

Sect Master 511

Chapter 511: Obeying Heaven, Defying Heaven

The subsequent actions of Daoist Master Scarlet Flame did not surprise Meng Zhang. Shortly after leaving Taiyi Sect, he boldly visited the Qi Family in the Northern Desert. Upon arriving at the Qi Family, Daoist Master Scarlet Flame received a warm reception from Daoist Master Qi Nanfei. The details of their conversation remain unknown to the scouts of Taiyi Sect.

Meng Zhang attempted to use the Grand Evolving Fortune Calculation, but could only see a blurry scene. He had already anticipated this situation to some extent.

After leaving the Qi Family in the Northern Desert, Daoist Master Scarlet Flame did not visit Taiyi Sect again. Instead, he returned directly to the residence of Fire Cloud Sect in the Endless Sea of Sand.

Upon his return, Daoist Master Scarlet Flame did not immediately launch an attack on the Yellow Sand Ridge, the main gate of the Flying Swan Sect. Instead, he maintained the current situation.

The improvement in the Grand Evolving Fortune Calculation gave Meng Zhang more confidence to deal with various situations. Although he was unable to successfully calculate the purpose of Daoist Master Scarlet Flame, as a master of fortune-telling, his ability to have sudden insights was strengthened. As long as it was not a direct intervention by a Primordial Spirit True Monarch or the interference of another diviner, he would remain vigilant before the crisis arrived.

On the surface, both Taiyi Sect and the entire Hanhai Alliance appeared normal, but preparations for war were secretly underway.

Taiyi Sect occupied a large territory in the Demon Wind Gobi, and even though it was only in the initial stages of development, it still generated considerable income. Especially after the death of Qin Hongying, Taiyi Sect was relieved of a huge burden.

When Qin Hongying voluntarily invited Meng Zhang to go to the Yachao, she promised him many benefits. Now that Qin Hongying was dead, Meng Zhang naturally had to fulfill her promises.

Qin Hongying left behind many belongings in her residence at Taiyi Sect, which were promptly confiscated without hesitation by Taiyi Sect.

Taiyi Sect was originally supposed to provide various resources to the Qin Family in installments, but now they no longer needed to do so. With the loss of Qin Hongying, the only Gold Core Daoist Master of the Qin Family, they would soon face various troubles and experience a rapid decline. It would only be when the family faced a life-or-death crisis that Meng Zhang and Daoist Master Luo Ye would intervene.

The abundant resources saved by Taiyi Sect were continuously sent to Great Wind City, where they were sold in exchange for a large quantity of war supplies. In fact, even before this, Fire Cloud Sect and Flying Swan Sect had purchased various war supplies from Great Wind City multiple times. In the past few years, the various Shang Families in Great Wind City had made a fortune by selling various war supplies. Due to the prolonged war, Great Wind City, being the closest trading hub to the Endless Sea of Sand, saw the prices of various war supplies more than double.

The major powers in Great Wind City were most willing to see the continued chaos in the Endless Sea of Sand, preferably without end. Fire Cloud Sect, Flying Swan Sect, and Taiyi Sect were well aware of this situation but were helpless.

Speaking of Taiyi Sect, although important departments within the sect were already quite well-established, such as the production of pills, talismans, and magic tools, they still relied on external sources for various rare materials. However, once the war starts, the consumption of various war supplies will be astronomical, and the sect's production capacity alone will not be able to meet the demand. They must procure a large quantity from the outside.

What Taiyi Sect needs to do now is to desperately mine various resources in exchange for a large stockpile of war supplies.

Since Fire Cloud Sect has not yet made a move against Flying Swan Sect, Meng Zhang has enough time to leisurely read various books. He has quite a few jade slips obtained from Myriad Layers Peak last time, and he takes this opportunity to carefully study them.

Especially the "Fusang Golden Crow Canon" recorded in the Inheritance Pearl, which is a fundamental scripture that directly points to the Primordial Spirit Grand Dao. Although he cannot abandon his main cultivation method and switch to practicing it, he still benefits greatly from reading and comprehending it, using it as an important reference.

While reading various books, he also came across a big surprise. It was an inconspicuous jade slip that mainly recorded the travelogue of a Primordial Spirit senior from the Layered Mystery Sect.

This Primordial Spirit senior loved to travel and had visited many places in the Middle-Earth Continent. His knowledge was extensive, and he had encountered many interesting things.

In one of his accounts, there were many introductions about the mysterious profession of diviners.

Meng Zhang embarked on the path of a diviner through the book "Grand Evolving Fortune" and had never interacted with other diviners before. Although he had previously come into contact with a diviner named Gu Yue Huaidie, he had never dared to reveal his own identity.

Although he was already a rare master of fortune-telling among diviners, Meng Zhang still knew very little about the profession. Reading this account was an important lesson for him.

Among diviners, there are two completely opposite paths: the Heaven Obeying Road and the Heaven-Defying Road.

Diviners use various fortune-telling techniques to calculate the changes in fortune and explore the mysteries of the heavens.

Calculating fortune comes at a cost, and peering into the heavens naturally invites backlash from the heavens. Diviners often have shorter lifespans and are more prone to calamities than other cultivators.

Some diviners, in order to resolve the backlash from the heavens, adhere to the principle of obeying heaven in their actions. They act in accordance with the will of the heavens and even make up for the shortcomings that the heavens overlook. Their ultimate goal is to become the spokesperson of the heavens and uphold the will of the heavens.

Representatives of this type of diviner are the diviners from the Viewing Heaven Pavilion, a holy land for cultivation in the Cultivation World. The fundamental principle of the Viewing Heaven Pavilion is to observe the way of heaven and act in accordance with it.

On the other hand, there are diviners who specifically seek out loopholes in the heavens and evade the backlash from the heavens. These diviners walk the path of defying heaven, which naturally invites the disdain of the heavens. Their ultimate goal is to completely break free from the constraints of the heavens and seek true freedom.

Although the ultimate goals and methods of the two types of diviners are completely opposite, they are not incompatible. They often transform between the two.

Diviners who obey heaven may sometimes have to go against the will of defying heaven. Diviners on the Heaven-Defying Road may also yield to the authority of the heavens.

The truly terrifying individuals among diviners belong to a special category. They consider themselves as envoys of the heavens and are fanatically devoted to the heavens. They believe that other diviners, who have not received the recognition of the heavens, are disrespecting the heavens by casually peering into the mysteries of the heavens. This disrespect can bring terrifying calamities that affect all beings in the world.

Therefore, they hunt down other diviners relentlessly. They almost always try to completely kill anyone they come across.

These diviners are considered madmen by other diviners and are the common enemies of the diviner community. They are almost universally hated and feared.

Chapter 512: Striking

This category of frenzied Diviners was given a nickname by other Diviners, known as "Blood Diviner Hunter". The origin of this nickname is due to their crazed and bloody hunting of other Diviners.

Many Diviners believe that these so-called Blood Diviner Hunters have already fallen into madness and lost their own consciousness. They are no longer individuals with independent will but rather complete puppets controlled by an unknown power.

In reality, due to the rarity of Diviners in the Cultivation World and their deliberate efforts to remain mysterious, many Cultivators are unaware of the conflicts between Diviners.

Countless cultivation forces desire to possess Diviners, and those who do have them will protect their Diviners at all costs, keeping any information about them tightly guarded. Gu Yue Huaidie is a highly renowned cultivator in Great Wind City, but her identity as a Diviner remains unknown to outsiders. If not for a fortuitous encounter, Meng Zhang would not have discovered it either.

After reading through this lengthy content, Meng Zhang gained sufficient understanding of Diviners. He also felt relieved that his caution in not revealing his own identity as a Diviner to Gu Yue Huaidie had been justified. Although Gu Yue Huaidie appeared gentle and friendly, one couldn't read anything from the face of a Blood Diviner Hunter.

As for the divergence between the paths of Obeying Heaven and Defying Heaven among Diviners, Meng Zhang currently had no clues. Nevertheless, in his daily conduct, he inclined towards the path of Obeying Heaven and obeyed the will of others. He wasn't an immature youth shouting for the Heaven-Defying Road, wanting to dominate the heavens, the earth, and the air.

Meng Zhang still had some doubts. It was said that Diviners were prone to attracting calamities, but even though he had been a Diviner for a long time, he hadn't encountered any major catastrophes. Could it be that because he was a transmigrator, the heavens favored him and didn't send down calamities at random?

Putting aside these dubious speculations, Meng Zhang decided not to waste his energy on these unfathomable matters. To prevent attracting the mad hunts of Blood Diviner Hunters, he would continue to keep his Diviner identity as secret as possible.

Apart from the information about Diviners, the other content in the records also broadened Meng Zhang's horizons. The various Holy Lands of the Middle-Earth Continent, the distribution of different cultivation forces, and the entanglements between them were all fascinating.

The abundance of Middle-Earth Continent mentioned in the records made Meng Zhang envious. Compared to the Endless Sea of Sand and Demon Wind Gobi, Middle-Earth Continent seemed incredibly prosperous and a coveted cultivation paradise for numerous cultivators.

In Taiyi Sect, outside appeared relaxed while inside was strict, and Meng Zhang lived a leisurely life. However, this leisurely life was interrupted by an unexpected visitor after less than two months.

Jin LiDaoist Master, who had been absent for a long time, suddenly arrived outside the Grand Lion Ridge, wanting to meet Meng Zhang.

Meng Zhang respectfully invited Jin LiDaoist Master in and was trying to guess the purpose of his visit when Jin LiDaoist Master shouted, "Meng Zhang, you have a lot of nerve! How dare you collude with Fire Cloud Sect!"

Meng Zhang was startled but quickly regained his composure.

Jin LiDaoist Master could simply attack if she had malicious intent. With her Cultivation Base at the Gold Correlate stage, even with the assistance of the Third Rank mountain-guarding great formation, Meng Zhang wouldn't stand a chance against her.

Jin LiDaoist Master seemed to be intimidating him, but in reality, she was giving him a chance to explain. Meng Zhang dared not be negligent and immediately started explaining.

He incessantly spoke, saying that despite Daoist Master Scarlet Flame of the Fire Cloud Sect offering various conditions and tempting him desperately, he had steadfastly adhered to his principles and rejected the enticement.

Jin LiDaoist Master looked at Meng Zhang with a half-smile, and only after Meng Zhang finished speaking did she say, "You're still honest enough not to hide the fact that you had dealings with Daoist Master Scarlet Flame."

