

Sect Master 301

Chapter 301: Tangled Warfare

After Guang RuiDaoist's angry reaction, he quickly activated the formation map and exerted all his efforts to take control of the formation. Although Deep EarthSpirit General and Wen Qiansun had taken the initiative, the formation was ultimately dependent on the existence of the formation map, which had been refined by Guang RuiDaoist for many years. Once Guang RuiDaoist reacted, he immediately began to slowly regain control of the formation.

Deep EarthSpirit General and Wen Qiansun worked together and were caught in a stalemate with Guang RuiDaoist. After Meng Zhang and Shocking ThunderSpirit General left the formation, they immediately joined forces with Aunt Jin.

Seeing Meng Zhang and the others escape, Guang HuiDaoist regretted his decision. If he had known that Guang RuiDaoist's control over the formation was so weak, he should have brought the formation map himself to lure Meng Zhang and the others. If he had the formation map in his hands, it would not have been so easy for others to take control of the formation.

Of course, Guang HuiDaoist would never admit that his nature was to overthink and be too cautious. Boldly charging forward and taking risks was not his style. Seeing Guang RuiDaoist and his team caught in a struggle with the enemy in the formation, Guang HuiDaoist shouted, "Follow me!" He personally led the team to fly towards Meng Zhang and the others.

With six against four and a numerical advantage, although the situation was not favorable, it was not bad either. Meng Zhang and the others were not afraid and took the initiative to meet Guang HuiDaoist and his team. Yang Xueyi and Jin Qigu, who had been secretly following Guang HuiDaoist and his team, immediately appeared and flew over to join the battle. Now the number of people was six against six, evenly matched.

Aunt Jin took the initiative to find Guang HuiDaoist. She had dealt with him many times before and was familiar with his methods. Guang HuiDaoist was probably the opponent's number one expert, and Aunt Jin believed that her deep cultivation base made her the most suitable candidate to stop him.

Guang HuiDaoist was approached by Aunt Jin, and Shocking ThunderSpirit General snorted unwillingly and flew towards the bamboo sword. Among the opponent's Foundation Building cultivators, only the mid-level Foundation Building bamboo sword was left, which could barely be a match for Shocking ThunderSpirit General.

Jin Wengbo faced Azure Bamboo, Jin Qigu and Yang Xueyi faced Guang QuanDaoist and Guang DeDaoist respectively. Meng Zhang only had to find his old friend Guang HongDaoist.

In the sky, several battle circles were formed, each caught in fierce fighting. Everyone fought in pairs, making it difficult to distinguish who was winning. And on the ground, Guang RuiDaoist regained control of the majority of the formation, teaming up with Xu Yishan and Lin Shenpo to temporarily suppress Deep EarthSpirit General and Wen Qiansun. However, although they seemed to be at a temporary disadvantage, Deep EarthSpirit General and Wen Qiansun still had some control over the formation, making Guang RuiDaoist and his team unable to relax.

Twelve Foundation Building cultivators flew back and forth in the sky, creating a battlefield spanning tens of miles. The spiritual energy surged violently, and the aura spread in all directions. Strong gusts of wind blew in all directions, stirring up countless dust on the ground.

Among these six pairs of opponents, the power gap between Meng Zhang and Guang HongDaoist was the greatest. Guang HongDaoist had been in the Foundation Building stage for nearly a hundred years, with senior qualifications and a high status in Forest Spring Watch. Moreover, due to his flexible approach and decisive decision-making, he had served as the elder in charge of foreign affairs for Forest Spring Watch for many years. He used to be responsible for dealing with Twin Success Valley and other sects, and now he specifically managed subordinate sects like Taiyi Sect.

Meng Zhang and Guang HongDaoist had known each other for many years and had a deep relationship. But now, for the sake of their respective sects, they were caught in a life-and-death battle.

Guang HongDaoist had entered the Dao much earlier than Meng Zhang and had become a Foundation Building cultivator before Meng Zhang's age. However, his cultivation base had always remained in the early stage of Foundation Building. Cultivators like Meng Zhang, with excellent aptitude and extraordinary comprehension, could never understand the pain of cultivators like Guang HongDaoist, who had been stuck at the Foundation Building stage for many years and struggled to make progress.

Guang HongDaoist's cultivation base was not as high as Meng Zhang's, and he did not possess any particularly powerful secret techniques. After fighting against Meng Zhang, his fate was already sealed. After a long battle, Meng Zhang took advantage of the opportunity when Guang HongDaoist was entangled by the Tangling Silk Soft Sword. Meng Zhang flew over and displayed his recently refined small Divine Ability, Twin Forms Towards Heaven Sword. A mixture of black and white sword energy, exuding a captivating aura, shot out from Meng Zhang's fingertips, cleverly avoiding Guang HongDaoist's protective magic tool and directly slashing through his body.

Guang HongDaoist's protective spell melted away like snow under the sun, and his physical body was cut into two without any resistance. After killing Guang HongDaoist, Meng Zhang also expended a considerable amount of energy and temporarily stopped to recover his true qi.

Guang HuiDaoist had a stronger combat power than Aunt Jin and had been pressing her in the fight. However, Aunt Jin not only had strong resilience but also was extremely slippery, not giving Guang HuiDaoist a chance to inflict a serious blow on her.

While Guang HuiDaoist was fighting Aunt Jin, he still had the ability to pay attention to the other battlefields. The other pairs were holding up well, except for Guang HongDaoist against Meng Zhang, which was clearly struggling.

When Guang HongDaoist was killed by Meng Zhang, Guang HuiDaoist had already noticed. He was preparing to go over and support, but he was firmly entangled by Aunt Jin and couldn't break free. He hesitated for a moment, considering whether to pay a certain price to seriously injure Aunt Jin. But this hesitation prevented Guang HongDaoist from receiving timely assistance and led to his death.

With Guang HongDaoist's death, Guang HuiDaoist knew that things were going downhill. When one part of the plan went wrong, the entire battle situation would collapse.

At this moment, Guang HuiDaoist deeply regretted his decisions. Because of excessive caution and concern that Meng Zhang and the others might attack the mountain gate of Forest Spring Watch, he had left two Foundation Building cultivators to guard Forest Spring Watch and did not join the battle. If they had two more Foundation Building cultivators participating in the fight, the situation would not be like this.

His regrets were not limited to just this. If he hadn't wanted to outsmart Meng Zhang and had divided his forces, handing over the formation map to Guang RuiDaoist, things would be different. If he had the formation map in his hands and joined forces with several Foundation Building cultivators on their side, relying on the power of the formation map, they would not have easily fallen into a disadvantageous position. Too many "ifs," too many mistakes.

Unfortunately, no regrets could be bought in this world. Once a wrong decision was made, one had to bear the corresponding consequences. After Meng Zhang recovered a bit, he joined the battle again. It was a critical moment now, and there was no room for the slightest relaxation. He didn't go to besiege Guang HuiDaoist, who was in the mid-level Foundation Building stage, and the bamboo sword. Instead, he flew towards the battle between Yang Xueyi and Guang DeDaoist. Meng Zhang's plan was simple: gradually weaken the enemy, starting with the weakest opponent. This way, they could steadily expand their advantage step by step, like a snowball rolling.

Chapter 302: Escape

Guang HuiDaoist saw through Meng Zhang's thoughts at a glance. He couldn't let Meng Zhang continue to rampage and kill as he pleased. Guang HuiDaoist, who had been hesitant, immediately took out his trump card. He took out a shining golden talisman and poured all his true qi into it. The talisman was barely activated and turned into a golden light that disappeared. Then a giant golden sword descended from the sky and fiercely pierced towards Aunt Jin.

After Guang ZhiDaoist Master formed the core, he spent a lot of effort to leave some cards for Forest Spring Watch. In order to refine this Third Rank talisman, Forest Spring Watch had consumed countless precious materials. Guang ZhiDaoist Master was not a Talisman Master, and his ability to draw talisman scripts could only be considered average. After several failed attempts and wasting a lot of precious materials, he barely managed to refine three Third Rank talismans, which were left as life-saving measures for the disciples in the sect.

As the Sect Master of Forest Spring Watch, Guang HuiDaoist carried two Third Rank talismans with him. The golden sword talisman he had just released was one of them. Unless it was absolutely necessary, he was not willing to easily consume these life-saving cards.

The Golden Sword Art was originally just a normal First Rank spell, but the strengthened Golden Sword Descending from the Sky was a Third Rank spell. When used by a Gold Core Daoist Master, it had the power to instantly kill a Foundation Building early-stage cultivator.

The power of this talisman's Golden Sword Descending from the Sky was probably only one-tenth or one-twelfth of his true strength. But Gold Core was still Gold Core, fundamentally different from Foundation Building. The power of Gold Core was almost irresistible to Foundation Building cultivators.

