

Sect Master 371

Chapter 371: Outplaying

The cultivators sent by the Fire Cloud Sect were trapped by the mysterious Jin Li Daoist Master using the Yellow Sand Ten Thousand Li Chart.

With the threat of the Fire Cloud Sect's army gone, the Flying Swan Sect finally had some breathing room.

The Flying Swan Sect's main force was still fighting the demon army, and Zhao Liefeng's team was fighting the Earthfire Sect more and more intensely.

The Flying Swan Sect had almost exhausted all of its internal strength and was unable to continue organizing cultivator teams to fight.

The Flying Swan Sect once again sent messengers to the entire Endless Sea of Sand to issue another conscription order.

The Flying Swan Sect's last conscription order had almost drawn all of the cultivator forces' main cultivators away.

This time, the conscription order was even stronger, even the old, weak, and sick cultivators who remained in the mountain gates of the various forces were being conscripted.

In the current situation facing the Flying Swan Sect, the troops were in short supply, and even the addition of a Qi Refining Stage cultivator was a rare combat force.

In this situation, the Taiyi Sect and Qiaoshou Sect could no longer continue to drift along and watch the show from the sidelines.

The Flying Swan Sect's Sect Master Fei Hongzi directly sent a message to Meng Zhang and Aunt Jin, demanding that they quickly take down the Earthfire Sect's mountain gate and then lead their troops to reinforce Zhao Liefeng.

At this point, Meng Zhang and the others could no longer continue to procrastinate.

If they did not follow Fei Hongzi's orders, they would really offend the Flying Swan Sect.

When the Flying Swan Sect was free in the future, they would definitely not let them off easily.

Fortunately, the entire Flying Swan Sect hated the Earthfire Sect for taking advantage of the fire to rob, and they all hoped that Meng Zhang and the others would conquer the Earthfire Sect's mountain gate and destroy the Earthfire Sect. That was why they did not let them leave immediately, but instead gave them some time to continue attacking the Earthfire Sect's mountain gate.

Of course, this time was not long, and the Flying Swan Sect no longer allowed Meng Zhang and the others to procrastinate.

In any case, they had already wasted so much time here, and it was time to end the battle.

Aunt Jin also arrived outside the Earthfire Sect's mountain gate, and several Foundation Building Stage cultivators joined forces to attack the Earthfire Sect's mountain protection formation with all their might.

This time, the cultivators who remained in the Earthfire Sect truly felt the pressure.

This time, they were not just going through the motions, but were really going all out.

The fierce attacks fell on the mountain protection formation like a tide.

A mere group of Qi Refining Stage cultivators could not fully unleash the power of the mountain protection formation.

The formation's power was being continuously consumed, but it could not be replenished in time.

The cultivators who were in charge of the mountain protection formation were trying their best, but to no avail.

One by one, the cultivators were being killed alive in the formation. However, the formation's defensive power was still rapidly decreasing.

The Foundation Building Stage cultivators of the Earthfire Sect did not have the tradition of entering a state of suspended animation with the Turtle Breath Technique before their lifespans were exhausted because of their cultivation techniques and personalities.

Therefore, the Earthfire Sect did not have any Foundation Building Stage cultivators in suspended animation, like the Green Bamboo Mountain and the Flying Swan Sect, who could be used as a last resort. The entire mountain gate, except for this group of Qi Refining cultivators, had no other forces.

With the passage of time, the Earthfire Sect's remaining cultivators became increasingly desperate.

If this goes on, they won't be able to hold out for long. Perhaps the next moment will be when the mountain protection formation is broken.

Some of the hot-tempered cultivators had already begun to consider whether to burn themselves and their families to death, completely destroying their own mountain gate and preventing the enemy from gaining any advantage.

Meng Zhang had anticipated this situation and had already come up with a countermeasure.

Seeing that the mountain protection formation's defensive power was getting weaker and weaker,

Meng Zhang told them to continue attacking, and he rushed back to the Taiyi Sect mountain gate as fast as he could, bringing Shangguan Wen, who had been imprisoned in the mountain gate, to the outside of the Earthfire Sect mountain gate. Meng Zhang and Shangguan Wen were alone for a long time, and it took a lot of effort to convince him.

After persuading Shangguan Wen, Meng Zhang called out, and several Foundation Building cultivators stopped attacking the Earthfire Sect mountain gate and moved away.

Shangguan Wen was released by Meng Zhang and came to the outside of the mountain protection formation alone.

Shangguan Wen had once held great power in the Earthfire Sect, and although he had been exiled by Liang Feng, he still had a lot of prestige among the Earthfire Sect disciples. Not to mention Qi Refining disciples, even Foundation Building elders had to give him some face.

Seeing Shangguan Wen appear alone outside the formation, the disciples who remained in the gate were very surprised.

Shangguan Wen went through a lot of trouble to convince the disciples inside.

He persuaded the cultivator guarding the formation to open the formation and let him in.

Shangguan Wen called the remaining cultivators in the mountain gate together and told them a shocking piece of news.

The Earthfire Sect's expeditionary army to the Flying Swan Sect was completely annihilated by the Flying Swan Sect.

The Flying Swan Sect hated the Earthfire Sect's actions so much that they decided to completely eradicate the Earthfire Sect.

Now, the Taiyi Sect and Qiaoshou Sect have surrounded the Earthfire Sect mountain gate.

Taiyi Sect Master Meng Zhang, in order to be able to obtain the Earthfire Sect mountain gate intact, put forward a condition.

As long as the Earthfire Sect disciples did not destroy the Earthfire Sect mountain gate and voluntarily surrendered. Then Meng Zhang would not only save their lives, but also save the Earthfire Sect's legacy.

After hearing Shangguan Wen's news that the Earthfire Sect's expeditionary army had been wiped out, all the cultivators in the mountain gate were already in despair.

After hearing Meng Zhang's conditions, they felt that they had a glimmer of hope.

Under Shangguan Wen's persuasion, all the cultivators in the mountain gate, after a fierce debate, were finally persuaded by Shangguan Wen.

Their own life and death are small, but the legacy of the sect is important. In order to preserve the legacy of the sect, they had to endure humiliation, live in seclusion, and temporarily lower their heads.

The Earthfire Sect Qi Refining cultivators had not practiced the sect's cultivation techniques deeply enough, and they had not experienced the pain of using earth fire for Foundation Building. So compared to the Foundation Building elders in the sect, they were not as crazy and extreme, and were more clear-headed and rational.

It was only because the sect was truly dominated by the upper-level Foundation Building cultivators, not the lower-level Qi Refining cultivators, that the Earthfire Sect developed such a crazy and extreme style.

From the bottom of their hearts, no one wanted to die for nothing. With the excuse of preserving the legacy of the sect, they finally convinced themselves to give up resisting, open the mountain protection formation, and surrender.

Everything went smoothly after that. The Earthfire Sect disciples opened the mountain protection formation and let the cultivators from the Taiyi Sect and Qiaoshou Sect in.

After the cultivators from the two sects entered, they immediately took over the control of the mountain protection formation and controlled all the important buildings inside the mountain gate.

As for Shangguan Wen and the Earthfire Sect cultivators who surrendered, they were all temporarily controlled and locked up together, preventing them from contacting the outside world.

According to Meng Zhang, this was to avoid the Flying Swan Sect's eyes and prevent the Flying Swan Sect from discovering them.

The Flying Swan Sect would never let them go in order to vent their anger. The Taiyi Sect would have to put in a lot of effort to protect them.

Chapter 372: Captivity

Meng Zhang first coaxed Shangguan Wen, then Shangguan Wen coaxed the Earthfire Sect cultivators who remained behind. Finally, the two sects took over the Earthfire Sect's mountain gate without bloodshed.

Shangguan Wen was always imprisoned in the Taiyi Sect and had no contact with the outside world. He was extremely wary of the powerful Flying Swan Sect.

Therefore, he believed Meng Zhang's lies without a doubt, and truly believed that the Flying Swan Sect had won a great victory and that the Earthfire Sect's expeditionary army had been completely annihilated.

As for Daoist Master Roaring Blaze, he had not had any news for so many years, so he could not rely on him for the time being.

Therefore, in order to preserve the Earthfire Sect's legacy, Shangguan Wen told the same lie to the Earthfire Sect's cultivators who remained behind.

The Earthfire Sect cultivators who remained behind were trapped in the city of sorrow, and all outside news was cut off. Of course, they believed Shangguan Wen, a cultivator with great prestige in the sect.

