

Sect Master 701

Chapter 701: Visit

Three Gold Core realm Yin Yang Dao Soldiers and Meng Zhang stood together, each occupying a position. Then, Meng Zhang began to guide the Dao Soldiers to cast spells alongside him.

Suddenly, a treasure bead flew out from Meng Zhang's head, soaring high and heading straight for the Sea Clan army below. The treasure bead emitted a brilliant light, an almost endless radiance descending from the sky, covering the surrounding area.

As Meng Zhang advanced to the completion stage of the Gold Core realm, the power of his Divine Ability, Sun and Moon Divine Light, greatly strengthened. The overwhelming Sun and Moon Divine Light surged down, causing great chaos among the Sea Clan army below.

Under the illumination of the Sun and Moon Divine Light, the Sea Clan army showed little resistance. Everyone felt dizzy and disoriented, barely able to stand steady.

In the blink of an eye, the entire army fell into disarray, almost losing all fighting capacity. Two Third Rank Sea Clan commanders tried to fly up and shatter the Sun Moon Treasure Pearl above, but with a wave of Meng Zhang's hand, more powerful Sun and Moon Divine Light fell upon them, causing their souls to feel as if they were freezing, and they quickly lost the ability to fly, crashing down to the ground.

At this moment, if Meng Zhang wanted, he could easily annihilate the Sea Clan army before him. However, it was not an opportune time to engage in a full-scale war with the Sea Clan, so Meng Zhang resisted the urge to slaughter and flew away.

Next, Meng Zhang acted in the same manner, flying chaotically around the borderlines and causing confusion and disorder among any Sea Clan army they encountered. Seeing the strong reaction from Taiyi Sect, especially with a formidable figure like Meng Zhang stepping forward, the Sea Clan had no choice but to temporarily back down.

No Fourth Rank Sea Clan member dared to come forward, and even the Third Rank True Dragon soldiers were defeated under Meng Zhang's command. Unless the Sea Clan mobilized multiple powerful beings to surround and attack him, they were basically powerless against Meng Zhang.

However, the Sea Clan was also not prepared for a full-scale war with the Jiuqu League and, therefore, did not want to launch a large-scale attack.

After Meng Zhang's actions during this period, the Sea Clan's army had to temporarily retreat to avoid direct conflict with him. Although Meng Zhang knew this was just a temporary measure and did not address the root problem, he had no better solution for now.

Meng Zhang flew back to Red Rock Valley and instructed the cultivators stationed there to strengthen their defenses before teleporting back to the mountain gate, Hundred Grass Slope. He hadn't been away for long, and nothing significant had happened at the mountain gate. The latest battle reports from the front lines had not arrived yet.

At this time, Xu Mengying, the saintess of the Yellow Lotus Sect, arrived at Maple Leaf Mountain City and called for the Taiyi Sect disciples stationed there to deliver a message. She wanted to meet with Meng Zhang to discuss important matters.

Daoist Master Mountain Garden and others had disappeared during their last encounter at the Grand Crossing Cultivation Circle, and this matter was attributed to Xu Mengying by True Monarch Mountain Peak.

However, for many years, Xu Mengying had not shown herself on the Jiuqu League's side, so they couldn't find her to hold her accountable. Of course, her prolonged absence also made it easier for True Monarch Mountain Peak to consolidate the actions of the Yellow Lotus Sect.

According to the information received by Meng Zhang, True Monarch Mountain Peak would soon formally ascend to the position of Yellow Lotus Sect's Cult Master, uniting the fragmented Yellow Lotus Sect once again.

Xu Mengying's situation had become extremely dire; she was almost cornered. If she didn't have any means of turning the tables, she might not dare to return to the Jiuqu League in the future.

Meng Zhang certainly did not want to see True Monarch Mountain Peak become the Yellow Lotus Sect's Cult Master and unify the entire sect. However, he knew he couldn't directly confront a Primordial Spirit realm True Monarch.

Now that Xu Mengying had come seeking help, Meng Zhang was prepared to meet with her. If Xu Mengying had a viable plan to counter True Monarch Mountain Peak, Meng Zhang might consider intervening. But if she was merely planning to use him as cannon fodder, he would decline politely.

Meng Zhang teleported from Hundred Grass Slope to Maple Leaf Mountain City and met Xu Mengying in a secluded room. It had been many years since they last saw each other, and Meng Zhang noticed significant changes in Xu Mengying.

The delicate and weak aura that used to be on her face had completely vanished. She had become remarkably resolute, giving off a sense of extraordinary reliability. Her cultivation was also much stronger, akin to a towering mountain.

Meng Zhang's own cultivation had reached the completion stage of the Gold Core realm, and he considered himself among the top cultivators below the Primordial Spirit realm. However, he still couldn't fully understand Xu Mengying's strength. Moreover, whenever he faced her, his Spiritual Awareness kept warning him, as if she concealed some great danger.

After Xu Mengying saw Meng Zhang, she didn't waste any words and directly sought his help to slay a powerful demon. Of course, Meng Zhang, as the pillar of the righteous path and the Sect Master of Taiyi Sect, wouldn't ignore such a matter. However, he wouldn't help without any conditions or act rashly.

Meng Zhang smiled, not agreeing immediately, but waiting to see what conditions she would offer to win him over.

Meng Zhang believed that Xu Mengying probably couldn't offer conditions that would sway him. Yellow Lotus Sect might be a Primordial Spirit level sect, but Xu Mengying had been living on her own, and the benefits she had offered the last time were likely her maximum capacity.

With the gains he acquired in the independent space of the Void Cauldron, both he and Taiyi Sect lacked urgent necessities. Now, if Xu Mengying wanted to win Meng Zhang's favor, it was not as easy as before, and the difficulty had significantly increased.

Xu Mengying understood Meng Zhang's meaning and slightly moved her red lips, uttering four words: "Heavenly Dao Merit Points."

Meng Zhang's expression froze as he tried hard not to show any surprise. He knew very well what Heavenly Dao Merit Points were and how crucial they were, as he had experienced them personally.

Especially now, Meng Zhang was at the critical point of completing the Gold Core stage and about to break through to the Primordial Spirit realm. This process had no shortcuts; it relied on hard work and effort. If luck was not on his side, it was entirely possible for Meng Zhang to spend decades or

even hundreds of years at this stage, and it was not uncommon for cultivators to be stuck at this bottleneck for their entire lifetimes without reaching the Primordial Spirit realm.

Even the so-called Primordial Spirit seeds from prominent sects and families in the Cultivation World had countless geniuses who wandered for hundreds of years before entering the Primordial Spirit realm. Such examples were too numerous to count.

Not to mention others, just within the newly rebuilt Taiyi Sect, there were many extraordinary cultivators with all the necessary conditions, yet they couldn't advance to the Primordial Spirit realm throughout their lifetimes.

The difficulty of advancing to the Primordial Spirit realm was so great that even Meng Zhang, who was usually full of self-confidence, didn't dare to claim a hundred percent success rate.

Chapter 702: Explained things

Meng Zhang's greatest hope now is to break through to the Primordial Spirit realm as soon as possible. While this goal seems within reach, it is actually still quite distant. If he could have a large amount of Heavenly Dao Merit bestowed upon him at this time, it would undoubtedly have a tremendous effect on his breakthrough to the Primordial Spirit realm.

The so-called Heavenly Dao Merit is, in fact, the mysterious power bestowed by the Heavenly Dao as a reward for making significant contributions to this world. Obtaining Heavenly Dao Merit is extremely rare and elusive. Many cultivators who are aware of the situation have spent a lot of time but accumulated only a small amount of Heavenly Dao Merit.

The last time Meng Zhang was in the Deadly Sea of Sand, he killed the Demonic Cultivator Ye Feifan and offended a powerful demon from the Devil Domain, which earned him a portion of Heavenly Dao Merit. This Heavenly Dao Merit played a significant role in his Heavenly Secret Technique's cultivation, helping to eliminate many hidden dangers. The miraculous nature of Heavenly Dao Merit is indescribable in words; it can turn the impossible into possible and even to some extent, change certain rules of heaven and earth.

Meng Zhang, who is currently at a crucial stage of his cultivation journey, naturally desires it greatly. In the past, he had spent a lot of time pursuing Heavenly Dao Merit, but despite killing Ghost Cultivators, Demonic Cultivators, extraterritorial Barbarian Clans, and numerous demons in the Grand Crossing Cultivation Circle, he did not sense any significant influx of Heavenly Dao Merit.

Now, Xu Mengying presents Heavenly Dao Merit to tempt Meng Zhang. While he is tempted, he also feels skeptical. Firstly, Heavenly Dao Merit is something that can be encountered but not

sought after. No matter how capable Xu Mengying may be, relying on such a thing might not be dependable. Secondly, since they know about the existence and magical effects of Heavenly Dao Merit, Meng Zhang would certainly keep it strictly confidential if given the chance to obtain it and wouldn't easily share it with others.

Seeing Meng Zhang's eyes filled with both desire and doubt, Xu Mengying smiles wryly. If it weren't absolutely necessary and if she could find help elsewhere, she wouldn't have come to seek Meng Zhang's assistance. She doesn't directly answer Meng Zhang's doubts but mentions that what she's about to disclose involves the top-secret of Yellow Lotus Sect. She hopes that Meng Zhang will make a Heart Demon vow to keep this matter confidential, regardless of whether he agrees to help or not.

After some consideration, Meng Zhang agrees. In front of Xu Mengying, he swears a Heart Demon vow not to disclose this matter. Only then does Xu Mengying let out a sigh of relief and slowly begins to explain everything.

