

Sect Master 431

Chapter 431: Plan

Back in the day, when Meng Zhang detained Shangguan Wen from the Earthfire Sect, he allowed the Earthfire Sect to attack the Flying Swan Sect. Later, he used Shangguan Wen to convince the remaining disciples of the Earthfire Sect to surrender, eventually taking over the Earthfire Sect's mountain gate. His actions were twofold - to prevent Shangguan Wen from leaking the information and earning the Flying Swan Sect's enmity and to safeguard the lives of the remaining Earthfire Sect disciples from retaliation.

As a Gold Core Daoist Master now, those past events were trivial matters to both the Flying Swan Sect and Meng Zhang. The Flying Swan Sect would not bother confronting Meng Zhang, a Gold Core Daoist Master, over such matters at this point.

The Earthfire Sect now had a place to hold on and preserve their legacy. Meng Zhang fulfilled his promise, and with his current identity and strength, he had no worries about any dissatisfaction or grudges from the remnants of the Earthfire Sect. If those remnants didn't wise up, they might find their sect eradicated sooner or later, without any need for Meng Zhang to order it.

After dealing with this insignificant matter, Meng Zhang had a deep realization. In the Cultivation World, one's cultivation base indeed held great significance. A higher cultivation base and realm would solve many difficult problems effortlessly. While Meng Zhang handled various affairs of Taiyi Sect, Gu Yue Huaidie finally communicated with the Flying Swan Sect.

The Flying Swan Sect agreed to let Gu Yue Huaidie enter the Mirage Secret Realm, but she must not cause extensive damage to the environment inside, affecting the growth of various spiritual herbs. In return, Gu Yue Huaidie would organize Meng Zhang and others to join forces in attacking the Demon Wind Gobi, helping the Flying Swan Sect relieve the pressure from the demon beast army.

Gu Yue Huaidie came to Taiyi Sect and brought this good news to Meng Zhang. She also met with Luo YeDaoist Master. Although Luo YeDaoist Master had some reservations about Gu Yue Huaidie, she remained straightforward and focused on the matter at hand. The Mirage Secret Realm originally opened approximately once every hundred years, but Gu Yue Huaidie had a way to open it ahead of schedule. Of course, opening the Mirage Secret Realm early required favorable timing, location, and personnel.

After calculations, Gu Yue Huaidie estimated that the best time to open the Mirage Secret Realm would be about a year from now. Before opening the realm, they had time to help Luo YeDaoist Master solve her problem.

According to Luo YeDaoist Master's original plan, she intended to lure the Golden Tiger out of the Demon Wind Gobi and deal with it in the Endless Sea of Sand. Although Gu Yue Huaidie's organization meant that Meng Zhang already had plans to attack the Demon Wind Gobi, to resolve Luo YeDaoist Master's issue quickly, it was better to stick to the original plan and hunt down the Golden Tiger outside the Demon Wind Gobi.

Having spent years in the Dark Alliance, the Golden Tiger had disclosed a lot of information about his own background and secrets. After leaving the Dark Alliance, the organization made significant efforts to track him down, uncovering many of his secrets. In the Endless Sea of Sand, Dark

Alliance was reluctant to easily dispatch a Gold Core Daoist Master for fear of misunderstanding from Primordial Spirit True Monarchs. However, they had established and developed black markets in various places in the Cultivation World, gaining tacit approval from many major forces.

Even though the Endless Sea of Sand seemed to be under the Flying Swan Sect's control, the Dark Alliance managed to convince the Flying Swan Sect to establish a black market there.

Although they didn't send a Gold Core Daoist Master to oversee, there were quite a few Foundation Building and Refining Qi stage cultivators in the Dark Alliance. With Dark Alliance as their backing, the development of their black markets was excellent, establishing an extensive network of information channels.

Of course, the establishment of the black market in the Endless Sea of Sand by the Dark Alliance was not solely for tracking down Golden Tiger. Investigating Golden Tiger was not a top priority for the Dark Alliance, and they wouldn't invest too much effort in this matter. However, the intelligence capabilities of the black market were quite impressive. With routine investigations, they gained a lot of information related to Golden Tiger.

After deciding to take action against Golden Tiger, Luo YeDaoist Master put considerable effort into gathering all kinds of information related to him. With a Gold Core Daoist Master personally intervening and offering generous rewards, even though the black market in the Endless Sea of Sand was not under Luo YeDaoist Master's control, they still cooperated and diligently investigated the matter.

Combining the years of intelligence collected by the black market with the latest investigation results, Luo YeDaoist Master uncovered a major secret about Golden Tiger. For years, Golden Tiger had been secretly enslaving Human Clan cultivators, even going so far as to turn some of them into Human Pets, using them to carry out covert operations throughout the Endless Sea of Sand.

Although it was unclear what secret activities these cultivators were engaged in, their activities seemed to be somehow connected to the Purple Gold Sect from the past. Cultivation powerhouses like the Purple Gold Sect, even if exterminated by the Flying Swan Sect, would often leave behind hidden measures for future restoration.

After Flying Swan Sect's rule over the Endless Sea of Sand, they extensively hunted down Purple Gold Sect remnants and destroyed the sect's hidden arrangements. For instance, the Shi Family, now an affiliate of Taiyi Sect, was once a closely related vassal family to the Purple Gold Sect. After the Purple Gold Sect's fall, they were relentlessly pursued by the Flying Swan Sect until they finally pledged allegiance.

Shi Family's survival until now was not only due to the efforts of their ancestors but also largely due to good fortune. However, other Purple Gold Sect remnants were not as fortunate. On the surface, many of the Purple Gold Sect's hidden measures were destroyed by the Flying Swan Sect, and most of the Purple Gold Sect cultivators were killed during the pursuit. However, some individuals managed to escape the hunt.

Given that the Purple Gold Sect was once a major cultivation sect with a Primordial Spirit True Monarch, the measures left behind by the Primordial Spirit True Monarch were not easily discernible even to a group of Gold Core Daoist Masters. As a former spirit pet of a senior cultivator from the Purple Gold Sect, Golden Tiger undoubtedly knew many of the sect's secrets, including those left behind by the Primordial Spirit True Monarch.

According to Luo Ye Daoist Master's assessment, Golden Tiger, fearing an attack from the Flying Swan Sect's Gold Core Daoist Masters, dared not enter the Endless Sea of Sand easily. That's why he sent his enslaved Human Clan cultivators to operate covertly within the region. Thus, Luo Ye Daoist Master's plan was to start from these cultivators' activities, hoping to lure Golden Tiger out.

During the years of the Flying Swan Sect's dual-front war, their control over the Endless Sea of Sand had weakened. If there were truly any messages from the Primordial Spirit True Monarch of the Purple Gold Sect left behind, it was highly likely that Golden Tiger, with his temperament, couldn't resist coming out of the Demon Wind Gobi. After all, it was something he had been relentlessly pursuing for many years and held extraordinary allure for him. At that time, it would be the perfect opportunity for everyone to ambush Golden Tiger.

However, before that, they needed to select a suitable place for the ambush from the activities of Golden Tiger's Human Pets that would effectively deceive Golden Tiger while facilitating their plan.

Chapter 432: Past events

Luo Ye, a Daoist Master, took out a map that showed the area where the Golden Tiger kept its human pets and where they had previously been active. The three Gold Core Daoist Masters needed to search these places separately to find the traces left by the senior members of the Purple Gold Sect, so they could choose a suitable location to set up an ambush.

Meng Zhang looked at the map while instructing someone to call Shi Changqing over. The Shi Family's ancestors were loyal vassals of the Purple Gold Sect, and he might know some useful information. Shi Changqing was brought in front of the three Gold Core Daoist Masters, and he was extremely respectful, not daring to even take a breath.

Previously, Shi Changqing had joined Meng Zhang, making the Shi Family a vassal of the Taiyi Sect. This was largely due to circumstances beyond his control, and he couldn't help feeling a bit resentful. However, with Meng Zhang's return as a Gold Core cultivator, all of Shi Changqing's concerns disappeared. With Meng Zhang's age, he had at least 500-600 years of lifespan left, as long as he didn't die unexpectedly.

With such a long time, even if Meng Zhang's cultivation base didn't improve, it would be enough to develop the Taiyi Sect into a powerful sect that could stand alongside the Flying Swan Sect. The fact that the Shi Family's ancestors were vassals of the Purple Gold Sect and that the Shi Family was now a vassal of the Taiyi Sect, which had a bright future, was acceptable.

After Meng Zhang formed his core, his innate divine ability, Mind Reading, also advanced. Ordinary Foundation Building cultivators, unless they practiced special secret techniques, would find it difficult to escape his mind reading. Although Meng Zhang didn't deliberately read Shi Changqing's thoughts, he couldn't hide the change in his mentality.

