

## Sect Master 211

### Chapter 211: Patching

Amidst the insincere atmosphere of the crowd, the scene became more fervent. Ruan Dadao and others kept expressing their loyalty to Guang HongDaoist. Guang HongDaoist, in turn, comforted them with kind words, avoiding any mention of past unpleasantness as if yesterday's events had never happened. It was truly a scene of unity and harmony.

Next, everyone didn't rush back to their respective sects but stayed in Singing Sand City. One reason was to obtain the latest news promptly, and the other was to use this opportunity to mend the cracks in their relationships and emotions.

Over the next half month, more news trickled in. The disaster caused by the sand monsters did not subside due to Flying Swan Sect's intervention; instead, it escalated, with more areas getting involved. Flying Swan Sect organized several large-scale attacks but failed to eliminate the main force of the sand monsters. Especially the Third Rank sand monsters displayed astonishing combat power, even Fei JiangDaoist Master almost suffered a severe setback. Now, large groups of sand monsters even infiltrated into the territory of Northern Desert Qi Family. Northern Desert, situated in the Endless Sea of Sand, was already relatively barren, lacking in spirit vein quality and quantity, and ruled directly by Qi Family without as many vassals as Flying Swan Sect.

The sand monsters' rampage in Northern Desert directly harmed Qi Family's foundation. Qi NanguiDaoist Master of Qi Family had already organized forces to start eradicating the sand monsters in their territory.

At this time, Flying Swan Sect sent envoys to Northern Desert Qi Family, hoping to negotiate peace. Although the two had been enemies for many years, they were, after all, human beings capable of communication and compromise. On the other hand, sand monsters were the natural enemies of the Cultivation World, instinctively seeking to exterminate human Cultivators.

In the past, there had been instances of temporary alliances between Flying Swan Sect and Northern Desert Qi Family due to sand monster havoc. Given the severity of the current sand monster turmoil, it was not surprising that they formed another alliance.

For Guang ZhiDaoist Master, Flying Swan Sect extended an olive branch, promising not to pursue him anymore and to let go of past grudges. Fei TianDaoist Master even took a grand oath that as long as Guang ZhiDaoist Master assisted Flying Swan Sect in eradicating the sand monsters, they would provide generous rewards. During the battle against the sand monsters, Guang ZhiDaoist Master would enjoy the same treatment as Flying Swan Sect's Gold CoreDaoist Masters, receiving sufficient cultivation resources and access to Third Rank spirit veins.

To demonstrate their sincerity, Flying Swan Sect immediately lifted the blockade on Forest Spring Watch and other sects. This news even made Meng Zhang sigh with relief. The years of blockade were now over, signaling the end of the standoff. If nothing unexpected happened, Taiyi Sect would enter a rare period of peaceful development.

During this time, Meng Zhang had to work hard to repair his relationship with Forest Spring Watch. Fortunately, when Ruan Dadao and the others forced him in the palace, Meng Zhang didn't make any direct statements or take action. They didn't escalate the situation, so the relationship could still

be salvaged. Besides, Taiyi Sect had been on good terms with Forest Mountain School, continuously providing them with white hidden earth ore.

Meng Zhang decided to notify the sect that all the white hidden earth ore mined in the future would be given to Forest Spring Watch free of charge. Sacrificing some external resources for the friendship of a Gold Core sect was undoubtedly a significant gain.

Meng Zhang visited Xu Yishan and Lin Shenpo from Forest Mountain School in private, asking them to put in a good word for him with Guang HongDaoist. He not only offered them generous gifts but also promised additional benefits. Meng Zhang couldn't help but feel that Forest Spring Watch was exceptionally lucky this time. Just when they needed it, the sand monster turmoil came to their rescue.

However, Meng Zhang quickly dismissed the improbable thought that the sand monster turmoil might have been related to Forest Spring Watch. After all, sand monsters had been rampaging in the Endless Sea of Sand for years; it was impossible for it to be a human-made event. Even the Primordial Spirit sects wouldn't have such means.

Shortly afterward, the latest news arrived: Guang ZhiDaoist Master had declared that sand monsters were the enemies of human Cultivators, and as a member of the Human Clan, it was his responsibility to eradicate them. Once his injuries healed, he would immediately go to the frontline.

With Guang ZhiDaoist Master's declaration, the war shadow looming over everyone's heads completely dissipated. Including Meng Zhang, the main figures of various sects returned to their respective sects.

With the lifting of Flying Swan Sect's blockade, trade routes resumed, and the minerals and goods accumulated by various sects could be transported to Firewell Market for sale.

During Meng Zhang's absence from Taiyi Sect, with the help of Wen Qiansun, Deep Earth Spirit General had set up the Second Rank Formation, a towering great formation, in Fuzhao Valley.

Having the protection of a Second Rank Formation not only greatly enhanced the sect's defensive capabilities but also instilled a sense of security in everyone's hearts. The disciples who had been monitoring Forest Spring Watch were all recalled by Flying Swan Sect.

Now, Forest Spring Watch was truly free and unburdened, able to expand and take action. Their forces quickly set foot on the territory that originally belonged to Twin Success Valley. Forest Mountain School also dispatched a large number of elite disciples to accompany them.

This land was originally occupied by Liu Family and Green Bamboo Mountain but later faced the ravages of loose cultivators. After the four sects' alliance defeated Liu Family and Green Bamboo Mountain, they didn't fully occupy the area due to limited manpower.

Only Shi Weida took control of Date Spice Oasis, and Taiyi Sect occupied a Warm Jade Mine. Now that Forest Spring Watch was expanding, this place became their prime target.

Gu Tanghai was very tactful and voluntarily withdrew Shi Weida from Date Spice Oasis, giving it to Forest Spring Watch. Forest Spring Watch declined a few times but eventually reluctantly accepted it.

Gu Tanghai did this, so what could Meng Zhang do? He could only take the initiative and offer the Warm Jade Mine being mined as a gift to Forest Spring Watch.

Similarly, Forest Spring Watch declined a few times before finally accepting Meng Zhang's goodwill. Having such a valuable Warm Jade Mine in his hands yet having to give it away to others without even using it made Meng Zhang feel somewhat stifled. But Forest Spring Watch was now a Gold Core sect. If he didn't take the initiative, it would be quite uncouth to wait for them to ask for it.

Originally, Twin Success Valley, Forest Spring Watch, Liu Family, and Green Bamboo Mountain stood on equal footing. With Twin Success Valley's strength alone, they could contend with the other three combined. Their direct territories were very fertile and resource-rich, providing ample support for the strong group of cultivators in Twin Success Valley.

Even after undergoing several upheavals and suffering heavy losses, once the land fell into Forest Spring Watch's hands and was properly managed for a period, it could become their new stronghold.

Forest Spring Watch took the lion's share, while their subordinate, Forest Mountain School, also gained some benefits, obtaining some peripheral territory.

## Chapter 212: War Wealth

After occupying the territory that originally belonged to Twin Success Valley, Forest Spring Watch ceased all other actions. Forest Mountain School, Taiyi Sect, Qiaoshou Sect, Golden Blade Sect, and Shi Family all proclaimed themselves as vassals of Forest Spring Watch, as if they had become loyal followers of Forest Spring Watch. Even without any demand from Forest Spring Watch, these forces voluntarily offered tributes to it. However, Forest Spring Watch's true strength was still far from that of the former Twin Success Valley. Nevertheless, as long as Daoist Master Guang Zhi remained stable, these forces would be incredibly loyal, obedient, and honest.

For Taiyi Sect and other factions, although they now had an additional lord, Forest Spring Watch's actions were relatively moderate and much easier to get along with compared to the past Twin Success Valley. Furthermore, Forest Spring Watch had become a Gold Core sect, which dignified its vassals and prevented them from losing face.

In a somewhat humorous manner, going from being a vassal of a Foundation Building sect like Twin Success Valley to a vassal of a Gold Core sect like Forest Spring Watch was considered a significant progress for these factions. The entire region became peaceful with no major conflicts, and trade routes were reestablished, allowing various cultivation resources to flow freely.

