

Sect Master 631

Chapter 631: Going well

Above the great formation, numerous gaps have appeared. Spells are passing through these gaps, penetrating the defense of the great formation and striking inside.

As the superior races, the Mermaid Human Clan and Sea Patrolling Yaksha are limited in number. At this moment, within the Red Rock Valley, the majority of the inhabitants are various lower-level races.

Strange-looking shrimp soldiers, crab generals, and fishmen are scurrying around, desperately evading the falling spells. These races, accustomed to living in the sea, are not well adapted to the dry and arid Gobi Desert, making them uncomfortable.

After coming ashore, the Sea Clan army's strength has significantly diminished. Firstly, because their opponents are incredibly powerful, especially in terms of high-end combat capabilities. Secondly, the Human Clan's experts have exerted considerable efforts to display numerous secret techniques to ensure the Sea Clan army's minimum combat effectiveness.

As the victors over the demonic beasts, the Sea Clan now faces even more formidable enemies. The power displayed by the Gold Core Daoist Master is tremendously vast, and even a casually cast spell can cover a large area. Despite their best efforts to defend and dodge, the Sea Clan soldiers are still in vain. Whenever a spell penetrates the great formation and hits inside, it inflicts significant damage.

The Sea Patrolling Yaksha stationed here came out of seclusion and, in a moment, the Sea Clan soldiers in the valley suffered heavy casualties, with bodies strewn all over the place. Filled with rage, the Sea Patrolling Yaksha wished to rush out and tear all the Human Clan cultivators outside to pieces. However, although impulsive, he is not foolish and knows that he alone cannot contend with so many Human Clan cultivators.

The Sea Patrolling Yaksha begins gathering the scattered Sea Clan soldiers and collaborates to reinforce the great formation, putting forth their utmost efforts to defend. While there are many Sea Clan soldiers here, only this Sea Patrolling Yaksha possesses Third Rank strength. The defensive great formation, which was already limited in power, suffered substantial damage from the fierce attack of the Human Clan cultivators just now, resulting in several vulnerabilities.

The Sea Patrolling Yaksha's main strength lies in his robust physical body and close combat abilities, while his proficiency in spellcasting and knowledge of formation are limited. Although he has gathered a group of Sea Clan soldiers with his authority and is trying to defend, facing six Gold Core Daoist Masters who are going all out, the great formation's defense cannot hold for too long.

Even though the Sea Patrolling Yaksha transmitted the message of being attacked here using secret methods, the Sea Clan experts engaged in battles with demonic beasts on the frontlines cannot return in a short time.

After a loud rumbling, the huge water curtain formed by the defensive great formation completely collapsed. Red Rock Valley, without any protection, was now exposed to everyone.

With the great formation destroyed, the Sea Clan soldiers responsible for maintaining it fell to the ground, spitting blood, their life and death uncertain. The injured Sea Patrolling Yaksha, still courageous, did not flee. Instead, he let out a furious roar and charged into the sky, ready to fight the enemy with all his might.

Meng Zhang held the Spiritsnake Spear and gently flicked it, piercing through the massive body of the Sea Patrolling Yaksha. Then, he threw the lifeless body heavily to the ground.

The Sea Clan soldiers stationed in Red Rock Valley were in complete chaos. They fled in all directions like headless flies.

The six Gold Core Daoist Masters mercilessly slaughtered both inside and outside the Red Rock Valley, turning it into a river of blood and thoroughly clearing the area.

As for those Sea Clan soldiers who took advantage of the chaos to escape, they didn't have time to pursue them slowly. They had plenty of other things to do.

After conquering Red Rock Valley, the Deep Earth Spirit General did not participate in the sweep here. Instead, he immediately used his geomancy skills to carefully survey the surrounding terrain.

Soon after Red Rock Valley was completely cleared, he had completed his preliminary work.

Time was limited, so the results of this geomantic survey were rather rough, but it would suffice.

Meng Zhang brought a sub-disc of the Mother-Child Transmission Disc on this trip. With the assistance of the Deep Earth Spirit General, he quickly placed the sub-disc in the appropriate location and successfully activated it.

As the Void Nether Stone next to the sub-disc slowly consumed, the sub-disc emitted a burst of light and established a connection with the mother-disc.

The surrounding space trembled for a moment, and then, in front of the sub-disc, a portal about the height of a person appeared out of thin air.

The portal had just formed and had not fully stabilized. The Taiyi Sect cultivators who had been waiting on the other side of the portal couldn't resist taking action.

Fortunately, the portal quickly stabilized, and those impulsive cultivators did not get lost in the spatial rift.

Once the portal was stable, a group of Taiyi Sect cultivators poured out and arrived in front of Meng Zhang.

Before leaving Taiyi Sect, Meng Zhang had already discussed with the cultivators inside the portal. As soon as they conquered Red Rock Valley, they would immediately establish contact using the Mother-Child Transmission Disc and send reinforcements from the other side of the portal.

The first to arrive were the Taiyi Sect Formations Hall cultivators, among whom were several Second Rank Formation Masters.

After Wen Qiansun formed his Gold Core, he also relinquished his position as the Hall Master of Formations Hall. However, as the only Third Rank Formation Master in the sect and a sect elder, he had always been very attentive to the development of Formations Hall.

As more and more Taiyi Sect disciples emerged, individuals with talents in formations gradually appeared among them. Coupled with Wen Qiansun's dedicated training, Formations Hall had already undergone significant changes and was no longer the situation of having only a few talented individuals in the past.

Nowadays, Taiyi Sect no longer needed to seek external help for refining formations and setting up formations. In fact, many members of the Hanhai Alliance had their defensive formations for mountain gates or important strongholds set up by Taiyi Sect.

In addition to common First Rank and Second Rank Formations, with the presence of Wen Qiansun as a Third Rank Formation Master and the intervention of Third Rank tool refiner Shocking Thunder Spirit General, they could refine some special formation tools. Every so often, Taiyi Sect could produce a set of Third Rank Formations.

Besides using them themselves, they could also sell them externally and exchange them for spiritual stones or other cultivation resources.

These Taiyi Sect Formations Hall cultivators carried many storage magic tools, filled with all the equipment needed to set up a Third Rank mountain-guarding formation.

As they were not familiar with the specific spiritual energy environment of Red Rock Valley and had not surveyed the Third Rank spirit vein below, Taiyi Sect prepared to set up a Six Spirits Golden Light Formation, which did not have exceptionally strong special attributes.

The Six Spirits Golden Light Formation had six key pillars arranged according to the cardinal directions. The six Gold Core Daoist Masters would each take a position and simultaneously activate the formation, fully unleashing its power.

After the formation was activated, layers of golden light would appear on the outside. It had strong resistance against various types of attacks.

As long as these six pillars were not destroyed, the entire mountain-guarding formation would be as solid as gold and impregnable.

Even if the Sea Clan army was powerful, they wouldn't be able to easily defeat the Taiyi Sect cultivators who held the advantage of the terrain and defended with a Third Rank mountain-guarding formation.

Chapter 632: Deploying troops for defense

Red Rock Valley is surrounded by a vast expanse of mountains, forming a very wide valley. Within the Demon Wind Gobi, such continuous and majestic mountains are quite rare. The walls surrounding the valley are all made of a special red rock, which is as red as blood and incredibly hard, hence the name "Red Rock Valley."

Deep EarthSpirit General, as a Third Rank Geomancer, possesses exceptional skills in Feng Shui techniques. In just a short while, he has roughly explored the surrounding geography. A group of Formations Hall cultivators, including First Rank Formation Masters, Second Rank Formation Masters, and elite formation experts from the Taiyi Sect, have gathered here.

When it comes to leveraging the terrain and setting up great formations, Deep EarthSpirit General's abilities are not inferior to those of Wen Qiansun, a Third Rank Formation Master. Moreover, he has more extensive practical experience.

Under Deep EarthSpirit General's command, the Formation Masters begin to deploy various objects for the protective mountain formation. Formation flags are planted on the surrounding peaks. With a large number of people working together and having undergone prior rehearsals, the Six Spirits Golden Light Formation is not overly complex. In about half a day, the great formation is set up properly.

Although the protective mountain formation was set up hastily, there might be some rough spots and potential vulnerabilities. However, the basic defensive system is established. The remaining weaknesses can be repaired gradually in the future.

While Deep EarthSpirit General commands the Formation Masters to deploy the protective mountain formation, Meng Zhang leads other Gold Core Daoist Masters to patrol the area, preventing enemies from approaching and causing damage. Zheng Chao and Shocking ThunderSpirit General go even farther to scout the movements of the enemy.