Cultivators naturally pursue freedom and don't like being constrained. The appearance of sects in the Cultivation World is already a limit. Even if the management of sects is strict, it is impossible to manage all aspects of cultivators like a mortal government manages mortals. Especially for Daoist sects, due to the influence of Daoist culture, their management is even more loose.

A bloated and huge Taiyi Sect is not only difficult to manage, but also doesn't meet Meng Zhang's expectations. A too vast territory is also difficult to develop finely. Supporting some reliable vassal forces can not only serve as the wings of the Taiyi Sect, sharing many of its burdens, but also develop the Taiyi Sect's territory more efficiently.

As long as the Taiyi Sect remains strong and maintains its overwhelming advantage over its vassal forces, there is no need to worry about their loyalty. Faced with Meng Zhang's inquiry, Shi Changqing honestly answered without any concealment.

Although the Shi Family was a loyal vassal of the Purple Gold Sect, they were not part of the core. Some important sect secrets could not be leaked to vassal families like the Shi Family. Regarding Meng Zhang's questions about the Purple Gold Sect's Primordial Spirit and True Monarch, Shi Changqing knew nothing.

Shi Changqing's reaction was not unexpected by Meng Zhang. He was just trying his luck. He waved his hand and let Shi Changqing leave, focusing his attention on the map provided by Luo Ye.

Suddenly, Meng Zhang's gaze froze, and he focused his attention on a particular location on the map. This place was less than 300 miles from the Taiyi Sect's old mountain gate and was an inconspicuous barren slope. Even though several decades had passed, Meng Zhang still remembered it vividly. When Meng Zhang was still a small Refining Qi cultivator, Deep Earth Spirit General discovered a First Rank spirit vein there. Above the small spirit vein was a hidden cultivator's cave. Meng Zhang had once explored the cave with Deep Earth Spirit General and encountered a group of loose cultivators there. According to Deep Earth Spirit General's observations, the leader of the loose cultivators was a Human Pet raised by a demon beast.

After they entered the cave, they triggered a restriction inside. Deep Earth Spirit General risked his life to escape with Meng Zhang. Later, Deep Earth Spirit General told Meng Zhang that the power involved in the methods used in the cave was too high for even Gold Core cultivators to handle. Therefore, he didn't tell Meng Zhang the specifics.

Now that Meng Zhang is a Gold Core Daoist Master, he has the right to know, even if he doesn't have a way to crack the methods. Moreover, this place is related to the layout of the three Gold Core Daoist Masters against the Golden Tiger and may be related to the senior members of the Purple Gold Sect. In any case, Meng Zhang wants to make things clear. In the past, because Meng Zhang's cultivation base was too low, Deep Earth Spirit General always concealed things from him whenever he asked about the old days of the Taiyi Sect. This time, he is asking about something else, and Deep Earth Spirit General shouldn't continue to conceal things from him.

Thinking of this, Meng Zhang sent someone to invite Deep Earth Spirit General to see him. After Meng Zhang formed his core and returned to the sect, he hadn't had a chance to talk to Deep Earth Spirit General properly. If he had the chance, he really wanted to talk to Deep Earth Spirit General and learn more about the old days of the Taiyi Sect from him.

While waiting for Deep Earth Spirit General to arrive, Meng Zhang, Gu Yue Youlan, and Luo Ye Daoist Master continued to examine the map. From the map alone, they couldn't see any clues. They only knew that the Human Clan cultivators sent by the Golden Tiger had almost covered the entire Endless Sea of Sand and had been to many places. They must be looking for something, but they didn't know if they had found anything.

The three of them discussed it, but they had no clue. Luo Ye Daoist Master's original plan was to create some anomalies in those places, and the news would spread. With the Golden Tiger's attention on those places, they would inevitably come to investigate upon hearing the news of anomalies. At that time, it would be the time for Luo Ye Daoist Master and his helpers to kill them.

However, Meng Zhang felt that Luo Ye Daoist Master's plan was too rough and needed to be improved. Moreover, he himself was very interested in the layout left by the Purple Gold Sect's Primordial Spirit True Monarch.

While the three of them were discussing, Deep Earth Spirit General arrived. Recently, he had been in the sect, and he respected Meng Zhang enough as the Sect Master. As long as it didn't involve certain things, he almost listened to Meng Zhang's orders.

Upon hearing that Meng Zhang had summoned him, he immediately came over. Meng Zhang didn't avoid the topic and directly talked about the incident from years ago in front of Luo Ye Daoist Master and Gu Yue Youlan.

Upon hearing Meng Zhang's words, Deep Earth Spirit General also spoke frankly. His cultivation base at that time was far from recovered, and his eyesight was not high enough to see through the layout there, so he almost fell into it. Because he found that the place involved great power at the Gold Core level, even if his strength began to slowly recover later, he didn't approach the place again. Deep Earth Spirit General was always a very cautious person, and he felt that it was not appropriate for the Taiyi Sect to get involved in the layout of certain great powers, given its current state. As for the idea of gaining opportunities and benefits from it, Deep Earth Spirit General never had such thoughts.

Chapter 433: Discovery

Deep Earth Spirit General, at the very least, was once the Guardian Spirit General of the Taiyi Sect and had witnessed grand scenes. He was not the kind of shallow-minded person who lacked insight.

Given his situation, he only needed to gradually restore his Cultivation Base, and sooner or later, he would regain the strength of the Gold Core stage.

Taking the enormous risk to explore the unknown arrangements left by the predecessors was simply not worth it.

Of course, now that three Gold Core Daoist Masters have shown interest in that place, it's a different story. In the Cultivation World, being a Gold Core Daoist Master is already enough to be considered a formidable figure.

Even if it was a layout left behind by the Primordial Spirit True Monarch, it would not be easy to kill three Gold Core Daoist Masters.

Meng Zhang and the other two only needed to be a little cautious, and the risks would still be manageable. Deep Earth Spirit General didn't have much knowledge about that place; he only knew it was part of some vast arrangement.

If they wanted to obtain more information, they would need to observe it up close.

After listening to Deep EarthSpirit General's account, the three Gold Core Daoist Masters felt that the place was likely related to the arrangements of the senior members of the Purple Gold Sect.

They didn't continue to speculate here and decided to go and see for themselves.

In addition to the three Gold Core Daoist Masters, Meng Zhang also invited Deep EarthSpirit General and Wen Qiansun. As a Geomancer, Deep EarthSpirit General had special skills in Feng Shui. Wen Qiansun had a talent for formations and restrictions, so he might be useful.

After Wen Qiansun joined them, the five of them boarded the Wind Driving Shuttle of the Taiyi Sect and headed towards that place.

When the Wind Driving Shuttle flew at full speed, it surpassed the speed of a late-stage Foundation Building cultivator. It didn't take much time for them to reach their destination.

When the restrictions in the cave from back then were triggered, a massive earthquake occurred here.

A large area around it collapsed, forming a deep bottomless pit in the middle.

At that time, many curious cultivators came here, hoping to find some benefits.

Of course, most of these cultivators were at the Refining Qi stage, and the strongest among them were only a few Foundation Building cultivators. With their vision and insight, they couldn't discover any clues.

The Wind Driving Shuttle stopped in mid-air, and the five of them flew down into the bottomless pit.

After a not-so-long period of time, they arrived at the bottom of the pit.

After a rough observation, the bottom of the pit seemed completely normal, and there were no valuable clues in the surroundings.

Gu Yue Huaidie flew in the middle of the five people, slightly closing her eyes. Her hands hidden in her sleeves quickly made a few gestures.

After a moment, she opened her eyes. Although she showed no signs on the surface, she had already made some plans in her mind.

Everyone was observing their surroundings and searching, unaware of Gu Yue Huaidie's subtle movements.

Only Meng Zhang, also a Diviner, had a slight sense of it.

Meng Zhang discreetly glanced at Gu Yue Huaidie. If she hadn't used her divination skills at such a close distance, it would have been difficult for Meng Zhang to discover that she was also a Diviner.

Meng Zhang had been practicing the Grand Evolving Fortune and had been a Diviner for some years, but this was the first time he had discovered another Diviner.

Meng Zhang didn't hastily expose Gu Yue Huaidie's identity or reveal his own as a Diviner. He had never come into contact with other Diviners before, let alone entered the circle of Diviners. Regarding the many rules and taboos between Diviners, Meng Zhang only had a vague understanding. He wouldn't reveal his secret as a Diviner to Gu Yue Huaidie until he figured out how two Diviners could determine friend from foe and coexist.

Gu Yue Huaidie was also careless and unexpectedly found herself surrounded by people she knew. One of them was a junior she had known for years and was also a Diviner who had already seen through her identity.

Meng Zhang had deliberately kept his identity as a Diviner secret for many years, so he had gained a slight advantage.

