you to travel there."

Su Huanzhen maintained her smile. "Sect Head Qianzhan can't retain his composure for much longer, huh? The Great Yu Skysword Sect and the Ninesuns Sky Sect have been trading blows for a while."

"Ninesuns is at fault." Court Head Xia was clearly biased toward the Skysword Sect. "If not for their wanton expansionism, Sect Head Han wouldn't be half so angry."

Su Huanzhen kept smiling rather than comment.

“Sect Head,” an elder piped up, “we’ve always been close with the Great Yu Skysword Sect. We were allies when we both supported Veluriyam Capital, for example. Sect Head Han is merely suggesting that we resume our alliance from back then. Why are you ignoring him?”

No one could understand this.

Every first-rate faction in the human domain was madly enlarging itself. The Ninesuns Sky Sect and Moon God Sect were especially egregious examples.

Ninesuns had consumed most of the Heavenly Dragon Sect’s territory as well as the Eternal Celestial Capital’s. In fact, they were almost upon the Skysword Sect’s border, hence Han Qianzhan’s displeasure.

The Ninesuns Sky Sect was conducting its business in such an unseemly way that the Great Yu Skysword Sect could barely hold back anymore.

The two sects had been on merely lukewarm terms before. Aggressive behavior on one’s part would lead to the other’s revulsion and vigilance. Minor conflicts built up to a major grudge, with endless skirmishes between the two.

Because the Ninesuns Sky Sect seemed to be overtaking the Skysword Sect in its momentum, the latter had become quite anxious. They couldn’t ask for help from Veluriyam Palace now, could they?

The lack of an announcement from there could very well mean tacit permission. Thus, Han Qianzhan felt it was better to resolve the matter himself.

This was why he had thought of an alliance with the Celestial Cicada Court.

The two sects united would have no problem standing against the Ninesuns Sky Sect.

Unfortunately, Su Huanzhen remained entirely impassive to the suggestion, choosing staunch nonparticipation instead.

The Skysword Sect wasn’t the only one unhappy. Some internal to the Celestial Cicada Court felt similar disgruntlement.

Many in the sect thought that if they didn’t take this opportunity to expand themselves, they wouldn’t have another chance to in the future.

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

Chapter 2194: Jiang Chen Arrives

Su Huanzhen’s stubbornness was not to be deterred by anyone. She knew very well why the executives had come to her today. Her smile was as smooth as ever.

“Sect Head, please tell us what to do. Even if we won’t ally with the Great Yu Skysword Sect, we should have a plan of our own, right? The world outside is going crazy. We’re losing out by being so reclusive,” sighed one of the elders.

Su Huanzhen glanced at Court Head Xia. “What do you think, Court Head Xia?”

He still respected Su Huanzhen a fair deal. "You must have your reasons for staying put, Sect Head," he answered seriously. "The world is simply a place that breeds anxiety in us all."

This appeased both sides of the dispute.

Su Huanzhen smiled serenely. "I heard a magpie sing outside of my residence today. Something good might just happen to us very soon. I didn't point out the crux of the matter because I want all of you to calm down and analyze the situation."

"Still, if you stand firm in your belief that expansion is better, then let me explain myself."

Everyone was momentarily energized. Whether the sect head wanted to expand or not, she was at least revealing her stance.

"Have you heard anything from Veluriyam Palace over the last ten years?" Su Huanzhen asked.

"No... the palace has never commented on our behavior. That might mean silent approval, no? If the human domain's factions are consolidated, we would be more united than ever in our resistance against demonkind, surely?" An elder muttered to himself, as if in response to Su Huanzhen's question.

"The Veluriyam Palace has been unclear, to say the least," replied Court Head Xia. "To some degree, they've consented to the other factions' expansion."

Su Huanzhen's smile seemed to hold a deeper meaning. "What factions are on good terms with the Veluriyam Palace then?"

"The Regal Pill Palace should be one, yes? The Skysword Sect too, and us at the Celestial Cicada Court. The Moon God Sect in the north as well, maybe, because of Xu Qingxuan?"

Weren't these all on pretty good relations with the Veluriyam Palace?

Su Huanzhen shook her head. "The Skysword Sect is close to Jiang Chen because of circumstantial reasons and its leaders' tendencies. The same is true with us. The Moon God Sect... well, their quarrel with Jiang Chen's father means that they aren't really close at all. They wouldn't have so recklessly expanded otherwise."

Everyone was astonished at this.

"The closest are Sacred Peafowl Mountain and Coiling Dragon's faction, as well as the Regal Pill Palace. Have these factions expanded?"

Su Huanzhen's next question silenced her audience.

They had not. Coiling Dragon, Void, Sacred Peafowl Mountain... none had moved in the slightest. As Veluriyam Palace's subsidiary factions, they should have had strong support from their principal to do so.

The Regal Pill Palace hadn't expanded voluntarily either, though a few factions around it had joined.

Because of its well-known relationship with the Veluriyam Palace, no one dared get on its bad side. Not that the Regal Pill Palace couldn't deal with any intrepid intruders on its own, these days.

“Do these closest factions hint at Veluriyam Palace’s attitude then?” gasped Court Head Xia.

“I’m not sure,” Su Huanzhen sighed. “That’s just what my instincts tell me. If you go out and take over territory, so what? Young lord Jiang Chen can reverse that by lifting a single finger. If these outrageous conquests mean nothing in the end, why should we spend effort on something so pointless?”

