

Sect Master 471

Chapter 471: Proactive Attack

Luo Ye, the Daoist Master, took a black round bead from the body of the Golden Tiger Demon General. The origin and function of this bead were not disclosed, and Meng Zhang and the others did not ask further. The wealth on the Golden Tiger Demon General's body was beyond everyone's expectations, with a large number of storage magic tools filled with various spiritual objects.

As the main force in this battle, Gu Yue Huaidie confronted the Golden Tiger Demon General head-on and took most of the spoils. Meng Zhang and Luo Ye, the Daoist Master, both agreed. Meng Zhang was satisfied with the Golden Tiger Demon General's corpse and demon pill. With this demon pill, the alchemists in the sect could refine a furnace of Foundation Building Pills. With the accumulation from before, Taiyi Sect would not have to worry about Foundation Building Pills for a long time.

When the Golden Tiger Demon General died, the battle on the other side had already been decided. The Long-hair Demon General fought briefly with two Gold Core Daoist Masters from the Flying Swan Sect, but then found an opportunity to leave the battlefield and quickly fled. Fei Yu Daoist Master and Fei Jiang Daoist Master also had no intention of pursuing it. If they could keep the Golden Tiger Demon General, they would have achieved their goal. They also had some selfishness and did not want to fight Long-hair Demon General, which could cause serious damage to themselves.

Long-hair Demon General took the initiative to escape, which was not a bad result. During the battle, the two Gold Core Daoist Masters from the Northern Desert Qi Family did not idle around. They patrolled around the battlefield to prevent any unexpected situations. Lion Demon General, who was the biggest target of defense, remained motionless. As for Dark Crow Demon General, there was no news of it coming to assist the Golden Tiger Demon General.

The human cultivators successfully completed their mission. Without the Golden Tiger Demon General, Dark Crow Demon General only had a Third Rank demon beast head left, which greatly reduced its strength. Long-hair Demon General knew it was set up by Lion Demon General. After the battle, it secretly returned to the battlefield. When a Third Rank demon beast or a human Gold Core Daoist Master died, there would be anomalies. The phenomenon could be seen for hundreds or even thousands of miles. After the Golden Tiger Demon General was killed, a column of gas rose into the sky and did not dissipate for a long time. Long-hair Demon General saw this and knew that the Golden Tiger Demon General had died. It was scared and quickly left, fleeing back to its lair.

Golden Tiger Demon General was called out by it, and it was so full of words that it could not speak clearly. With Dark Crow Demon General's temperament, it would definitely regard it as a comrade of Lion Demon General. Long-hair Demon General did not dare to meet Dark Crow Demon General, let alone argue with Lion Demon General. It could only escape from this place from afar. As for the plan to unite various demon beasts to fight against human cultivators, it had long been forgotten. Compared to the future of Demon Wind Gobi, its own life was more important.

With Long-hair Demon General's escape, the strength of the demon beasts became weaker. Lion Demon General had fulfilled its promise and showed its sincerity. Now it was time for the human side to fulfill its promise and launch a full-scale attack on Dark Crow Demon General. The anomaly after the death of the Golden Tiger Demon General was too obvious and was soon discovered by the

patrolling crows, who reported it layer by layer to Dark Crow Demon General. At first, Dark Crow Demon General could not believe it, but then it became furious.

Dark Crow Demon General has always been proud and rarely interacts with other Third Rank demon beasts. The equally proud Golden Tiger Demon General was one of its few friends. They had known each other for many years and had helped each other many times. With the death of Golden Tiger Demon General, Dark Crow Demon General lost a great general and its strength greatly declined. However, the furious Dark Crow Demon General could not care about this anymore.

Although it did not witness the battle process, no other force except the invading human cultivators could have killed the Golden Tiger Demon General. Dark Crow Demon General immediately summoned Poison Sand Demon General and gathered its demon beast clan to launch an attack on the human cultivators. The impulsive Dark Crow Demon General did not think that the human cultivators could harm it at all. As a Third Rank middle-grade demon beast with the support of its crow clan, its combat power was still above that of Golden Tiger Demon General.

Golden Tiger Demon General was a lone wolf and had no external help when surrounded. However, as long as Dark Crow Demon General gathered its clan together, it was not afraid of being surrounded, and the human cultivators would find it difficult to trap it. Without waiting for the human cultivators to attack, Dark Crow Demon General had already begun to gather demon beasts, preparing to attack the humans.

The three forces all sent elite cultivators to constantly monitor the situation on Dark Crow Demon General's side. Dark Crow Demon General's actions were quickly reported back to several Gold Core Daoist Masters. The two Gold Core Daoist Masters from the Northern Desert Qi Family were overjoyed, as Dark Crow Demon General's actions were in line with their intentions. If they could eliminate Dark Crow Demon General in the wilderness, they would not have to attack its nest.

The three forces also began to recall the scattered cultivators around them, concentrating their forces and preparing to engage in a full-scale battle with Dark Crow Demon General. The three forces all had a large number of flying ships and mounts, and their mobility was quite good. The Northern Desert Qi Family's fleet of flying ships took the lead and headed towards the crow's nest. The Northern Desert Qi Family willingly acted as the vanguard this time because, according to the agreement of several Gold Core Daoist Masters, after capturing the crow's nest, the Northern Desert Qi Family would be the first to select the spoils of war. In addition, the Flying Swan Sect and Taiyi Sect had already contributed in the battle that killed the Golden Tiger Demon General, and now it was Northern Desert Qi Family's turn to perform. Following behind the Northern Desert Qi Family's fleet of flying ships was the Flying Swan Sect's fleet of flying ships.

The Flying Swan Sect was indeed deeply rooted, with two Third Rank warships in addition to ordinary transport flying ships. Compared to ordinary flying ships, warships specially designed for aerial combat had many advantages in all aspects, such as fierce firepower, faster speed, and stronger defense. As long as they were willing to spend spirit stones, ordinary flying ships could be bought in Jiuqu League. However, special items like warships were difficult to buy even if they spent a lot of spirit stones, without channels and connections.

These two Third Rank warships were the treasures of the Flying Swan Sect. In large-scale battles, they could support the scene. Many times, they could even play a decisive role. At the end of the fleet was Taiyi Sect's fleet of flying ships. Compared to the Northern Desert Qi Family and Flying

Swan Sect, Taiyi Sect had the shallowest foundation, with a sparse fleet of flying ships and the fewest number of cultivators.

The fleets of flying ships of the three forces were divided into three teams, front, middle, and rear, flying towards the front. Before they reached the crow's nest, countless crows flew towards them. A large number of crows, blackening the sky, flew towards the human fleet. The Northern Desert Qi Family's flying ship immediately lowered its altitude. Before the flying ship landed, cultivators jumped out of the flying ship and formed a formation on the ground.

Qi Nanfei, a Gold Core Daoist Master in the team, had already used Divine Sense to detect Dark Crow Demon General ahead. Although the two sides had not met yet, their aura had firmly locked onto each other, and they could launch a thunderous attack at any time.

Chapter 472: Plan

In the sky, Qi Nanfei, a Gold Core Daoist Master, was suspended in mid-air, looking ahead without any distraction. On the ground, the Qi Family members had already formed a formation to face the swarming Dark Crow. As a Third Rank middle-grade demon beast, with the support of its tribe, the Dark Crow Demon General was invincible against only two Gold Core initial cultivators from the Qi Family.

However, as soon as they thought about the Flying Swan Sect and Taiyi Sect teams not far behind them, they were filled with confidence in their victory. They only needed to delay for a little time until the reinforcements arrived, and then it would be a situation where the human Gold Core surrounded the Dark Crow Demon General.

The surging Dark Crow was only the first wave of attack. Behind it, Poison Sand Demon General led a large number of walking beasts, rushing towards them. The figure of the Dark Crow Demon General had already appeared in the eyes of the two Gold Core Daoist Masters from the Qi Family.

The Dark Crow Demon General did not appear alone. Behind it was a large group of dark crows. These dark crows were the elite selected from the thousands of dark crows under its command. Most demon beasts did not understand formations like humans, but the talent of demon beasts allowed them to gather the power of their tribes and exert an effect similar to formations.

With so many dark crows supporting the Dark Crow Demon General, it was extremely powerful and unstoppable as it rushed towards the two Gold Core Daoist Masters from the Qi Family. Qi Nanfei's face changed slightly, as the strength of the Dark Crow Demon General was beyond their expectations. However, they were not too afraid.

For many years, the Northern Desert Qi Family had been rooted in the Endless Sea of Sand, serving Qi Mingyuan True Monarch, the head of the family. Naturally, they had also received the support of Qi Mingyuan True Monarch. Qi Nangui and Qi Nanfei Daoist Masters had protective items bestowed by the Primordial Spirit True Monarch, and they could fight against the Dark Crow Demon General.

The two of them looked at each other and took the initiative to meet the Dark Crow Demon General. When the Qi Family and the Dark Crow Demon General began to fight, the Flying Swan Sect's fleet was not far away, at most a hundred miles away. As long as the fleet accelerated a little, it could arrive in a few moments.

