

Three Realms 2301

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

Chapter 2301: Fear and Unease

His face grave, Bloodreed didn't retort for a change.

Goldenhowl stopped his tirade at this unusual reaction. In terms of pure strength, the two of them were almost unmatched in the ten tribes. No one stood above them, apart from Forefather Celestial.

Even the second or third forefathers of the celestial tribe were their equal at best.

"Old Blood, what are you thinking about?" inquired the golden demon.

"Alas." Bloodreed sighed softly. "I feel queasy on this day. I shouldn't have caved in to the pressure and agreed to the battle plans. I had the feeling the celestial tribe was up to no good. I just knew it! And now no one can oppose them anymore. We can only obey like meek little lambs."

"Obey?" His breathing labored, Goldenhowl struggled to stifle his emotions. "Why should we?"

"Do you think we're in a position to refuse?" Bloodreed asked quietly.

"We can't challenge them outright, but we don't have to cooperate, do we? The other tribes must be seething right now. The titan, monster, wood, and yin demons, how many of them do you think are genuinely happy? The shadow, fire, and winged tribes are the only ones without too many complaints."

"Heh, so what? You think you can start a revolution?" Bloodreed chuckled.

Goldenhowl's agitation cooled off at the sight of the blood demon's outward display of nonchalance. Mirroring his counterpart, he too smiled calmly, and murmured seemingly to himself, "What's the hurry? Without a tribe to command, I can throw my lot with anyone. There's no reason for me to be so upset."

The two old foxes danced around each other, testing and probing again and again.

Bloodreed's lips curled up in a pensive smile. "Old Golden, I feel apprehensive even now. I fear the bloodshed isn't over yet."

"Heh, stop indulging in flights of fancy. The human brat is strong, but he's never acted without a plan. Do you think he'll try to sneak inside our base so far from Winterdraw? Humans don't have that power, nor do they have the mettle." Goldenhowl still refused to acknowledge Jiang Chen's worth.

"Who says I was talking about him?" Bloodreed said quietly.

Goldenhowl stared meaningfully at the blood demon, his eyes narrowed into slits. "Fellow daoist, what do you mean?"

"Heh, Old Golden, we're both smart people. You clearly understand me." Bloodreed retorted, unimpressed. "Don't play dumb if you want an honest talk. If not, the exit's right over there."

Goldenhowl froze, his smile gradually vanishing.

“Very well, you’re evidently referring to the celestial tribe. But no matter their faults, they surely wouldn’t do anything to us? What would they have to gain by harming us? Do they think they can conquer Divine Abyss by themselves? That’s just a dream!”

Bloodreed eyed him deeply, silent for a long moment before he finally sighed. “I see. So you’re not in the know about some things.”

Goldenhowl froze. “About what?”

Bloodreed lowered his voice, a hint of fear flash across his face. “I don’t think many of us are aware of this secret. I learned of it by accident myself.”

“What the hell are you talking about?” Goldenhowl asked, perplexed. Why was the blood demon looking so serious?

Something vital was at play here, but so what the celestial tribe had a few secrets? They couldn’t possibly kill other demons. Wouldn’t that be shooting themselves in the foot?

He’d never entertained the possibility, not unless their brains turned to mush would the celestial tribe do so. For that reason, he sometimes felt emboldened to speak up against them.

Bloodreed took a deep breath and confided in an enigmatic tone, “I’ll say it once. Believe me or don’t, there won’t be a second time either way.”

“Alright, I’m listening.”

“The celestial tribe possesses a mark unique to their bloodline. A secret art is stored inside, called the Celestial Secret Art. It can absorb the bloodlines of the other tribes and merge them with their own. It allows them to steal our cultivation and obtain our abilities.”

“What?” Goldenhowl almost lost his voice. “You mean they can snatch our strength and duplicate our unique traits?”

“Correct. In fact, all of the other nine tribes descend from theirs. They can take back our bloodlines whenever they want. After a few generations, they can split into different tribes again. Through this cycle of uniting and dividing, they hold the supreme authority of our race firmly in their hands. Surely you understand me now?”

Goldenhowl’s face was twisted in a grimace.

“Is that what you meant when you spoke of bloodshed? You think they’ll kill us to absorb our powers?”

“That’s how it works in theory, at least. Furthermore, their strength will soar once they absorb us, so in the grand scheme of things, the army won’t be too weakened overall,” concluded Bloodreed, his tone sinister.

Goldenhowl’s stiffened. “And you’re saying they’re ready to use it?”

“Most likely. Think about it. The third forefather’s words were obviously meant to appease us. That old fox is as shrewd as they come. He must have been eyeing us for quite some time.”

“What should we do then?” Goldenhowl sprang from his seat, his fury exploding. “We must contact the other tribes without delay and expose the truth.”

“Do you think they’ll take us at face value?” Bloodreed retorted.

“Are you telling me to sit here and wait for death?” Goldenhowl ranted, pacing around the tent.

“The smartest option would be to leave this instant and escape far, far away. Out of Divine Abyss altogether, if possible. We should stay forever away. They’ll hound us as long as we remain in this plane. Their powers exceed our wildest imagination. With the other tribes’ abilities on top of theirs, we’ll never know a day of peace until the end of time.”

“What are we waiting for then? Let’s move right now!” Goldenhowl was fearless, but to oppose the celestial tribe would be to dig his own grave.

“Yeah, we have to go!” Bloodreed nodded. But his senses suddenly tingled. Somewhere nearby, people were coming their way.

“Speak of the devil.” Goldenhowl had also noticed the visitors.

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Chapter 2302: Forefather Celestial’s True Strength

As high-strung as they were, they jumped out of their skin at mere rustling leaves.

But as it turned out, such an excessive reaction didn’t seem warranted.

The celestial tribe hadn’t come knocking at their door. Instead, one of the visitors was a monster demon, and the other two forefathers of the shadow tribe. Inside the tent, the three of them were met with a rather glacial welcome.

The monster forefather chuckled when he noticed Goldenhowl’s presence. “Heh, as I thought, Daoist Goldenhowl is here. We visited your tent before coming here.”

The latter responded coolly, “As a lone wolf, I can go wherever I please. Why were you looking for me?”

The two shadow demons smiled awkwardly at his standoffishness.

“Don’t be like that, my friend. We’re probably here for the same reason as you.”

“Heh, I don’t have a particular agenda. I simply came to see how Daoist Bloodreed is faring with his injury. What’s your purpose?” he asked, his tone still icy.

“We came to check on Daoist Bloodreed as well, but also wanted to confide something in him,” replied the monster demon with a simper.

One didn’t react hostilely to a smiling face, so Bloodreed couldn’t pay their friendliness back with outright hostility. He chuckled instead. “Thank you for your concern. I’m not yet fully recovered, so let’s get straight to the point. I was about to see my guest out and rest.”

