

Sect Master 571

Chapter 571: Flinching

With Jin Li Daoist Master's temperament, she would not care about issues like victory through quantity or unwarrior-like behavior. Seeing Meng Zhang falling into a disadvantage and struggling to resist, she was ready to take action.

Just as Jin Li Daoist Master was about to make a move, she suddenly looked up at the distant sky and disdainfully said, "You, the dead fat pig, always hiding and playing tricks in the shadows. Why don't you come out and face me, or do you want me, this Daoist Master, to come and invite you?"

Jin Li Daoist Master's harsh scolding quickly had an effect. In the distant sky, a figure that had been absent for a long time quietly appeared, looking at Jin Li Daoist Master with an unfriendly expression.

True Monarch Profound Wind, even though he was in seclusion for healing, never reduced his attention to the situation in the Endless Sea of Sand. Apart from the invasion of the Fire Cloud Sect and the Yellow Lotus Sect East River Branch, he also sent his most trusted disciple, Zhu Liangyu, to stay in the Endless Sea of Sand and monitor the situation here.

Seeing Jin Li Daoist Master about to fight, Zhu Liangyu finally couldn't bear it any longer and warned, "Jin Li, you better not act recklessly. Do you really think no one can deal with you?"

Jin Li Daoist Master sneered at Zhu Liangyu's warning. As long as no Primordial Spirit True Monarch stepped in, she would never retreat.

As the battle between Meng Zhang and Daoist Master Smiling Lotus intensified, Jin Li Daoist Master no longer wasted time and directly attacked. She didn't even use her ace Yellow Sand Ten Thousand Li Chart. With a wave of her hand, several thunderbolts descended from the sky, striking Daoist Master Smiling Lotus and putting her in a sorry state.

Jin Li Daoist Master was proficient in lightning magic and skilled in controlling thunderbolts. She could also refine various powerful thunderballs. Although he knew he wasn't Jin Li Daoist Master's match, Zhu Liangyu couldn't stand being ignored in front of so many people.

He took out a large flag and vigorously waved it, immediately summoning several fierce wind blades from all directions to attack Jin Li Daoist Master.

Having fought against Zhu Liangyu for many years, Jin Li Daoist Master knew well about her old opponent's abilities. She disdainfully flew towards Zhu Liangyu, ready to teach him a lesson again. Seeing Zhu Liangyu take action, Daoist Master Smiling Lotus felt more confident and forced Meng Zhang back a few steps before charging at Jin Li Daoist Master.

Zhu Liangyu, a Gold Core stage expert, cooperated seamlessly with Daoist Master Smiling Lotus, attacking Jin Li Daoist Master almost simultaneously.

The strong wind howled in the air, and debris flew everywhere. Jin Li Daoist Master defended desperately while summoning large thunderbolts.

With thunderous chaos and dazzling electric lights, Zhu Liangyu and Daoist Master Smiling Lotus had to cast spells to defend against Jin Li Daoist Master's counterattack.

Although Jin Li Daoist Master faced two opponents alone, she was not afraid and even launched a fierce offensive, appearing confident in her victory.

The three-way fight created a great disturbance, affecting a wide range. The other Gold Core Daoist Masters engaged in their own battles intentionally or unintentionally avoided the area, avoiding being caught in the crossfire.

While everyone else avoided the chaos, Meng Zhang did not flinch and actively flew into the battle to assist Jin Li Daoist Master.

Although Meng Zhang had the weakest Cultivation Base among the four, he was not entirely without skills. With all his efforts, he posed a significant threat to Zhu Liangyu and Daoist Master Smiling Lotus, causing them great interference.

Jin Li Daoist Master, who was fighting against two opponents, no longer held back and directly took out her secret weapon, the Fourth Rank magic tool Yellow Sand Ten Thousand Li Chart. With Meng Zhang's cover, the enemies couldn't stop her actions.

A virtual image of a girl dressed in yellow appeared beside Jin Li Daoist Master when she activated the magic tool. Jin Li Daoist Master looked at the girl affectionately and said politely, "Thank you."

After receiving the order, the girl activated the magic tool. The surrounding space changed, and endless yellow sand filled the sky and earth.

This Yellow Sand Ten Thousand Li Chart was crafted by Jin Li Daoist Master's master during his lifetime, and it contained an independent space, forming its own world.

Once Jin Li Daoist Master trapped the enemies inside the chart, it would be like fighting on her home ground. She could use the power of the chart's space to trap and harm her enemies.

Although Zhu Liangyu had fought Jin Li Daoist Master many times before, she had never used the Yellow Sand Ten Thousand Li Chart, and she could always defeat him without relying on it.

Zhu Liangyu knew that Jin Li Daoist Master possessed this powerful magic tool but had never experienced its true power firsthand.

As for Daoist Master Smiling Lotus, he was even less familiar with Jin Li Daoist Master's methods. In their previous encounters, Jin Li Daoist Master never showed her true strength.

In the blink of an eye, the two of them were easily trapped by Jin Li Daoist Master in the Yellow Sand Ten Thousand Li Chart, engulfed in endless yellow sand.

Feeling the situation was not right, Zhu Liangyu immediately called Daoist Master Smiling Lotus and used his most potent methods to break the prohibition of the Yellow Sand Ten Thousand Li Chart.

Daoist Master Smiling Lotus detonated a yellow lotus, creating a small gap in the sea of yellow sand.

Zhu Liangyu released a talisman given by True Monarch Profound Wind, summoning a clear breeze that enveloped him and Daoist Master Smiling Lotus, helping them escape from the chart's confinement and flee from the encirclement.

During their escape, the two inevitably suffered attacks from Jin Li Daoist Master. A gust of wind descended from the sky, and Zhu Liangyu and Daoist Master Smiling Lotus fell heavily to the ground. They were in a sorry state and seriously injured.

This was still the result of Jin Li Daoist Master showing some restraint. Although she was currently hostile to True Monarch Profound Wind due to the grudges between True Monarch Tian Zhu, she didn't hold any deep hatred towards True Monarch Profound Wind personally. Unless necessary, she didn't want to create a blood feud with him.

Zhu Liangyu and Daoist Master Smiling Lotus stood up, their hearts still filled with fear as they looked at Jin Li Daoist Master. They dared not continue the confrontation and immediately called out to their Gold Core Daoist Masters on their side.

Whether they were in an advantageous or disadvantageous position, all the Gold Core Daoist Masters on their side made efforts to break free from their opponents' attacks and gathered around Zhu Liangyu.

After a while, Zhu Liangyu and all their Gold Core Daoist Masters had gathered together.

Facing the pursuing enemy Gold Core Daoist Masters from behind, they defended while retreating.

They continued to fight and retreat, gradually leaving the battlefield, and directly entered the Flying Swan Mountain.

After entering the Flying Swan Mountain, they immediately activated the mountain's protective great formation, blocking the enemy's pursuit.

Including Jin Li Daoist Master, no one was interested in testing the power of the protective great formation in front of them.

Seeing the enemy retreat into the Flying Swan Mountain, they voluntarily gave up the chase.

In this brief encounter, Jin Li Daoist Master's display of power gave the Taiyi Sect and the Flying Swan Sect a temporary advantage, forcing the enemy to retreat.

Chapter 572: Minor victory

Due to Jin Li Daoist Master intentionally letting up, all the enemy's Gold Core Daoist Masters safely retreated into the Flying Swan Mountain. Jin Li Daoist Master was about to go to the small world of the Purple Gold Sect to seek a breakthrough to the Primordial Spirit stage. If it weren't for

the strong insistence of Taiyi Sect and Flying Swan Sect, she wouldn't have wanted to complicate matters and initiate this large-scale battle at this time.

Although she respected Meng Zhang and Fei Shi Daoist Master's opinions and agreed to start the war, she didn't want to kill the enemy's Gold Core Daoist Masters. As long as there were no casualties among the Gold Core Daoist Masters, the scale of the war would be controllable.

But once the enemy's Gold Core Daoist Masters were killed, the situation would change. They would inevitably not be willing to give up and would send even more powerful forces to participate in the battle in the Endless Sea of Sand.

For Jin Li Daoist Master, the most important thing at the moment was to break through to the Primordial Spirit stage. She absolutely did not want any disturbances and didn't want anything to delay this significant event.

Jin Li Daoist Master might seem a bit carefree and even a bit careless on normal days, but she had a lot of calculations in her mind. She could calculate various advantages and disadvantages very clearly and make choices that were most beneficial to herself.

Jin Li Daoist Master's intentions were not hidden from Meng Zhang and Fei Shi Daoist Master. Considering the current situation of Taiyi Sect and Flying Swan Sect, it was indeed not suitable for them to engage in a large-scale bloody battle. Their goal in launching this attack was to deter the invading enemies and prevent them from easily launching further attacks.

Jin Li Daoist Master didn't want to kill the enemy's Gold Core Daoist Masters, and they could only let it be.