When the Earthfire Sect cultivators surrendered voluntarily and the two sects entered the Earthfire Sect's mountain gate, even if they knew the truth, it would be too late to regret it.

Shangguan Wen was not a person who easily trusted others, but he was willing to trust Meng Zhang. In addition to Meng Zhang's lies, Meng Zhang had also made a Heart Demon Oath in front of him, saying that he would do everything in his power to protect the lives of these cultivators and to preserve the Earthfire Sect's legacy.

The higher a cultivator's cultivation base is, the stronger the binding power of the Heart Demon Oath is.

For those small Qi Refining cultivators who have no hope of ever reaching Foundation Building, they can ignore the Heart Demon Oath. For Foundation Building cultivators, the binding power of the Heart Demon Oath is very strong.

Especially for cultivators with a bright future like Meng Zhang, they cannot easily violate the Heart Demon Oath.

For example, after completing Foundation Building, if you want to break through to Gold Core, you must pass the Heart Demon Gate.

After occupying the Earthfire Sect's mountain gate, all of the Earthfire Sect cultivators, including Shangguan Wen, were sealed off from their cultivation bases and secretly imprisoned.

In this way, Meng Zhang would not be considered to have violated his Heart Demon Oath.

And imprisoning them secretly did indeed prevent them from being retaliated against by the Flying Swan Sect.

Taking over the Earthfire Sect's mountain gate in one piece was the biggest war trophy since the war began.

According to the previous agreement, this war trophy belonged to the Taiyi Sect alone.

Although the Earthfire Sect's expeditionary army had taken away a lot of supplies, the Taiyi Sect still made a lot of gains in the Earthfire Sect's treasury. Especially the discovery of many rare and precious spiritual objects, even Meng Zhang was very satisfied.

Among them, the Sunstone and Moonjade Liquid, even if they were only some broken pieces, were difficult to buy even in Great Wind City.

Now that these two Heaven and Earth Spiritual Objects have fallen into Meng Zhang's hands, he only needs to completely refine them, and at least he can save 10 to 20 years of time to complete his Foundation Building cultivation.

In the Endless Sea of Sand, where the situation is becoming increasingly tense and the war is becoming more and more intense, Meng Zhang urgently needs to quickly improve his strength. These two Heaven and Earth Spiritual Objects came at the right time.

The various scriptures collected in the Earthfire Sect's Hidden Scripture Pavilion are even more abundant.

The Earthfire Sect was a major power on par with the Twin Success Valley back then, and in terms of wealth, it was even richer than the Twin Success Valley.

With the Firewell Market as a treasure trove, it can not only collect a large amount of cultivation resources, but also have access to all kinds of cultivation scriptures. With this Hidden Scripture Pavillion, an Earthfire Sect can almost be rebuilt.

Adding these classics to Taiyi Sect's Hidden Scripture Pavillion will not only greatly enhance Taiyi Sect's foundation, but also compensate for Taiyi Sect's weaknesses.

Earthfire Sect's refining techniques are unique. Especially the secret recipe for Earthfire Sect's refining of Red Flame Oil is particularly precious.

Flying Swan Sect is urging Meng Zhang to hurry up and he can't delay too long.

After dealing with Shangguan Wen and the others, and briefly counting the spoils of war, it's time to move. Meng Zhang, Deep Earth Spirit General, Hu Jing, Aunt Jin and Jin Qiao'er, the five Foundation Building stage cultivators, were all named by Flying Swan Sect. They must hurry to the front line where Zhao Liefeng and Earthfire Sect are fighting.

Helpless, Meng Zhang could only let Shi Changqing, who was in closed-door training to expel pill toxin, temporarily leave the closed-door training and take charge of the overall situation.

At a critical moment, he was interrupted. Shi Changqing will need to spend more time to expel the pill toxin in the future.

Of course, the situation is still better on Taiyi Sect's side. On the Land Walk Sect's side, even the Foundation Building stage cultivator who was sitting in the sect was forced to go to the battlefield.

In addition, Meng Zhang left a group of elite Refining Qi stage disciples to help Shi Changqing maintain the order of the territory.

After hastily arranging various matters, Meng Zhang took the joint army of the two sects and flew to Flying Swan Sect's territory.

Along the way, the Flying Swan Sect strongholds, including the Twin Success Valley gate and the original Green Bamboo Mountain gate, have all been destroyed by the Earthfire Sect army.

The cultivators were all slaughtered, and the buildings were all knocked down. Probably because of time constraints, Earthfire Sect has not yet had time to destroy the spirit field and damage the spirit vein.

Seeing that many spirit field Spirit Plants are still intact, and many are about to mature.

Meng Zhang's eyes turned, and a mosquito's leg is still meat. Moreover, this place is not far from Taiyi Sect's territory, and it can be fully taken care of.

Meng Zhang left several Refining Qi stage disciples in these places to take care of the spirit field and harvest the Spirit Plants when they mature.

In addition, when they are free, they can also search in the ruins. If they can gain anything, it will be their unexpected income.

Meng Zhang did not bring a single Qi Condensation stage cultivator on this expedition. Even the Refining Qi middle stage cultivators, they have to choose those who are more clever and have strong survival ability to bring along. Some Refining Qi late stage cultivators need to be left to guard the territory.

So the number of Refining Qi stage disciples from Taiyi Sect and its sects who went on the expedition is less than two hundred.

Two Second Rank flying boats can accommodate everyone.

The two Second Rank flying boats are also considered to be light and fast, and it didn't take long to enter Flying Swan Sect's direct territory.

This place is a long way from Taiyi Sect's territory, and Meng Zhang didn't have the heart to pick up the bargain and ordered the flying boat to speed up.

Finally, within the time limit set by Flying Swan Sect, the flying boat arrived at the battlefield and met Zhao Liefeng.

During this period of intense battle, both sides not only suffered heavy casualties of Refining Qi stage disciples, but also several Foundation Building stage cultivators died in battle. Both sides were angry and fought to the death.

In fact, Zhao Liefeng's side is not as strong as Earthfire Sect. Although he did his best to support, and his cultivators also fought desperately with the determination to win, they were gradually falling behind.

Meng Zhang's reinforcements came at the right time and helped Zhao Liefeng a lot.

The reinforcements arrived at the time when a battle ended and both sides temporarily withdrew to their camps.

A green oasis in front of us is the Flying Swan Sect's camp this time.

Meng Zhang and Aunt Jin left the flying boat far away, and the two of them flew directly to the Flying Swan Sect's camp to meet Zhao Liefeng.

Although they were far from the battlefield, Meng Zhang and Jin Ayi had sharp eyes and could see the situation around the battlefield.

In the desert less than a hundred miles in front of the Flying Swan Sect camp, there were potholes and ravines of different sizes everywhere, with various traces of freezing and burning.

The limbs and arms that had not been cleaned up on the battlefield, the mutilated corpses, and the flowing blood gave the two people a great shock.

Chapter 373: Reinforcement

Meng Zhang and Aunt Jin have also experienced many large-scale battles in the cultivation world. It is not an exaggeration to say that they are veterans. However, this scene of carnage is still very stressful for them.

Compared to the battles they fought in the past, this battle is more bloody and crazy.

The two of them were heavy-hearted, silent, and did not feel like talking.

This oasis originally belonged to a vassal family of Flying Swan Sect. After Zhao Liefeng led his team here, he temporarily requisitioned it as a camp for the cultivators of Flying Swan Sect.

This is only a First Rank spirit vein. It is simply insufficient for the daily use of Foundation Building cultivators.

Many cultivators of Flying Swan Sect consumed spirit stones and absorbed spiritual energy to replenish their true qi.

Outside the oasis, there is a First Rank defensive formation. In this level of battle, this level of formation is just a formality, and it can barely serve as a warning.

Meng Zhang and Aunt Jin came to the defensive formation and notified the cultivators inside.

After a while, the formation opened and the two entered the oasis and met Zhao Liefeng directly.

Meng Zhang had never dealt with Zhao Liefeng before, and at most had met him a few times.

Aunt Jin knew him.

Now is clearly not the time to build relationships.

Zhao Liefeng, the dignified Hall Master of the Flying Swan Sect War Hall, a Foundation Building late-stage cultivator, looked haggard at this moment, and his eyes were filled with unconcealable fatigue.

His aura was also fluctuating, and it was obvious that he was injured.

Zhao Liefeng looked at Meng Zhang and Aunt Jin, and said nothing, making the two of them feel a deep pressure.

After a while, Zhao Liefeng spoke.

"You're finally here. If you had come a few days later, you could have collected my corpse."