To provide a detailed explanation, we must go back hundreds of years. At that time, Yellow Lotus Sect's Cult Master, Xu Huanshan, had not disappeared yet, and Yellow Lotus Sect had not split into factions. During that era, Yellow Lotus Sect had not only one Primordial Spirit True Monarch but also numerous Gold Core Daoist Masters and countless cultivators. In terms of strength, Yellow Lotus Sect was the third major force in the Jiuqu League, second only to the Azure Origin Sect and a truly formidable presence, surpassing the Primordial Spirit forces like the Four Seas Commercial Firm and Beast King Mountain. Xu Huanshan himself was a renowned expert in the Jiuqu League and the first cultivator in the history of Yellow Lotus Sect to reach the late stage of Primordial Spirit cultivation. Having reached this stage, Xu Huanshan encountered the same problem as True Monarch Tian Zhu from the past: his cultivation path had reached its limit, and there seemed to be no way forward.

Yellow Lotus Sect, despite being classified as a Primordial Spirit sect, was only slightly better than those bottom-tier sects within the Primordial Spirit category. Whether in terms of sect heritage or foundation, it was not exceptional.

Actually, not only Xu Huanshan of Yellow Lotus Sect but even the two giants of the Jiuqu League, Azure Origin Sect, and Jade Sword Sect, after reaching the Primordial Spirit late stage, also lost the ability to continue advancing.

Looking further, in the south, within the Three Sects Alliance, and in the west, within the Grand Crossing Cultivation Circle, cultivators at the Primordial Spirit late stage are already the most powerful cultivators, and there are no existences with higher Cultivation Base realms.

Even in the Middle-Earth Continent, where the cultivation civilization is most developed within the Grand Dust World, apart from a few Holy Land Sects, there are few great powers at the Return to Emptiness realm. As far as Meng Zhang knows, even the Taiyi Sect at its peak didn't seem to have a great power at the Return to Emptiness realm.

A great power at the Return to Emptiness realm is the strongest in the Grand Dust World, occupying the pinnacle of this world. The Cultivation World is ever-changing, and fortunes are unpredictable. Even a powerful sect like the Taiyi Sect from the past, if it encounters a calamity, might perish without much ability to protect itself.

However, an influence with a great power at the Return to Emptiness realm is different; as long as the Return to Emptiness great power exists, that influence is unlikely to perish. The reason those Holy Land Sects can pass down their legacies for thousands of years and forever remain at the top of the entire Cultivation World is, to a significant extent, because they have had a Return to Emptiness great power overseeing them.

A Return to Emptiness great power is the one who rules the world in the Grand Dust World and the pillar that determines the fate and direction of the entire Cultivation World. Which Primordial Spirit True Monarch in the Cultivation World wouldn't want to become a Return to Emptiness great power?

However, achieving the level of a Return to Emptiness great power is extremely difficult. Even for the cultivators of the Holy Land Sects, it is incredibly arduous, and among them, at most, only one or two may reach the Return to Emptiness realm.

In reality, after most Primordial Spirit True Monarchs reach the Primordial Spirit late stage in the Cultivation World, they find themselves at an impasse and have to resign themselves to their fate. Many cultivators at the Primordial Spirit late stage focus their efforts on managing their sects or clans. They use various means to leave behind their heritage, hoping it will perpetuate for eternity.

Not to mention Xu Huanshan, who comes from a small sect in a remote area, even the Primordial Spirit True Monarchs from those major sects and big clans of the Middle-Earth Continent dare not easily covet the realm of Return to Emptiness.

Both Xu Huanshan and figures like True Monarch Tian Zhu were considered outliers among the Primordial Spirit True Monarchs. Some might call it ambition and lofty aspirations, while others might see it as being naive and inexperienced.

For the sake of his own path, Xu Huanshan abandoned his duties as the Cult Master of Yellow Lotus Sect and left everything behind to embark on the path of seeking the Dao. Of course, when he left Yellow Lotus Sect, he did not intend never to return, nor did he expect to part ways permanently with his fellow sect members.

Before leaving, he made many arrangements within the sect, believing that he would return in a few decades or maybe a hundred years. However, after Xu Huanshan left Yellow Lotus Sect, he never returned. Many of the arrangements he made before leaving became invalidated due to a series of unforeseen circumstances, partly caused by the interference of other forces within the Jiuqu League.

A too-powerful Yellow Lotus Sect seemed to be against the interests of others. With Yellow Lotus Sect losing its head, it began to splinter internally and steadily weakened. Xu Huanshan, in a sense, became the scapegoat for the decline of Yellow Lotus Sect and faced many complaints from later generations.

Chapter 703: Fascinated

From Xu Huanshan's original intention, he might not have abandoned the sect and selfishly pursued his own path. However, judging from the actual outcome, it was precisely because he had been absent for many years, mysteriously disappeared, that led to the decline and fall of the Yellow Lotus Sect, a once prosperous Primordial Spirit sect.

Perhaps many of the younger disciples of the Yellow Lotus Sect, when recalling the glory of their predecessors, could not help but complain about Xu Huanshan, the Cult Master. However, they had to admit that only Xu Huanshan's return could resolve the current chaos within the Yellow Lotus Sect. For centuries, many descendants of the sect had invested considerable time and effort in searching for Xu Huanshan's whereabouts, hoping to retrieve their Cult Master. Unfortunately, all their efforts yielded no results due to various obstacles and Xu Huanshan's mysterious disappearance.

When Xu Mengying became the Saintess of the Yellow Lotus Sect, being Xu Huanshan's descendant, she naturally put in extra effort to find him. As True Monarch Mountain Peak rose to power, Xu Mengying refused to submit and resisted the True Monarch Mountain Peak's authority. As she gradually fell behind in the confrontation, she pinned her hopes on finding Xu Huanshan to turn the tide.

The members of the Yellow Lotus Sect always believed that Xu Huanshan had mysteriously disappeared and had not fallen, mainly because his soul lamp on the Main Altar of the Yellow Lotus Sect had never been extinguished. However, when Xu Huanshan left years ago, he used some method to voluntarily sever the special connection between himself and the soul lamp. While they could still sense Xu Huanshan's life and death through the soul lamp, they could not locate his exact

position. According to the general speculation within the Yellow Lotus Sect, Xu Huanshan might be trapped in some perilous place, making it impossible for him to escape.

Unfortunately, neither the members of the Yellow Lotus Sect nor other Primordial Spirit True Monarchs could find Xu Huanshan's whereabouts; their efforts to help were futile. But Xu Mengying, as the current Saintess of the Yellow Lotus Sect, proved to have a vast Divine Ability. She paid a considerable price and finally obtained a clue about Xu Huanshan's location.

As for how Xu Mengying obtained this information, she did not disclose the detailed process to Meng Zhang.

At this point, Xu Mengying paused for a long time, probably considering her next words carefully.

Amidst her speech, Xu Mengying observed Meng Zhang's facial expressions, particularly when she mentioned that Xu Huanshan had fallen deep into demonic ways. She became cautious.

Meng Zhang's expression remained unchanged, but upon hearing this, even though Xu Mengying didn't explicitly say it, he had already made some guesses.

Another individual willing to go to any lengths to break through for the sake of their own path.

How could a once respected Primordial Spirit True Monarch easily fall into demonic ways? Meng Zhang also recalled the past encounter with Xu Mengying in the area occupied by demons.

Meng Zhang can be reasonably certain that Xu Huanshan most likely willingly fell into demonic ways to break through the bottleneck of his cultivation base. In the past, True Monarch Tian Zhu also reached the Primordial Spirit late stage but couldn't see a way forward. Unwilling to accept his fate, he resorted to unorthodox means, seeking to possess the Fifth Rank Earth Spirit's body. While True Monarch Tian Zhu deviated from the right path, Xu Huanshan fully embraced the demonic path.

Meng Zhang has not yet reached the Primordial Spirit late stage, so he cannot fully understand the despair of having no path forward. However, as a cultivator himself, he empathizes with their plight. Even at the peak of its power, the Taiyi Sect never produced a great power in the Return to Emptiness realm. Meng Zhang recently obtained many Taiyi Sect inheritances from the Void Cauldron, but none contained information on breaking through to the Return to Emptiness realm. When he eventually reaches the Primordial Spirit late stage, he will also face the same problem as Xu Huanshan and True Monarch Tian Zhu.

The Primordial Spirit late stage seems distant for a Gold Core cultivator like Meng Zhang. For now, he puts this matter aside and focuses on the present. According to Xu Mengying's account, after Xu Huanshan fell into demonic ways, he was not content with remaining in that state and actively sought a way to save himself. Over the centuries, he struggled countless times against the demonic thoughts within, but he never gained the upper hand. Instead, he sank deeper into demonic ways, inching closer to complete demonization.

Now, Xu Huanshan is beyond redemption. He can no longer maintain the last trace of clarity in his mind. To prevent Xu Huanshan from becoming a demonic overlord and wreaking havoc on the world, Xu Mengying had no choice but to make the righteous decision and kill him.

As Xu Huanshan's strength is formidable, even if he suppresses his power and offers no resistance, a Primordial Spirit True Monarch's instinctive response can resist Xu Mengying's attacks. Alone, Xu Mengying lacks the means to kill Xu Huanshan. This is why she sought Meng Zhang's help.

Xu Huanshan's intention in delving into demonic cultivation was to break through his cultivation base bottleneck. He didn't want to embrace demonic cultivation but underestimated its power, and the force of demonic demonization was overwhelming, even for a cultivator of his caliber.

Meng Zhang's Divine Ability, Mind Reading, cannot decipher Xu Mengying's thoughts, but his special Spiritual Awareness, stemming from his divination abilities, didn't sense any malicious intent from her. It seems Xu Mengying is sincere and genuinely seeks Meng Zhang's assistance.

Regarding her mention of "Tian Dao merit," Meng Zhang has a hunch about what she means. Demonic cultivation often poses a greater threat than demonic beasts, causing more harm. Someone like Xu Huanshan, who can break through various barriers and reach the Primordial Spirit late stage, is an absolute genius and a remarkable figure. If he were from one of the prestigious Holy Land Sects of the Middle-Earth Continent rather than from a remote area like Jiuqu League, his achievements would be even more extraordinary. It would not be impossible for him to become an unrivaled talent.

