

Three Realms 2211

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

Chapter 2211: Kasyapa Comes Knocking

At the other end of Winterdraw's transportation formation, Venerated Skysoarer and the Celestial Cicada Court had quickly adjusted to each other.

Su Huanzhen was too smart to pass over such a wondrous opportunity for her sect. She did her utmost to impress Skysoarer. In a few short months, the latter now harbored enormous goodwill for this modern sect.

As a result, the Court slowly assimilated the Ancient Crimson Heavens Sect's age-old legacy, while Su Huanzhen earned approval from Skysoarer and Jiang Chen.

She would assume the mantle of number one as soon as the young lord stepped down from the sectmaster's seat.

Venerable Skysoarer had been uncertain about her qualifications at first, but after long observation, he was won over by her great potential in both charisma and talent.

He'd also taken in some cultivators for the reactivation of the Great Formation of Heavenly Soul Confinement, but Su Huanzhen remained the most suitable and legitimate candidate as his successor, being the most accomplished of the lot.

Events unfolded smoothly after he'd endorsed her.

Soon, stirring news spread across the human domain. One of the ten great ancient leading factions, the Ancient Crimson Heavens Sect, had found its successor, and would be reestablished with the Celestial Cicada Court as its foundation.

As far as "ancient leading sects" went, it was one of the least remarkable and powerful of the lot, but everyone understood what it meant to even just possess that title.

Apart from the ancient Veluriyam Palace, the Ancient Crimson Heavens Sect was the first ancient sect to reappear. Such a legacy couldn't help but incite envy from many human factions.

Jiang Chen's declaration of supporting the Celestial Cicada Court soon followed. As the Veluriyam Palace's representative, he wished for the legacy to bring the Court to new heights. To commend the Court for never making waves during these years, he also bestowed many gifts to assist reestablishment of the ancient sect.

The Crimson Heavens ruins on Mt. Rippling Mirage naturally had to be transported over. To the young lord's surprise, the inheritance he'd once obtained from the sect was a mere superficial one. The core legacy was hidden inside the founder forefathers' statues.

But it all made sense once he thought it over. What he'd obtained was obviously far from the standard of a leading faction. Only the newly unearthed, genuine inheritance was worthy of such a lofty name.

And yet he felt no jealousy. What little he'd gained had already been of great help. On the contrary, he handed over to Skysoarer and Su Huanzhen as well many formations inherited from Pei Xing and the Earth Bodhisattva Sect.

Other than the Earth Bodhsattva Orb, he gave them almost everything.

As a result, the two great ancient formation legacies both came into the Celestial Cicada Court's possession, as well as part of Pei Xing's teachings.

When it came to formations, the new Ancient Crimson Heavens Sect had now eclipsed its former counterpart.

But at the same time, without the young lord's help, the legacy of a leading faction like the Earth Bodhisattva Sect was now lost to others. Myriad Abyss' Martial Sacred Land was no exception, despite their connection to the ancient sect.

Jiang Chen was far from idle in the meantime. He inspected Boundary Steles wherever they were located. He reinforced defenses, set up formations, and increased vigilance.

The human domain relied on the Great Formation of Heavenly Soul Confinement in the desolate wildlands to shield it from demonic invasions.

But there were other areas at the other end of the domain, such as the ones occupied by the Embittered Savages or the Southern Celestial Tribe.

Aware his tribe couldn't contend with the humans, Forefather Embittered Bamboo had offered a temporary surrender. The Savages now provided an extra layer of protection for the domain.

Rather than embarrassing Embittered Bamboo, Jiang Chen had allowed him to return and govern his tribe, so that it might at least be a buffer against an eventual demon foray.

However, the Southern Celestial Tribe was a much greater danger. True, he'd restored the Boundary Stele at the frontier, but it remained weak from the damage it'd previously suffered.

He clearly remembered that the celestial demon lord had fled to the Southern Celestial Tribe from this very spot.

If trouble were to arise in the future, it would more than likely originate from that race.

For that reason, he had ordered several divine subordinates to infiltrate that race's territory. However, the repeated discreet scouting attempts had all ended up unfruitful.

The demon lord had seemingly vanished into thin air. No trace of demon-wrought devastation could be seen in the tribe's territory.

In stark contrast to the massive demon upsurge in the desolate wildland's demon-sealing area, the Southern Celestial Tribe, like a blessed land devoid of demons, remained untouched.

Did that make any sense? The race might not have been as powerful as mankind, but by no means had it been ignored by the demons. How could it be now free from their shadows?

Of course, if determined to hide, it would be nigh impossible to find the demons no matter how deep one dug, especially when it came to the celestial demons.

So setting up powerful formations in the Primosanct Sect's vestiges and tightening the defenses was all the young lord could do.

He kept himself busy, traveling back and forth between the human domain and Winterdraw, taking note of the continent's overall situation, when one day, he suddenly received urgent news from Winterdraw.

Cultivators outside the island requested an audience with him.

Xia Tianze himself could feel a terrible pressure emanating from the formidable group. Every member was a god.

He didn't fear any of them individually, but he didn't dare rashly let them in all at once.

Jiang Chen hurried to Winterdraw, but laughed heartily when he saw, to his surprise, an old acquaintance. "An unexpected visit, Divine Kasyapa. What's the occasion?"

Apart from Kasyapa's four protectors, he was also accompanied by six other cultivators this time, each of them a powerhouse.

Even the young lord couldn't stay indifferent to such a lineup.

"Jiang Chen, did you... break through to divine realm?" Kasyapa's eyes flashed as he stared at the young lord in wonder.

The young man smiled. "Mere luck. I chanced upon the ancient Veluriyam Palace's inheritance and broke through to third level divine realm in one fell swoop."

When his voice fell, the faces of his guests was quite a sight to behold.

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Chapter 2212: Giving Pointers

What did he mean, "broke through in one fell swoop?"

How many were stuck at the threshold between peak empyrean realm and divine realm? Like grains of sand, cultivators were innumerable, yet how many were lucky enough to set foot through the door of godhood?

Even An Kasyapa and his divine companions, despite miraculous opportunities that bystanders couldn't even begin to imagine, had barely scraped through their attempt.

Look at this Jiang Chen. Not even twenty years since I last saw him, but he's somehow "reached third level divine realm in one fell swoop". What kind of joke is this?

An Kasyapa himself was merely at third level divine realm, still stuck at the doorstep to mid divine.

Out of his companions, only two were third level, the others merely first or second level.

Divine Kasyapa remained speechless for a long while before squeezing out a smile. "Fine, I knew you were a cultivation anomaly the moment we met. It now seems that you're a freak of nature. Words are no longer sufficient to describe you."

Some of those who'd followed him here had previously doubted the young lord. As a mere empyrean cultivator, he must have borrowed someone else's strength for whatever achievements he'd attained.

In their heart of hearts, they hadn't acknowledged the young lord much

But now, their suspicions and doubts vanished thoroughly.