After discussions with Gu Tanghai, who managed Singing Sand City, Forest Spring Watch voluntarily handed over a large portion of the city's shares to them. Although Forest Spring Watch hesitated initially, it eventually accepted the shares and became the new owner of Singing Sand City. However, they did not burn bridges and continued to let Gu Tanghai manage the city. Forest Spring Watch held the majority shares, while Shi Family and the other four sects had some shares as well. With everyone's united efforts, Singing Sand City began to recover its vitality.

The Shang Family, who had voluntarily left Singing Sand City before, started returning, and shops reopened one after another. Even Four Seas Building reopened, and it was rumored that Flying Swan Building would also resume business soon. Flying Swan Sect, as the ruler of Endless Sea of Sand, willingly abandoned its significant interests in Singing Sand City.

Excluding Northern Desert's Qi Family, Forest Spring Watch became the second Gold Core sect in the Endless Sea of Sand, earning the respect of Flying Swan Sect in various aspects. Despite Forest Spring Watch repeatedly expressing its subservience to Flying Swan Sect, the latter insisted on treating Forest Spring Watch as an equal.

The vassal factions of Forest Spring Watch also benefited from this new status. Four Seas Building, previously offering intermediary services and task announcements for cultivators, especially loose cultivators, handed over this business entirely to Shi Family and Gu Tanghai.

When caravans sent by Forest Spring Watch and its vassals passed through other forces' territories, they received various advantages and discounts on tolls. Even the commercial taxes imposed by Flying Swan Sect were reduced.

Earthfire Sect, which had been trading with Taiyi Sect, increased its purchase of various mining resources from Taiyi Sect at higher prices to mend their relationship. Taiyi Sect intensified its mining efforts, sending vast amounts of resources to Firewell Market in exchange for spiritual stones and various cultivation resources.

The sand monster's turmoil occurred mainly to the north and east of Flying Swan Sect's territory, while the sects located to the west, including Earthfire Sect, were not affected. Forest Spring Watch and other sects were far away from the battlefield, and Firewell Market and Singing Sand City became secure rear bases.

Countless caravans arrived from the front lines, carrying massive amounts of magic tools, elixirs, talismans, and other supplies from these places to support the battle against the sand monsters. Shi Family even reduced the production of other elixirs and focused on producing healing and true qi-restoring elixirs.

The ores diligently mined by various sects were sent to Firewell Market, where they were transformed into magic tools. These items were then supplied to the frontline through commercial caravans. The war against the sand monsters proved to be highly profitable for these rear base sects.

Meng Zhang was somewhat dissatisfied with Taiyi Sect's Pill Hall, Talisman Hall, and Artifact Hall as they couldn't meet the sect's needs, let alone make profits. Currently, Taiyi Sect could only earn some meager money by selling various mining resources.

However, Meng Zhang understood that such things couldn't be rushed. Taiyi Sect was just at the beginning, and there was still a long way to go.

In Singing Sand City, several small giants over ten feet tall were busy in a corner, demolishing old and dilapidated buildings and constructing a new small building. Behind the building was a courtyard under construction.

After Singing Sand City began to recover, Zhang Zhanlin, who had been operating a miscellaneous shop in the city, suggested to Meng Zhang that they should increase their investment in Singing Sand City and establish a commercial base. Meng Zhang considered this suggestion and agreed.

As a Foundation Building sect, Taiyi Sect indeed needed such a commercial base. Zhang Zhanlin was very concerned about the face of Taiyi Sect in this matter, so he not only purchased many high-quality materials but also spent a considerable sum to acquire construction talismans.

The several small giants currently engaged in the construction were summoned through the use of construction talismans. Meng Zhang named this commercial base "Hengyuan Building" and put Zhang Zhanlin in charge of its operation. The sect would also send disciples to assist him and provide guards for the place.

Meng Zhang originally planned to open a shop in Firewell Market during this visit to Singing Sand City. However, considering its distance (over four thousand miles away from Taiyi Sect) and the chaos caused by the sand monster turmoil, the business in Firewell Market was exceptionally booming, and shop rents had skyrocketed, making it difficult to find one.

Meng Zhang didn't want to make money for landlords for nothing, so he decided that when the opportunity arose, he would directly purchase a shop in Firewell Market.

Taking advantage of this visit to Singing Sand City, Meng Zhang explored the city thoroughly. Although Singing Sand City was still far from its peak, everything was heading in a positive direction, with vitality gradually recovering, and trade flourishing.

After strolling around, Meng Zhang was about to leave when he noticed that Ruan Dadao from Golden Blade Sect sneaked into Singing Sand City's affairs hall. This was where Gu Tanghai spent most of his time. When did Ruan Dadao become close with Gu Tanghai? What was he planning behind the backs of the other sects?

Curious in his heart, Meng Zhang didn't hurry to leave Singing Sand City but patiently waited. After a while, Ruan Dadao finally came out of the affairs hall, and Gu Tanghai personally escorted him to the door.

Chapter 213: For a long time does not see

After Ruan Dadao walked far away, Gu Tanghai remained standing at the entrance of the hall, watching him leave. Meng Zhang walked a few steps over and warmly greeted him, "Brother Gu, what a coincidence to meet you here."

Gu Tanghai, upon seeing Meng Zhang, had a smile on his face. "Sect Master Meng, you actually came to the market today. I must entertain you properly."

"No need for any special treatment. What's with that old guy Ruan Dadao? I wonder what scheme he's up to now," Meng Zhang asked directly.

Gu Tanghai didn't answer Meng Zhang's question directly. "Brother Meng, you don't need to worry. The plans Ruan brother is making will be beneficial to both of us."

"Don't worry too much. Half a month from now, Guang Hong Daoist will gather everyone to discuss the matter. By then, you'll know what's going on," Gu Tanghai reassured him.

Hearing Gu Tanghai's words, Meng Zhang decided not to press further. However, he felt cautious, not wanting to be excluded from the group.

Meng Zhang chatted with Gu Tanghai for a while before returning to Taiyi Sect. Since Forest Spring Watch started expanding, Meng Zhang had been feeling a sense of urgency. Not only did he intensify his cultivation, but he also pushed his disciples to improve.

The disciples Meng Zhang had faith in didn't disappoint. His senior disciple, Niu Dawei, had achieved the Refining Qi Second Layer in just over a year of cultivation. Yang Xueyi and Wen Qiansun made great progress in their Cultivation Base and also delved deep into their respective cultivation arts.

Furthermore, there were several disciples at the Refining Qi Late Stage, barely ready for practical use.

Taiyi Sect had grown substantially, and it was the right time to utilize its resources. Disciples needed to complete various sect missions to earn more contributions, and no one was exempted from this.

At first glance, it seemed like this approach might have delayed their cultivation, but completing sect missions was also a form of training for the disciples. Since Gu Tanghai said that in half a month, they would know the specifics, Meng Zhang patiently waited for the time to come.

After half a month, just as Gu Tanghai had said, a message came summoning Meng Zhang to Singing Sand City for an important discussion.

When Meng Zhang arrived at Singing Sand City, he saw a group of familiar faces. Representatives from several other sects had already gathered, and Guang HongDaoist was present as well. Unlike the last meeting, Guang HongDaoist looked spirited and carried himself with the aura of a prominent master.

Now, Forest Spring Watch truly controlled Singing Sand City. After exchanging pleasantries with Gu Tanghai, Guang HongDaoist took the lead in presiding over the meeting.

Once everyone had taken their seats in the main hall, Ruan Dadao mysteriously stood up and said, "Fellow colleagues, we have another guest joining our meeting today."

After explaining to everyone, he called out, "Brother Zhao, everyone is here; it's time for you to make an appearance."

A figure Meng Zhang didn't expect walked out from behind the hall. Seeing him, Meng Zhang, who was usually composed, almost couldn't hold back a shout.

Zhao Jiudou, weren't all the cultivators from Zhao Family supposed to have died at the hands of Ghost Path cultivators? How was he still alive, and why did he appear here?

Wait, Zhao Jiudou was just a Refining Qi cultivator. When did he manage to achieve Foundation Building and become a Foundation Building cultivator?

Sensing Zhao Jiudou's state, Meng Zhang couldn't help but have a drastic change in expression. After regaining his composure, he scanned the surroundings.