Red Rock Valley is deep inside the Demon Wind Gobi, more than twenty thousand li from Taiyi Sect's mountain gate, Hundred Grass Slope. However, due to the existence of the Mother-Child Transmission Disc, Taiyi Sect's reinforcements can swiftly arrive here in an instant.

As more and more Taiyi Sect cultivators arrive, the defensive strength around Red Rock Valley continues to increase. The valley is situated to the west of the Sea Clan's headquarters, the sea, and to the east of the battlefield where the Sea Clan is fighting against the demonic beasts.

Position-wise, Red Rock Valley is deep within the Sea Clan's occupied territory and surrounded by the Sea Clan. Conversely, it is like a thorn embedded in the Sea Clan's occupied territory. Unless this thorn is removed, the Sea Clan cannot continue their eastern advance with ease. Having the strength of Taiyi Sect behind them, the Sea Clan's army is undoubtedly wary and uncomfortable.

Zheng Chao goes west while Shocking ThunderSpirit General goes east, scouting ahead to provide timely warnings for the rear. Meng Zhang, Extreme Sword Spirit General, and Delicate WaterSpirit General continuously patrol the skies over Red Rock Valley.

During their watch, a Third Rank merfolk flies over, but seeing the overwhelming strength of the Human Clan cultivators here, the merfolk doesn't dare to approach and only keeps a distant watch.

Meng Zhang and the others cannot venture too far from Red Rock Valley as they need to protect Deep EarthSpirit General's deployment of the protective mountain formation. They are also wary of being drawn away by the enemy's strategy, so they only keep their distance and observe the enemy from afar.

After a while, another creature that looks like a walking lobster flies nearby...

The merfolk only exchanges a greeting, and the lobster willingly flies over to join her. The lobster people are numerous within the Sea Clan but are considered a lower-ranked race with a relatively low status. Even rare Third Rank experts among the lobster Human Clan wouldn't dare to disobey the merfolk Human Clan and would submit without the slightest resistance.

Two Third Rank experts from the Sea Clan have already arrived. They must have been relatively close by and promptly responded to the distress call from the deceased Sea Patrolling Yaksha. Abandoning their subordinates, they embarked on their journey alone.

After half a day, another Third Rank Sea Patrolling Yaksha flew nearby and joined the two previous Sea Clan Third Rank experts.

The Sea Patrolling Yaksha clan is known for their volatile temperaments and a propensity for initiating battles. They do not shy away from a fight and are used to taking the initiative.

Sea Patrolling Yaksha holds a status not inferior to that of the merfolk Human Clan. After a heated argument, the three Sea Clan experts came to an agreement and flew here together, launching an attack to test Meng Zhang and his group.

Meng Zhang and his companions didn't evade but instead met them head-on. With Meng Zhang's Gold Core stage cultivation base, he could be considered a formidable expert among Gold Core-level cultivators. Extreme Sword Spirit General, as a Sword Cultivator, exuded an aura of fearlessness and aggressiveness. Delicate WaterSpirit General, practicing the fundamental water attribute technique, was well-matched against the Sea Clan, known for their mastery of water-based spells.

Thus, three Human Clan cultivators and three Sea Clan experts engaged in a fierce aerial battle. To the surprise of the Sea Clan experts, the Human Clan cultivators proved to be incredibly strong, far beyond their expectations.

While it is often relatively easy to determine the victor in Gold Core-level battles, determining life and death is much more challenging. However, when there is a significant disparity in power, casualties can still occur.

After a brief struggle, the outcome was decided. All three Sea Clan experts were injured. If not for the talisman bestowed upon one of them by their elders, it is likely that two out of the three would have perished here.

The Sea Patrolling Yaksha, despite their ferocity, were not foolish enough to fight recklessly after experiencing such a blow. They became somewhat despondent.

The three Sea Clan experts did not dare to approach any closer and instead retreated far away, ready to flee at any moment.

In this battle, Meng Zhang and his companions not only experienced the Sea Clan's fighting prowess but also witnessed their resilience. Even a random Third Rank merfolk could produce a Fourth Rank item for life preservation at a crucial moment.

Of course, Meng Zhang and his group were unaware of the status of the merfolk expert they faced, which was significant within the merfolk clan.

Shortly after the battle, the Third Rank protective great formation was completed. After a thorough inspection, it was activated. The spiritual energy in the sky above Red Rock Valley surged, and the underground veins below trembled. The Third Rank spirit vein had established a connection with the protective mountain formation.

The surrounding mountains of Red Rock Valley seemed to be covered in a golden glow, and with time, this glow grew even more intense. Despite the simple survey, Deep Earth Spirit General gained a profound understanding of the Third Rank spirit vein here. Both the quantity and quality of the spiritual energy provided were exceptional.

The current Third Rank spirit vein at Hundred Grass Slope was far inferior to the one here. Even before the explosion damaged Myriad Layers Peak, there was still a noticeable difference compared to the Third Rank spirit vein in Red Rock Valley.

If it weren't for the abundant spiritual energy provided by the underground river, Taiyi Sect wouldn't be able to sustain so many Gold Core cultivators.

With the activation of the Third Rank protective great formation, it signified that Taiyi Sect had completed the initial defensive preparations here, achieving the first stage of their combat objectives.

Chapter 633: Preliminary harvest

Once the Six Spirits Golden Light Formation was activated, there were obvious signs around the Red Rock Valley. The range covered by the golden light kept expanding, and the defensive power of the great formation also gradually increased. After the Formations Hall cultivator arrived, the elite cultivators of Taiyi Sect gathered at Hundred Grass Slope and used the Mother-Child Transmission Disc to teleport to Red Rock Valley.

The straight-line distance between Hundred Grass Slope and Red Rock Valley is approximately over 28,000 li (a unit of measurement). This distant distance was instantly crossed, as if it were a divine tool to mobilize forces. However, the activation of the great formation also consumed a large amount of Taiyi Sect's Void Nether Stones.

After these well-trained Taiyi Sect elite disciples arrived at Hundred Grass Slope, they immediately started to act according to their previous training. Some occupied various nodes of the great formation, while others directly joined the defensive system of the great formation.

Both the Deep Earth Spirit General and the Formations Hall cultivator had not yet rested. The hastily set up defensive great formation had some flaws that needed to be slowly adjusted, checked, and improved to strive for a flawless state.

With the arrival of the elite army of Taiyi Sect in the great formation, they defended inside the Third Rank defensive great formation and effectively prevented the Sea Clan army from breaking through and entering Red Rock Valley unless a Fourth Rank expert, at the level of Primordial Spirit, intervened.

Three Sea Clan experts in the distance sensed the activation of the defensive great formation. Though separated by the great formation, they were not aware of the continuous reinforcement of Taiyi Sect's troops. Nevertheless, they knew that with this defensive great formation in place, it

wouldn't be easily conquered in a short period. They needed to plan for the long term and carefully consider their strategies. Even the impulsive Sea Patrolling Yaksha became dejected.

With the completion of the task of setting up the defensive great formation, Deep Earth Spirit General, Meng Zhang, Extreme Sword Spirit General, and Delicate Water Spirit General became much more relaxed. Meng Zhang left Extreme Sword Spirit General and Delicate Water Spirit General outside and returned to Red Rock Valley.

Upon returning to the valley, Yang Xueyi had already been teleported to Red Rock Valley and was commanding the disciples to set up the defense. Seeing Yang Xueyi's well-organized command, Meng Zhang refrained from intervening.

Having been busy all along, Meng Zhang finally had some free time and started patrolling inside Red Rock Valley. The valley, nestled among the mountains, was extremely vast, with flat plains extending for dozens of li and occasional undulating slopes.

This place used to be the main base of the Demon Wind Gobi's western beasts, where numerous powerful beasts, including Third Rank ones, often gathered. Although Third Rank beasts possessed intelligence rivaling humans, they lacked human civilization.

There were originally some crude structures in the valley, not even considered proper buildings, more like simple pits and holes. These things that normal humans couldn't accept showed the coarseness and barbarism of the beasts.

After the Sea Clan occupied the place, due to the short time since their arrival, they had not had the opportunity for large-scale construction and development. They only set up some buildings with distinctive Sea Clan characteristics in a few corners of the valley. These buildings looked like giant shells on the outside, but their interiors were incredibly spacious, serving as temporary warehouses for the Sea Clan.

Both Human Clan and Sea Clan cultivators had limited storage space in their magic tools

Jiuqu League, a place far away from Middle-Earth Continent, not only has average craftsmanship among cultivators but also lacks complete materials. Especially special materials like Void Nether Stone are perennially scarce. The Sea Clan's crafting techniques are also primitive and crude, even inferior to those in Jiuqu League. Thus, they face the same problem of lacking Void Nether Stones.

