

Sect Master 451

Chapter 451: Gold Core from Exploding

The land here is vast, and without any obvious clues, even a Gold Core Daoist Master would find it difficult to search the surroundings and find valuable targets in a short time. Among the several teams that entered here, besides the Flying Swan Sect and the Fire Cloud Sect, the Golden Tiger Demon General is the most familiar with this place.

The previous owner of Golden Tiger was a highly influential elder in the Purple Gold Sect. As a spirit pet greatly trusted and cherished by its master, Golden Tiger knew many secrets that only the high-ranking members of the Purple Gold Sect were aware of, such as the Great Void Restriction and the small world of the Purple Gold Sect. For many years, Golden Tiger had sent human cultivators under its control to explore almost the entire Endless Sea of Sand, discovering many important nodes of the Great Void Restriction. Unfortunately, with its abilities, it was unable to activate the great formation and open the passage to the small world.

However, after being aware of the significant movements of the Taiyi Sect and the Flying Swan Sect, Golden Tiger persuaded the Dark Crow Demon General, paying a considerable price, to help them. Together with the Earth Fox Demon General, who had always been coerced, they formed a team with considerable strength.

Though they were slightly delayed on their way due to some unexpected events, they quickly caught up with the two Daoist Masters from the Flying Swan Sect upon entering. Daoist Master Fei Yu and Daoist Master Fei Jiang had targeted a very important inheritance of the Purple Gold Sect. In that location, there were arrangements personally left behind by the Purple Gold Sect's Primordial Spirit True Monarch.

Meanwhile, Daoist Master Dark Flame and Daoist Master Angry Flame were heading towards another target. As they had just landed near a small mountain, they were immediately surrounded by a group of demons lurking in the vicinity. Easily dispersing the demons around them, they walked towards the front of the small mountain.

The mountain wall had many caves carved into it, and there were signs of human activity around the small mountain. They carefully searched the caves, only finding a pile of bones and some ordinary storage bags. This small world transformed by the predecessors of the Purple Gold Sect had an extremely harsh living environment. Even Refining Qi stage cultivators could not survive here for an extended period, let alone ordinary mortals. In the past, Foundation Building stage cultivators from the Purple Gold Sect resided here, taking care of this newborn microcosm. However, due to the catastrophic events that befell the Purple Gold Sect, these Foundation Building cultivators were eventually forgotten and left behind here, unable to leave and left to wither away over the centuries.

The belongings left behind by a group of Foundation Building cultivators were of no interest to the two Gold Core Daoist Masters. Feeling disappointed, Daoist Master Dark Flame and Daoist Master Angry Flame prepared to search for the next target.

Meng Zhang and the other two relied on Luo Ye Daoist Master's treasure to remain concealed. As long as they didn't act on their own initiative, they wouldn't expose their tracks. Unfortunately, luck was not on their side. They were originally quietly monitoring from high above when suddenly a

large group of demonic birds flew from afar, covering the sky and nearly filling the entire sky, directly sweeping them into the flock of demonic birds. Colliding with such a tightly arranged group of demonic birds, they inadvertently revealed a flaw and exposed their tracks.

Daoist Master Dark Flame, who was highly vigilant, immediately noticed the three of them. Meng Zhang reacted most decisively.

"Kill them and take their loot."

Upon hearing Meng Zhang's voice, Luo Ye Daoist Master and Gu Yue Huaidie followed him in their attack. As for the group of wicked demonic birds, with a casual wave of their hands, they stirred up a gust of wind that swept countless demonic birds into it, causing them to crash and bleed inside. Fire Cloud Sect and Great Wind City had been old neighbors for many years, and Daoist Master Angry Flame immediately recognized Gu Yue Huaidie.

"Gu Yue Family, are you also getting involved in this mess?" he questioned.

Gu Yue Huaidie ignored him and made a killing move. Although the Gu Yue Family didn't fear Fire Cloud Sect, she didn't want her personal actions to create a major enemy for the family. With things having reached this point, they naturally had to kill to obtain the treasures and silence the witnesses.

Meng Zhang activated the Shadow Killing Sword and directly displayed the Lifeless Killing Sword. In what seemed like a simple sword move, there was boundless murderous intent concealed within.

Similarly, Luo Ye Daoist Master also wielded a Shadow Killing Sword but used a completely different set of sword techniques. Taking advantage of the cover of shadows on the ground, the Shadow Killing Sword silently leaped within it. It would suddenly disappear and then reappear, launching exceptionally sinister attacks each time.

Though Meng Zhang hadn't been a core for a long time, their combat power was not weak and could rival these veteran Gold Core Daoist Masters. Luo Ye Daoist Master was especially proficient in assassination techniques, and each strike aimed directly at the opponent's weakness, making them unable to defend themselves. Gu Yue Huaidie was a mid-level Gold Core cultivator, and even without the help of Meng Zhang and Luo Ye Daoist Master, she alone would be more than Daoist Master Dark Flame and Daoist Master Angry Flame could handle.

Although Gold Core Daoist Masters were resilient in surviving battles, defeating them was easier said than done. However, when there was a significant gap in strength, the fall of a Gold Core Daoist Master was inevitable.

After a bitter battle, Daoist Master Angry Flame died on the spot. Daoist Master Dark Flame, using the last counterattack of Daoist Master Angry Flame to find an opportunity, broke free from the fight and desperately fled the scene.

Meng Zhang and Luo Ye Daoist Master flew into the sky, closely pursuing him. After flying a distance, Gu Yue Huaidie, who had dealt with the battlefield, also caught up from behind.

Daoist Master Dark Flame might have a way to shake off Meng Zhang and Luo Ye Daoist Master, but there was absolutely no way to escape from the mid-level Gold Core Gu Yue Huaidie.

Looking at Gu Yue Huaidie's rapidly approaching figure, Daoist Master Dark Flame felt a sense of despair. Suddenly, three figures appeared from a distance, flying towards them.

Daoist Master Dark Flame knew that other Gold Core Daoist Masters would definitely enter this place. If he could use the incoming arrivals' power to stir things up, he might have a chance to escape.

But when he took a closer look, his face immediately filled with despair. The three individuals flying towards them were none other than Flying Swan Sect's Daoist Master Fei Yu and Daoist Master Fei Jiang, along with Northern Desert Qi Family's Qi Nanfei.

They seemed to be fleeing for their lives, desperately flying in their direction, unaware of the enemy pursuing them from behind.

Daoist Master Dark Flame didn't encounter meddlers but instead ran into enemies from the sect. What an unfortunate situation. Just then, Gu Yue Huaidie and the others also caught up from behind.

Knowing that he couldn't escape his fate, Daoist Master Dark Flame made a firm decision and reversed his True Essence, intending to self-destruct his Gold Core and take the enemies down with him.

Chapter 452: Wisp of Soul

The self-destruction of a Gold Core Daoist Master's Gold Core possesses immense power. If one gets too close, even Gu Yue Huaidie wouldn't be able to avoid getting injured.

Unfortunately, Daoist Master Dark Flame's timing for self-destruction was not very good; Meng Zhang and the others hadn't caught up yet.

Sensing the intense fluctuations in Daoist Master Dark Flame's aura, the Gold Core in Meng Zhang's body began to throb intensely. Without hesitation, Meng Zhang and the other two immediately stopped advancing and retreated backward.

Though Meng Zhang had never witnessed a Gold Core Daoist Master's self-destruction, they were well aware of the devastating power it possessed. As they were desperately escaping from three other Gold Core Daoist Masters who were their rivals, they also discovered the commotion here.

It turned out that they accidentally stumbled upon this rare event of a Gold Core Daoist Master's self-destruction.

They didn't dare to be negligent and quickly fled in the opposite direction. Self-destruction of a Gold Core Daoist Master was not an immediate process; it required time to brew and reverse True Essence. With this slight delay, they had already moved far away from the explosion site.

After a thunderous blast, Daoist Master Dark Flame's face was filled with unwillingness, and his entire body was turned into ashes from the inside out.

A mushroom-shaped cloud rose up, and a huge circular pit appeared on the ground.

After the shockwaves from the explosion subsided, Meng Zhang and the others flew over.

With Daoist Master Dark Flame's self-destruction, everything he had on him was annihilated in the explosion. Meng Zhang and the others gained nothing from him. On the other side, the three Gold Core Daoist Masters also flew over.

Being able to force their old rival Daoist Master Dark Flame to self-destruct, the Gold Core Daoist Masters from Flying Swan Sect and Northern Desert Qi Family couldn't help but look at Gu Yue Huaidie with some awe.

In their eyes, the relatively unknown female Daoist Master, Luo Ye, and the recently formed core, Meng Zhang, surely didn't have that ability.

"How did you three end up together?" Gu Yue Huaidie asked with some surprise.