Everyone else seemed unsurprised; evidently, they had known about Zhao Jiudou's presence in advance. It seemed that he was the only one kept in the dark.

Meng Zhang's face turned incredibly gloomy, feeling as though he was being rejected by everyone present.

"Everyone present should be familiar with Brother Zhao, so there's no need for further introductions from me," Ruan Dadao said with a pleased expression. He seemed to revel in the fact that Zhao Jiudou had become a disciple of the Flying Swan Sect's War Hall elder, Zhao Liefeng.

Zhao Jiudou proceeded to greet everyone, "Long time no see, I believe you all still remember me."

"Back then, the evildoers from Twin Success Valley colluded with Ghost Path cultivators. Not only did they wipe out my Zhao Family, but they also hunted us down, even ambushing my Zhao Family members within the territory of Flying Swan Sect. Our family head and elders all tragically died at the hands of the Ghost Path cultivators, but I was fortunate to be saved by my master, escaping the disaster."

Listening to Zhao Jiudou talking non-stop, Meng Zhang's unease grew. Although Twin Success Valley was responsible for annihilating Zhao Family, his spreading of rumors had played a significant role in it.

What's more, the Ancestral Ground of Zhao Family, Fuzhao Valley, was now the main gate of Taiyi Sect. While it was a prize taken from Twin Success Valley, Zhao Jiudou, with a grudge against him, probably wouldn't let this matter go easily.

As for voluntarily handing over Fuzhao Valley, it was simply impossible. If Zhao Jiudou really wanted to cause trouble, then there would be a confrontation.

Fortunately, Taiyi Sect was currently a vassal of Forest Spring Watch, and it was unlikely that Zhao Jiudou, as a disciple of the Flying Swan Sect, would openly oppress him with the power of their sect.

Meng Zhang distinctly remembered the information he received previously; Ghost Path cultivators had utilized internal strife within Zhao Family to kill all remaining cultivators. Surprisingly, Zhao Jiudou survived, not to mention he became a disciple under Flying Swan Sect's War Hall elder, Zhao Liefeng. It seemed like he followed a standard protagonist's path.

That Ghost Path cultivator was useless. Zhao Jiudou managed to escape, leaving behind a huge problem.

Zhao Jiudou was unaware of Meng Zhang's change of heart and continued speaking endlessly.

Meng Zhang listened, and it was nothing more than Zhao Jiudou angrily condemning Twin Success Valley and glorifying his own fortune, surviving great difficulties and eventually joining Flying Swan Sect.

Zhao Jiudou talked for a while before finally getting to the point. He wanted to rally the forces present to team up and completely wipe out the remnants of Twin Success Valley. It wasn't a secret that Twin Success Valley had remnants fleeing, and the traps they set couldn't escape the eyes of Flying Swan Sect.

Now, Zhao Jiudou was calling for everyone to act together and eradicate Twin Success Valley once and for all. It seemed that besides settling his personal vendetta, there might be Taiyi Sect's interests involved as well.

Zhao Jiudou's words received unanimous support from everyone, including Meng Zhang, who Unexpectedly realized that Twin Success Valley had become so detested and abandoned, their allies scattered as soon as trouble arose.

Qiaoshou Sect, Golden Blade Sect, and Taiyi Sect were all vassals of Twin Success Valley in the past, just like Forest Spring Watch. However, when Ruan Dadao and others talked about completely exterminating Twin Success Valley, they showed no signs of unease.

Seeing the enthusiastic discussions among the crowd, Meng Zhang thought carefully and understood their intentions.

Forest Spring Watch not only occupied the territory that originally belonged to Twin Success Valley but also replaced Twin Success Valley as the dominant power in the area.

If Twin Success Valley were to truly revive one day, how would Forest Spring Watch deal with it?

Therefore, Forest Spring Watch is very eager to completely exterminate Twin Success Valley.

As the closest followers of Forest Spring Watch, Forest Mountain School naturally follows their lead. Qiaoshou Sect and Golden Blade Sect might covet Twin Success Valley's wealth, especially the Lesser Foundation Building Pill, a treasure that makes people drool.

After Gu Tanghai managed Singing Sand City, Meng Zhang once inquired about the connection between Gu Tanghai and Twin Success Valley.

In the past, Gu Tanghai wandered through the Cultivation World as a loose cultivator. After reaching the Foundation Building stage, Twin Success Valley wanted to invite him to become their guest elder. Although Gu Tanghai politely declined, he maintained a good relationship with Twin Success Valley.

Especially with Dan Yihu, an elder of Twin Success Valley, they had a life-and-death friendship.

The last time the joint forces of the four sects recaptured Singing Sand City, it relied on Gu Tanghai obtaining the formation disc controlling the defensive formation from Dan Yihu.

Later, Gu Tanghai also acted as a mediator to help Dan Yihu hire everyone together to recapture Date Spice Oasis.

Now, Gu Tanghai is participating in the discussion about exterminating Twin Success Valley without changing his expression. Needless to say, he has completely betrayed Twin Success Valley and abandoned their so-called life-and-death friendship.

Since everyone wants Twin Success Valley to perish, Meng Zhang naturally doesn't object. Taiyi Sect will also actively participate to seize their share of the spoils.

After discussing for a while, there is no efficient and effective way to quickly find the hiding place of Twin Success Valley remnants.

Seeing everyone's helplessness, Zhao Jiudou's expression becomes a little unpleasant.

Flying Swan Sect is currently tolerating the existence of Guang ZhiDaoist Master and Forest Spring Watch because of the chaos caused by the sand monsters. The remnants of Twin Success Valley, already exterminated, have become the object of resentment for many within the sect.

Zhao Jiudou came here not only for his personal revenge but also because it was a mission issued by Flying Swan Sect. As a half-hearted disciple within the sect, he has many enemies. Becoming a disciple of War Hall Elder Zhao LieFeng and certain people's thorns in the flesh.

If he fails to complete the sect's mission, his future within the sect will undoubtedly be bleak.



Looking at the people talking endlessly, Zhao Jiudou wants to curse them as "useless." However, he restrains his temper, considering that he still needs to rely on these people's help and continues to discuss with them.

Meng Zhang's thoughts are not focused on Twin Success Valley remnants at all. He is currently thinking about how to deal with Zhao Jiudou.

Zhao Jiudou has appeared and now acts as if he is the master here, taking the lead in everything. Guang HongDaoist, who was eager to take action, showed a slightly unnatural expression on his face.

Meng Zhang's mind moves, realizing that Forest Spring Watch is now the dominant power here, and they should naturally be wary of and reject the outsiders from Flying Swan Sect. Is there an opportunity hidden within this situation?

After discussing for a long time, no one comes up with an efficient and effective way to quickly find the hiding place of Twin Success Valley remnants.

Seeing everyone's helplessness, Guang HongDaoist coughs lightly.

Now, everyone is a vassal of Forest Spring Watch. Even if they want to please Flying Swan Sect, they shouldn't forget their proper leader.

Ruan Dadao and others immediately sit up straight and close their mouths, as if waiting quietly for Guang HongDaoist's instructions.

Zhao Jiudou looks at Guang HongDaoist with a smile on his face and politely asks, "I wonder if Guang HongDaoist has any insights?"

"Zhao's flattery is unnecessary. How could an old Daoist have any great insights? I only have some superficial thoughts that I can share with everyone," Guang HongDaoist says humbly.

After glancing at the people present, Guang HongDaoist continues, "A clever rabbit has three burrows, not to mention an sect like Twin Success Valley. After Twin Success Valley was exterminated, there must be a secret base where the remnants of Twin Success Valley are hiding."

"As for the exact location of this secret base, it is undoubtedly Twin Success Valley's biggest secret, and outsiders would never know."

At this point, Guang HongDaoist pauses, deliberately leaving a suspenseful gap.

Zhao Jiudou is internally cursing the old guy. He has been talking nonsense for so long but stops at the crucial point. What method does he have? He better hurry up and say it!

Guang HongDaoist seems not to have noticed Zhao Jiudou's expression and leisurely chats with Xu Yishan.

The others present are all vassals of Forest Spring Watch. Since Guang HongDaoist obviously doesn't want to say more, they naturally won't be nosy and ask further.