To reach third level divine realm from empyrean realm in a decade was impossible for the average man. In fact, it might be an unprecedented feat on the continent ever since the ancient times.

Who were they to doubt such a man?

Accustomed to such reactions, Jiang Chen smiled faintly. "Divine Kasyapa, these esteemed guests must be close friends of yours?"

"Indeed, they are like-minded fellow daoists. Gentlemen, this is the Jiang Chen I often mention. This young man lives up to my praise, don't you think?" The older man sounded quite pleased with himself.

Forged by the Boundless Prison, these cultivators had high standards, but if there was someone worthy of their admiration, this young man was such a person.

Even Xia Tianze by his side was a force to be reckoned with. Judging by his presence and his aura, he could crush anyone among them.

Yet such a figure stood by the young lord's side willingly, clearly acknowledging the latter as his master. His attitude spoke louder than words.

Seeing them look at Xia Tianze with trepidation, Jiang Chen introduced with a smile, "This is Old Brother Xia, an eminent figure from the ancient Veluriyam Palace. He's participated in the ancient demon-sealing war, then sealed by Great Divine Veluriyam. But he's back among us now. Gentlemen, you should get to know each other."

An ancient divine realm cultivator?

The revelation was a bolt from the blue. They looked at Xia Tianze with increasing reverence.

"Old Brother Xia, this is Divine Kasyapa, well known for his virtue among the divine cultivators of Myriad Abyss Island. I admire him greatly."

Xia Tianze nodded lightly. "Indeed, your talent is greater than mine to reach your level at your age. It's unfortunate you weren't born in my time. We could have used your help against the demons."

It was the highest possible praise.

An Kasyapa was proud by nature, but he had nothing but respect for ancient powerhouses.

"To be praised by an ancient senior... For the first time ever, I feel undeserving. This has long been a regret of mine. If only I could've died fighting the demons back then!"

Xia Tianze smiled faintly. "That war was spectacular indeed. But the demon-subduing war, the demon-extermination war to come... they also promise to be magnificent. Be assured, your talent will be put to good use."

He then glanced at Jiang Chen. "Young lord, this friend of yours is a short step away from the fourth level. Perhaps I can give him a little nudge, as long as this friend trusts me?"

An Kasyapa smiled brightly, his eyes sparkling. "Fellow daoist, I've always admired the ancient seniors. How would I not trust you?"

"Very well, leave it to me in then. I promise you'll reach mid divine within a month."

In fact, An Kasyapa's cultivation was already sufficient for that purpose. But unlike his forebears, he simply lacked the guidance from their ancient teachings.

To think he'd strike lucky with a simple visit... The unthinkable opportunity made Kasyapa's companions secretly envious.

A spark of hope also shone in their own eyes.

An Kasyapa smiled. "These are all friends of mine. Friend Xia, if you truly have a miraculous method, please be generous with them as well."

Xia Tianze's gaze swept across the group before nodding. "Each of you must possess outstanding talent and fortunes compared to your contemporaries. You would have become notable figures back in my era. It's unfortunate you were born at the wrong time. I can offer some advice about the finer details, but the outcome will depend on your own making."

The ancient senior seemed rough around the edges, but there was a keen conscientiousness interwoven with his brashness. He could tell that the Myriad Abyss group had come to answer the call of Jiang Chen's banner.

Well, An Kasyapa had obviously come to find shelter with the young lord, but the others still had reservations. Therefore, he'd spoken to dispel their misgivings.

Jiang Chen smiled leisurely. "Everyone, it's your good fortune to have Old Brother Xia's personal help. On another topic, Divine Kasyapa, you must have seen some of the situation at large on your way here. May I hear of it?"

An Kasyapa replied grimly, "For such an important topic, we'll spare no details, rest assured."

It took him more than six hours to narrate everything he'd seen on his trip. He paid special attention to the demons' current whereabouts.

"From what I gather, the demon army isn't powerful enough to cover the entire Myriad Abyss Island. They must be planning to launch a succession of blitzes," Jiang Chen mused gravely.

But Xia Tianze countered, "Perhaps not. They might be trying to lure you in their net to ambush you. The celestial demon forefathers now view you as a great danger. It would've been easy for them to raze Myriad Abyss Island given their strength. There must be a reason behind the longstanding stalemate.

Either a trap for you, or their forces are bogged down elsewhere. Or perhaps they're not yet in peak fighting condition yet."

Worthy of one already experienced against the demons, his reasoning was clear and logical, leaving An Kasyapa and his companions shaken. When had the demons started paying so much attention to Jiang Chen?

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Chapter 2213: Thorough Submission

If Jiang Chen's demonic knowledge was an extensive overview, then Xia Tianze's was a deep study.

He'd become familiar with their tactics after years of warring. There was a strong purpose behind everything they did.

Why had they invaded Myriad Abyss Island? Just to make some minor waves? Their current tepid approach was a far cry from their usual style.

Myriad Abyss Island wasn't currently an especially tough bone to chew. More importantly, it had to cope with battles on multiple fronts at the moment; its strength was stretched much too thin. Resistance would have crumbled by now, had the demons been dead set on conquest.

However, despite the uninterrupted emergence of demons in every corner of the region, a full-blown invasion had yet to commence.

There had to be a reason, and Xia Tianze listed all the possibilities.

In Jiang Chen's view, the demons should have full confidence to make Myriad Abyss Island theirs. The delay might really imply a bigger scheme at work.

But whatever the case may be, the young lord remained undaunted and set on his path. He wasn't without plans of his own.

Xia Tianze was against the young man rushing to Myriad Abyss' rescue. He even questioned whether it was worth helping at all.

The human domain was the true core of mankind, the heart of the continent.

Humanity would live to fight another day as long as it remained safe.

Of course, the young lord considered the issue from a slightly different angle. He saw the greater picture. To forego everything else to safeguard the human domain wasn't the best choice either. Buffer zones were needed. Myriad Abyss Island, for instance.

Why not battle the demons as they made their way to the human domain?

The demons were very strong. Each of the ten demonic tribes possessed their own unique characteristics. But they weren't without their weaknesses.

At least, in Myriad Abyss island, they'd showcased a greater disharmony than expected, and didn't seem familiar with the lie of the land.

All of these flaws could be exploited.

“The ten great sacred lands are struggling against the demons as it is. An all-out offensive would have wiped them out. The demons must truly plotting something. But isn’t it the case for us as well?”

Sensing the wisdom in Jiang Chen’s smile, Divine Kasyapa’s eyes shone as he asked, “Young lord, you must have a wise idea.”

He’d come this time precisely to pick the young man’s brains. Had the latter brainstormed a plan already?

His companions were equally curious.

Feeling their expectant eyes on him, Jiang Chen smiled, aware he was being tested. “The human domain will serve as the stronghold against the demons. With its powerful fortifications, it’s undoubtedly a better choice than Myriad Abyss Island.”

Myriad Abyss Island was surrounded by a boundless sea that provided little protection, a disadvantage compared to the human domain sitting behind natural barriers.