Qiaoshou Sect had a mysterious origin and had a vague connection with some big shots. As the real person in charge of Qiaoshou Sect, how could Aunt Jin not have life-saving cards on her?

Facing the Golden Sword Descending from the Sky, Aunt Jin was not panicked at all. Instead, she calmly took out a scroll. She quickly unfolded the scroll and then bit her tongue, spraying a mouthful of blood onto the scroll.

Originally, there was a small bird painted on the scroll, which was completely red. After being sprinkled with the tongue-tip blood, the small bird immediately came to life. The small bird flew out of the scroll and turned into a flame, actively flying towards the giant golden sword falling from the sky.

When the flame and the golden sword collided, they began to rapidly extinguish. But the golden sword was also quickly consumed and slowly disappeared. By the time the flame was completely extinguished, the golden sword had almost completely disappeared.

Guang HuiDaoist was originally confident that he could seriously injure Aunt Jin with this Third Rank talisman. Unexpectedly, Aunt Jin also had a treasure that could block the attack of the Third Rank talisman.

After spraying out the tongue-tip blood, Aunt Jin's face was a little weak. But she still forced herself to release dozens of needle shadows, continuing to entangle Guang HuiDaoist. Aunt Jin was also aware that the battle situation on Meng Zhang's side was at a critical moment, and she couldn't let Guang HuiDaoist go over and disrupt the situation.

Guang HuiDaoist, who was entangled by Aunt Jin, could only watch as Meng Zhang rushed towards Guang DeDaoist. Among the several Foundation Building cultivators from Forest Spring Watch, Guang DeDaoist's cultivation base was not outstanding, and he was only stationed at the mountain gate of Golden Blade Sect. He had not completely recovered from the injuries he sustained when he was besieged by three Second Rank demonic beasts last time. He only thought that his side had an overwhelming advantage, so he didn't care about his injuries.

After fighting with Yang Xueyi, who had the help of the Five Elements Ring, Guang DeDaoist was a bit overwhelmed by the continuous spells and attacks. Although he had not been in Foundation Building for long, Yang Xueyi's full strength was enough to suppress him. Now that Meng Zhang had joined the battle, Guang DeDaoist had no chance to escape.

At this point, Guang HuiDaoist should have made the correct decision to order a retreat and save their strength for future battles. However, he saw that Guang RuiDaoist and the others were still entangled with the enemy in the formation. If he ordered a retreat, they might not be able to escape in time.

As a person who was very clever and thoughtful, Guang HuiDaoist often had the problem of overthinking and being unable to make decisions easily. After considering all this, Guang DeDaoist was killed by Meng Zhang and Yang Xueyi working together.

With two Foundation Building cultivators on the enemy's side now free to join the battle, the situation had completely collapsed and was irretrievable. Guang HuiDaoist finally made a painful decision. "Retreat immediately and escape with all our strength."

After giving the order, Guang HuiDaoist gave up his fight with Aunt Jin, didn't even look around, and turned to run away. Azure Bamboo was the first to respond to Guang HuiDaoist's command. He

had already gained the upper hand in his fight with Jin Wengbo. Upon hearing Guang HuiDaoist's order, he left the battle easily and flew towards Guang HuiDaoist's direction.

Guang QuanDaoist also managed to get rid of Jin Qigu with a little effort and followed Azure Bamboo in escaping. Guang RuiDaoist, who was entangled with Deep EarthSpirit General in the formation, was a decisive person. Upon hearing the order, he immediately gave up control of the formation and didn't even have time to take the formation map with him before flying out and escaping into the distance.

Deep EarthSpirit General and Wen Qiansun felt the pressure on them ease up and took the opportunity to control the formation, intending to leave Xu Yishan and Lin Shenpo behind. Xu Yishan, who had been abandoned by Guang RuiDaoist, knew that it was hopeless and sacrificed himself to hold back Deep EarthSpirit General and Wen Qiansun, shouting at Lin Shenpo, "Run!"

Lin Shenpo was also a decisive person and didn't hesitate to grab Xu Yishan's life-saving opportunity and escape in time. However, Shocking ThunderSpirit General, who was originally planning to escape, was firmly suppressed by the bamboo sword and was unable to get rid of this formidable opponent. As a proud person, Shocking ThunderSpirit General, who had just awakened from his coma and participated in the battle for the first time, naturally wanted to show off. How could he let a Foundation Building cultivator escape from his hands? Even if he had to pay some price, he would leave the bamboo sword behind.

Meng Zhang and the others naturally would not let the tiger return to the mountain. They chased after them and vowed to eliminate the enemy. Guang HuiDaoist and the others didn't even dare to return to the mountain gate of Golden Blade Sect and fled directly towards Forest Spring Watch. They fought and retreated, gradually gathering together. Guang HuiDaoist, Guang RuiDaoist, Guang QuanDaoist, Azure Bamboo, and Lin Shenpo formed a formation and barely managed to avoid being scattered by the enemy. They could cover each other and retreat alternately, but Meng Zhang and the others were closely pursuing them, making it difficult for them to escape easily.

Chapter 303: Win

In that Formation, Xu Yishan was easily killed by the power of the Formation used by Deep Earth and Wen Qiansun. After losing all resistance, the two could control the Formation without any obstacles. Deep Earth Spirit General flew out of the Formation, leaving Wen Qiansun behind to completely control the Formation before refining the array map. This Second Rank array map is a rare treasure.

Deep Earth Spirit General flew towards the direction where Guang Hui Daoist escaped, intending to help Meng Zhang leave all the enemies behind. If Guang Hui Daoist and the others all died here, Taiyi Sect and Qiaoshou Sect would almost be able to sweep everything away without any obstacles and easily occupy the surrounding areas. Without these Foundation Building cultivators like Guang Hui Daoist, Forest Spring Watch's mountain gate would not be able to be defended.

Deep Earth Spirit General did not spend much time before catching up to the battle. Seeing Deep Earth Spirit General flying over from afar, Guang Hui Daoist knew that if he did not retreat, he would have no chance of survival. He secretly transmitted his voice, asking several of his own cultivators to approach him. When the people who received the transmission came close to him, Guang Hui Daoist took out a talisman and desperately injected true qi into it. After the talisman

turned into a yellow light and disappeared, a strong wind suddenly blew around Guang Hui Daoist and the others, stirring up countless sand and dust, wrapping them all up.

Meng Zhang and the others knew it was bad and immediately attacked the huge sand and dust circle fiercely. However, no matter whether it was the flying magic tool or the powerful spell, they were easily bounced off the sand and dust circle. The sand and dust circle surrounding Guang Hui Daoist and the others spun rapidly, carrying them away into the distance. Even with Meng Zhang and the others' speed, they could not catch up and could only watch as they escaped.

It was only at this time that Deep Earth Spirit General flew to Meng Zhang's side. He sighed, "This is Third Rank Dust Escape Technique, we can't catch up." Aunt Jin unwillingly said, "It's really unexpected that Guang Hui, this old guy, actually had two Third Rank talismans on him. Guang Zhi Daoist Master didn't form the core for long, but he left a lot of good things for his fellow disciples." Deep Earth Spirit General sneered, "It takes a lot of effort to refine Third Rank talismans. Forest Spring Watch was only a Foundation Building sect before, how much heritage could they have to slowly consume by Guang Zhi Daoist Master?"

However, the enemy has now escaped with the power of the Third Rank talisman, and everyone is helpless. When Meng Zhang and the others returned to the battlefield, the battle between Shocking Thunder Spirit General and Bamboo Sword had already ended. Both were injured in the fight, and Shocking Thunder Spirit General killed Bamboo Sword on the spot at the cost of his own injuries. Seeing Shocking Thunder Spirit General's empty sleeves, Deep Earth Spirit General couldn't help but sigh repeatedly. This old friend had been sleeping for hundreds of years, but he still had the same character and was still so stubborn. Fortunately, they are both Guardian Spirit Generals, and their bodies are refined from Heaven and Earth Spiritual Objects. Even if they lose an arm, they can slowly regrow it by continuing to refine Heaven and Earth Spiritual Objects.

In this way, Shocking Thunder Spirit General hasn't had the chance to fully refine the essence of Heavenly Thunder, and a considerable amount of it may go to waste. If it were a human Foundation Building cultivator, recovering from such severe injuries would be troublesome. Because several Foundation Building enemies were killed by the members of Taiyi Sect, their spoils fell into the hands of Taiyi Sect without any objections from Aunt Jin and the others.