"Maybe we don't have to collect the corpses. Anyway, in our battles with the Earthfire Sect, we never leave the enemy with a complete corpse."

Meng Zhang and Aunt Jin were a bit at a loss for words.

In the end, Aunt Jin, relying on her age and prestige, laughed dryly.

"Hall Master Zhao, you are too kind. The Earthfire Sect thieves are not capable of taking you down."

Zhao Liefeng seemed to have not heard Aunt Jin's words, and continued to say to himself: "It's good that you're here, it's good that you're here. You're not too late."

"It's just that the Earthfire Sect is a bunch of trash. They really made so many people in our sect misjudge them."

"I thought it was a harmless bait that could only be used to catch fish. Who would have thought that these guys were actually vicious dogs that would bite back."

Zhao Liefeng's tone was filled with regret for his previous decision and his current hatred for the Earthfire Sect.

"The old thief Lieyan is dead, and his disciples will soon join him."

Meng Zhang participated in the plan to exterminate Forest Spring Watch. Later, the previous Sect Master of Earthfire Sect, Shangguan Longyan, also used the black market to try to find out the details.

Meng Zhang had guessed at the time that the Guang Zhi Daoist Master of Forest Spring Watch and the Roaring Blaze Daoist Master of Earthfire Sect had probably met with an accident. Now, it was finally confirmed by Zhao Liefeng.

Meng Zhang, who understood the cause and effect, had a little understanding of Zhao Liefeng's feelings. Flying Swan Sect has been hiding the news of Guang Zhi Daoist Master and Daoist Master Roaring Blaze's death, and has not harmed Earthfire Sect in any way, in order to use Earthfire Sect as bait to lure Fire Cloud Sect into a trap.

In the eyes of the upper echelons of Flying Swan Sect, without Daoist Master Roaring Blaze, Earthfire Sect is nothing to worry about, and their greatest value is as bait.

But unexpectedly, the Earthfire Sect, which had always been looked down upon by Flying Swan Sect, suddenly jumped out and bit back, biting so deep and so hard that it made Flying Swan Sect feel pain.

It is likely that the Flying Swan Sect upper echelons who decided to leave Earthfire Sect at the beginning regret it. The pressure accumulated over this period of time was too great. Because of my own rash battle, the mountain gate was empty, and the enemy took advantage of the opportunity to destroy the mountain gate. The battle with Earthfire Sect has been very costly, and the battle has not gone well...

All of this pressure was placed on Zhao Liefeng, making him, a Flying Swan Sect upper echelon, feel a little overwhelmed.

He couldn't help himself, and in front of Meng Zhang and Aunt Jin, he was half venting and half warning them.

After a while, after venting his anger, Zhao Liefeng went on to the main topic.

"With your arrival, our strength will increase greatly, and we should be able to withstand the enemy's attack."

"You will set up camp and establish a camp about ten miles away from here."

"Our two camps will support each other and protect each other, and the enemy will not be able to attack so easily."

Listening to Zhao Liefeng's arrangement, now it is mainly defense, which is not very consistent with his personality and his previous performance.

Sensing Meng Zhang and Aunt Jin's puzzled gaze, Zhao Liefeng's face showed a few ugly smiles.

"Fei Yu Daoist Master has already ordered that we must first pacify the internal enemies before we can fight against the external enemies. We must first solve the problem of the Earthfire Sect bandits."

"We will temporarily block them here, and we will also entangle them, so that they will not be able to escape easily."

"When the reinforcements drawn from the front line arrive, we will immediately launch a general attack and wipe out the bandits on the other side."

Although Meng Zhang and Aunt Jin did not personally experience the front line where Flying Swan Sect and the demon army were fighting fiercely, they knew through various channels that the battle there was tight, and Flying Swan Sect was already doing its best.

Now we have to draw strength from there to eliminate Earthfire Sect. I'm afraid the situation on the front line fighting against the demon army will be even worse.

I don't know if Fei Yu Daoist Master made this decision after rational thinking, or if he was driven by anger.

Of course, on the surface, this decision is still reasonable.

First, we will solve the internal enemy of the Endless Sea of Sand, Earthfire Sect, and then we will focus on dealing with the external enemy.

Meng Zhang is worried that if too much strength is drawn, Flying Swan Sect will not be able to withstand the demon army, and the situation will collapse, then it will be bad.

Although Meng Zhang has all sorts of dissatisfaction with Flying Swan Sect, and his heart is also full of vigilance, Meng Zhang has to admit that Flying Swan Sect is still the pillar of the Endless Sea of Sand.

If Flying Swan Sect does not take the lead, the cultivation forces of the Endless Sea of Sand will not be able to withstand the attack of the demon army.

As a human cultivator, Meng Zhang naturally does not want to see the demon army kill its way into the Endless Sea of Sand, killing and destroying here.

Unfortunately, Meng Zhang is not in a position to interfere with Fei Yu Daoist Master's decision.

Since Fei Yu Daoist Master has already made a decision, Meng Zhang can only obediently accept the result.

Next, Zhao Liefeng will introduce Meng Zhang and the others in detail about the situation on the Earthfire Sect side.

Which cultivators are there in Earthfire Sect, who are particularly difficult to deal with, and what kind of cultivation techniques have they cultivated.

What habits do the cultivators of Earthfire Sect have when fighting, and what kind of tactics do they often use.

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In the face of a great enemy, Zhao Liefeng did not hide anything, and he carefully explained all the information about the enemy.

Zhao Liefeng's words really helped a lot. It might save the lives of many Taiyi Sect and Qiaoshou Sect cultivators.

Chapter 374: Reinforcements Arrive (1)

With a great enemy before them, Zhao Liefeng truly had no selfish thoughts, but instead focused all of his attention on how to deal with the enemy.

Meng Zhang and Aunt Jin listened dutifully to Zhao Liefeng's explanation, not daring to relax in the slightest.

After half a day of talking, Zhao Liefeng finally finished telling them everything he knew about the Earthfire Sect cultivators.

After hearing Zhao Liefeng's explanation, Meng Zhang and Aunt Jin bid farewell and left.

The two of them left the Flying Swan Sect camp and returned to their own flying boats.

The two flying boats landed about ten li away from the Flying Swan Sect camp, facing the Flying Swan Sect camp and directly facing the Earthfire Sect's temporary camp.

The cultivators from the Taiyi Sect and the Flying Swan Sect surrounded the two flying boats and formed a temporary camp.

Meng Zhang and Aunt Jin gathered the main cultivators from the two sects and passed on Zhao Liefeng's explanation to them.

Knowing yourself and your enemy is the key to victory. This time, Zhao Liefeng had done a great thing.

He had led the Flying Swan Sect disciples and fought against the Earthfire Sect for so long that he had a certain understanding of the cultivators on the Earthfire Sect side.

His explanation could quickly help the cultivators from the two sects understand the details of the Earthfire Sect.

Perhaps they had discovered the reinforcements, and the Earthfire Sect, which had been resting, immediately ended their rest and began to mobilize their people.

The cultivators were much faster than ordinary people, and the Earthfire Sect quickly formed their formation, and the small battle formations advanced towards the Flying Swan Sect camp.

This oasis was not very big, and the spirit vein was average. The defensive formation was not very useful. So, since the start of the battle, Zhao Liefeng had never been in a defensive position, and he had always actively engaged the enemy.

Even if he had suffered heavy losses and was clearly at a disadvantage, he had not changed his strategy.

The Flying Swan Sect disciples emerged from the oasis and formed four formations not far apart.

In each formation, there was a floating stone tablet in the center of the formation, and the other disciples surrounded the stone tablet to form a formation.

This was the Flying Swan Sect's Four Directions Subduing Mountain Formation, which shook the world and intimidated the entire Endless Sea of Sand.

When the Green Bamboo Mountain had used the two discarded stone tablets from the Flying Swan Sect to form a crude Four Directions Subduing Mountain Formation, it had shocked all the major cultivation sects.

Now, the Flying Swan Sect War Hall Master Zhao Liefeng was personally presiding over the ceremony, using the Flying Swan Sect's secret technique to activate the four intact stone tablets and form a complete Four Directions Subduing Mountain Formation.

Due to the limited conditions, Zhao Liefeng could only form a small Four Directions Subduing Mountain Formation.

In fact, this Four Directions Subduing Mountain Formation had played a decisive role in the recent battle.

At the beginning of the battle, the number of Foundation Building Stage cultivators in the Flying Swan Sect was far inferior to that of the enemy, and the number of Qi Refining Stage disciples was less than a third of that of the enemy.