Fei Jiang Daoist Master and Fei Yu Daoist Master voluntarily left their own team and went forward to investigate the situation ahead. When the Qi Family and the Dark Crow Demon General started fighting, instead of accelerating to support them, they stopped and silently observed.

After a while, when they confirmed that the Qi Family and the Dark Crow Demon General were entangled in battle and unable to escape in a short time, Fei Yu Daoist Master and Fei Jiang Daoist Master turned and flew away without saying a word. Fei Yu Daoist Master sent a message sword to report the situation to Taiyi Sect in the rear.

When the two Gold Core Daoist Masters of the Flying Swan Sect and the sect's fleet met, they immediately turned and flew towards the direction away from the battlefield at the command of the leader. In the Taiyi Sect fleet at the rear, Meng Zhang received Fei Yu Daoist Master's message sword and immediately ordered the fleet to stop advancing and turn towards the direction of Grand Lion Ridge.

From beginning to end, it was Gu Yue Huaidie's plan to prioritize the elimination of the Lion Demon General's demon beast forces. This was the plan that best suited the interests of Taiyi Sect and Flying Swan Sect. Both sects had experienced large-scale attacks by demon beasts, and the Flying Swan Sect and the Lion Demon General had a deep hatred between them. Without eliminating the Lion Demon General, neither the Flying Swan Sect nor the Taiyi Sect could rest assured, and the Flying Swan Sect could not focus on dealing with the threat of the Fire Cloud Sect. Although the Flying Swan Sect did not know why the Northern Desert Qi Family insisted on dealing with the Dark Crow Demon General first, and did not know that the two Gold Core Daoist Masters from the Qi Family wanted to seize the treasure left by the White Lion Demon King. However, the Flying Swan Sect naturally had to prioritize its own interests. Moreover, the Qi Family's coveting of the White Lion Demon King's legacy also revealed some clues. The Flying Swan Sect could not easily let the Qi Family get what they wanted.

Previously, the Flying Swan Sect temporarily joined forces with the Northern Desert Qi Family, which was forced by the situation, and neither side had much sincerity. When pursuing the Fire Cloud Sect cultivator army, the Northern Desert Qi Family almost blatantly let them go, which greatly angered the high-level members of the Flying Swan Sect. More than one Gold Core Daoist Master had the intention to kill them.

The Flying Swan Sect had ruled the Endless Sea of Sand for many years and had a deep foundation. Even if it had not been smooth sailing in recent years, its strength was still strong. If there was a choice between the Flying Swan Sect and the Northern Desert Qi Family, Meng Zhang would naturally choose the Flying Swan Sect.

Recently, when there was a dispute between the Flying Swan Sect and the Northern Desert Qi Family, although Meng Zhang did not show any inclination and only mediated, he had already sided with the Flying Swan Sect in his heart.

Gu Yue Huaidie was indeed worthy of being the strategist of a cultivation family like the Gu Yue Family, with many strategies and good at calculations. Within the Jiuqu League, many sects and families were not united, and internal struggles were also fierce. Even within Great Wind City, there were many hidden struggles between the Gu Yue Family and other families.

Compared with the struggles in the Jiuqu League, there were only a few Gold Core forces in the Endless Sea of Sand, and the situation was not too complicated. Gu Yue Huaidie was also very familiar with the situation in the Endless Sea of Sand and the Demon Wind Gobi.

With rich experience in struggles, Gu Yue Huaidie's plan for Taiyi Sect could not only maximize Taiyi Sect's interests but also had a high chance of success. Moreover, it also solved the problem of Luo Ye Daoist Master, killing two birds with one stone.

The plan was not complicated. Meng Zhang first secretly contacted the two Gold Core Daoist Masters of the Flying Swan Sect and reached an agreement with them. Then, when meeting with the Lion Demon General, he proposed to kill the Third Rank demon beast on the side of the Dark Crow Demon General. To gain trust, the Lion Demon General indeed put forward the Golden Tiger Demon General as the target.

Taiyi Sect and Flying Swan Sect ambushed the Golden Tiger Demon General. The Northern Desert Qi Family and the Lion Demon General thought that they would target the Dark Crow Demon General next. Taiyi Sect and Flying Swan Sect had already taken action, and if the Northern Desert Qi Family wanted to have a greater say in the distribution of the White Lion Demon King's legacy after the war, they had to take the lead and act as the vanguard to attack the Dark Crow Demon General.

Now, the Northern Desert Qi Family had already engaged in a great battle with the Dark Crow Demon General. Once the battle started, it was not easy to stop or leave. Unless the two Gold Core Daoist Masters of the Qi Family were willing to abandon the Qi Family's cultivator army and leave the battlefield alone, they would be unable to escape easily.

With the Qi Family entangled with the Dark Crow Demon General, the Flying Swan Sect and Taiyi Sect could focus on dealing with the Lion Demon General. This time, the Qi Family had been calculated and had definitely offended the Flying Swan Sect. However, when the Taiyi Sect and other sects and families came together, they did not need to pay too much attention to the Qi Family's thoughts.

Even if the Qi Family wanted revenge, they had to get through the current situation first. Taiyi Sect's fleet accelerated and soon crossed a long distance, getting closer and closer to Grand Lion Ridge. At a distance from Grand Lion Ridge, Lion Demon General led a huge army of demon beasts and ran into Taiyi Sect's fleet on their way to the Crow's Nest.

Chapter 473: Engagement

Outside Grand Lion Ridge, Meng Zhang and the other two were not surprised at all when they encountered the demon army led by Lion Demon General. From the beginning to the end, they never trusted Lion Demon General at all. If even humans deceive each other, how can one expect trust between humans and demons?

Lion Demon General instigated human cultivators to attack Dark Crow Demon General, and to say there was no scheming involved would be an insult to everyone's intelligence. However, Northern Desert Qi Family did not consider Lion Demon General as the primary enemy and thought they could cooperate temporarily. On the other hand, Flying Swan Sect and Taiyi Sect, from the

beginning, intended to eliminate Lion Demon General first. All their calculations were for this moment.

While Taiyi Sect and Flying Swan Sect plotted against Lion Demon General, Lion Demon General also wanted to take advantage of the human cultivators being busy fighting Dark Crow Demon General and launch a surprise attack on them from behind.

Lion Demon General took the initiative to lead the demon army away from Grand Lion Ridge, which saved Taiyi Sect a lot of effort and spared them from attacking a place that the enemy had been managing for many years.

At Meng Zhang's command, all the flying boats immediately lowered their altitude and prepared to land. Even before the flying boats touched the ground, disciples of Taiyi Sect jumped out one after another and formed an array on the ground.

In the fleet of flying boats, besides the disciples of Taiyi Sect, there were also cultivators from surrounding cultivation forces gathered by Taiyi Sect, such as Qiaoshou Sect and Land Walk Sect, with their Sect Masters leading them personally.

Among Taiyi Sect's forces were nearly twenty Foundation Building stage cultivators and thousands of Refining Qi stage cultivators.

Taiyi Sect disciples naturally followed the commands of the high-ranking members of their sect and arranged themselves into a Base Formation.

The cultivators from outside Taiyi Sect were prepared according to the previous plan, standing in strict formation, ready to engage the enemy at any moment.

Lion Demon General soon led the demon army and attacked Taiyi Sect's forces, and the fierce battle began.

On the demon side, there were three Third Rank demons - Lion Demon General, Vulture Demon General, and Fierce Crocodile Demon General. Lion Demon General was a Third Rank middle-grade demon.

On the human side, among Meng Zhang, Gu Yue Huaidie, and Daoist Master Luo Ye, only Gu Yue Huaidie was at the Gold Core mid-stage cultivation level.

The demon army had an absolute numerical advantage, while Taiyi Sect's cultivators were of higher quality and better organized.

Lion Demon General's strength was greatly enhanced by the support of its own demon clan, making it extremely formidable.

Gu Yue Huaidie, coming from a major family, not only possessed profound inheritance but also had many treasures protecting her. With her own strength, she held back Lion Demon General and its group.

Fierce Crocodile Demon General was the first to engage with invading human cultivators when it guarded Demon Wind Gobi and the borders of Flying Swan Sect. When it was defeated by Flying Swan Sect, it abandoned its own clan and escaped alone. Now, without the support of its clan's strength and with lingering injuries, it felt somewhat inadequate when facing Daoist Master Luo Ye.

Taiyi Sect's disciples deployed several Base Formations, one of which was presided over by Niu Dawei, called the Universe Reversal Formation.

Meng Zhang stepped into the formation and took over the control of this Base Formation method from his senior disciple.

Vulture Demon General gathered the strength of its subordinates and rushed aggressively towards them.

Meng Zhang controlled the Base Formation and took the initiative to meet the attack.

One side exhibited the innate talents of demons, bolstered by the strength of their clan. The other side possessed brilliant formations created by human cultivators, also enhanced by the power of formations.