“Heh, fellow daoist, you’re not having a good day, are you? To tell you the truth, our tribes have held talks in private. All of us feel the celestial demons are to blame for today’s debacle. We can’t continue to

suffer their leadership, or our grand campaign will end up in failure. So we'd like the two of you to take charge instead. Perhaps..."

A strange expression floated over Bloodreed's face as he toyed insouciantly with a blood-colored ring on his finger. "You think too highly of us. Neither of us have a tribe to back us up anymore. The celestial demons did blunder today, but they're still the most legitimate commanders, given their strength. I only hope they'll wise up in the future."

"Oh? Fellow daoist, are you truly speaking from the heart? Surely not." The monster demon frowned.

Bloodreed stood up and poured liquor into a few cups.

"Heh, the two of us are genuinely humbled by your offer, but you shouldn't bring up such a topic this lightly. To lead demonkind? That's no joking matter. A single mistake can cause internal ruin and our race's downfall. We don't want to be forever remembered as sinners."

Goldenhowl nodded. "I agree. The celestial demons are lowlifes, but their strength speaks for itself. No one can deny that."

As an awkward lull descended on the tent, which Bloodreed broke by offering each caller a drink. They looked at the cups, but, rather than downing the contents on the spot, they put the cups aside.

"What a sad sight to see. You two have such outstanding strength, yet you flee your responsibilities when the chips are down. This lack of valor is disappointing."

His eyes suddenly flashing, Bloodreed tossed his cup in the air, sprinkling the crimson liquid like a shower of rain and shrouding the tent's interior in a fog of blood.

"Let's go!" he called. Alongside Goldenhowl, he flew outside, leaving his guests in the lurch.

Back inside the tent, the three demons hurriedly used their powers to dispel the fog. But when they regained their vision, they felt the blood boil in their veins, like they'd been poisoned.

"Damn it, Bloodreed is a damn sly bastard. Looks like he's saw through our cover and was planning a getaway from the start."

"Did he hit us with the poison when he was fiddling with his blood ring?"

"Most likely! We need to hurry up and force the venom out."

"We should notify the forefather first."

"No need, he's waiting nearby. They'll have a hard time getting past him!"

They recovered their original appearances as they spoke. The leader's real identity was actually the second forefather of the celestial tribe, accompanied by the fourth and fifth forefathers.

They'd absorbed the monster and shadow demon forefathers beforehand. Though they hadn't fully assimilated the stolen cultivation yet, they'd pilfered their victims' abilities and disguised themselves in order to fool Bloodreed and Goldenhowl.

Once their decision was set, the celestial demons acted extremely swiftly. The other tribes had more or less been entirely sorted out by the time they'd made their way to Bloodreed's tent.

As for the two runaways, they flew out of the army camp at breakneck speed, escape the only thing on their mind.

But as soon they resorted to their movement arts, the surrounding space shook and formed an invisible barrier ahead of them, stopping them cold.

Someone had obviously predicted the direction of their flight.

In the air, Celestial's figure transformed in a gorgeous display of light, a pair of wings unfolding from his back. He slowly descended from the sky, looking down at the two deserters with a stern glare. "Sure enough, rebellion runs in your veins. Just as I've guessed, you've forsaken demonkind."

Color drained from Bloodreed's face. Things had gone south now that Celestial barred their way in person. Even together, the two of them weren't a match for his immense powers. he was a bona fide advanced divine realm cultivator.

"Old Golden, let's attack together!" Bloodreed shouted at Goldenhowl.

The latter glanced left and right for an opening, still hoping to avoid a direct confrontation.

"Don't waste your time. You won't find a weak spot once sealed inside the celestial tribe's domain. We must fight to the death or we'll be slaughtered like lambs!" shouted Bloodreed.

Goldenhowl steeled his resolve, his eyes glinting fiercely. "Very well, a fight it is!"

A sharp blade appeared in his hands. It slashed across the sky and ripped the void apart in an explosion as blinding as the celestial bodies.

His goal was to forcibly tear a hole in space so they could flee.

Meanwhile, Bloodreed rubbed the blood ring on his finger and muttered an incantation. Bloody rays rose in waves of crimson runes that turned into a smorgasbord of evil spirits lunging at Celestial. From the get go, he'd resorted to his ultimate skill.

Two great forefathers fighting for their lives was truly a frightening sight to behold. However, their opponent was Celestial, the undisputed number one among the demons.

Facing Goldenhowl's incoming slash, he merely smiled and lifted his right hand, then swatted it down.

The swat instantly enlarged into a giant palm as big as a mountain. It slapped away the stroke as if snuffing out a candle.

As for Bloodreed's incantation, Celestial simply blew on the evil spirits and disintegrated them into red flecks that scattered away with the wind!

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Chapter 2303: One Dead, One on the Run

Bloodreed and Goldenhowl couldn't be more surprised to see their prized techniques easily countered by Forefather Celestial.

It suddenly dawned on them that the demon they were facing was the unequivocal best cultivator of their race, and an advanced realm demon god.

Goldenhowl roared, his eyes bloodshot. "Why are you so merciless to us, Forefather Celestial?! Why didn't you use this power against the human race earlier? Why weren't you as aggressive as you are now? Are you only capable of fighting your own kind?"

Bloodreed scoffed. "The celestial demons have gone against the natural order and killed your fellow demons. That's going to come back to bite you!"

Celestial remained unfazed no matter what the two forefathers cursed, seemingly deaf to their words. He responded indifferently, "I'll allow you the chance to run your mouths before you die. You won't be able to talk later."

Goldenhowl gritted his teeth. "I won't go down without a fight!"

He shook his arms as he spoke. His bones crackled and body expanded, filling his clothes to the brim. Sinews and muscles bulged from his skin. He transformed at a speed visible to the naked eye, becoming a giant as large as a mountain. His body radiated power like it was cast in metal.

With a roar, he manifested a golden broadsword with a twist of his wrist.

Golden light exploded as he raised the sword. "Let's find out who's stronger today, Celestial!"

He leapt toward the demonic forefather with a powerful stomp. His momentum was as if an advancing mountain.

Bam!

He slashed at Celestial.

He was at least a hundred times bigger than the celestial demon. The stroke seemed like it would tear open even the earth beneath Celestial's feet.

Bloodreed narrowed his eyes until they were almost fully close, contemplating something.

Clang!

The blade was a hundred times bigger than Celestial's finger, yet the forefather easily caught the blade and stopped the mighty attack without much difficulty.

Enraged, Goldenhowl hacked and slashed again, every one of which was fiercer and more impressive than its predecessor.

The barrage of slashes rained on Celestial, attempting to break through his domain. However, the strokes found no purchase on the tenacious barrier and failed to break it.

Bloodreed's eyelids twitched.