Zhao Jiudou realizes that he must have offended this old guy somehow. Although Forest Spring Watch also wants to exterminate Twin Success Valley, they are not as urgent as he is.

The task assigned by Flying Swan Sect has a deadline. If he fails to complete it, even if he finishes the task, he won't receive good evaluations in the future within the sect.

## Chapter 215: Exposition

Even though Guang Hong Daoist knows he is being coy, he has no choice but to seek help from Zhao Jiudou.

"The junior is incapable, truly has no way, so I ask the senior to lend a hand and help the junior find the whereabouts of the Twin Success Valley remnants."

Seeing Zhao Jiudou taking such a humble stance, Guang Hong Daoist nodded in satisfaction.

"Brother Zhao, you and I are both Foundation Building stage cultivators and are of the same generation. There's no need to discuss senior and junior matters."

"Right, Brother Zhao, you're so anxious to pursue the remnants of Twin Success Valley; it's probably not just for seeking revenge, right?" Zhao Jiudou secretly sighed in his heart, knowing that he appeared too eager, and this old fellow saw through him.

At this point, Zhao Jiudou became somewhat confident.

"Yes, this time exterminating the remnants of Twin Success Valley is a task assigned to me by the sect."

Guang Hong Daoist didn't speak but looked at Xu Yishan.

Xu Yishan understood and said, "We are all old friends here, helping Brother Zhao complete the sect's task naturally doesn't require anything in return. However, we can't let everyone work in vain. So, this time's spoils of war, Brother Zhao..."

"This time's spoils of war, I won't take a single bit, let everyone distribute it as they wish."

"Furthermore, everyone has been a great help to me this time, and I will certainly remember this favor and repay it in the future," Zhao Jiudou added hastily.

Zhao Jiudou's statement brought smiles to the faces of those present. It's imaginable that the disciples of Twin Success Valley must have left behind many treasures.

If Zhao Jiudou participated in the division of spoils, as a disciple of Flying Swan Sect, he might get the lion's share. But now, by voluntarily giving up all spoils, everyone could benefit more.

With Zhao Jiudou's clear stand, Guang Hong Daoist no longer played coy.

He waved his hand, and a map appeared in the hall.

With a single stroke of his hand, a certain area on the map was circled.

"The hiding place of the remnants of Twin Success Valley is within this range," Guang Hong Daoist stated the answer directly without explaining where he obtained the information from.

The people carefully examined the map.

The area Guang Hong Daoist marked was located southwest of Singing Sand City, almost at the edge of Demon Wind Gobi.

The closest sect to that area was Golden Blade Sect, but for many years, they hadn't detected anything unusual and were unaware of the remnants of Twin Success Valley there.

In Ruan Dadao's memory, that area was entirely barren, primarily consisting of desert and rapids.

On the surface, there was nothing unusual, but the hiding place of the remnants of Twin Success Valley was probably underground, most likely deeply concealed. Even if they dug three feet down, it wouldn't be enough.

Searching such a large underground area thoroughly was not an easy task.

Even if several forces dispatched all their Qi Refining stage and above cultivators and used Earth Escape Spells to venture underground, it would still be difficult to complete the search in a short time.

If they allowed Qi Refining early and mid-stage disciples to use Earth Escape Symbols for the search, the consumption of Earth Escape Symbols would be astronomical. Especially now during Flying Swan Sect's war against the sand monsters, the prices of various talismans were much higher than usual.

Moreover, if they sent too many people, once the enemy was alerted, the remnants of Twin Success Valley might escape promptly, wasting everyone's efforts.

Ruan Dadao expressed his concerns, but nobody could come up with a good solution.

Guang Hong Daoist smiled and said, "This matter is simple, it's just that it's troublesome for Sect Master Meng."

"What do you mean?" Meng Zhang was a little puzzled.

"Could it be that Sect Master Meng has forgotten that you have raised many sandworms in your sect?" Guang Hong Daoist grinned.

Although Guang Hong Daoist seemed nonchalant in his remark, Meng Zhang became vigilant.

Since obtaining the special magic tool for controlling insects, Meng Zhang had raised many sandworms inside it for mining purposes.

After Hu Jing displayed talent in the aspect of controlling beasts, she not only received many inheritances in controlling beasts but also took over the use of the insect-controlling pot.

Hu Jing truly lived up to her position as the Hall Master of Beast Controlling Hall.

The quantity of sandworms raised inside the insect-controlling pot was limited, but the sandworms raised by the insect-controlling pot were not only more powerful than ordinary sandworms but also more intelligent.

Sandworms were monsters that lived on a small scale.

Hu Jing used the sandworms in the insect-controlling pot to attack in all directions, forcibly subduing other sandworms, and then training them within the insect-controlling pot.

After years of effort in collecting, Hu Jing had controlled nearly a hundred sandworms in the insect-controlling pot.

Usually, controlling these sandworms for mining could save a lot of labor costs.

Due to the limited manpower of Taiyi Sect, these sandworms greatly contributed to mining vast amounts of minerals in a short time.

Of course, some extremely precious minerals, such as warm jade mines, couldn't be mined by sandworms. Warm jade would be corroded and digested quickly if it fell into a sandworm's belly.

These sandworms were not only the best miners, dutiful and efficient in their work, but also a formidable strength hidden within Taiyi Sect.

Although the sandworms were only first-tier monster beasts, with a number reaching nearly a hundred, they were still a force to be reckoned with.

When Meng Zhang ambushed cultivators from Green Bamboo Mountain, the sandworms made significant contributions. They emerged from the ground and disrupted the position of the Green Bamboo Mountain cultivators.

The existence of sandworms was not a secret within the sect and couldn't be kept secret since they were used for mining. However, they had never voluntarily revealed it to outsiders.

Guang Hong Daoist casually revealed the sandworms that Taiyi Sect raised, indicating his relatively thorough understanding of the internal situation of Taiyi Sect.

Meng Zhang couldn't tell if Guang Hong Daoist was just speaking casually or if there was a warning behind his words.

Meng Zhang's thoughts were complex, but on the surface, he responded actively.

"Don't worry; I almost forgot about it, Daoist."

"Right, sandworms naturally live underground and are good at digging and burrowing. If we use these sandworms to search underground, it would indeed save a lot of effort for everyone."

"Daoist's mind is truly flexible, with countless ingenious ideas. This method is impressive. I, as Sect Master, am really unqualified for not making good use of the resources within the sect."

After listening to the dialogue between Guang Hong Daoist and Meng Zhang, the others also understood.

## Chapter 216: Drills the God of the Earth shuttle

In the southwest direction of Singing Sand City, more than 2000 li (approximately 500 km) away from the market and over 1000 li (approximately 500 km) away from Golden Blade Sect lies a treacherous desert rapids. At this moment, many external cultivators have suddenly appeared in this area.

This place belongs to the peripheral zone of the Demon Wind Gobi. Due to fears of provoking the Demon Wind Gobi's monstrous beasts, there are rarely any cultivators staying here for long.

Early this morning, more than ten flying boats appeared in the sky above the desert rapids. These flying boats had come from far away and were quietly hovering in the air, closely observing the situation below.

On the leading Second Rank flying boat stood Forest Spring Watch's Guang Hong Daoist and a group of Foundation Building cultivators from dependent sects.

With a smile, Guang Hong Daoist said to Meng Zhang, "Sect Master Meng, you may let your disciples begin."

Meng Zhang nodded and transmitted the message to the First Rank flying boat behind him.

On that First Rank flying boat were several Refining Qi period cultivators, including the elite members of Taiyi Sect, and among them was Beast Controlling Hall Master Hu Jing.

This First Rank flying boat flew forward, slowly reducing its altitude. When the altitude was low enough, Hu Jing would sacrifice the governing insect pot in his hand, and several sandworms would immediately leap out and land on the ground before quickly burrowing into the earth to patrol the area underground.

After the flying boat ascended again, it flew forward once more. After flying a considerable distance, it decreased its altitude again, allowing Hu Jing to release the nurtured sandworms. These sandworms would then burrow into the ground and start searching the surrounding area underground.