"If you had not honestly admitted to having dealings with Daoist Master Scarlet Flame just now, I would have had to take action against you, even if I didn't want to." Meng Zhang wiped a non-

existent cold sweat and sincerely expressed his loyalty to Jin LiDaoist Master, assuring her that he would never collude with the Fire Cloud Sect.

In his mind, though, he secretly complained. Daoist Master Scarlet Flame's first visit could be overlooked, but making such a commotion during the second visit was hard to hide from anyone.

Jin LiDaoist Master looked at Meng Zhang meaningfully and said, "Daoist Master Meng, within the Endless Sea of Sand, as long as True Monarch Tian Zhu is willing, nothing can be hidden from him." Meng Zhang appeared to have a humble expression, but he didn't believe it for a moment.

True Monarch Tian Zhu's vast Divine Ability and all-seeing eyes were true, but he wasn't an all-knowing and omnipotent immortal. Leaving aside other matters, he certainly wouldn't know that Meng Zhang was a transmigrator.

Next, Jin LiDaoist Master scolded Meng Zhang severely. True Monarch Tian Zhu, as a powerful expert at the Primordial Spirit late stage, was the true ruler of the Endless Sea of Sand. Even Flying Swan Sect, the ruler of the Endless Sea of Sand, was only his minion.

Taiyi Sect, as a sect of the Endless Sea of Sand, no matter how prosperous it became, had to obey True Monarch Tian Zhu as long as it lacked the power to confront a Primordial Spirit True Monarch. Since True Monarch Tian Zhu had chosen Flying Swan Sect as the ruler of the Endless Sea of Sand, Taiyi Sect should submit to Flying Swan Sect. Even if Taiyi Sect became a Gold Core sect, it couldn't easily defy Flying Swan Sect.

Recently, Taiyi Sect's actions had led to a confrontation with Flying Swan Sect. Especially the fact that Taiyi Sect dared to have secret dealings with the outsider, Fire Cloud Sect, had displeased True Monarch Tian Zhu.

Fortunately, there was no substantial collusion between Taiyi Sect and Fire Cloud Sect, and Meng Zhang hadn't accepted any of Fire Cloud Sect's conditions or entered into any agreements with them. With Jin LiDaoist Master speaking in favor of Taiyi Sect, True Monarch Tian Zhu didn't press the matter too much.

Hearing this, Meng Zhang naturally felt grateful to Jin LiDaoist Master and expressed gratitude profusely. However, Jin LiDaoist Master paid no attention to these pleasantries and directly revealed her purpose.

Fire Cloud Sect was about to engage in a major battle with Flying Swan Sect. In this conflict, Taiyi Sect must stand with Flying Swan Sect and assist them against Fire Cloud Sect. This was True Monarch Tian Zhu's intention, and Taiyi Sect couldn't offer the slightest resistance.

Though Meng Zhang knew Taiyi Sect couldn't refuse True Monarch Tian Zhu's command, he still showed a troubled expression. He wasn't going to defy True Monarch Tian Zhu's orders but intended to negotiate for better benefits for Taiyi Sect.

Thus, Meng Zhang began to lament his situation.

Chapter 513: Warning

Meng Zhang repeated the words he had deflected from Daoist Master Scarlet Flame in front of Jin Li Daoist Master.

About the instability in the Demon Wind Gobi, the ever-present threat of a counterattack from the Demonic Beasts, and how the Taiyi Sect must remain vigilant at all times...

In essence, his point was simple. It wasn't that Meng Zhang was unwilling to assist the Flying Swan Sect; rather, the situation with the Demonic Beasts in Demon Wind Gobi was dire, exerting immense pressure and leaving him no opportunity to divide his attention.

Jin Li Daoist Master, growing impatient with Meng Zhang's grievances, decisively interrupted his ramblings.

She was adamant, insisting that Meng Zhang must mobilize the entire strength of the Taiyi Sect to support the Flying Swan Sect unconditionally.

Jin Li Daoist Master even invoked the name of True Monarch Tian Zhu, threatening that Meng Zhang had no choice but to obey.

Observing Jin Li Daoist Master's seemingly strict demeanor, Meng Zhang grasped her underlying intentions.

It appeared that the alliance between Jin Li Daoist Master and the Flying Swan Sect was not as solid as it seemed.

Jin Li Daoist Master's invocation of True Monarch Tian Zhu further allowed Meng Zhang to discern much of the hidden dynamics.

He recalled her previous comments, how True Monarch Tian Zhu was caught between dealing with a Fifth Order Great Power and handling the Qi Family's Primordial Spirit True Monarch, evidently under significant strain.

According to Meng Zhang's understanding, the Taiyi Sect had been quite active behind the scenes, often clashing with the Flying Swan Sect. Not long ago, they had even expelled disciples of the Flying Swan Sect, claiming their territories in Demon Wind Gobi.

Yet, True Monarch Tian Zhu had not taken substantial actions against the Taiyi Sect, sending only Jin Li Daoist Master to issue a warning.

This suggested that True Monarch Tian Zhu was already finding it difficult to intervene directly in the affairs of the Endless Sea of Sand.

Especially now, with the Flying Swan Sect's dominant position under threat, True Monarch Tian Zhu's control over the Endless Sea of Sand had undoubtedly weakened.

As for Jin Li Daoist Master, having served as a pawn for True Monarch Tian Zhu for many years, her loyalty was presumably limited. At least between the Flying Swan Sect and Taiyi Sect, she had not openly sided with the former.

Of course, being a Primordial Spirit True Monarch meant possessing unforeseen capabilities. Perhaps with a bit more effort, True Monarch Tian Zhu could annihilate the Taiyi Sect.

Therefore, Meng Zhang would not outright resist but employed a strategy of passive resistance. He wasn't disobeying True Monarch Tian Zhu's orders but highlighting substantial difficulties.

His lengthy explanations aimed at securing certain advantages.

Though Jin Li Daoist Master rebuked Meng Zhang with sharp words, she had to relent in the face of his persistent whining.

The emperor would not allow his soldiers to starve, and the Taiyi Sect wasn't a direct lineage of True Monarch Tian Zhu. If their allegiance was expected, appropriate compensation was due.

Jin Li Daoist Master had granted Meng Zhang considerable benefits during his last visit to the Purple Gold Sect's Small World. Now, asking her to make more concessions was something she was less inclined to do.

Meng Zhang hinted in the conversation that they could always appeal to True Monarch Tian Zhu.

With the wealth of a Primordial Spirit True Monarch, even a trivial gift would be more than sufficient for a minor faction like the Taiyi Sect.

Meng Zhang even thoughtfully provided a list, asking Jin Li Daoist Master to pass it to True Monarch Tian Zhu.

On this list were various Heaven and Earth Spiritual Objects that Meng Zhang had outlined.

These objects were crucial for the sect's Guardian Spirit Generals to restore their Cultivation Base. Despite the Taiyi Sect's best efforts to collect them, their gains had been meager.

Given the rare opportunity to request aid from a Primordial Spirit True Monarch, Meng Zhang wouldn't dare hold back.

Jin Li Daoist Master saw right through Meng Zhang's petty schemes.

Nevertheless, since it didn't require her to personally pay the price, she wouldn't play the villain.

Taking the list, Jin Li Daoist Master glanced over it and couldn't help but curse, "You're truly insatiable. Fine, since it's none of this Daoist Master's concern, I won't bother with you."

"No matter what, be ready. The moment the great battle commences, you must immediately support the Flying Swan Sect. If you disrupt the grand scheme, True Monarch Tian Zhu will not spare you."

With that, Jin Li, the Daoist Master, departed.

Meng Zhang understood the reason in Jin Li's words. The Taiyi Sect had not yet resisted the power of True Monarch Tian Zhu and must obey his command.

It was his intuition as a Diviner that led him to reject the overtures of Daoist Master Scarlet Flame from the Fire Cloud Sect. He had no choice but to align with True Monarch Tian Zhu and serve him.

Asking for benefits was one thing, but disrupting official matters was absolutely forbidden.

Fortunately, due to the shifting situation in the Endless Sea of Sand, the Taiyi Sect had been actively preparing for war over the years.

Whenever the sect required, they could rapidly muster a large army of cultivators and rush to the battlefield in the Endless Sea of Sand.

Jin Li's visit this time made it even clearer to Meng Zhang that the great battle was inevitable.

In terms of sheer strength, even the combined forces of the Flying Swan Sect and Taiyi Sect might not match the Fire Cloud Sect. Furthermore, the stance of the Qi Family in the Northern Desert also required careful consideration.

At this juncture, Meng Zhang could only hope that True Monarch Tian Zhu and Jin Li had already contemplated these complications and devised solutions.

After leaving the Demon Wind Gobi, Jin Li flew directly toward the Deadly Sea of Sand.

Soon after entering, she landed on an unremarkable sand dune.

There, a man with a wax-yellow complexion and an unusually tall and thin frame stood with his hands behind his back, his eyes lifelessly gazing at the sky.

Jin Li flew to the man's side and performed a respectful bow. "Disciple pays respect to Uncle Master."

"Did that boy cause any trouble?" the middle-aged man asked.

"Under the awe of Uncle Master, a mere Gold Core junior would not dare to defy you. Meng Zhang has agreed to lead the Taiyi Sect's cultivators into battle. However..." Jin Li bowed her head.

"What is it?" The man's expression darkened.

Jin Li handed over the list, echoing Meng Zhang's demands.

The man was both annoyed and amused. "Such a bold junior, daring to try and take advantage of me."

"My true self is entangled deep within the Deadly Sea of Sand, unable to extricate itself, and this avatar must deal with the old ghost of the Qi Family."

"It seems I have no choice but to let this youngster gain some small advantage."

This man was not the true body of True Monarch Tian Zhu, but an external avatar.

Upon reaching the mid-stage of Primordial Spirit cultivation, a True Monarch could divide their Primordial Spirit, reconsolidating a wisp of soul.

If this wisp of soul found a suitable host, it could cultivate into an external avatar.

True Monarch Tian Zhu's main body was entangled with a Fifth Order Great Power deep in the Deadly Sea of Sand, leaving only this avatar free to move.

Moreover, due to a past agreement with that great power, this avatar could not take the initiative to engage enemies in the Endless Sea of Sand.

True Monarch Tian Zhu had once been sworn brothers with Jin Li's master, which is why she referred to him as Uncle Master.

Seeing the past bond with Jin Li's master, True Monarch Tian Zhu took in Jin Li, who had fled to the Endless Sea of Sand, offering her refuge.

In return, Jin Li served and ran errands for him.

The relationship between the two was more about mutual need and exploitation. The terms Uncle Master and disciple were courteous titles, lacking deeper sentiment rooted in discipleship.