"What are you waiting for, Bloodreed?" Goldenhowl called out angrily. "Attack him together!"

Bloodreed made a sound of assent. A faint mist emerged around him, obscuring his form after a few breaths of time.

An instant later, the mist expanded and scattered away, with Bloodreed vanishing into thin air.

Celestial had been keeping an eye on Bloodreed. He thought the blood demon would sneak up on him, but to his surprise, Bloodreed suddenly vanished.

“How can this be?” Celestial looked around. There really was no trace of the blood demon in his domain!

All that was left was a thread of faint mist. He could sense a hint of blood energy, but it seemed that Bloodreed had exhausted his life force to turn himself into mist, penetrating the celestial domain and fleeing.

The disintegration would greatly damage both body and soul.

“An absolute mad man!” cursed Celestial.

It frustrated him that Bloodreed had run away. Meanwhile, Goldenhowl was still fighting him like a fool with a death wish. Celestial scoffed derisively. His body enlarged as well, reaching Goldenhowl’s size in an instant and continuing to grow until he was five times bigger.

Celestial snorted mockingly. “You’ve always fancied yourself so clever, Goldenhowl, yet you’re nothing but a stepping stone for Bloodreed even before death. Was it worth it?”

When he slammed his palm into Goldenhowl, the latter felt like he’d been hit by the combined power in all the heavens. He had to tap into his full strength in order to counter the unstoppable force.

No matter how hard he tried, however, his knees continued to bend beneath the pressure, until finally, they gave out and hit the ground with a bam.

But that wasn’t the end. The giant palm continued to crush down.

Goldenhowl howled to raise his morale so that he might rejuvenate himself, but that wasn’t going to bridge the power difference between them.

Eventually, Goldenhowl’s prideful head sank.

Celestial seized Goldenhowl and crushed him into a ball before popping the latter into his mouth.

Crunch, crunch. The victorious forefather munched on the golden demon, fully claiming Goldenhowl’s lifetime of cultivation achievements for his own.

Celestial lifted his head and howled, scanning the area with narrowed eyes, trying to spot where Bloodreed had run off to in the darkness of the night.

Unfortunately, Bloodreed had cunningly left traces of blood mist in all directions. Even Celestial had trouble locating him.

The other five celestial forefathers caught up one after another.

“All done?” asked Forefather Celestial.

“All done,” said the third forefather. “Has Bloodreed escaped, Forefather?”

Celestial scoffed. “He’s cunning and determined. He escaped by disintegrating himself. But he won’t be able to run forever!”

“That’s right. We’ll go after him. His escape has left his body and soul crippled. He’s not going to put up much of a fight. We should be able to catch up with him!”

The other five forefathers split up to search for Bloodreed.

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Chapter 2304: The Only Way Ou

Bloodreed essentially committed chronic suicide with the way he fled. He knew that as well as anyone. Even though he’d escaped from Forefather Celestial, with some time and effort, the celestial demon would still be able to easily locate and kill him.

Therefore, he was considering where to go after his escape.

He couldn’t think of an answer. Every path led to a dead end. That was, unless he could escape from the continent and make his way to other planes, never to be seen again.

However, he wouldn’t be able to survive the journey in this state. A hundred thousand miles would exhaust him.

The thought filled him with despair and hatred. What enraged him the most wasn’t the defeat he’d suffered, but the celestial demons’ betrayal.

Thinking of the defeat the demonic army had suffered, an odd flash of light flicked through Bloodreed’s eyes. He cast his gaze in Winterdraw’s direction.

Ah. There seemed to be a way to survive.

All other paths led to his death. Winterdraw, the base of the human race, was where his hopes lay.

Bloodreed rushed to Winterdraw with all he had. The speed at which he traveled almost killed him. His desperate dash brought him to Winterdraw’s outskirts in no time, which was but a few thousand miles away.

It was peaceful around here. The ruins left by the battle were obscured in the dark. Nevertheless, he could sense the remnants of terrible violence.

Bloodreed hovered around for a long time before speaking up. “Is Daoist Jiang Chen here?”

He had no time to hesitate. If he waited any longer, the celestial forefathers would catch up with him.

Jiang Chen had sensed Bloodreed’s approach as soon as he drew close to Winterdraw. The Great Veluriyam Torch was tremendously sensitive to demonic presence.

However, he hadn’t expected their uninvited visitor to be Bloodreed from the blood tribe, and that he seemed to be alone.

“What is he planning?” Xia Tianze asked curiously.

Jiang Chen was also befuddled. He focused his senses and concluded that Bloodreed was indeed on his own. There were no other demons lurking about.

Moreover, Bloodreed looked panicked and weak, like he would keel over anytime.

"I'm Forefather Bloodreed from the blood demon tribe, Daoist Jiang Chen. I swear on heaven and earth that I mean you no harm. I'm here to deliver a valuable opportunity to mankind. If I've uttered a single word of lies, may I collapse and be claimed by death now!"

He wanted to enter Winterdraw as soon as possible to seek sanctuary. Worried that Jiang Chen would refuse to see him, he made a solemn oath.

The human cultivators were quite surprised.

"A blood demon forefather?" An Kasyapa spoke up. "I hear their lot are adept at corrupting bloodlines. They're capable of single-handedly enthralling an entire sect."

That, Jiang Chen knew. He could tell that Bloodreed wasn't here for that, though. More importantly, the demon seemed to be telling the truth.

"I'll hear him out. Don't worry. I can deal with him if he's up to no good."

He wasn't boasting. The previous battle had cemented his confidence. He had a feeling that he was going to ascend to sixth level divine realm soon.

Jiang Chen didn't fear Bloodreed when the demon was at his peak, let alone when he was injured.

The young lord left Winterdraw and approached Bloodreed. "Tsk, a forefather of the blood demon tribe, yet you've fallen to this state. What show are you putting on now?"

Bloodreed ignored Jiang Chen's mockery and sighed dejectedly. "A tragedy has befallen the demonic race because of the celestial demons' treacherous deeds. Of the ten tribes, only theirs remains. I'm the sole survivor from the other tribes. There's a bet you have to take, Jiang Chen."

"What bet?" Jiang Chen smiled faintly.

"A bet on whether or not you should believe me. Believe me that the human race has a chance to win this fight once and for all. If you don't place your trust in my words, the human race will be doomed in a decade."

"How so?" Jiang Chen asked with a lazy smile.

"It's simple. The celestial demons have devoured all members of the other tribes and acquired their power and techniques. Once they finish digesting, their power will grow exponentially. Forefather Celestial will reach his peak and become truly unstoppable."

"If you don't take this seriously," Bloodreed rushed out anxiously, "It'll be your downfall."

Jiang Chen snorted. "Have I said I don't believe you?"

"You believe me?" That surprised Bloodreed.