Wen Qiansun was still diligently refining the array map. As a Second Rank Formation Master, it was much easier for him to completely refine the array map compared to an ordinary cultivator. Shocking Thunder Spirit General couldn't be bothered to pick up Bamboo Sword's storage bag, so Yang Xueyi carefully picked it up for him. Yang Xueyi flew to the side and began to sort through its contents.

The other items in the storage bag didn't impress Yang Xueyi, who was already a Foundation Building cultivator. However, a carefully preserved spiritual pearl in one of the jade boxes caught her eye. It was said to be a unique spiritual pearl produced by Forest Spring Watch, and if it had been aged for over two hundred years, it could help increase the success rate of Foundation Building for Refining Qi completion cultivators. Judging by the appearance of this pearl, it had been aged for far more than two hundred years.

With this spiritual pearl, if they were lucky enough, Taiyi Sect could cultivate another Foundation Building cultivator. Meng Zhang carefully collected the Second Rank magic tools left behind by the deceased Foundation Building cultivators. Aunt Jin and the others had contributed a lot in this

battle. Although they didn't kill any enemies, without them holding back the enemies, Meng Zhang wouldn't have been able to easily kill his opponents one after another.

These magic tools were all decent, but Meng Zhang didn't think much of them. He placed all the magic tools in front of Aunt Jin and suggested splitting them evenly between the two factions. Aunt Jin didn't stand on ceremony and casually picked a few items. The remaining magic tools were collected by Meng Zhang. In the future, when the opportunity was right, they could be given to a Second Rank tool refiner for reprocessing or stored in the treasury for exchange by future Foundation Building cultivators in the sect.

After this delay, the people who had fought in the battle had mostly recovered. Next, everyone moved together and directly attacked the original mountain gate of Golden Blade Sect. Although there was a protective great formation that had been operated by Golden Blade Sect for many years, it lacked a Foundation Building cultivator overseeing it and only had a few Refining Qi stage disciples defending it. Moreover, Deep Earth Spirit General had previously left a loophole in the great formation.

With little effort, the group successfully broke through the protective great formation and completely occupied the mountain gate. Because of their swift action, the few remaining disciples of Forest Spring Watch couldn't cause any damage in time. Occupying an intact mountain gate was a good start.

Before this operation, Gu Tanghai, Azure Bamboo, Meng Zhang, and Aunt Jin had detailed agreements regarding the distribution of spoils. Now that Gu Tanghai was dead and Azure Bamboo had betrayed them, their original share of spoils naturally belonged to Taiyi Sect. With Taiyi Sect's growing power and their crucial role in the recent battle, Aunt Jin had no intention of arguing with Meng Zhang.

According to the agreement, this mountain gate of Golden Blade Sect should belong to Qiaoshou Sect. Meng Zhang had no intention of violating the agreement. After all, there were plenty of even more valuable spoils waiting for him to claim in the future. After leaving the area, Meng Zhang immediately returned to Taiyi Sect.

The disciples of Taiyi Sect had already prepared their belongings and were ready to retreat at any time. Now that Taiyi Sect had achieved a complete victory, there was no need to retreat. Meng Zhang ordered the disciples to put down their belongings and immediately set off towards their target.

The disciples of Taiyi Sect, who were already prepared for war, quickly took action and began to move towards their target. On the other side, Guang Hui Daoist led his group without any stops and managed to escape back to the mountain gate of Forest Spring Watch. Although they returned in defeat, Guang Hui Daoist was not despairing.

Within Forest Spring Watch, there were still two Foundation Building cultivators guarding the sect, a large number of Refining Qi stage disciples, and a protective great formation that had been operated for hundreds of years. By relying on the mountain gate for defense, Forest Spring Watch still had the ability to fight. When Guang Zhi Daoist Master returned, they would surely deal with the treacherous traitors from Taiyi Sect.

Chapter 304: Seizing the Chance to Expand

Guang HuiDaoist learned a valuable lesson from the recent battle. He believed that their biggest mistakes were twofold. First, they should not have divided their forces and left only two Foundation Building cultivators to defend the mountain gate, which led to a lack of strength during the battle. Second, they acted recklessly by leaving the mountain protection formation and engaging the enemy in the field, abandoning their greatest advantage.

As a result, Guang HuiDaoist personally ordered all the disciples of Forest Spring Watch to abandon their outposts and retreat back to the mountain gate. Additionally, he ordered all the disciples of Forest Mountain School to abandon their own mountain gate and move to Forest Spring Watch. He suggested that Azure Bamboo should also move all the disciples of Green Bamboo Mountain to Forest Spring Watch.

At the same time, Guang HuiDaoist tried various methods to contact Guang ZhiDaoist Master. He also learned from Azure Bamboo that Flying Swan Sect would not directly attack Forest Spring Watch this time. Only the traitors from Taiyi Sect and Qiaoshou Sect would take action.

However, Guang HuiDaoist still had concerns. Guang ZhiDaoist Master and Daoist Master Roaring Blaze were both called away by Fei TianDaoist Master beforehand. Although Fei TianDaoist Master made a ghost oath, unless he was willing to die, Guang ZhiDaoist Master and Daoist Master Roaring Blaze should not be in danger.

But if Taiyi Sect and other sects dared to betray, it meant that they were not afraid of Guang ZhiDaoist Master's retaliation. This raised a big problem.

Guang HuiDaoist also asked Azure Bamboo about this issue, but Azure Bamboo knew nothing about it. Before betraying Flying Swan Sect, Azure Bamboo obeyed their every command and never asked any questions that were not related to their own sect.

Anyway, the most urgent matter was to strengthen their defense and resist the attacks of Taiyi Sect and Qiaoshou Sect. Guang HuiDaoist could only put this matter aside for the time being.

Guang HuiDaoist also personally sent a message to the Sect Master of Earthfire Sect, explaining their close relationship and stating that Forest Spring Watch and Earthfire Sect were interdependent. He hoped that Earthfire Sect could lend a hand and that Forest Spring Watch would repay them generously after overcoming this difficult time.

The first target of Taiyi Sect's disciples, led by Meng Zhang, was Singing Sand City. After receiving orders from their sect, the disciples of Forest Spring Watch stationed in Singing Sand City abandoned everything and hurriedly retreated.

Gu Tanghai conspired with Flying Swan Sect to betray Forest Spring Watch, and he kept it strictly confidential. Except for a few confidants and the two Foundation Building cultivators of the Shi Family, he never revealed it to anyone else.

The disciples of the Shi Family stationed in Singing Sand City, as well as many loose cultivators who had joined Gu Tanghai, were still puzzled by the actions of the disciples of Forest Spring Watch. When the flying boat carrying Taiyi Sect's disciples arrived at Singing Sand City, the market guards had no idea how to handle the situation. Taiyi Sect and Shi Family were both vassals of Forest Spring Watch and had a close relationship due to years of trade. Moreover, the market guards

were only a group of Refining Qi cultivators without a leader. Faced with a team led by several Foundation Building cultivators, they could not resist.

Taiyi Sect easily occupied Singing Sand City without encountering much resistance because there was no time to carefully discern and judge the situation. Meng Zhang could only order the Shi Family cultivators in the market to be temporarily controlled, including Shi Changqing, who was held by Gu Tanghai and fell into the hands of Taiyi Sect.

As for the numerous loose cultivators in the market, as long as they did not openly oppose Taiyi Sect, they would be temporarily ignored.

After controlling Singing Sand City, a strategic location, Meng Zhang relaxed a little. He sent cultivators from his sect to investigate the movements of Forest Spring Watch while waiting for Qiaoshou Sect's reinforcements in Singing Sand City.

When Aunt Jin and the Qiaoshou Sect disciples arrived at Singing Sand City on a flying boat, the cultivators sent by Meng Zhang also reported the movements of Forest Spring Watch. Since Forest Spring Watch had abandoned all their outposts and retreated to the mountain gate, Meng Zhang did not rush to attack the heavily guarded mountain gate of Forest Spring Watch. Instead, he first swept the outskirts. After Twin Success Valley was destroyed, Forest Spring Watch had occupied all their original territory. Now, Taiyi Sect and Qiaoshou Sect's first target was this territory.

Due to the hurried retreat of Forest Spring Watch disciples, they did not have time to destroy anything, and many resources on the territory were left behind. The joint forces of Taiyi Sect and Qiaoshou Sect easily occupied this large area.

The two sects had basically not experienced any battles, and most of their time was spent on the road. After clearing all the territories, including Date Spice Oasis, only a small number of disciples were left to symbolically guard them. The main forces of the two sects marched towards the mountain gate of Forest Mountain School.

On the Green Bamboo Mountain side, after receiving the message from Azure Bamboo, there was a split within Green Bamboo Mountain. Azure Bamboo's betrayal of Flying Swan Sect was an absolute secret, and the disciples were not informed beforehand.