However, if such a remarkable figure completely falls into demonic ways and embraces demonic cultivation, it would signify a significant victory for the demonic path. This would not only be a loss for the entire Cultivation World but also potentially cause immeasurable destruction to the Grand Dust World. The possibility of wreaking havoc and causing harm for thousands of years is very real.

If a cultivator were to kill Xu Huanshan before all of this could unfold, it would be a severe blow to the demonic path and averted a catastrophe for the Grand Dust World. Such an act could bring down heavenly merits as a reward from the Tian Dao, the heavenly way.

Chapter 704: Executes the Demon

With Meng Zhang's insight and judgment, Xu Mengying didn't need to explain everything explicitly; he could understand many things on his own. Xu Mengying's implications in her words were also clear to him. Even if Xu Mengying didn't come to him for help, he would not likely miss the opportunity to kill the Demonic Cultivator.

This decision wasn't just because of his position as a cultivator of the righteous path, but also because there were substantial and significant benefits to doing so. Moreover, as True Monarch Mountain Peak's influence grew, Xu Mengying's role as an opponent became even more crucial.

However, in order not to appear too eager, Meng Zhang still had to handle Xu Mengying delicately. After Xu Mengying explained the situation in detail and spoke many kind words, Meng Zhang reluctantly agreed to help kill the demonized Xu Huanshan.

Killing a Primordial Spirit True Monarch, even if they gave up active resistance, would still instinctively fight back. The difference between the Primordial Spirit stage and the Gold Core stage was vast, and Primordial Spirit True Monarchs held a crushing advantage over Gold Core Daoist Masters. Even the geniuses of the Holy Land Sect couldn't overcome this realm difference and challenge a Primordial Spirit True Monarch.

Ironically, Xu Huanshan, as a Primordial Spirit True Monarch, had even provided many ideas to help Gold Core Daoist Masters kill him. Xu Mengying sought Meng Zhang's help based on Xu Huanshan's advice.

After much discussion, the two of them finally devised a rough battle plan. Time was of the essence since every delay brought Xu Huanshan closer to complete demonization.

Meng Zhang instructed the Taiyi Sect cultivators in Maple Leaf Mountain City and then set out with Xu Mengying. They flew westward, making only occasional rests and no other stops.

Meng Zhang had initially thought Xu Huanshan would be hiding within the territory occupied by demons, but the direction they were flying in indicated otherwise. The demon territory was vast, but it remained under the watchful eyes of various powerful Primordial Spirit True Monarchs of the Grand Crossing Cultivation Circle. Even with Xu Huanshan's abilities, he couldn't evade the detection of so many cultivators.

The two didn't fly in a straight line but made several adjustments and detours along the way. It took them more than half a month to reach their destination - a branch of the Grand Crossing Mountain Range. It was situated in the northwest direction of the Grand Crossing Cultivation Circle and was separated from the Black Jade Forest by a thin line.

The forested region surrounding this mountain range was already considered part of the Black Jade Forest's border. While the Black Jade Forest was troublesome to the Grand Crossing Cultivation Circle, it wasn't a formidable enemy. The various cultivation forces within the Grand Crossing Cultivation Circle could easily crush the Black Jade Forest if they put their minds to it.

The area where Meng Zhang and Xu Mengying arrived was relatively desolate and close to the Black Jade Forest, making it rare for cultivators from the Grand Crossing Cultivation Circle to venture here.

They landed on a tall mountain, and Xu Mengying led Meng Zhang into a seemingly small cave that held a vast and hidden world inside. The cave was extensively carved out, connecting many large stone halls through tunnels.

After a few twists and turns, they arrived before a seemingly bottomless abyss. There, Daoist Master Smiling Lotus, who was taken away by Xu Mengying previously, was sitting alone, looking vacant and emotionless like a puppet.

Meng Zhang immediately noticed that Daoist Master Smiling Lotus was in a dire state. He glanced at Xu Mengying and couldn't help but feel skeptical about her true intentions.

Without wasting time, Xu Mengying jumped into the abyss, and Meng Zhang followed suit. After a short distance of free fall, they landed on a protruding stone platform on the cliff face. Sitting on the platform was an imposing old man with a robust physique, white hair, and an expression of agony and struggle. This was Xu Huanshan, the Yellow Lotus Sect Cult Master.

Xu Huanshan was thoroughly tainted with demonic energy, and it seemed like he was a constant source of it. If he didn't suppress it with all his might, the overwhelming demonic energy would have consumed the area, demonizing everything around him.

Seeing Xu Mengying approach, Xu Huanshan spoke, "You came just in time. If you were one moment later, I wouldn't be able to hold on."

Xu Mengying looked at Xu Huanshan with complex emotions and didn't bother with introductions or much talking.

"It's a great regret to stumble and leave a thousand years of sorrow. I was lured by Greed and fell into the clutches of the demonic path, leading me to this unfortunate end."

"Go ahead and make your move. There's nothing more to say."

Xu Mengying was not a sentimental or emotional woman. She knew that killing Xu Huanshan was inevitable, so she no longer hesitated. She gave a distant salute to Xu Huanshan in the air and then attacked.

In her hand, there suddenly appeared a short sword burning with fierce flames. The short sword traced a beautiful arc in the air and directly slashed towards Xu Huanshan.

Meng Zhang, who had communicated enough with Xu Mengying beforehand, didn't hesitate at this moment and immediately acted. He used the Yin Yang Spirit Gourd, summoning three Yin Yang Dao Soldiers dressed in black and white dao robes. Meanwhile, he released the Sun and Moon Divine Light, illuminating the darkness and dispelling the shadows.

Meng Zhang unleashed a black and white sword energy in his right hand, each flying separately or merged together in the air. His mastery of the Twin Forms Towards Heaven Sword Divine Ability had reached its peak.

Facing an opponent at the level of Primordial Spirit True Monarch, even if the other party didn't resist, Meng Zhang couldn't afford to be careless. He had to bring out his true abilities and eliminate the opponent as quickly as possible.

Xu Mengying's short sword couldn't get close to Xu Huanshan, as if hitting an invisible wall that halted its progress. Meng Zhang's attacks faced an invisible force that dissipated them before they could reach Xu Huanshan.

This result was not unexpected for Meng Zhang. If a Primordial Spirit True Monarch was so easy to kill, Xu Mengying wouldn't have sought his help. Together, Meng Zhang and three Gold Core dao soldiers formed a simple Four Beasts Slaying Demons formation. The dao soldiers formed by the Yin Yang Spirit Gourd were not only powerful but also highly intelligent, almost like a unique life form.

Meng Zhang had access to a wide variety of formations in Taiyi Sect's treasury. He wasn't a specialized Formation Master, but he had a profound understanding of many formations from reading the sect's records. With the help of the three Yin Yang Dao Soldiers, he was able to arrange the Four Beasts Slaying Demons formation effectively, unleashing considerable power.

On the other side, Xu Mengying also employed various attacking techniques. She took advantage of Meng Zhang's cover and used a Divine Ability secret technique to weaken Xu Huanshan's defenses.

Xu Huanshan, deeply influenced by the demonic power, couldn't resist the urge to attack. However, he struggled to maintain control and hindered his own actions. If he unleashed his full strength without restraint, both Meng Zhang and Xu Mengying would have faced imminent death.

In the ensuing battle, Meng Zhang and Xu Mengying deployed their Divine Abilities, exhausting all their tricks and attacking with all their might. Meng Zhang's Twin Forms Towards Heaven Sword combined with his years of practice in the Strange and Upright Sword Art, creating a powerful and unique force.

Xu Huanshan didn't even put forth his true abilities. As a Primordial Spirit True Monarch, he had the ability to harness the power of the Grand Dao and even specialized Dao Techniques. However, he hadn't used any of these abilities yet. His current attacks were merely regular means.

In the dark abyss, both Meng Zhang and Xu Mengying struggled fiercely. Their enemy was exceptionally formidable, and they had almost displayed all of their abilities but failed to defeat him.

Finally, Xu Huanshan mustered up his last remaining strength, barely suppressing the demonic intent within him and providing Meng Zhang and Xu Mengying with an opportunity to strike.

Meng Zhang had a Fourth Rank talisman in his possession, which he had kept safe for many years. He had never used it before, even in dire situations. Now, facing an opponent like Xu Huanshan, he had exhausted all his methods and had no choice but to reveal his last trump card.

Before Meng Zhang activated the Fourth Rank talisman, Xu Mengying had already weakened Xu Huanshan's defense with a fake Fourth Rank talisman. Meng Zhang poured all his strength into the talisman, making use of the three Yin Yang Dao Soldiers' power to help activate it.

With almost half of his life force spent, Meng Zhang finally activated the Fourth Rank talisman. A giant fist appeared in the sky and mercilessly struck Xu Huanshan, shattering his protective spells like eggshells. Xu Huanshan's entire body was crushed.

Though his physical body was destroyed, as long as his Primordial Spirit remained intact, Xu Huanshan could not be considered completely killed. However, before he could react further, he was killed by the Spiritsnake Spear thrown by Meng Zhang.

In a last attempt before his physical body exploded, Xu Huanshan pointed at Meng Zhang. His physical body expanded with no resistance before violently exploding, leaving him with no time to escape the fate of his own attack.

Xu Mengying assisted the Spiritsnake Spear in destroying Xu Huanshan's Primordial Spirit. As his Primordial Spirit dissipated, a look of relief appeared on his face. He seemed to want to say something in gratitude, but his Primordial Spirit was rapidly dissipating.

Chapter 705: Grasping Principles

As Xu Huanshan's Primordial Spirit rapidly dissipated, a thoroughly exhausted Meng Zhang finally let go of his worries and could completely relax. He flew down to the nearby ground, too tired to bother with any arrangements. He landed ungracefully, collapsing on the ground, not wanting to move a bit more.

