

## Three Realms 2351

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

#### Chapter 2351: The Godking's Summons

It wasn't Jiang Chen's first time at the godking mansion. This time, he was shown to a different location for a private interview.

An attendant took him to the heart of the mansion; he remained devoid of nervousness even in the face of the unknown summons. Inside, he reached a rear garden at the end of a small alley.

"Elder Zhen Junior, this is as far as I can go. My lord's private courtyard is right in front of you, but without his express permission, not even we are allowed inside."

Jiang Chen smiled gently. "Thank you for your troubles."

He saluted his guide, pushed open an arched door and walked in.

Tall and sturdy, the godking stood in front of a lake, his hands clasped behind his back.

"Elder Zhen Junior," Lord Crimsonwaters greeted in a clear voice, breaking out into a faint smile when he heard the young man's footsteps.

"Greetings to my lord." Jiang Chen cupped his fist in the beginning of a salute, as befitting someone of lower status.

"Heh, don't stand on ceremony. Elder Zhen Junior, take a look at this lake. It's as smooth as a mirror, but a simple stone thrown at random can destroy its serenity. Doesn't that turn it into an eyesore then?"

With a soft smile, the godking kicked the ground and sent a pebble splashing into the water, violently drawing ripples on the surface.

Reading between the lines, Jiang Chen smiled as well. "The lake's pretty deep. It was indeed a picture of tranquility, but who knows what lurks below the surface? When the undercurrents become too strong, won't they cause an even more destructive maelstrom?"

He didn't yet know what the godking was alluding at, so he answered in his own style.

Lord Crimsonwaters laughed out loud, his eyes flashing.

"Well said. Come on in, sit down. This king hasn't forgotten your achievements during the competition. I've wanted to chat with you, but I've been too busy with mundane affairs. To think it'd take years to find an opportunity!"

Jiang Chen bowed. "I'm grateful for your consideration, my lord."

Truth to tell, he'd rather not attract the attention of a notable figure like the godking.

Since he hadn't been summoned for idle weather talk, he patiently waited for his host to start the conversation.

The older man toyed with his wine cup before suddenly mentioning, "It's a little unfortunate for someone of your innate gifts to be stuck in Fiendstar. I'm always on the lookout for talent. How about you join my mansion and work for me? Have you ever thought about it?"

A blatant poaching attempt out of left field?

Surprised, Jiang Chen murmured, "I'm honored by your regard, my lord, but I've given my word to Sectmistress Han. I can't leave Fiendstar within the next sixty years. Although willing, my hands are tied. I beg your forgiveness."

"Hehe, Elder Zhen Junior, you don't seem all that willing. Far from it, in fact. You look like you'd rather bolt the first chance you get."

The older man did sound a little vexed, but remained genial nonetheless.

Jiang Chen smiled wryly. "Surely you jest. On Crimsonwaters, what else could possibly be more appealing?"

"Is that so?" The godking looked at him with eyes full of wisdom, as if scanning his deepest thoughts.

Unruffled, the young lord nodded. "At least, that's what I think."

The godking sighed softly. "For many years, I've tried my best to rule over Crimsonwaters Minor. No matter the disturbances elsewhere, I've only wished for this world to remain undisturbed by external influences. But it was all just wishful thinking. How can a trivial lesser world not be rocked by the tumults of our time?"

Though meant for his visitor, Lord Crimsonwaters also seemed to be thinking out loud.

Where is he going with this? Jiang Chen didn't get ahead of himself. He merely nodded and stayed put.

"Elder Zhen Junior, how long do you think these peaceful days will last?" asked the godking, as if putting the young lord to the test.

The latter thought for a moment. "My lord, is there anything that lasts forever? Let's take Taiyuan Plane as an example. For the past several hundred thousand years, it's been at the constant mercy of momentous changes. To maintain stability on Crimsonwaters is already a feat in itself. My lord, your devotion to your domain is well-known. Trouble might be lurking on the horizon, but it's not your fault. A man can't fight against providence."

Lord Crimsonwaters sighed, his expression subtly somber. "So you don't think the peace will last, I surmise."

Jiang Chen pulled a face. "I haven't been back for long, but from what I can tell, celestial emperors have been succeeding one another very frequently. Such volatility can't help but breed changes sooner or later. My lord, far be it from me to be a fearmonger, but I'm not all that optimistic about Taiyuan."

His words certainly didn't represent his inner thoughts; they were simply meant to fish out the godking's position.

Sure enough, the latter was visibly torn. He probably agreed with Jiang Chen's statement, but given his status, he couldn't admit it aloud.

"Is that your personal opinion? Or do you speak for your sect?" he suddenly riposited.

"The Fiendstar Sect?" Jiang Chen pursed his lips. "My lord, you're certainly aware I haven't joined long enough to form deep attachments. I naturally haven't discussed such a sensitive topic with my sect members."

A blatant lie, but he didn't feel guilty in the least.

"What about Sectmistress Han?" the godking wondered.

"Not even her," the young man responded resolutely.

The godking chuckled. Instead of continuing down that path, he brought up another subject. "I hear you have a rather elusive uncle. Why's it so hard to see him?"

"He's been a wanderer his entire life, so he comes and goes as he pleases. He's out there playing somewhere, but for the life of me I couldn't tell you where," responded the young lord with a wry twist of the lips.

The godking sighed again. The atmosphere turned a little stifling, until another sigh finally broke the long silence.

"Elder Zhen Junior, you might not be aware I admire you very much. I bear you no animosity, I assure you. Some things you might find hard to believe. In fact, I called you here to evaluate you for a certain purpose."

"What?" Jiang Chen blinked.

### **Sovereign of the Three Realms (WN)**

#### **Chapter 2352: A Seed**

Jiang Chen didn't yet know why he'd been summoned. Simply to yammer on about these idle trifles? Surely Lord Crimsonwaters wasn't that bored?

"This king is assessing whether you're qualified to be my successor."

The declaration exploded in Jiang Chen's ear like a thunderclap.

Successor?

Where did this suddenly spring from?? He had had very few dealings with the godking thus far.

He responded haltingly, searching for the right words, "My lord, this junior's never directly interacted with you before today. You surely can't have that deep of an impression of me, so I can't make heads nor tails of this."

"Heh, there's something called affinity at first sight. You might look at someone for a lifetime and feel nothing, but feel a kinship the moment you lay your eyes on the next person. Elder Zhen Junior, anyone who reaches the godking level tends to have some peculiar thought processes."

It did make sense when Jiang Chen thought it over.

Lord Crimsonwaters chuckled at the lack of response. "What? You're not showing much of a reaction, even though this must be an enormous shock."

Jiang Chen raised a quizzical eyebrow. "What kind of reaction does my lord want?"

"I merely wish to hear your thoughts."

