

Sect Master 291

Chapter 291: Design

The dispute between Land Walk Sect and Earthfire Sect has escalated, with their disciples engaging in large-scale conflicts multiple times. Eventually, the higher-ups of both sects began to intervene. Some of the higher-ups in Earthfire Sect were puzzled by the audacity of Land Walk Sect, a mere Foundation Building sect, daring to challenge Earthfire Sect. Not to mention that Daoist Master Roaring Blaze, a Gold Core Daoist Master, alone possessed more power than Land Walk Sect. However, after Daoist Master Roaring Blaze entered the Demon Wind Gobi, the higher-ups within Earthfire Sect temporarily lost contact with him, making it impossible to hear his opinions. Furthermore, most of the elders and disciples of Earthfire Sect had hot-tempered and easily provoked personalities. When Daoist Master Roaring Blaze was present, he could suppress the anger of the crowd. However, without Daoist Master Roaring Blaze in the sect, even the Sect Master could not contain the furious emotions within the sect. A few rational individuals sensed something suspicious about the situation and wanted to calm everyone down, but their efforts were in vain.

Land Walk Sect and Earthfire Sect share a long border, and they have had some disputes in the past regarding boundary issues. However, since these disputes did not involve significant interests, both sides were able to downplay the major issues and resolve the minor ones. Now, with a large scarlet copper mine at stake, the two sects have engaged in bloody conflicts, resulting in the injury and death of numerous disciples. This situation cannot be resolved peacefully.

Both sects have started mobilizing troops and increasing their forces at the border. It seems that a full-scale war between the two major sects is imminent. As a result, the surrounding situation has become exceptionally tense, and even the Firewell Market has descended into chaos.

While Earthfire Sect is embroiled in the conflict, Forest Spring Watch is not idle either. Almost simultaneously with the outbreak of conflict between Earthfire Sect and Land Walk Sect, Forest Spring Watch received news that the territory formerly belonging to Golden Blade Sect has been invaded by demonic beasts.

There are not many demonic beasts in the Endless Sea of Sand, with the majority gathering within the Demon Wind Gobi. Golden Blade Sect, which was originally adjacent to the Demon Wind Gobi, is likely the source of these demonic beasts.

After the decline of Golden Blade Sect, Qiaoshou Sect and Taiyi Sect joined forces and formed a coalition army to invade Golden Blade Sect's territory, occupying its mountain gate. Later on, the two sects voluntarily handed over Golden Blade Sect's mountain gate to Forest Spring Watch.

Apart from seizing some of the territories that were originally adjacent to Golden Blade Sect and acquiring mineral resources, Taiyi Sect gained control over most of Golden Blade Sect's territory, which fell into the hands of Forest Spring Watch.

Now, with the demonic beasts launching a massive invasion on Golden Blade Sect's territory, Forest Spring Watch is at the forefront. In order to ascertain the specific situation, Guang DeDaoist, who is stationed at the mountain gate of Golden Blade Sect, personally went to investigate.

On this day, more than two hundred miles away from the mountain gate of Golden Blade Sect, in a small valley nestled between hills, Guang DeDaoist finds himself locked in a bitter battle. Three

Second Rank demonic beasts surrounded Guang DeDaoist, attacking him with all their might. A huge bald eagle swooped down from the sky, its massive body almost covering the entire sky, fiercely pressing down on Guang DeDaoist. A lizard on the ground was directly confronting Guang DeDaoist, like a rampaging bull, charging around and forcing Guang DeDaoist to retreat. Although these two demonic beasts attacking Guang DeDaoist seemed to be fierce, his main focus was not on them.

A small black snake slithered along the ground, its agile body movements too fast for anyone to keep up with. Guang DeDaoist faced this seemingly insignificant small snake as if he was facing a formidable enemy, trembling with fear, afraid of being caught by it.

After a fierce battle, Guang DeDaoist was first clawed by the bald eagle, leaving a deep wound that exposed his bones. Then, he was hit by the tail of the lizard, and his whole body was thrown into the air. Guang DeDaoist, who was spewing blood in the air, took advantage of the opportunity to fly far away.

Seeing Guang DeDaoist's figure disappear into the distance, the two figures flew out from the shadows. Gu Tanghai stood respectfully on the body of a scar-faced man, pleasingly saying, "The Beast King Mountain's animal taming technique is truly extraordinary. Brother Qiu's spirit beasts are even more powerful, and no one can match them."

The scar-faced man did not respond to Gu Tanghai's words but lightly whistled. The three Second Rank demonic beasts that were chasing Guang DeDaoist immediately stopped pursuing him and rushed towards him.

Gu Tanghai was not embarrassed by the other party's attitude, but instead said to himself, "Although Guang DeDaoist's reputation is not prominent, he is still considered a strong person within Forest Spring Watch."

The scar-faced man snorted disdainfully. "People from your Endless Sea of Sand are too ignorant. You even regard such a person as a strong person. If it weren't for me deliberately letting him go, the three little babies could easily kill him."

"That's right. Brother Qiu's spirit beasts are not easy to deal with..."

The scar-faced man did not wait for Gu Tanghai to finish speaking and directly interrupted him.

"Alright, I promised Fei Hongzi's matter, and it's done. The debt of gratitude has been repaid, and we don't owe each other anything in the future. You tell that old guy not to bother me again."

As soon as he finished speaking, the scar-faced man put away his three demonic beasts and flew away into the distance.

Although the scar-faced man was impolite, Gu Tanghai could only smile bitterly in response. Beast King Mountain is a large sect located south of Jiuqu League, famous for its ability to tame and control various demonic beasts. In terms of strength, it is far superior to Flying Swan Sect.

Beast King Mountain has a stronghold in the Endless Sea of Sand, where it raises some demonic beasts suitable for desert environments. This stronghold has never interfered with the internal affairs of the Endless Sea of Sand and is too lazy to deal with any disputes.

Of course, including Flying Swan Sect, no sect dares to provoke Beast King Mountain. The scar-faced man's name is Qiu Minggang, a disciple of Beast King Mountain stationed in the Endless Sea of Sand.

When Qiu Minggang went to capture a demonic beast in the Demon Wind Gobi, he owed a favor to Flying Swan Sect. This time, Sect Master Fei Hongzi of Flying Swan Sect personally begged him, and in order to repay the favor, he had to violate Beast King Mountain's rules and secretly intervene in the disputes in the Endless Sea of Sand.

Although Qiu Minggang had a bad temper, he was a person who clearly distinguished between gratitude and grudges. He had basically fulfilled his promise to Fei Hongzi. He exerted a lot of effort to drive a large number of demonic beasts to attack Golden Blade Sect's territory, creating the illusion of a massive demonic beast invasion.

Guang DeDaoist, who came to investigate the intelligence, was also ambushed by the three Second Rank demonic beasts he raised. As a result, Guang DeDaoist should believe that there is indeed a powerful group of demonic beasts rushing out of the Demon Wind Gobi, trying to attack Golden Blade Sect's territory.

Chapter 292: Startled Palpitates

Guang DeDaoist's reaction was not unexpected by Fei Hongzi. After escaping back to the Golden Blade Sect's mountain gate, he carefully activated the mountain protection formation while using a communication talisman to report the situation to the Forest Spring Watch. The Golden Blade Sect's territory was not small, with several oases and some mineral resources. Not to mention that the Golden Blade Sect's mountain gate was also located on a Second Rank spirit vein. The Forest Spring Watch would not easily abandon this place and let the demons run rampant. Moreover, who could guarantee that after the demons attacked the Golden Blade Sect's territory, they would not spread to other directions?

Since the Forest Spring Watch replaced the Twin Success Valley as the overlord of this area, it had to take on the responsibility of an overlord. Considering that the Flying Swan Sect had already said that the demons in the Demon Wind Gobi were showing unusual behavior, and Guang ZhiDaoist Master had accompanied Fei TianDaoist Master to investigate the movements of the demons in the Demon Wind Gobi, it was basically confirmed that the demons that attacked here came from the Demon Wind Gobi.

Forest Spring Watch Sect Master Guang HuiDaoist personally sent a message to the Flying Swan Sect, reporting the news of the demons' massive attack from the Demon Wind Gobi. At the same time, Guang HuiDaoist ordered various vassal forces to recruit their elite forces to gather and prepare to fight the demons. Three Gold Core Daoist Masters broke into the Demon Wind Gobi, and the Third Rank demons in the Demon Wind Gobi should be too busy to come and harass here. The attack on the Golden Blade Sect's territory should only be led by a group of Second Rank demons.

After gathering the forces of various vassal forces, the Forest Spring Watch was ready for battle. Guang HuiDaoist chose the original mountain gate of the Golden Blade Sect as the gathering point. This place had a Second Rank spirit vein and the Golden Blade Sect's mountain protection formation that had been deployed for many years. After the various forces gathered, they could

attack or defend. With the support of the mountain protection formation, even if the expedition failed, they could still have a way out.