Supplying a large army for combat requires a tremendous amount of logistical supplies. Without sufficient storage space, they can only rely on clumsy methods to slowly transport the goods. After

the Sea Clan occupied Red Rock Valley, it became an important logistics distribution center where a vast amount of supplies transported from the sea were stored.

In addition, the Sea Clan, which held the advantage in the war, already considered Demon Wind Gobi as their own territory. During the intervals of the conflict, the Sea Clan army looted a large number of supplies from the surroundings and temporarily stored them in Red Rock Valley.

As Meng Zhang entered the warehouse, he couldn't help but show a happy smile upon seeing the plentiful variety of goods. This time, they hit the jackpot, and this operation was truly worthwhile. Leaving aside other gains, just the current harvest would be enough for Taiyi Sect to recoup the costs of this war and have plenty left.

The warehouse was filled with sealed spirit chests, a mass-produced item commonly used by both the Sea Clan and the Human Clan. Though the methods of crafting were different for both sides, the function was similar. Sealed spirit chests themselves did not have spatial properties; they were boxes used to store spiritual objects. The materials of the boxes were engraved with talismans on the outside to ensure that the spiritual energy of the stored items would not leak out.

Meng Zhang opened the sealed spirit chests one by one and casually scanned the contents. The most common were various spirit stones, which the Sea Clan used to replenish their inner spiritual power despite their different cultivation system from the Human Clan.

Next were various herbs native to the sea, which, after simple refinement, could be used for various purposes. The Sea Clan's methods of preparing spiritual medicines were too crude, and they could not fully bring out the medicinal properties.

If these herbs were handed over to Taiyi Sect's alchemists, they could refine a large number of potent spiritual pills.

There were all sorts of Heaven and Earth Spiritual Objects that could be used to repair magic tools, practice certain special spells, and serve as materials for casting spells.

Although the Sea Clan soldiers' weapons were poorly crafted, the materials used were quite good. The weapons themselves were not of great use but could be melted down and reused.

What surprised Meng Zhang the most was that whether it was spirit stones, spiritual herbs, or Heaven and Earth Spiritual Objects, water-system items were the majority. This was quite normal

since the Sea Clan came from the sea, and their cultivation techniques and primary resources revolved around water-system spiritual objects.

Even in the scorching and arid Demon Wind Gobi, not to mention the Endless Sea of Sand, there was also a significant shortage of water-system spiritual objects. Even in Jiuqu League, water-system spiritual objects were not abundant.

The spoils Taiyi Sect obtained from the Sea Clan this time filled the void within the sect. These water-system spiritual objects were not only sufficient for Taiyi Sect's use but could also be sold in large quantities to the outside.

Time was tight, so Meng Zhang only gave a brief scan and did not meticulously count the items. He left the warehouse.

In the vast valley, many Taiyi Sect cultivators were controlling various construction golems, leveling the broken buildings, and beginning to construct temporary structures. On the surrounding mountain walls, other Taiyi Sect cultivators were busy, carving various runes to enhance the defense around the valley.

Chapter 634: Detection

Three powerful Sea Clan experts gazed into the direction of Red Rock Valley, watching the defenses there gradually strengthen, turning it into an impregnable fortress under the management of the Taiyi Sect. Meng Zhang was surprised to find that since Taiyi Sect occupied Red Rock Valley, only a few scattered Sea Clan experts would occasionally observe from afar. The vast Sea Clan army he had imagined had yet to arrive.

Though uncertain about the movements of the Sea Clan's main force, it made him somewhat uneasy. However, the fact that the enemy's large army hadn't appeared was a good thing. The more time Taiyi Sect had, the stronger they could make the defenses.

Understanding the critical importance of Red Rock Valley, he knew it was highly likely that they would face a frenzied attack from the Sea Clan's main force in the near future. Therefore, while reinforcing the defenses, Taiyi Sect spared no effort and spared no expense.

Thanks to the existence of the Mother-Child Transmission Disc, communication between Red Rock Valley and Taiyi Sect's main gate, Hundred Grass Slope, remained remarkably smooth. Whether it was personnel deployment or the transport of resources, it was all done with high efficiency.

After a long period of hard work, the Deep EarthSpirit General and the Formation Masters from the Formations Hall finally adjusted the Six Spirits Golden Light Formation, rectifying the previous flaws.

Though several Sea Clan experts observed from a distance, they didn't dare to approach too closely due to their previous disastrous defeat, let alone disrupt Taiyi Sect's plans.

Seeing that they had ample time and having a new idea, the Deep EarthSpirit General made a plan. The Third Rank spirit vein in Red Rock Valley was of extremely high quality, and supplying the operation of a Third Rank defense great formation would not burden it significantly.

After a quick calculation, the Deep EarthSpirit General realized that even adding another Third Rank protection great formation, the spiritual energy supply would still be more than sufficient.

With this in mind, he decided to employ the art of array embedding to set up another Third Rank protection great formation within the Six Spirits Golden Light Formation. The combination of two Third Rank great formations would not be as simple as one plus one. Instead, they could synergize and complement each other's weaknesses, greatly enhancing the power of both great formations.

Deep EarthSpirit General mentioned this idea to Meng Zhang, who readily agreed. He entrusted the entire matter to Deep EarthSpirit General, granting him full authority. The main gate's treasury of Taiyi Sect was completely open to him, allowing him to freely choose any materials he needed.

Having already planned it out, Deep EarthSpirit General wasted no time and took immediate action upon receiving Meng Zhang's authorization. Using the Mother-Child Transmission Disc, he returned to Taiyi Sect's main gate, Hundred Grass Slope, and called upon the steward responsible for guarding the treasury to cooperate in obtaining various materials.

Fortunately, after many years of development, Taiyi Sect had accumulated substantial wealth. With Third Rank Formation Masters and Third Rank tool refiners among its ranks, they always made provisions for the future, adding to the sect's savings.

Within a short time, Deep EarthSpirit General returned to Red Rock Valley with a group of disciples, carrying a large amount of array materials. The Six Spirits Golden Light Formation had sufficient defensive power but lacked attack capabilities. Therefore, Deep EarthSpirit General planned to make up for this deficiency by setting up a Heavenly Wind Silver Rain Great Formation.

While deploying the Six Spirits Golden Light Formation, the Deep EarthSpirit General conducted further surveys of Red Rock Valley, gaining deeper insights into the surrounding geography, underground veins, and the specific conditions of the spirit vein.

After careful consideration and taking into account the actual situation of Taiyi Sect, he decided to set up the Heavenly Wind Silver Rain Great Formation. As a Third Rank mountain protection great formation, the Heavenly Wind Silver Rain Great Formation not only had good defensive capabilities but also emphasized counterattacks, combining offense and defense, and concealed deadly tricks. When the great formation was activated, it would unleash gusts of heavenly wind that could corrode bones and dissolve gold, making it extremely difficult to defend against. The silver rain falling from the sky was like numerous miniature flying swords, unstoppable and incredibly powerful.

The art of array embedding was an extremely profound secret technique within the realm of formations. Even many experienced Third Rank Formation Masters couldn't grasp its essence.

Deep EarthSpirit General's primary occupation was a Geomancer, and becoming a Formation Master was just one of the prerequisites for advancing as a Geomancer. Compared to truly professional and skilled Formation Masters, Geomancers didn't necessarily have any advantage in the field of formations.

However, Deep EarthSpirit General had an extraordinary background and rich experience, enabling him to master this secret technique and successfully employ it.

In the Cultivation World, having an old expert within a sect was akin to possessing a precious treasure. Such elders represented the sect's vital heritage.

The disciples of Taiyi Sect who had arrived at Red Rock Valley were all busy performing their respective tasks, striving to build up more resistance power before the arrival of the Sea Clan's main force.

At present, Meng Zhang was unsure of the movements of the Sea Clan's main force, and the scouts, Zheng Chao and Shocking ThunderSpirit General, hadn't sent back any valuable information.

Zheng Chao headed west, in the direction of the sea. Along the way, he discovered some small outposts established by the Sea Clan and encountered several Sea Clan teams traversing the vast desert.

His goal was not to deal with them, so he didn't bother with them and continued westward to find traces of the Sea Clan's main force.

On the other hand, Shocking ThunderSpirit General headed east and occasionally discovered traces of battles. These were the remains of monster lairs that had been removed by the Sea Clan's main force, with blood stains and many unattended monster carcasses scattered outside.