After entering the Gold Core stage, Meng Zhang's divination skills had not significantly improved and remained at their previous level. If he wanted to further enhance his divination skills, he would have to practice diligently for a long time. Gu Yue Huaidie had been forming her core for many years, so her divination skills were likely not weak.

However, if there really was a layout left behind by the Primordial Spirit True Monarch here, even if her divination skills were highly advanced, it would be difficult to deduce the specific situation.

In fact, Gu Yue Huaidie had not obtained any information from her brief divination just now.

But precisely because she had not deduced any information, she could boldly judge that this place was really related to the arrangements of the Primordial Spirit True Monarch of the Purple Gold Sect.

In the Endless Sea of Sand, only the Purple Gold Sect had produced a Primordial Spirit True Monarch. If her divination skills were ineffective here, it was either because there was a more advanced Diviner or because the cultivator's Cultivation Base, such as the Primordial Spirit True Monarch, was far above hers.

Combining the information she had obtained, Gu Yue Huaidie believed it was the latter.

Now, Gu Yue Huaidie's interest had greatly increased.

Gu Yue Huaidie wanted to enter the Mirage Secret Realm to obtain a treasure left behind by the Primordial Spirit True Monarch of the Purple Gold Sect. The layout left behind by the Primordial Spirit True Monarch was very valuable to her. Gu Yue Huaidie had come here originally to exchange for Luo Ye Daoist Master's assistance, but unexpectedly, she had gained this unexpected harvest.

With their firm beliefs, everyone made some discoveries.

The vision of a Gold Core Daoist Master was not comparable to that of those small cultivators from back then.

Gu Yue Huaidie flew to an empty and seemingly barren area and gently waved her right hand forward.

In front of the empty space, it was as if a curtain had been lifted, revealing a black stone tablet behind it. Countless runes were constantly flashing on the stone tablet.

Gu Yue Huaidie stood in front of the stone tablet and carefully observed the runes on it.

Gu Yue Huaidie set a good example, and more and more anomalies fell into everyone's eyes.

There used to be a spirit vein here, but it disappeared without a trace, leaving no trace behind.

Deep Earth Spirit General flew into the sky and carefully observed the area below. He used his Geomancer skills and quickly discovered the trace of the disappeared spirit vein. In another corner

of the pit, he found a small formation that was still operating covertly, completely concealing the spirit vein.

The others also made some discoveries to varying degrees.

After summarizing their findings, they gained a better understanding of this place. The hidden restrictions here were part of a vast layout and a critical node.

Starting from this node and following some traces, the five of them split up and flew in different directions. By glimpsing a part, they could infer the whole. With this discovery, they spent a lot of time and successively found three other similar places within a radius of thousands of miles. These three places were all locations where Human Clan cultivators sent by the Golden Tiger Sect had been to.

Chapter 434: Great Restriction

The five people who each gained something have gathered together again. Luo Ye, a female Daoist Master, casually drew a map in front of everyone. The map showed the main activity trajectory of the Human Pet dispatched by the Golden Tiger sect in the Endless Sea of Sand.

When the black market discovered this situation, they did not easily alarm the Golden Tiger sect in order to facilitate understanding their intentions. For Third Rank demon beasts like the Human Pet, they were not too precious to Golden Tiger. Even if they were taken down, it wouldn't harm Golden Tiger at all. Moreover, with Golden Tiger's character, these Human Pets must have some means on them, so there was no need to worry about being interrogated or soul-searched.

The caution of the black market was a great help this time. They had been secretly monitoring the movements of these Human Pets and recording them all. Only with these records could Luo Ye judge Golden Tiger's intentions.

On the map, the four places that had already been discovered were connected first. Gu Yue Huaidie was experienced, Luo Ye, and Meng Zhang had good inheritances, Deep Earth Spirit General and Wen Qiansun were skilled in formation restrictions. With a breakthrough, the group thought for a long time, discussing and pointing on the map. After a while, many points on the map were connected, forming a rough shape.

"What a great method, what a great method, it's really a great method. It's no wonder you're a Primordial Spirit True Monarch. You can actually set up such a Great Void Restriction," said Deep Earth Spirit General, who had always been calm and composed, looking at the map and couldn't help but exclaim.

Gu Yue Huaidie looked at Deep Earth Spirit General with a meaningful glance. Even with her eyesight, she had not recognized the origin of this great formation. But Deep Earth Spirit General immediately revealed the name of this great formation.

Even a Foundation Building cultivator had such insight. Taiyi Sect was indeed a former Primordial Spirit sect. Even though they had fallen to this point, they still had some heritage.

The Great Void Restriction is a famous formation in the Cultivation World. Everyone present had some understanding of it. The Great Void Restriction uses the power of the earth veins to communicate with the void and connect to another independent small world within the void.

This small world is completely isolated from this world, and can only be accessed through the Great Void Restriction. The larger the range covered by the Great Void Restriction, the stronger the power borrowed from the earth veins.

From the map, this Great Void Restriction had nodes spread throughout almost the entire Endless Sea of Sand. The extent of its coverage made even Deep Earth Spirit General couldn't help but be amazed.

The Endless Sea of Sand is an extremely barren wasteland, but it is also vast and boundless. Even when Purple Gold Sect was the ruler of the Endless Sea of Sand, it would not have been easy to set up such a great formation with its manpower and resources.

Leaving behind such an arrangement with almost the entire sect's strength, Purple Gold Sect must have had a purpose. Meng Zhang and others speculated that the small world connected by this great formation was probably a last resort left by the predecessors of Purple Gold Sect to ensure that the sect's heritage would not be cut off.

In that small world, there were probably the inheritances of Purple Gold Sect, and even various treasures accumulated by Purple Gold Sect over the years. Everyone almost thought of this question. Except for Deep Earth Spirit General, who remained calm, the other four were very tempted. A complete inheritance left by a Primordial Spirit sect was invaluable.

Although Meng Zhang obtained some of Taiyi Sect's peak period inheritance in the Trial Ground, most of those inheritances only reached the Gold Core stage. To obtain Taiyi Sect's complete inheritance, Meng Zhang had no idea where to start. If he could obtain the inheritance of the Primordial Spirit sect Purple Gold Sect, it would be a good substitute.

Although the inheritances of Taiyi Sect and Purple Gold Sect were certainly very different, having the inheritance of Purple Gold Sect as a reference would be of great help to Meng Zhang in completing Taiyi Sect's inheritance. Even Gu Yue Huaidie, who came from the powerful cultivation family Gu Yue Family, couldn't resist the temptation of the Primordial Spirit True Monarch's inheritance. She had gone to great lengths to enter the Mirage Secret Realm just to obtain a treasure left behind by Purple Gold Sect.

In fact, she was not 100% sure that the treasure was in the Mirage Secret Realm, but she did everything she could and left the rest to fate. Now that she had obtained clues to the inheritance of Purple Gold Sect, it gave her a better choice.

Although Luo Ye, a female Daoist Master, came from the Dark Alliance, she couldn't just rely on the Dark Alliance to obtain various resources. She also needed to work hard to obtain them. The treasure left by a Primordial Spirit sect like Purple Gold Sect could save her many years of struggle.

Originally, Luo Ye wanted to use these arrangements to lure Golden Tiger away from Demon Wind Gobi, but now she had discovered a new target. Compared to the benefits of hunting down Golden Tiger, it was not worth mentioning.

There was no need to discuss it. Everyone secretly made up their minds that even if they couldn't monopolize the inheritance of Purple Gold Sect, they would still take a big bite out of it. Money moves people's hearts. Although Meng Zhang, Luo Ye, and Gu Yue Huaidie had been friends for many years, it was better to be cautious and prepared in case they turned against each other for some reason at a critical moment.

Putting the small people first and the gentlemen later was the most secure approach. After discussing it, the three Gold Core Daoist Masters reached a rough agreement. They would work together to open the small world left by Purple Gold Sect and, after entering that small world, they absolutely could not kill each other. They had to face all kinds of dangers together and present a united front to the outside world.

As for the distribution of treasures, whoever got it first would keep it, and those obtained together would be distributed according to the amount of effort each person put in. Even if someone had a treasure that others needed, they had to negotiate a trade and could not take it by force.

They didn't know what situation they would encounter in advance, so they could only reach a rough agreement first. To reassure each other, the three of them made a heart demon oath to ensure that they would not violate the agreement.

As for Deep Earth Spirit General and Wen Qiansun, Foundation Building cultivators did not yet have the qualifications to join the agreement between Gold Core Daoist Masters. Moreover, they were disciples of Taiyi Sect and were naturally regarded as part of Meng Zhang. With this agreement, the three Gold Core Daoist Masters no longer had any worries and could trust their companions with their backs.