“The human domain might be easier to defend, but it’s also well known for its thinner spirit energy. Doesn’t that make it unsuitable as a base of operation?” asked a cultivator standing behind Divine Kasyapa, voicing everyone’s doubts.

Why speak of fighting the demons if divine cultivators lacked the energy for cultivation to begin with? That was sheer fantasy, a delusion.

Jiang Chen smiled calmly. “It’s normal for you to think so. You’ve just arrived in Winterdraw and haven’t visited the human domain yet. You’ll find it greatly changed. Its spirit veins are gradually replenishing and progressively returning to their ancient splendor.”

“Oh?” Kasyapa’s eyes flashed.

“Everyone, you’re welcome to see for yourself if you’re interested.”

Kasyapa and his companions looked at Xia Tianze, then at the young lord. The explanation slowly made more sense.

Why would such a great divine senior stay in the human domain if the spirit veins weren’t rejuvenated?

Why would the demons be interested in that region at all, if not for that?

“The domain used to be the core of the whole continent long ago, after all. No matter Myriad Abyss Island’s blessings, it’s history and foundations can’t compare.”

“That goes without saying. It’s said that the human domain gave birth to civilization on the Divine Abyss Continent, and so were the earliest legacies formed during primordial times.”

Kasyapa and his companions longed for that magnificent past.

“Heh, how about a trip? You’ll discover new sights you won’t find in Myriad Abyss Island, I guarantee you.”

Like duckweed, Myriad Abyss Island lacked roots and foundations, no matter how much it had thrived.

And the human domain was that very root.

An Kasyapa smiled serenely. "Very well, it's a chance for us to witness the domain's ancient glory."

The young lord brought them personally on a tour, stunning them with the abundant spirit energy and the glowing vitality permeating the region.

The flourishing domain was leagues away from the weak, lacking, and uncivilized barrenness they'd imagined. Local cultivators weren't particularly powerful yet, but each of them bustled with energy and enthusiasm, in stark contrast to Myriad Abyss Island.

The whole domain seemed steeped in hope and positivity.

In particular, the dazzling sight of the ancient Veluriyam Palace made them speechless. They suddenly felt tiny in front of the greatest ancient sect's prestige.

It was a window like no other into an ancient world!

In front of such a scene, they were reduced to village bumpkins who'd never seen the world before.

Once they fully grasped the fundamental shifts in the region, An Kasyapa and all his companions were shaken to the core. The changes were more than they'd ever expected.

Whatever misgivings they previously had about Jiang Chen now seemed laughable.

Who were they to doubt a man who wielded the power of the greatest ancient sect at his age?

Such a figure was bound to be the main character of an entire era, guiding mankind forward.

A grand era was a canvas painted by great personages. And the young man in front of their eyes was surely a giant of this time!

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Chapter 2214: Voluntarily Joining

When settled in Veluriyam Palace's guest residences, the cultivators were overwhelmed by the formidable resources and inheritances at the sect's disposal. Its otherworldly aura loomed greatly over their heads. Ah, how lucky would they be if they could cultivate in such a place!

Myriad Abyss Island had always nursed a bone-deep sense of superiority toward the human domain, but now they realized exactly how ridiculous they'd been.

Put simply, Myriad Abyss was nothing but an upstart born after the demon-sealing war, while the human domain was a colossus fallen on hard times.

The ancient Veluriyam Palace's legacy alone could crush Myriad Abyss' ten great sacred lands.

"Heh, gentlemen, you must have seen quite a lot while visiting the domain these past few days. Quite instructive, no?" asked Divine Kasyapa.

“Hah, don’t mention it. I feel foolish for ignorantly sticking to old, established preconceptions about the human domain.”

“At this rate, the domain will return to its past power in less than a century. To fight off the demons isn’t a pipe dream.”

“The cultivation environment here is a marvel to behold. Look at those old faces, they suffered inside Boundless Prison just like us, but now they’ve become cultivators of the ancient Veluriyam Palace. What a reversal of fortune!”

The said old faces were Lightford’s divine realm subordinates who’d surrendered after his death and become Jiang Chen’s followers. Nowadays, they’d joined the ancient sect’s upper echelons in quite a quirk of fate.

Deep down, most cultivators longed for a backer, a great tree to offer shade and solace. Why were so many reduced to the life of a wandering cultivator? Not because they wanted to. For whatever reason, they simply couldn’t find a suitable tree.

Who wouldn’t be tempted by the ancient Veluriyam Palace, the number one sect in ancient times, the greatest existence on the continent?

They couldn’t even dream of such conditions, not to mention the legacies, the techniques, the resources, and the unimaginable material benefits of such a faction.

To say they weren’t swayed would be a lie.

An Kasyapa chuckled, well aware of their thoughts. “This is, after all, the number one sect in the world. Compared to its heyday, it might have recovered less than thirty percent of its might, so they must be keen to recruit heroes from all over. It’s too bad we’re so used to our freedom. Were it not for the strict rules and obligations of a sect, our self-nominations would likely be welcomed with open arms. I’m positive the young lord can use people like us.”

He was furtively spurring them on.

The man with the bald eyebrows grinned mischievously. “Hehe, freedom is fine and dandy, but a backer isn’t all that bad either.”

“That’s true. This Veluriyam Palace doesn’t seem all that restrictive anyway. Our old friends from Boundless Prison don’t look very busy to me.”

An Kasyapa laughed boisterously. “What? Don’t tell me you’re tempted. Are you thinking of joining?”

“Err, let’s talk about that later. The marvelous environment here is one thing, but I’m more interested in how the young lord cultivates. It’s quite the riddle. His speed of progress defies common sense.”

“That’s right. If I could have just half his speed, that would already be an enormous boon.”

“This young lord truly has many secrets.”

“To be frank with you, I’m indeed considering joining.”

These fellows had already made up their minds. They were secretly anticipatory, but had to keep a stiff upper lip for appearances.

However, An Kasyapa read them like a book. With a knowing smile, he exclaimed, "We've stayed long enough. Guests like us shouldn't outstay their welcome. Look at the young lord busying about from dusk to dawn. He's so preoccupied, so we shouldn't add to his troubles."

"Ah? Are we leaving?"

"Daoist Kasyapa, why are you in such a hurry? Our host hasn't sent us away yet. We can't go back to Myriad Abyss Island in any case, and the human domain is as peaceful a place as any."

Kasyapa feigned astonishment. "No matter how lovely the domain is, this isn't our home. We're men of Myriad Abyss Island. We have to return, no matter how risky."

"Now now, Daoist Kasyapa, Myriad Abyss cultivators are descendents from the human domain. We are merely returning to our roots. Technically, isn't our home Boundless Prison anyway? We've spent half our lives there. Are we to return there?"

"That's right, now that its spirit veins have been rejuvenated, the human domain is a suitable place to stay for divine realm cultivators like us."

None of them seemed willing to depart.