Everyone else sank into thought. They remained somewhat unconvinced, but Su Huanzhen’s words made a certain amount of sense.

“I received a letter a few years ago from Daoist Peafowl. He mentioned nothing of expansionism, but did praise my regulation of subordinates and conservative position. You all should know about young lord Jiang Chen’s opinion of Daoist Peafowl, yes?”

This was pretty convincing evidence.

“The factions that’ve expanded have only bared their ugliness before young lord Jiang Chen then,” Court Head Xia sighed softly.

The elders felt cold sweat trickle down their backs.

Was young lord Jiang Chen observing the true natures of all in the human domain? If so, then the sects who had grotesquely expanded were all fools.

The wisdom of the Celestial Cicada Sect’s decision shone amid all the chaos.

An elder came in to interrupt the conversation in a hurry. “Sect Head, elders,” he stated solemnly, “the formation on our borders is reacting intensely. I believe many experts are upon us. Please give us our orders, Sect Head.”

Su Huanzhen’s brows raised. She didn’t like to look for trouble, but she wasn’t scared when it came to find her.

“The Celestial Cicada Court has always kept ourselves out of worldly affairs, yet these people dare intrude upon us? Do they think me incapable of killing? Do you have any information on what faction this is?” She grew incensed.

“None whatsoever, Sect Head, but they are exceptionally strong.”

Su Huanzhen became somber. Unidentified experts? In the current climate, that meant big trouble.

“Keep the entire sect on high alert. We ready for battle!” She stood at the same time as she gave this command. “Come, let us go meet them. I’d like to see who exactly it is. What, can they possibly have three heads and six arms?”

The sect head and her executives flew toward the border in a huff. However, a hearty laugh intercepted them halfway.

“How are you doing these days, Sect Head Su?” The voice seemed to be dozens of thousands of miles away, and yet closer than ever.

Su Huanzhen blinked, then colored slightly. A strange expression came over her face; a half-smile played at the corner of her mouth.

“Forget it.” She waved to the executives. “They’re already here.”

“Who is it?” The executives gasped in uniform surprise.

“Don’t worry, they’re friendly. Bring out the incense. Array yourselves to receive the young lord Jiang Chen!”

Young lord Jiang Chen!

Every hearer of these four words felt their heart spasm.

Someone as great as that had come to the Celestial Cicada Court to visit? It was an honor beyond compare! Ever since taking the throne of the Veluriyam Palace, the young lord had not visited any faction aside from Regal Pill Palace.

Sovereign of the Three Realms (WN)

Chapter 2195: Venerated Skysoarer’s Nonsense

Seen in that light, the Celestial Cicada Court truly commanded a great deal of respect.

Jiang Chen’s airboat landed at the court’s entrance in the next instant.

All the executives came forward to receive him, both excited and joyful at his coming. At the same time, they were mildly anxious as well.

This legendary youth had long become the human domain’s public icon. Even these relatively important people greeted him in a worshipful way.

Jiang Chen was far above them in strength and achievement, someone who was so unreachably high that they had no hope of approaching.

“Heh, how are you doing, Sect Head Su?” The young man stepped off the airboat.

Venerated Skysoarer followed right behind him. Behind him were a handful of followers, as well as Wang Xuetong. He hadn’t brought all his subordinates, because Jiang Chen didn’t want to make the Celestial Cicada Court feel pressured.

Yes, they were here to assimilate the faction, but he wanted to take a gentler method.

Su Huanzhen came forward as well. “Very well, thank you. You’ve improved an incredible amount yet again since we last met, young lord Jiang Chen. I am far below you now.”

Jiang Chen chuckled. He liked Su Huanzhen quite a bit to begin with. She was the one who had guided him to Myriad Abyss, since the site of the ancient transportation formation had been within Celestial Cicada Court territory.

For this and other past acts, he felt that he owed her. Also the transportation formation remained with the Celestial Cicada Court still.

While she exchanged niceties with Jiang Chen, Su Huanzhen noticed the old man by his side was looking at her in a peculiar way. It was difficult to describe precisely how, but it felt inexplicably rude regardless.

Nevertheless, no one who stood at Jiang Chen's side could be an ordinary man. Though Su Huanzhen was displeased, she remained silent about the matter.

Jiang Chen noticed the change in her mood. He cleared his throat, then loudly proclaimed, "Come, come, let me introduce you. This is Venerated Skysoarer, an... ancient senior. Sect Head Su, this senior is a very important man. You should acquaint yourself with him."

At the same time, he nudged Venerated Skysoarer with his elbow. "Skysoarer, this is the head of the Celestial Cicada Court, Su Huanzhen. Er, she's ah, Daoist Peafowl's... paramour, in a manner of speaking?"

Su Huanzhen's heart trembled a little. This was the first time in many years that someone had pointed out the story between her and Peafowl.

She was actually rather happy. Both he and her had become prominent individuals in the human domain and her emotions long under control, but she had merely hidden her youthful affections at the bottom of her heart – and there it remained to this day.

Venerated Skysoarer chuckled, then rolled his eyes. "No need to mention Peafowl. I'm not looking to steal his woman, alright? Don't misunderstand me."

The old man thought himself clever in understanding what Jiang Chen had meant, but his declaration was embarrassing in itself.

A wave of confused silence and bizarre looks surged through the crowd.