Chapter 514

"He's such a greedy kid. Someone with a character like his, who only cares about small gains and disregards his own life when faced with important matters, won't get far on the path of cultivation," commented True Monarch Tian Zhu, his tone filled with disdain.

Meng Zhang's insatiable behavior was common among cultivators, and although True Monarch Tian Zhu was slightly displeased, he understood it. After all, Meng Zhang was originally a loose cultivator who didn't hesitate to take risks and seize every opportunity for personal gain.

True Monarch Tian Zhu glanced at the list and thought, "Although I can make use of this kid for now and let him gain some small advantages, I can't let him have free rein." He took out a few items from his body and casually threw them to Jin LiDaoist Master, saying, "You tell that kid that these things are gifts from me." He continued, "Since he has accepted my gifts, he must handle things properly. If he messes up my important matters, I won't spare him, and the entire Taiyi Sect will pay the price."

Jin LiDaoist Master, who received the items, was given a few more instructions before taking his leave and flying away from the place.

True Monarch Tian Zhu's external avatar was even more arrogant than his true form. Due to the circumstances, he had to make some sacrifices, which left him feeling dissatisfied. It wasn't that he cared about the losses, but rather that he felt his pride was hurt. When did a mere Gold Core junior dare to ask for benefits from a Primordial Spirit True Monarch? Was there no justice left in the world?

If he could freely act, he could easily sweep through the entire Endless Sea of Sand. Taiyi Sect, Fire Cloud Sect, and the like were all ants, not worth a fight. Unfortunately, he had to rely on Taiyi Sect, such ants, to deal with another, more powerful ant, Fire Cloud Sect.

While he was feeling dissatisfied, a gentle breeze blew from the nearby hill. "Xuanfeng, get out here in front of this True Monarch," he said. The breeze turned into a figure and landed on the sand dune, facing True Monarch Tian Zhu's external avatar. It was a middle-aged man who appeared quite refined and elegant. He was True Monarch Profound Wind of the Jiuqu League.

"Tianzhu, why are you so angry? Have you considered the matter I mentioned last time?"

"It's truly humiliating. As soon as my true form is entangled, all sorts of cats and dogs come out."

"Xuanfeng, give up on that idea. I would rather fail in my grand plans than let a rat like you take advantage of my predicament."

True Monarch Profound Wind was also a Primordial Spirit True Monarch, highly respected within the Jiuqu League and admired by countless cultivators. As fellow Primordial Spirit True Monarchs, being scolded so mercilessly by True Monarch Tian Zhu's external avatar was hard for him to bear.

"Tianzhu, you don't know what's good for you. I came to discuss things with you in a friendly manner, but you respond with hurtful words. Do you really think I can't do anything to you?"

"You're really getting on my nerves. Believe me, I can make you regret everything you've done."

True Monarch Tian Zhu's external avatar was filled with disdain. "Do you have the ability? I know exactly what kind of person you are. Show me all your tricks."

True Monarch Profound Wind had dealt with True Monarch Tian Zhu before, but being insulted like this was a first. It was just his bad luck to encounter him when he was in a bad mood.

"Just wait, I'll show you how formidable I can be."

Knowing that saying more was pointless, True Monarch Profound Wind left after leaving behind a harsh remark.

True Monarch Tian Zhu's true form had a Cultivation Base in the late stage of Primordial Spirit, while his external avatar had a Cultivation Base in the mid-stage of Primordial Spirit. Although True Monarch Profound Wind is also a cultivator in the mid-stage of the Primordial Spirit, he dare not claim to be able to surpass the other party.

Before leaving, True Monarch Profound Wind glanced at the sand dunes behind him.

After he left, True Monarch Tian Zhu's external avatar said impatiently, "Come out, old ghost from the Qi Family. That kid had already discovered you long ago."

As soon as the words fell, the air behind the sand dunes rippled, and an old man with a sinister face and tall stature appeared out of thin air.

"I was just lazy to argue with this little person, so I stayed here without any intention of hiding."

"He may be a little person, but you are no good either. Both of you take advantage of others' weaknesses. You are birds of a feather."

True Monarch Tian Zhu's external avatar also had an unpleasant expression on his face.

"Now, are you Qi Mingyun or Qi Mingyuan? Although it is rare to have a dual soul in the Cultivation World, I have heard of it. However, to have a dual soul and still be able to cultivate to the Primordial Spirit realm, you are the first in the Cultivation World."

The old man who had just appeared was the Primordial Spirit True Monarch of the Qi Family. He was both Qi Mingyuan True Monarch and Qi Mingyun True Monarch.

In the same body, there were two completely different souls.

Being born with a dual soul, he possessed a mysterious Divine Ability.

After embarking on the path of cultivation and enduring countless hardships, he finally achieved the status of Primordial Spirit True Monarch.

After reaching the Primordial Spirit stage, the advantage of having a dual soul was fully utilized.

True Monarch Tian Zhu's external avatar looked down on True Monarch Profound Wind, but he did not dare to underestimate this old opponent who was also in the mid-stage of the Primordial Spirit cultivation base.

If they were to fight, he did not have the confidence to defeat the other party.

"I am Mingyun in the absence of Mingyuan. But for you, it doesn't make much difference anyway," Qi Mingyun True Monarch said.

"It seems that you and the kid Xuanfeng couldn't come to an agreement. In that case, you have no choice but to accept my conditions."

"There's nothing I can do. I find you more agreeable, so I'd rather give you the advantage than that rat," True Monarch Tian Zhu's external avatar said reluctantly.

Qi Mingyun True Monarch rolled his eyes.

Not long ago, True Monarch Tian Zhu instructed the Flying Swan Sect to eradicate the Northern Desert Qi Family and completely sever his ties with them.

Now, due to the influence of True Monarch Profound Wind, the Fire Cloud Sect successfully attacked the Flying Swan Sect. In order to prevent the situation in the Endless Sea of Sand from completely deteriorating, True Monarch Tian Zhu had to compromise with Qi Mingyuan True Monarch and have the Northern Desert Qi Family stand with the Flying Swan Sect.

To be honest, True Monarch Tian Zhu's choice was somewhat unexpected for Qi Mingyuan and Qi Mingyun.

Previously, True Monarch Tian Zhu joined forces with them to exclude True Monarch Profound Wind because he didn't want another disruptor.

Now that True Monarch Profound Wind has entered the picture, all he seeks is to gain enough benefits from True Monarch Tian Zhu without crossing his bottom line.

However, what Qi Mingyun and Qi Mingyuan desire is True Monarch Tian Zhu's forbidden secret, which is related to his Grand Dao.

True Monarch Tian Zhu, on the other hand, would rather compromise with Qi Mingyuan and the others and expel True Monarch Profound Wind, which is a bit strange.

Of course, when True Monarch Tian Zhu took the initiative to compromise with Qi Mingyuan and the others, they naturally had no reason to refuse. They agreed to the conditions while secretly strengthening their guard against True Monarch Tian Zhu.

Chapter 515: Day 1 Real Water

The will of Primordial Spirit True Monarch determines the future of the Endless Sea of Sand. Now that the alliances and hostilities between the three Primordial Spirit True Monarchs have been clearly defined, the Fire Cloud Sect, Taiyi Sect, Flying Swan Sect, and Northern Desert Qi Family will also be divided into different camps, initiating a new round of warfare.

Speaking of which, Jin Li Daoist Master, carrying several Heaven and Earth Spiritual Objects bestowed by True Monarch Tian Zhu, left the Deadly Sea of Sand and arrived at the Grand Lion Ridge once again.

Meng Zhang has been stationed at the base on the Grand Lion Ridge and rarely leaves.

Upon seeing Meng Zhang, Jin Li Daoist Master said in a displeased tone, "You're lucky, kid. Uncle Master Tian Zhu has decided to give you a great advantage."

While speaking, Jin Li Daoist Master threw the several Heaven and Earth Spiritual Objects to Meng Zhang.

"You must remember, this kind of opportunity is rare. It's not easy to take advantage of Primordial Spirit True Monarch. Uncle Master Tian Zhu is not always so accommodating."

"You've succeeded this time, but don't dare to disrespect Primordial Spirit True Monarch because of it."

Jin Li Daoist Master sternly warned Meng Zhang.

Meng Zhang could certainly feel Jin Li Daoist Master's goodwill.

He smiled awkwardly, realizing that he should change his habit of feeling uncomfortable when he doesn't take advantage of opportunities. After all, he is a Gold Core Daoist Master and a respected figure in the sect. He should maintain some dignity.

Meng Zhang received the several Heaven and Earth Spiritual Objects and quickly glanced at them, revealing an uncontrollable joy on his face.

These Heaven and Earth Spiritual Objects, which the entire Taiyi Sect has been desperately searching for, are easily obtained by Primordial Spirit True Monarch. That's the difference.

If he could gain a batch of Heaven and Earth Spiritual Objects every time he swallowed his pride, Meng Zhang would gladly throw his face on the ground.

Among these Heaven and Earth Spiritual Objects, the most precious one is a small bottle of Tianyi True Water.

Tianyi True Water has a great effect on Primordial Spirit True Monarchs who cultivate water-system techniques. Meng Zhang was surprised that True Monarch Tian Zhu was so generous and willing to give it away.

However, upon closer inspection, Meng Zhang found that this small bottle of Tianyi True Water was not only pitifully small in quantity but also not pure enough.

No wonder True Monarch Tian Zhu was willing to give it away. This slightly impure Tianyi True Water is quite mediocre for Primordial Spirit True Monarchs. It's not enough for anything.

Of course, what Primordial Spirit True Monarchs look down upon is a rare treasure for cultivators in the Foundation Building stage and even Gold Core Daoist Masters.

With this small bottle of Tianyi True Water, Delicate Water Spirit General should be able to restore a large portion of their Cultivation Base.

Although the other Heaven and Earth Spiritual Objects are not as valuable as this small bottle of Tianyi True Water, they are still very precious. They are of great use to the Guardian Spirit Generals of the Taiyi Sect.

Meng Zhang tried to suppress the joy on his face but couldn't help complaining to Jin Li Daoist Master.

This time, his complaint lacked the element of acting and genuinely expressed the difficulties he faced.

In addition to the large army of cultivators, the Fire Cloud Sect also sent three Daoist Masters, Scarlet Flame, Dark Cloud, and Fiery Cloud, into the Endless Sea of Sand.

Inside the Fire Cloud Sect's mountain gate, there are also Sect Master Daoist Master Firecloud and Daoist Master Blueflame.