When Meng Zhang and Vulture Demon General clashed, they immediately entered a white-hot state of battle.

The Fierce Yang Sword hung high in the air, resembling a radiant sun, exuding both extreme Yang and extreme hardness. The Shadow Killing Sword lurked in the darkness, ready to strike with treacherous and cunning moves.

One righteous, one peculiar; one bright, one dark - there was a subtle Yin and Yang meaning to it. Even though Daoist Master Meng Zhang was still unable to directly use the power of the Grand Dao, he had already comprehended some true essence of the Grand Dao. Meng Zhang's constitution originally contained both Yang and Yin attributes, and he practiced the "Sun-Moon Wheel Turning Sutra." Now, as he presided over the Universe Reversal Formation, there was a hint of Yin and Yang reversal.

In the midst of the great battle, Meng Zhang suddenly had a realization and truly grasped some essence of the Yin Yang Grand Dao. The power of the Fierce Yang Sword and the Shadow Killing Sword greatly increased, and the Strange and Upright Sword Art was pushed to its extreme.

Facing a formidable Third Rank demon like Vulture Demon General, Meng Zhang gradually gained the upper hand. The cultivators of Taiyi Sect were well-organized and bolstered by formations. Against the seemingly overwhelming demon army, they stood firm like a solid pillar, inflicting heavy casualties on the approaching demons.

The battle between Taiyi Sect and the demon army reached a stalemate, with no clear winner in a short time. Meng Zhang wasn't worried; he had already entangled the demon army, and once the reinforcements from Flying Swan Sect arrived, the two sects would naturally be able to defeat Lion Demon General.

On the other side, Lion Demon General was also not anxious. Currently, the demon army had the advantage of numbers and was on the offensive, so they were the ones taking the initiative. Furthermore, Lion Demon General had a trump card and was about to arrive on the battlefield.

Flying Swan Sect's fleet of flying boats wasn't too far from Taiyi Sect's, just less than a hundred miles away. When Taiyi Sect engaged in battle with the demon army, the Flying Swan Sect's fleet was already closing in.

During Lion Demon General's time in the Deadly Sea of Sand, it had sought refuge with a Fifth Rank great power. Not only did it obtain the opportunity to evolve into a Third Rank middle-grade

demon, but it also learned a way to contact that great power. Upon receiving news of the large-scale invasion by human cultivators, Lion Demon General urgently contacted the Fifth Rank great power for help. Although the great power couldn't leave the Deadly Sea of Sand, it could still provide assistance to Lion Demon General.

However, this assistance came with a price. If not for being forced, Lion Demon General wouldn't have wanted to seek help from this great power. Only after learning of Dark Crow Demon General's stance from Long-hair Demon General did Lion Demon General angrily decide to pay a sufficient price and obtain a supporting army from that great power.

Seeing the appearance of Flying Swan Sect's warships, Lion Demon General didn't show any signs of panic. In the not-so-distant sky, yellow tornadoes appeared, stirring up swirling sand.

The Flying Swan Sect warships, which were originally on their way to reinforce Taiyi Sect, immediately halted their advance and turned to face the approaching tornadoes. The disciples of Flying Swan Sect were all too familiar with this scene; it was clearly the formation of a sand monster army.

Having fought against sand monsters for hundreds of years, Flying Swan Sect was extremely familiar with these creatures. Countless cultivators from Flying Swan Sect had lost their lives in the war against the sand monsters. Among the disciples participating in this battle, most of them held deep grudges against the sand monsters.

Even though the Flying Swan Sect cultivators knew that sand monsters were mindless puppets, their hatred towards them was hard to conceal. Upon seeing the sand monster army, Flying Swan Sect no longer cared about reinforcing Taiyi Sect. Whether out of hatred or the reality of the situation, Flying Swan Sect had to deal with the sand monster army in front of them first.

Chapter 474: Three Battlefields

The two Third Rank warships of the Flying Swan Sect charged directly at the incoming sand monster army. Even before they got close, the warships fired beams of light, relentlessly bombarding the sand monster army.

These Third Rank warships not only had the capability to transport, but they were also powerful in combat. In terms of sheer killing power, they were not much weaker than ordinary Gold Core cultivators.

Daoist Master Fei Yu and Daoist Master Fei Jiang stood at the forefront of the Flying Swan Sect fleet, commanding the Flying Swan Sect cultivators to form a defensive formation against the sand monster army's attack.

The sand monster army was not only numerous, but it also had two Third Rank sand monsters. In terms of combat strength, they were not necessarily weaker than the army of the Flying Swan Sect cultivators.

The Flying Swan Sect cultivators, with their rich experience in fighting against sand monsters, fought back with orderly coordination under the leadership of the two Gold Core Daoist Masters, engaging in fierce battle with the sand monster army.

As the Flying Swan Sect cultivators battled the sand monsters, they were unable to provide support to the Taiyi Sect. Now, the Taiyi Sect had to rely solely on its own strength to face the powerful enemy in front of them.

The monster army was taken aback when they first saw the sand monster army appear. After all, sand monsters were not only the archenemies of humans, but they would also not show any mercy when dealing with other monsters.

Fortunately, the sand monster army was still some distance away from the Taiyi Sect, and they were preoccupied in a fierce battle with the Flying Swan Sect cultivators, preventing the disturbance among the monster army from turning into chaos.

Lion Demon General saw this and secretly rejoiced at his foresight. In the Deadly Sea of Sand, there were indeed many sand monsters, but they generally did not enter the Endless Sea of Sand and Demon Wind Gobi.

Lion Demon General paid a significant price to convince the Fifth Rank great power to dispatch this sand monster army to the Demon Wind Gobi. The Fifth Rank great power specifically instructed it not to bring the sand monster army into the Endless Sea of Sand and only use it within the Demon Wind Gobi.

To avoid causing confusion among his monster army, Lion Demon General made sure to keep the sand monster army at a considerable distance behind the monster army.

Now it seemed that Lion Demon General's decision was correct. The negative impact caused by the sand monster army on the monster army was beyond its imagination. Moreover, the sand monster army, acting as a surprise attack, conveniently blocked the Flying Swan Sect's army of cultivators.

Taiyi Sect, as a newly rising sect, faced a severe test as it confronted the monster army led by Lion Demon General.

At this moment, Meng Zhang no longer expected any support from the Flying Swan Sect. Even if they could eliminate the sand monster army, there might not be much strength left in the Flying Swan Sect.

Meng Zhang utilized the power of the formation to unleash the Strange and Upright Sword Art to its fullest, continuously reducing the number of vultures they faced.

As for the cultivators of Taiyi Sect, whether they were disciples of the sect or cultivators from other allied forces, they all displayed their true abilities, giving their all in the bloody battle against the monster army. Especially the Guardian Spirit General, Deep Earth Spirit General, as well as Wen Qiansun, Yang Xueyi, and Jin Qiao'er, these Foundation Building cultivators played pivotal roles, using their controlled formations to firmly hold back the monster army.

Although the monster army was vast, the gains they achieved after their frenzied attacks were meager.

Instead, the monster army itself suffered heavy casualties, leaving the ground littered with monster corpses. If it weren't for the overwhelming number of the monster army, the Taiyi Sect side might have started to turn the tide. Both the Taiyi Sect and the Flying Swan Sect were able to attack and defend against their respective opponents, putting up a colorful fight.

However, the situation at the Northern Desert Qi Family was very dire. The two Gold Core Daoist Masters of the Northern Desert Qi Family, relying on their treasures, barely managed to temporarily hold off Dark Crow Demon General. The immense pressure could crush them at any moment. The Qi Family's army of cultivators was numerous and well-trained, and under the leadership of elite members of the family, they were locked in a fierce battle with the dark crow tribe.

Qi Family's cultivators believed that the reinforcements from Taiyi Sect and Flying Swan Sect could come to support them at any time, so their morale was high, and they displayed formidable combat strength. However, as time passed, the reinforcements from Flying Swan Sect and Taiyi Sect failed to appear, leaving some of the Qi Family cultivators perplexed while Qi Nanfei, a Daoist Master, started to feel uneasy.

The flying fleets of Flying Swan Sect and Taiyi Sect were not too far from their location, yet they had not shown up. Either they encountered some accident, or the two sects had ill intentions and deliberately consumed Qi Family's strength. Regardless of which situation it was, it was disastrous for the Qi Family.

At this critical moment, if Qi Nanfei, a Daoist Master, was willing to pay some price, there was still a chance for a complete retreat. Of course, it meant abandoning the army of cultivators who were currently engaged in a fierce battle with the dark crow tribe.

These cultivators were not only blood relatives of the two Gold Core Daoist Masters but also included direct descendants and the elite of the next generation of the Northern Desert Qi Family, representing the hope for the family's future. Losing all of them here would leave the Northern Desert Qi Family without elites and successors. Such a loss would be difficult to make up for even in the next 100-200 years.