The young lord shrugged and countered with a question of his own. "My lord, you're in the prime of your life while Crimsonwaters is thriving and peaceful. Isn't it too early to talk of a successor?"

"Who knows?" the godking chuckled. "Things might not be the same after the godking conference. It's always a good idea to plan for a rainy day."

"It seems a little excessive." The young lord chuckled.

"Not so. Reportedly, there's a certain movement intent on proposing we change Taiyuan's name at the conference. It'll either be a change of dynasty or the death of us all. There is no middle ground."

"A name change?" Though he'd already heard this tidbit, Jiang Chen feigned astonishment. "Won't that discard the plane's blessings? Aren't they afraid to be spurned by the supreme dao and cause a calamity?"

"As you say. There are insane people out there." The godking sighed. "Do you understand now why I'm in a hurry?"

Jiang Chen squeezed out a smile. "If so, isn't that dumping all of the pressure on me?"

"Exactly, that's why I want to see if your resolve and charisma are up to the task." The godking smiled gently.

Jiang Chen stayed silent. Charisma or no charisma, he wasn't especially interested in ruling over a lesser world. He had his own goals to tend to.

Crimsonwaters Minor was simply another step in his journey.

The godking sighed, reading his answer from his reluctance. "To think the mantle of a lesser world's ruler would be so unappealing nowadays. It would seem this plane's indeed beyond redemption.

"I originally thought the older generation had lost the courage to change, lost the drive to push their ideas forward. I thought the youngsters could take up the torch, but it seems even you lot falter in the face of the responsibilities. Is Taiyan Plane truly at the end of the road?"

The godking's tone was pure sorrow.

Jiang Chen was taken aback. He'd thought Godking Crimsonwaters a collected man, not one to be so despondent in front of others. Was the man losing his nerves as the pressure of the oncoming conference started to weigh on him?

The young lord urged, "From time immemorial, there's always been a certain recoil before karma runs its course. Destiny still has plans in store for Taiyuan."

“Oh? Are you certain?” the godking asked.

“I hear that Celestial Emperor Taiyuan isn’t dead yet, so his plane’s fortunes live on with him. Or at least until he passes away and his creation token is retrieved by the supreme dao. The token and the blessings from the universe it confers are the cornerstones of a plane’s fortunes. In other words, the latter is intimately linked to the celestial emperor. His Majesty Taiyuan is simply in an awkward spot, hence the oppressive atmosphere in his realm. But there’s hope as long as he lives.”

It wasn’t the first time the godking had heard this argument, but no one had ever put it forward in such a direct and incisive, let alone logical explanation of fate and karma.

The destiny of a greater world hinged upon its celestial emperor.

But currently, Taiyuan’s legitimate sovereign was away while all sorts of fake emperors tried his shoes on for size. Such blasphemy and heresy naturally brought bad luck to the realm. It was punishment from the supreme dao for sinning against their true ruler.

Lord Crimsonwaters looked at the young man. He suddenly felt there was more to him than met the eye. It was a waste for him to be a mere Fiendstar elder.

“Elder Zhen Junior, your insight’s equal to that of a godking at least. Seeing you a mere elder of an insignificant sect makes me tear out my hair in despair.”

“My lord, status is as transient as clouds. What does matter is that I stay true to myself. I have an agreement with Sectmistress Han, so I will abide by it.”

“Fine. In sixty years, I hope that I’ll still be alive and in a position to make the same offer.” The godking smiled self-deprecatingly as he lifted his tea cup. “Elder Zhen Junior, I won’t see you out.” he said, signaling the end of the conversation.

Jiang Chen stood up. “This junior bids my lord farewell.”

All his tension vanished once he exited the mansion. His trip had proven worthwhile. At the very least, he’d planted a seed in the godking’s mind.

The only way out was to support Celestial Emperor Taiyuan. All other choices led to a dead end. If the godking were to realize this simple truth, then his godking friends would also support him and fight the good fight.

That would be the best possible reinforcement for the celestial emperor’s cause!

For Jiang Chen, it was a most desirable outcome. He couldn’t wait. He truly looked forward to the start of the conference.

Taiyuan was still shrouded in a dark miasma, but at the very least, many had come to their senses and set out to dispel the fog. And after darkness came the dawn!

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

**Chapter 2353: One Step Away**

Han Shuang requested a detailed account the moment Jiang Chen returned. The young lord calmly obliged, narrating the meeting in full detail.

Her voice and her face betrayed her self-consciousness. "Elder Zhen Junior, I'm rather flattered you rejected his proposal for my sake."

Jiang Chen smiled calmly. "You have yourself to blame for being so charming."

"Hah, don't give me that. I know we have the same goal in mind, so out with it. Since being a titled godking's not good enough for you, you're obviously aiming higher. Am I right?"

Jiang Chen laughed. "I told you that we're simply exploring different avenues to the same end. Our paths will converge again one day."

"I'll be waiting then!" Han Shuang smiled happily.

Jiang Huang's resounding laughter suddenly came from outside the young lord's quarters.

"Getting together with the sectmistress while I was gone? Little Shi, I didn't peg you for that type. Looks like I've picked a bad time to return."

A rare blush crept up Han Shuang's cheeks as she softly reprimanded him. "Elder Zhen Senior, you're living quite the good life, aren't you? You almost never set foot in the sect after the competition. Don't you think you've been taking it too easy?"

"Hahaha, Sectmistress, you should see it as having one less mouth to feed. I'm sacrificing myself so you can save money. Besides, how would you carry on with Little Shi if I was here?"

Jiang Huan sauntered inside, pulling a face for dramatic effect. "Eh? You've already put your clothes back on? Tsk tsk, it can't be your first time if you're that fast. Quite experienced are we?"

"Experienced your ass." Han Shuang glowered at him before prancing away in a cloud of perfume.

"Don't be in such a hurry to leave! I'll be invisible, I promise."

Although her conscience was clear, Han Shuang fled as if she was guilty, taking off like the wind before Elder Zhen Senior could drag her back.

Watching her figure disappear, Jiang Huan glanced at Jiang Chen with an ambiguous smile. "Young lord, don't tell me there's something really at play here?"

Jiang Chen grunted, "What do you think?"

"I'm not sure. Young lord, I know you have high standards, but I can tell she's still a virgin maiden."

"Drop the nonsense. Where have you been fooling around lately?" Jiang Chen asked a little irritatedly.

"What do you mean, fool around?" a crestfallen Jiang Huan protested. "I've been sweating blood and tears for your sake. Taiyuan's a right mess at the moment, let me tell you. You don't know the half of it. Many godkings are planning to hole up until the conference. Terror reigns supreme. Everyone's shaking in their boots, afraid they'll be the next ones to meet their maker."

"It's that bad already?" Jiang Chen exclaimed in shock.

“I’m not exaggerating one bit. That reminds me, how’s your bloodline assimilation going so far?”