Fei Yu Daoist Master and Fei Jiang Daoist Master exchanged glances and looked a little embarrassed. Qi Nanfei's face showed even more awkwardness.

However, since Gu Yue Huaidie asked, and they also needed help from each other, they truthfully explained everything step by step.

As it turned out, Qi Nanfei had secretly left some traces on Fei Jiang Daoist Master a long time ago to track him.

After entering this small world, Qi Nanfei successfully caught up with Fei Jiang Daoist Master using these traces.

Both Fei Yu Daoist Master and Fei Jiang Daoist Master, who were trying to break the restriction, were very surprised to find Qi Nanfei's figure.

Fei Jiang Daoist Master quickly realized that he had been careless and was being tracked by Qi Nanfei.

Before the two Gold Core Daoist Masters from Flying Swan Sect could figure out how to deal with Qi Nanfei Daoist Master, Golden Tiger Demon General also arrived there.

After a big battle, the three human Gold Core Daoist Masters were defeated by the demonic beasts and fled in defeat.

As for Golden Tiger Demon General and his group, they didn't seem interested in pursuing the enemy either.

When they mentioned being defeated by the demonic beasts, the three Gold Core Daoist Masters showed a sense of shame on their faces.

Human cultivators often had an inexplicable sense of superiority when facing beasts of the same level.

This time, their defeat was a significant loss of face.

Meng Zhang and the others were not focused on the retreat of the three Gold Core Daoist Masters but on the arrangements left behind by the senior of Purple Gold Sect.

"How can the inheritance of the Human Clan fall into the hands of demonic beasts?" Meng Zhang said with righteous indignation.

"If we stand by and let those beasts succeed, we will forever become a laughingstock in the Cultivation World."

With a righteous cause in mind, the three groups with their own hidden agendas decided to join forces to deal with the demonic beasts.

With six Gold Core Daoist Masters combined, could they not handle a few demonic beasts?

Including the three Gold Core Daoist Masters who had just suffered a defeat, their confidence soared as they aggressively attacked their target.

After this slight delay, Golden Tiger Demon General's side was also almost done.

When Meng Zhang and the others flew over, Golden Tiger Demon General and his group had already broken the arrangements left by the senior Primordial Spirit.

In the sky, a high platform entirely condensed from clouds appeared. Seeing their goal, which they had been yearning for day and night for hundreds of years, Golden Tiger Demon General and his two companions flew directly to the platform. Meng Zhang and the other six people arrived just in time to witness this scene and became extremely anxious. Worried that the inheritance might be taken away, they immediately accelerated and flew over with an imposing momentum.

Suddenly, accompanied by ethereal music, a huge beam of light rose from the platform, and a massive figure formed in the sky. It was an old man wearing a Daoist robe, with a dignified and majestic aura despite being just a phantom. His wise eyes seemed to see through all the changes and vicissitudes of the world. With just a glance around, a trace of sorrow appeared in his eyes.

As soon as this old man appeared, everyone, whether Gold Core Daoist Masters or Third Rank demonic beasts, had to stop their actions and looked at him with astonishment. Compared to him, they not only seemed physically small but also incredibly weak in strength. Clearly, this was a Primordial Spirit True Monarch!

Could it be that Purple Gold Sect still had a Primordial Spirit True Monarch who hadn't perished and had been hiding in this small world?

"Since you outsiders have come here, it seems that Purple Gold Sect has already been destroyed," the old man spoke calmly but filled with a deep killing intent. "You dare to set foot in this place, you deserve to die."

The knowledgeable Gu Yue Huaidie was the first to recognize the true identity of the old man. He should be just a wisp of Divine Sense split by a powerful Primordial Spirit True Monarch. These Divine Sense fragments could develop and grow, eventually becoming a wisp of soul that could be used to refine an external avatar. With an external avatar, the Primordial Spirit True Monarch would essentially have an extra life. In some special circumstances, even if the original body fell, they could be reborn in the external avatar.

Of course, the ability to refine an external avatar was extremely rare among Primordial Spirit True Monarchs. It required not only a high cultivation base but also some extremely rare heavenly materials.

The old man before them was most likely just a wisp of Divine Sense and not an external avatar. However, even as a wisp of Divine Sense, he was not something a group of ambitious Gold Core Daoist Masters and Third Rank demonic beasts could contend with.

The old man extended a purple-golden finger and crushed the three demonic beasts with overwhelming force. "Demonic beasts should be killed."

It was unclear why he held such hatred for the demonic beasts, but he chose them as his first targets.

A massive purple-golden finger swept down from the sky with an unstoppable momentum. Golden Tiger Demon General and the others had no time to dodge, so they could only join forces to resist this attack. After a series of explosions, Earth Fox Demon General was sent flying like a ball, and Golden Tiger Demon General and Dark Crow Demon General spewed blood from their mouths as their bodies kept retreating.

Chapter 453: Adventure

The wisp of soul of the Primordial SpiritTrue Monarch is indeed extraordinary. Its strength may only be one-tenth of the True Monarch's, but with just a casual strike, it can wound three powerful Third Rank demonic beasts.

As the wisp of soul attacked the Golden Tiger Demon General and his comrades in the sky, Meng Zhang and the others immediately prepared to fly away from there.

This wisp of soul is too formidable, and several Gold Core Daoist Masters cannot contend with it.

Gu Yue Huaidie, who understands the Primordial SpiritTrue Monarch's Divine Ability best, explained to her companions as they retreated, "This wisp of soul possesses a part of the consciousness of the Primordial SpiritTrue Monarch. It is not a mere mechanical entity. With the Primordial SpiritTrue Monarch's combat awareness, even if it can only exert a small part of the True Monarch's strength, it is more than enough to crush us." The massive purple-golden finger swept through the sky, forcing the Golden Tiger Demon General and the other two to retreat continuously, struggling to maintain their footing.

"Now you want to run? It's too late," sneered a contemptuous voice. Another purple-golden massive finger chased after Meng Zhang and his group, fiercely pressing down on them.

Facing the wisp of soul of the Primordial SpiritTrue Monarch, the group exerted all their efforts, using their respective means to try to block this round of attacks.

Meng Zhang wielded the Shadow Killing Sword, displaying the Lifeless Killing Sword, and fully confronted the massive purple-golden finger.

On the other side, the Golden Tiger Demon General desperately resisted while shouting, "Senior, I am not your enemy! I am from the Purple Gold Sect."

"Bold! A mere demon dares to impersonate a disciple of the Purple Gold Sect," came a furious shout, followed by even fiercer attacks.

Golden Tiger Demon General felt extremely frustrated; he genuinely was from the Purple Gold Sect. As a spirit pet, he had lived there for many years and was extremely loyal to his owner and the sect.

Throughout the years, he had always considered himself a disciple of the Purple Gold Sect. Even after the sect's downfall, he had entangled with the sworn enemy, Flying Swan Sect, for revenge, despite having some ulterior motives of his own.

He had paid a considerable price this time, even persuading Dark Crow Demon General to help, all to reclaim what he believed was rightfully his heritage as a member of the Purple Gold Sect.

Unexpectedly, the wisp of soul of the Purple Gold Sect's Primordial Spirit True Monarch regarded him as a demon and refused to acknowledge him as a disciple of the sect. This deeply hurt Golden Tiger Demon General and left him feeling indescribably wronged.

However, his enemies wouldn't listen to reason and continued launching relentless attacks.

Golden Tiger Demon General and Dark Crow Demon General could barely hold on, but Earth Fox Demon General, the weakest among them, was already struggling.

This wisp of soul was too fierce, able to gain the absolute upper hand against nearly ten Gold Core-level experts in combat.

"This wisp of soul cannot exist forever. Once its power is depleted, it will naturally dissipate. We don't need to confront it head-on; our priority is to retreat," Gu Yue Huaidie, with her keen insight, had the clearest understanding of the situation.

Everyone followed Gu Yue Huaidie's advice, fighting while retreating and gradually moving away from the area.

The Golden Tiger Demon General and Dark Crow Demon General on the other side had likely made the same judgment as Gu Yue Huaidie; they were unwilling to engage in a head-on battle with their enemy.

Golden Tiger Demon General and Dark Crow Demon General did their best to block one wave of attacks before immediately flying away.

Earth Fox Demon General, the weakest one, became the main target of the assault. They were too preoccupied with their own escape and neglected Earth Fox Demon General.

A piercing and mournful scream echoed as Earth Fox Demon General's body was torn apart, and the remaining half flew lifelessly to the side.

Meng Zhang, who was withdrawing from the battlefield, saw this scene and didn't hesitate, immediately flying over to retrieve Earth Fox Demon General's remains.

"Bold!"