The biggest problem now was how to communicate with the void and enter that small world through this Great Void Restriction. To maintain the operation of the Great Void Restriction, so many hidden arrangements had to be left throughout the entire Endless Sea of Sand. Now that Meng Zhang and the others had discovered these arrangements, they had to use them to figure out the details of the Great Void Restriction. In this regard, Deep Earth Spirit General and Wen Qiansun could provide great assistance.

Of course, they were currently only at the Foundation Building stage of cultivation base. Because the difference in cultivation base was too great, even if their formation skills were high, they would probably encounter many difficulties. Gu Yue Huaidie's formation skills were not weak, but they were far from enough. As for Meng Zhang and Luo Ye, they could only say that they had a basic understanding of the way of formation.

Chapter 435: Spiritual Tool

The small world left behind by the three Gold Core Daoist Masters of the Purple Gold Sect faces a significant challenge: competition from other rivals.

Golden Tiger, a spirit pet of the previous generation of the Purple Gold Sect, undoubtedly knows many secrets of the sect. He dispatched his Human Pet to search for these places, indicating that he likely knows about the Great Void Restriction, but his knowledge is not detailed enough.

If the small world left behind by the Purple Gold Sect is opened, that guy Golden Tiger will definitely come to seize it.

Furthermore, as the new overlord of the Endless Sea of Sand, the Flying Swan Sect has ruled over the area for many years. To say that they are completely unaware of the Purple Gold Sect's arrangements would be underestimating them. As for how much the Flying Swan Sect actually knows, that remains unknown.

As the landlord, even though the current situation is not favorable for the Flying Swan Sect, their threat cannot be ignored. Over the years, the Flying Swan Sect has relentlessly hunted down the remnants of the Purple Gold Sect, almost wiping out the majority of cultivators associated with the Purple Gold Sect. The threat from the descendants of the Purple Gold Sect can be disregarded. If the three Gold Core Daoist Masters want to swallow this piece of fat, they will indeed face numerous difficulties.

After discussing among themselves, the three individuals took separate actions.

Deep Earth Spirit General and Wen Qiansun each utilized their respective expertise to continue researching the Great Void Restriction.

On the other hand, Gu Yue Huaidie planned to use the small world left behind by the Purple Gold Sect as bait to contact some reliable Gold Core Daoist Masters and gain more assistance.

Even in the face of the temptation of the inheritance left behind by the Primordial Spirit major sects, Gu Yue Huaidie remained calm and unwilling to involve the Gu Yue Family in this muddy water. The disputes behind the Endless Sea of Sand are too complex and could bury the Gold Core sects.

Other Gold Core Daoist Masters, especially some loose cultivators without sects or factions, have no attachments or concerns, and most likely cannot resist the temptation of the inheritance from the Primordial Spirit True Monarch.

Although it is true that having one more Gold Core Daoist Master means having one more opponent to share the spoils of war, it is still better to have more assistance before obtaining the treasures. Only then can there be a greater chance of entering that small world.

After all, it is a legacy left behind by the Primordial Spirit True Monarch. Even though that Primordial Spirit True Monarch has fallen for many years, no one dares to be careless.

Meng Zhang, as the core member, has not had enough time to cultivate a Divine Ability.

During the Foundation Building stage, he cultivated a small Divine Ability called Twin Forms Towards Heaven Sword. As long as he spends some time to re-cultivate it, he can elevate this small Divine Ability into a true Divine Ability.

In fact, the fastest way for Meng Zhang to enhance his combat power is to refine one or two suitable Third Rank magic tools.

Third Rank magic tools, also known as spiritual tools, can only fully unleash their power in the hands of a Gold Core Daoist Master.

Even in a bustling trading city like Great Wind City, there are not many spiritual tools available for sale. To buy a suitable spiritual tool, one truly needs some luck.

Even among Gold Core Daoist Masters, not everyone possesses a spiritual tool that meets their preferences.

Every time an excellent spiritual tool appears, it attracts competition among Gold Core Daoist Masters.

Meng Zhang has visited Great Wind City several times, but either he didn't come across any useful spiritual tools or the prices were driven up too high by competitors, making it unaffordable for him.

During an auction in Great Wind City, Meng Zhang encountered two spiritual tools that suited his preferences. Unfortunately, Meng Zhang's competition for the spiritual tool was an old Gold Core from the Jiuqu League, who had far more resources and connections than Meng Zhang. In the end, he returned empty-handed, highlighting the difference in the sect's background.

In the eyes of Taiyi Sect disciples, especially the elders, Taiyi Sect is considered to have risen. However, before Meng Zhang became a core member, Taiyi Sect was only a Foundation Building sect with limited resources.

After Meng Zhang became a core member, Taiyi Sect barely qualified as a Gold Core sect. However, with only Meng Zhang as a Gold Core Daoist Master and his short time as a core member, the sect had not accumulated much.

It is easy to imagine that if that small world were to open, Meng Zhang would undoubtedly encounter many powerful opponents and face significant danger.

If he had one more useful spiritual tool, his combat power would increase significantly, giving Meng Zhang more vitality. Just when Meng Zhang was feeling a bit overwhelmed, Shocking Thunder Spirit General reminded him.

In the spiritual eye of Taiyi Sect's old mountain gate spirit vein, there is a damaged spiritual weapon called the Spiritsnake Spear. The Spiritsnake Spear has self-repairing abilities, but it was too severely damaged, and its spirituality almost dissipated, making it unable to recover on its own.

After being nourished by the spiritual eye for many years, the spirituality of the Spiritsnake Spear has recovered significantly. If several suitable materials can be found for repair, the Spiritsnake Spear can temporarily restore most of its combat power.

Shocking Thunder Spirit General is very familiar with the Spiritsnake Spear spiritual weapon and has a deep understanding of refining techniques. He gave Meng Zhang a list that included several rare spiritual materials.

Meng Zhang or Taiyi Sect could not obtain these spiritual materials alone, so Meng Zhang had to seek help from Luo Ye, a female Daoist Master.

Luo Ye did not hesitate and readily agreed to help. Through the black market channels of the Jiuqu League, Luo Ye spent a considerable amount of spiritual stones to gather the required materials. Additionally, Luo Ye also helped Meng Zhang purchase a Third Rank flying sword called the Shadow Killing Sword.

The Shadow Killing Sword is a unique flying sword of Luo Ye's sect, the Hidden Shadow Sect, and requires the sect's Third Rank tool refiner to use the sect's secret method to refine it. Only by using the Hidden Shadow Sect's secret method can the Shadow Killing Sword unleash its full power.

The Hidden Shadow Sect rarely sells the Shadow Killing Sword to outsiders, and Luo Ye had to spend a lot of effort and use many favors to obtain it.

Meng Zhang almost emptied Taiyi Sect's treasury to settle the bill. After receiving the spiritual materials, he and Shocking Thunder Spirit General worked together for a long time to barely integrate all the materials into the Spiritsnake Spear.

Without a Third Rank tool refiner, it was impossible to repair it to a perfect state, so Meng Zhang could only make do with it temporarily.

The Shadow Killing Sword did not match well with Meng Zhang's practiced techniques, but he could use the Lifeless Killing Sword technique to control the Shadow Killing Sword, unleashing about eighty percent of its power.

Meng Zhang had practiced the Wind Willow Sword technique since the Refining Qi stage and had perfected it during the Foundation Building stage. However, during the Gold Core stage, this technique was only average. He also practiced the Strange and Upright Sword Art passed down by the Purple Gold Sect, which was a very sophisticated sword technique that did not become outdated even in the Gold Core stage.

Unfortunately, sophisticated sword techniques also require high standards for flying swords. Since he did not have two flying swords that could cooperate with each other, Meng Zhang could only focus on practicing the Lifeless Killing Sword technique.

While Meng Zhang was busy improving his combat power, Gu Yue Huaidie's actions were not going smoothly. When cultivators reach the Gold Core Daoist Master level, their range of activity increases many times over.

The Gold Core Daoist Master who had a good relationship with Gu Yue Huaidie had recently gone out of town and was not near the Jiuqu League, making it difficult to contact them.

Chapter 436: Visit

Gu Yue Huaidie couldn't find a reliable helper and didn't want to involve the Gu Yue Family in this matter. It seemed very difficult for them to enter the small world of Purple Gold Sect with just their own strength. However, just when everyone was thinking hard about what to do, an unexpected help came to them and appeared in front of Meng Zhang.

Meng Zhang, who was practicing Divine Ability in Taiyi Sect, received a letter from Jin Qiao'er. The letter said that her master, Jin LiDaoist Master, wanted to meet with Meng Zhang. Meng Zhang knew that Jin LiDaoist Master was an experienced Gold Core Daoist Master with extensive Divine Ability. He didn't dare to neglect the invitation and immediately replied to Jin Qiao'er, agreeing on the time and place for the meeting.