It was all thanks to the Four Directions Subduing Mountain Formation that the Flying Swan Sect was able to withstand the enemy's attack with its inferior strength and inflict heavy damage on the enemy.

On the other hand, the Earthfire Sect could only form a series of small formations with average power. In the face of the Four Directions Subduing Mountain Formation, which was a professional war formation, they had an absolute advantage in strength, but they were unable to defeat the enemy.

With their numerical advantage, they had finally managed to wear down the enemy, and it seemed that victory was not far away. However, the enemy's reinforcements had arrived in time.

The Earthfire Sect had already staked everything on this battle, and there was no turning back. So, Sect Master Liang Feng decided to take advantage of the enemy reinforcements who were not yet stable, and immediately launched an attack, hoping to defeat the enemy on the spot.

After the fierce battle over the past period of time, there were still more than a hundred Qi Refining disciples on the Flying Swan Sect side. But it was these hundred people who, after setting up the Four Directions Subduing Mountain Formation, actually had a Thousand Troops and Ten Thousand Horses.

Meng Zhang and the others were not here to watch the show, so naturally they couldn't just watch Zhao Liefeng's side be defeated by the enemy.

The Taiyi Sect disciples set up a Heaven and Earth Rotating Formation, while the Qiaoshou Sect set up the sect's secret Heavenly Maiden Scattering Flowers Formation.

The two base formations advanced and retreated together, responding to each other, and headed towards the Earthfire Sect disciples' formation.

Meng Zhang and the other five Foundation Building cultivators did not leave the Qi Refining disciples' formation this time. Instead, they moved with the formation, advancing and retreating together. The Earthfire Sect cultivators first collided with the Flying Swan Sect's Four Directions Subduing Mountain Formation, and immediately a bloody battle broke out.

Then the Taiyi Sect and Qiaoshou Sect formations surrounded them from the side and killed their way into the Earthfire Sect formation.

A fierce battle ensued, and the Taiyi Sect and Qiaoshou Sect's two base formations played a huge role, putting a lot of pressure on the Earthfire Sect cultivators.

After Meng Zhang and the other five Foundation Building cultivators joined, the Flying Swan Sect side already had an advantage in terms of the number of Foundation Building cultivators.

However, in terms of high-end combat power, the Earthfire Sect had Liang Feng and the three Liu Family brothers, three Foundation Building late stage cultivators, who could make up for the lack of Foundation Building cultivators.

As for the Qi Refining cultivators, the Earthfire Sect cultivators had far more numbers than their opponents. However, their opponents had a clever formation coordination, which allowed them to fully exert their fighting strength and fight against a larger number of enemies.

Both sides fought for half a day, and both suffered heavy casualties, but neither side was victorious.

If this continued, it would be another bloody battle of attrition, and it would not be possible to determine the victor in three or five days.

After the battle had lasted for half a day, both sides of cultivators were exhausted and their true qi was depleted.

There are still pill toxins in the pills that restore true qi and restore their condition, so they cannot be taken continuously.

Night was about to fall, and both sides were exhausted to the point that they could only reluctantly withdraw their troops and return to their camps to rest, waiting for the next day to fight again.

A battle between cultivators of this level did not have any room for tactics or tricks, it was a real clash of heads, with no room for any trickery.

Neither side had the time to play games like feinting or sneaking an attack at night.

After resting for a night, although both sides were not fully recovered, they still had to grit their teeth and continue fighting.

In this regard, the Taiyi Sect and Qiaoshou Sect cultivators, who were sent into battle as reinforcements, had a great advantage.

They were in better condition and had greater endurance. In terms of casualties, they were also in a much better situation.

This day was another bloody day, and after a bloody battle for almost a day, everyone withdrew their troops and returned to their camps to rest.

If there was no external force intervening, both sides would continue to fight, bleeding and consuming until one side was completely drained of blood.

In the evening, while both sides of cultivators were resting, the Flying Swan Sect's reinforcements arrived again.

This time, it was not the Flying Swan Sect's own disciples who came to reinforce them, but the disciples of the Taiyi Sect and Qiaoshou Sect who were summoned last time.

The main force was still behind, Jin Qigu and Wen Qiansun went ahead, and took advantage of the night to arrive at the oasis where the Flying Swan Sect disciples were stationed.

They successfully met with Zhao Liefeng, and then Meng Zhang and Aunt Jin were also called over.

Chapter 375: Reinforcements Arrive (Last Part)

Meng Zhang and the others had not seen their fellow disciples in a long time, and they had not had a chance to reminisce before Zhao Liefeng began assigning tasks.

On the morrow, Zhao Liefeng and Meng Zhang would lead their respective forces to do battle with the Earthfire Sect on the battlefield.

Wen Qiansun and the others would lead the reinforcements to launch a surprise attack while the two armies were engaged in combat.

That way, even if the Earthfire Sect discovered that something was amiss and tried to retreat, they would not be able to do so.

The purpose of this battle was not simply to defeat the Earthfire Sect army. It was to annihilate the enemy, and if that could not be achieved, at least their main force would be annihilated, completely eliminating Flying Swan Sect's worries.

Time was of the essence, so Zhao Liefeng spoke concisely, quickly explaining the arrangements for the following day.

As for the situation with the Earthfire Sect, he had already compiled a report, which Wen Qiansun and the others were to take back and convey to the reinforcements that had not yet arrived.

After giving instructions on everything, Jin Qigu hurried back to meet up with the reinforcements that were still on the way.

Wen Qiansun was detained by Meng Zhang, who brought him and Aunt Jin to a secluded place for a brief chat.

Meng Zhang and Aunt Jin were most concerned about the safety of their disciples.

The Foundation Building stage cultivators from the two sects were not harmed, which was extremely fortunate. However, the Qi Refining stage cultivators had almost lost half of their number.

It was very unpleasant for Meng Zhang and Aunt Jin to see their disciples, whom they had painstakingly raised, being consumed on the battlefield.

Of course, the disciples from the two sects did not gain nothing from this experience.

According to Wen Qiansun, the cultivators who survived this battle had not only gained a wealth of combat experience, but their character had also grown considerably.

Meng Zhang believed Wen Qiansun's words.

Just looking at Wen Qiansun himself, although his face was haggard, he had become more composed and had a determined look in his eyes.

In addition to giving a brief introduction of the situation with the disciples from the two sects, Wen Qiansun also revealed some inside information.

Flying Swan Sect had considered many factors when sending the Taiyi Sect and Qiaoshou Sect disciples back as reinforcements.

Of course, to ensure the annihilation of the Earthfire Sect army, they could not send a weak team. The reinforcements they sent had to be strong enough.

Flying Swan Sect's disciples were powerful and worked well together, but they had the important task of stabilizing the battlefield and could not be easily withdrawn from the battlefield. The

cultivators from the other sects that had been summoned were not as strong as the Taiyi Sect disciples.

In addition, Taiyi Sect and Qiaoshou Sect had been neighbors of the Earthfire Sect for many years and should have a good understanding of the situation there.

Therefore, after careful consideration, Fei Yu Daoist Master sent the Taiyi Sect and Qiaoshou Sect disciples back as reinforcements.

Fei Yu Daoist Master had given an ironclad order. This time, they must eliminate the Earthfire Sect and completely eliminate Flying Swan Sect's worries.

Upon receiving the order, the Taiyi Sect disciples gathered immediately and boarded a flying boat to rush here.

After Wen Qiansun had finished explaining the situation, it was not appropriate for him to stay any longer. He said goodbye and left to meet up with the reinforcements that were still on the way.

The reinforcements were about to arrive, and Meng Zhang and Aunt Jin were relieved.

After returning to their own camp, they told the Foundation Building stage cultivators that reinforcements were about to arrive, which boosted their morale.

The next morning, the cultivators from both sides fought another fierce battle on the open desert.

The battle was as intense and bloody as before. In the afternoon, when both sides of cultivators were exhausted, the reinforcements finally arrived on the battlefield. Two Second Rank flying boats descended rapidly from the sky. The flying boats had not yet landed on the ground before a group of Qi Refining cultivators jumped down from them and landed on the ground.

After they landed, they did not need anyone to give them orders before they began to organize themselves and form a neat formation.

It seemed that after being tempered in the battlefield, these disciples had made considerable progress in all aspects.

Seeing that the enemy had reinforcements arriving at the battlefield, Liang Feng felt uneasy. Originally, both sides were evenly matched. If this troop of reinforcements joined the battle, his side might not be able to hold out.