Both of the Gold Core Daoist Masters couldn't bear to abandon them and escape just for the sake of their own lives. Moreover, the current situation was unclear, and perhaps the Flying Swan Sect and Taiyi Sect were only temporarily delayed, and the situation might not be as bad as imagined. Their mentality of relying on luck made them miss the last chance for a complete retreat.

Not long after, Poison Sand Demon General led a large monster army to kill from afar. Poison Sand Demon General was still recovering from the heavy injuries inflicted by Lion Demon General last time and could not unleash even half of its combat power. The main force of its monster army was the poisonous sand lizard tribe.

The poisonous sand lizard tribe also suffered heavy losses in the battle with Lion Demon General, and even with some subdued monster tribes, their combat strength was not very strong. However, Poison Sand Demon General leading such a force became a significant weight on the balance of victory.

Now, not to mention the two Gold Core Daoist Masters of the Qi Family, even the Qi Family's army of cultivators started to fall behind. Qi Nanfei, a Daoist Master, had already sent out two message flying swords, but there was no response. As the current battlefield situation was about to collapse, with no other options, he sent out a third message flying sword. Helplessly, despite their reluctance, they had to pin their hopes on the Flying Swan Sect and Taiyi Sect.

This time, Qi Nanfei, a Daoist Master, didn't have to wait long and received a message from Daoist Master Fei Yu, which utterly plunged the two Gold Core Daoist Masters of the Qi Family into despair. The Flying Swan Sect cultivators were entangled by the sand monster army and

temporarily unable to break free. The Taiyi Sect cultivators were even more surrounded by the monster army led by Lion Demon General and unable to break out. Both the Flying Swan Sect and Taiyi Sect were struggling to protect themselves, let alone support the Qi Family. The Qi Family could only fight on their own and face Dark Crow Demon General alone.

Chapter 475: Suffering a defeat and fleeing

Upon receiving the message from Fei Yu Daoist Master, Qi Nangui, a Daoist Master, immediately knew that things were going awry. They were finding it increasingly difficult to withstand the Dark Crow Demon General and its forces. They had no choice but to abandon everything and make a desperate attempt to break through.

As for the Qi Family cultivators who were currently engaged in a fierce battle with the demon beasts, they were simply left with no time to spare. Blood relations, lineage, and the future of their family were all insignificant compared to preserving their own lives. As long as the two Gold Core Daoist Masters were still alive, the Northern Desert Qi Family would not perish. However, without the two Gold Core Daoist Masters, the Qi Family would lose its value in the eyes of Qi Mingyun True Monarch and would lack the strength to survive, leading to its slow decline and extinction.

The two Gold Core Daoist Masters wanted to escape, but it was not an easy task. Facing the Third Rank middle-grade demon beast, Dark Crow Demon General, and the assistance of the Poison Sand Demon General, breaking free in the midst of battle was truly arduous. Even with the protective treasures bestowed by the Primordial Spirit True Monarch, it was still extremely challenging.

After a desperate struggle, Qi Nangui, the Daoist Master, ultimately failed to escape and was killed by Dark Crow Demon General on the spot. Qi Nanfei, another Daoist Master of the Qi Family, managed to escape with serious injuries.

With the downfall of the two Gold Core Daoist Masters of the Qi Family, the cultivator army of the Qi Family naturally collapsed without putting up a fight. The demoralized Qi Family cultivators disregarded formations and scattered in all directions to flee for their lives.

Without the protection of formations, the numerous Dark Crow demon clan, who held the numerical advantage, easily gained the upper hand. Dark Crow Demon General, injured by Qi Nangui's last counterattack before his death, was also too proud to bother chasing a group of defeated soldiers. Although Poison Sand Demon General joined in the pursuit, it couldn't fully display its combat power and was unable to capture all the escaping enemies.

The Qi Family cultivators scattered and fought desperately against the intercepting demon beasts. In the end, only a few lucky Qi Family cultivators managed to escape far from the battlefield.

The battle between the Qi Family cultivators and the demon beasts ended in a resounding victory for Dark Crow Demon General.

Having achieved this victory and slaughtered a large number of human cultivators, Dark Crow Demon General's anger subsided slightly, and it regained some composure. At this moment, it had no knowledge that Lion Demon General was currently engaged in a battle with human cultivators.

Having sustained injuries and lacking confidence in annihilating the invading human cultivators completely, Dark Crow Demon General continued its advance, seemingly uninterested.

Having vented its frustrations, Dark Crow Demon General led its group of demon beasts back to its nest, the Crow's Nest.

Meanwhile, the battles of Taiyi Sect and Flying Swan Sect against the demon beasts had also reached their conclusions. Among the three Third Rank demon beasts that Taiyi Sect faced, the Crocodile Demon General was already the weakest and still wounded.

Luo Ye, a Daoist Master and an assassin from Hidden Shadow Sect, excelled in identifying the weaknesses and flaws of enemies, then seizing the opportunity to strike and kill with a single blow. Taking advantage of the Crocodile Demon General's rough and straightforward fighting style, which paid no attention to various changes, Luo Ye first activated a precious Third Rank embodiment talisman, creating a nearly identical incarnation.

Seizing the chance while the embodiment was engaging the Crocodile Demon General, she turned into a shadow and infiltrated the shadows on the ground. Just as the Crocodile Demon General dispersed the embodiment, Luo Ye's shadowy figure emerged from an inconspicuous shadow and leaped onto the head of the Crocodile Demon General.

With her Shadow Killing Sword transforming into a shadow, it silently and swiftly stabbed deep into the head of the Crocodile Demon General from above. Even as the dying Demon General struggled, delivering a fierce blow to Luo Ye, the Daoist Master, she stood her ground without flinching. She withstood the attack with all her might, ensuring that her sword remained unaffected and unleashed its full power.

The Shadow Killing Sword is a secret assassination weapon passed down in the Hidden Shadow Sect. Its destructive power is already astonishing, but when activated by Luo Ye using a secret technique, it becomes a deadly strike.

At the cost of her own injuries, Luo Ye, the Daoist Master, finally managed to kill the Demon General.

After a fierce battle with Meng Zhang, the Vulture Demon General, although the Vulture tribe under its command suffered significant losses and many demonic beasts were slain by Meng Zhang, it did not appear to be at a clear disadvantage and still had the capacity to observe the surrounding situation.

When the Demon General was killed by Luo Ye, it knew things had taken a turn for the worse. It and the Lion Demon General were both entangled by their respective opponents and were unable to provide timely assistance, resulting in the Demon General being slain on the spot.

If a Gold Core Daoist Master from the human side were to join the battle, the balance of victory would tilt in favor of the humans, and the outcome of the battle would be overturned.

The Vulture Demon General has always been clever and can be considered an intelligent demon. Initially, when the Lion Demon General was in a dominant position, it readily sided with the Lion Demon General. Now that the situation is unfavorable, it immediately had thoughts of retreat. It could both attack and defend freely in its battle with Meng Zhang.

It planned to find a suitable opportunity to lead its tribe in a gradual retreat from the battlefield. However, it was not in a hurry to act at the moment. After all, the Lion Demon General was still engaged in a fierce battle. If it were to escape directly, it would likely anger the Lion Demon General.

It intended to communicate with the Lion Demon General first. It believed that the Lion Demon General was not the kind of rigid individual who would fight to the death without considering alternatives. If the Lion Demon General proved to be inflexible, it would have to prioritize its own safety.

As long as its own strength remained intact and its tribe was still present, it would not be difficult to find a foothold in the Demon Wind Gobi.

After the Demon General was killed, the Vulture Demon General began to consider its retreat and became temporarily distracted. Meng Zhang keenly seized this subtle flaw.

Utilizing the power of the formation, Meng Zhang unleashed the tremendous destructive force of the Strange and Upright Sword Art. It seemed that he had exerted all his strength without holding back. However, in reality, he always kept a bit of reserve.

Especially in the previous battle, he gained some understanding of the Yin-Yang True Intent and benefited greatly from it. He immediately wanted to demonstrate the power of the Yin-Yang True Intent to this crude beast.

The Fierce Yang Sword radiated a dazzling light in the air, while the Shadow Killing Sword lurked in the shadows, concealing its killing intent.

After fighting with Meng Zhang for a while, the Vulture Demon General believed it had figured out the background of this Gold Core human. This Gold Core cultivator had a solid foundation and formidable strength. In particular, the sword technique he displayed, with two Third Rank flying swords, one bright and one dark, possessed considerable power. However, as long as precautions were taken in advance, it would not be difficult to withstand.

When the Vulture Demon General shifted its attention to the Strange and Upright Sword Art, especially guarding against the hidden Shadow Killing Sword, Meng Zhang unleashed his true killing move.

Breaking free from the cover of the formation, Meng Zhang suddenly charged into the massive Vulture tribe.

As a Gold Core Daoist Master, Meng Zhang's speed was astonishing, and he possessed an irresistible momentum.

In the blink of an eye, Meng Zhang appeared in front of the Vulture Demon General, who was at the forefront of the Vulture tribe.

The Spiritsnake Spear silently appeared in his hand and ruthlessly stabbed the Vulture Demon General.