Because the enemy situation was not yet clear, in order to ensure sufficient mobility and be able to retreat in time when the situation was unfavorable, the Forest Spring Watch did not send a large number of Refining Qi period disciples to accompany them this time. Instead, they mainly dispatched Foundation Building period cultivators. Guang HuiDaoist, Guang HongDaoist, Guang QuanDaoist, and Guang RuiDaoist all accompanied their Sect Master to battle. Together with Guang DeDaoist, who was originally stationed at the Golden Blade Sect's mountain gate, there were a total of five Foundation Building period cultivators. Except for Guang HuiDaoist and Guang RuiDaoist, who were in the mid-stage of Foundation Building period cultivation base, the other three were all in the early stage of Foundation Building period cultivation.

The Forest Mountain School has always been a staunch vassal of the Forest Spring Watch and was the first to respond to the Forest Spring Watch's call. Xu Yishan and Lin Shenpo, two Foundation Building period cultivators, were the first to arrive at the Golden Blade Sect's mountain gate. The Taiyi Sect and Qiaoshou Sect also obeyed the order to go to battle, but because of their respective reasons, they found ways to delay for a while. On the Taiyi Sect's side, it was because Meng Zhang wanted to wait for the Deep Earth Spirit General to leave the Lingyan. However, the Deep Earth Spirit General had not come out, so he had no choice. On the Qiaoshou Sect's side, it was because Aunt Jin was practicing a secret technique and was in a critical moment, so she needed to delay for a few more days.

Because the demons had not taken any further action since the last attack on Guang DeDaoist, Guang HuiDaoist was not too anxious for the time being and allowed the Taiyi Sect and Qiaoshou Sect to be a little late. Of course, with the big battle approaching, both sects could not delay for too long.

After receiving Guang HuiDaoist's message, Fei Hongzi personally wrote a reply to Guang HuiDaoist. In the letter, he told Guang HuiDaoist that the Flying Swan Sect could not temporarily spare manpower to support the Forest Spring Watch, but he had ordered the Green Bamboo Mountain to mobilize and fully support Guang HuiDaoist. Sure enough, shortly after Fei Hongzi's reply arrived, Green Bamboo Mountain Sect Master Azure Bamboo and the elder of the sect, Zhujian, rushed to the Golden Blade Sect's territory.

The behavior of Green Bamboo Mountain, which did not care about past grievances and prioritized the overall situation of the Human Clan, satisfied Guang HuiDaoist Dawei and earned his praise. Almost at the same time, in a secret room in Singing Sand City, Gu Tanghai had just subdued Shi Changqing. Shi Changqing could not move or speak, and could only stare at Gu Tanghai with angry eyes.

Gu Tanghai did not have the blood of the Shi Family, but was a son-in-law of the Shi Family. After joining the Shi Family, because of his excellent aptitude, he received key training from the Shi Family since he was young. At first, Gu Tanghai was still loyal to the Shi Family. However, after he reached the Foundation Building period, his thoughts changed. Gu Tanghai regarded the Shi Family as his tool and manipulated the Shi Family only to gain greater benefits. Shi Changqing was a fool who only knew alchemy and rarely asked about the affairs of the Shi Family.

Gu Tanghai had a strong cultivation base and outstanding abilities, so he easily took control of the Shi Family's power. His Refining Qi period Shi Family wife had already died during meditation,

and he had broken the biggest bond with the Shi Family. He only cared about what was beneficial to himself in all his actions, and he did not care about the past grievances of the Shi Family at all. The Flying Swan Sect found out about this situation somehow and found a way to bribe Gu Tanghai, making him turn to the Flying Swan Sect. However, Shi Changqing still remembered the blood feud between the Shi Family and the Flying Swan Sect for hundreds of years and refused to join the Flying Swan Sect.

The action had already begun, and Shi Changqing could not ruin everything. However, Shi Changqing, a Second Rank Alchemist, still had significant value, so Gu Tanghai could not easily kill him. Therefore, Gu Tanghai could only temporarily subdue him and send trusted people to guard him strictly. After the battle was over, he would deal with him slowly. After leaving the secret room, Gu Tanghai saw Shi Weida, who was a little uneasy. Gu Tanghai did not say much and took Shi Weida away directly. Although Shi Weida was a member of the Shi Family, he had been practicing with Gu Tanghai since he was young. He was able to obtain the Foundation Building Pill because of Gu Tanghai's full efforts. Therefore, Shi Weida obeyed Gu Tanghai's every word and did not dare to disobey him.

Although Green Bamboo Mountain was the farthest away, Azure Bamboo and Zhujian were the first to arrive at the Golden Blade Sect's mountain gate. Then Gu Tanghai and Shi Weida arrived there. Several days had passed, and Meng Zhang could not continue to delay. Helpless, he had to give up waiting for the Deep Earth Spirit General and take Wen Qiansun and Yang Xueyi with him to fly a flying boat to the Golden Blade Sect's mountain gate. The Golden Blade Sect's mountain gate was only a few hundred miles away from Fuzhao Valley. With the flying speed of a First Rank flying boat, it would take less than a day to reach the destination.

Meng Zhang and the others set off early in the morning and arrived less than a hundred miles away from the Golden Blade Sect's mountain gate in the afternoon. Suddenly, a strong sense of horror rushed into Meng Zhang's heart. He felt his heart beating faster and couldn't help trembling all over. Meng Zhang had experienced a similar feeling once before, during the last expedition against the sand monster, when Liu Dajin, an elder of the Liu Family, assassinated him. But this time, the feeling was much stronger. He felt an inexplicable panic in his heart and almost wanted to leave here immediately. Yang Xueyi noticed that Meng Zhang's expression was a little strange and was about to ask him. Suddenly, Meng Zhang shouted, "Stop, stop immediately."

Chapter 293: Dark hand

Upon hearing Meng Zhang's loud shout, the disciple who was piloting the flying boat immediately stopped it in mid-air. At this moment, Meng Zhang's sense of panic had slightly subsided. He tried to control his state and forced himself to calm down. He knew all too well that this feeling was a unique ability possessed by Diviners, a sudden sense of impending crisis that signaled a potentially fatal disaster was about to strike. This time, the feeling was even stronger than before, which meant that the crisis he was facing would be even more difficult to overcome.

Meng Zhang reminded Yang Xueyi and Wen Qiansun to be careful and stay alert to their surroundings. He slowly calmed down and began to think about why he was in danger. He was on his way to the Golden Blade Sect's mountain gate, and no one had attacked him on the way. According to his guess, the crisis was most likely waiting for him at the Golden Blade Sect's mountain gate.

Could it be that something had gone wrong with the joint operation to besiege the Forest Spring Watch this time? This shouldn't be the case. The operation had been planned for so long, and all parties had made sure that there were no loopholes. After all the forces had gathered at the Golden Blade Sect's mountain gate, Taiyi Sect and other forces would immediately launch a surprise attack on the people of the Forest Spring Watch and the Forest Mountain School. The combined strength of the several forces far exceeded that of the Forest Spring Watch and the Forest Mountain School, not to mention that Taiyi Sect had prepared some hidden moves.

After Qiaoshou Sect and Taiyi Sect took over the Golden Blade Sect's mountain gate, they voluntarily gave it to the Forest Spring Watch not long after. After taking over the Golden Blade Sect's mountain gate, the Forest Spring Watch still used the great formation that had been set up by the Golden Blade Sect. This great formation had been almost perfectly arranged after hundreds of years of operation by the Golden Blade Sect. If the Forest Spring Watch wanted to set up a new great formation, it would require a lot of manpower and resources.

Thinking that they had complete control over the great formation, which was aided by the control center and the formation disk, the Forest Spring Watch continued to use it with confidence. However, they had no idea that when Taiyi Sect took control of the great formation, the Geomancer Deep EarthSpirit General, who was proficient in formation, and Wen Qiansun, who had extraordinary formation talent, secretly set up several loopholes in the great formation. With the experienced Deep EarthSpirit General's seamless work, the weak Formation Masters of the Forest Spring Watch could not detect these loopholes. When it was time to strike, Wen Qiansun could use these loopholes to take control of the great formation with his formation talent.

With the power of the great formation, the people of the Forest Spring Watch had no chance of winning. When Meng Zhang set up these hidden moves, he was just a little dissatisfied that the Forest Spring Watch had not contributed anything but still wanted to take most of the benefits of the Golden Blade Sect. He didn't think too much about it and just instinctively set up an ambush for them. Later, when he had to join the Flying Swan Sect and start plotting against the Forest Spring Watch, this hidden move that he had left behind inadvertently became a brilliant move.