The message talisman sent back to the sect did not explain the betrayal of Flying Swan Sect, only requiring all Green Bamboo Mountain disciples to abandon their mountain gate and move to Forest Spring Watch as soon as possible.

For hundreds of years, the relationship between Green Bamboo Mountain and Flying Swan Sect had been close, and the disciples of Green Bamboo Mountain were proud of it. Now, how could they accept a simple order from Azure Bamboo to abandon their sect's foundation and the mountain gate they had operated for hundreds of years and join their rival, Forest Spring Watch?

Even with the Sect Master's order, many disciples were unwilling to obey. Anyway, Azure Bamboo was not present to give the order face-to-face. The message talisman could be completely forged.

After a heated argument, only a few disciples took the flying boat to Forest Spring Watch, while most of them continued to stay at the mountain gate. Considering the relationship between Green Bamboo Mountain and Flying Swan Sect, Meng Zhang felt that even if Azure Bamboo and the bamboo sword had betrayed Flying Swan Sect, how to deal with Green Bamboo Mountain still depended on Flying Swan Sect's decision.

Flying Swan Sect had received Aunt Jin's message and knew about Azure Bamboo's betrayal. Although Flying Swan Sect could not directly attack Forest Spring Watch, there was no problem dealing with Green Bamboo Mountain, which had a close relationship with them.

Flying Swan Sect was like a thunderbolt when it moved. The law enforcement disciples of Flying Swan Sect soon arrived at the mountain gate of Green Bamboo Mountain. The disciples of Green Bamboo Mountain who were guarding the gate warmly welcomed the visitors from Flying Swan Sect. They not only did not resist but also did not show any vigilance.

After the law enforcement disciples of Flying Swan Sect entered Green Bamboo Mountain, they mercilessly attacked. After a bloody massacre, all the cultivators and their mortal relatives in Green Bamboo Mountain were slaughtered by Flying Swan Sect.

Chapter 305: Advancing Triumphantly

Although Green Bamboo Mountain, like Twin Success Valley and Liu Family, is nominally a vassal of Flying Swan Sect, in reality, it is equivalent to a local warlord. However, due to the close relationship between Green Bamboo Mountain and Flying Swan Sect, Green Bamboo Mountain has always been obedient to Flying Swan Sect's commands.

Azure Bamboo's betrayal of Flying Swan Sect this time was a great surprise to everyone in Flying Swan Sect. The high-level members of Flying Swan Sect were first in disbelief, then extremely angry. Out of anger at being betrayed and to deter vassal forces, Flying Swan Sect did not hesitate to use thunderous means to deal with all members of Green Bamboo Mountain.

After multiple losses and the recent split, there were only a few dozen disciples left in Green Bamboo Mountain. However, these disciples were mostly from the Green Bamboo Mountain territory, and there were also several thousand mortal relatives. If their relatives were included, tens of thousands of mortals in the entire Green Bamboo Mountain territory would be affected.

The enraged Flying Swan Sect did not even care about the face of the orthodox sects and directly launched a massacre, killing tens of thousands of people and causing rivers of blood to flow.

If it were not for Daoist Master Fei Yu's order not to get too involved, the entire Green Bamboo Mountain territory would have been completely wiped out.

After the news of Green Bamboo Mountain's bloodbath spread, the entire Endless Sea of Sand was in extreme shock. Not only were the vassal families of Flying Swan Sect frightened, but even the sects like Earthfire Sect were intimidated by Flying Swan Sect's ruthless methods.

After receiving this news, Meng Zhang couldn't help but sigh with emotion. Fortunately, he was the team leader this time. If he had boarded the wrong ship, the situation would not have been so pleasant.

After sweeping through the former Twin Success Valley's territory, the joint forces of Taiyi Sect and Qiaoshou Sect directly invaded Forest Mountain School's territory.

Most of the disciples of Forest Mountain School had voluntarily moved to the mountain gate of Forest Spring Watch. However, the mortal relatives of these disciples were numerous and could not be moved in time.

Moreover, the area of Forest Spring Watch's mountain gate was limited and could not accommodate too many mortals. Most of the disciples had left, and only Old Sect Master Xu Chengxian and some old, weak, sick, and disabled members of the sect had voluntarily stayed behind.

Xu Chengxian was already over eighty years old and had long passed on the position of Sect Master, retiring at home. With the lifespan of a Refining Qi cultivator, he did not have many years left to live.

When the disciples of Forest Mountain School were moving, they had planned to destroy various resources such as the spirit field. However, Xu Chengxian arrived in time and stopped their actions.

As the respected Old Sect Master, no one dared to disobey his orders. Therefore, all the resources in the Forest Mountain School's mountain gate were preserved intact.

After the joint forces of Taiyi Sect and Qiaoshou Sect arrived, Xu Chengxian also took the initiative to close the mountain protection formation and allowed the other side to occupy the Forest Mountain smoothly.

Xu Chengxian did not resist at all and surrendered obediently. He only asked to meet Meng Zhang in person. Xu Chengxian's cooperative attitude made the Taiyi Sect disciples not difficult for him and reported to Meng Zhang. Without hesitation, Meng Zhang immediately met with Xu Chengxian, an old acquaintance.

When the two met, they both had complex emotions and countless feelings. Xu Chengxian was surprised that the young man who was once a Refining Qi cultivator had grown to such a level. He could not only easily destroy Forest Mountain School but also participate in the battle for supremacy in the Cultivation World.

Meng Zhang looked at this old senior Xu Chengxian, who was indeed a good elder. He had given guidance to Meng Zhang in the past and even had a relationship with Meng Zhang's master, Daoist Profound Spirit. Unexpectedly, the two sides would come to this point of confrontation.

In the face of sect interests, no matter how good personal relationships were, they had to give way.

Xu Chengxian did not mention their previous relationship but sincerely requested that, in exchange for his cooperation and efforts to preserve the integrity of Linshan, Meng Zhang spare the mortal relatives of Forest Mountain School's disciples.

Meng Zhang did not easily agree to Xu Chengxian's request. This was not the time to consider old relationships. As a Sect Master, he had to consider the overall situation of the sect and had no choice.

Xu Chengxian was also frightened by Flying Swan Sect's methods and hoped to persuade Meng Zhang to spare the mortal subordinates of Forest Mountain School. But Meng Zhang did not give an immediate response, and he had no way to do so.

Meng Zhang did not trouble him but instead locked him and a group of old and weak cultivators who stayed in Forest Mountain School together. After discussing with them, Xu Chengxian and the group of old and weak cultivators all committed suicide on the spot.

Meng Zhang knew that they were determined to die and did not stop them, letting them go on their way happily.

As for how to deal with the mortal relatives of Forest Mountain School's cultivators, Meng Zhang had not made a final decision yet. He had a rough idea but did not know if it would succeed.

After occupying Linshan, the joint forces of Taiyi Sect and Qiaoshou Sect marched into the territory of Forest Spring Watch.

Under Guang HuiDaoist's strict orders, Forest Spring Watch had abandoned all peripheral strongholds and concentrated all its forces to defend the mountain gate of Forest Spring Watch.

To avoid the collapse of morale, Guang HuiDaoist told everyone that it was only a temporary setback. After Guang ZhiDaoist Master returned, Forest Spring Watch would launch a counterattack and regain all lost territory.

Therefore, when the disciples of Forest Spring Watch were evacuating, they did not destroy the oasis and mines outside.

In their view, even if Taiyi Sect and Qiaoshou Sect occupied these places, they would not last long. It was like temporarily keeping them for Forest Spring Watch, which would eventually regain them.

The joint forces of Taiyi Sect and Qiaoshou Sect marched forward triumphantly and stopped outside the mountain gate of Forest Spring Watch. The next step was not as easy as before. An unprecedented bitter battle was waiting for them.

Inside the mountain gate of Forest Spring Watch, Guang HuiDaoist, Guang QuanDaoist, Guang RuiDaoist, Azure Bamboo, and Lin Shenpo, the five Foundation Building cultivators who had escaped, were already eager to erase their previous shame.

In addition, there were two Foundation Building cultivators who had stayed behind at the mountain gate and did not participate in the battle last time.

Guang YuanDaoist was the Second Rank Alchemist that Forest Spring Watch had painstakingly cultivated and was not good at fighting. But no matter what, he was still a Foundation Building cultivator and could rely on the mountain protection formation to exert considerable combat power.

Lin Bailin was a rising star of Forest Spring Watch. Although his Foundation Building time was not very long, his combat power was not inferior to some of the older generation.