Liang Feng hurriedly transmitted a message to the Liu brothers.

"The situation is critical. Now is the time for you brothers to fight with all your might."

As the cultivators with the highest cultivation base and strongest combat power on the field, the Liu brothers had to stand up and stop the enemy reinforcements. Only then would Earthfire Sect have a chance to fight back.

Now that things had come to this, the Liu brothers certainly had no reason to give up.

They were not fighting for the future of Earthfire Sect, but to tie up the Flying Swan Sect's forces as much as possible and make the Flying Swan Sect pay a heavy price.

The two Liu brothers looked at each other and, with great tacit understanding, abandoned their respective opponents and flew into the sky, flying towards the reinforcements that had just arrived and were now forming up.

The two brothers were very fast. Within a few breaths, they had arrived at the front of the reinforcements.

With their Foundation Building late-stage cultivation base, as long as they did not encounter a Golden Core Daoist Master, they could run rampant.

Seeing the Liu brothers flying over, Wen Qiansun, who was standing in front of the formation, lightly shook his hand and took out a formation diagram.

After Taiyi Sect had seized this Clear Spring Waterfall diagram from Forest Spring Watch, this diagram had been kept by Wen Qiansun.

Wen Qiansun was extremely proficient in formations. After so many years of groping and research, he had finally managed to master this diagram and could now exert most of its power.

The Liu brothers rushed over with confidence, only to run headlong into the Clear Spring Waterfall diagram.

They only saw the scenery change before their eyes. In the sky, a waterfall was pouring down, and on the ground, clear springs were gushing out. They could no longer see the desert outside.

The Liu brothers came from a Golden Core sect like Fire Cloud Sect, so they were naturally well-informed and had eyes that were not comparable to ordinary cultivators.

They recognized the enemy's methods and knew the power of the formation diagram, and they also knew the consequences of being trapped.

They secretly cried out in alarm that something was wrong, and immediately used all their strength to break the formation diagram and escape.

The Liu brothers were careless for a moment and jumped into the trap. They deserved to be unlucky.

Wen Qiansun immediately began to control the formation diagram and activate the formation, trapping the Liu brothers inside and preventing them from escaping for the time being.

The Earthfire Sect's most powerful Liu brothers were trapped, and their overall fighting strength was greatly affected.

Zhao Liefeng, Meng Zhang, and the others, who were all experienced fighters, immediately seized the opportunity to counterattack and tightly entangled the Earthfire Sect cultivators.

The Shocking Thunder Spirit General rode alone into the Earthfire Sect formation and began to kill.

Yang Xueyi had no choice but to lead the remaining Taiyi Sect disciples to quickly follow and join the battle.

Almost at the same time, Jin Qigu and Jin Wengbo led the Qiaoshou Sect cultivators to attack the Earthfire Sect camp.

The Earthfire Sect's side, which had lost a lot of strength, was quickly overwhelmed by the enemy, who had gained powerful reinforcements.

As the newly arrived reinforcements joined the great battle, the Flying Swan Sect not only outnumbered their opponents in Foundation Building cultivators, but even the gap in Refining Qi cultivators was significantly narrowed.

With an absolute advantage, victory posed no problem for them. However, after falling into a disadvantageous position, most of the Earthfire Sect cultivators did not choose to escape but instead fought desperately, seeking a chance to take their enemies down with them.

Though the Flying Swan Sect had anticipated the frenzy of the Earthfire Sect cultivators, facing their insane attacks, especially the strategy of several Foundation Building cultivators sacrificing themselves, put considerable pressure on them.

Despite victory being within sight, one Foundation Building cultivator from the Flying Swan Sect was still dragged to death by the enemy. Qiaoshou Sect's Jin Wengbo had also fallen victim to an Earthfire Sect Foundation Building cultivator, and both perished together.

In the midst of Earthfire Sect's desperate attacks, even with a Formation formed by the Refining Qi cultivators of the Flying Swan Sect, Taiyi Sect, and Qiaoshou Sect, they still suffered considerable casualties.

Seeing their disciples fighting so fiercely, Earthfire Sect's Sect Master, Liang Feng, felt somewhat guilty for abandoning them and attempting to flee. He tried to escape, and although he managed to shake off Zhao Liefeng's pursuit, he didn't get far.

Meng Zhang easily caught up to him and stopped him. Being a Foundation Building late-stage cultivator, Liang Feng had forcefully advanced with the help of pills, resulting in significant cultivation flaws. On the other hand, Meng Zhang had a solid foundation and knew many powerful techniques.

After a bloody battle, Meng Zhang unleashed his small Divine Ability, the Twin Forms Towards Heaven Sword, and killed Liang Feng on the spot.

The Liu Family brothers were trapped in the Clear Spring Cascade Formation, fiercely attacking and putting great pressure on Wen Qiansun, who was in charge of maintaining the formation.

As disciples of a major sect, the Liu Family brothers practiced high-level techniques and possessed several inherited secrets, also being Foundation Building late-stage cultivators.

After an intense battle, Wen Qiansun seemed unable to hold on any longer and had to release them from the formation. However, as they flew out of the formation and felt the joy of regaining their freedom, they fell into despair as they witnessed the devastating situation caused by the Earthfire Sect's defeat.

The Earthfire Sect cultivators suffered a crushing defeat, with most of them killed on the spot, and only a few managed to escape. The free Foundation Building cultivators mostly stayed outside the Clear Spring Cascade Formation, surrounding the place.

As for the powerful cultivators from the Fire Cloud Sect, no matter how strong they were as Foundation Building late-stage experts, facing the siege of nearly ten Foundation Building cultivators, they were ultimately killed without even the chance to escape.

Zhao Liefeng deeply hated the Earthfire Sect individuals. Despite their overwhelming victory, he ordered a full pursuit, vowing to eliminate every one of them.

The cultivators from the three sects exerted considerable effort to hunt down the fleeing Earthfire Sect members. After completing their mission and basically annihilating the Earthfire Sect cultivators, they finally had time to clean up the battlefield, tend to the wounded, and recover their strength.

This battle had been far from easy for the cultivators of the three sects. Apart from the significant losses, there were many injured among the remaining cultivators.

Although Zhao Liefeng was fierce and strict, he wasn't entirely heartless. Even though he knew that the frontlines of the Flying Swan Sect were in urgent need of support due to the battle against the demonic beasts, he allowed everyone to rest for one night to recover their strength before rushing to the frontlines.

Knowing that even more arduous battles awaited them, the cultivators of the three sects had no mood to celebrate victory. Instead, they seized the time to meditate and heal their injuries.

Meng Zhang had sustained some non-trivial injuries during the day when he killed Earthfire Sect's Sect Master, Liang Feng. In the evening, he was still meditating to recover when an unexpected message interrupted his healing.

Two days ago, many demon beasts surged out of the Demon Wind Gobi and invaded the territory once held by the Golden Blade Sect. The area now belonged to the Qiaoshou Sect, which had fortified its defenses many years ago to prevent the demon beasts from attacking.

However, responding to the Flying Swan Sect's call to arms, the Qiaoshou Sect had to mobilize a large number of cultivators, leaving their defense in that area significantly weakened and unable to resist the onslaught of the demon beasts.

The few remaining defenders could only seek help from their ally, the Taiyi Sect, while constantly retreating. The demon beasts charged through, directly entering the heart of what was once the Golden Blade Sect's territory.

All the human oases along the way and Qiaoshou Sect's strongholds were easily razed to the ground, experiencing total destruction.

Fortunately, the Qiaoshou Sect was lucky that Taiyi Sect's War Hall Master, Zheng Chao, had just successfully broken through to the Foundation Building stage a few days before.

Zheng Chao had been closed in seclusion, attempting to break through to the Foundation Building stage after exterminating the Forest Spring Watch of the Taiyi Sect. Roughly estimating, it had taken him more than ten years to achieve this feat.

It was quite rare for a Refining Qi completion cultivator to spend more than ten years to break through to the Foundation Building stage. Some suspected that something might have gone wrong during Zheng Chao's seclusion, causing him to go berserk and die inside.

Meng Zhang had also used the Grand Evolving Fortune to predict Zheng Chao's situation and found that he had encountered dangers but eventually turned things around and survived.

Based on this prediction, he had vetoed the idea of forcefully interrupting Zheng Chao's seclusion to check on him and allowed him to continue his closed-door cultivation.

Since then, Zheng Chao had not participated in several actions of the Taiyi Sect. When the Flying Swan Sect ordered Meng Zhang and other Taiyi Sect Foundation Building cultivators to attack the Earthfire Sect, Zheng Chao was still in seclusion and was not on the enlistment list.