Jin Qiao'er reminded Meng Zhang in the letter that her master didn't want to attract too much attention, so it was best to keep a low profile during the meeting. Meng Zhang chose the meeting place at the old mountain gate of Taiyi Sect. The mountain gate of Taiyi Sect was first moved to Fuzhao Valley and later to the original mountain gate of Earthfire Sect. This old mountain gate has become increasingly deserted, except for a few disciples who stayed behind and Shocking Thunder Spirit General who often stayed there. Meng Zhang arrived here early and opened the passage of the mountain protection great formation, waiting silently outside the gate. The few remaining disciples were also driven away by Shocking Thunder Spirit General. The whole mountain gate was quiet.

When the appointed time was approaching, a young woman with a beautiful appearance and snow-white skin descended from the sky with Jin Qiao'er and landed in front of Meng Zhang. In the Cultivation World, age is not judged by appearance. Although this woman looked young, Meng Zhang couldn't even catch up with her in terms of her true age.

Meng Zhang had already learned some information about Jin LiDaoist Master from Jin Qiao'er's mouth. "Junior Meng Zhang, I have met Jin LiDaoist Master," he said respectfully. Jin LiDaoist

Master glanced at Meng Zhang and said, "You are quite bold. A few years ago, you and this girl Qiao'er ran into the Deadly Sea of Sand together." "This girl has always been ignorant of the heights of heaven and earth, and as a Sect Master, you should be more stable." Hearing Jin LiDaoist Master's reprimand, Jin Qiao'er, who was standing behind her, made a sorry expression to Meng Zhang.

After returning to Taiyi Sect, Meng Zhang had met Jin Qiao'er a few times. Jin Qiao'er had told him that because of her sneaking into the Deadly Sea of Sand last time, her master was very angry and punished her severely. "What the senior said is true. I was indeed not thinking clearly at that time," Meng Zhang admitted his mistake honestly following Jin LiDaoist Master's words.

Jin LiDaoist Master was not only an elder but also an important strong Gold Corelate stage cultivator. If in the Refining Qi period or Foundation Building period, some talented cultivators could challenge higher-level cultivators. However, in the Gold Core period, this situation was extremely rare. Even if Meng Zhang had just entered the Gold Core initial stage, he would not be able to resist a cultivator in the mid-stage of Gold Core.

Jin LiDaoist Master, as a strong Gold Corelate stage cultivator, just stood there and slightly revealed her aura, which made Meng Zhang feel shocked and unable to resist. Meng Zhang's attitude was good enough to satisfy Jin LiDaoist Master. Jin LiDaoist Master also stopped making things difficult for him. Seeing that everything was settled, Meng Zhang respectfully invited Jin LiDaoist Master inside. After bringing Jin LiDaoist Master to a quiet room and seating her, she went straight to the point without any nonsense. "Recently, you and that little fox Gu Yue Huaidie, as well as the girl from Dark Alliance, are plotting to enter the small world left by Purple Gold Sect, right?"

After hearing Jin LiDaoist Master's words, Meng Zhang almost exclaimed. They had kept this matter strictly confidential, and there was almost no possibility of leakage. Moreover, they had only decided to cooperate to enter that small world not long ago. How did Jin LiDaoist Master already know everything?

Seeing Meng Zhang's surprised expression, Jin LiDaoist Master proudly said, "There are few things in the Endless Sea of Sand that can be hidden from this Daoist Master."

"Do you think the small world of Purple Gold Sect is a big secret? Except for you, there have been many guys who have been eyeing that place for so many years."

"Why did Yellow Lotus Sect East River Branch and Fire Cloud Sect invade the Endless Sea of Sand back then? In addition to wanting to flatter that old guy, their main purpose was to get the small world left by Purple Gold Sect."

"Yellow Lotus Sect East River Branch learned their lesson after suffering a loss. But the people of Fire Cloud Sect have been entangled and want to compete with Flying Swan Sect."

They discovered the Great Void Restriction and judged the existence of the small world left by Purple Gold Sect. They thought they had discovered a great secret, but unexpectedly, there were many covetous people long ago.

Seeing Meng Zhang's somewhat discouraged look, Jin LiDaoist Master seemed to feel that he had not been hit hard enough and said something earth-shattering.

About eight hundred years ago, a Fifth Rank great power came from outside the sky and landed in the north of Grand Dust World, where the Deadly Sea of Sand is located today.

When this great power descended on Grand Dust World, he was already seriously injured. In order to heal his injuries, he drained the spirit vein around the landing site, directly causing the appearance of the Deadly Sea of Sand.

Not long after, True Monarch Tian Zhu, known as the number one person in the Left Path, appeared nearby and fought with this Fifth Rank great power.

True Monarch Tian Zhu had a Primordial Spirit late-stage Cultivation Base and was considered a strong person in the entire Grand Dust World. Although he was a loose cultivator with no sect or school, he had been roaming the Grand Dust World for hundreds of years, experiencing thousands of battles and establishing his own reputation. Even the major sects would not easily provoke him.

The Fifth Rank great power, who was still injured, fought with True Monarch Tian Zhu, and the two were evenly matched, falling into a prolonged struggle.

It is not known what benefits this Fifth Rank great power had, but in addition to True Monarch Tian Zhu, other Primordial Spirit True Monarchs also coveted it.

First, the Primordial Spirit True Monarch of Purple Gold Sect, with a group of Gold Core Daoist Masters, wanted to intervene in their fight and reap the benefits of the fisherman. Even though the two were fighting, they easily wiped out this group of Purple Gold Sect cultivators with a few small tricks.

The still-angry True Monarch Tian Zhu, in order to ensure that his battle was not disturbed, supported the Flying Swan Sect at that time, allowing them to rise up against Purple Gold Sect and replace them as the dominant power.

Fire Cloud Sect and Yellow Lotus Sect East River Branch, who had always had grievances with Purple Gold Sect, also launched a massive invasion of the Endless Sea of Sand under the instigation of Jiuqu League Primordial Spirit True Monarch True Monarch Profound Wind.

In addition, the Qi Family, a large cultivation clan from Middle-Earth Continent, was exiled to a branch of Jiuqu League. Under the command of their clan elder Qi Mingyun True Monarch, they were also involved in the chaos of the Endless Sea of Sand.

Chapter 437: One Disappears Another Grows

Meng Zhang was well aware of the outcome of the turmoil in the Endless Sea of Sand.

After years of intense battles, a victor finally emerged. The Flying Swan Sect became the new ruler of the Endless Sea of Sand, while the Qi Family was suppressed in the Northern Desert and unable to move. The Fire Cloud Sect and the Yellow Lotus Sect East River Branch were directly expelled from the Endless Sea of Sand.

Of course, the success of the Flying Swan Sect in achieving this outcome was due in no small part to the covert support of True Monarch Tian Zhu.

Subsequently, driven by their refusal to accept their past failures and their desire to seize the inheritance of the Purple Gold Sect, the Fire Cloud Sect, under the secret support of True Monarch Profound Wind, made multiple invasions into the Endless Sea of Sand, only to be repelled by the Flying Swan Sect.

It was not until the major defeat 300-400 years ago that the Fire Cloud Sect's Elder Yun Yan was forced to make a ghost oath, bringing a temporary halt to the sect's activities.

Perhaps Jin Qiao'er had spoken highly of Meng Zhang in front of Jin LiDaoist Master, as the latter revealed many unknown details to Meng Zhang.

In order to completely defeat the Fifth Rank great power and prevent a mutually assured destruction, True Monarch Tian Zhu employed a Dao Technique called "One Disappears Another Grows."

The Fifth Rank great power willingly endured this Dao Technique, hoping to determine the victor through a series of gambling matches rather than a single battle.

A Dao Technique is a special technique that can only be performed by a Primordial Spirit True Monarch or higher, allowing them to harness the power of the Grand Dao.

Through the "One Disappears Another Grows" Dao Technique, True Monarch Tian Zhu, as the caster, and the Fifth Rank great power, as the recipient, were forcibly connected by the power of the Grand Dao.

They did not determine their strengths and weaknesses through a single battle, but through a series of gambling matches of varying scales and forms, deciding the ebb and flow of their powers.

True Monarch Tian Zhu and the Fifth Rank great power engaged in numerous gambling matches, with each victory influencing the balance of power between them.

To facilitate these matches, both parties established numerous rules, including the peculiar rules within the Deadly Sea of Sand.

At first glance, each gambling match appeared to be fair, offering both sides an opportunity to win.

Many significant events and the shifting dynamics of the Endless Sea of Sand over the past few hundred years were intertwined with these gambling matches. For instance, when Guang ZhiDaoist Master of the Forest Spring Watch was young, he entered the Deadly Sea of Sand and caught the attention of the Fifth Rank great power, who supported him as their pawn.

Through Guang ZhiDaoist Master, True Monarch Tian Zhu and the Fifth Rank great power engaged in many gambling matches.