“It’s more than eighty percent done. I should be done in time for the conference.” The young lord was highly confident.

“Wonderful, wonderful!” Jiang Huan’s eyes shone bright. “If it’s completed by the time you reach godking, the creation token will surely acknowledge you as its new master. When the time comes, Taiyuan Plane will absolutely return to the Jiangs.”

As Celestial Emperor Taiyuan’s close retainer, Jiang Huan had long waited for that day to come.

Jiang Chen smiled. “The good news doesn’t stop here.”

“What else is there?”

The young lord related everything that had transpired while Jiang Huan was out, stunning the latter to no end.

“The lass has quite a backbone on her! Tsk, I’ve been making light of our sectmistress. It looks like I can’t joke at her expense anymore.” Jiang Huan’s admiration was heartfelt and he resolved to show her due respect in the future.

“Yes, she’s really something else. Uncle, if she finds success, it’ll be another arrow in our quiver. With the help of my father, I’m confident we’ll smoke out our villain and take back the reins of Taiyuan Plane.”

Jiang Huan nodded, equally buoyant. “Exactly. I always knew you’d find a way. Everyone’s now hoping for His Majesty’s return. Soon, everyone will realize how big of a mistake they’ve made to overthrow him in the first place.”

“You’re right. Even figures like Godking Crimsonwaters are expressing regret!”

“Lord Crimsonwaters stands out as one the most prominent figures in Taiyuan. Winning over someone of his stature would do wonders for popular support!”

Jiang Chen declared resolutely, “Let’s see what cards our enemy has left. I have but one worry, that he might be too strong. If he’s truly on the level of creating his own plane, we’ll be in for a rough fight!”

“So what? Don’t forget, you’ll be armed with a creation token. Even as a brand new godking, you’ll stand above your peers, and that’s without accounting for the sacred beasts’ bloodlines. You’ll also have the power to shape your own plane. Have faith, young lord. When the time comes, your superiority will be overwhelming. Anyone who stands in your way will be slaughtered!”

“Yes.” Jiang Chen nodded gravely. “Be it a god or a devil, none will stop me!”

His words brimmed with fighting spirit. It was no off-handed remark. What lay ahead was a clash of power and destiny, a battle of karmic proportions!

The entire world was at stake. To the victor would go the spoils, and damnation for all eternity to the loser!

In such a fated confrontation, the bravest always came out on top.

So faltering was out of the question. His entire being was single-mindedly focused on seeing the conflict through to the end.

.....

Several decades slowly elapsed.

Every day, Jiang Chen worked on integrating the beasts' bloodlines with his. Progress was slow, but he could see the inexorable light at the end of the tunnel.

It took thirty years for the assimilation to reach ninety-percent, and another thirty years for the blood in his veins to complete the process, finally integrating into one whole that took him one step closer to the supreme dao.

Jiang Chen opened his eyes. The thin layer separating him from the godking realm was almost palpable. He could perforate it whenever he wished to finally reach his goal!

The preparations for the conference were also in the final stage. In Fiendstar, Elder Ge and Elder Xu were already dreaming of the upcoming audience with the celestial emperor.

As for Han Shuang, she waited for him to emerge from closed door cultivation with restless impatience.

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

#### **Chapter 2354: Reaching the Crimson Secret Realm**

"Elder Zhen Junior, the Crimsonwaters group will set out in three days," stated Han Shuang.

Jiang Chen nodded. "Alright, I'll take you to the secret realm before we depart."

"Are you sure about this?" The sectmistress was still somewhat concerned.

"A hundred percent sure. No one's going to stop me. Not even Godking Crimsonwaters himself," Jiang Chen declared boldly.

"Not even the godking himself?"

"That's right." Jiang Chen didn't even hesitate.

"Alright. I've come up with an excuse. Just tell the others I've shut myself in after something went wrong during my cultivation. You'll lead the Fiendstar Sect to the conference in my stead." Han Shuang's tone was somber. She was reluctant to bid Jiang Chen farewell.

Jiang Chen didn't know what the godking commanding Han Shuang had given her to help her survive, it would be extremely dangerous to enter the volcano to destroy one of the five spirit veins.

Although he was reluctant to let Han Shuang shoulder that responsibility on her own, there was no alternative. He'd like to take her place if possible, but he had more important things to do.

After some deliberation, Jiang Chen took out the ferule. "Before we part ways, Sectmistress Han, I have something for you. This is the Measure of Heaven, a spatial treasure that will allow you to travel through subspace, ignoring all laws of physics. It should be of help once you enter the more dangerous regions."



Han Shuang stared at the ferule in surprise. The energy radiating from it was astounding. "This is at least godking rank, isn't it?"

Jiang Chen hadn't assessed its rank before. However, nothing his father gave him was going to be mediocre. "I haven't paid attention to that, but it will be of help."

"Alright!" Han Shuang said easily. "Then I'll accept your gift. We'll meet here the night before your departure, Elder Zhen."

.....

With a faint sigh, Jiang Huan walked out of the shadows. "What a moving farewell. To be honest, I thought the sectmistress was a ruthless black widow when I first saw her. It seems that I've misjudged completely. She's a heroine with a backbone and a big heart. What a perfect woman. If you weren't married, young lord, I'd recommend you take her."

"Nonsense." Jiang Chen rolled his eyes.

"Haha, don't dismiss the idea so quickly, young lord. I'm not blind. Although you've kept her at arm's length, I can tell you admire and care about her. Why would you give her the ferule otherwise?"

"I gave her father's treasure to help her save him. That's the way it should be."

Jiang Huan sighed. "Fine. Find all the excuses you want. I'm not going to change my tune. Sectmistress Han is a good woman. Perhaps His Majesty will see her as a good daughter-in-law when they meet as well."

Jiang Chen shook his head and silently waved a dismissive hand.

"Alright, I'll stop." The retainer smiled. "You've finished assimilating your bloodlines, young lord. You're one step away from breaking through to godking, aren't you?"

"That's right," Jiang Chen responded confidently. "I can cross the threshold anytime."

"Don't do it now. Wait until you arrive at the godking conference. Otherwise, the creation token will be exposed and our plans will fall apart."

Jiang Chen nodded. "I know."

"It's been hundreds of thousands of years! The day is finally approaching. You've waited too long, Your Majesty. How are you doing after this long solitude?"

Jiang Chen's eyes turned red. His father must have suffered unimaginable pain during his long years of imprisonment in the Divine Prison of Eternity. However, that was all in the past. Change was on the horizon!

Three days flew by. The Fiendstar Sect was instructed to gather in the godking manor tomorrow morning and depart for the conference in the Taiyuan Realm. There, they'll be meeting the current celestial emperor.

It was a beautiful night. Even the moon seemed melancholy about the impending departure.