After Zhu Liangyu led a group of Gold Core Daoist Masters into the Flying Swan Mountain, they were protected by the Third Rank protective great formation, and their safety was guaranteed. However, they were not satisfied with just retreating.

The Gold Core Daoist Masters from the Fire Cloud Sect and the East River Branch still had to consider their disciples in the sect. Daoist Master Scarlet Flame and Daoist Master Smiling Lotus sent messages to all their disciples scattered throughout the Endless Sea of Sand and issued new orders.

These disciples couldn't possibly resist the enemy's Gold Core Daoist Masters, so there was no need for them to sacrifice themselves in vain. Their orders were to retreat voluntarily.

They were either to immediately abandon everything and quickly escape from the Endless Sea of Sand, returning to the territory of the Jiuqu League, or to move closer to the Flying Swan Mountain, where the Gold Core Daoist Masters inside the mountain would receive them.

The cultivators from the Fire Cloud Sect and the Yellow Lotus Sect's East River Branch, upon receiving the messages from their Gold Core Daoist Masters, immediately acted accordingly. Without being able to capture the enemy's Gold Core Daoist Masters, Meng Zhang and Fei Shi Daoist Master wouldn't easily let go of these small fry.

Jin Li Daoist Master simply didn't want to kill the enemy's Gold Core Daoist Masters, and she didn't care about the lives of these lower-level disciples.

Fearing that their strength would be too scattered and the enemy might actively break out from the Flying Swan Mountain, it would be difficult for them to resist. So only Wen Qiansun, the Gold Core Daoist Master with the lowest Cultivation Base, was sent to chase and drive away the scattered enemy lower-level cultivators. The rest of the Gold Core Daoist Masters stayed outside the Flying Swan Mountain, monitoring the enemy's movements.

The Fire Cloud Sect and East River Branch cultivators who actively avoided fighting were almost defenseless against the enemy's Gold Core Daoist Masters. However, Wen Qiansun and Wu Mingwei were also stretched thin and unable to pursue and kill the fleeing enemies.

After a simple sweep, the two of them killed a group of enemy cultivators and destroyed many enemy strongholds. The cultivator teams from Taiyi Sect and Flying Swan Sect had also arrived nearby by this time.

They occupied the abandoned strongholds, started looting resources, and seizing supplies. The group of Gold Core Daoist Masters from the Flying Swan Mountain repeatedly joined forces to leave the mountain and escorted their retreating cultivators, helping them safely retreat to the Flying Swan Mountain.

Jin Li Daoist Master, leading the group of Gold Core Daoist Masters, repeatedly intercepted them, engaging them in continuous battles. After multiple skirmishes, they injured the enemy's Gold Core Daoist Masters and killed many of the enemy's lower-level cultivators.

When their lower-level cultivators had basically evacuated, the group of Gold Core Daoist Masters from the Flying Swan Mountain simply stayed inside, not leaving the protective great formation for a single step. They kept the enemy firmly trapped on the mountain, monitoring their every move.

Then the cultivator teams from Taiyi Sect moved into the abandoned strongholds, collecting all the resources the enemy couldn't take away.

At this point, Taiyi Sect and Flying Swan Sect, under the command of Jin Li Daoist Master, even abandoned the Yellow Sand Ridge stronghold and withdrew all their forces into the Flying Swan Mountain. Besides, Jin Li Daoist Master had no intention of attacking the mountain. Even if she really organized an attack on the Flying Swan Mountain, there would be no chance of success.

From the current situation, it seemed that Taiyi Sect and Flying Swan Sect's alliance had the upper hand, firmly suppressing the enemy. From the original intention of launching this war, Taiyi Sect and Flying Swan Sect had achieved their objectives. Both sides knew that this war couldn't last forever.

After surrounding the Flying Swan Mountain for over two months, Jin Li Daoist Master, leading the two sects' Gold Core Daoist Masters, took the initiative to retreat. Before this, the cultivator teams from Taiyi Sect and Flying Swan Sect had mostly completed their tasks of looting and destruction and had begun to retreat.

With the two sects' active withdrawal, this relatively short-lasting and not excessively intense war finally came to an end. From the surface, it appeared that Taiyi Sect and Flying Swan Sect's alliance had achieved a complete victory. They not only firmly suppressed the enemy, leaving them no ability to retaliate, but also seized a large amount of resources and obtained abundant spoils of war.

If it weren't for Jin Li Daoist Master's urgency to enter the small world of the Purple Gold Sect and her disinterest in continuing the entanglement, Taiyi Sect and Flying Swan Sect would not have so easily given up.

Of course, Meng Zhang and others had to respect Jin Li Daoist Master's thoughts. She played a decisive role in the victory or defeat of this war.

After this battle, Fire Cloud Sect and Yellow Lotus Sect's East River Branch would have to lick their wounds for a considerable period of time. Although the Gold Core Daoist Masters, who were the backbone of the sects, didn't suffer any losses, the two sects had other significant losses.

To restore everything to the way it was and continue to occupy the Endless Sea of Sand and plunder its resources, both sects needed to invest a considerable amount of time.

Chapter 573: Intrusion

Under the leadership of Daoist Master Jin Li, Flying Swan Sect and Taiyi Sect achieved a small victory and departed, leaving the cultivators of Fire Cloud Sect and Yellow Lotus Sect East River Branch to clean up the aftermath.

Given the strength of Taiyi Sect and Flying Swan Sect, it's uncertain whether they can effectively defend such a large territory they have taken. It might be better to temporarily abandon it and leave it for later.

Among the territories they captured this time, Flying Swan Sect can abandon the others, but they are unwilling to easily give up the Yellow Sand Ridge, which was originally their mountain gate.

The area near Dustfall Mound is too barren, and even the Third Rank spirit vein within Dustfall Mound is too inferior, only enough for one Gold Core Daoist Master to cultivate. Compared to Yellow Sand Ridge, it's indeed much worse.

Considering Flying Swan Sect's current strength, they are unable to develop two distant territories simultaneously. So, according to Daoist Master Fei Shi's suggestion, the main force of Flying Swan Sect will temporarily abandon Dustfall Mound and return to Yellow Sand Ridge to settle down and fully guard their original mountain gate.

Flying Swan Sect won't easily give up Dustfall Mound either; instead, they will leave a small team of cultivators to guard it as an important outpost.

Meng Zhang instinctively feels that Daoist Master Fei Shi's decision is inappropriate. Dustfall Mound is located to the north of the Endless Sea of Sand, relatively closer to Demon Wind Gobi.

Demon Wind Gobi and Dustfall Mound are mutually supportive, and if one has trouble, the other can provide timely assistance. After the main force of Flying Swan Sect moves to Yellow Sand Ridge, they will lose this convenience.

Yellow Sand Ridge is southwest of the Endless Sea of Sand and lies between it and Demon Wind Gobi, separated by a vast area of the Endless Sea of Sand.

The two places are far apart, with a straight-line distance of over thousands of miles. It won't be easy for them to support each other in times of need and the reinforcements sent by one side can easily be intercepted by enemies on the way.

Meng Zhang tried to persuade Daoist Master Fei Shi, but instead of convincing him, Fei Shi accused Meng Zhang of having ulterior motives.

Given Flying Swan Sect's current situation, if they remain confined to Northern Desert, they can only barely survive and won't have the possibility of further development. The impoverished Northern Desert cannot support the growth of Flying Swan Sect, and it will only weaken over time.

Only by recapturing their original mountain gate, Yellow Sand Ridge, can Flying Swan Sect break free from the quagmire and gain a completely new space for development. Only then can they gradually recover their strength and hope to regain dominance over the Endless Sea of Sand.

From Taiyi Sect's perspective, they currently need Flying Swan Sect as an ally to help resist external pressure. However, they don't want Flying Swan Sect to regain their former strength and reassert their influence.

A weakened Flying Swan Sect aligns with Taiyi Sect's interests. As Taiyi Sect grows stronger, there's a possibility that Flying Swan Sect might eventually fall under Taiyi Sect's control and become their vassal.

Daoist Master Fei Shi, who thinks he has seen through everything, naturally does not want Taiyi Sect's plans to succeed and firmly rejects Meng Zhang's advice.

Meng Zhang had good intentions, but he was misunderstood by others. He is unable to do anything about it and decides to let Flying Swan Sect act as they please.

Daoist Master Jin Li will not bother with these trivial matters. What she values most now is how to enter the small world of Purple Gold Sect and kill the wisp of soul of True Monarch Vermilion.

The cultivators of Taiyi Sect who went out on an expedition gave up the recently occupied territory and returned to Demon Wind Gobi. Even the territory they originally had in the Endless Sea of Sand only left a small number of cultivators stationed there. The main forces of both Taiyi Sect and the Hanhai Alliance concentrated on Demon Wind Gobi.

After recapturing Yellow Sand Ridge, Flying Swan Sect focused all their efforts on managing the area and its surroundings. Fire Cloud Sect and Yellow Lotus Sect East River Branch may have been truly intimidated this time and dare not underestimate the strength of Taiyi Sect and Flying Swan Sect. Especially with Jin Li Daoist Master present, they wouldn't dare to provoke easily.