Whether Guang ZhiDaoist Master could successfully form the core and whether the Forest Spring Watch could withstand the pressure from the Flying Swan Sect... Meng Zhang had either heard of or personally experienced these matters.

The constraints, such as the Flying Swan Sect's inability to personally intervene, stemmed from the crucial gambling match that led to the destruction of the Forest Spring Watch orchestrated by the Taiyi Sect and other sects.

As a Diviner, Meng Zhang's involvement caused an unexpected turn of events, leading to True Monarch Tian Zhu's victory.

When Meng Zhang heard Jin LiDaoist Master speak of these matters, a strange feeling arose within them.

A battle that determined the life and death of countless individuals and the fate of several sects was, in the eyes of true experts, nothing more than a series of gambling matches.

With each successive victory under the "One Disappears Another Grows" technique, True Monarch Tian Zhu's advantage over the Fifth Rank great power grew.

When this advantage reached a certain level, True Monarch Tian Zhu would achieve victory without even fighting, securing the final triumph.

However, as True Monarch Tian Zhu gained more and more advantage, he also became increasingly entangled and found it harder to divert his attention from the struggle against the Fifth Rank great power.

True Monarch Profound Wind of the Jiuqu League, also a loose cultivator, became embroiled in this conflict without the support of other Primordial Spirit True Monarchs in the Jiuqu League, rendering him unable to utilize the full power of the league. He doesn't have many pawns at his disposal, and the Fire Cloud Sect is the most important one. Originally, the Yellow Lotus Sect East River Branch sought to curry favor with him and was willing to follow his orders. However, due to some incidents, the Yellow Lotus Sect East River Branch became less obedient. Qi Mingyun True Monarch of the Qi Family had long been involved in the situation.

When dealing with the Fifth Rank great power, the three Primordial Spirit True Monarchs had some unspoken understanding, but they also engaged in countless hidden struggles against each other. With True Monarch Tian Zhu's strength, even if Qi Mingyun True Monarch and True Monarch Profound Wind joined forces, they would never dare to oppose him.

However, True Monarch Tian Zhu was too occupied to spare any attention to deal with Qi Mingyun True Monarch and True Monarch Profound Wind. Of course, Qi Mingyun True Monarch and True Monarch Profound Wind also dared not push True Monarch Tian Zhu too hard. If True Monarch Tian Zhu were pushed to the limit, he might have some killer moves that could pose a fatal threat to the two Primordial Spirit True Monarchs. After all, True Monarch Tian Zhu had a formidable reputation and immense Divine Abilities. Who knew what hidden cards he still held?

Thus, under mutual concerns, the three Primordial Spirit True Monarchs reached certain agreements to avoid direct conflicts among themselves. The Flying Swan Sect, the Northern Desert Qi Family, and the Fire Cloud Sect became their respective proxies, and a proxy war ensued.

As for Jin LiDaoist Master, she claimed to be a junior of True Monarch Tian Zhu and had been serving him faithfully in recent years. Jin LiDaoist Master did not hide the connection between her and the Qiaoshou Sect but openly spoke about it.

The surname "Jin" was quite common within the Qiaoshou Sect, whether among cultivators or ordinary people. Jin LiDaoist Master herself came from an ordinary family under the jurisdiction of the Qiaoshou Sect. When Jin LiDaoist Master's master visited the Endless Sea of Sand to visit his old friend, True Monarch Tian Zhu, he happened to encounter Jin LiDaoist Master, who had recently awakened her spiritual roots.

Jin LiDaoist Master's master saw her potential and took her away from the Endless Sea of Sand. Jin LiDaoist Master cultivated outside for many years, progressing from Refining Qi to Foundation Building and eventually forming the core, achieving some level of accomplishment.

Over a hundred years ago, Jin LiDaoist Master returned to the Endless Sea of Sand and served under True Monarch Tian Zhu. Due to their past relationship, Jin LiDaoist Master also showed some consideration for the Qiaoshou Sect. Especially after discovering Jin Qiao'er, out of affection

for her talent, Jin LiDaoist Master took her as a personal disciple. Since then, her relationship with the Qiaoshou Sect became even closer.

The Flying Swan Sect was aware of Jin LiDaoist Master's connection to the Qiaoshou Sect and held a high regard for them. Despite having Jin LiDaoist Master as a strong supporter, the Qiaoshou Sect remained low-key and did not seek to dominate others.

As for Jin LiDaoist Master herself, with a Gold Core late-stage cultivation base, there were few people who could restrain her except for Primordial Spirit True Monarchs. Therefore, Qi Mingyun True Monarch and True Monarch Profound Wind specifically reached an agreement with True Monarch Tian Zhu, forbidding Jin LiDaoist Master from acting recklessly in the Endless Sea of Sand.

Actions like trapping the Fire Cloud Sect's cultivator army with the Yellow Sand Ten Thousand Li Chart, which skirted the boundaries, were deemed unacceptable. If she continued to be uncooperative, she would likely face punishment from the Primordial Spirit True Monarchs.

Jin LiDaoist Master also made it clear to Meng Zhang that due to her inability to personally intervene, her ability to influence the situation in the Endless Sea of Sand was very limited.

Chapter 438: Finding an Alternative Solution

Between Qi Mingyun True Monarch and True Monarch Profound Wind, there were disagreements and conflicts. The Northern Desert Qi Family stood with the Flying Swan Sect to fight against the invasion of the Fire Cloud Sect, following the orders of Qi Mingyun True Monarch. Despite the enmity between the Northern Desert Qi Family and the Flying Swan Sect, they put aside their differences and cooperated temporarily to fight against the common enemy.

Qi Mingyun True Monarch was involved in the conflict only as an individual, not representing the entire Qi Family. The Northern Desert Qi Family, as a branch that had been expelled for their mistakes, had the opportunity to return to their ancestral home with the help of their elders. Therefore, they obeyed Qi Mingyun True Monarch without any hesitation.

As a Primordial Spirit True Monarch, Qi Mingyun did not mistreat the Northern Desert Qi Family. The family was able to survive in the barren Northern Desert, and their Gold Core Daoist Master had not been severed, thanks to the assistance of Qi Mingyun True Monarch.

True Monarch Profound Wind, although a Primordial Spirit True Monarch of the Jiuqu League, was a loose cultivator without the support of a powerful sect. He did not have the complete trust of the other Primordial Spirit True Monarchs of the Jiuqu League, and although he held a high position, he had no real power. When he intervened in the conflict between True Monarch Tian Zhu and the Fifth Rank great power, he faced strong opposition from the other Primordial Spirit True Monarchs of the Jiuqu League. Therefore, he could only participate in the conflict as an individual.

Without sufficient benefits, the Fire Cloud Sect would not easily support him. Although Jin Li Daoist Master had not been in the Endless Sea of Sand for long, she had a deep understanding of the situation and the conflicts between the various factions. Her words helped Meng Zhang solve many mysteries that had puzzled him for a long time, giving him a deeper understanding of the situation in the Endless Sea of Sand.

Jin Li Daoist Master spoke frankly, telling Meng Zhang that he was no longer a dispensable pawn but an important weight, as he was now a Gold Core Daoist Master from the Endless Sea of Sand. He had the right to know these secrets. Jin Li Daoist Master told Meng Zhang these things because she needed his help.

The small world of the Purple Gold Sect was of great importance, as it was related to an important gamble between True Monarch Tian Zhu and the Fifth Rank great power. With the abilities of the Primordial Spirit True Monarchs, it was not difficult to decipher the methods left behind by cultivators of the same level. However, the three Primordial Spirit True Monarchs could not directly intervene in the gamble.

Jin Li Daoist Master did not tell Meng Zhang the specific details of the gamble, but she needed him to open the small world as soon as possible and enter it. The inheritance of the Purple Gold Sect could fall into anyone's hands, but it could not fall into the hands of the Fire Cloud Sect, the Qi Family, or the Golden Tiger. Although Jin Li Daoist Master could not directly intervene, she could provide some help to Meng Zhang and his team.

After listening to Jin Li Daoist Master's story, Meng Zhang fell into deep thought. Even without her instructions, they would have to enter the small world and seize the inheritance of the Purple Gold Sect. Jin Li Daoist Master's words had prepared him for the upcoming battle, and he would not give up the inheritance of the Purple Gold Sect, even if he faced a powerful enemy like the Fire Cloud Sect. Jin Li Daoist Master's request to Meng Zhang was not in conflict with their goals. However, out of caution, Meng Zhang did not immediately agree to Jin Li Daoist Master's request. He said that he needed to discuss it with his two companions.

Jin Li Daoist Master did not pressure Meng Zhang and only asked them to make a decision as soon as possible. After exchanging contact information, Jin Li Daoist Master left with Jin Qiao'er.