In the sky, even fiercer attacks descended, aiming directly at Meng Zhang's vital points. The two Daoist Masters from the Flying Swan Sect looked at Meng Zhang with a somewhat gloating expression. In their hearts, they wished for Meng Zhang's death here. If that happened, there would be one less variable and much less trouble in the Endless Sea of Sand. Qi Nanfei Daoist Master from the Northern Desert Qi Family also had no intention of rescuing Meng Zhang. Luo Ye Daoist Master and Gu Yue Huaidie were too far away to fly over and help in time.

Facing an unprecedented fierce attack, Meng Zhang used all his skills, summoning both the Fierce Yang Sword and the Shadow Killing Sword, unleashing the Strange and Upright Sword Art. The two flying swords, one bright and one dark, actively met the enemy's attack. "Strange and Upright Sword Art," a voice with some confusion sounded, and the fierce assault slowed slightly. Seizing this rare opportunity, Meng Zhang defended against the enemy's attacks while quickly retreating, fleeing the battlefield at the fastest speed possible. As Meng Zhang was the last to leave the battlefield, this short yet intense battle came to an end.

The wisp of soul likely had some kind of restriction, preventing it from leaving that area too far. "You were too reckless just now," Luo Ye Daoist Master said to Meng Zhang. Meng Zhang smiled a little embarrassedly. His actions were entirely instinctual without any conscious thought. Although Earth Fox Demon General's body was shattered, the demonic core was still intact. For Taiyi Sect, which lacked Foundation Building Pills, the inner core of a Third Rank demonic beast was incredibly crucial. So much so that even the Sect Master, Meng Zhang, was willing to risk his life and fight desperately to seize it.

Fortunately, Meng Zhang was lucky enough to come out unscathed. The Strange and Upright Sword Art he obtained from the Purple Gold Sect's cultivator's cave had been of great help. At this moment, six human Gold Core Daoist Masters and two Third Rank demonic beasts faced each other from a considerable distance. Seeing Meng Zhang risk his life to seize the Earth Fox Demon General's body and return successfully, Fei Yu Daoist Master and Fei Jiang Daoist Master felt envious. The inner core of a Third Rank demonic beast meant a furnace of Foundation Building Pills. Even for the Flying Swan Sect, Foundation Building Pills were always in great demand. Especially in recent years, their Foundation Building cultivators had consumed a lot, and they urgently needed fresh blood to replenish their ranks. Foundation Building Pills had become a scarce resource.

Fei Jiang Daoist Master and Fei Yu Daoist Master were both considering how to persuade everyone to join forces, kill the two Third Rank demonic beasts, and seize their inner cores. This would also serve as retribution for the earlier humiliation and erase the shame. Qi Nanfei Daoist Master from the Northern Desert Qi Family had the same idea and exchanged a meaningful glance with the two Gold Core Daoist Masters from the Flying Swan Sect. They were preparing to secretly communicate with Meng Zhang and the other two when the ground began to tremble violently.

Everyone looked at each other, a bit puzzled about what was happening. Gu Yue Huaidie closed her eyes, and after a while, she said anxiously, "Something's wrong. The markers established by the Great Void Restriction are disappearing." Gu Yue Huaidie's words shocked everyone. Without the markers' guidance, they would be unable to traverse the vast void and return to the Grand Dust World. Being trapped in the void, the Gold Core Daoist Masters could only hope for a heaven-defying stroke of luck; otherwise, they would be trapped to death.

Chapter 454: Having a strong beginning but a weak ending

As for staying inside this small world, that is not an acceptable choice. In this place, not even a Third Rank spirit vein exists, and Gold Core Daoist Masters cannot maintain their daily cultivation, let alone elevate their Cultivation Base. Moreover, everyone here in the Grand Dust World has a lot of matters to attend to. Staying away from the Grand Dust World for too long can lead to significant problems.

Especially for Meng Zhang, being a Sect Master, if trapped in this place, what would happen to the Taiyi Sect? Thinking about this, Meng Zhang's heart wavered, and he considered withdrawing. Opportunities can be sought later, and there are many ways to supplement the deficiencies in their own cultivation; there is no need to struggle here.

Meng Zhang glanced at everyone and found that their thoughts were similar. Even Golden Tiger Demon General from the Purple Gold Sect, who desired the sect's inheritance the most, was

evidently unwilling to be trapped here. Therefore, both humans and demonic beasts took flight, preparing to leave this small world.

The commotion was substantial, and the marks established by the Great Void Restriction slowly disappeared, which was evident. After a while, one Gold Core Daoist Master after another flew up from the land and rushed outward.

A large group of Gold Core Daoist Masters swiftly left the small world, taking advantage of the marks that had not completely disappeared, following the marks' guidance to exit the void at the fastest speed. Along the way, these Gold Core Daoist Masters occasionally encountered each other.

Regardless of whether they knew each other before or had old grudges, at this moment, they had no intention of entangling with one another. Instead, they hurriedly flew towards the direction they came from.

Following the marks' guidance, these Gold Core Daoist Masters flew all the way to the end of the marks. There, a thin light shield enveloped a massive gateway.

Several impatient Gold Core Daoist Masters took successive actions and broke the light shield in a few moves, revealing the gateway behind it. According to the marks' guidance, this was the passage to leave the void.

Everyone did not hesitate any longer and jumped into it, including Meng Zhang and his group.

After another bout of dizziness and disorientation, Meng Zhang tumbled out of the black hole and returned to the Mirage Desert's sky.

Quite a few Gold Core Daoist Masters also emerged after him. After coming out, they quickly recovered and formed various teams.

The upheaval of the Great Void Restriction had long alarmed Jin Li, the female Daoist Master. She was a bit anxious but couldn't rush in to investigate.

When she saw Meng Zhang and the others come out, she flew over quickly to inquire about the situation.

In fact, most of the present Gold Core Daoist Masters didn't know precisely what had happened. They only felt the marks starting to disappear and worried about being trapped in the void, so they hurriedly escaped.

These Gold Core Daoist Masters didn't rush to leave but stayed nearby, hoping to get some new information.

Meng Zhang and the others gathered around Jin Li, the female Daoist Master, and recounted everything that happened with the Purple Gold Sect's Primordial Spirit True Monarch wisp of soul they encountered.

After hearing this, Jin Li, the female Daoist Master, was also greatly surprised. Such a situation was indeed beyond her expectations.

"It seems that the upheaval in the Great Void Restriction was caused by that wisp of soul," she said. "It's truly unexpected that even after so long, a Primordial Spirit True Monarch from the Purple Gold Sect left behind a wisp of soul."

Jin Li, the female Daoist Master, sighed and expressed her thoughts.

Many years ago, this senior had already exhausted their lifespan and died during meditation. Based on Meng Zhang and the others' description, Daoist Master Jin Li deduced that the wisp of soul belonged to the last Primordial Spirit True Monarch of the Purple Gold Sect, True Monarch Vermilion. Back then, True Monarch Vermilion led a group of Gold Core Daoist Masters from the sect and intervened in the conflict between True Monarch Tian Zhu and that Fifth Rank great power.

As the only Primordial Spirit True Monarch in the Purple Gold Sect at the time, True Monarch Vermilion had left behind many contingencies before taking action to ensure that even if he failed, the sect's heritage would remain intact. After his fall, most of these contingencies were deciphered by the Flying Swan Sect. However, he unexpectedly left behind a wisp of soul in that small world. Such a contingency truly caught True Monarch Tian Zhu off guard.

According to the terms of the bet between True Monarch Tian Zhu and the Fifth Rank great power, the winner would be decided based on who obtained the Purple Gold Sect's inheritance. Now, with this unexpected variable, the bet might not proceed.

Although the Gold Core Daoist Masters present had gained some rewards in that small world, it was far from enough to inherit the Purple Gold Sect's legacy. Could it be that this bet would be considered a draw due to the lack of a clear winner? Daoist Master Jin Li wondered.

While Meng Zhang and his group were conversing with Daoist Master Jin Li, the black hole disappeared completely along with intense tremors. The various nodes of the Great Void Restriction gradually returned to calm, and all anomalies disappeared as the great formation closed entirely.

Without the guidance of the Great Void Restriction, the group of Gold Core Daoist Masters had no way to find the Purple Gold Sect's small world in the vast void. Daoist Master Jin Li felt a headache due to the unexpected situation, and she had no good way to handle it. She could only report the situation here to True Monarch Tian Zhu and await his instructions.

During their conversation, Meng Zhang and his group didn't deliberately keep things confidential, and everyone present basically overheard their discussion. It seemed that they could forget about getting involved with the Purple Gold Sect's small world.

Seeing Daoist Master Jin Li's displeased expression, the group of Gold Core Daoist Masters was unwilling to continue staying here and quickly departed. If they couldn't touch the Purple Gold Sect's small world for now, they certainly didn't want to remain in this troublesome place. Especially the Golden Fox Demon General and Dark Crow Demon General, they ran the fastest, as if they were fleeing for their lives, quickly escaping the area.