Jin Li Daoist Master is making final preparations to enter the small world of Purple Gold Sect. In the meantime, several Gold Core cultivators from the Lu Family in Great Wind City continue to bother her, but she drives them away in anger without causing serious harm.

Due to the disturbance, Jin Li Daoist Master becomes even more eager to break through to the Primordial Spirit stage. Once she becomes a Primordial Spirit True Monarch, she won't believe that the people from the Lu Family would dare to continue bothering her.

After making the necessary preparations, Jin Li Daoist Master doesn't delay any further and calls on Meng Zhang and others to begin their action. On Taiyi Sect's side, Yang Xueyi remains to guard the sect, while Meng Zhang, Wen Qiansun, and Delicate Water Spirit General go together. On Flying Swan Sect's side, Wu Mingwei stays at Yellow Sand Ridge, and Daoist Master Fei Shi joins the group.

Facing the threat of strong enemies, they don't dare to be away for too long and must move quickly. In one night, Jin Li Daoist Master leads Meng Zhang and the other three Gold Core Daoist Masters and secretly arrives outside the Mirage Desert.

Last time, when Meng Zhang and others entered the small world of Purple Gold Sect, they needed to activate the Great Void Restriction nodes spread throughout the Endless Sea of Sand in advance. Then they sent disciples at the Refining Qi stage into the Mirage Secret Realm to stimulate the power of the great formation inside. Finally, Gu Yue Huaidie, who had the highest Cultivation Base at the time, activated the Yellow Sand Ten Thousand Li Chart to forcefully open the passage.

This time, with Jin Li Daoist Master, a Gold Core completion expert, leading the team personally, they don't need to go through such trouble.

In fact, it has been several decades since the passage was opened last time. The power of True Monarch Vermilion's wisp of soul, which forcibly closed the Great Void Restriction, has weakened over time.

Jin Li Daoist Master had already investigated the situation here in the past and came up with a plan.

She took out the Yellow Sand Ten Thousand Li Chart and with a wave of her hand, she and Meng Zhang and the others were all transported into the independent space within the chart.

The Yellow Sand Ten Thousand Li Chart transformed into a tornado of yellow sand with the faint figure of a girl in a yellow dress on its head.

Jin Li Daoist Master directed everyone to inject their True Essence into the chart.

The yellow tornado soared into the sky and crashed heavily towards the front.

The previously stable space seemed to be torn like a piece of paper, revealing a black crack.

The agile yellow tornado rolled over and smoothly entered the crack.

Chapter 574: Facing directly

A yellow tornado rushed into that spatial crack and directly entered the void.

Originally, the Great Void Restriction set up by the Purple Gold Sect here had some restraining effect on incoming invaders. It could generate numerous independent spaces, separating the intruders from each other. However, since the last activation, the Great Void Restriction had accumulated power for hundreds of years and had depleted most of it. Many of its functions couldn't be activated anymore.

The faint traces left by the Great Void Restriction directly pointed to the small world of the Purple Gold Sect.

True Monarch Vermilion's wisp of soul had previously tried to hide these marks, but over time, his power had gradually diminished, and he could no longer hide all the marks perfectly.

The yellow tornado stretched its body and moved through the air, following the direction indicated by those marks.

The people hiding within the Yellow Sand Ten Thousand Li Chart successfully avoided the potential threats in the void, thanks to the protection of this magic tool.

The tornado formed by the Yellow Sand Ten Thousand Li Chart moved swiftly. It only took half a day to traverse the vast distance in the void and arrive outside the small world of the Purple Gold Sect.

With a strong leap, the yellow tornado crashed into the small world.

Meng Zhang, Gu Yue Huaidie, and Luo Ye Daoist Master, when they left this place last time and returned outside, they shared all their experiences with Jin Li Daoist Master.

Jin Li Daoist Master reported this matter to True Monarch Tian Zhu, waiting for his decision.

At that time, True Monarch Tian Zhu's true body was entangled with the Fifth Rank Earth Spirit, and he couldn't free up his hands. His external avatar also had to be on guard against the Qi Family brothers at all times.

Though Purple Gold Sect was a Primordial Spirit sect, it ranked at the bottom among Primordial Spirit sects. It was far from being on par with the Qi Family, a major cultivation family of the Middle-Earth Continent.

Neither the sect's inheritance nor the treasures within the sect were too attractive to True Monarch Tian Zhu and his group.

Among the Primordial Spirit True Monarchs who emerged from the Purple Gold Sect, the strongest was only at the mid Primordial Spirit stage, far inferior to True Monarch Tian Zhu.

If it were a leisurely day, some of the Primordial Spirit True Monarchs gathered around the Endless Sea of Sand might spend some time exploring this small world, playing a treasure-hunting game, to see if they could find valuable items.

However, at this critical moment, when True Monarch Tian Zhu's and the Fifth Rank Earth Spirit's fight was about to reach its climax, each of the Primordial Spirit True Monarchs had their own plans and calculations. They didn't want any additional complications and had no intention of entering the small world of the Purple Gold Sect.

As a result, this small world luckily remained undisturbed, and no one had come to interfere until now.

At this moment, Jin Li Daoist Master, along with a few companions, entered this place, breaking the years of tranquility.

After entering the small world, they jumped out of the Yellow Sand Ten Thousand Li Chart and arrived outside.

Jin Li Daoist Master led everyone, flying towards the place where True Monarch Vermilion's wisp of soul had appeared last time.

True Monarch Tian Zhu was probably at the last stage of his life, and his Spiritual Awareness had become exceptionally sensitive. Even though he wasn't a diviner, he could still perceive some changes in the heavenly secrets.

In the guidance that True Monarch Tian Zhu gave to Jin Li Daoist Master, she must venture into this small world and face True Monarch Vermilion's wisp of soul to have a chance of breaking through to the Primordial Spirit stage.

Within the Cultivation World, there are not few cultivators who have reached the Gold Core completion. Especially in the highly developed Middle-Earth Continent, there are plenty of Gold Core completion cultivators. However, among these cultivators, only a very few manage to successfully break through to the Primordial Spirit stage.

Even those exceptional disciples from Holy Land Sects can't guarantee that they will reach the Primordial Spirit stage. If it weren't for other opportunities, Jin Li Daoist Master also couldn't assure that she could break through to the Primordial Spirit stage.

Therefore, she attached great importance to the guidance provided by True Monarch Tian Zhu, considering it her greatest hope.

Entering the small world of the Purple Gold Sect was not difficult, but the challenge lay in facing True Monarch Vermilion's wisp of soul.

From the information obtained from Meng Zhang and the others, it was clear that True Monarch Vermilion's wisp of soul harbored deep hostility towards any intruders and would almost instantly attack and kill them.

After all, the wisp of soul of a Primordial Spirit True Monarch was not the true body of the Primordial Spirit True Monarch, so its power should be limited. Based on the descriptions from Meng Zhang and others and the subsequent guidance from True Monarch Tian Zhu, Jin Li Daoist Master had some speculations about the strength of this wisp of soul.

This wisp of soul had been dormant within the small world and was unaware of the outside world. It only woke up when Meng Zhang and the others intruded into the small world and learned of the Purple Gold Sect's destruction.

Apparently, before True Monarch Vermilion went to the Deadly Sea of Sand, he had already severed the connection between his true body and the wisp of soul to avoid implicating the wisp of soul.

True Monarch Vermilion's true body had fallen for a long time, and this wisp of soul was no longer under his control, acting solely on instincts and preset criteria.

The small world had thin spiritual energy, lacking even a Third Rank spirit vein, and thus couldn't provide enough spiritual energy for the wisp of soul to absorb.

The Grand Dust World had only a Third Rank spirit vein, and no Fourth Rank spirit vein. For a Primordial Spirit True Monarch to absorb enough spiritual energy, there were only two ways: going to the Nine Heavens to absorb the Nine Heavens Refined Essence or venturing into the extraterritorial void to search for hidden opportunities.

However, this small world didn't have the Nine Heavens, so there was no Nine Heavens Refined Essence. And as a wisp of soul without its true body's control, it didn't have the strength to venture deep into the extraterritorial void to find opportunities.

Since waking up last time, this wisp of soul's power must have been depleting, and it couldn't get enough replenishment. Over time, it would only become weaker and weaker.

If Jin Li Daoist Master had waited for a few more hundred years to enter here, perhaps this wisp of soul would have lost the strength even to take action.

But opportunities like this were fleeting, and Jin Li Daoist Master was afraid of delaying for too long. If she waited too long, this wisp of soul of True Monarch Vermilion might have already dissipated in the flow of time, leaving Jin Li Daoist Master utterly disappointed.

In order to seize the opportunity to break through to the Primordial Spirit stage, facing a wisp of soul was nothing. Even if there were immense risks, Jin Li Daoist Master couldn't retreat.