Meng Zhang quickly returned to the Taiyi Sect gate and contacted Luo Ye Daoist Master and Gu Yue Huaidie. Once the three of them gathered, Meng Zhang shared everything that Jin Li Daoist Master had said, without hiding any details.

The revelations from Jin Li Daoist Master did not surprise Luo Ye and Gu Yue Huaidie. They were already aware of the behind-the-scenes events in the Endless Sea of Sand. Especially Gu Yue Huaidie, through the power of the Gu Yue Family, she had a clear understanding of these matters. Although Luo Ye had not been in the core for a long time, she had a certain level of knowledge within the well-informed Dark Alliance.

Meng Zhang's retelling of Jin Li Daoist Master's words simply filled in some missing details for them. However, they were hearing about the small world of the Purple Gold Sect for the first time.

Both Gu Yue Huaidie and Luo Ye had a strong desire to obtain that small world. While they respected opponents like the Fire Cloud Sect, they were not afraid. As important members of the Jiuqu League, the Gu Yue Family held significant influence within the league and did not fear Primordial Spirit True Monarchs like True Monarch Profound Wind, who had a relatively marginal status. Gu Yue Huaidie, acting as an individual, would have even fewer concerns.

Jin Li Daoist Master's request did not conflict with their goals, and they would also receive some assistance from her. Therefore, the three of them unanimously agreed to Jin Li Daoist Master's request.

Next, the three of them met with Jin Li Daoist Master. Although Jin Li Daoist Master was not very old among the Gold Core Daoist Masters, her cultivation base at the late stage of Gold Core was outstanding. Luo Ye and Gu Yue Huaidie showed great respect in her presence and had no intentions of being disrespectful. Despite their backgrounds in major powers and their broad experiences, they felt the pressure when facing Jin Li Daoist Master.

Upon seeing the three of them, Jin Li Daoist Master directly said, "If it weren't for your interference, this gamble wouldn't have started so soon."

"Meng Zhang has already told you my request. If you can successfully accomplish it, you will gain the favor of True Monarch Tian Zhu, and I will owe you a favor."

"But if you fail this time, True Monarch Tian Zhu will not be pleased."

Jin Li Daoist Master's words were a clear indication that they must give their all and have no thoughts of retreat.

Jin Li Daoist Master also provided them with significant help. The three of them had not found a good method for opening the small world of the Purple Gold Sect. However, Jin Li Daoist Master directly told them a shortcut.

The Mirage Secret Realm was a core node of the Great Void Restriction. By using the Mirage Secret Realm as a stepping stone, they could enter the small world more smoothly.

Gu Yue Huaidie had originally wanted to enter the Mirage Secret Realm to obtain a treasure left behind by the Primordial Spirit True Monarch of the Purple Gold Sect. In exchange for Luo Ye's assistance, she had followed Meng Zhang to track the Golden Tiger's whereabouts. After accidentally discovering the existence of the small world, she believed that the treasure was more likely to be inside it, so she gave up on entering the Mirage Secret Realm and planned to enter the small world instead.

Unexpectedly, the shortcut to entering the small world was through the Mirage Secret Realm. After going around in circles, she ended up back where she started.

Chapter 439: Cooperation

Gu Yue Huaidie had a feeling of helplessness mixed with laughter. After all the effort, they still needed to enter the Mirage Secret Realm first. Jin Li, the Daoist Master, provided detailed instructions on how to pass through the Mirage Secret Realm and ultimately enter that small world. In comparison, the method Gu Yue Huaidie had prepared to enter the Mirage Secret Realm seemed too crude and rough.

Due to the restrictions set by the Primordial Spirit True Monarch, the Mirage Secret Realm only opens approximately once every hundred years, and only small cultivators with a Refining Qi cultivation base can enter. Cultivators in the Foundation Building stage can enter the Mirage Desert but are absolutely unable to enter the Mirage Secret Realm. If a Gold Core cultivator approaches the Mirage Desert recklessly, they may be attacked by the power of the restrictions.

Originally, Gu Yue Huaidie's plan was to borrow a treasure from a senior member of the Jiuqu League, set up a formation, gather the power of multiple Gold Core Daoist Masters, mobilize the power of heaven and earth, and forcefully open a portal to the Mirage Secret Realm. Borrowing the

senior's treasure would come at a great cost, and gathering enough Gold Core Daoist Masters was not easy. Furthermore, Gu Yue Huaidie couldn't guarantee the success of this method.

On the other hand, the method provided by Jin Li, the Daoist Master, was clearly much more brilliant. First, everyone followed her instructions to activate the various nodes of the Great Void Restriction spread throughout the Endless Sea of Sand. Then, she would lend the Yellow Sand Ten Thousand Li Chart to Gu Yue Huaidie and others to control this treasure. Together, they would activate the power of the treasure and open the Mirage Secret Realm ahead of time.

Once the Mirage Secret Realm opened, a group of elite Refining Qi disciples would be selected to enter. These disciples would carry the talismans provided by Jin Li, the Daoist Master, and activate them at crucial nodes within the Mirage Secret Realm. The activation of the talismans would trigger the power of the restrictions, allowing them to communicate with the small world in that void. At that time, Meng Zhang and the others could seize the opportunity to enter the passage to the small world. This method may sound simple, but many details still need careful handling. Jin Li, the Daoist Master, explicitly stated that this method was not her own idea but a feasible one devised by the Primordial Spirit True Monarch Tian Zhu after careful study of the arrangements left by the Purple Gold Sect's Primordial Spirit True Monarch. Since it was devised by the Primordial Spirit True Monarch, its feasibility was undoubtedly much stronger than Gu Yue Huaidie's shallow method.

Without much hesitation, everyone decided to follow Jin Li, the Daoist Master's, method. However, before taking action, there was one issue to address: how to handle the relationship with the Flying Swan Sect. According to Jin Li, the Flying Swan Sect is an important pawn of True Monarch Tian Zhu. Over the years, although True Monarch Tian Zhu has not directly intervened, they have provided a lot of assistance to the Flying Swan Sect through various means. The Flying Swan Sect has been able to maintain its position as the ruler of the Endless Sea of Sand, thanks to the covert support of True Monarch Tian Zhu.

In recent years, True Monarch Tian Zhu has become increasingly difficult to manage, and the situation of the Flying Swan Sect has been deteriorating. However, no matter what, the Flying Swan Sect has deep roots and a powerful influence in the Endless Sea of Sand. If Meng Zhang and the others start to take action, it will be difficult to hide from the watchful eyes of the Flying Swan Sect. Furthermore, even if Meng Zhang and the others did not inform the Flying Swan Sect, Jin Li, the Daoist Master, would definitely notify them due to the relationship between the Flying Swan Sect and True Monarch Tian Zhu. Out of respect for True Monarch Tian Zhu and Jin Li, Meng Zhang and the others did not want to make enemies with the Flying Swan Sect. After discussing the matter, especially after Jin Li gave them some advice, they decided to include the Flying Swan Sect in their plan. At least when facing strong enemies like the Fire Cloud Sect, the Flying Swan Sect could be considered an ally. However, how to compete once they entered the small world was another matter.

After the decision was made, Jin Li, the Daoist Master, contacted the Flying Swan Sect. During this time, Meng Zhang and the others met with several Gold Core Daoist Masters from the Flying Swan Sect, and both sides made some rough agreements. During the meeting, Meng Zhang could clearly feel that the Gold Core Daoist Masters of the Flying Swan Sect had complex feelings.

This was not surprising. Originally, the Flying Swan Sect had ruled the Endless Sea of Sand for many years and had long regarded the small world of the Purple Gold Sect as their own. For so

many years, True Monarch Tian Zhu had always refused to help the Flying Swan Sect enter that small world, citing that the timing was not yet right. Although they had known about the existence of that small world for a long time and had been coveting it, they could only watch helplessly due to True Monarch Tian Zhu's wishes.

This situation of seeing something they desperately wanted but being unable to reach it had tormented several generations of the Flying Swan Sect. If it had continued like this, it would have been fine. However, the Flying Swan Sect could never have imagined that outsiders like Meng Zhang and the others would have the opportunity to enter that small world. The Flying Swan Sect had served True Monarch Tian Zhu for many years, sacrificing countless lives in various wars. Several generations had given their lives, but Meng Zhang and the others had taken advantage of it.

How could the cultivators of the Flying Swan Sect be willing to accept this? However, all of this was True Monarch Tian Zhu's decision, and the Flying Swan Sect could not resist it. Even a single Jin Li, the Daoist Master, was enough to defeat the entire Flying Swan Sect. Although the cultivators of the Flying Swan Sect were unwilling, they could only endure it silently.