Xu Mengying, with a face full of sadness, also landed weakly and found a place to rest slowly. After much effort, Meng Zhang and Xu Mengying finally succeeded in completely killing Xu Huanshan, who had fallen into demonic cultivation.

As the one being killed, Xu Huanshan was immensely grateful to the two before his death. If he hadn't been killed by them and completely fallen into demonic cultivation, becoming fully demonized, he would have been irretrievably immersed in the demonic path. From soul to physical body, he might have ended up as nourishment for the demon realm.

But being killed before complete demonization granted him liberation of his soul. As a Primordial Spirit True Monarch, he had the ability to send his soul into the Netherworld before dying. There, he could be reincarnated in the future or even directly embark on the path of a Ghost Deity; it was not an impossible thing.

Death still held a future, but not dying would mean eternal sinking into the demonic path, never finding liberation.

Not only Xu Huanshan himself but even the will of the Grand Dust World's Heavenly Dao was satisfied with Meng Zhang and Xu Mengying's actions and granted them unforeseen blessings.

Meng Zhang, who was sitting on the ground, heard faint celestial music in his ears, and golden flowers fell from the sky, fleeting...

Although his body was extremely tired, Meng Zhang's consciousness was clearer than ever. His current state was peculiar, being awake yet occasionally experiencing a special trance-like feeling.

He seemed to be situated at an infinite height, overlooking the entire world. The whole world appeared before his eyes as if there were no secrets at all.

Countless unseen rules of the heavens and the earth appeared before him. Countless truths and secrets of the world surged into his mind like tides.

This situation was not the first time Meng Zhang had experienced it; it was called enlightenment.

Every opportunity for enlightenment was something that could not be sought but had to be encountered by chance. Entering this state of enlightenment was difficult, even for the most skilled experts or exceptional geniuses. It mostly relied on fortuitous encounters rather than self-forcing.

This time, after killing the demonic-cultivated Primordial Spirit True Monarch Xu Huanshan and receiving blessings from the heavens, Meng Zhang naturally entered the state of enlightenment.

In this state, not only did Meng Zhang's comprehension greatly increase, but his mind also became exceptionally clear. Moreover, he gained a certain special ability to better comprehend all things.

The greatest gap between a Gold Core completion cultivator and a Primordial Spirit True Monarch lay in their understanding and application of the Grand Dao of the heavens and the earth.

Previously, Meng Zhang's deepest comprehension was of the Yin Yang Grand Dao, but it had only reached a level of partial understanding. The other Grand Daos were, in his eyes, unreachable, with their doors firmly shut.

However, in his current state of enlightenment, Meng Zhang naturally began to perceive and comprehend various Grand Daos of the heavens and the earth.

The originally unreachable Grand Daos now seemed within reach before his eyes.

Countless rules of the heavens and the earth appeared to stand before him.

Meng Zhang wasn't greedy; he knew that the state of enlightenment was not all-powerful. He chose the Grand Dao of Yin Yang, which he was most familiar with and closest to, as the object of his comprehension.

Meng Zhang's constitution was originally of Yin Yang attribute, and he had a certain level of accomplishment in the Yin Yang Grand Dao. That's where he focused most of his energy, using it as the focal point for his comprehension.

Heaven and earth opened up, separating chaos. Between heaven and earth, the Qi of purity and turbidity emerged. The pure Qi rose, forming the Nine Heavens. The turbid Qi sank, creating the nine lands.

The pure and turbid Qi have the distinction of Yin and Yang. When heaven and earth were created, the differentiation of Yin and Yang followed suit. All things in heaven and earth are divided into Yin and Yang. All things bear Yin and embrace Yang, and the clash of Qi gives rise to harmony.

In an instant, numerous realizations about the Yin Yang Grand Dao surged into Meng Zhang's mind. These insights were not entirely newly acquired; they included many previous comprehensions. For a long time, Meng Zhang had diligently studied the Dao scriptures and pondered the Dao teachings. Years of hard work, dedication, and accumulation were not in vain. At this critical moment, with his vast accumulation, everything turned into nourishment for his comprehension of the Grand Dao.

The first breakthrough he achieved was in the Yin Yang Grand Dao, and his current attainment in this realm was enough for him to advance toward the Primordial Spirit stage.

After this tremendous gain, Meng Zhang not only continued to deepen his understanding of the Yin Yang Grand Dao but also began to explore other Grand Daos. Whether a cultivator should focus on one Grand Dao or broaden their knowledge across various Grand Daos had never been conclusively settled in the Cultivation World. The debate on which approach was more superior had no definitive answer.

However, the more Grand Daos a cultivator mastered, the richer their means against adversaries, making it less likely for them to be restrained by opposing techniques. Of course, if someone

attained great mastery in one Grand Dao and encountered an opposing Grand Dao, it was truly hard to say who would prevail.

Water could extinguish fire, but there was also a saying about adding fuel to the fire.

Meng Zhang didn't choose to specialize solely in the Yin Yang Grand Dao; instead, he diversified his focus, attempting to grasp as many other Grand Daos as possible. The Yin Yang Grand Dao was one of the fundamental Grand Daos in the universe and could branch out into many subdivisions.

One of his latest realizations was the Sun-Moon Avenue.

The sun and moon run side by side, hanging high above the Nine Heavens. The sunrise and moonset, the alternation of the sun and moon, represent the passage of time in heaven and earth.

"The Sun-Moon Wheel Turning Sutra" was Meng Zhang's primary cultivation technique, and he had a deep understanding of the power of the sun and moon.

After a period of enlightenment, Meng Zhang not only gained insights in the Sun-Moon Avenue but also made some progress in the Space Grand Dao and Time Grand Dao.

As the Yin Yang Grand Dao continued to extend, more and more branches emerged. Water and fire belonged to the Five Elements Grand Dao but could also be seen as the two poles of Yin and Yang. Solar True Flame and Lunar True Water could be regarded as the two extremes of water and fire.

After making some gains in the Water and Fire Grand Dao, Meng Zhang continued to explore the Grand Dao of heaven and earth. He had entered the Trial Ground located in the Netherworld many times and even visited the Ghost Deity in the Netherworld.

His soul had long been imbued with the pure Yin Qi of the Netherworld. Although he had long since expelled the Yin Qi with the Yang He Qi, traces of it remained. He had experienced numerous life-and-death crises, even encountering deadly calamities. If not for the use of a substitute puppet to take the hit, he might have long perished.

Life and death, two extremes, could also be considered the two facets of Yin and Yang. The Yin Yang Grand Dao extended into the Life and Death Grand Dao, and Meng Zhang had some inklings in this aspect as well.

In the universe, there were the so-called three thousand Grand Daos. These Grand Daos were not isolated but interconnected. Each Grand Dao had its opposing Grand Dao and could extend into many related Grand Daos. Through this process of enlightenment, Meng Zhang personally experienced this interconnectedness.

Chapter 706: Sad news

Meng Zhang began his journey with the Yin Yang Grand Dao, extending it to several other Grand Daos. Apart from the fundamental Yin Yang Grand Dao, he also delved into various other Grand Daos, attempting to draw connections and comprehend more Grand Dao rules. When the state of enlightenment ended, he had gained significant insights.

In that short period of time, his comprehension and gains in the Grand Dao surpassed his cultivation of the past three hundred years. However, this realization is akin to being satisfied after eating the third cake, which doesn't mean that the first and second cakes are no longer needed. Without the accumulation of the past three hundred years, he might not have achieved the current level of understanding and gains.

For a Primordial Spirit stage cultivator, comprehending the Grand Dao of Heaven and Earth is not too difficult and is considered a daily practice. But for a Gold Core stage cultivator, it is extremely challenging to comprehend the Grand Dao of Heaven and Earth unless they experience an enlightenment state like the one he just had, which is a rare opportunity.

Meng Zhang has a faint feeling that the merit he gained from killing Xu Huanshan alongside Xu Mengying this time is quite substantial, surpassing what he obtained when he killed the Demonic Cultivation Ye Feifan in the past. Xu Huanshan was a Primordial Spirit late stage cultivator, and his descent into demonic cultivation was significant for the demonic path. On the other hand, Ye Feifan, despite having extraordinary potential and being recognized by the Demon Domain, was just a Gold Core stage cultivator.

Killing Xu Huanshan holds great significance, making a greater contribution to the Grand Dust World. The impartial and just Grand Dust World Heavenly Dao treats all beings like grass.

The merit Meng Zhang obtained from this enlightenment has already dissipated by half. However, it saved him decades or even hundreds of years, helping him complete his final accumulation and removing the last obstacles on his path to the Primordial Spirit stage.

Meng Zhang has a strong intuition that after returning to Taiyi Sect, he can directly enter closed-door cultivation to break through to the Primordial Spirit stage. Everything is now prepared, only the right opportunity is needed.

Despite feeling a bit impatient, Meng Zhang tries to remain calm and not let himself become too ecstatic. While he was enlightening in the state, Xu Mengying, as a comrade-in-arms in killing Xu Huanshan, seemed to have also gained significant benefits.

Since the mission has been accomplished, Meng Zhang doesn't intend to linger here any longer. He has already received the rewards he deserved. After bidding farewell to Xu Mengying, he flies away directly.

Meng Zhang returns to the top of the abyss, retraces his steps out of the mountain's interior, and flies back into the sky outside. With rapid flight, he returns to Maple Leaf Mountain City in much less time than it took him to reach there.

Everything in Maple Leaf Mountain City remains as usual, without any unexpected occurrences. Seeing Sect Master Meng Zhang return, the disciples stationed there actively welcome him and inform him that disciples from Hundred Grass Slope urgently seek him, as something significant seems to have happened there.

Meng Zhang wastes no time and rushes back to Taiyi Sect's mountain gate, Hundred Grass Slope. Shortly after returning, he sees Shocking Thunder Spirit General, who is covered in scars, missing half an arm on the upper body, and floating in the air with no legs visible. This appearance of Shocking Thunder Spirit General gives rise to an ominous feeling in Meng Zhang's heart.