"I do. I know the secret method of the celestial tribe. I'm just curious how you know of the method, being a blood demon." Jiang Chen looked at Bloodreed with piercing eyes, seemingly plumbing all of his secrets.

Bloodreed shuddered. "You know about the method? Are you... a celestial demon yourself?"

Jiang Chen laughed. "Do I look like one?"

Bloodreed shook his head and smiled wryly. "You don't. However, I happened upon their secret by chance and was the only demon who knew about it. I didn't expect you to be in the know as well. You're indeed the bane of my race."

Jiang Chen didn't comment on that. "How many demon forefathers were there before they were devoured?"

"Fifteen in addition to me."

"Which means six celestial demon forefathers have devoured fifteen forefathers."

"That's right." Bloodreed nodded. "You are good, Jiang Chen, but if you allow the celestial demons to refine all they've consumed with their secret method, the human race will be doomed. No one will be able to stop them then. No one!"

Bloodreed's tone was grave.

Jiang Chen, however, maintained a faint smile. "As a demon, shouldn't you be pleased with your kind's rise?"

"Hmph, why should I care if I'm not part of it? Besides, their rise in power comes at the cost of the blood demon tribe. Why should I be glad? The celestial demons have wronged me. I won't rest easy until I see them fall myself!"

The demonic race was naturally rebellious. They couldn't be defined with common sense.

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Chapter 2305: Falling Into a Trap

Jiang Chen didn't like this kind of forthrightness, but he did enjoy the demons' internal conflict. He smiled coolly. "Bloodreed, are you seeking my protection?"

Bloodreed chuckled. "It's easier to converse with smart people. To avoid any more questions, I'll get straight to the point. If you offer me protection, I'll help you fight the celestial demons. For example, there's a chance for that right now!"

"Very honest of you," Jiang Chen nodded. "Your pursuers are coming this way already."

Bloodreed grinned. "Get ready to hunt them down then."

Jiang Chen glanced at the demon forefather thoughtfully and smiled. "Act the best you can. It's more convincing that way."

Bloodreed chuckled as well, nodding.

Returning to Winterdraw, Jiang Chen gave his orders to the four sacred beasts. "Get ready. Celestial demons are coming. If there's only a few, so we'll make sure their trip is one-way only."

"Young master Chen, is the old blood demon trying to trick us?" asked Xia Tianze.

Jiang Chen laughed. "His deceit wouldn't have escaped my eyes. Still, a bit of caution never hurt anyone."

He prepared the ambush while Winterdraw's defensive operations continued. He and the four sacred beasts hid in the outskirts. The Immaculate Robe concealed them wholly, rendering them virtually undetectable.

Even if Bloodreed wanted to pull any tricks, there would be no opportunity for him to.

The blood demon forefather was utterly pale as he leaned upon a clandestine bush. Two celestial demon forefathers were on his tail in hot pursuit.

It was the fourth and fifth forefathers.

As their titles reflected, they were about the middle of the pack among their peers.

Now that they had consumed the bloodlines of the other demons, it was only a matter of time until their strengths grew rapidly. In fact, they had a very good chance of breaking through to advanced divine realm.

Celestial demons didn't tolerate traitors like Bloodreed.

The two forefathers slowed down as they neared their quarry. "That Bloodreed is a wily one," remarked the fifth forefather softly. "Did he flee in this direction to daunt us? He has no way out of this himself. Are the humans going to let him pass?"

The fourth forefather was more serious. "If they do, Ole Fifth, we'll have a lot more trouble on our hands."

"What trouble? Are you scared of retribution from the likes of Bloodreed? He's pretty pathetic, especially after we break through," replied the fifth forefather with gross disdain.

His companion was speechless. His comrade was too dull for his own good.

"Ole Fifth, did you think about the possibility that Bloodreed would tell the humans about our kind's secret? If the humans learn about our internal conflict, they'll hound us to no end. We don't have many troops available right now, and we haven't grown stronger yet. This is the most dangerous time for us."

His words silenced the other at the throat. This would indeed be a disastrous development for the celestial demons, should it come to pass.

"Look over there, Ole Fifth." Fourth's tone became rather peculiar all of a sudden. He patted Fifth on the shoulder, then pointed forward.

An apparently unconscious Bloodreed lay in a bed of grass before them. There was less breath going into him than coming out.

"Is that him?" Fifth asked in a low voice.

"Certainly. I wonder if he's pretending to be dead?"

"Let's go see. He's seriously injured. Why should the two of us be scared of him? We can kill him from this range ten times over," asserted Fifth without being too concerned.

"But did he end up meeting the humans?" Fourth interjected. "If he has, this might be a trap."

Fourth's worries were far from unfounded.

A faint smile sounded in the distance as soon as he voiced his concern. "You're pretty smart. This is indeed a trap."

Space froze for a moment, then rushed to reconfigure itself to accommodate a newcomer.

"Who is it?" Both celestial demon forefathers sprang to alertness, placing their backs upon one another's in readiness for a fight.

Laughing freely, Jiang Chen walked out from nothingness. "How naïve of you to be so relaxed when you've been in my territory for quite a while. What kind of host would I be if I didn't come out to greet my guests?"

The two celestial demons colored when they saw him.

"Jiang Chen!"

"In the flesh."

Fifth glanced at Bloodreed. "Bloodreed," he spat viciously, "you've stooped so low as to betray demonkind for humans?"

Bloodreed sat up lazily. "Me, betray our race?" he sneered back in kind. "You're the real traitors of our race. Your ruthlessness has forced my hand! Daoist Jiang Chen, this is your best chance to get rid of these two fools. Don't tell me you can't do something so trivial!"

"You prattle on too much," Jiang Chen shot back coldly.

He had more than sufficient strength to slay one of the forefathers. The four sacred beasts united could hunt down the other. Moreover, their two targets had been taken by surprise. The sacred beasts' domain was just as strong as the celestial demons' now.

"Get them!" he commanded without further ado.

The sacred beasts pounced forth into the air. As their cultivation increasingly grew, they understood a multiplicity of the intrinsic truths of heaven and earth, including various bits of knowledge about formations. As such, they became much more formidable over time.

Their attacks evoked the furor of thunder and lightning, of the heavens and the natural elements. They commanded power beyond the two celestial demon forefathers' imagination.

Long Xiaoxuan's draconic fang and claw roiled the clouds and rent the earth asunder. A storm began to brew thanks to his presence.

The Astral White Tiger was an all-destroying blade that sliced in twain anything it touched.

The Vermilion Bird's wings blotted out the sun. Its fires were hot enough to burn the very air itself, to outshine the radiance of the sun and moon. Its inner flames conjured marvellously spectacular weather all of its own.

Not to be outdone, the Black Tortoise brought tremendous gravity and its Festering Gas to the table. Its noxious mists were penetrating to the soul.