Their yearning for Veluriyam Palace's environment wasn't the sole reason. The neat order reigning in the human domain also gave them a formidable sense of security.

In comparison, nowhere in Myriad Abyss Island was safe from demon devastation. Every second felt like living on the edge.

What if the demons targeted them one day?

In comparison, there was no trace of ravaging in the human domain. It remained pristine from the demonic outbreak.

And from top to bottom, the domain readied itself for a future war against the demons. Its unity of purpose was becoming more apparent by the day.

Lack of cohesiveness and disunity were mankind's greatest weakness.

If everyone could work towards the same goal, then with their long history, reproductive abilities, and wisdom, humans were well equipped to fight off the demons.

"Daoist Kasyapa, you seem rather close to the young lord. Why don't you sound him out? If we join, can we enjoy high-level treatment?"

In the end, someone could no longer hold still.

Others also followed suit. "That's right. Given what's to come, fighting by ourselves is an impossible proposition. Becoming part of a leading faction like Veluriyam Palace is quite a decent alternative."

"We would also bring glory to our ancestors by joining the greatest ancient sect, don't you think?"

These fellows had discarded all semblance of pretense.

An Kasyapa looked at each of them in turn, his gaze dead serious. He said firmly, "Gentlemen, don't decide on a whim. This is no trifling matter. We're talking about the greatest ancient sect. Once you join, there's no more room for regret."

True enough, an ancient sect wasn't a market where one went and exited as one pleased.

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Chapter 2215: Jiang Chen's Promise

Jiang Chen showed no surprise when An Kasyapa and his companions broached the matter of joining Veluriyam Palace.

He'd gone out of his way to bring them to the human domain and let them stay for this long in the sect residences. Why for, if not to entice them with the sect's benefits?

These cultivators were very important. Their strength was a cut above the likes of Lan Tianhao or Yu Gong, thanks to the chasm in cultivation levels between the two groups. Two or three among the guests almost rivaled even An Kasyapa.

So the young lord naturally welcomed them with open arms.

"It'd be my pleasure if you can join and fight the demons by my side. But I need to get the unpleasant part out of the way first."

No artifice marred the sincerity in his eyes.

"Veluriyam Palace is the leading ancient sect. It possesses the inheritances and the resources to match, but also the constraints. Its boons can be yours to enjoy, but you need to abide by the rules as well. Are you prepared for such?"

He didn't sugarcoat the requirements, so to avoid potential unpleasant misunderstandings down the line.

An Kasyapa smiled. "To tell you the truth, I've already warned them in advance. These fellow daoists know full well what's required of them."

Everyone looked at Jiang Chen and added sincerely, "There's no need to worry, young lord. We might be easygoing, but we know proper conduct. We're naturally ready to follow the rules if we can join a faction this prestigious. You won't find us besmirching the sect's reputation."

"Indeed, it would be our honor to participate in the rebuilding. As privileged witnesses of Veluriyam Palace's second rising, we'll naturally do our utmost."

These words came from the heart.

Joining this early would make them founding elders. As such, they naturally had to contribute to the sect's renewal in order to cement their positions.

No one was foolish enough to bring shame upon Veluriyam Palace at this important juncture.

Jiang Chen reacted with an easy, happy laugh.

“Great, very good! Let me represent Veluriyam Palace and welcome you all into our ranks. After the ceremony, you’ll be made sect elders. The seat of a high elder awaits you if you can break through to mid divine realm.”

A high elder was an even loftier position than a common elder. No high elders existed yet, only a single venerated elder in Xia Tianze.

Of course, the latter was an ancient founding elder to begin with. His status was special, and his strength overwhelming. No one disputed his position.

The immediate promotion to elder sent a wave of elation through the group and added to their enthusiasm.

An Kasyapa also exclaimed, “To think I’d join a sect one day! I just couldn’t resist the lure of the greatest ancient faction!”

True enough, he’d never considered saying no from the very start.

“I won’t interfere with Old Brother Xia’s promise to you. But now that you’re one of us, I’ll make another pledge. One day, I’ll provide you with an opportunity to unconditionally advance your cultivation by one level.”

The young lord’s solemn promise shook the crowd.

An Kasyapa cried out despite himself, “One level, unconditionally?”

True, the young lord did possess a recipe for a pill called the Crowning Empyrean Pill that advanced an empyrean cultivator’s level.

But the same seemed inconceivable in the divine realm. Everyone knew how difficult each step forward was at that stage, not to mention the unconditional part.

“Correct. Unconditionally.” Jiang Chen smiled as if it were a foregone conclusion.

“Young master, I’m truly curious. Does such a miraculous pill exist for the gods?” An Kasyapa had no qualms probing further, given his familiarity with the young lord.

The latter nodded with a chuckle. “Just like the Sage Smile Pill, the Emperor Supremacy Pill, or the Crowning Empyrean Pill in earlier realms, there’s naturally a similar pill for the divine realm. I’m simply short of a supplemental ingredient. As soon as I find it, I’ll refine the pills.”

“You...” Shaken once more, his new elders couldn’t hide their emotions.

Any headway in the divine realm was oh-so-difficult. An unconditional advancement of a full level sounded like an impossible tale of legends.

“May I know the name of this pill?” Divine Kasyapa inquired.

“The Divine Transcendence Pill,” replied the young lord with a smile.

The older man murmured, “So you already have the core ingredients and merely lack a supplemental one? Is it rarer than the main ones?”

Jiang Chen shook his head. “Not necessarily. I simply haven’t found it so far, but it definitely exists somewhere on the continent.”

It wasn’t blind confidence. Since the continent had Amaranth Clouddew Fruits, it certainly had the supplemental ingredients to match as well, according to the rules of the heavens.

In the heavenly planes, this ingredient was far more common than the Amaranth Clouddew Fruit. Stumbling upon the latter was harder than finding a needle in a haystack.

Even in his former life, he’d spotted it no more than once or twice.

“Young lord, if I may be so bold, what is it you’re missing?” Divine Kasyapa asked, full of curiosity.

The young man chuckled. “There’s no harm in telling you. It’s a spirit herb called the Divine Dwelling Grass.”

Divine Dwelling Grass?

The crowd looked blankly at each other in obvious perplexity. They were peak existences on the continent, but it was their first time hearing this name.

A little disappointed, An Kasyapa sighed, “Alas, my knowledge seems sorely lacking. It must be very uncommon, judging by the name.”

The others also shook their heads. “Likewise, I’ve never heard of it either.”

Jiang Chen merely smiled. “It’s rare, true enough, but I’ll certainly find it one day.”

His declaration seemed as bold as brass, but the crowd wasn’t unduly puzzled. He must have had a good reason for his confidence. After all, his knowledge was vastly superior to theirs.

Reports of another batch of divine realm cultivators joining Veluriyam Palace quickly spread throughout the human domain. It was yet another fantastic piece of news that roused the domain from top to bottom.

The continuous emergence of divine realm cultivators was a ray of hope in the eventual war against the demons.