Jiang Chen nearly laughed out loud. "Yes, yes, you're an ancient cultivator who has seen through the vexations of the mortal world long ago."

He turned to Su Huanzhen. "Sect Head Su, Venerated Skysoarer is a little... naïve. He's not great at social interactions, so please excuse his lack of decorum. However, I should mention that he is very likely strongly related to the Celestial Cicada Court."

Venerated Skysoarer became grew unhappy.

"What do you mean, 'very likely'? We are certainly, absolutely, and definitely related!"

Definitely related?

Everyone else blinked in ignorance. How related could they possibly be to this old man?

Now that he was speaking about his area of expertise, Venerated Skysoarer became rather animated. "On my way here, I looked at your formations myself. The way they're designed and set up show that you are doubtless part of our sect's heritage. Still, the methods you used, the skill levels on display, they're just..."

The old man seemed determined to prove Jiang Chen wrong in regard to his lack of social skills. He bit his tongue on the overt criticisms he was about to speak.

"Just speak your mind." It was Jiang Chen's turn to roll his eyes. "You're an ancient leviathan anyway. No one will care whether you're telling the truth or exaggerating."

Venerated Skysoarer looked sour. "Alright, then. The way the formations were set up was far too crude! Whoever did the work was incompetent through and through."

These words were insulting indeed.

Every executive on Su Huanzhen's side became annoyed.

The old man was young lord Jiang Chen's friend and a senior, yes, but had he come solely to mock and belittle?

Couldn't he have offered more constructive advice instead?

Venerated Skysoarer wasn't of the opinion that he had done anything wrong. He began to run his mouth.

"For example, the formation right next to us is supposed to have seven strokes both horizontally and vertically. But there are only three and four! Some guy did only half the work, then called it a day! And why are these strokes carved so unevenly, eh? Did the formation master responsible go hungry half the time?

"That path over there should connect only one node to another. A simple and easy conjunction, but you've added six nodes for no reason. This is superfluous behavior of the highest degree, like taking your pants off after a fart...

"Ah, and here, here as well..."

Venerated Skysoarer was so involved that he was utterly absorbed in his speech. He flailed his arms around, causing spittle to fly everywhere in the process.

The fact that the Celestial Cicada Court's executives' faces were as black as cast-iron pots completely escaped him.

However, Jiang Chen curiously didn't stop the old man's prattling.

Some of the executives with shorter fuses were almost about to blow.

Thankfully, Su Huanzhen was restrained enough to listen seriously to every detail rather than take offense. She became more and more thoughtful as Venerated Skysoarer went on.

The old man was so enamored with the sound of his own voice that he went over every detail he had seen on his way here, going over their deficiencies in excruciating detail.

More than four hours later, even Jiang Chen began to yawn.

By this point, Su Huanzhen was thoroughly amazed by what she had heard. Was the old man really an ancient senior? How was he related to the Celestial Cicada Court?

Why were all his comments entirely correct and accurate? Even she couldn't digest some of them immediately.

Nevertheless, she realized the depth of his actual knowledge. The wisdom he knew was tenfold that of the Celestial Cicada Court's in every way. She recalled the magpie that had sung outside her residence earlier that day.

Sovereign of the Three Realms (WN)

Chapter 2196: A Match Made in Heaven

Finally, Venerated Skysoarer's rant came to an end. The senior executives of the Celestial Cicada Court heaved collective sighs of relief and their boiling fury died down as well.

They did understand some of his spiel, which was enough for them to realize that the old man's criticism was spot on. He clearly knew what he was talking about.

Su Huanzhen took a deep breath. "Young lord Jiang Chen, if may I ask who the senior..."

Jiang Chen chuckled. "Do you remember when I said that your sect has something to do with an ancient sect, Sect Head Su? The senior has proven my speculations. Congratulations, the ancient heritage you possess belongs to the Ancient Crimson Heavens Sect, one of the leading factions in the ancient times. Venerated Skysoarer is a senior from that ancient sect. He was one of its top three figureheads."

Every senior executive, including Su Huanzhen, gaped in disbelief.

All the hostility they harbored evaporated in an instant. The martial dao world valued heritage the most. It was a sect's foundation, prestige, and history.

The older the heritage, the more solid a sect's foundation.

The Celestial Cicada Court was a successor of one of the ten ancient leading factions! What a surprising and thrilling discovery!

And the senior was from that very same ancient sect. In other words, he was their forefather!

They wouldn't be disgruntled by their forefather's criticism, were they? Especially since his criticism had been entirely correct.

Suddenly, the senior executives wanted nothing more than for Venerated Skysoarer to whale on them for a few hours more. They'd been too enraged to listen to the old master before and thus missed many of the key points.

Noting their shock, Jiang Chen chuckled. "I'm here today to introduce Venerated Skysoarer to your sect, Sect Head Su. And I have a proposal to make. Of course, this is simply an idea. If you aren't interested, you're free to turn me down."

"Please speak candidly with us, young lord Jiang Chen," hurried out Su Huanzhen.

"Then I will. More than a decade ago, I announced that a few ancient factions would gradually resurface. The news sent a shockwave through the human domain. Does everyone remember that?"

Su Huanzhen nodded. "I do."

"And after the human domain's spirit veins are restored and the ancient sects resurface, the order in the human domain will continue to change. Do you agree?"