The Vulture Demon General only had time to slightly twist its massive body before being struck hard by the Spiritsnake Spear.

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Spiritsnake Spear is the top-tier spiritual weapon passed down by the Taiyi Sect's ancestors, with countless glorious achievements, having slain numerous enemies. Its fearsome power even makes its owner, Meng Zhang, not dare to underestimate it.

One Yin and one Yang do not just refer to the two Third Rank flying swords controlled by the Strange and Upright Sword Art. The Fierce Yang Sword is Yang, and the Shadow Killing Sword is Yin. The Strange and Upright Sword Art can also be Yang, while the Spiritsnake Spear is Yin. Luring enemies on the Yang side and launching deadly attacks on the Yin side, the interplay of Yin and Yang complement each other, making it difficult for people to defend against.

Meng Zhang has only recently grasped the true meaning of Yin and Yang, allowing him to quickly put it into practice and apply it effectively.

Just now, the Demon General of the Vulture tribe twisted its body but didn't completely avoid the vital attack. A fierce aura emanated from the Spiritsnake Spear, spreading wildly along the deep wound and wreaking havoc inside its body.

For a demonic beast to advance to the Third Rank is more difficult than a human cultivator forming the core. The Vulture Demon General's evolution to the Third Rank is the result of numerous trials and ordeals, having endured all kinds of hardships. Its tolerance for pain surpasses that of many Gold Core Daoist Masters.

However, the tremendous pain coming from the wound is something it has never experienced before, causing it to let out a miserable scream. The fierce aura raging inside its body relentlessly destroys everything within, mercilessly erasing its vitality.

The instinct peculiar to a wild beast tells the Vulture Demon General that if it continues to stay here, it will truly die. It is acutely aware of the severity of its injuries and the dire state of its body.

At this moment, it doesn't care about the Lion Demon General, let alone its own Vulture tribe. Nothing matters more than its own life.

As an avian demon, the Vulture Demon General is naturally swift. When facing a life-threatening crisis, it activates its life-saving natal demon technique. Its entire massive body transforms into a stream of light, darting away like lightning.

After severely injuring the Vulture Demon General, Meng Zhang can't catch up and can only watch it escape. He feels a bit regretful as the Spiritsnake Spear hasn't been fully repaired and can only exert a fraction of its power. Otherwise, the Vulture Demon General wouldn't have had a chance to flee after being hit.

Escape is escape. The great battle is not over, and he must focus on the current situation.

The Vulture Demon General's escape leaves its massive demonic beast tribe behind. The Fierce Yang Sword and the Shadow Killing Sword come from two different directions, easily turning the Vulture tribe into a mess, leaving a ground full of corpses.

Without the leadership of Third Rank demonic beasts, no matter how large the demonic beast tribe is, it can't withstand the attacks of Gold Core Daoist Masters.

Meng Zhang has no time to slaughter these Vultures who can hardly resist. After defeating the enemy's troops, he leaves these Vultures to his disciples to handle and flies towards the battlefield of the Lion Demon General and Gu Yue Huaidie.

After killing the Savage Crocodile Demon General, Luo Ye, a Daoist Master, takes a moment to stabilize her injuries and then flies towards the Lion Demon General.

At this moment, the Lion Demon General is leading his tribe, engaged in a fierce battle with Gu Yue Huaidie. Having their own tribe's support can greatly enhance the combat power of demonic beasts, but in certain situations, their own tribe can also become a burden.

Initially, in order to trap Fei Shi, the Daoist Master of the Flying Swan Sect, the Lion Demon General and his Third Rank demonic beasts traveled lightly and launched a thousand-mile surprise attack to catch the enemy off guard.

Unless under such special circumstances, Third Rank demonic beasts generally won't easily leave their own tribe.

In recent years, the Lion Demon General has put in a lot of effort to finally cultivate such a tribe. It's reluctant to let it go easily.

This is not due to emotional factors, but without the support of its tribe, its combat power would significantly decrease, making it even more difficult to face future battles. Despite having a considerable number of tribe members, their speed is not fast. Hindered by their tribe, it is simply impossible for the Lion Demon General to escape the pursuit of the Gold Core Daoist Masters. Facing this dilemma, the Lion Demon General hesitated for a moment.

In just that moment, Meng Zhang and Luo Ye, a Daoist Master, flew in from two different directions and joined the battle directly.

The Spiritsnake Spear has not been fully repaired yet and should not be used for an extended period. Meng Zhang put away the Spiritsnake Spear and wielded the Shadow Killing Sword and Fierce Yang Sword, displaying the Strange and Upright Sword Art, attacking the Lion Demon General from the side. He did not directly target the Lion Demon General but focused on the tribe under its control. Taking advantage of the fact that the Lion Demon General was fully occupied with Gu Yue Huaidie and unable to take care of its own tribe, Meng Zhang showed his might and slaughtered the demonic beast tribe under its control.

Luo Ye, a Daoist Master, chose the same fighting method as Meng Zhang. She also did not rush to directly attack the Lion Demon General but first weakened the demonic beast tribe under its command. The tribe under the Lion Demon General consisted mainly of First Rank lion-type demonic beasts, among which were many Second Rank lion-type demonic beasts acting as leaders, commanding various squads.

The two Gold Core Daoist Masters made their moves, avoiding a direct confrontation with the Lion Demon General and targeting these low-level demonic beasts that were entangled by Gu Yue Huaidie. The Lion Demon General found it challenging to defend against their attacks.

Each time the Lion Demon General attempted to strike a heavy blow on Meng Zhang and Luo Ye, Gu Yue Huaidie promptly stopped it, leaving it without any success. With Gu Yue Huaidie's agility and combat experience, the Lion Demon General found no opportunity to exploit.

As Meng Zhang and Luo Ye killed a large number of demonic beasts, the Lion Demon General's massive tribe rapidly diminished in number, and the rate of reduction accelerated.

As the number of subordinates diminished, the power it received from them weakened. Gu Yue Huaidie, who was confronting the Lion Demon General head-on, became more and more adept at dealing with it.

At this point, the Lion Demon General finally realized that its painstakingly cultivated tribe was impossible to preserve. If it continued to entangle with its opponents, it feared it wouldn't be able to escape.

The Lion Demon General was not a stubborn and brainless fighter who would fight to the death no matter what. Seeing the unfavorable situation, it naturally had to change its strategy in a timely manner. Since it was escaping, it had to abandon the tribe it had cultivated for many years.

The thought of escape was not hidden from its three opponents. Meng Zhang and his companions were all experienced in battle and astute individuals; how could they fail to discern the Lion Demon General's intentions?

While the Vulture Demon General could be temporarily spared, the Lion Demon General absolutely could not be let go. The Taiyi Sect and the Flying Swan Sect launched this large-scale attack on the Demon Wind Gobi mainly to eradicate the Lion Demon General and completely eliminate the tremendous threat from the Demon Wind Gobi. They were willing to calculate even the Northern Desert Qi Family to make the Lion Demon General their primary target.

Without eliminating the Lion Demon General, Meng Zhang would not feel at ease, and the Taiyi Sect would not be able to enjoy the fruits of victory that were within reach. Gu Yue Huaidie and Luo Ye, who genuinely came to help, would naturally not leave such a huge potential danger for Meng Zhang.

Without needing to communicate in the midst of the battle, Meng Zhang and his companions had a tacit understanding and each demonstrated their skills to entangle the Lion Demon General and prevent it from escaping.

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The three Gold Core Daoist Masters cooperated seamlessly, making it not easy for the Lion Demon General to escape. With the support of its tribe's strength, the Lion Demon General could barely hold on. However, if it separated from its tribe and faced the three Gold Core Daoist Masters alone, it would be no match at all. The Lion Demon General understood this, but it had no opportunity to retreat unscathed.

This situation made the Lion Demon General increasingly anxious. Meng Zhang and his companions were patient, gradually weakening the enemy's strength without showing any signs of rushing.

At this level of battle, victory or defeat could not be determined in a short time. They were mentally prepared for a protracted battle, willing to spend ten days, half a month, or even three to five months to thoroughly deal with the Lion Demon General.

The battle continued, and the Lion Demon General felt the situation becoming more unfavorable. On the ground, the cultivator army of the Taiyi Sect was engaged in a fierce battle with the demonic beast army, and both sides were equally locked in a stalemate. However, the Taiyi Sect boasted an array of elites. Not to mention the Guardian Spirit Generals like the Deep Earth Spirit General and Shocking Thunder Spirit General, even the younger generation, such as Yang Xueyi and Wen Qiansun, displayed strong combat abilities. With these elites as the backbone, the Taiyi Sect's

cultivator army suffered controllable casualties while dealing significant damage to the demonic beast army.

Of course, both the Lion Demon General and the three Gold Core Daoist Masters besieging it were not concerned about other aspects. The battle between the two sides had entered a critical stage.

The Lion Demon General's current realm was the result of undergoing numerous trials. It grasped the situation and finally decided that even if it had to pay some price, it must leave here first.