“Are we going now, Elder Zhen?” Han Shuang appeared before Jiang Chen, graceful as ever.

“Have you refined the Measure of Heaven?”

“I have.”

“Good! Let’s go then. Apologies for any discomfort I may cause you, Sectmistress.” Jiang Chen picked Han Shuang up and vanished in a flash of light.

In no time, he closed the distance to the forbidden grounds of the Heavenly Crimson Lake. The place was heavily guarded, but that didn’t even delay him. It didn’t take long for him to enter the lake and sneak further inside. They encountered no challenges on their way. Not even the slightest scuffle.

Han Shuang went boneless in Jiang Chen’s arms, surrounded by Jiang Chen’s masculine scent. Her heart had never pounded so hard before.

She might appear like an easy woman, but this was the first time she’d been held so tightly by a man. She was also born sensitive to touches. Even the dangerous surroundings didn’t stop her from getting lightheaded.

She couldn’t tell how long it’d been before Jiang Chen’s voice sounded by her ear. “We’re here, Sectmistress. This subordinate has fulfilled my duty!”

She opened her eyes with some reluctance.

Everything in her sight was red. Once Jiang Chen retracted his power, the endless waves of heat surged and threatened to devour them.

“Are we at the right place, Sectmistress?”

Han Shuang’s beautiful eyes shone with excitement. “We are. This entrance leads directly to the heart of the volcano.”

Jiang Chen nodded. “Understood!”

“How did you do it?” Han Shuang could hardly believe her eyes.

“Haha, I told you I could help you. Remember to use the Measure of Heaven when the situation calls for it!”

“I may not survive this trip, Elder Zhen. Are you really that worried about me exposing your secrets?”

Jiang Chen smiled. “Don’t worry. The ferule will keep you alive.”

“Is it really that impressive?” Han Shuang said with a pout. “I don’t believe it.”

“You should. It’s handmade by the Celestial Emperor himself.”

“The celestial emperor?” Han Shuang perked up. “Which one?”

“The one you’re trying to save. Alright, Sectmistress. This is where we part ways. We both have our missions. Perhaps we’ll see each other again in the near future.”

Han Shuang stared at Jiang Chen in shock. Gradually, her gaze softened. She murmured to herself, "Alright, I get it."

As the young man turned to leave, she called out to him, "Wait."

Jiang Chen stopped in his tracks. "Yes?"

Han Shuang opened her mouth to say something, but swallowed her words. She waved a hand with a rueful smile. "Nothing. Just be careful. Whatever your goal is, you have my blessings. I hope you succeed!"

### Sovereign of the Three Realms (WN)

#### **Chapter 2355: On The Eve Of Departure**

Jiang Chen waved. "Sectmistress, take care."

Han Shuang watched him disappear from her view, a myriad of emotions flashing through her eyes. A touch of soft fragility eventually broke through her usual stubbornness. She gently bit down on her lip, reining in her tears.

She stomped her foot to motivate herself. "I, Han Shuang, will accomplish my grand goal. I will prove it to him!"

Burning with ironclad resolve, she shot forward and entered the tunnel without a backward glance.

Jiang Chen's emotions also threatened to get the better of him. It wasn't until he reached solid ground again that he finally regained his composure.

"Fair winds, Sectmistress Han! When my father sees the Measure of Heaven in your possession, he'll certainly look after you."

Grabbing ahold of himself, he returned to Fiendstar.

The entire sect was upside down. Beside themselves with dismay, Elder Ge and Elder Xu were anxiously hunting for their sectmistress. They'd been shocked senseless to find her missing on the eve of departure.

How could they not be? What a gathering was the grand godking conference? What an honor it was to meet the celestial emperor?

How could their sectmistress have gone missing at such a crucial moment??

Like madmen, the two elders and other core sect members left no stone unturned in their search.

But after pooling together all the available information, they realized with astonishment it'd been months since she'd been last spotted.

In other words, she'd gone dark a long time ago so that her vanishing act wouldn't be immediately noticed.

Elder Xu asked with a grim expression, "Old Ge, I hear Elder Zhen Junior's also missing?"

"Did you check?" Elder Xu inquired.

"I went to his quarters while looking for the sectmistress, but no one answered me."

"What about Elder Zhen Senior? Is he also away?" asked Elder Xu.

"Him? When has he ever been here?" Elder Ge grumbled, jeering, "Other than the competition, I've never once spotted his shadow after he joined!"

Elder Xu suddenly lowered his voice. "Say, don't you think the sectmistress might have... eloped with Elder Zhen Junior?"

"Can't be... would she give up on our sect's abundant riches? Or turn her nose up at an audience with His Majesty?" Elder Ge sounded skeptical.

"Who knows? What do they call it? Fornication! When the fires of passion burn, nothing else matters." Elder Xu pronounced, as if well versed in that domain.

Elder Ge shook his head. "Unlikely, if you ask me. Let's say there's a dalliance between them. Why do they need to give us the slip? Who'd oppose them?"

Elder Xu couldn't argue against that implacable logic. His theory was to be stillborn, it seemed.

"True, but I smell something between them regardless. I've seen her visit his place more than once. And often late at night at that." Elder Xu sounded a little sullen.

"Hehe, Old Xu, is that jealousy I hear?" Elder Ge cackled.

"Me, jealous? What the hell! She's the previous sectmaster's widow. To be involved with her would be cuckolding him."

"Err, in that cas—" All of a sudden, Elder Ge's face turned quite queer. His tune snapped snapped to righteousness. "Old Xu, cease your slander this instant! Elder Zhen is a man of principle. You can tell from his upstanding bearing. While our sectmistress looks brash on the surface, she's in fact very conservative. I assure you there's nothing between them. Sect dignitaries like us shouldn't be talking out of turn and fling around baseless accusations."

Elder Xu froze. What's come over him out of the blue? His mind's always in the gutter, since when did he start preaching about morality?

But he quickly came to his senses. Something fishy was up.

He turned on a hunch, and saw Elder Zhen Junior about eight meters behind them, staring at them with a supercilious smile. Cold sweat immediately drenched his back.

What goes around really comes around.

He hadn't expected to be overheard as soon as he'd started wagging his tongue. Damn Old Ge, he's posing as the good guy while tossing all the dirt my way!

The two disaffected elders might have been gossiping just moments prior, but they were in fact deathly afraid of Jiang Chen and his uncle.

The pair was too strong to keep in check and the sectmistress held them in high esteem. They weren't to be trifled with, yet Elder Xu had been caught red-handed. Someone just kill me already.

"Heh, Elder Zhen Junior, long time no see," Elder Ge welcomed with a warm smile.

Elder Xu was a little more awkward in his greeting. "Elder Zhen Junior, we were merely joking, please don't take it to heart. You're an honorable man and the sectmistress a noble and chaste lady."