She nodded again. "Of course."

"Over the past decade, the major factions in the human domain have been at each other's throats. None of that escaped my eyes. To my delight, the Celestial Cicada Court kept its composure and stayed true to yourselves. That is very commendable. That's why I'm paying you a visit."

Everyone let out a relieved sigh. The senior executives looked at Su Huangzhen with newfound respect in their eyes.

They'd considered her overly conservative and cautious. Now, it turned out that they were the fools! None of them had seen the depths of their sect head's vision.

The young lord held the sect head in high regard, which meant that the aggressive factions in the domain would end up getting nothing for their effort.

"After the restoration of the spirit veins, the domain should've focused on cultivating and building ourselves up," Su Huanzhen declared solemnly. "Spending our time and effort on expansion is going to hinder our fight against demons in the near future."

"Exactly!" Jiang Chen clasped his hands and smiled. "What determines the domain's order isn't territory, but the ancient heritage. Whoever integrates an ancient heritage first would be the winners. Having a large territory doesn't matter much compared to an ancient heritage."

Everyone perked up. Can it be...

Jiang Chen smiled frankly. "That's why I came. The Celestial Cicada Court has passed my test. You qualify for the ancient heritage. Moreover, the court itself descended from the Ancient Crimson Heavens Sect. There's a shared history there. If you're willing, we'd like to rebuild the ancient sect upon the Celestial Cicada Court, restoring the sect's legacy. What say you?"

The crowd was stunned. The offer had practically fallen into their lap. And what a great offer it was!

The one downside was that there would be no Celestial Cicada Court in the human domain. In its place would be the Ancient Crimson Heavens Sect.

That didn't matter, though. The court had stemmed from the ancient sect. No individual or faction was going to turn down the opportunity to go back to their roots.

The name of the sect held no sentimental value to them. It was but a name passed down through the generations.

Becoming an ancient leading sect could only benefit them. Most importantly, they would get the sect's heritage in return!

All the senior executives itched with excitement. They didn't even have to think to make the decision.

Su Huanzhen, though, calmed down from her glee. She looked at Jiang Chen seriously. "That's great news, young lord Jiang Chen. However, I'd like to ask a few questions."

Jiang Chen chuckled. "Of course. Ask away. This is an offer, not an order."

"I have only one question: How much of the Celestial Cicada Court will be preserved in the future Ancient Crimson Heavens Sect?"

Jiang Chen chuckled. "At least seventy to eighty percent, I'd say. What do you think, Venerated Skysoarer?"

Skysoarer cackled. "It's natural for you to care about your own people. I'm not going to deny you that. I care only that the sect is rebuilt. You're an interesting one, girl. I have high hopes for you. Under my guidance, perhaps you'll be able to make great progress in cultivation and your understanding of formations. Not much of young master Chen's attention lies with the Ancient Crimson Heavens Sect. I have to find us a future sect head."

That further cemented the court's members' resolve. One of them spoke up, "Young lord Jiang Chen always fulfills his promises, Sect Head, and the senior is a real master. More importantly, we share a history with the Ancient Crimson Heavens Sect. It's a match made in heaven."

Before Su Huanzhen could say anything, a man barged in hurriedly. "Sect Head, a large group of cultivators suddenly showed up at the portal you've assigned this subordinate to guard. They're all severely injured..."

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

Chapter 2197: Trouble in Myriad Abyss Island

Su Huanzhen wasn't the only one who reacted to the cultivator's report. Jiang Chen's expression clouded over as well.

There was only one portal within the Celestial Cicada Court - the one leading to Myriad Abyss Island. He had traveled through it many times and had told Su Huanzhen to protect it at all costs. This was why he gave the sect more support.

The portal would be strategically crucial in the future. It was a bridge between the human domain and Myriad Abyss.

That was also why Jiang Chen had valued Winterdraw Island so much.

Winterdraw was a buffer between the human domain and Myriad Abyss. As long as Winterdraw was under his control, he would still retain strategic advantage even if Myriad Abyss was claimed by other races.

Hearing that a group of injured cultivators had showed up at the portal, he leapt to his feet.

"Come, let's go take a look."

Putting aside thoughts of restoring their ancestors' legacy, Su Huanzhen gathered a group of people and followed Jiang Chen. She knew how important the portal was to the young lord.

There were indeed several injured cultivators, and most of them were familiar faces from Rejuvenation and Trivalent.

The former warden of Winterdraw was among them as well.

“What happened, Old Ding?” Jiang Chen was more familiar with the warden.

Warden Ding was sickly pale. After Jiang Chen’s healing pill took effect, he drew a deep breath and walked up. “It’s bad, young lord Jiang Chen.”

“How so?”

“About four years ago, several portals opened up on many of the isles in Myriad Abyss. Since then, increasing numbers of demons have emerged and taken Myriad Abyss by the storm. At first, the ten sacred lands didn’t pay it that much attention, assuming that they were simply a small, desperate group.

“However, their numbers grew continuously and they’ve conquered more and more regions in only a few years. When the ten sacred lands finally took notice, they were too occupied by the offworld battles to spare any manpower. Myriad Abyss is now under attack from both inside and outside the realm. It’s on the verge of destruction!”

Warden Ding suffered from serious injuries, but he retained his composure and his ability to think. Jiang Chen’s face hardened once the warden finished explaining.