The Lion Demon General was very decisive in its actions, and once it made up its mind, it immediately executed the decision. It seized an opportunity to confront Gu Yue Huaidie directly, took the initiative to leave its tribe, and flew alone into the sky, preparing to escape immediately.

Meng Zhang, while using the Strange and Upright Sword Art to slay the demonic beast tribe, immediately seized the opportunity. Instead of summoning the flying sword, he directly used the Divine Ability Twin Forms Towards Heaven Sword. A fierce sword aura mixed with black and white colors flashed like lightning towards the Lion Demon General.

The Lion Demon General knew it couldn't get entangled with Meng Zhang for too long; otherwise, it would lose the chance to escape. It didn't dodge and directly took the blow.

The sharp sword aura broke through its strong defensive demonic energy and struck its left arm.

The Lion Demon General groaned and endured the intense pain as it prepared to continue its escape.

The power of this strike far exceeded its expectations, leaving it with significant injuries. The sharp sword aura continued to wreak havoc in its wound, but it had no time to deal with it and was solely focused on escaping for its life.

Luo Ye, an excellent assassin, was more skilled at finding opportunities and seizing the enemy's vulnerabilities to disrupt their plans than Meng Zhang. While Meng Zhang used the Twin Forms Towards Heaven Sword, she threw a black veil at the Lion Demon General.

The black veil turned into a dark shadow in mid-air and gently fell on the Lion Demon General.

The Lion Demon General didn't feel too threatened, and to avoid missing the chance to escape, it decided to take this blow head-on.

After the shadow fell on the Lion Demon General, it didn't cause any direct harm. This made it relax a bit while feeling somewhat puzzled. As the Lion Demon General was flying high in the air, preparing to flee far away, it felt that something was amiss. After flying some distance towards its lair, the Grand Lion Ridge, it realized the situation was not right.

The seemingly harmless black veil, after falling on it, would produce a strange force that obstructed its demonic energy from functioning at high speed. This significantly affected its flight speed, rendering it unable to fly properly.

Knowing that the situation was not right, the Lion Demon General tried to dispel the shadow. However, no matter what methods it used, the shadow clung to it like a malignant tumor, leaving it helpless. Before coming to the Endless Sea of Sand, Luo Ye, a Daoist Master, had made many preparations for killing the Golden Tiger Demon General. The previous successful ambush against

the Golden Tiger Demon General went relatively smoothly, and she had many prepared methods that were unused. Now, she made use of these techniques on the Lion Demon General.

Due to the influence of the strange shadow, the Lion Demon General couldn't escape at full speed. Gu Yue Huaidie, Meng Zhang, and Luo Ye, all Gold Core Daoist Masters, didn't engage with other demonic beasts and directly pursued the Lion Demon General. With its insufficient speed, the Lion Demon General was easily caught up by Meng Zhang's group. After another intense battle, due to the loss of its tribe's support, the Lion Demon General's combat strength significantly weakened, and it couldn't withstand the combined attacks of the three human Gold Core Daoist Masters. With more and more wounds, the Lion Demon General had no choice but to retreat towards its lair, the Grand Lion Ridge.

Meng Zhang's group chased relentlessly, attacking continuously, preventing the Lion Demon General from retreating peacefully. After flying for several hundred miles, they were getting closer to the Grand Lion Ridge.

However, the Lion Demon General was now too weak to continue fleeing. Its injuries were severe, and it could barely hold on. The three cunning human Gold Core Daoist Masters employed various sinister means to harm it. At this point, the accumulated injuries finally erupted. Forced into a desperate situation, the Lion Demon General made up its mind to self-destruct its demon core and take the enemies down with it. However, a Third Rank demonic beast's self-destruction process was far more complex than that of a human Gold Core Daoist Master. It required considerable time to prepare in advance. The three experienced Gold Core Daoist Masters would never give it that opportunity. They closely monitored the Lion Demon General and repeatedly interrupted its plans, thoroughly ruining its intentions.

In the end, the Lion Demon General died in battle without getting the chance to self-destruct its demon core, closing its eyes in resentment.

With the Lion Demon General dealt with, although the three Daoist Masters had expended a lot of energy and suffered injuries, they finally breathed a sigh of relief and felt completely at ease.

With the Lion Demon General's death, the outcome of this battle was no longer in doubt, and Meng Zhang had finally removed a serious threat. After a short rest, Gu Yue Huaidie collected the Lion Demon General's corpse, and the three of them returned to the previous battlefield.

While Meng Zhang and the others pursued the Lion Demon General, his senior disciple Niu Dawei had already collected the corpse of the Golden Crocodile Demon General and wiped out the vulture tribe under the control of the Bald Vulture Demon General.

When Meng Zhang's group returned, Niu Dawei was directing his disciples to join other battle groups and mercilessly slaughter the demonic beasts. Despite their current condition, the three Gold Core Daoist Masters quickly gained overwhelming superiority in the battle, completely wiping out the large number of demonic beasts and causing the remaining ones to flee in panic.

Next, it was time for the cultivators of the Taiyi Sect and their allies to chase down the scattered fleeing demonic beasts.

In the beginning, the Lion Demon General spent countless efforts, along with its Third Rank demonic beast subordinates, to gather such a large army of demonic beasts in the Demon Wind Gobi. Even after such depletion, there were still numerous demonic beasts fleeing in all directions. The Grand Lion Ridge was the ultimate goal of Taiyi Sect's invasion of the Demon Wind Gobi, and that place was still in the hands of the demonic beasts, so the battle was not yet over.

Meng Zhang assembled a team of elite cultivators and had them board flying boats to follow the three Gold Core Daoist Masters directly towards the direction of the Grand Lion Ridge. As for chasing down the remnants of the enemy and clearing the battlefield, Meng Zhang assigned the task to Niu Dawei. He commanded a large group of cultivators left behind to handle the subsequent affairs.

Led by the three Gold Core Daoist Masters, the small but highly efficient team flew towards the Grand Lion Ridge. The place was just a few hundred miles away, and they hadn't flown for long when a majestic and vast mountain range appeared before them.

During the previous discussions with the two Gold Core Daoist Masters of the Flying Swan Sect, Taiyi Sect, lacking a Third Rank spirit vein, had strongly requested to obtain the Grand Lion Ridge. Taiyi Sect made concessions elsewhere and paid a considerable price before the Flying Swan Sect agreed to Taiyi Sect's demand.

Although Meng Zhang had Fei Yu Daoist Master's promise, they had to seize the opportunity first. Meng Zhang didn't even have the time to pay attention to the battle between the Flying Swan Sect and the sand monster army. He needed to occupy the Grand Lion Ridge before anything else. A Third Rank spirit vein was irreplaceably essential for both him and Taiyi Sect.

Originally, the Grand Lion Ridge was an unnamed mountain range. It was only after the discovery of the Third Rank spirit vein that various demonic beasts were attracted, especially Third Rank demonic beasts from all over, contending for it. These Third Rank demonic beasts were all of Third Rank lower grade, and their strengths were not much different from each other. As they fought each other, they experienced wins and losses, with no one maintaining an unbeaten record.

As the scale of the Third Rank spirit vein was not large, it could only accommodate 1-2 Third Rank demonic beasts for cultivation at a time. Helplessly, these demonic beasts had to take turns to practice here, absorbing the spiritual energy from the spirit vein.

If any Third Rank demonic beast absorbed a large amount of spiritual energy and significantly advanced its cultivation base, wanting to monopolize the spirit vein, it would immediately be attacked by other demonic beasts in a joint effort.

Later, after the Lion Demon General advanced to a Third Rank middle-grade demonic beast, it decisively subdued the other Third Rank demonic beasts, completely occupying the place and naming the mountain range the Grand Lion Ridge.

Though it settled its tribe in the Grand Lion Ridge and established its territory, the Lion Demon General still maintained the previous rule to win over the Third Rank demonic beasts under its command, allowing them to take turns to cultivate within the spirit vein.

This time, when the Lion Demon General led the army of demonic beasts to battle, it took not only all the Third Rank demonic beasts under its command but also the majority of the lower-level demonic beasts.

When Meng Zhang's group arrived at the Grand Lion Ridge, they encountered very weak resistance. They almost didn't expend much effort and completely occupied the place, annihilating the demonic beasts stationed there.

Although demonic beasts generally didn't use human cultivator formations, some demonic beasts, due to their innate talents, could create certain formation effects. The Grand Lion Ridge was transformed by the Lion Demon General's demonic energy. The dense demonic energy covered the entire mountain range, stirring the spirit vein underground and driving the natural restrictions similar to a formation by mobilizing the spiritual energy of heaven and earth.

If the Lion Demon General had not led a large army outside but stayed in this place, taking advantage of the geographical position, Taiyi Sect and Flying Swan Sect would not have found victory so easy even if they joined forces to attack.