Both of them have a mid-stage Gold Core Cultivation Base. Once they enter the Endless Sea of Sand, there is no one on the side of the Flying Swan Sect and Taiyi Sect who can resist them.

Upon hearing Meng Zhang's words, Jin Li Daoist Master looked disdainful and assured Meng Zhang that there was no need to worry. Daoist Master Firecloud and Daoist Master Blueflame are not a threat and cannot enter the Endless Sea of Sand. The strength of Gold Core Daoist Masters is crucial to the outcome of the upcoming battle. Meng Zhang did not easily accept Jin Li Daoist Master's words and insisted on hearing all the details.

Jin Li Daoist Master's face first showed a hint of embarrassment, then slowly began to explain to Meng Zhang.

It turns out that although Jin Li Daoist Master cannot take action in the Endless Sea of Sand, there are no such restrictions outside of it.

If the Fire Cloud Sect didn't have any background, Jin Li Daoist Master alone could make them restless and unable to focus on anything else.

However, the Fire Cloud Sect is not only a member of the Jiuqu League but also secretly supported by True Monarch Profound Wind.

Even Jin Li Daoist Master, bold as she is, doesn't dare to directly confront the Fire Cloud Sect.

However, she has been following True Monarch Tian Zhu's orders and monitoring the movements of the Fire Cloud Sect.

With her Gold Core late-stage Cultivation Base, the Fire Cloud Sect cannot harm her, let alone provoke her.

Over the years, the Flying Swan Sect has repeatedly gained the upper hand in the war against the Fire Cloud Sect, largely due to the intelligence provided by Jin Li Daoist Master, which allowed the Flying Swan Sect to understand the true and false of the Fire Cloud Sect.

But recently, disciples of True Monarch Profound Wind found a way to keep Jin Li Daoist Master occupied, preventing her from continuing to monitor the Fire Cloud Sect.

The news of the recovery of the injuries of Fire Cloud Sect's Daoist Master Fiery Cloud and Daoist Master Dark Cloud was kept strictly confidential, even hiding it from Jin Li Daoist Master.

It was because of the addition of two Gold Core Daoist Masters as reinforcements that the internally weakened Flying Swan Sect suffered a crushing defeat, and even Daoist Master Fei Yu died.

In this defeat of the Flying Swan Sect, not only were the Gold Core Daoist Masters of the Flying Swan Sect too greedy, focusing their main efforts on the Crow's Nest, but Jin Li Daoist Master also bears some blame.

Instead of following True Monarch Tian Zhu's orders to eliminate the Northern Desert Qi Family, the Flying Swan Sect made their own plans and attacked the Crow's Nest.

The Flying Swan Sect suffered a severe defeat and lost control of the Endless Sea of Sand, which greatly angered True Monarch Tian Zhu.

However, the Flying Swan Sect still has great value to True Monarch Tian Zhu, and he cannot do without them. So he can only suppress his anger and support the Flying Swan Sect in counterattacking.

Negligent Jin Li Daoist Master became the target of True Monarch Tian Zhu's anger and received a scolding, experiencing some hardships.

Perhaps with the intention of redeeming herself, Jin Li Daoist Master strengthened her surveillance of the Fire Cloud Sect, even daring to secretly infiltrate their mountain gate.

Hard work pays off, and she finally obtained the latest information about the Fire Cloud Sect.

The Sect Master of the Fire Cloud Sect, Daoist Master Firecloud, needs to possess a precious item of the Fire Cloud Sect and cannot easily leave the vicinity of their mountain gate.

With this precious item in hand, he can contend against Gold Core late-stage cultivators near the Fire Cloud Sect's mountain gate.

But because of the burden of this precious item, he is trapped around the Fire Cloud Sect's mountain gate.

During the last encounter, Daoist Master Blueflame, along with Daoist Master Dark Cloud and Daoist Master Fiery Cloud, fell into the siege of the Flying Swan Sect due to a scheme by the Crane Song Sect.

After the three of them escaped back to the Fire Cloud Sect with serious injuries, Daoist Master Blueflame was the most severely wounded and in the worst condition.

Daoist Master Dark Cloud and Daoist Master Fiery Cloud have recovered from their injuries, but Daoist Master Blueflame's condition continues to deteriorate.

Now, Daoist Master Blueflame can't even get out of bed, let alone engage in combat.

The Fire Cloud Sect still has two Gold Core mid-stage cultivators in name, but they are completely useless in the upcoming major battle in the Endless Sea of Sand.

Facing Meng Zhang's skeptical gaze, Jin Li Daoist Master insisted that her intelligence was accurate. To gain Meng Zhang's trust, she even went as far as swearing an oath.

Seeing Jin Li Daoist Master's appearance, Meng Zhang chose to believe her intelligence.

Chapter 516: The War Begins

Meng Zhang remembered the threat from Daoist Master Scarlet Flame during their last encounter. That old fellow was clearly bluffing. Despite his innocent appearance, he could lie without batting an eye. When Daoist Master Scarlet Flame first tried to recruit Meng Zhang, he claimed that the Gold Core Daoist Master's injuries had already healed. Later, Daoist Master Fiery Cloud and Daoist Master Dark Cloud indeed appeared in the Endless Sea of Sand and joined the battle, securing victory.

When Daoist Master Scarlet Flame visited again, he used the threat of Daoist Master Firecloud and Daoist Master Blueflame to intimidate Meng Zhang. With a mix of truth and lies, he almost scared

Meng Zhang. If it weren't for Jin LiDaoist Master revealing the truth today, Meng Zhang would still be worried about Daoist Master Firecloud and Daoist Master Blueflame.

Truly, deception is a common tactic in war, and half-truths are the hardest to uncover. Since Daoist Master Firecloud and Daoist Master Blueflame cannot enter the Endless Sea of Sand to join the battle, from the perspective of the Gold Core Daoist Master, the alliance between Taiyi Sect and Flying Swan Sect is now on par with the opponents. The mid-stage Gold Core Fei ShiDaoist Master, the early-stage Gold Core Wu Mingwei, and Meng Zhang, who is also in the early stage of Gold Core, are evenly matched against Daoist Master Scarlet Flame in the mid-stage of Gold Core, and Daoist Master Dark Cloud and Daoist Master Fiery Cloud in the early stage of Gold Core.

However, it is unknown whether Fei ShiDaoist Master has fully recovered from his injuries. Jin LiDaoist Master informed Meng Zhang that with the help of the elixir bestowed by True Monarch Tian Zhu, Fei ShiDaoist Master's injuries have almost healed, and he can join the battle at any time. Furthermore, she also told Meng Zhang that the Northern Desert Qi Family will stand with the Flying Swan Sect and participate in the battle against the Fire Cloud Sect.

Meng Zhang couldn't help but sigh. Qi Nanfei, together with Hong Siming, killed Fei JiangDaoist Master, creating a blood feud between the Northern Desert Qi Family and the Flying Swan Sect. The Flying Swan Sect even came close to exterminating the Northern Desert Qi Family. But in the blink of an eye, the Flying Swan Sect and the Northern Desert Qi Family have become allies on the same front. It is unknown whether there will be any awkwardness when the high-level members of both factions meet.

The transformation of alliances and enmities in the Cultivation World is sudden and unpredictable, unaffected by personal emotions. For the Northern Desert Qi Family, joining the Flying Swan Sect is not beneficial and even a thankless task. However, the will of the Primordial Spirit True Monarch overrides the interests and emotional inclinations of the family.

Next, the atmosphere in the entire Endless Sea of Sand became tense. The sects such as the Flying Swan Sect and Taiyi Sect openly prepared for war. Jin LiDaoist Master shuttled back and forth, acting as a mediator between the three factions to coordinate their differences.

Other cultivation forces within the Endless Sea of Sand keenly sensed the approaching storm. Unfortunately, they are weak and powerless in such a tempest, like floating duckweed in the wind and rain.

Apart from a few Guardian Spirit Generals in Taiyi Sect who are currently refining the Heaven and Earth Spiritual Object, the entire sect has mobilized its forces. The members of the Hanhai Alliance have enjoyed many benefits since its establishment, and now it is their turn to contribute to the alliance.

With the issuance of Meng Zhang's conscription order, every faction within the Hanhai Alliance has sent out their elite forces, deploying the majority of their sect's cultivators. With Taiyi Sect cultivators as the core and the cultivators from various factions within the Hanhai Alliance as their support, a large army of cultivators has been formed.

On the side of the Flying Swan Sect, they lost more than half of the Endless Sea of Sand due to their previous failure. Not only did their cultivators suffer heavy losses, but they also lost almost all of their subordinate families. The major cultivation forces that were once subservient to the Flying Swan Sect now have a new master. Fei ShiDaoist Master knew that True Monarch Tian Zhu was

extremely angry because of the previous actions of the Flying Swan Sect. Despite the past glory and beauty of the Flying Swan Sect, without the support of True Monarch Tian Zhu, they were nothing. True Monarch Tian Zhu could easily crush the Flying Swan Sect whenever he pleased. This was the last chance for the Flying Swan Sect. If they couldn't make amends, they would have no future.

Therefore, the Flying Swan Sect mobilized all their cultivators to form a somewhat presentable army. On the other hand, the Northern Desert Qi Family, using the excuse of suffering heavy losses in the Demon Wind Gobi, couldn't send too many cultivators to join the battle. Qi Nanfei Daoist Master only brought a dozen or so clan members with him and headed to the battlefield on a flying boat. Regardless, it was a good thing as long as he was willing to participate.

At least on the level of Gold Core Daoist Masters, the Flying Swan Sect had the advantage. In this battle, the Flying Swan Sect took the initiative to attack. After the Flying Swan Sect's army of cultivators left Yellow Sand Ridge, they directly headed towards the former Feihong Mountain, which was originally the Purple Gold Sect's mountain gate called Zijin Mountain. After the Purple Gold Sect's demise, it became the new mountain gate of the Flying Swan Sect and was renamed Feihong Mountain. It fell into the hands of the Fire Cloud Sect, but they hadn't had the chance to rename it yet.

This place was the best cultivation environment in the entire Endless Sea of Sand and the core of its rule. The mountain was situated on a Third Rank spirit vein, abundant in spiritual energy, and surrounded by rich resources. Feihong Mountain had suffered heavy losses during the surprise attack by the Gold Core Daoist Masters of the Fire Cloud Sect and had been completely reduced to ruins. Although the Flying Swan Sect had rebuilt the place, it was far from its former glory.

During the previous attack, the Fire Cloud Sect not only broke through the protective mountain formation but also destroyed most of the buildings on the mountain. The Fire Cloud Sect occupied the area for a short time and hadn't had the opportunity to rebuild extensively. The Gold Core Daoist Masters of the sect only set up a Third Rank protective mountain formation as their last line of defense.