“Rejuvenation, Tritalent, and Winterdraw used to be strategic partners with great synergy. However, it took us by surprise that demons would target remote factions such as ours. They first attacked Tritalent, then Rejuvenation. At this moment, demons and their army of puppets have almost conquered all of Tritalent, the remaining members of which have retreated to Rejuvenation to make a final stand. Meanwhile, we fought hard to flee to Winterdraw... It’s relatively safe at the moment, but...”

“But what?” Jiang Chen asked in concern.

“But demons have set their eyes on Winterdraw as well. This subordinate worries that once Rejuvenation is defeated, Winterdraw will be isolated and vulnerable without any allies. More importantly, Winterdraw isn’t strong enough to fight the invading demons without any divine cultivators defending it.”

Jiang Chen nodded slowly.

He wasn’t as pessimistic as Warden Ding. Winterdraw had once belonged to Pei Xing, the ancient figurehead. His formations and defenses were enough to deter regular divine cultivators.

Demons needed multiple divine forefathers to break through the formations with brute force. Otherwise, it’d be next to impossible to invade the island.

Jiang Chen kept that to himself and offered some comfort. “I understand now, Warden Ding. You should stay here and recover.”

Warden Ding was antsy. “Myriad Abyss is practically on fire, young lord! I can’t possibly take a rest now. If you don’t go immediately, Rejuvenation will fall into demons’ grasp, and Winterdraw will take the brunt of the attack as well. Your arrangements there will fall apart.”

Jiang Chen sighed faintly. “I know that. However, we’ve been doing all we can to eliminate the remaining demons in the human domain as well. Their numbers are great, and I’m running out of manpower. Don’t you see how few gods I have with me?”

Warden Ding's face fell. "Is the human domain having a difficult time as well?" he asked quietly. "Is it impossible to stop the demons?"

"Don't worry. Even if I have to do it on my own, I'm not going to leave Rejuvenation to its own devices. I've ascended to divinity. If it ever comes to that, I'll return to Myriad Abyss myself."

Jiang Chen offered his reassurance.

Warden Ding cast him an awestruck look, but objected, "That won't do. You're too important to risk yourself by going alone, young lord."

"In such trying times, my life doesn't matter when the entire continent is at stake," Jiang Chen responded with great conviction.

Warden Ding opened his mouth to respond, but was cut short by a wave of the young man's hand.

"Give me some time. I'll return to the Sacred Peafowl Mountain to make some arrangements. In at most three days, I'll return to Myriad Abyss with you to aid Rejuvenation."

He then turned to Su Huanzhen. "Sect Head Su, they're my friends from Myriad Abyss. I'll entrust you to take care of them."

"Of course!" Su Huanzhen hurried out.

"Get on my airboat. Let's first return to the Celestial Cicada Court." Jiang Chen gestured at everyone to board the airboat.

They arrived at the court in no time. Jiang Chen sought out Su Huanzhen in private. "Please take care of them, Sect Head Su, but don't get too friendly with them. Don't tell them about the human domain's current situation, and don't mention the ancient sects. If any of them ask, just tell them how the human domain was in the past. Tell them I'm the young lord of Sacred Peafowl Mountain rather than the head of Veluriyam Palace."

Noting his serious tone, Su Huanzhen nodded solemnly despite not knowing Jiang Chen's reasons. "Understood. I'll tell everyone to stick to the story."

"Much appreciated. Also, you should get to know Venerated Skysoarer. He's extremely knowledgeable in formations. He also knows a lot about the many heritage of the Ancient Crimson Heavens Sect. I've made a deal with the old man, but I'm not going to remain as the sect head for long. I hope that one day, you'll take over from me."

Su Huanzhen was surprised. "Wouldn't the old master make a better sect head?"

"He doesn't want to. Besides, he's gotten rusty at leading people after being imprisoned for two hundred thousand years." Jiang Chen added in a serious tone, "A good sect head must be energetic, but level-headed. In my opinion, you'll make a fine leader."

Su Huanzhen could tell from the young lord's earnest gaze that he meant what he said. The realization struck a chord in her heart.

She stopped resisting. "I'll do my best to live up to your expectations."

Jiang Chen laughed heartily. "Oh, and you should visit Veluriyam Palace sometimes. Emperor Peafowl has returned for many years. You aren't going to treat him as a stranger forever, are you now?"

Su Huanzhen flushed red, her heart skipping a beat.

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

Chapter 2198: Deploying Troops

The rebuilding of the Ancient Crimson Heavens Sect had been set in motion. Due to the surprising turn of events however, Jiang Chen and Su Huanzhen decided to keep it a secret for now.

Two days later, the young lord secretly summoned the four divine beasts, Xia Tianze, and Mad Fiend to the Celestial Cicada Court.

The other guardians of the Six Palaces of Heritage were instructed to stay in Veluriyam Palace in case something happened.

The divine beasts and the others soon arrived on sect grounds. Mad Fiend was especially impatient. He was a battle fanatic, but Jiang Chen hadn't given him any opportunities to fight. He'd complained to the young man many times that he didn't have a stage to perform on.

He was finally being included this time!

"Hehe, are we doing something big this time, young master Chen?" Mad Fiend chattered excitedly.

Jiang Chen smiled faintly. "We're leaving for Myriad Abyss to join the fight."

"What? We aren't helping those traitors, are we?" Xia Tianze was displeased. "Nothing personal, young master Chen, but there's no reason to help those ungrateful deserters."