Occupying the Grand Lion Ridge was just the first step; there was still much work to be done. Meng Zhang called the three Gold Core Daoist Masters, and together they destroyed the prohibitions set up by the Lion Demon General and dispersed the dense demonic energy. As for the subsequent transformation of the Grand Lion Ridge, that required careful planning.

Deep Earth Spirit General, who was proficient in the art of Feng Shui, now had the opportunity to make use of his expertise as a Geomancer. Meng Zhang called him over and had him carefully survey the surroundings of the Grand Lion Ridge to formulate a transformation plan.

The Grand Lion Ridge was the Lion Demon General's lair, and Meng Zhang's group obtained quite a lot of spoils from inside. Some scattered ores collected by the demonic beasts, along with many transplanted spirit herbs, were valuable. Gu Yue Huaidie had previously obtained the corpse of the Lion Demon General, which could be considered the most abundant spoils of all. Taiyi Sect obtained the corpse of the Ferocious Crocodile Demon General, which yielded similarly impressive gains.

Regarding the spoils inside the Lion Demon General's lair, Meng Zhang and Gu Yue Huaidie let Luo Ye Daoist Master make the first selection. Having successfully slain the Golden Tiger Demon General and acquired the treasure, Luo Ye Daoist Master was already satisfied. She didn't pay much attention to the other spoils. However, with Meng Zhang and Gu Yue Huaidie showing such enthusiasm, she also casually picked a few items as additional income.

After Luo Ye Daoist Master made her selection, Gu Yue Huaidie randomly picked a few items and handed the rest to Meng Zhang. Meng Zhang didn't hurry to count them; instead, he handed the items to his disciples for safekeeping as he had other things to attend to.

While Taiyi Sect emerged victorious, Flying Swan Sect paid a considerable price to finally wipe out the sand monster army. Sand monsters were different from demonic beasts; they wouldn't escape and only fought to the death. Furthermore, killing sand monsters hardly yielded any spoils.

By the time Fei Yu Daoist Master and Fei Jiang Daoist Master led their disciples to the Grand Lion Ridge, the battle here had already ended, and Taiyi Sect had completely occupied the place. The two Gold Core Daoist Masters from the Flying Swan Sect didn't intend to break the previous agreement and acknowledged that the Grand Lion Ridge belonged to Taiyi Sect.

In this battle with the Lion Demon General, Taiyi Sect had gained abundant rewards, almost obtaining all the spoils, while the Flying Swan Sect suffered losses but gained little. Meng Zhang

originally felt a bit guilty and wanted to share some spoils with the Flying Swan Sect to avoid an awkward situation. However, Gu Yue Huaidie, who was adept at handling people and matters, dispelled Meng Zhang's thoughts with a single sentence.

She explained that such a small amount of spoils couldn't bribe the Flying Swan Sect, nor would it change the thoughts of their high-ranking members. Meng Zhang realized that she was right. The relationship between Taiyi Sect and Flying Swan Sect was purely based on interests, and personal feelings were of little importance.

What mattered most was that they managed to completely eliminate the Lion Demon General and remove the threat from the Demon Wind Gobi, which was the greatest gain for the Flying Swan Sect. Now that both Taiyi Sect and Flying Swan Sect had successfully concluded their respective battles, the next step was for each sect to rest and prepare for the coming situation.

Taiyi Sect gathered the scattered cultivators who had chased the fleeing demonic beasts and prepared them for the next battle. Those fleeing demonic beasts were unorganized, and without the leadership of Third Rank demonic beasts, they were inconsequential.

Chapter 479

While resting, both Taiyi Sect and Flying Swan Sect did not forget to gather intelligence about the enemy. The Gold Core Daoist Masters personally went out to investigate the surroundings and naturally did not miss the battlefield where the Northern Desert Qi Family fought against the Dark Crow Demon General.

Regarding the misfortune that befell the Northern Desert Qi Family, no one felt any sympathy. Although Taiyi Sect and Flying Swan Sect had tricked the Qi Family this time, from the subsequent developments, their actions turned out to be beneficial for the overall situation.

If Taiyi Sect and Flying Swan Sect had not taken the initiative to attack the Lion Demon General and instead allowed the Lion Demon General to launch a surprise attack from behind, not only would it have been difficult for the Northern Desert Qi Family to survive, but even Taiyi Sect and Flying Swan Sect would have suffered.

It was precisely because the Northern Desert Qi Family was entangled with the Dark Crow Demon General that Taiyi Sect and Flying Swan Sect had enough time to prioritize dealing with the Lion Demon General.

The Northern Desert Qi Family sacrificed themselves for the greater good, ensuring the victory of the human cultivators. Of course, Taiyi Sect and Flying Swan Sect might not remember their sacrifice and contribution.

After suffering a major defeat from the Northern Desert Qi Family, the Dark Crow Demon General voluntarily retreated to its nest, preparing to face the human cultivators' next attack.

The nest, called the "Crow's Nest," was located ahead of the former lair of the White Lion Demon King and served as a forward base. When the Dark Crow Demon General was a trusted guard for the White Lion Demon King, it placed its nest in this location to protect the White Lion Demon King.

Although the White Lion Demon King had died many years ago, as a Fourth Rank demonic beast capable of rivaling a Primordial Spirit True Monarch, there were likely some special arrangements near its lair.

The Dark Crow Demon General, with the advantage of this strategic location, would be challenging for the human cultivators to defeat, even if its strength was weaker.

How to attack the Crow's Nest required careful consideration and planning.

Meng Zhang personally took action and captured a Second Rank Dark Crow that was patrolling outside the Crow's Nest. Meng Zhang did not harm the Second Rank Dark Crow but instead had it deliver a message to the Dark Crow Demon General.

The message informed the Dark Crow Demon General that the Lion Demon General and the Long-hair Demon General had joined forces and ambushed the Golden Tiger Demon General. The human cultivators' act of eliminating the Lion Demon General was considered helping the Golden Tiger Demon General seek revenge.

Dark Crows were highly intelligent demonic beasts, even at the Second Rank, possessing considerable intelligence and understanding of human speech. After Meng Zhang released the Second Rank Dark Crow, it flew directly back to the Crow's Nest and conveyed all of Meng Zhang's words to the Dark Crow Demon General.

Meng Zhang's purpose was not to dispel the Dark Crow Demon General's hostility but to sow discord between it and the Long-hair Demon General. If the Dark Crow Demon General and the Long-hair Demon General did not trust each other, it would be challenging for the Dark Crow Demon General to get assistance from the Long-hair Demon General.

Meng Zhang's plan quickly showed some results. After the Dark Crow Demon General received the news from its subordinates, it knew that it should not believe the human cultivators' words. They were probably lying to sow discord between it and the Long-hair Demon General.

However, when it thought about how the Long-hair Demon General had left the Crow's Nest with the Golden Tiger Demon General and that the Golden Tiger Demon General had died while there was still no news of the Long-hair Demon General, it became filled with doubts.

To dispel its doubts, the Dark Crow Demon General specifically sent one of its trusted Second Rank Dark Crows to fly to the Long-hair Demon General's lair and invite it to the Crow's Nest.

This Second Rank Dark Crow, as a messenger highly valued by the Dark Crow Demon General, had traveled back and forth between the Crow's Nest and the Long-hair Demon General's lair many times, delivering messages between the two sides. As former subordinates of the White Lion Demon King, the Dark Crow Demon General and the Long-hair Demon General had a lot of communication and occasional message exchanges.

The Second Rank Dark Crow arrived at the Long-hair Demon General's lair but did not find Long-hair Demon General there. Instead, it was met by a foolish and clumsy long-haired demon elephant. The long-haired demon elephant repeated the same statement over and over again.

Long-hair Demon General and Golden Tiger Demon General were ambushed by human cultivators and returned with severe injuries. Currently, Long-hair Demon General was in seclusion, unable to meet visitors.

No matter what tricks the Second Rank Dark Crow used, the foolish long-haired demon elephant remained unmoved and did not give it a chance to meet Long-hair Demon General.

Helpless, the Second Rank Dark Crow left a message inviting Long-hair Demon General to the Crow's Nest and then unwillingly departed, returning the situation to the Dark Crow Demon General.

Upon hearing the news from its subordinate, Dark Crow Demon General indeed felt suspicious. Why would Long-hair Demon General avoid meeting its envoy if it had nothing to hide? Although the suspicion arose, Dark Crow Demon General could not question Long-hair Demon General since it was not present, so it had to temporarily put this matter aside.

The guilty Long-hair Demon General did not dare to meet Dark Crow Demon General's envoy and, after hearing the message left behind, had no intention of going to the Dark Crow Demon General's nest. If Dark Crow Demon General thought it conspired with Lion Demon General to harm the Golden Tiger Demon General, it would certainly not spare it. Long-hair Demon General would not even get close to the area around the Crow's Nest.

Meng Zhang was surprised that his casual action unintentionally played such a significant role and completely cut off the Dark Crow Demon General from getting reinforcements from the outside.

Over this period, several Gold Core Daoist Masters had repeatedly gone outside the Crow's Nest to conduct careful reconnaissance.