The four sacred beasts struck with a variety of abilities, yet their moves formed an astoundingly harmonious whole.

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Chapter 2306: Successive Demonic Devastation

The two celestial demon forefathers felt like the sky was caving in. They knew that humans made for difficult enemies, but their knowledge prior to now had only been tangential.

Though they had absorbed many of the demon forefathers' strengths, the energies from their feast remained unrefined within them, contributing almost nil to their current prowess.

The four sacred beasts alone gave them a hard time. Jiang Chen's participation exhausted and terrified them.

The two attempted to call for help using their race's secret method.

"Daoist Jiang Chen," Bloodreed called out, "they're trying to summon other celestial demons. You need to take care of them fast, or you'll have more of them on your hands to deal with!"

"I don't need you to tell me that," harrumphed Jiang Chen.

The True Dragon Rope of Water and Fire was already in motion as he spoke, nimbly weaving itself between the sacred beasts' attacks to fly toward the fifth forefather.

Fifth was already quite busy from having to dodge the four beasts' blows; he failed to notice the rope that crept up beneath his nose.

Whoosh!

The rope enclosed him in like two agile serpents, wrapping itself around his limbs eight times.

"Huh?" Fifth realized the problem too late. "Help me, Ole Fourth!"

The fourth forefather wanted to help him, but he was in enough trouble as was. He had no energy to spare for aiding his comrade.

It was nearly impossible for the fifth celestial forefather to escape the True Dragon Rope once captured. A single hand seal from Jiang Chen called the rope over, its prisoner dragged in tow. The celestial demon was dumped at the young man's feet like a dead dog.

Jiang Chen slammed a palm down without ceremony, crippling the forefather's cultivation.

Then, he cast his golden bell at the fourth forefather. The instrument's ancient runes glowed with a threatening light.

Aghast, the fourth forefather was trying to evade when the sacred beasts' assaults finally found their mark. With a resounding boom, he was completely destroyed, both body and soul. Not a single mote of dust was left of him.

Jiang Chen knew how adept celestial demons were at reviving and regenerating. It was mandatory when dealing with them to eradicate every trace of their soul and consciousness, so as to leave them no room for future recovery.

He didn't want future problems down the line.

Jiang Chen's swift smackdown dispatched two celestial forefathers in mere blinks of an eye. Bloodreed was shaken by the sheer spectacle.

He hadn't expected such fearsome strength from humanity. It seemed that the demons' crushing defeat wasn't necessarily due to poor leadership after all.

Jiang Chen's methods were endless. Was an opponent like him really beatable? The blood demon could only sigh.

He considered himself no longer part of the demons, however, and cared only for the celestial demons' demise.

"Congratulations, Daoist Jiang Chen. Unfortunately, the celestial demons have four forefathers left. If they can't be stopped from cultivating, they will be a significant threat in due time. That's the nature of their secret method, alas." Bloodreed offered both laudation and warning.

Jiang Chen smiled faintly. "You needn't be concerned. The celestial demons' delinquency will spell their own doom."

"Heh, I wouldn't celebrate so early if I were you. If Forefather Celestial survives, your victory will ring hollow regardless." Bloodreed did his best to ground the young man's view.

"Open your eyes and watch me. Shouldn't you be worrying about your own fate instead?"

Bloodreed laughed miserably. "In my current state, I can only hope to witness the celestial demons' misfortune. If you will allow me to leave Divine Abyss, I promise to never return."

"You're so naïve," Jiang Chen smiled coolly.

"You intend to kill me then? Right after I've helped you?" Bloodreed darkened.

"Either die, or be my slave."

"Your slave? Impossible! I would rather die than face such humiliation." Bloodreed flew into a rage.

"Then let me fulfill your desire. You've done your part already. I suppose I can burn some paper money for you when I do get rid of the celestial demons." Jiang Chen flashed a peculiar grin.

"Is there no room for discussion?" Bloodreed said in a low voice.

“Why should you be ashamed to be my slave?” Jiang Chen sneered. “Countless people will kill to be in your position in the future, but I won’t have any reason to accept them.”

His statement was almost overbearingly imperious.

Bloodreed wanted to reply, but the young man’s consciousness had already shot into his own.

A nearly sixth level god, Jiang Chen was already every bit Bloodreed’s equal. The fact that the latter was gravely injured and weak was an enormous disadvantage. The human’s consciousness was also on par with advanced divine realm.

Success in implanting the enslavement brand was almost instantaneous.

“Whether you agree to it or not, I’ve already made my seal upon your consciousness,” Jiang Chen chuckled. “You’ll praise your good fortune in the future, I assure you. Your freedom hinges on how much you impress me with your performance!”

The nonchalance in his tone belied his casual arrogance.

Initially boiling with fury, Bloodreed tamped down his snide remarks when he noticed that Jiang Chen’s youthful consciousness rivaled Forefather Celestial’s.

He was secretly shocked. If the young man was this strong already, how great would he become when he was fully mature?

He would be able to conquer the heavenly planes, would he not?

In fact, he was already worthy of fighting among them.

“Take him back. I’m making another trip out,” Jiang Chen instructed Xia Tianze and the others.

He was no longer concerned with the blood demon. After all, Bloodreed’s life was now fully in his grasp.

“Where are you going, young lord Chen?” An Kasyapa asked curiously.

“The celestial demons haven’t yet found their footing. This is a good time to catch them by surprise. I won’t have a chance like this in the future.”

Jiang Chen had refrained from taking the fifth forefather’s life intentionally. He called the four sacred beasts to him, then summarily disappeared in the sky above Winterdraw.

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

Chapter 2307: Repeated Success

After the battles that had taken place shortly prior, it was humanity’s turn to mount a full-on counterattack against the demons.

Mid-journey, Jiang Chen transformed into the fifth celestial forefather.

He paused in flight when he saw a light hurtle toward him from the distance. It was another celestial forefather.

“Why are you here, Ole Fifth? Shouldn’t you be with Ole Fourth?” It was the seventh forefather, the youngest of all his peers.

Panic appeared upon Jiang Chen’s face. “Ole Seventh, Bloodreed has joined the humans and sold out our secret. We must return immediately to tell Forefather Celestial and seek his judgment. Ole Fourth was ambushed by the humans... he’s gone now!”

“What?” The seventh forefather was astonished. “You... if Ole Fourth was ambushed, why did you run away by yourself? You...”

He was unhappy about Ole Fifth’s lack of loyalty.

Jiang Chen pulled a dismal expression. “What, was I supposed to die with Ole Fourth? Hey, is that Ole Third over there, Ole Seventh?”

The forefather looked in the direction indicated, but there was nothing there.

A calamitous premonition flashed across his mind an instant before a powerful attack from his back consumed him.

Jiang Chen’s golden bell closed down upon the seventh forefather. The youngest of the celestial demon forefathers was already weaker than the young man, and had been caught unawares besides. There was no escape for him!