It is precisely because of this that Taiyi Sect's value has greatly increased and Fei Hongzi has been more tolerant towards Meng Zhang, as they have taken advantage of the favorable timing, location, and people. However, Meng Zhang's sudden sense of warning indicates that something must have happened that he is unaware of.

Fortunately, Meng Zhang is a Diviner and possesses the ability to sense these warnings in advance. Otherwise, if he were to wait until he arrived at the destination to realize that something was amiss, it would be too late. However, at this moment, Meng Zhang cannot figure out where the problem lies. His current state of unease makes it difficult for him to calm down and use his divination techniques to deduce the situation.

Meng Zhang feels an inexplicable sense of urgency, as if something irreversible will happen if he doesn't take action soon. There must be something wrong somewhere. He recalls using the Grand Evolving Fortune to deduce Aunt Jin's situation before. Since she doesn't harbor any ill intentions towards Taiyi Sect, she should be trustworthy.

With this in mind, Meng Zhang takes out a communication flying sword. This was prepared by Fei Hongzi for everyone before the operation. To be able to serve as a communication tool, the flying sword must be at least a Second Rank sword. In the barren land of the Endless Sea of Sand, even

some humble cultivators in the early stages of Foundation Building may not possess a Second Rank flying sword. Therefore, communication flying swords are relatively rare.

Within the Flying Swan Sect, apart from the Gold Core Daoist Masters, only a few high-ranking members of the sect can afford to use communication flying swords. Due to the importance of this operation, Fei Hongzi had prepared a communication flying sword for each force, allowing them to communicate promptly in emergencies.

The message left by Meng Zhang in the communication flying sword is simple: Aunt Jin is to immediately drop everything and hurry to meet him as quickly as possible. Meng Zhang emphasizes the urgency and insists that there must be no delay. After infusing true qi into the flying sword, it automatically flies off into the distance, disappearing into the horizon.

Communication talismans are not as fast as communication flying swords, and they are easily intercepted. Furthermore, their communication range is limited. If the target is moving at high speed, it is easy to lose track of them. On the other hand, communication flying swords have a certain level of intelligence and can autonomously search for the intended recipient within a large range.

After the communication flying sword is sent out, Meng Zhang doesn't completely relax. If Aunt Jin and the others have already entered the Golden Blade Sect's mountain gate, then everything will be irretrievable. Only Taiyi Sect will be left outside, unable to make a difference. After a while, a First Rank flying boat with the Qiaoshou Sect emblem approaches from a distance. Seeing the Qiaoshou Sect's flying boat, Meng Zhang feels slightly relieved.

Shortly after, the Qiaoshou Sect's flying boat stops next to the Taiyi Sect's flying boat, and Aunt Jin, accompanied by Jin Qigu and a male cultivator, flies in front of Meng Zhang. This male cultivator is named Jin Wengbo, the most outstanding male cultivator in the Qiaoshou Sect.

In the Qiaoshou Sect, female cultivators have always held the upper hand. Not only are most of the high-ranking members female cultivators, but there is also Aunt Jin, a mid-stage Foundation Building female powerhouse. Male cultivators in the Qiaoshou Sect have never been prominent and have had relatively low status.

However, Jin Wengbo is an exception. As a male cultivator, he is not suitable for practicing the Qiaoshou Sect's most profound techniques. But he had a fortuitous encounter outside and not only reached the early stage of Foundation Building but also cultivated impressive abilities. Jin Wengbo rarely appears in the Qiaoshou Sect. He is a hidden card of Aunt Jin. If it weren't for the significant importance of the operation against the Forest Spring Watch, Aunt Jin would not easily expose him.

When Aunt Jin's flying boat received Meng Zhang's communication flying sword, it had already flown to the foot of the Golden Blade Sect's mountain gate, ready to enter. After reading Meng Zhang's message, out of trust in him, she immediately ordered a turnaround and followed the guidance of the communication flying sword to fly to Meng Zhang's location.

Chapter 294: Analysis

Aunt Jin, despite her usual trust in Meng Zhang, came here and gave up on the operation. However, she had strong doubts in her heart. This operation was of great importance, and Aunt Jin's unusual

behavior just now, once discovered by the Forest Spring Watch, could arouse suspicion and expose the plan. If Meng Zhang couldn't give her a satisfactory explanation, she would not spare him.

Meng Zhang stood alone at the bow of the flying boat, waiting for Aunt Jin to arrive. Seeing Aunt Jin flying towards him with a fierce momentum, he said, "Something's not right. I suspect there's something wrong inside the Golden Blade Sect's gate. There may be unexpected situations in our operation this time."

After hearing Meng Zhang's words, Aunt Jin stopped her movements and her face became very ugly. "Sect Master Meng, have you found anything wrong?" Jin Qigu, who flew behind Aunt Jin, asked anxiously.

Meng Zhang shook his head. "I haven't found any problems, but my intuition tells me that there is a great risk hidden within the Golden Blade Sect's gate."

Of course, Meng Zhang did not want to reveal that he was a Diviner. This was one of his most important cards, and even the elders inside the gate did not know about it, so how could he tell outsiders?

"Intuition is not something a man should rely on. What are you talking about?" Jin Wengbo mocked, even before Aunt Jin and Jin Qigu had a chance to speak.

"Sect Master Meng, are you afraid, so you're making up excuses to avoid the battle?" Jin Wengbo continued.

Jin Qigu looked a little unhappy and glanced at Jin Wengbo. Meng Zhang had saved her life, and now the two sides were still allies with close relations. There was no need to offend people for no reason.

Aunt Jin remained silent. Although she was also dissatisfied with Meng Zhang's statement, she did not rashly deny it.

Aunt Jin was the oldest and had been in the Cultivation World for the longest time, so she was very knowledgeable. She remembered hearing someone say that Cultivators had a mysterious connection with this world. Some Cultivators with special talents and keen senses were favored by the world and had amazing intuition, which could help them avoid many dangers.

Although Aunt Jin did not know that Meng Zhang had a top-grade spiritual root, nor that he was a Diviner, from his performance over the years, he was indeed an extraordinary Cultivator.

If Meng Zhang was also like those legendary Cultivators, with amazing intuition, then his intuition could not be easily ignored.

Aunt Jin fell into deep thought.

Meng Zhang ignored Jin Wengbo. The situation was urgent, and it was not the time to argue with him. There was no time to waste on meaningless arguments.

"Senior, the forces participating in this operation, besides you and me, are Gu Tanghai and Green Bamboo Mountain. How did Fei Hongzi persuade Gu Tanghai to join?" Meng Zhang felt that there would be great risks in this operation, and there were only two possibilities. One possibility was that the Forest Spring Watch had obtained powerful secret reinforcements that could overwhelm

Meng Zhang and the others. The other possibility was that there was a problem on their side, which led to the leakage of information and alerted the Forest Spring Watch.

If the Forest Spring Watch had made preparations and firmly controlled the mountain protection great formation, they could use the power of the great formation to win with less and weaker forces. Meng Zhang had experienced such battles before. When Taiyi Sect and other sects fought against Liu Family and Green Bamboo Mountain, they used the protection great formation of Singing Sand City to trap the enemy in the formation and achieve a complete victory.

Although Wen Qiansun knew some loopholes in the Golden Blade Sect's mountain protection great formation, it could only work when the Forest Spring Watch was unprepared.

Meng Zhang could not guess whether the Forest Spring Watch had received reinforcements. His first priority was to eliminate internal problems on their side.

Thinking of the hundreds of years of enmity between the Shi Family and the Flying Swan Sect, Meng Zhang's first suspect was Gu Tanghai of the Shi Family.

"What method did Fei Hongzi use to persuade Gu Tanghai? I really don't know," Aunt Jin said.

"But Gu Tanghai should be trustworthy. He and Fei Hongzi made a ghost oath together, and he doesn't have the courage to violate the oath."

"A ghost oath." Meng Zhang seized on this key point and had a sudden inspiration.

"Senior, did Azure Bamboo of Green Bamboo Mountain make a ghost oath?"

"What is the relationship between Green Bamboo Mountain and Flying Swan Sect? It can almost be regarded as a branch of Flying Swan Sect. For hundreds of years, Green Bamboo Mountain has been submissive to Flying Swan Sect and obedient to their commands. They don't need a ghost oath to restrain them."

Aunt Jin first laughed dumbly, then her voice became a little unnatural. She and Meng Zhang thought of a place.

Because Qiaoshou Sect had some unknown connection with the Flying Swan Sect, Fei Hongzi could trust Aunt Jin without making a ghost oath. Meng Zhang and Gu Tanghai were outsiders, so a ghost oath was needed to ensure their obedience.

As for Green Bamboo Mountain, Fei Hongzi simply treated them as trusted subordinates. It was natural to order them around, and there was no need for a ghost oath.