Indeed, Shocking Thunder Spirit General brought a piece of extremely bad news, one might even call it a calamity. Taiyi Sect has been conscripted in large numbers to participate in the war at the Yuan Tu Great Prairie. However, due to the protection of Jin Li True Monarch, most of the participating cultivators were not directly engaged in frontline combat; instead, they were assigned to handle logistics, supply distribution, and other tasks in the rear. Although these logistical duties were arduous, they did not carry significant danger.

As the conflict intensified, Taiyi Sect was summoned to send more and more cultivators to the Yuan Tu Great Prairie. In charge of coordinating the Taiyi Sect cultivators on the frontline was Meng Zhang's senior disciple, Niu Dawei. To cope with the increasingly strict conscription of the Jiuqu League, Niu Dawei had to send several recently promoted Gold Core cultivators from the sect to the Yuan Tu Great Prairie. These new Gold Core cultivators, although limited in combat strength, were assigned to work in the rear and should have been relatively safe.

Unexpectedly, the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan, which had been retreating and losing ground, launched a desperate counterattack just when Jiuqu League seemed to have gained a significant advantage. Their target was the logistics hub of the Jiuqu League, Dongyuan City, where Meng

Zhang had previously been. Several Barbarian Kings personally led the assault, and despite Dongyuan City's determined resistance, it inevitably fell.

The two Human Clan Primordial Spirit True Monarchs who guarded Dongyuan City lost one life and suffered severe injuries, and the casualties among the Gold Core Daoist Masters were heavy. Numerous other cultivators also suffered losses. Taiyi Sect cultivators responsible for logistics and transportation in Dongyuan City faced similarly grim fates. Two newly promoted Gold Core cultivators, Luo Sanping and Deng Sha, died in battle, and almost all the other Gold Core Daoist Masters were severely injured.

Even Shocking Thunder Spirit General, who appeared to be in a pitiable state, was considered fortunate. After all, as a Guardian Spirit General, he is a special kind of dao soldier and not a purely human cultivator. With sufficient Heaven and Earth Spiritual Objects, his body's injuries can gradually be healed through refinement.

One of the fiercely combative and veteran Gold Core Daoist Masters in Taiyi Sect, Zheng Chao, suffered critical injuries and was on the brink of death. If not for the timely return of Jin Li True Monarch, who expended great effort to heal him, his life might not have been spared. However, even with the treatment, Zheng Chao would require a very long time to completely recover and would likely have significant lingering effects. His Cultivation Base would be unable to advance any further in the future.

Another highly skilled Gold Core Daoist Master in beast-taming techniques in Taiyi Sect, Hu Jing, lost all three Third Rank natal spirit beasts in battle and was severely injured, her foundation shaken, and her Cultivation Base compromised.

The other Taiyi Sect Gold Core cultivators in Dongyuan City fared somewhat better, but the situation was still far from optimistic. After Jin Li True Monarch stabilized their severely injured bodies, they were promptly sent back to Taiyi Sect. As for the Foundation Building stage cultivators dispatched by Taiyi Sect, their casualties were nearly total, with only a few survivors.

Meng Zhang, who had just achieved a significant breakthrough in his Cultivation Base and was on the brink of reaching the Primordial Spirit stage, had barely enjoyed his good mood when he received this calamitous news. He was nearly overwhelmed with anger.

After calming down with great difficulty, Meng Zhang realized that this was not the time to investigate other matters. The urgent task was to bring back the severely injured Taiyi Sect disciples and treat their wounds with all available resources.

Chapter 707: The threat approaches

This time, the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan staked everything and launched a surprise attack on Dongyuan City. While they succeeded in the assault, the Human Clan cultivators put up a fierce resistance, causing significant losses to the Barbarian Clan and preventing them from further expanding their gains.

Upon receiving news of Dongyuan City's attack, reinforcements from the Human Clan arrived swiftly. Jin Li, the True Monarch in charge of logistics, was supposed to be stationed in the city, but at that time, she was transporting a batch of critical supplies to the frontline.

Jin Li is one of the first Primordial Spirit True Monarchs who rushed to support Dongyuan City. With the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan attacking and capturing Dongyuan City, Jin Li could be considered negligent in her duties.

The losses suffered by the Jiuqu League this time were exceedingly severe. Not to mention the casualties among ordinary cultivators, just the deaths and injuries of two Primordial Spirit True Monarchs were unprecedented losses that hadn't been seen in many years.

Furious, Jin Li True Monarch displayed her might and directly killed several of the Barbarian Clan's generals on the spot, even injuring a Barbarian King.

After taking control of Dongyuan City, she showed special consideration for the Taiyi Sect cultivators due to their unique relationship. She actively searched for medical treatment for the severely injured Taiyi Sect cultivators and even expended her own vital energy to stabilize the injuries of several Gold Core Daoist Masters.

She arranged for this group of Taiyi Sect cultivators to handle logistics in Dongyuan City, originally intending to take care of them. But now, seeing the devastating losses suffered by the Taiyi Sect cultivators, she felt guilty and had a sense of shame.

Using her authority, she prioritized sending the Taiyi Sect cultivators back to their sect. A significant portion of the Taiyi Sect cultivators were conscripted to Dongyuan City, while some were directly participating in frontline battles.

Although the latter group of cultivators had also suffered losses in the frontline battles, they had not experienced such a calamity.

Niu Dawei, who was commanding Taiyi Sect disciples in the frontline battles, heard about the situation in the rear and left Wen Qiansun and Yang Xueyi in charge. He rushed back to Dongyuan City along with Extreme Sword Spirit General.

Upon returning to Dongyuan City, they arrived just as Jin Li True Monarch was stabilizing the injuries of the severely injured Taiyi Sect cultivators, preparing to send them back to Taiyi Sect.

Niu Dawei and Extreme Sword Spirit General escorted the injured cultivators back to their sect.

Shocking Thunder Spirit General returned to the sect and first reported the details to Meng Zhang. Initially, Meng Zhang was planning to go to Dongyuan City to retrieve the injured Taiyi Sect cultivators. However, the flying vessel carrying the injured cultivators returned to Taiyi Sect before he could depart.

Upon seeing his master Meng Zhang, Niu Dawei felt deeply ashamed and knelt down to apologize, saying that he hadn't taken good care of his fellow sect members.

Although Meng Zhang was furious, he didn't lose his composure; he wasn't the type to shift blame onto others. He comforted Niu Dawei, telling him that the responsibility for this matter didn't solely rest on his shoulders and advised him not to burden himself with unnecessary guilt.

After Niu Dawei and Extreme Sword Spirit General brought back the injured cultivators, they hurriedly left Taiyi Sect again to rush to the frontline. The situation at the frontline was critical, and it was a crucial time for utilizing manpower. They still had combat tasks to carry out and couldn't stay away for too long.

Meng Zhang began a careful examination of the specific injuries of the injured cultivators and worked hard to treat them. The injuries of Zheng Chao and Hu Jing, who were the most severely wounded, had already been stabilized by Jin Li True Monarch. The subsequent healing process required continuous investment of resources and effort.

Zheng Chao, although his path is completely destroyed, still has hope to maintain his Gold Core level of Cultivation Base and combat power in the future.

Hu Jing excels in the art of beast taming, and most of her abilities rely on her natal spirit beasts. With all three of her natal spirit beasts killed, the spiritual connection between them caused her foundational essence to be severely damaged.

According to Meng Zhang's judgment, even if Hu Jing's injuries were to heal, it would be difficult for her to preserve her Cultivation Base. Even if she didn't become completely disabled, she would not be able to return to the battlefield in the future.

Delicate Water Spirit General and Shocking Thunder Spirit General are also seriously injured, but due to the special nature of their Guardian Spirit General status, their issues can be resolved relatively easily, and they won't have any lasting aftereffects.

The few surviving Foundation Building cultivators also received careful care from the sect.

An Xiaoran and An Moran, who were left behind to guard the sect, are actively seeking medical treatment for their fellow disciples. An Xiaoran, being a Third Rank Alchemist, quickly began alchemy and produced several batches of healing elixirs.

Meng Zhang's Cultivation Base has reached the Gold Core completion stage, and he has gained a deep understanding of the Grand Dao's rules. In terms of treating injuries, his abilities exceed those of most medical practitioners in the Cultivation World.

Although he hasn't deliberately studied medical techniques, pharmacology, alchemy, and other healing arts among the hundreds of cultivation arts, he still possesses several effective methods for treating injuries.

In the following period, Taiyi Sect fell into a state of chaos, with the entire sect working tirelessly to care for the injured cultivators.

Meng Zhang didn't even have time to focus on breaking through to the Primordial Spirit stage. He prioritized helping his sect members heal their injuries.

Meanwhile, above Yuan Tu Great Prairie, the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan, after launching their surprise attack on Dongyuan City, was forced to retreat further and further, unable to mount any counterattack.

Jade Sword Sect seized the opportunity to launch a massive attack, vowing to wipe out the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan entirely.

The invading extraterritorial Barbarian Clan suffered heavy losses, and their remaining forces were compressed into a small area.

It wouldn't take long for Jade Sword Sect to lead the Jiuqu League cultivators to break through their last defense line and eradicate them completely.

However, at this critical moment, the Jiuqu League had to temporarily halt its attack on the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan and shift the main force of cultivators to the west.

After years of resisting the Dali Dynasty, the Three Sects Alliance finally fell completely.

The mountain gates of the Three Sects Alliance were captured by the Dali Dynasty's large army of cultivators. The remaining cultivators broke out and fled the Crossing Severing Mountain Range, escaping northward into the territory of the Jiuqu League.

The pursuing troops from the Dali Dynasty relentlessly chased them and arrived not far from the Jiuqu League territory.

Despite some internal disputes, the Jiuqu League eventually took in the remnants of the Three Sects Alliance.

Faced with the powerful military force of the Dali Dynasty, the already weakened extraterritorial Barbarian Clan was now considered insignificant and was pushed into a very minor position.