Another capture without a struggle!

Jiang Chen crippled this one’s cultivation as well. Keeping them alive meant that their soul lamps would remain intact, which kept their defeats a secret from the eldest forefather and the others.

He didn’t want to warn his enemies ahead of time.

The young man was hardly satisfied with his progress. “There’s still the eldest, second, and third forefathers left. They’re the toughest of the bunch, no doubt.”

After some thought, he deemed the second forefather the best target. According to Bloodreed’s information, the second forefather was about as strong as the third – but a lot dumber.

Best to start with easy pickings before he moved onto the tougher enemies.

It was impossible for the demons to cause too much trouble, now that they had only three celestial demon forefathers. What good would a few decades of cultivation do for them?

That was more than enough time for him to break through to advanced divine realm. The same was true for the sacred beasts.

The demon forefathers would have no chance regardless.

The second forefather was still chasing after Bloodreed, but he’d chosen the wrong direction. He was on his way back when he sensed the fourth forefather’s death, and rushed immediately in that direction because of it.

In a few moments, he saw the seventh forefather come toward him from a different cardinal direction.

“Second Brother.” Jiang Chen knew this was what the seventh forefather called his peer.

“Did you sense it too, Ole Seventh?” The second forefather was rather anxious.

“Ole Fourth, you mean?” asked the seventh forefather in a low voice.

“Yes. It seems that something’s happened to him. It’s good that you’ve come. Let’s go investigate together.”

“Do we need to tell the Forefather Celestial about it?”

“No. The eldest forefather is digesting Goldenhowl, so it’s best for us not to disturb him. We should be fine by ourselves. I’ve contacted Ole Third as well, so he’s on his way. Weren’t Ole Fourth and Fifth close to each other? Any news from Fifth?”

“I tried messaging, but I didn’t get a response.”

“I see. Let’s go!” The second forefather was completely ignorant of the deception. He led the way forward, opening his back to Jiang Chen. The young man found this rather laughable; so what if the celestial demons were a powerful race?

They were susceptible to folly just like anyone else.

The young man kept his True Dragon Rope of Water and Fire at the ready. He dashed at the second forefather the second the latter’s guard was entirely down.

In fact, the demon was bewildered when he found himself bound. “You... What the hell are you doing, Ole Seventh?”

As soon as his attack succeeded, Jiang Chen locked down the space to prevent contact between the second forefather with his allies.

He smiled. “You’ve got the wrong person. I’m not your ‘Ole Seventh’. I’m surprised that you’re ranked second with this level of intelligence. The celestial tribe isn’t worth much, huh?”

“Wait... you’re Jiang Chen!” The second forefather finally realized what was going on.

Jiang Chen gave him no reaction time whatsoever. He slapped the demon to cripple his cultivation as well. He was very excited about his successive successes.

He hadn’t expected things to go this smoothly! The celestial demons really were in a precarious position. Poor leadership from the eldest forefather, no doubt.

Even a tiny bit of guidance would have prevented these other forefathers from running heedlessly amok. They were practically throwing their lives away!

Or perhaps it was their overconfidence that had caused this.

Of course, Jiang Chen had no compassion to spare for his enemies. Only the third and eldest forefathers remain. I should have no trouble dealing with the third if the four sacred beasts help me, but the best I can do against the eldest is a tie!

Alas, the third forefather was nowhere to be found.

The demon in question had returned to the demonic headquarters already. An inexplicable instinct that danger was afoot filled his heart. He was compelled to reevaluate the situation.

"Forefather, are the others back yet?" asked the third forefather.

"I felt something happen to Ole Fourth just now. Do you know what happened, Ole Third? So many of you chased after that old fart, yet he managed to kill Ole Fourth?" The eldest forefather was displeased.

"Ole Fourth and Fifth were together." The third forefather frowned. "If something happened to one, the other shouldn't have been spared. What about Ole Second and Seventh? Have you seen them?"

"Not at all!" The eldest father was even more annoyed. "You lot have had it too easy. Or is it the two hundred thousand years of being sealed away that's made your limbs rusty? Why can't you do something so simple right?"

The reprimand from the eldest forefather made the third forefather rather unhappy, but he didn't return a jab. "Forefather," he reported instead, "I think something is off about all this."

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Chapter 2308: One Lef

Forefather Celestial waved a dismissive hand. "Enough. Contact them with our secret method and have all of them return. Bloodreed isn't so important that we can't afford to spare him for now. I'll deal with him later. A quick death is too merciful."

The third forefather pursed his lips. That wasn't what he meant. "I'm just worried, Forefather..." he stammered.

"About what?"

"I'm worried that Forefather Bloodreed has escaped to Winterdraw and told the humans our secret. The human cultivators won't allow us the time to digest what we've consumed. The next few decades will be very trying."

"Hmph, what challenges haven't our race encountered? The more difficult the situation is, the more we can tap into our potential. Stop worrying. Summon the other forefathers back. We have to enter closed door cultivation now. There's no time to waste!" Impatience tinged his voice.

The third forefather didn't dare disagree. He knew Forefather Celestial had grown arrogant. There was nothing he could say that would get through.

So be it, then. He'd urge their companions to return as soon as possible. Even if the fourth forefather had fallen, there remained five others. Once the five reached their peak, the demonic race stood a good chance of rebuilding their past glory.

The third forefather went out and used their secret method to summon the other forefathers.

Not long after, the seventh forefather came up to make his greetings. "I sensed something happening to Ole Fourth. What happened, Ole Third? Is it a false alarm?"

The third forefather waved a hand. "It's good to have you back, Ole Seventh. Have you seen Ole Second and Fifth?"

"I haven't! Didn't the two of them leave together?"

The third forefather sighed and looked into the distance, troubled. If Bloodreed had indeed defected to the human race, Ole Fourth and Fifth would be in great danger.

"Why are you still here, Ole Seventh?" The third forefather glanced at him. "You should report back to the forefather."

"Alright." The seventh forefather nodded slightly and walked past the third forefather.

The third forefather's nose twitched. "Wait, Ole Seventh."

The seventh forefather stopped. "What is it?"

"Did you see Ole Second?" asked the third forefather with a gleam in his eyes.

"I didn't." A bewildered look crossed the seventh forefather's face. His heart sank at the third forefather's question.

"If you haven't seen him, why do I smell Ole Second's unique incense on you? The scent is fresh."

Hiding his reaction, Jiang Chen chuckled. "You're overreacting. Perhaps I passed through where Ole Second just was. There's nothing strange about having his scent on me."

He waved his hand dismissively and, in a fluid motion, activated a Veluriyam Divine Talisman. There was an explosion of light as the attack within the talisman launched at the third forefather.

Jiang Chen knew exposure was inevitable if the questioning continued. It was better to make his move now as he'd come prepared.