Gu Tanghai was not a reckless person and would not easily violate the ghost oath. Aunt Jin stood in front of Meng Zhang. The only suspect left for Meng Zhang was Green Bamboo Mountain.

"Green Bamboo Mountain originated from the Flying Swan Sect and has been loyal to the Flying Swan Sect for hundreds of years. There should be no problem, right?" Aunt Jin said uncertainly.

In the Cultivation World, loyalty was the most unreliable thing. Meng Zhang never believed in such nonsense as eternal loyalty and lifelong obedience.

Green Bamboo Mountain was loyal to the Flying Swan Sect because it was in their best interest, and the cost of betrayal was too high. If there were enough benefits to tempt them, it was hard to say whether Green Bamboo Mountain would still be so loyal to the Flying Swan Sect.

Although it was not yet certain, with a clear suspect in mind, Meng Zhang gradually calmed down.

"Anyway, we don't need to rush. Let's wait here and see what happens," Meng Zhang said.

Since Aunt Jin chose to come here to meet Meng Zhang instead of flying directly into the Golden Blade Sect's gate, she had to continue to trust Meng Zhang. Although Jin Wengbo had some objections, his words could not change Meng Zhang and Aunt Jin's decision.

The two flying boats hovered in the air, waiting quietly.

Meng Zhang returned to the cabin, trying to calm his mind and concentrate, attempting to maintain a calm and composed state of mind to use the Tianji technique for calculations. Although Meng Zhang had excellent aptitude and his cultivation base progressed rapidly, he was still young and lacked experience in cultivating his qi.

The cultivation of one's qi was not related to aptitude and required a long time to accumulate and exercise. When Meng Zhang could remain calm in the face of a major crisis, then he would have achieved a certain level of cultivation.

A heart as clear as ice and as calm as a mountain was the realm he pursued.

Chapter 295: Calculation

Two flying boats were hovering in the air, very close to each other, without any movement for over an hour. After a while, Meng Zhang felt that he had adjusted his state enough and was ready to start using Grand Evolving Fortune. Calculation tallies flew out of his body, rotating around his body. As Meng Zhang continued to manipulate his hand seals, these calculation tallies disappeared one by one at a rapid pace. Since the last time he used Grand Evolving Fortune, which was over half a year ago, Meng Zhang had accumulated over two hundred calculation tallies. He was now calculating the fortunes of Gu Tanghai and Shi Weida. These two had already arrived at the Golden Blade Sect's gate. If there were any changes, they were most likely in a bad situation by now.

Before even half of the calculation tallies were consumed, Meng Zhang obtained the result he wanted. It was bad news. Both of them had lost their lives and were completely dead. Instead of worrying, Meng Zhang was relieved. Since his Grand Evolving Fortune could calculate the result, it meant that the incident involving the death of Gu Tanghai and Shi Weida did not involve the power of the Gold Core level. As long as there was no Gold Core Daoist Master involved, it was just a struggle between Foundation Building cultivators. As long as they did not actively step into the trap, even if the result was bad, they could still retreat safely.

After completing the calculation, Meng Zhang needed time to slowly recover his mental energy. He meditated for a while and then flew outside to the Qiaoshou Sect's flying boat. Aunt Jin was sitting cross-legged at the bow of the flying boat, with a calm expression and not saying a word. Jin Qigu and Jin Wengbo, who were sitting next to her, looked a little uneasy.

Meng Zhang went straight to the point and said, "Gu Tanghai and I had made preparations beforehand and could use a secret method to investigate each other's life and death. However, this secret method cannot be easily used. I just used it, and Gu Tanghai has already died."

Meng Zhang did not want to reveal the fact that he was a Diviner, so he had to come up with a temporary excuse. This excuse was not perfect and had flaws, but the three of them were shocked by the unexpected news and did not think too much about it.

Aunt Jin, who had lived for so many years and had a wealth of experience, was the first to recover. "Are you sure?" she asked.

Meng Zhang nodded. "Yes, I'm sure."

"Since Gu Tanghai has already died, there must be a trap in the Golden Blade Sect's gate," Aunt Jin said to herself.

"What should we do?" Jin Qigu asked anxiously.

"We should immediately retreat to the Qiaoshou Sect and wait for reinforcements," Jin Wengbo said. "Our Qiaoshou Sect's gate has been in operation for hundreds of years and is not so easily broken."

Meng Zhang cursed silently in his heart. Jin Wengbo was at least a Foundation Building cultivator, but he had no brains at all. From the beginning, the Flying Swan Sect had not directly participated in this operation, only providing support in secret. Whatever the reason, it was enough to show the Flying Swan Sect's attitude. At this point, if the plan did not go smoothly, the Flying Swan Sect was even less likely to intervene. As for returning to their own gate, it was foolish and selfish to the extreme.

In this critical moment, both sects were still focused on their own interests, unaware of the need to unite and seek strength in numbers. Wasn't that just waiting to be picked off one by one by the enemy?

Aunt Jin was a wise old woman, and Meng Zhang could tell that she was thinking the same thing. "We cannot separate. By staying together, we have some resistance. If we scatter, we will only be picked off by the enemy."

"Forest Spring Watch is not openly hunting us down; instead, they are setting traps, waiting for us to walk into them. This indicates that Forest Spring Watch does not have an overwhelming advantage."

"The outcome of this battle is still unknown. We may still have a chance to fight back."

Meng Zhang nodded, acknowledging the wisdom in Aunt Jin's words. "Let's wait here and see what Forest Spring Watch has up their sleeves."

Aunt Jin made up her mind. "Yes, that's what we'll do. If the enemy is too strong, we can fight and retreat, falling back to a secure location."

Meng Zhang agreed. If the situation became dire, he was prepared to retreat completely, abandoning the Taiyi Sect's gate and defending the Qiaoshou Sect's gate instead.

With the combined strength of both sects, they could defend the Qiaoshou Sect's gate, which had been established for hundreds of years. As long as there was no Gold Core Daoist Master involved, no matter how strong Forest Spring Watch was, breaking through the protective formation would not be an easy task.

After discussing with Aunt Jin, Meng Zhang returned to the flying boat. He informed Yang Xueyi and Wen Qiansun of the current situation and sent out messages to the senior members of the sect, preparing them for a full retreat if necessary.

The Taiyi Sect had long been prepared for a major battle. The disciples were ready to mobilize at any moment.

Everyone waited in silence, anticipating the next move from Forest Spring Watch.

After half a day, two communication talismans arrived from Forest Spring Watch, landing in the hands of Meng Zhang and Aunt Jin.

The talismans were sent by Forest Spring Watch's Sect Master, Guang HuiDaoist. The contents of the talismans criticized the Taiyi Sect for being slow to act and warned that if the delay caused the rampant spread of demonic beasts due to the relationship between the two sects, both Meng Zhang and Aunt Jin would be severely punished.

Knowing that there were issues within the Golden Blade Sect's gate, Meng Zhang and Aunt Jin were not fooled.

However, these two talismans confirmed Aunt Jin's speculation that Forest Spring Watch did not have a significant advantage in strength.

Meng Zhang calculated that if Green Bamboo Mountain had truly sided with Forest Spring Watch, without external reinforcements, Forest Spring Watch would have at most a dozen Foundation Building cultivators. Moreover, Guang HuiDaoist might have left a few Foundation Building cultivators to guard the Forest Spring Watch's gate, further reducing the number of available cultivators.

Taiyi Sect and Qiaoshou Sect had six Foundation Building cultivators present.

Meng Zhang himself had a mid-stage Foundation Building cultivation base and felt confident in his combat abilities, especially after mastering the Twin Forms Towards Heaven Sword Divine Ability. He had no fear of cultivators below the late stage of Foundation Building.

Meng Zhang and Aunt Jin ignored the communication talismans and instead focused on observing Forest Spring Watch's next move.

After resting for a day and recovering his mental energy, Meng Zhang once again used Grand Evolving Fortune. This time, he calculated the number of Foundation Building cultivators that the enemy had deployed.

Exhausting the last calculation tally was not enough. Meng Zhang gritted his teeth and started to consume his lifespan to continue the calculation. At this point, he couldn't afford to worry about sacrificing some lifespan.

Fortunately, the difficulty of this calculation was not too high. After consuming less than half a year of lifespan, Meng Zhang obtained the desired result. The enemy had deployed less than ten Foundation Building cultivators this time.

The consumption of life force this time was not much, but Meng Zhang was still injured in his vitality. Fortunately, he brought the remaining supplement pills with him from the last time, and he didn't care about the pill toxin. He took half a bottle of supplement pills in one breath. According to the usage method of the supplement pills, one should take one pill at a time and wait until the pill toxin is completely discharged before continuing to take them. With the upcoming battle, Meng Zhang had to temporarily suppress the pill toxin in order to recover his vitality as soon as possible. He might have to spend more time discharging the pill toxin later, but if he didn't recover his vitality quickly now, he might not have a future.