However, shortly after Taiyi Sect and Qiaoshou Sect's reinforcements were dispatched, Zheng Chao successfully broke through to the Foundation Building stage and emerged from seclusion.

Receiving Qiaoshou Sect's distress call, Zheng Chao knew that if he didn't stop the demon beast horde in the Qiaoshou Sect's territory, they would invade the Taiyi Sect's territory, causing even greater losses.

Thus, Zheng Chao called upon Shi Changqing, who was stationed at Singing Sand City, and gathered the remaining Taiyi Sect cultivators to rush to Qiaoshou Sect's aid.

Fortunately, they arrived just in time and, with the help of a solid mountain protection great formation and Qiaoshou Sect's defenders, managed to temporarily keep the overwhelming number of demon beasts at bay, blocking their charge at the former Golden Blade Sect's mountain gate.

Chapter 377: Ten Thousand Li (0.5 km) Rush to the Rescue

Amidst the massive invasion of demonic beasts, the cultivators of Qiaoshou Sect began sending out distress signals. When Zheng Chao and the others went to reinforce the defense, they also dispatched a messenger to seek help from Meng Zhang's team. The Second Rank Wind Driving Shuttle left behind by Meng Zhang at the sect played its role as the disciples piloted the flying vessel and quickly covered the vast distance, catching up with Meng Zhang's leading team.

Upon receiving the distress call from their disciples, Meng Zhang felt extremely anxious and wasted no time. He immediately sought Aunt Jin's presence to inform her of the situation. Qiaoshou Sect was on the front line, facing the fierce onslaught of demonic beasts that had already breached their territory and caused great destruction. Aunt Jin was even more distressed than Meng Zhang.

Together, they rushed to meet Zhao Lie Feng. Both sects' foundations were on the brink of danger, and even if it meant falling out with Zhao Lie Feng, they had to leave immediately and rush to aid their sects. If they couldn't defend their own sects, they wouldn't have the heart to continue battling the demonic army.

Seeing the two of them, Zhao Lie Feng listened to Meng Zhang's brief explanation and quickly understood the grave situation both sects were facing. Finally, Meng Zhang and Aunt Jin both implored Zhao Lie Feng to allow them to return and reinforce their respective sects. If even their own sects couldn't be safeguarded, they would have no intention to continue fighting the demonic army on the battlefield.

Zhao Lie Feng pondered for a long time, looking at Meng Zhang and Aunt Jin without speaking. He knew Meng Zhang wouldn't lie about this matter; the demonic beasts must have invaded both sects' territories on a large scale. At such a critical moment for their sects' survival, Zhao Lie Feng worried that Meng Zhang and the others might act recklessly if he firmly rejected their request. It could lead to discontent and even hatred toward the Flying Swan Sect.

While the main force of the Flying Swan Sect was still engaged with the demonic army, Zhao Lie Feng didn't want to force Meng Zhang and the others excessively. He was tough but not foolish and inflexible. He also had concerns about tearing his relationships with Taiyi Sect and Qiaoshou Sect and completely breaking ties.

After much consideration, Zhao Lie Feng finally relented. He issued an order in the name of the Flying Swan Sect's War Hall Master, instructing the cultivators of Taiyi Sect to rush to Qiaoshou Sect's territory immediately to resist the demonic invasion. They were to put all their efforts into safeguarding the side battlefield and relieve pressure from the main battlefield.

Zhao Lie Feng, known for his firmness, displayed a reasonable and measured approach, not rejecting Meng Zhang's request while maintaining the authority of the Flying Swan Sect and avoiding flip-flopping on decisions. This unexpected flexibility and adaptability made Meng Zhang and Aunt Jin look at him in a new light.

With the rescue forces mobilized like firefighters, Meng Zhang and Aunt Jin didn't waste time and promptly took their leave. Back at their respective sects' camps, the cultivators had already learned of the demonic invasion and the dire situation from the requesting disciples. They were all anxious.

With their mountain gates under threat, many of the cultivators' family members remained nearby, and they no longer had the inclination to continue fighting for the Flying Swan Sect.

Fortunately, Meng Zhang didn't disappoint them. He brought back new orders, and both sects immediately withdrew their forces, urgently rushing to the rear for reinforcement.

Meng Zhang didn't hesitate and took command without any false modesty. He began issuing orders to the cultivators of both sects. The forces were divided into three parts: Meng Zhang and several well-conditioned Foundation Building cultivators boarded the Wind Driving Shuttle to rush back for reinforcements; the main forces organized and boarded two Second Rank flying vessels to follow closely behind; and finally, a group of heavily injured disciples were allowed to stay and recuperate before slowly making their way back.

In the previous battle with Earthfire Sect during the day, many of the cultivators from both sects suffered varying degrees of injuries, including some seriously wounded.

However, facing the critical situation of the sects' territories being invaded, not only did lightly injured cultivators volunteer for the first wave of attack, but even many seriously injured ones competed to be part of the immediate reinforcement.

Now was not the time to argue with these cultivators. Meng Zhang selected several well-conditioned Foundation Building cultivators and boarded the Second Rank Wind Driving Shuttle, immediately leaving for their destination.

This Wind Driving Shuttle, originally compensated by the black market, was exceptionally fast, but it could only carry a limited number of cultivators. The shuttle was slender and sharp, and its interior space was quite small. To fully exploit the shuttle's speed advantage, it was best to use middle-grade spirit stones for propulsion.

At this critical moment, no one was concerned about conserving spirit stones. In recent years, Taiyi Sect had developed prosperously, and there was no shortage of spirit stones.

After a quick departure, the Wind Driving Shuttle did not take long to organize the remaining forces. They boarded the two Second Rank flying vessels and set off for reinforcements.

As for the heavily injured and those in poor condition, they could only wait patiently.

With a sufficient supply of middle-grade spirit stones and the Wind Driving Shuttle operating at full speed, the group led by Meng Zhang, boarded the Second Rank Wind Driving Shuttle, quickly traversed the vast distance.

Fortunately, the battle location with Earthfire Sect's cultivators did not penetrate too deeply into Flying Swan Sect's territory, and the distance to Qiaoshou Sect's territory was just over ten thousand li. Additionally, the Wind Driving Shuttle was known for its speed, even surpassing that of ordinary Foundation Building late-stage cultivators who couldn't maintain full-speed flight due to the limitations of their true qi.

Before this Wind Driving Shuttle suffered any internal damage, it could maintain continuous full-speed flight. Without any stops along the way, the group covered the distance in less than two days and was about to reach their destination. The Wind Driving Shuttle didn't return to the Taiyi Sect's mountain gate but directly headed towards the original Golden Blade Sect's mountain gate.

On board the shuttle, all cultivators held hope in their hearts that the mountain protection great formation would be effective and the defenders relying on the formation would hold on and withstand until the reinforcements arrived.

When the Wind Driving Shuttle arrived at the original Golden Blade Sect's mountain gate, the situation was already dire. Countless demonic beasts swarmed like a tide, continuously charging towards the mountain protection great formation. The area surrounding the great formation was densely packed with demonic beasts, almost without any gaps.

Though the situation was critical, the worst-case scenario had not yet occurred. The mountain protection great formation was still holding, and the cultivators inside were still persisting. The mountain gate had not been breached, which was fortunate in such dire circumstances.

Chapter 378: Diverse Exhibitions of Power

On the ground, in the sky, an overwhelming army of monstrous beasts has completely surrounded the original mountain gate of the Golden Blade Sect. There are numerous monsters, and at least ten of them are Second Rank or higher.

Although Second Rank monsters are often not on par with Foundation Building stage cultivators or even exceptional Refining Qi stage cultivators when alone, things change when they form groups. Once they have the support of their own kind, their combat power increases significantly, often surpassing that of lone Foundation Building stage cultivators.

Meng Zhang looked down at the army of monsters below, but his thoughts were elsewhere. This monster army might seem terrifying, but if Taiyi Sect and Qiaoshou Sect joined forces, they could still overcome it.

What worried him more was the possibility of another threat. All these monster groups, with their different natural instincts, usually fight against each other, even engaging in endless battles. But today, they were at peace and had formed a united army to invade the territory of the Human Clan.

The most likely explanation for this strange behavior was the presence of a Third Rank monster that had subjugated them, forcing them to act together.

If indeed a Third Rank monster had arrived, Taiyi Sect and Qiaoshou Sect would be in great danger. However, at this point, it was only Meng Zhang's speculation, lacking any concrete evidence. There was no need to frighten himself with assumptions.