In addition to the seven Foundation Building cultivators, Forest Spring Watch also had a large number of Refining Qi disciples. With the disciples who migrated from Forest Mountain School and the few disciples from Green Bamboo Mountain, the number of Refining Qi cultivators was close to seven hundred.

In a head-on confrontation, Refining Qi cultivators were not very effective against Foundation Building cultivators. But when they were behind the mountain protection formation and used its power, they could pose a deadly threat to Foundation Building cultivators.

Chapter 306: Sieging

On the side of the alliance between Taiyi Sect and Qiaoshou Sect, there are four cultivators in the mid-stage of Foundation Building: Meng Zhang, Deep Earth Spirit General, Shocking Thunder Spirit General, and Aunt Jin. In addition, there are four cultivators in the early stage of Foundation

Building: Jin Qigu, Jin Wengbo, Yang Xueyi, and Wen Qiansun. In total, there are eight cultivators in the Foundation Building stage, surpassing the opponent both in quantity and combat power.

On the other hand, Forest Spring Watch only has Guang Hui Daoist and Guang Rui Daoist as mid-stage cultivators in Foundation Building. If they were to engage in a direct battle in the wilderness, Forest Spring Watch would undoubtedly be defeated. However, with the advantage of favorable timing and location, Forest Spring Watch is not easily defeated.

Among the alliance of Taiyi Sect and Qiaoshou Sect, there are less than three hundred cultivators in the Refining Qi stage. However, their quality is decent, with at least all of them being in the mid-stage of Refining Qi. The weak ones in the early stage of Refining Qi were not included to make up the numbers.

Meng Zhang and the others flew into the sky, looking down at the mountain gate of Forest Spring Watch, their expressions solemn. The mountain gate of Forest Spring Watch is located on a small mountain range composed of several adjacent peaks. The peaks are not particularly high and do not occupy a large area.

A huge protective formation surrounds this small mountain range. Outside the mountain range, one can vaguely see vertical water curtains, within which thick azure wood moves back and forth.

"It's actually the Azure Wood Torrent Great Formation." Wen Qiansun quickly discerned the origin of the protective formation without much effort. The Azure Wood Torrent Great Formation is somewhat famous in the Cultivation World.

This great formation gathers a vast amount of water-system spiritual energy, transforming it into a surging torrent that tightly guards the great formation. By using water to nurture wood, it activates the wood-based spiritual energy and generates countless azure wood, which can serve as both a barrier for the great formation and a weapon to kill enemies.

When the great formation is activated, the surging torrent rushes forth, accompanied by countless azure wood floating and charging through. With the support of many cultivators within the formation, the great formation becomes even more formidable and difficult to break through.

Even on the side of Taiyi Sect, both Deep Earth Spirit General and Wen Qiansun possess advanced formation skills. However, they currently have no effective means to deal with this great formation.

Launching a direct assault is not a viable option. Even if they were to ultimately succeed, the cost would be too much for Meng Zhang to bear. Since there are no better strategies available, the only option is to temporarily surround Forest Spring Watch and patiently search for opportunities.

Fortunately, Flying Swan Sect has not set a strict deadline for completely annihilating Forest Spring Watch. They are only urging for swift action. With the start of the major battle, Flying Swan Sect is not pressuring them and has not set a deadline for the latest stage.

Taiyi Sect does not need to be overly anxious and can calmly make arrangements. Of course, since they have already reached the city gates, retreating without taking any action would be demoralizing.

Meng Zhang decides to attempt an attack, not expecting to break through the great formation but merely to probe its power. Taiyi Sect and Qiaoshou Sect's disciples separated and slowly approached

the mountain gate of Forest Spring Watch from two directions. Taiyi Sect had the fewest disciples, with only dozens of people.

Wen Qiansun personally commanded them and set up the Qiankun Rotation Formation. On the Qiaoshou Sect side, there were nearly two hundred disciples who set up an unknown formation. The other cultivators in the Foundation Building stage flew into the air and prepared themselves.

Under Meng Zhang's command, the cultivators in the Foundation Building stage took the lead. Various magic tools, including flying swords, were used to attack the water curtain in front of them. Spells rained down continuously, relentlessly bombarding the water curtain.

The Refining Qi stage disciples of the two sects below relied on the power of the formation, concentrating all their strength to attack the water curtain in front of them. Although Flying Swan Sect did not directly participate in the battle, they provided a large amount of war materials to the two sects, including many First Rank talismans. A large number of talismans were released, and spells such as fireballs, earth dragons, weapons, and golden swords continuously poured down like a tide, covering the sky and earth, bombarding the water curtain in front of them.

Guang HuiDaoist had already led everyone to take their positions and firmly occupied all the support points of the great formation. They continuously infused their true qi into the great formation, controlling it to produce various changes. The water curtain of the great formation fluctuated violently, producing countless ripples. All the attacks that fell on it were gently dissolved by the water curtain. The water curtain flowed, and a soft force surged out, embodying the true essence of water's softness.

Countless azure wood flowed with the water curtain and then poured down towards the people. Deep Earth Spirit General and Shocking Thunder Spirit General stepped forward and took action.

The huge Stonebreaker Hammer swept through, smashing countless azure wood. The electric light shot out, shattering one azure wood after another. However, there were still a large number of azure wood that evaded their attacks and swept towards the Refining Qi stage disciples of the two sects below.

The disciples of the two sects changed their formation from offense to defense and resisted the rushing azure wood. Wen Qiansun calculated for a long time, suddenly exerted all his strength to wield the armor-piercing sword, and heavily slashed at the water curtain in front of him. A huge gap was cut in the water curtain, but it immediately flowed and filled the gap.

Wen Qiansun shook his head, knowing that this great formation was extremely resilient and could not be broken in a short time. Meng Zhang, who was flying in the air, knew that it was impossible to continue and took the opportunity to retreat before they had truly penetrated the great formation.

He called out, and several cultivators in the Foundation Building stage took action to cover the retreat of the two teams of Refining Qi stage disciples below. The two Base Formation armies retreated while fighting, slowly leaving the attack range of the protective great formation. Then, Meng Zhang and the others did not linger and also retreated.

Guang HuiDaoist, who was in charge of the great formation, sighed regretfully. The enemy was too cautious and did not penetrate deeply. They only probed the edge of the great formation and then voluntarily withdrew.

Guang Hui Daoist had originally planned to manipulate the power of the great formation and find an opportunity to severely damage the enemy, preferably killing the Foundation Building stage cultivators on the spot. However, after waiting for a long time, he still did not find a suitable opportunity.

The enemy was too far away, and the power of the protective great formation could not be fully exerted. Even if they launched a desperate attack, it would be difficult to achieve their goal.

After much hesitation, Guang Hui Daoist thought that there was still a long way to go and that there was no need to rush things. He gave up the idea of counterattacking. After the joint army of the two sects retreated, several cultivators in the Foundation Building stage gathered together and briefly discussed, deciding to first besiege the mountain gate of Forest Spring Watch.

A large amount of formation materials were brought in from the rear and personally presided over by Wen Qiansun and Deep Earth Spirit General. Two formations were set up outside the mountain gate of Forest Spring Watch, and the disciples of Taiyi Sect and Qiaoshou Sect were stationed in them respectively.

The other cultivators in the Foundation Building stage dispersed and surrounded the mountain gate of Forest Spring Watch from several different directions. As long as the cultivators of Forest Spring Watch dared to leave the protection of the great formation, they would swarm up and kill them.

The Foundation Building stage cultivators of the two sects moved unpredictably, some flying around the mountain gate of Forest Spring Watch, patrolling around, while others hid their figures, not letting others discover their presence.

Chapter 307: Shi Family submits

At first, Meng Zhang and Aunt Jin hoped to lure out the enemy and resolve the battle outside the mountain protection formation. The Foundation Building cultivators selected by the two sects intentionally separated themselves and appeared alone outside the formation, trying to lure the enemy out to chase them. However, Guang Hui Daoist was not fooled by this tactic, and he ignored all the enemy's insults, provocations, and temptations. He had decided to defend the mountain protection formation at all costs and strictly ordered everyone not to leave it. Seeing that the plan to lure the enemy had failed, Meng Zhang and Aunt Jin had to give up. Deep Earth Spirit General flew into the air and observed for a long time but did not find any flaws in the mountain protection formation. However, just because the formation was flawless did not mean there were no vulnerabilities around it. As a Geomancer, it was Deep Earth Spirit General's specialty to explore the terrain and geography. He slowly circled around the Forest Spring Watch mountain gate, carefully searching for possible weaknesses.