The Dali Dynasty's army didn't care about the Jiuqu League's existence and arrogantly stationed themselves at the Jiuqu League's borders, ready to wage war at any moment.

Helpless, despite their unwillingness, the Jiuqu League could only leave a small detachment to monitor the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan's movements and mobilize the rest of their forces to defend against the Dali Dynasty's large army at their western borders.

Thus, the war with the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan suddenly came to an end, but a new and greater threat now loomed over the Jiuqu League.

The Dali Dynasty, which they once believed to be distant, had now arrived at their doorstep.

Faced with this imminent threat from the Dali Dynasty, the entire Jiuqu League fell into a state of panic and chaos.

The Dali Dynasty showed some diplomacy by sending envoys to the Jiuqu League's headquarters, Jiuqu City, trying to negotiate peace after showing military force.

Chapter 708: Retiring

The two countries were at war, but they didn't kill messengers. Moreover, the Jiuqu League and the Dali Dynasty had not officially gone to war yet. The Dali Dynasty's envoy successfully arrived in Jiuqu City and met with the high-ranking members of the Jiuqu League.

This envoy, with an arrogant attitude, read aloud the Dali Dynasty's orders. He said a lot, but in summary, it was this:

The Jiuqu League must immediately surrender the remnants of the Three Sects Alliance and voluntarily submit to the Dali Dynasty. Otherwise, the Jiuqu League will be considered an enemy of the Dali Dynasty and will face the attack of a large army.

The Jiuqu League's high-ranking members were thoroughly angered by the Dali Dynasty's attitude of looking down on them as if they were insignificant. Even the weakest and most fearful cultivators, who dreaded the Dali Dynasty, would not accept such so-called orders.

The negotiations between the two sides inevitably broke down. The Dali Dynasty's envoy was eventually driven away, thanks to the intervention of Azure Origin Sect's Sect Master, Daoist Master Primordial One. Without this intervention, some cultivators might have already attacked the envoy in frustration.

The Jiuqu League, being a coalition of righteous sects, had to preserve its face and adhere to the rules of the Cultivation World to avoid becoming a laughingstock. After expelling the Dali Dynasty's envoy, the Jiuqu League's high-ranking members faced the practical issue of how to deal with the Dali Dynasty next.

A cultivator from the Jade Sword Sect suggested launching an immediate assault while the Dali Dynasty's large army was still unstable, aiming to crush them completely. After years of conflict with the Three Sects Alliance, the Dali Dynasty must have suffered losses as well. With the Three Sects Alliance defeated, the Dali Dynasty would need time to recover its strength.

To overcome the Dali Dynasty, the Jiuqu League had to seize this advantageous opportunity, strike first, and take advantage of the enemy's weakness.

The proposal from the Jade Sword Sect cultivator gained the support of many high-ranking members of the Jiuqu League. However, a group led by the Azure Origin Sect cultivator strongly opposed it.

The Dali Dynasty was not actively attacking the Jiuqu League at the moment, and the Jiuqu League should not initiate a war to avoid getting entangled in unnecessary conflicts. Unlike the Three Sects Alliance, the Jiuqu League was much stronger, and if they remained on high alert, the Dali Dynasty, fresh from a major battle, might not dare to initiate a war.

With enough peaceful time, the Jiuqu League could accumulate strength and seek new allies. Azure Origin Sect held significant influence within the Jiuqu League and its argument seemed reasonable.

Thus, the high-ranking members of the Jiuqu League became embroiled in a fierce debate, which eventually turned into a show of alliances.

Jin LiTrue Monarch was introduced into the Jiuqu League by Azure Origin Sect's True Monarch Azure Mist, and she had always been friendly with Azure Origin Sect, following their stance on many important matters. In private, many cultivators secretly discussed that Jin LiTrue Monarch was a puppet manipulated by Azure Origin Sect, only knowing how to please them and obey their commands.

During this debate, Jin LiTrue Monarch unsurprisingly stood with Azure Origin Sect. The dispute quickly escalated into a confrontation with Fei GuoTrue Monarch from the Jade Sword Sect.

In the world of Cultivation, strength is revered, and Sword Cultivators, in particular, let their swords speak. A flying sword could say more than a thousand words, and actions spoke louder than words.

Despite Jin LiTrue Monarch and Fei GuoTrue Monarch both being prideful, they challenged each other directly, disregarding any persuasions from others. On the day of their duel, in the presence of several Primordial Spirit True Monarchs as witnesses, they engaged in a fierce battle.

Unexpectedly, Jin LiTrue Monarch suffered a crushing defeat. If it weren't for Fei GuoTrue Monarch showing mercy, she might have lost more than her life in this duel.

After boasting before the battle, she was now publicly defeated, and the proud Jin LiTrue Monarch could not bear this humiliation. Unable to face the shame, Jin LiTrue Monarch decided to leave Jiuqu City immediately.

Without even saying farewell to acquaintances, she hurriedly resigned from her position within the alliance and headed north to return to the Endless Sea of Sand. There, she entered the small world left by the Purple Gold Sect in Mirage Desert and began a long seclusion.

Before entering seclusion, Jin LiTrue Monarch left a message stating that once she emerged, she would challenge Fei GuoTrue Monarch again to wipe away today's shame.

If she didn't have confidence in defeating her opponents, she would rather die in seclusion within the small world than take the initiative to come out.

Although Fei Guo publicly defeated Jin LiTrue Monarch, greatly damaging the reputation of Azure Origin Sect, the high-ranking members of the Jiuqu League remained divided, and they could not reach a consensus on the matter. The proposal from the Jade Sword Sect to initiate a war against the Dali Dynasty ended without progress.

Of course, the high-ranking members of the Jiuqu League were not sitting idly, and they took certain precautions. They formed a coalition army by drawing cultivators from various major cultivation forces within the alliance. This army was stationed for an extended period on the western border, facing off against the Dali Dynasty's large army.

Though the Dali Dynasty's envoy had been arrogant and made harsh remarks, their large army remained relatively quiet, showing no signs of initiating war or encroaching on the Jiuqu League. This temporary peace led many people within the Jiuqu League to believe that Azure Origin Sect's choice was the correct one. If the aggressive Jade Sword Sect had acted without restraint, the Jiuqu League would likely have been embroiled in war.

Over time, the Dali Dynasty and the Jiuqu League maintained their peaceful coexistence. Moreover, the Dali Dynasty began to gradually reduce the main force stationed on the Jiuqu League's border and withdrew their troops.

The Jiuqu League made an assessment, and it seemed that the Dali Dynasty had no intention of initiating a war. Consequently, the Jiuqu League's cultivator army also began to shrink, and cultivators recruited from various major forces gradually returned to their respective sects.

After the significant losses suffered previously, Taiyi Sect, in particular, needed time to recover and recuperate. With the temporary peace between the Jiuqu League and the Dali Dynasty, it was considered a favorable situation for Taiyi Sect.

The previously injured cultivators began their slow recovery. Zheng Chao, after healing from his injuries, knew that his path was almost cut off. Despite going through a period of decadence, he eventually returned to normal and focused more on sect affairs.

Meng Zhang exhausted all methods but couldn't completely heal Hu Jing's injuries. Her strength had declined drastically, and she had very little combat capability left. Consequently, she mostly stayed within the sect, rarely venturing outside, and dedicated most of her time and energy to teaching younger disciples.

Taiyi Sect had deep foundations after many years of development, and as long as they had enough time, these losses could be gradually compensated. However, after Jin LiTrue Monarch entered seclusion, Taiyi Sect's external situation began to deteriorate.

Jin LiTrue Monarch's withdrawal caused Taiyi Sect to lose a backer among the high-ranking members of the Jiuqu League. They no longer received the same level of care and attention from the higher-ups.

Furthermore, Azure Origin Sect seemed to be displeased with Jin LiTrue Monarch's retreat and showed no intention of actively contacting her, let alone supporting Taiyi Sect.

Various rumors started circulating. Some claimed that Fei GuoTrue Monarch had severely injured Jin LiTrue Monarch, putting her life at risk if she didn't immediately go into seclusion for recovery. In seclusion, Jin LiTrue Monarch couldn't take care of Taiyi Sect.

These rumors grew increasingly intense, and more people believed in them. Meng Zhang understood that these were deliberate attempts to undermine Taiyi Sect, and there were limited ways to counteract them.

Taiyi Sect was a large and influential sect with vast territories, making it an attractive target for many. Previously, with Jin LiTrue Monarch's protection, potential aggressors hesitated to act. However, with Jin LiTrue Monarch in seclusion, some started making moves.

The remnants of the Three Sects Alliance had retreated into Jiuqu League's territory, and the high-ranking members faced the challenge of accommodating these forces. However, there were no spare spirit veins to house them. Through great efforts, the Jiuqu League's high-ranking members managed to settle these forces.

After losing their mountain gate, Old Beast King Mountain was no longer as prideful as before. To survive, they even lowered their heads and sought help from New Beast King Mountain.

New Beast King Mountain, feeling content with their success, showed a magnanimous attitude and actively sought new territories for Old Beast King Mountain. Unfortunately, their target was the Demon Wind Gobi territory occupied by Taiyi Sect.

Having two Primordial Spirit True Monarchs, New Beast King Mountain had no fear even against Jin Li True Monarch, especially since she was in seclusion and couldn't protect Taiyi Sect directly.

However, Taiyi Sect was a formal member of the Jiuqu League, and New Beast King Mountain couldn't openly seize their territory. Jiuqu League had internal rules, and even giant sects like Jade Sword Sect and Azure Origin Sect were not free to act as they pleased. At least on the surface, they had to abide by the rules.

Consequently, New Beast King Mountain resorted to covert tactics, undermining Taiyi Sect's interests step by step.

Facing this enemy, Meng Zhang knew that there was no one who could help them, and the high-ranking members of the Jiuqu League could not be relied upon. The only solution, the only way to protect Taiyi Sect, was for Taiyi Sect to produce a Primordial Spirit True Monarch.