The Flying Swan Sect, Taiyi Sect, and the Northern Desert Qi Family had a history of harming each other. Although they were forced to come together as temporary allies due to the will of the Primordial Spirit True Monarch, there was no trust between them. Even though they knew that the other side wouldn't dare to defy the will of the Primordial Spirit True Monarch and betray them during the battle, they were still cautious and guarded against each other.

Since there was no trust between the three factions, it was impossible for them to merge their forces. They decided to split into three completely independent teams, maintaining an appropriate distance from each other. This distance allowed them to have some trust in each other and provide mutual support and assistance when necessary.

On the side of the Fire Cloud Sect, instead of relying on the Third Rank protective mountain formation to defend Feihong Mountain, they deployed their main forces and actively confronted the invading enemy. In addition to their own army of cultivators, the Fire Cloud Sect also mobilized a large number of subordinate cultivators as auxiliary forces. The former subordinate families of the Flying Swan Sect and other cultivation forces in the Endless Sea of Sand had changed their allegiance and now obeyed the orders of their new masters.

Facing the powerful army of cultivators from the Fire Cloud Sect, they were powerless to resist and reluctantly became enemies of their former master, the Flying Swan Sect.

Chapter 517: Extremely undefeated

Under the strict orders of the Fire Cloud Sect, these recently joined forces have been mobilized, and all capable warriors from within the sect have been dispatched to the vicinity of Flying Swan City to receive orders.

These cultivators, with complex backgrounds, have low morale and no fighting spirit. Naturally, the Fire Cloud Sect cultivators do not trust them, nor do they value them. The Fire Cloud Sect cultivators have organized them into a servant army, intending to use them as cannon fodder to deplete the enemy's strength on the battlefield.

These cultivators are not fools; they are well aware of their own fate but are powerless to resist. If they obediently follow orders and go to the battlefield, there may still be a glimmer of hope for survival. However, if they dare to disobey orders, the Fire Cloud Sect cultivators will immediately annihilate them. Not only will they face certain death, but their families and sects behind them will also be implicated.

In the Cultivation World, it is crucial to understand the current situation. The Fire Cloud Sect cultivators did not even need to resort to intimidation; these cultivators obediently followed orders, which saved the Fire Cloud Sect cultivators a lot of effort.

As a result, the Fire Cloud Sect cultivators easily manipulated them, driving these cannon fodder to the forefront. The Fire Cloud Sect cultivators then deployed their ultimate war formation, the Vast and Mighty Fire Cloud Formation.

The Flying Swan Sect's Four Directions Subduing Mountain Formation and the Taiyi Sect's Yin-Yang Rotation Formation easily broke through the loose formation of these cannon fodder cultivators and collided with the Vast and Mighty Fire Cloud Formation.

Formations composed of a large number of cultivators clashed and fought on the ground, with attacks and defenses exchanged.

In this kind of cultivator battle, it is essentially soldier against soldier, general against general.

Daoist Master Scarlet Flame of the Fire Cloud Sect, accompanied by Daoist Master Dark Cloud and Daoist Master Fiery Cloud, flew into the air and actively challenged the cultivators from the Flying Swan Sect.

Fei Shi Daoist Master and Wu Mingwei rushed forward without showing any weakness, displaying a fierce momentum.

Meng Zhang and Qi Nanfei exchanged a helpless glance, knowing that they couldn't retreat in this fight.

The two of them flew from different directions and joined the battle.

Seven Gold Core Daoist Masters split into two opposing camps and fought fiercely in the air.

The sky was filled with surging fire clouds, scorching waves, overflowing energy, and howling winds. Various spells were cast recklessly, and magic tools flew around.

The Flying Swan Sect had the advantage in numbers, and their four Gold Core Daoist Masters had decent combat strength. However, they were unable to gain the upper hand against the three Gold Core Daoist Masters from the Fire Cloud Sect who joined forces.

After fighting for half a day, neither side could gain the upper hand, and victory or defeat was impossible to determine.

As a Gold Core sect much stronger than the Flying Swan Sect, the Fire Cloud Sect has a more advanced sect inheritance and deeper foundation. The magic tools and talismans used by Daoist Master Scarlet Flame and the other two Gold Core Daoist Masters are all top-quality items.

The three of them displayed extremely strong combat power. Even though they were outnumbered, they fearlessly fought against the enemy and showed no signs of weakness.

Fei Shi Daoist Master and Wu Mingwei, not to mention Qi Nanfei Daoist Master, who comes from the Northern Desert Qi Family, a branch of the Qi Family, one of the major cultivation families in the Middle-Earth Continent. Even if they did not receive the true inheritance of their main family, they still possess an authentic and superior lineage.

Especially Meng Zhang, despite having formed his core not long ago, his combat power is unmatched among early-stage Gold Core cultivators. If Qi Nanfei Daoist Master and Meng Zhang were willing to wholeheartedly cooperate with the two Gold Core Daoist Masters from the Flying Swan Sect, the situation on the battlefield would have likely changed long ago.

Unfortunately, both of them were reluctant to participate in a battle that had little to do with their own sects. Even if they had to go to the battlefield due to the will of the Primordial Spirit True Monarch, they had no intention of giving it their all.

With the assistance of Meng Zhang and Qi Nanfei Daoist Master, the Flying Swan Sect would not be defeated. However, they also didn't want the Flying Swan Sect to gain a complete advantage.

If they pushed the three Gold Core Daoist Masters of the Fire Cloud Sect to the brink, what would happen if they fought desperately? Meng Zhang and Qi Nanfei Daoist Master were both pillars of their respective forces and couldn't afford any mistakes.

They had no personal gain from helping the Flying Swan Sect, so there was no need to go all out. Even if they fought with all their might, the Flying Swan Sect might not appreciate their efforts.

The current situation, where neither side was winning or losing, was the best. If this kind of battle could continue indefinitely, it would be ideal.

Meng Zhang and Qi Nanfei Daoist Master had this in mind and naturally didn't reveal their trump cards, only using conventional methods against the enemy.

Of course, they were not completely idle. If they didn't exert some effort, the two Gold Core Daoist Masters from the Flying Swan Sect would not be able to withstand the opponents.

The seven Gold Core Daoist Masters fought fiercely in the air. The battle seemed intense, but there were no casualties or any side falling into a disadvantage.

Fei Shi Daoist Master and Wu Mingwei were not fools, especially Fei Shi Daoist Master, who was a mid-stage Gold Core cultivator. He had a keen eye and had long noticed that Meng Zhang and Qi Nanfei Daoist Master had ulterior motives.

However, even if he noticed, what could he do? If they didn't put in any effort or only put in a little, only they themselves could control it.

Fei Shi Daoist Master had secretly communicated with them a few times, urging them to use their true abilities and defeat the opponents as soon as possible.

Qi Nanfei Daoist Master couldn't be bothered to pay attention to him and didn't show him a good face.

Meng Zhang, on the other hand, gave him some face and explained with a somewhat aggrieved tone. He was young and had recently formed his core, so his strength was limited. The opponents were too strong, and even if he used all his abilities, this was the best he could do. It wasn't that he didn't want to help, but he was simply incapable. He had already done his best, and there was nothing more he could do.

Meng Zhang's explanation only fueled Fei Shi Daoist Master's anger.

But with both Meng Zhang and Qi Nanfei Daoist Master behaving this way, he had no better solution.

Everyone knew their true strength and how many trump cards they had, and only they themselves were aware of it. Even if Fei Shi Daoist Master had a good eye, he couldn't grasp their weaknesses.

In fact, Fei Shi Daoist Master had to hide his dissatisfaction and couldn't casually reprimand them.

Although Meng Zhang and Qi Nanfei Daoist Master had to stand on the side of the Flying Swan Sect and assist them in battle due to the orders of the Primordial Spirit True Monarch, the Fire Cloud Sect also had the support of True Monarch Profound Wind.

Qi Nanfei might not dare to defy the orders of the Primordial Spirit True Monarch of the Qi Family, but Meng Zhang had fewer concerns. He had no loyalty towards either the Flying Swan Sect or True Monarch Tian Zhu.

If they provoked him, he could switch to the side of the Fire Cloud Sect and seek the protection of True Monarch Profound Wind. The balance of power would immediately reverse, and the situation would quickly deteriorate.

Fei Shi Daoist Master didn't know Meng Zhang well enough and could only speculate with the worst intentions.

Chapter 518: Rubber

Fei Shi Daoist Master was also helpless and could only accept the current situation. It's better to neither win nor lose than to suffer a great defeat. With this thought in mind, Fei Shi Daoist Master temporarily suppressed his burning desire for revenge. He put aside his dissatisfaction and focused on maintaining the current state of the battle.

The three Gold Core Daoist Masters from Fire Cloud Sect had a strong desire to win, but being weaker than their opponents, they were already giving their all just to maintain a stalemate.

Whenever they made a move to overpower the Flying Swan Sect, Meng Zhang and Qi Nanfei Daoist Master would also act in unison to maintain the balance of the battle. When they became exhausted

and started to recover their strength, Meng Zhang and Qi Nanfei Daoist Master would ease their efforts, pretending to be unable to keep up.

Due to the hidden intentions of Meng Zhang and Qi Nanfei Daoist Master, the aerial battle reached a stalemate. On the ground, the cultivator armies of Flying Swan Sect and Taiyi Sect joined forces to resist the cultivator army of Fire Cloud Sect.

Wen Qiansun, as the most outstanding Formation Master of Taiyi Sect, was responsible for commanding the deployment of Taiyi Sect's cultivators. Before the start of the war, Meng Zhang had specifically entrusted him with the task. The main objective of this battle was not to seek victory but to preserve their strength and protect the lives of their own cultivators.

Other forces from the Hanhai Alliance also dispatched a large number of cultivators to form an army formation. They moved alongside the Taiyi Sect's Yin-Yang Reversal Formation, coordinating their actions with Taiyi Sect's cultivators.

The cultivators of Flying Swan Sect and Fire Cloud Sect were bitter enemies, and their rivalry was intense. Without any need for mobilization or wasted words, as soon as the battle began, both sides' cultivators immediately fought desperately.

However, despite their deep hatred, neither side lost their rationality or became disoriented. In such a large-scale battle, individual cultivator strength was severely suppressed, and cooperation and reliance on the power of formations were necessary to determine the outcome.

The Four Directions Subduing Mountain Formation and the Fire Cloud Formation collided and clashed incessantly, resulting in casualties within the formations.