The supplement pills were indeed a good medicine for replenishing vitality and making up for the foundation. Shortly after taking the pills, before they were fully refined, Meng Zhang had already replenished most of the vitality he had lost earlier. Of course, it was easier to replenish vitality than to make up for the lost life force, which could not be temporarily compensated.

On the other side, on the flying boat of the Qiaoshou Sect, after waiting for a while, Jin Wengbo began to nag. "Is Meng Zhang really trustworthy? He insisted that Gutanghai had already died, but have we confirmed it? Moreover, if there is really a problem within our group, it is also possible that Flying Swan Sect leaked the information. In that case, Green Bamboo Mountain would be innocent and trustworthy."

Jin Wengbo kept nagging, making Jin Qigu a little annoyed and at a loss for how to refute him. Aunt Jin gave Jin Wengbo a dissatisfied look, and he immediately shut up and dared not continue to chatter.

Aunt Jin had met many cultivators and had a good ability to judge people. She also knew that Meng Zhang was not the kind of person who was resourceful and decisive. Meng Zhang's speculation must have some problems. However, she chose to trust Meng Zhang's intuition and ignored the other problems. In the world of cultivation, the reliability of a cultivator's intuition is often far superior to that of a clever strategist or reasonable inference. Cultivation is originally a very mystical discipline.

In fact, as a diviner, Meng Zhang not only had amazing intuition, which could uncover the fog and point directly to the truth, but also had the Grand Evolving Fortune technique, which could make up for his lack of reasoning ability.

Time passed slowly, and two more days had passed. Because neither the Taiyi Sect nor the Qiaoshou Sect had arrived at the gate of the Golden Blade Sect, nor had they replied to the messages sent by Guang Hui Daoist, which contained accusations and reprimands, and flew to Meng Zhang and Aunt Jin.

Meng Zhang and Aunt Jin ignored them all and just wanted to see the next move of the Forest Spring Watch. Now, it had become a test of patience between the two sides.

Yang Xueyi volunteered to leave the flying boat and flew to the vicinity of the gate of the Golden Blade Sect, hiding and secretly monitoring the situation there. There was no change inside the gate of the Golden Blade Sect, except for a few messages sent by flying symbols, and there was no other movement.

Although Aunt Jin knew that Flying Swan Sect would not directly interfere in this operation, nor would it send reinforcements to help, she still recorded everything that happened here and notified Flying Swan Sect through the flying sword of the message. After Aunt Jin's flying sword flew away,

they did not receive a reply from the Flying Swan Sect, but Meng Zhang received reinforcements from the Taiyi Sect.

Meng Zhang, who was meditating and adjusting his breath on the flying boat, suddenly heard a transmission in his ear. He immediately left the flying boat and flew in the direction of the Taiyi Sect. Flying less than a mile, Meng Zhang flew up to the sky and saw Deep EarthSpirit General and another strong man standing quietly in the air. The man's thick hair stood up like a hedgehog, and there was a faint force field around his body. Electric light flashed in his eyes from time to time.

"Master, this is my former companion, Shocking Thunder," Deep EarthSpirit General introduced the two sides. "Shocking Thunder has seen the Sect Master," the man bowed to Meng Zhang.

"Good, good, good..." Meng Zhang said several times in a row. It was a time to use people, and Deep EarthSpirit General not only arrived in time but also brought new combat power, Shocking ThunderSpirit General. After listening to Deep EarthSpirit General's explanation, Meng Zhang felt that he was really lucky this time.

It turned out that since the spirit vein of the Taiyi Sect's old mountain gate was upgraded to a Second Rank spirit vein, the nourishing power of the Lingyan had indeed greatly increased. Shocking ThunderSpirit General, who was sleeping in the Guardian Spirit General's remnant soul in the treasure bead, was actually in the best condition. However, because Meng Zhang had provided a Fifth Earth Essence in addition to the Jade Soul Fluid last time, which helped Deep EarthSpirit General to reshape his body, Shocking ThunderSpirit General gave the opportunity to absorb the Jade Soul Fluid to Deep EarthSpirit General and let him recover first.

After being nourished by the Lingyan, Shocking ThunderSpirit General's soul actually recovered very well. Although only two drops of Jade Soul Fluid were provided this time, and the quality was not very good, Shocking ThunderSpirit General's soul could still leave the treasure bead after absorbing it.

Later, Deep EarthSpirit General had been assisting Shocking ThunderSpirit General to reshape his body with the thunder essence, and had no time to pay attention to the outside world. Until today, Shocking ThunderSpirit General had completed the reshaping and was ready to fight. After leaving the Lingyan, they saw the chaos in the Taiyi Sect and knew that Meng Zhang had issued an order to prepare for a full retreat.

The two immediately left the Taiyi Sect and came to meet Meng Zhang. Fortunately, Meng Zhang had a whim and did not enter the gate of the Golden Blade Sect, but waited here. After waiting for so long, there was no movement on the side of the Golden Blade Sect, but they received reinforcements.

Meng Zhang asked about the cultivation base of the two. Deep EarthSpirit General knew that the Taiyi Sect was going to launch an operation against the Forest Spring Watch, so he urged Shocking ThunderSpirit General to set off before he completely refined the thunder essence. Although the quality of the thunder essence was very high, Shocking ThunderSpirit General now had a mid-Foundation Building cultivation base even though he had not completely refined it. If he waited until later to completely refine the thunder essence, his cultivation base would still improve. Moreover, while helping Shocking ThunderSpirit General to refine the thunder essence, Deep EarthSpirit General also refined a large part of the mountain-pressing stone. His cultivation base had also recovered to the mid-Foundation Building stage.

Meng Zhang secretly sighed his luck. Fortunately, he waited for a few days and waited for two mid- Foundation Building reinforcements. With Deep Earth Spirit General and Shocking Thunder Spirit General, Meng Zhang even had the confidence to confront the Forest Spring Watch head-on.

Meng Zhang brought the two to Aunt Jin and briefly introduced them, only saying that they were both elders of the Taiyi Sect who had been in seclusion for cultivation. Now the situation was urgent, and he had to ask them to come out of seclusion early. Aunt Jin and Jin Qigu had met Deep Earth Spirit General several times before and knew that he was a loose cultivator recruited by the Taiyi Sect. After providing the Foundation Building Pill, he pledged allegiance to the Taiyi Sect. As for Shocking Thunder Spirit General, they had never seen him before. But now was the time to use people, not to care about their background.

Chapter 297: Seeing through

Aunt Jin was delighted to have gained two powerful reinforcements on their side, but at the same time, she was somewhat surprised. It was one thing for Meng Zhang's Deep Earth Cultivation Base to advance to the mid-stage of Foundation Building, but to also have Shocking Thunder, a mid-stage Foundation Building expert, join them was truly a pleasant surprise for the recently risen Taiyi Sect.

With the addition of these two strong allies, Meng Zhang's confidence soared, and he decided not to wait any longer but to engage in a direct confrontation with Forest Spring Watch. After all, the enemy's Foundation Building cultivators numbered no more than ten, which was similar to their own forces.

In particular, Deep Earth Spirit General and Shocking Thunder Spirit General were once powerful individuals with Gold Core strength. Even if their power hadn't fully recovered, they couldn't be regarded as ordinary Foundation Building cultivators.

Even if they were to be outmatched, they could still retreat unscathed. Of course, despite his inflated confidence, Meng Zhang didn't dare to launch an attack on the mountain gate of the Golden Blade Sect. With the protection of their formidable mountain-guarding formation, Forest Spring Watch was already in an unbeatable position. Even if the strengths were evenly matched, they would undoubtedly suffer heavy casualties before reaching the mountain-guarding formation.

If they were to fight, they needed to lure the enemy out. Meng Zhang had a rough idea in mind and voiced it directly. "We have remained silent all this time, and we have yet to openly confront Forest Spring Watch. We might as well send a transmission talisman, stating that we encountered a large group of demonic beasts while on our way to the mountain gate of the Golden Blade Sect. We were trapped by the beasts and had to seek help from Daoist Guang Hui, requesting him to come and reinforce us as soon as possible."

As soon as Meng Zhang finished speaking, Jin Wengbo immediately dismissed his idea. "This approach is too childish and easily detectable. Guang Hui is not a fool; how could you deceive him so easily?"

"That's exactly what we want," Meng Zhang replied with a smile. Aunt Jin pondered for a moment and had to admit that Meng Zhang's idea had some merit. "I have known Guang Hui for many years and have some understanding of his character. He is cunning and resourceful, especially in battles

with cultivators. He excels at using soft tactics to overcome the strong and prefers to employ strategies rather than engage in direct combat with opponents of equal strength."