This time, she took the initiative to come, holding a Fourth Rank magic tool, and had a group of companions to help her, giving her some confidence.

Leading Meng Zhang and the others, Jin Li Daoist Master didn't encounter any obstacles on the way and smoothly arrived at their destination.

The last time, True Monarch Vermilion's wisp of soul had appeared here, displaying its might and driving everyone away.

As they approached the place, they felt an indescribable aura slowly rising around them, as if a dormant beast was rapidly awakening.

Without waiting for them to react further, a huge humanoid shadow appeared out of thin air in front of them.

Simply judging from the aura, it was easy to determine that this humanoid shadow was the target of Jin Li Daoist Master this time.

Chapter 575: Besieging

Seeing the wisp of soul of True Monarch Vermilion appear, though knowing persuasion was futile, Jin Li Daoist Master still made one last effort to avoid a highly dangerous battle.

"True Monarch, Purple Gold Sect has been destroyed. If you agree to my request, let me comprehend within this small world for some time. I am willing to fully assist in rebuilding Purple Gold Sect and preserve its heritage," said Jin Li Daoist Master respectfully and earnestly.

Even without the control of its original entity, the Primordial Spirit True Monarch's wisp of soul possessed some intelligence and could communicate.

The gigantic humanoid shadow in the sky, which was True Monarch Vermilion's wisp of soul, paid no attention to Jin Li Daoist Master and murmured a few words.

"Purple Gold Sect is gone, and this place has been discovered. It seems that rebuilding Purple Gold Sect will be difficult."

In truth, since the last time Meng Zhang and others intruded here, True Monarch Vermilion's wisp of soul knew the outcome.

Now that Jin LiDaoist Master had entered once again, besides confirming this outcome, the wisp of soul also knew that the opponents wouldn't come here willingly unless they were confident in dealing with it.

Any intelligent being fears death, avoids it, and is unwilling to accept its fate easily.

True Monarch Vermilion's wisp of soul possessed enough wisdom to realize that it was likely doomed this time and couldn't escape its fate of extinction.

First, it felt a sense of despair, followed by an inexplicable madness.

Anyone entering this small world who was not a disciple of Purple Gold Sect must be an enemy. There could be no compromise with enemies, and they must not allow enemies to occupy this place.

This was the highest command implanted in True Monarch Vermilion's wisp of soul by its original entity.

The gigantic humanoid shadow in the sky suddenly turned mad without any warning, raising its hands and striking down at the people below.

Jin LiDaoist Master had known that persuasion might be futile, but she tried anyway, merely as an attempt. Throughout the whole process, she and the others remained vigilant, never letting their guard down.

As True Monarch Vermilion's wisp of soul made its move, the people below immediately reacted and fought back.

Facing the Primordial Spirit True Monarch's wisp of soul, Jin LiDaoist Master had no reservations and brought out her most potent techniques, employing the Fourth Rank magic tool, the Yellow Sand Ten Thousand Li Chart.

The sky was filled with sand, and the sand formed tornadoes that surged toward True Monarch Vermilion's wisp of soul.

Fei ShiDaoist Master, after his natal magic tool was destroyed during the battle in the crow's nest, spent countless resources over the years to reforge it from the remains, restoring about 80% of its original power.

He raised a small mountain above his head, flew into the air, and turned into a massive peak, fiercely colliding with True Monarch Vermilion's wisp of soul.

The reason Meng Zhang left Yang Xueyi behind this time and brought Wen Qiansun along was to make use of his formation talent.

Cultivators often used formation power to overcome stronger opponents, where lower-level cultivators could resist higher-level cultivators, leveraging their own advantages through formations.

If they had enough time and were willing to reveal sect secrets, Meng Zhang would have had Jin LiDaoist Master and Fei ShiDaoist Master practice the formation together.

However, in the end, he felt more at ease having his sect members team up.

Wen Qiansun was highly accomplished in the way of formations, having reached the level of a Third Rank Formation Master soon after forming the core.

Now, Wen Qiansun began to unleash his formation talent.

With a serious expression, he took out nine formation flags and activated them.

The flags flew into the air, forming an intricate pattern. Meng Zhang, Wen Qiansun, and Delicate Water Spirit General flew into the formation and began to set it up.

The Yin Yang Rotation Formation was one of the most common and widely used formations in the Taiyi Sect.

This formation had no strict requirements for the number or cultivation level of cultivators involved. Even several Refining Qi stage cultivators could form the formation and exert some power.

Of course, the more cultivators involved and the higher their cultivation base, the more proficient they were with the formation, and the stronger its power.

Meng Zhang and the others were not many in number, but they were all Gold Core Daoist Masters, and Wen Qiansun was an expert in formations.

As soon as the Yin Yang Rotation Formation took shape, it displayed extraordinary momentum.

Wen Qiansun stood in the Yang position, Delicate Water Spirit General in the Yin position, and Meng Zhang in the center.

They were all very familiar with this common formation in the Taiyi Sect, and they had practiced it diligently before this mission.

The formation began to operate, and the forces of Yin and Yang compressed the wisp of soul of True Monarch Vermilion like a grinding wheel.

Taking advantage of the protection provided by the formation, the three inside the formation brought out their best techniques and unleashed numerous deadly attacks.

Not long after forming the core, Wen Qiansun exchanged for a Third Rank magic tool that had been passed down from the Layered Mystery Sect. He pointed a finger, and a small knife-like Third Rank magic tool flew into the air, viciously slashing at True Monarch Vermilion's wisp of soul.

Delicate Water Spirit General raised both hands, and a huge waterfall descended from the sky, grand and mighty, enveloping the wisp of soul's head.

Meng Zhang simultaneously wielded the Fierce Yang Sword and the Shadow Killing Sword, displaying the Strange and Upright Sword Art.

The Fierce Yang Sword and the Shadow Killing Sword, one bright and one dark, attacked True Monarch Vermilion's wisp of soul.

Originally, the wisp of soul was busy dealing with other attacks, but upon seeing Meng Zhang's Strange and Upright Sword Art, it couldn't help but laugh.

"Showing off one's clumsiness, inviting ridicule," the wisp of soul smoothly countered Meng Zhang's attacks. It even took the opportunity to comment on Meng Zhang's flaws and inadequacies, pointing them out.

Meng Zhang, for some reason, did not use any other abilities and continued to use the Strange and Upright Sword Art against the enemy. At most, he utilized the power of the Yin Yang Rotation Formation to enhance the sword technique's strength.

Under Wen Qiansun's command, the three of them manipulated the formation, displaying its various changes.

The formation possessed both mighty masculine force and concealed, treacherous feminine force.

After a short while, the three shifted positions, and the powers of Yin and Yang reversed suddenly in the formation, catching the enemy off guard.

Especially when the powers of Yin and Yang merged, the formation displayed an invincible force, combining water and fire, unstoppable.

Although True Monarch Vermilion's wisp of soul possessed power far beyond the Gold Core cultivators present, due to its long-term weakness and lack of replenishment, it was unable to exert much fighting strength.

Facing the siege of five Gold Core Daoist Masters, it found it difficult to hold its ground.

In particular, Jin Li Daoist Master, wielding a Fourth Rank magic tool, could even directly confront the Primordial Spirit True Monarch and not fall into a disadvantage.

Against this wisp of soul, she displayed no fear, taking on the main attacking role and withstanding most of its attacks.

Chapter 576: Falling from the Sky

Due to Jin LiDaoist Master taking on the majority of True Monarch Vermilion's wisp of soul attacks, the other four people were able to launch their offensives more easily and continuously weaken the opponent.

Each time this wisp of soul resolved an enemy's attack and counterattacked, it required constant consumption of the accumulated power within.

The trademark skill of Primordial Spirit True Monarch is their Law Domain, but this wisp of soul clearly hasn't cultivated the Law Domain.

After all, this wisp of soul is not the true body and cannot master all the abilities of the true body.

In battle, Primordial Spirit True Monarch often utilizes the power of the Grand Dao to change the rules of the surrounding world to some extent.

True Monarch Vermilion's true body is proficient in the Grand Dao of gold, and this wisp of soul also wields the same power of the Grand Dao.

Sharp weapons such as knives, spears, swords, axes, hammers, and halberds appeared in the surrounding space and attacked the group with unstoppable force.

Jin LiDaoist Master did her best to control the Yellow Sand Ten Thousand Li Chart and blocked most of the attacks. However, some enemies slipped through and aimed for Meng Zhang and the others.

The three members of Taiyi Sect used the Yin-Yang Rotation Formation to resist the enemy's attacks using the power of the formation.

Fei ShiDaoist Master, on the other hand, stood alone and had to face the attacks head-on. She summoned her Natal Magic Tool and used it to block the mountain peak that was heading towards her.

Countless weapons rushed towards the mountain peak, hacking and shaking it incessantly.

Breaking through to the Primordial Spirit stage is a major threshold for a Gold Core Daoist Master, as it involves comprehending the Grand Dao of heaven and earth.