As Third Rank demon beasts amidst a group of human Gold Core Daoist Masters, they felt immense pressure. For the Gold Core Daoist Masters, the corpses of Third Rank demon beasts were a considerable wealth. Moreover, the one who released True Monarch Vermilion's wisp of soul was the Golden Tiger Demon General, who was very worried about the group of human cultivators, including Daoist Master Jin Li, directing their anger towards him.

Fortunately, everyone's emotions were currently unsettled, and they didn't have time to focus on the two Third Rank demon beasts. Daoist Master Jin Li exchanged a few words with Meng Zhang, not bothering to retrieve her flying sword and Heavenly Thunder child that she lent to him, and hastily left.

She needed to report everything that happened here to True Monarch Tian Zhu as soon as possible and listen to his next instructions. After a brief chat, Meng Zhang and his group also left and returned to the Taiyi Sect.

With everyone dispersing, this adventure that had been brewing for a long time, with much preparation, ended like a damp squib.

Chapter 455: Flying back without any results

After returning to the Taiyi Sect's mountain gate, Meng Zhang, Luo Ye, Daoist Master, and Gu Yue Huaidie felt somewhat disappointed. Meng Zhang's hope of inheriting the Purple Gold Sect's legacy was dashed, and now he had to find other inheritances to make up for his deficiencies. Nevertheless, since he had just formed his core, there was no urgent need for further cultivation. He had plenty of time to explore other paths.

Luo Ye, a Daoist Master, originally intended to kill the Golden Tiger Demon General and seize a treasure from him. Later, when she discovered the clues to the Purple Gold Sect's small world, she became eager to obtain the sect's legacy. Despite returning empty-handed this time, she managed to assess the Golden Tiger Demon General's strength during their brief encounter. To her surprise, he had already advanced to the Third Rank middle-grade demon beast, equivalent to a human cultivator at the Mid Gold Core realm. Advancing as a demon beast was even more challenging than for human cultivators, requiring extensive time and effort. When the Golden Tiger Demon General left the Dark Alliance, he was merely a Third Rank low-grade demon beast. Now, with his greatly increased strength, it was almost impossible for Luo Ye to defeat him directly.

Furthermore, after experiencing these events, it would be difficult for the Golden Tiger Demon General to leave the Demon Wind Gobi. Her plan to lure him out of the Gobi had now become futile. Faced with the disappointment of her efforts being in vain, Luo Ye felt disheartened.

Gu Yue Huaidie was equally in a bad mood. She initially believed that the treasure she sought was inside the Mirage Secret Realm and was even prepared to pay a price to hire several Gold Core Daoist Masters to forcefully break into it. However, after finding the clues to the Purple Gold Sect's small world, she was convinced that the treasure must be there. As a member of the Gu Yue Family, she had been drawn into the conflicts of the Endless Sea of Sand and carried a considerable burden. Yet, this time she returned empty-handed, making all her efforts in vain.

Meng Zhang was the most composed among them. Even if he didn't obtain the Purple Gold Sect's inheritance, he still had other options. He glanced at Gu Yue Huaidie, testingly asking if she needed to enter the Mirage Secret Realm again. Perhaps the treasure she sought might be hidden within that secret realm.

Gu Yue Huaidie shook her head, declining Meng Zhang's offer. After the Great Void Restriction closed, the Mirage Secret Realm was sealed once more. It was likely that it would follow its previous pattern and reopen in about a hundred years. Even if she borrowed Jin Li's Yellow Sand Ten Thousand Li Chart and gathered the strength of several Gold Core Daoist Masters to forcibly open it, it wouldn't serve much purpose. The presence of True Monarch Vermilion's wisp of soul guarding the small world already proved that the treasure was inside.

Meng Zhang couldn't help Gu Yue Huaidie with her goal; he was powerless in this matter. However, Luo Ye's goal was, in a way, aligned with the Taiyi Sect's next step.

Meng Zhang comforted Luo Ye, saying that it didn't matter if the Golden Tiger Demon General escaped this time. As long as he remained in the Demon Wind Gobi, there would be a way to deal with him. After forming his core, Taiyi Sect became a Gold Core sect and needed an object of authority and a new expansion target. Meng Zhang truly looked down on the poor and pitiful sects in the surrounding areas, and since most of them had already submitted, Taiyi Sect couldn't just wipe them out. The Demon Wind Gobi, on the other hand, possessed the much-needed Third Rank spirit vein and abundant cultivation resources. Even the demon beasts themselves represented a massive fortune. Moreover, the demon beasts from the Demon Wind Gobi had previously launched a large-scale invasion that put Taiyi Sect in significant danger. With the current conditions, Meng Zhang planned to take the initiative and confront the enemy outside the sect's borders.

Of course, relying solely on Meng Zhang's power wouldn't be enough to face so many Third Rank demon beasts within the Demon Wind Gobi. Taiyi Sect's strength alone couldn't match the demon beast army.

Meng Zhang needed strong reinforcements.

Luo Ye, a Daoist Master, didn't give up her intention to confront the Golden Tiger Demon General just because he had become a Third Rank middle-grade demon beast. Helping Taiyi Sect attack the Demon Wind Gobi was exactly what she wanted.

As for Gu Yue Huaidie, she had already promised to assist Luo Ye in dealing with the Golden Tiger Demon General. Despite the changing circumstances, she had no intention of breaking her promise. Moreover, being involved in various affairs of the Endless Sea of Sand as an individual, she no longer hesitated to continue the attack on the Demon Wind Gobi. As a human cultivator, it was their duty to eliminate demons and monsters, which held a righteous pretext. Although most of the time, such righteous pretexts were nothing more than empty words, they still carried some weight for Gu Yue Huaidie, who hailed from the Gu Yue Family of the Jiuqu League. At least when it came to maintaining the appearance of prestigious sects, such things were necessary.

Having Luo Ye as an assistant was not enough. Meng Zhang was preparing to bring the Flying Swan Sect and even the Northern Desert Qi Family to join the attack on the Demon Wind Gobi.

Speaking of the Flying Swan Sect, they were fortunate this time. Although they returned empty-handed from the small world, the Daoist Masters Dark Flame and Angry Flame from the Fire Cloud Sect died inside, eliminating a significant threat to the Flying Swan Sect. The two Gold Core Daoist Masters from the Fire Cloud Sect were also unfortunate; while other Gold Core Daoist Masters had no problems, they encountered Meng Zhang's trio and lost their lives in their attempt to kill and seize treasures.

Originally, Daoist Masters Dark Flame and Angry Flame had infiltrated the Endless Sea of Sand and entered that small world. The frontline confrontation with the Flying Swan Sect had left only Daoist Master Scarlet Flame, a Gold Core Daoist Master. He had to face the Gold Core Daoist Master Fei Shi alone and could only barely hold his own. After Daoist Masters Fei Jiang and Fei Yu returned, they immediately rushed to the frontline to join the attack on the Fire Cloud Sect. This proved too much for Daoist Master Scarlet Flame to handle alone, so he had to lead the Fire Cloud Sect's forces and retreat. Fortunately, Daoist Master Scarlet Flame was highly skilled, and the

cultivator army of the Fire Cloud Sect was elite. Additionally, at a critical moment, the Northern Desert Qi Family either intentionally or unintentionally eased their resistance.

Finally, after paying some price, Daoist Master Scarlet Flame led the Fire Cloud Sect's forces to withdraw from the Endless Sea of Sand and successfully returned to their territory. Fei Jiang Daoist Master, full of unwillingness, wanted to pursue them and wreak havoc in the Fire Cloud Sect's territory to erase the previous shame. It's worth noting that the mountain gate of the Flying Swan Sect was destroyed by a Gold Core Daoist Master from the Fire Cloud Sect.

However, Daoist Master Fei Yu firmly stopped him from acting recklessly. While it was justified for the Flying Swan Sect to counterattack when the Fire Cloud Sect invaded the Endless Sea of Sand, it would be different if they invaded the Fire Cloud Sect's territory. After all, the Fire Cloud Sect was also a member of the Jiuqu League. Invading them would be tantamount to slapping the face of the entire Jiuqu League. Even though the Flying Swan Sect had legitimate reasons to retaliate when attacked, Jiuqu League's top officials wouldn't listen to their reasoning. They only cared about maintaining the face and interests of the Jiuqu League.

Chapter 456: Union

The Jiuqu League, which has more than one Primordial Spirit True Monarch, is extremely powerful and not something that the Flying Swan Sect, a mere Gold Core sect, can provoke.