Jiang Chen sighed. "Myriad Abyss and the human domain may not exactly be in the same boat, but our fates are increasingly linked.

"We aren't helping Myriad Abyss, but fighting demons. You all have scores to settle with the demonic race. Don't you want to kill some of them?" Jiang Chen smiled as he spoke.

"Demons?" Xia Tianze darted his eyes around. "Why would demons show up in Myriad Abyss? Didn't they consider Myriad Abyss beneath them in the ancient times?"

"Things are different now. Perhaps the demonic army has invaded the barren wasteland. They couldn't break through the Great Formation of Heavenly Soul Confinement, so they have no choice but to invade the other domains or Myriad Abyss first. Their ultimate target is likely still the human domain."

The human domain had always been an attractive target on the continent. The great formation might grant a grace period, but it wasn't going to eliminate their enemies.

With one path obstructed, the demonic army would travel half of the continent and attack the domain from the other side sooner or later.

Therefore, it wouldn't do to always take a defensive stance. Offense was important to self-preservation.

Mad Fiend cackled. "Why would you care where we're going, Old Xia? Nothing else matters as long as we're fighting demons. We aren't helping the ancient deserters."

Xia Tianze scoffed. "Where did those demons come from?"

Jiang Chen flashed them a conspiratory smile. "I don't know the details, but I want to pull off something big this time. I can't do it without your help."

"What are you planning?" The prospect of killing demons piqued Xia Tianze's interest.

"I'm going to cast some bait and hook the suckers in." Jiang Chen smirked and explained his plan.

Everyone listened with rapt attention.

With the plan explained, Xia Tianze grinned wolfishly. "What a fascinating sect head you make for the palace. In some way, you're more devious than Divine Veluriyam."

"Is that meant to be a compliment?" Jiang Chen asked wryly.

"It is." Xia Tianze added seriously, "The divine master didn't shy away from trickery, but he wasn't as cunning as you are. You're able to come up with schemes against your enemies in an instant. That's a rare talent!"

Jiang Chen didn't have the time to figure out if that was a compliment or an insult. He swept his gaze over his companions. "Just tell me if the plan is viable."

"Hehe, I'm fine as long as I get to fight and kill demons!" Mad Fiend's thought process was simple.

The Vermilion Bird smiled. "Every time you come up with a plan, I can almost see the enemies falling for it in my mind. Most who have tried to trick you end up falling into your trap instead."

Jiang Chen laughed. "It isn't about trickery. Whoever the better chess player is will come out on top."

The Black Tortoise felt a slight chill run down its back. It silently commended itself for choosing to follow Jiang Chen. If it hadn't made the decision, the human would've made sure that the tortoise wouldn't be able to stay hidden on Sandplain Island.

"No objections? It's so decided then. Remember, though, you must keep yourselves hidden as you stir up trouble, or the plan won't be as effective."

"Don't worry," Xia Tianze said with a smile. "As long as we don't get into fights, no one is going to spot us."

Mad Fiend scrunched up his nose. "What are you all looking at me for? I'm not that dumb."

Everyone laughed heartily.

The third day, Jiang Chen went to Warden Ding and his companions. "I've returned to Sacred Peafowl Mountain and recruited the help of some empyrean cultivators and demigods. Worry not, the demons sent to attack Rejuvenation can't be that powerful. We'll save our friends."

Warden Ding's face fell. He didn't know for sure if Jiang Chen had brought enough men, but his instinct told him that the lack of divine cultivators would be a problem.

The silver lining was that the young lord himself had reached the divine realm. He might be able to turn the tide himself given his strength.

That was what Warden Ding chose to believe in.

“Give me a moment. I’ll bid the sect head farewell.” Jiang Chen waved a hand in the air and made his way to Su Huanzhen.

She took Jiang Chen to an obscure location and transmitted to him, “Rest assured, my people have followed my order to the letter, avoiding giving our guests too much information. We’ve also kept the human domain’s current situation a secret.”

Jiang Chen nodded with a faint smile. “Apologies for bothering you for so long, Sect Head Su. We’ll pay you back later. Please excuse me.”

Su Huanzhen looked at Jiang Chen’s back thoughtfully. She still wasn’t sure why Jiang Chen had given the order.

Perhaps he was still cautious when it came to Myriad Abyss.

That was the only explanation she could think of.

Not long after entering the portal, Jiang Chen took his own people and Warden Ding’s group to Winterdraw.

Lu Che and the others stationed on the island were highly agitated. They received pleas for help from Rejuvenation every day, but with their limited manpower, they couldn’t possibly leave Winterdraw to aid them.

The ugly truth was that they weren’t enough to even delay those demons. It was better to stay in Winterdraw and used its formations to their advantage. Then, they might be able to at least deter the demons in the short term.

They sighed in relief when Jiang Chen arrived. The young lord was their backbone!

Only he would be able to turn things around.

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

Chapter 2199: Demonic Shadows Dance and Flicker

When Jiang Chen asked for a briefing, Lu Che immediately spoke up.

“Rejuvenation requests our help four to five times every day. In this subordinate’s opinion, Rejuvenation would’ve long been claimed if demons truly wanted to conquer it. They’ve been pulling back in order to lure us in.”

Warden Ding’s face clouded over. Lu Che painted a grim picture, but that was likely to be the truth.