Jin LiDaoist Master, who had already completed her Gold Core, did quite well in this aspect.

Although she couldn't yet use the power of the Grand Dao, her understanding of it was profound. She comprehended the Grand Dao of earth, the Grand Dao of gold, and even gleaned some essence of the Grand Dao of thunder.

Facing the Grand Dao power controlled by True Monarch Vermilion's wisp of soul, she could always timely use the Yellow Sand Ten Thousand Li Chart to block it.

Generally, only Grand Dao power can counter Grand Dao power.

However, this wisp of soul of True Monarch Vermilion is, after all, lacking the deep comprehension of the Grand Dao that the true body possesses. It merely imitates the abilities of the true body, and its use of the Grand Dao power is superficial, lacking its true essence, making its power far from sufficient.

The five Gold Core Daoist Masters present were still able to hold their ground and withstand the attacks.

After fighting for half a day, the two sides were evenly matched and unable to determine a winner.

It seemed that even if they continued fighting for another ten days or half a month, they would still be unable to decide the outcome.

Delicate WaterSpirit General, who was in the formation, keenly noticed that the humanoid shadow in the sky was gradually becoming dim.

As the former Guardian Spirit General of Taiyi Sect, Delicate WaterSpirit General had extensive experience in battles and had extraordinary combat talent. If not for the disparity in Cultivation Base, Jin LiDaoist Master might not have been her opponent.

When it came to judgment in the heat of battle and timing control, she surpassed Jin LiDaoist Master.

True Monarch Vermilion's wisp of soul was consuming its power too quickly and couldn't replenish it at all. They didn't need to defeat him head-on; they just needed to delay and consume his power slowly to ultimately kill him.

The issue spotted by Delicate WaterSpirit General was gradually noticed by the others as well.

However, due to her extensive combat experience, Delicate WaterSpirit General guessed that True Monarch Vermilion's wisp of soul would launch a desperate counterattack before completely vanishing.

She secretly reminded Meng Zhang and Wen Qiansun to be cautious, and the three of them prepared in secret.

In the small world, time flowed differently from the outside world.

Everyone was accustomed to calculating the passage of time based on the external clock.

The battle lasted for three full days and nights, and True Monarch Vermilion's wisp of soul became weaker and weaker. Its weakness was becoming evident, and the five Gold Core Daoist Masters could clearly feel it.

In the end, knowing that it couldn't escape its fate, the wisp of soul, driven by the pride of a powerful being, didn't want to be worn out in a slow death.

Before its power was completely depleted, the wisp of soul launched a final counterattack with all its strength, intending to perish together with its enemies.

The sky was filled with brilliant golden light, and a rain of golden drops fell from above.

The surrounding space was filled with sharpness, as if countless invisible blades were sweeping in all directions.

Jin LiDaoist Master, who bore the brunt of most of the force, had to temporarily retreat into the Yellow Sand Ten Thousand Li Chart, using the power of this Fourth Rank magic tool to resist the enemy's attack.

Most of the force was blocked by Jin LiDaoist Master using the Yellow Sand Ten Thousand Li Chart.

When the remaining power attacked Fei ShiDaoist Master and Meng Zhang, it hesitated for a moment for some unknown reason and then directed the main force of the attack towards Fei ShiDaoist Master.

True Monarch Vermilion's wisp of soul's desperate counterattack almost displayed the power of a Primordial Spirit True Monarch.

Outside the Yellow Sand Ten Thousand Li Chart, there were intense collisions, and deep cracks appeared on the intact chart.

The young girl in yellow appeared next to Jin LiDaoist Master, holding her head and screaming in pain.

Ignoring the damage to her magic tool, Jin LiDaoist Master used it to its fullest extent, trying her best to withstand the enemy's final attack.

Suddenly, countless swords and blades appeared around Fei ShiDaoist Master, shattering the mountain peak that was protecting him, and then cut his body into pieces.

Countless swords also appeared near Meng Zhang and the other two, frantically hacking and slashing towards them.

The Yin-Yang Rotation Formation operated at high speed, constantly releasing the power of Yin and Yang.

The three members in the formation continuously changed their positions, taking turns to bear the immense pressure.

After a long time, the swords gradually disappeared.

After this final attack, the humanoid shadow in the high sky completely dissipated into golden light.

True Monarch Vermilion's wisp of soul finally perished.

At the last moment, it accompanied Fei ShiDaoist Master on their journey.

Jin LiDaoist Master leaped out of the Yellow Sand Ten Thousand Li Chart and looked at Fei ShiDaoist Master's mangled corpse with a grim expression.

Not only was Fei ShiDaoist Master's body shattered, but his soul had also dissipated due to being injured by the Grand Dao power. Whether he could be reborn or enter reincarnation was unknown.

Fei ShiDaoist Master took this risk willingly, accompanying Jin LiDaoist Master into this small world of Purple Gold Sect, to face True Monarch Vermilion's wisp of soul. The main purpose was to hope that once Jin LiDaoist Master achieved the Primordial Spirit stage, she could protect Flying Swan Sect.

Never did she expect that he would die here before witnessing the revival of Flying Swan Sect.

Jin LiDaoist Master felt that she owed Fei ShiDaoist Master a tremendous debt. She secretly vowed that after achieving the Primordial Spirit stage in the future, she would take good care of Flying Swan Sect to repay today's debt and honor the sacrifice Fei ShiDaoist Master made with his life.

After True Monarch Vermilion's wisp of soul dissipated, Jin LiDaoist Master gathered Fei ShiDaoist Master's remains and then rested with Meng Zhang and the others.

Once they had recovered their strength, they began a careful search in the surrounding area.

True Monarch Vermilion's wisp of soul had been guarding this place for a reason.

After a thorough search, the four of them discovered three treasure vaults left behind by Purple Gold Sect in the nearby area.

Chapter 577: Closing up

Jin LiDaoist Master and Meng Zhang, together, carefully counted the three treasure vaults.

These three treasure vaults were left behind by the predecessors of the Purple Gold Sect. They hoped that in case the sect encountered a disaster, the junior disciples could make a comeback by relying on these vaults. The treasure vaults were filled with numerous treasures, including a large quantity of spirit stones, elixirs, magic tools, and other resources.

Indeed, the Purple Gold Sect lived up to its reputation as a Primordial Spirit sect. Even rare Third Rank items, such as Third Rank magic tools and Third Rank Heaven and Earth Spiritual Objects, were found abundantly within the vaults, showcasing the sect's profound heritage.

Among all the treasures, what caught Meng Zhang's attention the most were the various inheritance and scriptures of the Purple Gold Sect. Among them were numerous marvelous techniques and fundamental cultivation methods, including the "Purple Gold Secret Canon," which could lead one directly to the Grand Dao of the Primordial Spirit.

Risking their lives to confront the wisp of soul of the Primordial Spirit True Monarch, they were able to obtain these spoils of war. Meng Zhang felt that this journey was not in vain.

However, Jin LiDaoist Master's emotions were not as high. Her purpose for coming here was to seek an opportunity to break through to the Primordial Spirit stage. Although these items were indeed precious, they didn't directly contribute to her breakthrough.

She casually skimmed through various scriptures of the Purple Gold Sect, and while they did offer some insights, she already had her main cultivation technique, a wide range of sect inheritances, and the guidance of the True Monarch Tian Zhu at the late stage of the Primordial Spirit. Relying solely on the scriptures in front of her wouldn't lead to significant breakthroughs.

Jin LiDaoist Master didn't say much and divided the spoils of war with Meng Zhang and the others.

As the main force against the True Monarch Vermilion wisp of soul, Jin LiDaoist Master had blocked the majority of his attacks and naturally deserved the largest share of the spoils.

With Jin LiDaoist Master overseeing the distribution, it was relatively fair. Taiyi Sect and Flying Swan Sect also received their portions.

Originally, the inheritance scriptures of the Purple Gold Sect belonged to Jin LiDaoist Master. Under Meng Zhang's strong request, he, along with Wen Qiansun and Delicate WaterSpirit General, worked together to make a copy of them.

Although they gained a lot from this, there wasn't much joy on Jin LiDaoist Master's face. After careful consideration, she left the treasure vault, flew into the sky, and wandered outside alone.

When she arrived at the place where the True Monarch Vermilion wisp of soul dissipated and landed on the ground, she closed her eyes in contemplation.

True Monarch Tian Zhu had once said that the greatest opportunity for her to break through to the Primordial Spirit stage was to enter this small world and face the wisp of soul of True Monarch Vermilion.

She had fought alongside others to kill that wisp of soul and obtained the treasures of the Purple Gold Sect, but she hadn't gained the so-called opportunity.

Slowly, she recalled every scene and feeling from the battle with the wisp of soul. By carefully sensing this place, she could still feel the traces of the Grand Dao's power left behind after its dispersal.

After a while, Jin LiDaoist Master suddenly opened her eyes. She had gained some insight into how to break through to the Primordial Spirit stage.