"After he sees through our little scheme, he will most likely turn the tables and use his own plan against us." Meng Zhang clapped his hands together. "This time, we hope he falls into our trap. Regardless of his scheme, as long as he leaves the mountain gate of the Golden Blade Sect and fights us, we will have the advantage."

Aunt Jin understood Meng Zhang's line of thinking and agreed with his idea. After some discussion, they formulated a rough plan. Having a basic plan was sufficient because, in the end, the outcome would depend on the strength of both sides to determine the victor.

Meng Zhang called back Yang Xueyi, and the two flying boats departed from the location, flying to a sand dune over two hundred li away from the mountain gate of the Golden Blade Sect. Meng Zhang then took out a transmission talisman, inputted the prepared request for assistance, and sent it off.

The transmission talisman transformed into a streak of light and disappeared, flying towards the mountain gate of the Golden Blade Sect. It didn't take long before Forest Spring Watch's Sect Master, Guang Hui Daoist, received the transmission talisman. At this moment, Guang Hui Daoist was sitting in the original main hall of the Golden Blade Sect. Two rows of Foundation Building cultivators sat below him, including Guang Hong Daoist, Guang Quan Daoist, Guang Rui Daoist, and Guang De Daoist from Forest Spring Watch, as well as Xu Yishan and Lin Shenpo from Forest Mountain School. Azure Bamboo and Bamboo Sword from Green Bamboo Mountain were also present.

In this hall, there were a total of nine Foundation Building cultivators gathered. The ground of the hall was still stained with a large pool of blood left behind by Gu Tanghai and Shi Weida not long ago.

Guang Hui Daoist glanced at the content of the transmission talisman and couldn't help but laugh. "Meng Zhang really thinks I'm a three-year-old child."

Seeing the curious looks from below, Guang Hui Daoist handed the transmission talisman to the others to read. "It seems that we can confirm that both Taiyi Sect and Qiaoshou Sect have discovered the trap we set here. They are bold enough to try and lure out the experts here. Do they think they can still set up an ambush outside and defeat us one by one?"

Guang De Daoist muttered suspiciously, "Strange, how did Meng Zhang from Taiyi Sect see through our trap?" He cast a doubtful look at Azure Bamboo and Bamboo Sword, who had joined Forest Spring Watch due to their interests. However, Guang De Daoist had never fully trusted them. If it weren't for their betrayal of Gu Tanghai and Shi Weida, there would have been even more people in the hall who doubted them.

Azure Bamboo and Bamboo Sword noticed Guang De Daoist's suspicious gaze. Bamboo Sword snorted coldly and didn't bother to explain, while Azure Bamboo hurriedly said, "Guang Hui Sect Master, we have pledged our loyalty and have no ulterior motives."

"Rest assured, I trust you both completely," Guang Hui Daoist reassured them. He then glanced at the people below. "Azure Bamboo and Bamboo Sword have proven their loyalty. From now on, I won't allow anyone to doubt them without reason."

Guang Hui Daoist wasn't just putting on an act; he genuinely trusted Azure Bamboo and Bamboo Sword. Guang Hui Daoist was a person with many ideas, complex thoughts, and was very sensitive. A series of events that had occurred in the Endless Sea of Sand recently had aroused his suspicions.

First, Guang Zhi Daoist Master and Daoist Master Roaring Blaze accompanied Fei Tian Daoist Master into the Demon Wind Gobi. Losing contact with Guang Zhi Daoist Master temporarily made Guang Hui Daoist uneasy. Then, Earthfire Sect and Land Walk Sect had an inexplicable dispute that escalated into a situation where the two factions were about to go to war.

Finally, the original territory of the Golden Blade Sect was invaded by a large number of demonic beasts. The source of these demonic beasts was likely from the Demon Wind Gobi. A series of seemingly unrelated events had triggered Guang Hui Daoist's sensitive nerves.

He had a vague feeling that something was wrong, but he didn't know where the problem lay. He turned his suspicious gaze towards Flying Swan Sect. Given the current situation in the Endless Sea of Sand, Flying Swan Sect posed the greatest threat to Forest Spring Watch.

After much deliberation, he chose Green Bamboo Mountain as a breakthrough point. The relationship between Green Bamboo Mountain and Flying Swan Sect made Flying Swan Sect trust Green Bamboo Mountain. If Flying Swan Sect had any actions nearby, they would most likely not bypass Green Bamboo Mountain.

On the surface, Green Bamboo Mountain appeared respectful, but they harbored great grievances towards Flying Swan Sect. Flying Swan Sect believed that Green Bamboo Mountain's sacrifices were taken for granted and had never considered the feelings of Green Bamboo Mountain cultivators or their interests.

Last time, the four major sects defeated Green Bamboo Mountain and even reached the foot of Green Bamboo Mountain, but Flying Swan Sect had no reaction whatsoever. This showed that in Flying Swan Sect's eyes, Green Bamboo Mountain was dispensable and could be easily abandoned.

Chapter 298: Thwarting

If it were just that, it would be fine.

Green Bamboo Mountain, as a sect, was always a disposable pawn in front of the Flying Swan Sect. After a series of setbacks, Green Bamboo Mountain suffered heavy losses, with only Azure Bamboo and Zhujian, two Foundation Building cultivators who were no longer young, remaining.

In consideration of the next generation of Green Bamboo Mountain and to ensure that there would be no gap in Foundation Building cultivators, Azure Bamboo repeatedly pleaded with the Flying Swan Sect to sell a Foundation Building Pill to Green Bamboo Mountain. However, after the chaos caused by the sand monsters, the Flying Swan Sect had used up all their Foundation Building Pills on post-war rewards. There were no spare Foundation Building Pills to sell to Azure Bamboo.

Azure Bamboo believed that the Flying Swan Sect was intentionally evading their request and refusing to help Green Bamboo Mountain continue its legacy. Feeling deeply loyal and devoted to the Flying Swan Sect, Azure Bamboo was disheartened by their treatment.

Recently, the Flying Swan Sect ordered Green Bamboo Mountain to attack the Forest Spring Watch without offering any benefits, simply commanding them to do their bidding. Azure Bamboo and Zhujian felt frustrated and resentful.

In the eyes of the Flying Swan Sect, Green Bamboo Mountain was considered inferior to even livestock.

At this critical moment, Guang HuiDaoist secretly contacted Azure Bamboo. Guang HuiDaoist carefully analyzed the situation for Azure Bamboo.

The Earthfire Sect had gained support from the Fire Cloud Sect, a major sect of the Jiuqu League, allowing Daoist Master Roaring Blaze to form the core. Behind the Forest Spring Watch, there was also great power supporting them. The Northern Desert Qi Family had formed an alliance with two other sects.

The strength of this alliance far surpassed that of the Flying Swan Sect. With sufficient preparation and the combined efforts of the three sects, they could completely overthrow the Flying Swan Sect's rule over the Endless Sea of Sand.

If Green Bamboo Mountain didn't choose a side in time, they would only end up being buried alongside the Flying Swan Sect.

Azure Bamboo, who already harbored resentment towards the Flying Swan Sect, was persuaded by Guang HuiDaoist's words and actually began to consider joining forces with them.

Finally, Guang HuiDaoist presented Azure Bamboo with a spiritual treasure that he would never refuse. It was a spiritual pearl produced by a special spiritual clam that had been nurtured for hundreds of years in the Forest Spring Watch. When a Refining Qi cultivator assimilates this pearl during the Foundation Building stage, its effect is no less than that of the Lesser Foundation Building Pill from Twin Success Valley.

Such spiritual pearls were rare even within the Forest Spring Watch, and Guang HuiDaoist had spared no expense in obtaining this one.

With this spiritual pearl, Green Bamboo Mountain could cultivate new Foundation Building cultivators before Azure Bamboo and Zhujian died during meditation. Only by avoiding a gap in Foundation Building cultivators could Green Bamboo Mountain preserve the legacy of their sect. Azure Bamboo, who was concerned about the sect's legacy, finally fully sided with Guang HuiDaoist.

With Azure Bamboo's help, Guang HuiDaoist easily convinced Zhujian, who was even more dissatisfied with the Flying Swan Sect.

After Azure Bamboo and Zhujian joined the Forest Spring Watch, they naturally told Guang HuiDaoist about the Flying Swan Sect's plans. Guang HuiDaoist also knew that the Flying Swan Sect would not directly attack the Forest Spring Watch. As long as they could deal with the Taiyi Sect and other sects, they could completely cut off the Flying Swan Sect's hands and feet, preventing them from continuing to threaten the Forest Spring Watch.

To minimize their own losses and eliminate future troubles by taking out all their enemies at once, Guang HuiDaoist did not directly launch an attack but chose to use a trick. Several forces planned

to ambush the Forest Spring Watch in the Golden Blade Sect's mountain gate, but the Forest Spring Watch set up an ambush in return and defeated the enemy.