Throughout his journey, he carefully investigated the sky and found no trace of the Sea Clan's main force on the ground except for some temporary Sea Clan outposts and occasional patrols.

Understanding the enemy's movements was crucial to helping the sect make the next decision. This thought flashed through Shocking ThunderSpirit General's mind. Without hesitation, he continued flying eastward to search for traces of the Sea Clan's main force.

In terms of true Cultivation Base, the four Guardian Spirit Generals had only recovered to the early stage of Gold Core. However, in terms of combat power, as special dao soldiers specialized in battles, they had the ability to challenge higher-level opponents and could rival mid-stage Gold Core cultivators.

Moreover, due to their rich combat experience and endless secret techniques, as long as they were not facing cultivators from major sects with special legacies, they had a significant advantage against ordinary Gold Core cultivators.

Each of the four Guardian Spirit Generals had their unique strengths and special abilities. The long years of survival had taught them many peculiar skills.

Among Shocking ThunderSpirit General's various specialties, what he was most proud of was not his art of crafting, but his speed.

The name "Shocking Thunder" referred not only to the thunder-rooted foundational technique he practiced but also to his incredibly fast speed, swift as a thunderbolt. Once he started moving, he was like a Shocking Thunder descending, incredibly fast and unstoppable.

During his peak, Shocking ThunderSpirit General's speed was unmatched among Gold Core cultivators, making him invincible. Even with his current early-stage Gold Core Cultivation Base, few cultivators at the late-stage Gold Core could catch up to him when he fled for his life.

It was precisely because of this reliance that he dared to continue flying eastward openly, unafraid of being besieged by powerful Sea Clan experts.

Chapter 635: Grey Horse Plain

Zheng Chao flew a long distance to the west and didn't find any trace of the Sea Clan army. He guessed that the Sea Clan army had probably gone to the east to play around.

After confirming that there were no new Sea Clan forces coming from the sea to the west, he began his journey back and rushed towards Red Rock Valley.

Red Rock Valley is a strategically significant key location that requires concentrated efforts for defense. Whether it's Meng Zhang, who is stationed in Red Rock Valley, or Shocking ThunderSpirit General, who flew to the east to scout the enemy's situation, they have no idea that the Sea Clan is about to completely deal with the demon beast forces in the Demon Wind Gobi.

About eight thousand miles to the west of Taiyi Sect's mountain gate, Hundred Grass Slope, lies an endless expanse of flatland. This place is called Grey Horse Plain, the largest plain within the Demon Wind Gobi and an important habitat for the demon beasts.

Now, this place has become the battleground for the final showdown between the demon beasts and the Sea Clan army. The demon beasts have suffered one defeat after another and retreated all the way to Grey Horse Plain. If they continue to retreat to the east, they will enter the territory of Taiyi Sect.

The reason the demon beasts stopped retreating is not because they fear the power of Taiyi Sect, but because they have other reliance and believe they still have a chance to turn things around.

Within the vast territory of the Demon Wind Gobi, the paradise of the demon beasts, a group of Third Rank demon beasts alone cannot hold onto this treasure land. To the east of Demon Wind Gobi, which is now Taiyi Sect's territory, used to be the territory of the Fourth Rank demon beast, White Lion Demon King.

After failing to kill the Fifth Rank Earth Spirit and getting heavily injured during meditation, White Lion Demon King has not had a Fourth Rank demon beast in control here. The matters in this area have been related to the conflicts between the Fifth Rank Earth Spirit and True Monarch Tian Zhu, so no external forces have ventured into this place.

After a series of events, such a vast territory has unintentionally become Taiyi Sect's territory, a result of both Taiyi Sect's luck and the good fortune of Meng Zhang.

To the west of Demon Wind Gobi, there is also a powerful Fourth Rank demon beast in control. This demon beast is the Long-nose Monster King.

Long-nose Monster King and White Lion Demon King are complete opposites in personality. White Lion Demon King is aggressive and ambitious, always seeking expansion. On the other hand, Long-nose Monster King is mild-mannered and lazy, never wanting to get involved in any troubles.

Long-nose Monster King spends most of its time sleeping in its own lair, rarely going outside and being unwilling to interfere in the affairs of Demon Wind Gobi.

Within Demon Wind Gobi, apart from White Lion Demon King, only some older Third Rank demon beasts are aware of the existence of Long-nose Monster King. As for cultivators from the outside world, they know very little about it.

Taiyi Sect has occupied such a vast area in the east of Demon Wind Gobi and has always secretly aimed to gain control of the western part of Demon Wind Gobi. However, from top to bottom, including Sect Master Meng Zhang, they are unaware of the existence of Long-nose Monster King.

Being a Monster King with such a low profile, Long-nose Monster King can be considered an anomaly among the demon beasts.

The Sea Clan army daring to invade Demon Wind Gobi naturally means that they have thoroughly understood the situation here. Not only do they know about the existence of Long-nose Monster King, but they also consider it their primary enemy.

In the eyes of the high-ranking members of the Sea Clan, as long as Long-nose Monster King is not eliminated, the Sea Clan army cannot securely occupy Demon Wind Gobi, no matter how many victories they achieve. After the Sea Clan army invaded Demon Wind Gobi in force, two powerful individuals arrived at Long-nose Monster King's lair and trapped it inside.

Poor Long-nose Monster King, who usually keeps to itself, has now fallen into trouble. It has always been peaceful, without any ambitions, and has never caused trouble. It has no grudges or conflicts with the Sea Clan, nor any intentions of causing trouble for them. However, the high-ranking members of the Sea Clan think otherwise and will not let it go.

Battles between Fourth Rank powerhouses are often prolonged and it's challenging to determine the winner in a short period. Although their battle has not lasted as long as the one between True Monarch Tian Zhu and Fifth Rank Earth Spirit, it has still continued for over a hundred years. With

the increasing involvement of Sea Clan's powerful individuals, the outcome of this battle is about to be decided.

The demon beasts on the side of Demon Wind Gobi have suffered heavy casualties, and only a few Third Rank demon beasts remain. Currently, among the Third Rank demon beasts, the most senior is Long-hair Demon General, who is leading the remaining forces of the demon beasts in their final resistance on Grey Horse Plain.

Originally, Long-hair Demon General served under White Lion Demon King and was not in the same group as the demon beasts loyal to Long-nose Monster King. However, due to the heavy casualties among the Third Rank demon beasts, there are few remaining, and only it has the ability to gather the last remaining demon beast army.

Long-hair Demon General's lair has long been destroyed by the Sea Clan army, and its offspring have suffered significant losses. While the lifespan of demon beasts is longer than that of cultivators of the same rank, at the age of Long-hair Demon General, there are not many years left for it to live.

Having reached the end of its life, Long-hair Demon General has given up on fleeing and is now leading the remaining demon beasts in their last stand. The low-level demon beasts with limited intelligence are ignorant and are only being driven by the higher-ranked demon beasts. The higher-ranked demon beasts with sufficient intelligence are still resisting here because they hold on to the last glimmer of hope.

As the Sea Clan army surrounds the remaining demon beast army and corners them in Grey Horse Plain, the high-ranking members of the Sea Clan see annihilating the demon beasts in front of them as an effortless task.

In the sky, a swordfish-shaped flying boat appears. At the bow of the flying boat stands a Third Rank merfolk powerhouse, Hai Pofeng, the commander of this Sea Clan army. Just now, he received a message from his clan's ancestors that the most significant threat to the Sea Clan, Long-nose Monster King, has been jointly killed by their clan's ancestors and the Sea Patrolling Yaksha clan.

After more than a hundred years of struggle, the victory has finally been determined, and their greatest enemy has completely fallen. However, Hai Pofeng's face doesn't show much joy. The news of this victory came too late, which led to a wrong decision he made earlier.

If this news had come a bit earlier, he might have already been on his way back. The news of the sudden conquest of Red Rock Valley by Human Clan cultivators had reached him. He had two

choices: one was to leave some forces to deal with the demon beasts, lead the main army to meet up, retake Red Rock Valley, and eliminate the Human Clan cultivators. The second option was to ignore the actions of the Human Clan cultivators and go all out to defeat the last remaining demon beast army in front of him.

Hai Pofeng chose the second option because, with Long-nose Monster King's presence, he always considered the demon beasts as their greatest enemy. As for the Human Clan cultivators, their background was unknown, and it was not appropriate to rush into a battle with them while the demon beasts were not yet resolved.

Chapter 636: Hesitant

Hai Pofeng was determined to deal with the remaining monsters in front of him first, hoping to shake the resolve of the Long-nose Monster King. He believed that wiping out their forces and seizing their territory would be a blow to the Long-nose Monster King.