From the way demons had quickly conquered Trivalent, it didn’t make sense that they hadn’t been able to defeat Rejuvenation.

Perhaps those demons had been waiting for Jiang Chen to show up. Perhaps they'd heard that the young lord was their biggest threat from the human domain and Myriad Abyss.

Perhaps that was why Rejuvenation still stood.

Such speculations made sense.

Jiang Chen thought pensively. "What are the odds that Rejuvenation is able to defend itself without our help?"

Warden Ding let out a long sigh. "Not a chance." He didn't want to admit that, but that was the truth.

Jiang Chen's eyes darkened. "Then everyone in Rejuvenation is going to die if we don't act. I must venture into the tiger's den even if I'll be walking straight into a trap."

Warden Ding's nose twitched when he saw the determination on Jiang Chen's face. Even his steely heart had been won over by the young man.

"All of Rejuvenation will be grateful to you for upholding justice, young lord Jiang Chen."

The human leader waved a hand dismissively. "Let's take a brief break and formulate a plan today. Tomorrow, we'll set out and launch a surprise attack against the demons encircling Rejuvenation. Speed is crucial in a fight. We'll catch them off guard."

Warden Ding gritted his teeth. "I'll lead the charge even if it kills me, young lord Jiang Chen."

Lu Che opened his mouth to volunteer his help, but Jiang Chen cut in. "All of you, stay and defend Winterdraw. You've resided here for a long time. You know the island's traps and formations better. Be ready to take us in once we successfully break those in Rejuvenation out."

"As you wish, young lord." Lu Che sighed faintly and suggested, "It's going to be dangerous, young lord. Given your status, perhaps..."

"Don't try to talk me out of it. Where do you think my status comes from? I was able to reach this height because of those who supported me. If I stand by and do nothing when my people are in danger, how am I going to lead them in the future?" Jiang Chen's response stopped Lu Che from trying further.

Perhaps this was what made the young lord charismatic. He was born to create miracles. Would he be able to do the same thing this time?

Lu Che wanted Jiang Chen to succeed despite the odds. However, he had to admit that the challenges facing the young lord now were more difficult than ever.

.....

On the fringe of Rejuvenation, the demonic army had surrounded the isles for quite some time. They'd launched a few attacks and caused some deaths and damage, but it seemed that the demons didn't intend to take over the isles in one fell swoop just yet.

It was clear that Rejuvenation wasn't that important a strategic location to the demons despite the resources it possessed.

They were here for a different reason.

In a secret realm outside the isles, a few demon figureheads gathered.

The demonic army besieging Rejuvenation consisted of two demonic tribes and an army of puppets.

There were three divine cultivators among them. Two were the respective tribes' forefathers, and one was the leader of the puppets.

The demon forefathers' status was clear from the seats they'd taken.

One of them shone with a cold, chilling light. From a distance, he resembled a metal statue. His face was free of expression, while his body appeared sculpted and explosively powerful like it was cast in copper and iron.

He was from the well known golden demon tribe.

Golden demons were known for their great physical strength. They were the fiercest melee fighters of all demons, and their defense almost unbreakable. They were thus nicknamed the unkillable demons.

Regular physical attacks had almost no effect on them. Attacks of the mind weren't that effective either.

As their name suggested, they were almost immune to all attacks due to their metallic bodies. Their incredible defense in some way boosted their offensive might.

They spared little attention to protecting themselves when they fought, which naturally made their attacks all the fiercer fiercer.

Golden demons were considered the fighting machines of the ten demonic tribes, and they lived up to the reputation.

Next to the golden demon forefather was a bizarre-looking demon with a pair of wings - a winged demon.

These demonic wings were not to be underestimated. They could not only boost a demon's speed, but also contribute to offense and defense.

More importantly, the wings could also be used as weapons.

Winged demons were fierce fighters as well. Although they might not be as aggressive as golden demons in battle, the difference wasn't significant.

Winged demons, golden demons, and titan demons were widely considered the fiercest three demonic tribes.

The other tribes were unique in their own ways. Other than the celestial demons, who were talented in every aspect, no other tribes could win in a head-on fight against the three tribes.

That set them apart from shadow demons and yin demons.

The winged demon forefather frowned and asked, "Where the hell is Forefather Shadowless? Didn't he say he'd join us soon? Where is he? He doesn't expect us to beg him to come, does he?"

The golden demon forefather cackled. "Shadow demons sure love being mysterious. Who knows if he's coming?"

The leader of the puppet army stayed silent. It was as if he'd been born to obey orders rather than express opinions.

A chilling voice tinged with laughter came from the outside. "Talking behind my back now, Old Qing? I heard you."

The voice was faint and untethered. Eerie, to say the least.

"Haha, I told you we can't be sure if he'll come. Well, here he is." The golden demon forefather guffawed, the metallic laughter powerful and grating.

A gust of wind swept in as conversation flowed. A faint shadow emerged and flew in like a ghost.

In the blink of an eye, a demon appeared on the empty seat, looking harrowing and sinister. He was the divine forefather of the shadow demon tribe, Forefather Shadowless.

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

Chapter 2200: The Three Great Forefathers

The forefather of the winged demons was named Bluefalcon. He was relatively renowned among his fellows.

Forefather Silveredge, of the golden demons, enjoyed a similar status.