The most crucial thing was that they couldn't just stand by and let the monsters rampage unchecked. Even though the monsters were fiercely attacking the protective mountain great formation, it seemed vulnerable. Several Foundation Building stage cultivators on the flying shuttle were getting restless, eager to take action. However, Meng Zhang, as the Taiyi Sect Sect Master for many years, held significant authority, and no one would dare act rashly without his orders.

Meng Zhang no longer hesitated and gave the command. The impatient Foundation Building stage cultivators on the shuttle flew out one by one, descending towards the monsters released his spirit pet, Zhui Dian (Chasing Lightning), from the spirit beast pouch. Zhui Dian was highly intelligent and could fully understand Meng Zhang's commands. He ordered it to patrol the surrounding area to see if there was anything unusual.

Like a lightning bolt, a small black bird shot out and flew into the distance. As long as Zhui Dian didn't encounter any proficient flying Second Rank monsters, it shouldn't face any danger.

After releasing Zhui Dian, Meng Zhang also left the shuttle and joined the battle against the monster army below. The Second Rank monsters leading this army, despite having some intelligence, were still lacking in wisdom. If this were a human cultivator-led army, they wouldn't foolishly focus on a single point but instead surround it vigorously while sending smaller teams to sweep the surrounding areas and expand their gains as much as possible. If the enemy's resistance was weak, they could even penetrate deeper into Qiaoshou Sect and Taiyi Sect's territories, causing chaos.

Fortunately, facing monsters was less complicated, as they didn't have as many tricks up their sleeves and only knew straightforward, head-on attacks. This time, the Foundation Building stage cultivators Meng Zhang brought with him, including Deep Earth Spirit General, Wen Qiansun, Yang Xueyi, Hu Jing, and Jin Qiao'er, were all incredibly powerful.

Shocking Thunder Spirit General had clamored to be in the first group, but his injuries from the battle with Earthfire Sect were still healing, so he had to remain in the second group.

As the cultivators approached the monster army, they displayed their formidable skills, dealing heavy blows to the monsters. Deep Earth Spirit General, with his unmatched divine power and Stonebreaker Hammer, charged into the monster army like a human pile driver, smashing any monster in his path into pieces.

Yang Xueyi unleashed various elemental spells, continuously bombarding the monster horde. Hu Jing summoned her spirit beasts: a large earth bear and a red-eyed golden eagle. Together, they blocked the onslaught of the monster army. Jin Qiao'er practiced a superior technique, not from the Qiaoshou Sect's heritage, but a more profound one.

With a wave of her hand, white clouds descended from the sky, shrouding the monsters. Every monster, regardless of rank, immediately suffered severe injuries.

Meng Zhang released his flying sword, the Tangling Silk Soft Sword, and it transformed into a swirling mass, engulfing countless monsters, leaving only broken bodies in its wake.

After reaching the late stage of Foundation Building, Meng Zhang could finally fully unleash the power of the Golden Crow Lantern, a Second Rank top-grade magic tool.

He infused true qi into the lamp, and golden crows flew out, incinerating all the monsters they touched. Even Second Rank monsters caught by the golden crows were instantly engulfed in unstoppable flames.

Meng Zhang had just acted and killed a lone Second Rank monster, clearing a large area. When it came to killing monsters, this Foundation Building late stage cultivator wasn't the most efficient; that title belonged to the Foundation Building early stage cultivator, Wen Qiansun.

Wen Qiansun didn't rush into the monster horde like the others. Instead, he brandished his Armor-Piercing Blade, cutting down several monsters in his path, and approached the protective mountain great formation. From there, he shouted to those inside.

The cultivators responsible for the great formation had long noticed the arrival of reinforcements. However, under Zheng Chao's orders, they didn't dare open the entrance at such a crucial moment, fearing it might give the monster army an opportunity.

Wen Qiansun was Taiyi Sect's Formations Hall Master, and his status and position were not inferior to Zheng Chao's. In terms of seniority within the sect, he even surpassed Zheng Chao by a fair margin.

Among those handling the protective mountain great formation, there happened to be a First Rank Formation Master who had been trained by Taiyi Sect's Formations Hall.

Hearing their superior's call from outside, they didn't hesitate and quickly opened a small passage in the great formation.

Wen Qiansun entered the passage, and it immediately closed behind him.

The constant attacks from the monster army had placed immense pressure on the defenders inside the great formation, including Zheng Chao and Shi Changqing. Some were on the verge of being drained by the great formation, almost running out of energy.

Wen Qiansun took control of the protective mountain great formation upon entering, and everyone inside breathed a sigh of relief.

Wen Qiansun was highly accomplished in the Dao of Formations, and under his command, the great formation displayed its powerful capabilities and revealed more functions. The dim light outside the protective mountain great formation brightened once more and then surged with tremendous force, inflicting significant casualties on the monster army.

Having achieved success with his first move, Wen Qiansun continued his efforts, relentlessly attacking the monster army, scattering them in disarray, and preventing them from regrouping.

Chapter 379: Retreat

Under the control of Wen Qiansun, the mountain protection formation exerted tremendous power, much stronger than before.

There were too many demon beasts in the army, and despite everyone fighting fiercely, there was a feeling of being overwhelmed by the sheer number of enemies.

Especially those few Second Rank demon beasts, combining their own group strength, put great pressure on everyone.

Even the most powerful attack among them, Meng Zhang's Golden Crow Lantern, which released Solar True Flame in the form of golden crows, was blocked.

A giant toad controlled a group of thousands of demon toads.

It opened its huge mouth and spat out a series of green bubbles. All the demon toads followed suit, spewing bubbles that gathered in the air, meeting Meng Zhang's Solar True Flame.

As the bubbles continued to merge, the Solar True Flame, appearing as golden crows, became trapped and unable to break free.

With more and more bubbles joining, the power of the Solar True Flame was greatly diminished.

Meng Zhang's expression darkened. These demon toads could actually use their innate demon techniques to absorb Lunar True Qi from the heavens and earth and create this situation.

As a result, the power of the Solar True Flame was undoubtedly greatly reduced.

At first, the Foundation Building cultivators had the element of surprise when they entered the demon beast army, and they had the upper hand.

But as the demon army reacted, especially when the Second Rank demon beasts rallied their group strength, it put significant pressure on all the Foundation Building cultivators, including Meng Zhang.

The number of demon beasts was too overwhelming; even with all the Foundation Building cultivators giving their all, they couldn't defeat this demon army.

Inside the mountain protection formation, Wen Qiansun probably also noticed this situation.

He manipulated the formation again, and the protective light screen outside the mountain protection formation quickly spread outward.

The Foundation Building cultivators present were all perceptive individuals, and they had experience working together, so they cooperated well.

They covered each other and moved toward the light screen.

Soon, including Meng Zhang, all the Foundation Building cultivators entered the light screen of the mountain protection formation.

Then the light screen suddenly contracted, pulling all the Foundation Building cultivators inside the mountain protection formation.

After entering the mountain protection formation, under Wen Qiansun's command, they quickly reached their respective positions to assist him in controlling the formation.

With several Foundation Building cultivators, the mountain protection formation's power was fully unleashed, almost running at its full capacity.

Although the demon army continued its fierce attacks, for a short period, the mountain protection formation could withstand it.

Originally, the cultivators who were already inside the mountain protection formation took the opportunity to rest and recover.

Cultivators like Zheng Chao, who were eager for battle, recovered a bit and actively joined the others in supporting the mountain protection formation.

The demon army seemed tireless, but with the increased manpower, they could take turns resting and recovering, significantly improving their combat endurance.

Even though the vast number of demon beasts continued their attacks day and night, they couldn't exhaust everyone anymore.

The mountain protection formation had been meticulously maintained by Golden Blade Sect for hundreds of years and further strengthened by Qiaoshou Sect using precious materials.

Given the current attack intensity of the demon army, it would be difficult for them to damage the foundation of the formation, even if they attacked for a year or more.

The demon army was made of flesh and blood; they also grew tired, got injured, and bled.

Having besieged this place for a long time already and now facing reinforcements, their defensive capabilities were significantly increased.

The demon army finally ceased its direct assault here and took the initiative to retreat.

Of course, they didn't withdraw too far; they remained within the range of the mountain protection formation's power, encircling the area and keeping an eye on the human side's movements from a distance.

The battle temporarily ceased. Inside the mountain protection formation, all the cultivators could finally catch their breath and take a moment to rest. They were eager to recover their combat strength as soon as possible.