Hence, Meng Zhang abandoned everything in the sect and embarked on closed-door cultivation to breakthrough to the Primordial Spirit stage, despite the difficulties and challenges ahead.

Chapter 709: Primordial Spirit

It has been almost twenty years since Meng Zhang's secluded cultivation to impact the Primordial Spirit realm. During these two decades, the days of Taiyi Sect have been difficult. Acting Sect Master Niu Dawei has been in charge of all Taiyi Sect affairs during these years. He faithfully followed Meng Zhang's instructions before his seclusion, keeping a low profile and shrinking the sect's activities.

Rumors about True Monarch Jin Li's serious injury have been escalating, and Meng Zhang, Taiyi Sect's Sect Master, has remained absent for a long time. Various unfavorable rumors have spread from the Demon Wind Gobi to the Endless Sea of Sand and throughout the entire Jiuqu League, creating a turbulent atmosphere.

Although New Beast King Mountain couldn't openly attack Taiyi Sect due to Jiuqu League rules, they have been making covert moves continuously. They have taken advantage of Taiyi Sect's repeated concessions, becoming more and more brazen in their actions.

Taiyi Sect's territory has been significantly reduced, and New Beast King Mountain has employed various means to occupy parts of the Demon Wind Gobi that once belonged to Taiyi Sect, taking control of many spirit veins and mineral deposits.

As a Primordial Spirit sect, New Beast King Mountain has numerous ways to deal with Taiyi Sect without resorting to direct confrontation. Niu Dawei has endured it all and refrained from any retaliation. Instead, he withdrew Taiyi Sect's disciples from the peripheral regions and strengthened control over the core area.

News of New Beast King Mountain targeting Taiyi Sect spread like wildfire, and many opportunists sought to take advantage of the situation. They made moves, overt or covert, hoping to profit from Taiyi Sect's weakening position.

Since the defeat of the Sea Clan army, many cultivation forces have entered the newly acquired Demon Wind Gobi. Previously, they hesitated to create trouble due to Taiyi Sect's protection by True Monarch Jin Li. However, with Jin Li's seclusion and Taiyi Sect's vulnerability, these forces started causing chaos, seizing resources and even fighting amongst themselves, turning the Demon Wind Gobi into a chaotic place.

In the Endless Sea of Sand, the Yellow Lotus Sect East River Branch and Fire Cloud Sect saw an opportunity to encroach on Taiyi Sect's interests. Taiyi Sect used to have a significant territory in the Endless Sea of Sand, with its foundation built among the various forces of the Hanhai Alliance. However, facing the relentless pressure from Fire Cloud Sect and Yellow Lotus Sect East River Branch, Taiyi Sect lost most of its territory in the area, retaining only a small region near the old mountain gate.

The Hanhai Alliance, established by Meng Zhang, showed signs of instability. Though they haven't openly rebelled, many members began secretly communicating with outsiders to secure their own paths and might even turn against Taiyi Sect when the time is right.

As the acting Sect Master of Taiyi Sect, Niu Dawei is neither incompetent nor cowardly. He knows that facing a Primordial Spirit sect like New Beast King Mountain, Taiyi Sect's strength is not enough to match theirs. Thus, he chose to retreat step by step and endure as much as possible.

However, Niu Dawei has not been idle. He has been doing his best to protect Taiyi Sect's core interests and, when necessary, reluctantly sacrificed some secondary benefits.

Although Taiyi Sect's power has been shrinking, it has not been without progress over the past twenty years. They employed every method to recover from the losses of the previous major battle. Several Guardian Spirit Generals have almost fully recovered from their injuries, and most of the Gold Core Daoist Masters have regained their combat capabilities. Furthermore, five years ago, a junior cultivator successfully formed their core, adding another Gold Core Daoist Master to Taiyi Sect.

Replacing low-level cultivators has been relatively easy, as Taiyi Sect could provide Foundation Building Pills and Lesser Foundation Building Pills, ensuring a steady supply of Foundation Building cultivators. Even though they suffered heavy losses, Taiyi Sect's ranks would be replenished soon enough.

While New Beast King Mountain has been pressuring Taiyi Sect, they haven't launched a direct attack. Their two Primordial Spirit True Monarchs understand that although Jin Li True Monarch retreated, she has not been killed. They fear retaliation from her in the future and are hesitant to take drastic actions.

Their primary goal is to gradually encroach upon Taiyi Sect's territory, specifically the main areas of the Demon Wind Gobi, but not to completely annihilate Taiyi Sect. This is not only the customary way of conduct among righteous sects but also takes into account the various factions within the Jiuqu League. If New Beast King Mountain were to destroy Taiyi Sect outright, they might face significant retaliation from other powerful Primordial Spirit sects within the Jiuqu League.

Taiyi Sect's high-ranking members are well aware of this game's rules and have been skillfully navigating it. Despite being at a disadvantage and retreating step by step due to the insurmountable gap in strength, they believe that as long as Meng Zhang breaks through to the Primordial Spirit realm and successfully emerges from seclusion, the situation can be reversed.

For now, Taiyi Sect's high-ranking members focus on preserving their strength and delaying as much as possible. They are not concerned about minor losses and refuse to engage in short-term conflicts with New Beast King Mountain.

New Beast King Mountain has long held an absolute advantage, but there is still a long way to go before achieving its strategic goals. Such conflicts are destined to be protracted, and New Beast King Mountain is accustomed to this form of struggle.

Of course, there are always some impatient individuals within New Beast King Mountain who have lost their patience and devised some quick and short-sighted tactics. They started sending people to

act on behalf of Jiuqu League's name, summoning all the top-level members of Taiyi Sect to the Yuantu Great Prairie.

Since the previous defeat, the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan has been confined to a small area, but these fierce and aggressive barbarians never accept defeat. Occasionally, they concentrate their forces to launch attacks on Jiuqu League, causing heavy casualties on both sides. Moreover, small-scale conflicts and skirmishes have never ceased.

New Beast King Mountain's idea is to call all the top-level members of Taiyi Sect to the frontlines and let them slowly perish in the struggle against the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan. Once that happens, Taiyi Sect will be left with only low-level cultivators, unable to escape New Beast King Mountain's control.

Implementing such a decision within Jiuqu League is not easy, as New Beast King Mountain needs to persuade other high-level members, resort to various means of bribery, and offer benefits in exchange for support. Additionally, some upright individuals in Jiuqu League dislike such selfish and despicable methods and are not easily swayed.

Despite the difficulties, New Beast King Mountain has already started making significant progress towards its goal. Taiyi Sect lost its powerful protector, Jin LiTrue Monarch, when she entered closed-door cultivation. Even some so-called friends turned their backs on Taiyi Sect. Even True Monarch Azure Mist, who had a close relationship with Jin LiTrue Monarch, distanced themselves and provided no help to Taiyi Sect.

Taiyi Sect sent a Gold CoreDaoist Master to act as an elder in Jiuqu League, but this elder had no real power and was isolated by others, making it difficult to gather information.

Unbeknownst to Taiyi Sect, New Beast King Mountain had already been active for a long time and made significant progress. Informed individuals could see that Taiyi Sect's situation was dire, and it was only a matter of time before New Beast King Mountain took them down.

After twenty-four years of closed-door cultivation, one evening, the gloomy clouds in Demon Wind Gobi were about to bring rain. However, suddenly, the dark clouds dispersed, revealing a sea of red clouds. The setting sun, which had been descending in the west, suddenly brightened with an intense light.

A huge red sun hung high in the sky, seemingly pausing for a moment before appearing to dance joyously with golden crows. After some time, the red sun continued to set, and a bright crescent moon rose, radiating a cool moonlight.

The changes in the sky and the surging spiritual energy were the signs that a Primordial Spirit True Monarch was about to be born. The nearby Gold Core Daoist Masters were few in number, and besides Taiyi Sect's Sect Master Meng Zhang, there seemed to be no other candidate capable of achieving Primordial Spirit True Monarch in Demon Wind Gobi.

As Meng Zhang broke through into the Primordial Spirit stage, a giant figure appeared in the sky above Taiyi Sect's gate, looking down at everything below. This giant figure resembled Meng Zhang, representing his Primordial Spirit.

The figure fluctuated in size before quickly stabilizing into a human-sized form—this was the typical appearance of a Primordial Spirit True Monarch. To maintain a colossal human-like manifestation, one would need at least a Mid Primordial Spirit Cultivation Base.

Although Meng Zhang had just entered the Primordial Spirit stage and couldn't maintain the giant form for long, his Primordial Spirit was exceptionally condensed, almost substantial. Unlike Yin Spirits, even if a Primordial Spirit leaves the fleshly body, it can continue to exist.

In the presence of the other Gold Core Daoist Masters, Meng Zhang's Primordial Spirit roamed freely, entering and exiting the mountain gate, then appeared before the gathered Taiyi Sect high-level members.

"Congratulations, Sect Master, on achieving Primordial Spirit..." The high-level members cheered.

Niu Dawei, Meng Zhang's eldest disciple, An Xiaoran, the second disciple, and An Moran, the third disciple, were especially excited and knelt in reverence.

"Congratulations, Master..." they said.

Meng Zhang graciously accepted the congratulations with a satisfied smile and waved his hand.

"It will take some time before I end my closed-door cultivation and receive visitors. However, you are free to spread the news of my Primordial Spirit achievement. There should be many speculations outside about the commotion I caused. I want to see which small fry will come looking for trouble," Meng Zhang declared.

His Cultivation Base had reached the Grand Completion, and he needed someone to test his abilities.

The Primordial Spirit True Monarch manifestation in the sky indicated Meng Zhang's accomplishment. The fluctuations in spiritual energy would undoubtedly be sensed by other cultivators, especially those well-informed. Taiyi Sect had successfully birthed a Primordial Spirit True Monarch, which brought anticipation, excitement, and envy from various corners of the Cultivation World.