On the other hand, Wen Qiansun was a Formation Master who only knew how to solve problems through formations. He flew into the sky and observed the great formation from above, then lowered his altitude to observe it up close. He even took the initiative to attack it tentatively to carefully observe the operation of the great formation. Wen Qiansun's behavior was too arrogant, and the cultivators defending the great formation inside wanted to kill him on the spot.

However, Wen Qiansun was cautious and only observed the edge of the great formation, almost leaving immediately, not giving the enemy inside the opportunity to mobilize the power of the great

formation to attack him. Because of Guang Hui Daoist's strict orders and their fear of falling into the enemy's trap, they did not dare to leave the mountain protection formation easily to pursue the enemy.

Seeing that the enemy was determined not to come out, Meng Zhang had no better way and could only wait for the progress of Deep Earth Spirit General and Wen Qiansun. Outside, the newly occupied territory began to become unstable because there was no strong cultivator to suppress it, and many loose cultivators began to stir.

Meng Zhang thought that the remaining forces were enough to suppress the enemy inside the mountain protection formation, so he quietly left with Jin Qigu. The vast territory of Forest Mountain School, originally Golden Blade Sect's territory and Twin Success Valley's territory, was difficult to secure with only a few Refining Qi period cultivators guarding it.

However, when Meng Zhang, a well-known Foundation Building cultivator, appeared, the various cultivators who were eager to try immediately became obedient. Meng Zhang was not an easy person to deal with, having established a formidable reputation through numerous battles. After the destruction of Twin Success Valley, the territory was in chaos, and loose cultivators were rampant. Meng Zhang suppressed them and stabilized the situation in Twin Success Valley's territory. This time, Taiyi Sect and Qiaoshou Sect joined forces and defeated Forest Spring Watch. Meng Zhang's return with a great victory made people fearful. After subduing those unruly cultivators, Meng Zhang went to meet Shi Changqing. Last time, when Gu Tanghai sought refuge with the Flying Swan Sect, Shi Changqing firmly refused and was subsequently detained by Gu Tanghai. After Taiyi Sect captured Singing Sand City, Shi Changqing also fell into the hands of Taiyi Sect. Shi Changqing, a Second Rank Alchemist, was exactly the outstanding talent that Taiyi Sect urgently needed, so Meng Zhang was determined not to let him go easily.

After meeting with Shi Changqing, Meng Zhang informed him of the recent events. He candidly told Shi Changqing that Taiyi Sect was not a vassal of the Flying Swan Sect but merely cooperating with them temporarily. Without Gu Tanghai mediating, the Flying Swan Sect would not be polite to the remnants of the Purple Gold Sect, which included the Shi Family. Forest Spring Watch was now surrounded by Taiyi Sect and Qiaoshou Sect, and their situation was precarious. They could no longer provide shelter for the Shi Family. Considering the preservation of the Shi Family's bloodline and the safety of countless Shi Family members, Shi Changqing should make preparations.

Faced with Meng Zhang's coercion and temptation, especially with the threat from the Flying Swan Sect, Shi Changqing became afraid. He was already old and not afraid of death itself; what he feared was the annihilation of the Shi Family by the Flying Swan Sect, which would sever their bloodline completely. Since Gu Tanghai collaborated with several sects and plotted against the Liu Family and Green Bamboo Mountain, the once-hidden Shi Family had entered the public eye of the Cultivation World. After becoming a vassal of Forest Spring Watch, all their secrets were thoroughly exposed to the Flying Swan Sect.

Especially when Shi Changqing heard Meng Zhang casually mention the ruthless actions of the Flying Swan Sect against Green Bamboo Mountain, he was shocked by their cruelty. After a long period of contemplation, Shi Changqing and Meng Zhang had a lengthy discussion and reached numerous agreements. Only after receiving many promises did Shi Changqing make a difficult decision.

Meng Zhang and Shi Changqing made a ghost oath, with the Netherworld's Ghost Deity as a witness, to establish an agreement. From then on, the Shi Family became a vassal of Taiyi Sect, forever loyal and never betraying them. As the main sect, Taiyi Sect had the responsibility to protect the Shi Family and prevent them from being attacked by other forces, especially the Flying Swan Sect. Many specific details and clauses were carefully negotiated between the two parties, defining their rights, obligations, and positions.

The ghost oath they made was written in a ghost oath contract that Meng Zhang had purchased from the Flying Swan Sect at a high cost of spiritual stones. With the contract and the witness of the Netherworld's Ghost Deity, they could ensure that Shi Changqing would abide by the agreement. After officially becoming a vassal of Taiyi Sect through the ghost oath, Meng Zhang granted Shi Changqing his freedom.

The original hidden location of the Shi Family had a Second Rank spirit vein. After becoming a vassal of the Flying Swan Sect, Gu Tanghai became the administrator of Singing Sand City and took the opportunity to relocate a large number of Shi Family members there. Now that Taiyi Sect had captured Singing Sand City and Gu Tanghai had perished, Meng Zhang naturally took back the management rights of Singing Sand City. He appointed Li Xuan, an elder of Taiyi Sect, as the foreign affairs manager responsible for overseeing the affairs of Singing Sand City.

Within Singing Sand City, the interests of the Shi Family were preserved, and Qiaoshou Sect's share remained unchanged. The Shi Family originally had an alchemy tower in Singing Sand City, where Shi Changqing personally presided over the sale of various types of elixirs. Even after joining Taiyi Sect, Shi Changqing continued to oversee the alchemy tower and produce various elixirs.

However, according to the agreement reached between Shi Changqing and Meng Zhang, Taiyi Sect would send talented disciples to learn alchemy techniques from Shi Changqing. Shi Changqing also promised to wholeheartedly pass on his knowledge and fully devote himself to training alchemists for Taiyi Sect.

After the Shi Family joined Taiyi Sect, Meng Zhang dealt with those loose cultivators who had originally sided with Gu Tanghai. Those who were willing to continue serving the Shi Family would remain as they were, and Taiyi Sect would not interfere. Those who were willing to join Taiyi Sect would be accommodated accordingly.

Chapter 308: Removing firewood from under the pot

Meng Zhang personally received these loose cultivators and used Mind Reading to read their thoughts one by one, ensuring that they had no ulterior motives. Those who were identified by Meng Zhang were naturally accepted by Taiyi Sect. However, Meng Zhang did not directly absorb these loose cultivators into Taiyi Sect. Taiyi Sect was no longer the same as before and did not need to resort to desperate measures. The standards for recruiting disciples had become higher.

Taiyi Sect originally had a Hengyuan Building in Singing Sand City, which was Taiyi Sect's main commercial organization in the city and was managed by Zhang Zhanlin, the adopted son of Li Xuan. Meng Zhang handed over all these absorbed loose cultivators to Zhang Zhanlin, who would serve Hengyuan Building. In Meng Zhang's plan, Hengyuan Building was to Taiyi Sect what Flying Swan Building was to Flying Swan Sect. As Taiyi Sect's commercial organization, Hengyuan Building had to keep growing and expanding its influence outward.

Meng Zhang was lenient in his standards for these loose cultivators, as long as they were not too evil or hostile to Taiyi Sect, they were absorbed into Hengyuan Building. These people would serve Hengyuan Building, and if they were loyal and worked hard enough, they would have the opportunity to join Taiyi Sect as formal disciples after passing many tests. For now, they could only be considered peripheral members of Taiyi Sect.

As for those loose cultivators who were unwilling to pledge allegiance to the Shi Family or join Taiyi Sect, or those whom Taiyi Sect did not value, Meng Zhang did not trouble them. Taiyi Sect had just occupied such a large territory and needed to appease people's hearts. It was not appropriate to rashly resort to killing. As long as the various loose cultivators did not violate the laws of Singing Sand City, they could stay here safely and come and go freely.

Jin Qigu, who returned to Singing Sand City with Meng Zhang, did not stay here but directly began to patrol this vast territory to ensure peace around them. While Meng Zhang and Jin Qigu were busy stabilizing the rear, Shangguan Longyan, the Sect Master of Earthfire Sect, also received a letter from Guang Hui Daoist, the Sect Master of Forest Spring Watch.

When facing Flying Swan Sect, Forest Spring Watch and Earthfire Sect were natural allies. Now that Forest Spring Watch was under siege, Earthfire Sect should not sit idly by. However, Shangguan Longyan also had his own difficulties. The Grand Elder, Daoist Master Roaring Blaze, was not present, and even as a Sect Master, Shangguan Longyan could not make many decisions.

Neither Earthfire Sect nor Forest Spring Watch had openly torn their faces with Flying Swan Sect. Of course, it was Flying Swan Sect that secretly instigated the siege of Forest Spring Watch by Taiyi Sect and Qiaoshou Sect. Shangguan Longyan was worried that if Earthfire Sect assisted Forest Spring Watch this time, it would anger Flying Swan Sect and lead to their full-scale suppression. With Flying Swan Sect's power, Earthfire Sect would be unable to resist if they really tore their faces.