Guo Tanghai and Shi Weida were the first to arrive at the Golden Blade Sect's mountain gate and were directly surrounded by nine Foundation Building cultivators, including three in the middle stage. Guo Tanghai and Shi Weida had no chance to resist or escape and were killed on the spot. It was a pity that Guo Tanghai was also an outstanding talent with excellent abilities in all aspects, but he died silently here.

Next, everyone waited quietly for the Taiyi Sect and Qiaoshou Sect to take the bait, but unexpectedly, the two sects were late to arrive. Guang HuiDaoist personally sent out a transmission talisman to urge them, but received no response. The people who realized that something was wrong still held a glimmer of hope that the two sects would come obediently.

However, the transmission talisman from Meng Zhang just now exposed that they already knew about the trap in the Golden Blade Sect's mountain gate and were planning to turn the tables on the Forest Spring Watch. Guang HongDaoist finished reading Meng Zhang's transmission talisman and made his own guess.

"Perhaps there is some special secret connection between Meng Zhang and Guo Tanghai. They knew as soon as Guo Tanghai died and realized that something was wrong."

After hearing Guang HongDaoist's words, Guang QuanDaoist immediately shouted, "Senior Brother is right. The actual situation may be like this."

"Ah, it's a pity. We shouldn't have acted so hastily. We should have waited until they were all here before suddenly attacking and taking them all out."

Guang HongDaoist rolled his eyes. If they didn't take them out one by one and waited for all the enemies to arrive before attacking, even with the help of the mountain protection great formation, it would be difficult to completely annihilate the enemy. If the enemy was willing to sacrifice a few people, their side might lose some Foundation Building cultivators.

"Okay, let's not speculate anymore. Since the enemy has already seen through the trap here, let's not worry about how they found out. Since Meng Zhang wants to lure us out, let's use his plan against him."

"Meng Zhang, Yang Xueyi, Wen Qiansun from the Taiyi Sect, and Aunt Jin and Jin Qigu from the Qiaoshou Sect. There are only six Foundation Building cultivators on their side. We have nine Foundation Building cultivators on our side, so it's not difficult to win. The difficult part is to kill as many enemies as possible and save the trouble of chasing them down in the future."

As Guang HuiDaoist spoke, he took out a scroll and handed it to Guang RuiDaoist below. "You and Xu Yishan and Lin Shenpo go to the location designated by Meng Zhang. When they surround you, immediately activate this formation map. With the power of the three of you, rely on the formation to defend. They won't be able to break the formation and will be trapped by it. They won't be able to escape for a short time."

This scroll was actually a formation map, a treasure that had been passed down in the Forest Spring Watch for hundreds of years. Its power was amazing and mysterious. Once a Foundation Building cultivator was trapped, they would be helpless and could only be captured. The Forest Spring Watch had almost never used this formation map outside, and outsiders had no idea of its existence.

Guang HuiDaoist was prepared for the worst and did not expect to rely solely on this formation map to take down the enemy. As long as this formation map temporarily trapped the enemy, they could reinforce in time and defeat the enemy with more strength.

Although Guang RuiDaoist was not well-known outside, he was actually one of the two mid-Foundation Building cultivators in the Forest Spring Watch. His combat power was strong and second only to Sect Master Guang HuiDaoist. He stood up and bowed to Guang HuiDaoist, then obediently followed his orders and set off with Xu Yishan and Lin Shenpo.

Chapter 299: Clear Spring Waterfall

After Guang RuiDaoist left with Xu Yishan and Lin Shenpo, the people in the sect hall followed Guang HuiDaoist outside, ready to move at any time. On Meng Zhang's side, Yang Xueyi and Jin Qigu were hiding outside the Golden Blade Sect gate, monitoring any movements. Meanwhile, Meng Zhang and the others were waiting over 200 miles away from the Golden Blade Sect gate.

When Guang RuiDaoist and the others flew out of the Golden Blade Sect gate, Yang Xueyi sent a transmission talisman to Meng Zhang, and she and Jin Qigu continued to hide. However, even if Guang RuiDaoist deliberately slowed down, with the flying speed of a Foundation Building cultivator, they arrived at their destination in less than an hour.

Meng Zhang and the others did not hide their figures and were waiting openly in front. Guang RuiDaoist and the others had long known that Meng Zhang and the others had seen through their trap and that the call for help was fake. They were not surprised to see Meng Zhang and the others waiting there.

Guang RuiDaoist sneered, "You ignorant fools, today is the day you die." He shook the scroll he had been holding, and it suddenly unfolded.

Shocking ThunderSpirit General's personality was completely different from the reserved Deep EarthSpirit General. He didn't even bother to think much about dealing with three Foundation Building cultivators and went straight to attack. Meng Zhang, Deep EarthSpirit General, Wen Qiansun, Aunt Jin, and Jin Wengbo followed closely behind and attacked.

Forest Spring Watch was well-informed, and even Wen Qiansun's recent successful Foundation Building was known. However, when Guang HuiDaoist calculated the number of enemy Foundation Building cultivators, he still missed two people.

Jin Wengbo, as a hidden hand of the Qiaoshou Sect, was always unknown. Shocking ThunderSpirit General had only recently recovered, and even Meng Zhang did not expect him to come and join the battle.

Guang RuiDaoist was not very familiar with the Taiyi Sect people. Seeing that the enemy had six Foundation Building cultivators, the same number Guang HuiDaoist had mentioned, he thought that all the enemies were here and immediately launched the formation on the scroll he held.

This special treasure, the formation map, looked like an inconspicuous scroll, but it contained a formation inside. There was no need to slowly set up the formation. Just gently activating the scroll would cause the formation to descend from the sky and trap the enemy.

The six Foundation Building cultivators rushed towards Guang RuiDaoist with a fierce momentum, but Guang RuiDaoist, who had the formation map, remained calm. The scroll flew into the air and

disappeared in a flash. Then, clear springs gushed out, soaring into the sky, and waterfalls poured down, surrounding all six Foundation Building cultivators.

The clear springs flowed, and the waterfalls poured down, seemingly a picturesque and poetic scene, but it concealed a deadly danger. Shocking ThunderSpirit General flew the fastest and was the first to experience the power of the formation map. A waterfall fell from the sky and hit him hard. Shocking ThunderSpirit General shouted loudly, and a thick electric light sprayed out from his fist, directly blasting the waterfall away.

Two clear springs rose from the ground, one on the left and one on the right, sandwiching Shocking ThunderSpirit General in the middle. An invisible force field spread out from Shocking ThunderSpirit General's body, shaking off the rushing clear springs.

The other five Foundation Building cultivators who followed were also trapped by the clear springs and waterfalls. The waterfalls had tremendous power, and ordinary protective magic tools and spells were useless against them. The clear springs flowed silently, concealing a deadly poison. If a magic tool was contaminated by the water for a long time, it would be easily stained. If a person accidentally touched it, their flesh and bones would immediately dissolve.

Meng Zhang released his flying sword, the Tangling Silk Soft Sword, which turned into a ribbon that tightly protected his whole body, not allowing any water vapor to touch him. A purple-gold shield flew around Wen Qiansun's body, easily blocking all attacks. Everyone showed their abilities and first protected themselves within the formation.

The Clear Spring Waterfall Formation was a miraculous formation that could trap and harm the enemy at the same time. Countless clear springs and waterfalls trapped everyone in the formation. Seeing the power of the Clear Spring Waterfall Formation, Guang RuiDaoist showed a satisfied expression. He signaled to Xu Yishan and Lin Shenpo and led them to attack.

Normally, Guang RuiDaoist could easily trap three to five Foundation Building cultivators with the formation map alone. Now, with the help of Xu Yishan and Forest Mountain School, he was ready to use the formation map to divide the enemy and then work together to kill as many enemies as possible. He was not satisfied with just trapping the enemy, nor was he willing to be just a bait.

After sending out several transmission talismans, he was ready to find an opportunity to kill the enemy. Including Meng Zhang, no one expected that Forest Spring Watch had such a trump card. They could actually produce such a rare treasure as the Clear Spring Waterfall Formation.

Aunt Jin was experienced and had seen all kinds of storms. She protected herself while looking for weaknesses in the formation. Jin Wengbo's cultivation base was not weak, but he lacked experience. After being trapped by the formation, he was a little panicked and almost hit by the clear spring water. Fortunately, Aunt Jin, who was with him, reacted quickly and pulled him away. Jin Wengbo was ashamed and quickly focused his attention, not daring to be distracted.

Aunt Jin and Jin Wengbo began to attack the base formation and look for a way out. After being trapped, Meng Zhang immediately used the Deception Breaking Eye to find the weakness of the formation. However, the surrounding water vapor was so dense, and the water-system spiritual energy was constantly churning, which greatly reduced the power of the Deception Breaking Eye.