Fire Cloud Sect's strength was originally superior to that of Flying Swan Sect. Even if Flying Swan Sect was at its peak, it would have been difficult to withstand the cultivator army of Fire Cloud Sect, let alone now when they had suffered multiple losses. Flying Swan Sect had exhausted all its resources to assemble the seemingly formidable cultivator army before them. However, after a fierce battle, they gradually fell into a disadvantageous position.

Fortunately, the cultivators of Taiyi Sect were there to assist them. Wen Qiansun commanded the Taiyi Sect cultivators to launch attacks from the side, playing a significant role in restraining Fire Cloud Sect's cultivators. This helped alleviate a great deal of pressure on Flying Swan Sect.

The miscellaneous army formed by the members of the Hanhai Alliance, following the movements of Taiyi Sect's cultivator army, did not contribute much. Those cultivators who had sided with Fire Cloud Sect, after being scattered by the Flying Swan Sect's army, reluctantly regrouped under the strong orders of a few Fire Cloud Sect cultivators. Although these cultivators lacked any fighting spirit and couldn't make much of an impact in direct combat, they could harass Flying Swan Sect from the sidelines.

While commanding the Yin-Yang Reversal Formation of Taiyi Sect, Wen Qiansun also kept a close eye on the changes in the overall battle situation and immediately noticed the movements on that side.

The allied army of the Hanhai Alliance, on the other hand, was somewhat obstructive and not very effective. The one commanding this allied army was Qiaoshou Sect Master Jin Qigu. Jin Qigu himself was highly capable and had great tact. Previously, he had commanded this army with precision and flexibility. However, when facing a powerful sect like Fire Cloud Sect, not only other

forces, but even Jin Qigu himself felt a bit uneasy. Therefore, his performance before the battle was not good, which greatly disappointed Wen Qiansun.

Seeing the enemy regrouping not far away, Wen Qiansun simply ordered Jin Qigu to lead the allied forces of the Hanhai Alliance to attack the cannon fodder of Fire Cloud Sect.

After receiving the order, everyone, including Jin Qigu, breathed a sigh of relief. They faced Fire Cloud Sect with insufficient confidence and had no pressure against this group of makeshift cannon fodder.

Although they had fewer numbers and were overall weaker, their high morale drove them to actively engage their opponents.

It felt like a match between equals, with miscellaneous troops against miscellaneous troops, cannon fodder against cannon fodder.

The battle between them was lively and intense, with a lot of action but few casualties.

The Hanhai Alliance was essentially under the control of Taiyi Sect, and the other forces within the alliance were subordinate to Taiyi Sect.

How could they be expected to sacrifice themselves for Taiyi Sect without considering their own losses? It was possible to fight a relatively easy battle, but if they were forced to fight desperately, it would be a different story.

Their opponents, those who were originally affiliated with Flying Swan Sect but were now forced to join Fire Cloud Sect, had even less fighting spirit.

Even when the commanding Fire Cloud Sect cultivators scolded them, they still put on a show without putting in much effort.

Speaking of which, they were all cultivation forces within the Endless Sea of Sand, and there were some connections and familiar faces among them.

During the battle, some daring individuals secretly communicated with the enemy, trying to establish relationships and gain some leniency from the opposing side.

In this way, the battle was divided into three fronts, each with different performances.

The most intense battle took place on the front where the seven Gold Core Daoist Masters were fighting, yet there had been no casualties.

The most devastating casualties occurred on the front where the cultivator armies of Flying Swan Sect and Fire Cloud Sect clashed.

After a fierce battle, both Flying Swan Sect and Fire Cloud Sect suffered heavy losses, and even Taiyi Sect, which was conducting a diversionary attack on the side, also experienced significant casualties.

Wen Qiansun, who was in charge of commanding the operation, naturally felt heartbroken about the casualties among his fellow sect members. However, he knew that these losses were unavoidable.

Only through repeated battles and tempering could the cultivators of Taiyi Sect grow into seasoned warriors.

On the other hand, the third front, which was the most lively, had minimal casualties.

The battle lasted for a full day and night.

The cultivators of the Hanhai Alliance and their opponents were exhausted and unable to continue fighting. They engaged in lackluster skirmishes, and many even stopped pretending and found a place to meditate and recover.

After fighting for so long, the enthusiasm of the cultivator armies of Flying Swan Sect and Fire Cloud Sect had diminished, and the frequency of their attacks decreased, with longer intervals between each assault.

The seven Gold Core Daoist Masters in the sky showed no signs of fatigue and continued to fight with high spirits. For Gold Core Daoist Masters, such battles could last for ten days or even longer without feeling the slightest exhaustion.

The battles on the two fronts on the ground began to conclude as everyone sounded the retreat and prepared to regroup and rest before continuing the fight.

The seven Gold Core Daoist Masters remained unaffected by the outside world and continued to fight at their original pace, with no sign of the battle ending in the near future.

Chapter 519: The Decided Change

After the lower-level cultivators of several forces returned to rest, they started fighting again. Everyone was tired and went back to rest, and after resting, they continued to fight. Although there were many casualties, it was still difficult to determine the outcome. After several repetitions, everyone knew that unless the Gold Core Daoist Masters could quickly determine the winner between them, this would be a long-lasting battle.

The seven Gold Core Daoist Masters fought in the sky for more than ten days, but it ended in a draw. In the end, the three Gold Core Daoist Masters from the Fire Cloud Sect couldn't bear it anymore. After forcing their opponents to retreat, they voluntarily flew back to their own team of cultivators and commanded them to slowly withdraw.

Meng Zhang and Qi Nanfei had no intention of pursuing, and Fei Shi Daoist Master and Wu Mingwei didn't have the courage to venture alone. Helplessly, they exchanged glances and joined the disciples of the Flying Swan Sect, slowly leaving the battlefield.

Next, the Fire Cloud Sect, Flying Swan Sect, and Taiyi Sect set up temporary camps in the wilderness and deployed temporary defensive formations. The war entered a stalemate phase.

Every once in a while, the seven Gold Core Daoist Masters would come out to fight, but it always ended in a draw. When they got tired or bored, both sides would tacitly end the battle and return to their respective positions. The armies of both sides would occasionally form battle formations and engage in large-scale battles. However, apart from leaving behind a pile of corpses and shedding blood in vain, they couldn't determine the outcome or the direction of the war.

The Fire Cloud Sect and the Flying Swan Sect were naturally dissatisfied with this situation but couldn't find a way to break the deadlock for the time being. Meng Zhang and Qi Nanfei Daoist Master, on the other hand, were pleased with the current situation.

The casualties of the Taiyi Sect cultivators made Sect Master Meng Zhang feel a bit distressed. He could only see it as a way to train his disciples.

The cultivators of the three sects were all stationed in the wilderness without any spirit veins to utilize. From the Gold Core Daoist Masters in the sect to the Qi Refining disciples, they all needed a continuous supply of spiritual stones to meet their daily needs and ensure they could meditate and rest.

Especially for the Gold Core Daoist Masters, if they wanted to maintain their cultivation base and prevent it from declining, they needed to spend high-grade spiritual stones to set up gathering formations. If they wanted to continue their daily cultivation and further improve their cultivation base, they would need to consume spiritual marrow.

In particular, during continuous warfare, the consumption of true qi by all cultivators was severe, resulting in an even greater demand for spiritual stones.

After the war had been going on for some time, the Fire Cloud Sect, with its abundant resources, had no problems. However, the Taiyi Sect was starting to feel a bit overwhelmed.

The Flying Swan Sect had ruled the Endless Sea of Sand for many years and had a decent foundation. But after years of continuous consumption, especially after the major defeat last time where they even lost their mountain gate, their losses were extremely heavy.

Losing almost all their territories and control over the Endless Sea of Sand, the Flying Swan Sect had almost lost all their sources of income. Now, they were relying solely on their limited reserves to sustain themselves.

If the war dragged on, the Flying Swan Sect's reserves would be quickly depleted. The Taiyi Sect, after years of preparation and active preparations for war, should have been well-prepared. But after the war started, Meng Zhang realized that he had underestimated the consumption of resources between the Gold Core sects. The supplies accumulated by the Taiyi Sect before the war were rapidly depleting and difficult to replenish. Despite the vast and prosperous territory currently occupied by the Taiyi Sect, they had never had enough time for development. Most of the Taiyi Sect and Hanhai Alliance cultivators were tied up on the battlefield, and there simply weren't enough manpower available for the development work in the Demon Wind Gobi. The resources obtained barely met the needs of the Demon Wind Gobi.

On the other hand, the territory of the Taiyi Sect in the Endless Sea of Sand, although a bit barren, had been fully developed over the years and was running smoothly. Even if most of the cultivators were drawn away, it could still provide a continuous supply of various resources to replenish the Taiyi Sect's army of cultivators. However, this replenishment was insignificant compared to the daily consumption of the large army.

Although the supplies accumulated by the Taiyi Sect before the war were far from being exhausted and could continue to support them for a long time, Meng Zhang felt a sense of pain, considering this consumption to be meaningless.

At this time, Meng Zhang began to doubt the decision he had made before. He had originally hoped that the Flying Swan Sect and the Fire Cloud Sect would be trapped in a protracted war, constantly consuming each other. Unexpectedly, the Taiyi Sect's army would also be dragged into this and suffer the same consumption.

During the lulls in the war, the elders of the sect, Wen Qiansun, Hu Jing, and Yang Xueyi, all approached Meng Zhang expressing their dissatisfaction with the current situation and presenting similar opinions. Instead of letting the Taiyi Sect suffer losses here, they suggested fully assisting the Flying Swan Sect in driving out the Fire Cloud Sect and ending this greatly consuming war.

After the Fire Cloud Sect was expelled, even if the Flying Swan Sect regained its position as the ruler of the Endless Sea of Sand, everything would never return to how it was before. Just cleaning up the mess left by the Fire Cloud Sect would require a lot of time and effort. As long as the Taiyi Sect and the Northern Desert Qi Family cooperated, they wouldn't fear that the severely weakened Flying Swan Sect could threaten them.

Meng Zhang, limited by his own intelligence and experience, often couldn't make the best choices and frequently made mistakes in his decisions. However, he had one advantage - he was not stubborn. He rarely thought he was always right and was willing to listen to others' opinions. Meng Zhang felt that the elders' arguments made sense, so after discussing with them, he changed his original decision and decided to help the Flying Swan Sect defeat the Fire Cloud Sect first.