This process of releasing several sandworms at intervals continued repeatedly. After a few rounds, all the sandworms that were nurtured in the governing insect pot were released.

In such a large area, even releasing over a hundred sandworms simultaneously would still take a lot of time to complete the search. Naturally, the sandworms' innate talent for burrowing allowed them to search with an efficiency surpassing the Refining Qi period cultivators' Earth Escape Spell.

The more than ten flying boats in the sky also quickly dispersed. Some flew higher up, assuming a commanding position to monitor various situations in the desert. Others continuously patrolled the sky over the desert to prevent any unexpected incidents.

Guang Hong Daoist, along with several Foundation Building cultivators, left their flying boat and prepared to use Earth Escape Spell to go underground.

In order to improve the speed of the search, the several Foundation Building cultivators worked diligently.

At this moment, a unique flying shuttle with sharp heads on the top and rear and a wide middle, all jet black in color, fell from the sky. It silently drilled into the ground like a clay ox entering the sea. Simultaneously, a hearty laughter rang out from inside and reached the ears of the people.

"Apologies, everyone, Zhao has taken a step ahead."

Before the sound could fade, the flying shuttle had already vanished into the ground.

Meng Zhang intentionally spoke with a sour tone, "Flying Swan Sect truly lives up to its name as the overlord of the Endless Sea of Sand. The rare and peculiar item, the God of the Earth shuttle, can even be bestowed upon their disciples casually."

"However, this Brother Zhao Jiudou is indeed a little too high-profile."

Guang Hong Daoist smiled warmly, "Young people can't help being a bit high-profile; it shows vitality. As for you, Sect Master Meng, being young but acting like an old man with no spirit, that's not good."

"What the senior says is true, but I have no choice. Running a sect and taking care of everything, the responsibilities of the entire family's needs and wants, all require my attention. I really can't afford to be lax even for a moment."

The two chatted for a while, and a few nearby people joined in to make the conversation more lively. Then, everyone separated and dived into the ground from different locations.

On that day, during the discussion, Guang Hong Daoist pointed out the location where Twin Success Valley remnants were hidden, precisely in the underground of this area.

Meng Zhang followed through with his promise and sent out the sandworms raised by the sect to search the underground.

Zhao Jiudou had always looked down on Taiyi Sect. After joining Flying Swan Sect, he thought he would return in glory and be greeted with boundless scenery. But first, he was controlled by Guang Hong Daoist, and now he had to rely on Taiyi Sect's strength, which made him feel somewhat uncomfortable.

After the discussion ended, Zhao Jiudou hurried back to Flying Swan Sect at the fastest speed, using many favors and relying on his master's reputation to borrow this God of the Earth shuttle.

He rushed anxiously and finally arrived here while everyone was acting.

The God of the Earth shuttle had the ability to escape swiftly like a flying heavenly being, especially able to thoroughly navigate underground. Even the Earth Escape Spell displayed by an ordinary Gold Core Daoist Master could not compare to it.

Such a treasure could be considered a valuable asset in Flying Swan Sect. This time, Zhao Jiudou was determined to make every effort to succeed, ready to make any sacrifice.

Meng Zhang glanced at him with a slightly worried look and then submerged underground, paying no mind to Zhao Jiudou's potential limelight stealing. Instead, he worried that the unexpected treasure, the God of the Earth shuttle, might disrupt his plans.

Before the operation, Meng Zhang had contacted Deep Earth Spirit General, who had secretly lurked nearby.

Although Deep Earth Spirit General's combat strength was only at the Foundation Building initial stage, its earth escape technique was at least at the level of Foundation Building cultivators and could dominate for a while.

Twin Success Valley remnants were the cicadas, and several Foundation Building cultivators from different sects were like mantises, while Deep Earth Spirit General played the role of the canary.

Using one's toes to think, there must be many treasures on Twin Success Valley remnants. If the remnants were taken by the group, the majority would undoubtedly end up in Guang Hong Daoist's hands.

Therefore, Deep Earth Spirit General was sent out to see if it could secretly gain any advantage.

For Zhao Jiudou, the first step of finding Twin Success Valley remnants with the God of the Earth shuttle was just a small matter. If he were to run into Deep Earth Spirit General, the fun would be substantial.

After being buried underground, Meng Zhang had no choice but to temporarily set aside his worries and search honestly.

One day passed, and neither the sandworms nor the group of Foundation Building cultivators had discovered the target.

The Foundation Building cultivators returned to their flying boat to rest and meditate, restoring their true qi. The tired sandworms were taken back into the governing insect pot by Hu Jing for training.

Zhao Jiudou, who was a little persistent, continued to control the God of the Earth shuttle and searched underground throughout the night. Having achieved nothing, he finally returned to the surface.

After a night of rest and recuperation, the new day began before daybreak, and the search continued early in the morning.

Another day passed, and it seemed that all the efforts of the group were in vain, with no harvest whatsoever.

Meng Zhang was indifferent to this, finding it good if they could find something but not really bothered if they couldn't. After all, he wasn't the one urgently seeking Twin Success Valley remnants. He didn't necessarily have to be ruthless towards Twin Success Valley remnants.

Zhao Jiudou was a little anxious. Unable to remain calm, he approached Guang Hong Daoist and inquired about the reliability of his information source.

Guang Hong Daoist was a kind-hearted person, and with a smile, he assured Zhao Jiudou that his information was absolutely reliable.

## Chapter 217: Discovery

Guang Hong Daoist clearly remembers that over a hundred years ago, he was just a Refining Qi stage cultivator. One of his senior brothers in the sect was also his blood elder brother, and he needed to slaughter a large number of fresh demon beasts to cultivate a side door technique.

His elder brother was not wealthy and couldn't afford to buy enough spirit stones to purchase demon beasts for cultivator training. Therefore, this daring disciple of Forest Spring Watch decided to venture into Demon Wind Gobi to seek wild demon beasts and complete his cultivation.

He was aware of the dangers in Demon Wind Gobi, so he didn't plan to venture deep inside. Instead, he intended to try his luck on the outskirts and hunt down some isolated demon beasts.

According to his premeditated plan, he was ready to enter Demon Wind Gobi from this region. However, after parting ways with Guang Hong Daoist, he disappeared without a trace.

Later, Guang Hong Daoist tried to trace his whereabouts using a mystique based on their bloodline connection. He eventually confirmed that his blood elder brother had died nearby.

Guang Hong Daoist knew his elder brother very well, and he possessed many life-saving methods. In the peripheral zone of Demon Wind Gobi, it would be almost impossible for mentally deficient and low-ranking demon beasts to defeat his elder brother.

Thus, Guang Hong Daoist spent a great deal of time and effort investigating this matter. However, despite many years of hard work, he had not gained any significant findings.

Even after reaching the Foundation Building stage, Guang Hong Daoist continued to be preoccupied with this matter. The passing years turned this issue into a lingering burden in his heart.

As a Foundation Building cultivator, Guang Hong Daoist had access to unprecedented resources and methods to mobilize them. Finally, through persistent investigation, he accidentally discovered more than ten years ago that Twin Success Valley cultivators occasionally appeared and disappeared in this region.

It turned out that this place was the secret base of Twin Success Valley, their final refuge shelter, and the sect's most significant secret. Normally, not many Twin Success Valley cultivators would appear here, and it could be as infrequent as once in ten or eight years.

However, more than ten years ago, when Twin Success Valley decided to train Gold Core Daoist Masters wholeheartedly, they began using this refuge shelter to secretly transport resources inside in order to preserve the sect's inheritance after any potential exposure.

Twin Success Valley never imagined that someone had secretly monitored this place for several hundred years. The power of hatred was truly formidable.

Guang Hong Daoist discovered the dealings of Twin Success Valley cultivators. Given the typical ways of the Cultivation World, he could imagine that his elder brother had accidentally stumbled upon the secret of Twin Success Valley and became a witness to their crimes, which led to his silence.

At that time, Twin Success Valley was powerful, and even though Guang Hong Daoist knew that they were the enemies who killed his brother, he was at a loss and could only hold onto the hatred in secret, waiting for the right opportunity.