In addition, Earthfire Sect was currently in a standoff with Land Walk Sect. Although Earthfire Sect temporarily had the upper hand, if they dispatched a large number of troops to reinforce Forest Spring Watch, it might give Land Walk Sect an opportunity.

Shangguan Longyan was unable to make a decision for a long time as he could not contact Daoist Master Roaring Blaze. He convened a meeting of the elders in the sect, but they all had different opinions and could not come to a unified decision. Earthfire Sect had a close relationship with Fire Cloud Sect, but Fire Cloud Sect was far away in the Endless Sea of Sand and could not be contacted for the time being.

Finally, Shangguan Longyan decided not to rush to reinforce Forest Spring Watch but to send envoys to listen to the opinions of the Northern Desert Qi Family. With Flying Swan Sect's power, Earthfire Sect, Forest Spring Watch, and Northern Desert Qi Family needed to band together for warmth. Although they had not reached a formal alliance, they should have a certain understanding. Now that Forest Spring Watch was besieged and in crisis, Northern Desert Qi Family should have a plan.

However, when Earthfire Sect's envoy traveled thousands of miles to the Northern Desert Qi Family's territory to meet with the family head, they were refused entry without explanation. After receiving the information from the envoy, Shangguan Longyan was a bit puzzled. What was going on? Could it be that Northern Desert Qi Family had joined forces with Flying Swan Sect? Putting

aside this absurd idea, Shangguan Longyan continued to be troubled and still could not make a decision. At this time, after some effort, Meng Zhang and Jin Qigu had almost pacified the newly occupied territory and eliminated the worries behind them. Shi Changqing became a vassal of Taiyi Sect, adding a Foundation Building cultivator to Taiyi Sect. With Shi Changqing in charge, at least Singing Sand City was not a problem. After stabilizing the rear, Meng Zhang and Jin Qigu returned to the front line.

The two sects maintained their siege of Forest Spring Watch but did not rashly attack. The cultivators inside Forest Spring Watch had made up their minds not to come out. Under these circumstances, Meng Zhang had no choice but to use his Deception Breaking Eye ability to help Deep Earth Spirit General survey the surrounding area and explore the terrain.

Deep Earth Spirit General did not disappoint Meng Zhang. After a long time of surveying, he finally proposed a feasible plan to weaken or even break the mountain protection formation of Forest Spring Watch. The mountain protection formation of Forest Spring Watch consumed a large amount of spiritual energy every moment it operated. The mountain gate of Forest Spring Watch was located on a Second Rank spirit vein, which continuously provided spiritual energy to the mountain protection formation to maintain its operation.

Deep Earth Spirit General fully utilized his expertise as a Geomancer and surveyed the specific direction of the Second Rank spirit vein. Spirit veins generally spread along the underground veins. An excellent Geomancer could explore the specific location of the spirit vein by following the underground veins. If the vein was cut off, Deep Earth Spirit General could use Geomancer secret techniques to influence the flow of spiritual energy in the spirit vein and stop it from providing spiritual energy to the mountain protection formation.

Without the spiritual energy provided by the Second Rank spirit vein, Forest Spring Watch would need to consume a large amount of spiritual stones every moment to maintain the operation of the mountain protection formation. The stock of spiritual stones in Forest Spring Watch was limited. Even if Forest Spring Watch was wealthy and had a deep foundation, it could not withstand this kind of consumption. When the spiritual stones were exhausted, the mountain protection formation would lose its source of spiritual energy and naturally collapse.

Without the support of the mountain protection formation, the cultivators inside Forest Spring Watch would not be able to resist the joint forces of Taiyi Sect and Qiaoshou Sect. After listening to Deep Earth Spirit General's plan, Meng Zhang was very grateful. Fortunately, with Deep Earth Spirit General, they could come up with this plan to take away the firewood from under the pot.

Meng Zhang convened all the Foundation Building cultivators and explained Deep Earth Spirit General's plan to them before assigning tasks. The task of the Foundation Building cultivators was to closely monitor the mountain gate of Forest Spring Watch and prevent the cultivators inside from causing trouble. The Refining Qi cultivators of the two sects were mobilized to dig around and cut off the veins according to Deep Earth Spirit General's instructions.

After the arrangements were made, all the cultivators began to act according to the plan.

Deep Earth Spirit General drew a detailed map and handed it to the leaders of the two sects. The map recorded in detail where the excavation should take place and to what extent it should be carried out. Meng Zhang glanced at it briefly and felt a bit of a headache. Several surrounding mountain ranges were to be excavated, and many peaks were to be hollowed out...

Such a massive project, if placed in the mortal world, would require a mortal king to mobilize millions of laborers and take several years to barely complete. It had been decades since Meng Zhang crossed over, but a phrase he often heard before crossing over suddenly appeared in his mind: "Who has the best excavator technology..."

Unfortunately, this was a backward ancient world, not the high-tech world before his crossing. Of course, this world lacked technology, but it had Cultivators. With their great power, Cultivators could move mountains, change the course of rivers, and overturn the heavens and earth with their own strength alone.

The Taiyi Sect and Qiaoshou Sect, these low-level Cultivators, might not have such abilities, but as long as they were willing to go all out, excavating several mountains was nothing compared to the loss of lives and a direct attack on the enemy's mountain-guarding great formation.

All the Refining Qi stage Cultivators were divided into several teams, led by the high-level members of their respective sects, and were ready to start their arduous work separately.

Jin Wengbo of the Qiaoshou Sect felt that it was beneath the dignity of Cultivators to engage in such work, and the scale of the project was too large. He suggested mobilizing the mortals in their respective territories to carry out this work, especially since they had just occupied a large piece of land near Forest Spring Watch, which had a considerable number of mortals. As soon as this proposal was made, Meng Zhang rejected it. It wasn't because Meng Zhang was pretending to be righteous and wanted to protect the people and minimize casualties. It was because the entire Endless Sea of Sand, including the vicinity of Forest Spring Watch, consisted mostly of desert and wasteland, with humans scattered in isolated oases.

Apart from the mountain gate of Forest Spring Watch, most of the areas near Forest Spring Watch were desert, with only a few mountain peaks showing a hint of green. In such a place, employing a large number of mortals for construction would be a terrifying task just to ensure their logistical support and provide enough water for them due to severe water scarcity. It would likely require numerous Cultivators to continuously cast water-system spells.

Meng Zhang immediately rejected Jin Wengbo's unreliable proposal on the spot and stuck to the original plan. However, Meng Zhang didn't mean to let the disciples of the two sects handle the excavation recklessly. He gathered all the construction talismans in the inventories of the two sects. This type of talisman, which is only used for construction and repair of various buildings, is not abundant in the inventories of the two sects. Meng Zhang urgently contacted the Flying Swan Sect, hoping that they could continuously provide this type of talisman. However, before taking action, the Flying Swan Sect had already provided a large amount of war materials to the Taiyi Sect. It seemed a bit difficult to continue bleeding the Flying Swan Sect. After all, the Flying Swan Sect was not a fool.

Meng Zhang didn't plan to ask for it for free but instead paid for it directly with spirit stones. In this war against Forest Spring Watch, both the Taiyi Sect and Qiaoshou Sect had gained a lot. Especially the Taiyi Sect, the size of the territory they occupied had already surpassed the former regional

overlord, Twin Success Valley. On their vast territory, there were many oases, numerous spirit fields, and a large number of mineral resources. Once the Taiyi Sect completely eliminated Forest Spring Watch, they could slowly develop and produce various cultivation resources in large quantities.

With plenty of resources at hand, Meng Zhang became more generous. He urgently flew to the Flying Swan Sect and negotiated a deal with the Flying Swan Sect Master, Fei Hongzi. This time, he didn't haggle over the price but paid generously and offered a fair price.

As a result, the Flying Swan Sect also began to take action, purchasing a large number of construction talismans. In addition to the Talisman Master in their sect intensively drawing talismans, they also purchased a large number of talismans from Jiuqu League.

Batch after batch of construction talismans were sent to the front lines. At the same time, the Flying Swan Sect dispatched a series of transport teams to transport a large amount of cultivation resources from the territories of the two sects.

These cultivation resources were abandoned by Forest Spring Watch when they gave up their territory. Meng Zhang didn't care about the spoils of war that came for free.

Around Forest Spring Watch, one huge construction talisman after another was summoned by the disciples of the two sects. These powerful and tireless construction workers didn't need any tools and began digging with their bare hands. Explosive talismans, fireball talismans, and earth bomb talismans were released one after another at the foot of each small mountain, continuously blasting the small mountains. The huge explosions continued, and the rocks kept falling, gradually shaving off the tops of the small mountains.