Not to mention the entire Jiuqu League, even the neighboring Great Wind City and Yellow Lotus Sect East River Branch, which belong to the Jiuqu League, as well as the Fire Cloud Sect, are much stronger than the Flying Swan Sect.

It was already quite difficult for the Flying Swan Sect to repel the invasion of the Fire Cloud Sect, and luck played a significant role in their success. Moreover, True Monarch Tian Zhu, who stands behind the Jiuqu League, would not want the Flying Swan Sect to go to war with the Jiuqu League. As the dominant force in the Endless Sea of Sand, the Flying Swan Sect holds sway, but when facing a behemoth like the Jiuqu League, they can only retreat with their tails between their legs.

Even if they feel unwilling and resentful, the three Gold Core Daoist Masters of the Flying Swan Sect can only reluctantly accept the reality. However, regardless of the circumstances, the Flying Swan Sect's victory this time has temporarily relieved the threat from the Fire Cloud Sect and eliminated the burden of fighting on two fronts. Now, the Flying Swan Sect can concentrate all its strength to deal with the threat from the Demon Wind Gobi.

In fact, after the Fire Cloud Sect withdrew, Daoist Masters Fei Yu and Fei Jiang hurriedly headed to the front line facing the Demon Wind Gobi. Their secret departure was also a significant risk.

If the demonic army of the Demon Wind Gobi launched a massive invasion at this time, the Flying Swan Sect would definitely not be able to withstand it. The Flying Swan Sect would no longer be able to spare any other Gold Core Daoist Masters to stop the Third Rank demonic beasts. Fortunately, luck was on the side of the Flying Swan Sect.

During this period, the front line remained relatively calm, with no major conflicts occurring apart from some routine minor skirmishes. It seemed that the demonic beasts had not detected the true situation of the Flying Swan Sect and did not take advantage of the situation to launch an attack.

After the return of Daoist Masters Fei Yu and Fei Jiang, the Flying Swan Sect finally breathed a sigh of relief. After discussing the plan to jointly attack the Demon Wind Gobi with Meng Zhang, Luo Ye, and Gu Yue Huaidie, Meng Zhang sent envoys to contact the high-level members of the Flying Swan Sect and the Northern Desert Qi Family.

Currently, the Taiyi Sect can barely be considered on par with the Northern Desert Qi Family. Whether the Flying Swan Sect likes it or not, the Taiyi Sect now has the qualifications to stand on equal footing with the Flying Swan Sect.

After finding some free time, Meng Zhang began to deal with the remains of the Earth Fox Demon General. Although it was only half of the corpse, the demonic core remained intact and could be used to refine Foundation Building Pills. This was the main purpose for Meng Zhang to take such a great risk in seizing the corpse.

The other parts of the corpse also had significant uses. Not to mention, Meng Zhang's two little companions and the spirit pets of the sect's high-level members would have fresh flesh and blood to devour.

After handling the remains of the Earth Fox Demon General, Meng Zhang's disciple, An Xiaoran, came to pay him a visit. An Xiaoran brought great surprises to Meng Zhang as she revealed all her significant gains in the Mirage Secret Realm to her master.

Surprisingly, An Xiaoran and her companions managed to obtain spiritual herbs in the Mirage Secret Realm that could be used to refine Foundation Building Pills. This made Meng Zhang feel both unexpected and a little regretful.

The daring act of seizing the remains of the Earth Fox Demon General seemed somewhat unnecessary now. As the only Gold Core Daoist Master of the Taiyi Sect and the lord of the sect, Meng Zhang carried the heavy expectations of the entire sect. He could no longer take such risks in the future.

Meng Zhang reminded himself in his heart, constantly warning himself. Of course, although the value of Meng Zhang's risk-taking was greatly discounted, it still had significant meaning. An Xiaoran had at least enough spiritual herbs to refine two batches of Foundation Building Pills, and with the demonic core of the Earth Fox Demon General, they had three opportunities to refine Foundation Building Pills.

In addition to allowing Shi Changqing to take action twice to ensure a certain output of pills, it also gave Pill Hall Master Zhang Yingying a chance to practice. Although Shi Changqing was respectful, the Shi Family was still a vassal and he was not a disciple of the Taiyi Sect. Zhang Yingying was a Taiyi Sect disciple and was obviously more reliable and trusted by the members of the sect.

Refining Foundation Building Pills, a high-difficulty pill, was also a significant exercise for Zhang Yingying and could greatly enhance her alchemy technique. As the only Second Rank Alchemist of the Taiyi Sect, Zhang Yingying would naturally receive the full support of the sect and have many opportunities.

In addition to reporting their gains to Meng Zhang, An Xiaoran also came to inform him that she was preparing to close up and break through to the Foundation Building stage. With the significant

gains in the Mirage Secret Realm, she had enough merit points to exchange for the only Foundation Building Pill in the sect.

For An Xiaoran, exchanging for the Foundation Building Pill was just a precaution. With her aptitude and foundation, she had a good chance of successfully breaking through to the Foundation Building stage without taking the pill.

Meng Zhang encouraged An Xiaoran a few times, and everything that needed to be done and said had already been done and said. He did not say much and let An Xiaoran leave.

With sufficient spiritual herbs, the Taiyi Sect could once again refine Foundation Building Pills. Before setting out for the Demon Wind Gobi, Meng Zhang had one very important thing to do, which was to meet with the Deep Earth Spirit General and make him fulfill his promise.

However, when Meng Zhang sent someone to call the Deep Earth Spirit General, he found that he was not in the sect for some time. According to the disciples of the sect, after returning from the Mirage Secret Realm, Delicate Water Spirit General, Shocking Thunder Spirit General, and Deep Earth Spirit General left the Taiyi Sect together to search for the whereabouts of a Heaven and Earth Spiritual Object.

Meng Zhang was a bit helpless. How could they leave the sect at this time? He suspected that they were deliberately avoiding him. Could it be that they did not want to tell him about the past of the Taiyi Sect, so they found a way to avoid him? But this behavior was obviously not in line with the usual character of Deep Earth Spirit General, nor was it the style of Shocking Thunder Spirit General.

Could it be that they were both influenced by Delicate Water Spirit General, this arrogant woman? After thinking for a while, Meng Zhang had no clue and no other good way, so he had to put this matter aside. After all, they were members of the Taiyi Sect and could not avoid him forever. There would be a day when Meng Zhang would know all the truth from their mouths.

On the other hand, the envoys sent by Meng Zhang successfully met with the high-level members of the Flying Swan Sect and the Northern Desert Qi Family. There were many opposing voices within the Flying Swan Sect. They believed that they should take advantage of the opportunity to rest and recover after the war with the Fire Cloud Sect and slowly restore the losses of the sect. Launching a large-scale invasion of the Demon Wind Gobi at this time and igniting the flames of war was not a wise move.

However, the three Gold Core Daoist Masters of the Flying Swan Sect all agreed with Meng Zhang's proposal. The Flying Swan Sect had suffered heavy losses in several major battles in recent years, and its disciples were exhausted and unable to catch their breath. However, for the long-term interests of the sect, they must persist for a while longer and continue to use force against the Demon Wind Gobi. Now that the Fire Cloud Sect had been defeated and was unable to interfere in the Endless Sea of Sand, it was the best time for the Flying Swan Sect to completely solve this major enemy.

Chapter 457: War Preparations

The Fire Cloud Sect has suffered the loss of two Gold Core Daoist Masters, which is a significant blow, but they still possess formidable strength. It's important to note that the Fire Cloud Sect has

three Gold Core Daoist Masters currently in seclusion for healing, and one intact Gold Core Daoist Master who remains stationed at the sect's headquarters. Whether it's the Fire Cloud Sect's vengeful approach to handling matters or the deep-seated enmity between the Fire Cloud Sect and the Flying Swan Sect spanning hundreds of years, the Fire Cloud Sect will not simply give up at this point.

If the severely injured Gold Core Daoist Masters recover from their wounds, it is highly likely that the Fire Cloud Sect will once again invade the Endless Sea of Sand and continue their relentless conflict with the Flying Swan Sect. Currently, the demonic beasts within the Demon Wind Gobi are relatively calm, but no one knows how long this tranquility will last. If the Fire Cloud Sect launches another large-scale invasion and the demonic beast army from the Demon Wind Gobi joins them, the Flying Swan Sect will find itself once again in the predicament of fighting on two fronts.

At that time, the Flying Swan Sect may not be as fortunate as they are now. In terms of strength alone, both the Fire Cloud Sect and the Demon Wind Gobi have surpassed the Flying Swan Sect. The series of victories achieved by the Flying Swan Sect in recent years can be attributed to some extent to luck.