Later, Twin Success Valley met its doom, and their various strongholds were cleaned up by cultivators trying to curry favor with Flying Swan Sect. But the location of Twin Success Valley's final inheritance remained hidden.

Due to Flying Swan Sect blocking Forest Spring Watch initially and then being busy with expansion after the blockade was lifted, Guang Hong Daoist couldn't spare any effort to trace the final secret base of Twin Success Valley.

When Zhao Jiudou came to ask for help, whether publicly or privately, Guang Hong Daoist needed to join in chasing down the remnants of Twin Success Valley.

Based on his years of investigation and information from the disciples, Guang Hong Daoist concluded that Twin Success Valley's final secret base was hidden in the nearby area.

Zhao Jiudou was oblivious to what had happened here and was unaware of the time and effort Guang Hong Daoist had invested in this place. His sudden questioning of Guang Hong Daoist's information struck at the scabs of Guang Hong Daoist's innermost feelings.

Although Guang Hong Daoist maintained a calm and friendly demeanor on the surface, he secretly loathed Zhao Jiudou. If Zhao Jiudou were not a disciple of Flying Swan Sect, Guang Hong Daoist might have lost his temper.

Meng Zhang, who observed from the side, didn't know the reasons behind all this, but he could clearly feel that Guang Hong Daoist was extremely dissatisfied with Zhao Jiudou.

Despite his dissatisfaction, Guang Hong Daoist continued to display a very positive attitude toward searching for Twin Success Valley's secret base.



The other cultivators were eager to seize the wealth accumulated by Twin Success Valley over hundreds of years and were filled with zeal.

Their hard work eventually paid off, and after five days of laborious searching, nearly half of the region had been explored, and a discovery was finally made.

Hu Jing held the governing insect pot in his hand, and there was a special connection with the sandworms he raised.

In the morning, when the sandworms were released for less than half an hour, Hu Jing clearly felt that two sandworms had completely lost contact with the governing insect pot.

Realizing the importance of this situation, Hu Jing didn't hesitate and immediately informed Sect Master Meng Zhang.

Meng Zhang, upon hearing Hu Jing's account, wasted no time in using a communication talisman to inform Guang Hong Daoist and the others.

This kind of matter couldn't be taken lightly. Even if it turned out to be a false alarm, they couldn't afford to let their guard down and allow the enemy to escape due to negligence.

Within moments, several Foundation Building cultivators, including Guang Hong Daoist, had flown to Meng Zhang's side. More than ten flying boats from the sky patrol rushed towards the location.

Ruan Dadao of Golden Blade Sect expressed some dissatisfaction, saying, "It's just two missing sandworms, why make such a fuss? Who knows if they encountered other demon beasts or simply got lost? Claiming to have discovered the whereabouts of Twin Success Valley remnants seems a bit far-fetched. Even if one wants to gain merit, there's no need to go to such lengths."

As Ruan Dadao finished speaking, Zhao Jiudou arrived, controlling the drill God of the Earth shuttle, which landed from the sky.

Meng Zhang hadn't informed Zhao Jiudou, but Zhao Jiudou had been in contact with Aunt Jin, Ruan Dadao, and others.

Upon receiving Aunt Jin's message, Zhao Jiudou immediately abandoned his search area and rushed here at top speed.

After five days of fruitless searching, he was already anxious. Now that he heard there was news of a discovery here, regardless of its authenticity, he hurried to see for himself.

"Everyone, allow me to take the lead and explore the way," Zhao Jiudou said.

Before anyone could respond, the drill God of the Earth shuttle drilled underground, heading in the direction the sandworms vanished.

Aunt Jin was preparing to use Earth Escape Spell to follow underground when she suddenly noticed Guang Hong Daoist's expression.

With a serious face, Guang Hong Daoist remained silent, showing no intention of acting.

Aunt Jin's heart went cold, and she immediately stopped her spellcasting.

Everyone present, including the seemingly crude and reckless Ruan Dadao, were all astute individuals. Seeing Guang Hong Daoist's expression, they stopped themselves from following Zhao Jiudou immediately.

Currently, Forest Spring Watch was the elder child, and the county magistrate was inferior to those who controlled the funds. Even if they wanted to curry favor with Flying Swan Sect, they couldn't afford to offend Guang Hong Daoist of Forest Spring Watch. For those who knew how to handle situations, Guang Hong Daoist was quite satisfied with their reactions.

## Chapter 218: Advancement

Guang Hong Daoist's approach was not to suspect Meng Zhang; he thought his information might be flawed but targeted Zhao Jiudou instead.

Guang Hong Daoist kept everyone here. If Zhao Jiudou hadn't discovered the Twin Success Valley remnants' secret base below, they wouldn't have to follow this futile mission.

If Zhao Jiudou had found the Twin Success Valley remnants' secret base, he would have likely encountered some hardships.

Based on Guang Hong Daoist's understanding of Twin Success Valley, the secret base definitely harbored many hidden cards to ensure its security.

Zhao Jiudou, a mere Foundation Building initial stage cultivator, even with the God of the Earth shuttle at his command, would most likely suffer significant losses if he rashly charged forward without caution.

Being the cunning old fox that he was, Guang Hong Daoist didn't need to take any direct action. He simply set a secret trap for Zhao Jiudou.

In Zhao Jiudou's place at the bottom, he had no idea about what was happening above. He only knew to control the God of the Earth shuttle, advancing through the bottom hurricane, directly towards their objective.

The stones in front seemed to part like flowing water, clearing a path on either side, posing no obstacle to the God of the Earth shuttle's progress.

But above ground, everyone was silently waiting.

After a while, Guang Hong Daoist lowered his body and used the technique of listening, paying attention to the sounds below.

The technique of listening was not a rare secret technique; some of the Foundation Building period cultivators present were somewhat familiar with it.

Following their lead, everyone else bent down, listening attentively to the sounds below.

After a considerable time, some sounds emanated from the front at the bottom.

The sounds from the deep below were not concealed from the listening technique of the Foundation Building period cultivators present.

Guang Hong Daoist's spirit lifted, indicating that Meng Zhang's judgment was correct—the Twin Success Valley remnants' secret base was indeed in front at the bottom.

Guang Hong Daoist's goal was to make Zhao Jiudou experience some hardship, not to kill him here. He didn't care about Zhao Jiudou's life or death, but he worried that any accidental mishap would be

hard to explain to Flying Swan Sect. Zhao Jiudou, despite being unpleasant, was still a disciple of the Flying Swan Sect, and problems couldn't happen right under his nose.

Guang Hong Daoist waved his hand, and several Foundation Building period cultivators on the scene displayed Earth Escape Spell, sneaking to the bottom and heading towards the front.

From more than ten li (about 5 kilometers) ahead, at a depth of over 300 zhang (about 1 kilometer), lay the Twin Success Valley's secret base.

It was a giant cavity naturally formed underground, later discovered by the Twin Success Valley seniors unintentionally. Due to its hidden location, it was transformed into a secret base.

Over 300 zhang (about 1 kilometer) deep underground, there were massive caves transformed from the day after tomorrow, serving as the residences for the personnel inside.

Even an ordinary Foundation Building period cultivator wouldn't randomly venture into such a deep place without a clear goal. As for Refining Qi period cultivators, they didn't have the ability to enter this place at all, let alone leave.

Currently, three Foundation Building period cultivators resided here, along with over 20 Refining Qi period cultivators.

This secret base didn't have a direct passage to the surface; Foundation Building period cultivators would directly use Earth Escape Spell to go in and out. The Refining Qi period cultivators living inside the base were brought in by the three Foundation Building period cultivators. With their strength, they couldn't enter here or leave on their own.

When Twin Success Valley's Shan Feiyu was attacking the Gold Core period, Sect Master Xiao Haisheng had made arrangements in advance and evacuated a group of talented young disciples.

After Twin Success Valley suffered defeat and fled, Elder Dan Yihu, entrusted with the aftermath by Shan Feiyu, immediately led two other elders to hide this group of young disciples here.

This secret base, far from the surface, lacked even a spirit vein, only having a Lingjing that could provide a substantial amount of spiritual energy.

Above the Lingjing, a base formation was set up to gather spiritual energy, providing the necessary spiritual energy for the people's life and cultivation.