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Chapter 2216: Continuous Ill Tidings

The arrival of An Kasyapa and his comrades diversified and filled out the human domain’s ranks. The plethora of gods under Jiang Chen’s command gave him more options for resource deployment. He was able to garrison several important strongholds with plenty of troops.

This solved a myriad of problems for him.

There were currently three areas of highest risk in the human domain: the old site of the Primosanct Sect which was near the Southern Flame Tribe’s Boundary Stele; the Celestial Cicada Court as the

transportation formation to Winterdraw was located there and now the site of the new Ancient Crimson Heavens Sect; and last but not least, the northwestern border with the Embittered Savage Tribe.

The Moon God Sect had customarily defended that territory, but they had expanded wantonly during his decade behind closed doors. Because of this, Jiang Chen didn't have a terribly high opinion of them.

Xu Qingxuan had advised them several times to refrain, but the Moon God Sect had ignored her precautionary words. Some even muttered behind her back that she had forgotten her roots.

Though she wasn't in a position to interfere overmuch, Qingxuan knew that her brother wouldn't like the amount of civil strife that was being stirred up. The Moon God Sect should've focused on increasing their raw strength for the oncoming war, rather than expanding their territory at the cost of others.

What could she do about it, though? She still cared about the sect's business, but there was already a divide between them.

She suspected that her brother would, in fact, take over the northwest entirely when the time came, sidelining the Moon God Sect in the process.

What was their newfound territory good for? A single word from Jiang Chen would take all of that away overnight.

After all, the Moon God Sect lacked its own gods. Jiang Chen seemed to have no inclination to assist them in this matter and there was no telling how long it would take them to raise their own. Even if they did, then what?

Really, the sect had much better options, but it had chosen the most foolish of paths.

In the climate of the current human domain, obedience to Jiang Chen's orders was most important. Territory was barely more relevant than a writ of paper that could be lost in the next moment.

As Xu Qingxuan expected, Jiang Chen sent two gods and a number of his loyal servants to the northwest soon after.

They didn't touch the Moon God Sect, but the influence that gods naturally commanded immediately stole its thunder.

The former region that Pillfire City ruled over became their base of operations; it was land that the Moon God Sect already occupied, but it could hardly say no to Jiang Chen's men.

The sect finally understood now the wisdom behind Xu Qingxuan's words. Unfortunately, it was too late.

Jiang Chen made extensive preparations at all three aforementioned strategic points.

Winterdraw Island was the most important place of all to keep defended. It contained an irreplaceable passage into the human domain for the demons.

The path through Myriad Abyss Island was the one of least resistance. The Southern Celestial and Embittered Savage lands required circling the entirety of Divine Abyss, through far too many domains of every kind. The demons didn't have enough troops to marshal that kind of offensive.

After receiving their freedom, Mang Qi and his comrades flourished in the plentiful spirit energy of the human domain. Their oaths bound them to fight under Jiang Chen's command.

Furthermore, they depended on the human leader to allow them to return to their homelands.

Jiang Chen put Mang Qi at the helm of these alien cultivators, enlisting them as a separate group which was stationed in the northwest for contingencies.

Venerated Skysoarer was assigned to the Celestial Cicada Court alongside his ancient peers. The presence of five divine guardians emphasized Jiang Chen's regard for the location. They were on pretty good terms with each other too, which ruled out any potential disagreements.

As for the Primosanct Sect's ancient site, Lan Tianhao and a number of other elites were sent there.

Xia Tianze was asked to stay behind in the Veluriyam Palace to oversee the grand scheme of things. He had enough strength and authority to keep things everywhere under control without being questioned.

These arrangements left the human domain in a well-fortified state.

Divine Kasyapa and his friends were led by Jiang Chen himself. They protected Winterdraw Island zealously from invasion.

After the battle against Old Lightford, Kasyapa's demigod servants and personal servants had obtained sufficient reward in order to propel them into divinity. Most had accomplished that goal, and the rest were nearly there.

This meant there was at least a dozen gods among the company.

Jiang Chen was a god himself, as were the four sacred beasts under his command. The king of the Goldbiter Rats, after consuming an Amaranthine Clouddew Fruit, was on the verge of divinity as well.

He was confident that he would be able to maneuver against all ten demonic tribes put together given his current forces. Winterdraw Island's powerful formation defenses assured him that this would be the case.

Still, he obviously wasn't going to just sit around and see what the demons were planning.

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A map of Myriad Abyss was unfurled upon a table. Jiang Chen's gaze swept over it thoughtfully.

Many pieces of bad news had made their way to him over the past few days. For example, the closest sacred land – Immortal – was currently besieged by the golden demons.

Abyssal Sacred Land had fallen completely, and its divine nation had descended into a living hell.

There were rumors that the monster demons had entered Myriad Abyss to ready an assault upon Flora.

The news about Abyssal especially kindled Jiang Chen's concern. The sacred land's survivors had managed to retreat to Eternal, and Martial was in the process of following in Abyssal's footsteps. It seemed that the three sacred lands were being forced to combine by the encroaching demons.

It was time to do something. If he let the situation spiral out of control, the demons would definitely control all of Myriad Abyss in due time.

Sovereign of the Three Realms (WN)

Chapter 2217: A Proactive Strategy

The demons' stratagem seemed a conspiracy, but its efficacy was also plain for all to see.

As their forces recovered, they would only become stronger and stronger. The attacks on Myriad Abyss would gradually intensify.

If Jiang Chen launched an attack from the human domain, countless traps and snares would inevitably be waiting for him.

If he ignored Myriad Abyss's plight, the demons could conquer the island at their leisure, starting with the sacred lands.

When the demons obtained full control of Myriad Abyss, they would be able to use it as a base of operations and aggressively attack Winterdraw. It would make striking the human domain proper easier as well—much more convenient, at any rate, than taking the long detour around domains of other races.

Regardless of the decision Jiang Chen made, he would be at more of a disadvantage with the passage of time.

The direness of the situation informed everyone that a direct confrontation with the demons was unavoidable. Perhaps the day of all-out war would arrive sooner than expected.

"The Eternal Sacred Land is dear to my heart because of our past. The wood demons are a particularly vicious bunch. If I don't help, the three sacred lands of the triangle will surely all fall. Immortal is closest to Winterdraw. I'm not acquainted with it much, but I hear that it specializes in refining treasures, is that right?"

An Kasyapa nodded. "The best among the ten. The treasures they refine and forge are considered the most desirable in Myriad Abyss. Other sect master artisans cannot compare in knowledge and product quality."

As a native of Myriad Abyss, he knew the sacred lands pretty well. The others, who were natives as well, largely agreed.

"The Immortal Sacred Land is definitely the best at refining treasures."

"The golden demons must have ulterior motives for attacking Immortal. After all, they stand to benefit the most from consuming treasures and raw materials to increase their own strength."

This latter speaker reminded Jiang Chen of that fact.

So that was why the golden demons were attacking Immortal! Reason and logic propelled their movements after all. There was no randomness to their behavior.