Under ordinary circumstances, Jiang Chen would've sent the duo flying with a slap each, but with the godking conference soon upon them, it was wiser to cut them some slack.

"Do you know how late it is? What's all this commotion?" he admonished with a frown.

"Err, Elder Zhen Junior, do you know where the sectmistress is? We're setting off tomorrow, so she should be convening us tonight and delegating duties to those left. But she's nowhere to be seen," Elder Xu hurried out.

"The sectmistress?" Jiang Chen smiled indifferently. "She met a setback in her cultivation a few months ago, so she left to seclude herself somewhere. She probably won't make it back in time."

"Ah? In that case, what are we supposed to do about tomorrow?" The two elders blinked.

"Before she left, she insisted I take charge of our contingent. Other than her, we'll be taking the same people with us. Alright, it's the dead of the night, so all of you go to bed. I'll see you tomorrow morning."

No one to waste his breath, the young lord stalked away without further ado, leaving them to stare after him.

The two elders looked at one another. They hadn't fully processed the information yet. Sectmistress Han had gone into seclusion? Why at such an important time? Couldn't she have waited a little longer?

Both of them were full of questions, but they couldn't pester Jiang Chen and question him like a criminal. They could only swallow their doubts. Fortunately, Han Shuang's absence had little impact on their participation in the conference.

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

#### **Chapter 2356: Arrival**

The next morning, Fiendstar's team arrived at the godking manor's gathering point. The godking's managing staff were ready to count the participants.

When it came to Fiendstar's turn, it was discovered that they were down one person.

"Where is your Sectmistress Han? Does she not know the time of our departure? Why is she not here yet?"

"In response to the elder," Jiang Chen replied smoothly, "Sectmistress Han has run into a few problems with her cultivation. She has shut her doors and will not emerge until she resolves them. I don't think she'll be able to make it to the meeting."

It was fine that someone couldn't make it. The godking manor wouldn't agree to bringing any extras, since each sect had a strict allotment.

On the other hand, there was no reason to inquire too deeply about one party not making full use of their spots. The executive frowned, "Are you sure she's not coming?"

"Yes, I am." Jiang Chen nodded.

"Well then, the spot will be reallocated to another from the godking manor," the executive stated matter-of-factly.

"Of course."

Elders Ge and Xu were relieved to see the godking's apathy on the matter.

The two old men didn't care about whether the sectmistress actually went or not. It didn't affect them in the slightest.

If the two Elders Zhen wanted to excuse themselves too, so much the better. The two old men would be in charge of the Fiendstar Sect's team then.

Unfortunately, the two unlikable Zhens insisted on attending. This made Ge and Xu a little uncomfortable, though it was a sentiment they could only keep to themselves. They didn't dare express a hint of displeasure before Jiang Chen, lest their attendance itself be thrown into question.

The executive related the Fiendstar Sect's circumstances to Godking Crimsonwaters. Astonished, the godking called Jiang Chen over.

"We meet again, Elder Zhen Junior." There was an elusive tone to Crimsonwaters's smile.

"Hail, my lord."

"Why haven't I heard about Sectmistress Han's closed door cultivation before now?" The godking incisively pointed his look at Jiang Chen.

"She said there's no reason to disturb anyone with her personal life. There's no problem if we're down a person, is there?"

"Is she really cultivating behind closed doors?" Crimsonwaters put extra emphasis on repeating the question.

"That's what she told me, yes," Jiang Chen nodded.

The godking looked deeply in the direction of the Heavenly Crimson Lake, then sighed. "I hope what you say is true. Sometimes, that girl thinks too much.

"You may return to your sect members, Elder Zhen. Remember, when we reach the Taiyuan Plane proper, you should speak little and observe much."

Crimsonwaters dismissed Jiang Chen, who became contemplative about the godking's prior words. It was probable that he suspected Han Shuang already.

However, it likely had to do with a potential scheme regarding the Heavenly Crimson Lake rather than her rescuing the Taiyuan Celestial Emperor.

Regardless of the godking's speculations, it didn't much matter. He and the entourage were about to depart, which meant he had no time to deal with Han Shuang.

Fiendstar was relatively unremarkable among the throng of its fellows. Jiang Chen and Jiang Huan planned to maintain a low profile throughout the trip.

The group from Crimsonwaters numbered roughly a thousand. Most were the godking's elites, with the five sects comprising only a minority.

Fiendstar had only thirty-some people among the group. The four elders in attendance were accompanied by various other executives.

Because of Han Shuang's absence, the team was a bit disorganized compared to the others. A quick tongue-lashing from Jiang Chen immediately brought them into line.

A single airboat would've been sufficient to hold everyone in the entourage, but they split into two vessels before departing for Taiyuan.

Jiang Chen brimmed with enthusiasm to return to the realm that he hadn't seen for several hundred thousand years. He was finally on his way home!

He could scarcely contain his excitement.

Crimsonwaters wasn't far from the Taiyuan Plane proper, but a transportation formation was required nevertheless. The formation was large enough to manage entire airboats.

The vessels took flight once more after the transmission, this time in Taiyuan atmosphere.

All the land beneath them had once been ruled by his father. The mountains and rivers looked the same still, but the people living here were entirely different.

Jiang Chen watched the scenery outside with wonder, as if nothing had changed about everything he saw. The colors and flavors of the earth, sea, and sky tasted so heartachingly familiar to him.

Jiang Huan was just as emotional as his 'nephew'. They came nearer and nearer to the intimacy of Jiang Chen's previous life.

The core of the Taiyuan Plane was naturally where the celestial emperor's heritage was located – the Taiyuan Sky Palace. The building had changed hands countless times, each new controller usurping his predecessor as celestial emperor. Each was a godking who hadn't received the recognition of the universe or the heavenly dao.

The airboat flew two days and two nights before gradually slowing its pace.

The flagship in front gave orders to the one behind to disembark for inspection. They were close to their destination, and the Taiyuan Sky Palace's security demanded that they be checked.

Already, jade pillars were visible in the distance, their great stature soaring into the heavens. Thunder boomed and lightning crackled between them; tigers and dragons and various other visions besides could be seen.

This was a potent restriction that airboats who didn't receive inspection couldn't pass.

The Coiling Dragon Pillars of Heaven and Earth!

Jiang Chen was filled with reminiscence and sentimentality. These pillars had stood since his father was celestial emperor. This was the gate into the sky palace.

He wanted to walk past almost immediately. He had dreamt a very long time about returning here.

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

#### **Chapter 2357: Taiyuan Sky Palace**

The cultivators conducting the inspections were uniformly advanced divine realm. The current celestial emperor's authenticity aside, he was at least well-equipped.

Anyone who could succeed in usurping the throne was surely a commander of innumerable forces. Ordinary godkings wouldn't possess the strength or foundations to do the same.