However, this amount of spiritual energy was far from sufficient for the cultivation needs of so many Refining Qi period disciples, not to mention the three Foundation Building period elders.

The three Foundation Building period elders, led by Dan Yihu, had basically given up on cultivation, letting the disciples take turns cultivating using the Lingjing.

When they truly needed to supplement their true qi, they would use spirit stones for that purpose.

Among the hidden people here, only Dan Yihu had gone out a few times; the others had always stayed inside and never went out.

One day, Dan Yihu was organizing various ancient books of Twin Success Valley as usual. Suddenly, a Foundation Building period elder entered the book collection pavilion.

"Junior Brother, what's the matter?" Dan Yihu asked.

"It's nothing significant, just during my patrol, I found two sandworms nearby and took care of them in passing," replied the junior brother casually.

Upon hearing the junior brother's reply, Dan Yihu's expression changed.

"Junior Brother, immediately gather everyone and enter an alert posture. Something seems off, and we need to evacuate through the escape route immediately."

"Isn't it just two sandworms, Senior Brother? You seem overly tense," said the junior brother dismissively.

"You are mistaken, Junior Brother. Sandworms, as monster insects, won't dive to this depth without someone controlling them," Dan Yihu reproved with a bitter tone.

Dan Yihu, among all the Twin Success Valley elders, didn't have a particularly outstanding cultivation base. However, he was entrusted with important tasks by Sect Master Xiao Haisheng because of his wisdom and cautious nature. In terms of adaptability, no one in Twin Success Valley could match him.

Knowing the habits of sandworms well, Dan Yihu realized something was amiss upon hearing his junior brother's words.

Upon hearing Dan Yihu's words, the junior brother immediately responded.

Eager to make up for his mistake, he acted quickly.

The well-trained Twin Success Valley disciples assembled in the shortest time possible. The junior brother and another Foundation Building period elder took the initiative to investigate outside.

As they left the secret base, they encountered the God of the Earth shuttle charging toward them at high speed.

An intense life-and-death battle immediately erupted.

Hearing the sounds from outside, Dan Yihu sighed, ordering all Refining Qi period disciples to evacuate as planned. However, he charged into the battle to help the two junior brothers block the enemies and buy time for the disciples' evacuation.

Below this secret base was an underground river. Following this underground dark river, they could directly enter the depths of Demon Wind Gobi.

Though Demon Wind Gobi was fraught with danger and faced the threat of numerous monstrous beasts, in desperate situations, they could use the strength of those beasts to shake off pursuers, offering a way out.

Over 20 Refining Qi period disciples floated along the channel, entering the underground river. They released water escape symbols one after another, preparing to flee to a safer place. Meanwhile, Zhao Jiudou, controlling the God of the Earth shuttle, was besieged by three Foundation Building period cultivators. Although the God of the Earth shuttle was mystical and extraordinary, its own combat strength wasn't strong.

In the hands of the three Twin Success Valley elders were numerous Second Rank symbols. They surrounded the Earth Drilling Shuttle, not letting it escape. Then various attack symbols were thrown at the Earth Drilling Shuttle as if they were free, relentlessly pounding it.

Although the Earth Drilling Shuttle had decent defensive power, it couldn't withstand such continuous attacks. After a while, the defensive barrier outside the Earth Drilling Shuttle was blown apart, and the shuttle itself bore numerous scars.

The Earth Drilling Shuttle was a precious item that Zhao Jiudou borrowed with great difficulty, gaining face from his master. If it were destroyed here or suffered heavy damage, Zhao Jiudou's position within Flying Swan Sect would be compromised.

Zhao Jiudou emerged from the Earth Drilling Shuttle and immediately confronted three Foundation Building stage enemies. After Dan Yihu and the others were exposed, they showed their resolve to fight desperately.

The three of them joined forces, inflicting heavy losses on Zhao Jiudou. In no time, Zhao Jiudou was severely wounded and spitting blood, on the verge of collapse.

Fortunately, at the critical moment, Guang Hong Daoist arrived with a group of Foundation Building stage cultivators just in time to save the day. Aunt Jin, Ruan Dadao, Lin Shenpo, and Shi Weida charged straight at the three Twin Success Valley elders.

After being rescued, Zhao Jiudou was unable to continue fighting and found a place to recuperate. Guang Hong Daoist was pleased with Zhao Jiudou's outcome. Seeing the three Twin Success Valley elders going all out, he immediately understood their intentions.

"They want to keep us occupied and let the others escape, wishful thinking indeed," Guang Hong Daoist said to Meng Zhang as they rushed forward.

The two of them entered the Twin Success Valley's secret base, which was already deserted. They didn't have time to inspect the place and followed the path of their opponents, eventually tracking them to an underground river.

Endless Sea of Sand was a place covered in desert, and rivers were scarce, making it practically impossible to use water-escape techniques. Meng Zhang's Foundation Building stage cultivation time was short, and he hadn't spent much time practicing seemingly useless water-escape techniques.

However, Guang Hong Daoist, being a Foundation Building stage cultivator for many years, had not only practiced water-escape techniques but also carried various symbols to deal with different situations.

Seeing Meng Zhang's situation, Guang Hong Daoist knew he wouldn't use water-escape. He threw a few water-escape symbols to Meng Zhang before taking the lead.

Meng Zhang secretly admired Guang Hong Daoist's seemingly ordinary demeanor but crafty and thorough approach. In the future, he should learn from him.

Meng Zhang used the water-escape symbols and tightly pursued Guang Hong Daoist. Though Guang Hong Daoist's water-escape skills were only average, they were more than enough to chase down a group of Refining Qi stage cultivators.

Guang Hong Daoist quickly caught up with the slowest few cultivators and assassinated them from behind while they were preoccupied with escaping.

After killing them, Guang Hong Daoist didn't waste any time and continued to chase forward. Soon, he caught up with a few other cultivators.

These cultivators were brave and knew that escaping was futile, so they stopped and fought desperately, buying time for their fellow disciples ahead.

Although their own cultivation bases were not worth mentioning, they possessed various life-saving gadgets, such as the Yin Thunder refined by the Foundation Building stage elders and the Second Rank puppets bestowed by their seniors.

Their desperate attacks but lack of defense brought considerable trouble to Guang Hong Daoist. When the two sides were battling, Meng Zhang had already used the strength of the water-escape symbols to catch up to them.

Meng Zhang wasted no time and immediately sacrificed his flying swords, Scarlet Flame, and Venomous Fang, joining the battle.

Refining Qi stage cultivators were still Refining Qi stage cultivators. Even with the help of the items bestowed by their elders, their resistance against two powerful Foundation Building stage cultivators was limited.

After dealing with the current opponents, Guang Hong Daoist and Meng Zhang didn't stay and continued to chase forward.

During the pursuit and battles, the more than 20 Refining Qi stage cultivators from Twin Success Valley finally couldn't escape the clutches of the enemy and were killed one by one by the two Foundation Building stage cultivators.

Of course, Meng Zhang and Guang Hong Daoist didn't come out unscathed. Two of the Refining Qi stage cultivators carried Thunder Seed, a powerful killing weapon.

Thunder Seed required at least a Foundation Building late stage cultivator to risk their life by venturing into the upper cloud layer, collecting heavenly thunder aura, and spending a lot of time refining it.

Even Refining Qi stage cultivators could use Thunder Seed, and once it erupted, it posed a great danger to even Foundation Building initial stage cultivators.

Guang Hong Daoist and Meng Zhang never underestimated this group of enemies. Though they were Refining Qi stage cultivators, they were able to hide within Twin Success Valley and were seen as the hope of preserving the sect's inheritance. Besides their individual strengths, they must also possess life-preserving items bestowed by their elders.

However, the might of Thunder Seed was somewhat unexpected for them.

When Thunder Seed exploded, Guang Hong Daoist had to protect himself by discarding a defensive magic tool. Meng Zhang's Scarlet Flame flying sword was heavily damaged by Thunder Seed, and he was also seriously injured.

Meng Zhang, still nursing his injuries, and Guang Hong Daoist continued to act together until they were sure that all the escaping enemies had been eliminated. Only then did they start to return.

They seized a large number of storage bags from the Refining Qi stage cultivators.