The talisman contained the full power of Divine Veluriyam. Even the third forefather might not survive it when caught off guard.

Despite being somewhat on guard due to his wariness, the forefather was too close to dodge all of the attacks.

He backed away as soon as he could, but still took a hit. His chest tightened and metallic sweetness welled in his mouth. Crimson blood trickled down from the corner of his mouth.

"I knew something was wrong!" The third forefather howled to notify Forefather Celestial.

Jiang Chen scoffed. "Time to die!"

A rumbling golden bell flew toward the third forefather with tremendous might. Jiang Chen manifested the magnetic mountain at the same time. A chaotic storm emerged and isolated the third forefather.

At the same time, the young lord took out the Scrutiny of Existence and activated its destructive light. He launched three different attacks in an instant.

The third forefather was quick, but not as quick as Jiang Chen. Besides, the human had caught him by surprise. There wasn't much the third forefather could do.

He managed to dodge the first two hits, but not the tyrannical light from the mirror.

The beam of light broke through the air and hit the third forefather with a loud explosion. The radiance fanned out and disintegrated the forefather into ashes.

That was what greeted Celestial when he rushed out.

"Ole Third!"

As soon as Jiang Chen sensed Celestial's approach, he flew away in a flash of light.

"You're not getting away!" Celestial trembled with fury. He moved to intercept the human with a fierce flare of his aura.

However, Jiang Chen had foreseen the demon's move. He went in the opposite direction.

The attack missed him by a hair. Fury boiled in the demon's heart.

"I'll avenge you, Ole Third!"

The forefathers of the celestial demon tribe were close and Celestial valued them all. Otherwise, he wouldn't have shared the bloodlines and techniques of the different tribes with them.

The third forefather, especially, was his confidante.

He hadn't expected Jiang Chen to be bold enough to attack the third forefather at his doorstep and succeed!

Without the third forefather dead, Celestial had no one to turn to for advice anymore. He chased doggedly after Jiang Chen, overwhelmed with rage. He wanted the human deader than dead!

There were more than a few scores to settle with the young man.

Jiang Chen wasn't trying to flee, but to lure Forefather Celestial away. He didn't want to fight the demon in his own den. If they were to fight, it had to be somewhere else.

Infighting had left the demonic race with no other forefathers, but the innumerable lackeys could be troublesome. Jiang Chen would leave them to the human elites of Winterdraw and the Goldbiter Rats. He was going to have some fun with Forefather Celestial!

Forefather Celestial was determined to kill Jiang Chen. No matter where the human went, he followed. Jiang Chen would die!

Days passed. Their pursuit took them from Winterdraw. to the Sunrise Sacred Land. and finally to the Martial Sacred Land.

Jiang Chen was familiar with the area. He decided to face the forefather here.

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

Chapter 2309: Dogged At Every Step

His fury yet to abate days into the chase, Celestial glared viciously at Jiang Chen when the latter finally stopped.

“What gives? I thought you’d try to run all the way back to Winterdraw. Don’t tell me you’re going to fight me to the death instead?” he sneered.

Jiang Chen calmly replied, “Celestial, I’d have killed myself by now if I were you. What of the grand host you once fielded? Ruined, all thanks to you. Tsk, I never imagined eradicating you demons would be so easy.”

Celestial snorted. “Boy, enjoy your smugness while you still can. After I kill you and conquer the continent, do you think I’ll have a hard time creating more demons? I’ve absorbed the ten tribes and combined their powers inside me. This world is mine for the taking. The others might be dead, but so what? Not even you can defeat me. In this world, I am invincible!”

Jiang Chen coldly retorted, “It seems you didn’t care all that much for your tribesmen.”

Celestial’s heart did bleed for his dead companions, but he had to put up a brave front, so he shrugged. “They made their own bed. How could they let themselves be killed by a snotty brat? Useless, the whole lot of them.”

Nonplussed, Jiang Chen could only chuckle. He truly had no good comeback against logic this shameless. “Is that so? Allow me to experience your strength then, Celestial!”

“Hahaha, kiddo, you’re not even at sixth level if I’m not mistaken. With this pitiful cultivation of yours, do you think you can stop me with a few treasures? You’re in for a rude awakening. I will engrave the true strength of a celestial demon onto your very bones!”

Jiang Chen responded calmly, “I know more of your power than you know of mine, at least. I’ve long since heard of your tribe’s so-called secret art, but you understand next to nothing about my skills. Don’t you think that’s a fundamental disadvantage?”

Celestial scoffed. “And what of it? You’re nothing but a local from a pathetic little continent. I’ve gotten the better of every single ancient powerhouse. Are you stronger than the Great Divine Veluriyam?”

“Why don’t you try it for yourself?” Jiang Chen suddenly activated the Scrutiny of Existence and fired its rays of annihilation without warning.

The beam of light would spell trouble for Celestial if it caught him unawares. But, on high alert from the start, the demon had anticipated this kind of move.

With a cold smile, his figure shifted aside and avoided the attack.

Be it as it may, the power of the light secretly rattled him. Not even he would dare weather it directly. This was a key difference from his fight against Goldenhowl and Bloodreed.

Back then, he’d been confident facing head-on whatever they could throw his way, but this destructive radiance could objectively threaten his life.

Damn it, this boy is truly all kinds of fishy. His figure transformed as he readied a celestial demon method.

He could employ his abilities in countless ways, allowing for unpredictable, ever-changing strikes. Yet down to its core, his style was derived from the fundamentals of his tribe. He suddenly howled, his voice carrying the momentum of an earthquake, producing a sound as grating as the gates of hell opening on a legion of wailing spirits.

This skill was named the Celestial Demon Howl. It wasn't the most impressive-looking art, but it could seal off an expanse of sky and compress space, or attack the flesh and threaten the soul.

A weaker cultivator would be powerless to resist the sound waves, his mind obliterated on the spot.

But Jiang Chen was more than a match for Celestial when it came to the mind. Deadpan, he countered the demonic howl with a shout of his own: the Dragon Roar!

An ability of the dragon tribe, it surged forth layer upon layer like the waves of an ocean, fully rivaling Celestial's offensive in strength.

As a result, the frontal clash produced no clear winner between the two of them.

However, Jiang Chen had never intended to fight head-on to begin with. Using the Immaculate Robe, he absconded from the sky without a trace.

The next moment, the four sacred beasts appeared out of nowhere and deployed their formation, ready to duke it out.

Their combined strength immediately proved a worthy match for the demon forefather.

Each of them was at mid divine realm. Added to the mysteries of creation manifested when the four fought as one, their resistance proved prodigious enough to stun the demon.

Given their individual cultivation levels, they should have been far weaker than him. Granted that there were four of them, but it shouldn't have been a hassle.

Yet, against all odds, they gave back as good as they got.