Of course, Meng Zhang only dared to say that they could defeat the Fire Cloud Sect and drive them out of the Endless Sea of Sand. He never dared to hope that they could kill the opponent's Gold Core Daoist Masters or severely damage their army of cultivators. Neither Meng Zhang personally nor the entire Taiyi Sect wanted to pay too high a price in this war.

In fact, it would be best if the Fire Cloud Sect could preserve some strength after their defeat and continue to pose a threat to the Flying Swan Sect. Only with the pressure of an external enemy could the attention of the Flying Swan Sect be diverted, preventing them from plotting against the Taiyi Sect and the Northern Desert Qi Family.

Meng Zhang had made his decision and needed to inform Qi Nanfei Daoist Master. After all, they would need their help in the upcoming major battle. Unfortunately, Meng Zhang's proposal did not receive Qi Nanfei Daoist Master's approval. He felt that the current situation was fine, and he had no intention of changing it. After all, the Northern Desert Qi Family had not sent a large army of cultivators to fight; only a few cultivators were making a show on the battlefield, so there wouldn't be much consumption. Qi Nanfei himself might consume a lot of high-grade spiritual stones, but with the hundreds of years of foundation of the Northern Desert Qi Family, they could still sustain it.

Chapter 520: Heavy losses

For Qi Nanfei, the current situation was just right. The forces of the Flying Swan Sect, Fire Cloud Sect, and Taiyi Sect were constantly consuming and bleeding, which suited his intentions perfectly.

Even though Meng Zhang seemed to have good understanding with him, it was Taiyi Sect that had secretly colluded with the Northern Desert Qi Family before. However, Taiyi Sect did that for their own interests, needing the Northern Desert Qi Family to restrain the Flying Swan Sect.

In Qi Nanfei's eyes, the Flying Swan Sect was a mortal enemy, and Taiyi Sect was no friend either. He hadn't forgotten how the Northern Desert Qi Family suffered from the schemes of Taiyi Sect and Flying Swan Sect in the battle at Demon Wind Gobi.

Now, when Meng Zhang wanted Qi Nanfei's cooperation to defeat the Fire Cloud Sect together, Qi Nanfei simply wouldn't agree. Despite Meng Zhang's persistent persuasion and attempts to bribe him, Qi Nanfei not only rejected Meng Zhang but also mocked him.

As the heated argument continued, Meng Zhang left empty-handed, but he was determined in his heart. Without a butcher like Zhang, he wouldn't eat a pig with hair. Even without Qi Nanfei's cooperation, he believed that he could break the deadlock with his improved cultivation and Divine Ability. He had made considerable progress during this period of time.

In the following struggles, Meng Zhang silently observed, carefully seeking opportunities. The battle had been deadlocked for 2-3 months, and not only were the forces of the cultivators exhausted, but even the several Gold Core Daoist Masters were growing weary.

On this day, the seven Gold Core Daoist Masters flew to the center of the battlefield as if it were a routine, starting a new round of fighting.

In previous battles, the Gold Core Daoist Masters of the Flying Swan Sect and Fire Cloud Sect had tried to inflict heavy damage to decide the victory. But due to Meng Zhang and Qi Nanfei's interference, they had given up on this idea and chose to maintain the status quo.

This time's battle seemed no different from before. However, as soon as the battle started, Meng Zhang took the lead and charged towards Daoist Master Fiery Cloud.

Meng Zhang rarely acted so boldly. Though Fei Shi Daoist Master and Wu Mingwei were a bit surprised, they followed closely to prevent Meng Zhang from being surrounded.

Even though Fei Shi Daoist Master and the others disliked Meng Zhang, they wouldn't stand by and watch him get into danger.

Qi Nanfei Daoist Master disdainfully glanced at Meng Zhang, feeling quite contemptuous of him. "You think everyone will fight to the death just because you take the initiative to charge? How naive!"

Qi Nanfei lazily flew at the rear, advancing leisurely.

Seeing Meng Zhang's bold charge, the three Gold Core Daoist Masters from the Fire Cloud Sect assumed he was being impulsive due to his youth. They had indeed intended to take advantage of this and deal heavy blows to Meng Zhang, but Fei Shi Daoist Master and Wu Mingwei's prompt arrival prevented them from doing so.

Daoist Master Fiery Cloud, Meng Zhang's target, didn't take Meng Zhang, a junior, seriously at all. In the previous battles, Meng Zhang and Qi Nanfei's subtle actions hadn't escaped their teammates or the enemy's notice. Daoist Master Fiery Cloud wasn't afraid of someone like Meng Zhang, who was sly and cunning.

He confidently confronted Meng Zhang as soon as they made contact, and they began fighting.

Behind Daoist Master Fiery Cloud, Daoist Master Scarlet Flame and Daoist Master Dark Cloud were held back by Fei Shi Daoist Master and Wu Mingwei. Fei Shi Daoist Master and Daoist Master Scarlet Flame were experienced adversaries, and their confrontation was a tough match. Even if they fought for a long time, it would be difficult to determine a winner.

Wu Mingwei, being a newcomer to the Gold Core stage, lacked the experiences like Meng Zhang. Facing the seasoned Daoist Master Dark Cloud, he was at a disadvantage and slowly began to lose ground.

Meanwhile, on Meng Zhang and Daoist Master Fiery Cloud's side, shortly after their confrontation began, Meng Zhang started retreating, gradually luring Daoist Master Fiery Cloud away from the battlefield.

In such a situation, Meng Zhang should have moved closer to Qi Nanfei to cooperate and assist each other, while also leaving room to support Wu Mingwei. However, from Qi Nanfei's perspective, Meng Zhang probably didn't seek his help because of their previous dispute. "Young people these days have thin skin," Qi Nanfei thought, shaking his head.

Battle between Gold Core cultivators was not easily decided in a short time. Often, it was easy to determine victory but hard to decide life and death. Qi Nanfei didn't bother with Meng Zhang and instead flew towards Wu Mingwei and Daoist Master Dark Cloud. He weakly made his move, using some of his abilities to help Wu Mingwei resist Daoist Master Dark Cloud.

He had to comply with the order of the Primordial Spirit True Monarch of his sect. Once he entered the battlefield, he had to exert some effort to ensure their side wouldn't fail.

As for Meng Zhang and Daoist Master Fiery Cloud, they fought and retreated, moving further away from the others.

Daoist Master Fiery Cloud raised a cloud sail and easily blocked two flying swords. He couldn't help but give a comment, "Your sword technique is excellent, but it's just average for flying swords." He seemed to adopt the posture of a senior expert.

He threw a fist-sized cloth bag that turned into a fiery red cloud in mid-air, carrying scorching heat waves. The fiery cloud engulfed Meng Zhang.

Meng Zhang flicked his fingers continuously, shooting out sharp sword qi one after another. Twin Forms Towards Heaven Sword, a small Divine Ability he mastered when he was still at the Foundation Building stage, had been a great success. As he entered the Gold Core stage, he had elevated this small Divine Ability into a true one.

Now, unleashing it, the intertwined black and white sword qi managed to withstand Daoist Master Fiery Cloud's offensive magic tool.

In previous battles, both Meng Zhang and Qi Nanfei had deliberately held back. Especially Meng Zhang, under the pretense of being unskilled, made Daoist Master Fiery Cloud underestimate his true strength.

To change the situation quickly, Meng Zhang needed to end the deadlock between the Gold Core Daoist Masters. He stopped concealing his abilities and showed his true skills.

Although Daoist Master Fiery Cloud was somewhat surprised by Meng Zhang's combat power, he wasn't afraid. As an experienced Gold Core Daoist Master from the Fire Cloud Sect, he had been through numerous battles and wouldn't fear a junior.

The two engaged in an increasingly intense battle, bringing out their respective killer moves.

Fortunately, Meng Zhang had led Daoist Master Fiery Cloud far away from the main battlefield at the beginning of the fight. Otherwise, the commotion caused by their intense battle would have attracted the attention of other Gold Core Daoist Masters, and they might have intervened at any moment.

After a fierce fight, Meng Zhang suddenly pulled out the Spiritsnake Spear, a spiritual weapon, under the cover of the Strange and Upright Sword Art, and dealt a vicious blow to Daoist Master Fiery Cloud.

The Spiritsnake Spear easily pierced through Daoist Master Fiery Cloud's defensive magic tool, leaving a large hole in his body. Terrifying killing intent invaded his body, quickly shattering his True Essence and wreaking havoc within him.

Daoist Master Fiery Cloud let out a heart-rending scream, using all his strength to avoid Meng Zhang and fly away from the battlefield.

Gold Core Daoist Masters had a wide range of Divine Sense perception and astonishing sensing abilities. Although Meng Zhang had taken Daoist Master Fiery Cloud far away from the area where other Gold Core Daoist Masters were fighting, the commotion they caused immediately alerted the others.

Daoist Master Scarlet Flame and Daoist Master Dark Cloud didn't hesitate and immediately abandoned their opponents, flying over to join Daoist Master Fiery Cloud and protect him.

Fei Shi Daoist Master and Wu Mingwei followed closely, but Daoist Master Scarlet Flame blocked them temporarily.

Qi Nanfei was shocked by Meng Zhang's display of combat power and regretted their previous disagreement. But he quickly realized that Taiyi Sect and Northern Desert Qi Family were not allies, and their outward harmony would not change anything when their interests clashed.

No matter how close their relationship seemed, when their interests collided, nobody would hold back.

Qi Nanfei deliberately lagged behind, not joining the attack on Daoist Master Scarlet Flame's group.

Daoist Master Scarlet Flame blocked Fei Shi Daoist Master and Wu Mingwei, and Daoist Master Dark Cloud rescued Daoist Master Fiery Cloud. Then, the three of them gathered and fought together, gradually retreating from the battlefield.

Meng Zhang's attack had also taken a toll on him. After regaining his breath, he had only restored a portion of his True Essence.

Facing his suspicious comrades, he didn't dare to expose his back to them. To maintain his fighting condition and conserve True Essence, he didn't want to continue consuming too much.

Meng Zhang summoned two flying swords to pursue, but he couldn't catch up with the enemies.

Daoist Master Scarlet Flame remained clear-headed and recognized the current situation. Daoist Master Fiery Cloud was seriously injured, and his life and death were uncertain. More importantly, Meng Zhang had displayed his true strength, making the situation worse for the Fire Cloud Sect in terms of Gold Core Daoist Masters.

In most battles in the Cultivation World, once the top-level situation collapsed, no matter how hard the lower-level cultivators fought, they couldn't turn the tide.

Today's battle would be no exception. The defeat of the Fire Cloud Sect was inevitable.