The final forefather who entered was Shadowless, one of the top three forefathers of the shadow demons. He was roughly the equal of Evilshadow, whom Jiang Chen and friends had slain.

It was very strange for these three to appear near the Rejuvenation Isles. In theory, this place wasn't nearly important enough to warrant all three of them showing up. One forefather would've been more than enough to raze the isles.

There was clearly a different reason for which they had gathered.

The arrival of Shadowless prompted a chuckle from Bluefalcon. "Daoist Shadowless, I presume from your presence that work on the ten sacred lands is going smoothly?"

Shadowless let out a sinister cackle. "I didn't expect them to be so easy to beat. It seems that the descent of so many of us upon Myriad Abyss has been a bit of a waste."

"Not at all! We've simply learned from our mistakes in the ancient war," laughed Bluefalcon. "If our ten tribes had cooperated a bit more closely, we wouldn't have met with nearly such a miserable end. The humans have this adage: live and learn. There's no reason we can't do the same!"

"Heh, I suppose, but that's hardly the reason for our collaboration this time around. It's because of the celestial forefather's order. No matter how much we dislike each other, we are obliged to band together, yes?" Shadowless spoke as insubstantially as he traveled.

Silveredge harrumphed. "The celestial forefather is overcautious. If we use our full strength at any time, we would conquer Divine Abyss in a clean sweep. There is no reason for these complicated conspiracies."

"Haha, Daoist Silveredge, if that's what you really think, then you are sorely mistaken. You haven't learned from the ancient lesson, it seems." Shadowless cackled darkly again.

"Enough of that from you." Silveredge appeared unconvinced. "Take this time, for example. If we'd attacked Winterdraw after wiping out Rejuvenation, we would be able to utterly crush Winterdraw's defenses. If there's a so-called transportation formation there, we can take control of it immediately and attack the human domain that way. Why go to all these extra lengths? Have we demons grown to fear the humans?"

Just like the late Forefather Stonefiend, Silveredge carried a gross disdain for humanity.

Evidently, he much preferred a frontal assault, an attack as swift and decisive as a lightning strike. That, in his opinion, suited demonic style much more.

These underhanded tricks and roundabout tactics were utterly distasteful to him. Silveredge hated the approach of Shadowless and the shadow demons especially.

Shadowless cackled a third time. "Daoist Silveredge, you deride the human domain even after losing once to them? You should know well the reason that we can't invade them, even though our seals in the desolate wildlands have been opened."

"Hmph. Didn't they activate the so-called 'Great Formation of Heavenly Soul Confinement'? That's all they're good for. They only know how to turtle up behind a formation. That shows their fear of us, doesn't it?"

Silveredge had a pretty good point.

"Sure, humans are scared of us demons. So what? That doesn't mean they can't deal with us. Haven't you heard of what happened to Lightford of the monster demons? A real character has appeared on the humans' side. He's hard to deal with."

"Absurd. One human brat? If we golden demons were in the vanguard, I guarantee I'd have his head in a month," spat Silveredge viciously.

It was Bluefalcon's turn to chuckle. "Daoist Silveredge, calm yourself. The celestial demon lord has spoken: we must follow orders in this sortie. Daoist Shadowless is in the lead, and we are to assist him."

Bluefalcon seemed to be emphasizing Shadowless's leadership role, but his words could be construed as somewhat provocative as well.

Silveredge harrumphed, but refrained from overt criticism after that. Instead, he turned to complaining. "I hope everything goes well. Otherwise, the time we'll have wasted here will be enough for us to conquer the ten sacred lands at least once over."

Shadowless roared with laughter. "When our mission here is complete, of course we'll get new assignments with the ten sacred lands. Are you worried that you won't be able to contribute?"

"I'm just worried that the wood demons will kill everyone before we get to them," sighed Bluefalcon. "We won't have much more to do then."

"The celestial demon lord knows better than that. The wood demons' methods may be particularly devious, but he won't let them have all the honor. He won't let any other tribe's contribution to overshadow his own, after all." Shadowless grinned. "You're worrying about nothing at all. The lord is so judicious in his command this time because he knows not to split up our forces anymore. Back then, we spread ourselves too thin, which allowed the humans to divide and conquer."

This was absolutely true. In the ancient era, if the ten demonic tribes had stayed together and listened to orders, they wouldn't have lost the war so completely.

The demons had lost because they had underestimated their enemy, as well as been overly proud of themselves. In terms of raw strength, they were more than capable of conquering Divine Abyss.

"The demon lord has made a wise choice this time. Conquering Myriad Abyss means that we will have our own base of operations with which to defend and attack from. More importantly, the cultivators here are mostly spineless cowards. Aside from the ten sacred lands, the factions here don't have the guts to fight us to the death," Bluefalcon laughed snidely. "We smashed our way here with trivial ease."

"Small fry, all of them," waved Shadowless. "They're not important. What matters most is breaking into Winterdraw and the human domain. That's the key to this war. If we can't enter the domain, the lord's plan will be stopped short."

"You guys have so much bullshit to spew. Can we go or not?" snickered Silveredge. "Don't tell me you're still in the planning stages?"

"What's the rush? I have the entire plan right here. Don't worry, you'll have a fight ahead of you soon. I hope you can actually beat Jiang Chen when he shows up, hmm?" Shadowless riled up his fellow forefather.

Silveredge sneered. "Are you talking in your sleep? When have we golden demons failed in a straight-up fight?"