"I captured a golden demon forefather named Silveredge. However, every tribe of demons has multiple forefathers. Silveredge is definitely not the strongest of the bunch. I wonder how many golden demons

are present for the siege on Immortal and how many experts are there?” Jiang Chen could hardly know these details. Still, he leaned toward saving the Immortal Sacred Land.

Immortal was Winterdraw’s neighbor as well as a faction worth drawing to his side. It would be of pivotal importance in the upcoming war.

“My friends, between Immortal, Flora, and Eternal, I think we should reinforce the first. We can’t just leave Eternal be, however. We need to split up.” Jiang Chen made his intentions known.

“Young lord, there aren’t many of us in the first place. Is it really wise to split up?” One of the gods couldn’t help asking.

Jiang Chen smiled wisely. “Divine Kasyapa, you know the Eternal Sacred Land the best among our friends here. Can you travel there in my stead?”

An Kasyapa inclined his head. “No problem. Is there really much of a point for me to go there alone though? It’s so far away from Winterdraw.”

“There’s no need for brute force against the wood demons. I’m sending a lot of antidotes with you, as well as a method to deal with them more efficiently. Sunrise’s Fire of Firstdawn will be a crucial weapon in your offensive against them. My antidote is refined with Dragonwhisker Water, which allows it to disable the wood demons’ poisonous parasites. Similarly, the fire is their natural enemy.

“Both of these counters combined will allow you to best the wood demons easily – maybe even wipe them out, if you use them well! The job is so important that it demands you go yourself, Divine Kasyapa. I wouldn’t be able to trust anyone else. Plus, there’s no need for many experts against the wood demons anyway. Instead, these antithetical elements will prove the key to their undoing!”

An Kasyapa looked thoughtful for a moment, then nodded readily. “Alright, I’ll make the trip.”

Jiang Chen nodded as well. “I’m sure you’ll encounter many problems along the way, so I’m giving you this escape talisman. It was a gift to me from Great Divine Veluriyam himself, and using it allows you to match his speed. Even the forefather of the celestial demons wouldn’t necessarily be able to catch up with you. There are three uses in it: keep it for an hour of need. Whatever happens, keeping yourself intact is your first priority.”

An Kasyapa was very talented in martial cultivation. Given enough time, he would surely attain greater achievements. His recent reception of tutelage from Xia Tianze had already brought him to the threshold of mid divine realm.

Perhaps he would be able to break through on this trip.

The escape talisman from Great Divine Veluriyam guaranteed his safety, regardless.

The others were rather envious of Jiang Chen’s gift, but they could hardly complain; they knew of the nature of the two’s relationship.

“You’re not worried that I’ll simply off and disappear with this talisman, young Chen?” An Kasyapa chuckled.

“If you absconded for something as insignificant as this talisman, you’d be letting yourself down.” Jiang Chen roared with laughter. “Your future holds many greater things yet!”

Despite the old man’s lackadaisical attitude, he was in fact quite touched. This kind of trust was rather foreign to his former life.

It was stranger yet that the one who placed his confidence in him was a young man – someone who was far inferior only two decades ago.

It was nice to have this kind of relationship, especially with a relative.

“Don’t worry, young Chen. I will bring your antidote to the Eternal Sacred Land posthaste. The Sunrise Sacred Land will stand so that I might ferry their Fire of Firstdawn to Eternal and eradicate the wood demons.”

“Don’t underestimate the wood demons. They’re not the strongest of the ten, but they have a lot of tricks up their sleeve. If I can free myself up, I will head for Eternal as soon as possible myself. The sooner they’re wiped out, the better!”

Jiang Chen was of the opinion that none of the demons should be underestimated.

Anyone who did would inevitably meet misfortune.

His arrangement for An Kasyapa to go alone to Eternal seemed risky, but it was actually a very calculated move.

Against more capable combatants like the golden demons, sending one cultivator meant nothing. Against the wood demons, however, one needed not to beat them in pitched battle, but with something to counteract their poisons and parasites.

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

Chapter 2218: Trump Card

Jiang Chen smiled when he noted the same eagerness to fight in the others.

“Gentlemen, the war is a long term effort. It won’t be over in a day or two, so don’t be in such a hurry. Protecting Myriad Abyss Island will also contribute to our future success. You will have chances aplenty to battle demons and prove yourselves. But first, you must focus on cultivation. One drop of sweat shed now will mean one less drop of blood spilled in the future.”

The crowd responded, “We will heed your orders, young lord. Rest assured, we won’t let our greed for merit get the better of us.”

They envied An Kasyapa for obtaining the Divine Veluriyam talisman, but not excessively so. After all, with great rewards came great risks.

“Alright, gentlemen. Just keep in mind that Winterdraw is a cornerstone to the success or failure of the demon-subduing war. I hope you fully realize the weight of the responsibility on your shoulders.”

It was paramount to keep the island safe.

But with the help of such formidable formations, defense shouldn't be too arduous a task. More importantly, the demons had yet to mobilize for a large-scale offensive on the island.

A single demon tribe or two didn't constitute too great a threat.

The young lord didn't tarry after putting the island's affairs in order. He immediately turned his attention to the maps, preparing for the imminent rescue of the Immortal Sacred Land.

"Young lord, Immortal is closest to us, so the demons will expect you there. This trip might be highly dangerous," warned the Vermilion Bird.

How would Jiang Chen be unaware?

He simply had no choice. He couldn't lose Immortal to the enemy.

"Old Brother Vermilion, out of all ten sacred lands, Immortal is the best at treasuring refining. In the Eternal Sacred Land, I possess a spirit vein containing pentacolor crystals. They can be the basis for weapons with innate anti-demon properties. It'll be invaluable help to the war effort if I can turn all of them into demon-slaying weapons!"

"Young lord, how many weapons can you refine with these crystals?"

"If we're talking divine weapons, then no more than fifteen. But if used to forge empyrean weapons instead, I can make three thousand at least. And that's a conservative estimate!"

"Three thousand??"

"What? Do you think that isn't much? If I can assemble an empyrean battalion, each member armed an empyrean weapon crafted from pentacolor crystals, can you imagine how mighty a force it will be?"

One or two empyrean cultivators posed no threat whatsoever to divine cultivators. Even ten or twenty were of little concern. But one hundred, each equipped with an anti-demon weapon, against a single demonic god? Then the odds were no longer so certain.

A brigade three thousand strong, everyone at advanced empyrean realm, would boast astonishing potential.

This had been a long-standing plan of his. The timing had simply never been right, due to the lack of personnel.

"So you have no choice but to rescue Immortal?" sighed the Vermilion Bird.

"Yes, I must have them on my side. We must venture into the lion's den, despite fully knowing the dangers lurking inside.

"It's true the golden demons are fearsome in combat. The fight against Silveredge could've been hairy without your intervention."