Meng Zhang sensed the unwillingness of the Flying Swan Sect cultivators but was disdainful of it. The Flying Swan Sect was just an ordinary Gold Core sect with average strength. They had been oppressed by the Purple Gold Sect for many years and used as a pawn. If it were not for True Monarch Tian Zhu's help, how could the Flying Swan Sect have its current position? Although the Flying Swan Sect had tried to hide its embarrassing history before its rise, Meng Zhang had learned a lot about the Flying Swan Sect's dark history from Gu Yue Huaidie, Luo Ye, and even Jin Li, the Daoist Master, who did not conceal it in front of Meng Zhang and the others.

Since the Flying Swan Sect had relied on True Monarch Tian Zhu to rise to power, they naturally had to serve him. The Primordial Spirit True Monarch would not help them for no reason. It was because they had some use value that they had invested in them. If one was willing to accept the benefits, they should also be willing to accept the consequences. Of course, Meng Zhang concealed his disdain in front of the Flying Swan Sect cultivators. They were still allies, and it was necessary to maintain a good relationship for the time being. At least the attitude of the Flying Swan Sect cultivators on the surface was still very positive.

After discussing with Meng Zhang and the others, the Flying Swan Sect began to take action actively. They withdrew a group of elite Refining Qi cultivators from the front line and prepared them to enter the Mirage Secret Realm. The Flying Swan Sect had done this many times before, and this time, it was just that the time to enter the Mirage Secret Realm had been moved up. Moreover, withdrawing a group of Refining Qi cultivators would not have a significant impact on the front line.

In addition to mobilizing Refining Qi cultivators from Taiyi Sect and its affiliates, Meng Zhang also announced with the Flying Swan Sect to the entire Endless Sea of Sand that the Mirage Secret Realm would open ahead of schedule and invited Refining Qi cultivators from all over to come.

Chapter 440: Skythunder Seed

Within the Mirage Secret Realm, there are various dangers, especially groups of demonic beasts, which are extremely difficult to deal with. Previously, the Flying Swan Sect would mobilize

Refining Qi stage cultivators from the entire Endless Sea of Sand to barely gather enough spiritual herbs.

Even these Refining Qi stage cultivators, who are the elite of the major cultivation forces and have made thorough preparations in advance, suffer heavy casualties every time they enter. According to Jin Li Daoist Master's plan, internal and external coordination is needed to break the restrictions of the Mirage Secret Realm and activate the power of the Great Void Restriction, opening the passage to that small world.

This operation is different from before; it requires these Refining Qi stage cultivators to cooperate with each other to clear the obstacles within the Mirage Secret Realm. They absolutely cannot fight and kill each other like before.

Relying solely on the Refining Qi stage disciples of the Taiyi Sect and the Flying Swan Sect would be insufficient to complete the mission. Although Refining Qi stage disciples may be insignificant in the eyes of Gold Core Daoist Masters, these elite Refining Qi stage disciples are the future pillars of their sects.

Both Meng Zhang and the high-ranking members of the Flying Swan Sect do not want excessive casualties among their Refining Qi stage disciples. Therefore, the Taiyi Sect and the Flying Swan Sect have issued messages recruiting outstanding Refining Qi stage cultivators from the entire Endless Sea of Sand.

These Refining Qi stage disciples need to make a blood oath in advance, promising not to kill each other once they enter the Mirage Secret Realm. They must cooperate with disciples from both sects to eliminate demonic beasts and proceed to several key locations.

To attract powerful Refining Qi stage cultivators, both the Taiyi Sect and the Flying Swan Sect have offered high rewards. There is an abundance of spiritual stones, various types of elixirs, magic tools, talismans, and other precious items.

Those who perform exceptionally well as Refining Qi stage cultivators also have the opportunity to join the Taiyi Sect. If they can make significant contributions and succeed in the mission, they may even be able to exchange for a Lesser Foundation Building Pill from the Taiyi Sect.

Even though the Flying Swan Sect has suffered significant losses in recent years and is financially strained, they have also offered generous rewards to these Refining Qi stage cultivators.

Suddenly, these Refining Qi stage cultivators, who are at the bottom of the Cultivation World, have become highly sought after. Countless Refining Qi stage cultivators have flocked from all directions, not hesitating even though they know the items are not easy to obtain and that they may have to risk their lives.

Seeking wealth and prosperity in the midst of danger, for the impoverished lower-level cultivators, having an opportunity to risk their lives in exchange for a promising future is an extremely rare opportunity.

To ensure reliability, Meng Zhang has spent a considerable amount of time screening these numerous Refining Qi stage cultivators. In fact, the actions of Meng Zhang and others in opening the small world align with the intentions of many Gold Core Daoist Masters. Even the Fire Cloud Sect, which is hostile to the Flying Swan Sect, would not send people to cause trouble at this time.

During Meng Zhang's screening process, no individuals with malicious intent or intentions to sabotage were found. Only those with insufficient strength who wanted to take advantage of the situation and a group of useless individuals who were difficult to manipulate were eliminated. When Meng Zhang was screening these Refining Qi stage cultivators, a group of Foundation Building stage disciples from the Taiyi Sect, led by Gu Yue Huaidie and Luo Ye Daoist Master, began searching for the various nodes of the Great Void Restriction throughout the entire Endless Sea of Sand, following Jin Li Daoist Master's guidance. After finding these nodes, they began activating them one by one using the techniques taught by Jin Li Daoist Master.

This process was lengthy and consumed a considerable amount of time. Fortunately, there was plenty of time in Jin Li Daoist Master's plan, so there was no need to rush. While Meng Zhang was screening these Refining Qi stage cultivators, he did not neglect his own cultivation. He began practicing some Divine Ability secret techniques that only Gold Core stage cultivators could perform.

Because he was now in a cooperative relationship with the Flying Swan Sect, Meng Zhang requested Jin Li Daoist Master's help in borrowing a mine from the Flying Swan Sect. After paying a considerable price, he was able to borrow a mine that appeared to be an ordinary mystic iron mine but was connected to a fiend qi pit deep underground.

The fiend qi within the pit was so dense that it had even condensed into many fiend qi stones. When Meng Zhang was still a Foundation Building stage cultivator, he obtained a pile of fiend qi stones from the Flying Swan Sect to practice the small Divine Ability Twin Forms Towards Heaven Sword. That pile of fiend qi stones was produced from the fiend qi pit beneath this mine.

To upgrade Twin Forms Towards Heaven Sword from a small Divine Ability to a Great Divine Ability, Meng Zhang, now a Gold Core stage cultivator, needed to absorb a massive amount of yin-yang fiend qi. After borrowing the mine from the Flying Swan Sect, he went deep underground and began absorbing the dense yin-yang fiend qi within the fiend qi pit, refining it and transforming it into the sword qi of Twin Forms Towards Heaven Sword.

With a foundation in practicing the small Divine Ability, Meng Zhang did not spend too much time and successfully refined this Great Divine Ability. With this Divine Ability, he had the confidence to compete with other Gold Core Daoist Masters.

Since Jin Li Daoist Master had promised to do her best to help, Meng Zhang shamelessly asked her for some treasures that could increase his combat power. Jin Li Daoist Master could not act herself, so she naturally had to place her hopes on Meng Zhang and others.

Jin Li Daoist Master knew that Meng Zhang was still forming his core and that the Taiyi Sect did not have much background, so they could not provide too much assistance to Meng Zhang. Enhancing Meng Zhang's combat power would indeed be beneficial to True Monarch Tian Zhu's gambling.

To prevent Meng Zhang from becoming a burden, Jin Li Daoist Master put in a lot of effort. First, she found a Third Rank flying sword, Fierce Yang Sword, for Meng Zhang. Among Third Rank flying swords, this sword was considered a small masterpiece. Moreover, Meng Zhang practiced the Sun-Moon Wheel Turning Sutra and could use Solar True Qi. This Fierce Yang Sword was a perfect match for his cultivation technique and could unleash its full power in his hands.

In addition, Jin Li Daoist Master gave Meng Zhang three Thunder Sons. The lowest-level Thunder Son could be refined by a Foundation Building late stage cultivator. However, such cultivators

could only absorb the thunderous energy at the edge of thunderclouds. The Thunder Sons they refined could only threaten Foundation Building early stage cultivators. However, the Thunder Sons that Jin LiDaoist Master refined were obtained at great risk by venturing deep into thunderclouds and absorbing pure thunderous energy. She then added various precious spiritual materials and used her secret method to refine them. Such Thunder Sons were extremely difficult for Jin LiDaoist Master to refine and consumed a lot of resources.

Of course, the power of these three Thunder Sons was also enormous. Even a Gold Core early stage cultivator who accidentally came into contact with one of them could be in mortal danger. Jin LiDaoist Master had excellent inheritance and extraordinary talent in refining various types of thunderballs. The two Yin Thunder Sons she gave to Jin Qiao'er could threaten Gold Core Daoist Masters and played a crucial role in killing a Third Rank demonic beast.