In less than a day, a small mountain was leveled to the ground. Then, one construction talisman after another was released, and one small giant-like construction worker after another began digging. The huge amount of soil and stone excavated was transported away by the construction workers.

With the help of sufficient talismans, the project progressed smoothly. One small mountain after another was leveled, and deep and large gullies appeared on the ground, cutting the plains into pieces.

The Cultivators trapped in Forest Spring Watch instinctively felt that the situation was not good, but none of them were Geomancers. Cultivators from remote areas lacked insight and experience and couldn't see through the enemy's actions. According to common sense, they should do their best to stop the enemy from doing what they wanted. However, the Foundation Building stage Cultivators of the two sects were watching them closely, leaving no room for them to take advantage. Moreover, they were afraid that this was a trap set by the enemy to lure them away from the protection of the mountain-guarding great formation.

After a heated debate, Guang HuiDaoist made the final decision. The enemy was just playing tricks and must not be fooled. Everyone must remain calm, stick to the original plan, defend the mountain-guarding great formation, and not give the enemy any chance to take advantage. When Guang ZhiDaoist Master returned, it would be the death knell for the traitors of the two sects.

Although Guang HuiDaoist had been verbally tough, he was still a bit worried. He couldn't rest easy until Guang ZhiDaoist Master returned. Since the Flying Swan Sect dared to provoke the Taiyi Sect

and other sects to take action, they must have considered the factor of Guang ZhiDaoist Master. Now that they couldn't contact Guang ZhiDaoist Master, they didn't know if he was being held up by something or if something had happened to him.

Of course, Guang HuiDaoist hid his thoughts well in front of everyone. Currently, Guang ZhiDaoist Master was everyone's greatest hope and their biggest reliance. If Guang ZhiDaoist Master really had an accident, the morale of everyone would immediately collapse.

Guang HuiDaoist could only cast aside his worries, force himself to be strong, and try his best to boost morale.

Chapter 310: Achieving Great Success

While Taiyi Sect and Qiaoshou Sect were busy excavating the earth veins, Sect Master Shangguan Longyan of Earthfire Sect was still hesitating.

Initially, Daoist Master Roaring Blaze, the elder of Earthfire Sect, had strongly supported Shangguan Longyan to become the elder of Earthfire Sect because of his calmness and thoughtfulness in his actions. However, most of the Foundation Building cultivators in Earthfire Sect were hot-tempered and impulsive due to the influence of their cultivation techniques, and the huge life-and-death stimulation they experienced during their Foundation Building period. Many of them had become crazy and fearless, with a few even having a tendency towards self-destruction.

As a rare clear-headed person in Earthfire Sect, although Shangguan Longyan's cultivation base was average among the Foundation Building cultivators, he was still entrusted with the important role of Sect Master. However, precisely because he was too rational, he found it difficult to make decisions at critical moments.

Although he had been staying in Earthfire Sect, he still kept a close eye on the situation at Forest Spring Watch through the spies he had sent out. The joint forces of Taiyi Sect and Qiaoshou Sect had surrounded Forest Spring Watch, but had not launched a direct attack. This was not unexpected for him.

Even if the two sects were slightly stronger than Forest Spring Watch, it was difficult for them to break through the mountain protection great formation of Forest Spring Watch. Naturally, they would not want to invite trouble upon themselves. The two sides were now in a standoff, which was in line with Shangguan Longyan's intentions.

It would be best if they continued to confront each other slowly like this until Daoist Master Roaring Blaze returned. Then, he would naturally make the decision on how to handle the current situation. As for the large-scale excavation carried out by the joint forces of the two sects, Shangguan Longyan could not understand it either. He and Guang Hui Daoist both believed that the two sects were being mysterious and trying to lure the cultivators of Forest Spring Watch out of the protection of the mountain great formation.

Since the situation at Forest Spring Watch was stable for the time being and there was no immediate danger of being breached, Shangguan Longyan could afford to wait and not make any hasty decisions.

After nearly a month of hard work, the excavation work was finally completed. Deep Earth Spirit General drew several key nodes on the map, where formations needed to be set up.

After all the disciples of the two sects had rested for two days and recovered their vitality, Meng Zhang ordered them to continue working. A large amount of formation materials were sent to the front line. Under the personal supervision of Wen Qiansun, several formations were set up one by one.

Deep Earth Spirit General selected a location to set up a sacrificial altar and began to perform the ritual. While Deep Earth Spirit General was performing the ritual, Meng Zhang and the others went to the gate of Forest Spring Watch to monitor the situation inside. Only Wen Qiansun stayed behind to assist Deep Earth Spirit General.

After a while, there was a thunderous roar, followed by several loud explosions. The whole earth shook violently, but the range was not large, only near the gate of Forest Spring Watch. Several peaks inside Forest Spring Watch shook violently, as if they were about to collapse completely.

The cultivators of the two sects had been warned in advance and were able to remain calm. However, due to the sudden earthquake, Forest Spring Watch was thrown into chaos. Fortunately, the earthquake did not last long, only a few tremors, and then it completely subsided. At the stern reprimand of the high-level members of Forest Spring Watch, the inside of the sect finally calmed down. The cultivators of Forest Spring Watch checked the damage caused by the earthquake, especially the mountain protection great formation, to see if it had been damaged during the earthquake. The results of the inspection were satisfactory, as the mountain protection great formation remained intact and undamaged. The damage to some of the buildings within the sect was insignificant and not worth mentioning.

Meng Zhang and the others flew in the air, coldly staring at the mountain protection great formation below. The mountain protection great formation was currently the largest protective talisman of Forest Spring Watch, and they were certainly always paying attention to its condition. If the spirit vein stopped supplying spiritual energy to the mountain protection great formation, the cultivators of Forest Spring Watch would quickly notice.

In fact, before they discovered that the mountain protection great formation had a problem, the cultivators of Forest Spring Watch had already noticed that something was wrong. Almost every day, the cultivators of Forest Spring Watch would meditate and absorb spiritual energy into their bodies, refining it into their own true qi. Shortly after the earthquake, some cultivators began to feel that the spiritual energy on the mountain had become much thinner. They needed to spend more effort than usual to absorb enough spiritual energy. At first, everyone thought it was a coincidence, but almost every cultivator had this feeling. As time passed, the spiritual energy became even scarcer.

At this point, Guang Hui Daoist was finally alarmed. After careful investigation with several Foundation Building cultivators in the sect, they found that the spiritual energy provided by the spirit vein was decreasing day by day. Everyone became frightened.

The Second Rank spirit vein provided by Forest Spring Watch not only had to maintain the operation of the mountain protection great formation, but also had to supply spiritual energy to all the cultivators inside the sect. If the spirit vein really had a problem and could not provide enough spiritual energy, not only would the mountain protection great formation be affected, but all the

cultivators inside the sect would also be affected in their cultivation. Their true qi consumption could not be replenished in time. Guang Hui Daoist, with several trusted followers including Guang Rui Daoist, personally used the Earth Escape Spell to burrow underground and head towards the location of the spirit vein in the depths of the earth.

The mountain protection great formation of Forest Spring Watch covered a seemingly small area, but in fact protected a three-dimensional space. The sky, ground, and underground were all within the protection range of the great formation. There were many cultivators in Endless Sea of Sand who were proficient in the Earth Escape Spell. If a great formation did not consider protecting the underground, it would have a fatal flaw.

The Second Rank spirit vein of Forest Spring Watch was naturally within the protection range of the mountain protection great formation. After Guang Hui Daoist and the others arrived at the location of the spirit vein, they quickly discovered that the spirit vein had collapsed, and spiritual energy was continuously flowing away. At this rate, the spiritual energy in the spirit vein would be completely lost in two to three hours.

The foundation of Forest Spring Watch was not strong enough, and there were no high-end professions like Geomancer within the sect. Even in the entire Endless Sea of Sand, only Flying Swan Sect had a Geomancer, and their level was relatively low. With the current damage to the spirit vein, even an ordinary low-level Geomancer would find it difficult to make effective repairs.

After Guang Hui Daoist understood the situation of the spirit vein, his face immediately became gloomy. He finally realized that the seemingly useless excavation work carried out by the joint forces of the two sects outside had actually hit the vital point of Forest Spring Watch. Guang Hui Daoist regretted not stopping the enemy's excavation work at the beginning. He should have sent Foundation Building cultivators from the mountain to harass and attack the enemy, which would have certainly disrupted, and even interrupted, the enemy's excavation work.

However, he was too cautious and adopted the wrong strategy of sitting and watching, waiting for changes to occur.