They'd defeated shadow and winged demon forefathers in that fight. Silveredge of the golden demon tribe had been the only one they'd failed to take down, and not for lack of trying. Jiang Chen had ended up resorting to his father's treasure, the True Dragon Rope of Water and Fire, in order to capture his demonic foe.

That spoke volumes about the fierceness of golden demons.

But Jiang Chen added, "The golden demon physique is admittedly strong. But that was your first experience against them. You all weren't used to their style. Believe me, the blood of the four sacred beasts is in no way shape or form inferior, especially if all four bloodlines were to act in concert. Very few in the heavenly planes would be confident going against all four of you then."

The four sacred beasts were Jiang Chen's greatest weapon. Even better, this trump card could be played time and time again, and even strengthen itself over time.

His sights were set beyond the demons, at the heavenly planes, and at his former life!

The four sacred beasts hadn't fully matured yet. They were all at initial divine realm. Close to the fourth level, the Vermilion Bird and the Black Tortoise led the pack, while Long Xiaoxuan was second level, and the Astral White Tiger only first.

But each of them had great potential after partaking the Amaranth Clouddew Fruit. They would reach advanced divine realm sooner or later, or even higher.

By then, Jiang Chen would surely launch an expedition in the heavenly planes to solve the riddle of his former life.

For him, the demons on Divine Abyss Continent were nothing but a momentary obstacle.

He didn't want the four beasts to suffer from a feeling of defeat whenever they had to face golden demons.

"Old Brother Vermilion, your skyfire is in fact the golden demons' bane. You probably aren't aware of it yourself. Among the five elements, the southern fire restrains the western gold. In all of the heavenly planes, golden demons fear fire-based abilities the most."

Ordinary water or fire attacks wouldn't dent them, but it wasn't so for the divine bird. Carrying the bloodline of Vermilion Birds, its fire carried an innate power blessed by creation.

Only, his bloodline power wasn't fully developed yet. Otherwise, the bird could have subdued Silveredge all by himself.

With a grin, the Astral White Tiger shouted, "It's nothing but golden demons. Why should we four sacred beasts be afraid?"

"Let's go then and play with that golden demon tribe." Long Xiaoxuan's fighting spirit was roused as well. He'd gained quite a lot after fighting Silveredge, including new insights, and would certainly not be so passive his second time against a golden demon forefather.

Jiang Chen smiled leisurely. "Everyone, don't forget that apart from the four of you, I still have a card to play against them."

"Ah? What is it?"

With a chuckle, Jiang Chen made a hand seal and called, "Old Gold, come on out and meet everyone."

The Goldbiter Rat King cackled and darted out from thin air.

It wasn't the rat king's first time meeting Long Xiaoxuan. They'd seen each other often before for various missions. The rat king had simply always kept a low-profile, hence why they weren't too familiar with each other.

The rat's sense of inferiority was to blame. His bloodline seemed far too lackluster compared to sacred beasts.

But thanks to Jiang Chen's repeated tales of the ancient Goldbiter Kingrats and the legacy of their bloodline, the king's confidence had increased in spades.

He no longer felt so ashamed. Instead, he now brimmed with a deep-seated sense of self-assurance.

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

Chapter 2219: The Immortal Sacred Land

The appearance of a big rat stirred the White Tiger's interest. His gaze sharpened, as if ready to fight the rat king at the drop of a hat.

"Relax, Little White. He's on our side," Jiang Chen chided with a smile.

Little White licked his lips. "This big rat is pretty interesting. I really feel like a good fight."

He'd been a little depressed. He was the youngest among the four sacred beasts and the weakest in combat. He'd always wanted a good brawl, but never had a suitable candidate available to him.

But this rat king, while a little weaker, was almost at his level. The prospect of such an opponent raised his spirits.

The rat king grimaced. "The Astral White Tiger's bloodline is invincible head-on. Please don't bully a poor Goldbiter Rat."

The tiger deflated like a balloon. "So you're a coward. What'd you grow so big for? What a waste. Seems like a fight's not in the cards."

Jiang Chen laughed. "Alright, let me introduce him. He's the Goldbiter Rat King, you can call him Ole Gold. His tribe descends from the ancient Goldbiter Kingrats, a tribe capable of swallowing everything in creation. No one dares provoke them. They're not that strong individually, but you can't outbreed them, and will end up overwhelmed by their sheer numbers in the end. That's their greatest asset."

Goldbiter Kingrats!

The four beasts weren't strangers to that name thanks to memories from their heritage. Their expressions turned unnatural. They certainly didn't want to provoke Goldbiter Kingrats either.

And descending from the Goldbiter Kingrats, it wasn't out of the question for the Goldbiter Rats to evolve back into their ancestors.

"Ole Gold, I trust you're not unfamiliar with the four sacred beasts?"

The crafty rat king chuckled. "Hehe, I've always admired such noble and lofty existences. Everyone, please offer your support to me in the future, since we're all on the young lord's side."

The Vermilion Bird looked at the rat king, all smiles. "Ole Gold, how many descendants does your tribe have right now?"

The rat king thought it over, then shrugged casually. "All in all, about three to four hundred millions?"

The bird's smile vanished instantly, but reappeared almost as fast. "Young lord, I know now what card you were talking about."

The Black Tortoise also grew interested, "Legends speak of Goldbiter Kingrats swallowing all of the heavenly planes, leaving nothing and no one untouched. Even the strongest metal can become their food. Is that true?"

"It is." Jiang Chen smiled. "Ole Gold, I'm headed to the Immortal Sacred Land. A battle against golden demons is perhaps waiting for us. It's a good opportunity, but also a trial. Maybe more than half of your tribe will die afterward, but the survivors will be greatly strengthened. A golden demon's body is comparable to metal, it's great nutrition for your kin. What say you?"

The rat king's narrow eyes glinted keenly, betraying his intense desire.

Because of its incredible fertility, his tribe had never been afraid of death. Instead, opportunities to strengthen their bloodline were what they lacked most.

They would throw themselves without hesitation at any such chance.

Each strengthening was a transformation for the entire tribe, a transcendence of their limits.

They had evolved time and again after meeting Jiang Chen. Their combat ability was now at least a hundred times higher.

There was no end to such evolution, or at least, they hadn't met such a ceiling yet. There was still enormous room for them to grow.

"Young lord, we aren't called Goldbiter Rats for nothing. I might not be that confident if you pit me against a demon forefather, but we can't miss out on large scale battles. As long as they number less than one hundred thousand, I guarantee we'll gnaw them to the last until there's not a trace left!" The rat king nowadays spoke with new-found confidence.

His tribe was longer the same the same one Jiang Chen had first met back then.

"Very well. Ole Gold. I rarely see this kind of zeal in anyone. That's what I like most about you. This battle will be a good chance to see what your tribe's made of. Show me that nurturing you for this long was well worth it," responded Jiang Chen serenely.

The sacred beasts were fully aware of how powerful this card was.

Wasn't the Goldbiter Rat tribe the golden demons' nemesis? Against the golden demons' unmatched physique, innumerable human cultivators would have lost their lives.