The key to victory in this battle between Fourth Rank powerhouses was critical, and Hai Pofeng earnestly wanted to contribute. Although he lacked the ability to directly participate in such a level of combat, he still wanted to help in his own way and contribute what little strength he could.

However, he received news from his own sect's ancestors that the Long-nose Monster King had already fallen. Hai Pofeng regretted not realizing this earlier, as without the Long-nose Monster King, the current group of weak and useless dogs before him posed no threat and weren't worth expending much energy. Everything he had done before now seemed superfluous.

If he had known earlier, he would have ordered a retreat and dealt with the sudden appearance of the human cultivators in Red Rock Valley. If those human cultivators were allowed to establish a foothold there, it would be troublesome.

Now that things had come to this point, Hai Pofeng was a decisive person. He decided not to overthink it and focus on the task at hand. Since he had decided to prioritize dealing with the monsters in front of him, he put the Human Clan cultivators in Red Rock Valley aside for the moment.

Hai Pofeng didn't directly join the battle. Not to mention the overwhelming strength of the Sea Clan's army, even in terms of Third Rank powerhouses, the Sea Clan far surpassed the monsters.

As another Third Rank monster was killed, the monster army completely collapsed. They lost their last bit of resistance and became scattered like grains of sand.

These fleeing monsters were like headless flies, running around aimlessly, trying to escape their impending doom. However, they collided with the Sea Clan forces from all directions, and it was like smashing into an impenetrable wall, resulting in their heads being smashed and blood flowing as they died one by one.

When the remaining monsters were about to be completely wiped out, the Sea Clan powerhouses patrolling the battlefield sent a warning message to Hai Pofeng, who was commanding from high above in a flying vessel.

Standing at the bow of the flying vessel, Hai Pofeng quickly noticed the new change. In the distance, a fleet of flying vessels was rapidly approaching the battlefield. With his sharp eyes, he recognized that these flying vessels belonged to the Human Clan.

Weren't there only a few Human Clan cultivators occupying Red Rock Valley? How did such a large army of Human Clan cultivators appear here?

The fleet of flying vessels didn't continue forward; instead, they landed on the spot. Before the flying vessels had even fully landed, Human Clan cultivators leaped down from them.

The newly-landed Human Clan cultivators quickly formed teams and arranged themselves into disciplined formations. It was clear that they were highly trained and exceptionally skilled, especially those from Beast King Mountain.

In contrast, the cultivators from the various factions of the Hanhai Alliance struggled to maintain their formations during practice and were even worse when it came to actual combat.

Niu Dawei, who was watching from the air, felt a sense of embarrassment. Compared to the well-trained Beast King Mountain cultivators, the Sea Alliance's numerous cultivators appeared to be an unorganized mob.

Although Niu Dawei had never expected these people to have strong combat capabilities, considering them merely cannon fodder to distract the enemy, their dismal performance still disappointed him.

If it weren't for the unexpected addition of Beast King Mountain cultivators this time, Niu Dawei might not have had the courage to set up his formation here and face the powerful Sea Clan army. On the other hand, Wen Qiansun had a thicker skin and didn't overthink things as much as Niu Dawei did.

He commanded the cultivators from the Sea Alliance to act and began arranging their formation. Despite the disdainful glances from the Beast King Mountain cultivators, the Sea Alliance cultivators managed to form a formation and gradually developed their combat capabilities.

The cultivators from the Sea Alliance came from diverse backgrounds and lacked adequate training. If they were asked to deploy overly complicated formations, it would not only be difficult for them but also for Wen Qiansun.

A simple Eight Gates Golden Lock Formation was established, with a straightforward and limited range of variations, merely a few moves back and forth. The formation's offensive power was mediocre but excelled in defense. It allowed them to hold their ground, even against formidable enemies, providing some resilience.

After both the Sea Alliance and Beast King Mountain finished their formations, the two joint forces advanced slowly and steadily towards the battlefield ahead.

Beast King Mountain's participation in this war was supposedly to assist Taiyi Sect in countering the monsters. Taiyi Sect had mobilized their cultivators for battle and claimed that the demons in the depths of the Demon Wind Gobi were causing disturbances. However, now that the monsters were on the brink of defeat, the true enemy they faced was the Sea Clan army.

Niu Dawei didn't offer an explanation, and the Beast King Mountain side showed no interest, acting as if they hadn't noticed. This made Niu Dawei certain that Beast King Mountain had ulterior motives.

Previously, Hai Pofeng received information that a few Human Clan cultivators had stealthily attacked and occupied Red Rock Valley. But now, there was a considerable, imposing army of Human Clan cultivators before them.

The Human Clan cultivators were newcomers, so they needed to be cautious and not engage in battle recklessly until they understood their capabilities.

Realizing the responsibility he carried and the preciousness of his Sea Clan army, Hai Pofeng couldn't afford to lose them due to carelessness. Thus, he decided to be conservative in his actions.

He ordered the Sea Clan army to abandon their encirclement of the monsters and allowed the remaining monsters to break free and flee in all directions. The Sea Clan army retreated to regroup in the rear of the battlefield.

After some movements, the Sea Clan army formed a completely new formation and proudly confronted the approaching Human Clan cultivator army from a distance.

Before the two sides entered the combat range, the joint forces of the Sea Alliance and Beast King Mountain voluntarily halted their advance.

Niu Dawei was well aware of the true capabilities of the makeshift army under his command. They might appear decent from afar, but in reality, they were subpar both in combat strength and determination. They could handle easy victories, but once the situation turned unfavorable, he couldn't count on them to persevere.

As for the Beast King Mountain side, their main objective was to deal with the monsters in the Demon Wind Gobi. Unless necessary, they were not willing to engage in a battle against such a formidable opponent as the Sea Clan.

The Sea Clan army stood still, showing no intention of initiating combat. Hai Pofeng hesitated, unsure whether to start the battle immediately.

Among the opposing army, there were six distinct auras of Gold Core cultivators, who didn't bother to conceal their strength. As for whether there were any hidden Gold Core cultivators among them, he wasn't sure.

The Human Clan cultivator army before him was not only numerous but also exuded a formidable aura. It was evident they were not easy opponents. If a hidden Human Clan powerhouse were to appear, like those Human Clan cultivators who occupied Red Rock Valley, then their side would be at a disadvantage.

Chapter 637: Retreating

Hai Pofeng was highly regarded by both the Merman Clan and the Sea Patrolling Yaksha Clan's ancestors. He was entrusted with the important task of commanding the Sea Clan's army because he was cautious and had a broad perspective.

When the Human Clan cultivators suddenly launched a large-scale attack, it was a significant event, and he didn't want to make hasty decisions. Apart from the two ancestors, there was also a strong-willed figure above him whom he didn't want to displease.

In any case, the demon beasts had been completely annihilated. Even if there were a few stragglers, they posed no threat to the overall situation. Moreover, there were still many Third Rank experts from the Sea Clan scattered throughout Demon Wind Gobi. The Sea Clan's army would be at its strongest state after gathering them.

With this in mind, Hai Pofeng quickly made a decision. Under his personal command, the Sea Clan's army did not engage the Human Clan cultivators directly but instead gradually withdrew and left the battlefield.

Some of the hot-tempered Sea Patrolling Yaksha within the Sea Clan's army were dissatisfied with his order. In their view, with the army's strength, they could easily tear apart the weak Human Clan cultivators before them. However, when it came to matters concerning his command authority, Hai Pofeng was absolutely cautious and treated it even more importantly than fighting the enemy.

It took some effort and means to suppress the disgruntled Sea Patrolling Yaksha, but he managed to do so. After experiencing this situation, he had even less fighting spirit.

Under Hai Pofeng's command, the Sea Clan's army accelerated their retreat from the battlefield. Neither the cultivator army of the Hanhai Alliance nor the Beast King Mountain cultivators had any intention of engaging the Sea Clan's army. Seeing the enemy voluntarily withdraw, the leaders of both sides looked at each other, suspecting if there were any hidden schemes.

However, they would never take the initiative to invite a battle. They were well aware of their own strength. Even the proud Beast King Mountain cultivators were unwilling to rashly engage a formidable enemy like the Sea Clan's army. The enemy's withdrawal was indeed the best outcome for them.

The Sea Clan's army quickly retreated and showed no intention of lingering. At last, the Human Clan cultivators confirmed that the enemy didn't seem to have any hidden plots.

After the Sea Clan's army had gone far enough, the Beast King Mountain cultivators couldn't hold back any longer. Led by four Gold Core Daoist Masters, they began to chase after the injured demon beasts that were scattered and fleeing.