During the recent major battle with the Fire Cloud Sect, the Northern Desert Qi Family clearly did not contribute much. The Northern Desert Qi Family's covert actions of aiding the Fire Cloud Sect's retreat did not go unnoticed by the three Gold Core Daoist Masters of the Flying Swan Sect. Although it was already known that the Northern Desert Qi Family couldn't be relied upon, their behavior has raised the vigilance of the high-ranking members of the Flying Swan Sect. Perhaps, in the next battle with the Fire Cloud Sect, the Northern Desert Qi Family may not be a temporary ally anymore.

Therefore, the three Gold Core Daoist Masters of the Flying Swan Sect have unanimously decided to join forces with the Taiyi Sect and prioritize dealing with the threat of the Demon Wind Gobi. By attacking the Demon Wind Gobi, the Flying Swan Sect can obtain a significant amount of spoils of war and seize many cultivation resources.

After years of war, the potential of the Flying Swan Sect is nearly depleted. Gaining some replenishment from the Demon Wind Gobi would be a much-needed recovery. Apart from other resources in the Demon Wind Gobi, the numerous demonic beasts, especially the Third Rank demonic beast cores, are invaluable resources that can be used to refine Foundation Building Pills. Currently, the Flying Swan Sect is also facing a shortage of Foundation Building Pills. With the sect's mountain gate destroyed and the loss of a significant portion of their spiritual herb garden, the sect's treasury is drying up, and they lack sufficient resources to acquire Foundation Building Pills from the outside world. The Third Rank demonic beasts in the Demon Wind Gobi have become the Flying Swan Sect's only hope.

The Flying Swan Sect has agreed to Meng Zhang's proposal and joined the team invading the Demon Wind Gobi. The Northern Desert Qi Family has also readily agreed to participate. The Northern Desert region is relatively barren within the Endless Sea of Sand. For many years, the Qi Family has struggled to survive and develop in that area. Without the covert assistance and multiple support from Qi Mingyuan True Monarch, they would have long succumbed to the pressure from the Flying Swan Sect.

There are numerous benefits to attacking the Demon Wind Gobi, and the Northern Desert Qi Family is equally unwilling to refuse this opportunity to obtain a vast amount of valuable resources. It's a

rare chance indeed. Both the Flying Swan Sect and the Northern Desert Qi Family are willing to join forces, giving Meng Zhang full confidence in this operation.

There are eight Gold Core Daoist Masters among the human cultivators, and no matter how powerful the demonic beasts in the Demon Wind Gobi are, they will not be able to withstand such formidable enemies. It can be imagined that the upcoming war will definitely not end in a short period of time. It might even be a prolonged and protracted battle.

Even though everyone wants to start the war as soon as possible, the preparations before the war still need to be done as well as possible. Meng Zhang met with Luo Ye and the Gold Core Daoist Masters from the Flying Swan Sect and the Northern Desert Qi Family.

During the meeting, perhaps because of Gu Yue Huaidie's support, the other Gold Core Daoist Masters did not underestimate Meng Zhang, the newly promoted Gold Core Daoist Master. After a discussion and some bargaining, everyone reached a consensus and had a preliminary opinion. Once the Gold Core Daoist Masters reached a unanimous agreement, the next steps became easier. The three factions began to race against time to prepare for the war. Taiyi Sect began to collect various war materials in a tight and orderly manner. The various halls responsible for production tasks within the sect were fully engaged in production, presenting a busy scene.

The flights to Great Wind City suddenly became frequent. The flying boats traveling between Taiyi Sect and Great Wind City brought spiritual materials from the Endless Sea of Sand to Great Wind City and brought back a large number of finished products.

The surrounding forces of Taiyi Sect basically openly submitted to Taiyi Sect and joined Taiyi Sect. Meng Zhang also issued a conscription order to these forces, recruiting various resources and the cultivators of these forces.

Taiyi Sect had already begun mobilizing. The disciples of the sect gathered together to conduct various practical combat exercises. Qiaoshou Sect, Taiyi Sect's ally, had always placed itself in a very positive position. After Meng Zhang formed the core, it lowered its posture even more and almost regarded itself as Taiyi Sect's subordinate.

Meng Zhang was very appreciative of Qiaoshou Sect, and had never mistreated this ally or bossed them around. Not to mention that the two sects had been close allies for many years, but even Jin Qiao'er and Jin Li, Jin Qiao'er's master, had to be treated seriously.

Of course, Qiaoshou Sect had always been sensible and had never acted arrogantly or abused its power based on the relationship between Jin Qiao'er and Jin Li. Qiaoshou Sect had always been obedient to Taiyi Sect.

This time, when Taiyi Sect attacked the Demon Wind Gobi, Qiaoshou Sect naturally cooperated fully and went to war together. Even if the strength of Taiyi Sect's vassal families was not strong and the number of cultivators was limited, they still went all out.

Years of continuous blood loss had made the Flying Swan Sect appear very weak. However, under the strong push of the three Gold Core Daoist Masters, the Flying Swan Sect went all out in preparing for the war.

At this time, the strength of the hegemon that ruled the Endless Sea of Sand could be seen. The Flying Swan Sect not only dispatched a powerful army of cultivators but also recruited the

cultivation forces of the entire Endless Sea of Sand, drawing a considerable number of cultivators from these forces to form a strong army.

The Northern Desert Qi Family had always been excluded from the cultivation forces of the Endless Sea of Sand, but Taiyi Sect and the surrounding forces had now started anew. With the Flying Swan Sect's long-standing prestige in the Endless Sea of Sand, they were still able to successfully drive the other parts of the Endless Sea of Sand.

Due to the top-down push of the three factions, the preparation work for the war went smoothly. They did not spend too much time, and they already had enough war materials to launch a new war. The armies of the three factions began to gather and prepare to launch a large-scale invasion of the Demon Wind Gobi according to the pre-planned war plan.

Chapter 458: Past Events of Taiyi Sect

While Taiyi Sect was busy preparing for war, Deep Earth Spirit General, Shocking Thunder Spirit General, and Delicate Water Spirit General returned to Taiyi Sect together. After returning to the sect, the three of them went to see Sect Master Meng Zhang. With the impending war, these three individuals finally returned. Although the number of Foundation Building cultivators in Taiyi Sect is already considerable, cultivators with strong combat power are always welcome. Not long ago, Delicate Water Spirit General was still at the Refining Qi stage of Cultivation Base, but after going out for a trip, she returned with a Foundation Building stage of Cultivation Base.

After meeting with Meng Zhang, Deep Earth Spirit General got straight to the point without any nonsense. He had promised Meng Zhang that he would reveal all of Taiyi Sect's past events that he knew of, as long as Meng Zhang returned alive from the small world of Purple Gold Sect. Deep Earth Spirit General did not break his promise and slowly began to tell the story. Of course, because Deep Earth Spirit General was born in Taiyi Sect after its reconstruction in Grand Crossing Mountain Range, he was not very clear about Taiyi Sect's past events on Middle-Earth Continent, and many of them were just hearsay.

Over a thousand years ago, Taiyi Sect was once the top sect on Middle-Earth Continent, with many Primordial Spirit True Monarchs in the sect, located very close to the core of Middle-Earth Continent. Later, Taiyi Sect had some unknown disputes with Holy Land Sect Viewing Heaven Pavilion.

Among all the forces in the Cultivation World, only a few can be called Holy Land. These few Holy Lands, which are at the top of the Cultivation World, are the true masters of the Cultivation World, controlling almost half of it. Even large sects like Taiyi Sect have almost no ability to fight back when facing the major Holy Lands.

In an instant, the entire Taiyi Sect gate, along with many cultivators, including powerful Primordial Spirit True Monarchs, were silently wiped out. At the time of Taiyi Sect's destruction, those cultivators who were lucky enough not to be in the sect received the news and fled far away from Middle-Earth Continent.

In fact, what happened when Taiyi Sect was destroyed and whether Viewing Heaven Pavilion was involved is not very clear to the survivors of Taiyi Sect. However, because Taiyi Sect had disputes with Viewing Heaven Pavilion before, and only the major Holy Lands had the strength to silently

wipe out Taiyi Sect, the survivors of Taiyi Sect regarded Viewing Heaven Pavilion as the culprit of the destruction.

Viewing Heaven Pavilion is an anomaly among the major Holy Land Sects. Their motto is "observe the way of heaven and act according to it," and this is also their code of conduct. Viewing Heaven Pavilion, who claims to be the spokesperson of the way of heaven, is extremely arrogant and looks down on other Holy Land Sects. They always act alone and do as they please.

In the eyes of many cultivators, Viewing Heaven Pavilion is like a high and mighty immortal, with a transcendent position and rarely involved in the various grievances of the Cultivation World. However, when a force or cultivator in the Cultivation World becomes an obstacle to the operation of the way of heaven in the eyes of Viewing Heaven Pavilion, they will face their merciless attack.