She called Meng Zhang and the others over and told them that she would be going into seclusion in this small world. She vowed not to come out unless she achieved the Primordial Spirit stage.

When she entrusted Meng Zhang to leave, she asked him to take the spoils of war belonging to Flying Swan Sect back and hand them over to Wu MingweiDaoist Master of Flying Swan Sect, along with her apologies.

If she succeeded in achieving the Primordial Spirit stage, she would definitely show her appreciation and make up for the losses of Flying Swan Sect.

In addition, her disciple, Jin Qiao'er, had already cultivated to the completion stage of the Foundation Building and was about to prepare for core formation. She gave Meng Zhang several storage bags to deliver to Jin Qiao'er and asked him to take good care of her and provide all the help he could in assisting her with core formation.

She owed Meng Zhang a favor, and she was determined to repay it in the future.

After explaining everything, Jin LiDaoist Master urged Meng Zhang and the others to leave.

She would stay alone in this small world, in seclusion, to make a breakthrough to the Primordial Spirit stage.

Meng Zhang and his three companions bid farewell to Jin LiDaoist Master and embarked on their journey home.

Returning from the Void to the Grand Dust World was not an easy task.

Luckily, the marks of the Great Void Restriction were still there. After the True Monarch Vermilion wisp of soul dissipated, there were no external obstructions, and the marks became clearer.

Their luck was not too bad, and they didn't encounter any accidents on their way back. They returned safely to the Grand Dust World and appeared outside the Mirage Desert.

After returning, Meng Zhang made a special trip to Flying Swan Sect's current mountain gate, Yellow Sand Ridge, to deliver the items entrusted to him by Jin LiDaoist Master and the things she asked him to take. He handed everything to Wu MingweiDaoist Master.

On the way, Meng Zhang considered whether he should swallow some of the items meant for Flying Swan Sect himself. However, he quickly dismissed the idea as it would be unscrupulous and inappropriate given his current status and position.

Most importantly, if he did something like that and it was discovered when Jin LiDaoist Master emerged from seclusion and communicated with Flying Swan Sect, he would be in big trouble.

Meng Zhang arrived at Yellow Sand Ridge and met with the only remaining Gold Core Daoist Master of Flying Swan Sect, Wu MingweiDaoist Master. He roughly recounted their experiences in the small world and how Fei ShiDaoist Master died in battle.

He then delivered Jin LiDaoist Master's entrusted message and a large amount of cultivation resources to Wu MingweiDaoist Master.

Wu Mingwei could not have imagined that Fei ShiDaoist Master would die in such a way. It was an unprecedented huge loss for Flying Swan Sect, almost shaking its foundation.

Wu Mingwei was a resolute person, but the thought of having to single-handedly support the future of Flying Swan Sect made him feel powerless.

After completing Jin LiDaoist Master's instructions, Meng Zhang comforted Wu MingweiDaoist Master a few times and then took his leave.

At such a time, saying too much might make others think he was gloating over their misfortune.

When Meng Zhang returned to Grand Lion Ridge, Wen Qiansun and Delicate WaterSpirit General had already returned.

They were carefully organizing the spoils of war, sorting them into different categories.

Although Jin LiDaoist Master took the lion's share of the spoils, she also treated Meng Zhang well. Besides some common resources, there were also some Third Rank Heaven and Earth Spiritual Objects and a few Third Rank magic tools that Taiyi Sect urgently needed.

The news of Jin LiDaoist Master entering seclusion and cultivating in the small world of the Purple Gold Sect had to be kept strictly confidential. Meng Zhang didn't even tell Wu MingweiDaoist Master about it, only stating that Jin LiDaoist Master had some urgent matters to attend to and needed to temporarily leave the Endless Sea of Sand for a period of time.

Without Jin LiDaoist Master and Fei ShiDaoist Master, Taiyi Sect and Flying Swan Sect were once again at a disadvantage facing the Fire Cloud Sect and Yellow Lotus Sect's East River Branch.

Meng Zhang could only hope that the impact of the previous great battle was enough to deter the enemy from acting recklessly and to buy enough time for their side.

Chapter 578: Qiaoer from the core

In the following days, within Taiyi Sect, everything seemed as if nothing had happened, and they continued to develop according to their original plans. Meng Zhang entrusted the cultivation materials handed to him by Jin LiDaoist Master to Jin Qiao'er. Subsequently, Jin Qiao'er decided to stay long-term at Grand Lion Ridge, receiving guidance from Meng Zhang and other Gold Core cultivators.

After Jin Li Daoist Master closed her seclusion for five years, a series of earthquakes occurred near Hundred Grass Slope in Demon Wind Gobi, causing certain impacts on the surrounding terrain. Deep Earth Spirit General personally investigated the source of these earthquakes and discovered that it was due to the shifting of underground earth veins.

Following the earth vein displacement, a deep underground river emerged in the depths of Hundred Grass Slope. This underground river's origins and source were unknown but the area around it was abundant in spiritual energy, surpassing the Third Rank spirit vein of Hundred Grass Slope.

Deep Earth Spirit General conducted a careful survey and confirmed that the sudden appearance of the underground river presented no issues and could be safely used. He speculated that the explosion of the Fourth Rank magic tool, Myriad Layers Peak, had significantly impacted the underground earth veins. Coupled with his subsequent efforts to repair the Third Rank spirit vein, it caused various factors to lead to the appearance of this underground river.

According to Deep Earth Spirit General's preliminary estimation, the spiritual energy provided by this underground river could completely support three to four Gold Core Daoist Masters. Moreover, there was a continuous influx of vast spiritual energy from even deeper layers of the earth into the underground river.

Meng Zhang, who was previously troubled by the insufficiency of the Third Rank spirit vein in the sect, was overjoyed upon hearing this news. He gathered several Gold Core cultivators from the sect and personally delved into the underground to investigate the river. After confirming its safety, they discussed how to develop and utilize this place.

Due to its abundant spiritual energy and concealed location deep underground, they decided to establish it as a secret base for Taiyi Sect. Only a select few trusted disciples would be allowed to know about it. The underground river could be used for breeding precious spiritual fish and cultivating special spiritual herbs.

Furthermore, Deep Earth Spirit General suggested using formations to secretly divert the spiritual energy from the underground river into the Third Rank spirit vein located in Hundred Grass Slope. This way, the Third Rank spirit vein could be strengthened, providing more abundant spiritual energy for the Hundred Grass Pavilion, enabling the cultivation of more spiritual herbs and accommodating more Gold Core Daoist Masters' practice.

After discussion among several Gold Core cultivators, they agreed to Deep EarthSpirit General's proposal. However, the project had to be kept extremely secretive. They could only enlist a few trusted disciples to work on it discreetly.

In the decades that followed, the Endless Sea of Sand remained relatively calm, and the situation was relatively stable. Fire Cloud Sect and Yellow Lotus Sect East River Branch seemed to have been deterred by Jin LiDaoist Master and had no intention of launching any active attacks. Instead, they were determined to manage their territories in the Endless Sea of Sand.

Since the original cultivation forces in the Endless Sea of Sand had been mostly wiped out, the vacant areas were quickly filled. Both sects dispatched a large number of people to develop the resources in the area. They also brought in many cultivators from Jiuqu League, mainly consisting of loose cultivators, small clans, and small sects, to assist in the development.

These cultivators, many of whom were employed by the two sects, served as spirit farmers or miners. Some well-funded and manpower-abundant small forces leased territories or mines from the two sects for development.

As a result, the two sects flourished and gained a considerable amount of cultivation resources, compensating for the losses they had incurred during the invasion.

However, seeing the two sects occupy their territories and plunder their cultivation resources, Flying Swan Sect was filled with fury. Yet, after the loss of Fei ShiDaoist Master, only Wu MingweiDaoist Master remained to hold the fort, and the survival of Flying Swan Sect became quite challenging.

Wu MingweiDaoist Master kept Fei ShiDaoist Master's demise a secret, only informing a few high-ranking members within the sect. However, this secret couldn't be kept for long, and it was only a matter of time before the truth leaked out.

Since Fei ShiDaoist Master had been missing for an extended period, others would undoubtedly grow suspicious. After reclaiming Yellow Sand Ridge, Flying Swan Sect not only focused on managing the area and nearby territories but also resumed trade with the vast grasslands.

With the resources transferred by Meng Zhang and the diligent accumulation of Flying Swan Sect, Wu MingweiDaoist Master started to wholeheartedly nurture the next generation of the sect, hoping to cultivate new Gold Core Daoist Masters quickly and alleviate the pressure they faced.

Cultivating a Gold Core Daoist Master is not something that can be achieved overnight. Moreover, for some reason, Flying Swan Sect seemed to have encountered bad luck after losing Feihong Mountain and retreating to Yellow Sand Ridge.

The new disciples recently admitted to the sect not only had insufficient numbers but also displayed an incredibly low overall quality, filled with many mediocre talents. Many of Flying Swan Sect's elite cultivators, who had great potential, suffered heavy losses in previous battles. Now, with the new recruits being of such poor quality, the sect began experiencing a shortage of talented individuals.