These demon beasts had just managed to break free from the encirclement of the Sea Clan's army. They were covered in wounds, exhausted, and couldn't escape too far. The Beast King Mountain cultivators had extensive experience in hunting demon beasts and were very familiar with their habits. After spreading out, they quickly made some gains.

However, the Beast King Mountain cultivators paused their pursuit. Niu Dawei, leading this motley crew, didn't have the confidence to confront the Sea Clan's army directly. If they rushed forward and bumped into the Sea Clan's army head-on, it would be a disastrous situation.

In fact, before Meng Zhang left, he had given Niu Dawei the order to gather the forces of the Hanhai Alliance and attract the attention of the Sea Clan's army. If the situation allowed, they could engage in battle with the Sea Clan's army. If they didn't have the advantage, they should preserve their strength and avoid fighting recklessly.

This wasn't because Meng Zhang cherished the Hanhai Alliance's cannon fodder cultivators, but rather Niu Dawei's approach of maintaining a defensive stance and not launching a full-scale attack had made the Sea Clan's army wary, preventing them from launching a full-scale siege on Red Rock Valley.

The cultivators from Beast King Mountain were gaining numerous rewards, and the cultivators of the Hanhai Alliance couldn't hide their envy. Niu Dawei pondered for a moment and decided to let the horses run and let them graze. Since they had already mobilized, he thought it would be good to let them benefit a little.

So, Niu Dawei also dispatched his cultivator army in batches to search for advantages around the battlefield. These Hanhai Alliance cultivators were self-aware and didn't compete with the Beast King Mountain cultivators for prey.

The Sea Clan's army had withdrawn hastily and didn't thoroughly clean up the battlefield. Inside and outside the battlefield, there were still many demon beast corpses. The Hanhai Alliance cultivators took them as targets and started looting and dividing these demon beast corpses.

The Beast King Mountain cultivators had very high standards and didn't pay much attention to the corpses of ordinary demon beasts unless they were Third Rank or some special ones. Their main mission this time was to capture various live demon beasts, especially their offspring, which was their top priority.

For now, they were temporary allies, and as long as the Hanhai Alliance cultivators knew their place, they could tolerate them reluctantly.

In this way, both sides of cultivators cooperated tacitly around the battlefield, scavenging, and to some extent, gaining rewards.

Grey Horse Plain, as an important habitat for demon beasts within Demon Wind Gobi, housed many demon beast tribes. Even after the sweep by the Sea Clan's army, there were still some stragglers. Many fleeing demon beasts had left obvious traces.

The Beast King Mountain cultivators were chasing the demon beasts all over, but they didn't have the intention to continue advancing. However, Niu Dawei's army couldn't stay here indefinitely.

According to his and Wen Qiansun's plan, his cultivator army should follow far behind the Sea Clan's army, diverting their attention. Niu Dawei felt that his army's strength was insufficient. So, he took the initiative and flew to the Beast King Mountain cultivators' group to discuss with Qiu Mingze.

Niu Dawei didn't hide his intentions and went straight to the point. He requested that the Beast King Mountain cultivators continue advancing together with his army.

At this moment, Qiu Mingze didn't need to beat around the bush. They were all members of the Jiuqu League, and he didn't bring up any of Beast King Mountain's help to Taiyi Sect against the demon beasts.

The purpose of Beast King Mountain was to take advantage of the Sea Clan's army wiping out the demon beast side and gain some benefits by entering deeper into Demon Wind Gobi.

Niu Dawei, representing Taiyi Sect as the proxy Sect Master, promised Qiu Mingze many benefits and made many concessions, which finally convinced Qiu Mingze to agree to continue advancing.

Next, Niu Dawei gathered the cultivator army of the Hanhai Alliance. Except for leaving a few cultivators here for the handover with Beast King Mountain, the majority of the cultivators marched with the army.

On the side of Beast King Mountain, half of the cultivators remained to continue chasing demon beasts. The other half, led by Qiu Mingze personally, marched forward with the Hanhai Alliance cultivators. The four Gold Core Daoist Masters were also divided into two groups, each leading one.

After some reorganization, the joint forces of the Hanhai Alliance and Beast King Mountain set off again and continued to advance westward into Demon Wind Gobi.

The reason Qiu Mingze agreed to Niu Dawei's request, besides the benefits promised by Niu Dawei, was that he himself wanted to delve deeper into Demon Wind Gobi to see if there were more advantages to be gained. The demon beast resources in Demon Wind Gobi were too rich, and how could Beast King Mountain not be tempted.

Chapter 638: True Dragon

Once Hai Pofeng led the Sea Clan's large army to withdraw from the battlefield, they wasted no time on the way and headed directly towards Red Rock Valley. Almost simultaneously, he contacted the ancestors of the clan, seeking further instructions while also reaching out to the Third Rank experts scattered in various parts of Demon Wind Gobi, requesting them to hurry and join the main army.

As Shocking ThunderSpirit General, who was on reconnaissance duty in the east, noticed the departing Sea Clan's large army from afar, he didn't immediately flee but instead approached for closer inspection to understand the enemy's situation. The Sea Clan's army was filled with formidable experts who quickly noticed Shocking ThunderSpirit General's presence. Several Third Rank experts broke away from the group and flew towards Shocking ThunderSpirit General.

Rather than engaging in combat, Shocking ThunderSpirit General chose to retreat each time, and once they returned to their ranks, he flew back to continue the reconnaissance. This repetitive behavior angered the strong warriors within the Sea Clan's army.

A Sea Patrolling Yaksha, possessing the strength of the Gold Corelate stage, held a formidable weapon and led several Third Rank experts to take action, showing a determined attitude to take down Shocking ThunderSpirit General.

Being a seasoned veteran, Shocking ThunderSpirit General was quick to seize the opportunity and escaped the encirclement, leaving the enemy frustrated and helpless as they watched his retreating figure.

Now that Shocking ThunderSpirit General had a clear understanding of the Sea Clan's army movements, there was no need for him to linger outside any longer. He swiftly flew back to Red Rock Valley.

By the time Shocking ThunderSpirit General returned, the second Third Rank defensive formation within Red Rock Valley had already been set up and successfully activated. Elite Taiyi Sect cultivators had been teleported to Red Rock Valley using the Mother-Child Transmission Disc and joined the defense.

In this situation, Meng Zhang felt confident. Shocking Thunder Spirit General brought news that the Sea Clan's large army was about to arrive. Meng Zhang ordered the Taiyi Sect disciples to prepare for battle.

Hai Pofeng, leading the Sea Clan's large army, continued to make their way to Red Rock Valley. Along the journey, they gradually gathered some of the previously scattered Sea Clan experts, making their force even more powerful.

When this army arrived near Red Rock Valley, the three Sea Clan Third Rank experts, who had been monitoring the area, approached Hai Pofeng and reported the enemy's strength and the existence of the Third Rank defensive formation. Hai Pofeng felt a headache upon hearing this.

Human Clan cultivators were not beasts; they possessed numerous methods applicable in warfare. Breaking a Third Rank defensive formation alone would require the Sea Clan's army to pay a heavy price in lives. As a superior race, Hai Pofeng didn't particularly care about the lives of the inferior races. However, if the army suffered significant losses, it would be difficult for him to explain to the ancestors.

Just the thought of the sudden appearance of Human Clan cultivators, launching a surprise attack, and occupying Red Rock Valley with geographical advantages made Hai Pofeng furious.

The cautious him, leading the Sea Clan's large army, arrived outside Red Rock Valley, but instead of hastily ordering an attack, he relayed the situation here to the elder of the Mermaid Human Clan.

About ten thousand li (a Chinese measurement equivalent to about 3.3 miles) north of Red Rock Valley, there was originally a sparse and low forest. In the vast Demon Wind Gobi, even such a forest was extremely rare and almost unique. The only Fourth Rank monster of the Demon Wind Gobi, the Long-nose Monster King, had its nest located in this area. It usually slept in its nest and rarely went out. Occasionally, when it did venture out, it wouldn't stay away for too long.

However, its reclusive nature didn't save it from disaster. Not long ago, two Fourth Rank experts, Hai Duomou from the Mermaid Human Clan and Meng Dali from the Sea Patrolling Yaksha, joined forces and completely killed it here. Now, the two victorious elders were meditating and adjusting their states here.

Not far from the two elders, a young man with the head of a dragon and the body of a human stood proudly, possessing an imposing aura that was in no way inferior to theirs. This young man was named Ying Gaofei, a member of the True Dragon clan, and he held a noble status with strong bloodlines.