Meng Zhang didn't compete with Guang Hong Daoist and even deliberately let him collect most of the storage bags, making a big profit for himself.

When Meng Zhang and Guang Hong Daoist returned to the Twin Success Valley's secret base, the battles between several Foundation Building stage cultivators had already ended.

Two Twin Success Valley Foundation Building stage elders had died in battle on the spot, leaving only Dan Yihu wounded and fleeing.

Dan Yihu also possessed Thunder Seed, which was refined by the gate's fake pill cultivator, Xiao Fengyan. Once activated, it unleashed tremendous power.

Unexpectedly, Shi Weiming was heavily injured, almost losing his life. The usually cautious Aunt Jin also had a stroke of bad luck, almost being killed by a Foundation Building initial stage cultivator. Although she escaped, she also suffered significant injuries.

Lin Shenpo exchanged injuries with the enemy. After killing the enemy, he was also greatly injured.

Only the old Ruan Dadao was extremely slippery. After a life-and-death battle, he only suffered minor injuries.

However, his slippery and evasive behavior, not putting himself at risk, aroused dissatisfaction among several companions.

Qiaoshou Sect and Golden Blade Sect had been allies for many years, and Aunt Jin couldn't help feeling dissatisfied with Ruan Dadao's attitude.

## Chapter 220: Pill Prescription

When Meng Zhang and Guang Hong Daoist returned to Twin Success Valley's secret base, several Foundation Building period cultivators, who had stabilized their injuries, arrived here as well.

From the chaotic situation around, it was evident that the remnants of Twin Success Valley had fled in a hurry, without enough time to organize properly. Apart from the items carried off in storage bags by the Refining Qi period disciples, there were many other treasures in this secret base.

Spirit stones were scattered everywhere, magical objects were concealed in hiding corners, and ancient books were strewn about randomly. Guang Hong Daoist led the people in a thorough search, leaving no corner unchecked.

After finding all the spoils of war, they began the process of dividing them. Zhao Jiudou had made a prior agreement not to participate in the distribution, as he only sought to exterminate the remnants of Twin Success Valley. So he could only watch as others obtained their respective shares.

The actual spoils obtained from this secret base were less than they had expected.

During the distribution, the group intentionally let Guang Hong Daoist have a larger share. Before they set out, Guang Hong Daoist had an agreement with Gu Tanghai that if they discovered the Lesser Foundation Building Pill prescription, they would share it with Shi Family.

When cleaning up the spoils, they did find the Lesser Foundation Building Pill prescription. The alchemy technique used by Forest Spring Watch was ordinary, and they had sought help from Shi

Family on many occasions. Therefore, Guang Hong Daoist honored their agreement and decided to share it with Shi Family.

For Shi Family, although their Second Rank Alchemist, Shi Changqing, could already refine the true Foundation Building Pill, acquiring the necessary materials for it was challenging. Even the Flying Swan Sect had to rely on the materials left behind in the Mirage Secret Realm by Purple Gold Sect to obtain most of the ingredients, not to mention Shi Family. The last time they managed to gather the required materials was thanks to Meng Zhang's help.

Furthermore, the success rate of Shi Changqing's Foundation Building Pill refinement was too low, resulting in significant losses. Though the Lesser Foundation Building Pill's efficacy was not as potent as the Foundation Building Pill, the difficulty of refinement and the scarcity of materials were not as great as the latter.

Shi Weida was very satisfied to obtain the Lesser Foundation Building Pill prescription, which he had been eagerly anticipating.

The other Foundation Building period cultivators also made some gains, big or small. Guang Hong Daoist was generous and shared the spoils, ensuring that everyone benefited.

After the exposure of this secret base, it lost its maximum value. However, it still served as a foothold in Demon Wind Gobi, which was good. This place belonged to Forest Spring Watch.

The biggest regret of this operation was that Dan Yihu managed to escape. However, with his strength, he couldn't cause much trouble.

Zhao Jiudou's mission was mostly accomplished. Establishing a secret base here was not easy, and with Twin Success Valley's strength, it was unlikely for them to operate more secret footholds. Even if there were some hidden disciples and followers of Twin Success Valley, they wouldn't be a significant threat.

Of course, Zhao Jiudou couldn't simply return to Flying Swan Sect like this. He would try to continue pursuing Dan Yihu, aiming for a higher mission completion rate to gain better recognition from the sect. Meanwhile, he would also make efforts to search for any remnants of Twin Success Valley.

After the group returned to the surface, they went their separate ways with their respective disciples.

When Meng Zhang was flying back to Fuzhao Valley on a flying boat, Deep Earth Spirit General had already returned.

When Hu Jing noticed that the sandworm had lost contact and informed Meng Zhang, he immediately passed on the message to Deep Earth Spirit General, who was secretly lurking nearby.

Deep Earth Spirit General was skilled in Earth Escape Spell and excelled in hiding, so he had not been detected all this time.

Upon receiving Meng Zhang's message, he rushed to the location. Although he was a bit slower, he wasn't too late.

When Guang Hong Daoist and Meng Zhang were chasing down the remnants of Twin Success Valley, Dan Yihu, and two other Foundation Building period cultivators from Twin Success Valley,



along with some invading Foundation Building period cultivators, were engaged in a battle, creating a window of opportunity.

Deep Earth Spirit General took advantage of this window and sneaked into Twin Success Valley's secret base.

Due to time constraints, Deep Earth Spirit General could only take some valuable items and didn't have time to thoroughly search the place.

By the time the others arrived after the battle, Deep Earth Spirit General had already evacuated without exposing his whereabouts.

After seizing a considerable amount of loot, Deep Earth Spirit General didn't delay further and directly returned to Taiyi Sect.

Now that Meng Zhang was back, they both took stock of their gains.

First, Deep Earth Spirit General's priority was Twin Success Valley's ancient books, many of which were recorded on jade slips.

Unfortunately, time was too tight, and Deep Earth Spirit General couldn't take all the ancient books. The jade slip containing the Lesser Foundation Building Pill prescription was left behind.

The most valuable items were several alchemy furnaces and refining furnaces. There was even a Second Rank alchemy furnace and refining furnace respectively.

As for the magical objects and symbols collected randomly, they were not worth mentioning.

In fact, the wealth stored in this secret base of Twin Success Valley far exceeded people's imagination. Because Dan Yihu had a magic tool with a large storage capacity, he had taken away a lot. Deep Earth Spirit General had entered first and looted some items, so what was left for the others was considerably reduced and not enough.

This operation to exterminate the remnants of Twin Success Valley had also made Taiyi Sect quite wealthy, gaining many advantages.

In the following days, Meng Zhang pretended to be recuperating and stayed in Taiyi Sect, no longer going out. He began to slowly clean up the various ancient books they had acquired.

Twin Success Valley had survived for hundreds of years, and their inheritance had its unique characteristics. The ancient books contained a lot of valuable information, and reading them proved to be beneficial for Meng Zhang.

With rare moments of tranquility, Meng Zhang also calmed his mind and started reading various Daoist scriptures.

Being familiar with the scriptures was only the first step; the next step was to study and comprehend them conscientiously.

Among the disciples, there were only a few who could earnestly recite and study the scriptures like him.

Although reciting the scriptures was a daily task set by the Sect Master, many disciples did it perfunctorily, just going through the motions.

Meng Zhang couldn't do much about it. If others were not willing to learn, he couldn't force them to do so.

Meng Zhang could only sigh inwardly; this was a matter of personal affinity.

Among the disciples, several who had gained his favor performed well in this aspect.

Niu Dawei, who was always honest and obedient, even if he didn't fully understand, diligently recited the scriptures and patiently comprehended them according to Meng Zhang's guidance.

Wen Qiansun, being older and having a rich life experience, had been through many ups and downs in life and was familiar with worldly affairs. When reciting the scriptures, he gained unique insights and easily immersed himself in them.

Yang Xueyi always trusted Meng Zhang very much. Since Meng Zhang requested everyone to recite the scriptures more, she also obediently complied.

With her excellent perception, as long as she comprehended more, she would eventually reap the rewards.

As for others, their performance in this aspect was not entirely satisfactory.