Although Meng Zhang could clearly see most of the formation, he found it difficult to see through the mysteries of the formation. However, due to the influence of the formation, the area of several hundred feet in diameter seemed vast and almost impossible to see at a glance.

Meng Zhang saw that Shocking ThunderSpirit General was constantly resisting the attacks of the formation and felt a little relieved. Deep EarthSpirit General had quietly joined Wen Qiansun and was calculating and deducing, gradually deciphering the structure of the base formation. Meng Zhang knew that as a Geomancer, Deep Earth had extremely profound knowledge of the formation, and his experience and expertise were very rich. Wen Qiansun was also a formation genius. Shortly after reaching Foundation Building, he quietly became a Second Rank Formation Master. If the two of them worked together, as long as they had enough time, they could probably decipher the base formation.

As the controller of the formation map, Guang RuiDaoist could freely move within the formation and borrow the power of the formation. Seeing him leading Xu Yishan and Lin Shenpo into the formation, Meng Zhang called out to Shocking ThunderSpirit General and took the initiative to meet the three of them. They had to stop the enemy from disturbing Deep EarthSpirit General and Wen Qiansun, who were deciphering the formation.

Chapter 300: Counter-Trapped/Sleepy

As Guang RuiDaoist and the other two entered the formation, they were immediately spotted by Meng Zhang's Deception Breaking Eye. Although Meng Zhang couldn't temporarily break free from the Base Formation technique, he could see through most parts of the formation with his Deception Breaking Eye and move freely without obstruction.

Meng Zhang and Shocking ThunderSpirit General intercepted Guang RuiDaoist and the others within the formation. Without any wasted words, both sides engaged in a fierce battle.

Tangling Silk Soft Sword unleashed countless sword shadows, while Shocking ThunderSpirit General's fists emitted flashes of lightning, striking fiercely at their opponents.

All three of Guang RuiDaoist's group were experts in controlling flying swords. Each of their flying swords flew out to confront Meng Zhang and Shocking ThunderSpirit General.

Apart from Guang RuiDaoist, who was at the mid-stage of Foundation Building cultivation base, Xu Yishan and Lin Shenpo were both at the early stage of Foundation Building cultivation base. They were facing Meng Zhang and Shocking ThunderSpirit General, who were at the mid-stage of Foundation Building cultivation base. If they were outside the formation, they would quickly find themselves at a disadvantage.

However, thanks to the power of the formation, Guang RuiDaoist's group unexpectedly gained the upper hand and suppressed Meng Zhang and Shocking ThunderSpirit General.

Although they had gained the upper hand, Guang RuiDaoist didn't show any signs of joy.

This Meng Zhang, this young fellow, was probably not even a fraction of Guang RuiDaoist's age, and he had only been cultivating for a few days. Yet, he possessed such a terrifying cultivation base. If they were to fight one-on-one, Guang RuiDaoist wouldn't even be his match.

And that unnamed man, not only had astonishing combat power, but also had rich battle experience. Every time he made a move, Guang RuiDaoist and the others felt immense pressure, making it difficult for them.

Lin Shenpo, who was fully controlling the flying swords, had a complex expression on his face.

This Meng Zhang, who had appeared at his Foundation Building dharma meeting, had progressed in cultivation base at an astonishing speed. Unbeknownst to them, he had grown to such a level.

Lin Shenpo had always been regarded as a genius cultivator within the Forest Mountain School, but now, facing Meng Zhang, he felt a deep sense of powerlessness.

It was truly a case of comparing goods and throwing them away, comparing people and causing death. He felt that he had wasted so many years and had lived in vain.

Xu Yishan was a few years older than Guang RuiDaoist and didn't have many good years left.

At this moment, he felt a deep sense of relief. Fortunately, Meng Zhang, this fool, had betrayed the Forest Spring Watch and joined the Flying Swan Sect, giving him the opportunity to strike at him.

If Meng Zhang were to grow in the future, not only the Forest Mountain School, but even the Forest Spring Watch might not be able to suppress him.

The thought of personally annihilating a young genius like Meng Zhang gave Xu Yishan a strange sense of satisfaction.

Although Meng Zhang and Shocking ThunderSpirit General had temporarily fallen into a disadvantage, they had still achieved their goal of entangling Guang RuiDaoist and the others.

In a short period of time, Guang RuiDaoist's group couldn't harm Meng Zhang and his companion. After Guang RuiDaoist set up the formation to trap Meng Zhang and the others, he sent out several transmission talismans, which flew towards the gate of the Golden Blade Sect.

Due to concerns about the transmission talismans being intercepted along the way, he cautiously sent out several transmission talismans.

Yang Xueyi and Jin Qigu watched as the transmission talismans flew into the gate of the Golden Blade Sect, feeling both powerless and uninterested in intercepting them, allowing them to reach their destination.

Inside the gate of the Golden Blade Sect, Guang HuiDaoist received the transmission talismans, glanced at them, and then issued a loud command.

"The enemy has been trapped, it's time for us to act," Guang HuiDaoist said as he flew ahead, leading Guang HongDaoist, Guang QuanDaoist, Guang DeDaoist, Azure Bamboo, and Bamboo Sword to leave the gate of the Golden Blade Sect and fly towards the location where Guang RuiDaoist and the others were fighting.

The six Foundation Building cultivators flew forward in a group, with an imposing momentum that couldn't escape the notice of Yang Xueyi and Jin Qigu.

Before this, Meng Zhang had told Yang Xueyi the result of his Grand Evolving Fortune calculation. The number of enemy Foundation Building cultivators wouldn't exceed ten.

Although Yang Xueyi didn't know where Meng Zhang got this information, out of her trust in Sect Master Meng Zhang, she didn't doubt it at all.

Previously, there were three people, and now six more had flown over. It seemed that the enemy had mobilized all their forces.

Yang Xueyi signaled to Jin Qigu and immediately followed Guang HuiDaoist and the others secretly.

Guang HuiDaoist and the others flew very fast, eager to reach the battlefield, and didn't notice that they were being followed.

In less than half an hour, the six of them arrived at their destination.

Guang HuiDaoist saw that Meng Zhang and the others were trapped in the formation and couldn't help but cheer loudly, despite his usual calm demeanor.

The Forest Spring Watch's Clear Spring Waterfall Formation had been maintained by several Foundation Building cultivators in rotation for years. Those who had maintained the formation had a certain degree of control over it.

Among them, Guang HuiDaoist had spent the most time maintaining the formation, had the highest level of formation attainment, and had the strongest control over the formation.

If he led his team into the formation now, they would definitely pose a fatal threat to Meng Zhang and the others.

Feeling that everything was under control, Guang HuiDaoist was about to lead his team into the formation.

Suddenly, a huge change occurred within the formation.

The spring that had flowed out of the ground flowed back, and the waterfall that had originally fallen from the sky flowed back into the sky.

After a dizzying moment, Aunt Jin and Jin Wengbo, who had been trapped in the formation, immediately noticed a large exit in front of them.

Experienced Aunt Jin didn't hesitate and immediately flew out of the exit with Jin Wengbo, out of the formation.

Guang RuiDaoist, who was fighting with Meng Zhang and Shocking ThunderSpirit General, suddenly felt the power of the formation that had been helping him disappear, and he lost control of the formation.

He hadn't even figured out what had happened when the spring continued to flow out, and the waterfall returned to its normal state, still falling from the sky.

This time, it was Guang RuiDaoist and the others who would taste the power of the Clear Spring Waterfall.

Wen Qiansun's voice sounded in Meng Zhang and Shocking ThunderSpirit General's ears. "Quick, let's go."

Meng Zhang didn't hesitate and flew out of the formation with Shocking ThunderSpirit General.

At this moment, neither Guang RuiDaoist, who was in the formation, nor Guang HuiDaoist, who was preparing to enter the formation, had figured out what had happened.

It turned out that Guang RuiDaoist himself wasn't proficient in formations. It was only because he had refined the formation that he could barely control the formation's power and control the formation's hidden formation.

Guang RuiDaoist's control over the formation was weak, which gave Deep EarthSpirit General and Wen Qiansun the opportunity to take advantage of it.

The two formation experts took advantage of the fact that Meng Zhang had entangled Guang RuiDaoist and the others, and that Guang RuiDaoist was too busy to pay attention, to quickly decipher the formation.

Especially Deep EarthSpirit General, who was a generation's master of formations. Even in his prime, the so-called senior experts who refined this formation might not have been able to match him.

Earth can overcome water, and his pure earth-based true qi was just right to restrain this water-based formation.

Deep EarthSpirit General and Wen Qiansun worked together, and with a deliberate move, they secretly took control of the Base Formation technique. They not only freed Meng Zhang and the others from the trap but also reversed the situation and trapped Guang RuiDaoist and the others.