Furthermore, a celestial emperor was often sought out by powerful cultivators who wanted a position of authority.

Thus, this Celestial Emperor Skypillar had a fair few elites under his command despite his false nature. That was evident from the strength of the inspection staff.

"Greetings to Godking Crimsonwaters." The staff saluted the godking first, then began conducting the scope of their duties.

They patently respected Crimsonwaters only on the surface. Their behavior marked an arrogant air from service to the celestial emperor.

Four rounds of inspection later, one of them turned back to Crimsonwaters, smiling through his teeth. "We're only doing what is required of us, godking. Please understand."

The godking smiled faintly and waved a hand, but said nothing back.

He was astute and gracious enough to accept this much in stride. None too pleased, but uninterested in pressing such an insignificant detail.

"Let us go." A wave from the godking signaled his team's departure.

A second, third, and fourth inspection awaited them on the road ahead.

Skypillar was cautious indeed, a reflection of his lack of confidence in himself.

Crimsonwaters was very cooperative throughout, showing no sign of anger or annoyance.

Only after the fourth checkpoint did the team arrive within the Taiyuan Sky Palace proper. As one of the more prominent titled godkings, Crimsonwaters and his entourage were situated

in one of the nicest court residences within the palace.

Originally intended for honored guests, the residences had been repurposed to house the most powerful godkings. In the Taiyuan Plane, titled godkings qualified to be housed here numbered fewer than ten.



The residence was abuzz with activity when Crimsonwaters and his men entered. Other godkings had already settled in.

Evidently, many of them had close relationships with each other. Their teams intermingled with one another in earnest greeting and conversation.

Everyone acquainted with Crimsonwaters rose at his arrival. Five godkings emerged from their residences specifically to say hello to him.

Jiang Chen hung out quietly among the crowd, observing the handful of new godkings who appeared. He wanted to see what kind of people they were, what kind of morals and attitudes they possessed.

Observation could yield many details, and he wasn't about to pass up the opportunity.

The godkings entreated each other with niceties and courtesies, but none of them were easy to read. They skimmed only the surface in their chatter, as if they had an unspoken agreement not to mention Taiyuan Plane's current state.

It was as if they really were only here to attend a meeting in a realm that had enjoyed hundreds of thousand years of peace. There wasn't a hint of worry or concern upon their faces.

What a bunch of wily old foxes.

These cultivators had lived at least a hundred thousand years each. They were beyond experienced in life and had unavoidably accumulated a wealth of experience.

Jiang Chen averted his eyes. There wasn't much for him to look for here. The godkings shared the same apathy, which disappointed him somewhat. Taiyuan Plane's history until now had worn away their edges.

They were fearful of what could happen, knowing well that to say too much was mistake enough. This was a kind of sadness all on its own. If no one spoke up, things would only get increasingly worse.

This was the source of Taiyuan's decay: the lack of any responsible individuals who dared come to the forefront. The masses were silent in a group depiction of the bystander effect.

Jiang Chen soberly refrained from taking action after moving in. He sensed a monitoring force that pervaded the residence's every corner.

Even the secret rooms here weren't necessarily safe from prying eyes.

He chose to meditate until the beginning of the actual meeting.

The same idea seemed to have struck Jiang Huan. Though he came to talk to Jiang Chen from time to time, they exchanged only vacuous words.

They had already discussed the plan with each other beforehand. There was no need to repeat it.

Three days remained until the formal start of the godking vassal meeting. At that time, Skypillar would receive all the vassals at once and listen to their advice, after which a way to return Taiyuan Plane to its rightful operations would be found.

The meeting was slated to be a fruitful one, but shadows swam beneath the surface. Who knew whether there was a conspiracy waiting in the wings? How many would fall prey to unforeseen events? Would Skypillar even be allowed to remain the celestial emperor?

Jiang Chen went through the motions of his schedule everyday.

On the afternoon of the third day, one of Crimsonwaters's followers informed him that the godking wished to see him.

The young man found this curious. Why had the godking taken an interest in him? They weren't close enough to be on speaking terms, were they?

But he could hardly refuse.

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

#### **Chapter 2358: Persuasion of the Five Godkings**

Crimsonwaters was highly pleased to see Jiang Chen. "Young Zhen, how do you feel about your visit to the Taiyuan Sky Palace so far?"

"It's been very nice here. The food, the lodging, and the peacefulness." The young man gave a standard reply.

Crimsonwaters chuckled. "Sit for a while. I have a few friends coming to visit soon. They've heard me talk about you and have taken an interest in you as well. It's not the most convenient place to talk here, but there's no problem with a simple meet-and-greet."

Jiang Chen didn't understand what exactly the godking had seen in him. Why was he so passionate and warm?

The young man usually wouldn't have minded the positive attention, but any attention at all right now was unwanted. He made to say something when there was a clamor outside.

One especially bright laugh cut through the din. "Haha, Daoist Crimsonwaters commands as much respect as ever. This is a really nice place! Not like where I'm living. We're both godkings, but my lodging is small and dingy. How depressing!"

The man who had said these words bounced in like a large rubber ball. His face and form were pudgy to the point of comicality, but he also seemed extremely approachable because of it.

His girth blocked the others behind him from sight. Jiang Chen noticed a trio of godkings behind him only after he had fully entered the room.

One of them had chiseled features and a righteous appearance. He commanded men and respect alike.

Another wore robes as cerulean as the sea. He exuded a crisp and clean feeling, as if his heart was as broad and accepting as the oceans themselves.

The last godking was somewhat thin and withered. His expression was graver and more aloof than all his peers.

Jiang Chen instantly perceived that all of these were titled godkings. Their auras were distinct from each other, but the forces of their cultivation were unmistakable.

“Heh, you’re the ones putting on airs here. I invited you a couple of times before you finally came, no?” Chuckling, Crimsonwaters rose to welcome them.

“We did want to come earlier, my friend,” the fat godking sighed. “Alas, busyness has gotten the best of us over the past few days – when it’s not me, it’s them, and so on. It’s been hard for us to find some free time to get together.”

This was absolutely true.

Every godking had his own social circles. He needed to meet the obligations therein, especially since it had been a long time since their last meeting.

Mutual free time was hard to come by.

The godking in blue smiled at Jiang Chen as he scrutinized the youth. “This young man is no doubt the Elder Zhen Junior you’ve mentioned so much, hmm?”

Jiang Chen hurriedly cupped a fist. “I am Zhen Shi, honored godkings. I greet you as someone many generations your junior.”

“So it is. Very good, very good.” The fat godking pinched at his chin, clucking. The rotund tended to be jovial, which meant that most things were good to them.

Keen rays flared from the thin godking’s eyes, sweeping over Jiang Chen’s body many times before coming to a stop. “His aura is full, his consciousness well-guarded.” He nodded faintly. “This young man is extraordinary.”