After a brief period of recovery, Meng Zhang felt good and called Zheng Chao over to inquire about the situation during his Foundation Building period.

Zheng Chao's account was similar to the message delivered by the disciple, with no major discrepancies.

When the demon army suddenly surged out from the Demon Wind Gobi and invaded Qiaoshou Sect's territory, it was fortunate that Zheng Chao had just finished his seclusion, preventing significant harm.

Meng Zhang was very satisfied with Zheng Chao's timely response and decisive actions. He was indeed worthy of being the War Hall Master, someone with such keen battlefield awareness and decisive decision-making skills.

Now that Zheng Chao had become a Foundation Building cultivator and achieved great merit, he was fully qualified to become the new elder of Taiyi Sect.

Once they repelled the demon invasion, upon their return to the sect, Meng Zhang would appoint Zheng Chao as a Taiyi Sect elder.

After the demon army temporarily retreated, they didn't launch a new attack, providing the cultivators inside the mountain protection formation with more time to rest.

Taking advantage of the additional time, Meng Zhang inquired about the details of Zheng Chao's Foundation Building period. At that time, due to the sect's limitations, Zheng Chao didn't even have a Lesser Foundation Building Pill while attempting Foundation Building. He only had a spirit pearl produced by a several-hundred-year-old fire spirit clam.

Back when Forest Spring Watch still existed, excellent disciples there used such spirit pearls to assist in Foundation Building after completing the Refining Qi stage.

Although the effect of the spirit pearl was not even half that of a Lesser Foundation Building Pill, having something was better than having nothing.

When Zheng Chao was attempting Foundation Building, his combative nature led him to always be at the forefront during battles, putting forth his full effort.

Every battle left him with many injuries.

While these injuries had already healed, they accumulated and posed many hidden dangers to his body.

During his Foundation Building attempts, his seemingly intact body nearly collapsed under the impact of true qi due to these hidden dangers.

Thankfully, Zheng Chao's willpower was strong, and his foundation was solid. He not only survived this ordeal but also used the opportunity to discover and repair the hidden dangers in his body.

Thus, he spent a long time during his Foundation Building process.

Fortunately, the spirit pearl contained abundant and pure spiritual energy.

After completely refining the spirit pearl, Zheng Chao had enough reserves to spend over ten years before finally achieving Foundation Building success.

Taking this long to achieve Foundation Building was very rare in the Cultivation World.

Although the time spent was much longer, the risks were greater, the benefits were also substantial.

Zheng Chao's foundation was incredibly solid, providing a strong base for his future cultivation.

By repairing the hidden dangers in his body, he didn't need to spend time consolidating his Cultivation Base and could directly join the battle...

Chapter 380: Pursuit

Zheng Chao was originally a promising junior highly regarded by Meng Zhang. Despite facing setbacks, he has finally achieved Foundation Building, not disappointing Meng Zhang. Through these experiences, Zheng Chao has become more composed, and his character has been tempered.

Outside the mountain gate, the demon beast army didn't give the human side much time to rest. In less than half a day, the demon beast army launched another grand attack. The mountain's protective

great formation was solid and powerful. With enough Foundation Building cultivators presiding over it, the great formation's potential could be fully utilized.

The fierce attacks from the demon beast army only left behind numerous demon beast corpses but no other significant results. With the protection of the great formation, the cultivators inside relied on its power to resist the enemies. At most, they felt tired and worked hard, without any casualties.

The failed demon beast army's attacks retreated like an ebbing tide. However, they launched several subsequent attacks, attempting to wear down the cultivators inside by using their numerical advantage.

Wen Qiansun took full command of the great formation and arranged for the cultivators inside the mountain gate to take turns resting and fighting. Despite multiple rotations, everyone was exhausted, and their true qi could not fully recover. Nevertheless, they managed to hold the mountain gate and prevent the demon beast army from breaking through the protective great formation.

Zhui Dian (Chasing Lightning), the spirit pet released by Meng Zhang, patrolled the surrounding areas swiftly with its flying speed, focusing on the direction of Demon Wind Gobi. Four days later, Zhui Dian returned to the mountain gate through its connection with its master and successfully integrated into the protective formation.

Zhui Dian brought bad news that another demon beast army had emerged from Demon Wind Gobi and was heading towards them. This new army was slightly smaller than the current one but still a large and powerful force. Their progress was slow due to their sheer numbers.

According to Zhui Dian's estimation, it would take the new demon beast army around 1-2 days to arrive at their location. Upon hearing this information, Meng Zhang felt a heavy burden in his heart.

Though they had the protection of the great formation, the cultivators on the mountain were already struggling to fend off the current demon beast army. With the arrival of another strong force, there was a genuine risk of the protective great formation being breached.

Under the current circumstances, there was not much else the people inside the mountain gate could do. They had to give their all during each attack by the demon beast army, leveraging the power of the great formation to inflict as much damage as possible and reduce the pressure they would face later.

Fortunately, luck was on the side of the human cultivators. Before the reinforcements from Taiyi Sect and Qiaoshou Sect could arrive, another group of reinforcements had already reached the battlefield. Three Second Rank flying boats had made an all-out effort, covering a vast distance in less than five days to reach the battleground.

Commanding the three flying boats was the experienced Aunt Jin. She didn't rush to join the battle but instead observed from high in the sky. After confirming that the situation outside the mountain gate was manageable, she didn't immediately engage in combat.

When the demon beast army's next wave of attacks was repelled, the three flying boats took the opportunity to descend safely into the protective great formation. Wen Qiansun promptly closed the passage and raised defensive measures.

Even before the flying boats landed, all the cultivators inside had already jumped to the ground. This time, not only were all Foundation Building cultivators from the two sects present, but most of the elite Refining Qi cultivators had also arrived.

Only a few severely injured Refining Qi disciples remained behind, waiting to depart at an opportune moment.

During their journey on the flying boats, the cultivators had made use of the time to heal their injuries and restore their strength. The preparations made by both sects before the expedition were sufficient. They had an ample supply of healing pills and healing talismans, among other resources.

In less than five days, the previously not-so-serious injuries of these cultivators had mostly healed. Even Shocking Thunder Spirit General, who had suffered the most severe injuries, had recovered significantly due to their innate self-healing abilities as a Guardian Spirit General. Through refining the remaining thunder essence, he had regained most of his strength.

With the arrival of the reinforcements, Meng Zhang felt more assured. They now had ample strength to not only defend the protective great formation but also had a considerable chance of launching a successful offensive.

Ideally, the safest strategy would be to rely on the protective great formation for defense, inflict significant damage to the enemy, and then counterattack. However, based on Zhui Dian's intelligence, another formidable demon beast army was approaching rapidly, and Meng Zhang couldn't allow the two demon beast armies to merge.

After discussing with the others, Meng Zhang decided to take the initiative and attack the current demon beast army before the two forces could unite. Their plan was to strike each army separately and eliminate the present demon beast army.

Just as Meng Zhang was mobilizing the cultivators inside the mountain gate to prepare for the offensive, unexpectedly, the current demon beast army seemed to sense the arrival of human reinforcements. Surprisingly, they chose to retreat voluntarily.

Their retreat was in the direction of the other demon beast army that was on its way. The beasts were quite sensitive, and Meng Zhang cursed under his breath.

However, the demon beast army would be mistaken if they thought they could retreat so easily. They had underestimated the capabilities of the cultivators from the two sects.

Upon Meng Zhang's order, the cultivators inside the mountain gate actively left the gate and chased after the retreating demon beast army. The Refining Qi cultivators formed a battle formation and swiftly moved, attacking fiercely from behind.

The Foundation Building cultivators took to the sky, closely pursuing the demon beast army. There were not many flying-type demon beasts within this army, with only a Second Rank White-headed Eagle leading a group of around 200-300 beasts.

Although most Second Rank demon beasts possessed the ability to fly, they needed to remain with their army to utilize their collective strength and couldn't venture off far alone.

As the group of Foundation Building cultivators attacked, they launched a powerful assault and dispersed a part of the demon beast army before immediately retreating. When the Refining Qi

cultivators in the rear arrived, they cooperated with each other to first eliminate the scattered and isolated demon beasts.

This tactic was safe and efficient. They suffered minimal casualties while inflicting continuous losses on the demon beast army. Over time, the losses for the demon beast army became considerable.

The Second Rank demon beast commanders in charge couldn't respond quickly enough.

It was akin to using a blunt knife to cut meat or boiling a frog in warm water, silently causing significant casualties to the enemy without them realizing it.