Wu Mingwei Daoist Master knew the root cause of this situation. It was not just bad luck; rather, it was an inevitable consequence of losing a significant portion of their territories. Mortals were the foundation of cultivators, and the more mortals there were, the higher the chance of producing cultivators.

With the limited territory that Flying Swan Sect currently possessed, they could only support a limited number of mortals, which naturally led to foundational issues.

Wu Mingwei Daoist Master had no better solution for this predicament. On one hand, he procured a large number of mortals through trade with the vast grasslands, regardless of whether their territory could accommodate them. On the other hand, he pinned his hopes on Jin Li Daoist Master achieving Primordial Spirit soon, as that was the only chance for Flying Swan Sect to reclaim their lost territories.

In stark contrast to Flying Swan Sect, Taiyi Sect was thriving without any external interference, and everything was running smoothly. The environment in Demon Wind Gobi was naturally superior to that of the Endless Sea of Sand. After relocating a massive number of mortals there, the mortal population saw an explosive growth in just a few decades. Among them, more and more individuals were awakening their spiritual roots.

In the distant past, Taiyi Sect could only recruit cultivators with mediocre spiritual roots. Now, not only did they have a large number of middle-grade spiritual root cultivators, but they even had some with high-grade spiritual roots.

As the sect acquired more cultivation resources, the conditions for disciples' cultivation improved drastically. Consequently, Taiyi Sect witnessed the emergence of numerous outstanding disciples, each one surpassing the next.

With the enhancement of disciples' abilities, the standards to become an Inner-Sect Disciple also rose significantly. Those disciples who consumed Lesser Foundation Building Pills and had little hope of advancing to the Gold Core stage would find it challenging to become Inner-Sect Disciples.

Taiyi Sect's Inner-Sect Disciples were mostly elite cultivators with the potential to reach the Gold Core stage. Moreover, among the sect's higher-ups, the overall combat strength had significantly increased.

When Deep Earth Spirit General set up formations to guide the flow of spiritual energy from the underground river, he received an enormous influx of spiritual energy. After initially feeling uncomfortable, he gradually utilized the spiritual energy that surged into his body, using it to restore his strength.

As the first of the four Guardian Spirit Generals to awaken and accumulate the most power, Deep Earth Spirit General took advantage of this rare opportunity and, in less than ten years, restored his Gold Core strength.

His recovery not only significantly strengthened Taiyi Sect's high-end combat strength but also allowed him to perform many Geomancer secrets that were previously impossible. After consolidating his cultivation base, he began repairing the Third Rank spirit vein in Hundred Grass Slope.

With the supplement from the underground river, he didn't need to mobilize too many resources and gradually achieved his goal. Even excluding Grand Lion Ridge, the repaired Third Rank spirit vein, combined with the underground river, was sufficient to support all the Gold Core cultivators in Taiyi Sect.

Moreover, with the current rate of appearance of Gold Core cultivators in Taiyi Sect, the sect wouldn't have to worry about a shortage of spirit veins for a long time to come. This was because Hundred Grass Slope's conditions far exceeded those of Grand Lion Ridge. After a simple discussion among Taiyi Sect's higher-ups, they slowly relocated the sect's mountain gate to Hundred Grass Slope.

After Jin Qiao'er completed the Foundation Building stage, she went through a period of tempering before attempting to break through to the Gold Core stage. Regardless of Jin Li Daoist Master's advice or the relationship between Meng Zhang and Jin Qiao'er, he would take good care of her.

Jin Qiao'er chose to seclude herself at Grand Lion Ridge for cultivation and breakthrough. With her exceptional talents and abundant resources, Jin Qiao'er successfully broke through to the Gold Core stage after eleven years of seclusion.

Jin Qiao'er was not a disciple of Taiyi Sect, but her breakthrough held significant importance. Meng Zhang now possessed a Gold Core stage cultivator, and Jin Qiao'er became the first Gold Core Daoist Master from outside Taiyi Sect within the Hanhai Alliance, greatly strengthening the alliance's cohesion.

After Jin Qiao'er successfully formed her core, she continued to stay at Grand Lion Ridge for cultivation. Qiaoshou Sect's prestige greatly increased with Jin Qiao'er becoming a Gold Core Daoist Master. Not only did they solidify their position as the second strongest faction within the Hanhai Alliance, but they also began gradually expanding their influence.

Fortunately, Qiaoshou Sect's sect master, Jin Qigu, was prudent and didn't get carried away by Jin Qiao'er's success. She handled matters with great care, trying not to touch Taiyi Sect's interests. Most importantly, Qiaoshou Sect's attitude towards Taiyi Sect remained unchanged, and they continued to show deference as before.

Meng Zhang didn't have any suspicions towards Qiaoshou Sect, as he had them under Taiyi Sect's control all along. Additionally, Qiaoshou Sect's status served as a significant showcase, demonstrating Taiyi Sect's tolerance, which was beneficial for the further development of the Hanhai Alliance.

Chapter 579: Crafty Rabbit 3 Holes

In the easternmost region of Jiuqu League, one million miles away from the northern Endless Sea of Sand, Meng Zhang was flying over a majestic mountain range with his good friend Jue Ying.

This place marked the border between Jiuqu League and the vast Yuantu Great Prairie, and it was one of the heavily fortified areas of Jiuqu League. The Yuantu Great Prairie was much larger than the Endless Sea of Sand and was home to numerous cultivation forces and cultivators.

However, despite the vast number of cultivators, they were not united and often engaged in fierce internal conflicts. This made them vulnerable to the invasion of the powerful Barbarian Clan that emerged from the eastern lands about six hundred years ago.

The Barbarian Clan launched a full-scale invasion of the Yuantu Great Prairie, causing devastation and wiping out many cultivation forces and countless cultivators. Almost half of the Yuantu Great Prairie fell into the hands of the Barbarian Clan, and it seemed like an inevitable downfall.

Yet, just when it seemed that the Yuantu Great Prairie would be completely lost, Jiuqu League finally intervened and sent its forces to join the battle. With the help of Jiuqu League, some of the defeated cultivation forces stabilized their positions and temporarily halted the Barbarian Clan's invasion.

Learning from their failure, these previously disorganized cultivation forces put aside their internal conflicts and formed a loose alliance to counter the invasion of the Barbarian Clan. The origin of the Barbarian Clan was mysterious, and many cultivators were unsure of their true origins. Jue Ying, being well-informed through the Dark Alliance, informed Meng Zhang that the Barbarian Clan were invaders from other worlds outside of the Grand Dust World, known for their aggressive and brutal nature.

Apart from Jiuqu League, some southern cultivation sects also sent elite cultivators to join the battle against the Barbarian Clan. Currently, the situation in the Yuantu Great Prairie was relatively stable. Jiuqu League held its ground and firmly defended its frontline.

In various regions, there were constant skirmishes between Jiuqu League and the Barbarian Clan, resulting in small-scale battles. Meng Zhang observed the growth and development of the Taiyi Sect in the Demon Wind Gobi with a sense of satisfaction. However, he also harbored concerns and felt the need to plan for the future uncertainties.

In the world of cultivation, older and more powerful families and sects would always have contingency plans in place to rise again in case of adversity. As the leader of a major sect, one should have a far-reaching vision and not only focus on the present beauty but also recognize the lurking dangers.

Given the strong enemies around, the Taiyi Sect should indeed prepare an escape route early on. As the saying goes, "Crafty Rabbit has three holes," which means that having multiple options and fallbacks is the way to survive in the Cultivation World.

While observing the surroundings, Jiuqu League was the only force where they could lay down a safety net. However, due to reasons related to True Monarch Profound Wind and True Monarch Mountain Peak, Taiyi Sect couldn't become a member of Jiuqu League.

However, the Jiuqu League is a massive force with vast territories, complex internal dynamics, and numerous factions vying for power.

Taiyi Sect secretly planted several hidden pieces on Jiuqu League's territory, just in case of future needs, which was not too difficult a task.

Before Jin Qiao'ercould form the core, Meng Zhang received news that Jue Ying successfully broke through to the Gold Core stage.

Due to various internal matters and the loss of Fei ShiDaoist Master from the Flying Swan Sect, Taiyi Sect's strength significantly declined, leaving them in a weakened position against the Fire Cloud Sect and the Yellow Lotus Sect's East River Branch. As a result, Meng Zhang had no choice but to stay and guard the sect to prevent unexpected incidents.

For a long time, the Fire Cloud Sect and the Yellow Lotus Sect's East River Branch remained relatively docile. The small groups of cultivators from these sects often clashed with Taiyi Sect's cultivator teams at the border, but large-scale battles rarely occurred.

Taiyi Sect's Secret Hall kept a close watch on the movements of these two forces and confirmed that there was little possibility of them launching a massive attack in the short term.