But for the Goldbiter Rats, the same physique was a choice morsel.

Jiang Chen quietly departed three days later, the sacred beasts in tow.

As for An Kasyapa, he'd already left one day prior.

Jiang Chen had entrusted the Divine Veluriyam escape talisman to the man. Not that he couldn't have used it himself, but the Measure of Heaven could roughly serve the same function, so the talisman wasn't strictly necessary.

He traveled light. The sacred beasts stayed hidden while he did his best to look like a wandering cultivator to avoid unwarranted attention.

Although Immortal was the closest sacred land to Winterdraw, it was still quite a distance away. To avoid the demons' eyes and ears, he chose not to use an airboat, opting to fly by himself instead. The speed of his journey inevitably suffered for it.

Demons were omnipresent along the way, but there was still no signs of a large-scale mobilization. Many places showed signs of frequent demon presence, but hadn't been fully captured yet.

In fact, quite a few defending forces seemed plagued by internal conflicts. Many had ulterior motives and wanted to fish in troubled waters. The situation didn't seem all that pressing outwardly, but in reality, imminent danger lurked just below the surface.

Jiang Chen slowed down once he approached the sacred land's territory. Golden demons were obviously much more active in the vicinity. He spotted many of their patrols, while human cultivators were a rare sight this close to the border.

It was extremely difficult for humans to draw near. Trying to slip inside incognito seemed too complex a task to be realistically feasible.

But he wasn't in a hurry to attack. Judging by the current situation, the sacred land hadn't been fully captured yet. There was still room to salvage the situation.

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

Chapter 2220: The Golden Demon Tribe

Increasing numbers of golden demons gathered around the Immortal Sacred Land. Collectively, they numbered forty to fifty thousand, or even more.

Other than one forefather away near the Desolate Wildlands, the remaining three divine forefathers had all gathered in Immortal over the past few days.

The tribe had turned out in force for this occasion.

The venerated forefather, named Goldenhowl, was an existence close to advanced divine realm. He was a much more fearsome existence than Silveredge.

The other two were called Silverhammer and Clouddrumbler. Both around Silveredge's level in cultivation.

Silverhammer, in particular, was the former's equal, while Clouddrumbler was a little worse by just a slight margin.

As for Goldenhowl, he was known as one of the three strongest demons. Rumoredly, even the other golden demon forefathers put together weren't his match.

His presence indicated the importance he attached to this operation.

The three forefathers met outside the sacred land and studied its defenses.

A moment later, Goldenhowl shook his head. "Such pathetic defenses, and they dare call themselves a sacred land? This Myriad Abyss Island truly seems a far cry from the ancient human domain."

"Heh, fellow daoist, you know as well as me that they descend from deserters who fled the ancient battlefield to avoid us. They have an ingrained fear of us. Against this Immortal Sacred Land, I alone will suffice. I just need three thousand boys from our clan!" Clouddrumble smiled leisurely. "This sacred land's divine realm forefather is apparently fighting offworld. Myriad Abyss is simply a joke."

It was a little disappointing to see Immortal amount to this little. They'd expected the ten sacred lands to be a far tougher bone to chew, but they were nothing but lumps of fatty meat waiting to be swallowed whole.

"Fellow daoist, why don't we go all out? I hear the wood demons have already seized Abyssal Sacred Land, while the titan demons and monster demons are besieging Flora Sacred Land. We can't be left behind. The wood demons have snatched the top rank in merit, so we have to speed things up," Silverhammer proposed eagerly.

Goldenhowl muttered, "As you say, capturing the Immortal Sacred land is child's play. But have the two of you considered Daoist Silveredge's fate? His whereabouts are unknown, his survival yet uncertain."

"Isn't that the shadow demons' fault? They were the ones heading the mission. They're nothing but armchair strategists who stumble as soon as reality hits them, it seems."

"That's right, what's hard about the Rejuvenation Isles? I heard it's just a third-rate faction. It was surely a plot from the human domain instead, given its proximity. More than likely, it was that Jiang Chen's doing."

Goldenhowl nodded. "That Jiang Chen is the real tough bone. He's my target, not this sacred land. My sights are set on Winterdraw and the human domain!"

"Ah? Forefather, what's your plan?" The two other forefathers pricked their ears.

"We golden demons are the best fighters of our race, so just how strong is Winterdraw to have defeated Silveredge?" This was Goldenhowl's main preoccupation.

"Fellow daoist, we'll find out after we conquer Immortal. Nothing can resist a charge from our tribe, not even Winterdraw!"

"That's right. Capturing that island will be a massive contribution. No amount of sacred lands can compare in to its strategic importance."

Demons had in fact a clearly defined policy: to attack the human domain using Myriad Abyss as their base.

Winterdraw was crucial to that strategy.

According to the information available to them, Winterdraw was the key to traveling between the human domain and Myriad Abyss. Seizing it would ram wide open the gates to the human domain.

An intense glint flashed in Goldenhowl's eyes. The golden demons had once been celebrated for their part in the ancient war. Now that their race had risen once again, he naturally had no desire to be eclipsed by the other tribes.

The offensive on Winterdraw had preoccupied his thoughts these past few days. He wouldn't have hesitated at all, if not for Silveredge's failure. He was a little more cautious now.

But no matter his misgivings, the human domain didn't seem strong enough to withstand an offensive from his tribe.

He'd gathered intelligence reports far and wide and knew about a young man called Jiang Chen at the helm of the human domain. This human hadn't been reached the divine realm yet as of twenty years ago, but there were a few divine sacred beasts at his side, as well as some initial divine realm cultivators.

It was little to write home about!

Perhaps the human domain as a whole had grown somewhat in twenty years, but how much could they have achieved in such a short time frame?

If they had been genuinely strong, would they have been this concerned about the Great Formation of Heavenly Soul Confinement?

In his final analysis, the forefather felt that Silveredge's failure must have been caused by a lack of coordination between the three tribes.

Nothing else could account for the utter rout of three demon forefathers and the army they'd commanded.

There was no denying humans had won that battle, but they must have invested all their forces into the fray.

Now that he'd taken personal charge and gathered all the elites of his tribe, the troops at his disposal was incomparably stronger.

His army possessed at least five times the combat prowess, while he alone could have crushed Silveredge and the two others forefathers.

He couldn't help but be tempted to roll the dice.

It was his best opportunity to play a decisive part in the war. Once he conquered Wintedraw and made the strategic stronghold his, he could point his forces directly at the human domain. By then, the golden demons' status among the ten tribes would be unquestioned.

"Cloudrumble, this seat gives you one day to take down Immortal. Are you confident enough to do so?" Forefather Goldenhowl's eyes glinted keenly.

"Haha, be at ease. I will not fail my orders." Cloudrumble cackled and summoned the troops in preparation for assailing the sacred land.

Immortal's defenses were decent enough, but the strength of the golden demons meant all defenses were nonexistent before them. All would fall beneath their edge!