With the usual arrogance of Viewing Heaven Pavilion, they did not bother to pursue and kill the remnants of Taiyi Sect after its destruction. Of course, it is also possible that after the destruction of Taiyi Sect, those small fry who managed to escape are no longer seen as obstacles to the operation of the way of heaven in the eyes of Viewing Heaven Pavilion, and therefore not worth pursuing and killing. Some cultivators who successfully fled from the central region of Middle-Earth Continent went through numerous hardships and traveled millions of miles. Finally, in the northernmost edge of Middle-Earth Continent, within the Grand Crossing Mountain Range, they joined forces and rebuilt Taiyi Sect.

After the reconstruction, Taiyi Sect experienced a period of stable development. Although there were no Primordial Spirit True Monarchs in the sect, they managed to establish a foundation within the Grand Crossing Mountain Range with the combined efforts of several Gold Core Daoist Masters. Deep Earth Spirit General and the other Guardian Spirit Generals joined Taiyi Sect during this time. Originally disciples of Taiyi Sect, they reached the Gold Core stage but, due to various reasons, were unable to advance to the Primordial Spirit stage. As a result, they used the secret techniques of Taiyi Sect's heritage and consumed a large amount of resources to transform themselves into Guardian Spirit Generals, a special existence. Guardian Spirit Generals have long lifespans, comparable to Primordial Spirit True Monarchs, and possess formidable combat power far surpassing ordinary Gold Core Daoist Masters.

Everyone initially believed that Taiyi Sect could develop steadily and gradually accumulate strength. However, the good times didn't last long as a demonic calamity swept through the entire Grand Crossing Mountain Range.

As for what happened next, that is the history of Taiyi Sect that Meng Zhang knows. Taiyi Sect was once again annihilated, and the survivors fled far away from Middle-Earth Continent, constantly escaping towards the north until they reached the Endless Sea of Sand.

To be honest, when Meng Zhang read in the Sect Master's chronicles that Taiyi Sect had been annihilated three times in a row and the survivors had fled in a panic, he couldn't help but marvel at the resilience of the predecessors of Taiyi Sect. At the same time, he had some doubts and felt that Taiyi Sect had been extremely unlucky.

Deep Earth Spirit General's subsequent words answered some of Meng Zhang's doubts. Since Viewing Heaven Pavilion dares to consider itself the spokesperson of the way of heaven, it naturally has its own confidence. According to legends, the powerful individuals of Viewing Heaven Pavilion are proficient in the way of manipulating qi fortune and can diminish the fortune of their opponents.

Deep Earth Spirit General and the others had far more knowledge and experience than Meng Zhang. After they recovered, they also discussed this issue and speculated that Viewing Heaven Pavilion must have used some method to diminish Taiyi Sect's fortune, leading to the successive disasters of annihilation.

After Taiyi Sect relocated to the Endless Sea of Sand, for reasons unknown, perhaps due to extreme adversity, it experienced a resurgence. Taiyi Sect, as a long-standing sect, must have left behind some hidden cards for the sect's heritage. However, in the face of the major Holy Lands, these hidden cards hardly had any effect. Taiyi Sect's ability to establish a foothold in the Endless Sea of Sand and experience a revival occurred after Meng Zhang became the Sect Master of Taiyi Sect.

Therefore, Deep Earth Spirit General and the others speculated that Meng Zhang must possess great fortune. Upon hearing Deep Earth Spirit General's speculation, Meng Zhang smiled but remained silent. As a transmigrator who crossed over from another world to the Grand Dust World, he wondered if he could be considered as having profound fortune.

Deep Earth Spirit General's account was not very detailed, and there were many speculative words. However, after listening to it, Meng Zhang finally resolved some of his doubts and understood what kind of enemy Taiyi Sect would face in the future. Viewing Heaven Pavilion, a powerful sect that even the flourishing Taiyi Sect could easily be wiped out by, was truly a formidable opponent. Just the thought of such a powerful enemy made one feel despair.

Even someone as resolute as Meng Zhang could only temporarily set aside this issue and refrain from dwelling on how to face it in the future. The only thing he could do was to take good care of the present. Those Holy Land Sects were far away in Middle-Earth Continent and distant from the Endless Sea of Sand, so they shouldn't be casting their gaze here. Meng Zhang comforted himself with these thoughts.

Chapter 459: Battle

After ending the conversation with Deep Earth Spirit General, Meng Zhang didn't let the heavy mood affect him for too long. The imminent invasion of Demon Wind Gobi was the top priority, which was related to the next development of Taiyi Sect and Meng Zhang's cultivation environment. Future matters could be dealt with later, for now, he needed to take good care of the present. Thinking too much would only waste his energy.

The entire Taiyi Sect was like a high-speed war machine, running precisely and orderly. On the agreed day, Taiyi Sect, Flying Swan Sect, and Northern DesertQi Family launched a massive invasion of Demon Wind Gobi together from three different directions.

The coalition led by Taiyi Sect attacked from the north, with more than ten Foundation Building cultivators leading a large army of cultivators to be the first to attack Demon Wind Gobi. Meng Zhang, Luo Ye, and Gu Yue Huaidie, three Gold Core Daoist Masters, stayed behind to be ready to respond at any time.

The coalition led by Flying Swan Sect attacked from the south. The main cultivators of Flying Swan Sect led the cultivators of various vassal forces, advancing mightily towards the front. This army had the largest number of people and the most massive scale. The cultivator army of Northern DesertQi Family attacked Demon Wind Gobi from between Flying Swan Sect and Taiyi Sect.

The three armies attacked from three different directions, seemingly imposing, but with some flaws. If the demon beast army detected the human's movements and decided to concentrate all their forces to attack one of the human cultivator armies, the unlucky one among the three armies would suffer a severe loss.

The Gold Core Daoist Masters on the human side were all experienced in battle, even the youngest Meng Zhang had experienced several major battles in the Cultivation World. With their experience and strategy, they would not leave such an obvious flaw. This flaw was intentionally left to lure the main force of the demon beast army to attack actively.

If the main force of the demon beast army could be annihilated outside Demon Wind Gobi, it would undoubtedly be of great benefit to occupying Demon Wind Gobi in the future. Although the three armies seemed far apart, each army had the power to deal with the demon beast army's siege in a short time. Moreover, they had enough flying boats, and mutual support was also very convenient.

As for the several Gold Core Daoist Masters, they had extremely strong mobility. They could quickly move out and support each other at any time. Unexpectedly, this attack on Demon Wind Gobi went surprisingly smoothly for the Gold Core Daoist Masters. Neither Taiyi Sect nor Northern DesertQi Family encountered any strong resistance. They almost broke through the boundary between Endless Sea of Sand and Demon Wind Gobi and began to penetrate Demon Wind Gobi quickly.

On the other hand, Flying Swan Sect encountered a little resistance. This was because this was the place where Flying Swan Sect and the demon beast army had been in a long-term standoff, and the demon beast side had a not weak defensive force here. However, facing the full-scale attack of Flying Swan Sect, the demon beast army responsible for defending here was quickly defeated. A Third Rank ferocious crocodile was in charge of commanding the demon beast army here. Facing the two Gold Core Daoist Masters, Fei Yu and Fei Jiang, it could barely resist for a while before leading the demon beast army to retreat actively. The demon beast army did not have the discipline and quality of human cultivators. Once they started to retreat, they fell into chaos. The Third Rank ferocious crocodile saw the situation was not good and abandoned the demon beast army, intending to escape with its own group. Fei Jiang and Fei Yu, Daoist Masters, pursued closely behind, while the cultivator army of Flying Swan Sect hunted down the fleeing demon beasts. Fei Shi, the strongest combatant of Flying Swan Sect, stayed alone at the border between Flying Swan Sect and Fire Cloud Sect to prevent any disruptions from Fire Cloud Sect that could affect Flying Swan Sect's plans.

In this attack, Flying Swan Sect achieved a complete victory. Not only did they kill a large number of demon beasts and capture countless others, but even the Third Rank ferocious crocodile was heavily injured by the combined efforts of Fei Jiang and Fei Yu, Daoist Masters, and it fled in panic, abandoning its own group. The smoothness of the battle was beyond the expectations of the two Gold Core Daoist Masters of Flying Swan Sect. They couldn't help but suspect if there was some deception or conspiracy on the side of the demon beasts.

However, from the beginning of the attack until its end, the demon beasts did not present any hidden moves that could change the course of the battle. It seemed that the demon beasts were truly inferior and not pretending to be defeated. Fei Jiang couldn't help but think that if they had known the defense of Demon Wind Gobi was so weak, Flying Swan Sect wouldn't have been tied down by so many forces in this area.