For Celestial, the most worrisome part was Jiang Chen's disappearance. The human was nowhere to be seen despite repeated mental searches. The rumors about the boy owning a treasure of stealth seemed well-founded.

It was a sticky situation for him to be in. He wasn't certain he could gain the upper hand against the beasts, to say nothing of defeating them outright.

Of course, he had other hidden skills up his sleeve. But the beasts could counter them by igniting their bloodlines and resorting to their own trump cards too.

With both sides putting their lives on the line, what would Jiang Chen do from the shadows then?

As a consequence, he remained prudent despite his anxiety. Rather than pressing on unconscionably, he continued to monitor his surroundings during the fight.

He even thought of withdrawing more than once. But, persistently beset by the sacred beasts, there were no opportunities to slip away.

The fight carried on for three days, then a week, then half a month, always in the same old dismal manner. Neither side could outstrip the other.

Celestial's patience was wearing thin. He had a hunch Jiang Chen was waiting in the wings, ready to spring a trap on him. He wanted to leave, but the sacred beasts dogged his every step. His only chance would be forego his own safety in order to find an opening.

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Meanwhile, Jiang Chen sat in a secluded spot somewhere in the Martial Sacred Land as he attempted to reach sixth level divine realm. Success was almost within reach.

He'd noticed the possibility of a breakthrough during the fight. As a result, he'd entrusted the fight to the beasts so he could leave and focus single-mindedly on cultivation.

The heavens help those who help themselves. Seven days later, he finally accomplished his goal. Though his strength didn't make a dramatic leap forward, it'd clearly been enhanced nonetheless.

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

Chapter 2310: The Celestial Emperor Talisman

Celestial almost swore out loud. After disappearing for half a month, the damned Jiang Chen had grown in strength yet again when he'd returned! Where the hell did such a monstrous talent come from??

The initial hatred he'd nursed against the young lord had fully given way to apprehension.

Reality finally dawned on him. Greater than he'd ever imagined, this youngster was a being impossible to define.

With a cultivation at sixth level and fearless beasts to assist him, Jiang Chen sorely tested the demon's powers. Although not yet at advanced divine realm, his consciousness exceeded Celestial's in strength, a fact that boggled the demon's mind.

Without his mental edge, the forefather's ever-fluid implementation of the celestial demon arts lost half its effectiveness.

The physical arts were dulled by the beasts, while mental arts proved ineffective against the human. With nowhere to turn, Celestial found himself at the end of his tether.

A strategic retreat would be the best outcome, but his opponents defeated his attempts with harassing fire time and time again.

He almost blew his top. He could have easily crushed Jiang Chen and company given a few decades to assimilate the other tribes' powers. No, a single decade would've sealed the deal!

Instead, he was reduced to constantly losing ground.

"Jiang Chen, what the hell are you trying to do? Is there any sense to continuing the fight?" he lambasted, his anger finally getting the better of him.

Imperturbable, the young man rebutted, "I don't mind at all. You're your kind's last surviving remnant. As long as I keep you busy, peace will return to Divine Abyss."

"Hmph! You might keep me confined here, but you'll never kill me. This is a futile waste of time."

Futile? Jiang Chen naturally begged to differ. Slaying Celestial wasn't outside the realm of possibility, but he had to go straight for the jugular as soon as the opportunity presented itself.

And present itself it would, because another link of his seal came undone after his recent breakthrough, providing him with a Celestial Emperor Talisman. Perhaps a simple afterthought for his father, it nevertheless housed the tremendous strength of a celestial emperor. The item could be used seven times, respectively corresponding to forty percent of his father's strength, fifty percent, and so on, up to a full one hundred percent.

Letting loose a strike at ninety or a hundred percent would shatter the entire continent, wreaking havoc too terrible to envision. So, he debated whether forty or fifty percent would be more appropriate.

Given what he knew of his father, even forty percent could cause irremediable damage. Did he have any other choice?

Celestial emperors possessed powers beyond the ken of mere mortals. They could easily destroy a material plane with a snap of their fingers, so he dared not rush impetuously into using the talisman.

"Forty percent should be the equivalent of a casual attack. It's more than enough to kill Celestial, or leave him fatally crippled at the very least."

The issue was the collateral damage to Myriad Abyss Island. And would it flatten all of the Martial Sacred Land?

Celestial wasn't someone he could dispose of by normal means. Keep trapped, yes, but not kill outright. Calling upon the talisman was the only method to guarantee the demon's demise. But what would become of everything else?

Father must have had his reasons for giving it to me at sixth level divine realm. Perhaps the extreme destructiveness will be restricted to a small area?

It sounded more sensible the more he thought it over.

By now, he was all but certain his father had been the driving force behind his reincarnation. As a part of his father's arrangements, the talisman was surely meant to be used.

"Let's give it a try. Even if Myriad Abyss is ruined, I can fall back to the human domain. In any case, I should be able to keep it under control at forty percent!"

Celestial seethed with frustration. He'd fought long enough to know his chances of victory were slim at best, unless he could achieve a breakthrough of his own.

Instead of being mired in a pointless fight, he'd be better served by secluding himself for a decade before seeking out Jiang Chen again.

It was a sound plan in theory, but how to put it into practice?

To make his getaway, he had to pay a price. It was either utilize his tribe's forbidden art at the expense of his life force, or throw caution to the wind and risk his life in the fight.

After careful consideration, he opted for the former.

However, Jiang Chen immediately noticed the waves in the demon's consciousness and the changes to his aura. More than likely, Celestial was ready to launch an ultimate move.

"Heads up, everyone. He's going to use a powerful technique and I intend to respond in kind. So heed my commands and stick close to me, lest you get caught in the crossfire!"

The talisman didn't differentiate friends from foes. Once caught in its area of effect, everything would be indiscriminately wiped out.

The following events proved the sharpness of his senses. Celestial's aura expanded further, the onset of a forbidden art almost palpable. Seeing the demon gather his energy, the young lord shouted, "Fall back!"

Longtime associates of his, the beasts responded on an instinctive level and withdrew without delay.

In the meantime, he brandished the Celestial Emperor Talisman and infused it with his consciousness, lighting a terrible fuse that would detonate the entire continent.

A myriad of expressions flashed across his solemn face.

The talisman activated in less than no time, a fearsome force of heaven and earth swelling to epic proportions faster than one could blink.

Boom!

A terrible shockwave engulfed the space in front of him and swept away everything living or inert, down to the tiniest speck of dust. But it didn't spread unchecked. Instead, it stayed confined to within a few dozen miles.

However, inside the area in question, the blast devoured all matter and shook space itself in an explosion of light.

The next moment, it tore everything asunder. Not even Celestial could escape this grim fate. Fear writ large on his face the moment he vanished, as helpless to resist as a blade of barley against the flood.