This comment was much more informative than the fat godking’s had been.

Though Jiang Chen attempted to conceal his strength before the godkings, it was difficult to hide his basic characteristics. Thankfully, he wasn’t yet a godking himself. It would have been impossible to hide his aura then.

The honorable godking examined Jiang Chen the longest out of his colleagues, and gave a rare positive appraisal.

“His consciousness and aura aside, I see an exceptional righteousness and promise in him. He is indeed superb, Daoist Crimsonwaters, which leads me to the next point: how could you have left him undiscovered for so long?”

“I suppose you can attribute that to blindness on my part,” Crimsonwaters coughed.

Godking Righteous perused Jiang Chen with unmasked admiration. “Young Zhen, I’ve always respected Daoist Crimsonwaters’ keen eye for talent. I hear that you refused his offer as his heir?”

“That’s not quite it, my lords. I have promised myself elsewhere. What right have I to refuse such a prominent position as the heir to a minor world?” Jiang Chen laughed helplessly.

“You’re not being entirely honest,” smiled Righteous. “Some of what you said was sincere, but the remainder was an excuse.”

“Please don’t make fun of me, senior.”

“Haha, we don’t mean to bully you. I have considerable confidence when it comes to discerning people. I see a glint in your eye that tells me ruling a minor world is below you,” Righteous chuckled.

Jiang Chen felt a bit powerless.

How was he supposed to fend off good-natured ribbing from several godkings at once? He could hardly admit to Righteous’ accusation.

If he did, their curiosity would only intensify as to why that was, further ensnaring him in the situation.

“We know what kind of man Daoist Crimsonwaters is, young Zhen,” the godking in blue cut in. “He values his words very much and never tosses them around recklessly. If you’re worried that he was speaking in jest, we can all bear witness to the contrary.”

It seemed now that Crimsonwaters had brought the four other godkings here to bolster his confidence and increase his prestige.

The godking’s actions very much elevated the young man. His goodwill was evidently genuine.

“Young man,” the fat godking chuckled, “you no doubt have considerable pride as a youthful genius. You might even be belittling the gifts that are presented to you. Only after you’ve experienced the toils of life will you understand that some things are not meant to be missed. Regret and remorse will be pale imitations of what you’ve lost.”

His words resonated with the others.

They were naturally thinking of the Taiyuan Celestial Emperor’s rule. They had been complacent during the reign of the rightful emperor, complaining from time to time as people were wont to do.

Only after he was gone did they fully realize how precious their missing emperor had been.

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

#### **Chapter 2359: On Equal Footing**

Jiang Chen listened quietly in on the conversation between the godkings. He detected no attempt at trickery. They were genuine in their appreciation of him. He couldn’t possibly continue to keep them at arm’s length when they were being so earnest.

“I very much appreciate your kindness, my lords,” he responded seriously. “I will give you a definite answer after the conference.”

“You will?” asked Godking Righteous.

“I will,” promised Jiang Chen.

The overweight godking slapped his thick thigh. “Good, I like your decisiveness! Youths should be bold and ambitious! Let me ask you something, will your answer then be yes or no?”

Jiang Chen smiled. "We'll see very soon."

If his plan failed, all bets were off and nothing would matter anymore. If he succeeded, his status would reach such a height that Godking Crimsonwaters couldn't possibly consider him a successor.

Everything would be decided after the conference.

Crimsonwaters chuckled. "Enough, I invited you here to introduce you to Elder Zhen. Stop making the young man nervous."

"Haha, Brother Crimsonwaters can't help but intervene. Alright, we won't push any further." The godking in blue added, "But, Elder Zhen is indeed quite remarkable."

The five godkings shared a look and with unspoken understanding, made hand seals at the same time. A small godking domain emerged in an instant.

"Alright, now we can talk without worry of unwanted ears." Crimsonwaters laughed, but it was with resigned mirth.

The court should be private, yet they had to be cautious before speaking freely. It was testament to how awful the atmosphere in Taiyuan had become.

The overweight godking sighed. "We can't go on like this. Shouldn't we do something, Brother Crimsonwaters? Things will only get worse, won't they?"

"Has anyone suspicious made you offers or tried to win your allegiance?"

"Yes!" The godking in blue was the first to answer. "And more than a couple. However, they're intentionally vague with their words. It's difficult to tell what exactly they're getting at."

"Cowards, the lot of them!" Godking Righteous declared angrily. "They harbor malicious intent, but none of them dare take a stand for fear of getting themselves killed."

"Many have approached me too," Crimsonwaters said with a sigh. "However, I've stayed studiously neutral. They left without getting what they wanted."

"Taiyuan is in a very dangerous position. It's a balloon that's been filled with too much air. Everyone knows it'll explode, but no one knows when and how, and how many will end up hurt. Still, people are injecting more and more air into the balloon, accelerating its impending explosion." There was a hint of sadness to Crimsonwaters's voice. "If no strong leaders come forth and raise a call for action, I believe the godking conference will become another bloodbath. Another swath of godkings will be killed. Perhaps the current celestial emperor will fall from grace as well."

"Godking Skypillar?" the godking in blue asked curiously. "How do you know he's not the one behind everything, dao brother?"

The thin godking, who had been quiet, spoke up suddenly, "Celestial Emperor Skypillar is so obvious with his schemes and plotting. Everyone can see his true nature clear as day. If he was the one pulling the strings, Celestial Emperor Taiyuan would have suffered a worthless defeat at the hand of an incompetent foe."

“Haha, true. Skypillar can’t be the culprit. Look at how he’s set up all of the checkpoints. He’s obviously insecure. The harder he tries, the more precarious his position becomes.”

The godkings chatted bluntly about Skypillar’s secrets.

Jiang Chen was shocked. He didn’t expect the five godkings to put such trust in him. Why would they hold such a sensitive conversation while he was present?

The realization settled heavily down on him.

“Haha, we’ve changed the subject too suddenly, haven’t we?” The overweight godking guffawed, jiggling the excess fat on his face. “Look at Elder Zhen. He’s stunned.”

Crimsonwaters looked at Jiang Chen with a generous look. “We believe you’re trustworthy, Elder Zhen, and we consider you one of our own. That’s why we talk about this while you’re here. No matter what you decide to do in the future, your temperament, potential, and character alone make you a worthy addition to our ranks. Sooner or later, you’ll be on equal footing with us. That’s why we get you involved in advance. You don’t mind, do you?”

It was a gesture of trust and recognition, and an olive branch offered.

Touched, Jiang Chen said seriously, “Your approval humbles me, seniors. I’ll make sure whatever you discuss today stays in this room.”

The godkings smiled. “You’re one of us. You may be at ease, Elder Zhen.”

“That’s right. If we wanted to keep you out of the loop, we wouldn’t have brought the Celestial Emperor up at all.”