Although the two elders had a higher Cultivation Base than First Rank, due to the natural bloodline suppression, they felt a bit inferior in front of this young man. The True Dragon clan resided deep within the ocean and rarely appeared on the continent. They were naturally powerful creatures and their innate bloodlines were almost at the pinnacle of the entire Grand Dust World, far surpassing all major races, including the Human Clan.

A pure-blooded True Dragon, once it reached adulthood, was at least a Third Rank creature. Because of their powerful talents and many bloodline inheritances of extraordinary techniques, their combat prowess was astonishing. Other races' Third Rank experts were almost unable to match an adult True Dragon.

Of course, with advantages come disadvantages. The astonishing innate bloodline of the True Dragon also limited their further progress. Cultivating to the Third Rank as a True Dragon, equivalent to the human Gold Core stage, was straightforward and effortless. Simply eating and sleeping, by the end of the year, they would naturally enter the Third Rank late stage or even Third Rank completion.

However, for a True Dragon to break through to the Fourth Rank, equivalent to the human Primordial Spirit stage of Cultivation Base, was very difficult. Many naturally powerful True Dragons lacked the ambition and courage to attempt this breakthrough. Otherwise, with the large number of Third Rank True Dragons, if they could normally give birth to Fourth Rank experts, the True Dragon clan would have long been the world's number one race, completely dominating the Grand Dust World.

Although Third Rank True Dragons were powerful, to truly intervene in the situation of the Grand Dust World, they wouldn't be enough; only Fifth Rank great powers could do so.

Within the True Dragon clan, Third Rank True Dragons were abundant, Fourth Rank True Dragons were not many, and whether Fifth Rank great powers existed or not, even many True Dragons were uncertain.

Ying Gaofei, as a strong member of the True Dragon clan, did not lack the drive for improvement like some of his kin. After reaching adulthood, he had traveled multiple times, seizing various opportunities to temper himself. He was an ambitious individual who not only wanted to break through to the Fourth Rank but also wished to make a name for himself.

Over three hundred years ago, Ying Gaofei journeyed to the sea to the west of Demon Wind Gobi. Although he only had a Third Rank Cultivation Base, he easily subdued the surrounding Sea Clan

due to his noble True Dragon bloodline. Even the Fourth Rank elders of the Mermaid Human Clan and Sea Patrolling Yaksha voluntarily came before him and paid their respects.

After integrating the power of the surrounding Sea Clan, Ying Gaofei harbored desires for the Demon Wind Gobi beside the sea. The True Dragon clan had long lifespans, and even Third Rank True Dragons had a lifespan far beyond that of Human Clan Primordial Spirit stage cultivators. In their long lives, conducting an expansion war over several hundred years was just an interesting experience for Ying Gaofei. In such a war, he could also gain training and obtain many rewards.

Chapter 639: Being in luck

After spending such a long time and suffering significant losses to the Sea Clan, they finally completely dealt with the Long-nose Monster King. Moreover, according to the news from Hai Pofeng, the remaining forces of the demon beasts are about to be wiped out. This leaves all three of them satisfied.

Ying Gaofei achieved a resounding victory in his first attempt at such an operation, obtaining rich spoils of war. When this news reaches the Dragon Clan, the elders in the clan will undoubtedly regard him highly.

Although Ying Gaofei is from the True Dragon lineage, there are quite a few branches within the True Dragon Clan. Those who receive the attention of the elders and are highly nurtured by the higher-ups depend largely on their individual performances.

Both the Merfolk Clan and the Sea Patrolling Yaksha Clan are equally pleased. They are willing to follow Ying Gaofei's lead not only because of his inherent leadership position as a True Dragon but also for the future of their respective clans.

In the vast sea, both the Merfolk Clan and the Sea Patrolling Yaksha Clan are large races with numerous factions spread throughout the ocean.

Joining forces with a True Dragon from the main lineage can greatly elevate their status within their respective factions.

Not to mention the distant future, even in the present, eliminating the demon beasts and occupying such an extensive territory like the Demon Wind Gobi brings astonishing gains. They have only collected a few resources from the area, but these are unique resources lacking in the vast sea and will undoubtedly hold great value once transported back.

Hai Duomou of the Merfolk Clan and Meng Dali of the Sea Patrolling Yaksha Clan had been jointly besieging the Long-nose Monster King for many years. Although they had firmly suppressed the Long-nose Monster King, they were never able to take its life.

Originally, due to the significant gap in strength, a Third Rank expert would find it difficult to interfere in battles between Fourth Rank experts.

Ying Gaofei, as a Third Rank True Dragon, possesses formidable innate talents and a treasure bestowed by the elders of his clan. At a critical moment, he launched a sneak attack that inflicted considerable damage on the Long-nose Monster King. It was then that Hai Duomou and Meng Dali seized the opportunity to finally kill their old adversary after years of struggle.

The three of them were currently resting near the lair of the Long-nose Monster King when they received a message from Hai Pofeng.

Upon learning about the sudden intervention of the Human Clan cultivators, who occupied Red Rock Valley, the three of them couldn't help but frown.

The unexpected involvement of the Human Clan was bad news.

The Human Clan is not like the demon beasts; they are the dominant race in the Grand Dust World and can be considered the rulers of this world.

Despite the strength of the True Dragon Clan, they had to reside in the deep sea due to the pressure from the Human Clan's Holy Land Sect.

The overall strength of the Human Clan's Cultivation World surpasses that of the True Dragon Clan and even the entire Sea Clan.

Demon Wind Gobi is far from the Middle-Earth Continent and is quite remote. The overall cultivation level here is not as high as that of the Middle-Earth Continent. However, confronting the Human Clan cultivators here is still not a trivial matter.

As news from Hai Pofeng continued to arrive, the expressions on the faces of the three became increasingly grim.

Not only did the Human Clan seize Red Rock Valley through a sneak attack, but they also dispatched a large army of cultivators into the battlefield. Red Rock Valley has been enveloped in a great formation by the Human Clan cultivators, indicating that they are prepared for a long-term occupation.

Ying Gaofei, despite having the lowest Cultivation Base among the three, is the one taking charge. After a brief contemplation, he made a decision.

"Both of you, please make a trip. Take back Red Rock Valley before the Human Clan's Primordial Spirit cultivator intervenes. As long as we sever the human's extended claws, they won't easily start a major war."

Ying Gaofei is not an ignorant person; when he led the Sea Clan's large army to attack the Demon Wind Gobi, he naturally collected intelligence on the surrounding forces.

Suddenly appearing in Red Rock Valley, the Human Clan cultivators are most likely from nearby cultivation forces, mainly from the Jiuqu League. The Jiuqu League itself is facing trouble from the Barbarian Clan on the Yuantu Great Prairie, and there are also internal disputes within the Human Clan.

Hai Pofeng said that the most that has appeared currently are Gold Core stage cultivators, indicating that these Human Clan cultivators are likely probing the situation.

To deter the Human Clan cultivators and prevent them from easily opening a second battlefield in the Demon Wind Gobi, they must respond with a thunderous blow.

As a member of the Dragon Clan, Ying Gaofei possesses a sense of pride and has proactively responded based on the intelligence obtained.

Hai Duomou and Meng Dali had already fully recovered. Upon hearing Ying Gaofei's command, they immediately rose and flew towards Red Rock Valley.

As he watched their figures disappear in the distance, Ying Gaofei pondered for a long time before flying in the same direction as the two. He was not worried that they would disobey his orders but rather concerned that the Human Clan might have some tricks up their sleeve. Only by personally intervening could he respond promptly.

In the sky not far from Red Rock Valley, Jin Li True Monarch and True Monarch Azure Mist had arrived without knowing when and were quietly waiting.

"Friend Qinglan, we owe you for this. Otherwise, these juniors wouldn't have known the trouble they were getting into," Jin Li True Monarch sincerely expressed his gratitude.

"Friend Jin Li, there's no need to be so polite. Between you and me, there's no need for such formality."

"As a member of Jiuqu League, since Taiyi Sect is also a part of it, we naturally can't just stand by and watch them suffer losses. Moreover, this time Taiyi Sect took the initiative and boldly entered the Demon Wind Gobi, which not only solved a problem but also enhanced the reputation of our Jiuqu League."

True Monarch Azure Mist smiled amiably.

As the most powerful Human Clan cultivation force in the vicinity, the Jiuqu League naturally pays close attention to various situations in the area. It is impossible to hide the specific situation in the Demon Wind Gobi from the watchful eyes of the Azure Origin Sect.

In recent years, the Jiuqu League has faced internal and external troubles, and they have not been considering opening up new battlefields.