The reconnaissance results were not very encouraging, as the area had many sophisticated arrangements. Compared to the Third Rank mountain guarding great formations in the human Cultivation World, it was not inferior.

However, the human cultivators had overwhelming strength, and the demons' arrangements were still too crude and sparse. After all, it was not a genuine Third Rank mountain guarding great formation.

Meng Zhang believed that, with their combined efforts, the Gold Core Daoist Masters would be able to find the enemy's weaknesses if they launched a full-scale attack. After discussing their plans, the Gold Core Daoist Masters prepared to launch an offensive.

As long as they captured the Crow's Nest and eliminated the Dark Crow Demon General, the Demon Wind Gobi would be mostly pacified, Taiyi Sect would get rid of future troubles, and Meng Zhang could focus on managing the Grand Lion Ridge.

The cultivator armies of the two sects began to mobilize, ready to advance towards the Crow's Nest.

However, at that moment, Fei Yu Daoist Master urgently notified Meng Zhang that there were anomalies in Fire Cloud Sect. Fei Shi Daoist Master alone couldn't handle the situation, so he had to rush back to reinforce Fei Shi Daoist Master.

After informing Meng Zhang, Fei Yu Daoist Master immediately led the main force of Flying Swan Sect cultivators and departed on a flying boat.

Flying Swan Sect left only a small team to handle the territory they had occupied in the Demon Wind Gobi and the spoils they had obtained.

The sudden withdrawal of Flying Swan Sect caught Meng Zhang off guard and disrupted all his plans.

The joint attack plan of the two sects against the Crow's Nest was naturally canceled.

Now, it was up to Taiyi Sect to face Dark Crow Demon General alone.

Chapter 480: After withdrawing troops,

Flying Swan Sect withdrew its troops at this critical moment when a joint attack was about to be launched, which could be seen as a betrayal to its temporary ally, Taiyi Sect.

The reason given by Flying Swan Sect was that Fire Cloud Sect was showing unusual activity, but Meng Zhang didn't quite believe it.

In the world, such coincidences are rare. Fire Cloud Sect remained calm and unchanged for a long time, yet it happened to show activity precisely at this moment.

In Meng Zhang's view, Flying Swan Sect had ulterior motives.

For Flying Swan Sect, the main objective of launching a massive attack on Demon Wind Gobi had already been achieved with the elimination of Lion Demon General. Continuing to sweep through Demon Wind Gobi was not as necessary for them.

Dark Crow Demon General had always tightly guarded its nest, the Crow's Nest, without much expansion outside, and had never left Demon Wind Gobi.

Eliminating Dark Crow Demon General would only provide limited benefits to Flying Swan Sect. However, keeping Dark Crow Demon General alive would continue to restrain Taiyi Sect.

Taiyi Sect had only recently gained control of Grand Lion Ridge, a Third Rank spirit vein. They would definitely hold on to it tightly.

Being just a few thousand miles away from the Crow's Nest, Taiyi Sect couldn't afford to let its guard down. To secure the area, they had to confront the threat posed by Dark Crow Demon General.

Dark Crow Demon General didn't directly threaten Flying Swan Sect, but it was a major concern for Taiyi Sect.

Having ruled the Endless Sea of Sand for so many years, Flying Swan Sect relied not only on overwhelming strength but also on various cunning schemes.

Without turning against Taiyi Sect, they subtly trapped Taiyi Sect in Demon Wind Gobi to avoid any unpredictable changes in the Endless Sea of Sand. Flying Swan Sect expertly played out this scheme.

Meng Zhang might not be a master strategist, but having grown up in the Endless Sea of Sand and reached his current position, he had a deep understanding of Flying Swan Sect's various tactics and schemes.

It's not his fault for being suspicious, as Flying Swan Sect had played similar tricks many times in history. Even though Flying Swan Sect had set him up this time, Meng Zhang couldn't confront them.

Taiyi Sect still needed to cooperate with Flying Swan Sect in many aspects. The withdrawal of Flying Swan Sect's troops only meant a temporary suspension of the original attack plan.

On Meng Zhang's side, with Gu Yue Huaidie, who is in the middle stage of the Golden Core, and Luo Ye Daoist Master, who is in the early stage of the Golden Core, they are still much stronger than the Dark Crow Demon General on this side.

Dark Crow Demon General was a Third Rank middle-grade demon beast, and Poison Sand Demon General was a Third Rank lower-grade demon beast. However, relying on the terrain and the defenses left behind by White Lion Demon King, they were not without the ability to fight back.

Dark Crow Demon General might be arrogant, but it wasn't foolish.

As for Long-hair Demon General, they couldn't trust it and didn't expect any external assistance. The strength of human cultivators on the other side was too strong, so it could only fully retreat and defend its lair.

Meng Zhang didn't deploy his entire army or launch a full-scale attack. Instead, he left Taiyi Sect's cultivators in the rear and, together with Gu Yue Huaidie and Luo Ye, made a probing attack.

The three of them infiltrated near the Crow's Nest, and a battle ensued with Dark Crow Demon General and Poison Sand Demon General, who utilized the defenses in the area.

Though Meng Zhang's group gained the upper hand quickly, they couldn't achieve a decisive advantage and had to temporarily retreat after fighting for half a day. Afterward, the three of them made several attempts to attack, but each time they were blocked by Dark Crow Demon General, and ultimately, they returned without any success. Through these attempts, they each gained some insights and got a rough understanding of the enemy's situation.

Gu Yue Huaidie didn't hide anything and directly spoke to Meng Zhang. To completely break the enemy's formation and kill Dark Crow Demon General and Poison Sand Demon General, at least one of them would have to pay a huge price. Even if they didn't die, they would suffer injuries severe enough to shake their foundations.

Naturally, Meng Zhang, as the host, was unwilling to pay such a price, and therefore, he had no reason to ask his assisting friends to do so either. Although Gu Yue Huaidie and Luo Daoist Master had their own objectives and gained many benefits, expecting them to pay such a heavy price was simply impossible. Helping was one thing, but jeopardizing their foundations or even their lives was another matter.

Meng Zhang didn't say much about this matter; saying too much might have been a test of their friendship.

Since they couldn't do anything about Dark Crow Demon General for now, the three of them had to temporarily retreat.

It seemed that Taiyi Sect and Dark Crow Demon General would be locked in a long-term stalemate. Currently, Taiyi Sect had the advantage and was suppressing Dark Crow Demon General. However, one must not forget that both Gu Yue Huaidie and Luo Ye Daoist Master were not members of Taiyi Sect. They couldn't stay here for an extended period and would eventually leave.

In fact, after leaving the battlefield, Gu Yue Huaidie told Meng Zhang that she could stay here for at most three more years before she had to return to her family. Luo Ye Daoist Master also informed

Meng Zhang that she was not a free agent; she had many tasks to fulfill and had to return to the Dark Alliance within ten years.

Without the assistance of Gu Yue Huaidie and Luo Ye Daoist Master, and relying solely on Meng Zhang's strength, suppressing Dark Crow Demon General, let alone holding onto Grand Lion Ridge, would be uncertain.

What was once a favorable situation had turned into this because of Flying Swan Sect's sudden withdrawal. Meng Zhang felt annoyed about it.

After Gu Yue Huaidie and Luo Ye Daoist Master left, to hold onto Grand Lion Ridge, Meng Zhang needed at least one Gold Core-level cultivator to help.

Fortunately, the situation wasn't extremely urgent, and Meng Zhang still had time to plan carefully.

Perhaps considering Meng Zhang's predicament, before leaving, Gu Yue Huaidie and Luo Ye Daoist Master were willing to help him with some additional tasks.

The three Gold Core Daoist Masters swept the surrounding area together, thoroughly clearing the area within a radius of thousands of miles to ensure there were no large groups of demon beasts. As for the few scattered ones that managed to escape, they were naturally hunted down and eradicated by Taiyi Sect's cultivators.

Then, at regular intervals, Gu Yue Huaidie and Luo Ye Daoist Master joined Meng Zhang in provoking and even directly attacking outside the Crow's Nest.

Meng Zhang's plan was sound; if Dark Crow Demon General couldn't endure it and took the initiative to come out and battle the three of them, they would seize the opportunity to get rid of this trouble.

Unfortunately, Dark Crow Demon General wasn't that foolish. It wouldn't give up its advantageous position and come out to die willingly. Meng Zhang's plan completely failed.

Helpless, they had no choice but to intensify their attacks on the Crow's Nest, giving the appearance of trying to break the place.

Though they couldn't truly break the Crow's Nest, they aimed to put tremendous pressure on Dark Crow Demon General while Gu Yue Huaidie and Luo Ye Daoist Master were still present. This way, even after they left, Dark Crow Demon General wouldn't dare to make any sudden moves.

Their efforts to suppress Dark Crow Demon General were very successful. All the demon beasts on the side of Dark Crow Demon General were compressed inside the Crow's Nest. Including Dark Crow Demon General itself, they all chose to stay put and dared not expose themselves easily.