Moreover, with Jin Qiao'ercultivating the core, the Deep Earth Spirit General regaining their Gold Core cultivation base, and Taiyi Sect's defense strength greatly increased, Meng Zhang could finally spare some time.

Meng Zhang secretly left the Demon Wind Gobi and entered Jiuqu League's territory, where he met Jue Ying, who had achieved the Gold Core stage. Now, Jue Ying should be addressed as Jue YingDaoist Master.

After Jue Ying became a Gold CoreDaoist Master, Luo YeDaoist Master left Jiuqu League's territory and went on an external mission.

Upon meeting Jue YingDaoist Master, Meng Zhang proactively sought her help to plant some hidden pieces within Jiuqu League. Both of them were Gold CoreDaoist Masters, and Jue YingDaoist Master had a significant status within the Dark Alliance. Despite her disinterest in handling mundane affairs, she still held considerable power.

Even without using the Dark Alliance's forces and the black market, her influence alone could be of great assistance.

Jue Ying Daoist Master generously provided her help to her old friend and invested many personal resources, using various intelligence gathered from within the Dark Alliance for this purpose.

In addition to assisting Taiyi Sect in establishing a trading chamber in Great Wind City, she also helped Meng Zhang develop influence within Jiuqu League.

Together, they had traveled thousands of miles to reach the edge of Jiuqu League, all for this purpose.

Recently, during a large-scale skirmish with the Barbarian Clan, Jade Sword Sect cultivators, who were an essential pillar of the Jiuqu League, achieved a glorious victory on the battlefield and gained a substantial amount of territory.

Jade Sword Sect's Sword Cultivators excelled in battlefield combat and had little interest in managing affairs. Unable to handle the nearby territories themselves, they divided this vast area into smaller regions and offered them for sale.

Cultivators who purchased these territories had to pay a considerable amount of spirit stones upfront to Jade Sword Sect, as well as an annual tribute.

Despite the demanding conditions, there was still a constant stream of cultivators seeking to purchase these territories, including loose cultivators and many small families and sects.

Through Jue Ying's connections, Meng Zhang managed to buy a valley in this region. The valley housed a Second Rank spirit vein and had a spacious surrounding area, making it ideal for hosting a Foundation Building sect or family.

Meng Zhang did not reveal his involvement in the purchase, making it appear unrelated to Taiyi Sect.

Now, Meng Zhang and Jue Ying were heading together to inspect the valley they had acquired.

Chapter 580: Potential ally

Meng Zhang and Jue Ying flew into the valley and carefully surveyed the surroundings. Meng Zhang was quite satisfied with this piece of land. He was well aware that without Jue Ying's help, as

an outsider, even if he were willing to spend spirit stones, he wouldn't be able to acquire this territory.

Within the Jiuqu League, there were numerous cultivation forces, but only those with a Gold Core Daoist Master could attract attention. The other Foundation Building forces were so numerous that they couldn't be sorted out easily.

Taiyi Sect secretly dispatched a group of loyal cultivators to establish a manor here and settle down slowly. As long as they didn't expose their connection to Taiyi Sect, they wouldn't draw too much attention. This place could serve as a secret stronghold for Taiyi Sect within the Jiuqu League or as a retreat.

If Taiyi Sect ever reached a point where it couldn't survive in the Demon Wind Gobi, they would have to disperse their disciples and secretly place them in these locations to prepare for a comeback.

During this period, Jue Ying had helped Meng Zhang a lot. Given the relationship between Meng Zhang and her master, there was no need for him to express gratitude with words. Meng Zhang kept all these favors in mind and promised to repay them in the future.

With the arrangements made in the Jiuqu League, Meng Zhang felt a little relieved. Even in the worst-case scenario of Taiyi Sect facing a catastrophe, these arrangements would at least preserve some seeds and keep the sect's heritage intact.

After handling everything, Meng Zhang bid farewell to Jue Ying and set off on his journey back to the Demon Wind Gobi. On the way, when passing through Great Wind City, he visited the Gu Yue Family.

This time, he didn't meet the clan leader of Gu Yue Family, but instead, he reunited with an old friend, Gu Yue Huaidie. Over the years, not only had Gu Yue Huaidie's cultivation base advanced significantly, but her aura also became more ethereal.

Meng Zhang knew that Gu Yue Huaidie was a secret diviner, and until he understood what kind of diviner she was, he always remained cautious around her.

Unaware of Meng Zhang's thoughts, Gu Yue Huaidie warmly received him. Taiyi Sect and Flying Swan Sect joined forces to confront Fire Cloud Sect and Yellow Lotus Sect's East River Branch. Though Great Wind City was not directly involved, it still showed some support for Taiyi Sect behind the scenes.

This support was not solely due to the friendship between Gu Yue Family and Taiyi Sect, but rather because of their mutual interests. In the past, when Flying Swan Sect ruled the Endless Sea of Sand, most of its resources were sent to Great Wind City for sale. Flying Swan Sect then purchased various supplies from Great Wind City, resulting in significant profits for the city. This trade made Great Wind City a major commercial hub in the northern part of the Jiuqu League.

However, after several significant changes in the Endless Sea of Sand, trade between the region and Great Wind City was heavily affected. Especially now that Fire Cloud Sect and Yellow Lotus Sect's East River Branch occupied most of the Endless Sea of Sand, they plundered its unique resources.

Fire Cloud Sect and Yellow Lotus Sect's East River Branch had conflicts of interest with Great Wind City, and they didn't handle their resources the same way Flying Swan Sect did. Instead, they found other ways to dispose of them.

At this time, True Monarch Mountain Peak, a highly ambitious figure, was preparing to strengthen his influence and seize control of the entire Yellow Lotus Sect.

To Develop Power and Cultivate Subordinates, a Vast Amount of Cultivation Resources is Needed.

If Mountain Branch relies solely on its own power for development, the progress will be too slow. True Monarch Mountain Peak has a keen eye and strong determination. Many years ago, he established a large-scale market on Mountain Branch's territory, striving to develop commerce and attempting to replace Great Wind City's status.

After Fire Cloud Sect and East River Branch occupied the Endless Sea of Sand, the majority of the resources they obtained were sent to be sold in Mountain Branch. True Monarch Mountain Peak wanted it this way, and even though both sects suffered significant losses in profits, they didn't dare to disobey his orders.

Fire Cloud Sect's losses were somewhat controlled as True Monarch Mountain Peak took True Monarch Profound Wind's face into consideration. However, East River Branch suffered greatly as True Monarch Mountain Peak deliberately suppressed and weakened them.

Currently, True Monarch Mountain Peak still needs these two sects to probe the true intentions of True Monarch Tian Zhu. Therefore, East River Branch still has some gains in the Endless Sea of Sand. If they lose this utility, True Monarch Mountain Peak's exploitation will become even harsher.

However, the ones suffering the most significant loss are the nearby Great Wind City. True Monarch Mountain Peak's actions are shaking the foundation of Great Wind City. If it weren't for Taiyi Sect, their new major client, Great Wind City would likely have already suffered a significant economic decline after losing this important trade route.

At present, Taiyi Sect's main territory is within the Demon Wind Gobi, and their holdings in the Endless Sea of Sand are only in a few barren peripheral regions. Moreover, with the decline of Flying Swan Sect, both sects' resource acquisition in the Endless Sea of Sand has become limited. Especially for some unique resources of the Endless Sea of Sand, supplying Great Wind City has become increasingly difficult.

Cutting off someone's source of wealth is akin to killing their parents. Fire Cloud Sect and East River Branch's actions are cutting off Great Wind City's financial resources.

Great Wind City has sent envoys to visit both sects, not expecting to return to the past state of affairs but hoping that they would leave some leeway and not completely sever the trade route between the Endless Sea of Sand and Great Wind City.

However, Fire Cloud Sect, backed by the Primordial Spirit True Monarch, doesn't care about Great Wind City's reactions at all. Of course, since the whole situation was orchestrated by True Monarch Mountain Peak, they themselves don't have much room to object.

The people of Great Wind City are furious about this matter and though they cannot currently retaliate directly against the other party, they have secretly recorded their grievances.

On the contrary, Taiyi Sect, occupying the Demon Wind Gobi, has become an increasingly valued business partner for Great Wind City. The relationship between Great Wind City and Taiyi Sect has been improving, and besides normal trade, they have developed many other connections.

Taiyi Sect and Flying Swan Sect formed an alliance against Fire Cloud Sect and East River Branch, and Great Wind City firmly stands with the former. While they won't risk offending the Primordial Spirit True Monarch directly, their alignment is not without benefits.

Though it seems that Taiyi Sect, joined by Flying Swan Sect, is holding its own against Fire Cloud Sect and East River Branch, Meng Zhang knows that it's because the latter hasn't gone all-out yet. Not to mention the intervention of the Primordial Spirit True Monarch, even if Crane Song Sect and Mountain Branch join the fray, Taiyi Sect and Flying Swan Sect won't be able to endure.

Therefore, Meng Zhang values Great Wind City as a potential ally immensely.