Whether it was the demon beasts that previously occupied the Demon Wind Gobi or the current invasion of the Sea Clan army, they all involve Fourth Rank experts and are not easy opponents to deal with.

After receiving news that the Sea Clan army is about to achieve a complete victory and fully occupy the western part of the Demon Wind Gobi, the high-ranking members responsible for related matters in the Jiuqu League discussed whether to intervene in a timely manner.

A large part of the territory of the Demon Wind Gobi borders the Jiuqu League. Now that an expansionist neighbor has emerged, it is indeed not a good situation.

Just at this moment, news arrived that Taiyi Sect had taken the initiative to attack the western part of the Demon Wind Gobi, which settled the debate.

Regardless of whether Taiyi Sect actively engaged in a war with the Sea Clan, the Jiuqu League could not stand by and watch their alliance members be slaughtered by the enemy's Fourth Rank experts.

True Monarch Azure Mist, who has been deliberately befriending Jin Li True Monarch, took the initiative and invited Jin Li True Monarch to come and support Taiyi Sect.

The Taiyi Sect, including Sect Master Meng Zhang, who had already participated in the war, were unaware of this support. It was their good fortune that they unknowingly gained strong reinforcements, averting the greatest calamity.

Neither Jin Li True Monarch nor True Monarch Azure Mist intended to wage a large-scale war with the Sea Clan. They did not take advantage of their larger numbers and directly attack the Sea Clan army.

Chapter 640: Agreement

From the very beginning of its establishment in the Jiuqu League, Beast King Mountain has been an important member of the league. Although it has always remained low-key, its roots within the Jiuqu League are deep, and it is well-informed of the internal affairs.

Beast King Mountain has always coveted the abundant demon beasts resources in the Demon Wind Gobi. However, they were not willing to launch a large-scale attack without sufficient confidence to defeat the Long-nose Monster King.

During this critical period of turmoil in the Demon Wind Gobi, the Sea Clan launched a massive invasion. Unfortunately, at this crucial moment, the Primordial Spirit True Monarch of Beast King Mountain was absent from the sect.

Even though Beast King Mountain received timely information from the higher-ups in the Jiuqu League and saw an opportunity, the cultivators responsible for the daily affairs of the sect hesitated to launch a full-scale attack and enter the Demon Wind Gobi.

Without the involvement of Beast King Mountain's Primordial Spirit True Monarch, how could Beast King Mountain resist the Sea Clan's Fourth Rank experts?

However, this presented a golden opportunity, and everyone was unwilling to let it slip away easily.

Finally, after a series of discussions among the elders, they reached a compromise.

Beast King Mountain, shamelessly claiming to help Taiyi Sect, took the initiative to join forces with them.

The elders of Beast King Mountain thought it through. Although their own Primordial Spirit True Monarch was absent, Jin Li True Monarch from Taiyi Sect would not sit idly by. By following behind Taiyi Sect, they could also gain many advantages.

What they did not know was that the higher-ups in Taiyi Sect were oblivious to the great battle between the Sea Clan and the demon beasts, which also involved powerful beings at the Primordial Spirit True Monarch level.

If it were not for True Monarch Azure Mist intentionally owing Jin Li True Monarch a favor, the rash advance of Taiyi Sect's cultivator army into the hands of Sea Clan's Fourth Rank experts would most likely lead to disastrous consequences. The cultivators from Beast King Mountain, following behind Taiyi Sect, would similarly suffer.

In any case, after a series of twists and turns, both Taiyi Sect and Beast King Mountain achieved their initial goals. Now, they must face the counterattack from the Sea Clan army.

Jin Li True Monarch and True Monarch Azure Mist have been waiting in the skies above Red Rock Valley for some time.

They did not directly assist Taiyi Sect but were prepared to help Taiyi Sect defend against the threats from the Sea Clan's Fourth Rank experts.

When the two Fourth Rank experts from the Sea Clan, the Jiaohuman Clan and the Sea Patrolling Yaksha tribe, arrived near Red Rock Valley, they encountered the two Human Clan Primordial Spirit True Monarchs who had been waiting for them.

None of the four immediately made a move, and they stood in a standoff.

Neither the Sea Clan nor the Jiuqu League were fully committed to all-out war.

Even if the four engaged in a fight, it would be difficult to determine a winner in a short period. And even if there were a winner, it would not resolve the issue but might instead escalate the conflict.

After a period of confrontation, Ying Gaofei also flew to this location.

Seeing the two Human Clan Primordial Spirit True Monarchs, he believed that he had figured out the Human Clan's calculations.

Indeed, these despicable Human Clan cultivators were aiming to profit from the situation and seize their victory.

Proud and indignant, Ying Gaofei felt that he had been outsmarted by the Human Clan cultivators and was deeply dissatisfied.

Of course, he also knew that the Jiuqu League was the most powerful Human Clan cultivation force in the nearby area. Even with various problems, it wasn't something he, with his current strength, could easily challenge. Unless absolutely necessary, he was unwilling to engage in an all-out war with the Jiuqu League.

"What are you two waiting here for?" Ying Gaofei asked coldly.

Most disputes in the Cultivation World were about interests. He wanted to see to what extent the Jiuqu League was prepared to go.

If the Jiuqu League went too far in bullying others, he was not someone without connections. He might have to have a serious talk with the higher-ups of the Jiuqu League.

The reason Jin Li True Monarch had been protecting Taiyi Sect all along was partly due to past relationships and commitments she had made. Also, Taiyi Sect had always shown enough respect to her, and various offerings were never in short supply.

However, this time, Taiyi Sect acted against the Sea Clan without informing Jin Li True Monarch in advance, which made her feel uncomfortable.

While she sincerely wanted to protect Taiyi Sect, she felt that Taiyi Sect was always acting on its own, taking matters into its own hands, and one day, it might drag her into serious trouble.

Because of this incident, Jin Li True Monarch owed True Monarch Azure Mist a favor. Debts of gratitude like this were the hardest to repay.

Jin Li True Monarch felt that Taiyi Sect needed to face some hardship to learn a profound lesson.

Now that Ying Gaofei had taken the initiative to inquire, she stated the explanation she had already discussed with True Monarch Azure Mist.

The current situation in the Demon Wind Gobi was just some reckless actions of the younger generation. The elders should refrain from getting involved in a big way.

Upon hearing Jin Li True Monarch's words, Ying Gaofei and the two Fourth Rank experts from the Human Clan seemed relieved.

It appeared that the Human Clan cultivators had no intention of engaging in an all-out war with the Sea Clan. As for small-scale conflicts, they had never ceased in the Cultivation World, and the Sea Clan side would not fear that.

After some verbal sparring among the five people in the air, they reached a general agreement.

The Fourth Rank experts from the Sea Clan would not intervene, and the Primordial Spirit True Monarchs from the Human Clan would also refrain from action.

Besides Taiyi Sect and the already involved Beast King Mountain cultivators, the Jiuqu League would not send additional reinforcements.

Likewise, the Sea Clan could not bring in new reinforcements from the sea.

The upcoming battle would be determined based on the outcome in Red Rock Valley.

Sea Clan could mobilize all their forces in the Demon Wind Gobi and launch a full-scale attack on Red Rock Valley.

If Sea Clan conquered Red Rock Valley within two years, then Taiyi Sect and Beast King Mountain's forces would completely withdraw from the western region of the Demon Wind Gobi.

Taiyi Sect would also have to cede a large territory and provide significant resources to the Sea Clan as compensation for their defeat.

However, if the Sea Clan failed to capture Red Rock Valley within two years, they must admit defeat.

The Sea Clan army would then have to retreat two thousand miles west of Red Rock Valley.

Regardless of the outcome, after the battle, both the Human Clan cultivators and the Sea Clan could not provoke further conflicts.

For Jin Li True Monarch, no matter the result, she could accept it.

If Taiyi Sect lost, the Sea Clan would gain sufficient benefits, and the matter would be settled. At most, she would have made a trip for nothing, with no real loss.

If Taiyi Sect won, they would secure a vast territory in the western region of the Demon Wind Gobi. Such spoils would be too much for Taiyi Sect to handle alone.

True Monarch Azure Mist had put in a lot of effort this time, so naturally, he would receive a significant share. Jin Li True Monarch, as the protector of Taiyi Sect, would also reap considerable gains.

Both Fourth Rank experts were capable of making Grand Dao vows, but for this temporary agreement, neither side had prepared such vows.

Whether this temporary agreement could be executed successfully would depend on the relative strengths of both sides.

As long as the balance of power remained unchanged, the agreement would not be easily broken. But if one side fell into a weakened position in the future, the other side might not abide by the agreement.