On the other hand, Fei Yu delved deeper into his thoughts. The powerful Third Rank middle-grade demon beasts did not appear here. Where could they have gone? What could be so important that made the demon beasts abandon the defense of Flying Swan Sect at all costs? Although there were doubts in their minds, Fei Yu and Fei Jiang did not stop their advance and continued to command the army to move forward.

Flying Swan Sect, busy chasing and killing demon beasts and cleaning up the battlefield, fell a bit behind. Meanwhile, Taiyi Sect and Northern DesertQi Family encountered minimal resistance and didn't even come across decent demon beast groups. They smoothly advanced. The smooth progress of the advance actually made Meng Zhang a bit uneasy. The powerful Third Rank demon beasts would never allow human cultivators to rampage freely in Demon Wind Gobi. When and where would they appear to wait for the human cultivators? The arrow was already on the string and had to be released. At this point, this attack would certainly not stop just because of Meng Zhang's slight unease. Moreover, the most important thing was that Meng Zhang didn't have any sudden intuition or sense of danger.

Apart from Meng Zhang, there was also Gu Yue Huaidie, a Diviner, in the team. She also didn't sense anything abnormal or feel any imminent danger. The armies of Taiyi Sect and Northern DesertQi Family continued to move forward, following the agreement reached by the several Gold Core Daoist Masters before the start of the battle. After entering Demon Wind Gobi, the territory occupied by each faction would belong to that faction, and others couldn't seize it. The distribution of spoils would be fair based on the contributions made by the three factions.

Compared to the barren Endless Sea of Sand, the environment in Demon Wind Gobi was much better. Shortly after entering Demon Wind Gobi, traces of greenery could be seen. Deep EarthSpirit General, who was in the team, surveyed the area and discovered numerous spiritual energy nodes and even a few First Rank spirit veins. With some modifications, these places could become oases suitable for human habitation.

Within the dens of some demon beast groups, many precious spiritual herbs grew. The environment here was conducive to the growth of spiritual herbs, making it possible to transform it into a spiritual herb garden. The richness of Demon Wind Gobi stirred the greed of the cultivators from the three factions.

Chapter 460: Whereabouts

In the past, Demon Wind Gobi was considered a forbidden area for human cultivators. Most human cultivators only had activities on the edge of Demon Wind Gobi and never ventured deep into it. The vast majority of human cultivators were not familiar with the situation inside Demon Wind Gobi, let alone its richness. Even the small number of cultivators who coveted the demon beast resources in Demon Wind Gobi only dared to hunt for solitary demon beasts on the periphery, fearing the powerful strength of the demon beasts and not daring to venture deep into it. This time, the army of cultivators from the three forces is the first time that human cultivators have set foot in this place since the destruction of the Purple Gold Sect.

Since Demon Wind Gobi is called a desert, the environment is not good. The main terrain inside is still desert and dangerous shoals, interspersed with some grasslands, swamps, and mountains. It can't be said to be very rich, and most of the places inside are barren land without creatures. But

compared to the Endless Sea of Sand, this place can already be called a rich land. The army of cultivators from the three forces had been staying in the Endless Sea of Sand for a long time, and they were tired and poor. When they saw the appearance of Demon Wind Gobi, they became possessive.

The number of cultivators from the Northern Desert Qi Family was the smallest, and they were lightly armed and advanced at the forefront. Wherever the Northern Desert Qi Family passed, there were specialized cultivators leaving marks around to prove that this was the spoils of the Northern Desert Qi Family, and outsiders were not allowed to touch it. The armies of the other two sects fell slightly behind and took the same action.

Fortunately, the three forces attacked in different directions, and there was a distance between the areas they passed through, so there would be no conflict for the time being. When human cultivators were wondering about the whereabouts of the powerful Third Rank demon beasts in Demon Wind Gobi, a fierce conflict broke out in the depths of Demon Wind Gobi.

In the center of Demon Wind Gobi, there is a continuous and huge mountain range. There are many peaks in the mountain range, including some towering peaks. To the south of the mountain range is a vast plain. The remaining branches of the mountain range extend deep into this plain, which has many hills. Usually, the demon beasts in Demon Wind Gobi dare not approach here, even the powerful Third Rank demon beasts will consciously stay away from here. But now, Lion Demon General led a huge army of demon beasts into this plain and was preparing to continue advancing towards the mountain range ahead. In the mountain range ahead is the only Fourth Rank demon beast in Demon Wind Gobi, the White Lion Demon King's lair. Years ago, the White Lion Demon King led many Third Rank demon beasts to besiege the injured Fifth Rank great power in the Deadly Sea of Sand. After a big battle, most of the Third Rank demon beasts fell, and the White Lion Demon King was also seriously injured and dying. After dragging the last breath back to the lair, the White Lion Demon King died during meditation. After the White Lion Demon King died during meditation, many demon beasts in Demon Wind Gobi fell into chaos. Later, fierce battles even broke out between different demon beast tribes. Dark Crow Demon General, who was most loyal to the White Lion Demon King, led the Crow tribe to the mountain range ahead of the An Family after the White Lion Demon King died during meditation. Dark Crow Demon General was the trusted personal guard of the White Lion Demon King, and he regretted missing the big battle with the Fifth Rank great power due to some reason. Dark Crow Demon General has always been stationed here, not allowing any other demon beasts to approach. Dark Crow Demon General publicly claimed that White Lion Demon King did not completely fall and there would be a day of return. Other Third Rank demon beasts simply do not believe this rhetoric from Dark Crow Demon General. In the hearts of other Third Rank demon beasts in Demon Wind Gobi, Dark Crow Demon General clearly wants to occupy White Lion Demon King's lair alone and swallow all of White Lion Demon King's inheritance, so he fabricated such an excuse.

But Dark Crow Demon General is powerful and has long been a Third Rank middle-grade demon beast. The Crow tribe under its command is also one of the powerful demon beast tribes in Demon Wind Gobi. There are also some demon beasts loyal to White Lion Demon King who openly or secretly support Dark Crow Demon General. Dark Crow Demon General's behavior is clearly monopolistic, which naturally attracts the hostility of demon beasts who covet White Lion Demon King's inheritance. Among them, Lion Demon General hates Dark Crow Demon General the most.

Lion Demon General considers himself and White Lion Demon King to be of the same race and the most qualified to inherit White Lion Demon King's inheritance. White Lion Demon King, as a Fourth Rank demon beast, was the king among demon beasts and had ruled Demon Wind Gobi for many years. The treasures or techniques left behind after his fall were priceless. The differences between demon beasts are huge, and techniques suitable for one type of demon beast may not be suitable for another type. Lion Demon General feels that he and White Lion Demon King have the smallest racial differences and are most suitable for practicing the techniques left by White Lion Demon King.

For many years, Lion Demon General has tried every means to obtain White Lion Demon King's inheritance, but has been stopped by Dark Crow Demon General and almost died in Dark Crow Demon General's hands. You may think that being a lion can climb to the top and claim to be of the same race as the king. There are many lion-shaped demon beasts in Demon Wind Gobi, but none of them are related to the White Lion King. This is Dark Crow Demon General's mockery of Lion Demon General, and it is indeed reasonable. Those demon beasts that look similar on the outside are actually very different and belong to unrelated tribes.

Dark Crow Demon General would not put Lion Demon General in his eyes, let alone admit that this guy and White Lion Demon King are of the same race. In the past, Lion Demon General only had resentment because his strength was far inferior to Dark Crow Demon General. But after accidentally encountering the Fifth Rank great power in the Deadly Sea of Sand, Lion Demon General's fate changed. With the help of the Fifth Rank great power, Lion Demon General successfully advanced to Third Rank middle-grade and had the strength to compete with Dark Crow Demon General.

Then it raised the banner of uniting all demon beasts in Demon Wind Gobi, used both soft and hard tactics, and subdued a group of Third Rank low-grade demon beasts, gathering many demon beast tribes to form a huge army of demon beasts. Lion Demon General did not rashly conflict with Dark Crow Demon General, but followed the orders of the Fifth Rank great power and summoned the army of demon beasts to attack the Endless Sea of Sand. After being repelled by the Flying Swan Sect, Lion Demon General has been confronting the Flying Swan Sect. Two Third Rank demon beasts under its command died in battle, making Lion Demon General wary of human cultivators and unwilling to engage in a major battle with them.

Lion Demon General maintained pressure on the Flying Swan Sect and kept the fighting at a low intensity, but never launched a major attack. When Golden Tiger Demon General invited Dark Crow Demon General to explore the small world of the Purple Gold Sect and took Earth Fox Demon General away, Lion Demon General keenly sensed this rare opportunity. It immediately led the army of demon beasts to advance towards White Lion Demon King's lair. It wanted to take advantage of Dark Crow Demon General's absence, take advantage of the situation, attack and capture White Lion Demon King's lair, and seize all of White Lion Demon King's inheritance.