However, if handled properly, the losses of the Fire Cloud Sect could still be controlled, and there might be a chance for a comeback in the future.

Daoist Master Scarlet Flame and the others quickly retreated to rejoin the large army of Fire Cloud Sect cultivators, then commanded the army to slowly withdraw. Although the Fire Cloud Sect was defeated, they maintained their formation intact during the retreat, leaving no room for the enemy to take advantage.

Upon seeing the enemy retreating, the cultivator army of the Flying Swan Sect immediately gained morale and wanted to pursue in the momentum of victory.

However, first, the enemy's defense was tight, and second, the cultivator army of Taiyi Sect didn't actively cooperate. After an intense pursuit battle, the Fire Cloud Sect suffered some losses, but its main force safely withdrew from the battlefield. The chosen battlefield was not far from the Flying Swan City. However, instead of retreating to the city, the Fire Cloud Sect's cultivator army directly returned to Feihong Mountain.

When the last Fire Cloud Sect cultivator retreated into Feihong Mountain, the Third Rank mountain protection great formation on the mountain lit up. Although the two Gold Core Daoist Masters of the Flying Swan Sect were unwilling, they had to accept that the enemy had escaped this time.

During the Fire Cloud Sect's retreat, they naturally didn't care about the forcibly conscripted cannon fodder followers who were part of their army. As weak individuals, they knew the art of survival.

As soon as they saw the Fire Cloud Sect's cultivator army retreating, this makeshift group of miscellaneous followers immediately scattered. Some cultivators exerted all their strength and desperately fled the battlefield, wanting to get far away from there. Others voluntarily flew towards the camps of the Flying Swan Sect and Taiyi Sect, kneeling down on arrival, wailing loudly in a desperate plea.

They vehemently accused the Fire Cloud Sect cultivators of their sins, narrating each evil deed committed. They incessantly explained how innocent they were, how they had no choice...

These people were truly cunning, understanding well the way of survival for the weak. The Flying Swan Sect and Taiyi Sect, being righteous sects, generally refrained from killing prisoners. Moreover, these cultivators had surrendered willingly in public, showing sincere intentions.

Seeing the Fire Cloud Sect cultivators successfully retreat under their noses, the Flying Swan Sect's cultivators were filled with suppressed anger. They wanted to vent on these prisoners, but they had to consider the presence of Taiyi Sect and Northern Desert Qi Family's cultivators. Maintaining face and appearance was valuable when it came to righteous sects in front of outsiders.

The Flying Swan Sect accepted the surrender of these cultivators for now. As for how to punish them in the future, that was another matter.

Some of the Taiyi Sect and Flying Swan Sect cultivators surrendered as well. There were various connections between the major forces of the Hanhai Alliance and the surrendered cultivators. By

surrendering, these cultivators not only represented themselves but also their respective forces' allegiance to Taiyi Sect.

These cultivators who voluntarily surrendered to Taiyi Sect might have heard about Taiyi Sect's reputation. Despite appearing righteous and virtuous, these major sects were like hungry wolves, devouring people without spitting out bones.

Comparatively, Taiyi Sect seemed less domineering than the Flying Swan Sect.

Meng Zhang didn't think much of these cultivators and even less of their backing forces. At the moment, they were allies with the Flying Swan Sect, and he was hesitant to accept these forces, fearing that the Flying Swan Sect might have other ideas.

However, seeing the desperate pleading of these cultivators reminded Meng Zhang of his own past and the not-yet-established Taiyi Sect.

The scene was so familiar. There was a time when he was just like these cultivators, forced to submit to the powerful. For the survival of his sect, he had to go against his own will and humble himself to others.

Meng Zhang's heart softened, and he signaled his disciples to accept the surrender of these cultivators and the allegiance of their backing forces. As for how to deal with them and their forces, that would be a matter for the future.

Fei Shi Daoist Master glanced coldly at the Taiyi Sect's group, suppressing the dissatisfaction in his heart. These fence-sitters were originally under the command of the Flying Swan Sect but were forced to turn to the Fire Cloud Sect.

The Flying Swan Sect had never been a magnanimous sect, and Fei Shi Daoist Master was not a forgiving person either. If these traitors weren't severely punished, how could the Flying Swan Sect maintain its dignity and warn others?

Fei Shi Daoist Master had long considered how to deal with these traitors.

These opportunists, did they really think that the Flying Swan Sect would yield to the face of major righteous sects and let them off easily?

Now that some cultivators surrendered to Taiyi Sect, it greatly affected Fei Shi Daoist Master's plan. He didn't think Meng Zhang was being compassionate but rather believed that Meng Zhang remembered past grievances and intentionally opposed the Flying Swan Sect.

However, now was the time to employ people. Meng Zhang had just demonstrated his formidable combat power, securing their victory. Fei Shi Daoist Master could only suppress his dissatisfaction and keep this matter in mind, not arguing with Meng Zhang.

Both the cultivators who surrendered to the Flying Swan Sect and those who surrendered to Taiyi Sect were temporarily under the supervision of both sects. The battle was not over yet, so it wasn't the time to grant them freedom.

Especially for those who scattered and fled, Fei Shi Daoist Master had already sentenced them to death in his heart.

After receiving the captives, clearing the battlefield, and regrouping, more than half a day had passed. The cultivators from the Flying Swan Sect and Taiyi Sect didn't waste any time and directly headed towards the nearby Flying Swan City.

Flying Swan City, once the main city of the Flying Swan Sect's ruling area in Endless Sea of Sand, used to be the most prosperous and lively place in the entire region. However, after several upheavals, it had gradually fallen into decline.

When the Fire Cloud Sect defeated the Flying Swan Sect and took over Flying Swan City, they didn't have enough time to manage the city. As a result, what used to be a city with over a hundred thousand people, where mortals and cultivators lived together, became desolate and almost turned into a ghost town.

Fire Cloud Sect's invasion of Endless Sea of Sand was purely plunder. Perhaps even the higher-ups of Fire Cloud Sect didn't know how long they could establish a foothold in Endless Sea of Sand. Although the Fire Cloud Sect's army occupied the area for a short time, they almost looted everything around.

Over the centuries, Flying Swan City had accumulated various wealth, and even the mortals in the city were forcibly plundered by Fire Cloud Sect and sent back to their sect's territory.

Though Jiuqu League was wealthier than the Endless Sea of Sand, it was still not an excessively prosperous place. Especially the area near the Endless Sea of Sand, the environment wasn't favorable, and the population wasn't dense.

In the Cultivation World, mortals, especially in large numbers, were also a form of wealth. By forcibly taking away the mortals from the surroundings, Fire Cloud Sect was severing the foundation of the Flying Swan Sect.

Furthermore, many of these mortals had connections with the Flying Swan Sect cultivators. Seeing their own mortal relatives taken away by the enemy, their fate uncertain and whereabouts unknown, the morale of the low-level Flying Swan Sect cultivators would undoubtedly be greatly impacted.

However, in the face of the current major threat, the Flying Swan Sect couldn't afford to worry about distant matters. The foundation of the sect and the mortal relatives of their disciples all had to be temporarily put aside. If they couldn't defeat the Fire Cloud Sect quickly and drive them out of the Endless Sea of Sand, it would be a great trouble for the Flying Swan Sect.

After the Fire Cloud Sect's cultivator army retreated to Feihong Mountain, the few Fire Cloud Sect cultivators stationed in Flying Swan City also chose to abandon it and return to Feihong Mountain to join the main force. Now, only a small number of servant cultivators, who were used as cannon fodder, were left in Flying Swan City, feeling somewhat at a loss.

Shortly after the Fire Cloud Sect's cultivator army left, the Flying Swan Sect and Taiyi Sect's armies followed and arrived at the city. Faced with the scene of a large army pressing forward, these cultivators didn't even have the slightest intention to resist and surrendered willingly.

The Flying Swan Sect and Taiyi Sect cultivators successfully took over Flying Swan City and temporarily managed it together. The core city of their sect, the former ruling center of the Endless Sea of Sand, had turned into this ruined appearance, deeply saddening each Flying Swan Sect cultivator.

Particularly humiliating was the fact that they had to make concessions to Taiyi Sect, letting the Taiyi Sect cultivators take over many areas in the city. Taiyi Sect was now an indispensable ally and had shown formidable combat power. The Flying Swan Sect cultivators could only endure their humiliation and helplessly accept the reality.

Retaking Flying Swan City had its greatest benefit in that both Taiyi Sect and Flying Swan Sect now had a reliable foothold, greatly reducing the consumption of their armies. Flying Swan City possessed a Second Rank high-grade spirit vein, which covered a wide area and was abundant in pure spiritual energy. This spiritual energy was enough for both sects' cultivators.

As a Gold Core Daoist Master, the spiritual energy here was insufficient for Meng Zhang's use. However, meeting the needs of low-level disciples significantly reduced the pressure on Taiyi Sect and Flying Swan Sect. Flying Swan Sect's resources could last for a longer time, and Taiyi Sect could finally catch its breath. Meng Zhang no longer needed to be in a hurry to engage in battle.

Daoist Master Fiery Cloud had suffered a blow from the Spiritsnake Spear, and Meng Zhang was confident in his strength and the power of the Spiritsnake Spear. Although Daoist Master Fiery Cloud managed to retreat from the battlefield, it would be extremely difficult for him to protect his life, let alone recover his cultivation base.

No matter what elixirs or secret techniques he had, at least in this war, Daoist Master Fiery Cloud was pretty much out of the picture.

As a result, Flying Swan Sect held an overwhelming advantage in terms of Gold Core Daoist Masters. Even if Qi Nanfei Daoist Master continued to hold back, the remaining three Gold Core Daoist Masters were enough to surpass Daoist Master Scarlet Flame and Daoist Master Dark Cloud.

Having retaken Flying Swan City, after not resting for too long, Fei Shi Daoist Master was eager to continue the attack and completely defeat Fire Cloud Sect.

The Fire Cloud Sect's cultivator army was entrenched on Feihong Mountain, protected by the Third Rank mountain protection great formation. As the defending side, they held a significant advantage. Even if they were at an absolute disadvantage in terms of strength, they could hold their ground firmly.

Meng Zhang didn't have much confidence in the upcoming battle. Breaking through the enemy's tightly guarded Third Rank mountain protection great formation required a protracted siege and slow consumption of the enemy.

Of course, to expedite the process, they could sacrifice a large number of low-level sect disciples and use their lives to deplete the mountain protection great formation's power, as they did when attacking the Crow's Nest.

That scene of a brutal battle had left a profound lesson in Meng Zhang's heart. He was strongly opposed to such a method.