“We didn’t want to keep secrets from you.”

“Again, Elder Zhen, we old men have high hopes for you. We believe you deserve our respect.”

Jiang Chen nodded and stopped protesting.

Godking Righteous looked at Jiang Chen with a smile. “Brother Crimsonwaters said that you are insightful despite your age, Elder Zhen, and that you understand the development of Taiyuan very well. Would you mind enlightening us?”

“Enlighten is too strong a word, but I do have some thoughts.” This was a good opportunity to test the godkings and Jiang Chen didn’t want to miss it.

“Haha, don’t be so humble. Let’s hear it.”

“Agreed. You don’t have to worry about being wrong. We just want to hear from a young man like you.”

Jiang Chen nodded and got right to the point instead of beating around the bush. “The true culprit must be remarkably shrewd to have laid low patiently for such a long time. Regular approaches won’t be enough to root him out. There are only a handful of solutions.”

The overweight godking laughed heartily. “Oh, a handful, you say?”

“The first one is the most straightforward: Free Celestial Emperor Taiyuan. He must know who the true culprit is.”

“Haha, that won’t do. Celestial Emperor Taiyuan is sealed in the Divine Prison of Eternity, the keys of which are controlled by seven godkings. You have to get all seven to work with you to rescue him. As one of the seven, Brother Crimsonwaters, you must know how difficult that will be.”

Crimsonwaters sighed. “It won’t be easy.”

Jiang Chen suddenly smiled faintly. “One of the seven godkings must be the culprit.”

### Sovereign of the Three Realms (WN)

#### **Chapter 2360: Start of the Convention**

This was a theory the five godkings had entertained before, so they weren’t particularly surprised by Jiang Chen’s proposition.

However, they didn’t have anything concrete to support this suggestion.

“No matter how shrewd the culprit is, he isn’t going to allow others to be in control of such a key part of the plan,” Jiang Chen continued. “If the culprit isn’t among the seven keyholders, what’s he going to do if they come to an agreement to let His Majesty go?”

“You’re right.” The overweight godking nodded approvingly.

“Besides, what did the culprit stage the coup for? Power, of course. Someone ambitious enough to overthrow the emperor must have a controlling streak to his hide. It doesn’t make sense for him to give others the tool to disrupt his plans while he stays on the sidelines.”

Jiang Chen based his analysis on the human psyche. He didn’t have any concrete proof either.

“We can speculate all we want,” the thin godking spoke up suddenly. “Even if we suspect the same person, we can’t make an accusation until the culprit exposes himself.”

Godking Crimsonwaters sighed. “You’re right. That’s the dilemma we’re in. We need Celestial Emperor Taiyuan to root out the culprit, but the culprit holds one of the keys required to liberate His Majesty. It’s a conundrum.”

Godking Righteous slapped the table with a hand. “Taiyuan Plane has been deteriorating because of the culprit. It’ll fall apart sooner or later.”

The five godkings failed to come to any conclusion. All they could do was to complain and lament their misfortunes. Under the circumstances, if they didn’t muster the courage to do something, the situation would only inch further into the abyss.

“Aren’t we going to do anything this time, Brother Crimsonwaters?” the overweight godking demanded defiantly.

“What do you think, Brother Fei?” Crimsonwaters asked in lieu of a response.

“What do I think?” muttered the overweight godking. His tone turned agitated. “I think we should give it a try. Bring the issue up during the conference. Perhaps we can succeed in pushing for a consensus.”

Anyone who dares object to Celestial Emperor Taiyuan's release will be a traitor! No one wants that, right?"

He had a point.

"What if we fail?" asked Crimsonwaters. "What if no one answers our call?"

"You won't know until you try," Jiang Chen offered suddenly. "Someone has to take a stand," he emphasized. "Someone has to take the first step, even if the price is his life."

"I'll do it!" volunteered Godking Righteous.

"I'll do it!" shouted the godking in blue at the same time.

"I volunteer!" The overweight godking straightened his chubby torso, ready to risk his life.

"It's easy for you to volunteer yourself now," interjected the thin godking. "Will you be brave enough to do so on an occasion as solemn as the conference?"

"We have to be," Godking Righteous delivered solemnly. "Even if we can't individually, we'll muster the courage if all five of us do it together."

Everyone turned to Crimsonwaters for his decision. He was their leader among the five.

After a long stretch of silence, Crimsonwaters pronounced in a determined tone, "We'll play it by ear tomorrow. If someone else brings the issue up first, we'll show our support immediately and push for a consensus. If no one does so, we'll take matters into our own hands. What do you think?"

"Alright, that's the plan!"

"We have a deal. No going back!"

The five godkings finally made up their minds.

Jiang Chen sighed inwardly. The current situation had indeed made the five godkings desperate. Even rabbits bit when they were cornered. The culprit had managed to cause the downfall of an entire prosperous plane!

"What do you think, Elder Zhen?" Godking Righteous settled his deep gaze on Jiang Chen.

Jiang Chen didn't avert his eyes. "People will follow!" he said earnestly. "Even if you fail, I will follow in your footsteps. However, I believe an opportunity to strike back will arise during the conference. I can tell our plane has reached rock bottom. It's time for our final stand."

"Oh? How so?"

Jiang Chen smiled. "Observing the layout of destiny and calculating the future has been a hobby of mine since I was young. Taiyuan Plane has been in decline, but it's not doomed yet. It's time for it to bounce back."

Destiny was a fickle thing.



The five godkings were no experts in the area, so they didn't immediately dismiss Jiang Chen's cryptic words. It was better to believe than to doubt.

"Haha, we should be more optimistic if that's what you believe, shouldn't we?" chuckled the godking in blue.

"Yes, we have to believe that things will change for the better. If we have faith, the other godkings will follow suit. Once everyone comes to the same realization and takes measures to save themselves, things will get better. Like Elder Zhen says, we will rise again."

.....

The gathering made Jiang Chen realize that Taiyuan Plane was on the cusp of a revolution.

The time had come. The widely anticipated godking conference was to begin.

One by one, godkings led their parties to their assigned location within the Taiyuan Sky Palace. Every godking in Taiyuan Plane had arrived at the conference.

They were assigned to different spots according to their status and power.

Possessing a high status, Godking Crimsonwaters was assigned to the front where it was spacious. He stood out in the crowd.

At the godking's behest, Jiang Chen sat close behind Crimsonwaters with his legs crossed.

Elders Ge and Xu could barely contain their burning jealousy. The elder was damn lucky to attract the godking's attention and be treated with such regard! He must be blessed with generations of good fortune!

"Taiyuan Sky Palace... finally, I have returned." Jiang Chen knew the place well. He knew the stairs and every inch of the palace. It'd been hundreds of thousands of years, yet memories rushed into his mind like it was only yesterday.