This marked a significant turning point for Taiyi Sect, and the stage was set for a confrontation with New Beast King Mountain. The wheels of fate had been set in motion, and a tumultuous future lay ahead for both factions.

Chapter 710: Great Divine Ability

After breaking through to the Primordial Spirit stage as a Gold Core completion cultivator, it didn't take much time for Meng Zhang to consolidate his Cultivation Base. Though he had just achieved the Primordial Spirit stage, his foundation was profound and his accumulation sufficient, allowing him to quickly stabilize his Cultivation Base and begin practicing at the Primordial Spirit stage.

With hidden killer moves up his sleeve, he had no fear of engaging with cultivators at the early stage of the Primordial Spirit stage. The commotion caused by his achievement of the Primordial Spirit stage was substantial, and practically all the cultivators in Demon Wind Gobi could sense it unless they were blind.

New Beast King Mountain currently boasted two Primordial Spirit True Monarchs, so their disciples should be familiar with the celestial phenomena that occurred when reaching the Primordial Spirit stage. Even if they hadn't witnessed it with their own eyes, they must have heard about it from their sect seniors numerous times.

Meng Zhang intentionally spread the news of his achievement to all corners of the Taiyi Sect, making sure he exuded confidence and readiness to face the challenges ahead.

However, he didn't rush to leave seclusion. Being newly at the Primordial Spirit stage, he had much work to do. Fortunately, he had obtained numerous scriptures from the independent space of the Void Cauldron, which saved him from the struggles that loose cultivators faced when exploring new realms.

Regarding what to do after entering the Primordial Spirit stage, the sequence of cultivation, and how to strengthen different aspects of his abilities, Meng Zhang could find satisfactory answers in the records left by Taiyi Sect seniors who had achieved the Primordial Spirit stage.

Originally, his main cultivation technique was the "Sun-Moon Wheel Turning Sutra," which deeply elaborated on the Yin Yang Grand Dao and suited his physique. However, the true core of this technique was the "Sun-Moon Avenue." When he achieved the Primordial Spirit True Monarch stage, he chose the Yin Yang Grand Dao as his fundamental Grand Dao.

Thus, his future cultivation in the Primordial Spirit stage would focus on the Yin Yang Grand Dao. Before the Primordial Spirit stage, cultivators mainly strengthened their physical bodies and refined the True Essence within their bodies. In the Primordial Spirit stage, the main cultivation task was to comprehend the Grand Dao of heaven and earth and master the power of Grand Dao.

After entering the Primordial Spirit stage, cultivators adjusted their main cultivation techniques. As long as they didn't choose techniques that were completely opposite, it wouldn't require much effort. Meng Zhang selected a new cultivation technique from Taiyi Sect's inheritance called the "Heaven and Earth Yin-Yang Transformation" as his new main cultivation technique. He didn't completely abandon the "Sun-Moon Wheel Turning Sutra" but used it as an auxiliary cultivation technique.

Now that he had reached the Primordial Spirit stage, he could upgrade his previously learned Divine Abilities to Great Divine Abilities. Meng Zhang had several Divine Abilities from Taiyi Sect's inheritance, and after completing the inheritance, he could find appropriate methods to upgrade them.

Among these abilities, the "Twin Forms Towards Heaven Sword" and the "Sun-Moon Radiance" were the first to be upgraded to Great Divine Abilities. Shortly after he started cultivating the "Heaven and Earth Yin-Yang Transformation," he also mastered another Great Divine Ability, the "Yin-Yang Escape." The Yin-Yang Escape was not only a method for travel and escape but also a technique to defeat enemies.

With three Great Divine Abilities at his disposal, Meng Zhang had a certain level of combat power even though he hadn't learned any Dao Techniques yet. However, he was still lacking a Fourth Rank magic tool, which was the main weakness in his current arsenal.

Most Fourth Rank magic tools in the Cultivation World evolved from Third Rank magic tools over time, but Meng Zhang's cultivation time was relatively short, so his magic tools hadn't had enough time to grow and evolve. His Yin Yang Spirit Gourd, for example, was still only a Third Rank magic tool.

Despite the excitement among his disciples due to his advancement to the Primordial Spirit stage, Meng Zhang remained calm and focused on cultivating in seclusion.

The news of Meng Zhang becoming a Primordial Spirit True Monarch quickly spread like a storm, and the surrounding forces of Taiyi Sect reacted differently. The major members of the Hanhai Dao League immediately became loyal to Taiyi Sect, severing their connections with the outside world.

The Yellow Lotus Sect's East River Branch and Fire Cloud Sect in the Endless Sea of Sand quickly reacted as well, shrinking their territories and returning them to Taiyi Sect without resistance. Facing a newly promoted Primordial Spirit True Monarch, these two forces had no power to resist.

Some considered Meng Zhang's advancement to the Primordial Spirit stage as a natural progression, given that he had already been a Gold Core late stage cultivator many years ago. However, those who understood the difficulty of achieving the Primordial Spirit stage knew how exceptional his feat was.

In Demon Wind Gobi, it was exceedingly rare to have a Primordial Spirit True Monarch, and many talented Gold Core Daoist Masters had fallen before reaching this stage. Even the Endless Sea of Sand, except for the time during the Purple Gold Sect's rule, had not produced a Primordial Spirit True Monarch. During the Flying Swan Sect's rule, there was no Primordial Spirit True Monarch born in the surrounding vast areas.

Meng Zhang's rise from leading a weak sect to breaking through to the Primordial Spirit stage was truly unexpected. However, those who thought it was natural were mostly low-level cultivators or ignorant individuals who didn't comprehend the immense difficulty of achieving the Primordial Spirit stage.

Nevertheless, those with insight knew that with Meng Zhang becoming a Primordial Spirit True Monarch, the situation in Demon Wind Gobi was about to change drastically.

Many cultivation forces in the vicinity quickly reacted to the news. The major members of the Hanhai Dao League immediately became loyal to Taiyi Sect, severing their connections with the outside world. The Yellow Lotus Sect's East River Branch and Fire Cloud Sect in the Endless Sea of Sand also quickly shrunk their territories and returned them to Taiyi Sect without resistance.

Meng Zhang's achievement of the Primordial Spirit stage was already known far and wide, and its impact was akin to a storm, sweeping across all directions.

Fire Cloud Sect is backed by True Monarch Profound Wind. However, True Monarch Profound Wind is an outsider and has many hidden motives when it comes to using Fire Cloud Sect. He

doesn't wholeheartedly consider Fire Cloud Sect's interests. Since Fire Cloud Sect lacks the ability to control True Monarch Profound Wind, they naturally try to avoid conflicts with other Primordial Spirit True Monarchs.

Both the East River Branch and Fire Cloud Sect voluntarily retreated and returned everything they had taken, which made Taiyi Sect stop pressuring them. Taiyi Sect had bigger enemies to deal with, and these two sects had powerful backers, making it challenging to completely crush them.

The other forces causing trouble in Demon Wind Gobi also became quiet. They closed their doors and passively observed the changes in the situation.

New Beast King Mountain, Taiyi Sect's biggest enemy, also paused all actions and awaited decisions from their high-ranking members. Shortly after, all cultivators associated with New Beast King Mountain in Demon Wind Gobi received instructions from the sect. They stopped encroaching on Taiyi Sect's territory and maintained the status quo.

In addition, the cultivators from New Beast King Mountain who were operating in Jiuqu City also abandoned their plans due to Meng Zhang's achievement of the Primordial Spirit stage. Meng Zhang, as a new Primordial Spirit True Monarch, now belonged to Jiuqu League and automatically became a Jiuqu League Senator.

Every Primordial Spirit True Monarch in Jiuqu League naturally becomes a Senator, and the Senate is the highest authority governing all affairs within Jiuqu League. Even those Senators who are uninterested in Jiuqu League affairs have certain basic rights.

Meng Zhang, as a new Senator, would naturally have people seeking his allegiance and passing information to him. Any proposal from the Jiuqu League high-ranking members concerning Taiyi Sect required prior communication with Meng Zhang.

Meng Zhang's Primordial Spirit achievement elevated his status significantly. His pure background and history made him someone that the Jiuqu League high-ranking members could trust. Some of the Senators even considered trying to recruit Meng Zhang.

However, mature and cautious cultivators would not act rashly; they would first observe Meng Zhang's actions. If he became arrogant and acted without restraint after becoming a Primordial Spirit True Monarch, he wouldn't be deemed trustworthy.

The actions of New Beast King Mountain against Taiyi Sect over the years had already been noticed by the Jiuqu League high-ranking members. Both sides were watching each other carefully, and the situation had attracted significant attention.

Meng Zhang was not in a hurry. He had patience and would wait for the right time. Even if New Beast King Mountain pretended to be unresponsive, Meng Zhang would patiently continue to wait.

In the meantime, Meng Zhang needed time to practice new secret techniques and master more unique methods of the Primordial Spirit True Monarchs. He focused on cultivation during his seclusion, and he could clearly feel himself getting stronger every minute.

Visitors kept coming to the Taiyi Sect gate. Most of them were coming to inquire about the latest news and confirm Meng Zhang's successful breakthrough to the Primordial Spirit stage. Some guests arrived with valuable gifts, hoping to establish a relationship with Taiyi Sect.

However, at this moment, the visitors were mostly minor figures and not worthy of Meng Zhang's personal reception. Taiyi Sect had arranged clever disciples to receive these visitors.

The important figures were still observing from afar and hadn't made their move yet.

Despite being in seclusion, Meng Zhang was not idle and made several subtle moves. He knew his own limits and didn't let the Primordial Spirit stage get to his head. He understood that New Beast King Mountain's strength and foundation were still superior to Taiyi Sect's. Becoming a Primordial Spirit True Monarch only improved the situation but didn't fundamentally change the problem.

Facing such a formidable enemy, Taiyi Sect needed careful consideration and perhaps even new allies who could participate in the struggle among Primordial Spirit sects.